

SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE: Happy Easter from Hood County News! See inside for Easter egg coloring tips, movies to watch this Easter season, Easter traditions from around the globe, and more!



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, March 30, 2024]

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Solar eclipse may cast a shadow on using cell phones

BY DAVID SCOTT
Special to the Hood County News

As millions of people travel to follow the path of totality of the solar eclipse, they should be aware of potential problems that may occur with cell phone usage, especially in more rural areas. The event is expected to put a strain on local cell towers as the population is expected to triple in some

areas. It was reported that during the 2017 eclipse people using their cell phones to share photos and navigate through traffic overwhelmed neighboring cell phone towers. Now that the public relies on cell phones for practically everything, including driving directions, it has been suggested that eclipse followers



COURTESY OF FELLOWNEKO, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Some NASA scientists do warn that cell service could get spotty, temporarily. In a recent article, NASA officials said a solar eclipse suddenly changes the structure of the ionosphere, which can temporarily disrupt radio signals and GPS navigation.

should bring along a hard copy of maps and maybe a compass in case they are unable to access GPS.

PLEASE SEE PHONES | A4

County, city enter interlocal agreement for Old Granbury Road improvements

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court and the City of Granbury officially entered into a cost-sharing interlocal agreement for improvements to Old Granbury Road during a commissioners court meeting March 26.

For the past several months, both the Hood County Commissioners Court and Granbury City Council have discussed making improvements to Old Granbury Road from the U.S. Highway 377 intersection to Industrial Avenue.

"I've been on this commissioners court now for five years, and we've been talking about this ever since I've been on here," Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle said during the Feb. 13 meeting. "We know that the 377 project is looming. We don't know when that's going to start, but it will, and even if we started something tomorrow, it would be a couple of years to get Old Granbury Road widened out and expanded where we can have

"I've been on this commissioners court now for five years, and we've been talking about this ever since I've been on here. We know that the 377 project is looming. We don't know when that's going to start, but it will, and even if we started something tomorrow, it would be a couple of years to get Old Granbury Road widened out and expanded where we can have some way to get around 377."

DAVE EAGLE
Precinct 4 Commissioner

some way to get around 377."

Both the city and county have been in talks with Teague Nall and Perkins Inc. regarding the planning portion of the project.

Ryan Jones, professional engineer for TNP, spoke at the Hood County Commissioner Court meeting on Feb 13, and explained that if the company

were to start now on the project, it would likely take four years to complete.

"We estimate about two years for design phase and then about two years for construction," Jones said. "If this would be (started) in 2024, it would be in the year 2028 for construction completion."

He explained that the city of Granbury contacted TNP

in August 2023 and asked the company to perform a preliminary traffic analysis on Old Granbury Road.

"Old Granbury Road was identified as a critical corridor with the looming 377 construction and some developments occurring along the road," Jones said. "That traffic study evaluated all of the existing configuration of Old Granbury Road and how that existing configuration, the two-lane divided roadway, would handle the projected and forecasted traffic increases that are coming in the next 5, 10, 15 years."

The results of the preliminary analysis, Jones said, indicated that improvements are "definitely needed" on Old Granbury Road, as it is currently performing adequately with today's traffic.

Jones also added that in the next five to 10 years, the level of service will start to degrade — especially the segment between U.S. Highway 377 and Temple Hall Highway.

"The segment between 377 and Temple Hall was really the first segment that

PLEASE SEE ROAD | A4



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson addresses why the public hearing for the Wolf Hollow tax abatement agreement was canceled during a regularly scheduled Hood County Commissioner Court meeting on March 26.

Commissioner Samuelson gives update on Wolf Hollow tax abatement

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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During the Hood County Commissioners Court Tuesday, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson provided an update about why the public hearing for the Wolf Hollow II Power Plant tax abatement agreement was canceled.

A public hearing was originally scheduled for March 26, to approve an amendment to the tax abatement agreement between Hood County and Wolf Hollow II Power Plant, LLC signed March 9, 2015. The project was to invest no less than \$500 million to construct a combined cycle power plant with the capacity of at least 1,077 megawatts. The purpose of the amendment was to remove approximately 38 acres leased to Compute North in 2021 from property eligible for the abatement; the amendment was scheduled to be effective for the 2024 tax year.

A tax abatement is a local agreement between a taxpayer

PLEASE SEE TAX | A3



138TH YEAR, NO. 13

Local, zone(s): 4 sections, 40 pages, plus supplements | State: 4 sections, 40 pages

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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



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Granbury Chamber of Commerce joins forces with Granbury ISD for 2nd annual Lemonade Day: A sweeter view for 2024!

Chamber Message

In 2023, over 120 fifth grade students from Granbury Independent School District participated in the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's inaugural Lemonade Day, setting up 51 lemonade stands and grossing over \$11,000 in sales over the four-hour event.

This year, the chamber kicked off the second annual Lemonade Day by visiting each GISD elementary schools March 18. The upcoming Lemonade Day will take place Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. all over the community. This innovative initiative aims to foster entrepreneurial spirit and financial literacy among local fifth-grade students while promoting community engagement. Our local "Shark Tank" concept pairs student entrepreneurs with "investors" to help them

build their business plan. Last year's Entrepreneurs of the Year from Baccus Elementary netted \$600.

Lemonade Day, a national nonprofit, empowers children to learn the fundamentals of business by planning, budgeting and operating their very own business — a lemonade stand. Through this hands-on experience, students develop essential skills such as goal setting, teamwork and customer service, setting the stage for their future success. By running their stand, program participants gain valuable life and business skills, learn the importance of earning, saving, spending and sharing money wisely, as well as the confidence that comes from working to achieve their dreams.

Member businesses in the community are encouraged to seize sponsorship opportunities, providing

vital support for educational materials, resources and mentorship for participating students. Businesses also have the opportunity to host a lemonade stand outside their establishments. This not only promotes foot traffic and goodwill but also offers a unique opportunity for businesses to engage with the community in a meaningful way. For those unable to host a stand, there are opportunities to become investors, supporting student entrepreneurs and their endeavors.

This partnership between the Granbury Chamber of Commerce and GISD exemplifies the power of collaboration in our community. Lemonade Day not only teaches valuable life skills but also instills a sense of pride and ownership in our youth. We invite all members of the community to join us in supporting this



COURTESY GRAPHIC

worthy cause.

With the May 18 date fast approaching, excitement is building for the second annual Lemonade Day in Granbury. Businesses, volunteers and community members alike are encouraged to get involved and

make a difference in the lives of local fifth graders. For more information on how to be a sponsor, host a stand, be an investor and/or volunteer, please visit www.lemonadeday.org/granbury, call us at 817-573-1622, or email us at info@granburychamber.com.

Together, we can plant the seeds of entrepreneurship within the next generation to create the business leaders, social advocates, community volunteers and forward-thinking citizens of tomorrow.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Board Member Spotlight: Eric Wilkins. We are so thankful for our Board Member, Eric Wilkins with VYBE Realty!! Eric has been on the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Board for 2 years! When asked why he loves being a Board Member, he replied, "I love being a Board Member because I get to be a part of the business community in a helpful way. We all bring our own flare to the community and being a part of that is a blast!" Fun Fact about Eric: Eric played Rugby and was the captain for the U-19 Development National Team. "The team was comprised of the best Rugby players in America and we competed in a Nationwide tournament at the Mall in Washington DC and won! It was certainly one of the highlights of my life to wear the USA jersey and represent our country." Thank you Eric for being a Granbury Chamber of Commerce Board Member!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: Kathy Cheek, Century 21 Judge Fite Company. Kathy Cheek has been in real estate for 17 years and specializes in Buyers, Sellers, Commercial, and Rental properties. She is very active in our local realtor association, better known as GAR (Granbury Association of Realtors). In 2018, she was honored to be named Volunteer of the Year, and in 2020, she was named the most dedicated Realtor by the Association.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BUSINESSES IN GRANBURY, VISIT GRANBURYCHAMBER.COM

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: Marigold Ranch. Contact Marigold Ranch for Real Estate Consulting, Staging and Design, Event Planning, Ranch Experiences, Bunkhouse Rentals, and Custom Cowdog Beds!!



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CHECK OUT OUR MANY REVIEWS ON NEXTDOOR

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

The differences between men and women



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

It has taken me a long time to finally come out and admit it, but I will never really understand women. From the first time I noticed a young girl in my first-grade class until today, I have found my assumptions about females were usually incorrect. When I make such a statement it is not out of anger or any form of hostility toward women, nor does it reflect indifference. It is simply a recognition of my own failings and a simple acknowledgment that the sexes have two completely different ways of walking through life. It seems to me the sooner a man acknowledges that he has no idea of what makes a woman's mind "tick," the sooner he will find peace.

After all, look at the differences. When packing for a vacation, a woman will start a month early. She will make a ton of lists, remember all the random items she needs to bring, manage to squeeze mounds of clothes and shoes in a bag so tight it defies all physical law, and then she will worry about what she forgot. A man will only think about what to bring on a trip in the period it takes to walk from the sofa to the location of his suitcase. To pack, they will throw a few items in the bag, and this usually happens the night before the trip though it can happen up to the very morning of departure. He will never consider what others will wear, what clothes to wear for a special event taking place during the trip, or what he will do if he forgets something. He believes that if something is missing, he will replace it at the destina-

tion's nearest Walmart. Then there are bathroom items. Men basically have the following items in their bathroom: toothpaste, toothbrush, razor, soap and shampoo. Women will have 178 different items in their bathroom and all but 10 of those items, a man has no idea of their purpose. What the heck does rejuvenating skin toner do anyway? Women wash dishes after a meal, or they finish the dishes from the night before when they get up in the morning. Men wash dishes after a meal, or when there is not a single clean dish left to use. Men also use the same "all out so I guess I better take action" mentality when it comes to doing laundry. When four men go to lunch and the bill comes, either one guy grabs the check and pays it, or each one of them toss a \$20 bill on the table to pay for their \$7 hamburgers, leaving the

change for the server. When women go to lunch and the check arrives, absolutely no one reaches to grab it. Eventually a forensic accounting is conducted by the group to determine who had the water-cress salad and exactly what each person's indebtedness is, determined down to the penny. If a tip is

left, it is exactly 18% of the total bill. Women are very color oriented. They seek out colors like sea foam, cayenne, egg-

PLEASE SEE PORCH | A13



COURTESY PHOTO BY PROSTOCK-STUDIO, ENVATO.COM

Thought for the day: Being a woman is a tremendously difficult task, since it consists principally with dealing with men.

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Taylor Hatfield

Say hello to our neighbor, Taylor Hatfield!

Taylor Hatfield has been a resident of Granbury for six years, but before that, she was a faithful tourist for 25 years! Those who know Taylor know that she loves her community. She often says, "There is always something going on in Hood County. If you're bored here, you're not trying hard enough!" She especially loves that most of the activities are related to doing good and giving back to the community. Taylor appreciates the fact that we live in a very generous community of businesses and individuals who often give their time and resources. "It's like no place else I've lived," she says. Taylor adores her dog Lavon (named after Patrick Lavon Mahomes), her Red Raiders, her job and clients at The FIT Lounge, her family and friends, and people in general. "I especially love connecting with people. I love knowing the right people for the right people. I'm a giver and a doer, and I love giving and doing here in Hood County." Taylor has enjoyed watching the Hood County News grow and evolve under Sam Houston's reign, "He's made print media and news relevant in this area. Love it!" Taylor also says she loves to see what Mary Vinson sees through her lens.

Granbury Composite Squadron 441 to celebrate 25th anniversary and promotions

Staff Reports

Civil Air Patrol Granbury Composite Squadron 441 will celebrate its 25th anniversary of leadership in Hood County at 7 p.m. Monday, April 1, at Grace Bible Church, 201 E. Clifton Road in Granbury. The evening will hold extra significance since the squadron will also celebrate two major milestone achievement promotions along with its silver anniversary. Cadets Chief Master Sgt. Holly K. Cullop and Chief Master Sgt. Bradford "Cole" Hunton will each promote to the rank of cadet sec-

ond lieutenant during the ceremony. This achievement is named after Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell for his outstanding pioneer service and foresight in the field of American military aviation. The Billy Mitchell Award requires rigorous leadership skills including proficiency in informal public speaking, a sense of responsibility within the squadron and mentorship abilities. Cadets promoting to this rank must maintain a positive attitude and encourage good attitudes in others, not flaunt rank or authority, and display commitment to core values by promoting team spirit, professionalism and

good sportsmanship as a team leader. The squadron, which has been referred to as "one of the best-kept secrets in Hood County," was founded in 1999 and is excited to celebrate its 25-year anniversary with new members as well as some of the founding members who have remained active in Civil Air Patrol. The public is invited to join in commemorating this special day of celebrations. **ABOUT CIVIL AIR PATROL** Founded in 1941 and established as the official civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force seven years later,

Civil Air Patrol is chartered by Congress as a nonprofit organization for the purposes of youth development, aerospace education and to promote general aviation. In an auxiliary role as a Total Force partner of the Air Force, CAP operates the world's largest fleet of single-engine aircraft for search and rescue, disaster relief, training and education. Civil Air Patrol is dedicated to serving America's communities, saving lives and shaping futures. Visit CAP.news or GoCivilAirPatrol.com for more information.

TAX FROM PAGE A1

and a local taxing unit that exempts all or part of the increase in the value of property from taxation for a period not to exceed 10 years, according to comptroller. However, Samuelson said she later canceled the public hearing, as she investigated the abatement agreement and realized that the eligible property already excluded land. "It wasn't just the land that the cryptocurrency plant is on, but all the land that is owned by Wolf

Hollow II Power Plant, so I requested confirmation from the appraisal district March 15, and received confirmation March 18, which has resulted in the public hearing being canceled," she said. "As I walked through the process with the appraisal district and the county attorney's office prior to putting the notice out, it wasn't until the 15th that it was discovered that this language excluded land." Samuelson added she spent many hours on the phone with Chief Appraiser Jeff Law and he told her it's not unusual for abatement agreements not to include land.

"It makes sense to me now that the land is already there, so what you're abating when a company comes in to build something, you're really abating the improvements, not the land itself, so that made total sense," she said. "I just wish we would have had that discussion in February when I first discussed it with him. But in the abatement agreement, it defines eligible property as value of building structures, fixed machinery and equipment, and site improvements necessary to the operation and administration of the plant, not inventory, supplies, land or housing, so I

just wanted to explain why it was canceled." Hood County Judge Ron Massingill explained he also looked into how much tax was paid by the data center in 2023. Massingill said with taxes paid to the Hood County general fund, the Hood County Library fund, Hood County Lateral Road fund and Granbury ISD, Generate Capital paid \$1,216,635 and Marathon Digital paid \$635,380. "All in all, the GC data and Marathon Holdings paid . . . \$1,842,000 in taxes (in 2023) so pretty substantial," he said.

CORRECTION

An article in the Saturday, March 23 edition of the Hood County News about 100-year-old World War II veteran Bruce Glatzel incorrectly stated how many great-grandchildren he has. Glatzel has 34 great-grandchildren. The HCN regrets the error.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of March 19-21. This was a complete report as provided at press time. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

MARCH 19
3:06 p.m.: disturbance reported on Berry Patch Lane
6:31 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:47 p.m.: criminal mischief reported on Meadows North Drive
**A minor accident and

20 traffic stops occurred on this day**
MARCH 20
11:25 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:34 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

2:05 p.m.: threat reported on Chanel Drive
Three minor accidents and 10 traffic stops occurred on this day
MARCH 21
12:34 a.m.: disturbance reported on Reunion Court
11:56 a.m.: threat reported

on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:51 p.m.: disturbance reported on Spring Ridge Circle
3:40 p.m.: assault reported on Parkwood Lane
Two minor accidents and 30 traffic stops occurred on this day

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

OPERA GUILD of Granbury monthly meeting, De Cordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. 10 a.m.: social/check-in. 11 a.m.: entertainment: "Variety Show" requested by Shirley Ludwick - Matt Mills, Mickey Parson, Cara and Daniel Hernandez, Lois Akers, Stan McBroom and Ray Scott. Short business meeting: 11:30 to noon. Optional lunch \$18 - house salad, Chicken Cordon Bleu, mashed potatoes, green beans, cheesecake w/strawberry coulis sauce, rolls and butter, water, tea and coffee). Reservations required no later than Friday, March 29, 2024, send an email to granburyog@gmail.com or call 817-776-2898. General membership, single \$25, joint \$35, business membership \$35. The Opera Guild of Granbury is an all-volunteer organization whose mission is to support the Granbury Opera House and its allied arts.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

VIRTUAL TOWN meeting, "Brown Bag on the Brazos," at noon. Learn more about ongoing water supply projects in the Central Texas area from Brazos River Authority (BRA) General Manager and CEO David Collinsworth. There will also be a discussion of the status of the drought in the Brazos River Basin and the upcoming lifejacket giveaway at Lake Granbury. The link to attend may be found on the BRA homepage brazos.org.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 6

ACTON BAPTIST Church fundraiser yard sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. 3500 Fall Creek Highway, south side of church building.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR | A6

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.



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

City Manager Chris Coffman speaks to the Hood County Commissioners Court about the interlocal agreement between the city and the county regarding Old Granbury Road improvements during the court's regularly scheduled meeting on March 26.

ROAD FROM PAGE A1

we noticed that level of service deteriorating, and that occurred in the year 2028," Jones said. "From there, it just kind of went downhill when we looked at the year 2033 and eventually to 2038 which is the 15-year horizon, so the results of that study indicate that improvements are definitely needed on Old Granbury Road; that's our belief, and our recommendation to the county and to the city." While TNP recommends that the city and county make improvements to Old Granbury Road, Jones said at this time, he is unsure what type of improvements are needed. He said while the city's master thor-

oughfare plan indicates a four-lane divided highway is needed, he said some improvements that may need to be considered include turning lanes, a signalized intersection, or even a roundabout. "All those things still need to be looked at," Jones said. "If we were to widen the roadway to three lanes or four lanes, how much is that going to cost? So those are questions that we don't have answers for today." The project is estimated to cost around \$50 million - but the first step needed to get the process moving was for both the city and the county to sign an interlocal agreement, which was completed March 26. During Tuesday's meeting, Precinct 4

Commissioner Dave Eagle told the public the city and county have been working together on this project for a few weeks. "One of my frustrations is having to deal with government red tape. It's very frustrating," Eagle said. "And we've got an estimate here that was originally presented for a planning session, and I kind of work from the standpoint of, 'Look, let's just start working on it.' We got to start with intersections, and let's just start doing something, but apparently it just doesn't work that way with government." Eagle explained that the interlocal agreement is between the city and county to allow TNP to perform a planning study on a four-

and-a-half-mile portion of Old Granbury Road. The cost for both the preliminary study and the planning study is \$241,754.72. The county will pay 60% of the cost at \$145,052.83, and the city will pay 40% of the cost at \$96,701.89. "I had a long conversation this morning with Ryan Jones from TNP, and he laid it out for me again," Eagle said. "This will get us up to where we can hopefully get this done in the next five to six months, and lead us up to where we can start working on plans, specs and estimates to actually start doing the work." "I would like to add that this is not a new item for any of us," City Manager Chris Coffman said during Tuesday's meeting. "We've

been working on this since our last intergovernmental meeting, so this is hopefully the final approach to planning this and getting this project off." Eagle made a motion to enter into a cost-sharing interlocal agreement with the city of Granbury as provided under the Texas Government Code 791 regarding a professional services contract with Teague Nall and Perkins Inc. related to plans, specifications and estimates for improvements to Old Granbury Road from U.S. Highway 377 to Industrial Avenue in Granbury in the amount of \$145,052.83 out of fund 55 for the county's portion. The motion passed unanimously.

PHONES FROM PAGE A1

Some cities and towns are encouraging the public to text instead of calling. Texting for communication, rather than calling, can help to limit the congestion of cellular networks. With so many extra phones being brought into a particular region, it's a very real possibility that some areas will be unable

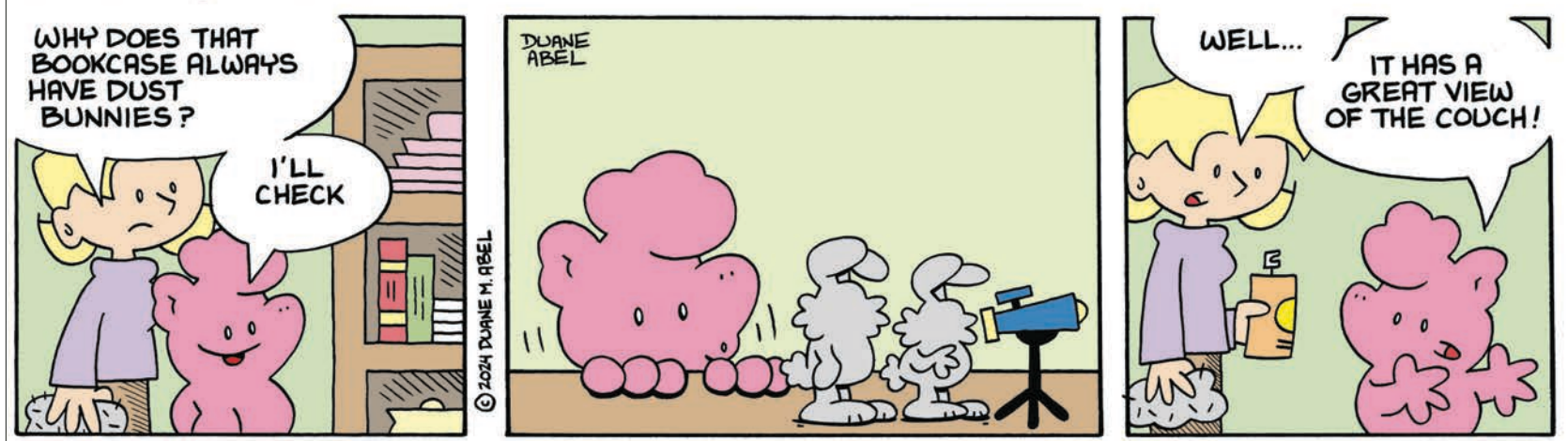
to keep up with the demand for wireless cell and data networks. One cell phone carrier issued a statement that said people across different networks saw slowdowns during the last eclipse in 2017. Back in 2017, AT&T data revealed there was a 40% increase in text messaging and a 15% increase in voice calls in the 24 hours before the eclipse. Because of the added

strain anticipated on local cell towers during the days before and after the eclipse, a historic communications traffic jam is a possibility. However, some service providers have stepped up their game along the path of totality in an effort to prevent such a jam. In preparation for the 2017 eclipse, all the major cell carriers, including AT&T as well as Verizon, T-Mobile and Sprint, de-

ployed mobile installations to beef up cell service. The installations were known as COWs ("Cell on Wheels"), COLTs ("Cell on Light Trucks") and RATs ("Repeaters on a Trailer"). All the big players in the telecommunications game have been preparing for the solar eclipse which will occupy a 60-70-mile-wide path across the nation. Some NASA scientists do warn that cell service could get spotty, tempo-

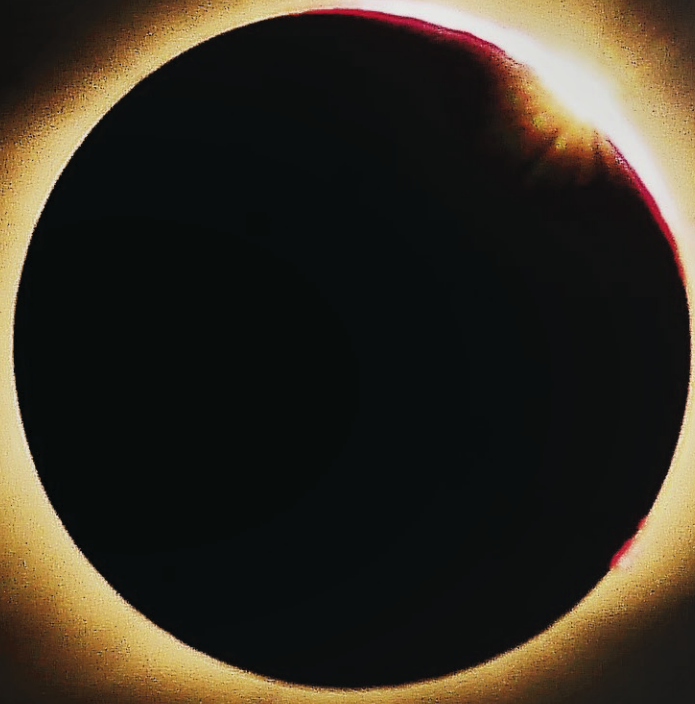
rarily. In a recent article, NASA officials said a solar eclipse suddenly changes the structure of the ionosphere, which can temporarily disrupt radio signals and GPS navigation. Emergency responders recommend you have a backup plan for directions as you travel to and from the viewing site since there's no guarantee you'll be able to use your phone's GPS system.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Solar eclipse myths explained by NASA



COURTESY PHOTO BY M3KPONLY, ENVATO.COM

According to NASA, humans have watched eclipses since before the dawn of written history, and during this long span of time our scientific understanding of the physical world has grown enormously. Consequently, many of the older ideas we had about the causes and effects of total solar eclipses have been replaced by detailed physical explanations.

BY DAVID SCOTT

Special to the Hood County News

The following was posted on the NASA website concerning myths and misconceptions about solar eclipses. Over the years, many of these myths have become accepted as factual while some of them are not.

NASA responds:
Humans have watched eclipses since before the dawn of written history, and during this long span of time our scientific understanding of the physical world has grown enormously. Consequently, many of the older ideas we had about the causes and effects of total solar eclipses have been replaced by detailed physical explanations. Nevertheless, some older ideas seem remarkably resistant to replacement by the more scientifically correct explanations. Here are a few of the most popular ones.

MYTH: TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSES PRODUCE HARMFUL RAYS THAT CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS

During a total solar eclipse when the disk of the moon fully covers the sun, the brilliant corona emits only electromagnetic radiation, though sometimes with a greenish hue. Scientists have studied this radiation for centuries. Being a million times fainter than the light from the sun itself, there is nothing in the coronal light that could cross 150 million kilometers of space, penetrate our dense atmosphere and cause blindness. However, if you watched the sun before totality, you would catch a glimpse of the brilliant solar surface and this can cause retinal damage, though the typical human instinctual response is to quickly look away before any severe damage has actually occurred.

MYTH: IF YOU ARE PREGNANT, YOU SHOULD NOT WATCH AN ECLIPSE BECAUSE IT CAN HARM YOUR BABY

This is related to the previous false idea that harmful radiations are emitted during a total solar eclipse. Although the electromagnetic radiation from the corona, seen as light, is perfectly safe, there is another form of radiation that travels to Earth from the sun. Deep in the solar interior where nuclear fusion takes place to light the sun, particles called neutrinos are born, and zip unimpeded out of the sun and into space. They also pass through the solid body of the moon during the eclipse and a second or so later reach Earth and pass through it, too. Every second, your body is pelted by trillions of these neutrinos no matter if the sun is above or below the horizon. The only consequence is that every few minutes a few atoms in your body are transmuted into a different isotope by absorbing a neutrino. This is an entirely harmless effect and will not harm you, or if you are pregnant, the developing fetus.

MYTH: ECLIPSES WILL POISON ANY FOOD THAT IS PREPARED DURING THE EVENT

Related to the false idea of harmful solar rays is that during a total solar eclipse, some kind of radiation is produced that will harm your food. If that were the case, the same radiations would harm the food in your pantry, or crops in the field. The basic idea is that total solar eclipses are terrifying, and their ghostly green

coronae look frightening, so it is natural to want to make up fearful stories about them and look for coincidences among events around you. If someone is accidentally food-poisoned with potato salad during an eclipse, some might argue that the event was related to the eclipse itself even though hundreds of other people at the same location were not at all affected.

MYTH: ECLIPSES ARE HARBINGERS OF SOMETHING VERY BAD ABOUT TO HAPPEN

A classic case of what psychologists call "confirmation bias" is that we tend to remember all the occasions when two things happened together but forget all the other times when they did not. This gives us a biased view of causes and effects that we remember easily, because the human brain is predisposed to looking for, and remembering, patterns that can be used as survival rules-of-thumb. Total solar eclipses are not often recorded in the historical record, but they do tend to be recorded when they coincide with other historical events. For example, in 763 B.C., early Assyrian records mention an eclipse in the same passage as an insurrection in the city of Ashur, now known as Qal'at Sherqat in Iraq, suggesting that the ancient people linked the two in their minds. Or when King Henry I of England, the son of William the Conqueror, died in A.D. 1133, the event coincided with a total solar eclipse. With a little work you can also find numerous cases when something good happened!

MYTH: THERE ARE NO TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSES AT EARTH'S NORTH OR SOUTH POLES

In fact, there is nothing especially unique about these locations from an astronomical standpoint. The last total solar eclipse viewed from the North Pole area was March 20, 2015, and passed right over

the North Pole itself at which time it came to an end exactly at the Spring Equinox. The last total solar eclipse viewed from the South Pole area was Nov. 23, 2003.

MYTH: THE MOON TURNS COMPLETELY BLACK DURING A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

Although it is difficult to see the New Moon and check out this idea, we don't have to make this a difficult observation. Look at the first quarter moon and you will discover that the dark lunar surface beyond the crescent is weakly illuminated. This is because, as viewed from the moon, Earth is very bright in the sky and its weak light is enough to turn the lunar surface a pale milky white. This is called earthshine, and the same thing applies during a total solar eclipse. Most of Earth's surface is in broad daylight off the path of totality, and from the moon it would be in full phase, shining down on the lunar surface at its brightest. So, during a total solar eclipse, the lunar surface will be dimly seen due to earthshine, surrounded by the much more brilliant corona of the sun.

MYTH: THE CORONA OF THE SUN HAS ALWAYS BEEN OBSERVED DURING A TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

It is hard not to imagine that the way things are now is the way they have always been, but in the case of the sun we can never be too sure. We already know that the familiar 11-year sunspot cycle seemingly 'vanished' in the 1700s during what scientists call the Maunder Minimum. There have been several accounts of total solar eclipses dating back to the time of the ancient Greeks, but curiously, descriptions of the contemporary corona, which is the most dramatic feature, are either not provided or are only barely mentioned. Poet Archilochus spoke of the total solar eclipse

of April 6, 647 B.C.E. and failed to mention the corona: "There is nothing beyond hope, nothing that can be sworn impossible, nothing wonderful, since Zeus, father of the Olympians, made night from mid-day, hiding the light of the shining Sun, and sore fear came upon men." Johannes Kepler during the eclipse of Oct. 12, 1605, was happy to mention the 'red flames' visible around the rim of the sun, but no mention of what we now see as a dazzling corona. It wasn't until the eclipse of May 3, 1715, described by astronomer Edmund Halley from England that we get our first genuine corona description as a... "luminous ring of pale whiteness." So, did the sun go through a thousand-year period of not having a significant corona at all? We may never know for certain.

MYTH: SOLAR ECLIPSES FORETELL MAJOR LIFE CHANGES AND EVENTS ABOUT TO HAPPEN

This is a common interpretation found in astrological forecasts, which are themselves based upon coincidences and nonscientific beliefs in how celestial events control human behavior. A common qualification is that if the eclipse doesn't foretell a change in your life, it may foretell a change in that of your friends. This is a logically flawed use of confirmation bias in which you

prove a cause-and-effect relationship by ignoring failures and only consider successful forecasts. There is nothing other than human psychology that connects eclipses with future events in your life.

MYTH: SOLAR ECLIPSES ARE A SIGN OF AN EXCEPTIONAL CELESTIAL EVENT TAKING PLACE IN TIME AND SPACE

Because they can be mathematically predicted across thousands of years, solar eclipses are a re-affirmation that there is a sublime clockwork regularity to the universe as Sir Isaac Newton admired over 300 years ago.

MYTH: SOLAR ECLIPSES SIX MONTHS AFTER YOUR BIRTHDAY, OR ON YOUR BIRTHDAY, ARE A SIGN OF IMPENDING BAD HEALTH

This is a common belief among astrologers, and once again is only supported by confirmation bias. There is no physical relationship between a total solar eclipse and your health, any more than there is a relationship between your health and a new moon. Among a random sample of people, you may find such correlations from time to time, but they are outnumbered by all the other occasions during which your health was excellent.

MARK YOUR CALEDAR: APRIL 8



ECLIPSE Events

Scan the QR Code for more info on these events



- APRIL 5**
- "Satisfaction," The International Rolling Stones Show, Granbury Live
 - Oink, Oink Fest, A traditional German Pig Roast., 4 to 8 p.m., The Plaza and Langdon Center HGMA

- APRIL 6**
- Oink, Oink Fest, A traditional German Pig Roast. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., The Plaza and Langdon Center HGMA
 - Pre-Eclipse Star Party, 7:30 to 11 p.m., Acton Nature Center
 - Solar Eclipse Pre-Party – Moonshine in the Dark, 2 to 10 p.m., Sledge Distillery

- APRIL 7**
- Oink, Oink Fest, A traditional German Pig Roast. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., The Plaza and Langdon Center HGMA
 - Community Lecture Series "Let's Talk About Solar Eclipses," 2 to 4 p.m., Opal Durant Acton Community Center

- APRIL 8**
- Eclipse at Farina's 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Farina's Winery and Café
 - Eclipse Cruise 1 p.m., Captain Kirk's Tiki Cruises
 - Eclipse Over the Trees, 11:30 a.m., The Tree Top Getaway
 - Eclipse at Paradise, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Paradise Bistro and Coffee Co.
 - Great American Eclipse Watch Party, noon to 3 p.m., Acton Nature Center, presented by Rio Brazos Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist Program.
 - Granbury, Texas Arcadia Publishing Book Release Party 3-5pm, Visit Granbury



Great Granbury Cleanup set for April 13

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Hood County residents will soon be donning reflective yellow vests and sturdy work gloves as they prepare for one of the city's newest programs: the Great Granbury Cleanup.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 13, at Hewlett Park, 650 E. Pearl St., teams of four people or more will pick up trash around frequent roadways in town, like U.S. Highway 377 and state Highway 144.

The city initiative was originally created by Mayor Pro-Tem Steven Vale, who came up with the idea in 2023 while attending a Texas Municipal League training session in San Antonio.

"The Texas beautification people were there — you know, 'Don't Mess with Texas' — and so I talked to them a bunch and I had a conversation with . . . City Manager Chris Coffman on the ride back, and he was very supportive," Vale told the Hood County News. "We kind've got the wheels turning and we turned the event around pretty quickly."

Vale said the idea was also inspired by growing up with his father, Richard, who would go out in the evenings, walk the dog, smoke a cigar and pick up trash around the neighborhood.

"I think I said this at city council when I talked about

the programming a year ago that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree," he said.

"Anywhere I go now if I see trash, I pick it up. I think a clean community is very important. We're a tourist destination, we're a growing community and we have a lot of guests here. If you invited somebody over to your house, what would you do? You would straighten up a little bit and make it as nice as you could for when you entertain guests, and I feel that way about our community. I think it's important that we put our best foot forward and we present the community in the best possible way we can."

According to an article from Texas Town and City Magazine, most cities partner with "Keep Texas Beautiful," (KTB) — a nonprofit organization dedicated to making Texas the best place to live, work and play by deploying resources for community improvement projects, cleanups, and youth engagement efforts across the state. However, in early March last year, it was too late for Granbury to forge a full partnership with KTB, so



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY OF GRANBURY

The city's biannual event, the Great Granbury Cleanup, will take place at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, at Hewlett Park, 650 E. Pearl St.

different routes needed to be discovered.

While the city's utility billing staff and communications team picked a date and time for the event, the city of Crowley also assisted by sharing ideas for how the community cleanup could be successful.

After social media posts, web page announcements, news releases, videos and flyers were created, the Great Granbury Cleanup officially launched Saturday, April 22, 2023.

With help from Granbury Independent School District and members of local civic groups, more than 2,000 pounds of trash was gathered by volunteers — a task that took less than three hours to complete.

"I think we're going to have more people this year than we did last year," Vale said. "I belong to the Rotary (Club of Granbury) and that should have 20 or 25 people. We've got kids from the middle school, high school, a bunch of other civic organizations, as well as just people who have a passion and want to see our community clean."

Although last October's Great Granbury Cleanup was rained out, Communications Manager Jeff Newpher said he hopes the event will eventually grow to become a more frequent occasion.

"There's a lot of moving parts behind this," Newpher said. "We would love to do it more often than just once or twice a year. We'd love to have it four times, but there's some other things that we need to get in place to make

that happen."

During the cleanup event, each team member will be given a trash bag and a vest, while the team leader will be given a map of a public area in Granbury for the team to clean up.

"We're going to try and have 40 locations, where 40 different teams can go," Newpher said. "Last year, we asked for people to send in places that are along the main streets that they would like to be cleaned up. We didn't get too many of those, so we said, 'We'll just go out and scout it ourselves.' We don't clean anybody's private property. We just clean the right-of-way."

Safety instructions along with a video about how and what to pick up will also be shown to volunteers prior to leaving Hewlett Park for the cleanup.

"People aren't used to being out walking by the side of the road, so it's good to give them a refresher on keeping your distance from the traffic," Newpher said. "That's what we want the most is we want people to have a good time, but most of all, we want them to be safe."

After volunteers fill up a trash bag, they will be instructed to leave the bag at the cleanup area; a city staff member will be by later to pick it up.

"They fill up the trash bags, and then around noon, city of Granbury parks and recreation staff will just go up and down picking up the trash and putting it into city pickup trucks, and then that will be taken to some big roll

off dumpsters at the back of Hewlett Park," Newpher said. "That's how we collected those 2,000 pounds of trash last year."

Newpher said the city has great community partners with the Great Granbury Cleanup, like Waste Connections that will provide the fluorescent yellow vests, Kroger that will supply a bottle of water for each volunteer, and TxDOT that will provide volunteers with strong garbage bags.

"The school district is organizing a new generation of older students who want to be part of this cleanup effort, and of course, the city of Granbury sponsors it as a sort of underwriting. It's kind of like our thing," he said. "But we welcome our community partners."

Newpher said the most surprising comment he heard from people who participated in the Great Granbury Cleanup last year is how much fun people had during the event.

"You don't think putting on a pair of gloves, then coming out on a Saturday morning, and getting some trash bags, grabbers and vests, and going out with three friends to a location to pick up trash is going to be fun," he said. "But that's the most surprising comment I heard from people was, 'This was fun to do. We want to do this again.' I heard that not only from Girl Scouts that were there with their parents and troop leaders, but from senior citizens."

Newpher and Vale added that the city is also working on a behind-the-scenes proj-

ect to eventually launch Keep Granbury Beautiful, where the city would become a beautification affiliate with the state of Texas.

"We're in the process of putting a board together with some bylaws, which is required by the state," Vale said. "The members would be responsible for doing some of the organization, and the city would still be the funding mechanism."

"The city would continue to support the Great Granbury Cleanup but what we would like to do is have the city kind of support and help launch 'Keep Granbury Beautiful' so that residents and citizens could take over doing this," Newpher said. "The city would still support it, but it would really be a community organization. The Great Granbury Cleanup is really a portion of a larger focus on keeping Granbury beautiful."

Volunteers are encouraged to pre-register for the Great Granbury Cleanup by going online to granbury.org/cleanup online.

"It's really something for all ages," Newpher added. "It's not a competition. You can make it one if you want to, but we just want people to come and have fun."

"We want this to be a safe, friendly activity, and I think it's another opportunity to create some unity in the community," Vale added. "I always say Granbury is a community in unity, and I think this is another program that we can further demonstrate that we come together for all sorts of things — this is just one activity."



Last year, volunteers with the Great Granbury Cleanup picked up 2,000 pounds of trash in less than three hours.

CALENDAR CONTINUED FROM A4

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

THE FRIENDSHIP Cemetery Association will be conducting cemetery maintenance 9 a.m. to noon, with lunch for participants to follow at the Tolar Church of Christ Fellowship Hall. We will be cleaning and leveling headstones and brush as needed. Friendship Cemetery is a small family and/or community cemetery about halfway between Granbury and Tolar on Friendship Road just off U.S. Highway 377. Check our Facebook page "Friendship Cemetery of

Hood County." Email if more info is needed friendship-cemeteryhoodcounty@gmail.com.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. The program will be presented by Dr. Anne J. Bailey, professor emerita, Georgia State University, who has written numerous articles on Civil War subjects. Dr. Bailey will speak on the actions of the Texas cavalry in opposing the Union's

"March to the Sea" under General William Sherman. This will be the first of a two-part presentation, which Dr. Bailey will complete at the September meeting. 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, APRIL 9

SPRING FUNDRAISER for the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary — Charities on the

Runway "Boots and Bling, It's a Cowgirl Thing." Contact Linda for tickets 817-964-5166.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 13

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN Church of Granbury Spring Rummage Sale, Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., 300 W. Bridge St. Lots of items for sale at very low prices. Join us for two days of great shopping.

MONDAY, APRIL 15 TEXAS DEMOCRATIC

Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Beverly Cheney will discuss the upcoming GISD school bond election. 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 LAKE GRANBURY/HOOD County Master Gardeners meet the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at 1 p.m. at Reunion Arena, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. This month's program: Modern Homesteading and Returning to the

Basics with Stuart and Sarah Brannon of BS Farms in Bluff Dale. Return to traditional values and natural foods in a fast-paced world. Discover how homesteading fosters self-reliance, sustainability and community connection, while allowing us to get away from mass-produced, chemically altered food. The Brannons will share information about BS farms, their family farm in Bluff Dale that started as a wild dream and has become a second full-time gig that they love.



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City invites Ken Hill foundation to place donated statues near Shanley Park

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

After almost a year-and-a-half, two donated bronze statues are getting closer to finding their forever homes.

During a regularly scheduled meeting March 19, Granbury City Council extended an invitation to the Ken Hill Foundation to place both "Silent Prey" and "Black Star" in the city of Granbury near Shanley Park.

The two statues are pieces crafted by well-known Texan and Western artist Covelle Jones and were donated to the county by the Ken Hill Foundation in 2022. The statues were presented by CEO Jeff Farris, who oversaw the disbursement of the late Ken Hill's estate.

City Manager Chris Coffman explained that the request for the location of the "Black Star" statue was submitted by the Shanley Park Association, as members were hoping to place the statue on the association's privately owned property to launch the Shanley Sculpture Garden in the park. The "Silent Prey" statue, Coffman explained, was recommended by the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission to be placed on city property located on the north side of Granbury City Hall along the walking trail and Houston Street. The "Silent Prey" statue would also serve as the entrance to the sculpture garden.

"What we're proposing here is we're asking the council to consider taking the recommendation from the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission to place the 'Silent Prey' sculpture on the city property right outside of (City Hall) between it and the Moment in Time Trail," Coffman said. "I think it's important for it to be there, and to kind of give you some ideas of why everybody's pointing in that direction is that it can be seen by vehicle and by foot traffic."

According to Coffman, Hill was in the process of converting Comanche Peak Ranch into a historic center, where visitors could stay and learn about the history of the Comanche Indians. Unfortunately, his death in 2020 led to a delay in the project. Coffman said Hill's goal was to have the sculpture of "Silent Prey" located somewhere in the Comanche Peak area.

Coffman then showed a picture of the "Silent Prey" art piece superimposed on grass to show the public what the statue would look like.

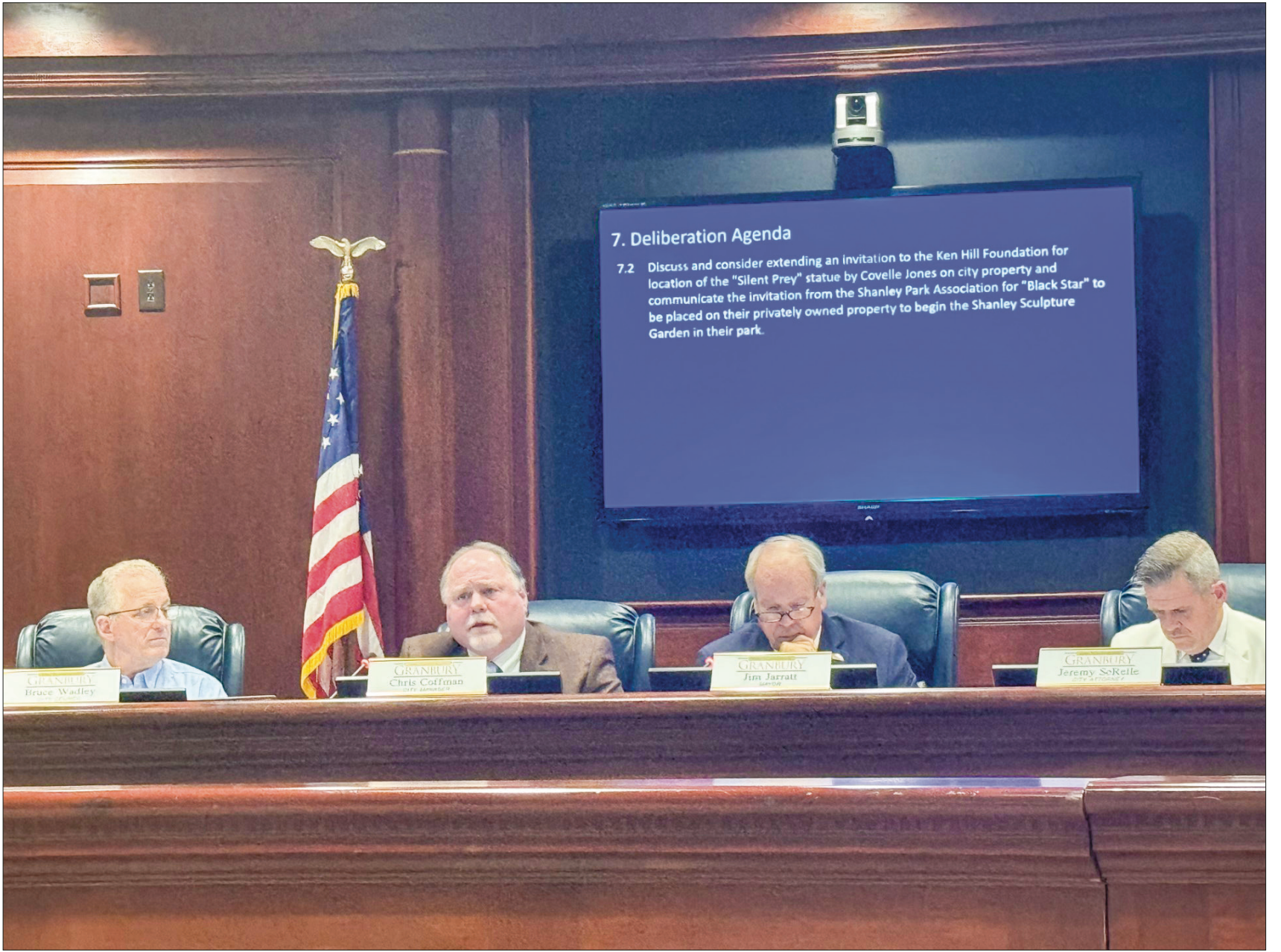
"It's an Indian climbing off of a figure that's attacking; that's why it's called 'Silent Prey,'" he said.

The second sculpture, "Black Star," is a replica of an Indian woman who lived on Comanche Peak at one time.

"Shanley Park is owned by the Shanley Art Association, and they have wanted to begin a sculpture garden on their parkland," Coffman said. "They would like 'Black Star' to be the first piece of their partnering."

After Hill's passing, Coffman said both statues were left unattended in Jones' shop in Bastrop — that is, until Farris donated both statues to Hood County.

While both statues were previously accepted by the Hood County Commissioners Court during the bimonthly meeting



City Manager Chris Coffman speaks during a Granbury City Council meeting on March 19 and discusses placement of the two bronze statues donated by the Ken Hill Foundation: "Silent Prey" and "Black Star."



The "Silent Prey" statue was recommended by the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission to be placed on city property located on the north side of Granbury City Hall along the walking trail and Houston Street.

Nov. 29, 2022, the location of the 'Black Star' statue was not properly agreed upon, which spurred Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle to place the item back on the Aug. 8, 2023, agenda to clear up any confusion.

Although "Black Star" faced controversy with some residents calling the medicine woman a "witch," the statue was eventually approved by the commissioners last year. Both statues were then scheduled to be placed on the northeast corner of the Hood County Courthouse lawn Sept. 8, 2023.

However, during its regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 22 last year, the Hood County Commissioners Court sparked discussion on the topic again, when it was revealed that the Texas Historical Commission had final say on whether the statues could be placed on county property.

"I put this on the agenda as a discussion only item," Eagle said, during the meeting Aug. 22, 2023. "But this is not about the

merits of the statues. I've got a grant of easement here that this county granted to the Texas Historical Commission back on Dec. 12, 2000, and this grant of easement really takes it completely out of our hands."

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill explained that once he learned that the THC needed to be contacted for final approval, he reached out to Texas Sen. Brian Birdwell and explained the situation.

"I said what had happened, and that we've taken two votes," Massingill said, during the September 2023 meeting. "We passed it in November of 2022, that the two statues 'Black Star and Silent Prey,' could be put on the courthouse square lawn and then we passed it again two weeks ago. I said, 'No one knew (that THC had final say). At least it was never brought up, but I didn't know about it, but I am a lawyer and I do follow the law.'"

Birdwell then put Massingill in contact with Mark Wolfe, the executive director of the THC, where several emails were

exchanged back and forth detailing the statues and their significance to the county.

After days of uncertainty, Massingill revealed Sept. 12, 2023, during the next regular meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court, that the THC had denied the application of placing "Silent Prey" and "Black Star" on the Hood County Courthouse lawn, stating that the statues were essentially "too big."

"For clarification, they did not deny the application based upon 'Black Star' being a pagan worship site," Massingill said, during the Sept. 12 meeting. "They said it was too big and it detracted from the look of the courthouse. That's in essence what they said."

Following the news, many residents came up to the podium to express their opinion on the final verdict from the THC, including Courtney Coates Blackman, member of the Shanley Park Board.

"When I saw on the agenda plans to rescind the donation made from the Ken

Hill Foundation, I felt compelled to talk," Blackman said in the Sept. 12 meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court. "I believe there is an ideal location for 'Silent Prey' and the 'Black Star' in the city park behind city hall."

At the time, Blackman explained that the Shanley Park Board was currently working on turning Shanley Park into the Shanley Sculpture Garden, similar to the Benson Sculpture Garden in Loveland, Colorado.

"I think we found the perfect spot for 'Silent Prey' and several options for 'Black Star,'" Blackman said previously. "In the location that we have chosen for 'Silent Prey,' you would be able to see it from Houston Street, and it would be a very dramatic entrance to the city park/Shanley Sculpture Garden while still being on city property."

Blackman explained back in September that she was unsure if the city and county could collaborate on this project, but had hoped Farris would agree to it, as "it would be

a shame" for citizens and visitors of Granbury to not be able to enjoy "majestic pieces of art" from such a well-known and successful artist.

She added that Granbury and Hood County "should not pass up this extraordinary chance to acquire these remarkable works of art."

"We should not let this pass us by as it will unlikely ever be an opportunity for us again," Blackman had said. "I am sure Ken Hill and Covelle Jones would have wanted these pieces to stay in Granbury — we just need to find the right situation to make that happen."

Following public comments Sept. 12, the motion was unanimously approved by the Hood County Commissioners Court to rescind the two statues to the Ken Hill Foundation in the care of Farris.

The Hood County Commissioners Court also reimbursed the Ken Hill Foundation during the same Sept. 12 meeting for the cost of both statues, totaling \$5,730.

Since the statues were rescinded by the commissioners court, Granbury City Council has since been in talks with the Shanley Art Association and the Ken Hill Foundation to find a home for the two statues somewhere in the city.

"I know this has been talked about extensively over the past several months, but we were waiting to make sure that all the Is were dotted and the Ts were crossed," Coffman said. "So, I would just encourage (the council) to consider this."

After a short discussion, Place 3 Councilman Bruce Wadley made a motion to extend an invitation to the Ken Hill Foundation to place the "Silent Prey" statue by Covelle Jones on city property and communicate the invitation from the Shanley Park Association for "Black Star" to be placed on the association's privately owned property.

The motion passed unanimously.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

COURTESY PHOTO

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Understanding kidney stones: Causes, treatment and prevention



BY WILLIAM HARRELL

William Bruce Harrell, M.D., is a board certified urologist and a member of the medical staff at Lake Granbury Medical Center. His practice, Lakeside Physicians Urology, is located at 1200 Crawford Ave., Suite D, in Granbury.

"Millions of people worldwide are affected by painful kidney stones every year," says Bruce Harrell, M.D., a board-certified urologist at Lakeside Physicians and a member of the medical staff at Lake Granbury Medical Center. "These are hard deposits that form in the kidneys, and when they pass, they can cause extreme pain. Sometimes, medical and/or surgical intervention is needed if the stone can't pass on its own."

CAUSES OF KIDNEY STONES

- **Dehydration:** One of the primary factors contributing to kidney stone formation is inadequate hydration. Insufficient water intake leads to concentrated urine, allowing minerals and salts to crystallize and form stones.
- **Dietary Factors:** Certain



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHORMAIL, ENVATO.COM

"Millions of people worldwide are affected by painful kidney stones every year," says Bruce Harrell, M.D., a board-certified urologist at Lakeside Physicians and a member of the medical staff at Lake Granbury Medical Center.

dietary choices can increase the risk of kidney stones. Diets high in sodium, oxalates and animal proteins may promote stone formation. Foods rich in oxalates include beets, chocolate and nuts.

- **Genetic Predisposition:** A family history of kidney stones may increase an individual's susceptibility to developing them. Genetic factors can influence how the body processes minerals, making some people more prone to stone formation.

- **Medical Conditions:** Conditions such as hyperparathyroidism, cystic kidney diseases and urinary tract infections can contribute to the formation of kidney stones. Additionally, individuals with certain metabolic disorders may have an increased risk.

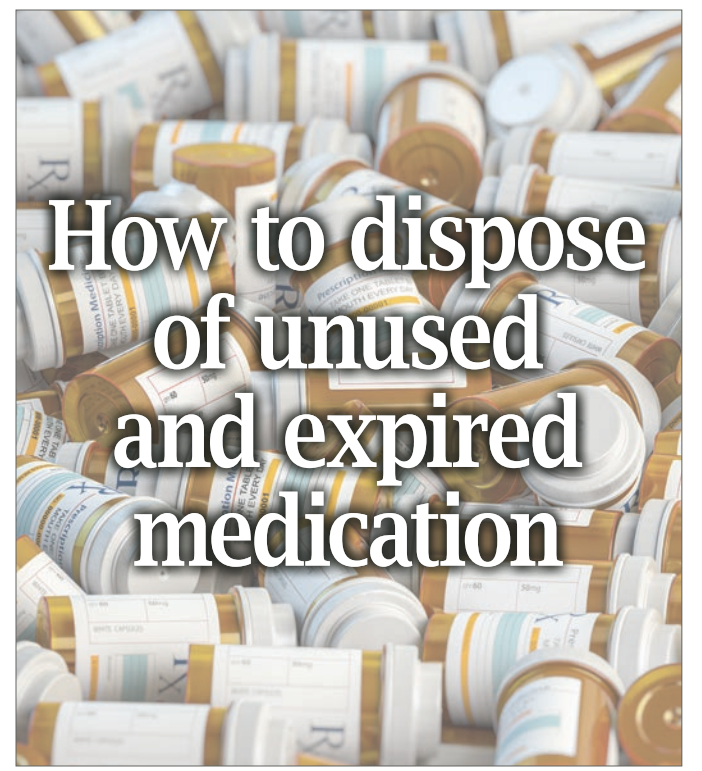
- **Obesity:** Obesity is linked to an elevated risk of kidney stones. The increased body weight can lead to changes in urinary patterns and promote the accumulation of stone-

forming substances. A previous history of weight loss surgery, such as gastric bypass, may increase the risk of kidney stones by altering dietary absorption of some minerals.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- **Pain Management:** Kidney stones can cause intense pain as they pass through the urinary tract. Over-the-counter pain relievers and prescribed

PLEASE SEE **KIDNEY** | A13



How to dispose of unused and expired medication

COURTESY PHOTO BY MAXXYUSTAS, ENVATO.COM

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug Take Back day is April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Staff Report

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Prescription Drug Take Back day is April 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The goal of this day is to provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications.

There are many ways to dispose of medications. The best option is to find a "drug take-back" location in your area. This could be a local pharmacy or a police station. The take-back location may offer

boxes, mail-back programs or in-home disposal products.

To find a proper disposal location in your area, visit the Drug Enforcement Administration's Collection Site Locator at <https://www.dea.gov/takebackday#collection-locator> and enter your zip code. If there is not a collection site near you, check the FDA's "Flush List" at <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-fdas-flush-list-certain-medicines> to see which medications can be flushed to help get rid of the unused medication.

Medication on the flush list may be especially dangerous with just one dose if it's taken by children, pets or others in the household. Flushing medicine that is not on the flush list may be harmful to the environment.

If the medication is not on the flush list, disposing of it with the garbage may be an option if you cannot flush the medication or there is not a take-back location nearby. For medicines that are thrown away in the trash, FDA recommends mixing them with an unappealing

on-site medicine drop off

substance such as dirt, cat litter, or used coffee grounds. Don't crush pills.

Lake Granbury Medical Center commemorates Doctors' Day with a donation to United Way of Hood County

Submitted Item

GRANBURY, Texas — For the second year in a row, to celebrate National Doctors' Day, Lake Granbury Medical Center found a unique way to thank the providers who serve our community and hospitals. In lieu of gifts, Lake Granbury Medical Center donated money to United Way of Hood County. "We are honored to celebrate the medical providers who serve our community," said Curt M. Junkins, CEO of Lake Granbury Medical Center. "Their unwavering care for the residents of the communities we serve warms our hearts every day."

United Way of Hood County received a donation of \$5,000 in honor of Doctors' Day. Its mission is to strive to increase the or-

ganized capacity of people to care for one another in Hood County. Through strategic initiatives, community engagement and dedicated partnerships, we foster academic excellence, financial stability, holistic well-being, disaster resilience and nonprofit capacity building.

Hospital leadership from Lake Granbury Medical Center presented a check to United Way of Hood County in honor of Doctors' Day 2024. Pictured in the photo, left to right, are Todd Belott, M.D., medical director; Curt Junkins, CEO of Lake Granbury Medical Center; Wayne Vaughn, United Way board member; and Crystal Moore, executive director of United Way of Hood County.

Doctors' Day was first observed in Winder, Georgia. Started by Eudora Brown Almond, the wife of a prom-

inent Georgia doctor, the day was meant to recognize and honor doctors for their service. She decided the best way to do that was to mail greeting cards to all the doctors she knew and to place flowers on the graves of deceased doctors. She used red carnations — a flower still used to this day for National Doctors' Day celebrations.

On March 30 each year, we celebrate National Doctors' Day to honor the professionals for their dedication and contributions to community and society. Lake Granbury Medical Center is sincerely grateful to doctors for all that they do.

PLEASE SEE **DONATION PHOTO, PAGE A13.**



COURTESY PHOTO BY AMAZINGMIKAEL, ENVATO.COM

Doctors' Day was first observed in Winder, Georgia. Started by Eudora Brown Almond, the wife of a prominent Georgia doctor, the day was meant to recognize and honor doctors for their service.

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF OUR 2ND GRANBURY OFFICE!

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APRIL	
5-7	Oink! Oink! Fest - Authentic German-Style Pig Roast
8	On the Edge TOTAL ECLIPSE 2024 – see website for list of events
20	Lake Granbury Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale
25-27	Granbury Wine Walk
MAY	
4	International Firefighters Day
11	National Police Week
TBA	BCEperiences
24-27	Memorial Day Weekend Celebrations
25	Hood Co. Stampede and Rodeo
JUNE	
1	Dinner in White
8-9	Lone Star Street Rod Association State Run
8	Pickin' in the Pasture

Information subject to change | Go to visitgranbury.com for more!

Classifieds

Deadline: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

(817) 573-7066

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

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1520
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EMPLOYMENT

8510
General

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

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HOUSEKEEPING needed at North Central Texas Academy. Please pick up an application at our front gate located at 3846 N. Hwy 144, Granbury, TX, or download from our website, northcentraltexasacademy.org.

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General

The Hood County News is hiring a responsible, committed Printing Press Operator in its fast-growing commercial printing department.

Experience preferred, but not required. Should be mechanically inclined.

Competitive pay and great work environment.

Person with responsible work ethic please apply in person at 1501 S. Morgan St. Mon-Thurs, 8am-5pm; Fri, 8am-1pm or email sam@hcnews.com.

Come join the Hood County News team!

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

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8510
General

8600
Employment Information

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CREATIONS CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER DIRECTOR A Directors role is the overall responsibility for operation of the center. Ensuring that the center is operated in accordance with company policies and state licensing standards. Director will follow operating procedures to provide the best educational, caring, and safe environment for children and families. Maintains highest standards by being visible and involved daily in the operations and education of the center's classrooms. Promotes the positive image of the company in the community. Achieves profitability for the company through daily tasks related to new enrollment as well as retaining existing families. Directors must ensure that all employees are supervised. Supervision includes, but is not limited to, knowing what the employees are doing and ensuring that they fulfill their assignments and responsibilities required for their job. Job requires you to hire and retain staff in the operation. You will have the responsibility of maintaining and working with Texas Rising Star mentors in order to provide the highest quality care possible. This job requires you to be on your feet throughout the day and be actively involved in the classroom management, organization, and training of the staff. Must be at least 21 years of age. Must have completed high school diploma or equivalent, and Must have at least three years' experience in a childcare setting that can be verified. Must be able to obtain a director's credential through Child Care Licensing which requires a Child Development Associates (CDA), A day-care administrator's credential issued by a professional organization or educational institution and approved by Licensing, or at least 9 college credit hours in Business Management and 9 College credit hours in Child Development. Child Care Director Experience Preferred. (817) 573-2808 GRANBURY. CREATIONS@GMAIL.COM

NOTICES

9031
Public Notices

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

THE RANCHES AT STAR HOLLOW, LOT 1-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 23rd, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

ABANDON ROLL-OFF CONTAINER. Tolar PD requested Don's Towing to remove this container March 14, 2024, from 9210 Park View Cir. It may be recovered from Don's Towing 6701 Glen Rose Hwy, Granbury, Tx 76048. Proof of ownership must be provided to claim it and pay all charges due. (817) 573-2101 Towing3N1@outlook.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KAREN S. ZIPPERLEN-BITNAR, Deceased, were issued on March 8, 2024, in Cause No. P10248, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: DEBRA MARIE CRANDALL.
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 15th day of March, 2024.
Steven G. Kuban
Attorney for Debra Marie Crandall
State Bar No.: 24078807
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 573-8872
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com



9031
Public Notices

INVITATION FOR BIDS
The Housing Authority of the City of Granbury, Texas (hereinafter called the "PHA") will receive sealed bids for a single construction contract for the window replacement including demolition and all work specified and/or shown on the drawings until:

Bids are to be delivered or mailed to the Housing Authority:
THURSDAY, APRIL 25th, 2024, at 2:00 PM
at the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY
503 N. CROCKETT
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048

All bidders are to join in person at the Granbury Housing Authority or via teleconference. Bid results will be announced in person and via teleconference and email.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held Thursday, April 11th, 2024, at 2:00 PM

Digital Copies of the contract documents may be on file at plan rooms in various cities of the state and may be obtained upon request to the Architect at candicep@qarch.com, (817) 546-6309 and unless otherwise specified, will be emailed in digital format and at no cost. Procurement and cost of printed bid documents are the responsibility of the Contractor.

The Housing Authority of the City of Granbury, Texas (hereinafter called the "PHA") will receive sealed bids for a single construction contract for the GFI outlet and Smoke Alarm replacement including demolition and all work specified and/or shown on the drawings until:

Bids are to be delivered or mailed to the Housing Authority:
THURSDAY, APRIL 25th, 2024, at 3:00 PM
at the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY
503 N. CROCKETT
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS
Julia Richardson, Executive Director
(817) 573-1107
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, DONE Storage, located at 4508 Old Granbury Road, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction at www.LockerFox.com of contents to satisfy a landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on April 13, 2024. Unit contents will be sold as-is to the highest bidder for cash only. Cleanup deposit is required. Contents must be removed from the property within 72 hours of the winning bid. Seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw the property at any time before the sale. All units contain household items unless additional items are noted. Contents from the following tenants will be sold: Justin R Cogburn, Curwin Piper.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT
Notice is hereby given that the automatic tabulating equipment that will be used in the Primary Election held on May 4, 2024, will be tested on April 2, 2024, through April 3, 2024, beginning at 1:00pm. The test will be conducted at the Hood County Annex 1 meeting room located at 1410 West Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76049, to ascertain that it will accurately count the votes cast for all offices and on all measures.
Stephanie Cooper
Hood County Elections Administrator

AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE
Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automaticamente que se usara en la Eleccion general que se llevara a cabo el 4 de mayo, 2024 se probara el 2 - 3 de abril 2024 a las 1:00 pm en el Anexo 1, 1410 W. Pearl St para determinar si el equipo contara con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.
Stephanie Cooper
Firma dela Oficial

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, a public sale will occur to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Lake Granbury Boat & RV Storage 5900 Rollins Rd, Granbury, TX 76049 on April 13, 2024 at 1:00PM. All sales to the highest bidder: subject to add'l terms on site. Cash only. Tenant name: David Custer/US Bank. General description: 2020 Freedom Express Model 323BHSLE 35'.

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9031
Public Notices

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HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS
Julia Richardson, Executive Director
(817) 573-1107
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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at the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY
503 N. CROCKETT
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048

All bidders are to join in person at the Granbury Housing Authority or via teleconference. Bid results will be announced in person and via teleconference and email.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held Thursday, April 11th, 2024, at 2:00 PM

Digital Copies of the contract documents may be on file at plan rooms in various cities of the state and may be obtained upon request to the Architect at candicep@qarch.com, (817) 546-6309 and unless otherwise specified, will be emailed in digital format and at no cost. Procurement and cost of printed bid documents are the responsibility of the Contractor.

The Housing Authority of the City of Granbury, Texas (hereinafter called the "PHA") will receive sealed bids for a single construction contract for the GFI outlet and Smoke Alarm replacement including demolition and all work specified and/or shown on the drawings until:

Bids are to be delivered or mailed to the Housing Authority:
THURSDAY, APRIL 25th, 2024, at 3:00 PM
at the HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY
503 N. CROCKETT
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048

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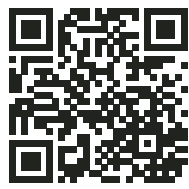
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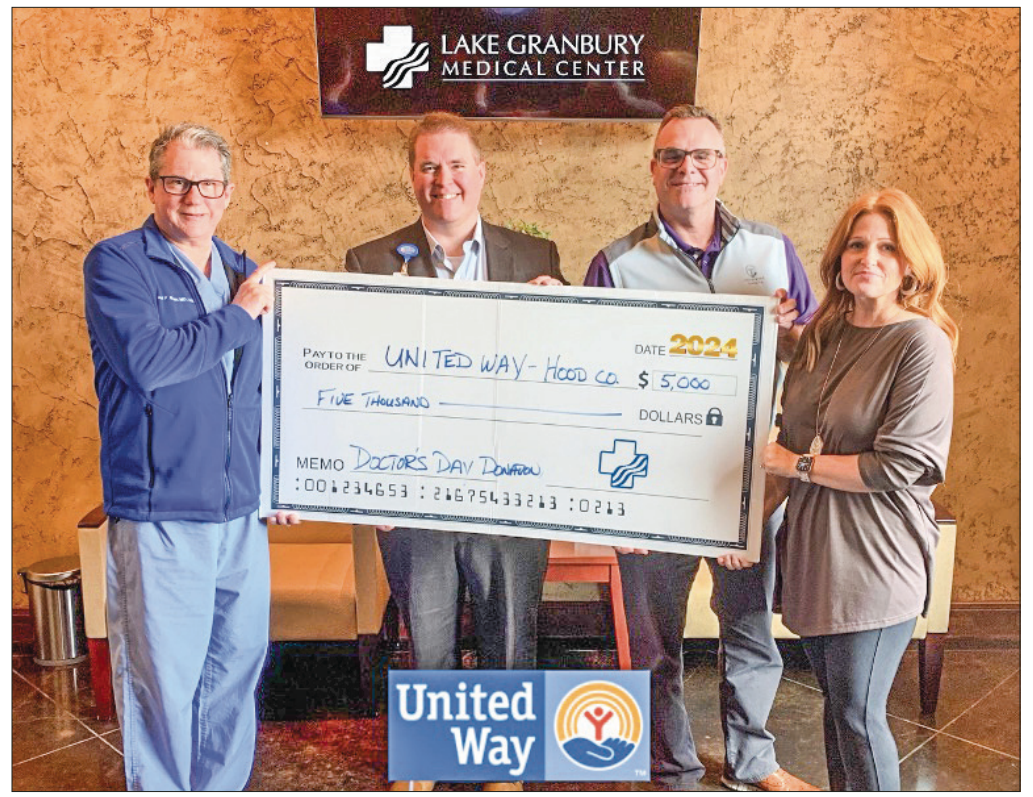
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A UNIQUE THANK YOU



COURTESY PHOTO

For the second year in a row, to celebrate National Doctors' Day, Lake Granbury Medical Center found a unique way to thank the providers who serve our community and hospitals. In lieu of gifts, Lake Granbury Medical Center donated money to United Way of Hood County.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATIONS WEEK



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Commissioners Court issued a proclamation during a regularly scheduled meeting March 26, declaring the week of April 14-20 National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Hood County in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our city and citizens safe.

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KIDNEY

FROM PAGE A8
 medication can help manage the discomfort during this process.

- **Medical Expulsion Therapy (MET):** MET involves using medication to relax the muscles in the ureter, facilitating the passage of kidney stones. This treatment option is effective for smaller stones.
- **Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL):** ESWL employs shock waves to break kidney stones into smaller fragments, making them easier to pass through the urinary tract.
- **Ureteroscopy:** When stones are lodged in the ureter, a thin tube with a camera (ureteroscope) can be used to locate and remove them or break them into smaller pieces.
- **Surgical Intervention:** For larger or more complex kidney stones, surgical pro-

cedures such as percutaneous nephrolithotomy (PNL) may be necessary to remove the stones.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- **Hydration:** Adequate water intake is crucial in preventing kidney stones. Unless specifically advised for fluid restriction for other health conditions, a healthy fluid intake would equal half your body weight in ounces daily. For example, if you weigh 200 pounds, take 100 ounces daily.
- **Dietary Changes:** Adopt a balanced diet limited in salt intake. Limit the consumption of oxalate-rich foods and maintain a healthy weight through regular exercise.
- **Calcium Intake:** Ensure an appropriate calcium intake through dietary sources. Calcium-rich foods can help bind oxalates in the intestines, reducing their absorption and lowering the risk of

stone formation.

- **Limit Soda Consumption:** Colas and other sodas contain phosphoric acid, possibly contributing to kidney stone formation. Limiting soda intake can be beneficial in preventing stone recurrence.
 - **Regular Medical Checkups:** Individuals with a family history of kidney stones or underlying medical conditions should undergo regular checkups to monitor their kidney health and address any risk factors promptly.
- Kidney stones can be a painful and recurrent condition. Still, with proper understanding of the causes, appropriate treatment, and proactive preventive measures, individuals can significantly reduce their risk of developing these troublesome stones.
- For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Harrell, please call (817) 573-5983.

PORCH

FROM PAGE A3
 plant and teal, while men stick to the basics of red, blue, brown and black.

A woman's shoes outnumber the number of shirts she owns. A man has more shirts than he does shoes. A lot more.
 Men go the moon and

take a half dozen photos. Women go to the park and take 31 photos, one video, and occasionally sign on for Facebook Live. If kids or grandchildren are with the woman, the numbers increase exponentially.
 I guess the world would be a very boring place if men and women thought the same and acted the same. Acceptance is the key, and understanding what we don't know and will never figure out. God bless the differences.

Thought for the day: Being a woman is a tremendously difficult task, since it consists principally with dealing with men.
 Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.

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OBITS CONTINUED FROM | A10

Austin George Kerin

July 20, 1940 - March 14, 2024

Austin Kerin of Granbury, Texas passed away on Thursday March 14, 2024. He was born in Herkimer, New York on July 20, 1940. Services were held at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Austin is survived by his wife of 53 years, Joyce, six children, 19 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. In 1957 he graduated high school where he was a star basketball player and immediately enlisted in The United States Air Force where he served for 27 years including a tour in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. In 1977 he retired from the Air Force out of March Air Force Base in California and went to work for Motel 6 as their VP of construction. When Motel 6 moved their headquarters to Dallas, Texas in 1988 he relocated to the DFW Metroplex. After working for several years for Motel 6 he went to work for La Quinta Hotels as their VP of Construction and moved to San Antonio, Texas where he retired for the second time. After be-



coming bored with retirement, he went to work for another hotel company, also in the same position, and moved to New Jersey for several years.

Once he decided to retire for good, he and Joyce relocated back to Texas and settled in Granbury. Austin was an avid golfer during his time in the Air Force and after his retirement into civilian life and finally as a retiree settling in a home on the second hole of the Nutcracker Golf Club at Pecan Plantation. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Carroll Gregg Wells

June 20, 1953 - February 26, 2024

Carroll Gregory (Gregg) Wells, 70, of Comanche, Texas, passed from this life Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, in Abilene. The family plans to have a memorial service for Gregg at a later date to be determined.

Carroll Gregory Wells was born June 20, 1953, in Dallas, Texas, to Harry Carroll and Evelyn Rose (Swain) Wells. He attended Garland High School where he graduated in the class of 1971. He met Adrienne Stoneman and they were married Aug. 3, 1975, in Garland, Texas. Gregg worked in construction all of his life and was a heavy equipment operator for over 40 years. The latter part of his career he was a supervisor of construction and development for the north Texas region.

He enjoyed farming and gardening, and was a die-hard fan of the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers. He attended Taylor's Chapel in Beattie, Comanche County.

Gregg is survived by his wife of 48 years, Adrienne Wells; sons, Jason Wells



and wife Lyndi of Granbury, and Gregory Wells and wife Rose of Montana; five grandchildren, Ethan Wells, Landry and Mason McCallum, Natalie Wells, Emily Wells, Khloe Wells; one great-grandchild, Jason Eli McCallum; sister, Jan Janosko and husband Ken of Emory TX; sister-in-law, Alicia Nelson and husband Rick; nephews, Jeremy Francis and wife Meagan-Marie, Hunter Nelson and wife Jerika, Victor Nelson, and Archer Nelson; niece, Mollie Nelson. He was preceded in death by parents, Harry and Evelyn Wells; brother, Gene Wells.

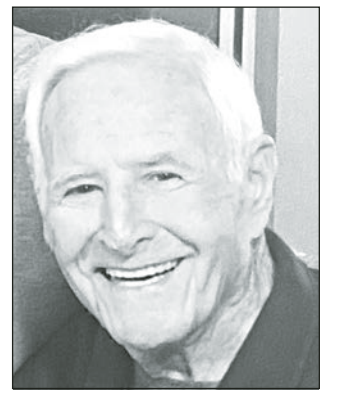
James W. Ducato

May 10, 1934 - March 15, 2024

James W. (Jim) Ducato, age 89, passed away on March 15, 2024 in Granbury, Texas. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 10, 1934 to James and Clara Ducato. After graduating from St. Stanislaus High School, Jim attended the University of Dayton on a football scholarship and graduated in 1956. He also had the good fortune of meeting his wife Pat while at Dayton, and they married in October of 1957 and had six children. Jim enjoyed a very successful 35-year career with the AT&T family of companies, retiring in 1991.

Upon retiring, Jim and Pat moved to Pecan Plantation where they formed many lifelong friendships. Jim had a joy for life and expressed it through song on many occasions. He was active in the community and proudly served as vice president at Acton Municipal Utility District, president of the Pecan Plantation Owner's Association and commissioner of Hood County Precinct 2. Jim also delivered meals for Meals on Wheels Hood County for 25 years.

Jim is survived by his wife of 66 years, Pat; his



children Debbie Endsley (Paul), Greg (Lynn), Kathy Robinson (John), Jeff (Susan), Carl (Carole), and Tony (Heidi); 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The family would like to thank Granbury Care Center and AlevCare Hospice for the kind and loving care given to Jim. Jim's earthly journey may have ended, but his spirit lives on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

A memorial Mass will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. In lieu of flowers please send memorials to Mission Granbury, Pecan Plantation EMS or Meals on Wheels Hood County.

KNIEPER REALTY

Survey, plat — what is the difference?

What is the description of a plat? A plat is a legal description of all property with an official map of the same. The plat must show boundaries, street names and numbers, and lot numbers. It also must describe the legal subdivisions and should note any easements or rights-of-way that may be on the land.

What is the description of a survey? A survey is a comprehensive drawing of a single property that provides all the information contained in a plat PLUS it illustrates any structures, fences, or any kind of on-site improvements for the purpose of ensuring all im-



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

provements are within the boundaries of the property and do not obstruct any easements or regulatory limits. It will also reflect any encroachments onto the property from neighboring lots or parcels.

To dig a little deeper, PLATS are part of the original design or layout of a subdivision. When looking at property in some of the older, more established

neighborhoods, they are not always a reliable source of information. I can point to at least one of the older developments in Hood County where the streets were not placed exactly in the right place, typically in a curve, and they encroach onto the front yards of several lots.

Additionally, new easements, right-of ways, and re-plats will never show up

on the 'original plat' for a property. That information can be found in the county records, and it will be detailed in a title commitment. But without a survey to show you exactly where those changes are on a particular piece of property, you could be faced with trying to make sense of a metes and bounds description, which will look something like this: Thence North 89 degrees, 39 minutes, 47 seconds West, a distance of 147.33 feet (the metes), along the southerly line of property now or formerly owned by John Smith (the bounds)." I know I couldn't look at that and

determine exactly where it was on a piece of land, but a surveyor can, and it's worth every penny to let the experts figure that out.

People purchase vacant lots without a survey, referencing only the original plat, all the time. It is a calculated risk and one I do not recommend. Personally, I don't recommend ever buying any property without a survey, but it is especially important if there are improvements on the property. Is the fence in the right place? Was any part of the house built over the building setback lines detailed in the deed restrictions?

Are any of the improvements built over a utility easement? Does the neighbor's retaining wall cross over onto the property you are purchasing? These are all situations that could cost you money to correct; they are also easily answered with a survey.

If you have questions about this article or if you just want to chat about the real estate market, please give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com. We love talking about real estate and we would love to talk to you.

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Just Tryon get a hit off her *Tolar pitcher best in program history*

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

It is often in the most challenging moments we discover what we were meant to be.

For example, Reese Tryon of the Tolar Lady Rattlers was not a pitcher at the start of her softball career as a youth in Arizona. Then, one day while playing for her select team in Fort Worth, her destiny revealed itself in a most adversarial situation.

"In the middle of one of those games we were in a rough situation, two outs, bases loaded. I hadn't pitched in a while, then got pulled into the game to pitch cold and not ready," she recalled. "But I went out and gave it the best shot that I could give for not pitching in a while. After that I wanted to start pitching."

Folks in Tolar are certainly glad she made that decision. Now a senior, she owns the school record for career strikeouts (538 as of this article's writing) and victories (47 as of this article).

"In the game of softball anyone knows a pitcher sets

the tone for the season and that's exactly what Reese has done over the past four years," Lady Rattlers coach Christy Collie said. "Another strong asset she contributed to is her powerful bat."

Tryon has led the team to three district championships with a fourth in mind this season.

GETTING STARTED

Born in Phoenix, Tryon and her family moved to Tolar when she was 10 years old. She began playing softball at age 5, moving to select ball at age 9.

"I started to love it and I was good, so I kept playing and working hard at it," she said.

"My dad was my pitching coach for a while until I was moving up to 16-Under and had to learn movement pitches. My dad and Matt Imel were my softball coaches for a good three years when I moved here. I have played with Senne (Imel, a Lady Rattlers teammate) a lot in my softball career."

She gave up select ball before her senior year when she made the decision not to

play in college, though Collie said she believes Tryon has the potential to be successful in college should she change her mind and play.

"It was a very hard decision and I went back and forth with it, but in the end my education was what I wanted in life," Tryon said.

She plans to study nursing at Weatherford College, then go on to get her nurse practitioner's license.

ATHLETIC FAMILY

Tryon's mom and dad were both competitors in rodeo when they lived in Arizona. In fact, she has enjoyed some rodeo success herself.

"I started barrel racing with my mom during that time," Tryon recalled.

Without a doubt, her opponents on the softball field are wishing she had stayed on the back of a horse instead of walking into a pitcher's circle.

She's also not the only Tryon child with success on a diamond. Her younger brother Rowdy is a sopho-

PLEASE SEE **TRYON** | B7



Reese Tryon

COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury ISD names Lamont Moore director of athletics



COURTESY PHOTO

New GISD Athletic Director Lamont Moore is welcomed by Superintendent Jeremy Glenn

Submitted Item

Granbury ISD announced at the March 25 school board meeting that Lamont Moore has been appointed director of athletics, effective March 26. Moore comes to GISD from Waxahachie ISD where he was most recently the head track and field coach and has been a teacher, coach and campus administrator during his career.

"I am incredibly grateful and extremely humbled for the opportunity to serve Granbury ISD and the Granbury community as athletic director," Moore said. "I couldn't be more thrilled to lead the athletic department and get involved with the community. I look forward to working with our great head coaches, providing a

culture and commitment to athletic excellence, and a memorable student-athlete experience."

As director of athletics, Moore oversees athletic programs at Granbury High School, Acton Middle School and Granbury Middle School. He also supervises athletic facilities at all GISD campuses.

"Lamont Moore is an outstanding leader who comes highly regarded and recommended to Granbury ISD," said GISD Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn. "Coach Moore has an exceptional ability to foster relationships with student-athletes, coaches and the community. He's the perfect fit for us at Granbury and I look forward to watching our athletic department excel under his direction."

Moore has been at Waxahachie for over six years where he served as head track and field coach, and as assistant football coach from 2015-20 and the 2023-24 school year. From 2020-23, Moore joined Bursleson High School where he was an assistant principal, head track and field coach, and assistant football coach.

He began his coaching career at Coram Deo Academy in Flower Mound in 2010 and was later the assistant head football coach of the Home School Athletic Association in Richardson from 2013-15 before joining Waxahachie ISD.

Moore is a Waxahachie

PLEASE SEE **MOORE** | B5

GISD implements Capturing Kids' Hearts district wide

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District board of trustees voted to implement the professional development program Capturing Kids' Hearts in each of its elementary schools during a regularly scheduled meeting March 25.

Capturing Kids' Hearts is a program that equips professionals in K-12 education to implement transformational processes focused on social-emotional wellbeing, relationship-driven campus culture and student connectedness, according to the program website.

The program was previously implemented in GISD's secondary campuses in April 2023, with Stacie Brown, director of curriculum and instruction, advocating for CKH in the hope it would strengthen relationships between teachers and students.

"Staggering statistics from the CDC, the APA — American Psychological Association — and the Office of the Surgeon General show that recent

National Youth Surveys have shown an alarming increase in the prevalence specifically of certain mental health challenges that our young people are facing," Brown said in the April 2023 school board meeting. "All of the research points to the power of connectedness and fighting against those things."

In reading the memo affiliated with the program last year, Brown added that Capturing Kids' Hearts "trains teachers, staff and administrators overarching skills to use in helping to develop self-management with our students, high performance classrooms, using team building skills and social contracts, techniques for dealing with conflict, negative behavior and issues with disrespect."

When the program's training is combined with a systemic approach, Brown explained, the research-based process improves five big indicators of school performance — fewer discipline referrals, improved attendance, higher student achievement, lower drop-out rates and higher teacher satisfaction.

As CKH has already

proved successful in Granbury Middle School, Acton Middle School, Granbury High School and STARS Accelerated High School's Behavior Transition Center, Brown recommended the trustees approve the CKH contract district-wide.

"We did some preliminary data research . . . based upon the out-of-school suspension, in-school suspension, partial days, half days, full days, etc. there has been between 25% to 50% decrease in our discipline referrals at our secondary campuses since this was implemented," Brown said, during Monday's meeting. "I also got some feedback from our principals. Our principals wanted to highlight the interactions specifically with the classroom teachers. The use of affirmations and specific activities and skills that are done helped to build an atmosphere of extended trust with and between students. So, this goes beyond just having our teachers being part of relationships with our students — this is the process of developing relationships between our students as well."



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Stacie Brown, Granbury ISD's director of curriculum and instruction, speaks to the Granbury ISD board of trustees about the Capturing Kids Hearts program during a regularly scheduled meeting March 25.

Brown explained there has also been a "mindful focus on accountability" in the principals getting to know their students.

"CKH provided tools to help support teachers with new ideas for making sure we have a format of culture building and maintenance for our staff and our stakeholders," she said.

The initial implementation for the CKH elementary service agreement will cost the district \$276,750, while the renewal for the secondary service agreement will cost \$54,700, resulting in a

combined total of \$331,450 overall.

Before the agenda item was addressed in the meeting, a couple of speakers voiced their concern over the cost of the program.

Lisa McDermott asked if the CKH training would be an "effective use of district resources."

"The overall cost of the program is \$331,450," she said. "Have there been any benefits with the current program of secondary schools? Is there enough benefit to warrant spending another \$276,750 to imple-

ment it in the elementary schools?"

McDermott also asked if the training was a "necessity," as many of the skills taught in the training include good character, relationship building and modeling good behavior.

"Are Granbury ISD employees currently incapable of building meaningful and productive relationships with students and colleagues?" she asked. "Do Granbury ISD educators currently lack the ability to

PLEASE SEE **HEART** | B3

2024 Student Heroes Award nominations now open

Staff Reports

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Student Heroes Award.

Approved by the State Board of Education (SBOE) in 2015, this award highlights Texas public school students participating in impactful volunteer service in their communities.

Since the award's inception, nearly 120 Texas public school students with a heart

for service have been named Student Heroes. Fifteen students, one per state board district, receive the award each year, with contributions ranging from initiating inclusive programs for seniors and students with disabilities to facilitating fundraisers for kids receiving medical treatment.

The SBOE encourages students, teachers, administrators and community members to nominate any Texas

public school students who exemplify the core value of selfless service.

To be nominated for the award, the volunteer service project performed by a public or charter school student must not be associated with any curriculum requirement, a school service project or community program.

The nomination period began Monday, Feb. 19, and will end Saturday, May 4, at

5 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

When completing the Student Heroes nomination form, be sure to include all required information, such as the nominee's permission to be nominated, and to have his or her information shared publicly. The nomination form must include an essay submitted by the nominator describing the nominee's outstanding volunteerism and how it benefited others.

A parent or guardian signature is required for nominees under the age of 18 years old.

The student who earns this award will receive a plaque and a medal from their SBOE district member.

The award presentation typically occurs at a local school assembly, an organization meeting, or in a classroom. The exact date, time and location of the presentation will be determined

by the local school district or campus in coordination with the SBOE member. Up to 15 students, one from each SBOE member, may be recognized.

For further details or to fill out a nomination form, visit tea.texas.gov, and type Student Heroes Award in the search bar at the top of the webpage.

Tolar Rodeo Team hosts NTX HS Rodeo Assoc. rodeo in Granbury

BY EMMA VANBECELAERE
Sports reporter
emma@hcnews.com

The Tolar rodeo team will host a North Texas High School Rodeo Association Rodeo in Granbury at the Reunion grounds, April 6 and 7. The Tolar Rodeo begins at noon Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday. The gate fee will be \$7 for everyone who attends.

The Tolar rodeo team is not sponsored by Tolar High School. The team is made up of high school students who enjoy the rodeo, and even those who don't wish to compete in events may join. Those students may ride with the team in parades and participate for the end-of-year awards.

This is the Tolar rodeo team's second year to host the Tolar Rodeo. Rodeo Queen Pyper Boggs and Sweetheart of the Rodeo Rylee Swain will be crowned at the event Saturday. Event champions as well as the All-Around boy and girl will receive a buckle.

The Tolar rodeo team is sanctioned by the North Texas High School Rodeo Association (NTHSRA). High school students representing 60 schools in the North Texas area, like Burleson, Godley and Granbury, will compete in the various



COURTESY PHOTO OF SHAVONNE KENLEY

The Tolar rodeo team gets ready for the Tolar Rodeo that will be hosted at the Reunion Grounds in Granbury on April 6 and 7.

events at the Tolar Rodeo.

The NTHSRA typically hosts its rodeos in Saginaw almost every weekend from September to May. At the end of the season, the top

15 athletes in each event will compete at the NTHSRA finals in May at Waxahachie.

Athletes will compete in events such as barrel racing, bareback broncs, saddle broncs, bulls, breakaway,

calf roping, team roping, ribbon roping, walk up goats, ride up goats, pole bending, chute dogging and steer wrestling.

The Tolar rodeo team is sponsored by Shavonne

Kenley. The officers of the Tolar rodeo team are President Takota Kenley, Secretary Rylee Rickabaugh, Treasurer Bonner Kissel and Media Director Pyper Boggs. The Tolar rodeo team is

always looking for sponsors to help the Tolar Rodeo, cowboys and cowgirls advance their career in the rodeo world.

Legends of the diamond: The top 8 moments in baseball history

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

As the scent of fresh-cut grass wafts through the air and the crack of bats echoes in stadiums, baseball fans across the nation know it's that time of the year again: Opening Day is here! To celebrate America's beloved pastime, let's relive the top eight moments that have etched their mark in baseball history, captivating fans and securing their place in the annals of the sport.

BABE RUTH'S CALLED SHOT (1932 WORLD SERIES)

It was the third game of the 1932 World Series, and the air at Wrigley Field was electric with anticipation. Babe Ruth, the Sultan of Swat, stepped up to the plate. With the count at two

strikes, Ruth made a grandiose gesture, pointing decisively toward the center field bleachers. Moments later, he blasted a home run into the very spot he had indicated, a feat that has been enshrined as "The Called Shot." This act of prophetic power hitting has become a legend, celebrated for its boldness and flair, encapsulating the magic of baseball in a single, unforgettable swing.

JACKIE ROBINSON BREAKS THE COLOR BARRIER (1947)

April 15, 1947, marked a seismic shift not just in baseball, but in American society. Jackie Robinson, wearing number 42 for the Brooklyn Dodgers, shattered the color barrier that had segregated the sport for more than 50 years. His MLB debut was more than a game; it was a powerful statement against racial discrimination. Robinson's courage and tal-

ent paved the way for generations of athletes, making this moment a benchmark of progress and the embodiment of the American spirit.

HANK AARON BREAKS BABE RUTH'S HOME RUN RECORD (1974)

The chase had been long and, at times, bitter, but April 8, 1974, Hank Aaron stood alone as baseball's home run king. His 715th career home run, hit in front of a packed Atlanta stadium, was more than just a triumph over Babe Ruth's long-standing record; it was a victory for equality and determination. Aaron's grace under pressure during his pursuit of the record spoke volumes about his character and the changing landscape of America itself.

CAL RIPKEN JR. BREAKS LOU GEHRIG'S CONSECUTIVE GAMES PLAYED RECORD (1995)

Cal Ripken Jr., the Iron Man of baseball, immortalized Sept. 6, 1995, as a testament to resilience and perseverance. By playing in his 2,131st consecutive game for the Baltimore Orioles, Ripken surpassed the legendary Lou Gehrig's streak. His record of 2,632 games stands as a monument to Ripken's unwavering dedication to the sport, inspiring players and fans alike with the message that showing up every day is a victory in itself.

THE BOSTON RED SOX BREAK THE CURSE (2004)

The year 2004 brought closure to one of the most storied superstitions in sports history: the Curse of the

Bambino. For 86 long years, the Boston Red Sox had languished in a championship drought, which many attributed to the sale of Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees in 1919. But the curse was finally lifted when the Red Sox clinched the World Series title, a victory that unleashed a collective sigh of relief and joy from the Fenway faithful and casual observers alike. It was a moment of redemption, reaffirming the belief that no curse is too great to overcome.

NOLAN RYAN'S SEVENTH NO-HITTER (1991)

On May 1, 1991, the Texas sky bore witness to a miracle as Nolan Ryan, the strikeout titan, spun his seventh no-hitter against the Toronto Blue Jays. At an age when many players would be reflecting on their careers, Ryan, at 44, blazed fastballs past bewildered batters. This unparalleled achievement cemented his status as a baseball immortal and gave the Texas Rangers a moment of pure magic. Ryan's seven no-hitters stand as a bastion of excellence, unlikely ever to be surpassed, and a testament to the enduring spirit of the game.

KENNY ROGERS' PERFECT GAME (1994)

Amid the swelter of a July evening in 1994, Kenny Rogers delivered perfection. His flawless game, etched in the annals of the Texas Rangers' history, was a ballet of pitches that left the California Angels grasping for answers they would never find. A perfect game is a masterpiece, an orchestration of skill, poise and a touch of divine favor, all of



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHUCK ANDERSEN WIKIMEDIA.COM

Nolan Ryan warming up in the bullpen at Tiger Stadium.

which Rogers had in abundance that night. It was the 14th perfect game in MLB history, and it remains a beacon of perfection that Rangers fans revere with pride.

TEXAS RANGERS WIN THEIR FIRST WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP (2023)

The pinnacle of baseball glory for a team is to hoist the World Series trophy. For the Texas Rangers, this dream crystallized into reality in 2023. A franchise once haunted by near-misses and heartbreaks finally claimed the ultimate prize, etching its name into the annals of champions. It was a season defined by resilience, a post-season carved by the will to win, and a series won by a team unyielding in its quest for greatness. The 2023 World Series Championship will forever be a beacon of hope for underdogs everywhere and a cherished memory in the hearts of the Rangers faithful.

These eight moments create a tapestry of baseball's rich and diverse narrative. From Jackie Robinson's trailblazing courage to Nolan Ryan's relentless pursuit of excellence; from Cal Ripken Jr.'s historic streak to the Texas Rangers' long-awaited triumph, each thread is woven with the same sturdy yarn: passion, perseverance and undying love for the game.

As we embark on yet another season, hearts flutter with the possibility that the next great baseball moment could happen any day, at any game. It's the eternal hope of the fans and the ever-burning ambition of the players that keep the spirit of baseball alive. So, let's settle into our seats, with popcorn in hand and eyes alight with expectation, for the next pitch could start the journey toward becoming moment number nine in our grand list of baseball's unforgettable moments. PLAY BALL!



COURTESY PHOTO BY CHARLES M. CONLON

Babe Ruth, 1933

HOOD OUTDOORS

Springtime slabbing to locate fish



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.

I use slabs most of the year, however the spring and fall are probably the best known time of the year to use them. The one function of a slab that does not get much attention is its use to locate fish. Slabs are not the only lure one can use to locate fish, but it is a strategy I use quite often. It will work if you can give it a try especially on white bass, hybrids and striped bass.

First of all, many ask what is a slab? A slab is just a solid oval or willow leaf-shaped lure made to resemble a bait fish. Favorite colors are silver, chartreuse and white. Holographic designs are real popular and work well. A slab is a little different than a spoon, but the result from either is typically the same. Slabs are typically used for vertical jigging, but they can also be thrown and retrieved. In the winter you can dead stick them over areas as well. You just have to figure out the mood of the fish and the movement they want.

Today's article is on using the slab to locate active predators. If the birds don't point you to active fish and you have to go looking for them, the slab is a good choice. One thing for sure is that white bass (sand bass), hybrid striped bass and/or striped

bass typically are in the same areas on a body of water. Not all times of the year, but the majority of the time they will be close to each other. Using this information lets me work known areas where fish typically hold with a slab looking for a bite. This can start with any of the species I mentioned above, but don't be surprised to catch most anything swimming in the lake with a slab.

I will work different areas until I can find a location where I start getting bit. Typically, the sand bass will be the first to bite either due to feeding or just reactionary hits. It depends on whether they are hungry. Seeing them on the graph is one thing, getting them to bite can be a chore on some days. However, if one is willing to bite, then more than likely there will be others close

by that may have the same desire. Fish in schools like stripers, hybrids and sand bass are competitive, and an easy meal (slab) just may be the lure to get them going.

When you do find some willing to bite you will most certainly be close to bait fish. The predators will not be far from their dinner. So there may be many different species in the area that you have located. Some may be deeper and others may be closer to the bank in shallower water. You know what they say, 90% of the fish are in 10% of the water. Many times this is true.

If you don't get a bite, move to the next spot. If the graph looked good, you may want to try that spot later as they may feed later in the day at that spot.

Granbury sand bass (white bass) as we call them are currently positioned near humps and ridges in 10 to 20 feet of water and they are biting slabs. Once located, you can fill the cooler but don't be surprised to catch other species as well.

The slab is an effective fish locator for sure. Once you locate some fish willing to bite, you can then use other baits focusing on the bigger species. This time of the year, soft plastics/swim baits are deadly on stripers/hybrids. Putting out live bait after locating fish with slabs may be in order on those days when the fish are a little



COURTESY PHOTO

A slab is just a solid oval or willow leaf-shaped lure made to resemble a bait fish.

more finicky.

When you are working your slab in an area, many will tap their boats or thrash the water to bring in any curious predators. This does work as I thrash the water all the time when fishing open water. When I am fishing shallow, you might spook shallow feeding fish, so be careful when shallow.

If you want to mimic a small bait and use a heavy slab or spoon to get deeper, a treble hook with some hair/feathers like a bucktail can make the difference between catching and not catching fish. The small treble hook with some flashy hair/feathers looks like a small bait fish itself and the action from the large slab is what draws the fish in to look.

I guarantee that I will always keep a slab or two tied on this time of year. Even if

the fish are not real active, a jigging spoon/slab will probably bring in some curious fish to look. If you're fishing with live bait, this may also stir sufficient action to bring on the bite.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the middle 60s on the main lake. The lake is full with all the rain we continue to have. Watch out for floating debris. Granbury sand bass action has been good from Indian Harbor to in town on slabs jigged off the bottom in 10 to 20 feet of water. Striped bass have been hit or miss, but some good action can be had on live bait near De Cordova Bend Estates to Blue Water Shores. Crappie action is improving in the creeks and sloughs, but

many are still being caught on main lake structure on jigs from Water's Edge to the Peninsula. Catfish (blues and yellows) continue to be good on cut shad on the upper ends. Granbury largemouth are fair to good to six pounds on soft plastics and spinner baits near bedding areas. Some good largemouth continue to be caught near major creek entrances.

Comanche Creek (formerly Squaw Creek) reservoir continues to produce limits of eater-sized channel catfish on prepared baits. Largemouth bass are being caught in numbers to eight pounds on soft plastics and crankbaits. I do not have a tilapia report this week. Comanche Creek is scheduled to close at the end of March and will reopen in October.

HEARTS

FROM PAGE B1

model positive behaviors? One can only conclude that the superintendent and this board believe current employees lack these desired skills and thus require this training."

Todd Daniels said that through his research, he found that CKH training only takes place two days in the summer and asked where the money was coming from to fund the program.

"My question would be: where's the money coming from? Are you getting some kind of grant? If you're getting a grant, I want to know that this is measurable," Daniels said. "What my due diligence provided me is

that it's basically an SEL and diversity training program. We don't need that. Staff doesn't need that, the kids don't need that, and \$276,000 is a lot of money for a two-day gig. I think it's a waste of money, and I think you should reconsider it."

In addressing the concerns expressed by Daniels and McDermott, Superintendent Jeremy Glenn asked Brown if she could discuss the budget used to fund the CKH program.

Brown explained that the CKH program is funded by the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grant that was given to the district to assist with the COVID-19 impact.

"The grant itself is spent

on those things that we see some concerns with, so it does help to ensure interventions are put in place to respond to our students, for not only their well-being, but also the impact that has on their academics," Brown said. "When you feel seen, heard and safe, you can focus on math, reading and language arts."

Glenn then asked Brown rhetorically what would happen if the district chose not to expend those funds, and if they could spend the ESSER grant on anything they wanted.

Brown explained that the grant is written to specifically provide relief in mental health and the money must only be used to purchase programs that can support those efforts. She added if the funds are not

used, they will be distributed back to the government.

"Essentially, to answer the question that was brought up in open forum tonight, these are federal funds," Glenn said. "We applied to the grant, the federal government said, 'Yes, you can have it if you spend it on these programs and these programs only. If you choose not to expend it on these programs, we're going to take the funds back, and if you do anything else with these funds, we're going to charge you for it and we're going to take our money back.' So, we looked at all the programs, we got teacher input, we determined what was best practice, and we tried to address the real need among students in Granbury, so we implemented Capturing Kids' Hearts,

a research-based program that our teachers and administration looked at and said, 'We support that program. That's good for kids.'"

Board Vice President Courtney Gore explained that in the district's strategic planning meetings, an accountability measure was put in place to track the data from CKH.

"We have actual accountability measures built in to make sure that this program is being implemented the way it should be, and it's being streamlined across the district," Gore said.

Board Secretary Billy Wimberly also asked Brown if she viewed CKH as an anti-bullying program. She responded, "Absolutely."

"Because of the strategies that are implemented specifically in student-to-

student relationships, we've had the basic training at our secondary campuses," Brown said. "They will then go into a phase where they are doing some more things with our students and the peer-to-peer relationships and leading forward. They call it, 'CKH leadership,' which is students actually working with other students on the way things are getting done here. We go a little deeper, a little wider, and specifically, to target relationships which we see as the kind of solution for bullying and being connected."

Gore then made a motion to adopt the Capturing Kids' Hearts professional development contract for all elementary schools. The motion passed 6-1, with Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft voting in opposition.

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Granbury: 3:00-3:45pm at RUSSELL FEED
Glen Rose: 4:15-5:00pm at BUTLER FEEDS

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on March 23 (Puzzle 75).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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Lady Pirates



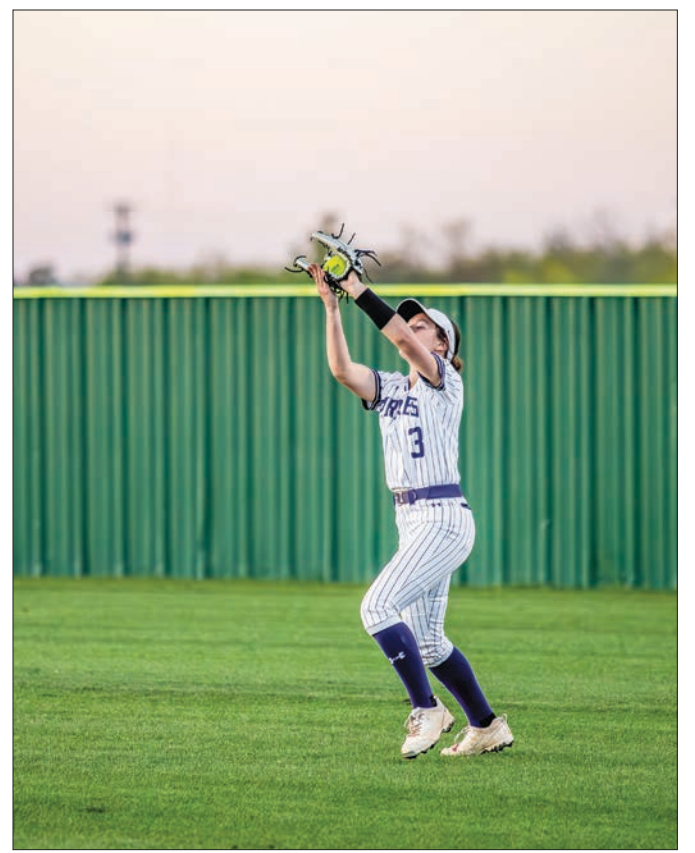
PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Tuesday March 26, the Lady Pirates took on the Lady Bearcats of Aledo. For full gallery go to [HCNews.com](https://www.hcnews.com).



Rachel Venable loading up to hit a ball.



Pitcher Allison Dafoe, throwing a pitch to Aledo batter



Preslee Carnes with a catch in the right field.



Carli Carlton with a hit Tuesday, March 26, against Aledo.



Morgan Johnson recovering a bunt.



Indians honored at commissioners court

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Commissioners Court presented a proclamation during a regularly scheduled meeting March 26, to honor the Lipan Indians' UIL 2A State Boys' Basketball Championship. On Saturday, March 9, the Lipan Indians successfully defended their 2023 Title and won the 2024 state title by defeating the Shelbyville Dragons 47-36 in San Antonio. The Lipan Indians have now won six state championships in 15 state tournament appearances, including six of the last eight.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Lady Pirates took on the Lady Bearcats of Aledo, on Tuesday, March 26.

Pirate lifters compete at state Granbury runners set records in elite meet

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Three members of the Granbury Pirates powerlifting team competed at the Class 5A State Meet in Abilene March 23.

Leading Granbury was Davin Jones, who placed 20th in the 198-pound weight class. He lifted a total of 1,465 pounds (squat, bench press, deadlift).

Enrique Sanchez placed 25th in the 242 division, lifting 1,520 pounds. Rylan Brenish took 26th in the 181 division, lifting 1,450.

GRANBURY BOYS TRACK

Several members of the Pirates competed in the Dallas Jesuit Shearer Relays March 22-23, one of the state's premier meets. Several school and personal records were set.

The Pirates' top finish was by Miller Schenewark, who placed third in the high jump in Class 5A, clearing a school-record 6 feet, 2 inches. Another school record was the time of 42.33 seconds by the 4x100-meter relay team of Kaleb Johnston, Elijah Johnston, Michael Grant and Jadon Rogers, which placed sixth.

Elijah Johnston also set a personal record with his time of 22.03 in the 200, finishing fourth.

The 4x200 relay team of Caden Davis, Kaleb Johnston, Rogers and Elijah Johnston also set a school record of 1:29.13 in placing seventh.

Alec Wilkinson set yet another school mark, placing 14th in the 1600 with a time of 4:35.17. Jaxon Glenn took 10th in the 3200 with a personal record of 9:53.34 and Aiden Lemens was 21st in the 800 in 2:09.21.

"I am extremely proud of their efforts and accomplishments," Pirates coach Jody Brown said. "Great group of kids to coach. Great day to

be a Pirate."

LIPAN BOYS BASKETBALL

Freshman Court Gaylor and sophomore Darius Steed of Lipan were named the Co-District MVPs on the All-District 11-2A Team by the league's coaches. First team selections were sophomore Payton Cornelius, senior Tyson Tarpley and junior Alberto Andreatta.

Sophomore Kolt Larson was named to the second team, while freshmen Tucker Tims and Wyatt Yates joined junior Colby Scott as honorable mentions.

All were also academic all-district.

The Indians won a second consecutive state championship in San Antonio March 9.

TOLAR BOYS BASKETBALL

Rattlers senior Meritt Imel was named the District 11-2A Defensive MVP and freshman Cayden Abrego was tabbed as the Newcomer of the Year.

Seniors Isaac Blessing and Matthew Behrens joined freshman Briton Rice in being picked for the first team, while senior Tyson Ellis and junior Zane Terrell were selected for the second team. Honorable mention went to junior Brooks Stone.

GRANBURY BASEBALL

The Pirates (13-6, 1-4 in District 5-5A) fell 6-0 at Wichita Falls Rider March 22 and 3-2 at Aledo March 26, continuing a recent slide.

Brazos Cornelison had a double for the Pirates against Rider. Against Aledo, Easton Bleeker had a pair of hits and Braxton Heffernan doubled.

Granbury pitchers Hunter Jones (three strikeouts, one walk) and Hudson Hamilton (six strikeouts, one walk) combined for nine strikeouts in the hard-luck loss for Jones. Only two of Aledo's runs were earned.

Granbury was hosting Aledo at press time. The up-

coming schedule has them at Fort Worth Arlington Heights March 30 at noon in a non-league game, followed by back-to-back district games at home against Brewer April 2 and at Brewer April 5, both at 6:30 p.m.

TOLAR BASEBALL

In a busy few days, the Rattlers (5-6-2, 2-0 in District 11-2A) won 14-1 at Santo March 22, lost 8-2 at home against Fort Worth Country Day March 23 and lost 11-1 at Jacksboro March 26, the latter two non-league games.

Oakley Saffer pitched a 2-hitter against Santo, giving up an earned run with three strikeouts and five walks in five innings. Jesse Owen led the hitting with three hits, a double, two RBIs and two stolen bases.

Hunter Michels had two hits, a double and two stolen bases; Rowdy Tryon doubled with two RBIs and a stolen base, while Cutter Cain tripled with a walk and four RBIs.

Owen's two hits against FWCD included a home run and two RBIs, while Noah Yanish had two hits and a stolen base.

The Rattlers have a home-and-home district series against rival Lipan April 2 at Lipan at 6 p.m. and at home April 5 at 6:30 p.m.

LIPAN BASEBALL

The Indians (4-4-2, 3-0 in District 11-2A) won 15-3 at Poolville March 23 and 14-7 at Santo March 26.

Jackson Posey had four hits, including a double and stolen base, and drove in three runs against Poolville. Hunter Mills collected two hits with two stolen bases and three RBIs.

Against Santo, Posey again led with three hits, another double, walk, two RBIs and a stolen base. Brayden Dowdy had two hits with a double and three RBIs; Tyson Tarpley had two hits, a walk and two RBIs;



COURTESY OF JODY BROWN

The Granbury Pirates 4x100-meter relay of (from left) Michael Grant, Jadon Rogers, Kaleb Johnston, Elijah Johnston, pictured with coach Jody Brown, set a school record of 42.33 seconds at the Dallas Jesuit Shearer Relays this past Saturday.

Cash Bolenbarker's two hits included a double, and he walked with an RBI; and Riggan Morris had two hits and two RBIs.

Lipan was hosting Santo at press time, followed by its games against Tolar.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Lady Pirates (9-15, 1-4 in District 5-5A) won 6-0 at Saginaw March 22, followed by an 11-0 loss at home against Aledo March 26.

Allison Dafoe had a pair of hits and an RBI, along with getting the pitching victory against Saginaw. She gave up seven hits, struck out seven and walked two in seven innings.

Also, Rachel Venable had three hits, a double, triple and RBI; Morgan Johnson, two hits, double; and Preslee Carnes, double, two RBIs.

At press time, Granbury was hosting Brewer. They travel to Azle April 2 for a 6:30 p.m. contest.

TOLAR SOFTBALL

The Lady Rattlers (10-5, 2-0 in District 11-2A) enjoyed some time off before returning to play DeLeon at home at press time. They travel to Lipan April 2 for a 5:30 p.m. game and host Santo April 5 at 5 p.m.

LIPAN SOFTBALL

The Lady Indians (8-3, 2-1 in District 11-2A) won 13-1 at Santo March 26 as Ella Sharp pitched a 2-hitter with no earned runs, nine strikeouts and a walk.

Sarah Marcantonio hit two home runs and a double, driving in four runs and stealing a base. Ryan Atkinson had two doubles and a stolen base.

Lipan stole 14 bases, including four by Ashlyn Clark, who also had a base hit.

After their game against Tolar, Lipan travels to DeLeon April 5 with a 5:30 p.m. first pitch.

GRANBURY TRACK

The Lady Pirates and Pirates traveled to Joshua

March 20 for the Owls Relays. The Lady Pirates varsity finished fifth and the Pirates were seventh in the varsity team standings. Among the JV, both Granbury teams were sixth.

Top individual finishers for the Lady Pirates varsity were:

4x100-meter relay: 2. Ella Garner, Julia Crum, Jayla Hayes, Baylee Goodman, 50.05

Long jump: 2. Blakely Bleeker, 15-5.5; 3. Kylie Moody, 15-4.75

Shot put: 3. Garner 31-3

JV girls

High jump: 1. Remi Chastain, 4-10

3200: 2. Kambry Zschiesche, 13:20

100 hurdles: 2. Jina Kim, 18.06

400: 3. Jillian Williams, 65.7

4x100 relay: 3. Tamea Busby, Karolina Berry, Williams, Ava Garner, 52.62

Varsity boys

Discus: 2. Chase Cantrell, 130-9

JV boys

Discus: 2. Rylan Kersh, 106-7

Long jump: 2. Andy Debello, 18-8

Triple jump: 2. Devin Christiansen, 37-11.5

Granbury was competing at Stephenville at press time; it will compete in the District 5-5A Meet in Aledo April 3-4.

Tolar results

Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches

Varsity boys

200: 1. Caden Pate, 22.87

110 hurdles: 2. Dacen Watkins, 16.28

300 hurdles: 3. Watkins, 45.19

4x200 relay: 3rd. 1:34.66

Shot put: 1. Samuel Stewart, 44-9

Discus: 2. Peyton Brown, 120-8

Triple jump: 1. Watkins, 38-5.5

Pole vault: 1. Brylen Feist, 13-0

Varsity girls

100 hurdles: 3. Milly Taylor, 17.46

Long jump: 3. Bailey Gammons, 15-8

Shot put: 2. Kamryn Kolb, 31-9

Discus: 3. Allie Terrell, 95-5

High jump: 3. Senne Imel, 5-0

Pole vault: 2. Gammons, 7-1

JV boys

4x400 relay: 1st. 3:49.43

Shot put: 2. Cayden Abrego, 35-1

Discus: 1. Abrego, 101-6; 2. Lane Kutej, 99-1

Triple jump: 2. Anson Laminack, 37-2.75

Pole vault: 1. Daxton Higgins, 10-0; 2. Gunnar Reid, 9-0; 3

JV girls

200: 3. Lily Pritchett, 28.94

1600: 2. Kaylee Smith, 7:21.53

100 hurdles: 2. Addy Weatherford, 22.28

300 hurdles: 2. Weatherford, 1:16.00

Shot put: 3. Loryn Wienecke, 28-5

Pole vault: 2. Kenleigh Hankins, 7-0

The Rattlers and Lady Rattlers, along with the Lipan Indians and Lady Indians, will compete in the District 11-2A Meet April 1 and 4 in Tolar.

Granbury was competing at Stephenville at press time; it will compete in the District 5-5A Meet in Aledo April 3-4.

Tolar results

Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches

Varsity boys

200: 1. Caden Pate, 22.87

110 hurdles: 2. Dacen Watkins, 16.28

300 hurdles: 3. Watkins, 45.19

4x200 relay: 3rd. 1:34.66

Shot put: 1. Samuel Stewart, 44-9

Discus: 2. Peyton Brown, 120-8

Triple jump: 1. Watkins, 38-5.5

Pole vault: 1. Brylen Feist, 13-0

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COURTESY OF JODY BROWN

The Granbury Pirates 4x200-meter relay of (from left) Kaleb Johnston, Caden Davis, Jadon Rogers, Elijah Johnston, shown with coach Jody Brown, ran a school-record time of 1:29.13 at the Shearer Relays at Dallas Jesuit on Saturday, March 23.

MOORE

FROM PAGE B1
native and 1993 graduate. He was inducted in 2023 into the WHS Athletic Hall of Fame for leading WHS to

the 1992 4A UIL Football State Championship as an All-American and the Dallas Morning News' Metro Player of the Year. He went on to play football at Baylor University as a quarterback and wide receiver where he

received a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. He received a master's degree in educational leadership from Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

After college, Moore played professionally in the

Arena Football League for nine years for the Dallas Desperados, New Orleans Voodoo and Orlando Predators, scoring over 25 touchdowns in his career. In 2019, Moore was awarded the Leadership

Award from the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce. He was also on the Ellis County Transformative Leadership Cabinet, which is a community leadership cabinet established for the purpose of making a positive impact

on the lives of those living in Ellis County.

Moore takes over as director of athletics from Dwight Butler, who announced his retirement effective in June 2024 after 18 years at Granbury ISD.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texans come back in clash of top WAC programs to take down Mavericks in Arlington

Tarleton State University

ARLINGTON - Sunday tennis in Arlington featured two of the top programs in the Western Athletic Conference March 24. After Tarleton State lost the doubles point and lost the first set in five of six singles matches, the Texans ended up with five singles victories to come

back and take down UT Arlington 5-2 on the road.

The Texans (11-2, 2-0) continued their special 2024 campaign with their sixth win on the road in seven opportunities. This was their first victory over the Mavericks (10-6, 0-2 WAC) since joining the NCAA Division I ranks, now 1-1 on the road at UTA.

"What an intense match!" head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron said. "UTA has not lost very many this year, we knew we would all have to battle to win. Our energy was great from the start. UTA played two good doubles matches but the team rallied back and fought for every singles point. Martha (Makantasi) and Elsa (Boisson) had very

tough matches but dug their teeth in and battled. I am proud of Ximena (Morales) and Emma (Persson) for their performances today. After losing their first set, both of them elevated their game and fought hard for a win. Getting the win on Court 4 with Noelia (Lorca) was a nice way to end a very competitive match."

The Texans went 2-1 in their three-match week and are one of three teams to start conference play 2-0. They have the tied-fewest overall losses in the WAC and the second most wins, only behind Grand Canyon at 14-2.

To start Sunday at the UTA Tennis Center, the Texans lost just their second doubles point in their 13th match. The Mavericks won the first two doubles matches on Courts 1-2, as Tara Gorinsek and Mariana Manyoma-Velasquez defeated Makantasi and Maretha Burger 6-3 on Court 1, and Bruna Casasampere and Francisca Vergara took down Boisson and Morales

6-1 on Court 2. Lorca and Persson picked up a win on Court 3 for the Texans 6-4 over Ana Paula Jimenez and Sarina Reinertsen. Lorca and Persson are now 9-1 together.

UTA started singles play with a victory to go up 2-0 in the team score, which was the last point they'd take on the day. The Mavericks' Casasampere defeated Adeliya Mukhutdinova 6-4 6-4 on Court 6.

The Texans then rattled off five straight victories, with all five matches three-set affairs.

First, Makantasi defeated Manyoma-Velasquez 2-6 6-3 6-4 on Court 3 to improve to 11-2 on the year.

Then, Persson snapped a five-match losing streak with a comeback win of her own, taking it on the top court 1-6 6-4 6-3 over Gorinsek.

Morales' comeback was next, winning on Court 5 3-6 6-2 6-4 against Vergara. This was Morales' second singles match of the year and her first victory this season.

On Court 2 in front of a

strong showing of Texan Nation, Boisson clinched the team victory 6-7(5) 6-4 6-4 over Reinertsen. Boisson is now 9-4 overall, 9-3 at the No. 2 position.

Lorca finished with the fifth straight singles win on Court 4, defeating Paula Jimenez 7-6(6) 4-6 4-1. The match was retired due to an injury to Paula Jimenez. Lorca improved her team-leading singles record to 12-1.

Just five regular season matches remain for the Texans before the WAC Tournament, four of which will happen in Stephenville. The Texans announced Saturday they will open the new Tarleton Tennis Facility Thursday for their match against Utah Tech at 11 a.m. There will be a pre-match ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:30 a.m.

"We are excited to come back home and play on our new courts Thursday," Douglas-Miron said. "We hope to see everyone out there and I know the girls will put on a good show."



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Texans ended up with five singles victories to come back and take down UT Arlington 5-2 on the road.

Cade breaks school record for women's pole vault

Tarleton State University WACO - Hannah Cade highlighted the Texans' time at the 2024 Clyde Hart Invitational as she broke the school record for the women's pole vault previously held by current Texan and teammate Sage Barmettler.

March 22-23, 12 student-athletes moved into the top-10 all-time in program history across 12 different events.

FIELD

Cade set the new mark to beat for the women's pole vault Friday afternoon on the Brazos in Waco after vaulting 4.00 meters and finishing sixth at the 2024 Clyde Hart Invitational. She took the school record from current teammate and Texan Sage Barmettler who set the record at 3.72 meters during the 2023 season.

Sofia DeGroot moved to fourth all-time in program history in two different events with the first being in the women's long jump. She turned in a jump of 5.93 meters finishing seventh

in Waco taking over fourth all-time from Texan Hall of Famer Lacey Adkisson (2003, 5.92 meters). DeGroot then moved to fourth all-time in the women's triple jump following her leap of 12.14 meters as she took fifth place at the Invitational. Brianna Arline (2021) previously held fourth all-time with a jump of 11.97 meters.

Kassidy Kirkpatrick rounded out the women's field side of things as she entered the top-10 all-time in program history for the women's high jump. Kirkpatrick jumped 1.68 meters moving her into 10th all-time.

Two athletes on the men's side both now sit in the top-10 all-time in program history in the men's pole vault. Jacob Thomas is now third all-time following his vault of 4.90 meters as he finished eighth in Waco. Aston Kollatschny turned in a vault of 4.45 meters to move into the top-10 at 10th.

TRACK

Seven athletes put themselves in the top-10 all-time

in program history after their weekend in Waco.

Starting with the women, Morgan Lamberson is now just one away from the school record in the women's 800 meter as she ran a 2:12.31 putting her second all-time behind former Texan Jenna Brazeal (2022, 2:12.13). She finished fourth at the 2024 Clyde Hart Invitational. Lamberson also moved into the top-10 in the women's 1500 meter as she crossed the finish line with a time of 4:38.24.

Taylor McFarland moved herself into the top-10 all-time in two different events following her performances this weekend. She sits just one spot away from a school record in the women's 400 meter as she finished with a time of 55.09 sitting behind current Texan and teammate Hanna Dudley (2023, 55.03). McFarland cracked the top-10 for the women's 200 meter dash following her time of 24.62 meters.

Sage Lancaster trailed just a couple seconds behind teammate Lamberson as

Lancaster moved to fifth all-time in the women's 1500 meter with a time of 4:40.55. Former Texan Brazeal (2023) sits between the two at fourth all-time with a time of 4:39.37.

Bryah Davis rounded things out for the women's portion of the track events as she moved to seventh all-time in the women's 100 meter dash following her time of 11.87.

Three student-athletes on the men's side put their names in the record books.

Angel Gomez and Angel Contreras both sit in the top-10 in the men's 1500 meter. Contreras crossed the finish line with a time of 3:52.86 moving him to sixth all-time and finished fourth at the 2024 Clyde Hart Invitational. Gomez followed not far behind turning in a time of 3:56.55 and moving to ninth all-time and finishing eighth in Waco.

Caterin Cox closed things out for the Texans moving to fifth all-time in the men's 110 meter hurdles with a time of 14.27.



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Hannah Cade highlighted the Texans' time at the 2024 Clyde Hart Invitational as she broke the school record for the women's pole vault previously held by current Texan and teammate Sage Barmettler.

Tarleton State record-breaking season comes to an end

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — The Tarleton State Texans men's basketball team saw its season come to an end at the hands of the Purdue Fort Wayne Mastodons, 73-72 in the semifinal round of The College Insider.com Postseason Tournament March, 25 in Wisdom Gym.

The Texans' record-breaking season broke the D1 era record with 25 wins and 16 conference wins. Tarleton reached the semifinals of both the WAC Tournament and the CIT presented by BSN SPORTS for the first time in school history. Tarleton State hosted its first division I post-season by hosting the CIT the past two weeks. With the win, the Mastodons advance to the championship to take on Norfolk State.

For the first time this season, Adam Moussa led the Texans in scoring with 16 points, 11 coming in the sec-

ond half alone. Four Texans scored in double figures with Moussa leading the 26-point bench effort. Devon Barnes added 14 points while Jakorie Smith (13) and KiAndre Gaddy (10) also reached double digits.

Smith led the team with seven boards and three steals. Moussa notched a game-high four assists and tied Traivar Jackson for the team lead in blocks.

In a high scoring first half, the Texans led for all but the first 44 seconds. With the Mastodons leading, 4-3, Barnes gave the Texans the lead for the remainder of the half, sinking the first Texan triple of the game. Barnes claimed the defensive board and took it coast-to-coast for his own mini 5-0 run.

With the Texans leading 13-10, back-to-back buckets by the Texan bench increased the Texans' lead to 18-10. Izzy Miles drained his fifth three of the season followed

by a Moussa mid-range jumper. Purdue FW executed an 8-0 run via a pair of triples and a layup to knot the game at 18.

Tarleton led 24-20 before using its longest run of the half to open up its biggest lead of the first 20. Originated by a Jackson three-point play, Moussa followed with a triple almost a minute-and-a-half later. The final point of the Texans' run came when Smith made the back end of his two free throw attempts, to give the Purple and White a 31-20 lead.

Yet again, the Mastodons closed their deficit quickly with Anthony Roberts nailing a pair of back-to-back triples to cut the Texans' lead to five with just over six minutes remaining in the half, 33-26. The teams swapped baskets over the next few minutes with Tarleton's lead never growing above eight. A mini 4-0 run by Smith gave the Texans a 39-30 lead with 2:38 to go.

In the final two minutes, Purdue FW outscored the Texans 6-2 with Tarleton taking a 41-36 lead into the break. Both teams shot 45% from the floor, with the edge in triples going to Purdue FW. No individuals scored more than nine in the first 20.

The Mastodons controlled the second half coming right of out the locker room. Purdue FW cut its deficit to just a point with back-to-back buckets, 41-40. Three-pointers by Smith and Williams gave the Texans their largest lead of the half, 48-42, with 14:39 remaining.

Purdue FW battled over the next eight minutes tying the game five times, but never gaining the lead. With the Texans leading, 58-56, Purdue FW grabbed its first lead after the break on an 11-0 run. Four different players contributed in the run including a triple by Anthony Roberts. The Mastodons reached their largest lead of the night,

67-58.

Tarleton State responded in the final four minutes with a 10-0 run to regain the lead, 70-69. Barnes started the resurgence with a made free throw followed by a pair of Smith free throws. Trailing 69-63, Moussa hit a pull-up triple with 1:55 remaining to bring the Texans within three. The Texans forced a Mastodon turnover and Barnes drove the lane for a layup to cut the deficit to one with just 1:24 to go.

Another turnover caused by Williams resulted in Moussa sinking a pair of free throws to take a 70-69 lead with 46 ticks left. The Mastodons drove down the floor for a layup to give the Mastodons the advantage once again. Barnes made a pair of free throws after drawing the foul far from the basket to give the Texans the lead again, 72-71 with 30 remaining.

In the final 30 seconds, the Mastodons found the bottom

of the net after a bucket in the paint to take the lead for the final time. The Texans came up the floor where Williams was unable to get his triple to fall, but Moussa grabbed the offensive board. A questionable whistle signaled a time-out called by the Texans that drew confusion on its origin, but alas, the Texans had the ball with 4.82 seconds to go on a sideline inbound. The ball found the hands of Smith but his floating hook shot hit the rim giving the Mastodons the 73-72 victory.

Tarleton State shot 39.3% from the floor and 30.4% from deep, both marks were bested by the Mastodons. The Texans won the turnover battle yet again, 15-13 but lost the battle of the boards, 40-35.

Head coach Billy Gillispie will resume the head coaching role next season after his contract was extended through the 2025-26 season.

GISD to expand dual language program

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District's dual language program now has plans for expansion beginning in the fall of 2024, due to the increasing enrollment numbers.

During the regularly scheduled Granbury ISD school board meeting March 25, Stacie Brown, director of curriculum and instruction, gave an updated report on the district's bilingual program.

"Over the course of the 23-24 school year — this school year specifically — our elementary, as well as our secondary emergent bilingual population, and our dual language population has grown significantly," Brown said. "Specifically, our total numbers in our emergent bilingual population have grown 165 students this year up until this point, and there's nine that are still in process."

In grades K-5, dual language classes alone have increased by 76 students — bringing the district's total

number of dual language students to 324.

Brown explained that in order to provide the space needed to accommodate the outstanding growth, the dual language program will be expanding to be offered at both Nettie Baccus Elementary School as well as Brawner Elementary School.

"Beginning in the 24-25 school year, dual language students that are zoned to Baccus Elementary and Oak Woods that are currently attending at Brawner will be attending the dual language program at Baccus Elementary, so we are expanding," Brown said.

Brawner Principal Sandy Ruiz, Brawner Assistant Principal Julie Sellers, Granbury Middle School Principal Julie Rohleder, STEAM Academy at Mambrino Instructional Specialist Nuvia Velasquez, ESL/Bilingual Coordinator Kristina Sosebee and newly hired Baccus Principal Lacey Padgett will soon be implementing the transition plan regarding staffing and will be communicating with families

about the change.

"This expansion will maximize the best possible usage of our elementary facilities and provide balance district wide of all our K-5 enrollment," Brown said. "It takes Baccus up 120 students, and it drops Brawner 120 students, bringing Brawner to 795 and Baccus to about 585. In the beginning of the 24-25 school year, all elementary campuses will then be at or above their functional capacity."

Superintendent Jeremy Glenn told Brown he knows this process has been a heavy lift — especially for Brawner staff, as he said they have been experiencing the pain of enrollment numbers crushing their campus.

"This is our chance to offer a little bit of relief to Brawner (by moving some students) to the only campus that really has any room available right now," Glenn said. "It's a move that we feel like is a positive one moving forward. To have two bilingual campuses in the district is going to be ultimately a good thing long-term for our campus,



YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT OF GRANBURY ISD BOARD MEETING

Stacie Brown, Granbury ISD's director of curriculum and instruction, talks about the district's expanding dual language program during a regularly scheduled GISD Board of Trustees meeting on March 25. Also pictured are STEAM Academy at Mambrino Instructional Specialist Nuvia Velasquez, Brawner Elementary School Assistant Principal Julie Sellers, newly hired Nettie Baccus Principal Lacey Padgett and Brawner Elementary School Principal Sandy Ruiz.

and then obviously, we'll see where the bond election goes in May. But we can't wait three years for a new school to be built. We have to do something now, so this is the answer to providing relief at Brawner."

Board President Barbara Townsend also asked newly hired Lacey Padgett if it was correct that she had experience with a bilingual program

in the past.

"I'm excited to say that in one of my former districts, I actually ended up bringing the one-way dual language program to our entire district," Padgett said. "I think it's a great way to come together as a community and really just celebrate our cultural pieces we have here in Granbury. I think the biggest thing is gonna be the transi-

tion and ensuring that the parents and the teachers as well as the students feel like they're part of the Baccus Elementary family, so I look forward to that."

"Well, I think we're very blessed to have someone that already understands the program," Townsend said. "Between the two of you (Brown and Padgett), we're in great shape."

TRYON

FROM PAGE B1

more infielder and pitcher for the Rattlers baseball team. He also split time between the junior varsity and varsity in football as the Rattlers reached the Class 2A Division I state championship game this past season.

"This year has been a lot of ups and downs with my brother and me, and not one time did my parents ever doubt their ability of being good, loving parents who are strong for their kids," she said. "I also wanted to thank my brother for always being there for me, no matter what was going on. I look at him

either in the stands or out on that field succeeding and having fun with the sport that he loves (and that) makes me happy."

REACHING A MILESTONE

Reaching her 500th strikeout was a memorable accomplishment. However, Tryon said looking back, she felt like anything but a standout when she first joined the varsity.

"My freshman year I came into high school as a 14-year-old going against girls that were 16 to 18 years old," she said. "I wasn't ready for the position I was in, but I stepped up and had to learn how to deal with this on my own and to control only the things I could control, which was myself."

Along with the leadership of Collie, Tryon credits her parents with encouraging and teaching her about more than just softball.

"I couldn't have done it without my dad. To this day he is the one I look at in the stands when I need a safe space. My mom is the reason I am the character I am in that circle every game. I look at her every time I need to get out of my head or just to find a space that I can look at and be calm," she said.

COMING BACK FROM INJURY

Tryon's senior season did not start off the way she wanted. A knee injury sidelined her for two-and-a-half weeks.

"I have a fracture inside of

my tibia and patella that is filled with blood in my left knee," she described.

When she did return in the District 11-2A opener against rival Lipan, she did so in grand style. Tryon pitched a four-hit shutout and struck out 11.

"She came out ready to take back the time she lost on the mound," Collie said.

As of the writing of this article, Tryon had pitched 32.1 innings with a 4.0 record, 58 strikeouts and a 1.299 earned run average.

When she comes to bat herself, as of this article she had yet to strike out this season. She is a threat at the plate every time she comes to bat, posting a .600 batting average, .800 slugging percentage

with 15 hits, 14 runs batted in.

LEAVING HER LEGACY

"Reese's dedication and drive for the game has left a legacy of a successful program," Collie said. "She knows the importance of being a team player and loving her teammates. I know for fact these past four years have created memories she will cherish for a lifetime."

"She inspires younger players to play and learn the game. She teaches young players how to pitch and hit. She encourages young pitchers who are now in her shoes, and at the end of this season she will pass the baton of success on to our freshman

pitcher Lillie Uselton."

Collie added that Tryon is now and will be defined in life by much more than her softball success, but even more by her success as a person.

"My reason for coaching is to build relationships and mentor young ladies, guiding them to become strong, confident, kind young ladies, ladies who believe they are important and understand they have a great purpose in their life outside of high school," she said. "You become a mother figure to them."

"To say the least I have enjoyed watching Reese grow into the young lady she is today. She is ready to take on the world outside of high school softball," Collie said.

HcN Junior

Happy
Easter
Weekend
March 30-3, 2024

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

SETARE GEG THNU

Answer: Easter egg hunt

Did You Know?

BUNNIES ARE A SYMBOL OF NEW LIFE. THIS IS WHY THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH EASTER.



Hippity-hopity, Easter is just around the corner, arriving on March 31st this year! This egg-citing holiday brings joy and delight to kids all over the world as they embark on festive adventures and celebrate the spirit of renewal.

Easter Sunday is the highlight of the celebration, and children eagerly anticipate the time-honored tradition of Easter egg hunts. Colorful eggs, carefully hid-

den in gardens and parks, transform into treasures waiting to be discovered. Kids grab their baskets, ready to fill them with eggs adorned in pastel hues, each one holding the promise of delightful surprises.

The Easter Bunny, that whimsical creature with long ears and a fluffy tail, plays a central role in the festivities. Children imagine the bunny hopping from house to house, leaving behind baskets filled with goodies for those who

have been especially good.

Decorating eggs is a cherished Easter activity, allowing kids to showcase their creativity. Whether dipped in vibrant dyes, adorned with stickers, or transformed into little works of art, these eggs become festive symbols of the season.

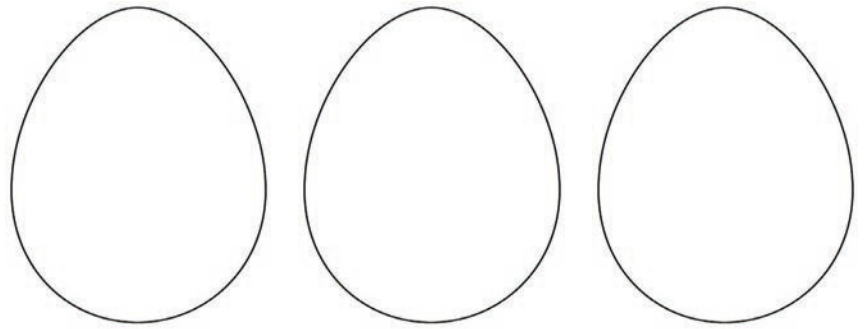
Easter is also a time for reflection and gratitude. Families often attend special church services, celebrating the renewal of hope and the joy of new beginnings. It's a day for families

to come together, share delicious meals, and appreciate the love that binds them.

As flowers bloom and the weather warms, Easter is a wonderful time for kids to revel in the beauty of nature, spend time outdoors, and indulge in delicious treats that mark this special occasion. So, on March 31st, let the egg-citement unfold, and may your Easter be filled with laughter, love, and the joy of new beginnings

COLOR Time

Color and decorate your own Eggs



CREATIONS CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

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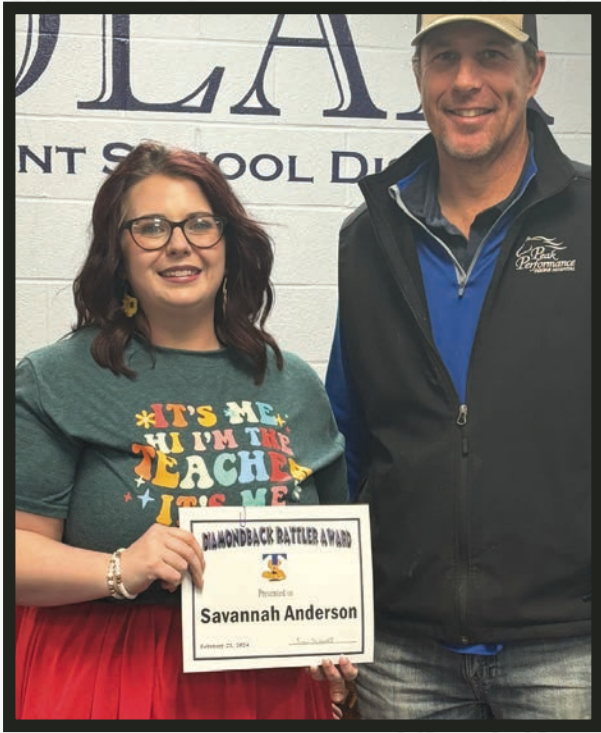


VAN GRIFFITH KIA



Teacher of the Month

February



Savannah Anderson
Tolar Elementary Teacher



Blaze Pendleton
Tolar Junior High Teacher



Brandon Higgins
Tolar High School Teacher



Hood County News



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Ben Musquez: Vietnam veteran, sky soldier, smoke jumper



BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News

It's been years since Ben Musquez jumped out of an airplane.

A bit over a decade ago Musquez was 82 years young on his last jump. He did so with a team of former soldiers all there for the same reason — to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade. It would be his 300th jump, and out of a C-47, no less. Musquez counted days not only as a "sky soldier" but as a "smoke jumper" as well.

At 93, Musquez, now of Granbury, resides with his bride of 71 years in their immaculate and beautifully decorated home. On the walls are photos of the family they are so proud of. Six children were born to the Musquez couple and five remain. Their family has grown to include many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Behind the Musquez abode

is a small, tidy building that displays the memorabilia of Musquez' memorable life. It's an impressive collection. Both Musquez and his wife Maria remain active and can recall minute details of their amazing journey together.

Musquez' mother died when he was just 18 months old. He was raised mostly by his grandparents and then aunts and uncles.

Musquez is old enough to remember boys from his community in Sabinal who didn't return from World War II. He can still recall the wails of a woman who had lost a young man who was like a son to her. Of the 20-something young men drafted from the tiny south Texas community Musquez hails from, 11 did not return.

"There were many who hated the military. They hated the war. And I could understand that. But I felt differently. We need the military," shares Musquez. Musquez decided he would enlist as soon as he was old enough and did so in 1949 at the age of 17.

"When I signed up, I told everyone right then I was

going to be career military." Musquez served for almost 30 years through the Korean Conflict and two tours in Vietnam.

He was first assigned to AA Artillery at Fort Bliss. The unit was ready to deploy to Korea when the mission was cancelled.

Musquez and some buddies attended a matinee in town one afternoon. They heard the roar of a low flying plane. On the plane's second run, a paratrooper jumped onto the parade field in front of them.

"Wow! So right after that I said, 'Man, there it is. I've got to go Airborne!'"

A buddy of Musquez' decided to go Airborne as well. Musquez' recommendation helped his friend acquire a spot. They stayed in touch all these years until his friend died of COVID.

When he got his orders, Musquez was assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. "The 82nd Airborne went on maneuvers once a year for three months. I went on a maneuver and



COURTESY PHOTO

At 93, Musquez, now of Granbury, resides with his bride of 71 years in their immaculate and beautifully decorated home. On the walls are photos of the family they are so proud of

PLEASE SEE **VETERAN** | C4

Total eclipse of the smart: A guide to photographing the eclipse with your iPhone

BY: MICKY SHEARON

special to Hood County News

Get ready to point your iPhones to the sky. A jaw-dropping total solar eclipse is cruising over North America soon, and you've got a front-row seat to capture it all with the gadget in your pocket.

While the pros may lug around their hefty gear for those breathtaking, magazine-worthy shots, the most shared snaps are going to pop from the smartphones of everyday eclipse enthusiasts like you. And guess what? With a sprinkle of savvy and a dash of DIY, you can snag some seriously impressive celestial selfies. Let's dive into a few simple yet super-effective tips to help you nab that perfect eclipse picture with nothing more than your trusty iPhone.

SAFETY GEAR: A MUST FOR YOU AND YOUR TECH

Top of the list, and non-negotiable: protect those peepers and your iPhone camera with a solar filter. That's right, staring at the sun is bad news, and snapping it without a filter is just as risky. Local astronomer and astrophotographer Rick Mallek puts it bluntly, "Even though you will be tempted, never ever look at the sun or the eclipse without eye protection. Just a very few seconds can damage your eyes or the electronics in your cameras and phones. Take it seriously. Wear eye protection and take pictures only through approved ISO filters."

Eclipse glasses and solar filters are inexpensive and can still be ordered online and delivered before the big eclipse on April 8. However, if you wait too long to order and can't get the proper safety gear, Mallek has another suggestion. "Another option is to go to one of the local gathering places that will have local astronomers present and will have the appropriate viewing equipment to enjoy the eclipse."

FLASH OFF: KEEP THE NIGHT, KEEP THE MAGIC

If you're inside the path of totality, there's one thing you must do to your smartphone — disable the flash before totality. Using flash won't help your photography, and worse, it will detract from the experience of totality for everyone around you, and you can expect groans and moans

in your direction.

LENS MATTERS: SKIP THE DIGITAL PINCH

Digital zoom is the arch-enemy of clarity in smartphone photography, especially during an eclipse. Pinching your screen to zoom is a surefire way to get grainy, smudgy photos. If your iPhone isn't equipped with a separate telephoto lens, resist the urge to zoom. Instead, grab a zoom lens attachment for your iPhone—prices range from about \$20-\$40 for a decent 12x to 18x magnification. It's a small investment for a leap in quality, allowing you to discern the sun's corona and its majestic shape.

WIDE ANGLE: THE BIGGER PICTURE

If accessories aren't your thing, there's another route: embrace the wide angle. Zooming out can capture the eclipse in context, framed by the local environment. This technique nets you a more storytelling image, where the eclipse plays a part in a larger scene, etching a moment in time complete with its own setting.

FOCUS LIKE A PRO: PRECISION COUNTS

Your iPhone is many things, but it's not telepathic. It can't read the celestial script without your directorial input. Practice on the moon — eclipse's understudy — in the days leading up to the eclipse to understand how to handle focus and exposure. On iOS camera apps, tapping an object will center a box around it. This locks the focus manually. It will also show a little sun icon. This is the exposure slider. Drag it down until you see details on the moon image.

BURST FOR BRILLIANCE: DIAMOND RING IN THE SKY

Totality's grand finale is the diamond ring effect — an ephemeral sparkle just before the moon completely cloaks the sun. It's a split-second marvel that won't wait for slow fingers. Burst mode is your ticket to capturing this fleeting gem. To capture burst photos on your iPhone, start by opening the camera app. Then, swipe the shutter button to the left and release your finger when you're ready to stop capturing!

SHOOT TOTALITY IN RAW

Totality is dark. That means

you need to think like an astrophotographer and shoot in RAW image format. RAW images retain the original sensor data and skip the built-in processing, which your smartphone automatically applies to JPEGs. RAW images especially thrive in low-light situations (like an eclipse) and in those with a high dynamic range (like a sunset).

If you have an iPhone 12 or iPhone 13 (any model) and iOS 15 or later, you can take classic RAW photos with a third-party camera app such as Halide, Yamera, or Camera+ 2 using all iPhone lenses. If you have an iPhone 12 Pro or iPhone 13 Pro, or any more recent iPhone models, you can use Apple ProRAW with all lenses.

To enable Apple ProRAW on your iPhone, navigate to settings, select camera, tap on formats, and then turn on the option for Apple ProRAW under photo capture.

However, be forewarned, since RAW images take up considerably more space, it's wise to make sure you have plenty of room on your smartphone, perhaps clearing out unwanted photos and apps before eclipse day.

EDITING MAGIC: POST-ECLIPSE ALCHEMY

Here's a secret: the magic often happens after the event. With RAW images, you can tweak and tune to your heart's content with smartphone apps like Snapseed, Darkroom, Afterlight or VSCO. The finished result will have much more dynamic range, color and detail than any JPEG your smartphone's built-in camera app produces.

STABILITY IS KEY: TRIPOD AND SHUTTER REMOTE

Take my advice: use a tripod and some sort of remote shutter for low-light imagery. The vibration of your hands will be enough to smear the image and make it very difficult to focus on it. This is a once-in-a-lifetime event for most people, so you don't want to be all lined up for the perfect shot and have it turn out blurry and smeared.

If you have an Apple Watch, you can easily activate your iPhone's camera shutter hands-free from your watch. If you don't have an Apple Watch, any type of inexpensive Bluetooth shutter activator will work just fine and will make a world of difference in the quality of your photos.

SCENE AND SEEN: CAPTURE THE HUMANITY OF THE ECLIPSE

The eclipse is the star, but the audience is part of the show. Snap the reactions, the ambient, the collective breath-holding. These candid shots are as priceless as the astronomical phenomenon itself. A time-lapse can capture the atmosphere's transformation, offering a visual timeline of the event.

TOTALITY: THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

But let's not forget why we're here. When the sun and moon align in their cosmic dance, make sure to experience it with more than just your camera lens. The digital keepsake is priceless, but the personal memory is the true treasure. Be present for the spectacle and let your senses revel in the universe's grandeur.

THE TAKEAWAY: BE AN ECLIPSE ASTRONAUT WITH YOUR IPHONE

You're now equipped with the knowledge to turn your iPhone into a stellar observatory. Come April 8, with your viewing glasses, solar filter, and iPhone in hand, you'll be ready to capture the eclipse like a pro. Remember, preparation meets opportunity — this is your chance to seize an out-of-this-world moment with a device that fits in your pocket.

Whether you're shooting the darkness of totality, the brilliance of the diamond ring or the wonder in a stranger's eyes, each photo tells a story. Be the narrator of your own celestial saga, and let your iPhone be the pen with which you write a visual chapter in your life's adventure. The solar eclipse is a reminder of the vast, beautiful universe we're a part of, and your photographs can be a bridge between that cosmic ballet and the earthbound spectators.

There's a reason eclipses have captivated humans throughout history. They're not just celestial phenomena; they're shared experiences that transcend the ordinary, turning our gazes upward and our thoughts inward. As you use your iPhone to chronicle this celestial moment, remember that you're not just a spectator but an active participant in a story as old as time itself.

micky@hcnews.com



COURTESY PHOTO

"It's all creativity and it fits every aspect of life," Sue Bagwell. "We did put on a really great spread, so it's worth it to come for that if nothing else."

Artful Blooms floral art show

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Spring has officially sprung — and what better way to stop and smell the roses than with the Lake Granbury Art Association's Artful Blooms Art Show?

Open to the public now through April 12 at the Shanley House Art Gallery, LGAA's Artful Blooms Small Group Art Show features artwork in a variety of mediums surrounding the beautiful springtime favorite: flowers.

"There was a group of eight artists that got together that belong to LGAA," member Sue Bagwell told the Hood County News. "We were all painting flowers at the time, and we said, 'Let's do a floral show.' We change the exhibit once a month, and there are several exhibits that are for the entire LGAA membership, but then there are other months that are open if somebody wants to do a group show."

Artful Blooms is a collection of exotic, alluring and surreal works of art, according to the LGAA website. The artists who created these works are diverse in the use of their media such as oil, acrylic, watercolor and collage with an inter-

mixture of techniques.

Artist Gayle Bunch served as chairperson for the Artful Blooms Small Group Art Show. Others who contributed to the show include: Eole Ernsperger, Irma Ward, Linda Doutré, Margie Whittington, Paula Pillow, Suzanne McNeill and Bagwell.

"Everybody has a different style, which I think just really adds to any show, but this group has painted together off and on for the last seven or eight years," Bagwell said. "We just kind of meet together in someone's home and paint."

She explained that for this show, each artist created anywhere from five to 12 pieces and used a variety of mediums for every creation.

"You can see so many different styles from realism to totally nonobjective, or abstract," Bagwell explained. "Some are even learning more toward fantasy."

Bagwell showed off one of her creations and said her style involves painting negatively, where an artist paints around the subject rather than on the subject.

"All my flowers were sort of made up," she said. "It was already a painting, and

PLEASE SEE **BLOOMS** | C2

'An amazing blessing'

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Families of the Rancho Brazos Community Centers will be blessed beyond measure this Easter, thanks to the generosity of Emmanuel Lutheran Church and other local businesses.

Sally Adamson, evangelism chairman, and church member Ruth Posavac collaborated with several other church volunteers to organize 73 Easter dinners for Rancho Brazos families Monday, March 25.

Each basket contained a \$20 gift card for meat, a box of mashed potato mix, a can of corn, a can of green beans,

rolls and a boxed dessert of either brownie or cake mixes.

Adamson explained that Emmanuel Lutheran Church did a similar project several years ago, and when she heard Rancho Brazos was requesting help with Easter dinners, she took the task to heart.

"I felt like that was something I was called for us to do and they were just thrilled that we were taking this on," she said.

"What an amazing blessing," Rancho Brazos Executive Director Sharla Caro said, as church volunteers were putting together the Easter dinners.

The church received donations from Good Spirit

Episcopal Church, Kroger, H-E-B and David's Grocery. Adamson said individuals outside of the congregation also sent monetary donations, as they had heard about the project and felt compelled to help.

"(Rancho Brazos) requested dinners for 73 families, which was overwhelming. I didn't think there was any way we'd ever get that much," Adamson said. "But we have and it's amazing."

She said whatever food is left over will also be donated to the Rancho Brazos Community Centers' food pantry.

"This congregation has blessed us, the stores in the community have blessed us,

and it just gives me goosebumps how much we've been blessed because Sally and I had our doubts about how much we were overstepping," Posavac said.

"We didn't think we could do this," Adamson said, chiming in. "We were just gonna do the best we could do — but it turned out even better than I had imagined."

Adamson added she was thrilled with the outpouring of generosity from not only the community, but members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church as well.

"God has been at work in this project, and in the hearts of all these people," she added. "It has truly been a community-wide effort."



Several members of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church congregation spent the morning of Monday, March 25, filling up bags of food to donate to Rancho Brazos Community Centers.

BLOOMS

FROM PAGE C1

I didn't care for it. It was a portrait, so I turned it upside down and where there was a suggestion of flowers, I made flowers. It's just painting negatively and finding your shape."

The current Artful Blooms display is available for viewing Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m. at the Shanley House Gallery, 224 N. Travis St.

"Everything that's up here

is for sale," Bagwell said. "I would also love to encourage the public to attend our Last Saturday Gallery Night Meet the Artist event."

The Meet the Artist event will be held Saturday, March 30, from 5-8 p.m., also at the Shanley House Gallery.

"We're right here on the verge of spring," Bagwell said. "And I think flowers are something that everybody can enjoy."

She said during the art shows, she often asks attendees and young children to tell her their favorite painting as it "challenges the

person to look a little closer." "It's all creativity and it fits every aspect of life," she said. "We did put on a really great spread, so it's worth it to come for that if nothing else."

Bagwell also encourages Hood County residents to become a member of the Lake Granbury Art Association.

"Our building is fabulous, and I feel like the Lake Granbury Art Association is almost a hidden treasure here," she said. "One of the ways I think we're special is that there's people who say, 'Oh, I've always wanted to

paint, but I just don't know how.' We offer so many different levels of people who paint. You don't even have to call yourself an artist because it's for everybody at every level."

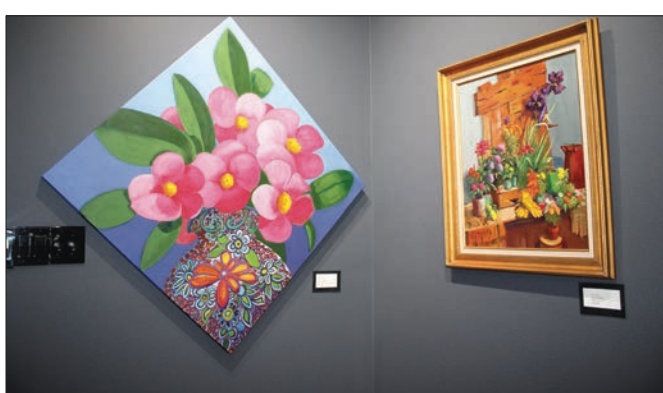
LGAA offers workshops and different classes, like the Monday Portrait Class from 9 a.m.-noon, Wednesday Open Studio from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Thursday instruction by Kathy Yoders from 1-4 p.m.

For more information about the Artful Blooms exhibit or the LGAA, visit lakegranburyart.blogspot.com online.



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Lake Granbury Art Association's Artful Blooms Art Show will be on display at the Shanley House Art Gallery, 224 N. Travis St., from now until April 12. Individuals can tour the display Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m.



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Ranchos Brazos Easter Egg Hunt



COURTESY OF AVIVA GRANBURY
AVIVA Granbury sponsored Rancho Brazos Community Centers' Easter egg hunt for 2024. Five children also found golden eggs during their search. AVIVA Activity Director Rachel White said, "We partner with (Rancho) for multiple things throughout the year. We love this community and being able to bless them."



Feather Fest

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
The Acton Nature Center's Feather Fest was a lively celebration of spring on March 23, featuring educational booths, live raptors, children's crafts, and Wildflower Walks that attendees of all ages enjoyed.



BOOK REVIEW

There's an alternative, but it's not always a good one

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You can grow old or... well, you could die. Other choices: remain grumpy in your chair, or look out the window and see what's outside. You can have joy or regrets. Gather your years or deny them, keep the gray or dye your hair, live or die. You can read these great books on aging, and ignore what's inside or carpe diem.

The year before she entered her 60s, Lyn Slater says she "couldn't find anything to wear." Nothing "inspired"

her, which seemed to be a metaphor: what she put on her body "always helped me tell stories about myself."

She was excited to enter a fresh new decade of life, though, despite being inundated with reminders of her age, which only "served to provoke me." She decided to return to school, to take classes for fashion design, to create a new wardrobe and a new story, and in "How to Be Old" (Plume, \$28.00), she writes of a decade of radical change.

On her first day of classes,

Slater noticed that she was "the oldest person in the room" but nobody cared; they were more interested in what she wore. As time progressed and she learned that her experiences mattered, someone mentioned that she should have a blog. Slater began to dream. Soon, she began to blog.

"How to Be Old" is a delight that mixes a passion for fashion with glee for a second career and love at a later age. Readers will be well-served by heeding Slater's advice: "It's one thing to

think about doing something; it's another to actually do it."

Keep that in mind, too, when reading "Tough Broard" by Caroline Paul (Bloomsbury, \$27.99), who was once a firefighter and has always taken the wild road. Why, she asks, do we associate skateboarding with youth? Who says you can't surf into your so-called senior years? Adventure seemed to be in Paul's DNA so why should life be any different as an older woman?

Here, she picks up her ac-

tive life by following several women who've embraced their outdoor passions, never mind age. Paul goes BASE jumping with a 52-year-old woman and deep diving with an 80-year-old. She tries to "keep up" with a 93-year-old fast-walker. She learns to wing-walk, to swim long distances, kayak and paddleboard with women older than her mother.

And on that note, Paul thinks about her mother. Her mom was always willing to join in when something seemed like fun. These mem-

ories help Paul learn where her adventurous streak came from, and new adventures help bring this book full circle in a wonderful way. Readers will be charmed and inspired to try something new, to move and dive and breathe, no matter their age.

Libraries and bookstore shelves are full of books about skincare, heart health, arthritis and joint care, and other physical issues of aging. But if you want a book about your inner life, these tales of embracing your age are nice alternatives.

VETERAN

FROM PAGE C1

when I came back, I said, 'I'm gonna go home and ask that girl (to marry me).' And so I went home to San Antonio."

The proposal was direct. Musquez and Maria had been dating for five years. She waited for him as he was in training and serving. "Are you going to marry me or not? Yes? Well why didn't you tell me a long time ago?" he asked her.

Maria Musquez describes their beautiful church wedding and said she insisted that her bridesmaids wear whatever dress they like. "I had been a bridesmaid so many times, and every time we were in a wedding we had to get a new dress. 'Just wear one you have, I said.'" This flexibility and humility would serve her well as a military wife.

During their time stationed at Fort Bragg the Musquezes saw a movie that

would change their course.

"They showed a movie called 'Red Skies of Montana' with Richard Widmark and I saw that movie and I said, 'Oh boy! I just have to do that. Here I was for a military career. But jumping out into the wilderness to put out a fire... I told my wife, 'You know what, I love the military but I have been thinking I should try some civilian life,'" Musquez said.

Maria Musquez kept the home fires burning in support of Musquez whether in the military or out. To make ends meet, she stretched the dollar with frugal shopping and creative cooking, and she made many of the children's clothes. "I had to work at making the dollar go farther. I was very, very busy," Maria Musquez says with a smile. The Musquezes both express what blessings their children have been.

While in the Airborne, Musquez — already a corporal — volunteered to cut the hair of the soldiers when

no one else would. This skill came in handy during years out of the service, when Musquez would use this skill to get his barbers license. Cutting hair created an additional income stream.

"When I got out, I came from North Carolina to San Antonio. I went to barber college to have something to do right away. And it paid off. When I moved to California all I had to do was get my license. Then I ended up in Montana as a smoke jumper."

"When I started in the California firefighting force, the pay was \$1.10 an hour. Then when I got to smoke jumper, I got a raise to \$1.75 an hour."

Once during training he became tangled in the parachute during a jump. He has the photo to prove it. He still landed on his feet on that jump.

Musquez remained in the reserves during his time as a smoke jumper. He decided to return to active duty mili-

tary knowing he would have to start at the bottom again as a buck private. Musquez was not concerned as he planned to apply the same enthusiasm and hard work ethic he always had.

"I was soon selected for drill sergeant duty and later would become senior drill sergeant at Fort Polk, Louisiana. We were getting feedback from Vietnam that the trainees from Fort Polk were some of the best."

Knowing their lives depended on their training, Musquez took a special interest in making sure the young soldiers were well prepared.

Musquez volunteered to go to Vietnam. He told his wife if he could save even one life it would be worth it. At the time, the Musquezes were expecting their fifth child.

"Initially they put the word out 'No drill sergeants in combat zones' because they were losing too many of them," Musquez said.

When he deployed to

Vietnam, Musquez had just begun recovery from hernia surgery. While he was out in the jungle, he picked a young sapling tree which would be his constant companion and literal support as he traversed the landscape. He still has the sapling which became his walking stick.

There are a million stories to tell, says Musquez, and his recall is no less than incredible. He can recall names, places, dates and conversations. This gift will no doubt be enjoyed at the next reunion of his brothers in arms which takes place in the metroplex this year as the C-company 2/1 of the 196th gathers to reminisce.

He ran into more than one old friend while in Vietnam, as well as peers and those he had trained — even his own brother. One friend promised to "take care of him," keeping him out of harms way.

"I didn't volunteer to come here and be taken care of," was Musquez' reply.

Musquez was even recognized out of uniform. Once when clearing an area for a chopper to land, Musquez stripped down to his shorts as he cut away the thick growth. As the chopper lowered he realized the pilot was shouting his name. The pilot was a former trainee — Musquez had been his senior drill instructor.

During his deployment to Vietnam, Musquez received word that another baby girl had joined his family. That baby went on to join the military and serve her own combat tour overseas. Patriotism runs deep among the Musquez family, and many from each generation serve.

"I operated as a platoon sergeant from the top of the Delta in the south to the central highlands to the DMZ. I'm proud to say that I accomplished all my assignments without losing a single soldier on my watch," Musquez said.



COURTESY PHOTO
Ben and Maria Musquez in their Granbury home. Ben Musquez shown with his "museum" of memorabilia. Photos also include shots of him in training and serving in Vietnam.



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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
 On Saturday, March 23, the lake Granbury Conference Center was transformed into the hottest spot in Hood County. The Pete's Dueling Piano Bar United Way fundraiser was a night out like no other. Attendees enjoyed a taste of big-city nightlife without the black-tie formality. Pete's Dueling Pianos electrifying beats set the stage for a night packed with excitement and delicious bites.





COURTESY PHOTO ENVATO ELEMENTS

Share your increasingly positive attitude with others exhibiting to them your own change through the arts.

GRANBURY CULTURAL ARTS

Created to benefit from art

BY STACEY WATKINS-MARTIN AND CORA WERLEY

Stacey Watkins-Martin and Cora Werley are local artists and members with several others of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission. Both work diligently with many other people and organizations to promote Granbury as the exciting arts destination it has become.

Enjoying the beautiful spring weather starting here in Texas? So often with the warmer days comes a lift in spirits as well . . . be-

cause we are made to enjoy beauty and the effect it has through art on healing our bodies, brain and emotions and uplifting our lives.

Research has shown, for example, that creating art reduces cortisol levels (stress indicators) in our brains and can even help induce positive mental conditions. There is specific research studying these facts — “neuroesthetics: the scientific study of the neurobiological basis of the arts.” These professionals have found solid scientific

evidence proving how the arts affect our minds to bring new ways of thinking, as well as just make us feel good emotionally. When we make art, we enter into a “flow” state that actually stimulates our neurological system to bring pleasure and reward, all of which is part of enjoying life (the-conversation.com).

Maybe you’re not surprised to know there is a significant amount of research going on to verify what art-lovers and artists already know. Visual art

especially is a recognized force to stabilize stress, to reduce various kinds of personal distress, and to increase mindfulness and self-awareness by actually changing our actions and how we think about things. It physically changes health indicators in our bodies such as heart rate, blood pressure and the levels of cortisol (stress hormones) running through our bodies, according to the National Library of Medicine.

PLEASE SEE **ART** | C10

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Leave it to the Aggies



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly.

Texas A&M University — a major educational institution respected throughout the world — emerged unscathed from a litany of “Aggie jokes” that were shared for decades, though not so much now.

They were, of course — exactly that — jokes. Actually, they likely enhanced a storied heritage, but they made some Aggies M-A-D.

My Uncle Mort’s keen eye on Texas A&M literature fell on its department of agricultural leadership, education and communications. He figures “ALEC” would better fit on business cards, and that graduates could be called “Smart-ALECs.”

When reduced to deep thinking about TV commercials — and such tedium is not recommended — one often enters the twilight zone of obfuscation. An example is a current home security system advertisement that promises an immediate warning when an “uninvited intruder” approaches.

Sudden thought: Are intruders ever invited?

I prefer warnings about calls from roof repair people who “happen to be in the neighborhood, and happy to provide a free roof inspection.” I dismiss them, telling them I’ve got relatives in the business.

Another ad deserving a “thumbs down” urges purchase of Charmin bathroom tissue. The announcer for-

gets that for decades, “toilet paper” was not to be discussed in polite company.

He introduces a dancing bear that sings instead of talking, with references to smiling “from cheek to cheek” and “enjoying the go.”

Please. Where is Mr. Whipple when we need him? When he starred, he asked only that we avoid squeezing the Charmin.

While on the subject of TV ads, let’s not overlook State Farm Insurance. The company’s current “push” is provided by movie star/former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The guy may have been an OK actor and — in the eyes of California voters, anyway — an OK governor.

State Farm had best line up world-class linguistics professors if he is expected to pronounce “neighbor” in an acceptable manner. However, “NAY-BAHHH” that rolls off his tongue causes us to think immediately of State Farm.

Advertising and public relations have come a long way. Communication was far simpler several decades ago. Back in the day, many stores’ only “ads” were front door “OPEN” and “CLOSED” signs.

At Lum and Abner’s “Jot ‘em Down Store” — mentioned regularly on their weekly radio shows — store

PLEASE SEE **AGGIES** | C10

VETERANS VOICE

VA Health Care expands eligibility

BY LINDA MALLON



Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers’ careers for more than 20 years.

Since the introduction of the PACT ACT authorizing the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand toxic exposure locations and medical conditions approved by Congress for the purpose

of compensation, the VA Health Care System has also made some changes. Rather than phase in enrollment for veterans who were approved for compensation for illnesses and injuries associat-

ed with toxic and hazardous exposure, effective March 5, the VA will immediately expand enrollment in the VA Health Care system to veterans exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving in the military without any need to apply for VA disability benefits first.

This new rule affects veterans who served in the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, Iraq or Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror or any other combat zone post 9/11, allowing them to

enroll in the VA Health Care System even if they do not have a service-connected disability. Also included are veterans who served either in training or were assigned to military installations here in the United States such as Camp Lejeune and other areas affected by toxic hazards.

The new VA form 10-10EZ for enrollment has expanded its questionnaire to include items related to toxic expo-

PLEASE SEE **HEALTH** | C7

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WE'RE
HIRING

DATE: April 15, 2024 TIME: 10AM-7PM

LOCATION: Lake Granbury Conference Center
621 E Pearl Street
Granbury, TX 76048

Positions Available:

Miner Technician I (starting at \$23/hour / DOE)

JOB SUMMARY:
Maintain and repair mining equipment ensuring efficient operation in compliance with safety standard. Troubleshoot and implement preventative maintenance procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma or equivalent; additional technical or vocational training in mining technology is a plus. Minimum of 1 year experience production, manufacturing, construction, shipping, electrical and/or troubleshooting. Ability to read and interpret technical manuals, schematics, and engineering drawings. Excellent teamwork and communications skills and attention to detail.

Miner Technician II (starting at \$25/hour / DOE)

JOB SUMMARY:
Maintain and repair mining equipment ensuring efficient operation in compliance with safety standard. Troubleshoot and implement preventative maintenance procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma or equivalent; additional technical or vocational training in mining technology is a plus. Minimum of 2 years' experience production, manufacturing, construction, shipping, electrical and/or troubleshooting. Ability to read and interpret technical manuals, schematics, and engineering drawings. Excellent teamwork and communications skills and attention to detail.

Miner Technician III (starting at \$28/hour / DOE)

JOB SUMMARY:
Maintain and repair mining equipment ensuring efficient operation in compliance with safety standard. Troubleshoot and implement preventative maintenance procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma or equivalent; additional technical or vocational training in mining technology is a plus. Minimum of 3 years' experience production, manufacturing, construction, shipping, electrical and/or troubleshooting. Ability to read and interpret technical manuals, schematics, and engineering drawings. Excellent teamwork and communications skills and attention to detail.

* All Miner Technician roles must have the ability to be on your feet 7 hours per day, Ability to lift/carry 30-50 lbs., and willingness to adhere to strict safety guidelines.

Also Available:

Electrician (starting at \$40/hour / DOE)

JOB SUMMARY:
Install, maintain, and repair electrical mining systems in accordance with local and national electrical codes. Your duties will include reading blueprints, troubleshooting electrical issues, and ensuring the safety and functionality of electrical systems.

QUALIFICATIONS:
Electrician license is required (Journeyman or Master). Proven experience in 3-phase wiring and medium/high voltage systems. Knowledge of electrical systems, wiring, and components. Ability to read and interpret blueprints and technical diagrams. Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail.

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CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 29 March 2024 - Thursday, 04 April 2024

Arthur The King - 107 min (PG13)
Fri: 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 9:35PM.
Sat: 10:45AM, 1:20PM, 3:55PM, 6:30PM, 9:05PM.
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:40PM, 4:15PM, 6:50PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
Thurs: 2:25PM, 4:25PM

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

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire - 115 min (PG13)
Fri: 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 6:40PM, 9:20PM.
Sat: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM.
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:50PM, 4:35PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:15PM, 5:00PM, 7:45PM.
Thurs: 2:10PM, 3:30PM, 4:55PM, 7:40PM

Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire - 115 min (PG13)
Fri: 1:30PM, 2:00PM, 4:15PM, 4:45PM, 6:50PM, 7:30PM, 9:20PM, 10:15PM. Sat: 10:30AM, 11:15AM, 1:15PM, 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 4:45PM, 6:45PM, 7:30PM, 9:30PM, 10:15PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 11:30AM, 1:45PM, 2:15PM, 4:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:15PM, 7:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 3:50PM, 4:40PM, 6:35PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM

Kung Fu Panda 4 - 94 min (PG)
Fri: 1:50PM, 4:15PM, 9:25PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 1:45PM, 4:10PM, 6:35PM, 9:00PM.
Sun: 11:20AM, 1:45PM, 4:10PM, 6:35PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM

Monkey Man - 121 min (R)
Thurs: 5:00PM, 7:50PM

Someone Like You - 128 min (PG)
Thurs: 7:00PM

The First Omen - 120 min (R)
Thurs: 7:20PM

• Showtimes Subject to Change Without Notice

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HEALTH
FROM PAGE C6

sure, radiation and locations/periods of service. Veterans should check all boxes that apply and do not have to provide financial information if they were exposed to toxins or other hazards while in service. Veterans should also enroll in the appropriate Toxic Exposure Registry and schedule an exam. See <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp>

If you suffer from any conditions associated with exposure to toxins or other hazards while in service, please contact our office. We will review your service information, your medical records and help you prepare a disability compensation claim. Be sure to have a current diagnosis for that condition and a list of locations where you may have been exposed. Un-remarried surviving spouses of veterans they suspect may have been exposed to toxic conditions while in service that may have contributed to the veteran's death but are not receiving VA Dependent Indemnity Compensation should also contact this office to file a claim. We will need the veteran's DD214, a death certificate, the marriage certificate and medical records supporting the veteran's condition(s) and cause of death.

Many of these conditions were not considered service connected until the PACT ACT was approved so we would like to review those cases for compensation if appropriate. Since the PACT ACT and before, there have been some predatory claims sharks out there saying they can secure benefits faster with greater outcomes for a small fee. The VFW is working through legislation to stop these practices to protect veterans from predatory claims sharks called "The Guard VA Benefits Act." For more information or to sign the peti-



COURTESY PHOTO ENVATO ELEMENTS

If you suffer from any conditions associated with exposure to toxins or other hazards while in service, please contact our office. We will review your service information, your medical records and help you prepare a disability compensation claim.

tion, the link is here: <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/143650/action/1?ea.tracking.id=2024MarchEngageMEM2&ea.url.id=6978295&forwarded=true>

Always work with a VA-accredited county service officer or service organization recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs and Office of General Council. Safeguard your information and watch out for scammers. Our office will be closed from March 29 to April 9, however, feel free to email us for information and we will be glad to assist; or call our office and leave a message during that time. We will return all calls on the morning of April 9.

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weight-watchers.com); 9 a.m. yo-ga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY JAM Session 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brock's Food and Drink, 4012 Acton Highway. Bring your instrument or get up and sing. Details: 505-710-5100.

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

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mex-

ican 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. domi-noes. 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: Hood-CountyChess.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.

FRIDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meets every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10:30 a.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments

every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

SECOND MONDAYS

MEETING OF the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business 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 Emer-

gency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCoCert@gmail.com.

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

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

SECOND SATURDAYS

SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

WAMS (WESTERN Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

LAST THURSDAYS

MARINE CORPS League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

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 1 John 4:12

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 3600 Fall Creek Hwy.,
 817-326-2035

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Crossing Place
 1900 W. Hwy. 377
 817-573-1581

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

Faith Assembly Of God
 300 Granbury Court
 817-326-2270

BAPTIST

Acton Baptist
 3500 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4693

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

Bible Baptist
 4804 E. Hwy. 377
 817-579-5424

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

Dennis First Baptist
 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
 817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
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 817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
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 817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
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 254-965-3840

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 254-646-2484

First Baptist Thorp Springs
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 817-573-3339

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

Granbury Baptist
 1200 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-4943

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

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 Viva
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
 3300 Oak Trail Dr.
 Lakeside Baptist
 500 W. Bluebonnet
 817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
 1625 Mambrino Hwy.
 817-573-4901

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

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

Paluxy Baptist
 1844 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
 4791 Fm 2803, Lipan
 940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
 7178 Fall Creek Hwy.
 682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
 1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow
 254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
 910 Paluxy Rd.
 817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
 820 Paluxy Rd.
 682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
 400 Tolar Hwy.
 254-835-4375

Vineyard Baptist

320 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-5318

Waples Baptist

1200 Temple Hall Hwy.
 817-579-0509

Western Hills Baptist
 507 Western Hills Trail
 817-573-7588

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Grace Bible
 201 E. Clifton Rd.
 682-498-3014

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

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St. Frances Cabrini Catholic
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 817-573-2131

CHRISTIAN

Dayspring Christian
 3314 S. Clifton
 817-573-0107

First Christian
 2109 W. U.S. Hwy. 377
 817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vno Nuevo
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
 5904 Walnut Creek Circle
 817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
 608 Shady Grove Dr.
 817-736-3041

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Downtown Church Of Christ
 310 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-9862

Granbury Church Of Christ
 1905 W. Pearl
 817-573-2613

Lipon Church Of Christ
 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
 254-646-2297

Old Granbury Church Of
 Christ
 4219 Old Granbury Rd.
 817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
 3006 Thorp St.
 817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
 8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4397

CHURCH OF GOD

Church Of God
 1106 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-279-6753

EPISCOPAL

Good Shepherd Episcopal
 4530 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-6074

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Granbury Jehovah's Witnesses
 3734 W. Hwy. 377
 817-573-4259

LUTHERAN

Emmanuel Lutheran Elca
 2301 Fall Creek Hwy.,
 817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
 1400 N. Meadows Dr.
 817-573-5011

METHODIST

Acton Methodist
 3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4242

Cresson United Methodist
 110 South Crook St., Cresson
 469-730-6496

Granbury First United
 Methodist
 301 Loop 567,
 817-573-5573

Solid Rock Global
 Methodist Church
 3410 Glen Rose Hwy
 682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist
 5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-
 317-9385

Tolar United Methodist
 8812 Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist

4323 Waples Rd.
 817-573-9076

MORMON

The Church Of Jesus Christ Of
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 1226 Ross Lane
 817-573-6825

NAZARENE

Granbury Church Of The
 Nazarene
 921 Lipan Dr.
 817-573-4041

PENTECOSTAL

Hood Pentecostal
 3100 Beechwood St.,
 817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury
 4800 Glen Rose Hwy
 817-559-7372

PRESBYTERIAN

First Presbyterian
 303 W. Bridge St.
 817-573-2337

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Granbury Seventh Day
 Adventist
 2016 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-3573

OTHER

Anchor Fellowship
 1300 James Rd.
 682-990-8551

Bear Creek Community
 18553 South Hwy. 377,
 817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries
 1950 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-0968

Calvary Family
 3306 Oak Trail Dr.
 314-606-1211

Center Point
 4332 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-554-3432

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New Season Global Ministries
 3755 Acton Hwy.
 817-910-8777

Pure Praise
 2901 Glen Rose Hwy.
 817-279-3063

Rock Church Chapel
 6101 Rock Church Hwy
 Tolar, Texas 76476

St. John Victorian Mission Of
 Granbury
 5031 Bandy Rd.
 817-573-2669

Stonewater
 911 E. U.S. Hwy. 377
 817-579-9175

The Bridge
 1107 Weatherford Hwy
 254-522-5330

The Heights
 1921 Acton Hwy
 817-558-2121

The Sanctuary
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Triple Cross Cowboy
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May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 Romans 15:13

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 Romans 15:13

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"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'"
 Isaiah 41:13

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.
 Proverbs 3:5-6

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

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan Plantation Community Gardens sowing and reaping spring harvest



BY DIANE LONG

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

Members of Pecan's Community Gardens Club held a workday last Saturday with plenty of folks on hand to pick vegetables. Among the bounty were kale, radishes and asparagus, and going into the ground for planting were beans, cucumbers and dill. Beds received preparation for zucchini and squash while members pulled weeds from the growing carrot and lettuce sections. The next workday will happen Saturday, April 13 beginning at 9 a.m. at the garden where visitors and prospective members are invited to "meet new people, bask in the sun and partake in garden rewards."

EGG HUNT

Pecan's annual Easter egg hunt commences this morning, Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. sharp at the PAC. Participants ages 1 through 12 will be divided into age-based groups and should bring a basket for collection. Door prizes and an appearance by the Easter Bunny will also be part of the day.

MARINA MUSIC

The Marina Musical Trio is playing tonight, Saturday, March 30, from 4 to 7 p.m. Diners may enjoy melodic entertainment along with dinner from the marina's grill and kitchen.

EASTER BUFFET

A scrumptious Easter buffet awaits diners who have reservations for tomorrow at the clubhouse. Seatings of noon and 1:30 p.m. are on the schedule. Call to secure a spot: 817-573-2641.

AUXILIARY UPDATE

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary meets again collectively Monday, April 1 at 6 p.m. (for a potluck meal) before the meeting convenes in the Charlie Lee Memorial building on the emergency services compound at 7 p.m. Ladies and gentlemen interested in fundraising efforts for Pecan's emergency service groups are invited to join.

This meeting of the auxiliary will be largely devoted to preparing for the upcoming golf tournament, which is on the calendar for Saturday, April 20. The auxiliary is already selling tickets for raffle prizes in advance of tournament day. The raffle prizes are quite spectacular ranging from themed baskets containing gift certificates for products and services, as well as gadgets and nonperishable foods, to a lake house getaway, an aerial excursion of Fort Worth, a Weathertech gift card, and handmade quilts, among many others.

Raffle tickets vary in price



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Pecan's Community Gardens Club have had a busy spring thus far, setting new plants into the ground and harvesting early produce. Pictured are Charles, Elizabeth and Michelle Wagner at a recent club workday.

depending on the item sought, and more information about dates and locations for ticket purchasing will be forthcoming. For now, Pecaners may contact Julie

Logan at 727-252-3702 or Seleta Webster at 806-646-0656 to donate additional raffle prizes or purchase tickets.

Last year, raffle ticket sales

garnered more than \$12,000, so this part of the golf tournament is significant to the auxiliary's fundraising efforts.

BIG SUCCESS

The auxiliary also sends much gratitude to everyone involved in last weekend's

PLEASE SEE PECAN | C10

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PECAN

FROM PAGE C9

boot drive at both of our community's gates. The proceeds from the day topped \$5,500, every penny of which supports our emergency personnel.

COMMITTEE WORK

Pecan's board of directors and management team hosted a committee workshop and fair recently where neighbors had the opportunity to see how the Pecan committee structure works as well as sign up to serve. With our new board members sworn in and the new club year beginning, so comes the time for Pecaners to volunteer. Folks who are interested in joining com-

mittees may complete paperwork sent via email or visit the clubhouse front desk and fill out requests. Prospective committee members' information will be reviewed and vetted as committee members are chosen and groups formed. The deadline for committee applications is Monday, April 1 at 5 p.m.

TEE UP

The Ladies' Golf Association has its first 18-hole guest day on the calendar for Tuesday, April 2.

MEETING TIME

The sports and recreation committee will meet Tuesday, April 2 at 1 p.m. at the PAC. This very hard-working group plans so many terrific activities for

the youngest residents of Pecan, and with summer coming up, they are extra busy ensuring a successful season in our community.

TRAVEL TIME

Pecan's Recreational Vehicle Club will enjoy a weekend mini rally from Saturday, April 6 through Monday, April 8 at Shady Campground. For complete information on the RV Club and its activities, send email to rvclub@ppoarv.org.

WELCOME HOME

The next new member orientation for folks new to our community is on the calendar for Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. Contact Sarah Lord to register: sarahlord@ppoaweb.

Neighbors who recently moved to Pecan as well as longtime members who would like an update on the amenities of our home are invited to join.

NET NEWS

The Pecan Plantation Tennis Association will enjoy its spring barbecue Friday, April 12 at 4 p.m. at the Planeview Park hangar when the event will include food, music and fun. In addition, the next session of junior tennis begins Wednesday, April 3, and summer camp dates are set and published in this month's edition of "The Columnns."

LIFE SAVING

CPR classes are available this spring at the PAC 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.

COURSE WORK

Progress on installing Pecan's new golf course irrigation system continues despite recent rainy days. The project should be completed in late April or early May, weather permitting. While work continues, golfers are reminded to check with the golf shop prior to teeing off for information about hole closures and to continue using caution when playing while crews are working on

the course.

RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

The Pecan Plantation wildlife committee is raffling six pistols to benefit the annual Dr. Barna Memorial Kids Trout Fishing Tournament. All proceeds go toward stocking the ponds with trout. Various locations around Pecan boast ticket sales, and folks may also purchase tickets by contacting a wildlife committee member or sending email to WildlifeCommitteePPOA@gmail.com.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Happy Easter to the readers of Pecan Bits. He is risen; he is risen indeed!

ART

FROM PAGE C6

It's easier than you think to access all these benefits. Get started with any of the beautiful grown-up coloring books found in stores around town. Yes, research shows positive effects of coloring. Add a set of colored pencils or markers and allow your own creativity to bring on a sense of peace and joy in your life and, maybe, in the lives of your children, your elderly parents or even your homebound friends. Or start with clay and feel your ideas taking shape under your

own hands as you mold and shape it. Engage with oil paint, watercolors, pastels, ink, pourable acrylics or just a charcoal pencil and a piece of paper. Consider contacting art associations to find out which workshops are available — and take them. Then share your increasingly positive attitude with others; exhibiting to them your own change through the arts.

Finally, as Easter approaches with the joy of our risen Lord, there is much to do: check out Visit Granbury's website. From April 6-21, enjoy Tarleton University's Rio Brazos Art

Exhibition at the Langdon Center. Put April 26-28 on your calendar now to see the art at the Granbury Wine Walk. Plan ahead for Granbury Art's recurring Art Talk featuring sculptor Covelle Jones May 10.

Tonight, stop in at the Galleries of Granbury's Last Saturday Gallery Night from 5-8 p.m. See artists at multiple venues; for example, well-known artists Jo and Jerry Rutledge at Your Private Collection. Spending the last Saturday night of every month with a nice dinner and art is a habit you will want to establish.

AGGIES

FROM PAGE C6

hours were simply stated: "Open when we get here and closed when we leave."

It was these comedic buddies who offered a simple explanation about their merchandise. "If you need it, we got it," they bragged. "And if we don't have it, you don't need it." The radio show was immensely popular from 1931-1954, originating from their fictitious community of Pine Ridge, Arkansas.

Relatively new on the advertising scene in all media are appeals by law firms. In the previous century, lawyers gave little thought to outright

ads, perhaps thinking such to be tacky and/or beneath their dignity. Now, they're after it, hammer and tong, with ads "clumping up" primarily during news broadcasts. (Truth to tell, I'm not sure I've heard of lawyers armed with tongs. Maybe "tongs" sounds too much like a kitchen weapon.)

In Texas, attorney Thomas J. Henry must have a multi-million-dollar ad venture underway.

With offices in Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Austin, Houston and Dallas, the principal is often shown flying from court session to court session, and sometimes is pictured near his plane, which has "TJH" painted on

its tail.

Looking back, I was given to hyperbole in my youth. Surely it was youthful innocence on my part, or maybe not.

During early teen years, I peddled Cloverine Salve, bragging that any place you could rub it, stuff or sniff it, curative powers prevailed. I sold enough of the stuff to win a guitar. Alas, the guitar never arrived.

A few decades later, I saw a familiar face in a TV musical group. I couldn't call his name, but he'd been our rural mail carrier. And he was not known as a guitarist until after my guitar was to have arrived at our mailbox.

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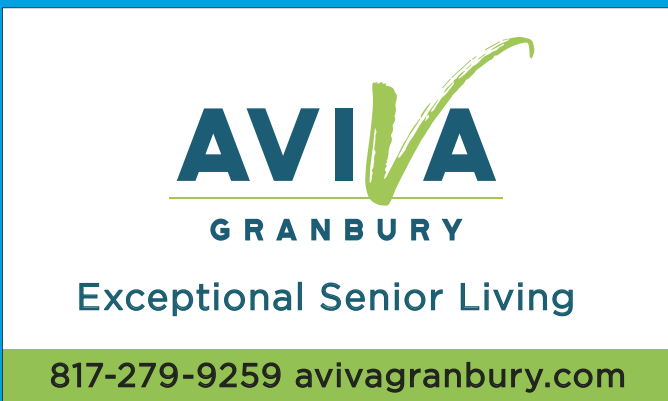
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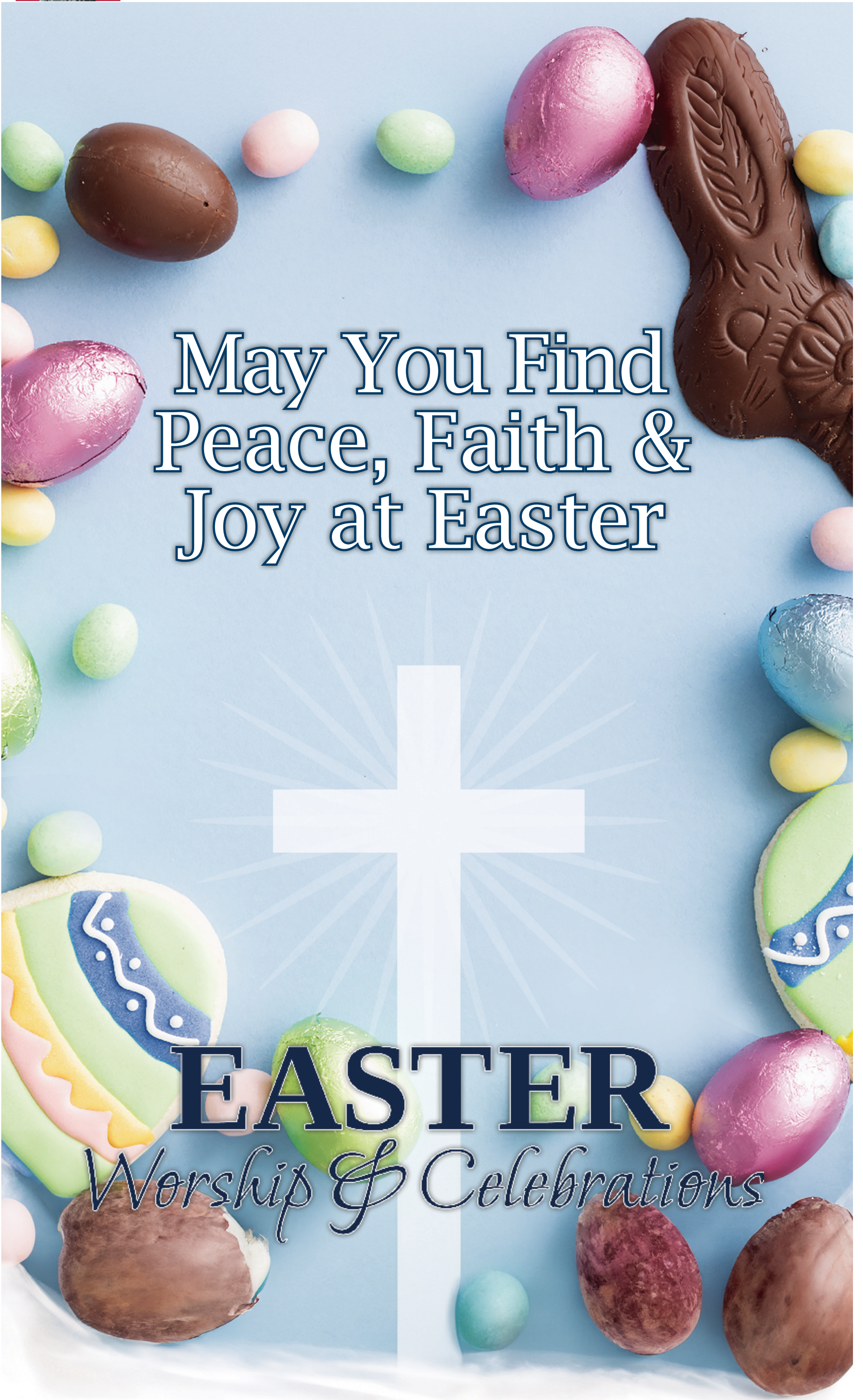
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Movies to watch this Easter season

Staff Reports

Movie-goers may not associate Easter with Hollywood blockbusters. However, there's an entire cache of films that align well with Easter. When spending time with family and friends for the Easter holiday, consider these movies.

"IT'S THE EASTER BEAGLE, CHARLIE BROWN!"

This 1974 classic puts The Peanuts' heartwarming spin on another holiday theme. The gang gets ready for Easter in the only ways they can - with lots of love and laughs.

"THE PRINCE OF EGYPT"

This 1998 animated film tells the tale of Moses and Pharaoh, and features the voices of Val Kilmer, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock, and Ralph Fiennes, among others.

"HOP"

This combination of live action and animation tells the story of the Easter Bunny's teenage son "E.B.," who wants to move to L.A. to pursue his passion for music, rather than be next in line for the family business.

"THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD"

This 1965 epic tells the story of Jesus of Nazareth and follows His life from the nativity through to the crucifixion. At a whopping four hours and 20 minutes,



COURTESY PHOTO

When spending time with family and friends for the Easter holiday, consider these movies.

it may be best to watch this in sessions, especially when watching with youngsters.

"THE DOG WHO SAVED EASTER"

A cuddly canine makes it his business to save Easter when three criminals try to

sabotage it in this 2014 film. Mario Lopez voices the pup "Zeus" in this family-friendly flick.

"THE TEN COMMANDMENTS"

Audiences continue to enjoy this beloved 1956 film starring Charlton Heston as

Moses every Easter. With stunning special effects of the Burning Bush and parting of the Red Sea in the era before CGI, this story of faith wows audiences every time.

"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Released in 2004 and directed by Mel Gibson, this movie chronicles the final twelve hours of Jesus' agony. The movie doesn't shy away from violence as it attempts to bring audiences closer to

the suffering of Christ, which earned it an R rating. This is likely a film for adults only.

Easter presents a time when families can enjoy religious-themed movies that share stories of faith or fun flicks with positive messages.

Easter egg coloring tips

Staff Reports

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross, according to Chase Oaks Church.

Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

PREVENT CRACKED EGGS

Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent

cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.

BOIL EGGS AND COOL COMPLETELY

It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run under cold tap water.

DON'T FORGET THE VINEGAR

Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

STICK TO WHITE EGGS

Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

CREATE DISTINCTIVE DESIGNS

By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

DYES ARE NOT THE ONLY WAY TO COLOR EGGS

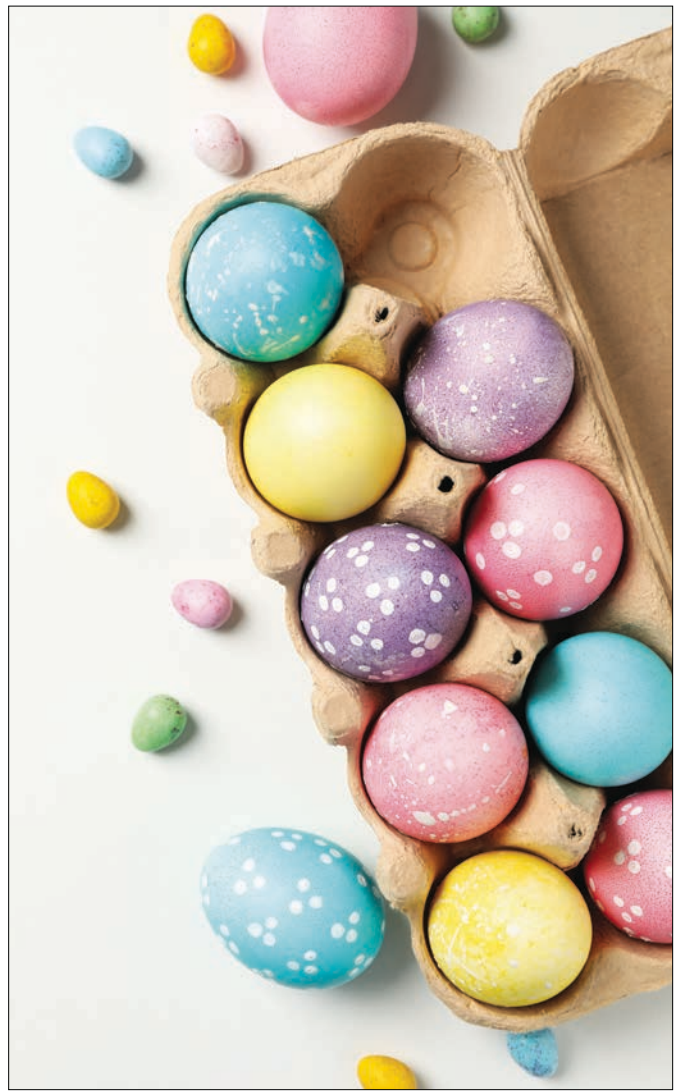
Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year.

Coloring eggs is a popular Easter tradition, and there are many ways to ensure this beloved activity produces beautiful results.



COURTESY PHOTO

Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year.



COURTESY PHOTO

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Easter traditions from around the globe

Staff Reports

Easter Sunday is a significant day on the Christian calendar. Easter Sunday will be celebrated on March 31, 2024, and many of those celebrations will feature some notable traditions. Some traditions are undoubtedly familiar to practicing Christians, while others might come as a surprise. As Easter approaches, faithful Christians and others intrigued by the holiday can consider these notable traditions from around the globe.

EASTER WITCHES

Witches are typically associated with Halloween, but they play a role in celebrating Easter in Finland. According to the Finland Promotion Board, Easter traditions in the northern European nation feature a mixture of religious references with customs related to the arrival of spring. It's not unheard of for young Finnish children, particularly girls, to dress up as Easter witches the Sunday before Easter and go from door to door requesting treats in exchange for offerings designed to drive away evil spirits. The FPB notes that it's even common for children in western Finland to don their witch outfits and roam on Easter Sunday.

FIREWORKS IN FLORENCE

The folk tradition of Scoppio del Carro ("Explosion of the Cart") takes place in Florence, Italy. The Uffizi Gallery reports that this tradition can be traced to the First Crusade in 1099. During the first Easter in Jerusalem, Crusaders gave the blessed fire to the people as a symbol of purification. That custom has endured in Florence, where each Easter Sunday morning around 10 a.m. a candle is lit in the church of Santi Apostoli. That same candle is then used to light an antique cart loaded with fireworks, marking the beginning of a display that lasts around 20 minutes.

THE CARPETS OF SEMANA SANTA

Carpets might not be the first thing most Easter celebrants think of when pondering the holiday, but that might be the case for anyone who's ever spent the holiday in Antigua, Guatemala. Guatemala's Semana Santa ("Easter Festival") features detailed carpets of colored sawdust adorning a Good Friday processional route.

Preparation for the colorful and stunning display begins months in advance



as the intricate carpets require ample time to produce.

WHIPS IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Among the more unique Easter traditions takes

place each Easter Monday in the Czech Republic. In adherence to this tradition, known locally as pomlázka, boys, and

sometimes men, gather willow branches and braid them together into whips. The whips are then decorated

with ribbons before boys visit girls (or men visit women) who they know and lightly tap them with the whips. The tradition is believed to bring women luck, vitality and fertility.

These are just some of the unique traditions many Christians adhere to as part of their Easter celebrations.

Easter centerpiece ideas to beautify the table

Staff Reports

Easter is a springtime holiday that marks a prime opportunity to cast off the remnants of winter weather and dress a home in bright, colorful hues.

Come Easter, tulips and daffodils may be sprouting, lilies are on display in churches and many other spring touches are incorporated into home decor. Celebrants who will be hosting their families or more intimate Easter gatherings can extend the eye-catching improvements to the dining table. Easter centerpieces are a prime way to add color and ambiance to interior designs.

Here's a look at various ways to decorate the table for Easter celebrations.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dining tables can be incorporated into Easter decor.



COURTESY PHOTO

Easter centerpieces are a prime way to add color and ambiance to interior designs.

CARROT-FILLED CONTAINER

Embrace an Easter bunny theme by hanging a bundle of carrots inside a glass vase or bowl and topping with orange, yellow and other spring-themed flowers and greenery.

PUSSY WILLOW BASKET

Weave pussy willow stems into a basket shape or braid them together to make a ring. Then fill with colored Easter eggs or flower petals.

NESTED FLOWERS

Purchase a wooden or wicker basket and weave or glue small twigs onto it. This will give it the look of a natural bird's nest, which is one of the markers of the spring season. The nest can cradle spring blooms, such as tulips, or hold Easter eggs.

EASTER BUNNY GARDEN

Fill a shallow ceramic

bowl with floral design moss or another green filler. Place a gold-foil chocolate bunny or a ceramic rabbit in the center and put small tealight candles and a small glass canister of pastel-colored candy eggs to complete the picture.

TAKE A 'PEEP'

Marshmallow Peeps® are an Easter staple and they can have a place outside of Easter baskets. Line a small

vase with Peeps. Place cut flowers inside for a festive centerpiece.

RAINY DAY DÉCOR

April showers bring May flowers. Put that sentiment on display by purchasing an inexpensive pair of brightly colored rubber rain boots. Place cut fresh tulips into narrow glass vases and then slip the vases inside of the boots for a festive and funny table conversation piece.

FLOATING FLOWERS

Poke the stem of a flower into a square of bubble wrap. Place into a small fishbowl filled with water and watch the flowers float on top. Tint the water a pastel hue if desired.

PAINTED PINECONE BOUQUET

If you have pine cones left over from Christmas decorations or a pile that

the kids may have collected from the yard, paint them in bright colors for an Easter makeover. Place in the container of your choice and add some faux or real greenery to complete the bouquet picture.

Dining tables can be incorporated into Easter decor. There are many different creative options for crafting centerpieces guests will adore.



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Stories of the Resurrection as told in the Gospels



COURTESY PHOTO

John 20: 1-10 Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

Staff reports

Easter is a holy day on the Christian calendar that commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The resurrection of Jesus is described in the Gospels of the New Testament, which millions of Christians read every year, especially during the Lenten season, which is a 40-day period that directly precedes Easter Sunday.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The following are passages from each of the canonical Gospels that help to tell the story of the resurrection of Jesus.

MATTHEW 28: 1-10

Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the

women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

MARK 16: 2-7

And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, "Be not affrighted: ye seek Jesus

of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you."

LUKE 24: 1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men

stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and

PLEASE SEE **GOSPELS** | D7



COURTESY PHOTO

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels.

Meanings behind the Easter lily

Staff Reports

Easter symbols and traditions help make the holiday familiar and special. Eggs, hot cross buns and frilly church dresses help paint the picture, and so does a delicate and beautiful white flower.

The Easter lily plant is native to both Taiwan and the Ryukyu Islands of Japan. The plant's flowering season begins in April and ends in June. The plant produces pure white flowers on top of long stems. Easter lilies often adorn homes and church altars during this

time of year.

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden. These were believed to be tears of repentance.

Historians and biblical scholars say that the lily has always been highly regarded in the Christian Church. Jesus even references the flower in Luke 12:27, stating "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed

like one of these." Legend has it that, after Jesus' death and resurrection, lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus is said to have prayed before his crucifixion. They were believed to have sprung up from a drop of sweat from his brow when his head was bent in prayer.

In Easter celebrations, the lily represents Christ's Resurrection, and thusly new birth and new life. The delicate, white blooms can be viewed as pure, innocent and untainted by the world. The flower itself is used

in various ways to tell the resurrection story. The bulb is buried in the ground as a representation of Christ's tomb. The trumpet-shaped fragrant flowers also announce life after death, since bulbed flowers often regrow year after year, according to the religious resource All About Jesus. And the trumpet shape signifies the angel Gabriel's trumpet call.

It's common for Easter lilies to decorate homes, churches, gardens, and more throughout the Easter season.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tradition states that the Easter lily originated in the Garden of Eden from the teardrops of Eve that spread when she and Adam were cast out of the garden. In Easter celebrations, the lily represents Christ's Resurrection, and thusly new birth and new life. The delicate, white blooms can be viewed as pure, innocent and untainted by the world.

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Explaining the Stations of the Cross

Staff Reports

Tradition features prominently in Holy Week celebrations. The week leading up to Easter Sunday, Holy Week is a sacred time for faithful Christians. The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

WHAT ARE THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

According to Catholic Online, the Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. Each of the 14 stations focus on a specific event of

Jesus's last day as a man.

WHERE CAN THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS BE FOUND?

Stations of the Cross are typically found in churches. Many times the Stations adorn the interior wall of a church, and Catholic Online notes they're often depicted using small icons or images. Some churches with sizable exterior grounds may arrange larger Stations along footpaths in yards or gardens on the premises.

WHEN DO PEOPLE MOST COMMONLY PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS?

Lent is the most common

time to pray the Stations of the Cross, and some churches hold weekly prayer sessions on Wednesdays and Fridays during this time of year.

WHAT ARE THE 14 STATIONS?

Catholic Online notes the 14 Stations of the Cross are:

1. Jesus is condemned to death
2. Jesus carries the cross
3. Jesus falls for the first time
4. Jesus meets with His Mother
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross
6. Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7. Jesus falls a second time
8. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9. Jesus falls a third time
10. Jesus's clothes are taken away
11. Jesus is nailed to the cross
12. Jesus dies on the cross
13. The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
14. Jesus is laid in the tomb

The Stations of the Cross are an important Easter tradition that shed light on Jesus's resurrection. Individuals interested in praying the Stations of the Cross are urged to contact a local church so they can engage in this moving Christian tradition.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Stations of the Cross are one of the traditions that many Christians feel bolsters their faith and brings them closer to God.

The significance of various symbols of Easter



COURTESY PHOTO

The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

Staff reports

Easter Sunday is a day when Christians across the globe celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Data from the Pew Research Center indicates there are approximately 2.4 billion Christians across the globe, which accounts for nearly one-third of the global population.

Though certain Christians groups do not celebrate Easter, many consider it the holiest day of the year. Given that significance, it's no surprise Easter is steeped in symbolism. The following are some of the many symbols of Easter and what they represent to faithful Christians across the globe.

EGGS

Eggs might now be more instantly associated with Easter egg hunts for children, but the American Bible Society notes that eggs are symbolic of more than just fun for

kids. Eggs represent the new life that's symbolic of spring, which is when Easter occurs in the northern hemisphere. Christians view eggs as a reminder of the resurrection of Jesus. Interestingly, though colored eggs are often seen as a fun Easter activity for kids, the ABS notes that the tradition dates back to the early days of Christianity, when red-colored eggs were used to represent the resurrection.

CRUCIFIX

The crucifix, which is a distinct representation of a cross with Jesus Christ on it, is symbolic of the crucifixion and subsequent resurrection of Jesus. The ABS notes that the resurrection of Jesus symbolizes his victory over the power of sin and death.

THE LAMB

Jesus is referred to in the Bible as the "Lamb of God" (Revelation 5:6-14), so the lamb is another important Easter symbol for Christians.

In addition, in John (1:29), Jesus is referred to by John the Baptist as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

EASTER BUNNY

Another symbol, like Easter eggs, that people could be forgiven for mistaking as purely secular, the Easter Bunny is not entirely separate from the spiritual meaning of the holiday. As noted, Easter, even though it's a moveable feast, takes place in spring in the northern hemisphere each year. Spring is symbolic of rebirth, and the hare was a symbol of fertility among the ancient pagans. The spirit of rebirth associated with rabbits, particularly in spring, also is reminiscent of the resurrection of Jesus from his tomb.

Easter is celebrated across the globe. Those celebrations feature many significant religious symbols that have withstood the test of time.

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He is Risen!

Hop on these tips for a great Easter egg hunt

Staff Reports

Egg hunts are a traditional component of many people's Easter celebrations. Children often delight in searching for eggs around the house or in the backyard. Egg hunts are so popular that they have become a component of many town-sponsored festivities. In fact, the White House hosts its annual Easter Egg Roll each year.

There are many ways to make Easter egg hunts more enjoyable and productive for participants of all ages. Try these "eggcellent" ideas.

DESIGNATE A CLEAR HUNTING AREA

Young children can grow frustrated searching for eggs in large areas. Set parameters for the search area that are manageable depending on the ages of the children

participating. If you'll be in a large yard or field, tape off the search area perimeter.

VARY THE PRIZES

Candy, candy and more candy seems to be the name of the game on Easter. But too many sweets can lead to stomach aches for young Easter celebrants. Instead, mix and match the prizes contained in the eggs. Candy can be in some, money in others, and perhaps small toys in a few eggs. Another clever idea is to mix the egg hunt with charades. Put charade prompts in some eggs so that kids have to act out what they read inside for added fun.

SPECIAL PRIVILEGE EGG

Hide one egg that gives the finder the opportunity for a special honor. It may include

getting the first slice of the holiday ham or being able to choose a movie that the entire family watches together after dinner.

LABEL EGGS FOR EQUITY

When there are children across a wide range of ages, label the eggs with the children's names or utilize a color-coded system to ensure that everyone has an equal shot at finding eggs.

KEEP A MASTER LIST

It can be hard to remember where each egg is hidden, so keep a running list of where they are or take photos with a phone of the hiding spots. This way you're not left to discover a chocolate-filled egg teeming with ants come summertime.



COURTESY PHOTO

Egg hunts are so popular that they have become a component of many town-sponsored festivities.

MAKE CUSTOM BASKETS

Children will need something to carry their eggs. Prior to the egg hunt, let

them decorate bags or baskets with Easter trinkets for custom creations.

Easter egg hunts are a

time-honored tradition. The opportunities for fun are endless when families plan accordingly.

Why is Easter Sunday such an important Christian holiday?



COURTESY PHOTO

Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration.

Staff Reports

Christians around the world fill church pews on Easter Sunday to participate in one of the most holy and important celebrations of the liturgical year. Although every Sunday presents opportunities to share in the word of God, Easter Sunday is an especially significant date on the Christian calendar.

Each Easter, Christians celebrate the miracle of Christ's defeat over death through his resurrection and ascension to his father's side in heaven. However awe-inspiring, Easter is much more than this event and its retelling. Easter actually is the

core of the Christian religion as it has come to be known, including inspiring the rituals and teachings that have been shared for nearly 2,000 years. Without the events that unfolded during Holy Week, the Christian faith would not exist as it was prophesied. Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross for others' sins, as well as his miraculous resurrection, are the anchors upon which all of Christianity has been built.

In 1 Corinthians 15:17, St. Paul wrote, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." Pope Benedict XVI similarly summarized St. Paul's words, in-

dicating that if the resurrection were taken away, it may be possible to piece together ideas about God and men, but the Christian faith would be "dead." In his book, Jesus of Nazareth, Pope Benedict further wrote, "Jesus would be a failed religious leader. he would then remain purely human, and his authority would extend only so far as his message is of interest to us."

According to Christianity.com, Easter is part of the redemptive plan of mankind. It is worthy of celebration because it proved to people that Jesus is the Son of God. This gives Christians confidence that there is life after death, and they have the

same power working in them that raised Jesus from the dead.

Out of Holy Week and Easter also came the start of Christian masses. On Holy Thursday, Jesus introduced his disciples to the bread that they ate at the Last Supper as "his body" and the wine as "his blood." This would serve as the basis for the Christian celebration of Holy Communion, which remains a vital component of the faith and religious services.

Easter is a significant date on the Christian calendar that inspires Christians across the globe to celebrate their faith.

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Explaining the meaning of Easter to children

Staff Reports

Explaining Easter to children can be a delicate matter, especially for very young children who may not fully understand the tenets of the Christian faith. Although Easter ends with Jesus Christ emerging from his tomb, prior to this glorious miracle there are subjects of betrayal, suffering and death. These religious messages can confound when commingled with the imagery of bunnies delivering chocolates, chicks and pastel-hued eggs. How do well-meaning parents relay the message of Easter without scaring or confusing children?

TEMPER THE MESSAGE TO THE AUDIENCE

A child's age bears consideration when gauging just how much to share about Easter. Between Palm Sunday, when Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem, to Easter Sunday's Resurrection, the story of Easter features torture

and death - which are topics not easily digested by anyone, especially children. Even the core symbol of the Christian faith - the crucifix - is shocking.

For the youngest children, the extent of the torture and betrayal can be muted. For example, parents may say that Jesus was bullied and made fun of and that people didn't believe him when he spoke. Parents can note that even some of the closest friends to Jesus had their doubts. This may be easier for kids to digest because it's something they may relate to.

Children may not understand the death on the cross; it's even challenging for adults to wrap their minds around that visual. It briefly can be mentioned that he was placed on a cross, as was customary during that era, but forgo the finer details.

FOCUS ON THE RESURRECTION

Parents will not want to talk about death without



COURTESY PHOTO

These religious messages can confound when commingled with the imagery of bunnies delivering chocolates, chicks and pastel-hued eggs.

ending on the high note of Jesus' Resurrection. Remind children that Christ's death was temporary and that He now always will be with adults and children. Read passages from scripture that exemplify the Good News and the happy components of the Easter celebration.

EXPLAIN SECULAR IMAGES

Young children may be more focused on the commercial images of Easter rather than the religious ones. Parents may want to gear symbolism toward the religious explanations and focus their traditions thusly. Baking hot cross buns can be fun and showcase the cruci-

fix. Explain how eggs are representative of Jesus Christ's new life when coloring them is another way to cut through mixed messages.

READ BOOKS

Some authors already have taken the challenge out of explaining Easter to children. Visit a religious bookseller,

the church or a book store to find Easter stories geared to children.

Parents can decide how to explain Easter to their children. Many moms and dads have found that focusing on the joyful aspects of Christ's resurrection story is a simple, enjoyable way to explain Easter.

GOSPELS

FROM PAGE D4

Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

JOHN 20: 1-10

Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came

to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. And stooping to look in, he

saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.



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The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John comprise the canonical Gospels. Each book can help Christians understand and connect with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



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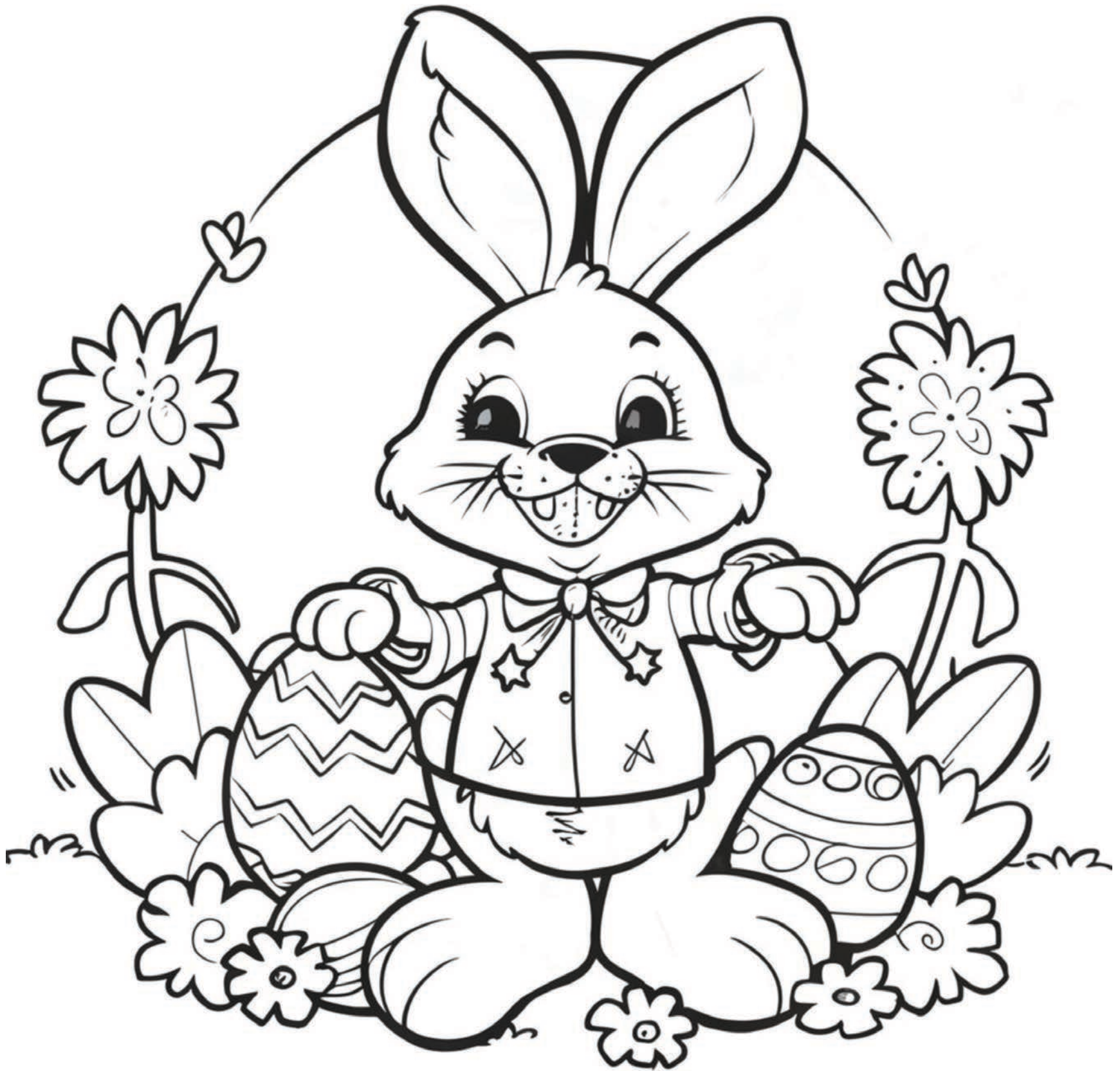
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