



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, April 6, 2024]

Published Saturday

hcnews.com \$1.00

MARLEY'S MISSION



"Every penny we raise goes toward cancer research or support services for cancer patients. I'm thrilled that I've surpassed my minimum goal, but I want to raise as much as I possibly can because it's such a great cause that I believe in deeply."

MARLEY FOX

If you would like more information about the Texas 4000, visit their website at <https://www.texas4000.org/>. If you would like to donate to Marley's ride, scan the QR code, which will take you directly to her donation page.



COURTESY PHOTO

Marley Fox, a 2020 graduate of Granbury High School, is gearing up to embark on an extraordinary journey — one that stretches over 4,000 miles from Austin to Anchorage, Alaska. This is not just any trek; it's a mission.

Pedaling from Texas to Alaska for cancer research

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

Granbury is known as the "Celebration Capital of Texas," and later this summer, all of Granbury and Hood County will indeed have something huge to celebrate. One of its own, Marley Fox, a 2020 graduate of Granbury High School, is gearing up to embark on an extraordinary journey — one that stretches over 4,000 miles from Austin to Anchorage, Alaska. This is not just any trek; it's a mission to fuel cancer research and hope, all on two wheels.

FROM LOCAL GRAD TO
LONG-DISTANCE CYCLIST
Marley, now a senior at the

University of Texas at Austin, majoring in sociology with a minor in environment and

sustainability studies, is set to participate in the Texas 4000 Bike Ride for Cancer. But what is Texas 4000? It's the longest annual charity bike ride in the world, founded in 2004 by fellow UT students Chris and Mandy Condit. Their vision was clear: to harness the vigor of youth in leading the charge against cancer.

Each year, UT students who demonstrate a fiery passion for cancer advocacy, solid communication skills, and the ability to thrive within a team are chosen through a competitive selection process that culminates in them riding the more than 4,000 miles between Austin and Anchorage, Alaska. Prior cycling chops are

optional. These students commit 18 months to the entire process — raising a minimum of \$4,500, riding 2,000 training miles, volunteering 50 community hours, and meticulously planning the expedition.

MARLEY'S PERSONAL DRIVE
A story of resilience and memory

Marley's connection to Texas 4000 is personal and profound. Her mother's best friend rode in the 2005 event, honoring Marley's granddad, who was then battling Stage 4 multiple

PLEASE SEE FOX | A6

County approves HCSO purchase of narcotic identification device

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Members of the Hood County Sheriff's Office will soon have a new tool to assist in the fight against narcotics.

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to allow the HCSO to purchase a narcotic identification device from the department's opioid settlement funds.

Emergency Management Coordinator Margaret Campbell explained to the court that the street crimes unit and Lt. Gary Roberts came to her office about potentially looking for a grant to purchase drug identification and detection equipment.

"After looking at it, it became apparent that the opioid settlement fund would be a totally appropriate place to pull money from for this equipment," Campbell said. "The intent with the opioid settlement funds is for opioid remediation and abatement, and that's exactly what this device would do, so we think it's probably most appropriate to do that."

The device, Campbell said, costs \$29,900 and will allow the



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lt. Gary Roberts with the Hood County Sheriff's Office speaks to the Hood County Commissioners Court about the purchase of a narcotic identification device during a regularly scheduled meeting on March 26.

HCSO to handle dangerous narcotics, like fentanyl, without any direct contact.

Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100

times stronger than morphine. Just two milligrams of fentanyl, equal to 10 to 15 grains of table salt, is considered a lethal dose, according to Texas Health and Human Services (THHS).

"We do have a fentanyl problem in Hood County," Roberts said. "We're doing (our) best to mitigate that and manage it. To give you guys some examples

PLEASE SEE HCSO | A3



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Stacie Howell

Marathon names Stacie Howell as new community liaison

Site improvement plan also announced

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Marathon Digital Holdings Inc. has recently hired Stacie Howell as a new community liaison to facilitate communications between Hood County residents and the Bitcoin mining site at the Wolf Hollow Data Center.

For more than a year, several community members have voiced their concerns regarding the loud fan noise emanating near the Wolf Hollow plant.

After complaints that the low-frequency hum was causing migraines, hearing loss, ringing in ears, vertigo, nausea and behavioral issues in children, Marathon staff recently announced plans for mitigation that included hiring a community liaison to manage collaboration between the public and the company.

"Furthermore, we are going to hire a member of the local community as a full-time community manager to ensure that your voices are heard and that your concerns are addressed in a timely and effective manner," CEO Fred Thiel said in a public letter.

Howell was hired as the community liaison in March as she had already been a longtime member of the community.

After moving to Granbury in 1998 and later finding a position at Hilton Garden Inn, she spent 10 years as a marketing director for Daffan Cooling & Heating.

"Daffan gave me an opportunity to grow in so many directions and learn exponentially," she said. "Not only did I manage our marketing and advertising, but event planning as well."

Since 2008, Howell has also been an ambassador for the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Thiel previously told the Hood County News the community liaison would be someone who has lived in Granbury for many years and had fully integrated themselves in the community. Thiel said this role would involve listening to and addressing local concerns, as well as supporting community development projects.

"When Marathon approached me to become a community liaison, I wasn't looking for a career change at the time, but I feel like sometimes you should listen in case God has other plans," Howell said. "I agreed to meet with the team and was so impressed with their integrity, transparency and professionalism along with what they wanted to achieve here in Granbury. I've always been active in the community, but this is an opportunity to give back to many groups here in Granbury that serve those in need. When would that kind of opportunity present itself again? After much consideration and even more prayer, I couldn't say no."

Howell explained that while her main

PLEASE SEE HOWELL | A3



138TH YEAR, NO. 14

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 34 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 34 pages

INSIDE

From My Front Porch — A3 | Zed — A4 | Obituaries — A9-A10 | Classifieds — A11-A12 | Crossword Puzzle — A9-A10

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Fueling success: Brew connections at Coffee & Connections!

Chamber Message

Looking for the perfect opportunity to make meaningful connections and strengthen your business presence in the community? Coffee & Connections is the event for you! This highly anticipated event is held the second Thursday of each month at a local venue and is more than just an opportunity to sip on steaming cups of coffee. It brings together local entrepreneurs and professionals for a morning of relationship-building and community synergy. This event has be-

come a staple in the Granbury business community, and its growing popularity underscores its immense value to all who participate.

Coffee & Connections serves as a powerful platform for businesses to expand their networks, forge new partnerships and exchange ideas that foster innovation and growth. With each event, the sense of camaraderie among attendees strengthens, creating a tight-knit business community that fuels our region's economic prosperity.

One of the key reasons why

Coffee & Connections is so valuable to participate in is the opportunity to meet a diverse array of professionals from various industries. Whether you are a seasoned entrepreneur, a startup founder, or a representative from a large or small corporation, the event's inclusive nature ensures that everyone has a seat at the table. As participants chat and share their experiences, they gain insights and perspectives while creating new bonds.

The welcoming and informal atmosphere of the event sets the stage for meaning-

ful interactions and fun. Attendees can engage in relaxed conversations that are free from the pressures of a formal business meeting. This setting fosters genuine connections, allowing people to get to know one another on a personal level and find common ground beyond just their professional pursuits.

Moreover, Coffee & Connections also features a brief spotlight presentation from our monthly sponsor allowing the business to showcase its product or service. Being a sponsor elevates your brand visibility, expands your network and fosters valuable partnerships

within Granbury's thriving business community. To become a sponsor, contact Holly Martin by email at holly@granburychamber.com or 817-573-1622.

Join us for our next Coffee & Connections Thursday, April 11 at 9 a.m. at AVIVA Granbury Senior Living and start your day with a jolt of inspiration, collaboration and caffeinated networking. Cost is \$10 for chamber members and \$20 for general admission. Register at www.granburychamber.com or call 817-573-1622 for more information!



RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Laser & Medical Aesthetics, Relax and Renew, located at 2441 E. US Hwy 377, Suite 104.



COURTESY PHOTO

Nurse Next Door, Home Care Services that Make Lives Better, located at 305 E. Pearl Street.

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR

CHAMBER SUPERSTAR
FNB
Your Hometown Bank.
First National Bank
 "First National Bank has been your Hometown Bank since 1887. We are your bank. We care about you."
 granbury CHAMBER

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Chamber Superstar: First National Bank. First National Bank has been your Hometown Bank since 1887. For the past 137+ years, we have been staffed with bankers and lenders (consumer, commercial, and mortgage) who have been dedicated to serving local communities and building relationships with consumers and businesses. Our Mission Statement says: "We treat people the way we want to be treated." We invite you to come see the difference and that we truly do put that into practice daily. We know that most banks offer similar services. The real difference you will find at FNB is our true community banking style and our employees who want to know you - you are not just another person who walks into our buildings. What we do goes far beyond the walls of our building.

RISING LEADERS

granbury CHAMBER
RISING LEADERS GRANBURY COMMITTEE CHAIR SPOTLIGHT
DANIEL HERNANDEZ
Business:
 95.9 FM The Ranch
Time as an RLG Committee Member:
 2 years
 95.9 FM RANCH THE SOUND OF TEXAS
 92.1 FM BANK FM REAL COUNTRY
 KHIS 95.5 CLASSIC HITS

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Rising Leaders Granbury Committee Chair Spotlight. We are so thankful for our Rising Leaders Granbury Committee Chair, Daniel Hernandez with LKCM Media Group!! Daniel has been a part of our RLG program for the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Board for 2 years! When asked why he loves being on the RLG Committee, he said, "It allows me to grow as a professional and also learn from successful professionals in our community. It's a great way to network. I have made lots of good friends and connections through RLG." Fun Fact about Daniel: "I love to do Karaoke!" Thank you Daniel for being the RLG Committee Chair of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

granbury CHAMBER
Member Spotlight
 Positive Energy Cleaning Etc.
Making the World a better place, one space at a time.
 PositiveEnergyCleaningLLC@gmail.com
Positive Energy Cleaning Etc.
 "our mission is to provide exceptional personal assistant services to busy professionals and individuals who need help managing their daily tasks and schedules."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: Positive Energy Cleaning, Etc. Our mission is to provide exceptional personal assistant services to busy professionals and individuals who need help managing their daily tasks and schedules. We offer a wide range of services to meet the needs of our clients, including appointments, managing email and phone calls, running errands, and more. Our services are fully customizable to meet each client's unique needs and preferences."

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

GRANBURY ISD BOND 2024
DID YOU KNOW?
OUR DISTRICT HASN'T BUILT A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SINCE 1996.
THAT'S 28 YEARS AGO.
 GRANBURYISD.ORG/BOND2024

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Living life in a small town in Texas: Where kindness is not lost



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

Living in a small town is simply different than living in the big city. If you desire to be close to a vibrant nightlife, dine in a multitude and variety of restaurants, or go to professional ball games and musical entertainment, it would be much wiser to live in the D-FW area rather than some small town in rural Texas. The hustle and bustle of the “big city” provides an energy and rhythm which excites and motivates. Lots of young people are driven to live there and experience all it has to offer.

After all, there are also more job opportunities in the metroplex than in rural areas, and usually at a higher wage. If you are single, there

is a larger pool from which to seek a companion. Urban areas offer a greater chance to experience the arts, emerge in a wide range of cultures

and ethnicities, and greater shopping opportunities. Despite all these positives, there are arguably negatives to life in the metroplex. Traffic is the first one that springs to mind. I see people scramble on U.S. Highway 75, Interstate Highway 635 or the President George Bush Turnpike and I wonder how they bear the constant rush, the stress of getting to their job on time, and the isolation of spending hours of their week simply getting to and from work. It's not something which I envy. All the hustle and bustle make me wonder how often the urban dwellers get to engage with their neighbors and share this journey we call life — or are they so busy running from one event to the other they miss the blessing of community?

The small town I live in is growing. Occasionally, old timers will complain about the changes. They are frustrated with having to wait in line, or road construction, or building new schools to accommodate the growth in students. They yearn for the slower pace of yesteryear, and I understand why. There is something peaceful and pleasurable about a small town's slower pace and taking the time to interact with your neighbors. Just this past week, I was leaving the office about 5:15. The building where I work sits on a very busy thoroughfare. There are plans being made by TxDOT to widen the road to remedy the traffic ills, but it will not happen for some four or five years to come. Currently, during busy times of the day, the street

can seem like it is in the heart of Dallas with traffic backed up. There is simply too much congestion. What I have come to realize is that I have never had to wait more than a few moments before having access to turn on the road. I simply drive to the exit of my parking lot and some nice member of my community will “wave me in” and allow me to get in line. This happens every night. Without fail, before one or two cars pass, someone waves me on to the roadway, even though it slows their trip. I can't help but believe if I was trying to get out on a busy street in Fort Worth or Dallas, other drivers would ignore me or look away. Letting someone get on the highway is not tantamount to curing cancer or solving

world hunger but it does denote a sense of community and kindness which permeates nearly all the drivers in my town. Thank goodness they happily show kindness and give a quick wave to acknowledge their community members in need of a very small favor. Such a random act of kindness is indicative of a mindset which is in all Texas small towns: Help your neighbor when you can. I hope our communities grow. I wish for prosperity and a better life for us all as our world changes, but I sure hope we never lose that little bit of kindness that makes us special. Thought for the day: Kindness is a gift everyone can afford to give. Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Lauren Rishel

Say hello to our neighbor, Lauren Rishel!

Lauren is a 29-year-old dynamo and proud Texan who has been living in Hood County for four years. She is also a proud alumna of Tarleton State University, “Class of 2019, whoop!”

Lauren works deep in the trenches as the outreach and event coordinator at the Children's Advocacy Center, where she happily channels her passion for building community partnerships and making a positive impact. “I'm serious about connecting with folks, and making a positive impact is what fuels my fire,” says Rishel. Currently, she and her colleagues are working hard in the trenches to promote awareness for April Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Aside from her work, Lauren enjoys funneling her creativity through craft projects with her trusty Cricut. She also loves spending time with her three fur babies and her amazing wife. They love to go on outings to places like Big Rocks Park to soak up the sunshine and scenery with their adventurous pack.

For Lauren, Hood County is not just a place to live, but a community to love, where residents are devoted to serving one another. She enjoys the sense of belonging that permeates the air, whether it's spending a leisurely day on the lake or beach, grabbing a glass of wine from a local winery, or savoring the flavors of local food. “Life is a journey” says Rishel, “I'm just grateful to be living mine surrounded by the things and people I love.” If you ever spot her at a community event or chasing after her pups at the local park, don't hesitate to say howdy!

Lauren considers the Hood County News a vital source of knowledge for staying informed about important issues and events in the community. She also loves it when the HCNews shines a light on inspiring individuals. She appreciates the Hood County News support of local nonprofits and businesses, and their celebrations of the unique spirit of Hood County.

HOWELL

FROM PAGE A1

role in the new position is to address any concerns or needs with the local community, she will also be tasked with seeking out opportunities for Marathon to “give back” to local nonprofits and schools — especially in the areas of STEM and CTE.

“Marathon currently is focused on sustainability at many of our locations and we are looking for ways to contribute to sustainability and environmental improvements here in Granbury as well,” she said.

One of Howell's first duties involved leading Marathon's Community Meet and Greet Friday, March 29, where the company's new phased plan was introduced.

Set up in a private Q&A format, residents were instructed to pose questions

and concerns to Marathon staff about the new phases and plans for noise mitigation.

According to Marathon's Phased Plan handout, there are a total of seven phases on the “site improvement project.”

Phase #1 involves shutting off the fans of idle units facing the road. This phase is currently in progress and is expected to be complete mid-April 2024.

Phase #2 — which has since been completed — referred to the hiring of Howell, which was completed in March 2024.

Phase #3 involves moving eight containers to liquid cooling. This phase is currently in progress and is estimated to be complete in April 2024.

Phase #4 includes installing vegetation and trees along the perimeter. Marathon is currently researching and soliciting

landscape bids and the target is expected to break ground in spring 2024.

Phase #5 will consist of extending the perimeter barrier. Marathon is now evaluating length and location, and this is expected to break ground in August 2024.

Phase #6 involves improving fan technology. Marathon is now evaluating and designing the project and it is set to be complete in November 2024.

Phase #7 will be a continuation of Phase #3, as more containers will be transitioned to liquid cooling. This project is currently being evaluated and a target completion date has not yet been determined.

“We are committed to being thoughtful and considerate neighbors in our new community,” the handout reads. “We have been actively strategizing and seeking community input to find

ways to improve our data center. Our team is implementing a site improvement project in several phases. Feedback and collaboration from the community throughout this process is crucial. We want to work with you to collaborate on our plans and we prefer to work with local firms to source expertise, material and labor.”

Howell said since she accepted her new position, there have been quite a few “bumps” in the road but she explained that Marathon is “addressing neighbors' concerns as quickly as possible.”

“We only gained operational control of this facility at the beginning of March — barely a month,” she said. “We are committed to being a good neighbor.”

For feedback, inquiries and suggestions, email Marathon at granbury@mara.com.

HCSO

FROM PAGE A1

about how much of a problem it is, we've had several fentanyl overdose deaths. It usually affects our young citizens, like early 20s.”

Illegally manufactured fentanyl is found in heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and in counterfeit pills. As a result, many people may not know they're ingesting fentanyl, leading to an accidental poisoning, according to THHS.

To stress how prevalent the fentanyl problem is in Hood County, Roberts described a recent traffic stop in which 50 fentanyl pills were discovered hidden under a child in a car seat, along with a stolen gun.

“The problem is here, and our guys are doing their very best to fix this, but it's not gonna go away,” he said. “It's very dangerous to have this stuff on you — but when you're searching a car, you never know what you're gonna come across.”

The device, Apex Raman Spectrometer, is pocket-sized and provides non-contact identification of explosives, chemicals, drugs, narcotics, precursors and mixtures. Using a simple, point and shoot operation, it provides “lightning-fast” results in 20 seconds or less, according to the Detectachem website.

“It's safer to use a laser (than it is to touch a substance with gloved hands),” Roberts said. “It can go through a small, medium barrier to identify substances. It also does detect explosive material like gunshot powder, residue, stuff like that, so you can use it in some other crime scene-related fields, not just for narcotics. But the main thing is to keep our guys safe.”

Roberts revealed that the street crimes unit is also setting up undercover drug deals to potentially catch dealers — even going so far as to purchase 500 to 1,000 pills at a time.

“We're also getting into

pure fentanyl powder now,” he said. “The other day, we set a deal to buy half an ounce of pure fentanyl powder, so to give you an idea of what that is, the DEA, (Drug Enforcement Administration) they say that a kilo of fentanyl will kill 500,000 people, so it's some pretty serious stuff that we're getting into. I just want us to be a little safer and keep the drugs off the streets as best we can.”

“This is a handheld device and can detect it without having to touch it or handle it yourself?” asked Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson. “Even with gloves on you can detect it with just holding this device?”

“Yes ma'am,” Roberts said. “This device will see through a bag or small barriers.”

He explained that with the current system, officers have to open the bag, obtain a swab of the suspected narcotic, put the swab in their kit, and take it to a lab in

Mansfield. Once the results from the testing come back, officers then have to obtain a search warrant, track the suspect down, and then search their residence before an arrest can be made.

“We're just leaving bad guys on the street for a long period of time, so this lets us build probable cause to arrest somebody that night and on scene — whether it be in a house during search warrants or on a traffic stop,” Roberts said. “So, it's very important to test it right then and not just wait for a lab, and this gets us there.”

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson made a motion to authorize the Hood County Sheriff's Office to purchase a narcotics identification device using opioid settlement funds in the amount of \$29,933.29. The motion carried unanimously.

“Good luck, and save lives,” Massingill said to Roberts.

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A Hyde Media Group, LLC Company

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138 YEARS IN HOOD COUNTY

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THE HOOD COUNTY NEWS is published at 1501 S. Morgan St., Granbury, TX 76048 weekly on Saturdays. Periodicals postage paid at Granbury, TX 76048.

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

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday



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City's bulk trash pickup day set for April 13

Granbury residents will receive some assistance with their spring cleaning Saturday, April 13, with the city's biannual bulk trash pickup day.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury residents will receive some assistance with their spring cleaning Saturday, April 13, with the city's biannual bulk trash pickup day.

Items will need to be placed at the curb by 7 a.m. Residents can place their items curbside the night before, if needed.

Acceptable items for bulk trash pickup include mattresses, refriger-

ators, freezers, a/c units (with certification of Freon reclamation), tree limbs (if they are bundled and less than four feet long) and other household items.

There is a six-item limit per residence.

"We get lots of questions about what to curb," Jeff Newpher, communications manager, told the Hood County News. "Up to six items is what we tell people. You can put mattresses there. You can put tree limbs that you've bundled together

so that they're four foot long or less. If you have an older refrigerator you need to get someone to come and certify that the Freon, the coolant, has been taken out, and that's something you have to plan ahead to do — that's why we've been publicizing this for like a month-and-a-half."

Newpher added that items like tires, paint, oil, liquids, construction and masonry materials will not be picked up.

"Waste Connections, they can't take paint or oils or any liquid, they

won't take tires, and they won't take construction materials, like old lumber or plywood, and old sheet rock," he said. "But there's a lot of other stuff up to six items per address that they will take."

Bulk trash day does not affect normal residential pickup.

For more information, please contact Waste Connections at 817-579-8855 or by email at customerservice5194@wcnx.org or call the City of Granbury at 682-205-1777, option 7.

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 22-April 1. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

MARCH 22

- 12:12 a.m.: assault reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 8:34 a.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on S. Morgan Street
- 9:27 a.m.: loud music reported on S. Morgan Street
- 6:43 p.m.: animal bite reported on Captains Court
- 8:00 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on E. Pearl Street
- 8:34 p.m.: disturbance reported on Paluxy Road
- 9:17 p.m.: assault reported on Harbor Lakes Drive
- 10:02 p.m.: gunfire reported on Old Granbury Road
- 11:01 p.m. intoxicated driver reported on Fall Creek Highway
- **A warrant service and 32 traffic stops occurred on this day**

MARCH 23

- 8:12 a.m.: drug paraphernalia discovered on a traffic stop on W. U.S. Highway 377
- 8:48 a.m.: assault reported on Quiet Cove
- 10:38 a.m.: threat reported on W. Pearl Street
- 3:10 p.m. disturbance reported on Second Street
- 6:56 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on Crossland Road
- **One major accident, two minor accidents, a warrant service and 30 traffic stops occurred on this day**

MARCH 24

- 12:25 a.m.: driver with an invalid

license reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

- 1:19 a.m.: intoxicated driver reported on Farm-to-Market Road 4.
- 2:16 p.m.: deadly conduct reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 8:58 p.m.: trespass reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
- **Ten 10 traffic stops occurred on this day**

MARCH 25

- 11:30 a.m.: disturbance reported on Pirate Drive
- 11:48 a.m.: theft over \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 12:36 p.m.: property found on W. Pearl Street
- 1:21 p.m.: endangerment of a child was reported on Loop 567
- 2:12 p.m.: disturbance reported on Paluxy Road
- 8:01 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 8:18 p.m.: assault reported on E. Barton Street

Two minor accidents and 38 traffic stops occurred on this day

MARCH 26

- 7:19 a.m.: criminal trespass reported on W. U.S. Highway 377
- 1:00 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on N.E. Loop 377
- 5:19 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Sunflower Lane
- 5:39 p.m.: road rage reported on E. Pearl Street
- 5:57 p.m.: threat reported on Crossland Road.
- 10:57 p.m.: property found on E. U.S. Highway 377
- **Two minor accidents, one warrant service and 21 traffic stops occurred on this day**

MARCH 27

- 12:53 p.m.: loose livestock reported on S. Morgan Street
- 4:25 p.m.: intoxicated driver reported on Deputy Larry Miller Drive
- 7:49 p.m.: disturbance reported

on N. Plaza Drive

- 11:38 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
- **One major accident, two minor accidents, three warrant services and 50 traffic stops occurred on this day**

MARCH 28

- 10:54 a.m.: theft of a controlled substance over \$150,000 reported on Reunion Court
- 10:29 p.m.: driver with a suspended license reported on Cleveland Road
- **One major accident, a minor accident, a warrant service and 61 traffic stops occurred on this day**

MARCH 29

- 10:29 a.m.: road rage reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 1:29 p.m.: assault reported on E.

PLEASE SEE **BLOTTER** | A10



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

CLAY SHOOT Sign-up benefiting Forward Training Center. Participants may register until the date of the event June 7. Call 817-5730-6677 with questions.

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.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

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

THE THORP Springs Cemetery Association will host its annual spring cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon at Thorp Springs Cemetery, 2803 Clay St., Granbury. Questions? Call 817-901-5568.

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.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com



Photos through time

Local author publishes 'Images of America' novel about Granbury

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

Melinda Jo Ray, one of Hood County's most prolific historian authors, has now released her fourth book "Images of America: Granbury and Hood County," detailing the rich history surrounding Granbury — otherwise known as the town "where Texas history lives."

The Images of America series is a product of Arcadia Publishing and celebrates the history of neighborhoods, towns, and cities across the country. Using archival photographs, each title presents the distinctive stories from the past that shape the character of the

community today. As a Hood County historical novelist, a retired Granbury ISD librarian and the previous owner of Books on the Square and The Nutt Hotel, Ray accepted the task to serve as the author for the "Images of America: Granbury and

Hood County" volume. "Arcadia Publishing has been trying for years to get somebody to do one of their 'Images of America' books for Granbury and Hood County," she explained. "They had approached some people with the museum group, and they had approached Brandi (Herr) who does the Granbury Ghosts and Legends Tour. Brandi decided not to do it because she didn't feel like she had access to enough pictures. So, I thought, 'Well, I'm volunteering at the Hood County Museum, and at the Bridge Street History Center, so I really should have access to enough to get this done.'"

As Ray already knew the story she wanted to tell, she said all she had to do was find the right contacts to get enough Hood County photos to fill in the pages.

For the past few years, Ray spent time working with the Hood County Historical and Genealogical Society and later, a descendant of Jesse Nutt, Mark Dabney, to help her find photos for the book.

Finally, on March 4, the book was published. It contains 128 pages and 181 photos depicting the major highlights of history that Granbury and Hood County have to offer.

Ray's book, "Images of America: Granbury and

COURTESY PHOTOS
Barney Hightower is the son of The Colony founder Simon Hightower. The Colony was a community of Black residents living off their own lands located north of Granbury.



Melinda Jo Ray, a local historian and author, is pictured with her latest release "Images of America: Granbury and Hood County."

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County," takes readers on a historical journey. From prehistory to communities to local legends and lores, Ray has weaved a timeline of Hood County's most notable events.

According to the book's summary, Granbury and Hood County's history is both an "American pioneer saga" and a 20th century "rags to riches" story.

"In the 17th century, Spanish explorers and the Comanche were vying to control the land carved across Texas by the mighty Brazos River," the summary states. "By the mid-19th century, white settlers came, led by visionaries like fiery preacher 'Fighting' Joe Robinson in Acton, lawyer and legislator Abel Landers, the Nutt brothers, and Quaker-raised farmer Amon Bond in Granbury as well as education-minded Campbellite Pleasant Thorp in Thorp Spring and the Sears family in Lipan."

"The only known picture of Abel Landers, the first county judge, I've got that picture in there," Ray told the Hood County News. "It was just before he died, and he has a bandage on his head, so I did a Photoshop version of the picture so people will see what he really looked like. They're side by side. I was honest. I didn't just put the doctored picture in there."

Ray explained that Landers was responsible for the layout of the Granbury square. He also served as a state legislator in Missouri for three terms in the House and one term in the Senate.

"This was the fourth county that he was in charge of setting up, so it wasn't his first rodeo," Ray said. "We owe a lot to that man for the vision that he had. We owe the fact that we have a town, which has stood the test of time, to him — and not just to him alone. He had a group of people that he recruited to help him with the process that were all visionary-type people that really made a difference in what we ended up with. All of it is a story that needs to be told, and that we need to be proud of."

According to the book summary, "once the Civil

War passed and Hood County was formed in 1866, Granbury and other towns across the county became thriving centers of commerce fed by nearby farms and ranches. The 20th century brought hard times, but the creation of Lake Granbury in 1969 opened a new era of possibilities. Newcomers joined founders' descendants to create a multifaceted renewal inspired by echoes of the past."

"I'm excited about it, and I hope that a lot of people will take the opportunity to buy the book, just simply in order to realize for themselves that, number one: the lake wasn't always here, and that the downtown area was a work in progress for a long time," Ray said. "And that there are other little communities in Hood County besides Granbury, and I think it's important for those stories to be known and told also."

As Ray started to find pictures of Granbury and Hood County's history for the "Images of America" book, she said the task was not an easy feat because many of the photos were severely damaged.

"They do have a high standard for what they will take, but there were some stories I was determined would be told. For example, I really wanted to include The Colony, but had an awful time finding pictures they would accept. Finally, I was able to find one picture from The Colony of Barney Hightower, who was Simon Hightower's grandson," she said.

The Colony was a community of Black residents living off their own lands located north of Granbury. The community was started by free and former slave families like Simon Hightower and Doc Foster. All that remains now is the old cemetery, lovingly cared for even today.

"I really wanted to tell the story of The Colony in the book, because I wanted people to understand that they weren't pushed out of town," Ray said. "They bought four sections of land themselves and formed a community out there. They

had their own church, they had their own school, but it was by choice; it wasn't because they were forced to do it, so I wanted to tell that story."

Some stories, Ray said, were actually rumors that she was glad to be able to put to rest in her book — like the rumor that there were no pictures of the first bridge across the Brazos River that was built in 1878.

"It was built with donated money from local businessmen, including the Nutt brothers, E. A. 'Doc' Hannaford, P.H. Thrash and others. Some folks had gotten the impression that there were no pictures," Ray said. "There were three pictures of it in that book, though. They were right there in the Hood County Museum all along!"

She said she had a blast finding pictures of Hood County history, but she still discovered a brand-new piece of information just the other day during a book signing.

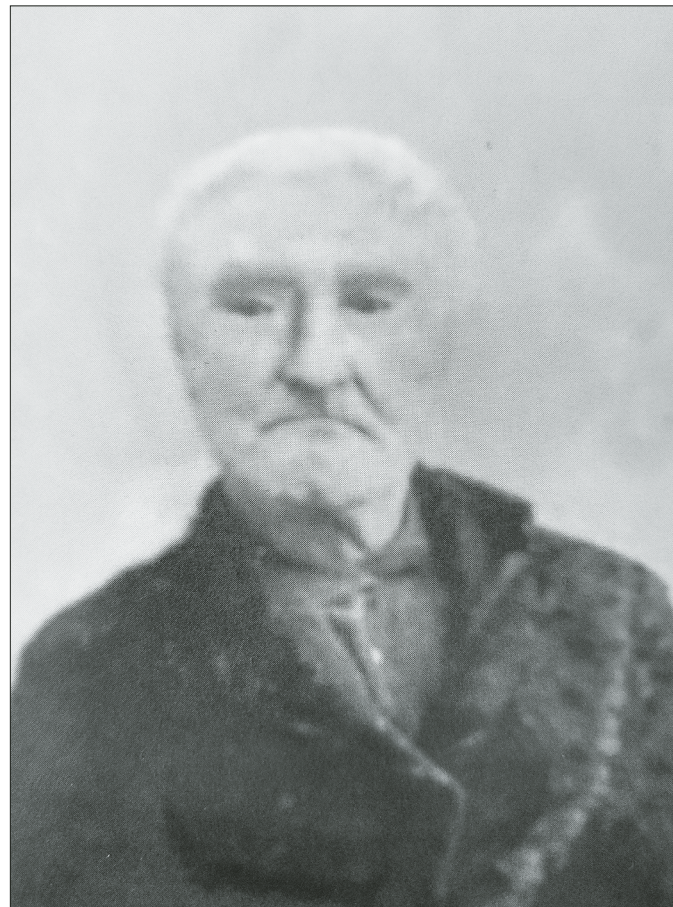
"Thank God, I didn't put it in the caption in the book, but I had always visualized that the 'first' First Baptist Church was on Houston Street," Ray said. "But this woman came up and she said, 'I remember that building' and I said, 'Oh, really? I've never seen a picture of it till I found this picture in a friend of mines' family pictures.' She said, 'Well, you know where that church was don't you?' I said, 'Wasn't it up north of the square on Houston?' She said, 'No, everybody thinks that. That building was on the corner of Crockett and Rucker and the door faced that corner.' I was like, 'Oh my gosh.' I had never visualized that church facing that direction and now I have to readjust my whole mental picture."

"But that's the kind of thing — until you talk to somebody who was there, you can have a total misconception of what something was like, so having those encounters with those people gave me at least a glimpse into that world that is just invaluable to me as a writer," Ray explained.

Ray said her goal with "Images of America: Granbury and Hood County," is to help people realize that the county hasn't always been exactly like it is now, but that there are still places around Granbury that reflect the stories and the values of the people who founded it.

"More than anything else, I want to have people realize — especially those people who never saw Granbury before the lake — to realize what a tremendous influence the river has had on the life of the community,"

PLEASE SEE **PHOTOS** | A10



The first Hood County judge was Abel Landers and the only known picture of him shows Landers wearing a bandage. To show readers what Landers looked like, author Melinda Jo Ray created a Photoshop version of the same image in her book, "Images of America: Granbury and Hood County."

CLASS OF 2024

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE

April 29, 2024

City offers free paper shredding service April 13

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Is your house cluttered with old bills, bank statements and unneeded tax returns? If so, the city of Granbury is here to help.

Shred It Instead, the city's free paper shredding service, will allow Granbury residents to shred three boxes of paper at the Lake Granbury Conference Center from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 13.

"Between 9 and noon that morning, people can bring up to three boxes of paper — only paper, nothing else — and if they can pop the trunk lid or something, we'll have people that will take it out of their trunk and put it in the shredder for them," Communications Manager Jeff Newpher told the Hood County News. "They don't even have to get out of their car."

Residents will be able to drive through the LGCC parking lot while volunteer firefighters will dump their unneeded paper-work into a mobile shred truck.

"I can tell people they shouldn't worry about the security of their old bank statements and tax returns or whatever," Newpher said. "This is the same company that shreds the city's materials, and obviously if the city entrusts them all year long, then you can trust them with your stuff on April 13."

Newpher said if anyone has any doubt about the security of the process, they are more than welcome to park their car and take their own papers to the truck.

"You can stay there and watch that if you want to," he said. "We're OK with that."

Before leaving, residents will also have an opportunity to tour a fire truck, meet Granbury's finest firefighting volunteers, and donate to the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department. All proceeds will go toward the purchase of firefighting protective gear.

"Drive through, get your paper unloaded, and then park and show your kids a tour of a Granbury firetruck," Newpher said. "Please also stop and meet some firefighters. Who knows? They might even find a place for you to help either in the volunteer fire department or the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department's Support Brigade, which is a support group for firefighters here in Granbury."

For more information about Shred It Instead, visit granbury.org.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSBMXHOUSE, ENVATO.COM

For more information about Shred It Instead, visit granbury.org.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Texas 4000 Bike Ride for Cancer is the longest annual charity bike ride in the world, founded in 2004 by fellow UT students Chris and Mandy Condit.

FOX FROM PAGE A1

myeloma. "I knew that if I ended up going to college at the University of Texas, I definitely wanted to ride in the Texas 4000," Marley recalled. She rides with her grandmother, a recent breast cancer survivor, and her late grandfather in her heart.

Her dedication shines through her fundraising prowess, as Marley has exceeded her \$4,500 target by a significant margin, amassing nearly \$12,000 in support. "Every penny we raise goes toward cancer research or support services for cancer patients," she proudly states. "I'm thrilled that I've surpassed my minimum goal, but I want to raise as much as I possibly can because it's such a great cause that I believe in deeply."

A GRUELING PREP Saddle up and persevere

Marley's physical preparation, which started last September, has been as intense as it is inspiring. "I came into this training with quite a bit of prior cycling experience... but the training process is still fairly grueling," she admits. The training

consists of rides each week with different riding groups and a long ride every Saturday to build up their miles. "Our average daily mileage during the actual ride will be 70-80 miles, with some days being close to or over 100 miles," said Fox.

"We also have to keep up a certain pace so that we get to our next scheduled stop on time since we do not ride after sundown." Despite two freak accidents resulting in a broken hand, Marley's humor and determination remain unshaken. "Both times I broke my hand, they were such freak accidents," she laughed. "One time, I just ran into a curb, and I broke my pinky finger. The second time was three weeks ago. I had just been back on the bike for about a week, and we were out on a long training ride to Canyon Lake and back. We rode in a single-file line, and the girl who was two riders in front of me was waving to someone, but she didn't realize the shoulder of the road had run out. So, she crashed, and the girl right in front of me crashed into her, and then I crashed into her. When I fell, I put my hand down to break my fall. I didn't think anything about

it until a few minutes later. I was like, 'I can't really move my hand.'"

THE ROUTE-AHEAD A rocky road to triumph

For the actual ride, the riders are split into three route groups: the Sierra route, the Rockies route, and the Ozarks route. Fox has been assigned to ride the Rockies route, which leaves Austin May 25 and heads north. Each journey is marked by stops in several major cities and a few minor ones. Marley and her fellow Rockies route riders are scheduled to be in Hood County May 27, where they will spend the night in Pecan Plantation with Marley's family.

The next morning, the riders will depart Pecan Plantation and head to Cleburne and then on to Dallas. From there, the Rockies route travels north in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains through the United States and Canada. Passing through North Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, the route then heads into the Canadian provinces and territories of Alberta, British Columbia and the Yukon before passing into Alaska.

BEYOND THE MILEAGE A quest for a cure

Marley Fox is a focused and determined young woman. While she knows the ride will oftentimes be difficult and grueling, she has a passion deep within her that drives her. "I know that some of the researchers that are funded by the money we raise are working on a cure for multiple myeloma, the cancer that gave my grandfather such a bleak prognosis. Because of their research, it's now common for people to live six or seven years with the same diagnosis my grandfather had," said Fox. "That's why I'm riding."

If you would like more information about the Texas 4000, visit their website at <https://www.texas4000.org/>. If you would like to donate to Marley's ride, scan the QR code, which will take you directly to her donation page.

Marley's tale is a vivid narrative of endurance, a dedication to a cause greater than oneself, and a profound connection to a community rooting for her every mile. As she sets off on this incredible journey, Hood County watches with pride, knowing one of its own is part of a grander story written with every push of the pedal.

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*announced on April 26

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Historic Cresson School to host emergency preparedness classes April 13

Staff Reports

Are you interested in keeping your loved ones safe from criminals? Do you know how to treat a life-threatening injury in the critical minutes before emergency services arrive? Thinking about raising chickens or storing more non-perishable food? How will you communicate with others if there is no cell service? Learn about these subjects and more at an upcoming one-day event.

Members of American Contingency, a national preparedness organization, will share their knowledge in a series of mini classes from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at the Historic Cresson School, 9304 Pittsburg St. (directly behind Sonic Drive-In).

AmCon, short for American Contingency, encourages training, self-reliance, resilience and connecting with others in communities across the nation. The members of AmCon's Team in D-FW West are leading the upcoming event called D-FW West AmCon Preparedness Training Day.

One-hour courses will cover how criminals select victims, herbal first-aid kits, Stop the Bleed, food storage, herbal remedies, radio communications, weather preparedness, raising chickens and gardening. The courses will rotate throughout the day so attendees can learn from nearly every expert.

"We've been wanting to become more self-reliant for years," Norm Tindell, instructor for food storage with AmCon Team DFW West said. "My wife and I try to prepare the best we can for natural and human-caused disasters, large or small. We never stop learning."

"Our diverse knowledge and willingness to share that knowledge is what makes American Contingency such a great value to me as I continue to improve my preparedness and readiness," Ted Jagen, owner of Texas Defense and Firearm Training LLC said.

Individuals interested in the program can sign up by going online to txdef-firearmtrg.com/event-details/dfw-west-amcon-preparedness-training-day.

Tickets are \$5 each and include lunch. Signups will allow organizers to know how many people will attend.

To learn more about American Contingency visit www.americancontingency.com online.



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Members of the Hood County Commissioners Court discuss changing the statement regarding closed sessions during a regular meeting on March 26.

County adopts new statement regarding closed sessions

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously adopted a new statement regarding closed sessions during a regularly scheduled meeting March 26.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson explained that each year, the Texas Association of Counties updates its documentation.

The TAC is the represen-

tative voice for all Texas counties and county officials, according to its website.

Samuelson said in a publication called "TAC Public Open Meetings Act," the organization recently updated the wording regarding closed sessions.

The new statement — found on page 32, appendix B of the TAC publication Open Meetings Act — reads as follows:

"Pursuant to the authority granted under Government Code, Chap.

551, the commissioners court may convene a closed session to discuss any of the above agenda items. Immediately before any closed session, the specific section or sections of Government Code, Chap. 551 that provides statutory authority will be announced."

This statement will replace the current one provided on the bottom of the commissioners court agenda, which reads:

"Hood County Reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any

time during the course of this meeting to discuss any of the matters listed, as authorized by the Texas Government Code, §551.071 (Consultation with Attorney), subsection 551.071(2) (Consultation with Attorney on legal matters that are not related to litigation), §551.072 (Deliberations about Real Property), §551.073 (Deliberations about Gifts and Donations), §551.074 (Personnel Matters), §551.076 (Deliberations

PLEASE SEE **CLOSED** | A10



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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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COURTESY PHOTO

Dawson Oliver

Dawson Oliver Fundraiser

16 year old Lipan student suffered stroke

Staff Report

Sunday, April 14 at 5 p.m. a barbeque and silent auction will be held at the Lipan High School Cafeteria. Money raised at the event will go to help cover Dawson Oliver's medical expenses.

Oliver, a 16-year-old student at Lipan High School, suffered a massive stroke March 17 around 4:30 a.m. According to family her diagnosis is Thoracic Outlet Syndrome. Oliver was born with an extra rib located at the top of her spine. The rib caused a dissection in an artery that runs along her clavicle, which allowed a clot to form. When the clot broke loose, the majority of it went to her brain.

Oliver spent two weeks in ICU and faces intensive occupational and physical therapy.

Dawson's mother, Hilary Hightower, posted on her

PLEASE SEE **OLIVER** | A10

Hood County Republican Party hosts well-attended precinct, county conventions



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hood County Republican Party held both its precinct conventions and county conventions on Saturday, March 23, at the Brazos Covenant Ministries facility in Granbury.

Submitted Item

The Hood County Republican Party hosted both its precinct and county conventions Saturday, March 23, at the Brazos Covenant Ministries facility in Granbury.

The conventions are the first steps in the Republican Party process of electing delegates and alternates to the Republican county and

state conventions and submitting resolutions on matters of policy that comprise the Republican State Platform (texasgop.org/platform/).

Permanent Convention Chair Steve Biggers presided over the convention, which was more than twice as large as the 2022 convention. The convention boasted 14 local sponsors who defrayed nearly all expenses according to Permanent

Arrangements Chair Eva Royer. Two years ago, the local Republican Party did not even fill its delegate/alternate roster for the state convention. This year, 72 voters (not politicians) applied to go to the state convention in San Antonio as delegates. Hood County's allotment of 45 delegates was filled and 27 alternates are eligible to attend in late May.

Because 2024 is a presidential election year, po-

litical interest runs high and grassroots involvement in the political process is elevated due to a troubled economy. The open Texas border poses a national security threat, and there is a general feeling that government at all levels needs to be more responsive to the voters.

Thanks to all the sponsors and citizens who gave up part of a Saturday to participate in the political process.

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OBITUARIES

Julia Anne Thompson

April 17, 1952 - January 26, 2024

Julia Anne Thompson, 71, of Stephenville passed away on Jan. 26, 2024. She was born in Odessa, Texas on April 17, 1952 to Vernon and Dortha (Dalton) Grimm and raised in Hamilton, Texas.

Julia lived an extraordinary life characterized by love and compassion for every human and non-human such as cats and dogs that she encountered, leaving a mark on countless hearts. As a nurse, she assisted and comforted many during their times of need. Yet, her most exceptional quality was the profound care she extended to every individual she met, not only in moments of crisis but also on a personal level.

There is almost no one that got to know her that didn't experience Julia laughing with you but her also doing whatever she could to help from just sitting there or driving you all over town as needed.

Her legacy is defined by the deep connections she forged, and she will be remembered most for the lives she touched. Julia, a devoted mother, leaves behind three beloved children—Charlotte, Aaron, and Katy.

Julia has been an integral part of the Ahluwalia family. It is impossible to fully convey the impact she had on us all. She was a true-life companion to Jasbir, and a source of wisdom and comfort to Nob-



by and Hemi. Julia was there and that in and of itself mattered the most. During the illness of Nobby and Hemi's mother, Nanda Ahluwalia, she cared for her and provided peace and comfort during her last days. Julia provided religious prayers in Nanda's last hours. The void left by her absence is not easy to measure. Her influence will forever resonate in our hearts, and she will be dearly missed.

She is survived by Jasbir Ahluwalia, Charlotte Weller, Aaron Thompson, Katy Thompson, Nobby Ahluwalia, Hemi Ahluwalia, Kathy and Doug Clark and four grandchildren.

The family would like to thank the doctors and nurses at Lake Granbury Hospital for providing excellent care of Julia as she battled acute leukemia. She did not want any funeral services. Donations in her memory can be made to The Erath County Humane Society.

Ron Hamel

August 21, 1940 - March 28, 2024

Ron Hamel, a beloved husband, father, PopPop, and pillar of his community, passed away on March 28, 2024 in Granbury, Texas. Born on Aug. 21, 1940 in Sharon, Pennsylvania to loving parents Edward and Twila Hamel, Ron was a man of unwavering strength and integrity who touched the lives of all those around him.

A devoted family man at heart, Ron's love for his wife, Jean Allen Hamel and their children: Kelly Jean Shoff (and husband Steve), Kristen Hamel Henderson (and husband Kim Alan), and Karen Sue Davis was immeasurable. His grandchildren Alexis Nelson, Makayla Woody, Ryan Henderson, Emily Henderson and Branson Davis were the light of his life. Preceded in death before him are his parents: Edward and Twila Hamel, grandson: David Denning, sister: Gerry Snyder.

Ron's calmness in the storm brought comfort to those around him during difficult times. He stood as a rock for his family—protective and emotionally steady through every trial they faced. His logical mind guided them through challenges with wisdom and grace.

An avid golfer and sportsman with an unyielding dedication to serving others; he lived by example as a protector and humble leader. Ron had



resided in Pecan Plantation for 24 years. President for two out of the three years he spent on the Board of Directors at Pecan Plantation along with several years spent on Pecan Fire and EMS Board showed how much he cared about making his community better.

His professional endeavors reflected this same spirit as director of human relations for Occidental Petroleum.

Visitation was held on Monday, April 1, 2024 from 6 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home. Service was held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Acton United Methodist Church. Interment followed at Holly Hills Memorial Park.

Ron leaves behind many loving family members who will forever cherish memories made with such an extraordinary man whose legacy will live on through their hearts forevermore.

Sarah Itis Carr

August 6, 1922 - March 23, 2024

Sarah Itis Carr, 101, passed away on Saturday, March 23, 2024, in Granbury, Texas. She was born in Denison, Texas, on Aug. 6, 1922, to Everett and Susie Moore Nichols.

Sarah was a simple lady with a loving heart. She was always helping and tending to her family and friends, making sure everyone was happy and cared for. She was a housewife and loving mom, and to her grandchildren and many other families and friends, she was known as "Grandma". She was not fond of cooking or baking, but she made the best beans and cornbread, a staple meal in her home. She loved listening to music, especially her sons-in-law's band.

Sarah was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Raymond Carr,



Sr., and daughter Sarah Carlene Wilson. She is survived by daughter Wanda Hines and husband George, grandchildren Diane Alley, Tammie Hines and Carson Hines, great grandson Sam Slack and her sweet dog, Friday.

A graveside service was held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Long Creek Cemetery in Granbury, Texas.

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Marie Rose Davis

August 18, 1938 - March 29, 2024

Marie Rose Davis was born Aug. 18, 1938 in Rivarennes, France. "Rosie" as she was known by many moved to the United States in 1960 to settle in Richland Hills. It is there she met and married the love of her life Ronald "Jean" Davis to whom she was married for more than 58 years.

Rose and Jean moved to Hood County as full-time residents in the early 70s. For several years Rosie commuted to Fort Worth keeping her position at the historic Cattlemen's Steakhouse.

Rose owned and operated several successful businesses here in the county. Most remembered is The Davis Catfish Pond and Waples Storage however prior to these Rose and Jean bred and raised some of the finest cattle and hay throughout the state of Texas.

While Ms. Rose was well known for her exterior beauty, her warm heart and kind soul is what will be missed by many. Her memaw abilities were untethered as were her cooking abilities.



Rose was preceded in death by her husband Jean.

She is survived by her sons, Rick and Ronnie Davis and Rick's wife Sharon Davis; Grandchildren: Mandy Holderness and her husband Chris, Leeya Davis, Brennan Davis, Megan Longston and her husband Brian and several great-grandchildren as well as her very dearest, closest friends, Mimi, Joyce and Sharon.

A graveside service was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Acton Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Friends for Animals, located in Acton.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A10

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 mammal found under Austin's Congress Bridge (2 wds.)

5 TXism: "keeps his ___ polished" (do gooder)

6 TXism: "eagle ___" (observant)

7 Monte ____, Texas

8 TXism: "___ gut" (whiskey)

9 feisty

16 TX Buddy Holly's "___ Love Ways"

18 Friday night halftime performer (2 wds.)

21 investment for a specified period (abbr.)

22 TXism: "let ___" (leave alone)

23 TX Howard Hughes dated this Gardner

24 commotion

30 many of these settled in Texas

34 extra play for Texas pro teams (abbr.)

35 coffin transport

36 an overthrow of a government

37 TXism: "pulled the wool over ___ eyes" (deceived)

39 it often happens when a rich Texan dies (2 wds.)

43 TXism: "that's a fine how do ___"

44 Hill Country is one for white-tailed deer

45 "Gig ' Aggies!"

46 "___ mouth, insert foot" (blunder)

47 Galveston was once a main port for these plunderers

49 contributed

52 Texas-sized corporation

53 ___ Soto, Texas

54 TXism: "badge ___" (lawman)

55 more obvious

58 "fight toe ___"

59 container for coffee or cremation

DOWN

1 TXism: "got ___ ___ as big as Texas" (kind)

2 Seymour newspaper: "___ County Banner"

3 TXism: "so green he could hide in ___ patch"

4 like 24-across: "a big ___"

9 TX Shelley of 1980 film "The Shining" (init.)

10 ___ cow-boys (disabled)

11 religious ceremony

12 in Wood County, on U.S. 69

13 TXism: "___ savvy" (knows a lot)

14 rehab after surgery (abbr.)

15 opposite of nay

17 TXism: "book learned"

19 kept away from prison guard at the Patrick O'Daniel Unit near Gatesville

24 Houston univer.

25 Texas-filmed "___ wee's Big Adventure"

26 skin breakout

27 "bottle ___ ___"?

38 TX Joseph A. ___ may have invented the ice cream soda

40 arriv. guess

41 this Masterson got gunfighter reputation in Texas

42 tearful

48 after Aug.

50 TXism: "not a lick"

51 enjoyed a chicken fried steak

56 lice singular

57 TXism: "she could charm a bird out of ___"

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When should you take Social Security?

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Tony Mobly

you're just 62 or any age before full retirement age.

However, if you have adequate financial resources to meet your monthly needs, whether through earned income, your investment portfolio or a combination of the two, you could have some flexibility in choosing when to take Social Security. In this case, you may want to weigh these considerations:

LIFE EXPECTANCY

For all of us, it's one of life's great mysteries: *How*

long will we live? Of course, we can't see into the future, so the question can't be answered with total confidence. But to make an informed decision on when to take Social Security, you don't need to know your exact lifespan — you just need to make a reasonably good estimate. So, for example, if you're approaching 62, you're enjoying excellent health and you have a family history of longevity, you might conclude it's worth waiting a few years to collect Social Security, so you can receive the bigger payments. Conversely, if your health is questionable and your family has not been fortunate

in terms of longevity, you might want to start taking your benefits earlier.

EMPLOYMENT

You can certainly continue working and still receive Social Security benefits. However, if you're under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit of \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above \$59,520. So, you may want to keep these reductions in mind when deciding when

to begin accepting benefits. Once you reach your full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing benefits. (Also, at your full retirement age, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to credit you for the months you received reduced benefits because of your excess earnings.)

SPOUSE

Spouses can receive two types of Social Security benefits: Social and survivor. With a spousal benefit, your spouse can receive up to 50% of your full retirement benefits, regardless of when you start taking them. (Your spouse's benefit can

be reduced by the amount of their own retirement benefit and whether they took Social Security before their full retirement age.) But with a survivor benefit, your decision about when to take Social Security can make a big difference. A surviving spouse can receive the larger of their own benefit or 100% of a deceased spouse's benefit, so if you take benefits early and receive a permanent reduction, your spouse's survivor benefit may also be reduced for their lifetime.

When to take Social Security is an important — and irrevocable — decision. So, consider all the factors before making your choice.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

STARTING A New Life is a grief support group for those who have lost a loved one through death. This includes the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 26 years, this group has helped people work through their grief pro-

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK seminar Sept. 13.-Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

FIRST MONDAY

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

Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

FIRST TUESDAY

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

SECOND SATURDAY

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

THIRD MONDAY

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

THIRD TUESDAY

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

FOURTH TUESDAY

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

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

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

OBITS CONTINUED FROM | A9

Terry Lynn Lambert

April 30, 1948 - March 30, 2024

We mourn the loss of Terry Lambert, who passed away on March 30, 2024, at the age of 75, in Paluxy, Texas. Born in Tolar, Texas, on April 30, 1948, to Charlie and Thelma Lambert, Terry lived a life marked by love, laughter, and a profound commitment to his friends and family.

Terry leaves behind his wife of 58 years, Sherry Lambert; his sons, Darrell (Tina) and Barry (Dee-Andrea); four grandchildren, Gary, Lauren, Rebecca, and Ross; and four great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents, Charlie and Thelma Lambert.

Terry was a graduate of Tolar High School in 1966 and his life was characterized by the love of his family, the happiness found in the company of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and the peace of his home in Paluxy, Texas. Prior to retirement, Terry owned and operated a construction business in the DFW metroplex. He was a member of the Cedar Point Baptist Church and a member



and Past Master of Bluff Dale Masonic Lodge #724.

A graveside celebration of Terry's life took place on April 3, 2024, at 1 p.m., at the Tolar Cemetery, in Tolar, Texas. The service was officiated by Ronnie Shackelford. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Tolar Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 234, Tolar Texas 76476.

As we bid farewell to Terry Lambert, we are reminded of the enduring power of a life well-lived. May we all aspire to emulate his example of dedication to family and his example of unconditional love.

OLIVER

FROM PAGE A8

Facebook page, "The amount of love we've received from our community is unlike anything I've ever experienced before. I've always been proud of Dawson but to hear so many people praise her for the young lady she is and how she treats others just makes me feel so honored to be her mama. Thank you just isn't enough."

Taylor Oliver, Dawson's stepmother, shared the following post on her Facebook

page: "Dawson is alive. Dawson's vitals are just as perfect as she is. She's acing all of the tests and therapies that are asked of her progressively, as everyone has hoped. I just don't think that anyone realizes or completely understands what 'ground zero' is for her. And for us.

"The end goals are large; the current goal is small, but tremendous. Swallowing on command is what we are working toward currently. The most current 'send the room into tears' task, was her holding her head up for

4-5 seconds while she did PT and OT, because they push her.

"She cannot eat. She cannot push a button. She cannot speak. She cannot point. She cannot answer with the shake of a head or a nod. Her limbs aren't cooperating with her yet.

"She can cry. She can laugh. She can smile. She can understand. She can get annoyed. She can get overwhelmed. She can communicate. Looking up means yes. Looking down means no. She can also damn sure roll her eyes.

"Dawson was moved from ICU because she was able to sustain after being taken off all of her 'lifelines.' The same that a newborn does. She could breathe without an oxygen supplement. Her blood pressure was stable enough to remove her art line. Her pic line was removed. Her swallow study was scheduled. Her communication board was established."

For more information contact Jackie Shockley at 254-646-2244. Donations can be made at First National Bank, Lipan.

CLOSED

FROM PAGE A7

about Security Devices), and \$551.087 (Economic Development)."

"This is just updating our commissioners court agenda as being — really,

it's not compliant because this is a suggestion — but they (TAC) are the authority that gives us guidance on a lot of things that we do in commissioners court," Samuelson said.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle said he agreed

with Samuelson's recommendation.

"This is an open-ended language," he said. "And then the only requirement after that is if we have to convene into an executive session that we identify which section of the code that we're going in there

for so it really just kind of simplifies it, in my opinion, so I certainly agree with this."

Samuelson then made a motion to adopt the TAC's recommended statement on closed meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

PHOTOS

FROM PAGE A5

she said. "It was fun to do, and I was able to see some things brought to life that I want to include in the storyline in my next novel, so it really all kind of played together."

Ray is also the author of "The Nutt/Landers Family Chronicles" trilogy, in which she tells the story of two of Granbury's founding families: Jesse Nutt and Elizabeth Landers.

The first book, "Safe in the Arms of God," was published in 2020, while the second book, "A Legacy Cast in Limestone," was published in 2021. Ray said the third book, "A Tale of Three Brothers," is currently still in progress.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, Ray also worked on writing a coffee table book called "Limestone Legacies: A Collection of Articles on Granbury and Hood County History." Limestone Legacies is a collection of articles and photos on the

local history of the town of Granbury and the surrounding Hood County in north central Texas from the 1840s to the present day, according to the Amazon summary.

Ray added she is grateful to everyone who contributed photos, but she would like to especially thank her "dear friend" Karen Nace at the Hood County Museum for "always coming through with something wonderful."

"Without fail, she would always find something

we could use," she added. "This book could not have happened without her help!"

Ray's new "Images of America: Granbury and Hood County" novel can be purchased at the Hood County Museum and Amazon, along with her other books. Other local retailers may also decide to carry the book as well. Royalties from the book go directly to the Hood County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1684

BLOTTER

FROM PAGE A4

U.S. Highway 377
 3:00 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Paluxy Road

3:00 p.m. theft of a controlled substance over \$150,000 reported on Reunion Court

6:30 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

10:28 p.m.: minor in possession of tobacco reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

11:14 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

11:18 p.m.: minor in possession of tobacco reported

on Dean Court
 Two major accidents, three minor accidents, one warrant service and 47 traffic stops occurred on this day

MARCH 30

12:18 a.m.: intoxicated driver reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

1:13 a.m.: disturbance reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

10:24 a.m.: controlled substance reported on Weatherford Highway

1:11 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

6:35 p.m.: theft over \$100 reported on N. Plaza Drive
 9:17 p.m.: hit-and-run ac-

cident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

9:58 p.m.: assault reported on Kemah Court

Two minor accidents, one warrant service and 17 traffic stops occurred on this day

MARCH 31

1:34 a.m.: criminal trespass reported on Paluxy Road

2:05 a.m.: vicious animal reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

3:11 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on Meander Road

7:26 a.m.: property found on E. Pearl Street

8:08 a.m.: threat reported on S. Park Drive

2:42 p.m.: disturbance reported on Crawford Court

4:13 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

Twelve traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 1

1:19 a.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia reported on Loop 567

4:14 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

8:46 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

11:27 p.m.: assault reported on Warnick Court

Two major accidents, one minor accident and 55 traffic stops occurred on this day

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



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

5210
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MDDM DESIGN & MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC Residential plans for custom homes, additions & remodels. mdixon@mddmgroup.com Mike Dixon, 817-559-1686

5240
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AFFORDABLE ROCK WORK
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5260
Moving/Hauling

HAULING & CLEAN-OUTS
Usually same or next day service, no job too large or small. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

5260
Plumbing

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE WORK
Clean-outs, French Drains, and French Pit. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

5330
Storage

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

5340
Tractor Services

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

LIVESTOCK & PETS

8030
Pets



JULIE'S DOG HOUSE GROOMING
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LOOKING FOR A COMPANION?
If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT! Call or visit Hood County Animal Control 1550 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Texas 76048 817-573-4277

8040
Pets Lost & Found

IF YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND AN ANIMAL, please contact Hood County Animal Control, 1550 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, Texas 76048. 817-573-4277

VEHICLES

2010
Automobiles

1984 Ford F150 Stepside. Needs work. \$1,250. (817) 894-1561



2016 MAZDA MX-5 GRAND TOURING CONVERTIBLE
Soul Red, 6-speed. Always garaged. Only 16,234 miles. This "Gem" is selling for thousands more online and at major used car dealers. All records, including original window sticker. The first \$20,000 takes it! 817-578-6670.

2060
Motorcycles



2006 H-D Softtail Standard, Chrome Pkg, drag pipes, 19,803 miles, set of leathers, 2 helmets, hydraulic jack, sissy bar. \$4,250 OBO Call/Text (432)528-0158

5090
Cleaning Services

ELENA'S CLEANING SERVICE
We will clean your house exactly as you wish. We are available when you need us. (682)330-3419

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Residential cleaning. Serving our area since 1994. (817)776-0260

5100
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NEED COMPUTER HELP?
Virus Removal/Repairs/Networks/Upgrades/Programming/Training and more. Over 25 years exp. Residential and Commercial (817) 579-8450

5110
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General construction work-farm, ranch or home. (408)595-2146



REMODELING
FREE ESTIMATES
Paint. Power washing, Siding, Window & door installation. Soffit. Framing, Pergolas, Porches. Cleanup. Junk removal. Storage building. Trim work. Dry wall. Fences. Concrete & rock work. 817-219-2666

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One Stop Shop A-Z Construction & Painting A+ BBB Member snodgrasspaintingandremodeling.com (817) 578-8387 (817) 271-3324

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Your go 2 handyman. No job too big or too small. (817)905-0983

5220
Landscaping/Tree Service



TRUJILLOS SPEEDY LAWN CARE
Lawn Mowing & Edging Tree Trimming & Removal 817-559-5152
also clean and level lots

LAWN SERVICE: 10+ years mowing. Smiling faces all over Granbury. Call or text 817-219-2359.

MERCHANDISE

6620
Miscellaneous

Like new Denon surround sound receiver amplifier. 6 like new Klipsch speakers with complete surround sound. (214) 682-1944

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

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FARM & RANCH

3020
Farm Equipment

2016 TYM 24-hsp loader brush hog. Perfect, like new condition with only 302 hours. \$8,900. (817)881-6749

5120
Clock Repair

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

5140
Electrical

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

ELECTRICAL WORK
Residential and Commercial. No job too large or small. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

GENERAL HOME REPAIRS AND REMODELING 30 years experience. Free Estimates. No Job Too Large or Small! Call 817-566-4785

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



CONSTRUCTION WERKS
New construction, remodel, carpentry, paint, sheetrock, tile, stone, cement, doors, windows. Interior, exterior. Commercial. Residential. Insured. 817-363-7656

JOSE LAWN CARE
mowing, tree removal limbs, weeding. Also, clean-up, painting concrete & trim carpenter. Free est. Jose (817) 538-6297

FATHER & SON
Trim * Removal Senior Discount 817-296-2880

SUPERIOR LAWN CARE Serving Hood County more than 9 years with 20 years Exp. Professional, dependable, competitive prices. Free estimates. (817)395-3490

6670
Wanted

LOCAL RESIDENT-Buying used or in need of repair: Pickups, 5th wheel or bumper pull campers, pontoon, fishing or larger boats, cars, trailers, propane tanks, forklifts, tractors and farm equipment, misc. Call Dan at 817-629-7531.

BROWSE ONLINE
classifieds.hcnews.com

5170
Fencing

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

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1st Choice LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING
Make Us Your 1st Choice

CALL FOR SPECIALS
Tree work, gutters, Flower beds, shrubs. Brush hogging, tractor work. Senior discounts. 817-793-2245

Hood County News
Find Contractors, Service Technicians, Landscapers, Plumbers, Electricians, Mechanics, Carpenters, Painters, and more in the

CLASSIFIEDS

www.hcnews.com

www.hcnnews.com

EMPLOYMENT

8510

General

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.



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@hcnnews.com.

Come join the Hood County News team!



The Hood County News is hiring responsible, committed part time help in our insert room. Job duties include labeling, bundling and preparing papers for shipment.

Competitive pay and great work environment.

Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.

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@newscoape.net]. Please include "CDL Driver - Experiential Marketing" in the subject line. (817) 326-4277 bethanyh@newscoape.net

Granbury ISD is currently looking for an Irrigation Specialist to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburysisd.org/jobs> Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

UNEMPLOYED Dependable part time cleaning helper needed. Must be able to work in a fast pace environment. Duties: Bathrooms, Floors & Trash. Wednesdays & Fridays evenings. Transportation provided. Approximately 6 hours a wk. \$95 Criminal Background Check. (682) 936-4335

Automotive mechanic needed with most tools. 817-578-3538

8530

Food Services

COOK/KITCHEN HELP NEEDED at North Central Texas Academy. Competitive Pay. Please visit northcentraltexasacademy.org, career tab at bottom of home page.

8560

Professional

North Central Texas Academy is seeking certified elementary teacher. Apply at <https://www.northcentraltexasacademy.org/about-hhfa-employment/teacher-application/>

8600

Employment Information



PRESCHOOL TEACHER The Learning Ladder is hiring a Preschool teacher. Please come by and fill out an application at 603 Meander Rd. Granbury, TX 76049. We offer free or reduced childcare for teachers; dental, vision, and AFLAC are available. (817) 573-1237 thelearningladdergranbury@gmail.com

8600

Employment Information

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 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.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that on March 8, 2024, letters of dependent administration were issued to SHARLENE BROWN by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Estate of Jo Ann Cochrane, Deceased, under Cause No. P10246, pending on the probate docket of the Court.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated: April 2, 2024
Sharlene Brown
Administrator of the Estate of Jo Ann Cochrane
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
/S/ MarJoe D. Barnhart
State Bar No. 24045498
Email: marjoe.billwalshlaw@yahoo.com
922 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048
(682) 936-4090
Attorney for Sharlene Brown

9031

Public Notices

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 323BHD5LE 35'.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Lon Francis Simpson, Cause No. P10260, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Michael Lon Simpson in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Lon Francis Simpson, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

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

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

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of HENRY THOMAS WOMACK, Deceased, were issued on March 27, 2024, in Cause No. P10315, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: KATHY BEDFORD WOMACK.

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 28th day of March, 2024.
Steven G. Kuban
Attorney for Kathy Bedford Womack
State Bar No.: 24078807
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 573-8872
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a BG Permit by RCMC Investments LLC, to be located at 109 W Pearl St, Granbury, Hood, Texas. Officers of said corporation are Ryan and Misty Collins

LEGAL AD
Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for RFQ 2024-3 for One 5-7 passenger vehicle and One 5 passenger vehicle.

Bid proposals are available online on <https://granbury.ionwave.net>. The bids are open immediately and will close 4/30/24.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-19
AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 62 ACRE TRACT OF THE MILAM COUNTY SCHOOL LAND SURVEY, ABSTRACT # 348 HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; APPROVING A SERVICE PLAN FOR SUCH TERRITORY; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

EFFECTIVE CLAUSE
This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and it is so ordained.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-20
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL, AIRPORT, GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECT AND ENTREPREISE CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-21
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 16-50 WHICH AOPTED THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS; BY AMENDING THE MAP OF THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN (FLUP), CONTAINED WITHIN THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CERTAIN AREAS WITHIN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE MAP OF THE FUTURE LAND USE PLAN IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-22
AN ORDINANCE, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES;

9031

Public Notices

NOTICE OF ELECTION FOR PUBLICATION (AVISO DE ELECCIÓN PARA PUBLICACIÓN)

To the registered voters of Granbury Independent School District, Texas (A los votantes registrados en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Granbury, Texas): Notice is hereby given that the polling places below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 4, 2024 for voting in a special election to consider the following (Por la presente se da aviso de que los lugares de votación a continuación estarán abiertos de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. el 4 de mayo de 2024 para votar en una elección especial para considerar la siguiente):

Proposition A: THE ISSUANCE OF \$161,500,000 OF BONDS BY THE GRANBURY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES AND THE PURCHASE OF LAND, AND THE LEVY OF TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. (Proposición A: LA EMISIÓN DE \$161,500,000 EN BONOS POR PARTE DEL DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE GRANBURY PARA INSTALACIONES ESCOLARES Y LA COMPRA DE TERRENOS, Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE UN IMPUESTO SUFICIENTE PARA PAGAR EL CAPITAL Y LOS INTERESES DE LOS BONOS. ESTE ES UN INCREMENTO DEL IMPUESTO A LA PROPIEDAD.)

On election day, residents of Parker County may vote at any vote center on the County's website, including: (El día de las elecciones, los residentes del condado de Parker pueden votar en cualquier centro de votación en el sitio web del condado, incluido): Parker County Courthouse Annex, Annex Kitchen, 1112 Santa Fe Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086. On election day, residents of Hood, Johnson, and Somervell Counties may vote at any of the following vote centers:

- Hood County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048
- Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, TX 76049
- Calvary Church, 4800 Glen Rose Highway, Granbury, TX 76048
- First Baptist Church, 1851 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048
- Generations Church, 5718 E. Hwy 377, Granbury, TX 76049
- Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 4530 Action Highway, Granbury, TX 76049
- St. Francis Cabrini Catholic Church, 2301 Action Highway, Granbury, TX 76049
- Pecan Activity Center, 9145 Plantation Dr., Granbury, TX 76049

For early voting, residents of Hood, Johnson, and Somervell Counties may vote at any of the following locations (Para la votación anticipada, los residentes de los condados de Hood, Johnson y Somervell pueden votar en cualquiera de los siguientes lugares):

- Hood County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048
- Acton United Methodist Church, Scout Building, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, TX 76049
- April 22-26, 2024 (22-26 de abril de 2024) 8:00am - 5:00pm
- April 29-30, 2024 (29-30 de abril de 2024) 7:00am - 7:00pm

For early voting, residents of Parker County may vote at any of the locations listed on the County's website, including the main location (Para la votación anticipada, los residentes del condado de Parker pueden votar en cualquiera de los lugares enumerados en el sitio web del condado, incluido el lugar principal):

- Parker County Courthouse Annex, Annex Kitchen, 1112 Santa Fe Dr., Weatherford, TX 76086
- April 22-26, 2024 (22-26 de abril de 2024) 8:00am - 5:00pm
- April 29-30, 2024 (29-30 de abril de 2024) 7:00am - 7:00pm

Applications for voting by mail should be received no later than the close of business on April 23, 2024 (Las solicitudes de votación por correo deben ser recibidas a más tardar al cierre de operaciones del 23 de abril de 2024). For voters in Parker County, applications should be sent to (Para los votantes del condado de Parker, las solicitudes deben enviarse a): Crickett Miller; mailing address (dirección de envío): PO Box 639, Weatherford, TX 76086; physical address (dirección física): 1112 Santa Fe Drive, Weatherford, Texas 76086; phone (teléfono): (817) 598-6185; Fax (fax): (817) 598-6183; and email (correo electrónico): crickett.miller@parkercountytx.com. For voters in Hood, Johnson, and Somervell Counties, applications should be sent to (Para los votantes de los condados de Hood, Johnson y Somervell, las solicitudes deben enviarse a): Stephanie Cooper; mailing and physical address (dirección de envío y física): 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury, TX 76048; phone (teléfono): (817) 408-2525; Fax (fax): (817) 408-2592; and email (correo electrónico): scooper@co.hood.tx.us.

District's website (sitio web del Distrito): www.granburysisd.org
Hood County's website (sitio web del Condado de Hood): www.co.hood.tx.us/222/Elections-and-Voter-Registration
Somervell County's website (sitio web del Condado de Somervell): <http://www.somervell.co/additional-offices/elections/>
Parker County's website (sitio web del Condado de Parker): www.parkercountytx.com/118/Elections
Johnson County's website (sitio web del Condado de Johnson): www.johnsoncountytx.org/departments/elections-office

PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.
Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by rezoning the hereinafter property and area; described as a 0.46-acre tract of land described as Lot 1, Block 2 Cherry Lane Addition, addressed as 1610 W Pearl St, in the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas from Residential 10,000 [R-10] to Business Commercial [BC]

SECTION 6.
Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-23
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, REVISED ORDINANCE NO. 19-88, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.
Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by rezoning the hereinafter property and area described as Lot 1R1, Lot 1 R2, Lot 1 R3, Lot 2A1R, Lot 2A2R, and Common Area A, Block 1, Pearcy Christon Addition No. 1, and Lot 2B, Block 1, Pearcy Christon Addition No. 1, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, on an approximate 8.6 acres being more fully described as Exhibit 'A' attached hereto and incorporated herein:

- From "PD (Planned Development/Heavy Commercial)" zoning district to "PD (Planned Development/Heavy Commercial);
- Provide Pad 2 proposed Restaurant Drive-In/Retail uses;
- Provide Pad 2 site layout to that shown on Exhibit 'B';
- Provide Pad 2 building elevations shown on Exhibit 'C';
- Provide Pad 2 landscaping shown on Exhibit 'D'; and
- Provide Pad 2 development standards shown on Exhibit 'E'.

SECTION 6.
Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined

9031

Public Notices

not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-24
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLES 1.50 OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF NEW FEES AND AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN OTHER FEES ADOPTED BY SAID ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on April 2, 2024, are on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.


PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048

Garage Sales 76048

CATALINA BAY - COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
Saturday, April 6
7:30 am - 12:30 pm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

New Beginnings Resale Shoppe & Boutique



MISSION GRANBURY
817-964-3445
1204 Water's Edge Dr.,
(Across from the Movie Theatre)
#heretohelp
Shop: Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5pm
Sat. 10am - 4pm
Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

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

JOSIAH ESTATES COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE
FRI. & SAT. APRIL 5TH & 6TH , 8:00AM-2:00PM Rain or Shine

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 107 W. Bluff- Historic Daniel House. Fri 4/5 8:30-3, Sat 4/6 9-2. Antiques and Vintage finds. Kit, toys, clothes. Cash or Credit Card. Sale across the street at the Historic Brown House.

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 3315 Calhoun St.- Trying to clean out barns. April 6th & April 7th, 8am-? More sections weekly.

Fri & Sat April 5 & 6, 7:30am - 1:00pm, 2408 River Rd. Downsizing sale - furniture, kitchen, clothing & lots of miscellaneus.

9031

Public Notices

Granbury 76049

Garage Sales 76049

401 Abes Landing "Community Garage Sale" Welcome to Abe's Landing Subdivision Apr. 5th & 6th Fri-Sat. 8am-6pm

ENCORE SHOP
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Fri & Sat April 5 & 6. 8am-2pm.

3500 Fall Creek Hwy- Mission Trip Fundraiser Yard Sale, Acton Baptist Church, 3500 Fall Creek Hwy. Fri April 5, 8-4 & Sat April 6, 8-2. South side of church building. Furniture, household items, clothes, treadmill, much more. Sold by donations. Homemade baked goods available.
Patio furniture, storm door, power washer, dishes. Odd & ends. April 5, 8am-4pm, April 6, 8am-noon. 2200 Cobblestone Ct.
5700 GEE RD-HUGE GARAGE/MOVING SALE APRIL 5TH & 6TH. 8AM-7PM. Tools, hardware, decorations, kitchen items, luggage, shop supplies, golf balls, golf accessories, golf clubs, kids bikes, toys and miscellaneous items.
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April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

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KEEPING SECRETS



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX VOG, ENVATO.COM

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

BY DUSTI SCOVEL
Special to the Hood County News
dscovel@missiongranbury.org

It was a normal Tuesday afternoon for Courtney. She left the office right on time to pick up her 5-year-old daughter from the after-school program at church. She wasn't sure who got more nervous, the teacher or her daughter, Poppy, when she ran a few minutes late. Poppy didn't like to be the last one to leave.

Poppy was unusually quiet when Courtney asked her how her day went. "Okay, I guess," Poppy replied, "but I don't want to watch movies there anymore." "Oh?" Courtney asked casually, thinking her daughter must not have enjoyed that day's movie choice. "What movie did you watch today?" she asked. "I don't know," Poppy replied, but I don't want to sit with Mr. Bobby anymore. Every time we watch movies at quiet time, he makes me sit with him and play his candy game and I don't like it because we sit way in back and it's dark."

Trying to remain calm, Courtney carefully steered the car off the freeway and into a nearby parking lot where she lovingly queried her child. Mr. Bobby told Poppy this game was their secret and made her promise she wouldn't tell anyone because they would both get in very big trouble if she did. Mr. Bobby hid candy on his clothing and told Poppy to find it. But today, he put it in his pants and when Poppy refused to "find it," Mr. Bobby got very mad.

Courtney wrapped her little girl in her arms and promised her daughter she would never have to see Mr. Bobby again and that a little girl should never ever have a secret she can't share with her mommy. Calls were made, charges were filed and Poppy never had to see Mr. Bobby again.

85% of all victims who were sexually abused as a child never report their abuse. Nearly 50% of child sexual abuse victims are children under the age of 12. Over

90% of the abusers are people the children know, love and trust.

Clara hangs out with her girlfriends, volunteers at the food pantry one Saturday a month and sings in the church choir. Her job at the hardware store is not her end goal, but it is paying the bills while she finishes college. From all outward appearances, Clara's future seems bright and full of promise. Her mother says all she needs now is to meet a good man. You know, "Mr. Right."

But Clara already met the man she thought was "Mr. Right" - and she had been terribly wrong. She met Jarod during her first year of college. A few years older than her, he was a tutor who frequented the Student Life Center, where Clara studied every morning before class. They started dating shortly after they met and for the first few weeks, the relationship seemed ideal. They shared an interest in sports and were both planning a future in business.

Everyone remarked about what a cute couple they made. Jarod was so attentive and seemed to really care about her, always wanting to know that she got home from work safe and often calling during the day just to check on her. Which is why Clara was unprepared for the night Jarod forced himself on her, after they got home from a night out dancing.

Sure, he had been drinking, but nothing excessive. It happened so fast, Clara didn't have time to really react. She tried telling him to stop and pushing him away. She fought to get away but

it was useless and she knew it. Later, after he finally left, she just sat and cried. Over the next few weeks, she went through all the emotions; anger, humiliation, guilt and finally unrelenting shame. She told no one. She made a vow to herself to remain silent, to never see Jarod again and it would all be in the past. She would just move on. It would be many years later before she was able to talk about the deep secret that had burdened her for decades.

According to statistics from RAINN, the largest anti-sexual assault organization in the country, one out of every six American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime (14.8% completed, 2.8% attempted). About 3% of American men, or 1 in 33, have experienced an attempted or completed rape in their lifetime.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Hood County Courthouse has been wrapped in blue flags representing CASA. Blue ribbons are on each corner and hundreds of blue pinwheels can be seen all over town, representing Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center.

Staff, volunteers, survivors and victim advocates gathered at the courthouse Monday to install the Clothesline Project. Now in its third year, this display, built by the high school shop class in 2023, addresses the issue and impact of sexual and relationship violence. The display of shirts honors the courage of survivors to break the silence that often surrounds their experience.

For information about how you can get involved or to learn more about upcoming events to raise awareness for Sexual Assault Awareness and Child Abuse Prevention, visit Mission Granbury and Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center on Facebook. Mission Granbury has T-shirts available for those who want to participate in Teal Tuesdays or Blue Fridays.

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

So many reasons to use a real estate professional

BY JACQUE GORDON



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

Homeowners who decline to use a real estate agent to sell their property usually end up losing money, take longer to sell the property, struggle to understand the contract and experience more stress during the selling process.

LOWER SALES PRICE

Homeowners who sold without a real estate agent are three times more likely to lose money on their home sale. One National Association of Realtors® survey found that those

who sold their home with an agent tended to earn \$46,603 more in average profits than those who sold without an agent in 2022 and 2023. About half of unrepresented sellers say they wish they had priced their home differently, and half now believe their home would have sold for more if they had used an agent.

LONGER SELLING PROCESS

Home sellers without an agent are twice as likely to say they didn't accept an offer for at least three

months. Fifty-three percent of sellers who used an agent say they accepted an offer within a month of listing their home. Ironically, many homeowners who didn't use an agent said the primary reason for going it alone was to sell faster.

MORE STRESS

Half of home sellers who did not use an agent said they cried at some point in the process. Fifty-two percent of unrepresented home sellers said they felt overwhelmed by the entire sales process. On the flip side, homeowners who hired an agent were more likely to say they felt good about their sale and experienced less stress.

To be fair, home sellers who used an agent also had

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City prepares plans for street improvement project

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury City Council is currently in the process of preparing plans for the 2023-2024 Street Improvement Project. During a regular meeting

April 2, the city approved two work orders from engineering consultant Enprotect/Hibbs & Todd Inc. to prepare plans and specifications on two upcoming projects.

One project will include the installation of 12,000 square yards of sealcoat

over existing pavement on Old Acton Highway from its intersection with U.S. Highway 377 to the city limits. The compensation for basic services and designated additional services shall be on a lump sum basis for \$25,000, and an amount not to exceed \$7,500 for time

and materials tasks, for a total estimated compensation of \$32,500.

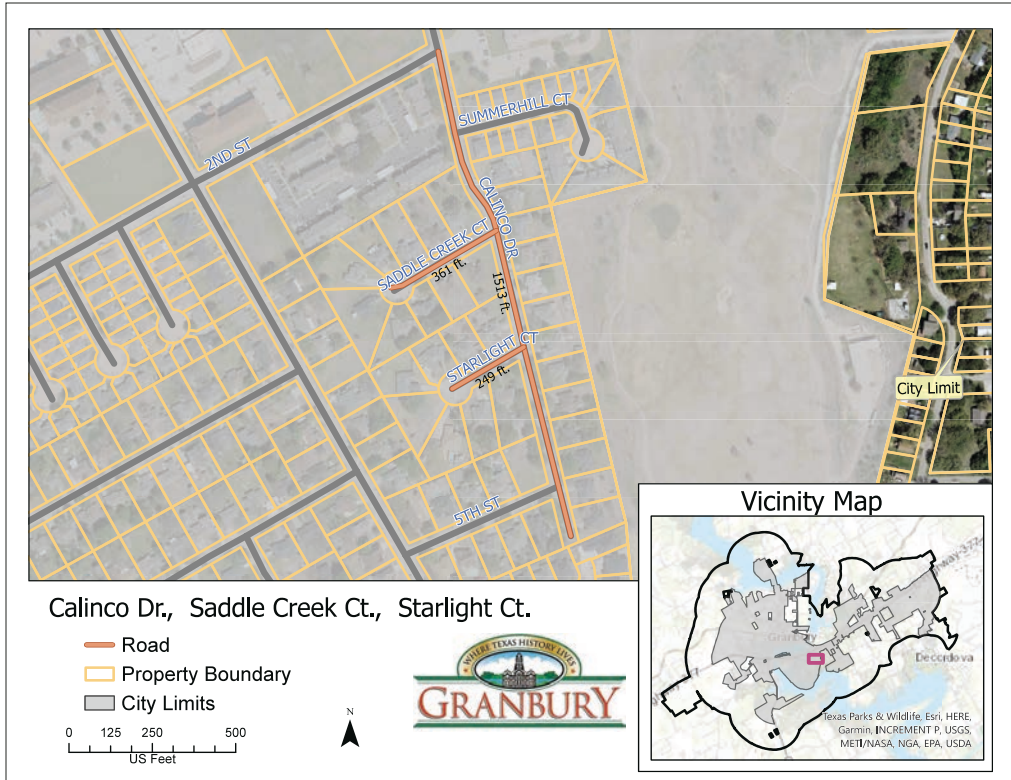
The second project will include the installation of approximately 7,400 square yards of asphalt pavement reconstruction for Calinco Drive from Second Street to Fifth Street, including

Saddle Creek Court and Starlight Court. The compensation for basic services and additional services shall be on a lump sum basis for \$81,000.

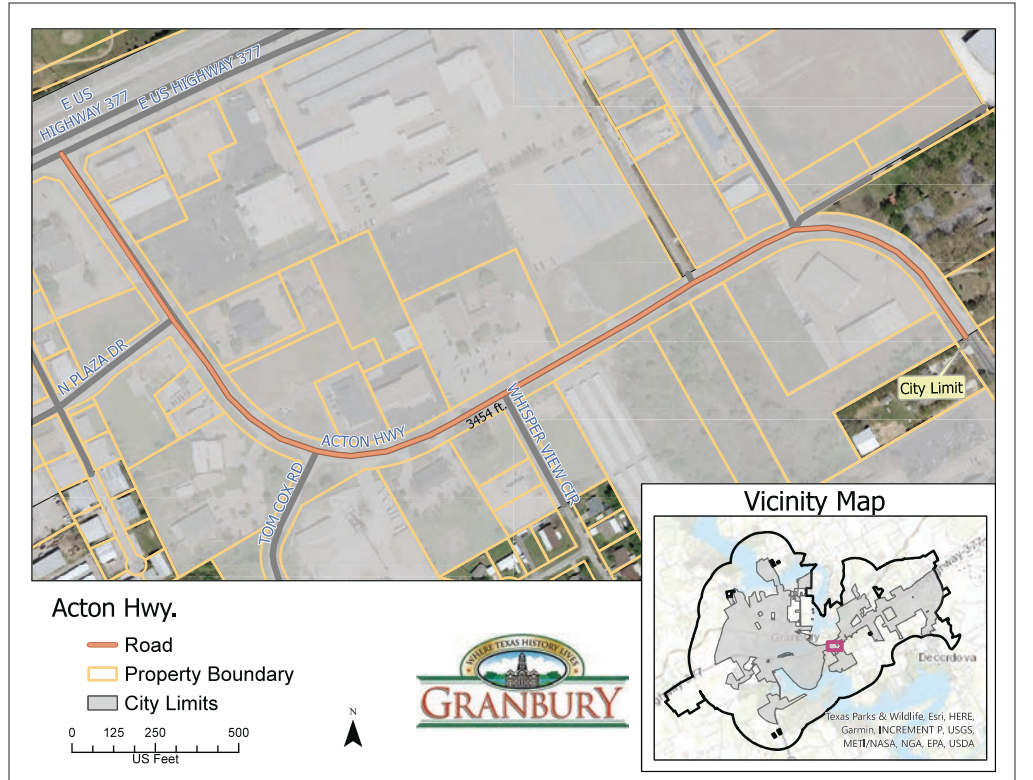
The Granbury City Council budgets approximately \$1 million annually for street improvement

projects.

Both work orders from Enprotect/Hibbs & Todd Inc. for the 2023-2024 Street Improvement Project were approved unanimously as part of the consent agenda during Tuesday's meeting.



The Calinco Drive Street Improvement Project will include the installation of approximately 7,400 square yards of asphalt pavement reconstruction for Calinco Drive from 2nd Street to 5th Street, including Saddle Creek Court and Starlight Court.



The Old Acton Hwy Street Improvement Project will include the installation of 12,000 square yards of sealcoat over existing pavement on Old Acton Hwy from the intersection with U.S. Hwy 377 to the city limits.

PHOTOS COURTESY THE CITY OF GRANBURY

GAR

FROM PAGE A13

some gripes about their experience — but much fewer. Those who were unhappy with their agent experience expressed a range of

feelings: that their agent was only looking to make a sale and didn't care about their interests, their agent "annoyed" them or their agent pressured them into decisions. That said, 77% of respondents who used an agent said they were

satisfied, and 72% said they would use their agent again, a figure that tracks with NAR data.

Even though the vast majority of home searches start online, most consumers still use real estate agents to buy or sell a home.

NAR's 2023 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers found that 89% of buyers and sellers in the last year used a real estate agent, up from the previous year.

Only 7% of homeowners sold as a For Sale by Owner (FSBO) over the last year —

which matches the over-time low recorded in 2021, according to NAR data. FSBOs don't fare as well in the market as sellers who are professionally represented. FSBOs also sold for far less compared to listed homes, NAR's data shows.

If you are looking for a real estate professional, you can find a full list of real estate agents and contact information by visiting the Granbury Association of Realtors' website at www.Granburyrealtors.com.

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Planting a future

GHS plant science program growing

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

While all school programs are designed to plant ideas in students' minds, one in particular at Granbury High School is literally planting ideas and more.

The plant science program, started about 15 years ago, has grown exponentially since its beginning, advisor Trey Keys noted.

"The first year, we served around 20 students, and this year we currently have around 260 students enrolled in a plant science class," Keys said. "After the construction of the current CTE (career and technical education) facility in 2016, we were able to also open up the greenhouse courses."

The plant science classes focus on two main components: production and design. The greenhouse classes focus more on growth and development of various plants such as vegetables, herbs, house plants and common landscape plants. However, the floral design courses focus on the art and design of flowers and plants for arrangements.

Within the plant science pathway, the program offers floral design, greenhouse management, advanced floral design and practicum in plant science. All plant science courses are based around hands-on activities such as designing and creating flower arrangements, propagating plants from cuttings and seeds, and calculating materials and costs associated with running a floral shop or greenhouse.

"We offered our first advanced floral class in 2021. This course runs a business called Pirate Blooms that offers district staff the opportunity to purchase a monthly subscription made, delivered and designed by students in our program," Keys said. "Practicum of plant science allows students the opportunity to work in the horticulture/landscape industry or to complete independent research using our facilities."

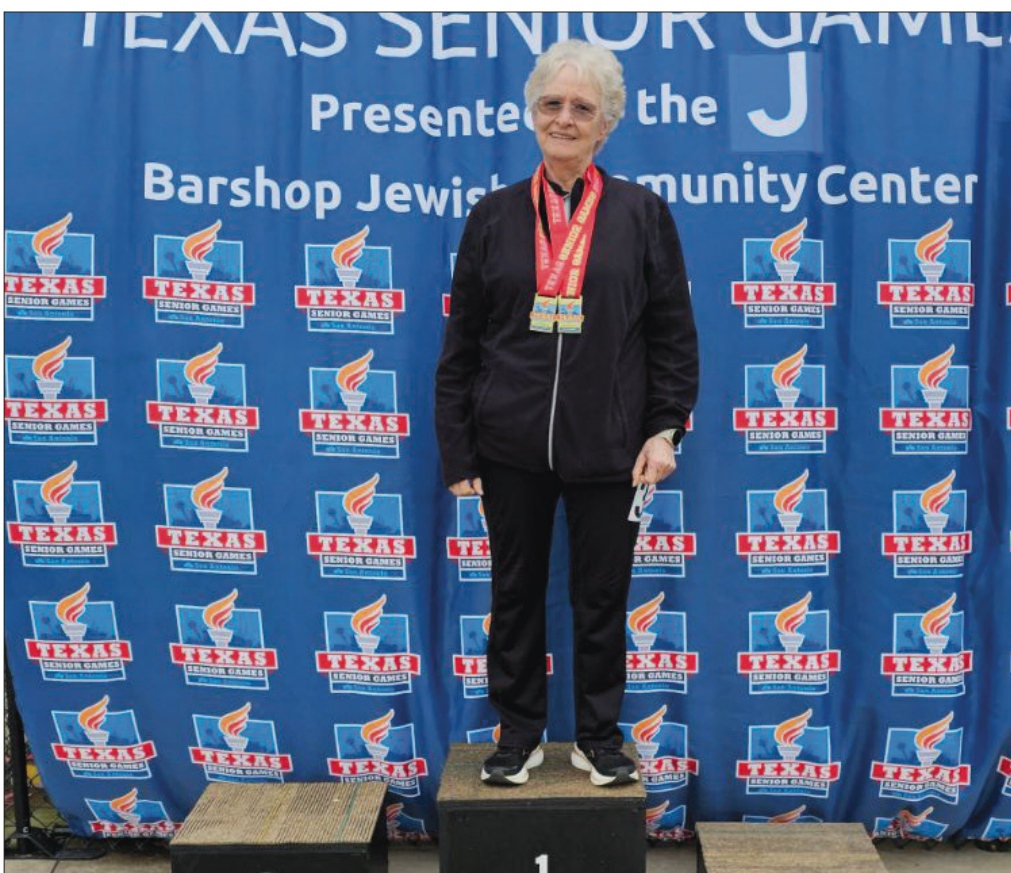


PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

PLEASE SEE **PLANTS** | B4

In a decade and a half since its start, the Granbury High School plant science program has grown from around 20 students to around 260 today.

Granbury woman repeats double wins at Texas Senior Games



COURTESY PHOTO BY BARB KENNETT

Granbury resident Barb Kennett, 76, stands on the podium in San Antonio after winning first place in the 50-meter and 100-meter races March 17 at the Texas Senior Games.

BY MELISSA WINN

Special to the Hood County News

When Granbury's Barb Kennett was diagnosed with peripheral vascular disease (PVD) in 2017, the thought of amputation or possibly losing the use of her legs wasn't a pleasant one.

That's when she took the proverbial lemon and made it into lemonade and seven years later, Kennett, 76, can now say she's a back-to-back champion.

Competing in the Texas Senior Games in the 50-meter and 100-meter races, Kennett placed first in both events at the games held in mid-March in San Antonio. She also placed first in both categories in 2023.

"It's one of the only things I can do to build those (collateral vessels)," Kennett said about why she started running the events. "The alternative isn't anything I want to happen."

Clocking a time of 12.87 seconds in the 50m and 27.65 seconds in the 100m, Kennett qualified for the national competition in Des Moines, Iowa, in July 2025.

"They only have nationals every two years so that is the next opportunity for me to compete," she said.

The PVD in Kennett was discovered shortly after she had open heart surgery. She said she believes it was due to her being sedentary after doing taxes and sitting for long hours for many years.

"I couldn't walk, my legs hurt and so my doctor told me to go to a vascular surgeon," she explained. "It wasn't long after that I had three stints put in my legs."

The open-heart surgery and the stint placement took place within a seven-month span. After recovering, that's when Kennett started first walking around her neighborhood, then running.

"I can see why people get

into it; it's addicting," she said.

Kennett trains three days a week at the YMCA and uses the track and weights for strength. She spends about two hours each session.

Kennett admitted she may not be able to compete much longer in the 100m event, mostly because of the pain, but said she is thinking of getting into javelin.

"I used to do a fair amount of weightlifting when I was younger so the javelin sounds like something I would enjoy, but we'll see," she said.

The Texas Senior Games were first held in 1990 and are officially sanctioned by the National Senior Games Association and the Texas Senior Sports Organization. Participants range in age from 50 to 100 and compete over several days in various swimming, track and field and team events.



COURTESY PHOTO

Col. Robert Oltman, director of Marine Corps JROTC, Kennedy Wells, Julia Czernik, Lt Col Scott Casey, Viola Allen, Kameron Wells.

GHS JROTC rifle team dominates

BY JOHN ENGLISH

Special to the Hood County News

The Granbury High School rifle team continued its legacy of excellence by winning first place at the JROTC All Service National Championships (all JROTC branches) in Camp Perry, Ohio last month.

This was the seventh consecutive national championship for the Hood County school and it came just one month after the team claimed its seventh consecutive national title at the U.S. Marine Corps JROTC Service Championships in Sandy, Utah.

Coach John Becker said there is only one way to express how impressive this feat truly is for the GHS rifle program.

"Unprecedented is the word to describe our seventh consecutive national championship," Becker said. "No

PLEASE SEE **JROTC** | B2

Granbury FFA members win FWSSR calf scramble scholarships



Audrey McKee, daughter of Shelli and Ty McKee



Larry "Trey" Wilkins III, son of Angela and Larry Wilkins Jr.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Submitted Item

Scholarships were recently awarded to members of the Granbury FFA Chapter by the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo's Calf Scramble Scholarship Committee. The scholarships were awarded as follows:

- \$6,000 — Audrey McKee, daughter of Shelli and Ty McKee
 - \$4,000 — Larry "Trey" Wilkins III, son of Angela and Larry Wilkins Jr.
- These students participated in the 2023 Fort Worth Stock Show Calf Scramble program making them eli-

gible for the scholarship program. Sixty-eight Texas 4-H and FFA members shared in \$440,000 in calf scramble scholarship dollars. Their scholarships are the result of the hard work and dedication necessary for participants to complete the rigorous calf scramble

program. The moment they caught a calf during a 2023 Stock Show rodeo performance, their calf scramble journey began. These youth utilized Stock Show funds toward the purchase of a calf they cared for in 2023. Caring for their heifer, submitting monthly reports,

exhibiting at the 2024 Fort Worth Livestock Show and submitting a final essay were required for scholarship consideration. Meeting in February, the committee awarded these scholarships. Next year's Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo is scheduled for Jan. 17

through Feb. 8, 2025. Rodeo tickets will be available beginning Sept. 9. For more information go to www.fwssr.com or call 817-877-2400. The Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo

JROTC

FROM PAGE B1

other team has accomplished this feat. In the collegiate rifle world, the closest comparison is the University of Alaska, who won six consecutive NCAA Championships from the 1999-2004 school years, and that included then-future Olympic Gold Medalist Matt Emmons. "Outside of rifle, you need to start talking dynasties like the '59-66 Boston Celtics, UCLA under Coach Wooden from '67-73, or the early '90s Chicago Bulls with Michael Jordan. Add Granbury to the list." In the JROTC Service Championships, Granbury saw all 12 of its athletes compete when three GHS teams qualified to attend the event. This was also unprecedented.

"Lt. Col. (Scott) Casey and I talk repeatedly about the tradition established by cadets long before the current athletes even knew we had a rifle team and the need to uphold our team-first mentality and traditions for future athletes that may want to be a part of the program in the future," Becker said. "The first victory occurred when our current seniors were finishing fifth grade, so no one can say they knew it would happen without the hard work necessary." According to a news re-

lease, Granbury MCJROTC swept the podium in the individual category at the U.S. Marine Corps JROTC Service Championships in February, with Kameron Wells taking first place, Viola Allen claiming second place, and Julia Czernik finishing in third place. Cadince McGrath earned enough points during the two matches to be presented with her Junior Distinguished Marksman Badge, while Allen and Kennedy Wells were also presented with Distinguished Marksman Badges at the awards ceremony. Casey, senior Marine instructor for the Granbury High School MCJROTC, said the distinctions received by the GHS athletes were well-earned, and said his greatest hope is that they enjoy the sport while developing self-discipline and mental toughness, which will help them succeed beyond high school. "As a former JROTC Cadet in high school, I have always wanted to give back to a program that set me on track to pursue a professional path that involved attending college and receiving a commission in the Marine Corps," Casey said. "My ultimate goal is to positively impact the cadets' lives by helping them improve their professional development and skill sets, such as communication, problem-solving and leader-

ship. By equipping these cadets with the necessary tools, I can help them become successful and confident leaders in their future endeavors." Casey is originally from Amarillo, where he attended Caprock High School. During his three years at Caprock, he participated in MCJROTC. After high school, Casey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education from West Texas A&M on an NCAA rifle scholarship. Becker said his cadets were proud but gracious in their victory at the U.S. Marine Corps Service Championships in February, and he attributes their dominance in the sport of rifle shooting to two basic factors. "It's a canned answer, but hard work and practice bred the success," Becker said. "Our athletes train more than any other high school rifle team in the world. The cadets are fortunate to train in one of the best high school ranges in the country and have the best equipment due to the relentless fundraising of the program and the support of the community. "The equipment and facilities are great, but being coachable and training intensely is what makes it happen. We participate in close to 30 rifle competitions a year with many being multi-day events. One has to be commit-



Col. Robert Oltman, director of Marine Corps JROTC, Ainsley Milligan, Cadince McGrath, Lt Col Scott Casey, Mataya Turner, Caylynn Price


COURTESY PHOTO

ted, as this is not a one-semester sport." Becker said he is optimistic about GHS' prospects in the coming years and said the thing that makes their sport unique is the team never really gets a break. "Unlike pro sports with long contracts, we are constantly balancing the attrition of graduating experienced athletes with the need to recruit to keep the pipeline full," Becker said. "The future looks good as we have a deep

bench. The next season is already upon us. Unlike most sports that are fall, winter or spring, there are rifle matches that occur year-round, so we can't get too complacent. "As far as the JROTC Service Championships go, our next season begins in the fall when all units with a team fire a postal match (approximately 6,000-7,000 cadets) and winnow down to those invited to Service Championships and then All Service Championships. So,

I guess our off-season was Monday on the ride home." Granbury High School rifle team members include seniors Julia Czernik, Cadince McGrath and Kameron Wells; juniors Caylynn Price and Kennedy Wells; sophomores Viola Allan, Ainsley Milligan and Mataya Turner; and freshmen Ethan Erwin, Renee Serardini, Lilly Sojourner and Emma Wipff.

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SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS




GISD announces three new hires

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District announced the hiring of three new staff members — Lissa Oliver, Lacey Padgett and Lamont Moore — during a regularly scheduled school board meeting Monday, March 25.

LISSA OLIVER

Oliver, who was recently named the director of community relations, previously served as Granbury ISD's director of communications before Ryan Cox assumed the role in 2023.

She worked as a media production and technology student teacher at Granbury High School in 2004 and during the spring semester of 2005, and was a long-term substitute for the district.

Following a brief stint at another school district, Oliver has worked for GISD in some capacity since 2008 — excluding her role as a remote special education coordinator with ResponsiveEd Solutions from 2023 to 2024.

Oliver's jobs within GISD have included: Granbury High School English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) teacher, 2008-2010; ELAR and journalism teacher, Acton Middle School, 2010-2011; library media specialist, Oak Woods School, 2011-2020 (she was named Teacher of the Year in 2018); instructional specialist, Oak Woods, 2020-2021; and assistant principal for Oak Woods from 2021 until 2022, when she was named the district's communications director.

"I may be new to this role but it's the same excitement," Oliver told the Hood County News. "Whether it's the classroom, school library, front office or administration building, serving people has always been my favorite thing about any role from which I've served."

Oliver's drive and leadership skills were evident even as a college student at the University of Texas at Austin when she worked for Wells Fargo Bank from 2001 to 2004. She handled customer relations and became lead

teller.

From 2005-2008, Oliver worked as an ELAR teacher and girls athletic coach at Hillwood Middle School in the Keller school district.

She came back to Granbury in 2008 and has worked for GISD ever since.

"Working for Granbury ISD feels like being home," Oliver said.

She said her main goal as director of community relations is to "assist the district in carrying out the vision and mission according to the Strategic Plan."

"Our vision states, 'Granbury ISD inspires excellence and empowers all students to be future ready and positive contributors to their community.' Community relations is simply creating connections, fostering relationships, and sustaining partnerships that lead to student achievement," Oliver said. "As director of community relations, I will be driving district engagement that best supports the Strategic Plan, such as leading volunteer programs, planning community outreach, and coming alongside our many community partners to build a supportive learning environment based upon positive relationships, respect, integrity and a sense of belonging."

Oliver earned a Bachelor of Science degree in communications from the University of Texas at Austin in 2004. That degree was followed by a Master of Education in school librarianship, which she received from the University of North Texas in 2007, and a post-graduate principal certification from Lamar University in 2020.

She holds a host of other certifications and the "leadership" list on her resume is even longer. It includes serving as a member of the Oak Woods Campus Leadership Team; president of the Acton Middle School Lady Pirate Booster Club; newspaper sponsor and yearbook advisor for AMS; advisor for the GHS Key Club; and a member of the Hood County Library Advisory Board, among other things.

Currently, Oliver said she is still trying to find that "free time" and figure out her

own hobbies, but she enjoys the chaos in raising her five daughters — Baylor, Larin, Mailey, and twins Elle and Kate — with her "incredibly patient husband," Casey.

If you're a parent/guardian, community member, or local business wishing to learn more about engagement opportunities at Granbury ISD, please email lissa.oliver@granburyisd.org or visit granburyisd.org/community.

DR. LACEY PADGETT

Dr. Lacey Padgett was recently named principal of Nettie Baccus Elementary School. She had previously served as the executive director of teaching, learning, and innovation at Castleberry ISD since 2022.

Padgett takes over for previous Baccus Principal Julie Rohleder, who was recently elevated to principal of Granbury Middle School. The new Baccus leader will begin her new role at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year.

"I am excited about the opportunity to serve the wonderful school community of students, staff and families at Baccus Elementary," Padgett told the Hood County News. "Baccus is known for its dedicated teachers and staff who genuinely care about students and their well-being. I am looking forward to working closely with all of the teachers and staff to ensure the continued success of our students."

With 28 years in public education and nearly 20 years as an administrator, Padgett brings extensive leadership experience to Granbury ISD and Baccus Elementary.

Before Castleberry ISD, Padgett was the assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction at Ennis ISD. She has also served as a teacher, curriculum specialist, HR director, assistant principal and principal in Bastrop ISD along with working for ESC Region 13 as a school improvement/turn-around leadership specialist. Additionally, Padgett spent three years as an elementary principal in Oklahoma.

"Some of my goals (as Baccus principal) include establishing a nurturing and

positive learning environment for students, supporting our teachers in their daily work and growth, fostering a sense of community among staff, students and parents, and continuing to implement innovative educational approaches to promote students' academic and personal development," Padgett said.

During her time at Ennis ISD, Padgett played an integral part in moving the district from a C (75) to a B (89) with an A (92) in school progress as well as implementing the first-ever dual language program for emerging bilinguals and a new teacher mentoring program.

"We are so excited to welcome Dr. Padgett to Baccus and Granbury ISD," Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn said in a Granbury ISD news release. "She is committed to creating a positive culture where students and staff are challenged and encouraged to reach their highest potential. I look forward to seeing all that Baccus will accomplish under Dr. Padgett's leadership."

Padgett holds a doctorate in educational leadership from Lamar University, a master's degree in educational administration from Concordia University at Austin, and a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies from Texas State University.

During her free time, Padgett has been involved in various capacities within organizations such as the Lions Club, the Bastrop County Child Protective Services Board and Meals on Wheels.

"Beyond volunteering, I find joy in activities related to anything water, gardening and reading, as well as spending quality time with my family and friends," she said.

Padgett is married to her husband of almost 28 years, Bruce, and they have two grown children: Cailey and Casen.

"I am dedicated to ensuring the success of every student by nurturing a secure and welcoming learning environment, championing academic achievement and fostering parent and community engagement," Padgett added. "I am enthusiastic and honored to serve the Baccus

Elementary school community and eagerly anticipate an exceptional upcoming school year."

LAMONT MOORE

Lamont Moore was recently appointed GISD's director of athletics. Moore comes to the district from Waxahachie ISD, where he was most recently the head track and field coach. In his career, he has also served as a teacher, coach and campus administrator.

"I am incredibly grateful and extremely humbled for the opportunity to serve Granbury ISD and the Granbury community as athletic director," Moore said, in a Granbury ISD news release. "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 will oversee athletic programs at Granbury High School, Acton Middle School and Granbury Middle School. He will also supervise athletic facilities at all GISD campuses.

"I'm most excited about the opportunity to add value to a really good district and see how I can impact the entire district and community," Moore told the Hood County News. "My main goals are to create a culture of class, excellence, integrity and personal growth."

"Lamont Moore is an outstanding leader who comes highly regarded and recommended to Granbury ISD," Glenn said in the GISD news release. "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 was employed at Waxahachie ISD 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 Burleson High School where he was an assistant principal, head track and field coach and assistant football coach.

"I have a passion and heart for student-athletes," Moore added. "I want to see them thrive and see personal growth. That comes through great coaches in which I'm in charge of hiring and developing."

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 native and 1993 graduate. He was inducted in 2023 into the Waxahachie High School 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 earned 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.

During his free time, Moore said he likes to relax, play golf, listen to music and travel.

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

"I'm super excited to be here," he added. "Go Pirates!"



Lissa Oliver



Dr. Lacey Padgett



Lamont Moore

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD






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The 2023-2024 Pirate Color Guard members are Hailey Bonner, Sonya Abner, Gisel Ramirez, Addison Bower, Ryan Courtney, Chyanne Bramlett, Sheryl Boelkes, Emma Hill, Kenley Cline, Phenix Feeley, Brooklyn Branch, Laci Elder and Sarah Kolenovsky.

GHS Pirate Winter Guard finds success

Staff Reports

The Granbury High School Pirate Winter Guard achieved record setting success in its recent competition season. The troupe attended four competitions this season and placed in the top two teams three times in those events. The Pirate Winter Guard consistently placed first in equipment performance, execution and vocabulary.

The Pirate Winter Guard's biggest accomplishment came March 23 when it placed second at the North Texas Color Guard Association champion-

ships. At that competition, the group scored 90.4, the highest score they've ever received and 12.23 points higher than their previous score.

The Pirate Winter Guard closed its season by finishing in second place of the 45 other Regional A winter guards within the NCTA circuit.

The 2024 production of "Enchantment" will be performed for the last time April 12 at 7 p.m. during the annual color guard spring showcase at the Games Wann Sports Center at Granbury High School.

During the 2023 fall

competition season, the Pirate Color Guard competed alongside the Pride of Granbury Pirate Band. The color guard won Best Color Guard and Overall Best Color Guard at two of the three competitions where the award was offered.

The 2023-2024 Pirate Color Guard members are Hailey Bonner, Sonya Abner, Gisel Ramirez, Addison Bower, Ryan Courtney, Chyanne Bramlett, Sheryl Boelkes, Emma Hill, Kenley Cline, Phenix Feeley, Brooklyn Branch, Laci Elder and Sarah Kolenovsky.

Civil Air Patrol promotes two cadets

Submitted item

It was a big night for the Civil Air Patrol Granbury Composite Squadron as it celebrated the 25th anniversary of its charter with the promotion of three outstanding cadets and heard from a guest speaker and other special guests.

The night started off with a brief introduction and invocation, followed by the promotion of cadets Crowe, Valdez and Black to their new respective ranks in the cadet program.

Next, cadets Holly Cullop and Bradford "Cole" Hunton were celebrated formally to commemorate their milestone achievement — the Billy Mitchell Award.

The Mitchell Award marks the completion of Phase II of the CAP Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness and character. Furthermore, Mitchell cadets must have passed intense comprehensive leadership and aerospace examinations and have completed a week-long encampment, immers-

ing themselves in a rigorous core values and STEM environment.

Once a cadet earns the Mitchell Award, he or she becomes a cadet officer, is promoted to the grade of cadet second lieutenant, and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets while continuing to develop into a dynamic American aerospace leader.

Because only 15% of CAP cadets achieve this grade, the U.S. Air Force highly respects Cullop and Hunton's accomplishments. Although Civil Air Patrol cadets are not obligated to serve in the military, if either of these cadet officers choose to enlist in the Air Force, they will enter the service at the advanced grade of E-3, airman first class. Other services also look favorably upon Mitchell cadets when evaluating ROTC and academy applicants.

"To me, the Billy Mitchell Award means prestige. We've worked really hard and dedicated a lot of time to get here, so it's also for excellence. It takes a lot of work, dedication and leader-

ship skills to get here," said Cullop, who has been in CAP for two-and-a-half years. Her next goals in the cadet program are earning her pilot's wings and the Spaatz Award, which is the highest cadet grade. Her career goal is to fly in the Air Force.

"I'll take anything I can get. Fighter, bomber, I don't care," she said with a sparkle in her eyes. To other cadets, she emphasized, "Resilience is key. Whenever you're going through something hard, or you struggle, or you fail, or you don't pass tests, just keep going and working hard and get to where you want to be. Keep going, and you'll get there."

To Hunton, who has been in CAP for two years, the Mitchell Award is a transition out of the NCO phase to more of the leadership side of the program. You get to "use your experience from being an NCO and apply it to being an officer and make sure things run smoothly," Hunton said.

His primary goals for his cadet career include earning the Spaatz Award, staffing as many events as he can,



Cadets Holly Cullop and Bradford "Cole" Hunton were celebrated formally to commemorate their milestone achievement — the Billy Mitchell Award.

and commanding an Airman Leadership School. In the future, he hopes to pursue a dual major in business and engineering. "The leadership I've learned from this will take over in business a lot."

Hunton emphasized the importance of learning to perform your duty positions with excellence to other cadets. "If you're an NCO, learn how to be an NCO." Also,

"Staff as much as you can because events are where you get the boots-on-the-ground learning experience." Hunton has enjoyed staffing events for the real-world experiences that will carry over into his future career.

Guest speaker Capt. Marco Desimone reflected on his time as a CAP cadet, sharing the highs and lows of his experience in the cadet program. He achieved the highest cadet rank of cadet colonel, which is the Spaatz Award. Desimone now actively serves in the Civil Air Patrol as a senior member and deputy commander of cadets in the Wichita Falls squadron. "I had the pleasure of working with both Hunton and Cullop at a couple of Airman Leadership Schools and was incredibly impressed with their positive attitudes, drive and work ethic," Desimone said. He charged the Granbury cadets to always take time to reflect on their experiences, emphasizing, "No matter how much experience you have on paper, if you fail to correlate those experiences with meaningful lessons, you will not grow." Although this skill may take years to master, it is vital to put away distractions and intentionally reflect on successes, failures, and everything in between to grow not only as a CAP cadet but to better oneself for service in the outside world, Desimone told the audience.

Some of the squadron's founding members, along with members from squad-

rons in the surrounding area, gathered to celebrate the special occasion. Several spoke about their experience with the Granbury squadron and were happy to see how much it has developed in the last 25 years. "We are excited for another 25 years," said Squadron Commander Maj. Mark Chin as the ceremony came to an end.

The Civil Air Patrol invites and encourages young members of the community to participate in its weekly meetings at 1903 W. Pearl St. Mondays at 7 p.m. to see what Civil Air Patrol is all about. CAP has a Great Start Program beginning soon that will help transition new cadets into the cadet life, teaching them all kinds of new skills.

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.



Cadet 2nd Lt. Hunton



Cadet 2nd Lt. Cullop

PLANTS

FROM PAGE B1

This is the first school year practicum of plant science has been offered. The students help facilitate and run the Pirate Blooms program, along with taking orders for prom, the University Interscholastic League banquet, and multiple other school and community events.

PREP FOR COLLEGE/CAREER

Like the first word in CTE indicates, the program prepares students for a career,

should that be the direction they want to go in life.

"Our program prepares students for college and careers by providing a project-based learning environment that develops their creativity and time management skills," said program advisor Erin Wilson.

The program is open to students in grades 9-12.

Students in upper level practicum courses also work on their project management and communication skills by taking orders and contacting wholesalers to complete orders from start to finish. Students also get the oppor-

tunity to earn a certification that can go on their resume' and be used toward a career in floral design.

This preparation includes competitions. The plant science program falls under the umbrella of agriculture. Within the ag department, the Granbury ISD has a very competitive FFA (Future Farmers of America) program that competes at all levels of contests across the state.

"By being enrolled in a plant science course, students have the ability to compete at all FFA events. Some are specifically geared

toward plant science, such as floriculture and nursery/landscape, but students are not limited to these alone," Wilson explained. "FFA offers many opportunities such as livestock shows, leadership and speaking events, career development events, and many more."

She said last year, students were awarded over \$120,000 at the Hood County show, and the program qualified 10 teams to area and state level contests.

TESTIMONIALS

Megan James, a junior,

wants a career as a wedding planner and believes the program is starting her down that path.

"I have always had an interest in flowers itself. This program has given me many opportunities to start my career path," she said. "Eventually I hope to have my own team together."

Senior Faith James said, "Ever since freshman year I have had a bond with plants, animals and nature. The classes allow me to be more independent and growing plants are very calming during my stressful day."

Elanor Traweck is a teach-

er at Granbury Middle School and participates in the Pirate Blooms monthly subscription program. Students put together 30 arrangements per month for subscription participants.

"I love the Pirate Blooms bouquets. This is my second year, and it is fantastic to watch students grow in their knowledge of floral design," Traweck said. This is a great opportunity for students to learn and possibly move into a future profession.

"I know the students who have delivered my flowers are very proud of their work. I sure love my bouquets."



Tolar and Lipan Track



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Tolar High School track team hosted the Field event finals for the district track meet Monday, April 1. Athletes from both Lipan and Tolar competed.



Bailey Gammons Getting ready for the pole vault event.




Ernesto Ramirez and Koltan Smith (Tolar Rattlers) during the 3200m race Monday April 1, 2024.



Cutter Cain during the shot-put event at the district meet held at Tolar High School April 1, 2024.



Kelvin Murry (Tolar Rattlers) during the long jump event Monday April 1, 2024.


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LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Alberto Andreatta (Lipan Indians) during the long jump event Monday April 1, 2024.

Granbury teams prep for district track Pirates win at Stephenville

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

With the District 5-5A Track Meet going on at press time in Aledo, the Granbury Pirates are entering on a high note, having won the championship at the Stephenville Optimist Relays March 28. The Lady Pirates placed fourth.

In junior varsity competition, the Granbury boys were first and the girls were second.

Stephenville Optimist Relays

March 28

Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches

Granbury results

Varsity boys

Team score: 131 points, first place

Top individual finishes

3200: 1. Bryan Hailey, 9:57.94; 3. Jaxon Glenn, 10:01.60

4x100 relay: 1. Granbury, 42.17

800: 1. Alec Wilkinson, 2:04.29

4x200 relay: 1. Granbury, 1:28.99

200: 1. Elijah Johnston, 22.29

1600: 1. Wilkinson, 4:42.60; 3. Glenn, 4:42.85

4x400 relay: 3. Granbury 3:34.85

High jump: 1. Miller Schenewark, 6-6

Varsity girls

Team score: 71.3 points, fourth place

Top individual finishes

4x100 relay: 2. Ella Garner, Julia Crum, Jayla Hayes, Baylee Goodman, 50.69

100 hurdles: 3. Kate Hamlin, 16.69

300 hurdles: 2. Aubrey Ward, 49.14

High jump: 2. Ward, 5-0

Pole vault: 2. Eden Stone, 9-0

JV boys

Team score: 152 points, first place

3200: 2. Sam Valadez, 11:16.14

4x100 relay: 1. Granbury, 45.29

800: 1. Luis Morales, 2:13.83; 3. James Barber, 2:15.68

110 hurdles: 1. Conner Vanquill, 16.64

400: 1. Andy Debello, 54.74

300 hurdles: 1. Vanquill, 44.24

1600: 1. Valadez; 5:11.23;

2. Barber, 5:13.42; 3. Jacob Wolfe, 5:14.15

4x400 relay: 3. Granbury, 3:47.50

High jump: 2. Cade Moody, 5-10

Pole vault: 3. John Weber, 9-6

Triple jump: 1. Debello, 43-8

JV girls

Team score: 136 points, second place (Brownwood 199)

Top individual finishes

3200: 1. KambrY Zschiesche, 13:18.44

4x100 relay: 1. Tamea Busby, Kina Berry, Jillian Williams, Jaylen Olthoff, 52.63

800: 2. Zschiesche, 2:47.86

100 hurdles: 2. Zaeda Sedgwick, 17.85; 3. Aniya Blackman, 18.21

400: 1. Williams, 1:05.59; 3. Kennedy Laviolette, 1:05.86

200: 2. Williams, 28.91

1600: 2. Zschiesche, 6:17.49

Pole vault: 3. Carmen Citzler, 7-0

Long jump: 1. Busby, 15-5

GRANBURY BASEBALL

The Pirates (14-7, 2-5 in District 5-5A) ended a five-game losing skid with a 9-3 home victory against Brewer April 2. This came after they dropped a district contest at home to Aledo March 28.

Carter Riley led the offense against the Bears with two hits, including a double and RBI. Gavin Current hit a double, walked, was hit by a pitch, drove in a run and stole two bases. Also, Easton Bleeker (RBI) and Levi Martinez (two RBIs) each doubled and was hit by a pitch.

Bleeker also got the pitching victory, throwing five no-hit innings with one unearned run, eight strikeouts and a walk.

Bleeker, Jackson Arnett and Hunter Jones had the lone hits against Aledo.

The Pirates were playing at Brewer at press time. They step outside of district for a home-and-home against Keller Timber Creek April 9 (home) and 12 (there), both games starting at 5 p.m.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

While it wasn't anywhere close to being as wild as their first encounter at Brewer, the Lady Pirates (10-16, 2-5 in District 5-5A) dropped a

9-7 home contest to Brewer March 28. They followed with a 4-3 win in eight innings at Azle April 2 as Rachel Venable scored the winning run on an error.

Karmyn Williams collected three hits against Brewer, driving in two runs. Venable had two hits with a walk, RBI and stolen base.

Also, Morgan Johnson and Montana Bowshire each had a hit with Johnson driving in two runs and Bowshire having an RBI.

Pitcher Allison Dafoe, in a yeoman effort, surrendered just three earned runs while striking out nine and walking two.

Against Azle, Venable had two doubles, a walk and RBI; Johnson had two hits and Hannah Dafoe had a hit, walk and stole four bases.

Allison Dafoe pitched all eight innings, giving up six hits, three runs (one earned), striking out nine and walking five.

The Lady Pirates next host Wichita Falls Rider April 9 at 6:30 p.m. before visiting Northwest April 12 at 6:30 p.m.

TOLAR/LIPAN BASEBALL

The Rattlers (6-6-2, 3-0 in District 11-2A) won 22-0 at rival Lipan (4-6-2, 3-2 in District 11-2A) April 2.

Prior to that meeting, the Indians fell 15-4 at Santo. Jackson Posey had two hits, including a double, with two RBIs and two stolen bases.

Talan Brown pitched a 5-inning 2-hitter with 11 strikeouts and a walk against Lipan. He also led the Tolar offense with four hits, including a double, along with a walk, two RBIs and four stolen bases.

Also for the Tolar offense: Hunter Michels four hits, double, three RBIs, two stolen bases; Jesse Owen two hits, two walks, hit by pitch, three RBIs; Drake Owens double, home run, walk, stolen base, five RBIs; Merritt Imel two hits, walk, RBI; Noah Yanish two hits, RBI, two stolen bases.

Riggin Morris and Cash Bolenbarker had the Lipan hits against Tolar.

Tolar was hosting Lipan at press time. The Rattlers will host Rio Vista in a non-district game April 6 at 1 p.m. and will host Ranger April 9 at 6:30 p.m. They travel to Ranger April 12 for a 4:30



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADOBE STOCK

With the District 5-5A Track Meet going on at press time in Aledo, the Granbury Pirates are entering on a high note, having won the championship at the Stephenville Optimist Relays March 28.

first pitch.

Lipan has three upcoming non-district games. They host Perrin April 6 at noon, host Graford April 9 at 6:30 and travel to Graford April 12 for a 6:30 contest.

TOLAR/LIPAN SOFTBALL

The Lady Rattlers (12-6, 4-0 in District 11-2A) defeated visiting DeLeon 11-1 March 28 behind pitcher Reese Tryon's 3-hitter. They then won 15-3 at Lipan (8-4, 2-2 in District 11-2A) April 2.

In defeating DeLeon, Tolar got two hits each from Senne Imel, Kanyyn Deaver and Ava Massey. Massey drove in three runs, Imel drove in two and Deaver had an RBI and stolen base.

Allyson Dobbs and Ava LeCluyse each hit a home run with Dobbs driving in two runs and LeCluyse one. Tryon helped her own cause with a hit and RBI.

In defeating the Lady Indians, Tolar got four hits from Imel that included two home runs, a double and five RBIs. Also, Ava LeCluyse three hits, home run, two RBIs; Allyson Dobbs two hits, home run, two RBIs, stolen base; Jaylyn Miller two hits, walk, RBI; Tryon two hits, home run, three RBIs; and Milly Taylor two hits, two RBIs.

Tryon pitched six innings, gave up four hits, no earned runs, with 10 strikeouts and three walks.

For Lipan, Ryan Atkinson had a hit, walk and two stolen bases. Finley Shockley walked, was hit by a pitch and had an RBI.

Tryon was going for her 50th win as a Lady Rattler at press time against Santo at home. On April 8 the Lady Rattlers host Holliday at 3:30 p.m. and April 12 they host Hermleigh at 5 p.m., both non-district games.

Also at press time, Lipan was playing at DeLeon. The Lady Indians host Cisco in non-district at 5 p.m. April 9 and return to league play April 12 at home against Santo at 5:30 p.m.

GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates Gold team placed fourth in the District 5-5A Tournament at Sugar Tree Golf Course in Lipan April 1-2. They shot a 707 (347-360).

Leading the Pirates Gold was Will Webb with a 174 (87-87), followed by Jacob Reagan with a 175 (85-90) and Quinn Bradley at 176 (87-89). Grady Molder (97-95) and Drew Haynes (88-94) each shot 192.

The four lowest scores in each round comprise the team score.

Granbury Purple tied for fifth, shooting 712 (366-346). Individual scores were Landon Womack, 174 (95-79); Parker Jones, 175 (89-86); Carter Martin, 179 (92-87); Brayden Thackerson, 187 (93-94); and Braxton Pugh, 188 (92-96).

The junior varsity teams finished in second and third place in District 5-5A Tournament district at Oeste Ranch in Weatherford. Individually, Miller Schenewark won first place with a score of 75. Briar

Rouse finished fourth with an 81.

GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF

The Lady Pirates Purple team placed second in the District 5-5A Preview at Sugar Tree March 27. They shot a team score of 392.

Individually, Akiyah Ditto shot an 89 to place second and Claire Jordan's 91 tied for third.

Granbury Gold posted a score of 437 for fifth place. Breleigh Barrington led with a 105.

The District 5-5A Tournament was going on at press time, also at Sugar Tree.

GRANBURY TENNIS

Waxahachie JV Tournament

Girls B doubles: 2. Miranda Munoz and Karla Perez

Mixed B doubles: 2. Levi Logsdon and Kaydence Grumbine

Girls B singles: 3. Daija Wedge

Girls A doubles: Shelby Beech and Joselin Briones, consolation champions

Boys A doubles: Kallen Graves and Aidan Hall, consolation champions

JV 2 tournament in Alvarado March 27:

Girls singles: 2. Jocelyn Merendon

Boys singles: 3. Jayden Shepard

Mixed doubles: 3. Rayleigh Langdon and Troy Farnier

Boys doubles: Noah Lilley-Martinez and Brayden Sanders, consolation champions



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Bailey Gammons (Tolar Rattlers) during the pole vault event April 1, 2024.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Alberto Andreatta (Lipan Indians) during the long jump event Monday, April 1, 2024.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texan Baseball takes Easter Weekend series

Tarleton State University

Tarleton State finished the weekend 2-1 after a hard loss Saturday, March 30.

Tarleton State (15-13, 5-7 WAC) fell short in extra innings to Stephen F. Austin (4-25, 1-11 WAC) to see a 6-5 final close out to the series.

Freshman Braydon Risley got the start for the Texans giving up four runs on seven hits, one walk and five strikeouts in 4.0 innings. Jake Burcham (L, 1-3) closed out the game giving up one run on one hit, two walks and one strikeout in 1.1 innings.

Elian Balmaceda started on the mound for the Lumberjacks with no runs on one hit, six walks and six strikeouts in 4.2 innings. Caleb Rutledge (W, 1-1) took the last 1.0 inning giving up no runs on one hit, one walk and no strikeouts.

Tarleton State compiled five runs on 10 hits with doubles from Cris Enriquez and Cole Mears and a pair of stolen bases from Ike Shirey and Mason Hammonds. The Texans

left 16 runners stranded throughout the duration of the afternoon.

SFA totaled six runs on nine hits with three home runs and a pair of stolen bases.

The first inning saw the home team on the board first with a single, followed by a groundout to advance the runner and a second single to bring a solo run home.

In the bottom of the third, a homer from the leadoff tallied the lone run for SFA for a 2-0 score.

Another pair of runs came in for the 'Jacks in the bottom of the fourth on a two-run home run.

The bottom of the fifth saw another home run for SFA to put the Texans down by five runs.

Tarleton State came alive in the top of the seventh with a couple of singles from Hammonds and Mears. Brandon Howell walked to load the bases and Trace Morrison was hit by a pitch to send the first run in. A two RBI single from Kooper Shook chipped



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Baseball finished weekend 2-1 after a hard loss Saturday, March 30.

away at the deficit for a 5-3 score.

Hammonds got the ball rolling in the eighth inning with a single to put a runner on for the visitors. With two outs recorded, Mears

doubled to center field and advanced to third on the throw as Hammonds came in to make it a one-run ball game. Enriquez kept packing on the punches with an RBI double to tie it up at 5-5.

The next three innings were scoreless but in the bottom of the 11th inning, SFA's leadoff hitter was hit by a pitch and the two-hole of the inning walked. A sacrifice bunt saw both runners

advance. An intentional walk loaded the bases and a fielder's choice brought the final run home for the Lumberjacks to snap their 24-game losing streak at 6-5 in extra innings.

Texans take 3rd, place 3 in top-20, led by Huidobro as runner-up at The Big Texan

Tarleton State University

KERRVILLE - The Texans had been playing some of their best golf of the season entering The Big Texan, but they elevated their game even further with a third place result March 24 and 25.

It marked Tarleton's third straight top-10 outing as it had three finish in the top-20, two in the top-10, and Alvaro Huidobro take silver at the tournament hosted by UTRGV at Riverhill Country Club in Kerrville.

Huidobro turned in a career-best tournament outing of -7 (70, 67, 72) to take tied-second. This made back-to-back top-five finishes for the junior. Over his last two tournaments, Huidobro has shot a combined -11, with an average round score of 68.8. Tarleton has had a student-athlete take a top-two spot on the leaderboard in three straight tournaments and four of its last five.

Carson Gallaher placed in

the top-10, carding -2 (69, 75, 70) for tied-ninth. His tied-ninth finish ties his best since joining the Purple and White. Max Bengtsson placed tied-20th at +3 (74, 75, 70), the fourth time over his last five tournaments he's finished in the top-20. Cristobal Sepulveda at +11 (74, 77, 76, tied-56th) and Chandler Barch at +12 (73, 81, 74, tied-61st) rounded out the Texan group.

"It was an overall good performance as a team and it was awesome to see Alvaro turn the corner with back-to-back top-five's," head coach Chance Cain said. "He's been putting a lot of work in his game and it's been great for him to see that starting to pay off. It was good to see the guys fight through the wind yesterday and we are close to turning the corner of closing out. We have a short turnaround before we head to Chambers Bay, so we will get things cleaned up before we tee it up in Seattle."

Huidobro led the 89-man field after 36 holes played Monday. He entered Tuesday ahead by four strokes at -7 following his second round -5 (67), which was a career-best round for him. In his previous tournament, he had matched a career-best round at -4 (68). The medalist at The Big Texan was UTRGV's Javier Neira, who pulled out a 64 in the final round to win by four strokes at -11.

Huidobro had just four bogeys across 54 holes, with one in each of the first two rounds. He was spotless through his first nine holes Monday with two birdies, and in his career-best round, he responded from a bogey on his second hole with perfect play over the next 16, six birdies and 10 pars. He wrapped up his tournament with 14 pars, two birdies and two bogeys.

He had the second most pars in the entire tournament with 39 and was second in Par 4 scoring at

-4 (3.87 average score per instance).

Gallaher also started his tournament with near perfect play, turning in a spotless first 13 holes with 10 pars and three birdies. He had the tied-fifth most birdies overall with 13 and the tied-fifth best score on Par 3s at +1.

Bengtsson went unscathed through his first 12 holes of the tournament, with nine pars and three birdies. In his second round, he eagled the fourth hole, a Par 5 548-yarder. For the tournament, Bengtsson was tied-second in Par 5 scoring at -7 (4.42 score per instance).

Barch was tied-fifth in Par 3 scoring (+1) and had the tied-seventh most birdies (12).

As a team, Tarleton holed the second most birdies (55), and was second on Par 5s (-20). The Texans took third in the team standings for the second time this season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COURTESY TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans had been playing some of their best golf of the season entering The Big Texan

First and second year Tarleton courses now offered at Fort Worth Campus

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — First- and second-year courses will now be offered at Tarleton State University's Fort Worth campus along Chisholm Trail Parkway starting this fall, the university announced recently.

The new course offerings will be available for 24 undergraduate programs, with more expected in 2025. These programs will join the established upper-level and graduate degree opportunities. As a result of today's announcement, future first-year students can now attend Tarleton State in Stephenville or Fort Worth.

"Creating this level of access and opportunity to students at our Fort Worth

campus is critical," said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley. "The addition of these lower-level courses continues to display our commitment to meeting workforce needs in the nation's fastest growing metropolitan city. I am proud of everyone on our team for working together to make this a reality."

As part of the growth, lower-division courses from the College of Education, College of Health Sciences, School of Kinesiology, College of Liberal and Fine Arts, and the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business will now be offered face-to-face in Fort Worth.

Program examples include accounting, general business, human resource

management, marketing, information technology, communication sciences and disorders, sport management, nutrition science, pre-nursing, social work, communication studies, criminal justice, education and psychology.

Prospective students can begin their journey toward attending Tarleton Fort Worth by visiting the university website to view a full list of available programs and to apply. Class registration is also now available.

"One of our greatest hopes for expanding academic offerings at Tarleton Fort Worth is to provide an additional option for access, opportunity and affordability," said Dr. Rachael Capua, Dean of Tarleton Fort Worth

and Vice President for External Operations. "We stand ready to serve students, our community and existing Tarleton Texans as we embark on an exciting new journey for this growing 80-acre master plan."

The first building on Tarleton State's Fort Worth campus opened in August 2019, with construction for a second building underway. Providing more than 100,000 square feet of classroom and specialized lab space, the new four-story Interprofessional Education (IPE) Building is scheduled to open this summer, with classes starting in August. The state-of-the-art space will aim to increase access to quality healthcare and education, two press-

ing needs in the region and beyond.

Classroom, laboratory and collaboration areas will be housed in the IPE Building, along with high-fidelity simulation and clinical skills suites. These learning spaces will generate hands-on training opportunities and instruction for students. The building will also house a room providing seating for 250 guests to host community-wide events, workshops, lectures and programming.

With Tarleton State celebrating its 125th anniversary this fall, Tarleton Fort Worth will welcome its inaugural first- and second-year classes. Enrollment projections at Tarleton Fort Worth are expected to reach up to

10,000 students within the next six years, in line with Tarleton Forward 2030: Our Future-Focused Strategic Plan.

A founding member of The Texas A&M System, Tarleton State is breaking records — in enrollment, research, scholarship, athletics, philanthropy and engagement — while transforming the lives of nearly 17,000 students in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Bryan and online. True to Tarleton's values of excellence, integrity and respect, academic programs emphasize real world learning and address regional, state and national needs.

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Civil War Round Table to meet April 8

BY WILLIAM DYESS



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

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 8, at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377 in Granbury. The program will be presented by Dr. Anne J. Bailey, professor emeritus, Georgia State University, who has written numerous books and articles on Civil War subjects. Bailey will speak about the actions of the Texas cavalry in opposing the Union Army's "March to the Sea," under command of Gen. William T. Sherman. This will be the first of a two-part presentation, which Bailey will complete at our September meeting. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first time attendees.

Charles Pendleton, the owner and curator of the Vicksburg Civil War Museum in Vicksburg, Mississippi, presented a most informative program at our March meeting. Mr. Pendleton spoke about the black experience of slavery leading up to and during the civil war, and the enduring effect of that experience up to the present. Mr. Pendleton invited audience participation, with much response, and it was certainly one of our best programs of the year.

APRIL IN THE CIVIL WAR

On April 6, 1862, a Confederate army, commanded by Gen. Albert

Sidney Johnston, attacked a Union Army under Gen. Ulysses S. Grant near Shilo Church, on the Tennessee River just north of the Tennessee-Mississippi border. After much furious fighting, in which Johnston was mortally wounded, the Confederates drove the Union army back to the river, and seemed in position for victory the next day. During the night, however, the Union Army of Tennessee, commanded by Gen. Don Carlos Buell, joined Grant, and after another day of heavy battle the Confederates were forced to withdraw back into Mississippi. The Battle of Shiloh was by far the bloodiest battle to this point in the war, with Union losses totaling 1,754 killed, 8,408 wounded and 2,885 missing, while Confederate losses were 1,723 killed, 8,012 wounded and 959 missing.

April 1962 also saw the first combat in the Peninsular campaign, initiated in March when Union Gen. George B. McClellan began to move the Army of the Potomac to the Virginia peninsula, southeast of Richmond. Although the Union forces greatly outnumbered the Confederates facing them, McClellan moved very slowly and gained little ground through April.

A third major event of the month saw the capture of New Orleans, the largest city in the Confederacy, by a

Union Fleet under flag officer David Glasgow Farragut. With this capture, the Union now controlled both the southern end and the northern end of the Mississippi River.

DID YOU KNOW

The end of the Civil War in the spring of 1865 did not end slavery in the United States. President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, in 1863, freed the slaves only in those states in rebellion against the Union. Maryland and Delaware were both slave states, but did not secede, and thus the Emancipation Proclamation did not apply to them. Maryland adopted a new state constitution which forbade slavery in 1864, but legal slavery did not end in Delaware until Dec. 6, 1865, when the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table meets on the second Monday of each month, except June, July and August, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377 in Granbury. Guests are always welcome. There is no charge for first time attendees. For more information, please refer to the website: www.ncntextcvt.com, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

Civil War Round Tables exist in cities and communities worldwide. All are independent and share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the American Civil War.



Albert Sidney Johnston

COURTESY PHOTO

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY



COURTESY PHOTO

Dan Coates

Dan Coates — a true western man

BY JEAN E. CATE

Jean Cate has been an active civic leader in Granbury for over 50 years. She is a key contributor to the BSHC Oral History Committee

If you could describe the perfect western man — tall, angular, strong with deep convictions of justice, fair play and compassion for others — you would be describing Dan Coates.

Born in Fort Worth 1937 to a longtime Texas family, Dan developed deep roots in the culture and authentic character of his beloved state. Dan's father was an early entertainment entrepreneur. He was responsible for numerous Casa Manana shows and announced rodeos and wrestling events in Fort Worth for many years. Many older North Texans can still remember the elder Dan's call, "Live from the Sportatorium — Studio Wrestling!" Later, even while working two other jobs, young Dan always found time to be a rodeo announcer. Dan followed in his father's footsteps in his love of Texas, the booming announcer's voice, and the characteristics of the actual Western gentleman. A romantic man, Dan embodied the traits of the cowboy, right down to the jeans stuck into the tops of his extra-tall, heavily stitched cowboy boots and that magnificent Texas drawl.

While owning a coffee house called The Coffin just off the TCU campus, he met Judy, the young lady who would become his perfect partner. He and Judy moved from Fort Worth to Wichita Falls, and Dan began the financial career he pursued for the rest of his life. The business required several moves to Illinois and Maryland, but after six years, the home-sick Texans returned to the Lone Star State. Though still in the financial industry, Dan found time to return to rodeo announcing. A return trip from a rodeo took the couple through Granbury. Dan liked what he saw, and the rest is history. The family moved to Granbury in 1976.

Dan and Judy soon built the Lightning C Ranch, complete with a saloon, western town storefronts, and, of course, Longhorn cattle. Dan jumped into his newly adopted community with both feet and immediately made his civic presence known. He immersed himself in every club and project available and was a difference-maker in all of them. Dan served as board chairman for not only the Chamber of Commerce but also Mission Granbury and the Bicentennial Commission.

For the Bicentennial Celebration, Dan rented a bus and had his daughter and friends dress in full period costumes and travel to surrounding towns to promote the grand upcoming celebration in Granbury. He and Judy made their Lightning C ranch a favorite venue for local events, hosting fundraisers from the chamber of commerce to the Woman's Wednesday Club and many others. Each group that used the ranch considered it a delightful privilege, with a bonus treat of Dan serving as host. Every aspect had a western flair, with even a stagecoach and buckboard provided to shuttle guests from their cars to the "town."

After the success of that first Independence Day Bicentennial celebration, subsequent 4th of July events still carried Dan's stamp, as he and his partner Jean Cate announced the parade for the next 17 years. Dan was a founding member of the Bi-Centennial committee, which decided to purchase and save the venerable old Shanley House near the library in downtown Granbury. To raise funds for the purchase, Dan proposed the idea of selling "buffalo burgers" at the 4th of July celebrations. The idea was an immediate hit with the crowds of visitors

to Granbury's parade and festivities on the square. Several years and thousands of buffalo burgers later, enough funds were raised to purchase the Shanley House. Dan's burger idea was soon put to rest by the hardworking Bicentennial group that had come to dread the thought of another Independence Day celebration spent immersed in burger smoke!

Shortly after that, Weedon Echols, the county extension agent, approached Dan and the committee to ask if the Shanley House might be used as a senior center where meals could be served to seniors in need. The run-down building was in serious need of cleaning, painting, fixing and months of dirty work before the concept became a reality. Dan served as head boss, handyman, etc., and went to work with a dedicated group of volunteers. We are still unsure how they accomplished their task, but the Shanley House Senior Center soon opened and became an immediate success.

Never one to stay still, Dan discovered an interest and talent for Western art — both bronze sculpture and paintings. As with every project, Dan approached art with an individual flair, and success soon followed. Several local groups were recipients of Dan's art and generosity. His bronze sculptures were excellent, and his work was respected and accepted in the Western artists' community. Still ever the cowboy, Dan never missed an opportunity to return to his western roots. He was invited to participate in an adventurous cattle drive through Palo Duro Canyon. On April 18, 2005, while living his beloved cowboy life, he passed away on horseback doing what he loved. Dan Coates, a modern-day Renaissance man, had the gift of making everyone he met feel they were his essential friends. He left an indelible mark on his adopted hometown that will not be forgotten.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on March 30 (Puzzle 76).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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Texas A&M Aggie Muster 2024



Submitted item

On Sunday, April 21, at 6 P.M., all former and current students of Texas A&M University, family and friends are invited to uphold a century-old tradition by gathering for an Aggie Muster at the Line Camp Ranch in Tolar, hosted by Hood/Somervell County Texas A&M Club.

Muster activities will include a catered fajita dinner, and a program featuring retired Maj. Gen. Floyd Carpenter, TAMU Class of 1977 and recognition of Hood and Somervell County high school students who are recipients of the Hood/Somervell County A&M Club 2024 college scholarships to Tarleton State and Texas A&M. During the traditional

Roll Call, we will read the names of Aggies we have lost in the past year, answering "Here" for each and lighting a candle.

Muster will begin at 6 p.m. at Line Camp Ranch, 4610 Shaw Road, Tolar, TX 76476. Contact organizers to add a name to the roll. Cost for the meal is \$35 for adults, \$15 for age 14 and under. There is no charge to attend the

program and Roll Call.

To get tickets or reach the organizers, visit www.hscaggies.org or contact VickiJo Brozovic at vjbrozovic22@gmail.com or 817-994-7593.

Some 135 Aggies and families attended last year's Hood/Somervell County A&M Club Muster.

It is one of more than 300 such gatherings worldwide that are held annually on and

around April 21. The Muster tradition at Texas A&M forever unites Aggies past with Aggies present, and provides the men and women of Texas A&M the chance to meet and renew their ties to each other. Read more at <http://tx.ag/MusterHistory>.

HOOD OUTDOORS

Live bait rigging



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 get questioned a lot about how I rig up my fishing outfits when using live bait. The live bait rigs I use can be used for a variety of fishing, you just have to apply it to the size of the fish (fishing line size and hook size).

Many folks prefer spinning reels and some prefer bait-cast reels. Whichever is your preference, just make sure it is sufficient to handle the fish you are catching. Some diehards fish with heavy tackle and heavy rods. When that fish bites they are not going to miss them. Others enjoy the fight and fish with light weight outfits with light line that make the catch a little more interesting. If you do use a light outfit, make sure it has a good smooth drag which is a benefit when you are fighting a large fish.

In many cases it is cheaper in the long run to buy good equipment. Better equipment generally lasts longer

and will hold up better over time. There are numerous brands that make decent fishing equipment that is affordable. Of course, you can spend a fortune on some of the reels and poles that are out there.

I typically use 7-foot medium heavy rods fitted with Ambassadeur reels for most of my fishing. I use 20-pound Trilene Big Game for a main line and I use a 15-pound fluorocarbon for a leader which handles most of the striped bass locally. If I was fishing a body of water with larger fish, I would upsize as necessary, of course. I also keep a few lightweight spinning outfits with 10- to 12-pound test for working smaller baits. If you are fishing for sand bass, these lighter outfits may be more appropriate.

For live bait fishing (shad, minnows or bream) I personally like the Eagle Claw L042

hooks in a 2/0 to 5/0 size depending on the bait (others use Kahle or circle hooks). I will also use at times #2 to 1/0 treble hooks, for those days where the bite is finicky. I use Palomar knots all the way around which are quick to tie, but there are many knots that will work. I used a 1-1/2- to 2-ounce barrel weight above a swivel with a 2-3 foot leader (essentially a Carolina rig). I call these my down rods as either I'm fishing directly under the boat or I can float these away from the boat under a balloon/float.

Depending on the season and the number of people in my boat, I will carry several poles rigged for the day. When the fish are really biting, you don't have time to retie after a fish swallows a hook. You just grab another pole, bait it and put it out there. When the fish give you a break, then you retie. Just keep those fish biting under the boat if possible. If you don't have any baits out after a flurry of bites, those traveling striped bass may move on.

By having several outfits in the boat, you can also maxi-



COURTESY PHOTO ENVATO.COM

The live bait rigs I use can be used for a variety of fishing, you just have to apply it to the size of the fish.

mize the number of hooks/baits in the water. Having several rod holders help as well to position the bait rods around the boat. The Carolina rig weight size will hold your bait down at the desired depth and you can move around slowly working an area. When a striped bass takes the bait there is no doubt as the rod is typically bent over in half. People ask me all the time "what happens if all those poles go down at once? Won't that be a mess?" I always respond, "if there is a fish on, that is all that matters. We are hoping that they all go down, we can deal with that problem. Well, I hope this helps

some of you asking what I use. It does work. I have had many requests on the bait tank and aeration system I get most every year. I will plan to run some articles in the future on keeping shad alive. Hope to see you all on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT.

Granbury lake is full and the water temperature is in the middle to upper 60s. Striped bass are hit-and-miss but are best on live bait on the lower ends. Striped bass to 10 pounds are possible. Big blue and yellow cats to 30 pounds plus are

possible on cut shad fished on the upper ends. Crappie action is improving in the backs of creeks, but many are still in transition to the spawning grounds. The best crappie action is reported in the river above Granbury or in town near subdivision creek entrances. Largemouth bass are moving to their spawning beds in the back of the creeks and sloughs and are good on soft plastics and spinnerbaits. White bass (sand bass) are schooled up on humps and ridges and are good on slabs and mepps spinners worked vertically. Best sand bass action is from Indian Harbor to the Shores in 10 to 20 feet of water.

HCN Junior

Get ready to snuggle up in your coziest PJs because National Pajama Day is here on Saturday, April 6th! It's the perfect excuse to turn your usual routine into a comfy adventure.

On this special day, kids everywhere can swap their regular clothes for their favorite pajamas. Whether covered in funny prints, superheroes, or cuddly animals, pajamas become the star of the fashion show. National Pajama Day is not just about feeling cozy; it's a chance to express your unique style and have fun with your sleepwear.

Even better, National Pajama Day falls on a Saturday, so you can enjoy the comfort of your PJs all day long! Whether you're playing games, reading a book, or having a movie marathon, it's a day to relax and be yourself in the comfiest fashion possible.

So, mark your calendar for April 6th, grab your snuggliest PJs, and get ready for a day filled with comfort, laughter, and the joy of National Pajama Day!

FOOTED PYJAMAS AREN'T ALWAYS FOR KIDS:

They actually started out as something designed for adults. The first versions were made when people began sewing socks to the bottom of their pyjamas. It wasn't to just keep their feet warm; it was to prevent bugs like termites from nibbling on their toes.

1. Movie Marathon
12. Scavenger Hunt
2. Board Games
13. DIY Spa Day
3. Puzzle Time
14. Video Game Tournament
4. Indoor Fort Building
15. Plant a Mini Indoor Garden
5. Baking Party
16. Family Yoga
6. Crafting Corner
17. Picnic Indoors
7. Storytime
18. Kitchen Science Experiments
8. Virtual Hangout
19. Photobook Creation
9. Karaoke Session
20. Write and Perform a Play
10. Family Photoshoot
11. Pajama Fashion Show

SPARKS Music School

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STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Student: Johnny
Instrument: Banjo
How Long: 1.5 years

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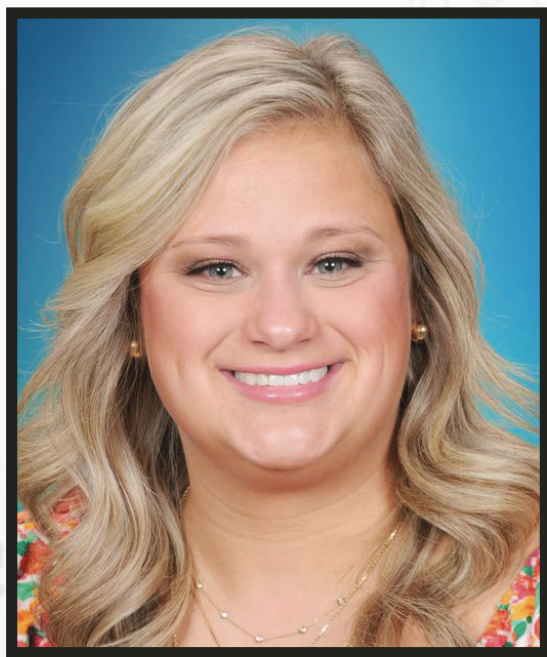


VAN GRIFFITH KIA

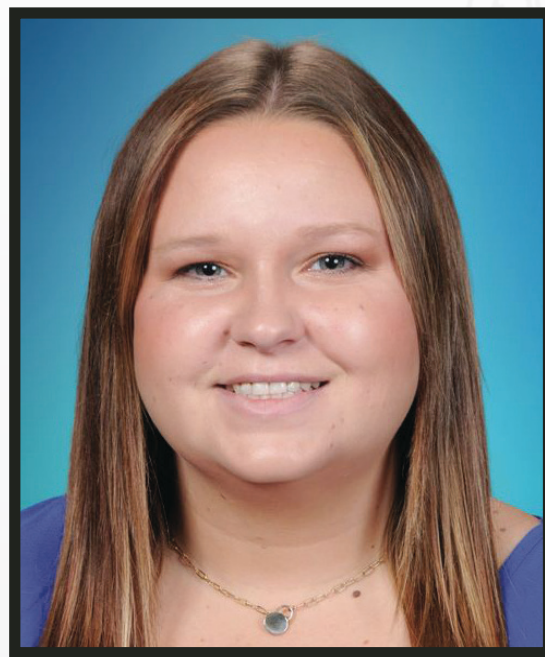


Teacher of the Month

March



Callie Pack
Family and Consumer Science,
Lipan HS



Taylor Johnson
Kindergarten Teacher

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Granbury's time capsules: Exploring the Old Jail and Depot Museums

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

When the county seat of your county adopts the phrase "Where Texas History Lives" as its motto, it should come as no surprise that Hood County is a patchwork quilt of history, where every thread tells a tale of yesteryear. In a place where the past is not only remembered but vibrantly alive, the Hood County Museum stands as a sentinel of heritage, inviting locals and visitors alike to step through its doors and into a bygone era.

For example, did you know that at one time, there were not just one but two colleges located in Hood County? Or did you know that the Granbury Opera House was originally located on the north side of the Granbury Square (in a building currently occupied by the First National Bank) instead of its current location on the south side of the Square? These are just two pieces of history one will learn on a visit to the Hood County Museum.

It all started in the 1960s with a dedicated group of citizens from the Hood County Historical Society, determined to identify and preserve the elements that sculpted the region's historical landscape. The subsequent creation of Lake Granbury from the damming of the Brazos River in the late 1960s nudged the county toward tourism, with hopes of breathing new economic life into the greater Granbury/Hood County area.

By the mid-1970s, as Hood County was in the infancy of the explosive growth that was on the horizon, its courthouse, brimming with records dating back to the 1870s, cried out for space. In an act that could have seen over a century of history lost, the citizens of Hood County rallied, saving precious ledgers, court records and documents from the trash heap.

These records found temporary homes in people's living rooms and barns until a permanent residence could be secured. The Granbury Depot, which itself had been rescued from demolition and reborn as the county's second museum after both freight and passenger rail service ended by the early '80s, eventually became the home of these old court-



The Hood County Museum is more than a building; it's a journey through time, a place where history is not only told but experienced. It stands as a testament to the love and hard work of those who came before, a proud beacon of heritage

COURTESY PHOTO

house records.

The Hood County Museum's narrative is as rich and textured as the artifacts it houses. The 1885 jail, once a repository for the county's felons, was spared from obscurity when the chamber of commerce, and later the historical society, took up residence, transforming

cells into showcases of the community's saga. "In 1995, the Hood County Historical Society was granted a 99-year lease, and we have never looked back," said Hood County Museum Director, Karen Nace. "When the Old Jail Museum first opened, the only items in the building were a few items that had

not yet been moved to the new jail (now County Annex III), two desks and a bench from a local church."

Over time, the museum began to grow. As local residents donated new items, displays were built so those items could be shared with visitors to the museum. "Rather than store things out

of sight, almost every item is displayed for the enjoyment of the visitors," noted Nace. "We are open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Our mantra is 'If the flag's out, we're in.' We also offer special tours for the curious minds of tourists, school groups and the broader community."

As with any non-profit organization, volunteers are the lifeblood of the Hood County Museum. "We always need more volunteers who can give a minimum of one day a month to the Hood County Museum so that we can keep the history of Hood County accessible to everyone," said Nace. "It's a great volunteer opportunity for middle school and high school age kids."

The museum is clearly a labor of love, requiring not just passion but the financial means to maintain and add to its exhibits. When you add to that the monthly cost of utilities, insurance and building repairs, the cost of maintaining and operating the museum can become a headache of historic proportions.

While the museum tries to pursue grants to help fund its operations and activities, individual and corporate donations are the life preservers in the sea of financial necessity. "Grants require a great deal of specialized knowledge and time to write them, and often that takes a back seat to just keeping the doors open," remarked Nace. "Donations are always welcome and greatly appreciated and are always tax-deductible."

Amid the museum's vast collection lies a treasure trove of one-of-a-kind items, each whispering its own narrative of the past. But it's not just about what's on display; it's about the continuation of a mission started decades ago — to honor the past while embracing the future.

In Hood County, the past is not a distant memory but an ever-present teacher, offering lessons and insights that continue to shape the county's identity.

The Hood County Museum is more than a building; it's a journey through time, a place where history is not only told but experienced. It stands as a testament to the love and hard work of those who came before, a proud beacon of heritage that invites you to discover the echoes of Hood County that resonate through the halls of its museums.

For more information about the Hood County Historical Society and the Hood County Museum, you can visit its website at <https://hctxhs.org/Museums/jail.htm>.

Granbury Arts Alliance to host Dinner in White to benefit art installations

BY MELISSA WINN
Special to the
Hood County News

While June may be a popular month for weddings, it may not exactly be a bride



you see donning white June 1 at the Langdon Center Lawn in Granbury.

That's because for the second consecutive year, the Granbury Arts Alliance is once again hosting Le Diner in Blanc or Dinner in White to benefit several different art organization projects.

Teresa Houston, president of the GAA, said nearly 200 attendees made the Granbury event last year and is hoping for a repeat this year.

"This event has grown and is similar to an event in Dallas that is hosted every couple of years," she said. "It's really exciting and fun."

Attendees dress in white and bring their own food, alcohol and table décor. Wine will be available for sale at the event. Prizes will be given for best dressed and best table décor.

New this year, Houston

said, based on feedback from 2023, will be music. From 7-8 p.m., the Stonerock-Pitts Quartet will play during dinner and the Jason Cartmel Band then takes over from 8:30-10:30 p.m. for dancing and to close out the night.

The idea for the dinner was born in France in 1988 when Francois Pasquier invited a group of friends to an outdoor dinner and asked them to dress only in white so they could find each other. Pasquier had returned to France from Tahiti and wanted to reconnect with friends but his backyard was too small so they met at a park and he asked everyone to bring someone and something to eat with them.

Since then, the dinner has grown into a worldwide phenomenon celebrated in more than 70 countries worldwide. Some dinners are even hosted at secret lo-

cations only revealed when attendees arrive after being shuttled.

Houston said GAA had a dinner about 10 years ago but didn't bring it back until last year. While she didn't attend it that year, she said she was excited to bring it back last year.

"(It) helped make a lot of money for the association and I am proud of that."

As for the most interesting person at last year's event, Houston said someone showed up in turquoise and "stuck out like a sore thumb."

"I'm not sure if he didn't know or was invited at the last minute but you certainly didn't miss him," she mused.

Tickets are \$50 per person and table rentals are \$50. Visit www.granburyartsalliance.org to purchase tickets.



March 16, when Roy and Martha came to take Roslyn home.

COURTESY PHOTO

Roslyn's Great Adventure

BY DEBBY SIMON
Special to the
Hood County News

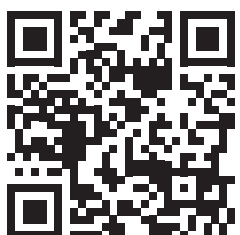
There have been two well-known movies about dogs depicting the struggle of their journey over long distances to find their way home; Homeward Bound (1993) and The Incredible Journey (1963). You hear stories about dogs that somehow get "left behind" and manage to find their way back to their owners, across distances that may be great.

We have a story that is a bit

different. It isn't a movie but could well be one. It is the true story of a dog named Roslyn.

Roslyn came to The Friends for Animals dog shelter in Acton in February 2023. She was five weeks old and one of a litter of nine that was taken in by the shelter. Most of her siblings found homes in the next few weeks and months. But Roslyn was somewhat scared and didn't warm up around people; she

PLEASE SEE ROSLYN | C3



The Granbury Optimist Club Charity Banquet and Auction

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Special to the Hood County News

The Granbury Optimist Club will hold its annual Charity Banquet and Auction at 5:30 p.m. Aug. 11 at La Bella Luna in Granbury.

The funds raised at the gala will benefit the youth of Hood County and Optimist Club President Cyndi Acosta said those benefits come in several ways.

"It's in the form of scholarships and in the form of parks," Acosta said. "We have sponsored two of the parks here in Hood County. One is Hewlett Park and the other is City Park, and the Hood County Development District just committed to build another park that will serve 1,100 children. Our portion should be finished this summer. It's a 3-acre strip in Acton for a new neighborhood that is going in there."

The charity banquet will include a delicious meal, beverages, live and silent auctions and games, and it serves as "a great opportunity to interact with the most connected members of the community," according to the club's Facebook page.

"This event is absolutely our major fundraiser every year," Acosta said. "I feel like

it's critical to us as an organization to raise those funds to be able to continue to help the Hood County youth."

The annual gala is never short of businesses that want to do their part.

"A lot of these businesses like to contribute to Hood County children," Acosta said. "So we donate to things like Christmas for Children each year. We donate to Armor of Hope, which is a children's camp for kids who do not have a father figure in the home. It's a Christian organization that fosters responsibility and what it is to be a man. Things that you would likely learn from your father."

The Granbury Optimist Club also provides support to the United Way, and the Cresson Pods and has a Junior Optimist Club that is active in the high school and has recently moved into the middle schools.

"Those children are doing service projects," Acosta said. "They are learning young what it is to give back and help your fellow students."

Acosta said one of the best aspects of the Granbury Optimist Club is how the organization's scholarship program is designed.

"What I love about our scholarship program is that

you don't have to be a 5.0 student to receive one," Acosta said. "Not every kid is a 5.0 student, and not every kid is going to go to a formal college. Some of these kids go to trade schools, which we definitely need. We need people who can work on jet airplanes and plumbers and welders and HVAC. Our CTE program at the high school actually has 18 certification programs that they offer, so we do sponsor that as well to give an equal opportunity to the underrepresented children in the scholarship realm."

Acosta said the Optimist Club even recently had a member who passed away within the last year donate enough money to sponsor six or seven scholarships for students in need.

The Optimist Club president said it is not only the children who gain from the banquet but she believes the businesses also benefit.

"I know in my personal life, I try to support the businesses who support our location—the ones who support our city, our county, our school district and our children," Acosta said. "If you're not supporting the community you live in, then you're not really part of it."

A convenient element of the annual fundraiser is at-

endance is not required in order to contribute.

"I love that our organization will give companies an opportunity to donate scholarships, especially during this gala," Acosta said. "If you don't want to go to the gala, however, and it's not your thing, that's fine, you don't have to go. But you can donate and have a scholarship named for you."

And the best part is that 100% of the funds raised by the Granbury Optimist Club go to provide for the youth of Hood County.

Acosta said her ultimate goals for the fundraiser are for citizens to understand how hard the Optimist Club works to make a positive impact within the county and to raise as much funding as possible for Hood County children.

"I hope people take away a good sense of what we are doing actively in the community and what we are doing to support the kids of this community," Acosta said. "Not in just one area, but all of the children, and how critical it is to be involved."

To purchase tickets or donate to the gala event, reach out to Chris Warford through the Granbury Optimist Club's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/granburyoptimists>.

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APR 5 THRU APR 28

A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE TO LOVE AND MURDER

Murder, mayhem and melodies: 'A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder' comes to the Granbury Opera House

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

In the heart of the Granbury Historic District, the Granbury Opera House—a venue as charismatic as the shows it hosts—presents a musical that promises laughter and intrigue in equal measure.

"A Gentleman's Guide to

Love and Murder," book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman and music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak, is not just a show — it's a jaunt into a world where ambition, class, romance and a little bit of "who done it" collide in the most joyously entertaining ways. The musical, which draws its inspiration from Roy Horniman's novel, tells the tale of Monty Navarro.

Monty, an ordinary man, learns he's not so ordinary after all — he's an heir to a family fortune and an earldom, but to claim it, he must leapfrog over several unsuspecting relatives who are ahead of him in succession.

This darkly comic narrative, set in the Edwardian era, plays out like a game of Clue set to music, with Monty Navarro as both the charming lead and the cunning mastermind behind a series of unfortunate demises. Monty's escapades, driven by love and the allure of nobility, make for a thrilling and humorous ride as he juggles the affections of two women and the increasingly complex task of moving up the family tree by dubious means. The show dances a waltz with morality, asking just how far one might go for love and status, all while delivering a barrage of laughs.

The production made quite the impression on Broadway, opening in 2014 and charming audiences with its wit, innovative storytelling, and a singular role that has an actor portray all eight doomed D'Ysquith heirs. Its Broadway run was

a resounding success, and it was celebrated with four Tony Awards, including Best Musical. Its blend of classical operetta charm with a modern sensibility brought a breath of fresh air to the Broadway scene, showcasing that traditional musical theater storytelling, coupled with a twist of modern dark humor, can result in something both unique and familiar.

As Monty cleverly maneuvers through the obstacles in his path, audiences are treated to a variety of musical numbers that are as diverse as they are catchy. Songs like "I've Decided to Marry You" provide farcical fun, while "Foolish to Think" offers a glimpse into Monty's more reflective side. The audience is invited to ponder with him in "Stop! Wait! What?!" and laugh along to the darkly humorous "Why Are All the D'Ysquiths Dying?" Each number pushes the story forward, building the stakes and deepening our connection with Monty's devilish yet somehow endearing quest.

This is the brilliance of "A

PLEASE SEE OPERA | C3

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APR 5 THRU APR 28

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Veterans receive Department of Defense pins at Memorial Lane on Vietnam Veterans Day

Staff report

Vietnam veterans were honored at Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park Friday, March 29, during the Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony. Over 80 people were in attendance. The event marked the seventh year since the Vietnam Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law.

The commemorative program gives federal, state and local government as well as other organizations the opportunity to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families. This includes gratitude for the personnel who were held as prisoners of war or are list-

ed as missing in action.

This is the third year the Friends of Memorial Lane have honored the Vietnam veterans with attendance growing each year.

Welcome Home proclamations from the City of Granbury and Hood County were received by approximately 35 Vietnam veterans in attendance. Of that number, 23 had never received the Department of Defense Commemorative Pin. The pins were presented by Friends of Memorial Lane.

Quilts of Valor presented Judge Andy Rash with a Welcome Home Quilt, which they wrapped him in. A Quilt of Valor is a quality, handmade quilt that

is awarded to a service member or veteran who has been touched by war. Rash enlisted in the U.S. Army March 29, 1969, exactly 55 years ago on the day he accepted the quilt. He served for a total of two years. Rash is the husband of the late Lee Rash who was one of the founders of the Granbury Quilters Guild.

Retired Army Sgt. Bobby Don Shelton played the guitar and sang. Judge Ron Massingill said the opening prayer. Margaret Cook, event chair, gave a brief speech on the purpose of the gathering. Mike Donnally led the Pledge of Allegiance. The proclamation was given by Mary

Mullin and the Quilt of Valor presentation was by Kathy Cosand. Board members presented gifts, and Mickey Allen, honorary board member, said the Soldier's Prayer.

Veterans expressed their gratitude for the appreciation shown. "It was a very moving event. Some of the veterans shared how their coming home was not met with celebration. Some of them cried when recognized," shared Margaret Cook, event coordinator and member of the Friends of Memorial Lane board.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Anderson Rash was presented with a "Welcome Home Quilt" by Quilt of Valor Nonthonor. Rash enlisted in the U.S. Army on March 29, 1969, exactly 55 years ago on the day he accepted the quilt. He served for a total of two years.



Vietnam Veterans were honored at the Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony at Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park on Friday, March 29. Of the approximately 35 Vietnam Veterans in attendance 23 had never received their Department of Defense pin which was presented at the event.



Veterans expressed their gratitude for the appreciation shown. "It was a very moving event. Shared Event Coordinator Margaret Cook.

ROSLYN

FROM PAGE C1

remained at the shelter for over a year. It took days to weeks for her to adjust and feel comfortable with new staff. She was one shy girl. Always sweet, never grumpy, she just didn't want to be around someone she didn't know well.

That all changed Saturday, March 16th, when Roy and Martha came to take Roslyn home. They are residents of Pecan Plantation and had previously adopted from the shelter years ago. They were looking for a dog companion to their current dog, having lost their other dog to doggy heaven recently. They knew there would be challenges with adopting a dog that had been in a shelter for a lengthy time and were willing to work with Roslyn to make her forever home with them.

Roslyn was "packed up," given much love from the staff who were all sad to see Roslyn leave, but so happy

she would get her forever home. Roy and Martha took Roslyn home and began the "tour" and getting her acquainted with her new home. They were inside with Roslyn when she did something unexpected. In a quick second, Roslyn ran forward, burst through their front glass door and ran off.

One thing about Roslyn, she was extremely quick. All the staff at the shelter had noted when she played with the other dogs, none of them could keep up with her or catch her. It would be impossible to catch her unless she trusted she could come to you.

Roslyn still had her harness and leash on her, as well as her collar, when she left. The hope was maybe someone could grab the leash, or maybe she would be stuck in someone's yard where she could be seen and caught. The word went out quickly to the Pecan Plantation security, friends, neighbors and the Friends for Animals shelter that Roslyn was on the loose.

People began to search, helping Roy and Martha try to find Roslyn. "Traps" for catching a dog were set. Staff from the Friends for Animals shelter came to try to find her. From late Saturday afternoon Roslyn was running around Pecan Plantation, sighted multiple times over the next few days, but never caught.

As days passed, everyone knew she could find water easily from the river, but the worry became about food. Roslyn has a very slender build, no "extra" on her body. Each day brought concerns for how she was surviving, if she could be found before something happened to her.

Prayers went up. More people joined the search. Word was spread to try to find this lovely, sweet, shy dog. The folks at Pecan Plantation did a stellar job of trying everything they could do to find her.

God was listening. On Thursday early evening,

PLEASE SEE **ROSLYN** | C6

OPERA

FROM PAGE B2

Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder" — it keeps you guessing, laughing and humming along all at once. Granbury Opera House's iteration of this acclaimed musical will undoubtedly capture the spirit and spunk of the original Broadway production while bringing its own unique flair to this riveting tale of inheritance, affection and accidental (or not so accidental) assassinations.

Jonah Hardt, a mainstay performer on the Opera House stage for the past several years, sits in the director's chair for Granbury Theater Company for the first time. "From staunch British humor to high-end operatic vocals, audience members of all ages and tastes will find something to connect with in this farcical, Monty Python-esque odyssey," said Hardt. "The show within a show concept allows for endless creativity from all aspects of story-

telling. We approached this script with the idea that the best products come from the best environments. I am so thankful for my incredibly talented cast picking up the torch and allowing themselves to play and laugh at themselves while bringing this wonderful show to life."

With Thomas Powderly serving as assistant director, the production promises a spectacle, complete with music led by Granbury native Caitlan Leblo and choreography by Makenna Clark. Lighting by David Broberg and sound by JD Dvorak complement Column Award Winner Jay Lewis' set design to bring this Tony Award-winning musical to life. Anchoring the stage management duties are Whitney Shearon assisted by Sara Pruetz. The quick-change artistry required for one actor to portray the entire D'Ysquith family — a hallmark of the show — is sure to be a visual treat.

As for the on-stage performances, expect Granbury

Theatre Academy Director Matt Beutner to shine as the charmingly nefarious Monty, with Gavin Clark skillfully tackling the manifold roles of the D'Ysquith family. The talented ensemble cast is a veritable A-list of D-FW performers, including Hannah Beth Baker, Meredith Browning, Micah Chesney, Matthew Deming, Reagan Deming, Jake Hamilton, Renee Maynard, Elizabeth Miller and Haley Nettleton Twaddell.

The GTC, nestled within the elegantly refurbished walls of the Granbury Opera House, promises an intimate experience where every seat captures the magic unfolding on stage. Performances run from April 5 to April 28, with regular shows on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets — a steal at \$35 for floor seats and \$30 for balcony views — are available now, with discounts for seniors, military personnel, children and students.





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Neighborhood FAVES

The Clothesline Project



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Monday, April 1, The Clothesline Project was put up on Granbury Square with the help of Brad Eppler and his students from GISD, as well as many, many others. The project aims at supporting victims of sexual assault, which is particularly significant in April as it is recognized as both Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. If you would like to show your support, please join CASA of Hood & Somervell County and Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center every Tuesday in April by wearing a teal shirt to promote Sexual Assault Awareness, and every Friday in April by wearing a blue shirt to promote Child Abuse Prevention Month awareness. Additionally, later that morning, pinwheels were placed at the Mission Granbury Resource Center and New Beginnings Resale Shoppe.

PLEASE SEE **MORE PHOTOS** | C5





I'VE BEEN THINKING

Listen to the rocks



CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

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

The afternoon was spent sitting on a large boulder that jutted out from the mighty rushing water of a mountain stream. The water was like frozen liquid, and its coldness bit into my feet like a bear's teeth. The water's thundering roar seemed to drown out all other sounds as it stamped its way down the rocky trail. Nothing seemed to exist except the brilliant blue sky, the golden sun, the white fluffy clouds, the

blowing trees, the foaming water and the rocks. Then I began listening to the rocks. I listened as they told their tales of old ... how they were part of the life-giving source of water for both man and beast; how some of them had been dislodged by the rushing water and trembling earth; how their physical features had changed over the years by the force of the water. Some of the rocks spoke of the comfort and warmth that

were provided by the thick blanket of lush moss covering their exterior. Some of the rocks shared their pride at possessing such smooth, symmetrical beauty, while others boasted of their sharp ruggedness. Some of them remembered their pleasure at seeing the beautiful mountain rainbow trout passing through their areas. Others spoke of their sense of satisfaction at providing protection for the odd-shaped little stones lying at their base. One rock in particular shared a sense of enjoyment for providing a safe resting place for the tangled piece of driftwood that had somehow safely lodged against it. This rock felt a particular sense of responsibility for keeping its visitor secure — providing a wonderful contrast to the surrounding rocks and water. One family of rocks explained their gift

of hospitality at providing a welcome retreat for the entwining mass of tree roots that existed in their midst. At last, the rock upon which I sat spoke. It expressed its delight that one would venture so far out into the rushing water to rest a while and soak in the glorious nature. Most folks, it said, stayed closer to the shore and the safety of the soil. As I continued to sit and permitted my mind to drift into mental freedom, it was as though all the rocks began giving forth their secrets — that finally they had found one who could and would take time to allow a relationship to develop. I could sense the thoughts and dreams the rocks had absorbed over the centuries. I heard the dreams of newlyweds as they had romantically slipped away from the crowds to find their own temporary paradise — ready to embark

upon life together. They were feeling so prepared to face the world together as a team, yet so completely oblivious to the trials that lie ahead. I heard the delight of children as they had playfully jumped from rock to rock, apparently defying the laws of slippery surfaces and gravity. I heard the relaxation of parents as they briefly paused upon the rocks and escaped from the cares of everyday life and the anxieties of raising a family. I heard the questions of middle-aged folks as they found rocks closer to the shore and snatched a few moments of time from the hectic world in which they functioned. They recalled the times in their younger years when they, too, would have ventured further into the rapids. But now they were aware of their declining agility if they attempted

rock-hopping. But, perhaps, saddest of all, I heard the concerns of older folks who had already experienced the onset of medical problems. I heard the concerns of how they would cope with those problems — both physically and financially. I heard the anticipated loneliness the remaining spouses would endure after the passing of their beloved mate. But above their concern and anticipated loneliness, I heard the gratitude and appreciation for the love they had shared over the years — a love that had endured the daydreams and nightmares, the pleasures and pains, and the ideal and real of daily life. I quietly, almost reverently, left the place that had become so special — so personal — during that afternoon as I continued to listen to the rocks.

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Easter egg hunt proves all-around rolling success

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.

As reported from the PAC: "What happens when you mix thousands of Easter eggs with Pecan's kiddos? A lot of fun!" Truly, this statement was accurate last weekend when egg hunters big and small partook of the event at the PAC. The weather was lovely for the gathering, and friends and neighbors enjoyed watching little ones hunt and gather their bounty.

Before the egg hunt, Pecan volunteers and staff, as well as pickleball ladies, stuffed eggs in anticipation of the day, and more volunteers "hid" the eggs early on egg hunt morning before the participants arrived. Many thanks go to everyone who contributed to this fun, festive annual Pecan event.

WELCOME HOME

The next new member orientation is on the calendar for today, Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. Both neighbors who have recently moved to Pecan as well as long time members who would like an update on the amenities of our home are invited to join.

SOLAR ECLIPSE

Pecan's Recreational Vehicle Club is enjoying a mini rally this weekend at Shady Campground, and the fun and fellowship will continue through Monday, April 8, for viewing of the solar eclipse. Many attendees are donning matching shirts for the event, and following a hotdog cookout, folks will hope for clear skies and a fantastic display of the eclipse.

DIVE IN

Due to a replastering and refurbishing project, the PAC pool has set a tentative reopening date of Monday, April 8 to make sure the pool is in tip top shape for

the summer swim season. For complete updates on the pool's progress, call the PAC front desk: 817-573-2641.

SMOOTH LANDING

The final stages of resurfacing Pecan's runway will begin Monday, April 8, weather permitting. The runway will be closed for several days while crews are present, and stripes will be added at a later date.

GOOD HIT

To celebrate the advent of baseball season, "Batter Up Bingo" is on the calendar for Tuesday, April 9 in the clubhouse ballroom with dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. and bingo play at 6:30 p.m. A menu of burgers, hotdogs and sides will await attendees, who are invited to wear their favorite baseball team's jersey, shirt or cap. Call the clubhouse front desk to secure a spot: 817-573-2641.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The next gathering of Pecan's Breakfast Club will truly be "out of this world" when folks hear from Capt. Chris Cassidy, U.S. Navy Seal and NASA Astronaut. After receiving military honors (including twice being awarded the Bronze Star), Cassidy was a chief astronaut and commander of the International Space Station for NASA. In addition, he served as pilot/navigator of a special operations mini-sub as well as completing 378 days in space. Cassidy serves as president and CEO of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation.

The gathering comes Wednesday, April 10 with breakfast service beginning at 9 a.m. and the program at 10 a.m. Reservations are due by noon Monday, April 8: 817-573-2641.

TUNE UP

The next session of gui-



COURTESY PHOTO

The PAC hosted Pecan's annual Easter egg hunt last weekend when the ground was covered both in eggs and egg hunters. The morning brought little ones gathering eggs as well as winning door prizes. The Easter bunny even attended. Many thanks to the PAC staff and volunteers who facilitated this very popular event.

tar lessons with instructor Carolyn Troland begins Thursday April 11 and with weekly meetings for six weeks. Call the PAC to sign up: 817-573-7952.

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, junior tennis continues, and summer camp dates are set and published in this month's edition of "The Columns."

EVENING SHOW

Saturday, April 13 brings an Italian buffet dinner followed by a showing of "Caddyshack" on the back clubhouse lawn. Folks may choose both to eat dinner and watch the show or arrive just for the movie. Call the clubhouse front desk for a reservation.

ART EVENT

Back by popular demand comes "Paint Your Pet" set for Saturday, April 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the PAC. Teacher Kathy Yoders will provide step-by-step instruction, and no experience is necessary. Photo submission is required and due by Sunday, April 7. Register now at the PAC (817-573-7952) and email Kathy for more information: kathyoders@gmail.com.

DEAL TIME

Pecan's spring garage sale weekend is on the calendar for Friday, April 19 (members only) and Saturday, April 20 (open to the public), and sign-up for lists distributed to shoppers has begun. Call the clubhouse front desk to list specific items for sale: 817-573-2641.

TAKING FLIGHT

EAA Chapter 983 will host a Flying Start Program in Pecan Saturday, April 20 beginning at 10 a.m. Residents ages 18 and older are candi-

dates for the course, which is designed to "educate, excite and motivate potential pilots." Written materials, video presentation and pilot testimony will be part of the day. Furthermore, a flight with an experienced pilot is on the agenda. Folks may sign up at www.flyingstart.org (look for the Pecan Plantation tab) and contact Tom Woodward at buhwana@charternet for more information. Space is limited, and spots will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

LIFE SAVING

CPR classes are available this spring at the PAC Saturday, April 27 and Saturday, 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.

GOLF GAME

Registration for Pecan's MGA Member/Guest Tournament has begun. Email with a signup link went out to Pecaners last week, and completed paperwork may be delivered to the golf shop. Tournament play runs June 6-9, and the field is limited to 96 teams, so submitting registration forms is paramount.

Before the member/guest event happens in June, the very popular Guys and Dolls Tournament is a month away May 3-5. For complete information, visit the golf pro shop: 817-573-2645.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Austin Kerin, who passed away March 14, to the family of Jim Ducato, who passed away March 15, and to the family of Ron Hamel, who passed away March 28.

ROSLYN

FROM PAGE C3

Roslyn was spotted, in several areas. Shockingly, each was not too far from the property of the Friends for Animals shelter. Roslyn was trying to "come home" to the place she felt safe. She just didn't understand that Roy and Martha were a new safe place and would love her. She hadn't been at their home but a very short time.

The director of the shelter was notified and immediately went to open the gates to let Roslyn find her way in if she came there. Not surprisingly, she did come onto the

property later that evening. She made the journey over five days and who knows how many miles covered to try to return to the place she thought of as safe for her. Roslyn showed immense strength, determination and perseverance to make this trek. No one knows how she found her way back having never left the shelter, unless to go to the vet across the street. This was truly a miracle that she made it "home."

Roy and Martha were notified and are working with Friends for Animals on a plan to work toward giving her a forever home. It is clear she needs to feel a connec-

tion with them to feel safe to move locations.

The stress that Roy, Martha and Roslyn each went through can't be measured. But the love for Roslyn certainly can, from each person that cared enough to take the time to try to help a dog who was scared and searching for safety. This community shows its devotion to one another as we reach out to help each other. This is just another miracle in our community and shows what a great place this is.

The Friends for Animals Shelter in Acton is a no kill shelter and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Volunteers work the shelter, caring for the dogs daily. All dogs that come are neutered or spayed before going to forever homes. Most of the dogs come from Hood County Animal Control and occasionally from Somervell County Animal Control. Located at 2885 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, Texas, 76049. Phone: 817-326-3647. Please visit the website or Facebook for hours and further information about this shelter. Website: granburyadoptionpet.org or Facebook: Friends for Animals Adoption Shelter, Facebook.com/friendsforanimalsgranbury.



COURTESY PHOTO

This was truly a miracle that she made it "home."



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ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 05 April 2024 - Thursday, 11 April 2024

Civil War (R)
Thurs: 4:00PM, 7:00PM

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (PG13)
Fri, Sat: 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM

Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG13)
Fri: 1:50PM, 3:30PM, 4:35PM, 7:20PM, 9:25PM, 10:05PM.
Sat: 11:15AM, 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 3:45PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 9:30PM, 10:15PM.
Sun: 11:15AM, 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 3:45PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues: 2:00PM, 3:30PM, 4:45PM, 6:45PM, 7:30PM.
Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM

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

Monkey Man (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM, 10:30PM.
Sat: 11:10AM, 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM, 10:30PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM

Someone Like You (PG)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 6:30PM

The First Omen (R)
Fri: 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM, 10:20PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM, 10:20PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM

True Grit - Western Series (PG13)
Wed: 2:20PM, 6:30PM

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DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

Cruise news



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www.DaydreamVacations.com

The Port of Galveston continues to expand, adding a fourth terminal set to open in late 2025. Since the opening of its third terminal with Royal Caribbean in November 2022, the Port of Galveston has become one of the most popular ports to sail from in the Caribbean. Many popular travel seasons like spring break, summer, and holiday sailings have been selling out up to a year in advance!

On Nov. 9, 2022, Royal Caribbean opened its new state-of-the-art terminal in Galveston. For the first time, the newer, larger ships were capable of docking in Texas. The first Oasis Class ship Allure of the Seas allowed Texans to experience a ship that is a destination

unto itself. Allure was then replaced by the even more majestic Harmony of the Seas for sailings in 2024 and 2025. You'd better experience this ship before she moves on in 2026. What's next for Royal Caribbean in 2026 at Galveston? Rumors are that Texas will see one of the brand-new Icon Class Ships! If everything is bigger in Texas, then surely, we need the biggest cruise ship on the ocean.

MSC Cruises has partnered with the Port of Galveston to construct a fourth terminal. The MSC Seascape will be the first ship to make Galveston its new home at this terminal in late 2025. MSC Cruises is the largest privately-owned cruise line in the world and

has been a leading global cruise line for over 30 years. I remember attending Cruise360 in 2017 and meeting MSC Cruise Line for the first time in Florida. These are incredible ships! Since 2017 they have continued to increase their offerings from U.S. ports and I'm excited to see them join us in Texas.

Carnival Cruise Line has been a longtime staple at Port of Galveston, and it has showed us its love by giving us its newest and biggest ship, Carnival Jubilee! Carnival sails more families with kids each year than any other cruise line. Get ready for big fun on this amazing Fun Ship.

Disney Cruise Line's ship the Disney Magic is offering itineraries from Galveston November 2024 through March 2025.

Norwegian Cruise Line's newest ship Prima is available January through March 2025, and the new Viva ship, built in 2023, comes to Galveston December 2025 through April 2026.

It's an exciting time to be a fan of cruise vacations in Texas!

In recent news, I have been asked frequently about how cruise lines change itiner-

aries to meet the need of emergencies. In the past year, cruise travelers have been impacted by the war in Israel, the civil unrest in Haiti, the loss of the Key Bridge in Baltimore, and of course annual hurricane season. The simple answer is the cruise lines make an adjustment to your itinerary. They will never put you in harm's way . . . ever. They will remove any port that is unsafe or unavailable and switch the itinerary to a different port. They will work with you to adjust your shore excursion reservations. But in the event of a full cancellation of a sailing, your travel agent will help you through the process of acquiring your refund or booking a replacement sailing. Although you are not required to use a passport to sail in the Caribbean (driver's license and official, state-issued birth certificate are accepted), I highly recommend having a valid U.S. passport when sailing. If for any reason you need to cut the cruise short and fly back to the U.S., a passport is required to fly internationally. I also highly recommend travel insurance for medical coverage and emergency evacuation.

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 (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. 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 build-ing 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 (pri-vate 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, chil-dren 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 Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCoCert@gmail.com.

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Sommerville A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Hwy 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at 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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"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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Proverbs 3:5-6

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

Psalms 94:18-19

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

Isaiah 41:10

DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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

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 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
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 817-326-4693
- Allison Baptist
 9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
 254-646-9926
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 4804 E. Hwy. 377
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- Brazos River Baptist
 2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
 817-663-5384
- Dennis First Baptist
 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
 817-565-9027
- Exalted Redeemer Baptist
 1840 Acton Hwy.
 817-247-7209
- Fairview Baptist
 5041 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-8968
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 817-573-4943
- Granbury First Baptist
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- Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
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- Granbury Church Of Christ
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 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
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 3006 Thorp St.
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 817-579-0968
- Calvary Family
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 314-606-1211
- Center Point
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- Christian Science Society
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 817-573-0457
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- Fellowship Church Of Hood County
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 817-579-9332
- Generations Church Of Granbury
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 817-326-5378
- Hope Community
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Romans 8:28

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GARDEN PATCH

Learn at plant sales

BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



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

When you attend plant sales, you likely focus on finding plants to meet specific landscaping needs. In addition to acquiring plants, you may also reap other benefits simply by attending. This spring, take advantage of what's offered.

Yes, you'll likely stand in line at this year's Lake Granbury Master Gardener (LGMG) plant sale to ensure you snag the plants your heart desires. But after you've located the "must have" plants on your list, why not engage a master gardener to ask for advice? It's a free education and members of the group are happy to answer questions. Master gardeners possess in-depth

knowledge about plants and their cultivation, gardening techniques and local ecosystems.

At the LGMG plant sale, to be held April 20, you'll find plant markers and a large plant book that will help you identify the plants, know their mature size and color and the conditions in which they grow best, such as sun/shade, moist or dry soil. You'll also find out if the plants are deer resistant or appealing to wildlife/pollinators, such as butterflies.

Master Gardeners, who are an arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension, prefer locally grown and tested plants. LGMG propagates and grows hundreds of plants to sell

each year. It also obtains select plants from area nurseries, but only after careful review of their growing practices. The goal is to offer the public plants that are well-adapted to local conditions, which will increase the likelihood of gardening success. These plants are selected for their resilience and suitability to area weather and soils.

Local plant sales feature a diverse selection, which includes popular perennials, but they may also include uncommon plants. They sometimes feature unique and rare plant varieties, which are not readily available in nurseries. For instance, propagated plants may include heirloom types, such as hand-me-down irises or daylilies. You may also find a wide variety of extremely drought tolerant plants, such as agave or other succulents. Take this opportunity to make your garden more distinctive!

Timing is everything. Spring plant sales are scheduled after all danger of win-

ter weather is past, allowing you to get new plants in the ground immediately after purchase. Propagated plants will have had adequate time to put on new growth. And some plants will be in flower, allowing you to know exact colors.

Participating in a local master gardener plant sale provides an opportunity to connect with like-minded community members. You can share gardening tips and have fun while shopping. You'll also be supporting a good cause. Funds received will go to support community education programs and scholarships.

And finally, the price is right. While every effort is made not to undercut local retailers, master gardeners are able to price their plants very competitively. By working with an all-volunteer workforce, they have less overhead.

Attend the LGMG Plant Sale Saturday, April 20, 8 a.m. - noon (or until all plants are sold), LGMG



COURTESY PHOTO

Coral honeysuckle is a native perennial vine, which may be purchased at local plant sales.

Demonstration Garden, 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife

Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or online at lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

BOOK REVIEW

You threw a perfect fit

BY TERRY SCHLICHENMEYER

You stomped into your room, kicked a chair, knocked things off a table. You ranted. Screamed. And though you were tempted, you stopped just short of throwing yourself on the floor because your colleagues would talk. Oddly, you felt better once you were done because sometimes, says Hasan Merali, MD, being childish is just what you need. In his new book "Sleep Well, Take Risks, Squish the Peas," doing so could even make you successful.

Spend even just a few minutes with little people between the ages of 1 and 5, and you'll notice a few things. Kids that age are generally happier. They laugh more, they have curiosity, unabashedness and risk-taking abilities. What would your life — at work and at home — be like if you acted more like those kids?

Says Merali, it's not as far-fetched as you think.

As our brains mature, we lose our sense of wonder, our attention to detail and our flexibility in thinking. Logic rules our minds, while creativity waits in the wings. We laugh a lot less. We get stingy with generosity and kindness, and we become

self-conscious.

Who wants that?

Turn things around, Merali says, by eating only when you're hungry and by getting enough sleep. Make a routine before bedtime. Read yourself a story. Nap, if you can.

Stay active, even if it's just for a few minutes. Be kind, learn to share, and don't assume that every stranger is a danger. At least once a day, do something that will make you laugh; better yet, do it with a friend or two. Pick a book if you need to give yourself a reward, and always read a mixture of "make-believe and real stories." Remember that life is not entirely goal-oriented, so take time to play. Use teamwork. Don't get angry at malfunctioning equipment. Learn that it's okay to ask for help, and to give it. Ask questions. Be brave.

Learn that "NO" is a full sentence.

Can you fit a teddy bear into a lunch box or briefcase? Can you arrange to have a sandbox in the break room at work? You'll be tempted to try these things, once you see the possibilities inside "Sleep Well, Take Risks, Squish the Peas."

If this all seems a little silly at first, remember that age regression isn't mandatory but



COURTESY PHOTOS

Chris Hartlove

a toddler's outlook is. Author Hasan Merali, MD, doesn't insist that readers act like children but with guidance from this book, a little childishness becomes a good thing. Even the most stoic CEO can benefit from more levity, and Merali's words on maintaining curiosity and openness to learning are priceless for both

home and work. Merely reading Merali's imaginary scenarios can add fun to your day.

This is the kind of book you hand to your sales team for a group read, followed by a discussion and bottles of soap bubbles. If you need to lighten up and laugh more, "Sleep Well, Take Risks, Squish the Peas" could be the perfect fit.

**Sleep Well,
Take Risks,
Squish the
Peas**

Secrets from the
Science of Toddlers
for a Happier, More
Successful Way of Life

Hasan Merali, MD

"Sleep Well, Take Risks, Squish the Peas: Secrets from the Science of Toddlers for a Happier, More Successful Way of Life" by Hasan Merali, MD c.2024, HCI Books \$17.95, 320 pages

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

The Blackwood name lives on...



BY DON NEWBURY

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

The name "Blackwood" has been as closely linked to Southern gospel music as ham and eggs to diners, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz to TV, and Tarzan and Jane to jungle movies. The family has endeared itself to a grateful nation for its renditions of gospel music for some 125 years.

It began when the family started singing in churches in 1934, when the Great Depression had the country in a death grip. In the original group were Roy, his oldest son R.W. and his two brothers, James and Doyle. (Actually, Blackwood music first came from the fiddle of Emmett Blackwood — Roy's dad — in the 1890s.)

There have been many names, including Blackwood Brothers, Blackwood Family and Blackwood Singers. They've all had songs in their hearts, commitment in their souls and remarkable energy as pioneers in Southern gospel music. "Southern" is worthy of note; the USA is devoid

of Eastern, Northern and Western gospel music.

In Branson recently, I chatted with R.W. Blackwood Jr., who has sung at Pigeon Forge and Branson venues since 1990. He was a lad when his dad and uncles started gaining national renown in the 1940s.

He took leave of his Branson "gig" in November and has been battling COVID and lung trouble.

"I've been singing full-time, mostly on the road, for 60 years," he said. "Isn't it time for a sabbatical?"

Thankfully, his lung X-rays show improvement. He credits medical science and heavy-duty prayers at his church and beyond.

Alongside is Donna, his wife of 58 years. (Donna, R.W. Jr. and his brother Ron and wife Sandra, were members of the Blackwood Singers.)

During leave time, R.W. and Donna are greatly enjoying their two children, 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, with two

more expected soon.

A book about the Blackwoods would require multiple volumes. They've sung throughout the nation and beyond, appearing before both handful-sized groups and others that would fill the largest cathedrals. R.W. cites many reasons for his family's preeminence.

First-generation Blackwoods traveled on horse-drawn conveyances, long before the family criss-crossed the nation in Cadillacs. Then, they had the first-ever customized "tour bus," followed by a twin-engine plane whose pilot was R.W. Sr. Tragically, he and Bill Lyles, another group member and also a pilot, were killed in an Alabama plane crash in 1954.

The funeral for R.W. Blackwood Sr. was attended by thousands of friends and fans, among whom was a close family friend, Elvis Presley. (An even larger Memphis funeral was held 23 years later when Elvis died.)

Presley and the Blackwoods visited often. Elvis always chose to sing gospel songs only, leaving his rock-and-roll

performances for other places. Enamored by the Blackwoods' tour bus, he had a similar one customized for himself.

R.W. Jr. fondly remembers his childhood, playing games with the Everly Brothers when they were children.

He cherishes memorabilia of the family, many of whom branched out to join other groups after getting started.

Discovering the Blackwoods were Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scout Show and Ted Mack's Amateur Hour. Then, singing in Shenandoah, Iowa, on KMA Radio — a 50,000-watt station covering much of the nation — helped greatly. Later, they sang at many Billy Graham Crusades.

The Blackwoods have won every award for gospel music, including eight Grammys and seven Dove Awards. His favorite is the Memphis Music Award. They've recorded numerous albums and sold millions of records. They also collaborated with Dallas' Stamps-Baxter Music Company to produce thousands of song books.

Back home in Ackerman, Mississippi, is the



COURTESY PHOTO

The Blackwoods have won every award for gospel music, including eight Grammys and seven Dove Awards. His favorite is the Memphis Music Award.

Blackwood Brothers Parkway.

Just 11 years of age when his dad died, R.W. had to grow up quickly.

He's grateful for God's many blessings. In recent weeks, he has enjoyed attending Branson theaters in-

stead of singing in them. His son Robbie is a drummer for the popular Clay Cooper Show. Grandson Joey is a singer/dancer in the Cooper Show and a singer in the theater's Elvis Show.

May the Blackwoods continue to brighten our lives.

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