

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, April 13, 2024]

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TRAVIS LETTER PLAQUE TO BE PLACED ON COURTHOUSE LAWN



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GARY FOREMAN
COMPOSITE BY DARREN CLARK | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

BY GARY FOREMAN
Special to the Hood County News

Commandancy of the The Alamo

Bejar, Feby. 24th. 1836

To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World-

Fellow Citizens & compatriots-

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna - I have sustained a continual Bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man - The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken - I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls - I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch - The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country - Victory or Death.

William Barret Travis.

Lt. Col.comdt.

P. S. The Lord is on our side - When the enemy appeared in sight we had not three bushels of corn - We have since found in deserted houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.

Travis

On Saturday, April 20, the City of Granbury and Hood County will receive a Texas-sized gift all because of Sloan McNutt, a seventh grader from University Park who had a simple, but big idea.

This coming San Jacinto weekend, Hood County will be one of 254 counties throughout Texas to receive a 203-pound bronze plaque of the famous Travis Letter written from the besieged Alamo Feb. 24, 1836, by its 26-year-old co-commander, William Barret Travis. The event takes place at 11 a.m. on the south side of the Hood County Courthouse facing Pearl Street. The idea for the plaque was born 15

“It is the job of this generation of Texans to teach our young people about how Texas got to where we are today. About the sacrifices of our forefathers in blood, treasures, and in the case of the Alamo, their lives.”

TEXAS SENATOR BOB HALL

months ago by 13-year-old McNutt, who was studying Texas History when she visited the Alamo with her family in January 2023. There, while standing at the base of the Campo Santo grass area in front of the iconic Alamo church, she

saw the impressive plaque and read Travis' 220-word "Victory or Death" letter.

That's when everything changed and her father, Lee William "Bill" McNutt,

PLEASE SEE **TRAVIS** | A4

Precinct 1 petition for off-premise alcohol consumption fails for lack of signatures

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court acknowledged that a petition to legalize the sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption in Precinct 1 recently failed due to a lack of certified signatures.

Election Administrator Stephanie Cooper explained during the April 9 meeting that the petition garnered 1,500 signatures. However, about 2,000 were needed for the petition to pass.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews said once the petition failed, there were some conflicting opinions on how to approach the situation as there isn't anything in code that lays out specifically what to do if a petition doesn't collect enough signatures.

He explained that while he was instructed to "let it die," he ultimately decided to put it on the commissioners court agenda to "cover all bases," and to let everybody know the petition did fail.

Cooper then confirmed that in section 501.033 of the Texas Election Code, it specifies that a petition needs to be recorded in the commissioner court minutes "whether or not it passed to go into an election or not."

According to the Texas Election Code, "the date a petition is presented, the names of the signers, and the action taken with respect to the petition shall be entered in the minutes of the commissioners court."

"All we're doing is just acknowledging that the election did fail for lack of certified signatures," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said.

Andrews made the motion to acknowledge that Petition HC 1222024-01 "petition for local option election to legalize the sale of all alcoholic beverages for off premise consumption" in only Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, failed for lack of certified signatures. After a second from Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, the motion passed unanimously.

Chick-Fil-A reopens after three-month renovation



BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

After a three-month-long wait, Granbury and Hood County residents can once again order their beloved Chick-Fil-A chicken sandwiches after the fast-food restaurant reopened for business Thursday, April 11.

The Chick-Fil-A of Granbury underwent a \$2.2 million renovation project beginning Jan. 18, which resulted in the building

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRANBURY CHICK-FIL-A FACEBOOK PAGE

Following a 12-week renovation, Granbury Chick-Fil-A's newest features will now include an expanded kitchen, a larger drive-thru cockpit, and a three-lane drive-thru with one lane reserved for mobile orders.

being torn down to the shell. Following the 12-week renovation, the store's newest features will now include an expanded kitchen, a larger drive-thru cockpit, and a three-lane drive-thru with one lane reserved for mobile orders.

"We're excited to continue to give our community more convenient options for pickup orders," Chick-Fil-A Granbury wrote in a reel on its Facebook page. "Pre-ordered meals from the Chick-Fil-A app can be delivered to guests in our mobile drive-thru lane, in the dining room, or curbside. Download the app today to earn points toward future purchases."

To compensate for the kitchen expansion, the renovation also included the removal of the children's

play area — a decision many residents were unhappy about as Chick-Fil-A was the only fast-food chain remaining in town with a play center.

"This renovation is very needed, mainly for our kitchen," Owner/Operator Aaron Grant previously told the Hood County News. "We currently are just stepping on each other's toes, and we are just out of room. We just want to serve our community as best as we can and uphold the values of Chick-Fil-A."

The Chick-Fil-A of Granbury is now open at its same location, 1011 E. U.S. Highway 377. Hours of operation are 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Chick-Fil-A is closed on Sundays.



138TH YEAR, NO. 14

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

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Thank You

to Hood County volunteers, donors and sponsors for your support and helping our community through The Salvation Army.



Women's Auxiliary of Hood County
9th Annual Charities
on the Runway Lunch

Boots & Bling!
It's A Cowgirl Thing!



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Leading with purpose Rising Leaders Granbury inspiring community engagement

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

In a collaborative effort aimed at nurturing leadership skills and fostering community engagement, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Rising Leaders Granbury (RLG) joined forces with Junior Leadership Granbury for an impactful evening of mentoring, networking and community service.

The event brought together juniors and seniors from local high schools, providing them with a unique opportunity to interact with seasoned professionals from various

industries. Through tailored exercises and interactive sessions, the young participants honed their communication skills and learned the art of building meaningful relationships in the business world.

Beyond professional development, the evening took on a philanthropic dimension as participants engaged in a community service initiative. In support of Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, volunteers from both groups dedicated their time to planting pinwheels at Hewlett Park. The initiative

aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preventing child abuse and promoting the well-being of children in the community.

The Rising Leaders Granbury collaboration with Junior Leadership Granbury was incredibly rewarding. Not only did the RLGs provide valuable mentorship and networking opportunities for young adults, but both groups also came together to make a tangible difference in our community. Thank you to all the fantastic business professionals who dedicated their time and expertise to engage our future leaders.



COURTESY PHOTO

In a collaborative effort aimed at nurturing leadership skills and fostering community engagement, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce Rising Leaders Granbury (RLG) joined forces with Junior Leadership Granbury for an impactful evening of mentoring, networking and community service.

Your guidance and support are invaluable in shaping the next generation of trailblazers!

Building on the success of this event, Rising Leaders Granbury is gearing up for

another community-driven initiative. On Saturday, April 13 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., the RLGs are hosting a donation drop-off fundraiser and open house event for the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department. This FREE community event is located at Station #1, 1701 W. Pearl St., and promises a day of fun-filled activities, including a hot dog cookout, bounce house, snow cones, face painting and games. Huge shout out to Flippin Custom Homes for being our Presenting Sponsor for this wonderful event!

The RLGs are excited to continue their mission of giving back to Granbury. The community is invited to come together and contribute to the well-being of its first responders by donating essential items such as water, Gatorade, eye drops, hand wipes, coffee creamer, and meat and cheese snacks. These donations will go a long way

in ensuring the comfort and readiness of our firefighters as they tirelessly serve our community.

This event is not only about donations but also about bringing families together for a day of enjoyment and community spirit. It's an opportunity for families to engage with their local fire department and show gratitude for their dedicated service.

Join us April 13 at Station #1 as we come together to support our first responders. This is an opportunity to show gratitude to the brave men and women who serve the community tirelessly. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a meaningful difference.

For more information, please visit www.granburychamber.com, call us at 817-573-1622 or email us at info@granburychamber.com. We look forward to making a difference together!

RLG
RISING LEADERS GRANBURY

SATURDAY APRIL 13TH
11AM-1PM
STATION #1
1701 W PEARL ST

GRANBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT

DONATION DROP-OFF FUNDRAISER & OPEN HOUSE!

SUPPORT OUR FIRST RESPONDERS BY DONATING THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:
WATER, GATORADE, EYE DROPS, HAND WIPES, COFFEE CREAMER, MEAT & CHEESE SNACKS

JOIN US FOR A FIREFIGHTER MEET-AND-GREET, KONA ICE, FREE HOT DOGS, DRINKS AND MORE!

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FLIPPIN CUSTOM HOMES

EVENT SPONSOR
FIRST BOX RETAILING SERVICES

GRANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
Est. 1907
FIRE • RESCUE • EMS

THIS IS A FREE PUBLIC EVENT! PLEASE RSVP TO HELP WITH HEAD COUNT!

granburychamber.com

New Chamber Members & Renewals

Welcome to our New Chamber Members who joined in March!

Janet Lell - Magnolia Realty
Republic Homes of Granbury
Texas Elite Martial Arts
McKnight Title

Thank you to the following members who renewed their Chamber Membership in March!

We appreciate your continued support!

Glen Rose Nursing & Rehab
Blushes Salon and Spa
Home Improvements by Doug
Maverick Driving Academy
The Pub McDonough
TXP Construction & Roofing
Cardinal Financial

Lakeside Baptist Church
Keller Williams - Christi Durant
Blue Nose Aerial Imaging
D'Vine Wine
Home Instead Senior Care
Paradise Pools of Texas
Wagon Yard
3 Partners in Grime, LLC
Skyview Vacations
Empire Realty Group
Frozen Cups of Fun, Inc.
LKCM Radio Group
Winston Properties - Lee Overstreet
Crown Quality Roofing
TGR Healthcare
Ferrellgas
Revolver Brewing LLC
Kelley Homes
Keller Williams - Steve Berry
Paradise Bistro

A Plus Roofing & Construction
Sheriff Roger Deeds
Forward Training Center
Gran Development
Christian & Christian LLC
Texas Fire Ant Control
Bootlegger Liquor
Jeans Crossing
Ruth's Place
Walker Drywall, LLC
Grumps Burgers
Xerox Document Solutions
Granbury Interbank
Van Griffith Kia
Enprotec
Patriot Garage Door
Overhall Construction
Teague Nail & Perkins
Rockin S Bar & Grill
City of Granbury

Lakestone Terrace
Dairy Queen
Wiley Center
Jane Johnson, Realtor
Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS Auxiliary
Parson Properties and Investments
Cheyne Eye Center
WWW Architecture
Lakecrest Cosmetic Surgery
Veranda Dental
Granbury Eye Care
The Cutting Edge
Arts & Letters Bookstore
Haynes & Wells
DeCordova Bend Estates
Hard Eight BBQ
Hotel Lucy
Granbury Dental Center
DT Roofing
The Promise in Glen Rose

Upper Trinity Groundwater CD
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
The Laser Junky
Granbury Optimist Club
Lovell Lawn & Landscape
Brazos Covenant Ministries
Napa Auto Parts
Winston Properties
Will Steed Homes
3 L Construction
Granbury First United Methodist Church
Christian Brothers Automotive
Charterhouse
Butler Built Homes
Gilbert Environmental
Baylor All Saints Medical Center
Granbury Flooring Company
Granbury Theatre Company

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

granburychamber.com

Member Spotlight

CareRide
Non-Emergency Transportation

CareRide Non-Emergency Transportation

"Our leadership comprises highly experienced individuals whose deep dedication to patient transport has been cultivated through diverse roles, notably including over 15 years of experience as an EMS Practitioner at the UTMB in Galveston."

Member Spotlight: CareRide Non-Emergency Transportation. "At CareRide Non-Emergency Transportation, we provide reliable and safe medical transportation services to clients throughout the area. Our team of experienced drivers and staff are dedicated to ensuring that every client receives the best possible care. Our leadership comprises highly experienced individuals whose deep dedication to patient transport has been cultivated through diverse roles, notably including over 15 years of experience as an EMS Practitioner at the UTMB in Galveston."

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

granburychamber.com

Member Spotlight

MOSQUITO SQUAD

Mosquito Squad & Pest Control of Fort Worth

"Mosquito Squad® invented the Barrier Treatment in 2005 to help outdoor lighting installers fight the bite while working—and we've been leading the industry ever since!"

Member Spotlight: Mosquito Squad & Pest Control of Fort Worth. "Mosquito Squad® invented the Barrier Treatment in 2005 to help outdoor lighting installers fight the bite while working—and we've been leading the industry ever since! With our service, you'll see a reduction of up to 90 percent in your property's mosquito population. We provide regular and effective service, so your family will enjoy the outdoors free of bites all season long."

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

granburychamber.com

AMBASSADOR OF THE MONTH
Charlotte Kuykendall

Business:
Holiday Inn Express Granbury
Studio "C" Crafts and T's

Time as an Ambassador:
7 1/2 years

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

studio "C"
Crafts and T's

Ambassador of the Month: Charlotte Kuykendall. We are so thankful for our amazing Ambassador Charlotte Kuykendall with Holiday Inn Express & Suites and Studio "C" Crafts & T's! Charlotte has been an Ambassador for 7 1/2 years! When asked why she loves being an ambassador she said "I love being an Ambassador because I love giving back and being a part of an amazing community. I've never worked and lived in the same town until now so I want to give back in every way I can". A fun fact about Charlotte is "My favorite accessory is a fabulous pair of high heels!" Thank you Charlotte for being an ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

William Barrett Travis: I shall never surrender or retreat!



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

On Feb. 24 of 1836, a young man originally from South Carolina, wrote a letter. This was no ordinary correspondence, but rather a status report and plea. It is doubtful if the young writer ever imagined his penned thoughts would thereafter be revered as the most famous and sacred letter in the history of Texas.

The author was Col. William Barrett Travis, and he was the commander of the forces that held the Alamo. Those forces found themselves surrounded by more than 1,500 members of the Mexican army, with

the number of enemy troops growing daily. Terribly outmanned and outgunned, the Texian patriots stood their ground rather than attempt to flee to safety. They bought time for the young nation of Texas to gain its footing, even if the

price to be paid was their lives.

Texas needed time to organize, to gather troops and supplies to prepare for battle against the Mexican forces. However, the commander of the Mexican army, General Santa Anna was fully intent on destroying all those who opposed Mexican rule and wasted no time in seeking out those who would oppose him. He was so determined he issued a demand to Col. Travis and his men; they must surrender, or no quarter would be given once the battle began. The Mexicans even went so far as to play music, a song known as the "deguello," or the cutthroat song. This song was played day and night during the 13-day siege of the Alamo as a constant reminder to the Texian

defenders as to their fate, should the mission fall.

We recognize Travis as a leader of men, but in our minds, he was a much older man. Just 26 years old, he had already faced financial crisis and business failures, and a life which was at a crossroads. He had determined there was something about Texas which was worth fighting and even dying for. His message, his plea, was to "all Americans in the world" tells us he clearly believed his men were fighting for values and principals which were even greater than Texas. Their belief was that liberty and freedom were something due all men, and part of the essence of humanity. It was a message to all the world that "liberty, patriotism and everything dear to the American spirit"

were something worth fighting for, even if the fight was to an almost certain death.

How many times have we all driven or walked by a statue and never really stopped to think about the person or persons who are the subject of the artwork? On April 20 at 11 a.m., thanks in no small part to State Sen. Brian Birdwell and the Sons of the Republic of Texas, a bronze replica of the Travis letter will be set on the south side of the Hood County Courthouse. This is an opportunity to come and be part of a monument which will forevermore provide a constant message that will ring in the ears of our citizens. This is a time for all patriots to come and show their faith and dedication to the ideals which the men of the Alamo

fought and died for.

I do not believe there can be a Texan who hears the words of Travis read aloud, who does not feel their heart flutter and their chest swell with pride. It is the legacy of Texas to the world. Come be a part of the dedication. Show Travis and his men the respect they deserve and allow yourself to feel the joy and pride of being a Texan. See you there! God Bless our sacred Texas!

Thought for the day: "When tyrants ask you to yield one jot of your liberty, and you consent thereto, it is the first link forged in the chain what will eventually hold you in bondage."

-Sam Houston, president of the Republic of Texas
Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

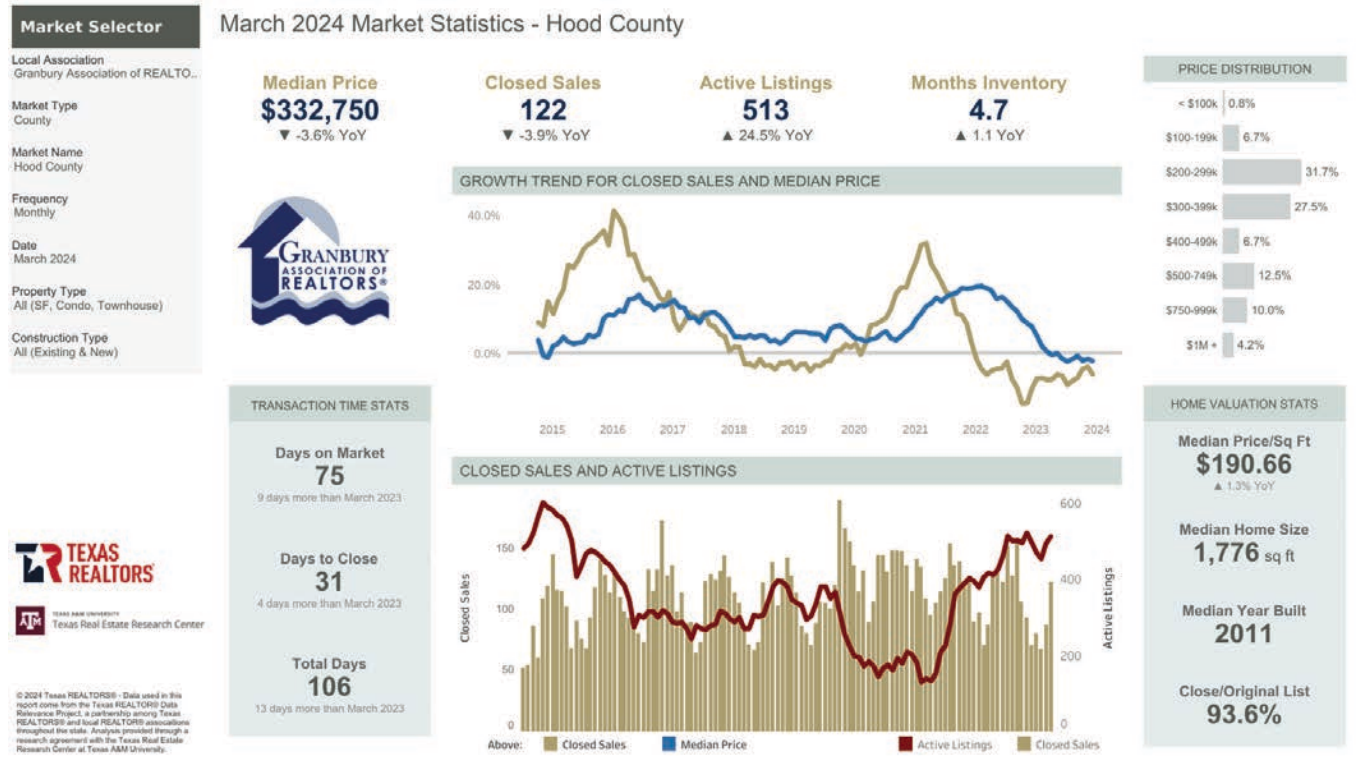
George Vowden

Say hello to our neighbor, George Vowden!

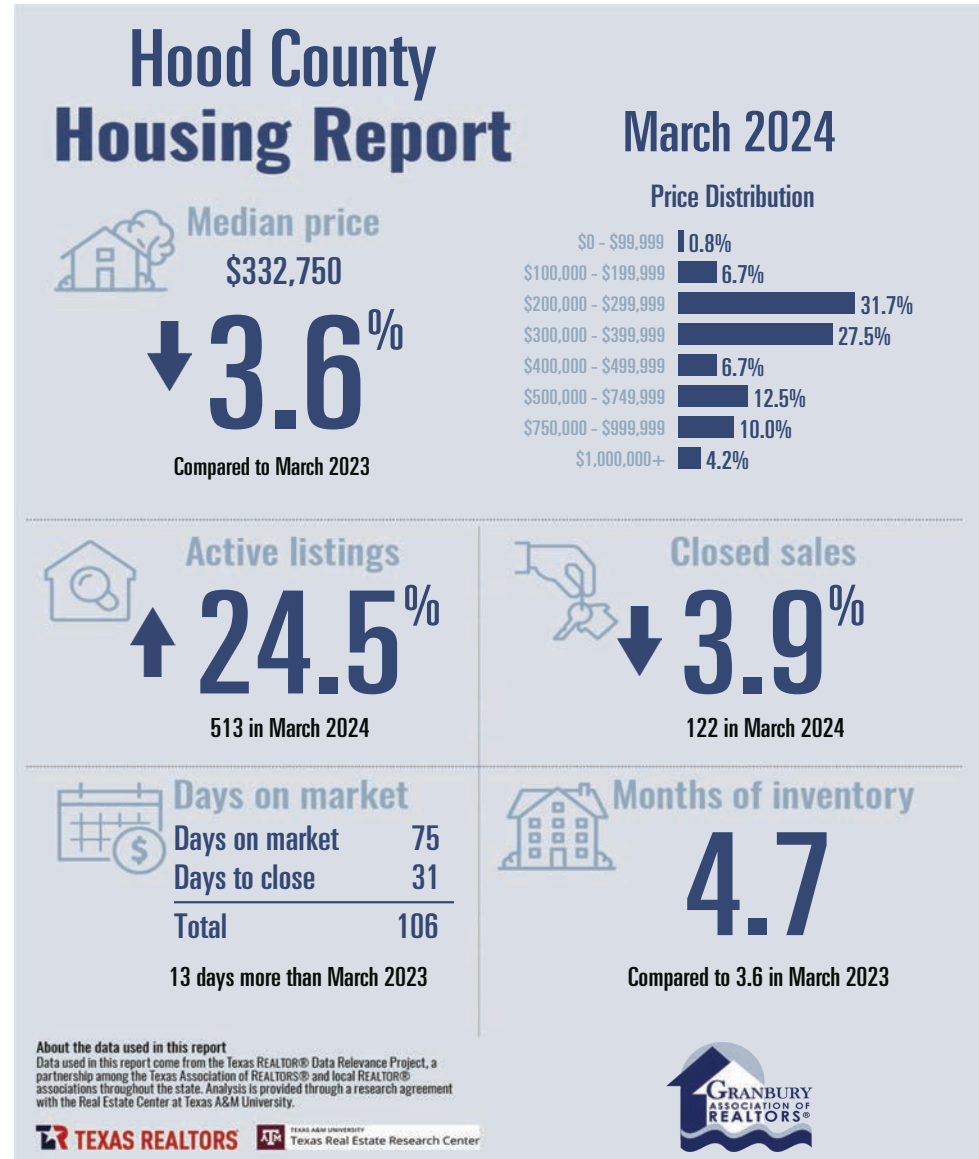
George and his wife, Kim, landed in Hood County four years ago in February, just before the outbreak of COVID-19. This week he was enjoying his first weekdays of semi-retirement after a long career in marketing at an engineering firm. In the beginning, George and Kim's families blended together, resulting in a happy family of four! The Vowden family then welcomed a new addition to their family with the birth of their daughter. They now experience the joys of doting after their three grandchildren. George has a deep admiration for the Historic Granbury Square. During their first visit, they stopped by D-Vine Wine, where we caught up with them for this interview. When they returned for their second visit, they were greeted by name and offered the same refreshments they enjoyed on the first visit. The warm and welcoming atmosphere, as well as the high level of quality provided by all our local businesses, played a significant role in convincing the Vowdens to choose Granbury. Now that George is in semi-retirement, he's looking forward to more fun and interaction with the Writers Block, and playing the role of Andy Aston (saloon owner) for Visit Granbury's History Ambassadors. George says he loves the Hood County News, "The focus is on what happens locally, and I think that's very important."

COMMUNITY BUSINESS CONT'D

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS



GRAPHICS COURTESY OF GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
ABOVE: The graphic shows the Hood County market statistics for March 2024.



LEFT: The graphic shows the Hood County Housing Report for March 2024.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

TRAVIS

FROM PAGE A1

clearly recalls the moment. “She looked up and asked me ‘why aren’t these plaques with the famous letter all over Texas?’ She said reading the letter on the 2-foot by 3-foot bronze plaque had more impact than seeing it on a page in a book.” The Travis Letter Society was immediately brought to life while standing on Sacred Ground.

Its official launch took place on Veterans Day 2023 with a straightforward mission statement: “To educate current and future Texans about their forefathers’ armed struggle for freedom and liberty through the placement of a large bronze plaque containing Col. William Barrett Travis’ Alamo ‘Victory or Death’ letter, in all 254 Texas Courthouses.”

Other prominent Texans soon joined the McNutt family in the spirited venture to reach so many counties. This includes Hood County Judge Ron Massingill who is the Alamo Letter Chair for his county. Massingill was nominated for this honored position by Texas State Sen. Brian Birdwell.

Many Texans have known this famous letter since their childhood. Others who are new to the Lone Star State certainly have heard of it, while many are still learning of its legendary standing in the annals of historical documents throughout the world. It is, indeed, the key artifact that defines Texas. Here are the words written 188 years ago that still haunt us today:

COMMANDANCY OF THE THE ALAMO

*Bejar, Feby. 24th. 1836
To the People of Texas & All
Americans in the World-
Fellow Citizens & compatriots-
I am besieged, by a thousand or
more of the Mexicans under Santa
Anna - I have sustained a continual
Bombardment & cannonade for 24
hours & have not lost a man - The
enemy has demanded a surrender
at discretion, otherwise, the garrison
are to be put to the sword, if the
fort is taken - I have answered the
demand with a cannon shot, & our
flag still waves proudly from the
walls - I shall never surrender or
retreat. Then, I call on you in the
name of Liberty, of patriotism &
everything dear to the American
character, to come to our aid, with
all dispatch - The enemy is receiving
reinforcements daily & will no doubt
increase to three or four thousand
in four or five days. If this call is
neglected, I am determined to sustain
myself as long as possible & die like a
soldier who never forgets what is due
to his own honor & that of his country
- Victory or Death.
William Barret Travis.
Lt. Col. comdt.
P. S. The Lord is on our side —
When the enemy appeared in sight
we had not three bushels of corn
— We have since found in deserted
houses 80 or 90 bushels and got into
the walls 20 or 30 head of Beeves.*

THE TRAVIS BACKSTORY – THE MAN BEHIND THE WORDS

Sometimes it’s hard to believe William Barret Travis was only 26 years old when he wrote the famous letter that is compared to some of the most courageous and eloquent documents in history. Many warriors who have fought to defend the Stars and Stripes have echoed his words and phrases in the face of certain death. Even his underscored words of “Victory or Death” have a timeless message in serving something greater than yourself.

What makes the story of the Travis Letter so compelling, however, is the dire situation that engulfed him leading up to and during the siege and battle of the Alamo. His first three words that begin the letter – “I am besieged” – are perhaps the underlining theme of his young life. Yes, he was besieged and surrounded by a growing enemy force which was 10 times larger than the small garrison he commanded inside the meager walls of the Alamo. But Travis was besieged by something more: his young and restless ego, and his obsession to obtain the highest stature in society too quickly and recklessly. These

were the obstacles that plagued his early life until the revolutionary events in Texas changed him.

Born Aug. 9, 1809 to Mark and Jemima Travis in their home in Red Bank, South Carolina, William Barret was the first of 10 children to enter the Travis residence over two decades. Within 10 years, the family migrated to Claiborne, Alabama where William thrived in education and began the practice of taking on more and more commitments of jobs while apprenticing to become an attorney. This was far more enticing than working behind a plow.

He was exposed to other successful young men who had acquired land, material and social standing. The image of a successful southern gentleman is what Travis wanted more than anything else by the time he was only 19. Before he turned 20, he was a schoolteacher, a newspaper publisher, and then an attorney at law. However, debts piled up faster than receivables, and that was only the beginning of the nightmare. He was married to his teenage love and student, Rosanna Cato, with whom he had a child — a boy named Charles Edward.

Within a year or so, his world collapsed around him. He was no longer the promising young professional and the threat of going to jail for unpaid debts became real. Spread so thin, there was no time to be a real father, publisher or attorney. He wanted everything so quickly and had nothing to show for it except debts, public ridicule and a pregnant wife expecting their second child.

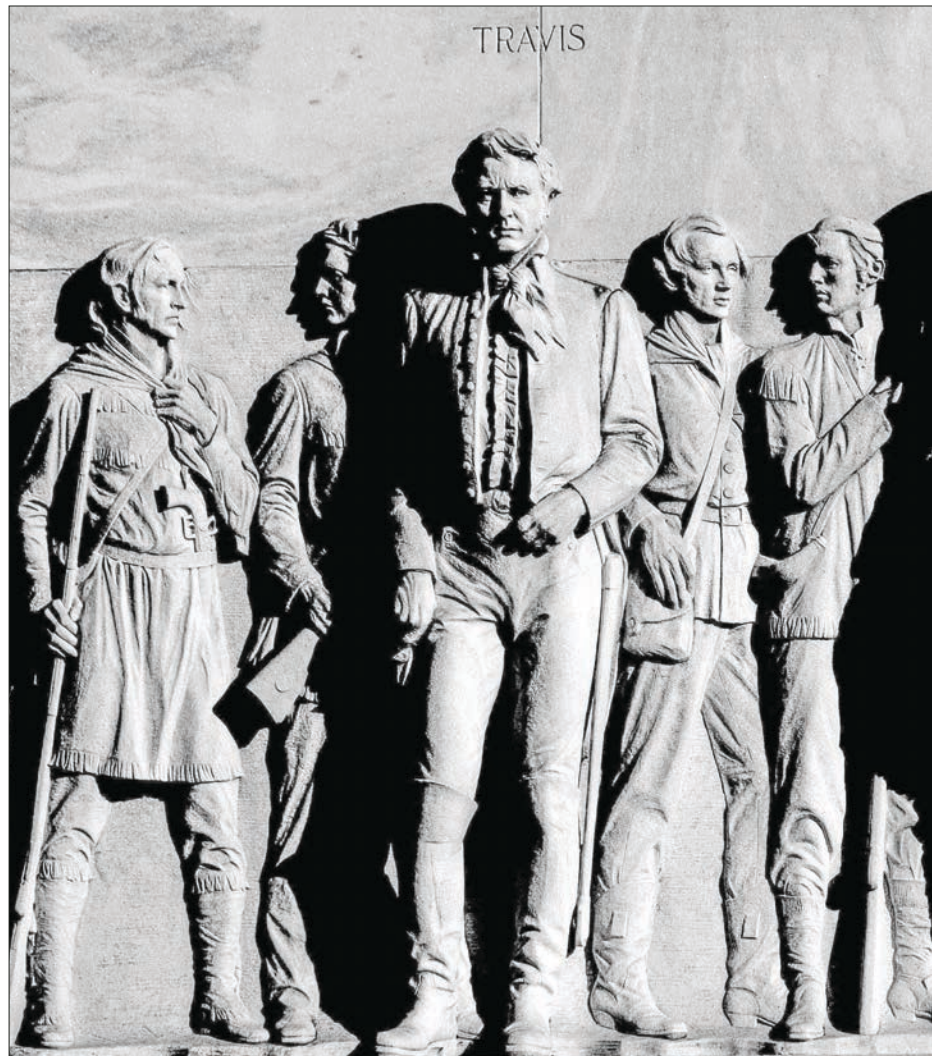
Like so many who succumbed to this low ebb of life, he had heard stories about Texas, and the promise it held for a new beginning. Soon, Travis left Alabama for Texas alone, promising to make good on his past and to be with his wife again. A long road awaited him within, even greater than the physical journey to Texas. Indeed, he was “besieged.”

TEXAS – A SANCTUARY IN REVOLT

In May 1831, Travis arrived in Texas, which was then the northernmost state of the Mexican Republic. Some lessons had already been learned by the time William established himself as an attorney in Austin’s Colony at San Felipe, and later at Anahuac. He focused on less and accomplished more. He also became a landowner and helped start a militia to oppose tyrannical Mexican rule. His steady pace of becoming one of the Texians earned him positive and lasting friendships, just as Texas was already separating itself from the political connections in Mexico City.

Then came the Anahuac Disturbances that fomented Travis’ character and transformation that would carry him until his death three short years later at the Alamo. The first disturbance in 1832 was triggered by a dispute around the ownership of escaped slaves the Mexican brigadier general Juan David Bradburn (a soldier of fortune from Virginia) was keeping safe in his compound. He also suspected the militia Travis was part of was a direct threat. After several confrontations with Bradburn, Travis was arrested, thrown in prison for 50 days and threatened with possible execution. He was finally released when a large Texian militia arrived and forced Bradburn and his soldiers to escape with their lives.

Three years later, another disturbance took place in Anahuac that cemented the young attorney’s reputation as a rebel and a leader. Travis commandeered a gunboat from Harrisburg, sailed to the fort and demanded the surrender of another tyrannical Mexican officer who was holding two Texians for contesting tax laws. He quickly achieved the surrender of the larger



A relief sculpture of Col. William Barret Travis along with volunteers at the Alamo. COURTESY PHOTO

Mexican force and freed the Texian prisoners.

Some historians believe it was this event in Anahuac, and not Gonzales, that was the true beginning of the Texas Revolution. By now, Travis was both a respected Texian and a marked man by Mexico. Texians now fondly called him “Buck” Travis.

ALAMO: COMPLETING THE TRANSFORMATION

After the second Anahuac disturbance, events in Texas moved rapidly into a full-blown rebellion. A series of small battles at Gonzales, Mission Concepcion and Bexar all resulted in Texian victories despite three-to-one odds with inferior Mexican troops. Travis was now commissioned as a lieutenant colonel of a legion of cavalry and chief recruiting officer by Provisional Gov. Henry Smith. His next assignment: raise a large company of cavalry and ride to the Alamo and reinforce the small garrison under the command of Col. James Neil.

After failing to reach the goal of the number of men he wanted, Travis’ younger ego began to resurface, feeling he deserved something more than his small rabble of troopers. He begged Smith to reconsider. “I must beg that your excellency will recall the order for me to go on to Bexar in command of so few men. I am unwilling to risk my reputation (which is ever dear to a soldier) by going off into the enemy’s [sic] country with such little means, so few men, & them so badly equipped.”

Unlike the Travis from Alabama, Buck Travis quickly regained himself and saw the bigger picture of how to serve Texas. He arrived at San Antonio de Bexar Feb. 3, reporting immediately to Col. Neil. There he was shocked by the terrible condition of the garrison. It underscored the chaotic situation that Texians put upon themselves with too many quarreling leaders, very little money, dwindling supplies and deteriorating morale. To make matters worse, Gen. Santa Anna was leading a large professional army quickly into Texas to finally destroy all Texian resistance, and no one knew how close he was.

Travis faced another storm: the famous frontier brawler Col. James Bowie who commanded the volunteers, which was most of the garrison. As Neil departed Bexar due to family issues, Travis and Bowie struggled to coexist for days primarily due to Bowie’s drunkenness, and this almost destroyed the little garrison. Buck Travis took the high road and departed to the outskirts of Bexar with his men until Bowie (who was

13 years older than Travis) rode out to apologize for his ridiculous behavior. The two were on good terms when Santa Anna’s forces suddenly arrived in the afternoon of Feb. 23, 1836.

Lt. Col. William B. Travis took control of the retreat from Bexar into the Alamo on the other side of the San Antonio River. The old Spanish mission had been gradually fortified into a fortress with about 21 pieces of artillery. Many men he could depend on were there including Juan Seguin, Albert Martin and the celebrated Tennessean, David Crockett. As the Mexicans methodically lay siege on the Alamo, it was Travis who organized the defenses and sent out couriers to get help. By firing the cannon shot as an answer to surrender, he sensed the critical timing of the moment for his men and all of Texas.

Feb. 24, the second day of the siege, Bowie collapsed with a severe illness, leaving Travis in complete command of the Alamo. The man who wrote the famous letter hours later had been transformed from what he was in Alabama to this leader of men in Texas. He had become a new brand of statesman, one who thought about “those millions yet to come.”

Captain Albert Martin was the courier who raced out of the Alamo with the famous “Victory or Death” letter and returned one week later with the only documented reinforcements to aid the Alamo. Knowing that time was running out, Travis sent a letter to a friend with instructions about caring for his little boy. Legend states he drew a line in the sand with his sword, explaining that death was certain and asking those who chose to die with him to cross the line.

In the pre-dawn hours of March 6, 1836, the Mexican columns surged toward the Alamo walls. As the deafening roar of battle escalated, William Barret Travis raced to the most vulnerable section of the Alamo’s north wall and screamed to his men to not surrender and to give the enemy hell. Within minutes he was shot in the head, probably one of the first Texians to die in battle. He and all the slain Alamo defenders were placed on funeral pyres and cremated.

As we remember young Travis and his inspiring letter about honor and duty to one’s country, it is also a calling to our younger generations to think about how they wish to serve something greater than themselves. On Saturday, April 20, citizens can join Judge Massingill, the David Crockett Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas and Sloan McNutt to discover the letter, the man who created it, and its timeless message for the ages.

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.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 13

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE sale/bake sale/fundraiser for American Heritage Girls Troop 3129 from 8 a.m. to noon. Promise Point Church, 5904 Walnut Creek Circle.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

MEETING OF the Lake Granbury Ministerial Alliance at noon. Luncheon at La Fiesta Mexican Grill and Cantina, 1112 South Morgan St. Each will buy their own lunch. Speaker is Trish Burwell sharing how the Senior Center serves our community through four lines of service.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

THE HOOD County Republican Women’s Club will host Granbury Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn at the Wiley Center at 10 a.m. Dr. Glenn will present the facts of the upcoming GISD \$161,500,000.00 bond he school district is asking voters to approve Saturday, May 4, in a special called election. Questions? 817-360-6228.

PLEASE SEE CALENDAR | A10

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



ZED by Duane M. Abel



TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE 2024 IN GRANBURY



Granbury hosted a celebration for the Total Solar Eclipse, welcoming visitors from around the world to enjoy the unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime event in the Celebration Capital of Texas. Check out these scenes from the Granbury Square!

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



PLEASE SEE MORE ECLIPSE PHOTOS | A6

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Commissioners court reschedules June 25 meeting to Friday, June 21 at 9 a.m.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously agreed to reschedule the June 25 meeting to Friday, June 21, at 9 a.m. due to scheduling conflicts.

While regular meetings of the HCCC normally take place on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m., the June 25 meeting will not have a quorum present due to a training conference that occurs June 24-27.

Hood County Auditor Stephanie Matlock originally recommended the court reschedule the meeting to the afternoon of June 21, since budget hearings would take place that morning.

However, Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle will not be able to attend an afternoon meeting, which spurred Hood County Judge Ron Massingill to suggest moving the meeting to 10 a.m.

"Or we can go ahead and do it at 9 o'clock and if we need to adjust, everybody's going to be here anyway for the budget hearing," Precinct 1 Kevin Andrews suggested. "Would that be OK to bump the budget hearing behind commissioner court?"

"That would be fine with me," Massingill said.

Andrews entered a motion to reschedule the June 25 commissioners court to June 21 at 9 a.m., move the auditor deadline to June 13 at noon, and move the agenda item deadline to June 14 at 2 p.m. The measure passed unanimously.



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PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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GRANBURYISD.ORG/BOND2024

City invites community to attend open house meeting April 18

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Community members will soon be able to share their input regarding Granbury's projected growth and how best to shape the future of the city.

The city of Granbury invites residents to a come-and-go open house meeting at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Thursday, April 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. to discuss the city's next Comprehensive Plan.

"The Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that guides the city," Director of Community Development Kira Wauwie told the Hood County News. "It's a vision document that establishes what the future would look like. It was adopted in 2016, and it has a generalized lifespan of being long term,

which for Granbury is about 10 years, so we would anticipate it being updated now. This is our first step."

According to the city's website, the Comprehensive Plan "represents the culmination of field studies, analysis and input from citizens and city staff regarding the present and future development of the city of Granbury. The document provides a statement of goals and objectives, analysis of demographic characteristics, and a description of long-range plans for thoroughfares, land use, parks and historic preservation, as well as implementation measures that practically apply the land use principles described herein to existing and future development."

"This first meeting is geared to inform the

community on the project itself, to let them know that there's about a one-year horizon to complete it," Wauwie said. "They would gain information on the background of the comprehensive plan like, 'What is a plan?' and the project itself, the steps involved and how they can contribute to the effort."

During the meeting, residents will be invited to share their insights that can help forward thinking — resulting in a long-range vision related to Granbury's transportation, land use, downtown and economic development.

"We want to hear citizen's voices," City Communications Manager Jeff Newpher said. "We really want them to come and kind of get a big picture of what a Comprehensive Plan is. If they own land, or

if they don't, if they drive, or they don't, or they come downtown or they don't, this is still important for residents to come find out, 'What are some of the frameworks of this?' and then help put their input into it."

Newpher said when residents arrive, a short video will be presented in order to give everyone a better understanding of what type of feedback the city is requesting.

"We don't want to narrow it down in advance. We want them to come open-minded," Newpher said. "It's not set in stone, but it is meant to be something that is very useful and rigid enough that it keeps everyone on the same page."

According to Newpher, the open house meeting will allow for city staff to interact with Granbury residents to

ultimately figure out what their thoughts are regarding the city's long-range planning.

"That evening is really kind of key," he said. "It's the first step and we're really trying to get people focused on the first step. There will be many others. This is a lengthy process because it's so detailed and so important that every detail that's involved must be correct."

Wauwie said following the meeting, residents will be given the opportunity to fill out a survey that's currently set to go "live" after the open house.

"By attending the open house meeting, they will gain information and knowledge that they can use to complete that survey," she said. "It's important (for residents to attend) because they're an integral part of the community. The policy

document is visionary and sets the stage for future development and for the future of the city."

"We want to convey how important it is for us to hear community voices," Newpher said. "We appreciate the people that come to the council meetings and planning and zoning meetings on a regular basis. They're very much part of the system. But we also want to hear from the people who may not normally come to those meetings, but may say, 'You know what? This is what sparked my interest and I'm planning on being here for a long time.' This is their opportunity for their voice to be heard."

For more information on the open house meeting regarding Granbury's Comprehensive Plan, visit the city website at granbury.org.

Marathon to sponsor Granbury's 50th annual Fourth of July celebration

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

This year, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce will have a new sponsor for one of its most anticipated annual events.

Marathon Digital Holdings — the owner of the Bitcoin mining site at the Wolf Hollow Data Center — recently announced it will sponsor the 50th anniversary of Granbury's Hometown 4th of July Festival.

The festival draws people in from all over the world and includes vendors on the Historic Granbury Square, a hometown parade and fireworks over the lake.



Stacie Howell, Marathon community liaison, told the Hood County News the company's decision to sponsor the patriotic event aligns with its commitment to "establish enduring connections within Granbury and to actively participate in the community's development."

"As Marathon looks to contribute meaningfully to local initiatives, sponsoring the 4th of July celebration

was an easy decision given its importance within the community," Howell said.

Granbury Chamber of Commerce President Brian Bondy said the chamber is excited to welcome Marathon as its first Ultimate Stars and Stripes Sponsor for the event.

"With our theme this year, '50 Golden Years of Stars and Stripes,' this sponsorship is a testament to the ongoing legacy of

Granbury and Hood County businesses that continue supporting our community-wide celebration," Bondy said. "As a new business in Granbury/Hood County, we're excited that Marathon is choosing to be a positive contributor to this celebration and community."

While Marathon may be sponsoring one of Granbury's biggest community events, Howell

said it likely won't be the last. She said Marathon is also actively engaged in other community initiatives, like its ongoing contributions to the Brazos River Baptist Church through weekly donations.

"Our dedication to supporting the community also extends to chamber events, Mission Granbury and various other community endeavors," she said. "We are currently working on a STEM/CTE-based scholarship in partnership with the (Granbury) Optimist Club, as well as a donation to the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department. Looking ahead, we are aiming to not only provide financial

assistance but also to be actively involved with these organizations, with the goal of fostering deeper community connections."

Howell added that she's looking forward to seeing the Fourth of July parade during the festival and that it "stands out as a highlight" for her.

"Equally exciting (though) is the opportunity for our team to gather with the community for this memorable event," she added.

For more information about the Hometown 4th of July Festival, visit granburychamber.com/hometown-4th-of-july/online.

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The Sons of the Republic of Texas



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Monday, April 1, the David Crockett Chapter 47 of The Sons of the Republic of Texas held their monthly meeting at Spring Creek BBQ. During this meeting, State Senator Brian Birdwell was warmly welcomed as an honorary member.

Submitted Item

On Monday, April 1, the David Crockett Chapter 47 of The Sons of the Republic of Texas held their monthly meeting at Spring Creek BBQ. During this meeting, State Senator Brian Birdwell was warmly welcomed as an honorary member.

Senator Birdwell resides in Granbury, and the members were delighted and honored to have him as a part of their organization by officially becoming a member of the David Crockett Chapter. Also in attendance was County Judge Ron Massingill, who took to the podium as guest speaker. He talked about a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hood County Commissioners

Court on March 12, when a motion was unanimously approved to place a structural representation of "The Alamo Letter" on the south side of the historic courthouse grounds. "The Alamo Letter" is one of the most famous letters in American history.

William B. Travis wrote it on Feb. 24, 1836, when the Texan Army at the Alamo was outnumbered. The letter was addressed "To

the People of Texas and All Americans in the World," and was a passionate plea for aid for the Alamo garrison, according to thealamo.org.

Hood County residents and visitors alike will soon be able to view the words of a significant piece of Texas history right here in Granbury. The "The Alamo Letter" dedication ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 20, at the Hood County Courthouse. Newly inducted Sons of the Republic of Texas member State Senator Brian Birdwell will perform the unveiling.

Pictured from left are Jim Scott, Ron Sutton, and State Senator Brian Birdwell.






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OBITUARIES

Linda Foster

August 6, 1954 - March 21, 2024

Linda Foster, beloved wife, sister, aunt, and dear friend passed away March 21, 2024 in Granbury, Texas.

Linda will be remembered for her kindness to others and positive outlook on life. She so graciously opened her heart and her home making one and all feel welcomed and cared for. Linda's family and friends will forever be changed having known such a caring lady whose positive outlook on life was nothing less than contagious.

Linda is preceded in death by her mother, Leona Triplett; stepfather, Rodney Triplett; father, Curtis Breland; brother, Curtis Breland, Jr.; and nephew Lynn Wood.

Linda is survived by her loving husband, Page Foster; sister, Marie Doyle; brother-in-law, Mike Doyle;



and nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Family and friends are invited to share in a Celebration of Life Saturday, April 13, 2024 at noon located at Southside Baptist Church, 910 Paluxy Rd., Granbury, Texas with reception following. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to Granbury Friends for Animals at granburyadoptapet.org or Tarrant County Food Bank, both causes dear to Linda's heart.

Captain Robert H. (Bob) Gould

October 27, 1943 - April 5, 2024

Captain Robert H. (Bob) Gould, 80, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Friday, April 5, 2024, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Bob began his career as a pilot for Delta Air Lines at the early age of 23 and retired in 2003. Bob was an avid fisherman and enjoyed fishing with family and friends at the Texas coast. The coast was his second home, and he spent many weekends with his wife and family on his boat. Bob absolutely loved being a Papaw to his grandchildren. Family meant so much to him.

He was preceded in death by his beloved dog, Charly; his parents; a brother, Jerry Gould; and two sisters, Glenda, and Amelia.

Bob is survived by his wife of 59 years, Carolyn



H. Gould; son, Harry Gould and wife Joyce, daughter Teresa Ciha and husband Stu, son, Scott Gould, and wife Beverly; four grandchildren, Shannon Gould, Cameron Gould, Grayson Gould, and Jackson Ciha; numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 13, 2024, at Acton Cemetery in Granbury under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

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 April 2-8. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

APRIL 2
6:21 a.m.: disturbance reported on Crawford Court
8:54 a.m.: non-habitation burglary reported on Hill Boulevard
12:03 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on Pearl Street
12:08 p.m.: report of shots fired on Warnick Court
2:40 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:54 p.m.: loose livestock reported on Loop 567
6:51 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
One major accident, a minor accident, two warrant services and 29 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 3
6:46 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on Abe's Landing Drive
11:10 a.m.: fraud reported on N.E. Loop 567
9:15 a.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:20 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:56 p.m.: reckless driving reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
3:58 p.m.: harassment reported on Quiet Cove
4:41 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on W. Pearl Street
5:37 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:38 p.m.: assault reported on W. Pearl Street
5:43 p.m.: theft reported

on Loop 567
5:56 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:30 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:37 p.m.: theft reported on Fall Creek Highway
Three minor accidents, two warrant services and 29 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 4
11:34 a.m.: assault reported on S. Park Drive
1:54 p.m.: disturbance reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:45 p.m.: loose livestock reported on Loop 567
8:35 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
One major accident, a minor accident, a warrant service and 27 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 5
12:21 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on N. Hannaford Street
11:15 a.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia reported on Waters Edge Drive
11:54 a.m.: theft reported on Jacinth Lane
1:15 p.m.: theft under \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:59 p.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:45 p.m.: credit card abuse reported on E. U.S.

Highway 377
6:59 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:23 p.m.: theft of property reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:22 p.m.: possession of marijuana reported on S. Morgan Street
One minor accident, a warrant service and 37 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 6
11:26 a.m.: assault reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:41 a.m.: criminal mischief reported on Weatherford Highway
12:59 p.m.: property found on E. Pearl Street
5:45 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:06 p.m.: property found on N. Houston Street
11:27 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
One minor accident, three warrant services and 18 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 7
1:09 p.m.: theft under \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
3:01 p.m.: animal bite reported on Abe's Landing Drive
6:19 p.m.: theft over

\$100 and under \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:28 p.m.: theft reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:04 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance reported on Loop 567
10:48 p.m.: report of shots fired on Abe's Landing Drive
One minor accident, a warrant service and 13 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 8
1:36 a.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia reported on S. Harbor Court
2:13 a.m.: sexual assault reported on Quiet Cove
11:39 a.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia reported on Peninsula Court
11:52 a.m.: hit-and-run accident reported on Acton Highway
12:45 p.m.: property found on S. Morgan Street
3:57 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on N. Plaza Drive
11:03 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. Pearl Street
One major accident, two minor accidents and 35 traffic stops occurred on this day

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.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison. Includes crossword grid and clues.

Slow and steady: A smart way to invest

TY ANDREW Edward Jones Financial Adviser

You've probably heard stories about fortunate investors who "get in the ground floor" of a new, hot company and quickly make a fortune. But while these things may happen, they are exceedingly rare and often depend on hard-to-duplicate circumstances — and they really don't represent a viable way of investing for one's goals.

To follow this strategy, consider these suggestions: • Start small — and add more when you can. When



Ty Andrew

especially if you're carrying student loan debt. But one of the key advantages of the slow-and-steady method is that it does not require large investment sums to get going. If you can afford to put away even \$50 or \$100 a month into individual stocks or mutual funds, month after month, you may be surprised and pleased at how your account can grow. And when your salary goes

up, you can put away more money each month. • Take advantage of an employer's retirement plan. If your employer offers a 401(k) or similar tax-advantaged retirement plan, try to take full advantage of it. Again, if you're just beginning your career, you may not be able to put away much in this type of plan, but even a small amount is better than nothing. And as soon as you can possibly afford it, try to put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.

money is moved directly from your paycheck into the investments you've chosen within your 401(k) or other plan. • Be prepared for downturns. The financial markets will always experience ups and downs. So, you need to be prepared for those times when your investment statements may show negative results. By understanding that these downturns are a normal part of the investment environment, you can avoid overreactions, such as selling quality investments with good fundamentals just because their price has temporarily dropped.

• Chart your progress regularly. A key element of a slow-and-steady investment approach is knowing how well it's working. But it's important to measure your progress in a way that makes sense for you. So, for example, instead of measuring your portfolio's performance against that of an external stock market index, such as the S&P 500, you may want to assess where you are today versus one year ago, or whether the overall progress you're making is sufficient to help you meet the financial goals you've set for yourself well into the future.

that the index only looks at a certain pool of investments, which, in the case of the S&P 500, is simply the largest companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges. But long-term investors try to own a range of assets — U.S. and foreign stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit, and so on. "Slow and steady" may not sound like an exciting approach to investing. But it's often the case that a little less excitement, and a lot more diligence, can prove to be quite effective.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

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

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

Catholic Church. For more information, call Ben Bradley at 575-706-5703 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

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

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

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

PEDALING FOR Parkinson's hosted by the Hood County YMCA will be from 1 to 2 p.m. at 1475 James Road. The program is led by a certified group fitness instructor and consists of a pre- and post-fitness evaluation, and 45-minute spin/cycling

session. Program will last 12 weeks. For more information call 817-624-9791 or e-mail communityhealth@ymcafw.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND MONDAY
CHAPTER 238 of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) meet at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 3601 Fall Creek Highway in Acton. Meeting is at 7 p.m., all veterans are welcome, disabled or not. Focus is on fun, education and assisting attendees.

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.

NOTICES

9031

Public Notices

Notice to Bidders
 Sealed bids addressed to "LGI Homes - Texas, LLC for Cresson MUD No. 1 of Hood County" will be received physically at the office of the Engineer, Pape-Dawson Engineers, 6105 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 210, Plano, Texas 75024, Phone 214.420.8494 OR via CivCast until 2:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, May 9, 2024, and then publicly opened and read at the office of the Engineer, and via Microsoft Teams (Meeting ID 235 189 713 170, Passcode ovkwRn) for the construction of the following project:

"Construction of Water Production Facility for Cresson MUD No. 1" Project No. 70193-02

Scope of Work of the Contract includes:

- The Cresson MUD No. 1 Water Production Facility will provide potable water service to a new multi-use development in Hood County. The facility will include construction of:
 - 300,000-gallon welded steel ground storage tank with an altitude valve, with water level sensors, level controls and monitors
 - o Alternatively, a 300,000-gallon bolted steel ground storage tank
 - o Alternatively, a 600,000-gallon prestressed concrete ground storage tank
 - High service pump station with a capacity of 2,280 gallons per min (3.2 MGD) with variable frequency controls
 - 12,000-gallon hydropneumatic tank with air compressor, controls, SCADA connection
 - On-site disinfection system utilizing a 12.5% hypochlorite solution injection system, with controls and SCADA connection
 - Electrical system including controls, lighting, security support, with control valves, electronic meters, surge protection
 - Emergency generator with automatic controls
 - SCADA system for operator use and system management
 - Security, lighting systems providing notifications to facility operators
 - Site work with paving, grading plans, and utility service for the facility

A non-mandatory, but highly encouraged, pre-bid conference will be held at 2:00 p.m. local time on Thursday, April 18, 2024, physically at the office of the Engineer, Pape-Dawson Engineers, 6105 Tennyson Parkway, Suite 210, Plano, Texas 75024, as well as via telephone (210.926.0892, Conference ID 589 221 499#) and Microsoft Teams (Meeting ID 234 062 243 587, Passcode bynCIV). Please contact Ted Nelson via email at tnelson@pape-dawson.com for further information.

Instructions to Bidders and other bid documents will be available for review at the office of the Engineer and will be provided electronically, via CivCast, to prospective bidders.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or minor defects. In case of the lack of clarity or ambiguity in prices, the Owner reserves the right to accept the most advantageous or reject the bid. All bids received after the closing time designated above will be returned unopened.

The requirements of Subchapter J, Chapter 552, Government Code, may apply to this Bid and/or Contract and the Contractor agrees that the Contract can be terminated if the Contractor knowingly or intentionally fails to comply with a requirement of that subchapter.

PLEASE SEE **MORE LEGAL NOTICES** | A12

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

SCHOOL FACILITY BOND

Folks, this is the third year I have penned a letter to our Granbury Independent School District (GISD) community asking for help with the school facility bond to support the rapidly growing number of students. This \$161.5 million bond is coupled with a zero tax rate increase which continues the .93 cents valuation for schools from 2023, one of the lowest in North Texas. The bond provides for a new elementary school, a minimal refurbishment for all schools to address capacity and safety issues, a second bus hub in the northern part of the district to shorten bus runs and reduce traffic congestion, improvements to pick-up/drop-off lines to avoid highway backups and 30 new buses.

Currently, half of our elementary schools are over capacity. To maintain the Texas mandated teacher-to-student ratio (1 to 22), we have had to resort to using seven portable buildings at our elementary schools. Each of these portables has two classrooms and are already near maximum capacity. Although portables have allowed the district to respond quickly to our growing student population, they do not provide a great learning environment and they are more costly in the long run due to maintenance issues. Portables are also less structurally sound than brick and mortar buildings, leading to increased risk during severe weather events or other situations where our children would be vulnerable. Portables do not have bathrooms, and this means a child,

accompanied by a buddy, must go to the main building under the watchful eye of teachers who open the locked doors. As a result, teaching time is lost and supervision requirements by teachers/aides in both the portable and the main building are intensified.

A new elementary school behind H-E-B and a bus hub on the north side of town will alleviate some of the current traffic problems Granbury is experiencing. This removes the need for parents living in that area to drive across traffic-constrained bridges. New buses with updated safety features and working air conditioning are desperately needed, as we saw at the beginning of the school year. Our population continues to grow toward Fort Worth, so an elementary school serving that area will

give us room for future students as well as resolve our current overcrowding issues. Please remember that a new school will not be in place for three to four years after bond approval, so we must act now!

Time moves quickly: the last elementary school built was in 1996. Our community needs to embrace GISD's capacity and safety requirements. Prior generations put in place the facilities that facilitated our learning and maturation to good citizens. Now it is our turn to pay it forward and protect the future for our children. Please join me in voting yes on the school bond as every vote makes a difference. Last year the facilities bond lost by two votes. Let's not let that happen again!! Early voting begins April 22.

Roger Deeds
 Hood County Sheriff

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to www.hcnews.com/forms/letters. Letters must include author's first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1684

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A4
LAKE GRANBURY/HOOD County Master Gardeners meet the third Wednesday of each month (except December) at 1 p.m. at Reunion Arena, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. This month's program: Modern Homesteading and Returning to the Basics with Stuart and Sarah Brannon of BS Farms in Bluff Dale. Discover how homesteading fosters self-reliance, sustainability and

community connection.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

SECOND ANNUAL AprilFest Community Concert. All Granbury ISD bands will play at the GHS auditorium. GMS/AMS bands begin at 12:30 p.m., GHS bands begin at 3:30 p.m. Silent auction including Texas Ranger Tickets. Bake sale. Doors open at noon. Questions? Call 817-287-1076.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

THE BRAZOS

Chamber Orchestra will perform its fourth and final concert series for the 2023-2024 concert season at 7:30 p.m. A few of the titles: On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss (It Is Well) arranged by David Holsinger; Superman Returns, John Williams/John Ottman/arr. Victor Lopez; The Sea Hawk, Erich Wolfgang Korngold/arr. Jerry Brubaker. Closing the program will be the first movement of

Symphony No. 4 in C minor D. 417, by Franz Schubert. The concert is free. The orchestra will also perform April 21 in Burleson and April 23 in Cleburne.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

MEETING OF the Hood County Hospital District board at noon in the Hood County courthouse, second floor courtroom, 100 E. Pearl St. Discussion to include possible taxation. For more information call 817-579-3200.

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EMPLOYMENT

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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.

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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.

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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Understanding the symptoms of stroke

Recognizing the signs of a medical emergency



BY **NANCY WAGNER**, AGPCNP-BC

A stroke is a medical emergency that requires immediate attention as it can lead to severe complications or even death if not treated promptly. Recognizing the symptoms of a stroke is crucial for early intervention and better outcomes. Here are some ways to identify symptoms of a stroke and the reasons why prompt action is essential.

WHAT IS A STROKE?

A stroke, also known as a cerebrovascular accident (CVA), occurs when the blood supply to part of the brain is interrupted or reduced, depriving brain tissue of oxygen and nutrients. This can happen due to a blockage in an artery (ischemic stroke) or the rupture of a blood vessel (hemorrhagic stroke). Without oxygen-rich blood, brain cells begin to die within minutes.

SYMPTOMS OF STROKE

Stroke symptoms can vary depending on the type of stroke and the part of the brain affected. The American Stroke Association suggests using the acronym FAST to recognize common stroke symptoms:

• **Face drooping:** One side of the face may droop or become numb. Ask the

person to smile, and check if their smile is uneven.

• **Arm weakness:** One arm may become weak or numb. Ask the person to raise both arms and see if one arm drifts downward.

• **Speech difficulty:** Speech may become slurred or difficult to understand. Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence and see if they can articulate it correctly.

• **Time to call emergency services:** If you observe any of these signs, it's crucial to seek emergency medical attention immediately.

Time is of the essence when treating a stroke, as quick intervention can minimize brain damage and improve the chances of recovery.

In addition to the FAST acronym, other symptoms of stroke may include sudden:

- Severe headache
- Trouble walking or loss of balance



COURTESY PHOTO BY CKSTOCKPHOTO, ENVATO.COM

Recognizing the symptoms of a stroke is crucial for early intervention and better outcomes.



LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

- Confusion or trouble understanding
- Blurred vision or sudden loss of vision in one or both

eyes
It's essential to remember that not all strokes present with the same symptoms,

and some individuals may experience a combination of symptoms. Therefore, any sudden onset of

neurological symptoms should be taken seriously and evaluated promptly by a medical professional.





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KNIEPER REALTY

Is this the end of real estate as we know it?



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

Last month, the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) announced a \$418 million settlement that was structured to resolve litigation concerning real estate commissions paid by sellers. It has been all over national news, the internet and social media, however, there continues to be a lot of confusion on exactly what this means to the future of the industry.

The settlement has people speculating that real estate agents may soon go the way of dinosaurs. While there is little doubt some agents may find the changes insurmountable, I see this as an opportunity and an invitation to grow as real estate agents. Change is good... it pulls us out of our ruts, makes us put aside old habits and forces us to reinvent ourselves.

Currently when you list your home with a real estate agent the amount of the commission to be offered to the buyer's agent is established in the listing agreement and it is published in the MLS listing for your property. This settlement will initiate the removal of the offer of compensation to buyer agents from the MLS.

While it is important to stress that commissions have always and will

continue to be negotiable, nothing in this settlement will require buyer brokers (or their agents) to work for free. Buyers, sellers, and real estate agents will continue to have options when negotiating compensation. However, we (real estate agents) will need to do a much better job of educating our clients about compensation. Like a listing agreement for sellers, buyer brokers will be required to enter into a written buyer representation agreement detailing the services to be provided and the required compensation.

These changes are tentatively scheduled to go into effect mid-July of this year. During the transition, alternative methods for compensation will most certainly evolve. Fixed fees, seller concessions and bonuses are just a few of the possibilities.



COURTESY PHOTO BY DRAZENPHOTO, ENVATO.COM

Currently when you list your home with a real estate agent the amount of the commission to be offered to the buyer's agent is established in the listing agreement and it is published in the MLS listing for your property. Last month, the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) announced a \$418 million settlement that was structured to resolve litigation concerning real estate commissions paid by sellers. This settlement will initiate the removal of the offer of compensation to buyer agents from the MLS.

Cooperative compensation, where the commission a seller pays to their listing broker is shared with the buyer broker will continue to be an important option, it just won't be offered in the MLS listing.

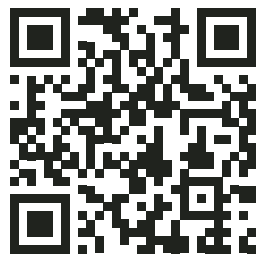
A recent article by Tim Hur in Fortune Magazine stated, "Historically, nearly 90% of homebuyers have opted to work with a real estate agent or broker. That

figure is unlikely to change. Even in an era where seemingly everything can be researched and purchased electronically, the clear value added by REALTORS® remains evident. Nine in 10 homebuyers would use their agent again or recommend their agent to others."

As real estate agents, we are held to a code of ethics strictly enforced in our industry, and those of us

who embrace these changes and continue to bring value as well as honesty and integrity to each of our client's unique situation will be better for it, as will our clients. Obviously, this is a very condensed version of the settlement and the major changes. If you have questions or would like to visit with us about this topic, please know we welcome your involvement.

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Granbury MCJROTC program experiencing the best of times

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

One reason the Granbury ISD Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps is renowned is the program's consistent success and steady forward movement.

Since 2022, the program has achieved the most unprecedented success in its 24-year history.

"In the past two years we surpassed our record-breaking achievements, as evidenced by empirical data in all categories," said the program's director, Lt. Col. Scott Casey.

This includes:

The program was designated a Marine Corps Reserve Association (Best JROTC in the Marine Corps) school for the third consecutive year and was designated a Naval Honor School (top 10% of all MCJROTCs in the nation) for the 10th time.

Senior cadets were awarded more than \$2.2 million in scholarships last year.

Four seniors enlisted in the Marine Corps, one in the U.S. Army, one in the U.S. Air Force, and one in the U.S. Navy.

Last year's program's Battalion Executive Officer Ashton Arlington received a rifle scholarship to attend United States Military Academy West Point. Sgt. Maj. Dianna Koch was awarded the National Army ROTC scholarship to attend Tarleton State University and two seniors, Kaylynn Slaughter and Caroline Martin, received scholarships to shoot on NCAA college rifle teams at Texas Christian University and Murray State University, respectively.

This year Sgt. Maj. Johnathan Hutchison received

a scholarship to the Naval Academy Prep School. Seniors Kameron Wells and Julia Czernik will shoot for the University of Texas El Paso next school year.

"JROTC is a junior-level program for high school students that aims to create good citizens," Casey said. "On the other hand, the ROTC program at the university level has specific military service requirements. Therefore, JROTC is an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills, engage in community service, and participate in service learning programs."

By participating in JROTC, students can try out for top leadership roles such as battalion commander, battalion executive officer and battalion sergeant major.

"These roles provide stellar leadership training and real-world skills that are often modeled after West Point, Annapolis and other service academies," Casey said.

MUCH SUCCESS THIS SEASON

"Our extracurricular teams once again excelled this year, setting the pace for the battalion. The rifle team received state and national recognition, making this another incredibly successful year," Casey said.

The Granbury Rifle Team won state in the State 3 Position USA Shooting/Civilian Marksmanship Program Junior Olympics and the Texas JROTC State competition. During the Service and National Air Rifle Championships, the Granbury team brought home the Directors' Cup and set a national record in the CMP JROTC Open Team competition with Parker Haydin, Ashton Arlington, Sarah Folsom and Caroline Martin

PLEASE SEE MCJROTC | B2



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury MCJROTC program aims to promote citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment among its participants.

Tolar High School rodeo dreams in Hood County



Ainsley Reeves of the Granbury rodeo team during the barrel racing event Sunday, April 7.

BY LAYTH TAYLOR

Special to the Hood County News

The Hood County Reunion Grounds were once again the testing grounds for young high school athletes determined to prove themselves in the sport of rodeo. Rodeo teams from across North Texas came to the Reunion Grounds Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7 where they competed in various rodeo events throughout the weekend. This marks the 19th rodeo event of the 2023-2024 North Texas High School Rodeo Association season and all points scored at this rodeo help get the young athletes closer to the coveted finals. This rodeo was hosted by the Tolar High School Rodeo Team.

Two Hood County athletes placed in the top 10

in the barrel riding event. Granbury High School athlete Ainsley Reeves had an impressive 17.14 second ride and walked away with a total of 70 points for the barrel racing event the buckle. Neelie Stafford of Granbury earned 35 points and sixth place with her 17.708 second ride in the same event. Ashtyn Liming of Granbury just missed the top 10 with a 14.051 second ride in the ride-up goat tying event.

Granbury wasn't the only Hood County team that showed up. The Tolar Rattlers competed but missed out on the points. Rylee Rickabaugh barely missed a top 10 spot in the walk-up goat tying event with a 9.370 second run behind Caitlyn Colley of Azle, who turned in a 9.028 second run. Right on the

PLEASE SEE RODEO | B3

Ranch crowns first champion in Fort Worth

Submitted Item

The National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) congratulates William "Colt" Moore of Granbury, aboard Playful Smoothtalker on their championship at the 2024 NCHA NRR Cat King Cole Super Stakes presented by Beechfork Ranch. Playful

Smoothtalker is owned by the Ten/27 Ranch of Denham Springs, Louisiana. In the Intermediate Open Super Stakes Classic finals, Moore showed Playful Smoothtalker to a score of 225. The pair will go home with an estimated \$11,271.12, not including bonus incentives, along

with the coveted title of Intermediate Open Classic Champion.

One championship title was not enough for Moore as he brought home another championship title in the Intermediate Open Super Stakes. Riding Super on Stevie owned by Teton Ridge, Moore scored a show-

stopping 227 to secure his championship title. Between both classes, Moore's estimated payout totaled over \$47,500.

The Super Stakes would not be possible without the National Cutting Horse Association's continued partnership with the following: Beechfork Ranch,

Cinch, NRR Cat King Cole, Cowboy Trailer Sales, 4CYTE, Great American Insurance Group, Kiser Arenas, Kubota, Metallic Cat, Platinum Performance, Rios of Mercedes and Sombrero Brands.

The 2024 NCHA NRR Cat King Cole Super Stakes presented by Beechfork

Ranch takes place at the historic Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth March 20 through April 14. To learn more about the National Cutting Horse Association, including upcoming events, please visit nchacutting.com.

Experimental Aircraft Association presents scholarships

Submitted Item

Chapter 983 of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA), Pecan Plantation, presented three local youth with a total of \$15,000 in aviation scholarships during its monthly meeting at the Pecan Plantation Airport April 6.

Wyatt Richeson and Angeline Barber-Petroff were each awarded \$2,000 scholarships to attend the EAA Advanced Aviation Air Camp in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in July. The program will coincide with the world's largest experimental aircraft airshow, called the EAA Air Venture. For that week, Oshkosh is the busiest airport in the world, with an aircraft landing or taking off every 15 seconds. Over

10,000 aircraft attended the show and last year more than 750,000 people attended the week-long event. While there, Richeson and Barber-Petroff will participate in aerospace education seminars, learn "hands-on" aircraft construction skills in wood and aluminum fabrication, riveting and welding. They will also participate in both aircraft and helicopter flights.

Richeson is a junior at Granbury High School and is involved in the GHS Aerospace Engineering class, building an experimental RANS S-21 aircraft. He is also a member of the teen Elevate group at Stonewater Church, the Junior Optimist Club, National Honor Society, and GHS Student Leadership

Committee. He builds and races 'dwarf' dirt track race cars and would like to study engineering in college for a career in aviation. Wyatt's scholarship is sponsored by local businessman Rocky Campbell, CEO of Hybrid Financial. When Rocky learned of Chapter 983's involvement in youth aviation programs through a client, he volunteered to support sending a local student.

Barber-Petroff is a homeschooler from Iredell. She soloed in a glider in March and plans to get her glider license before starting helicopter training. She also plans to study engineering in college to pursue a career in aviation. She is an avid backpacker and has plans to attend her first technical



COURTESY PHOTOS

EAA Chapter 983 President Dick Key (right) and Chapter Scholarship Chairman Bruce McJunkin (left) presenting Tania Magallanes with her 2024 EAA Ray Flight Scholarship plaque.

mountaineering course to summit the Grand Tetons in Wyoming this summer. Barber-Petroff's scholarship

is sponsored by the local EAA Chapter 983 members.

An \$11,000 flight scholarship was awarded to Tania Magallanes. Tania graduated from GHS a year early last year. She was involved with the GHS Aerospace Engineering class, building an experimental aircraft. She currently works part time to support her flying lessons and volunteers time as a coach for her sister's soccer team. Magallanes has been actively involved with the Dennis Polen Aviation Educational Foundation. This foundation teaches the "practical side" of aircraft design and engineering. Skills are learned as they are needed for various projects. So far, her favorite skill is welding. Her scholarship will enable her to acquire her private pilot license and then enroll in the Southwest Airlines Cadet

Pilot program.

Chapter 983 supports the EAA Young Eagles flight program where our pilots give orientation flights to youth, ages 8 through 17. The next Young Eagles event will be May 4 at the Pecan Plantation Airport. On April 20, we will host our next "Flying Start" program for those adults 18 years and older who may be interested in starting flying lessons.

For those interested in learning more about our activities, visit EAA983.org or you may contact John Bowen at 817-559-5080 or bowenjandj@gmail.com. All are welcome; you do not have to be a pilot, just have an interest in aviation. Meetings are at 10 a.m. the second Saturday of each month at the Pecan Plantation Airport.



EAA Chapter 983 President Dick Key presenting Angeline Barber-Petroff with her 2024 Advanced EAA Air Camp scholarship plaque.



HYBRID FINANCIAL CEO Rocky Campbell presenting Wyatt Richeson with his 2024 Advanced EAA Air Camp scholarship plaque.

MJROTC

FROM PAGE B1

Also, the program took home the national title for the seventh year in a row in the Precision category.

Additionally, during the national match, Granbury Cadets Wells and Viola Allen placed first and second as individuals, with Julia Czernik in third place after a very close final.

At the American Legion match, the Granbury Rifle Team took home top honors as state champions. During this match, two of Granbury's top shooters (names yet to be released officially), received bids to shoot in the American Legion Match this summer in Colorado Springs (Top 15 in the nation).

Last season Wells competed in American Legion.

Additionally four shooters received a bid to the USAS Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs — Kameron Wells, Kennedy Wells, Ethan Erwin, Cadience McGrath.

Granbury also hosted numerous rifle competitions, including the Comanche Peak Invitational, State Junior 3 Position Junior Olympics, Army Marksmanship Unit Sectionals, Texas State USA Shooting Junior Olympics,

and the Pirate Cup Match with over 1,000 shooters from Texas, Oklahoma and California participating.

MORE THAN SHOOTING

Despite being a rebuilding year for the CyberPatriot Team, they successfully made it to the gold tier of National CyberPatriot Competition.

The Academic Team qualified for the National JROTC Academic Bowl Championship, and this April will be the third year for the Robotics Team to compete in numerous local competitions, along with having qualified to attend state competition (where they finished second), JROTC Nationals (finishing third) and VEX Worlds.

The Color Guard supported more than 40 events in the community and received praise from local veterans organizations.

The Physical Training Team participated in several skills competitions, placing first overall at the W.T. White MCJROTC Field Meet and third overall in the McKinney High School Lion's Challenge. The highlight of the year for the PT Team was its participation in the All-Service National JROTC Fitness Challenge Championships in Daytona Beach, Florida, where it

placed sixth overall out of a field of 85 teams.

This was the inaugural year for the Orienteering Team, which entered six competitions throughout the state. The team flourished by finishing in the top three places in every meet it competed in and took home the gold in the state competition.

Almost 20 of the program's rising sophomores, juniors and seniors were selected for summer leadership and academic camps.

WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

Cadet Capt. Zach Layland said JROTC is more than just a program. He called it "a transformative experience that shapes character, instills discipline and cultivates leadership skills."

"JROTC is a vital component of my personal and professional development, intertwining with my goals in profound ways," he continued. "Looking ahead to my college journey in computer science, I view JROTC as a guiding force, furnishing me with a solid framework of values and skills essential for advancement. In the realm of computer science, marked by its emphasis on innovation and teamwork, the

lessons gleaned from JROTC, including adaptability and effective communication, will prove invaluable."

Layland said his aim is to utilize his JROTC experiences to excel academically, make meaningful contributions to collaborative endeavors, and ultimately forge a successful career path in the ever-evolving field of technology.

"With JROTC serving as my guiding light, I am confident in my capacity to confront and conquer the challenges that lie ahead," he said.

"JROTC offers numerous opportunities for personal growth and development. It also instills a sense of belonging as well as structure," Wells said. "This means students are learning to cultivate values, skills and traits necessary for strong character development, preparing them for future leadership roles both within the military and civilian life before their peers."

"My involvement with the program will enhance my education and career in psychology because of the leadership, interpersonal skills, stress management, teamwork and community engagement taught. Along with my education, as I compete in a collegiate sport, my skills and values

developed through my experience in the program will complement my experience competing."

STEADY GROWTH

The program, open to students in grades 9-12, has had approximately 2,100 students come through it since it began in 2000. Of these, 40% are female.

This school year 100 cadets are in the program (60 male, 40 female).

"Our students have shown incredible dedication and drive, enlisting in the military, attending prestigious military academies, and earning scholarships to compete at the college level in rifle," Casey said. "Their achievements are a testament to their hard work and commitment to excellence."

FUTURE HELP

Along with their current success, Casey stressed that students coming through the program can use their experience in a variety of ways to find accomplishments as they go through life.

"After graduating from high school, you may have different plans for your future, such as enrolling in a public or private college,

joining the military, or applying to one of the five service academies," he said. "Participating in JROTC can offer you many benefits, such as improving your physical fitness, boosting your grades and GPA, and enhancing your college applications."

He added that it's important to note that being in JROTC doesn't obligate you to enlist in the military.

"JROTC can also give you a competitive advantage when applying to top universities and highly selective military service academies," Casey said. "Additionally, you become eligible for full-ride ROTC scholarships and paid positions at the five military service academies."

"Participating in JROTC is an excellent way to develop good character. JROTC values include loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. By being involved in JROTC programs, you'll have the opportunity to set goals for school, college, career and life."

Last year, GHS senior cadets received more than \$2.2 million in college scholarships.

"So, if you're looking for a way to pay for your college education, JROTC is an excellent option," Casey said.

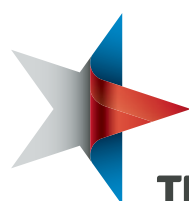
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HOOD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL RODEO STARS



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
 Athletes from both Granbury and Tolar competed in the Tolar High School Rodeo at the Hood County Reunion Grounds.
 For full gallery go to HCNEWS.COM



Levi Johnson of the Granbury rodeo team riding saddle bronc Saturday, April 6.



Takota Kenley of the Tolar rodeo team heading for the team roping event Saturday April 6.



Grace Burdick of the Granbury rodeo team during the walk up goat tying event Sunday, April 7.



Pyper Boggs of the Tolar rodeo team barrel racing on Sunday, April 7.

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RODEO

FROM PAGE B1

tails of Liming in the ride-up goat tying event were Rickabaugh and Pyper Boggs of Tolar.

Overall standings for Hood County teams and individuals for the NTHSRA 2023-2024 season as of press time:

TEAM

- The Tolar High School rodeo team is currently ranked seventh overall out of 66 North Texas teams with a total of 2,968 points.
- The Granbury High School rodeo team is just behind the Tolar team with a total of 2,863 points.

BARRELS

- Reeves of Granbury currently sits at 10th for barrel racing with 357 points.

BREAKAWAY ROPING

- Kyley Kenley of Tolar is currently 11th with 308 points — just one point away from top 10.

CHUTE DOGGING

- Joseph Rickabaugh of Tolar is currently in first place with 819 points.
- Levi Johnson of Granbury is in fourth place with 553 points.

GOAT TYING/HORSE

- Rylee Rickabaugh of Tolar is in sixth place with 651 points.

GOAT TYING/WALK UP

- Grace Burdick of Granbury is in sixth place with 651 points.
- Rylee Rickabaugh of Tolar is 11th with 322 points, 35 points from the top 10.

SADDLE BRONC

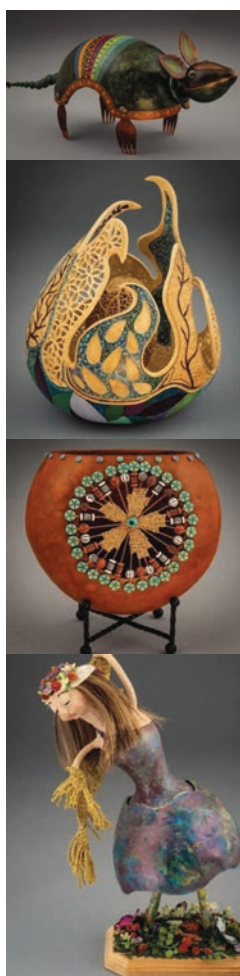
- Levi Johnson of Granbury is currently sitting

at second place with 280 points.

TEAM ROPING (HEADER)

- Takota Kenley is currently fourth place with 427 points.

Hood County rodeo teams have three more opportunities to earn more points for the 2023-2024 North Texas High School Rodeo Association season. April 12-13 is the NTHSRA Queens and Cowgirls Rodeo at the NTHSRA Arena. On April 19-21 the Byron Nelson Rodeo is the 21st rodeo of the season. It will also be held at the NTHSRA Arena. The final rodeo before the finals will be the Perrin Rodeo April 27-28 at the NTHSRA Arena located at 6229 Windy Ryon Way, Fort Worth, TX 76179. For more information about the North Texas High School Rodeo Association go to nthsra.org or look up the NTHSRA on Facebook.



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Tolar vs Lipan



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Friday, April 8 the Tolar Rattlers and the Lipan Indians battled it out in Tolar with the Rattlers taking the 9-4 victory over the Indians. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



Lipan & Tolar Track



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Tolar Rattlers hosted the 2A District Track meet running finals April 4 at Tolar High School. Both Lipan and Tolar athletes participated. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.





Pirate Tennis



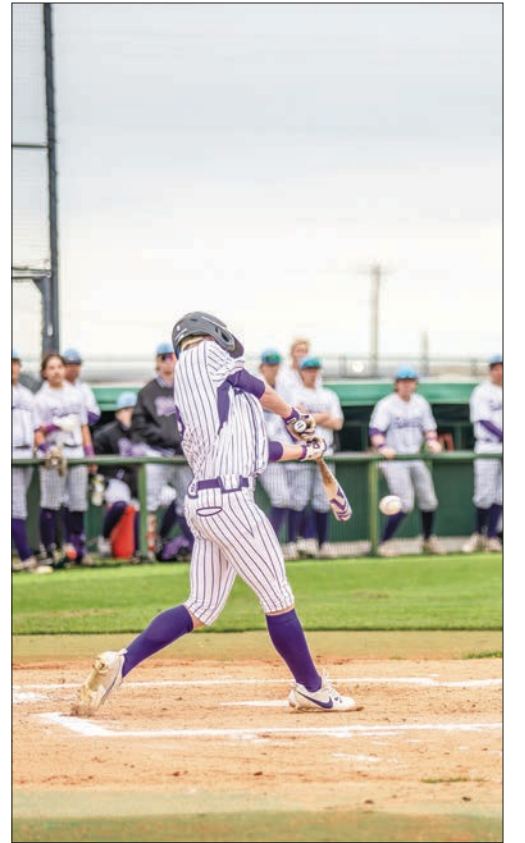
PHOTOS BY **MARY VINSON** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
On April 4, 2024, the Granbury High School varsity tennis team hosted an exhilarating tournament at the Granbury High School tennis courts.



Pirate Baseball



PHOTOS BY **LAYTH TAYLOR** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Granbury Pirates took on the Timer Creek Falcons in a non-district showdown at Tidwell field.
For full gallery go to hcnews.com.





LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury took on the Timber Creek Falcons Tuesday, April 9.

From baseball perfection to track records to golf regionals, area athletes shine

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The area will once again be well represented in postseason track as Granbury, Lipan and Tolar qualified numerous athletes for area from their respective district meets. The top four finishers in each district event qualified for regionals. The Pirates' 4x100-meter quartet of Kaleb Johnston, Elijah Johnston, Michael Grant and Jadon Rogers clocked a time of 41.79 seconds to win, while the two Johnstons and Rogers joined Caden Davis to set another record in winning the 4x200 in 1:28.58. Individually, Elijah Johnston's time of 21.65 in the 200 was also a school record.

GRANBURY TRACK
5-5A Meet
April 3-4 in Aledo
Qualifiers will compete in the Area 5/6-5A Meet at Clark Stadium in Fort Worth April 12.
Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches.
Granbury results
Varsity Boys
Team score: 101, 3rd
Area qualifiers
3200: 2. Jaxon Glenn, 10:01.75; 3. Bryan Hailey, 10:02.43
4x100 relay: 1. Kaleb Johnston, Elijah Johnston, Michael Grant, Jadon Rogers, 41.79
4x200 relay: 1. K. Johnston, E. Johnston, Caden Davis, Rogers, 1:28.58
200: 1. E. Johnston, 21.65
100: 2. Rogers, 11.21
1600: 4. Hailey, 4:34.41
High jump: 1. Miller Schenewark, 6-2
Varsity Girls
Team score: 28, 7th

Area qualifiers
4x100 relay: 4. Ella Garner, Julia Crum, Jayla Hayes, Baylee Goodman, 49.62
100 hurdles: 3. Kate Hamlin, 16.32
Shot put: 2. Garner, 33-9.25

GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF
The Lady Pirates Purple team placed second at the District 5-5A Tournament at Sugar Tree Golf Course in Lipan April 4-5. They shot 734 (357-377).

They now advance to compete in the Class 5A Region I Tournament at Lake Ridge Country Club in Lubbock April 17-18.

Akyah Ditto led Granbury, shooting 168 (79-89) to place third individually among all players and qualify for a fourth straight regionals. Claire Jordan's 181 (91-90) placed her fifth individually and Halle Carr shot 185 (90-95) for eighth.

Also for Granbury, Grace Jimenez shot 200 (97-103) and Ariel Jimenez posted a 208 (99-109).

Granbury Gold finished with a 945 (470-475). They were led by Ryli Lewis with a 211 (101-110).

"We played well the first day but stumbled a bit on Day 2. But it was enough to take second and advance, so super excited to be going," Lady Pirates coach Becky Addison said. "Akyah had a great round on Day 1. Sugar Tree is a really difficult course, so I was very pleased with Day 1 scores. The girls are really working hard and I believe they will play at regionals. Our region is very tough this year."

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

TOLAR/LIPAN BASEBALL
The Rattlers' week was highlighted by a mercy rule-shortened perfect game

tossed by pitcher Talan Brown in a 19-0 home win over Ranger April 9. In four innings, Brown gave up no hits, no walks and struck out all 12 Ranger batters he faced.

The Rattlers (9-6-2, 5-0 in District 11-2A) also finished a sweep of Lipan (4-8-2, 3-3 in District 11-2A), winning 9-4 at home April 5. Hunter Michels and Merritt Imel each had three hits and a double, with Imel driving in three runs and Michels also walking.

Drake Owens struck out seven and walked two in six innings of pitching.

Jackson Posey and Tyson Tarpley each had four hits in a yeoman effort for the Indians, with Tarpley doubling, collecting an RBI and walking.

On April 6, Tolar hosted Rio Vista and won 4-2. Talan Brown had two hits and an RBI and Jesse Owen struck out 10 in six innings, scattering five hits with one earned run and no walks.

On April 9, the Indians played Grafrod at home and fell 8-1

Tolar hitting vs. Ranger: Cutter Cain two home runs, four RBI; Rowdy Tryon two hits, double, RBI; Noah Yanish double, two RBIs; Imel two hits, double, RBI; Brown double, hit by pitch, two RBI, two stolen bases.

Lipan hitting vs. Grafrod: Posey two hits, Christopher Collins double.

Tolar goes to Poolville April 16 at 6:30. They end district play at home against Poolville April 19 at 6:30 p.m. Lipan visits Ranger April 16 at 6 p.m. before ending district at home against Ranger at 6 p.m. April 19.

TOLAR/LIPAN TRACK
11-2A Meet
April 1/4 in Tolar
Qualifiers were in Area

11/12-2A Meet in Tolar at press time.

Tolar/Lipan results
Varsity Boys

Team scores: Tolar 164, 2nd; Lipan 50, 5th place

Area qualifiers
100: 2. Noah Yanish, Tolar, 11.67

200: 1. Caden Pate, Tolar, 22.65

400: 4. Hunter Michels, Tolar, 55.51

110 hurdles: 3. Dacen Watkins, Tolar, 16.90; 4. Jonathan Pierce, Lipan, 17.49

4x100 relay: 1. Pate, Garrison Nation, Matthew Behrens, Braylen Rice, Tolar, 44.33

4x200 relay: 1. Pate, Yanish, Behrens, Rice, 1:31.61

4x400 relay: 3. Rowdy Tryon, Dacen Watkins, Michels, Grant Sherley, Tolar, 3:34.98

Long jump: 1. Alberto Andreatta, Lipan, 21-4; 2. Kelvin Murray, Tolar, 19-10

Shot put: 1. Samuel Stewart, Tolar, 45-1.75; 4. Cutter Cain, Tolar, 38-11

Discus: 1. Peyton Brown, Tolar, 130-8.5; 3. Samuel Stewart, Tolar, 115-11.5

Triple jump: 1. Andreatta, 42-5; 2. Watkins, 40-4

High jump: 1. Andreatta, 6-3; 2. Pierce, 5-10; 3. Behrens, 5-8

Pole Vault: 2. Brylen Feist, Tolar, 13-0; 4. Julian Noyola, Tolar, 10-6

Varsity Girls
Team scores: Tolar 118, 3rd; Lipan 103, 4th

Area qualifiers
100: 2. Jacy Bolton, Lipan, 12.91; 4. Abigail Soileau, Tolar, 13.30

200: 1. Bolton, 26.91; 2. Senne Imel, Tolar, 27.62; 4. Bailey Gammons, Tolar, 28.59

400: 1. Bolton, 1:00.92; 2. Jaycee Jones, Tolar, 1:03.33

800: 3. Addiline Lawrence, Lipan, 2:35.67; 4. Annslee Tarpley, Lipan, 2:36.25
1600: 2. Tarpley, 5:52.20

4x100 relay: 2. Imel, Orlencia Bonnell, Jones, Gammons, Tolar, 51.96

4x200 relay: 1. Imel, Maddie Ballenger, Gammons, Soileau, Tolar, 1:50.60; 4. Kinsley Robinson, Briley Broumley, Rylei Cudd, Taylor Branson, Lipan, 1:56.04

4x400 relay: 2. Callan Nix, Allyson Dobbbs, Debra McCarrell, Soileau, Tolar, 4:27.19

Long jump: 1. Bolton, 17-6.75; 3. Gammons, Tolar, 15-11

Shot put: 1. Olivia Benitez, Lipan, 35-11.5; 4. Kamryn Kolb, Tolar, 29-10

Discus: 2. Allie Terrell, Tolar, 102-7.5. 3rd Ashlyn Tarpley, 91-0

Triple jump: 1. Bolton, 35-9

High jump: 2. Imel, 4-10; 4. Bonnell, 4-6

Pole vault: 4. Gammons, 7-6

TOLAR SOFTBALL

The Lady Rattlers' Reese Tryon won her 50th game with 10-0 2-hit shutout win at home over Santo April 5. Tryon struck out 11 with no walks in five innings. She was helped by three hits and three RBI from Senne Imel. Jaylyn Miller, Kanyn Deaver and Allyson Dobbbs had two hits each. Dobbbs drove in a run and Deaver stole two bases.

Tolar (13-6, 5-0 in District 11-2A) travels to DeLeon April 16 at 5 p.m. to end district. They host Benbrook in non-district April 19 at 6 p.m.

GRANBURY BASEBALL

After dropping five straight, the Pirates (15-8, 3-5 in District 5-5A) won their second straight district game, 8-2 at Brewer April 5. They followed that with a 5-0 loss at home against Keller Timber Creek in non-district April 9.

Hitting vs. Brewer: Hunter

Jones two hits, home run, hit by pitch, two RBIs, stolen base; Levi Martinez two hits, RBI; Jackson Arnett two hits, RBI, two stolen bases.

Pitching vs. Brewer: Murphy Page (win) five innings, five hits, two runs (one earned), five strikeouts; Braxton Heffernan two innings, one hit, four strikeouts, one walk.

Kyler Crites had a doubler against Timber Creek.

The Pirates return to district play at Saginaw April 16 at 6:30 p.m., host Saginaw April 19 at 7 p.m. and play a non-district game at Weatherford April 20 at 1 p.m.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Lady Pirates (10-16, 2-5 in District 5-5A) host Saginaw April 16 at 6:30 p.m. and play at Aledo April 19 at 5 p.m.

LIPAN SOFTBALL

The Lady Indians (9-4, 3-2 in District 11-2A) won 3-1 at DeLeon as Ella Sharp pitched a 3-hitter, striking out 15 with no walks and no earned runs over seven innings. Dixon Sinclair led the offense with a double, RBI and stolen base.

Lipan ends the regular season with a visit to Mineral Wells April 16 at 6 p.m.

GRANBURY TENNIS

Battle at the Brazos Tournament, hosted by GHS.

Team finish: 2nd
Boys singles A: Chase Bohney, 2nd

Boys singles B: Braxton Bailey, consolation champion
Girls singles B: Ale Lopez, 3rd

Boys doubles B: Justin Rios/Kaden Bohney, first

Boys doubles A: Tyler St. Don/Oakley Boyd, 2nd
Mixed doubles B: McKenna Moreno/Sullivan Williamson, 3rd



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY MOODY

Talan Brown of the Tolar Rattlers pitched the second perfect game of his high school career as the Rattlers defeated Ranger 19-0.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY ADDISON

The Granbury Lady Pirates Purple team qualified for the Class 5A Region I Girls Golf Tournament in Lubbock by finishing second in the District 5-5A Tournament. Pictured are (from left) Grace Jimenez, Claire Jordan, Akyah Ditto, Halle Carr and Ariel Jimenez.

SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Schaefer blasts 37th home run as Texans win at SFA

Tarleton State University

NACOGDOCHES — Tarleton State (16-23, 4-8 WAC) beat Stephen F. Austin (9-29, 2-8 WAC) April 5, the first win for the Texans at the SFA Softball Field since April 22, 2022.

The Texans got off to a quick start putting up a two-spot in the top of the first.

Tristyn Trull doubled down the right field line to score Kelci Hill making it 1-0 Texans. Kelci Hill reached base on a single to center. Kayla Wallace then singled as Trull scored giving Tarleton State the early 2-0 lead.

In the bottom of the first, SFA put up a three-spot to take the lead 3-2.

Lexi Benson got the Ladyjacks on the board as she singled up the middle and advanced to second on the throw as Madison Nguyen scored making it 2-1. The home team then tied things up as Kylie Bishop singled up the middle and advanced to second on the throw while Benson came in to score making it 2-2. Ellie Vance put the Ladyjacks up 3-2 as she singled to left field scoring Bishop.

In the top of the third, the Texans tied things up at 3-3 off the bat of Trull. Kelci Hill scored diving headfirst into home as Trull grounded out to the third baseman.

The visiting Purple and White squad took the lead back in the top of the fourth as the younger Hill sister Kalyn doubled to the center field wall allowing Wallace to score from second as she doubled to right field in the at-bat before.

The fifth inning went by scoreless for either team before both teams put up a run each in their halves of the sixth.

In the top of the sixth, Katy Schaefer hit a solo bomb over the center field fence building the Texans' lead to two going up 5-3.

Schaefer (37) now sits just four long balls away from tying second all-time in program history for home runs (41, Arianna Rodriguez, 2010-13).

In the bottom half of the sixth SFA made it a one run game thanks to Hope Lusk who doubled deep to right center scoring Nguyen making it 5-4. This marked the final run for either team



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

In the top of the sixth, Katy Schaefer hit a solo bomb over the center field fence building the Texans' lead to two going up 5-3.

on the night.

The Texans threatened in the seventh with Hayden Fox and Kelci Hill both in scoring position but the score remained 5-4 Texans heading into the last half inning. Fox reached on a

single to center field and then moved to third after it was wide open as she rounded second as Jordan Dickerson grounded out to the catcher. Kelci Hill reached base on a walk and then stole second without a

throw.

Kendall Daniel made quick work of the Ladyjacks in the bottom half of the seventh as Benson flew out to Wallace in left field. Bishop then grounded out to Dickerson putting the

Texans just one out away from getting back in the win column. Vance grounded out to Schaefer as she threw over to Austin Germain to seal the 5-4 victory over Stephen F. Austin.

Three top-11 finishes at 2024 David Noble Relays



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State had two student-athletes move into the top-10 all-time in program history in the decathlon after top-10 finishes at former Lone Star Conference foe Angelo State April 3 and 4.

Tarleton State University

SAN ANGELO — Tarleton State had two student-athletes move into the top-10 all-time in program history in the decathlon after top-10 finishes at former Lone Star Conference foe Angelo State April 3 and 4.

MEN

Davi Torres came away with the best finish for the Texans placing sixth in the decathlon with 6,082 points, highlighted by a gold finish in the high jump clearing 2.00 meters. He also now sits fourth all-time in program history. Torres also had top-five finishes in four other events. He took third in the 1500-meter race with a time of 4:52.57.

In the 400-meter Torres took fourth crossing the finish line at 50.80 seconds.

He placed fifth in both the 110-meter hurdles and long jump. Torres cleared all the hurdles in 15.32 seconds. His final top-five finish came in the long jump where he leaped 6.54 meters.

Kyler Larson moved to fifth all-time in program history in the decathlon as he earned 5,658 points with three top-five event finishes. His top event finish was in the high jump where he finished in a four-way tie for fourth jumping 1.85 meters. Larson had a pair fifth place finishes in the shotput and discus. He launched the shotput 11.53 meters and threw the discus 33.25 meters.

WOMEN

Jordan Rae was the lone Texan to compete on the women's side of things as she finished 11th in the

Heptathlon with 4,248 points in her first one of the season. Rae already sits in the record books for Tarleton State Track and Field as she holds third all-time in program history in the Heptathlon with 4,688 points. That mark was set by Rae in 2023.

Rae's best finish of the meet came in the high jump as she cleared 1.68 meters.

The Texans will be back in action next Friday-Saturday as Tarleton State will host the Joe Gillespie Invitational on the newly completed Oscar H. Frazier Memorial Track that now sits on the north end of Memorial Stadium. This will mark the first meet that has been hosted by the Purple and White since the 2021 Joe Gillespie Invitational.

Tarleton State earns 1st sweep of conference play over Seattle U

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Texan Baseball closed out the weekend series with a third consecutive win over Seattle U April 7.

Tarleton State (18-14, 8-7 WAC) claimed the final game of the series against Seattle U (7-24, 3-9 WAC) after a seven-run second inning buried the Redhawks. Game 3 ended with the Texans on top at 9-2.

In the bottom of the second, a two RBI double from Mason Crews saw the Texans draw first blood. Tyson Drake singled to center field to add another run to the board. With the bases loaded, Cris Enriquez brought out the big guns with a grand slam to bring the total to seven for the home team.

Jake Burcham was the starting pitcher for the Purple and White with 4.0 innings on the mound, giving up one run on two hits, two walks and three strikeouts. Grant Garza remained perfect on the mound after claiming his seventh win on the season. Garza (W, 7-0) contributed 4.0 innings on the bump, giving up no runs on four hits, one walk and four strikeouts.

Luke Alwood (L, 0-3) started on the mound for the Redhawks with 1.2 innings pitched, giving up seven runs on four hits, four walks and one strikeout.

Enriquez led the offensive efforts for the Purple and White with a grand slam and a double to earn his new season-high in RBI in a single game (6). Crews also contributed a double for Tarleton State. The Texans compiled nine runs on eight hits.

A pair of doubles and a triple contributed to the Redhawks offense. Seattle U tallied two runs on seven hits.

In the Texans' half of the second inning, the Purple and White silenced the Redhawks, tallying as many runs in a single inning as the Redhawks scored all weekend. Trace Morrison walked to start the inning off. Following the first out, Morrison advanced a pair of bases. Ike Shirey joined Morrison with a walk and stole second shortly after. Crews' double brought the couple in. With two outs on the board, Mason Hammonds singled to see two runners on for the home team. An RBI single from Drake made room

for Crews to cross the plate. Cole Mears walked, loading the bases for Enriquez. The first baseman for the Texans did a job at the plate as a grand slam from Enriquez brought in four more runs for the Purple and White to see the Redhawks down by seven.

In the top of the third, a lone run came in for the visitors. One walk, followed by a double down the left field line put the Redhawks on the board.

The bottom of the sixth saw another couple of runs come in for Tarleton State to give the home team some insurance. Jordan Andrade played the role of leadoff for the inning and walked to put the Texans on early. With two outs recorded, Mears was hit by a pitch, joining Andrade on the diamond. Enriquez got back to work at the plate with a two RBI double to bring the pair home and increase the lead to eight.

The seventh and eighth innings went scoreless.

In the top of the ninth, the Redhawks tried to stay in the fight, but a solo run closed out the afternoon and sealed the deal for the Texans' first sweep of conference play.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Texan Baseball closed out the weekend series with a third consecutive win over Seattle U April 7.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY'S LAKE GRANBURY 6TH ANNUAL
MAY THE FOURTH BE LIFE SAVING!
WATER SAFETY AWARENESS DAY
 Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Over 300 kid-sized life jackets to give away while supplies last.
- Kid Fish with hourly fishing awards.
- Carter Blood Care on-site for blood donations.
- Learn about water/swim safety from local first responders and search & rescue.
- Get an up-close look at 1st responder vehicles.
- 95.5 K-Hits live broadcast.
- Free hot dogs.
- Lots of other kid-friendly, educational booths to enjoy!
- Scan the code below to learn more.

scan for more info
 Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 at Rough Creek Park, Lake Granbury
 2209 S. Morgan St. (Hwy. 144)

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

May the 4th be life-saving!
Come by for a free kids lifejacket



BY JUDI PIERCE

Judi Pierce has been the public information officer for the Brazos River Authority for 20 years. Her office is in Waco.

Mark your calendar for the sixth annual Lake Granbury Water Safety Awareness Day May 4 at Lake Granbury's Rough Creek Park.

The Brazos River Authority will give away more than 300 kids' life jackets and offer games, fishing and great fun from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Not only will BRA staff be fitting kids for free life jackets, but first responders from all over Hood County will have vehicles and equipment on display. There will also be a kid fishing tournament with hourly prizes and free hot dogs for everyone.

For the third year, Carter Blood Care will host a blood drive, bringing two buses to quickly accommodate blood donations. The best part is that all activities for the day are free.

Keeping kids safe in and around water is the most

important part of enjoying water-related recreation. This Water Safety Awareness Day will allow adults and kids to learn the importance of wearing a life jacket, preventing drownings and so much more.

For Kyle Lewis, Brazos River Authority's project manager/program coordinator at Lake Granbury, the Annual Water Safety Awareness Day is a passion he works toward year-round to prepare and solicit volunteers. "When the kids show up, we will get them in a properly fitting life jacket," says Lewis.

The reason for Lewis' dedication lies in the number of child fatalities each year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, drowning is the leading cause of death for children. More children ages 1-4 die from drowning than any other cause of death, and it's the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 5-14.

The CDC states that July is the month with the most unintentional drownings. In 2023, there were 753 drownings. In 2022, that number was slightly higher at 792 drownings.

Drowning prevention starts with a properly fitting life jacket and one that is U.S. Coast Guard-approved.

"Buying a life jacket for your child to 'grow into' can put them in danger while they are near or in the water. An improper-fitting

life jacket could be just as dangerous as not wearing one," Lewis says. "The life jacket must fit properly in order to function the way it was designed to function."

Cook Children's Hospital has served as a partner in the Water Safety Awareness Day for several years, donating lifejackets to this effort. With these donations, the BRA is able to provide properly fitting, life-saving tools for children each year as they grow.

But Lewis notes that adult supervision is also important in saving children's lives near water. He works to educate parents that drowning is silent. A child left unsupervised for even just a moment could be a moment too long. "There should be no distractions when children are in or around the water," Lewis said. "Please put down your phones and pay attention to the kids. It could very well save a life."

The BRA invites everyone to come out and enjoy a day of fun and fishing, learn about water safety and receive a free kids lifejacket while supplies last.

We hope to see you at the sixth annual Lake Granbury Water Safety Awareness Day, May 4th, at Rough Creek Park, at 2209 South Morgan St. in Granbury, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

May the 4th be Life Saving!

HOOD OUTDOORS

Courtesy on the lake pays



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.

Here is a timely reminder that the weather is improving and many more anglers, pleasure boaters, skiers, jet skis and others are out on the water. A little common courtesy between all users is needed at the ramps and on the water.

Generally most of the crowds are on the weekends; however courtesy should be extended every day of the week. We all have to share the use of the ramps/docks and the waterways. A little preparation before you launch can make everything run more smoothly for all at the boat ramp.

If you are going to launch your boat, do not pull up and block the launch if you are not ready. Stop out of the way and put your boat plug in, load your equipment such as life jackets and ice chest, remove hold down straps and verify your battery is good prior to backing your boat down the ramp. In fact, you probably should have checked your battery at home before you left.

Once you are ready, you can quickly launch the boat and minimize your time on the ramp. Even if it is a slow day, it is still a good policy to ready your boat before you use the ramp. Another person may pull up while you're blocking the ramp. I have seen individuals test their boats out in the

spring and actually leave their trailer on the ramp so that they can put it back on pretty quick. If you were trying to launch, you would not appreciate anyone leaving their trailer on the ramp or blocking the way. This is some of the common courtesy I am talking about.

The docks near the launch are for launching boats and most have signs that do not allow fishing and swimming from these docks for safety reasons. It is also not a good idea to leave your boat tied up to the dock for an extended period of time as others may be trying to put their boats back on the trailer.

If you are on the lake and see some folks fishing or you see folks on a dock, do not get so close as to upset their activities with your wake. Also, if you can avoid getting close to other anglers, veer away as your boat could upset their fishing. If you want to see what is going on, turn off your big motor and approach with your trolling motor.

Texas boating laws require you maintain at least 50 feet from other boaters. The Brazos River Authority on Granbury requires 100 feet.

The water ways are supposed to be similar to driving on the roads. If you are approaching another

boater you are supposed to stay to the right. If both boaters follow this guideline, then you will be ok. However, do not expect the other boater to do the right thing. Be on guard.

If you see a boater in trouble, offer a helping hand if you can. One day it may be you in need of that help.

Most boaters are courteous, and everyone usually waves to each other on the water. This is a good policy and makes for a better day on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORTS

Water temperatures are in 60s across the lake with some 70 degree water in the backs of shallow sloughs and creeks. Crappie angling is reported as good in the backs of creeks on small minnows and jigs worked under a cork in 2 to 7 feet of water. Striped bass fishing has been slow to fair on live bait fished near Sandy Point and in town near the City Beach. White bass (sand bass) are fair to good on humps and ridges on slabs and small minnows. Many are returning to the main body from their spring spawn. Best sand bass reports are from Bentwater to the Shores and near DeCordova Bend Estates. Largemouth bass are good to 7 pounds on the beds using soft plastics and spinner baits. Some good largemouth bass are reported working the laydowns in the river above Granbury. Big blues and yellow catfish are slow to fair on the upper ends on cut shad.



BY FESENKO, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The weather is improving and many more anglers, pleasure boaters, skiers, jet skis and others are out on the water. A little common courtesy between all users is needed at the ramps and on the water.

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SUDOKU
 Solution for the puzzle on April 6 (Puzzle 76).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

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PROM Night

Class of 2024



Spring is prom season for high school students. A night of celebration after nearly 13 years of classes, homework, friendships, and more. Students get to dress up in the latest fashions. Some take limousines or fancy cars. Prom creates memories that will last a lifetime.

The Hood County News recently asked our readers to submit their photos from prom. This page is just a sample of the amazing photos that were submitted. Congratulations to all of our area seniors on your amazing accomplishments.



COURTESY PHOTO BY STACEY ADAMS

Cheyenne Duke and Matthew Adams



COURTESY PHOTO BY JENN CALLAHAN

Dominique Callahan and Max McPherson



COURTESY PHOTO BY MELISA CARROLL

Talan Brown and Kennedy Gibson



COURTESY PHOTO BY JESSICA TRYON

Rowdy and Reese Tryon



COURTESY PHOTO BY JENNIFER MORRISON

Katie Morrison and Lucas Hyde



COURTESY PHOTO BY LAURELEA BIGHAM

Daylon Webb and Bentley Sherrill

GRANBURY ISD BOND 2024 DID YOU KNOW?

HOMEOWNERS 65 AND OLDER WHO HAVE FILED THEIR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION WILL NOT SEE AN INCREASE IN THEIR SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES.

A decade of knowledge

Ramay-Macatee series celebrates 10 years with multiple speaker event Nov. 7

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

After years of educating residents about Texas history, the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series will officially celebrate its 10th anniversary at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, at Granbury Live, 110. N. Crockett St.

Hosted by the Bridge Street History Center, the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series was first established in 2014 to bring some of the finest historians and authors to Hood County. "The Bridge Street History Center brings in someone who's well-known throughout the state," Cody Martin, Bridge Street History Center board member, previously told the Hood County News. "Typically, it's an author who's written a book about Texas, but we try to bring in someone who has a regional or statewide appeal. Normally we're focused on local history, but once a year, we host the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series to talk about a topic related to Texas history." From American historian Dr. Steven Woodworth to The Alamo historian and curator Dr. Bruce Winters, the Bridge Street History Center has welcomed several prominent figures into its Ramay-Macatee

series. But this event will feature speakers like never before. In a roundtable discussion, former speakers of the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series S.C. Gwynne and Stephen Harrigan will be interviewed by Justice Ken Wise — last year's speaker for the series. "This year, we're gonna do a roundtable kind of discussion, question and answer," Bridge Street History Center President Maurice Walton told the Hood County News. "Steve Harrigan and S.C. Gwynne are gonna be questioned by Justice Wise. He is very knowledgeable in Texas history, and just an unbelievable kind of guy. He does a podcast on Texas history and he's interviewed both of them before, so it's really an opportunity for him to interview these two guys that he has separately interviewed, and to have them on one stage here in Granbury is really a big deal

for us." Gwynne is an award-winning journalist who worked for both Time and Texas Monthly. He is also an author of three celebrated books about American history, including "Empire of the Summer Moon," a Pulitzer Prize finalist about the rise and fall of the fierce Comanche Indians. Harrigan is an American novelist, journalist and screenwriter. He is best known as the author of the bestselling "The Gates of the Alamo," and for his magazine work in Texas Monthly. Wise, who will serve as moderator for the event, has published numerous historical articles and hosts the award-winning — and cleverly-named — podcast "Wise About Texas," where he provides listeners with an enlightening exploration of Texas history. In addition to his podcasting prowess, Justice Wise serves on the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston and has shared his expertise as a professor at both the University of Houston Law Center and Houston Baptist University. Walton said in his mind, this three-guest event essentially "kicks up" the speaker series in a special milestone celebration. "I think this kind of gives us just another angle or

another approach to the speaker series event, so that going forward, we can make the event even bigger," he said. "If you just look over the past few years on what we've been able to do, who we've been able to have here, and the quality of those authors, we have really developed this event to another level." The idea for the roundtable discussion, Walton said, originally stemmed from an older YouTube video where both Harrigan and Gwynne were interviewed at the LBJ Presidential Library located in Austin. "They were at LBJ Library, so if they were good enough together to be at LBJ Library, if we can have them, then we've really done something," he said. "We give people an opportunity to see a caliber of author that they won't have the opportunity to see every day." The Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series was originally named after Georgia Ramay and Vircy Macatee — both of whom played an integral part in creating the Bridge Street History Center. "Georgia and Vircy were early supporters of our organization," Walton said. "And when we did our first event back in 2014,



The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER

Granbury, TX

Vircy and Georgia were both there, and they both supported the whole idea of doing an event with a speaker, and that's when we named the event after them." Walton said even today, both ladies would be pretty excited about the event's growth over the years. "The Bridge Street History Center's mission is to collect, preserve and interpret the life stories of people in Granbury and Hood County; that's our mission," he said. "And I remember talking with Georgia and Vircy back then about how it fits into our mission. Local history is what it's all about. But if you can do something to show the community that you're involved in broader issues and bringing them opportunities that they might not have readily available to them, then your name is out there."

The event will kick off with a 5:45 p.m. reception for sponsors to meet the speakers. Sponsors will also receive a bookmark, a poster and the opportunity to have their books autographed by Gwynne and Harrigan. Tickets will go on sale beginning Wednesday, April 17. VIP seats are \$100 while prime tickets are \$75. Walton added that Ramay-Macatee Speakers Series will only improve over time, adding that the quality of the series adds dimension to what Granbury already offers. "10 years is a milestone," he said. "In my mind, and the days to come, the Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series is only going to get better from here." For more information on the speaker series or to follow updates regarding ticket announcements, visit granburylive.com online.

HCN Junior

National Peach Cobbler Day

April 13, 2024

National Peach Cobbler Day, celebrated on April 13th, is a delicious occasion that pays tribute to one of the most delightful desserts around - peach cobbler! This sweet and fruity treat has a special day dedicated to its scrumptious goodness. Kids can celebrate National Peach Cobbler Day by joining in the kitchen fun. Whether it's helping mix the sweet peaches with cinnamon and sugar or assisting in creating the

perfect cobbler topping, there's a role for everyone in the family. The best part? Once the peach cobbler is baked to golden perfection, families can gather around to enjoy the warm, gooey goodness together. Whether topped with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or a dollop of whipped cream, the possibilities for enhancing this tasty treat are endless. Teachers might even incorporate National Peach Cobbler Day into classroom

activities, exploring the history of this beloved dessert and perhaps even organizing a mini peach cobbler baking session for a delicious learning experience. So, on April 13th, let's celebrate National Peach Cobbler Day by indulging in the sweet flavors of this classic dessert. It's a day to savor the taste of ripe peaches, enjoy the aroma of cinnamon, and relish in the simple joy of sharing a delightful dessert with loved ones.

COLOR Time



AMERICAN SETTLERS INVENTED PEACH COBBLER BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE THE PROPER INGREDIENTS AND TOOLS TO MAKE PEACH PIE.

Recipe To Try

Easy Peach Cobbler

Ingredients

- 1 cup white sugar
- ½ cup butter, room temperature
- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 (15 ounce) can sliced peaches, with juice

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Beat sugar and butter together in a 1-quart baking dish.
3. Mix in flour and milk until smooth. Pour peaches and juice over top.
4. Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes.



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COURTESY PHOTO

The PRCAC hosts the event every year to honor and pay tribute to child abuse victims during the month of April, also known as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Please see story, C4.

Lone Star North Texas Gourd Festival

BY JOHN ENGLISH

Special to the Hood County News

When the Texas Gourd Society hosts its inaugural North Texas Gourd Festival April 19-20 in Granbury, visitors can expect two days of entertainment, including live entertainment.

The Society, which hosts the annual Lone Star Gourd Festival in Dripping Springs each year, decided it was time for a second festival.

“Texas is so big, we felt we should bring it on to North Texas,” Marla Garber, Texas Gourd Society vice president said. “That way we can attract people from Oklahoma and Arkansas. We even have a few people coming from

New Mexico and Louisiana. Some of the states around us don’t have a Gourd Festival or a Gourd Society, so we moved it up north so that it would be easy for them to participate if they wanted to one day.”

When deciding the location for the second festival, Garber said it became clear early on where it needed to be.

“Granbury is amazing,” Garber said. “It’s beautiful. The setting there is perfect, and when Sue Haberer and I got to looking on the map to see where a good central location was, Granbury seemed to be it. Sue lived there before and knew the area, so that’s why we chose it.”

Garber, 57, also serves as president of the Dallas Gourd Patch, which is an organization that works with gourds, does outreach work, puts on demos at the Dallas Arboretum and visits Gourd Garden clubs to give presentations.

The North Texas Gourd Festival will include a number of interesting features.

“We have gourd classes,” Garber said. “We have teachers where people can pay to take their class and learn whatever tutorial it is that they are going to be teaching. We have kids make-and-takes, where kids can come and decorate their own gourd. Then Saturday, we are going to have a lady named Tiffany Skelton, and she is a

gourd instrument maker and player.

“She’s going to be there with some of her friends. They do Brazilian Percussion and Capoeira instruments. They will be talking about the instruments and playing some songs.”

Skelton, a retired Army sergeant first class who makes and performs on instruments made almost entirely of gourds, met Garber at one of the previous festivals in South Central Texas.

“We didn’t have the festival set yet,” Garber said. “But I talked to her and asked if it came to fruition, would she come. She said ‘Absolutely, just tell me where to be and when to be there.’”

Skelton said she initially

became interested in gourds when she left the service.

“I started taking a woodworking class around 2016,” Skelton said. “It started as kind of a ‘Lady’s Day at the wood shop,’ and that is where the woodworking came from. I had already been training in Capoeira by that time since about 2012.”

“I went to Brazil during that time, and one of the things I noticed is that a lot of things were made from woods and other natural mediums, especially gourds.”

Skelton will perform with her son and possibly other musicians on such instruments as the Maracatu and Brazilian Berimbau, both of which are made from gourds.

“Berimbaus are used in several styles of the Capoeira in Brazil,” Skelton said. “It’s a resonator on the end of a stick that’s played with a smaller stick and a rock, so you’re playing with four different things at the same time, with a gourd being used as the resonator.”

Skelton, 41, said it is an interesting experience for those who have never seen Capoeira performed and said people definitely take notice.

“We are usually playing for a crowd,” Skelton said. “When we are playing at a game or even when we are playing together, it’s meant as a celebration. So there are usually three berimbaus

PLEASE SEE FESTIVAL | C3

Lone Star blooms: A tribute to the state flower of Texas

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

As springtime heralds its arrival in the Lone Star State, a sea of blue begins to wash over the Texas prairies, signaling the return of a beloved natural spectacle — the bloom of the bluebonnets. These flowers are more than just pleasing to the eye; they’re stitched into the very fabric of Texas history, adored since humans first roamed the verdant fields.

The indigenous peoples of Texas spun enchanting tales about the bluebonnets, weaving the vibrant wildflower into their cultural tapestry. The early Spanish priests also admired the blossoms, cultivating them around their missions and inadvertently nurturing the myth that these blooms hailed from Spain. However, contrary to this charming legend, the two most prevalent species of bluebonnets are native to the Texas soil.

In the later days of March and the early dawn of April, these indigenous treasures begin to unfurl their petals, predominantly amongst the limestone crannies stretching from north-central Texas all the way to Mexico.

On March 7, 1901, the 27th Texas Legislature adopted the bluebonnet as the state flower. However, selecting a state floral emblem in 1901 was no menial task for the Texas Legislature, rife with passionate debate and fervent support. The Colonial Dames of America in Texas championed *Lupinus subcarnosus*, known colloquially as buffalo clover or bluebonnet. Its adoption was seamless and unanimous, yet it sparked what would be known as the “polite bluebonnet war.”

Lupinus subcarnosus, with its modest charm, blankets the sandy hills of eastern and southern Texas in a regal blue hue. Yet some argued for *Lupinus texensis*, a more visually striking variant that drapes Central Texas in its floral splendor, capturing the hearts and brushes of artists far and wide.

For seven decades, the debate simmered, with suggestions for the Legislature to reconsider its decision. Still, the lawmakers sidestepped the botanical bickering and, through deft political maneuvering, declared an inclusive resolution in 1971: all species of bluebonnet, recorded or not, were to be the

state flower.

What they didn’t anticipate was the existence of four other lupine species within Texas borders, thus extending the honor of the state flower to six members under an all-encompassing law. And if nature should unveil more varieties, they too will join the esteemed ranks.

Echoing Lady Bird Johnson’s nationwide campaign for natural beauty, Texas highways are lined with these indigenous blooms each spring, a living testament to her legacy.

While you will find bluebonnets all across Texas roadways in the spring, one of the best places to see bluebonnets is Ennis, which was named the official bluebonnet city of Texas in 1997. Ennis hosts the Official Texas Bluebonnet Trails, where up to 100,000 people visit yearly to feast their eyes on more than 40 miles of wildflowers.

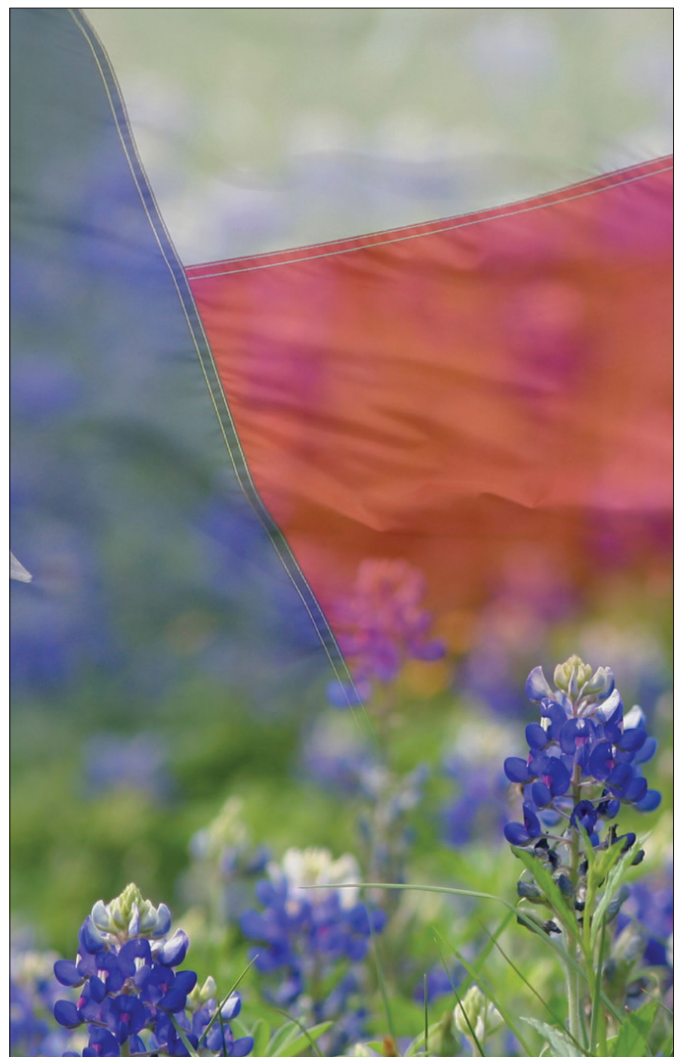
Chappell Hill is also known for its stunning wildflowers and hosts the famous Official State of Texas Bluebonnet Festival each year. Another classic is Burnet, the Bluebonnet Capital of Texas, located 60 miles northwest of

Austin and directly west of Georgetown on state Highway 29.

But if you don’t feel inclined to brave the crowds at one of the more popular bluebonnet destinations, simply climb in your car and drive in almost any direction. The real charm of bluebonnet discovery often lies in local whispers and serendipitous encounters.

Should you find yourself roaming Texas during spring, you will find one great photo opportunity after another. But as any native Texan will tell you, take all the pictures you want, but while you indulge in the visual feast, mind your manners. While it is not illegal to do so (contrary to popular thought), these blooms are a shared treasure and should not be plucked so that they may continue to grace the Texas landscape for generations to come.

The bluebonnet isn’t just a flower; it’s a symbol of Texan resilience and beauty. It’s a narrative woven through time, from indigenous legends to modern-day highways. It’s a reminder that, in Texas, nature’s pageantry is never far away — just look to the fields of blue.



COURTESY PHOTO

These flowers are more than just pleasing to the eye; they’re stitched into the very fabric of Texas history, adored since humans first roamed the verdant fields.

Granbury Lion's Club speaker Woody Mathews



COURTESY PHOTO

Woody Mathews, Lions Club district governor, spoke recently at the monthly meeting of the Granbury Lions Club. Mathews began his presentation by sharing a brief background about himself and his connections to Granbury. He delved into his tenure, highlighting the various projects he spearheaded, with a particular focus on his work with Cook Children's Medical Center. Among other endeavors, he elaborated on a new initiative he championed known as the Diabetes Closet. This innovative program aims to allocate funds for purchasing snacks to be distributed to diabetic students in schools, bridging the gap until a qualified nurse is available. By keeping these students on campus, it effectively minimizes disruptions to their education. Mathews noted the program incurs an approximate cost of \$600 annually per campus, currently operational in seven locations. He expressed his desire for the Granbury Lions Club to explore this impactful service project in Hood County schools.

People Helping People's Food Pantry

Submitted Item

People Helping People's Food Pantry received a donation of \$500 (22 cases) of requested food from the Hood Democratic Club. PHP is one of the few organizations in Hood County whose food pantry relies solely on the community for donations. They purchase their

food from the community donations and sales they receive in their resale shop. In addition to the food distribution, they provide free clothing and household goods for those in need as well. For over 40 years People Helping People have maintained an all volunteer staff dedicated to serving the community.

COURTESY PHOTO

The HCDC members representing the HCD Club in the photo (from right to left) are: Secretary Blaine Morrison, HCDC President Vickie Butler, Asst. Treasurer Ralph Gomez and Hood County Chair Adrienne Martin. PHP volunteers: Shawn Deeds, L.D., Donna Poe (PHP Director), Rodney Dickens, Kathy Smith, Nita Audrey and Patty A.





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No bones about it — these delicious chicken recipes are quick and easy to prepare

BY NANCY PRICER

Special to the Hood County News

Chicken thighs are my favorite part of a chicken. They are flavorful and are less likely to dry out compared to chicken breasts and I love to cook with boneless, skinless thighs.

Two recipes have been hanging out in my recipe box for years that are quick and easy to throw together — Chicken Alambre and Honey Mustard Chicken with Roasted New Potatoes. The first time I made Chicken Alambre, I was blown away by the flavor combination of the chicken and Mexican chorizo. The freshness of the avocado, cilantro and lime balance out the spiciness of the chorizo. This dish comes together quickly.

The Honey Mustard Chicken with Roasted New Potatoes is a no fuss meal. You just can't go wrong with the winning combination of honey mustard and chicken. Plus, the red potatoes soak up the flavored juices from the chicken giving them a heavenly flavor.

CHICKEN ALAMBRE

1 tablespoons vegetable oil (I don't use since I use a nonstick skillet)

6 ounces 1/3-inch-diced slab bacon (or 6-8 slices of bacon, chopped)

12 ounces fresh Mexican chorizo, casings removed and meat crumbled

12 ounces skinless boneless chicken thighs (about 4 thighs), cut into strips

2 red bell peppers, cut into strips

1 large red onion, thinly sliced

8 ounces Oaxaca cheese or mozzarella cheese, shredded

Flour tortillas (or corn)

Avocado

Fresh cilantro

Salsa

Lime wedges

Heat large skillet on high.

Add oil if using. Add the

bacon and chorizo and cook over high heat, stirring, until

browned in spots, about 5 minutes.

Add the chicken and cook, stirring, until cooked

through.

Add the peppers and onion and cook until softened.

Scatter the cheese on top and stir until it just starts to melt. Serve with tortillas, avocado, fresh cilantro, salsa and lime wedges.

HONEY MUSTARD CHICKEN WITH ROASTED NEW POTATOES

4 boneless, skinless chick-

en thighs

1/2 teaspoon salt, divided

Freshly ground black pepper

1/4 cup Dijon mustard

2 tablespoons honey

1 minced shallot (can substitute with 2-3 tablespoons minced onion)

1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme leaves or 1/2 teaspoon dried

1 pound small red potatoes, cut into halves

Cooking spray

Preheat oven to 375.

Sprinkle chicken with 1/4

teaspoon salt and pepper. Place in a 9-inch x 13-inch

baking dish.

Combine mustard, honey, shallot and thyme in a small

bowl to form a paste. Spread over chicken, covering

completely.

Add potatoes to the pan and spritz with cooking

spray. Sprinkle potatoes with 1/4

teaspoon salt and pepper.

Bake about 50 minutes, stirring potatoes once, until

potatoes and chicken are tender.

COURTESY PHOTO BY CHERNIKOVATV, ENVATO.COM
Honey Mustard Chicken.



FESTIVAL

FROM PAGE C1

and four other instruments, and along with that, people are clapping in a circle, so it draws a crowd . . . just playing it gets people's attention because they have never seen it before and they are fascinated seeing these

things played."

Skelton said she hopes visitors to the festival leave with a new appreciation for gourds and for Capoeira music.

"I would like for people to see the gourd as the star of the show," Shelton said. "There are so many different dynamics and different

uses for something that is so small. I hope people appreciate the simplicity of something that is so natural and so available that has such a huge impact on our whole musical genre."

Garber said it is her wish that visitors develop a new appreciation for the utility of the gourd.

"A lot of people associate gourds with birdhouses, or the water dipper their grandmothers used way back in the day," Garber said. "But it has evolved way past that. They make instruments and other things. It's just the process of going from planting this seed to the end of growing season when you have

a huge gourd or a bunch of little gourds that are shaped like eggs, just the whole process of it is so interesting.

"I've been working with gourds for 28 years, and I will still see people's artwork and say, 'Oh my gosh, that is made from a gourd.' It's unbelievable the work that people put into a gourd, and

you can't tell. Hopefully, this will go off really well and become an every-year thing."

The North Texas Gourd Festival will be held at the Lake Granbury Conference Center at 621 E Pearl St. in Granbury

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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.

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Hood County plants 780 pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Month



BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hewlett Park is now a sea of blue and silver after Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center's annual kite flying and pinwheel planting event Thursday, April 4.

The PRCAC hosts the event every year to honor and pay tribute to child abuse victims during the month of April, also known as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

While the kite flying portion of the event is always popular among children, the planting of pinwheels is an activity that symbolizes something much more than just planting a whimsical children's toy into the ground.

During the event, community volunteers planted 780 pinwheels at Hewlett Park — with each pinwheel representing a different story. Every pinwheel planted April 4 symbolizes a separate child abuse report made in Hood County in 2023.

"There are three ways that reports happen," Tracy Cooper-Ives, former director of community education and engagement at PRCAC, previously told the Hood County News. "Either someone witnesses abuse and then reports it, someone suspects abuse and they report it, or a child actually tells someone that they were abused and someone reports it."

To symbolize the importance of child abuse prevention, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill read a proclamation during the event, proclaiming the month of April Child Abuse Prevention Month in Hood County.

"Child abuse prevention is a community responsibility, and finding solutions depends on involvement involving all," Massingill said, reading the proclamation. "Communities must make every effort to promote programs that benefit children and their families."

The proclamation also encourages all citizens to work together to significantly reduce child abuse and neglect in the years to come.

Cynthia Pigg, community education specialist, then educated the



public about the history of Child Abuse Prevention Month. She explained that in 1989, a Virginia grandmother, Bonnie Finney, tied a blue ribbon to the antennae of her car in memory of her grandson who died at the hands of an abuser.

"Every time someone saw the blue ribbon, they would ask her about it," Pigg said. "Pretty soon the whole town was tying blue ribbons and then it spread throughout the state of Virginia, and they adopted it as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Of course, we know that spread across the United States and even now, it's celebrated as an international day of child abuse awareness."

In 2008, Prevent Child Abuse America introduced the Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign, as research showed that people responded positively to pinwheels, which represent childlike whimsy and lightheartedness.

"Pinwheels are a wonderful symbol of what a child should be like: fun, carefree and who doesn't like to swing that pinwheel and make it go around?" Pigg said. "While we have the blue ribbon as the awareness, we have the pinwheels as the prevention."

Pigg also compared the pinwheel campaign to a starfish analogy in which a person is walking along the shore and notices that a tide has left thousands of starfish stranded on a beach.

"You reach down, pick up one starfish and throw it back to the ocean, and then some people say, 'You will never be able to save all the starfish. What does it matter?' And you throw another one in, and you say, 'It matters to this one,' and then that person picks up the starfish and throws it into the ocean as

PLEASE SEE **PINWHEEL** | C5

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
During the event, community volunteers planted 780 pinwheels at Hewlett Park — with each pinwheel representing a different story. Every pinwheel planted April 4 symbolizes a separate child abuse report made in Hood County in 2023.



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PINWHEEL

FROM PAGE C4

as well. Then a whole beach of people starts throwing starfish back," Pigg said. "Well, that's kind of how it is in our community. Every time you plant a pinwheel tonight, you can think of those starfish and how it matters to one — and that spreads just like Bonnie Finney's story did with her blue ribbon."

Every year during the pinwheel planting, the Hood County Child Protective Services board of directors recognizes the recipient of the Patsy Hewlett Award.

In honor of Patsy Hewlett — who served as a secretary/treasurer of the Hood County Child Welfare Board in the '80s and early '90s —

the award serves as an annual recognition of a person who has made an exemplary contribution to the abused and neglected children of Hood County.

"There are some people here who have received the Patsy Hewlett Award in the past," Celia Wittman, principal officer of the Hood County Child Protective Services Board, said during the event. "One is Jean Cate (CASA program director for Mission Granbury) Brigitte Eichler with the Rainbow Room, and another one is Mary Flores, (Salvation Army GAP director) who received it last year. So many great people have received this award who have done great things in the community to help with advocacy of children — and this year, the recipient is no different."

Wittman presented the 2024 Patsy Hewlett Award to former PRCAC employee and current program director for Many Mansions Traci Cooper-Ives for "acknowledgement and appreciation for all the years of dedication and service to the abused and neglected children in Hood County, Texas."

"Many of you know her very, very well, as she used to be part of this child advocacy center and now, she's on to a new venture," Wittman said. "We wanted to honor her for all that she does in Hood County and I'm sure all of you know what she has done but one of them was being part of the children's advocacy center this year."

"I honestly just feel very grateful because standing up for children is very important to me," Cooper-Ives

said, tearing up with emotion. "And all of y'all that do not work for the children's advocacy center are part of the team . . . Every single person that's here, we all are a part of the solution. You are standing up for children, whether you work for any of the agencies, or volunteer at Mission Granbury, Rainbow Room, Hood County Children's Charity Fund, Christmas for Children — every single one of y'all whether you're exactly working with child abuse or not, you are standing up for kids because we're all part of that puzzle that helps with prevention and helps promote positive parenting."

For more information about the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center, visit paluxyrivercac.org online.



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Every year during the pinwheel planting, the Hood County Child Protective Services board of directors recognizes the recipient of the Patsy Hewlett Award.





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MAY	
4	International Firefighters Day
11	Natl Police Week
24-27	Memorial Day Weekend Celebrations*
25	Hood Co. Stampede and Rodeo
JUNE	
1	Dinner in White
8-9	Lone Star Street Rod Association
8	Pickin' in the Pasture
JULY	
4-7	4th of July Weekend Celebrations and Parade*
TBA	4th of July Rodeo at Reunion Grounds
4	Irish Tacos & Brews

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

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The first time you saw it, you knew you'd have to see it again

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You were obsessed with the comedy. You couldn't get enough of the music. You still remember the first-third-fifth time you saw the movie, alone or with friends, in a theater or on TV. And in the new book, "The Blues Brothers" by Daniel De Visé, yours wasn't the only addiction that took hold.

As the audience quietly fidgeted and cameras readied on the night of April 22, 1978, no one was sure how the opening skit of Saturday Night Live would be received. Its stars, Dan Aykroyd and John Belushi, had talked about starting a band together for years. This would be their debut. It would have to work.

And it did: the audience seemed slightly unimpressed by the Blues Brothers at first, says De Visé, but they were "stirred to jubilation" by the skit's end.

Born in early 1949 to immigrant parents, John Adam Belushi grew up skirting discipline by making his mother laugh at his antics and his wit. He deflected problems at school in the same way but his clowning belied a straight-laced aversion to drugs and alcohol.

That lasted until he discovered a love of the stage, and he was introduced to "weed."

With a father who worked for the National Film Board in Canada, it's almost no surprise that Daniel Edward Aykroyd, born in 1952, would be drawn to the limelight. A talented mimic, Dan began classes at a local Ottawa community playhouse at age twelve; briefly,



Author Glen Craig

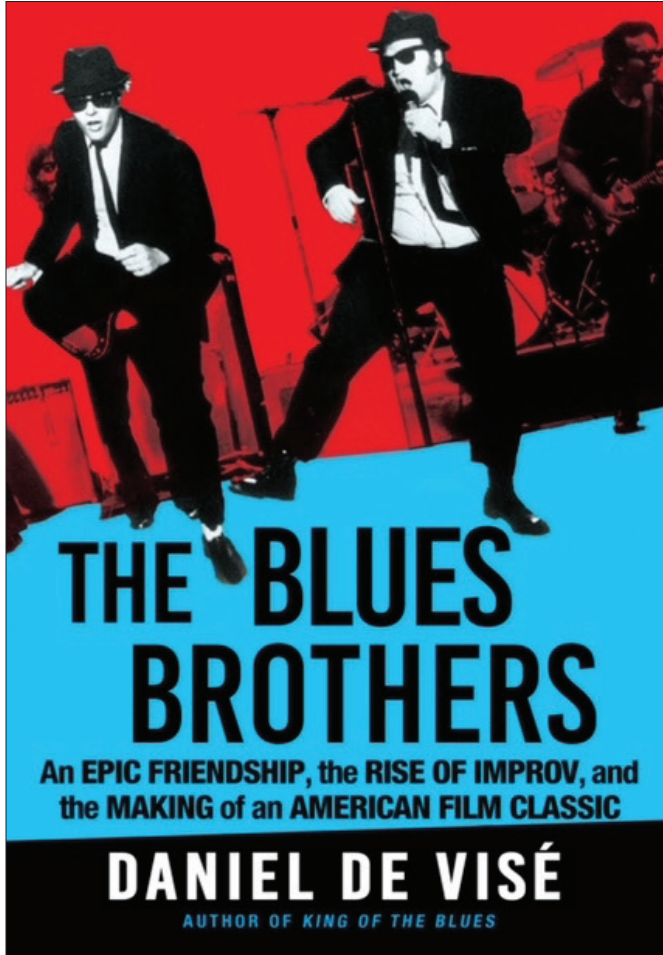
he considered becoming a priest because his parents seemed to want it.

Eventually, because he was rather impish, the Aykroyds were told "that perhaps Dan wasn't suited to the priesthood."

It was just as well. Comedy was always his thing; in fact, he was working with Second City Toronto in the early 1970s when an "oddly proportioned, white-scarfed Albanian" joined the troupe. Aykroyd liked the guy, and he introduced Belushi to the blues...

The sarcasm and wit are still there. The music sings to your youth. Stream the movie this weekend and enjoy, but even if you're a long-time fan, you may be surprised to read the back-story of that iconic movie in the book that bears its name.

Indeed, though he leans heavier on Belushi's story than he does on Aykroyd's, author Daniel De Visé has a nice variety of obscurities to share in "The Blues Brothers," and they extend



COURTESY PHOTO

"The Blues Brothers: An Epic Friendship, the Rise of Improv, and the Making of an American Film Classic" by Daniel De Visé

c.2024, Atlantic Monthly Press 386 pages

\$28.00

well beyond both big and small screens. As explanation, he starts by introducing readers to Aykroyd's and Belushi's earliest influencers, blending in other Second City and SNL alumni and relevant people when appropriate. This absolutely invites reminiscing. Yes, the seed-to-screen timeline for the movie can be lengthy and

sometimes overly detailed here, but the narrative seems fresh despite its age.

With the feel of a class reunion or like paging through your high school annual, this book will very much appeal to readers who can still quote the movie or sing its songs. Start "The Blues Brothers," and you'll be hooked.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan Rv Club enjoys 'out of this world' rally and eclipse event at Shady Campground

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.

Pecan Plantation's Recreational Vehicle Club is always up for adventure, and last weekend brought folks and their rigs to Shady Campground for a mini rally. Vickie Kroon reports that Saturday evening found the group enjoying a dinner of heavy hors d'oeuvres followed by Sunday brunch at the clubhouse and a pot-luck dinner (with music and games) Sunday evening. Attendance over the weekend boasted approximately 30 folks.

The gathering lasted into "Solar Eclipse Monday" when around 45 partici-

pants (some wearing shirts created for the special occasion) enjoyed a hotdog cookout and then viewed the eclipse. The galaxy-themed food buffet was extraordinary (and so clever!), and I enjoyed the group's invitation to join a memorable and fun gathering among neighbors.

For complete information on the RV Club and its activities, send an inquiry email to rvclub@ppoarv.org.

EVENING SHOW

Tonight, Saturday, April 13, brings an Italian buffet dinner followed by a show-

ing 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: 817-573-2641.

ART EVENT

Back by popular demand comes "Paint Your Pet" set for tomorrow, Sunday, April 14, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the PAC for folks who have registered with teacher Kathy Yoders.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

A clinic for beginner pickleball players happens Monday, April 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the PAC gym. Participant number is limited to eight. Sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

WELCOME HOME

Pecan's next new member orientation is on the calendar for Tuesday, April 16 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. Contact Sarah Lord to register: sarahlord@ppoaweb.com. Both new residents to our community as well as long timers are invited to attend.

GENEALOGY GROUP

The Genealogy Group gathers again Tuesday, April 16 at 10 a.m. in the EMS training room of the emergency services compound on Monticello Drive. Both Pecaners and folks outside our neighborhood are welcome.

The meeting will honor military forebearers by exploring resources available for military genealogy. Attendees will learn about

PLEASE SEE PECAN | C7

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Hood County News Newspaper

U.S. Veterans Museum may be moving to the city of Granbury. — May's record rain brought tranchers. For the first in years they don't have to be used by drought. — Hood County dodged it could have had it worse." Emergency Man

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CINERGY 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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COURTESY PHOTO

Pecan Plantation's Recreational Vehicle Club gathered last weekend for a mini rally at Shady Campground, and the party continued into Monday when folks enjoyed a hotdog cookout and eclipse viewing party. Shirts created for the special occasion and eclipse glasses were the top accessories of the day.

PECAN FROM PAGE C6

ways to explore the lives of service their ancestors lived by filling in details found in military documents.

WOMAN'S CLUB

Pecan's Woman's Club has

a big date on the calendar next Thursday, April 19, with its "Swing into Spring" fashion show on the agenda. Social time begins at 9:30 a.m. with President Sandy Hoelting calling the meeting to order at 10. Following the business meeting and fashion parade provided by local merchants, ladies will

enjoy lunch prepared by the clubhouse staff.

DEAL TIME

Pecan's spring garage sale weekend is on the calendar for Friday, April 19 (members only from 3 to 6:30 p.m.) and Saturday, April 20 (open to the public from 7

a.m. to 5 p.m.), and sign-up for lists distributed to shoppers has begun and will stay open until noon Wednesday, April 17. Residents received email with a link for listing items, and folks may also contact Marilyn Amos for assistance: marilynamos@

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | C9

GO PLAY

<p>MONDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus rehearsals, Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See www.granburycivicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. Come join us!</p> <p>FORWARD TRAINING Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org. or call 817-573-6677..</p>	<p>WEDNESDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979..</p> <p>HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us..</p> <p>THURSDAYS</p> <p>HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.</p> <p>CHESS CLUB, 5-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.</p> <p>GENERAL TRIVIA, 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>SUNDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FIRST MONDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>SECOND MONDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FIRST TUESDAYS</p> <p>GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.</p> <p>SECOND TUESDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FOURTH TUESDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10:30 a.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.</p> <p>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.needed. Just come build with us.</p>	<p>SECOND THURSDAYS</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>THIRD THURSDAYS</p> <p>THE HOOD Somervell 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.</p> <p>SECOND SATURDAYS</p> <p>SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.</p> <p>THIRD MONDAYS</p> <p>GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>LAST THURSDAYS</p> <p>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.</p>
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GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Eclipse in our rearview mirror...



BY DON NEWBURY

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

Enough already. The eclipse of April 8 has been smothered with coverage by both mass and social media. Americans — some who flail at things that go “bump” in the night — yearned for even more darkness! They carved out time from busy schedules and squeezed funds from their budgets to make their way to a slice of the globe where the solar eclipse darkened the day for some four minutes — give or take a few seconds.

’Twas sheer folly for most of us, but millions thought otherwise, rushing in to swell populations by three

and four-fold in some cities and towns. And folks who had something to sell had field days, dwarfing the much-discussed effects of inflation. A “hang the cost” attitude prevailed.

Motel rooms for April 8 were sold out months ago, and some car rentals cost \$600 a day. Hertz reported a 3,000% increase in advanced bookings. Eclipse-seekers were happy to sign every contract they saw . . .

Such exorbitance brings to mind a story told by an avid bird hunter, who bragged to his wife that he lowered the family meat

budget with his kill.

“Not so fast, Felix,” his wife responded. “As I recall, last year you bought a new shotgun, spent a few hundred dollars on a hunting lease, took off a day from work to drive 150 miles, fire six shots and bag three birds.” The game fell short of providing an entrée. Instead, it was a dainty appetizer that cost about \$50 per ounce.”

“But April 8 was the only chance we had to see a full eclipse,” one guy moaned. “The previous total eclipse was in 1878, and there won’t be another one until 2317.” . . .

This year, Dallas was the largest city totally darkened when the moon — 400 times smaller than the sun — orbited 400 times closer to the earth.

We were warned repeat-

edly about the danger of staring at the sun, so most of us didn’t.

About 31 million Americans and 12 million Texans were affected by the eclipse . . .

While on topics astrological, I can’t shake a television interview a couple of decades ago with a 100-year-old woman, long known for her cynicism and negative views on all topics. She probably called the TV station to make sure the news folks knew about her 100th birthday. Whoever drew the assignment no doubt dreaded the interview with “Negative Nancy.”

She was asked about her memories, which were all negative. “All Thanksgiving holidays were blighted by too much sage in the dressing and I never got to the stores before they ran out

of Cabbage Patch dolls,” she moaned. She also complained about always being the last person chosen at school for playground games. “Don’t you have at least one positive memory?” the interviewer asked.

After much thumb-twiddling and staring round about, she finally answered, “Well, I did see Halley’s Comet back in 1986, but just from a distance.” . . .

With all the attendant angles about the temporary darkness, it is important to mention darkness in the political world. It never goes away.

My Uncle Mort phoned the other day. He wanted to know if I’d heard about the name of an unlikely presidential candidate. He mentioned that a Texas public school teacher has changed his name to “Literally

Anybody Else,” and that it will appear on the ballot.

“Sounds good to me,” Mort snorted. “Now I’ve got someone to root for,” greatly disappointed by most elected officials at both national and state levels. . . .

Much-maligned AT&T used the eclipse positively, offering a free watch party featuring former NASA astronaut Jose Hernandez. He answered children’s questions about science and technology.

After being turned down 11 times for NASA astronaut training, he worked on various assignments until his 2008 selection as a mission specialist on the STS-128 mission to the International Space Station in August 2009.

Eclipse glasses were given to the first 4,000 attendees.

PECAN

FROM PAGE C9
ppoaweb.com.

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 candidates 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 [\[start.org\]\(http://start.org\) \(look for the Pecan Plantation tab\) and contact Tom Woodward at \[buhwana@charternet\]\(mailto:buhwana@charternet\) for more information. Space is limited, and spots will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.](http://www.flying-</p>
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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. Classes accommodate 20 students, and registration at the PAC is required. Pecan’s EMS partners with the American Heart Association to offer both informational

classes and certification classes on these dates. Call to sign up: 817-573-7952.

POOCH PARTY

Pooch Plantation (Pecan’s off leash dog park) will host a “happy hour” event Saturday, April 27 from 3 to 5 p.m. At this mixer, dogs and owners will have the opportunity to socialize, have a snack, beverage and enjoy time outdoors.

Pecan’s food and beverage department will be present selling hotdogs, brats and beverages, and Friends of Pooch Plantation (FOPP) will sell homemade dog treats.

Hood County Animal Control will hold a pet adop-

tion day, as well as a food and supply drive for the shelter. Since the dog park will likely be full of pooches, owners are asked to keep their furry friends leashed during the party.

PARLE FRANCAIS

Pecan hosts a “French Meet-Up” every Tuesday from 2 to 3 p.m. at the PAC where folks both learn to and practice speaking French, may work on French homework, receive help in translating French, and learn about French culture. New attendees are welcome.

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.

In addition, Pecan will be selling custom made tee-box and green signs for the tournament for purchasers who would like to honor or congratulate someone special or promote a business or event. Signs will be displayed all four days of

the tournament, after which they will go to their owners to keep. Contact Pecan’s communications department for more information or procurement: 817-573-2641, extension 347.

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 Toby Weber, who passed away March 14.

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FOOD
The Galley at Granbury High School
Homer Roberson Chuckwagon
Mickey White BBQ

FORWARD TRAINING CENTER

A community in unity

BY MONICA HAYS

Monica Hays, the new executive director at Forward Training Center, brings five years of diverse experience, ranging from volunteering to operations director. Her passion for the organization's mission propels her with dedication, commitment, and a servant's heart. monica@forwardtrainingcenter.org | 817-573-6677

In the heart of Hood County, Forward Training Center strives to provide hope and opportunity, dedicated to fostering life transformation through education which empowers employment. Reflecting the timeless wisdom of collective support, its ethos embodies the familiar adage: "it takes a village." Yet, in this case, it takes an entire community rallying together to uplift its members and build a stronger, more prosperous collective.

Central to this initiative are the committed volunteers who altruistically devote their time and skills to mentor and assist program participants. Among these volunteers are facilitators, mentors and mock interviewers, all of whom extend their support beyond the classroom, nurturing the ambitions of those they guide long after formal sessions conclude. Additionally, business owners and leaders graciously share their personal journeys, providing invaluable

wisdom and occasionally even offering employment opportunities to participants. Furthermore, representatives from esteemed banks like Independent Financial, First National Bank and Wellington State Bank play a crucial role in imparting financial literacy, a cornerstone of empowerment, to program attendees.

The involvement of community leaders further reinforces the notion of unity and support. Whether it's the sheriff engaging with young students, the chamber of commerce president/CEO conducting mock interviews, or the mayor and city manager sharing their wisdom, their presence underscores a commitment to nurturing the potential within each individual. The county judge has even imparted words of wisdom and heart-felt encouragement at graduation ceremonies, leaving a lasting impact on the graduates.

The outpouring of resources from various organizations is equally remarkable. Representatives from Workforce Solutions, Granbury Affordable Housing, Habitat for Humanity, Mission Granbury and numerous food banks offer not just assistance, but also hope and guidance to those in need. United Way, true to its name, supports many of these organizations for the betterment of the entire community, and Forward Training Center is hon-

ored to partner with them. This collaboration stands as a testament to the solidarity and compassion within the community.

Furthermore, local restaurants and grocery stores contribute to the cause by providing meals for the participants, exemplifying the community's generosity and care.

At the heart of this collective effort lies a unified message: every individual matters. Whether through the investment of time, talent or resources, each member of the community

plays a vital role in uplifting and empowering others. These connections forged within the community not only enrich the lives of the participants but also strengthen the fabric of the entire community.

Essentially, Forward Training Center's ability to make a meaningful impact on the community is inseparable from the profound influence it receives from the community itself. Together, they exemplify the power of a community in unity.



COURTESY PHOTO

Chef Megan Potts (owner of Anise Restaurant) and GSD STARS student Miriam Ramirez Stone, who was offered the opportunity to study under Chef Potts after she graduates from high school this May.



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