



# Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[ SATURDAY, April 20, 2024 ]

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## Dr. Glenn regarding Bond Issue Election

From Staff Reports

The Granbury ISD board of trustees voted Monday, Feb. 12 to include a bond election on the May 4. election ballot. In the recent past, two GISD bond elections have failed with the last election falling short by a mere two votes. This past week, Dr. Jeremy Glenn, superintendent of GISD, sat for an interview with the HCN to explain the need for another bond election to be called, its tax consequences, and if passed, what the money will be used for.

**HCN:** The current bond proposal is listed at \$161 million dollars. If it were to pass, what are the taxpayers going to see for their investment?

**Dr. Glenn:** The biggest piece is that we will be getting a brand new elementary school. Our long-range planning committee holds the belief we should have three elementary schools on each side of the lake. We hope this will help with our traffic footprint. We are trying to be careful, knowing that (U.S. Highway) 377 will be under construction soon and we want to make sure we have schools close to where the kids are. We know the area where the new elementary school is being planned is experiencing rapid growth. We also want to touch our other elementary schools. Our newest current elementary school is Mambrino which was built in 1996 and so there are updating and normal life cycle improvements to be made and the same can be said for the other elementary schools. We will also be making improvements to the middle schools and the high school. For example, at the high school there are



COMPOSITE BY DARREN CLARK | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

150 HVAC units and many of them are over 20 years old. These sorts of issues are not a "wish list," they are on the "essential to complete" list.

**HCN:** Playing devil's advocate, some bond detractors are saying that with increased property tax revenue due to rising assessed property values, there should be plenty of money to make repairs and upgrades if GISD simply managed the money better.

**Dr. Glenn:** We do have the lowest tax rate in Hood County, and one of the lowest in the state for a school district our size. Our district has done a good job of managing the tax rate as it has dropped consistently over the past three years during a time of inflation and rising costs. The Texas Education Agency rates school districts for financial integrity and management and this past year GISD received a perfect score. We have had a superior score for the last eight years straight. To receive such a rating is a true credit to GISD and the board of trustees and validation on how we go about our financial

PLEASE SEE **GLENN** | A7

## Jim Jarratt regarding Bond Issue Election

From Staff Reports

The answers to the following questions reflect the personal feelings and observations of Jim Jarratt. These answers are in no way to be construed as the policies or positions of the City of Granbury, any elected official, or any of the city staff. These are the personal positions of Jim Jarratt, local citizen and taxpayer, only.

**HCN:** The Granbury ISD board of trustees has placed a bond proposal for \$161 million on the ballot. You have come out in open opposition to the passage of that bond. What are the concerns that keep you from supporting the bond?

**Jarratt:** It's simple: GISD does not need the additional space that is the premise of this bond.

The growth projections in the GISD 10-year Campus Forecast have proven over the last two years to be flawed and overstated by 50%. The actual growth rate of 1.5% per year is in agreement with overall Texas student growth. The prior studies' higher projection, which is based on population growth, doesn't take into account that many retirees relocate to the GISD, but they do not have school age children.

Plus, today the current elementary schools are not at their overall functional capacity. One elementary school (Brawner) is over capacity by 140 students (info from GISD and TEA PEIMS data), but the elementary school across the street (Robinson) is under capacity by 256 students. Overall, elementary

school enrollment is under capacity by 512 students with all of the other elementary schools being under capacity.

GISD shouldn't wait until they are at 100% of capacity to begin the planning process but passing a bond today to have additional capacity in three years doesn't appear to be an urgent need. And, with other factors possibly coming into play such as school choice, which some project to have enrollments of 5% to 10% of the public-school enrollment, it is prudent to delay this bond approval for at least 18 months.

**HCN:** Some opponents of the bond have expressed dissatisfaction with paying "more taxes." What is your response to proponents of the bond which claim that passing the bond will not change the tax rate for taxpayers, and even if the bond issue does pass, GISD school taxes will be among the lowest in the state for a school district its size?

**Jarratt:** As it should be! We the people like low taxes. Other

PLEASE SEE **JARRATT** | A7

## County Clerk Katie Lang announces resignation

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

After almost a decade of serving as Hood County clerk, Katie Lang officially announced her resignation effective Friday, May 3.

"I want to personally thank all the citizens of Hood County for trusting me as your elected official," Lang stated on social media April 10. "I am honored to have served with some amazing people in the community. I will be retiring May 3. As Mike and I look forward to the next chapter in our life, I will look back proudly on what my office has accomplished during my



COURTESY PHOTO

Katie Lang

service. I can't wait to see what God has planned for us next!"

During Lang's nine-year stint as clerk, the Hood

*"I want to personally thank all the citizens of Hood County for trusting me as your elected official. I am honored to have served with some amazing people in the community. I will be retiring May 3. As Mike and I look forward to the next chapter in our life, I will look back proudly on what my office has accomplished during my service. I can't wait to see what God has planned for us next!"*

KATIE LANG

County Clerk's Office (HCCO) was presented with repeat notable honors when the office continued to earn the Five Star Award for 2023 from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

The latest award was presented to the HCCO Dec. 21 last year for its excellence in vital statistics and for going above and beyond to ensure excellent customer service, security and data

quality in Texas.

Lang previously told the HCN that the HCCO had received the Five Star Award every year since she assumed the position of county clerk nine years ago.

"I'm very proud of my clerks and how hard they work to provide excellent customer service to the citizens of Texas," Lang previously told the HCN. "They must be very knowledgeable on the variety of products we offer, and they must always follow the Texas State statutes. Their customer service is not only heartfelt but usually puts a smile on the customers' face. The future looks bright, and we hope to keep the citizens as our most important partner in the days ahead."

Lang was elected Hood County clerk Jan 1, 2015 — but her long-term stint in the

PLEASE SEE **LANG** | A4



138TH YEAR, NO. 15

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

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS



### Yes Matters

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

The number one question asked by companies looking to relocate into a new community is “How good are the schools?” They aren’t asking about tax breaks, special deals, preferential treatment. They want to know if they bring their company — their jobs, their people — to a new town, will their employees’ children get a good education? It also stands to reason that companies moving into new communities are looking for new talent that has been produced by those schools. Whether it’s a company of 25 or 500, the question is always the same. **Yes Matters** for current and future jobs in Granbury.

Bond elections have grown in size over the years, in part because in many cases, the mandates pushed down from state and federal governments must be part of any new construction or remodeling of existing facilities. Keeping buildings in top working conditions that are 30, 40 even 50 years old is no small task — just like keeping your home in top condition over the same time period requires regular updating and investment. Investing in the public school system is no different than investing in your home or for your retirement. You’re building for the future. **Yes Matters** for investing in the infrastructure of our schools.

In Granbury, we already know student growth is taking place, and within a couple of years, several elementary campuses will be at or above capacity. We also know that teachers are having to deal with overcrowding and, in some instances, a lack of classroom space. Temporary buildings aren’t safe and aren’t the answer — never have been, never will be. In fact, they cost MORE to operate over time than a well-built and maintained brick and mortar facility, and are one of the worst places to be in hail and tornado season. **Yes Matters** for the safety and security of students, teachers and staff.

On May 4, you have a clear choice: help solidify our future workforce; invest in safety, security and infrastructure; send a message to our teachers and staff that we value the work they do; believe in the long-term success of our schools, students and teachers. Or not. If you have students in the district, the answer should be an easy YES. If you don’t have students in the district, ask yourself this question before you vote: Will your home’s value improve over time if the schools don’t? **Yes Matters** when you have a choice to do the right thing.

Businesses need good schools and good schools need strong businesses. The chamber realizes our businesses can’t grow and thrive without employees. Our businesses can’t grow and thrive without new customers. Our businesses can’t grow and thrive without acknowledging the value of an educated workforce. On May 4, **Yes Matters**.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



ABOVE: Cut, Paste & Play Shop, located at 902 W. Pearl Street.

LEFT: State Representative Shelby Slawson: Texas House District 59 District Office, located at the Hood County Courthouse, 100 E. Pearl Street.

COURTESY PHOTOS

PLEASE SEE MORE COMMUNITY BUSINESS | A10

# 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.



FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# The first amendment assures the right to speak; it does not mean people have to agree with you



**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

Some towns are currently in the middle of a political campaign. It is the constitutional right of each voter to be able to discuss and discern the pros and cons of candidates or propositions like bond issues, and from this discernment people determine how they wish to vote.

With any election, there is a great deal of commentary which is spewed out by the public. Some of it is factual, some of it is created in such a way to slant facts to a certain

side of a proposition, and other political diatribes are nothing more than downright misrepresentation or intentional lies. Because of our first amendment,

all these forms of free speech may be uttered. It is unlawful and unwise to attempt to silence speech, even speech which is an outright lie. The founding fathers believed an educated populace should be able to listen to all viewpoints, cipher through the words and revelations and conclude what is best because they had looked at all sides of an issue.

Unfortunately, with the advent of artificial intelligence and mass information delivery systems like social media and the web, false information is injected into political discussion and can be done in ways which can confuse and muddle the actual issues. It seems Americans are having a tougher time ascertaining what is true and what is a misrepresentation. They also seem to be unwilling to practice discernment.

Recently I read a post on social media where a man asserted there must be a lot of "kickbacks" in the local school bond issue because, in his experience, when so many people are working so hard to get something passed, there had to be kickbacks involved. Upon reading the man's declaration, many immediately responded and asked what specific evidence the man had which supported such an assertion. People wanted to know who was receiving kickbacks and how the man knew such kickbacks existed. The man responded that such a situation had

been his experience, and he had seen such "graft" happen before. When asked what specific examples he had of past elections where graft had taken place, the man did not, or could not, answer. He continued saying he wasn't going to answer more questions because he felt like others were trampling his first amendment rights to speak what he believed. Herein lies the problem.

No one was trampling on the man's right to express his opinion. He spoke his peace and did so just as anyone else who was on the social media platform. He was upset because when he was questioned to explain his position, he had little or no evidence or facts to support his beliefs. He stated, "Well that is my view, and I am voting no because of it." He sought shelter behind the first amendment, saying people were trying to muffle him, but the truth is he was upset because people did not adapt their positions and join him in thinking exactly the way he did. It made no difference to the man that he could not support his assertions, and when challenged, he failed to cite underlying persuasive facts which supported his views. He was upset because people did not think exactly like him. This was further evidenced when he proclaimed he was a "true" member of his party and those who did not agree with him were "fake" party members; and worse, members of the other

*"Everyone is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage."*

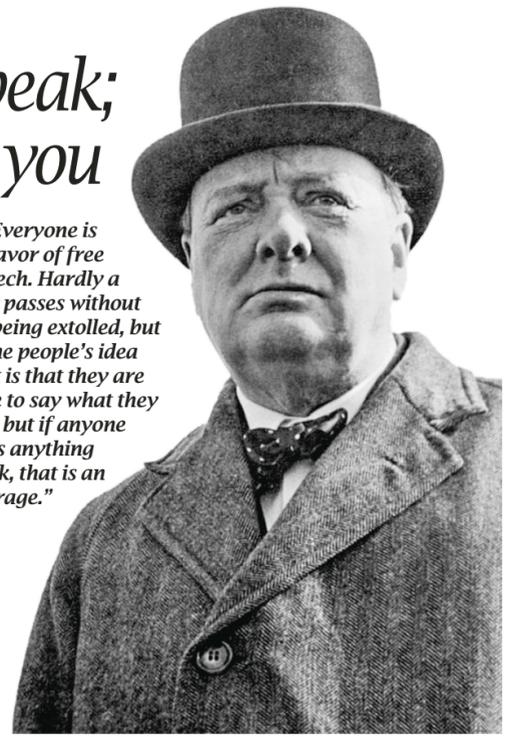


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION OFFICE, WIKIMEDIA.COM

Winston Churchill

party who were infiltrating the "good people" like him. It made no difference if someone viewed the world differently, if the assumptions which he based his opinion were false or inaccurate or were fabricated lies designed to unite people under a false pretense. He is certainly entitled to hold his beliefs, no matter how misguided others may think they are, but that doesn't mean the rest of the community need blindly follow.

The first amendment is an important part of our way of life. Speaking out, standing up is part of the American spirit. Another important part of that American spirit is standing up and challenging someone who makes unsubstantiated allegations

or false arguments and exposing those statements for the falsehoods they are. Everyone has a right to speak but it doesn't mean everyone has to agree with you, and it certainly doesn't mean if you don't agree with the speaker, you are the enemy. Such are the thoughts of little minds. Such thoughts are not based on actual civil discussion, but rather on control and power and those who blindly seek it.

Thought for the day: *"Everyone is in favor of free speech. Hardly a day passes without its being extolled, but some people's idea of it is that they are free to say what they like but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage."*

-Winston Churchill  
Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.

## Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Stephanie Morales Roldan

### Say hello to our neighbor, Stephanie Morales Roldan!

Stephanie and her husband Cory, along with their daughter Brooklynn, moved from Frisco to Granbury in 2019. During a visit to their friends at Stumpys, Stephanie was captivated by Granbury's scenic lake town, full of breathtaking wildflowers of every color. What Stephanie loves most about Granbury is not only the flowers but also the rich history and all the year-round festivals and celebrations. The whole family loves live-action shows like "The Sleepy Hollow Experience," live music at "Bobs off the Square" or "Silver Saddle Saloon," and much more.

In 2022, Stephanie started working for D'vine Wine on the Square after years of experience in Southern California's Temecula Wine Country. She has loved the experience of wine production and, of course, meeting the community. Stephanie is a proud Army veteran and is grateful for how Hood County offers many resources and support for fellow veterans and their families, including the American Legion Post 491, Pecan Valley Center, and Riley Stephens Memorial Post 7835.

Stephanie, her husband, and now two children love visiting Granbury City Beach and taking a stroll on the boardwalk. They also enjoy spending time on the lake during the warm months. Lots of fishing is a must. Stephanie appreciates how the Hood County News has consistently been informative and community-based.

## Juneteenth essay contest returns

### Staff Reports

The Hood County News, in conjunction with the Democratic Women of Hood County, will once again sponsor a Juneteenth essay contest. The contest is open to all students in Hood County in two divisions of competition: high school and middle school.

To enter, students should

write an essay of no more than 500 words that explains what Juneteenth means to all Americans. The essays will be read and scrutinized, and then cash prizes will be awarded for the top three essays in each category. The winning essays, as well as a photo of the finalists, will appear in an edition of the Hood County News.

"The Hood County News is proud to once again co-sponsor the Juneteenth essay contest. It is very fulfilling to read the noteworthy essays written by students in our community and learn their perceptions of this historically important national holiday," said Sam Houston, publisher of the

HCN. "As a community newspaper, it is our goal to support our schools and youth. We have high expectations for an even greater number of student contestants than we have had in the past." More information and details about how to enter are available on the HCN website.

## City launches new economic development program to grow local businesses

### Staff Report

The Business Retention and Expansion Interview Program (BREIP) is the City of Granbury Economic Development Department's newest way of helping local companies get stronger and expand.

By the end of May, BREIP will interview approximately 25 companies to gauge the business climate in the city

and Hood County. It will reveal businesses with plans that range from expanding their operations to those which may be considering leaving the area. The city's economic development team will activate support and retention efforts.

"The city of Granbury works hard to support our local businesses," City Manager Chris Coffman said. "Launching BREIP is a

significant step in building a stronger, more resilient and diverse economy that benefits city and county residents."

Fort Worth's Chamber of Commerce does hundreds of BREIP interviews each year. "Their program is successful, so we asked Netty Matthews of the Fort Worth Chamber to train our volunteers," Economic Development Director

Lance LaCour said. "Our program started with three volunteers: Brian Bondy from the Granbury Chamber, Reba Bacon of Workforce Solutions and Mike Gifford from Pinnacle Bank. More will be trained."

A BREIP meeting takes only 20 minutes to gather information about a business. The data will also be used to paint a picture of the area's business climate.

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**CLASSIFIED DEADLINES**  
Saturday issue:  
10 a.m. Wednesday

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

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 9-15. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

APRIL 9
12:48 a.m.: disturbance reported on Calinco Drive
2:15 p.m.: report of shots fired on Captains Court
2:23 p.m.: theft over \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:13 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Meadowlark Lane
7:11 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on N.E. Loop 567
\*\*18 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

APRIL 10
9:30 p.m.: report of possession of a controlled substance on Acton Highway
11:13 p.m.: report of drug

paraphernalia possession reported on E. Pearl Street
\*\*Two major accidents, one minor accident, a warrant service and 23 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

APRIL 11
1:11 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on Massey Road
8:47 a.m.: drug paraphernalia possession reported on S. Morgan Street
2:58 p.m.: harassment reported on E. Bridge Street
4:28 p.m.: theft more than \$100, less than \$750 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:15 p.m.: intoxicated driver reported Crawford Court
6:27 p.m.: property found on Elizabeth Boulevard
6:44 p.m.: theft less than \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:11 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

9:38 p.m.: assault reported on E. Bridge Street
\*\*One major accident, a minor accident, a warrant service and 16 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

APRIL 12
12:53 p.m.: felony possession of marijuana reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:56 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:26 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Meander Road
10:04 p.m.: intoxicated driver reported S. Morgan Street
\*\*Two major accidents, three minor accidents, a warrant service and 28 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

APRIL 13
5:05 a.m.: assault reported on Houston Court

7:07 a.m.: criminal mischief reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:35 a.m.: lost property reported on Lauren Lane
10:54 a.m.: theft less than \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:31 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on Charterhouse Circle
6:34 p.m.: missing person reported on Reunion Court
\*\*Two minor accidents and 10 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

APRIL 14
12:07 a.m.: suspicious vehicle reported on E. Pearl Street
12:57 p.m.: solicitor reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:48 p.m.: lost property reported on Reunion Court
2:43 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Chaparral Lane
2:57 p.m.: theft less than \$100 reported on E. U.S. Highway 377

9:26 p.m.: criminal trespass reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:25 p.m.: disturbance reported on Paluxy Road
\*\*A warrant was served, and four traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

APRIL 15
2:03 a.m.: suspicious activity reported W. Bluebonnet Drive
2:27 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. Pearl Street
7:22 a.m.: suspicious activity reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:24 a.m.: assault reported on E. U.S. Highway 377
2:48 p.m.: fraud reported on Harbor Lakes Drive
5:07 p.m.: suspicious activity reported on Saratoga Boulevard
\*\*One major accident, three minor accidents, a warrant service and 33 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

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

SATURDAY, 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.

BLUEGRASS JAM and Concert at Oakdale RV Park, 1019 N.E. Bernard Street in Glen Rose. Bring a lawn chair to enjoy the outdoor stage. There is a \$5 charge for parking.

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.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

LAKE GRANBURY Master Gardeners present "Water Conservation and Rain Barrel Community Education" 10-11:15 a.m. at Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court. Speaker Homer Babbitt, Parker County Master Gardener, rain water conservation and harvesting specialist. No charge to attend.

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 non-profit events. The event should be open to the public and free to attend. Email the who, what, when and where. Include the meeting location and a street address for the location. The topic for the meeting, program or guest speaker must be included. Email to: calendar@hcnews.com. Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.



North Texas' last total eclipse in 1878 mistaken for rapture

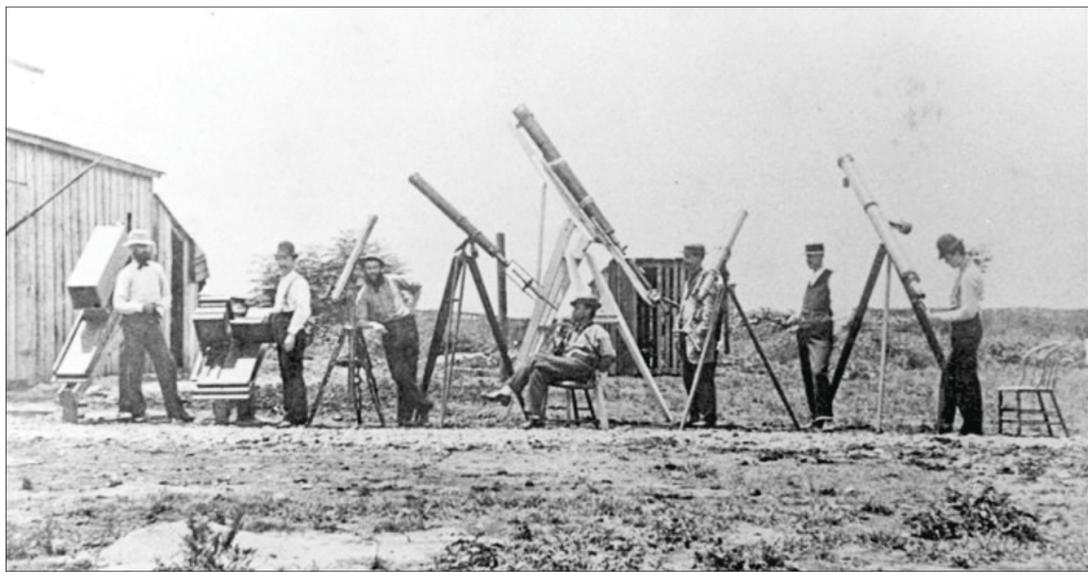
From Staff Reports

In light of the total solar eclipse Monday, April 8, Hood County novelist and historian Melinda Ray shared a few tidbits of information from the last total solar eclipse in North Texas July 29, 1878.

According to Ray, the path of totality ran across the North American continent diagonally from Cuba to Alaska, passing over Texas in the middle of the afternoon.

Newspapers gave widespread coverage announcing the date and time in advance and were full of ads from shops announcing eclipse specials and social gatherings to view the event. The width of the path of totality was from northeast of Dallas to a point between Tolar and Stephenville here in our area.

Ray stated that the event struck fear among some uneducated/uninformed portions of the population,



The total solar eclipse in Fort Worth on July 29, 1878.

COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS LIBRARIES

including one farmer who was known to be a devout religious man. Upon seeing the eclipse, he apparently thought it was the end of the world and was so distraught that he and his

daughter had been "left behind" that he shot and killed both her and himself. When Fort Worth started to go dark at 3:11 p.m., the temperature was 93 degrees. By 4:14 p.m., at the

moment of totality, it was 80 degrees. "The darkness was not so great as to prevent reading, but objects 200 yards off could not be distinguished easily," the Star-Telegram

dispatched. Ray said she has not been able to find any record of articles or quotes from the Granbury Vidette newspaper from that time.

LANG

FROM PAGE A1

position was not without controversy.

In July 2015, Lang made national news over her refusal to issue same-sex marriage licenses on religious grounds. Lang ultimately allowed a staffer in her office to issue the licenses, but by then, a lawsuit against the county had already been filed. The commissioners court settled the lawsuit for \$44,000, with the county and Texas Association of Counties splitting the cost.

The county clerk also clashed with members of the public in commissioners court and with Hood County Judge Ron Massingill within the past two years due to a software controversy.

According to previous articles in the Hood County News, Lang and Precinct

4 Justice of the Peace Dub Gillum halted the conversion of their offices to a new software program in 2022, which resulted in the county paying an unexpected invoice totaling \$220,750.

Lang and Gillum previously said the process of switching from NetData — which had served them well — to Tyler Odyssey had been extremely difficult and problematic for their offices.

At the end of a lengthy meeting in November 2022, the pair agreed to work with the county in hopes of reducing the added costs caused by their previous decision to halt the conversion. However, the county judge and commissioners paid the bill after determining that doing so was unavoidable.

Lang was also the subject of social media discussion

late last year when it was revealed that she and her husband Mike had purchased property in Florida.

Following the last Hood County Commissioners Court meeting April 9, Massingill told the HCN that Lang handed each commissioner a letter of resignation stating that she would be resigning as of May 3.

Massingill said Hood County HR Director Melissa Welborn posted the available position on the Hood County website Wednesday, April 10.

"(Welborn) takes applications for the county clerk of Hood County and from those applications, the majority of the commissioners court will appoint somebody to be the county clerk until the November election, because the county clerk has to run

for reelection in November," Massingill told the Hood County News. "Whoever we appoint will be on the November ballot and they will take office Jan. 1. That's the procedure."

Massingill stated that as of April 16, 15 applications had already been received for the county clerk position.

"From those applications — and if a commissioner has someone they can nominate, we'll vote on them too — it will be an interview process and then the majority of the commissioners court will vote on the interim clerk (who will serve) until the November election," he said.

According to the release from the HR department, the clerk of a county court shall be a resident of Texas for at least 12 months and Hood County for at least six months. The clerk of a county shall also be

ZED by Duane M. Abel



# Taste of Tolar Community Fish Fry



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Folks at the Tolar Education Foundation enjoyed a huge turnout Saturday evening at LC Ranch/Tolar for the Taste of Tolar Community Fish Fry. Organizers extended their deepest gratitude to everyone who attended and supported the annual Taste of Tolar event and are forever grateful for the support of the Tolar Education Foundation and all students in the Tolar Independent School District. A special shout-out went out to the sponsors, auction donors, and entertainers for making it possible.



# Rep. Shelby Slawson cuts ribbon on new district office



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Shelby Slawson — who has represented the 59th District in the Texas House of Representative since 2021 — cut the ribbon on April 10 for her new district office located on the third floor of the Hood County Courthouse.

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

State Rep. Shelby Slawson now has a new office — and it's right here in Hood County.

Slawson — who has represented the 59th District in the Texas House of Representative since 2021 — hosted a grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration April 10 for her new district office located on the third floor of the Hood County Courthouse.

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted Feb. 27 to allow Slawson to use the office without charge.

During the February meeting, Slawson explained to the court that she has had the distinct pleasure of serving about 195,000 central Texans, as House District 59 covers the counties of Hood, Erath, Hamilton and Coryell — covering a little over 4,000 square miles in total.

"That's a lot of territory

to cover to serve our people, so unlike some of my counterparts in the city, we have a lot of asphalt that we burn up getting to our people," Slawson said during the Feb. 27 meeting. "We have — for the last several years — taken an approach to public meetings and mobile office hours in lieu of planning routes in any particular location.

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

Granbury," she added.

The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony was hosted by the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, as several community leaders and elected officials showed their support for Slawson — including State Sen. Brian Birdwell.

"This is Shelby's moment," Birdwell said. "It's just appropriate for me to simply say, 'Welcome to the Hood.'"

As Slawson welcomed everyone to her office's official grand opening, she revealed that over the course of the last year, she has received about 5,000 emails and calls requesting her assistance.

"Sometimes it's the DMV, maybe another state agency they need help with, but people need some help," she said. "So, we're so delighted to have a fixed location here in Granbury, where we can meet with folks and serve people. We are especially grateful to our county judge and the commissioners for



State Rep. Shelby Slawson speaks to Senator Brian Birdwell during the grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration of her new district office April 10.

donating space up on the third floor for us to use to help serve Hood County, Erath County and anybody who wants to come up this way and meet with us."

Slawson then joked about the time that a colleague revealed how he can be in one part of his district, call home and say, "Put a pizza in the oven," and he would get home

by the time the pizza was ready.

"I listen to him like, 'Well that must be nice, but if you do that in the place where I serve, like you're gonna be calling the VFD and things are gonna be on fire,'" she said, chuckling. "You can't do that here. But we are so glad and honored to get to open an office, welcome you into it,

and I thank you for coming out today."

According to Slawson's Facebook page, office days and hours are by appointment only until a regular schedule is set up. Other parts of the district will also continue to use mobile office hours and technology as well.

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# HOME IN ON MORE BUYERS

# JARRATT

FROM PAGE A1

districts should follow the GISD lead toward lower taxes.

GISD taxes are the lowest of the surrounding ISDs, but in every ISD where a bond was approved, within two years, the tax rate and the taxpayer taxes were increased from \$.10 to \$.25. The rate doesn't get increased until the bond is "sold" and principal and interest payments begin. And don't forget — it's not just the \$161,000,000 that will be paid off by the taxpayer, it is also any interest that is incurred, which could cost the taxpayers in total more than \$300,000,000. I'm as concerned about the tax liability our children

and grandchildren will be paying 25 to 30 years from now, as I am about spending on building space that could potentially sit empty.

**HCN:** Despite significant population growth, GISD has not built a new school building in over 20 years. If the bond fails and no funding is created to build a new elementary school, what would you propose GISD do to handle the increasing student population?

**Jarratt:** As noted above, the overall population growth does not translate into growth in student population. Our town attracts tourist visitors and retiring people, both of whom are drawn to our quaint aesthetic and small-town appeal. Children are here, and more are

welcome to come — and they are coming, but they are not coming in the inflated numbers included in the GISD 10 Year Campus Forecast.

**HCN:** What is your proposed solution for replacing air conditioners, buses . . .

**Jarratt:** Every school in the district has working air conditioners. When one unit breaks down, it gets repaired or replaced. These breakdowns and replacements can be anticipated and budgeted through lifecycle management. That is to say, GISD can reasonably predict the life expectancy of an air conditioning unit and buses and plan for their repair as they age and their replacement when they can no longer meet performance and safety

expectations.

The school district has \$88 million in annual revenues. The GISD administrators are accountable to use the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) budget to perform timely preventative maintenance and to plan and budget for end-of-life replacement for items such as air conditioners and buses. This is basic blocking and tackling and are not items that should be included in a bond with a 30-year payout.

**HCN:** The opponents of the bond have created a marketing catch phrase of "If you know . . . you NO!" What do the opponents of the bond issue "know" that they want to share with the rest of the community?

**Jarratt:** "If you know" is a refrain that encourages

voters to be an informed voter. "You No" is an assumption. The goal of the total "catch phrase" is to ask the voter to take their time to learn about the contents of the proposed bond, and its relative necessity. The assumption is that they will decide to vote in favor of fiscal responsibility; and they will vote "NO" on the bond.

Things the informed voter should know include:

A. Current GISD Elementary School capacity is at 90% with 512 open seats.

B. The actual GISD student additions for the past two years are at only 50% of the forecasted addition.

C. Student enrollment in Texas has been declining for the past 10 years and

is running at an annual increase level of 1.0% for the prior two years.

D. Only \$59,000,000 of the \$161,000,000 proposed bond is for the new elementary school.

E. Should School Choice become a reality in the next Legislative Session, public school enrollment will decline.

**Viewpoints published in The Hood County News do not necessarily reflect the opinions or beliefs of the newspaper. We strive to provide a platform for diverse perspectives and encourage healthy discourse within our community.**

**We urge our readers to critically evaluate the information presented, conduct their own research, and engage with a variety of sources to form well-informed opinions. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of active participation in civic processes, including voting, to shape the future of our community and society.**

# GLENN

FROM PAGE A1

management. For the last 20 years we have never had a non-compliant audit. All of them have met or exceeded accounting standards. We have a balanced budget in 2023-24 and will be adopting a balanced budget for the next school year of '24-'25. Our community should be proud of the way GISD has managed tax dollars. It is true property values have gone up, and I think it is important to note that our board has done a good job of keeping our school tax rate low. To your point, the school board is aware of the tax burden taxpayers have because after all, they are taxpayers themselves, and they have worked hard to keep the tax rate low.

**HCN:** How does the "Robin Hood" act come into play here when additional funds come into

a school district because of increased tax revenues from elevated value assessments? Does that money necessarily stay with GISD?

**Dr. Glenn:** You are correct. That is another aspect of school funding. We are considered a property wealthy district by the state and to that end, last year we had to give about \$10 million in tax revenue to the state. Recapture is certainly a burden for us. It would be wonderful if we could keep all our tax dollars here, but the state school financing statutes simply do not allow that.

**HCN:** Would it be accurate to say the only way to ensure tax dollars were guaranteed to stay in Hood County with GISD is through a bond issue?

**Dr. Glenn:** That is something which is unique. On the operations side, general revenue is subject to recapture while bond

issue revenue is exempt from recapture and stays right here in Hood County.

**HCN:** Some have suggested the school district has not planned very well for the replacement of school buses. Looking at other districts in the surrounding area, significant capital investment for items like buses is frequently included in bond packages. Why does it make sense to spread the expense over several years?

**Dr. Glenn:** I think it is important to note, while we may bond out a building for 30 years, we would not be setting up repayment for the purchase of buses over 30 years. On a diesel engine bus, probably a 10-year note. We get a lot of miles out of a bus. Our transportation director has been quoted saying that on a regular school day our buses run enough miles to go across the United States and back. We do put heavy miles on our buses, and

we do have a replacement schedule, but post-COVID, buses have gotten very expensive. When I started in this business, you could purchase a school bus for under \$100,000. I believe the last couple of buses we purchased were over \$140,000 and the price keeps rising. To get 30 new buses into our fleet would be a significant expense, and it's one of the reasons the long-range planning committee said to include the transportation needs in the bond.

**HCN:** In comparing neighboring school districts, Godley, Aledo, Stephenville, Weatherford, Cleburne, Alvarado, Mansfield, Ft. Worth, Burleson and Crowley have each added at least one new school in the past five years. Some have added more than one in the same time. Why is that?

**Dr. Glenn:** Such is a common trend. The Dallas-Fort Worth area is one of

the fastest growing areas in terms of population in the entire country. As people come into this area, Granbury is an attractive place to live. As the Cresson bypass finishes people will be able to get to Fort Worth faster, thus making Granbury even more appealing. Property values have risen here, but when compared to other areas in the metroplex, it is an affordable place to live. You are seeing more schools being built to have the facilities to accommodate the growth and the increased number of students.

**HCN:** How long has it been since GISD built a grade school?

**Dr. Glenn:** The last time Granbury built an elementary school was Mambrino in 1996. The last time we built any schools was the middle schools in 2001. It has been well over 20 years since we have put any buildings on the ground

at all.

**HCN:** A common refrain from those who oppose the bond issue is they are flat tired of paying taxes. You have commented that the school tax burden at GISD is the lowest in the county

PLEASE SEE **GLENN** | A10





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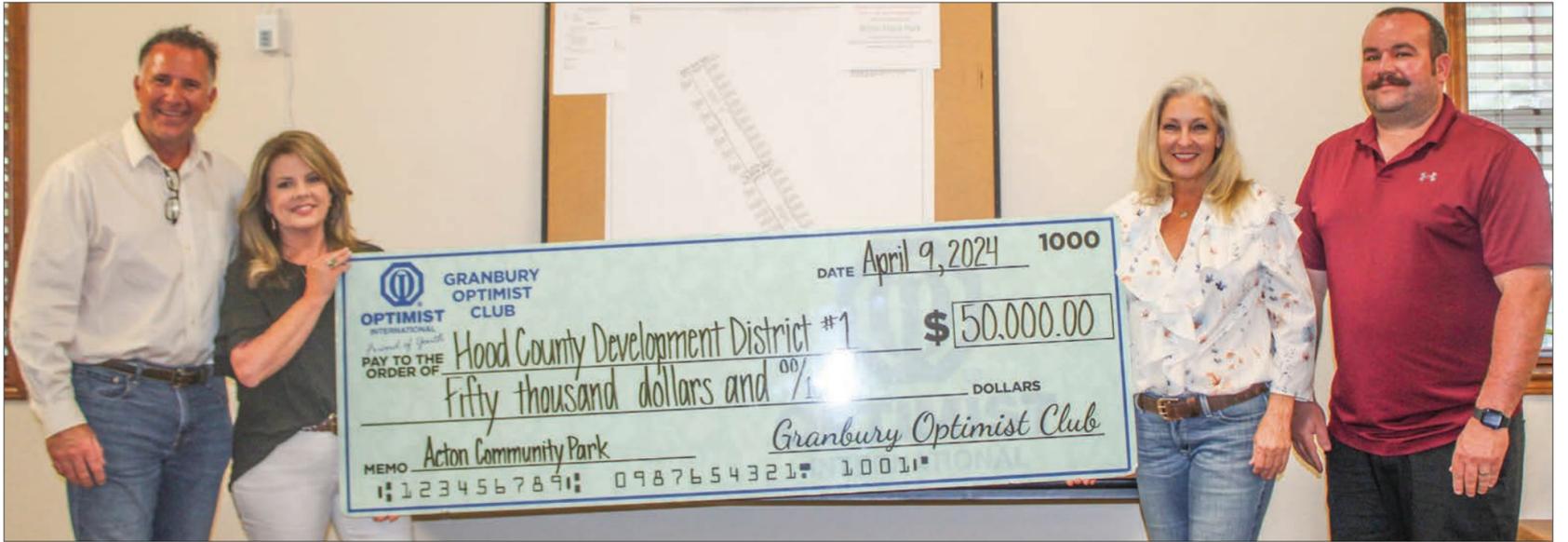
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# Acton Place Park receives \$50K from Granbury Optimist Club for playground equipment



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury Optimist Club donated \$50,000 to the Hood County Development District No. 1 to be used for the purchase of playground equipment for Acton Place Park.

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

Acton Place Park is one step closer to getting playground equipment installed on its property. Early last week, the Granbury Optimist Club generously donated \$50,000 to the Hood County Development District No. 1 to be used for the park as part of its matching community grant program. "The development district has put about \$87,000 and change into what's at the park currently," HCDD No. 1 President Todd Hall told the Hood County News. "Then this year for the 2024 budget, we approved \$150,000 for construction and infrastructure, and then we also approved a \$50,000 matching community grant program, just because we wanted a way for community



**LEFT:** The larger playground for older children will feature three bigger slides and larger climbing areas.



**RIGHT:** The toddler playground will feature three small slides, a small climbing area and a few interactive activity panels.

PHOTOS COURTESY PLAYGROUND SOLUTIONS OF TEXAS

members to be able to make their money go further." Hall said the board approved \$50,000 in matching funds for a community partner that wanted to step up and donate — which is exactly what the Granbury Optimist Club did. "I think the big thing for me is to say that if you're not participating in the

community that you live in, then you're really not part of it," Granbury Optimist Club President Cyndi Acosta said. "For me personally, this was a big deal and I know for the Optimist Club as a whole that this is a big deal to be able to give back to the community and provide a safe place for kids to play through the summer. We already have the two parks in

Granbury so including Acton now makes it a little more well-rounded, and that's what we really try to be — as fair and equitable to all the kids in the county." With \$150,000 from HCDD No. 1, plus a total of \$100,000 from the matching community grant program, Acton Place Park now has a total of \$250,000 approved for construction in 2024.

"This is going to be instrumental in finishing the first phase of the project," Hall said. "We can start using it right now." Phase one, Hall said, includes the installation of safety handrails, sidewalks, bollards (a short post placed to deflect traffic from the area) and the first turf area. "Construction approved for this year

will include roughing in the electrical for the lighting on lot number two and roughing in the plumbing and the concrete for the future bathroom building, along with some landscaping, the playgrounds, and some crushed granite surfacing for picnic tables," he said. Playground Solutions of PLEASE SEE **ACTON** | A10

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# Wilma Marie Sexton

March 9, 1943 - April 11, 2024

Wilma Marie Martin Sexton, a seventh-generation Texan, passed away April 11, 2024 at the age of 81 in Glen Rose, Texas. She was born in Lufkin, Texas, on March 9, 1943 to Lloyd C. and Wilma Lee Shepard Martin. When she was nine years old, the family moved to Memphis, Texas where she enjoyed the early springtime of her life, graduated high school, and was married to Jim Sexton in 1960. The newlyweds moved to Canyon where Jim was a student at West Texas State College. Wilma worked at an Amarillo bank and took college courses from time to time. In 1965, Jim graduated, commenced a bank examination career, and the couple moved to Fort Worth, their first post of duty. It was in Fort Worth that their first daughter, Sheryl, was born in 1969. Their second daughter, Carole, was born in Richardson, Texas in 1971. Over the following years, the family moved to Germantown, Tennessee, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Herndon, Virginia, and Georgetown, Texas. Wilma and Jim then returned to Virginia for a brief period and, finally, to retirement in Pecan Plantation in Granbury, Texas in 2000.

Wilma was a volunteer at many of the girls' school functions, from acting as chaperone to working in the school library. She was a surrogate mother to many of her daughters' friends, always providing them with an attentive ear in what one friend from the teenage years recently remembered as "a peaceful and safe place." Many neighbors' kids called her "Mom." In Georgetown, she was for several years Head of Consignment at Handcrafts Unlimited, a local non-profit where artisans consign their creations for sale. She not only consigned items; she was one of the artisans' best customers.

In retirement, there were many fun evenings of bridge and 42 with friends. Bank consulting work took them to nearly every state and a few foreign countries. In the summer, they escaped the heat with extended vacations in Colorado, Vermont, or in the Bitterroots of Montana.

Wilma loved God, and she loved her family (always including the family's animals), and her friends from the various places



and phases comprising her life. Her high principles, strong character and Texas accent were original equipment and they never changed. She loved just being herself. She found perfect contentment with a cane pole, a can of worms, a quiet pond, and a snack in the basket. Her favorite set of wheels was a snappy Chevy Silverado pickup which folks in the Northeast refused to believe she actually owned and drove. When she first showed up in New Zealand in 1988, motel owners bringing our breakfast and milk for our coffee sometimes asked to stay a while and visit mostly, it seemed, to listen to Wilma talk which, of course, she was pleased to do.

Thank you to the old and new friends who visited Wilma, sent cards, flowers and otherwise provided comfort to Wilma and her family during her long stay at Glen Rose Nursing and Rehab. And thank you to Rosa, Lola, Dena and other GRNR personnel who loved and tenderly cared for Wilma and whom she loved in return. And thanks to Abel who patiently entertained Wilma's many ideas for sprucing up her room, also known as "my home."

Wilma is survived by her husband of 64 years, Jim Sexton, their daughters, Sheryl Sexton and Carole Sexton, brother Malcolm Martin and wife Mary, sister-in-law Anna Hink and husband Ron, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends.

A celebration of Wilma's life will occur May 11, 2024 at 1 p.m. at Wiley Center, 400 Highway 377 East, Granbury, Texas. Relatives and friends invited.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in her honor to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Salvation Army of Granbury, or a favorite charity.

# OBITUARIES

## Linda Bogard

March 20, 1941 - March 31, 2024

LINCOLN—Linda Sue Bogard, 83, died on Sunday, March 31, 2024, peacefully at her home.

Linda was born on March 20, 1941, in Amarillo, Texas, the daughter of the late Johnnie William Bogard and Lola Pearl (Latham) Bogard.

Linda loved her job as the assisted living marketing director at Broadway Plaza in Fort Worth, Texas. During her well-deserved retirement years, she enjoyed taking cruises with her daughter Mary and playing golf with her family and friends.

Linda is survived by her sister, Mary Bachman and her husband, Jack; sons, Harold Butch Phillips of Garland, Texas, and Kevin Christopher Phillips of Granbury, Texas; daughter, Mary Lynn Etheridge and her husband, Donald Landry of Lincoln, New Hampshire; daughters-in-law, Lisa Dollar Phillips and Desiree Elston; grandchildren, Lynzee Kelly and her husband Ryan, Curtis Shane Etheridge, Chelsea Lorene Etheridge, Jacob Powell Etheridge and his wife, Krishawna, Christopher Phillips, Jesse Phillips and his fiancé, Luzia West, Austin Phillips, Madison Phillips, Veronica Barriento, and Mackenzie Burns;



great-grandchildren, Courtney Swanson, Rydell Kelly, Roland Kelly, Reason Kelly, Isabella Ortiz, Jameson Powell Etheridge, Journey Etheridge, Korbyn Etheridge, and Kasyn Etheridge; her hair dressers, Linda Rhodes of Texas, and Candy Long of New Hampshire, and all her DeCordova golf friends. In addition to her parents, Linda was predeceased by her brother, Frank Bogard; daughters, Ginger Morris and Sherry Lee Phillips; and granddaughter, Ashley Morris.

A Celebration of Linda's life will be held at a later date.

Arrangements are under the care of Mayhew Funeral Homes and Crematorium. To sign the online book of memories, go to mayhewfuneralhomes.com.

## William Robert (Bob) Pickard

August 12, 1936 - April 13, 2024

William Robert (Bob) Pickard, 87, of Granbury, died Saturday, April 13, 2024. A memorial service to celebrate Bob's life will be held at 2 p.m. on April 22, 2024, at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

Bob's family includes his wife of 34 years, Betty (Hardin) Pickard, daughter, Cynthia O'Mara (Stephen) of Montgomery, Alabama, five grandchildren, Shannon Lescarini (Richard), Paige O'Mara, Dallas O'Mara, Reed O'Mara, and Kayla Pickard, four great-grandchildren, a sister, Barbara Howe, two brothers Bill Pickard (Patricia) and Tom Pickard, and a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Eugene Pickard and mother, Dorothy (Lowe) Hill, son, Robbie Pickard and son, Mitchell Pickard, a brother, David Pickard, sister, Jean Pickard Wharton and sister, Judy Hill Klutts.

Bob was born Aug. 12, 1936, in Dallas, Texas. He graduated from Boles High School in Quinlan, Texas. He retired from South-



western Bell Telephone Company after 34 years in 1991. He began his career with SWBT as a coin collector at 19 years of age. He traveled all over east Texas collecting coins. Then, he worked in telephone installation and repair, data teletype and retired as a data center manager at Two Bell Plaza in Dallas. His years after retirement were spent continuing to enjoy life. In his last years, he especially enjoyed traveling and dancing to rock n' roll music.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Triple Cross Cowboy Church Benevolence Fund, Granbury.

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

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**ACROSS**

- Performance Hall in Fort Worth
- TXism: "best I ever wrapped around"
- French explorer in Texas: Sieur \_\_\_
- Salle
- George H. W. to George W.
- LBJ choice for chief Justice of Supreme Court: \_\_\_ Fortas
- TXism: "covered like fur \_\_\_"
- type of Dr. Pepper
- TXism: "worthless as \_\_\_ flush"
- divided by two (2 wds.)
- TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat"
- box with perforated top for perfume
- what Christ said on the cross meaning "My God"
- unemployed Texan \_\_\_ job
- TXism: "\_\_\_ shooting" (certain)
- TXism: "use your head for something besides a \_\_\_"
- TX Janis Joplin died of this (abbr.)
- TX Larry McMurry wrote "\_\_\_ Grave"
- cole
- Larry, Curly & \_\_\_
- TXism: "run it by a \_\_\_" (finalize)
- persistence
- entrants at Texas Motor Speedway, e.g.
- TXism: "you're preaching \_\_\_ choir"
- "Giant" actress (init.)
- roof overhang
- Gen. Robert \_\_\_
- historic "\_\_\_ Opera House" in Columbus
- fully grewed Texan
- TXism: "busy bartender on pay day"
- Dallas suburb: \_\_\_ Colinas
- deer-like animal in West Texas
- TXism: "\_\_\_ hill for a stepper" (doable)
- gold symbol
- content of small Texas stream (2 wds.)
- Fort Worth based \_\_\_ Brick company
- chore
- TXism: "\_\_\_ dog stink? (yes)"
- TXism: "he's got \_\_\_ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)
- relieve again
- good shooter
- what the Texas legislature can enact (2 wds.)
- Tex Ritter hit: "\_\_\_ Whiskey"
- TXism: "about as clear as \_\_\_ River mud"
- small contribution
- TXism: "playing with a \_\_\_ deck" (unlucky)
- fancy "adios"
- in Jasper County on U.S. 96
- flat container for "rot gut"
- extra play for the Mavericks (abbr.)

# What should you know about long-term care?

**TAYLOR MOBLY**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser

We all hope to remain healthy and independent throughout our lives — but life can be unpredictable. If you were ever to need some type of long-term care, would you be financially prepared?

Long-term care encompasses everything from the services of a home health aide to a stay in an assisted living facility to a long residence in a nursing home. You may never need any of these kinds of care, but the odds aren't necessarily in your favor: Someone turning

age 65 today has almost a 70% chance of needing some type of long-term care services and support in their remaining years, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

And all types of long-term care are expensive. The median annual cost for a home health aide's services is more than \$60,000 per year, and it's more than \$100,000 per year for a private room in a nursing home, according to Genworth, an insurance company. Furthermore,

contrary to many people's expectations, Medicare usually pays very few of these costs. Of course, some people expect their family will be able to take care of their long-term care needs. But this may not be a viable strategy. For one thing, your family members simply may not have the skills needed to give you the type of care you may require. Also, by the time you might need help, your grown children or other family members might not even live in your area.

So, you may need to protect yourself from the potentially huge costs of long-term care. Basically, you've got two main solutions: You could

self-insure, or you could purchase some type of long-term care insurance.

If you have considerable financial resources, you might find self-insuring to be attractive. You won't have to pay any premiums and as long as you keep the money in a savings or investment account that's earmarked exclusively for long-term care, you won't have to raid your other retirement accounts. But there are two drawbacks to self-insuring. First, because long-term care is so costly, you might need to put away a very large sum. And second, it will be quite hard to predict exactly how much money you'll need, because so

many variables are involved — your age when you start needing care, the type of care you'll require, the cost of care in your area, the length of time you'll need care, and so on.

As an alternative to self-insuring, you could purchase long-term care insurance, which provides benefits for home health care, adult day care and assisted living and nursing home facilities. This type of coverage can provide you with some peace of mind, but you'll also need to consider the issues attached to long-term care insurance. For one thing, it can be expensive, though the younger you are when

you buy your policy, the more affordable it may be. Also, long-term care policies typically require you to wait a certain amount of time before benefits are paid. But policies vary greatly in what they offer, so, if you are thinking of buying this insurance, you'll want to shop around and compare benefits and costs.

In any case, by being aware of the potential need for long-term care, its costs and the ways of paying for it, you'll be able to make the decisions appropriate for your own life.

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# Classifieds

Deadline: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

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

## CLASSIFIEDS DIRECTORY

<p><b>Real Estate for Sale</b></p> <p>1010 Acreage for Sale 1020 Cemetery Lots 1030 Commercial for Sale 1040 Duplexes for Sale 1050 Homes for Sale 1060 Waterfront Homes 1070 Lots for Sale 1080 Mobiles for Sale 1090 Waterfront Mobiles 1100 Real Estate Notes 1110 Townhomes &amp; Condos 1120 Property For Trade 1130 Want To Buy</p> <p><b>Real Estate for Rent</b></p> <p>1510 Apartments for Rent 1520 Commercial for Rent 1530 Duplexes for Rent 1540 Homes for Rent 1550 Mobiles for Rent 1560 Rooms for Rent 1570 Roommates Wanted 1580 Spaces &amp; Lots 1590 Townhomes &amp; Condos 1600 Want to Rent</p> <p><b>Vehicles</b></p> <p>2010 Automobiles 2020 Parts &amp; Accessories 2030 Big Trucks &amp; Trailers 2040 Classic Automobiles</p>	<p>2050 Four-Wheel Drive 2060 Motorcycles 2070 Pickups &amp; SUVs 2080 Vans &amp; Campers 2090 Trailers 2095 Heavy Equipment</p> <p><b>Farm &amp; Ranch</b></p> <p>3010 Corrals &amp; Fencing 3020 Farm Equipment 3030 Feed &amp; Pasture 3040 Stock Trailers 3050 Related Items</p> <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>4010 Business Opportunities 4020 Insurance 4030 Investments 4040 Mortgages &amp; Notes</p> <p><b>Home &amp; Business Services</b></p> <p>5010 Adult/Elderly Care 5020 A/C Heating Repair 5030 Appliance Repair 5040 Automotive Services 5050 Bulldozer Services 5060 Business Services 5065 Carports 5070 Cement/Concrete 5075 Chimney Sweeping 5080 Child Care 5090 Cleaning Services 5100 Computer Services</p>	<p>5110 Construction 5120 Clock Repair 5130 Dock repair/Rebuild 5140 Electrical 5150 Electronics Repair 5160 Exterminating 5170 Fencing 5180 Floor Coverings 5190 Health Care 5200 Home Improvement 5210 Home Services 5220 Landscaping/Tree Service 5230 Interior Design 5240 Masonry 5250 Mobile Home Service 5260 Moving/Hauling 5265 Plumbing 5270 Sand/Gravel/Soil 5280 Roofing 5290 Painting 5295 Pressure Washing 5300 Septic/Sewer 5310 Small Engine Repair 5320 Secretarial/Office 5330 Storage 5340 Tractor Service 5350 Welding</p> <p><b>Sports &amp; Recreation</b></p> <p>6010 Boats &amp; Water Sports 6020 Recreation 6030 Golf 6040 Guns 6050 Hunting/Fishing 6060 Pools &amp; Spas</p>	<p>6070 RV's/Travel Trailers 6080 Sporting Goods</p> <p><b>Merchandise</b></p> <p>6510 Antiques 6520 Appliances 6530 Arts &amp; Crafts 6540 Building Materials 6550 Computers 6560 Electronics 6570 Firewood 6580 Furniture 6590 Health 6600 Air Conditioners 6610 Lawn Equipment 6620 Miscellaneous 6630 Musical Instruments 6635 Pocket Stuffers 6640 Portable Buildings 6650 Tools 6660 Trees 6670 Wanted</p> <p><b>Education</b></p> <p>7010 Tutor/Instruction 7020 Music 7030 Computer 7040 Art Instruction</p> <p><b>Livestock &amp; Pets</b></p> <p>8010 Livestock 8020 Livestock Lost &amp; Found 8030 Pets 8040 Pets Lost &amp; Found</p>	<p><b>Employment</b></p> <p>8510 General 8520 Construction 8530 Food Services 8540 Medical/Dental 8550 Office Employment 8560 Professional 8570 Sales 8580 Salon Personnel 8590 Employment Wanted 8600 Employment Information 8610 Carpool Information</p> <p><b>Notices</b></p> <p>9010 Happy Notes 9020 Free 9030 Public Notices 9040 Notices 9050 Personal Lost &amp; Found 9070 Card of Thanks</p> <p><b>Public Sales</b></p> <p>9570 Auctions 9580 Flea Markets 9590 Out of Town Sales Garage Sales 76035 Garage Sales 76048 Garage Sales 76049 Garage Sales 76462 Garage Sales 76476</p>	<p><b>Business Hours</b> Monday - Thursday, 8am-5pm Friday, 8am-1pm</p> <p><b>Deadlines</b> Saturday issue, 10am Wednesday</p> <p><b>Special Offers</b> Pocket Stuffers Free classified ads. Miscellaneous items up to \$100. Some restrictions apply.</p> <p><b>Wheels &amp; Deals</b> Place your ad with photo of your vehicle for only \$65.95. the ad will run until it sells or up to 2 months.</p> <p><b>Place your ad online at</b> <a href="http://www.hcnews.com">www.hcnews.com</a>, call <b>817-573-7066</b>, or visit us at <b>1501 S. Morgan St.</b></p>	<p><b>Classified Advertising Cost</b> Classified ads for the Saturday edition are \$17.60 per week for 4 lines or less. Your ad will also appear on <a href="http://www.hcnews.com">www.hcnews.com</a> during the ad run.</p> <p><b>Error Responsibility</b> Customers are asked to check their ad immediately after it appears in the paper and report at once any error found. Claims for adjustment should be made at that time. The Hood County News is responsible for an incorrect ad only the first time it runs, so check your ads carefully</p>
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## 5210 Home Services

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PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE WORK  
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## 5330 Storage

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

## 5340 Tractor Services

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

## MERCHANDISE

### 6520 Appliances

FOR SALE large deep freeze. Used 2 years, 90 day warranty. \$350. 817-219-9824 Lipan

### 6620 Miscellaneous

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WE BUY OLD US COINS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.  
Call 817-559-3131

### 6670 Wanted

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

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### 8040 Pets Lost & Found

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

## Pets Lost & Found

MISSING: Young cat, short hair. Lost a round Victorian Ct off Fall Creek Hwy. 682-936-9903.



thee  
y's class of 2015 raised their hooked hands w  
ong Thursday evening at the Fort Worth Cent  
Hood County News



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# EMPLOYMENT

## General

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



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

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

**Competitive pay and great work environment.**

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

**Come join the Hood County News team!**



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

**Competitive pay and great work environment.**

**Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.**

**Come join the Hood County News team!**

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

**GOLF COURSE**  
Couples wanted to assist Golf Club Managers in the Clubhouse of a Private Club located in Tolar. 1-2 weekends per month and occasional weekdays. Duties include: cooking, collecting payments, golf cart preparation and staging, feeding the birds and deer, end of the day clean up and other misc. tasks. Please email brief work history and bio to: [golfclubjobs@myyahoo.com](mailto:golfclubjobs@myyahoo.com) or mail to PO BOX 531, Tolar, Texas 76476. No phone or in-person inquiries- Thank you

## Professional



North Central Texas Academy is seeking:

- High school History teacher
- Upper Elementary teacher

All applicants must be state certified teachers.

Apply at: <https://www.northcentraltexasacademy.org/about-hhfa/employment/teacher-application/>

For questions please contact Amanda Schwausch at [a.schwausch@nctapioneers.org](mailto:a.schwausch@nctapioneers.org)



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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# NOTICES

## Public Notices

Hood County Hospital District Board of Directors will discuss POTENTIAL TAXATION at its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, April 26, 2024 at noon. Hood County Courthouse, 2nd floor courtroom, 100 E. Pearl St. For more information, 817-579-3200.

The Transit System, Inc. is accepting bids for the removal of old phone system and bids on a new eSIP E Series replacement or equivalent. Specification of work or equivalent specification can be picked up or dropped off at 401 Commerce St., Glen Rose, Texas. Cutoff date for bid is Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 4:00PM. Bids will be opened Thursday, April 24, 2024 at 2PM

**CITATION BY PUBLICATION**  
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Larry Marvin Parks, Cause No.P10365, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Julie Annece Parks Bellville in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Larry Marvin Parks, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

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

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

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this on this the 4th day of April 2024

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

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## Professional

## Public Notices

ABC STORAGE, WISHING TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 59 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE [CHAPTER 576 ACT OF THE 68TH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION 1983] HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF SALE UNDER SAID ACT, TO WIT: ON THURSDAY April 25, 2024 BEGINNING AT ABC STORAGE AT 2100 SOUTH MORGAN STREET (HIGHWAY 144), THEN TO 3606 CONTRARY CREEK ROAD STARTING AT THE HOUR OF 10:00 A.M. OF (THURSDAY) 4-25-24. ABC STORAGE WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC SALE, IN TOTAL UNIT ONLY, FOR CASH ONLY, OF THE CONTENTS OF:

2100 SOUTH MORGAN STREET  
01-19 David Johnson- 4 Interior doors w/frames, in box Vanity mirror, boxes of ceramic tiles, roll of carpet padding, sliding door frame.  
01-40 Mark Waldon- ammo reloading machine, leather sewing machine, shop vac, drill press, air compressor, much more.  
01-48 Trisha Bagby- Appliance dolly, curio cabinet, black king size headboard w/footboard and frame, AVera-Media video camera w/mic, pictures, much more.  
01-55 Theresa Brafford- Kerosene heater, rolling car jack, 3 standing rolling nuts & bolts bins, grinder, toolbox, small metal storage cabinets, tools, much more.  
01-88 Enrique Casco- tools, house etc. painting tools, paint, duffel bags, much more.  
01-159 Erika Broyles- Small grill, twin size white metal girls bed frame w/ footboard, round outdoor table frame without glass top, 4 patio chairs, two chairs, etc..

01-167 Leona "Susan" Roberts- Entertainment cabinet, side table, large soundboard, china hutch, loveseat w/ couch, end tables, tools, much more.

3606 CONTRARY CREEK ROAD  
02-28 Stephen Landers- Suzuki motorcycle, standing tool box w/tools, small dog house, fertilizer spreader, padded top bench, wooden white end table, christmas decorations, much more.  
02-29 Tracy Davis- 4 bar stools, rolling clothes rack, hoverboard in carrying case, gaming chair, headphones, 2 wooden shelves, 2 camping stoves, fishing pole, weedeater, clothes, shoes, much more.  
02-38 Cassandra Ward- Wooden Door, desk, night stands, mirror, stool, 10x20 size unit completely full.  
02-47 Mark Funderburg- Metal & wood desk w/3 matching coffee tables, printer, bodyboard for surfing.

THE SALE IS TO SATISFY A LANDLORD LIEN. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND, DATE THURSDAY, 4-25-24, AT 10:00 A.M. MEET AT 2100 SOUTH MORGAN STREET. REMINDER: CASH ONLY. T.E. [BUDDY] WATERS OWNER / LESSOR

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for RFP 2024-2 Request for Premises Backup Solution. Bid proposals are available online on <https://granbury.ionwave.net>. The bids are open immediately and will close 4/21/24.

RFP2024-03 Bulk Waste Disposal for the Hood County Citizen's Collection Station (CCS)  
Hood County Purchasing Agent's office will receive sealed proposals at 1402 W Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048, until 10am May 20, 2024. Proposals will be opened in a public meeting at that time and place.

RFP2024-03  
Bulk Waste Disposal for the CCS Proposals may be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at <http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com>. It is free to register and to bid. Proposal documents may also be obtained at the Purchasing Agent's Office located at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1 Granbury, TX 76048, or through the Hood County Purchasing Web link: <http://www.co.hood.tx.us/purchasing.htm>.

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

For additional Information, contact the Hood County Purchasing Agent at [gtilleman@co.hood.tx.us](mailto:gtilleman@co.hood.tx.us).

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

SOUTH BEND ADDITION, LOT 4R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, May 14th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a P-Package Store Permit by GURKHA LEGACY LLC dba J. C.'S LIQUOR, to be located at 3130 Fall Creek Hwy, Acton, Hood County, Texas 76049-7920. The officers of said corporation are Binod Kadel, a manager, and Arun Khatri, a manager.

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 bynGV). Please contact Ted Nelson via email at [tnelson@pape-dawson.com](mailto: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.

## Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that on April 10, 2024, Letters Testamentary were issued to RANDALL TUCKER by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Estate of Maurine Emma Sylvester, Deceased, under Cause No. P10345, pending on the probate docket of the Court.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
Dated: April 10, 2024  
Randall Tucker  
Executor of the Estate of Maurine Emma Sylvester  
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh  
922 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
/S/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
State Bar No. 24045498  
Email: [marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com)  
922 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
(682) 936-4090  
Attorney for Randall Tucker

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that on April 10, 2024, Letters Testamentary were issued to KEITH LOFTIN by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Estate of Dorothy Loftin, Deceased, under Cause No. P10344, pending on the probate docket of the Court.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
Dated: April 10, 2024  
Keith Loftin  
Executor of the Estate of Dorothy Loftin  
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh  
922 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
/S/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
State Bar No. 24045498  
Email: [marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com)  
922 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
(682) 936-4090  
Attorney for Keith Loftin

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
The following items will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. ZBA-2024-04, Request of The Pub McDonough LLC for a Variance to Zoning Ordinance, Section 7.5 Sign Types, Wall, Primary (Attached) sign, to allow a wall sign to be installed that is not parallel to the wall and projects greater than 12 inches from the wall. The property is addressed as 529 N. Houston St.  
A. § 551.071. Consultation with Attorney. The Zoning Board of Adjustment may convene in executive session to conduct a private consultation with its attorney on any legally posted agenda item, when the Zoning Board of Adjustment seeks the advice of its attorney about pending or contemplated litigation, a settlement offer, or on a matter in which the duty of the attorney to the governmental body under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with the provisions of Chapter 551.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-27  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLES 1.50.526 OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF NEW FEES AND AMENDMENT OF CERTAIN OTHER FEES ADOPTED BY SAID ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
This ordinance as adopted by the Granbury City Council on April 16, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Abner Jacob Hillin, Jr, Deceased, were issued on April 10, 2024, in Cause No. P10347, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Cheryl Lovelady Hillin.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.  
c/o: Cheryl Lovelady Hillin  
9615 Monticello Dr.  
Granbury, Texas 76049  
DATED the 11 day of April, 2024.  
/s/ E. Mark Piland  
E. Mark Piland  
Attorney for Cheryl Lovelady Hillin  
State Bar No.: 16008870  
1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101  
Granbury, TX 76048  
Telephone: (817) 579-0207  
Facsimile: (866) 406-4629  
Email: [markpiland@pilandlaw.com](mailto:markpiland@pilandlaw.com)

NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Eddie Lou Virginia Rhine, Deceased, were issued on 4-10-24, in Cause No. P-10295, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Kimberly Charisse Rhine. The residence of the Independent Administrator is Hood, Texas; the post office address is: c/o: Mark B. Dewitt, Attorney at Law, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048 1274. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated on the April 10, 2024. By: Mark B. Dewitt, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048, ph. 817-573-1181, Attorney for the Estate.

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Granbury, TX 76048  
/S/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
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Email: [marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com)  
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Executor of the Estate of Dorothy Loftin  
c/o Law Firm of William A. Walsh  
922 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
/S/ MarJoe D. Barnhart  
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Email: [marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com](mailto:marjoe.billwalshaw@yahoo.com)  
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c/o: Cheryl Lovelady Hillin  
9615 Monticello Dr.  
Granbury, Texas 76049  
DATED the 11 day of April, 2024.  
/s/ E. Mark Piland  
E. Mark Piland  
Attorney for Cheryl Lovelady Hillin  
State Bar No.: 16008870  
1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101  
Granbury, TX 76048  
Telephone: (817) 579-0207  
Facsimile: (866) 406-4629  
Email: [markpiland@pilandlaw.com](mailto:markpiland@pilandlaw.com)

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# PUBLIC SALES

## Garage Sales 76048

Granbury 76048

### New Beginnings Resale Shoppe & Boutique



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

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

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES  
500 Brazos Harbor Dr- Sat APRIL 20. 8am to 2pm. Across from Mesquite Pit. 120 Homeowners selling in one neighborhood. Rain or Shine.

Fri 4/19 8am-4pm. BIG FAMILY YARD SALE. 1510 Lakeview Ct. In town close to Brookshires. Household decor, baby clothes, high chair, toys, glassware, tools and much more.

## Garage Sales 76049

Legacy Park Community garage sale in Acton- Fri & Sat 4/19 & 4/20, 8am to 1pm.

TIMBER COVE NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE  
Multiple families. Furniture, golf, fishing, tools and more.  
Sat, Apr 27. 8am-4pm. Don't miss!!!

THE PENINSULA NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE! Saturday, April 20 from 7AM - 1PM. Located Off Loop 567 and Porter Court. Multiple houses!!

## Garage Sales 76476

Fri & Sat Apr 19 & 20 9am-5pm, Sun Apr 21 11am-4pm. 10701 Hutchinson Rd. The Underwood's Family Estate Sale. All items in the home including furniture and appliances, tractor, old farm truck, farm equipment, barn full of items dating back to the 1900's and much, much more. Photos can be found on [estatesales.net](http://estatesales.net) using zip code 76476.

## Subscribe or Advertise with us Today!

# 817-573-7066



## Public Notice Q&A

### What is a public notice?

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

Your local paper is the most visible, independent source for this crucial service. We not only print notices in the paper, but post them on our website and a statewide website at no extra charge. And they're archived forever, so there's a permanent and unalterable record.

Texas newspapers have published public notices since 1836. As your hometown paper, we're proud to provide this service to our communities.

[www.TexasPublicNotices.com](http://www.TexasPublicNotices.com)  
for free access to legal notices in Texas newspapers

*A public service provided by member newspapers of the Texas Press Association*

# April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

**BY ALEXA GUADIAN**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

Driving is simple. Both hands on the steering wheel, red means stop and green means go, look out for pedestrians, answer text messages and sneak a quick snack.

Two of these don't sound like the rest because they shouldn't. However, thousands of drivers across the North and Central Texas region have been involved in distracted driving.

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month is recognized every April to remind drivers to stay fully alert behind the wheel. Cellphone usage, eating, drinking and applying makeup are a few of many small tasks that could cause a deadly impact.

The Texas Department of Transportation's Fort Worth District covers nine

counties including Erath, Hood, Tarrant, Jack, Johnson, Palo Pinto, Parker, Somervell and Wise. Of those counties, 9,009 accidents and 27 deaths occurred because of distracted driving in 2023.

"A lot of times, people aren't even aware that they're distracted. But in those five or six seconds that you take your eyes off the road to quickly look down and adjust the temperature, you can drive the football field's length with your eyes closed because you're not paying attention to where you're going," Bethany Kurtz, a media representative from TxDOT's Fort Worth office said.

According to TxDOT, the largest demographic involved in reported distracted driving accidents in 2023 were from the age range of 16 to 34. Drivers under 18 are prohibited from using wireless communication devices while driving in Texas. However, the laws do not

become more lenient with age. First offenses for drivers of any age can cost them a fine of up to \$99 and rise to \$200 if continued.

"Local laws may be slightly different or in addition to the state ones. So, it's good to be aware of the rules in your area. We really hope that it's not just the fines and penalties that prevent people from being distracted or make them think twice before they drive distracted," Kurtz said. "The risk of injuring yourself or possibly killing someone else hopefully weighs much more severely on people's conscience than just a fund."

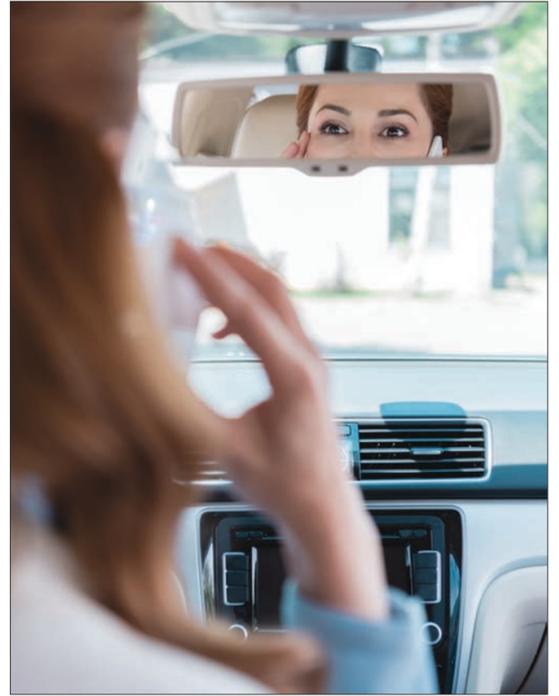
Distracted driving doesn't always end with the driver. Passengers run the same risks as the person behind the wheel. Kurtz recommends that passengers help drivers stay alert of any pedestrians entering the roadway, vehicles and other surroundings. Prevent creating any arguments with the driver, as

this can cause an even greater distraction.

TxDOT's "Talk. Text. Crash." campaign educates Texas drivers on the consequences of distracted driving through cell phone use and provides informational resources to spread awareness year-round.

"Distracted driving is 100% preventable. If you can get behind the wheel and not drive distracted, that will improve the safety of your trip," Kurtz said.

For more information and statistics on distracted driving in your area visit [www.txdot.gov/](http://www.txdot.gov/).



COURTESY PHOTO BY LIGHTFIELDSTUDIOS, ENVATO.COM  
**Thousands of drivers across the North and Central Texas region have been involved in distracted driving. National Distracted Driving Awareness Month is recognized every April to remind drivers to stay fully alert behind the wheel.**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### GISD BOND

Children are our future, and the time to invest in them is now. Right now, Granbury's schools are hurting due to overcrowding because of our county's rapid growth. Without adequate space and resources, our students cannot be expected to receive the best education that I know the wonderful GISD staff can provide.

Those who oppose the bond are choosing to put politics over doing what is right, and it is our children who are suffering for it. Whether we personally like or dislike members of the school board or GISD

administration makes no difference to the students that can't make it to class on time because the hallway is so congested or the children suffering in the heat because the air conditioning doesn't work properly. The students need this bond, and they need it now.

With proper facilities, Granbury's students can learn and grow into our future leaders without being hindered by unnecessary stressors. Shouldn't we give them the best chance that we can? Texas schools deal with enough failures of the state legislature. Until our lawmakers can step up and fully fund our schools, our

local citizens and parents have to take action.

**Hannah Bohm**  
Granbury, Texas

### WHAT ARE NEWSPAPERS FOR?

Enclosed is my check for a renewal of one year. As you can see from the date of the check, I had to mull this over in my mind for a month to finally decide to renew. The reason I have been reluctant to send this in is because of the decision by your organization to, as stated then "cover local news and politics only." It is certainly in my nature and

DNA to support local print news in any location as long as I feel that said publication is or remains some vital force in the community. I am in agreement with Mr. Tip O'Neill, the late speaker of the House (of Representatives) in Washington, D.C., that "all politics are local." This most certainly applies here and more especially for the Texas state government. I regret the decision was made not to cover state and national politics due to the fact that all acts in politics have their effect or affect on every citizen in the county, state and nation as well. I do understand the pressures

on your publication not to cover some activities your advertisers might disagree with. But what are newspapers for besides covering all news that may be important to all of us?

I am enclosing an op-ed for your consideration as you cannot find a subject that is any more local than this. I am hopeful that you will find it worthy of publication.

**Respectfully yours,**  
**Mr. K. D. Boyd**  
Granbury, TX

### GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to [www.hcnews.com/forms/letters](http://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.

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Granbury, TX 76048  
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**Taylor A. Mobly**  
Financial Advisor  
401 Temple Hall Hwy Ste3  
Granbury, TX 76049  
817-268-9137

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

**Chad C. Carroll, AAMS®**  
Financial Advisor  
2007 Rockview Dr.  
Granbury, TX 76049  
817-573-6115

\* Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective 04/15/24. CDs offered by Edward Jones are bank-issued and FDIC-insured up to \$250,000 (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit [www.fdic.gov](http://www.fdic.gov) or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

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Court Appointed Special Advocates  
FOR CHILDREN

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

24-hour Crisis Hotline 844-579-6848

STAY CONNECTED AT  
[HCNEWS.COM](http://HCNEWS.COM)



**BOND  
2024**

# GRANBURY ISD

## BOND ELECTION 2024



### CURRENT TAX RATE REMAINS THE SAME

ALL SCHOOL BOND BALLOTS ARE REQUIRED TO INCLUDE THE PHRASE, "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE" MEANING TAXES WILL HAVE TO BE LEVIED IN ORDER TO REPAY THE BONDS. HOWEVER, GISD CAN MAKE ALL EXISTING AND NEW BOND PAYMENTS WITHOUT RAISING THE CURRENT TAX RATE.

CAMPUS  
LIFECYCLE  
REPLACEMENTS



RENOVATIONS  
TO 9 GISD  
CAMPUSES



DISTRICT WIDE  
SAFETY AND  
SECURITY  
IMPROVEMENTS



### MAJOR PROJECTS INCLUDE:

-  NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #7
-  RENOVATIONS TO 9 GISD CAMPUSES
-  CENTRAL TRANSPORTATION FUEL STORAGE REPLACEMENT
-  NEW SECONDARY TRANSPORTATION CENTER
-  30 NEW BUSES
-  INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

## EARLY VOTING DATES



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	APRIL 22	APRIL 23	APRIL 24	APRIL 25	APRIL 26	
	8AM - 5PM	8AM - 5PM	8AM - 5PM	8AM - 5PM	8AM - 5PM	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	APRIL 29	APRIL 30				
	7AM - 7PM	7AM - 7PM				

### EARLY VOTING SITES

HOOD COUNTY ANNEX 1      ACTON METHODIST CHURCH - SCOUT BUILDING  
 1410 WEST PEARL ST., GRANBURY, TX 76048    3433 FALL CREEK HWY, GRANBURY, TX 76049

### SAMPLE BALLOT

GRANBURY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION  
 GRANBURY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSITION A

FOR      \_\_\_\_\_ ) THE ISSUANCE OF \$161,500,000 OF BONDS BY THE GRANBURY  
 ) INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES  
 ) AND THE PURCHASE OF LAND, AND THE LEVY OF TAXES

AGAINST      \_\_\_\_\_ ) SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE  
 ) BONDS. THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.



VISIT [GRANBURYISD.ORG/BOND2024](http://GRANBURYISD.ORG/BOND2024) FOR MORE INFORMATION



## GISD's Glenn gives district, bond update at United Republican meeting

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District bond election is Saturday, May 4, as district voters make a choice about whether to approve a \$161 million bond.

With the election looming ahead, GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn recently visited a United Republicans of Hood County meeting to go over the bond proposal and educate attendees on the district's statistics.

The meeting was led by GISD Trustee Nancy Alana, who began by compliment-

ing Glenn on his goals for the district.

"I was on the board at the time that we hired Dr. Glenn, so you can either give me credit, or you can blame me for his presence here," she said. "But I have worked for a lot of superintendents over the years and I can tell you that he has been the most goal-seeking to look into the future to see what it is that we're going to need — not just for today or tomorrow, but what we're going to need five years from now, 10 years from now. It has been an absolute honor for me to sit on the board with him as our superintendent, and you're

PLEASE SEE **GLENN** | B3

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

**Granbury ISD Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn educates the public about the district's facts and statistics, as well as the new bond proposal during a United Republicans of Hood County meeting on April 9.**



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Morgan Johnson getting a hit in the last regular season home game April, 6 against Saginaw. Please see softball, B4.

## Hood County superintendents react to STAAR testing's new AI grading system

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

Students across Texas will soon be guinea pigs for a brand-new AI grading system, as the Texas Education Agency (TEA) unveils yet another change to its state-mandated exam.

But Hood County superintendents are a little apprehensive about this new method.

According to the Texas Tribune, the TEA is rolling out an automated scoring engine for open-ended questions on the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test for reading, writing, science and social studies.

The STAAR test — which measures students' understanding of state-mandated core curriculum — was previously graded by tempo-

rary human scorers. But with TEA's recent change, written answers on the STAAR test will now be graded automatically by computers.

"The writing portion of the STAAR test is graded through an AI software," Granbury Independent School District Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn told the Hood County News. "This is a new technology, so our district is still learning how the Texas Education Agency plans to use the software to grade students' writing samples."

The technology, which uses natural language processing — a building block of artificial intelligence chatbots such as GPT-4 — will save the state agency about \$15 to \$20 million per year that it would otherwise have spent on hiring human scorers through a third-party contractor, according to the

Texas Tribune.

This new grading method comes after the STAAR test was redesigned last year. The Texas Tribune reports that the test now includes fewer multiple-choice questions and more open-ended questions — known as constructed response items. After the redesign, there are six to seven times more constructed response items.

While Glenn said this new method will be more cost-effective and will result in a quicker turnaround time on scoring students' exams, he still has concerns regarding AI's ability to "interpret and score a student's creative writing assignment."

"Writing is a unique skill," Glenn said. "While that technology might exist, many educators are skeptical because we have not been exposed to it, nor have we seen evidence that it is a reliable

scoring method for STAAR. From what we have seen so far in a limited sample, students failed at a much higher rate when graded by AI as opposed to a human scorer."

Automated technology — also known as hybrid scoring — was already used on a limited basis in December 2023. The state overall saw an increase in zeroes on constructed responses in December 2023, but the TEA said there are other factors at play, according to the Texas Tribune. In December 2022, the only way to score a zero was by not providing an answer at all. With the STAAR redesign in 2023, students can receive a zero for responses that may answer the question but lack any coherent structure or evidence.

"It appears to be a good thing, but I don't have confidence in another factor that can lead to more

discrepancies on already questionable results," Lipan ISD Superintendent Ralph Carter said. "The changes that were made last year already are now being tested in the courts. The stakes are too high for us to put trust in an unverified technology. This technology was used on a limited basis in the December 2023 retesting and produced more zeros than ever before."

According to a slideshow on TEA's website, the auto scoring engine goes through a rigorous programming process that is led and checked by humans. The engine uses a sample of about 3,000 exam responses that have already received two rounds of human grading previously. From this field sample, the automated scoring engine learns the characteristics of responses, and it is programmed to assign the same

scores a human would give.

The Texas Tribune reports that as students complete their tests this spring, the computer will first grade all the constructed responses and then a quarter of the responses will be rescored by humans.

When the computer has low confidence in the score it assigned, those responses will be automatically reassigned to a human. If the computer also encounters a type of response that its programming does not recognize, like the use of slang words or using words in a language other than English, the responses will also be reassigned to a human, according to the Texas Tribune.

Carter said over the last year, districts were told the test was changing, but with AI "bots" grading tests, he

PLEASE SEE **GRADING** | B5

# Brawner Elementary student hit by vehicle during school pickup

From Staff Reports

A Brawner Elementary School student is receiving professional medical care following an accident Thursday afternoon during

school pickup.

According to a notice on social media from Brawner Principal Sandy Ruiz, a student was crossing the road with a parent April 11, when

the student was hit by a vehicle.

Currently, the student is conscious and alert according to school officials. Ruiz said she wishes to

thank the Granbury Police Department and Texas EMS for their immediate response and care for the student.

"We will update you once we have more information,"

she said. "Please keep your thoughts and prayers with the student and family."

She also asked students and parents to please refrain from using "undesignated

drop off areas," like the church parking lot, front of the school, or any area that does not have a crosswalk to "ensure student and family safety."

# 2023-24 Granbury ISD employee awards announced

Submitted Item

Granbury ISD announced its campus and department winners for Teacher, Paraprofessional and Employee of the Year awards. The recipients will be honored at the GISD Employee Awards Banquet May 2. Winners were nominated and voted on by their campus and colleagues. Congratulations

to all the award winners! Below is the list of winners:

### TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

- Sara Moore | Acton Elementary School
- Kathy Moore | Baccus Elementary School
- Kathy Moore | Brawner Elementary School
- Erin Stone | Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy
- Nadya Williamson | Oak Woods School
- Kathy Williams | STEAM Academy at Mambrino
- Deidra Zschiesche | Acton Middle School
- Heather Dooley | Granbury Middle School
- Tim Petty | STARS Accelerated High School
- D'Ann Tisdale | Granbury High School
- Ryan Payne

### PARAPROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR

- Shayna Schulte | Acton Elementary School
- Cindy Castaneda | Baccus Elementary School
- Charley Henderson | Brawner Elementary School
- Emma Roberson | Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy
- Lisa Hardin | Oak Woods School
- Teresa Witman | STEAM Academy at Mambrino
- Jaden Andres | Acton Middle School
- Lana Sparks | Granbury Middle School
- Cori Slaboda | STARS Accelerated High School
- Erika D'Andrea | Granbury High School
- Jennie Younkin

### EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

- Administration | Ann Erwin
- Child Nutrition | Kristyna Hiller
- Little Buccaneers | Amanda Ayala
- Maintenance | Danny Bloodworth
- Support Services | Elizabeth Gish
- Transportation | Chrystina Moore

**2023-24 GRANBURY ISD TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

<b>Sara Moore</b> Acton Elementary	<b>Kathy Moore</b> Baccus Elementary	<b>Erin Stone</b> Brawner Elementary	<b>Nadya Williamson</b> Emma Roberson ELA	<b>Deidra Zschiesche</b> Mambrino STEAM Academy
<b>Kathy Williams</b> Oak Woods School	<b>Heather Dooley</b> Acton Middle School	<b>Tim Petty</b> Granbury Middle School	<b>D'Ann Tisdale</b> STARS Accelerated High School	<b>Ryan Payne</b> Granbury High School

**2023-24 GRANBURY ISD PARAPROFESSIONALS OF THE YEAR**

<b>Shayna Schulte</b> Acton Elementary	<b>Cindy Castaneda</b> Baccus Elementary	<b>Charley Henderson</b> Brawner Elementary	<b>Lisa Hardin</b> Emma Roberson ELA	<b>Jaden Andres</b> Mambrino STEAM Academy
<b>Teresa Witman</b> Oak Woods School	<b>Lana Sparks</b> Acton Middle School	<b>Cori Slaboda</b> Granbury Middle School	<b>Erika D'Andrea</b> STARS Accelerated High School	<b>Jennie Younkin</b> Granbury High School

# Dove mortality occurring across Texas due to Trichomoniasis

Submitted Item

The National Wildlife Health Center has confirmed several doves collected across Texas, including the Trans Pecos and Rolling Plains, tested positive for Trichomoniasis.

Trichomoniasis is an infectious disease affecting birds caused by a protozoan (single-celled) parasite, Trichomonas gallinae. It affects mostly pigeons and doves, but other species, such as finches, may also become infected. In addition, birds of prey feeding on infected doves may also become infected. The dis-

ease does not always cause mortality. Trichomonas gallinae does not pose a human health risk.

Generally, sick birds appear weak and have a "fluffed up" appearance. The parasite causes inflammation of the linings of the crop and mouth. As the disease progresses, affected birds have difficulty swallowing or breathing as the inflammation creates plaques which affect the airways and esophagus. Food and water sources, such as backyard bird feeders and birdbaths, can become contaminated from the mouths of infected birds.

TPWD recommends practicing appropriate biosecurity protocols to reduce wildlife contact with backyard flocks. If landowners see sick or dead doves or pigeons on their property, TPWD recommends discontinuing the use of bird feeders or bird baths until affected birds are gone from the area.

As a general best-practice, all bird feeders and baths should be cleaned frequently using a weak solution of household bleach (10% solution of sodium hypochlorite, or one part bleach to nine parts water). Feeders and baths should be rinsed well and dried before re-use. It

is recommended to periodically clean and disinfect bird feeders and bird baths, even if sick or dead birds have not been seen on property, as this can help prevent future disease outbreaks.

Use bird feeders that prevent the seed from getting wet. Bird seed exposed to rain or that becomes wet provides a more suitable environment for parasite survival.

Those who locate birds with signs consistent with Trichomoniasis should contact their local TPWD wildlife biologist.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTCUDA ADOBESTOCK.COM

The National Wildlife Health Center has confirmed several doves collected across Texas, including the Trans Pecos and Rolling Plains, tested positive for Trichomoniasis.

**GRANBURY ISD BOND 2024**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**OUR DISTRICT HASN'T BUILT A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SINCE 1996, WHEN OUR ENROLLMENT WAS 5,291.**

**THIS YEAR'S ENROLLMENT ON SNAPSHOT DAY: 7,933.**

[GRANBURYISD.ORG/BOND2024](http://granburyisd.org/bond2024)

# GLENN

FROM PAGE B1

not going to find a bigger cheerleader for Granbury ISD than Dr. Jeremy Glenn."

Glenn began by saying that he is not on social media — but that doesn't stop members of the community from showing him exactly what he's been missing on some posts.

"I live my life in such a way that I just think, like, everyone just says good things about me all the time, and apparently, that is not true," he said, chuckling. "There's some really creative folks out there, so hats off to them, but that is not something I put my faith in. I put my faith in God, and I let the decisions of our board of trustees, our administrative team, our staff and our community guide me in the direction we're gonna go — and that seems to work out for the best."

He then explained to the public that his goal at the meeting was not to convince attendees to vote one way or the other, but to present factual information about the bond and district.

"I can tell you that our district as a whole, anything we put out is required to be under that same ordinance, so you're never going to see information come out from GISD or on our website that is anything other than the truth," Glenn said. "Now, some dipstick out there on social media under an anonymous post, they can say whatever they want, and people can choose to believe whatever they want. But I will tell you from the district standpoint, we are very, very careful of what we put out on social media, because we know it's critiqued by everybody."

Glenn also said members of both the school board and administration have integrity, and they are not going to say they will build an elementary school, but then turn around and build a football stadium instead.

"That cannot happen," he said. "They would come and replace every single one of us and lock me up. Those things don't happen, and it's fear mongering, but hopefully I'll give you some good information."

## GISD FACTS

Utilizing a PowerPoint slideshow created by Director of Communications Ryan Cox, Glenn went over GISD's mission and vision statements before launching into the district's demographics.

According to the slideshow, GISD covers more than 225 square miles. The school buses travel a combined 5,436 miles every day, which is equivalent to driving from San Diego, California to Charleston, South Carolina and back. Additionally, more than 3,300 GISD students ride the bus every day.

GISD currently has 7,933 students, 1,121 employees and 678 teachers at a \$60,000 starting salary beginning next school year. The average teacher has 11 years of experience and GISD serves a total of 10 campuses.



Granbury Independent School Board Trustee Nancy Alana speaks to the public during a United Republicans of Hood County meeting on April 9.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

As for student diversity, 68% of students are white and 26.2% are Hispanic. Students with two or more races make up 3% of the population, African American students make up 1.3% and Asians 0.9%.

According to the slideshow, 56.9% of students at GISD are economically disadvantaged, 16.2% are in special education, and 9.2% are gifted and talented.

"Special education is one of our most expensive programs and 16% of our students are in special education. Think about that," Glenn said. "I mean, that's nearly two in 10 kids who are rated as special ed and the reason that number is increasing is because the state of Texas has actually put dyslexia into the special education category, so you're seeing those numbers jump. I have two sons that are dyslexic. One is currently a freshman at Granbury High School and the other one is a senior at Texas A&M University, so we do a great job of working with those kids."

Additionally, 91% of the students at Granbury High School have taken a career and technical education course.

"If you remember back to the 2011 bond that was a big push by our school board, it's like, 'Hey, let's get our kids ready to go out into the workforce,'" Glenn said. "Not every kid is going to go to college, like we get that, and we want as many that want to go to college to have that opportunity. But some of our kids are ready to get out of school and they're ready to jump into the workforce, and we want to make sure that we give them the skills to where they can do that — and that's done through our career and technical education program."

In academics, the district has a B rating. Students average 81% on STAAR testing, 21 on the ACT and 1065 on the SAT — results that outperformed both the region and the state last year, according to Glenn.

Although students are now

excelling in the standardized testing, Glenn said these numbers were a struggle to obtain five years ago — especially since the state has continued to "ramp up expectations."

"We have to change instruction in the classroom, we have to monitor it closely, and we have to make sure that the kids have the skills needed to pass the test," he said. "We don't want to teach to the test. But we want to make sure that they can pass it because it reflects on our district and reflects on our community."

From a financial standpoint, the district operates on a \$93 million budget, with a combined tax rate of \$0.9342, which Glenn said is the "lowest in the region."

The average home market value is \$337,978. Additionally, the district has now earned a superior FIRST rating for its eighth straight year.

"You can hear all this talk and chatter on social media, but at the end of the day, we go through a very intensive auditing process," Glenn said. "We have to have an independent audit, we have to have audits on our federal money, and then the Texas Education Agency has additional standards. The first report, Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas that they put the district through this year. (GISD earned) a perfect score on the FIRST rating."

A Voter Approval Tax Ratification Election (VATRE) was approved in November 2023 by the community to maximize state funding. The VATRE enables Granbury ISD to secure an estimated \$8.2 million in additional annual funding while simultaneously reducing the overall tax rate.

"We're super proud of the VATRE that was passed last November — that's actually been huge for us in a lot of areas," Glenn said.

He explained that there was a surplus of \$4.5 billion that was designated to go to public schools to offset inflation. However, districts across Texas never saw

those funds, which forced many schools to lay off staff.

"Schools never saw that four-and-a-half billion dollars even though it was allocated and it's still sitting there down in Austin," he said. "For us, passing the VATRE locally took care of funding for our schools, ensured our teachers got a competitive pay raise, and we'll keep our budget balanced as we move into this next school year."

GISD's CTE program now has 21 certification programs of study: animal science, plant science, digital communications, business management, marketing and sales, teaching and training, healthcare therapeutic, family and community service, law enforcement, engineering, aviation, applied ag engineering, graphic design/multimedia arts, accounting and financial services, entrepreneurship, early learning, healthcare diagnostics, culinary arts, web development, emergency services, automotive and MCJROTC.

"These are areas where kids can actually get a certification whether it's vet tech, pharmacy tech or in automotive," Glenn said. "We actually have partnerships with local dealerships. We have the JROTC program where now we put kids not only into the military, but into college. We have ROTC kids that actually will go shoot at universities."

Granbury High School's MCJROTC rifle program has won seven straight national championships, and it was selected as an Outstanding Unit Award (Best in the Nation) for its third straight year.

"Col. Scott Casey, for those of you who don't know, he has the ability to write a letter to a military academy that carries the same weight as a U.S. senator, so this year, we have three kids going to the Air Force Academy and one going to the Naval Academy and it's all because Col. Scott Casey can write that letter," Glenn explained. "On average, a public school will send a kid to a military academy once every seven years. In Granbury ISD, we

average almost two a year, which is just absolutely remarkable — and a lot of it is because of the hard work from Scott Casey."

Granbury ISD also set a record when it was the only district in the history of Region 11 to win back-to-back Teacher of the Year Awards for Priscilla Lumberas 2021-2022 and Michael Beauchamp 2022-2023.

Glenn said Tarleton State University and Granbury ISD also have a great partnership with the admission and scholarship pact.

"I had the opportunity to hear Dr. (James) Hurley speak in the convention center this week, and he talked about the distinguished high school partnership, which originated between Tarleton and Granbury ISD," he said. "We were the first of what is now over 400 partnerships statewide. It allows the top 50% of our kids to get automatic admission into Tarleton State University. They don't have to take the SAT, they don't have to take the ACT, they don't have to pay an admission fee. If they are in the top 50%, they are automatically accepted to on-level courses at Tarleton, and they're guaranteed a scholarship along with it. The closer they are to being number one, the larger that scholarship gets. It's an amazing partnership between Granbury and Tarleton."

The district is the largest school district in Texas to have every campus awarded the Purple Star Campus Designation, which is a program that recognizes Texas public schools for their exceptional commitment to supporting and meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families.

"For a district that has 10 campuses and to have every single one of them recognized as a Purple Star is pretty remarkable," Glenn said. "We're a military-friendly district and our campuses are military friendly, which means if you come in as a service member, your

kids are going to be taken care of in Granbury ISD, so it's an incredible award of distinction."

## GISD BOND

Glenn then transitioned from GISD statistics and facts to the upcoming bond proposal set for the May 4 ballot.

He explained how in November, the bond election failed by two votes, so the trustees called for another election with a slightly increased bond amount.

"The election is actually for a little more money," Glenn explained. "It was about \$152 million in November and it's 162 now, and so a lot of people will ask 'Well, why the difference?' It's twofold. When we went back to our bond council, a couple of things have happened. One is that property values continue to grow in Granbury. As property values grow, that number is able to increase. But also — and more importantly — interest rates have gone down, so interest rates going down, property values going up, and it allows that dollar figure to go up."

He said many members of the public have asked how this new bond would change the tax rate if elected, but assured community members that the increased amount will not require an adjustment in the tax rate.

"Thinking of it in terms of a mortgage: If you have a home and you've been paying on that home for, let's say, 10 years, and you've been paying your \$1,500 a month pretty religiously and taking care of your bills, and all of a sudden you're having kids, and you say, 'We got to add on to our house,' and you go down to the bank and you say, 'Look, I need a loan.' The bank is very likely going to give you that loan," Glenn explained. "However, if you go to them and say 'Hey, I really want to keep that mortgage at \$1,500 a month. I don't want to increase it.' What will the bank do? They'll give it to you, but they're gonna add years on to your mortgage."

"If you were to look at our debt payoff, right now we're scheduled to pay off debt in 2039. This would essentially add 30 years; it's a 30-year note, so our payment of 93 cents would stay the same. However, we would be extending the debt on the district, so when it says property tax increase, it is a property tax increase on the debt side, but not on the rate. The rate will remain the same."

The proposed bond will cost \$161,500,000 and will consist of a new elementary school off Old Granbury Road and Peck Road behind H-E-B, renovations to nine GISD campuses, a new north transportation center with the purchase of 30 new buses, additional instructional technology, and more.

A cost breakdown for each campus, excluding STARS Accelerated High School, is listed below:

New elementary #7: \$59,463,790  
Acton Elementary School:

PLEASE SEE **GLENN** | B8

Hood County News

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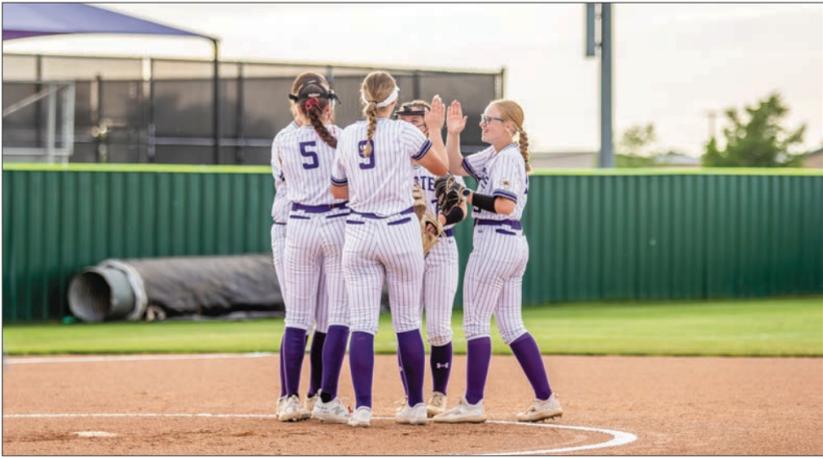


# Lady Pirate Softball

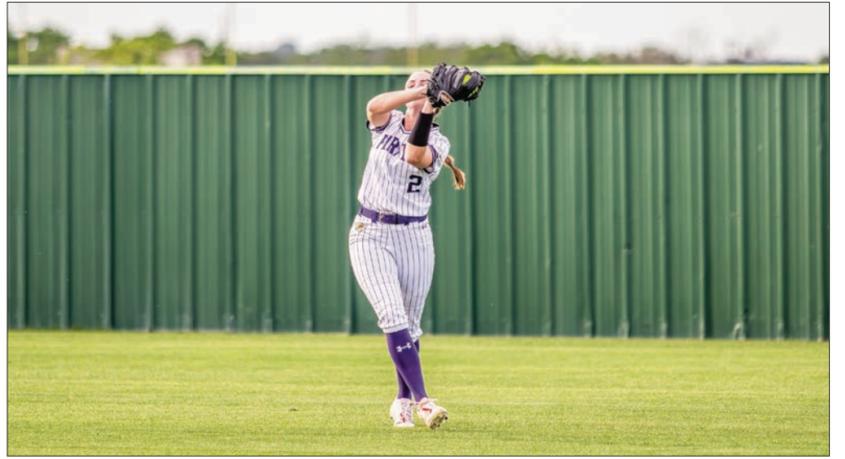


PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury Lady Pirates hosted the Saginaw Rough Riders in the last regular season home game Tuesday, April 6. The Pirates took home the victory with a 6-2 win over the Rough Riders. For full gallery go to [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com).



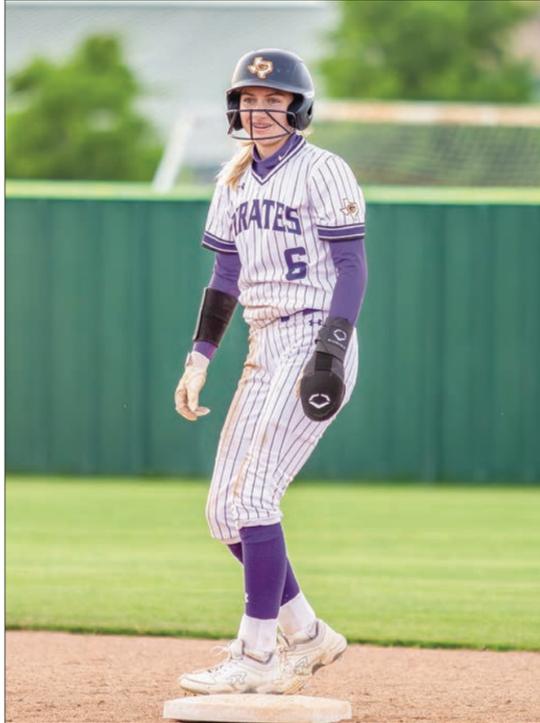
The pirates on the mounds between plays.



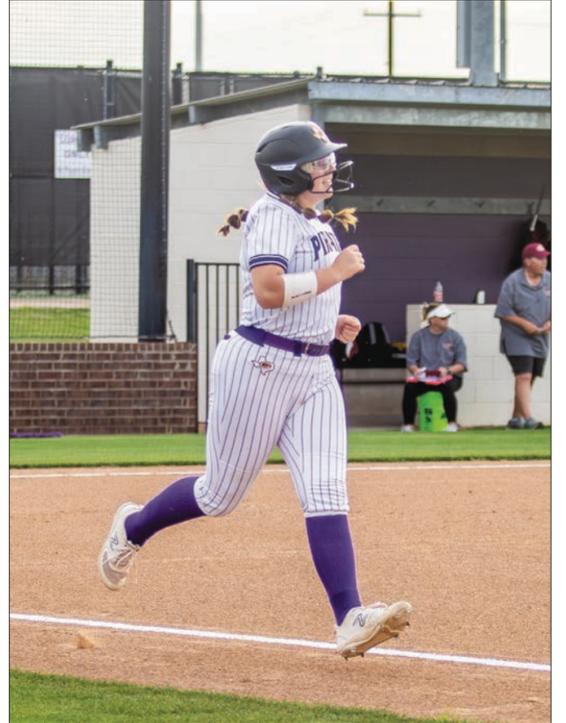
Brenna Haynes catching the ball.



Brenna Haynes catching the ball .



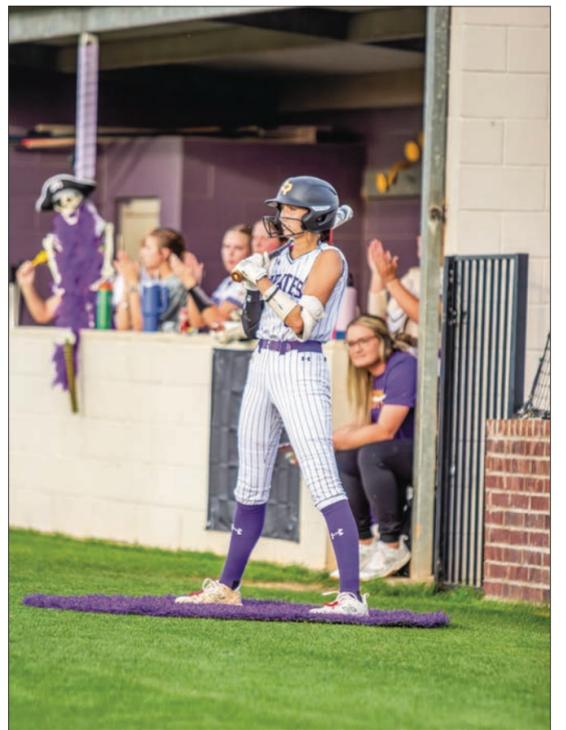
Hannah Dafoe smiling after she made it to second.



Karmyn Williams running to firstbase.



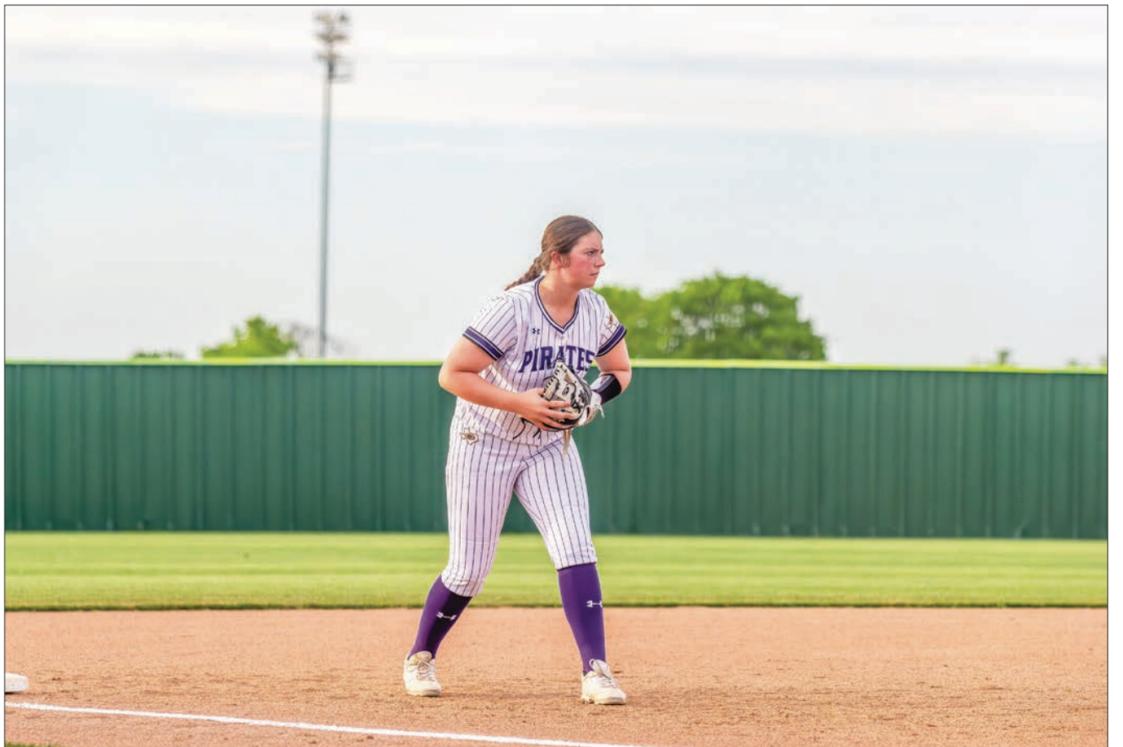
Rachel Venable running to first.



Allison Dafoe on deck waiting for her turn at bat.



Allison Dafoe on the mound.



Rachel Venable readied up on third base.

# Granbury places 1st and 2nd in Civilian Marksmanship Program's Regional Championships

Submitted Item

The Granbury Rifle Team recently participated in the national postal air rifle match sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. The match occurred from October 2023 to January 2024 and included all junior three-position air rifle clubs, such as the American Legion, 4-H, Junior Rifle Clubs and JROTC units. The results of this match gave teams a national ranking, and the top competitors qualified for and attended the Regional Championships held in Anniston, Alabama; Camp Perry, Ohio; and Layton, Utah this past weekend.

At the Regional Championships held in Anniston, Alabama April 11-13, the Granbury Marine Corps JROTC team members participated in the 3x20 air rifle event. This event required competitors to fire 20 record shots from three positions (prone, standing and kneeling) over the two-day contest. Granbury Team One placed 1st, and Granbury Team Two placed 2nd among all precision teams at the match. Both teams qualified to compete at Nationals in Camp Perry, Ohio, in July. Moreover, Kameron Wells, Kennedy Wells, Viola Allen and Cadince McGrath led the Granbury squad and made it to the finals (top eight shoot-

ers). After an exciting finals round, Kameron Wells received the silver medal, Allen the bronze, Kennedy Wells fifth, and McGrath seventh place. In the U15 age category, Emma Wipff won the gold medal, and Ethan Erwin won the silver. Lt. Col. Scott Casey expressed his pride in the team's accomplishments, saying, "It's always rewarding winning after you've put in the hard work. This team can perform at a high level, as evidenced by their impressive first and second place finishes at the Regionals." The next match for the Granbury Rifle team will be the Jack C Hays Rifle match April 18.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Rifle Team recently participated in the national postal air rifle match sponsored by the Civilian Marksmanship Program. The match occurred from October 2023 to January 2024 and included all junior three-position air rifle clubs, such as the American Legion, 4-H, Junior Rifle Clubs, and JROTC units.

# Harbor Lakes Ladies Golf Association awards scholarships



COURTESY PHOTO

On Wednesday, April 11, Harbor Lakes Ladies Golf Association awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to seniors on the Lady Pirate golf team. In the photo L to R: Becky Addison, Lady Pirate Golf Coach; Denise Attaway, HLLGA president; Reagan Neal, senior recipient; Emily McGuire, senior recipient; Akaya Ditto, senior recipient; Dr. Patti Birney, HLLGA scholarship director; Atyka Ditto, Lady Pirate assistant coach.

Submitted Item

Harbor Lakes Ladies Golf Association awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to Granbury High School senior Lady Pirate golf members at its recent membership meeting. Akyah Ditto, Emily McGuire and Reagan Neal are the recipients of the scholarships as they are outstanding examples of future leaders. Each has an exemplary academic record and has volunteered time to numerous civic organizations and community groups. Akyah Ditto has been a golfer since the age of 3 and has played for GHS for all four years. She plans to major in social work

as she found such joy in working with Hood County Children's Charity and Christmas for Children. She will attend OSU and plans to play golf in college. Emily McGuire is a child of military parents and has moved multiple times, therefore she envisions a career as a travel nurse. She has played golf all four years in high school and cherishes the time she has had with the team. Her community service with Toys for Tots has made her realize how blessed she is. Reagan Neal has also been on the GHS golf team for four years. After graduation, she will attend TCU, where she plans to major in biology and work at the

forefront of cutting-edge research, helping unravel the mysteries of disease. Her hope is to make a tangible difference in the lives of others by expanding the horizons of healthcare. Working with Rancho Brazos and volunteering at her church has helped her to connect with others and make a positive impact on their lives. The Harbor Lakes Ladies Golf Association has been in existence since 2020 and has awarded scholarships to Lady Pirate golf seniors since its inception. Funds for scholarships are raised through various golf events and tournaments.

## GRADING

FROM PAGE B2

said it is clear to him that the TEA wants public schools to fail. "Acceptance of the validity of the scores is going to be a huge challenge," Carter said. "Also, validity is going to be a long time coming for anyone who understands statistical analysis. There will also

be issues with teaching strategies as well as constructed responses for younger test takers." While Glenn and Carter both had strong concerns regarding the new system, Tolar ISD Superintendent Travis Stilwell said he is unsure of where he stands regarding AI grading exams. "Obviously, a negative is that the personal touch is taken away. However, I do

understand that it will make grading faster and maybe more consistent," Stilwell said. "But, when dealing with writing samples, it is important for the reader to be able to 'feel' what someone is trying to say. I am not certain that this will be possible with AI. Overall, the unknown makes it a little scary. I guess time will tell whether it works in this instance." According to TEA's slide-

show, automated scoring technology is over a decade old and is widely used, including in Texas. Approximately 180,000 Texas students annually use the Texas Success Initiative Assessment (TSIA) to meet their graduation requirement, which relies on automated scoring technology. Additionally, more than 21 states currently employ autoscoring for their state

assessments. "The main concern for GISD and districts around the state is that our students' work is scored in a fair and equitable manner," Glenn said. "Students work hard to prepare for the STAAR test. It is important that creativity, individuality and emotions in their writing are scored correctly and valued." He added his hope is that

the AI software has been thoroughly vetting for validity and reliability on every student's STAAR test. "We (GISD) trust that the Texas Education Agency has done its best to ensure that any AI scoring program will work to the benefit of our students and districts," he said.

## Class of 2024

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LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury Lady Pirates hosted the Saginaw Rough Riders in the last regular season home game Tuesday, April 6. The Pirates took home the victory with a 6-2 win over the Rough Riders.

# More records fall as GHS qualifies nine for regional track; Rattlers pitching perfect again

**BY RICK MAUCH**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

Once again, the Granbury Pirates set new school marks in qualifying seven athletes for this weekend's Class 5A Region I Track Meet in Lubbock.

With two Lady Pirates, Kate Hamlin and Ella Garner, also qualifying, that's nine from the program who will be seeking berths at state May 2-4 in Austin. The top two in each event, along with the best third-place finisher in each event across all regions, earn a berth.

Elijah Johnston was involved in two school records at this past weekend's 5/6-5A Area Meet in Fort Worth. He broke his own record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.32 seconds. He also ran a leg (along with Kaleb Johnston, Michael Grant and Jadon Rogers) of the 4x100 relay that clocked a 41.65.

Also setting a record at area was Jaxon Glenn in the 3200, posting a time of 9:44.16.

"This is the kind of group that really loves track and field. You get a bunch of kids who love track and work hard and just build on it," Pirates coach Jody Brown said.

**Area 5/6-5A Meet Granbury results**  
**Boys**  
Team score: 67, fifth Regional qualifiers  
3200 meters: 2. Jaxon Glenn 9:44.16  
200: 1. Elijah Johnston 21.32  
4X100 relay: 2. Kaleb Johnston, E. Johnston, Michael Grant, Jadon Rogers, 41.65  
4X200 relay: 1. K. Johnston, Caden Davis, Rogers, E. Johnston, 1:28.68  
High jump -1. Miller Schenewark, 6-5  
**Girls**  
Team score: 8, 10th Regional qualifiers  
100 hurdles: 4. Kate Hamlin, 16.13  
Shot put: 4. Ella Garner, 35-1.5

**TOLAR BASEBALL**  
After a perfect game by Talan Brown against Ranger April 9, Jesse Owen duplicated the accomplishment April 12 in a 20-0 victory at Ranger.

Like Brown's win, the contest was called after four innings because of the mercy rule. Owen was dominant, striking out 11 of the 12 batters he faced.

Tolar (11-6-2, 7-0 in District 11-2A) hitting leaders were: Rowdy Tryon four hits, two triples, four RBIs; Mitchell Alford three hits, double, three RBIs; Hunter Michels double, home run, hit by pitch, four RBIs; Brown double, hit by pitch; Drake Owens double, two walks, hit by pitch, RBI; Cutter Cain double, walk; Merritt Imel home run, two walks, two RBIs.

The Rattlers also won 24-9 at Poolville April 16 as Oakley Saffer, Owen and Owens combined to pitch a 4-hitter with 13 strikeouts - seven by Owen.

Hitting leaders: Brown three hits, double, walk, three RBIs; Imel three hits, walk, RBI; Owen two hits, double, RBI; Michels two hits, five RBIs, hit by pitch; Owens two hits, home run, two walks, three RBIs; Alford two hits, RBI, hit by pitch.

The district champion Rattlers end the regular season with a game at Benbrook at 12:30 p.m. April 20 and a home game against Grandview at noon April 27.

**TOLAR/LIPAN TRACK**  
**Area 11/12-2A Meet**  
April 11 at Tolar  
**Tolar/Lipan results**  
Top four in each event qualify for Region II Meet April 19-20 in Springtown  
**Varsity boys**  
Team scores: Tolar 96, second; Lipan 33, eighth  
Regional qualifiers  
100: 4. Noah Yanish, Tolar, 11.54  
200: 1. Caden Pate, Tolar, 22.49; 2. Matthew Behrens, Tolar, 22.71  
4x100 relay: 2. Tolar (Garrison Natin, Pate, Braylen Rice, Behrens), 44.14  
4x200 relay: 1. Tolar (Pate, Yanish, Behrens, Rice), 1:31.34  
Long jump: 2. Alberto Andreatta, Lipan, 21-02.25  
Shot put: 1. Sam Stewart, Tolar, 44-04.5  
Discus: 2. Peyton Brown, Tolar, 127-03.5  
Triple jump: 1. Andreatta, 43-01.5  
High jump: 1. Andreatta,

6-02; 4. Jonathan Pierce, Lipan, 5-08  
Pole vault: 2. Brylen Feist, Tolar, 13-06; 4. Julian Noyola, Tolar, 11-06  
**Varsity girls**  
Team scores: Lipan 66, fourth; Tolar 56.5, fifth  
Regional qualifiers  
100: 2. Jacy Bolton, Lipan, 12.65  
200: 1. Bolton, 26.41  
400: 1. Bolton, 1:00.23  
1600: 4. Annslee Tarpley, Lipan, 5:47.33  
4x100 relay: 3. Tolar (Senne Imel, Orlencia Bonnell, Bailey Gammmons, Jaycee Jones), 52.17  
4x200 relay: 4. Tolar (Imel, Maddie Ballenger, Gammmons, Abbie Soileau), 1:50.37  
4x400 relay: 4. Tolar (Debra McCarrell, Callan Nix, Ballenger, Soileau), 4:26.32  
Long jump: 2. Bolton, 16-08; 3. Gammmons, 16-04.25  
Shot put: 3. Olivia Benitez, Lipan, 33-11  
Discus: 1. Allie Terrell, Tolar, 99-10; 2. Tarpley, 89-00.75  
Triple jump: 1. Bolton, 35-09.75  
High jump: 2. Imel, 5-0

**TOLAR/LIPAN GOLF**  
Hanna Gaylor of Lipan and her friend Callan Nix of Tolar took the first step toward what they hope will be a return trip to the Class 2A State Tournament with a 1-2 individual finish at the District 11-2A Tournament March 25 at Canyon West in Weatherford and April 8 at Squaw Valley in Glen Rose. Gaylor shot 161 to win the girls championship and Nix posted a 178. Elizabeth Tuel of the Lady Rattlers was third with a 197.

Tolar's Lady Rattlers No. 1 squad won the team championship with a 791.

Hanna's brother Court Gaylor led the Lipan boys to the district title with a 686 as top medalist with a 164, including a second-round 72. Darius Steed shot 171.

The Class 2A Region II Tournament was being played at press time.

**GRANBURY BASEBALL**  
The Pirates (15-10, 3-6 in District 5-5A) fell 3-0 in a nondistrict game at Keller Timber Creek April 12 and dropped an 8-3 league contest at



COURTESY PHOTO BY JODY BROWN

Elijah Johnston of the Granbury Pirates stands on the gold medal podium after besting his own school record in the 200-meter dash at the 5/6-5A Area Meet last weekend.

Saginaw April 16. Against Timber Creek, Carter, Murphy Page and Braxton Heffernan combined to pitch a 2-hitter with Page recording six strikeouts. Tyler Crites had a double.

Gavin Current and Hunter Jones each had three hits and a double against Saginaw, including an RBI by Jones. Heffernan hit a pair of doubles with an RBI.

Granbury was playing at Saginaw at press time and needed a win to keep its playoff hopes alive. The Pirates travel to Weatherford April 20 for a 1 p.m. nondistrict affair. They face Northwest in Granbury April 23 at 6:30 p.m. and visit Northwest April 26 at 7 p.m. to end the regular season.

**LIPAN BASEBALL**  
The Indians (5-9-2, 4-3 in District 11-2A) fell 9-8 in eight innings at Grafrod in a nondistrict game April 12 despite out-hitting their opponents 12-7. They then won 28-1 at Ranger April 16 in a league contest.

Hitting leaders vs. Grafrod: Jackson Posey three hits; Christopher Collins three hits, home run, five RBIs; Brayden Dowdy two hits, walk.  
Hitting leaders vs. Ranger: Dowdy four hits, double, triple, three RBIs; Posey three hits, double, walk, four RBIs; Collins three hits, walk, three RBIs; Riggan Morris three hits, double, five RBIs; Trew Phillips two hits, triple, walk, four RBIs; Cash Bolenbarker

double, walk, hit by pitch, RBI, two stolen bases.

The Indians travel to Glen Rose for a doubleheader at 5:30 p.m. April 22 and host Bluff Dale April 23 at 6 p.m.

**GRANBURY SOFTBALL**  
The Lady Pirates (13-16, 6-5 in District 5-5A) moved closer to a playoff berth with a 5-2 win at Northwest April 12 and a 6-2 win at home against Saginaw April 16.  
Hitting vs. Northwest: Allison DaFoe three hits; Hannah DaFoe two hits, two RBIs, double; Carli Carlton two hits, double, RBI; Rachel Venable two hits, double.

Pitching vs. Northwest: A. Dafoe seven innings, four hits, two runs (one earned), eight strikeouts, two walks, two hit batters.

Hitting vs. Saginaw: A. Dafoe three hits, RBI; Abby Stone two hits, two RBIs; Preslee Carnes double, walk, two RBIs.

Pitching vs. Saginaw: A. Dafoe 6.2 innings, four hits, two runs (one earned), seven strikeouts, three walks.

The Lady Pirates were ending the regular season at district champion Aledo at press time.

**TOLAR SOFTBALL**  
The Lady Rattlers (15-6, 6-0 in District 11-2A) got a nondistrict 8-2 home win against Hermleigh April 12. They wrapped up an undefeated run to a district championship with an 11-0 win at DeLeon April 16.  
Hitting vs. Hermleigh:

Jaylyn Miller two hits, two RBIs; Reese Tryon two hits, double, RBI; Ava LeCluyse two hits; Ava Massey two hits, RBI; Senne Imel double.

Pitching vs. Hermleigh: Tryon seven innings, three hits, two runs (one earned), 12 strikeouts, seven walks.

Hitting vs. DeLeon: Imel four hits, two doubles, walk, two RBIs, two stolen bases; Miller two hits, walk, two RBI; Allyson Dobbs two hits, home run, two RBIs; Tryon two hits, home run, three RBIs; Lane Gardner two hits, RBI.

Pitching vs. DeLeon: Tryon six innings, two hits, 11 strikeouts, three walks.

At press time Tolar was hosting Benbrook and the Lady Rattlers ended the regular season with a trip to Blum at 5 p.m. April 22.

**LIPAN SOFTBALL**  
Behind the 3-hit pitching of Ella Sharp, the Lady Indians (10-4, 4-2 in District 11-2A) won 11-1 at home over Santo April 12. She pitched five innings, gave up an earned run with seven strikeouts and no walks.

Sarah Marcantonio, Ryan Atkinson and Ashlyn Clark each had three hits. Atkinson hit a home run with four RBIs and stole three bases; Marcantonio had a pair of doubles and RBI; and Clark had a triple and RBI.

The Lady Indians were ending the regular season with a nondistrict game at Mineral Wells at press time before preparing for the playoffs.



COURTESY PHOTO

Talan Brown of Tolar High School signs with Dordt University. Pictured front row is Donnie Brown (grandfather), Talen Brown, Karen Brown (grandmother). Back row: Emilee Brown (sister), Bucky Brown (father), and Blade Brown (brother).

## Talen Brown signs with Dordt University

*From Staff Reports*

Talen Brown, a senior at Tolar High School, signed a letter of intent to play baseball for Dordt University in Sioux Center, Iowa. Brown is the son of Bucky Brown. Dordt University is a member of the NAIA/Great Plains Athletic Conference.

Brown's awards include: 2021 - District 13-AA Utility Player of the Year and Perfect Game All Tournament Team; 2022 - District 13-AA Utility Player of the Year and Perfect Game All Tournament Team; 2023 - District 13-AA Pitcher of the Year, Texas Sportwriters Association All State Pitcher, Texas High School 2A Top 200 Stat Leader and Perfect Game All Tournament Team. Brown also pitched a perfect game and set new school records for most wins and most innings pitched.

According to its website, Dordt University is associated with the Christian Reformed Church. It was

founded in 1955 and "welcomes all students who are interested in a biblical, Christ-centered education. Today, as an accredited Christian liberal arts university, we're on a mission to cultivate the next generation of servant-leaders, who will saturate their relationships and communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Brown intends to study Kinesiology. "I would like to give a special thank you to Steve Mitcham from Texas Edge, Matt Mitcham, Mark Taylor and Nick Papassan also from Texas Edge. Thank y'all for all the years of coaching, fielding and hitting lessons and for supporting me basically my entire life. Also a big thank you to coach Alfred for believing in me and putting up with me since my freshman year. Also, thank you to my dad, granddad and nana for years of driving me to practices, games and for loving and supporting me while I lived out my dream of playing college baseball," Brown shared.

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Tarletons Brogens and Deltombe finish in top 10 at ORU Spring Invite

### Tarleton State University

BROKEN ARROW, Okla. – A pair of top-10 performances by Mathilde Brogens and Lou Deltombe led Tarleton State Women's Golf to a fourth-place finish in its regular season finale at the Oral Roberts Spring Invitational and a fourth-place finish at The Club at Indian Springs – River Tuesday, April 9.

Brogens once again earned a top-10 performance in Broken Arrow, after a sixth-place finish last season. She joined Deltombe as the first pair of Texans to finish in the top 10 in the same invitational this season. Both Brogens and Deltombe carded a 71 round with Brogens opening the three-round event with it, and Deltombe finishing one-under in the second round of the day on Monday. It marks the second time this season that Deltombe and Brogens finished in the top 10 and the first time this spring.

"This tournament performance has shown us that the work we are putting in is slowly showing and starting to pay off," said coach Isabel Jimenez after the invitational. "We have improved our par three stats and even though we had a few big numbers on a few holes, we have also reduced those as well. Now we go back to fine tune a couple of things and we are very hopeful and motivated to have a great performance at the WAC Championship next week."

As a team, the fourth-place performance is the best finish this spring and one of three fourth place finishes including the fall season. The team carded its lowest first-round score of the spring with a 299, tying with second and third round scores from the GCU Invitational as the lowest this spring.

Sofia Rodriguez dropped her score each round, carding a 77-76-74 to shoot 11-over par garnering a top-30

finish, tied for 24th. Rebeca Fernandez rounded out the scoring foursome tying for 43rd place with a 17-over 233. Elle Fox rounded out the squad ending in a tie for 58th with a 235. The squad turned in 26 birdies highlighted by Brogens' eight and Rodriguez' seven.

Tarleton's fourth-place finish was just off the podium in the team results. Abilene Christian took home the victory. The Wildcats were the only team to shoot under 300 in each round, totaling a 22-over, 886. The host, Oral Roberts, finished in second two strokes behind, and Northern Illinois rounded out the top 3 two strokes behind ORU, carding a 36-over par, 890.

Tulsa's Sirah Steinhoff took home the individual crown shooting a three-under, 213. She was the only individual in the field to shoot even or better in each of the three rounds. ORU's Kate Strickland took home silver



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Both Brogens and Deltombe carded a 71 round with Brogens opening the three-round event with it, and Deltombe finishing one-under in the second round of the day on Monday.

two strokes behind Steinhoff with a one-under, 215 finish. Northern Illinois' Emily Romancew shot a two-over, 218 to round out the podium. Tarleton joined ORU, NIU and ACU with multiple

players in the top 10.

WAC Championships take place April 19-21 in Payson, Arizona at The Rim Golf Club. This go-around, the Texans will compete in the championship for the sec-

ond time as an eligible scoring squad, finishing 10th last season in their first year eligible to post scores.

## Texans fall to Stephen F. Austin, HCU in Houston

### Tarleton State University

HOUSTON – Tarleton State fell victim to Stephen F. Austin and Houston Christian April 10 as they closed out their inaugural regular season.

Tarleton State 1, Stephen F. Austin 4

Emma Halcomb and Allison Bryant were the lone Texan pair to defeat the 'Jacks in the afternoon clash

with the Purple and Whites. The duo won in straight sets on Court 1 winning 21-18, 21-17 over Madison Hall and Katherine Hansen.

On Court 4, Grayson Schirpik and Rajini Fitzmaurice dropped their match in straight sets to SFA's Ariana Pagan and Meagan Ledbetter 22-20, 21-14. Charlyze Ching and Melian Ortiz Maldonado dropped their second match

of the day as they battled with SFA down to the wire on Court 5, dropping the match in Set 3. The pair went down to Sophia Myers and Lexi Higgins 21-9, 9-21 and 15-11.

SFA clinched the match win on Court 2 as Tatum Busch and Breanna McDonough fell in straight sets 21-11, 21-19 to Elaina Amador and Abigail Elder. Isabel Gonzaba and Sydney Garrison once again pushed

things to the end, going three sets but coming up just short. The pair fell on Court 3 21-19, 15-21 and 15-8 to Ansley Gulleddge and Brynn Dowd.

Tarleton State 0, Houston Christian 5

Ching and Ortiz Maldonado fell in straight sets on Court 5 to Houston Christian's Lauren Vickery and Kylann Griffith 21-10, 21-12. On Court 4,

Fitzmaurice and Schirpik also fell in straight sets 21-14, 21-17 to Tatum Lockhardt and Mary Alper.

HCU clinched the match on Court 2 as McDonough and Tatum Busch fell to Kristin Gilmour and Rachel Heilbrun 21-9, 21-8.

The pairing of Halcomb and Bryant dropped its match in straight sets to Kristen Kley Meyer and Abbey Bufkin 22-20, 22-20

on Court 1. The final pair for the Texans gave it everything they had, coming up just short of preventing the sweep as they took HCU to a three-setter. Garrison and Gonzaba fell 2-1 to Audrey Pearce and Paige Palmer 21-19, 18-21 and 15-9.

The Texans will now await their seed for the Conference USA Championships set to take place April 25-27 in Youngsville, Louisiana.

## Tarleton State clinches WAC Tournament with win over rival ACU

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE – One couldn't have scripted a more perfect ending to Tarleton Tennis' regular season April 13. In front of an electric crowd, the Texans defeated rival Abilene Christian 4-3 at home to clinch the No. 2 seed in the WAC Tournament. On Senior Day, when Tarleton celebrated two top players in program history, Elsa Boisson and Martha Makantasi, it was the two of them who won back-to-back singles matches to clinch the victory for the Texans.

The Texans (15-3, 6-1 WAC) finished their home campaign 9-1, including a perfect 4-0 mark at the Tarleton Tennis Facility which opened just over two weeks ago. The Texans end their reclassification period with a 23-4 mark in conference matches.

Tarleton State will play the No. 7 seed in the WAC Tournament Thursday at 3

p.m. The 7-seed will either be Stephen F. Austin or UTRGV, who face off at 10 a.m. on Sunday. The loser of that match will be the 7-seed. The Texans can also win a share of the WAC regular season championship on Sunday if UT Arlington knocks off Grand Canyon. They will face off in Phoenix Sunday at 2 p.m. CDT.

The Wildcats dropped to 7-12 overall and 4-3 in WAC play with the loss Saturday. They will most likely be the No. 5 seed in the WAC Tournament. With a win Saturday over Tarleton, they would have been the 2-seed.

Saturday's match was yet another thriller between Tarleton State and ACU, the third straight since 2021-22. The teams have combined to score 11-10 over those three matches, with results of 5-2, 4-3, 4-3. This was the first time Tarleton hosted Abilene Christian since 2013.

ACU came away with the doubles point in Stephenville, thanks to con-

secutive wins on Courts 2-3. Tarleton started with a win on Court 1, as Maretha Burger and Makantasi defeated Masha Vrsalovic and Maria Cascos 6-4. Burger and Makantasi improved to 13-5 overall and 4-3 in conference. The Wildcats got it done on Courts 2-3, first at No. 2 as Maryjoe Crisologo and Libby Blair defeated Boisson and Ximena Morales 6-3, then ACU's Olivia Sears and Andrea Guerrero clinched the doubles point 7-5 over Noelia Lorca and Emma Persson.

Lorca started singles play for the Texans with a comfortable victory to tie the team score 1-1. Lorca defeated Cascos 6-1 6-2 to improve to 16-2 overall this season, 6-1 in WAC play. Lorca, a first-year Texan, finished the regular season with the most singles wins on the team.

Persson then gave Tarleton the lead 2-1 with a 6-1 6-3 win on the top court over Sears.

ACU got one back at



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans defeated rival Abilene Christian 4-3 at home to clinch the No. 2 seed in the WAC Tournament.

Court 6 to make it 2-2, as Blair defeated Adeliya Mukhutdinova 6-4 6-3.

Tarleton then turned to its seniors to get the team win. Boisson was first with a victory on Court 2 over Crisologo 7-6(8-6) 6-3. Boisson improved to 12-6 in

singles on the season, 5-2 in WAC play.

Makantasi clinched the team victory in her final home match with a 6-2 2-6 6-3 win on Court 3 over Vrsalovic. Makantasi went 6-1 in conference singles matches, 15-3 overall

through the regular season.

ACU salvaged a point at the end to make it 4-3, as Guerrero defeated Morales 4-6 6-1 6-3 on Court 5.



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# GLENN

FROM PAGE B3

\$13,266,057  
 Baccus Elementary School: \$15,946,896  
 Brawner Elementary School: \$11,299,896  
 Emma Roberson ELA: \$5,478,868  
 Oak Woods School: \$13,614,328  
 STEAM Academy at Mambrino: \$5,344,969  
 Acton Middle School: \$9,434,742  
 Granbury Middle School: \$4,786,183  
 Granbury High School: \$6,700,373  
 Central Transportation: \$1,968,852  
 New Transportation Center: \$6,445,769

"The transportation hub, we are really trying to work hard to minimize our traffic footprint," Glenn said. "That's kind of the bottom line there. We put a lot of pressure on the infrastructure, so I think sometimes our city and our county take the blame for that. But the truth is we're moving a lot of people back and forth, so we're trying to be real cognizant of that traffic footprint. That's why the Long-Range Planning Committee chose to add buses and the transportation hub into the bond. To be real clear on that, buses will be on a 10-year note, not on a 30-year note. I think there's been some confusion about that."

Glenn then showed attendees a tax rate comparison with Granbury ISD and other nearby districts for the 2023-24 school year, proving that GISD has the lowest tax rate in Hood County and in the area. The comparison is shown below:

Granbury ISD: \$0.9342  
 Tolar ISD: \$0.9429  
 Weatherford ISD: \$1.0365  
 Lipan ISD: \$1.0814  
 Aledo ISD: \$1.2075  
 Cleburne ISD: \$1.2575  
 Burleson ISD: \$1.2575  
 Godley ISD: \$1.2892  
 Glenn then showed a breakdown of the Granbury ISD tax rate from 2017 to now, showing that the district has lowered the tax rate continuously every year. GISD's tax rate history is shown below:

2017-18: \$1.210  
 2018-19: \$1.195  
 2019-20: \$1.125  
 2020-21: \$1.114  
 2021-22: \$1.088  
 2022-23: \$0.9996  
 2023-24: \$0.9342  
 "So, what historically has Granbury ISD board of trustees done when it comes to the tax rate? Well, here it is," Glenn said. "In 2017-2018, it was \$1.21, and significantly higher than the 93 cents that we see today. Our board has done an outstanding job of really trying to keep our tax rate as low as possible."

Glenn explained how he used to talk with former Board President Mark Jackson about the tax rate. He said Jackson pointed out that Granbury High School was built in 1972, and that the district needed to keep its taxes "as low as possible."

"It's not just the people who live in our community for the next 10 years that should have to absorb all the pay off on that bill, when the truth is people who haven't even moved here yet are going to be using that bill," Glenn said. "He always had an eye for 'If we can push our taxes down low, keep going as low as we can,' so that when other people come in, they come into a low tax rate, but they're paying their fair share—that was his philosophy."

"I've served with other boards that are like, 'You know what, let's keep it up high, and pay our debt off faster so that we can have as low a debt as possible.' It's just a different way of thinking, but our board has chosen historically to say we're going to keep our rate as low as we can, and everybody that comes into our community will pay their fair share as they use these facilities. They're available for everybody's use, whether they choose to use them or not."

Glenn closed his presenta-

tion by explaining that GISD hasn't built a new elementary school since 1996, when enrollment was 5,291. This year's enrollment on snapshot day was 7,933.

"The last time we built a school at all was 2001 when AMS and GMS went up, so that's over 20 years since we've come to the community and asked to build a school," he said.

### COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Granbury resident Faye Landham said one complaint she keeps hearing pertains to the fees being outlined publicly for the construction companies.

"When you showed what the money was going to go to for all the different schools, nowhere in there does it talk about what we're paying the construction companies," she said. "Where is all that listed?" Glenn explained that the architect's fees are built into the contract and are not a separate item, meaning that the fees are already embedded in the total cost for each campus.

Another speaker said he was concerned about the bond's "unnecessary fluff," and compared the proposal to a family needing a three-bedroom, two-bathroom house, but instead wanted to purchase a six-bedroom, five-bathroom lakefront view.

Glenn reiterated that he wasn't trying to "convince anybody," one way or the other, but recommended the gentleman research Godley's proposed bond, which has similar components to Granbury ISD's bond proposal.

"See if this sounds familiar," he said. "They're asking for a new elementary school. They're asking for renovations to all their current school buildings. They're asking for a transportation facility, and they're asking for buses. Different, they're asking for an auditorium. That's the only difference in the two bonds from what I see online. Their bond is \$360-plus million. I don't know how much that auditorium is gonna cost but we're \$200 million under Godley ISD."

"I would encourage you to go look at what Godley is doing, look at their plan, compare it to our plan online and see where the fluff falls because at the end of the day, we tried to choose an architect firm that was fairly conservative and we tried to make it clear that we don't need the Cadillac; we just need a Ford that will last a long time. But you have two districts calling very similar bonds. Do your research on both and make your decision based on that."

Another resident asked Glenn to explain the safety and security improvements outlined in the bond proposal online.

Glenn explained that the Long-Range Planning Committee felt that getting students out of portables and into brick-and-mortar buildings was extremely important. He added that the committee has talked about implementing keyless entry in every building, along with more video cameras.

"We don't ever want our schools to feel like a prison, but there are fencing issues on playgrounds that are close to roads where we need to raise the level of the fence," he explained. "In addition to that, we're talking about the possibility of metal detectors at the high school. Our chief of security, Wade Clark, is going around and having conversations with other schools and trying to figure out what our best practices are. A lot of thought went into those conversations, and at the end of the day, that committee said, 'We have to continue to be on the cutting edge, and we've got to keep our students safe,' and for those reasons, we chose to put security funds into this bond."

Former Granbury Mayor Nin Hulett asked Glenn if there was a "good-sized" figure on the maintenance of the current aging school

buses. Glenn asked Chief Financial Officer Emmett Whitefield how much GISD spent last year on maintenance. He said it increased about 25% over the last three years, with the district spending about \$350,000 total on repairs.

"What we found is we can take a bus body from like 2000 and we just put a couple of engines in, so we'll grab a 2005 bus," Glenn explained. "We can buy a bus engine for about \$60,000, so we're putting bus engines in right now, because we can do two of those for every one brand new bus."

Another speaker said he had read a theory on social media where the district could put administration into portable buildings and then put a new school where the administration building is currently. He asked what Glenn's response to that theory would be.

Glenn explained that the Long-Range Planning Committee did look at that theory as an option. However, there are about 95 people who work out of the central office. He said if the district were to break that down in portables, GISD would need about 15 portable buildings. Additionally, the district would also need to obtain a permit from the city to allow those portable buildings to be built.

"I think at the end of the day when the Long-Range Planning Committee was having that discussion, they said the growth is on the east side," he said. "When they start work on (U.S. Highway) 377, is that going to make sense to have four elementary schools on this side of the lake and two elementary schools on the other side of it? At the end of the day, the Long-Range Planning Committee said that's not forward thinking; it's just going to kick the can, so they opted for the school on Peck Road behind H-E-B."

Hood County Republican Chairman Nominee Zach Maxwell asked Glenn if the district were to break up the bond into different sections, if it would be fair to say that GISD would have to pay more in engineering fees and processing fees.

Glenn said that would be a question for Stantec, but that it is possible.

"Historically, school construction does not go down," he said. "It's not like if we wait three years, you know, elementary schools will be 20% off. I mean, what you see in construction is what you see in housing. Prices do increase, and I think that's a fair statement."

Another speaker asked if the district would still need a new elementary school if Granbury did not see the growth that's currently projected.

"It's going to take three years to build an elementary school, so it's not like if the bond were to pass it would be on the ground in September at the start of the school year. It's three years," he said. "Today, we can take 200 kids out of Acton Elementary School, 200 kids out of Brawner Elementary School and 200 kids out of Mambrino Elementary School, drop them all into a new elementary school and have 600 kids in every elementary school. We'd get rid of the portable buildings at that time and all schools would be at about the level we'd really like them to be, which is 600 kids. Right now, Oak Woods is about as close as we have to that. Baccus is a little smaller, but that's going to change for them this next year. We're shifting 130 bilingual kids out of Brawner just to give them a little relief."

Granbury ISD residents will vote on the bond during Early Voting, April 22-30 and Election Day, Saturday, May 4.

For more information about the Granbury ISD bond, visit the district website at granburyisd.org or email questions to bond2024@granburyisd.org.



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**April 20, 2024**

## Property Owners Can Protest Property Appraisal Values

Property owners who disagree with the Hood Central Appraisal District's opinion of market value of their property or for for any other action that adversely affects them may protest to the local appraisal review board (ARB).

A property owner must file a written notice of protest before May 15 or within 30 days after the appraisal district mails the property owner's notice of appraised value, whichever is later. The ARB will begin hearing taxpayer protests in late May.

After the ARB completes its hearings and approves final property tax appraisals, taxing units will use these values to set property tax rates.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district. The local district judge appoints individuals to serve on the ARB. Property owners may protest any of the following issues to the ARB:

- the property's market value;
- unequal property appraisal;
- the property's inclusion on the appraisal records;
- denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;
- determination that the property does not qualify for the circuit breaker limitation on appraised value for non-homestead real property;
- denial of special appraisal, such as agricultural or timber productivity appraisal;
- determination that agricultural or timberland has had a change of use and is subject to a rollback tax;
- identification of the taxing unit or taxing units in which the property is located;
- determination that the taxpayer is the property owner; or
- any other action of the appraisal district office or ARB that adversely affects the owner.

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## HCNEWS.COM

### SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on April 13 (Puzzle 77).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

## Upcoming Business Trip?

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# Buzz off: Top tips to keep mosquitoes away

**BY MICKY SHEARON**  
*Special to The Hood County News*

Ah, the great outdoors in Texas! Whether you're firing up the grill for a barbecue or lounging on the patio, nothing disrupts the peace quite like the high-pitched whine of a mosquito. Fortunately, with a few strategic moves, you can reclaim your outdoor spaces from these pesky invaders.

**UNDERSTANDING MOSQUITO HABITATS AND BREEDING**

First, it's essential to understand where and how mosquitoes like to breed. Mosquitoes aren't just annoying; they're homebod-

ies, preferring to breed near where they feed. The culprits are often standing water sources around our homes — think old tires, buckets and even saucers under flower pots. In Granbury, we might also find them breeding in stagnant ponds or drainage ditches. By identifying and eliminating these mosquito nurseries, we can drastically reduce their population.

**WATER MANAGEMENT: YOUR FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE**

One of the simplest and most effective mosquito-fighting methods is managing these water sources. Regularly inspect your property for standing water and eliminate it. Turn over

or remove water-holding containers and keep gutters clear and flowing freely. For birdbaths, pet water bowls and rain barrels, a quick clean and scrub once a week will do wonders. And if you can't empty the water, consider mosquito dunks. These handy products contain *Bacillus thuringiensis israeliensis* (Bti), a bacteria that kills mosquito larvae but is safe for other wildlife.

**LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE: MORE THAN JUST AESTHETICS**

Mosquitoes love to hide in tall grass and dense shrubbery during the hot parts of the day. Keep your lawns mowed and hedges trimmed.

This not only beautifies your property but also reduces the number of places mosquitoes can use as a daytime refuge.

**PERSONAL PROTECTION: DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR THEM**

When it comes to personal protection, the right repellents and clothing can make all the difference. Opt for EPA-approved repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. These are effective and safe when used according to directions. For a more natural approach, catnip oil and 2-undecanone are good choices, though they may require more frequent ap-

plication. And when you're spending time outside, especially at dawn or dusk when mosquitoes are most active, wear light-colored and loose-fitting clothes. Dark colors attract mosquitoes, as does exposed skin.

**THE POWER OF AIR: AN UNEXPECTED ALLY**

An often-overlooked tool in your mosquito-defense arsenal is the humble fan. High-powered box fans are not just for keeping you cool — they can also disrupt mosquito flight patterns. Setting up a few fans around your patio or deck can help keep these flying pests from landing and making a meal out of you and your guests.

**DISPELLING MYTHS: WHAT DOESN'T WORK**

It's important to address a few common misconceptions. Plants like citrosa and lavender, while lovely, do not effectively repel mosquitoes on their own. Similarly, while DIY mosquito traps and bug lights might seem like a good idea, they often do little to reduce overall populations and can even harm beneficial insects.

By taking these proactive steps, you can enjoy your time outdoors without the annoyance of mosquitoes. So go ahead, plan that outdoor dinner, or relax on your patio after sundown, knowing you're well-equipped to keep the mosquitoes at bay!

HOOD OUTDOORS

## What is the preferred live bait? Water temps reaching the 70s



**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.

Having the right live bait can make all the difference when trying to catch fish on our area lakes. After the winter season where artificial baits essentially dominate (at least in my boat), it is time to carry live bait so you have all options. Water temperatures are currently in the upper 60s and there are days where live bait will work when other baits won't.

Live shad is the primary forage for essentially all predators on our local area lakes. Therefore, it is not a big surprise that this would

be the best live bait for catching a variety of predators. Many striped and hybrid striped bass anglers will always carry live shad.

There are other live baits that can be successful at times for many species including shiners, minnows, bream, black salties and goldfish. Bream (perch/sunfish) or live shad are usually preferred for striped bass. Large shiners can be used for a variety of fish including largemouth bass. Gizzard and Threadfin shad are typically the better choices

as these are normally what these fish feed on in our local reservoirs.

Of course, there are a variety of artificial presentations that can be used for all species. Small jigs for crappie are extremely effective. Spinner baits, crank baits and soft plastics make up a big portion of the large-mouth baits used. Slabs, spoons and swimbaits are effective for striped bass and sand bass. Some days the fish may be really active and it may be prudent to put the live bait aside and work the artificials as they have a quicker turn around to get your bait back in the water.

Of course, having the right bait does not mean you will catch fish. You still need to be on the fish and they have to be willing to feed. At times matching the size of the bait

can be crucial when using artificial or live bait. I like having a variety of sizes just for that reason. On Granbury, I like to make sure I have some big baits for those bigger striped bass. Bigger baits may also keep the smaller predators away when you are focusing on the bigger fish.

Shad cannot be purchased as they are difficult to keep alive. You can catch them on Granbury easily once you master throwing a cast net. Mastering the cast net is easier said than done, but with a little practice you will catch bait. You will also need a good aerated tank to keep them alive. This may be the subject of another article as keeping and taking care of shad takes some planning and experience.

If you are not up to keeping shad alive, your best

choice is catching or buying some perch (bream). These will stay alive much easier than shad in a small aerated well or minnow bucket and they will catch fish.

**HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT**

Granbury water temperatures are in the upper 60s and even in the 70s in the back of the creeks on those warmer afternoons. The white bass (sand bass) fishing is good to excellent on slabs and spinners fished near main lake flats from in town near the Shores to the flats near Blue Water Shores. There are lots of smaller sand bass, but many are large up to 2 pounds. Striped bass are slow to fair to 7 pounds on live shad and Alabama rigs trolled. Best

reports of striped bass continue to come from the lower ends between De Cordova Bend Estates to Striper Alley. Crappie are reported as fair to good in the back of creeks on small minnows and or jigs worked under a cork. Crappie are being caught on many areas of the lake including most creeks from in town to De Cordova Bend Estates. Black bass reports are fair to good in numbers with an occasional bigger fish to 7 pounds plus. Many are on the beds and soft plastics, jigs and crankbaits are several options. Catfish reports for those bigger blues and yellows have slowed some, but cut shad worked on the upper ends is your best choice.

April 20, 2024

**N**ational Record Store Day, celebrated on April 20th, is a groovy celebration of the magic of music and the unique experience of browsing through vinyl records at local record stores. It's a day for kids and families to step back in time and discover the joy of analog music in a digital world.

On Record Store Day, families can embark on a musical adventure. Head to a local record store and explore the aisles filled with vinyl records, each holding the potential to transport listeners to different times and places. Kids can learn about the art of vinyl, how records are made, and the joy of carefully placing the needle on the spinning disc.

Some record stores may even host special events on this day, featuring live music, artist signings, and exclusive releases. It's an opportunity for kids to experience the vibrant atmosphere of a record store and witness the passion that people have for music. Parents and caregivers can share stories of their own experiences with vinyl records, introducing kids to the nostalgia of flipping through record bins and discovering hidden gems. National Record Store Day is a chance for families to bond over the timeless allure of music and create memories that resonate with the crackling sound of a needle on vinyl.

So, on April 20th, let's celebrate National Record Store Day by taking a musical journey with our families. Whether it's exploring classic albums or discovering new favorites, this day encourages a love for music that transcends generations.

**The First vinyl record ever created was by RCA Victor in 1931. It was a 12" vinyl recording of the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra performing Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.**

# SPARKS

## Music School

**STUDENT OF THE MONTH**

Student: **Johnny**  
Instrument: **Banjo**  
How Long: **1.5 years**

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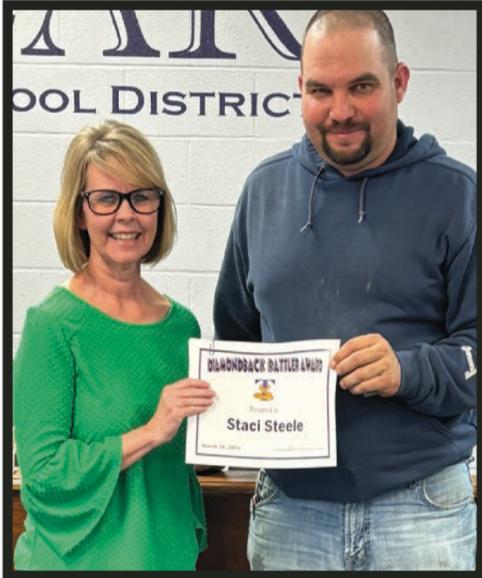


VAN GRIFFITH KIA



# Teacher of the Month

## March



**Staci Steele**  
Tolar Elementary Teacher



**Mandy Matthews**  
Tolar Junior High Teacher



**Landi Friemel**  
Tolar High School Teacher





## TEXAS TRIO OF WILDFLOWER WONDERS

COURTESY PHOTO BY LEEKRIS, ADOBESTOCK.COM

There are over 5,000 different species of wildflowers in the state of Texas, but there are three that are clearly the most prolific and easy to find along the highways and byways throughout the state: *Lupinus Texensis*, *Castilleja Indivisa*, and *Gaillardia Pulchella*.

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

While we have likely passed the peak of the Texas wildflower season, there is still time to get out and explore the natural beauty of Texas wildflowers.

Although there are over 5,000 different species of wildflowers in the state of Texas, there are three that are clearly the most prolific and easy to find along the highways and byways throughout the state.

### LUPINUS TEXENSIS

Also known as the Texas Bluebonnet, Bluebonnet, Texas Lupine, Buffalo Clover and Wolf Flower, this species is often planted by TXDOT and garden clubs and is one of the six *Lupinus* species collectively designated the State Flower of Texas.

Texas Lupine has larger, more sharply pointed leaves

and more numerous flower heads than similar lupines. Light-green, velvety, palmately compound leaves (usually five leaflets) are borne from branching, 6- to 18-inch stems.

These stems are topped by clusters of up to 50 fragrant, blue, pea-like flowers. The tip of the cluster is conspicuously white.

### CASTILLEJA INDIVISA

Also known as Texas Indian Paintbrush, Entireleaf Indian Paintbrush, Texas Paintbrush, Indian Paintbrush, Scarlet Paintbrush.

The Indian paintbrush, a striking annual or biennial, stands 6 to 18 inches tall. It boasts clumps of unbranched stems that erupt into vibrant, red spikes

resembling a painter's brush. While the flowers themselves are somewhat understated — greenish at the base and less eye-catching than their surroundings — they are framed by vivid bracts that often sport red tips. Occasionally, these fiery displays are punctuated with bursts of light yellow or pure white. Together, the flowers

PLEASE SEE TRIO | C2

## An eye on the sky

The upcoming stellar explosion will be visible from Earth



COURTESY PHOTO

While the nova will be visible to the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope will enhance the viewing, revealing finer details of the explosion's radiant aftermath.

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

No sooner than we've put away our eclipse glasses and telescopes, it looks like we have more celestial fireworks unfolding light years away in the vast theatre of the universe. While NASA scientists haven't pinpointed the exact timing of this event, later this year, stargazers and the merely curious will have a rare opportunity to witness an extraordinary cosmic event with the naked eye: a nova explosion within the binary star system known as T Coronae Borealis (T CrB). Located approximately 3,000 light-years from Earth, this stellar phenomenon promises to light up the night sky in a display of celestial brilliance.

### UNDERSTANDING THE PHENOMENON

A nova, not to be confused with a supernova, occurs in a binary star system comprising a white dwarf and a companion star, in this case, a red giant. This celestial drama unfolds as the white dwarf, a dense remnant of a star that has ceased nuclear burning, draws material from its larger companion. As the red giant's surface heats up from the usual 4,000 to 5,800 degrees Fahrenheit to an astounding 360,000 degrees Fahrenheit, it expels its outer layers toward the white dwarf. The accumulation of this material on the white dwarf eventually triggers a massive explosion, releasing energy roughly 100,000 times greater than

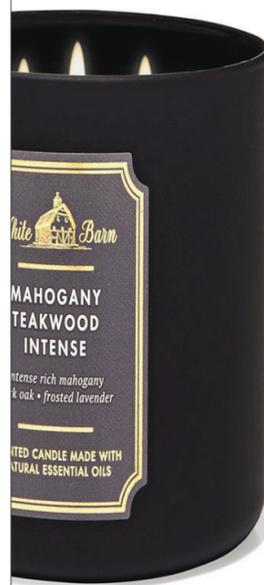
what our sun produces annually. This spectacular outburst is what lights up the sky as a nova.

### A SPECTACLE SPANNING CENTURIES

What makes the upcoming 2024 nova explosion particularly special is its rarity. Events like these in the T CrB system are believed to occur roughly once a century. Previous eruptions were recorded in 1946 and 1866, with historical accounts suggesting that this system has been staging its nova performance for centuries. Each event offers a unique glimpse into the processes governing our universe, making it a must-see for both amateur and professional astronomers.

PLEASE SEE STELLAR | C2

## Bath & Body Works



# COMING SOON



## Jersey Mike's Subs

GRAPHIC BY JEREMIAH FLORES | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Two new businesses — Jersey Mike's Subs and Bath & Body Works — will soon set up shop in Granbury, according to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Opening dates have not yet been set for either business. The Hood County News will continuously update this story as more information becomes available.

## Jersey Mike's, Bath & Body Works coming to Granbury

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

It's no secret that Hood County continues to grow — but the recent announcement that two well-known businesses are now planning locations in Granbury is definitive proof that this small town is slowly transitioning to a big city.

The two new businesses — Jersey Mike's Subs and Bath & Body Works — will soon set up shop

in Granbury, according to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

### JERSEY MIKE'S SUBS

Jersey Mike's Subs officially registered with the TDLR March 27, and is planning a 2,065 square foot location at 714 East U.S. Highway 377, Suites 726 and 728 in Cellular World Plaza — a location previously occupied by Papa John's Pizza.

The privately funded project will cost an estimat-

ed \$429,787 with renovations scheduled to start July 24, and a completion date of Oct. 29.

With nearby locations in Weatherford, Benbrook and Fort Worth, Jersey Mike's Subs is an American submarine sandwich chain headquartered in New Jersey. It is also one of the largest sandwich chains in the United States.

Jersey Mike's offers a wide variety of both hot and

PLEASE SEE BUSINESS | C3

# Local artists featured in key art shows

BY EDEN DUNCAN

**GILBERTH**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

Two key local art shows will be open the weekend of April 20-21. The much-heralded Rio Brazos Juried Art Exhibition which opened April 6 runs through April 21.

The Rio Brazos show was cofounded by Marjorie

Ross and Collette Jones as a small local show 26 years ago. Originally held in conjunction with the Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts in Granbury, Tarleton State University began to curate the show, which was eventually moved from fall to spring.

Gaining in prominence over the years, the show is now a national art competition. Artists submit images to be considered for the

competition. Only those selected by the juror are shown and are considered for prizes.

Local artists selected for the Rio Brazos this year include: Robert Cook, Sheri Jones, Linda Parks, Elise Techentine and Patsy Walton, each of Granbury, as well as Pamela Steege of Weatherford.

Proceeds from the Rio Brazos Juried Art Exhibition go to Tarleton State

University Visual Arts and Design student scholarships. The Juror for the show is Fort Worth artist Timothy Harding, who will be present at the closing reception to speak to artists and hand out awards.

Simultaneously, the Lake Granbury Art Association (LGAA) will celebrate its Membership Show. LGAA celebrated 50 years last year and has grown to be a large and vibrant force in

the local art community and throughout the region. The association boasts weekly meetups of artists and monthly meetings featuring demonstrations of well-known artists. Their workshops, too, feature accomplished artists in various mediums.

Reception and awards for the Rio Brazos is Saturday, April 21 from 2-4 p.m. at the Langdon Center, 308 E. Pearl St. in Granbury.

Gallery hours are Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21 from 2-4 p.m.

Reception and awards for the LGAA Membership show is Saturday, April 27 from 5-8 p.m., 224 N. Travis St. in Granbury. Gallery hours are Thursdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1-4 p.m. The show runs through May 26.

## TRIO

FROM PAGE C1

and bracts reach heights of 3 to 8 inches in elongated spikes.

This species, along with other members of the Castilleja family, are semi-parasitic on grasses. They tap into the roots of these "host" plants to siphon off nutrients. Because of this dependency, transplanting an Indian paintbrush can often prove fatal. Known for its capricious nature, the Indian paintbrush's blooming can be unpredictable. In years when the bluebonnets — a fellow spring bloomer — are particularly vibrant, the paintbrush might only show moderate colors. Yet, in other seasons, it dazzles with an extraordinary display.

## GAILLARDIA PULCHELLA

Firewheel, also known as Indian Blanket and Girasol Rojo, is a favored annual that

reaches heights of 1 to 2 feet or more. Its hairy stem, often profusely branched, becomes woody at the base as the season progresses. The plant's stems, lush with leaves near the base, support vibrant flower heads. These blooms feature petals that are red at the base and tipped with yellow, each petal ending in a distinctive three-toothed tip. The celebrated flower heads, measuring 1 to 2 inches across, display a fiery red center encircled by a bright yellow band. Occasionally, the petals are a uniform orange or yellow. At the heart of each flower, the disc florets are a deep, brownish-red.

Commonly found along roadways in the Southwestern part of the state, these wildflowers create a spectacular display reminiscent of festive Fourth of July pinwheels spinning atop slender stalks. Due to their resilience to heat and drought, they are a popular choice for gardens.

In this region, where several species thrive, it's common to see variations completely adorned in yellow.

So, there you have it — the top three species of wildflowers that adorn the roadsides throughout Texas. As the clock winds down on this wildflower season, the opportunity to revel in the Texan wildflower tapestry remains. Let the Texas Bluebonnet's fragrant sapphire blooms, the Indian Paintbrush's fiery red brushes, and the Firewheel's sunburst petals be a reminder of the state's diverse natural artistry. Whether you're a seasoned botanist, a professional or amateur photographer, or simply a lover of beauty, the highways and byways of Texas still offer a colorful flourish for the eye and the soul. Before the curtain falls on this season's floral performance, make a journey to witness these natural wonders — a Texas-sized spectacle not to be missed.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The Indian paintbrush, a striking annual or biennial, stands 6 to 18 inches tall.



The Firewheel's stems, lush with leaves near the base, support vibrant flower heads.



Texas Lupine has larger, more sharply pointed leaves and more numerous flower heads than similar lupines.

## STELLAR

FROM PAGE C1

### WHEN AND HOW TO WATCH

The nova explosion is expected to be visible for an entire week, with its peak brightness lasting at least a couple of days, allowing ample time for observation. For the best experience,

viewers in our part of the world are advised to look toward the Corona Borealis constellation, also known as the Northern Crown. The constellation is relatively easy to find and distinctive. In fact, it makes the shape of the letter C. Then, in the middle of the C is a white jewel of a star. This star,

the brightest light in the Northern Crown, is called Alphecca or Gemma.

You can also look for the Northern Crown between the constellations of Hercules the Strongman and Boötes the Herdsman. While the nova will be visible to the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope will enhance

the viewing, revealing finer details of the explosion's radiant aftermath.

### POST-EXPLOSION CYCLE

Unlike a supernova, which marks the violent end of a star, the nova event in T CrB does not lead to its destruction. After the explosion, the system will enter a cool-

down period, eventually returning to its pre-explosion state, ready to repeat the cycle once enough material accumulates from the red giant. This recurring nature allows scientists to study the phenomenon repeatedly, gaining insights into stellar evolution and material dynamics in binary systems.

Like the recent total solar eclipse, this upcoming nova explosion is not just a stunning natural spectacle but a reminder of the dynamic and ever-changing universe we live in. So, keep your telescopes ready and watch for more information on the exact timing of this spectacular cosmic event!



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# Eclipse engagement

COURTESY PHOTO

Viridiana Armendariz and Andy Medeiros, residents of Dallas, Texas, are engaged to be married after a picture-perfect proposal under the 'Diamond Ring' eclipse in Gatesville, TX on April 8th. Medeiros, a Sergeant First Class in the Army Reserves, stationed at North Ft. Hood in 2020, planned the proposal during a visit to see friends he made while stationed there. Despite warnings of bad weather and traffic delays, the couple witnessed an uninterrupted view of the eclipse while enjoying a romantic picnic in a bluebonnet pasture on their friend's property. The proposal itself was a complete surprise to Armendariz. Medeiros had arranged for a friend, a photographer, to be present under the guise of wanting to grow his portfolio. Armendariz, having modeling experience, thought nothing of it at first. As the eclipse reached totality, Medeiros got down on one knee and popped the question. Armendariz, overwhelmed with emotion, said yes. The couple is now planning their wedding and looking forward to their future together.



## BUSINESS

FROM PAGE C1

cold subs to hungry customers across the country, according to the Tasting Table. Cold subs come in three sizes — mini, regular and giant — while hot subs are only available in the regular and giant sizes.

### BATH & BODY WORKS

Although Jersey Mike's will be a fan-favorite for many, the excitement for Bath & Body Works is unmatched for local fragrance lovers.

According to the TDLR, BBW is planning a 5,115 square foot location at 3736 E. U.S. Highway 377 in the Luton Ranch strip mall next to Ross Dress for Less.

The privately funded project

will cost an estimated \$350,000; renovations will begin June 24. The project completion date is currently scheduled for Aug. 23.

With nearby locations in Weatherford, Burleson and Fort Worth, Bath & Body Works is known as the "go-to place" for soaps, lotions, fragrances and candles.

The popular American retail shop was founded in 1990 in Ohio. As of Feb. 21, there are currently 1,743 Bath & Body Works locations in the U.S., according to ScrapeHero.

"New businesses usually ask the city to keep their plans confidential, giving them the opportunity to share their news with the public," Director of Economic Development Lance LaCour told the Hood County News via email. "The

City Economic Development Department is currently working on multiple projects that would bring nationally known retailers to Granbury, as well as recruiting other, more industrial-related projects. When these projects come to fruition, they provide residents new job opportunities, new options for products and services, and potentially lower property taxes for residents because of the boost in sales tax revenue."

While plans are now in place for Jersey Mike's Subs and Bath & Body Works to come to Granbury this year, opening dates have not yet been set for either business.

The Hood County News will continuously update this story as more information becomes available.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LIGHTFIELD, ENVATO.COM

Reduce, reuse, and recycle. One of the best ways to limit waste and save money is by repurposing or reusing items such as clothing, furniture, or appliances.

## Live more sustainably this Earth Day and beyond

BY KAYLEE DUSANG  
Special to the  
Hood County News

While many might recognize the terms "go green" or "eco-friendly," Earth Day provides an important reminder that there are opportunities to put those phrases into action.

Every year, Earth Day is observed on April 22. The purpose of the event is to raise awareness about environmental concerns and encourage people to take part in more sustainable practices.

Although the first Earth Day did not take place until the 1970s, the seeds of the environmental movement started in the 1960s following the publication of Rachel Carson's bestselling book "Silent Spring," which highlighted the link between pollution and public health.

When former Wisconsin senator Gaylord Nelson launched the first Earth Day alongside activist Denis Hayes, the founder of the official EarthDay.Org, on April 22, 1970, around 20 million people from across the nation stepped out in support of more environmental regulations. This led to the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as the passing of several pieces of legislation to protect the environment, including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

Now, the worldwide movement aims to inspire others to not only become more environmentally conscious, but also act on issues such as climate change, plastic pollution, extinction of species, among others.

This year's Earth Day theme, Planet vs. Plastics, highlights the organization's goal to reach a 60% reduction in the production of all plastics by 2024.

Plastics are not only harmful to plants and wildlife but have also been linked to health problems in humans. According to

recent studies listed on EarthDay.Org, commonly used plastic products are known to carry toxic chemicals that can lead to serious health issues if ingested or inhaled, including cancer and birth defects.

"Plastic is not just an environmental issue, it is also a human health issue," said Aidan Charron, director of EarthDay.Org's End Plastic Initiatives. "It's important to recognize it now. We don't want it to end up becoming the next lead, or the next tobacco, and the next smoking of our generation. We want to stop production from ramping up and we want to protect people's wellbeing as best as we can."

While there are several ways to reduce environmental impacts, Charron offers a few practices individuals can start using to limit the use of plastics and live more sustainably:

### PHASE OUT SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Charron recommends starting with a plastic audit of your home to see what kind of plastic you use on a daily basis. Phasing out plastics can start small, such as swapping to reusable water bottles, glass or stainless-steel food containers, or using reusable bags at the grocery store.

"Those tiny things do add up and they do help, and they also push the market in a certain direction," Charron said.

### AVOID FAST FASHION

According to the EPA, the fashion industry is one of the leading causes of carbon emissions — it is estimated that 14.5 million tons of textiles, mostly clothing, were landfilled in 2018. Clothes created from synthetic materials like polyester can also cause shedding of microplastics into the environment.

Charron explains that

synthetic materials might not only contain dangerous chemicals, but they also tend to break down easier, leading to the need to purchase more clothing. Choose more sustainable fashion options, such as thrifting or purchasing clothes made of natural fabric, such as cotton, wool, and hemp fibers.

### REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE

One of the best ways to limit waste and save money is by repurposing or reusing items such as clothing, furniture, or appliances. The EPA also recommends borrowing or sharing items like party decorations or tools or donating any unused food to food banks.

### PUSH FOR LOCAL LEGISLATION

Local legislation that encourages bans on plastics will not only encourage a cleaner environment but can also save the community money due to keeping local streets and parks clean. According to new research published in the Journal of the Endocrine Society, endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) in plastics pose a serious threat to public health and cost the U.S. an estimated \$250 billion in increased health care costs in 2018.

"Reducing plastic overall, and calling for plastic bans where you can, is going to save everybody in the nation money and everybody in the community money," Charron said.

### ATTEND A LOCAL CLEAN UP

Volunteering to pick up trash or attending a local clean up in your community is one of the best ways to contribute to a cleaner and healthier community. Find a local clean up in your area by visiting [www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/](http://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2024/)



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or scan the QR code.



# Granbury Oink Oink Fest German Pig Roast



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
 The Granbury Oink Oink Fest took place on April 5-7 with perfect weather. Foodie Festival attendees witnessed traditional German Pig Roasts, indulged in delicious sandwiches and ribs, cold beer, plenty of vendors, and tons of family fun and live entertainment. The event was hosted by Ketzlers in Granbury Square Plaza.



# Capturing the tiny wonders: iPhone macro photography tips for flower lovers

**BY MICKY SHEARON**  
Special to the  
Hood County News

Macro photography invites us into the intricate world of minute details often invisible to the naked eye. With the rise of powerful smartphone cameras, specifically the iPhone, capturing these minuscule marvels has never been more accessible. If you're fascinated by the delicate artistry of flowers and eager to showcase their splendid details, here's a lively and engaging guide to mastering flower macro photography using your iPhone.

## GEAR UP WITH A GREAT MACRO LENS

You used to need an additional clip-on or attachable lens to take proper macro (close-up) photos on an iPhone. But if you have an iPhone 13 Pro or later model, the native iPhone camera has a built-in macro mode, which allows you to take detailed macro photos. Apple allowed the phone to focus as close as 2 centimeters from an object — ideal for getting up close and personal. I've had some pretty decent results using just the built-in macro photo feature.

However, in my experience, the built-in macro lens still has some limitations. If you're a bit more serious and want to dive deeper into macro photography with your iPhone, you can purchase attachable macro lenses for your iPhone. I have used several macro lenses on various iPhones over the years. My favorites are the Sandmarc and Moment macro lenses. Both lenses are high quality and provide



With the rise of powerful smartphone cameras, specifically the iPhone, capturing these minuscule marvels has never been more accessible.

great clarity and detail, transforming your phone into a macro powerhouse.

There are a couple of downsides to using these macro lenses. First, obviously, is the cost. The Sandmarc and Moment macro lenses will cost you north of \$100. In addition, for best results, you also need to use these lenses in conjunction with the Sandmarc or Moment phone case to which the lenses attach. The cases aren't all that expensive, but it does add another \$30-\$50 to your set up. In my opinion, spend a little bit of extra money, and you will literally be shocked by the amazing photos you can take!

## HUNT FOR UNIQUE FLORAL FEATURES

Each flower holds a secret waiting to be unveiled. Hunt for flowers displaying unique textures, vivid colors and intriguing forms. Adding elements like water droplets or a lurking insect can infuse life and a story into your photo. Don't shy away from capturing different life stages of flowers — from budding to full bloom or even senescence — for a touch of poetic grace.

## PLAY WITH COLORS

Colors can make or break your macro shots. Use color theory to choose flowers

that will either pop against contrasting backgrounds or blend harmoniously with muted tones. Tweak the saturation and temperature settings on your iPhone to make those colors sing and refine them further with editing apps post-shoot.

## MASTER THE LIGHT

The magic hour of early mornings or late afternoons offers the soft, diffused light perfect for macro photography. Avoid the harsh mid-day sun and consider using reflectors or diffusers to manipulate lighting conditions, especially in shaded or indoor settings.

## PREFER STILLNESS

Wind and movement are the arch-nemeses of sharp macro shots. Opt for calm days or bring your floral subjects indoors. Gently securing them can help maintain their natural posture, offering a steady subject for a clear shot.

## FOCUS ON CLARITY

Sharpness is paramount in macro photography. Use your iPhone's manual focus or tap-to-focus to lock onto your desired detail. Employ techniques like steady hand-holding or even a tripod to avoid blurry disappointments. Don't hesitate to take

multiple shots at different distances to increase your chances of capturing a crisp image.

## CONSIDER CREATIVE BACKGROUNDS

The background can either elevate your subject or distract from it. Choose backgrounds that complement or thoughtfully contrast with your flower. Play around with materials and distances to achieve a pleasing blur or bokeh effect that makes your subject stand out.

## INTRODUCE TINY PROPS

Props can add an element of surprise or context to your floral photographs. Place them strategically to guide the viewer's eye toward the flower, ensuring they enhance rather than overpower the main subject.

## EXPERIMENT WITH ANGLES

Exploring various angles can uncover breathtaking perspectives of a flower. Shift around to see how the light changes the dynamics of your subject. Use your iPhone's burst mode to capture a series of angles swiftly, adapting to changing conditions or your creative whims.

Whether you're a novice or a seasoned iPhone photographer, I hope this article inspires you to explore the enchanting world of flower macro photography using nothing more than your iPhone and a touch of creativity. Embark on your macro photography journey with these tips, and turn simple floral subjects into striking art pieces, all with your iPhone!

# Keep our crews and yourself safe in work zones

By the Texas Department of Transportation

AUSTIN - Have you ever felt the blast of air from traffic on the side of a highway? The ceaseless noise, staggering winds and two-ton vehicles speeding just feet away can be terrifying for highway workers in work zones.

With the Texas population continuing to grow, more and more projects are popping up to address congestion and improve safety. Crews at these sites just want to get the job done and come home safely to their families. But drivers are actually the people getting hurt more often in work zones.

Last year 190 people were killed in work zones, and 77% were drivers or their passengers. It's a major concern, and during National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19, TxDOT's

"Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign will give safe driving tips for navigating these work zones.

"Keeping our Texas highway system functioning and safe requires constant effort from dedicated crews," TxDOT Executive Director Marc Williams said. "Drivers should anticipate work zones and changing road conditions and always be prepared to slow down, follow signs and pay attention."

Following two consecutive years of declines in the number of traffic fatalities in work zones, TxDOT is urging Texans to help continue this trend by slowing down, staying alert and obeying posted signage when driving through road construction or maintenance areas. The "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign offers these tips for safely navigating work zones:

## SLOW DOWN

Follow the posted speed limit and never drive faster than what is safe for road conditions. Excessive speed is a leading cause of work zone crashes.

## PAY ATTENTION

Avoid distractions, keep your mind on the road and put your phone away.

## WATCH OUT FOR ROAD CREWS

Roadside workers want to get home safely too. Always follow instructions and be mindful of construction area road signs.

## DON'T TAILGATE

Traffic in work zones can slow suddenly so give yourself room to stop in a hurry. Rear-end collisions are the most common type of work zone crashes.



Roadside workers want to get home safely too. Always follow instructions and be mindful of construction area road signs.

## ALLOW EXTRA TIME

Road construction can slow things down. Count on it, and plan for it. TxDOT also reminds motorists to follow the state's Move Over/Slow Down law that requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when ap-

proaching TxDOT, emergency, law enforcement, tow truck or utility vehicles stopped with flashing lights activated on the roadside.

To spread work zone safety awareness and encourage safe driving behaviors, roadway safety professionals are encouraged to wear orange April 17 for Go Orange Day. TxDOT's "Be Safe.

Drive Smart." campaign is a key component of #EndTheStreakTX, a broader social media and word-of-mouth effort that encourages drivers to make safer choices while behind the wheel to help end the streak of daily deaths. Nov. 7, 2000, was the last deathless day on Texas roadways.

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BOOK REVIEW

# Thank you for your service

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Necessary reaction, or awkward sentiment? To some, it's a little of both, but most would agree that gratitude is appropriate, even needed. Thank you for putting your life on the line. Thank you for your protection. In the new memoir, "The Wives" by Simone Gorrindo, thank you for remaining behind.

She told him she'd leave him. When her partner, Andrew, said he was thinking of joining the military, Simone Gorrindo couldn't imagine it. She'd grown up being taught that guns were bad; she'd even protested a war once and then "gotten drinks at an East Village bar." She had a dream job in New York. They'd just moved in together. An enlistment was unthinkable.

But Andrew never stopped dreaming. Two years later, Gorrindo "noticed an Army recruitment pamphlet on our nightstand." The couple sought counseling; he told her that if he had to choose between the Army and her, he'd choose the Army.

Still, she chose him. They married hastily and moved near Ft. Benning, Georgia, where Andrew would be stationed with a Special Operations contract in-hand. He'd become a member of "The Unit" if he could "pass a rigorous selection process."

He'd have a lot to learn, but so would Gorrindo.

They had off-base housing but she couldn't muster the strength to make it a home. She knew nobody in Georgia, and the wives' hierarchy on base was baffling; so were the

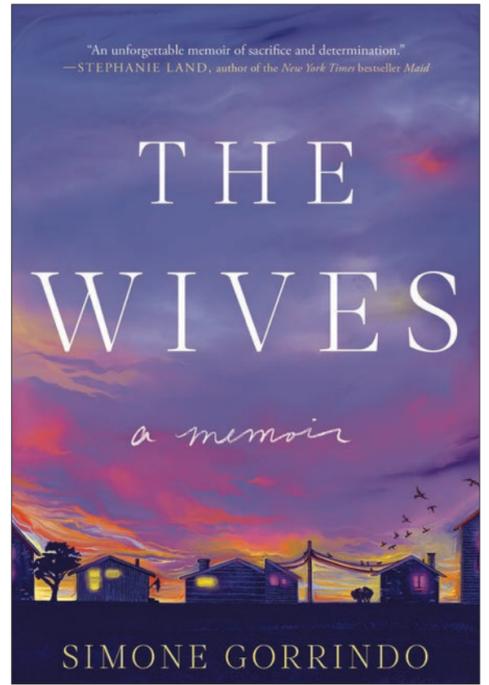
unknowns and the things nobody - her husband, his team, other wives - could or would tell her. She constantly feared that a "key caller" might notify her of an injury or death in The Unit. She struggled with a marriage, a pregnancy, and a husband who was gone, deployed, way more than he was home, and she missed her old life in New York.

"People told us, from time to time," she says, "that we knew what we were 'signing up for.' But who really knows what she is signing up for?"

Thank you for your service. You hear it often, or you say it often and you mean it every time. Those who protect and defend our country should be lauded but, as you'll see in "The Wives," we can't forget the other half of this sacrifice. In a big way, it's painful to

read about. Author Simone Gorrindo writes about weeks of trying to fit in and figure out how to live as a married woman with aspects of singlehood, in a place that's unfamiliar, and sometimes uncomfortable and unfriendly. On that note, when the story's anger and loneliness have eased, Gorrindo flips it around to write urgently about the necessity of new friends and support - even though that, too, can be fraught with playground-like worries. It's a struggle that, even if you've never been a dependent, feels familiar.

Reading this story is to immerse yourself into a balancing act that millions of military spouses master, making this a book for them, for civilians, and for the appreciative. Enjoy "The Wives." It will serve you well.



"The Wives: A Memoir" by Simone Gorrindo c.2024, Scout Press, \$29.99, 407 pages.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

## Interesting facts about Texas



CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

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

Many of you reading this column are native-born Texans and may know most of the following facts. But in spite of that, do you know the reason or explanation behind the facts? However, some of us are "transplants" and want to know more about our current area. Hopefully, both natives and transplants will find these facts intriguing and fascinating. As always, it is

possible to find conflicting information about facts, but time allows for only so much research.

So sit back and enjoy learning, perhaps, even more about the Lone Star state.

Texas football is no joke. In fact, in 2014 the small town of Decatur voted to reschedule Halloween to October 30 because the Oct. 31 date would have con-

flicted with the local high school's Friday night football game.

There is a dialect of German that's only spoken in Texas. Texas has a huge amount of German cultural influence thanks to the influx of German immigrants who came to the state in the mid-19th century. "Texas German" is still spoken today, and you'll encounter it particularly in the towns of Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Boerne, Schulenburg and Weimar.

Texas is pretty quirky, and all it takes is a look at its legal code to see that.

PLEASE SEE TEXAS | C9



Texas has a huge amount of German cultural influence thanks to the influx of German immigrants who came to the state in the mid-19th century.

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**Friday, 19 April 2024 - Thursday, 25 April 2024**

**Abigail (R)**  
 Fri: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM, 10:05PM.  
 Sat: 11:15AM, 1:55PM, 4:35PM, 7:15PM, 9:55PM.  
 Sun: 11:15AM, 1:55PM, 4:35PM, 7:15PM.  
 Mon: 2:20PM, 5:00PM, 7:35PM.  
 Tues: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.  
 Wed: 3:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:25PM.  
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM

**Challengers (R)**  
 Thurs: 4:00PM, 7:05PM

**Civil War (R)**  
 Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.  
 Sat: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.  
 Sun: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM.  
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.  
 Thurs: 4:50PM, 7:25PM

**Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire (PG13)**  
 Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.  
 Sat: 10:50AM, 1:35PM, 4:20PM, 7:05PM, 9:50PM.  
 Sun: 10:50AM, 1:35PM, 4:20PM, 7:05PM.  
 Mon: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.  
 Tues: 2:00PM, 4:45PM.  
 Wed: 2:00PM.  
 Thurs: 3:45PM

**Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG13)**  
 Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.  
 Sat: 10:50AM, 1:35PM, 4:20PM, 7:05PM, 9:50PM.  
 Sun: 10:55AM, 1:40PM, 4:25PM, 7:10PM.  
 Mon: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.  
 Tues: 2:30PM, 4:20PM, 7:30PM.  
 Wed: 7:10PM.  
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 6:50PM

**Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)**  
 Fri: 2:40PM, 5:00PM, 7:20PM.  
 Sat: 1:55PM, 4:15PM, 6:35PM.  
 Sun: 11:45AM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM.  
 Mon: 2:35PM, 5:00PM.  
 Tues, Wed: 2:00PM.  
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:25PM

**Miracle at the Movies: Locke + Signorelli (NR)**  
 Tues: 7:00PM

**Monkey Man (R)**  
 Fri: 9:45PM.  
 Sat: 9:00PM.  
 Sun: 7:00PM.  
 Mon: 7:25PM.  
 Wed: 4:20PM

**No Country for Old Men - Western Series (R)**  
 Wed: 2:00PM, 6:30PM

**The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare (R)**  
 Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:25PM, 10:15PM.  
 Sat: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM.  
 Sun: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM.  
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM

**Unsung Hero (PG)**  
 Thurs: 6:30PM

**Unsung Hero Early Access (PG)**  
 Wed: 6:00PM

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## GARDEN PATCH

# Know before buying; Perennials or annuals?

**BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER**



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

If you want to garden, you should learn the lingo. Anyone can buy a plant and hope that it grows, but why waste time, money and effort? To ensure success, educate yourself before planting. Get to know plants — their soil and water needs, mature size and their sun or shade preferences. It is also critical to understand their life cycles.

For example, the differences between perennials and annuals is confusing. Perennials are plants that live for a season, go dormant, and then return from their roots. They repeat this

cycle year after year. Annual plants complete their life cycle in a single growing season.

The tricky part? It's possible to plant a perennial that will survive only one season. And it's possible for an annual plant to show up in the garden a second year. What's up? A perennial planted in the wrong site will fail to thrive while some annuals can return from the previous season's seed or roots, provided conditions are right.

Success with perennials depends on using plants that prefer the conditions existing in your garden.



COURTESY PHOTO

**Annuals are known for their seasonal show, while perennials generally flower for a few weeks per year.**

Know your site's hardiness zone, soil type, drainage and water availability. Avoid perennials that need shade if you have a full sun site. And never select plants that prefer dry soil if your site is boggy. Give a plant poor conditions and it will not perennialize.

Look for perennials that

are cold hardy to your location. A plant that's perennial to warmer climates (Zone 9 and above) is called a tender perennial because it is not likely to survive an average winter planted in colder regions. Plants that reliably survive winters in North Central Texas are

PLEASE SEE **ANNUALS** | C10

# GO PLAY

### MONDAYS

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

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

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

**GRANBURY CIVIC** Chorus — rehearsals, Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See www.granbury-civicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. Come join us!

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

### TUESDAYS

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

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

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

### WEDNESDAYS

**HAND AND** Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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

### THURSDAYS

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS:** 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**CHESS CLUB,** 6-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

**GENERAL TRIVIA,** 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

**THE GRANBURY** Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

### FRIDAYS

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

### SATURDAYS

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

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

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

with us.

### SUNDAYS

**THE GRANBURY** Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

### FIRST MONDAYS

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

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

### SECOND MONDAYS

**MEETING OF** the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions call 361-510-6820 or email simanek1@charter.net.

### FIRST TUESDAYS

**GRANBURY DOLL** Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.

### SECOND TUESDAYS

**GRANBURY KNITTING** Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

### FOURTH TUESDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY** Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday each month (except November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

### FIRST THURSDAYS

**BRAZOS RIVER** Corvette Club meets the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8

p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs@aol.com.

### SECOND THURSDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY CERT** meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCo-Cert@gmail.com.

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

### THIRD THURSDAYS

**THE HOOD** 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.

### SECOND SATURDAYS

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

### THIRD MONDAYS

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

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

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

### LAST THURSDAYS

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

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

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1 John 4:12

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254-646-9926

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817-579-5424

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817-663-5384

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254-965-3840

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254-646-2484

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817-573-3339

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254-396-3162

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"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, 'Fear not, I am the one who helps you.'"

Isaiah 41:13

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalms 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Auxiliary sponsored golf tournament today in pecan



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.

Teams are secured, the schedule made and golfers will tee off today for Pecan's Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary's annual golf tournament fundraiser. Even though golf play preparation is complete, Pecaners may still be a part of the fundraising efforts happening in conjunction with the tournament through raffle ticket sales. Last year's total for raffle fundraising reached \$12,000, and the auxiliary hopes to repeat or exceed that success this year.

Ticket sales are happening today from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the pavilion in front of the golf pro shop and 19th Hole with the raffle drawing coming at 4 p.m. Entrants need not be present to win. The auxiliary is offering 16 high-end items from very generous donors. Tickets are \$20 each or six for \$100, and purchasers may choose the prize item number for ticket placement.

In addition, more than 15 standard raffle prizes and themed baskets filled with all kinds of goodies are up for winning with tickets priced at \$5 each or five for \$20. Every penny raised from both the golf tournament and raffle ticket sales goes to support our community's emergency service volunteers.

**DEAL TIME**

Treasures will be bought and sold during Pecan's spring garage sale today, Saturday, April 20, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Gates will be open to the public and sale lists of participating homes distributed to shoppers.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

Pecan's Breakfast Club will gather again Wednesday, April 24 when the day will begin with a "10 Minute Conversation" with Gail Joyce followed by a presentation by Debby Gordon, event planner/coordinator for the Historic Granbury Merchants Association. Breakfast will be

available at 9 a.m. with the program beginning at 9:45 a.m. Reservations are due by noon Tuesday, April 23: 817-573-2641.

**GOOD READ**

The Hood County Bookmobile will be in the PAC parking lot Wednesday, April 24 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return library materials to the bookmobile. For more information, contact Robin Scanlon at 817-573-3569.

**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 and enjoy time outdoors.

Pecan's Food and Beverage Department will sell hotdogs, brats and beverages, and Friends of Pooch Plantation (FOPP) will sell homemade dog treats.

Hood County Animal Control will hold a pet adoption 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.

**GOLF GAME**

Registration for Pecan's MGA Member/Guest Tournament has begun. Email with a signup link went out



COURTESY PHOTO BY LANA ROBINSON

Raffle ticket sales are an important part of the fundraising in conjunction with Pecan's VFD/EMS Auxiliary Golf Tournament, and Auxiliary members will be selling tickets on tournament day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the golf course pavilion before the drawings at 4. Pictured are Auxiliary Co-President Jeanie Curry; Secretary Julie Logan; and Co-President Donna Bullis.

to Pecaners, 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 quickly is paramount.

In addition, Pecan will sell 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 arrives May 3-5. For complete information, visit the golf pro shop:

817-573-2645.

**WATER WORKS**

The irrigation installation project on Pecan's golf course continues with just two holes (8 and 9) left for major work with hopefully all 18 holes being open for weekend play. When installation on all holes is complete, a few smaller tasks will exist to finish the work completely, but no hole closures are anticipated. While workers and equipment are on the course, golfers will want to exercise caution as well as check with the pro shop for current updates.

**RACE DAY**

Pecaners may prepare their suits and hats for a Kentucky Derby Day Party scheduled for Saturday, May 4 from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. The menu will include charcuterie boards, hors

d'oeuvres and mint juleps, in addition to revelry and fun. Call the clubhouse for a reservation: 817-573-2641.

**PLANT PURCHASE**

Pecan's Green Thumb Garden Club will host a fundraiser Saturday, May 4 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PAC gym when a large variety of plants and garden décor will be available for purchase. All proceeds from the day will fund garden club projects in our community.

**SWIM SEASON**

The PAC pool is now. April pool hours are 7:30 a.m. to sunset; May through August hours are 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The PAC pool is closed Wednesdays. The clubhouse pool will open Friday, May 24.

**ECLIPSE EVENT**

Members of the Pecan

Plantation Community Gardens Club enjoyed a perfect afternoon last week viewing the solar eclipse, eating scrumptious snacks and fellowshiping with friends. The food fare included a variety of vegetable-infused dishes including roasted beet hummus, basil dip and lettuce wrapped chicken sandwiches.

The next garden workday comes Saturday, April 27 beginning at 9 a.m., and Pecaners are welcome to stop by while folks are out working. In addition, more garden information may be found by following the group on its Facebook page: Pecan Plantation Community Gardens.

**SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Wilma Sexton, who passed away April 11.

## TEXAS

FROM PAGE C6

The state still has plenty of strange, antiquated laws that will definitely raise your eyebrows. For instance, it's illegal to sell your eye, to dust a public building with a feather duster, to milk somebody else's cow, and to shoot a buffalo from the second story of a hotel. And you absolutely cannot let a camel run loose on the beaches of Galveston. On the other hand, it's totally

legal for you to shoot and kill Bigfoot if you happen to see him out and about.

Dr Pepper was invented in Texas in 1885. Created by Charles Alderton in Waco, Dr Pepper was first nationally marketed in 1904 and is now sold all over the world. The recipe is a secret and is kept in two halves in safety deposit boxes located in two different Dallas banks.

The first frozen margarita machine was invented in Dallas by restaurateur Mariano Martinez who drew inspiration from the

Slurpee machines at 7-11, adapted a soft-serve ice cream machine to make frozen margaritas and called it "The World's First Frozen Margarita Machine." It is now on display at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Bugs Bunny's catchphrase "What's Up, Doc?" originated in Dallas. Looney Tunes animator Tex Avery, who attended North Dallas High School, introduced the phrase. He later said he didn't think much of it

because it was a common phrase used where he grew up.

The Six Flags Over Texas theme park is named for the six countries that have ruled over Texas. These six countries are Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, the United States, and the Confederate States of America. The six flags can be found on the reverse of the Seal of Texas.

Texas uses its own power grid, separate from the rest of the United States. There are three power grids in

the U.S. one for states east of the Rocky Mountains, one for states between the Pacific and the Rocky Mountains, and one for Texas. The Texas power grid was established during WWII to make sure all the Texas factories producing critical war supplies were self-sustainable.

The colors used on the Texas flag are the exact same as those used on the United States flag. The red, white and blue colors in the flag are required to be an exact match to those on

the national flag. Each color has its own meaning: red for bravery, white for purity and blue for loyalty.

The deadliest natural disaster in United States history occurred in Texas. The Great Galveston Hurricane of 1900 took between 6,000 and 12,000 lives with a storm surge of 8 to 15 feet (2.4-4.5m). The next deadliest hurricane in U.S. history was Hurricane Katrina, which claimed 1,200 lives.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Keeping up on New Year's resolutions



**BY DON NEWBURY**

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

My ancient Uncle Mort is not one to speak negatively of neighbors, unless they live at least three cattleguards away.

He recently "spilled the beans" on a neighbor who lives so deep in the thicket that no one passes his house going to town.

The old guy admitted to Mort recently that he had made a high-bar new year's resolution. A fan of the grape, he vowed to swear off the devil's brew, "except maybe on holidays."

He said he maintained his sobriety until Valentine's Day before uncorking a

bottle, or "maybe it was two bottles."

The challenge became daunting. He wasn't sure he could make it until Easter without a drink. Then, he saw a newspaper ad proclaiming March as Ford Truck Month. This — he concluded — allowed him to substantially water down his sobriety pledge for a whole month.

Mort's neighbor was "king's X" on his resolution for 31 days.

My uncle said he's been making monthly contributions for years to a small seminary back east that has

added a new course. He's thinking of canceling contributions, perhaps even stopping payment on April's \$5 check.

He says the catalog's description of one course is "beyond frivolous." It claims to be "an in-depth study of nightmares, baptisms and the hereafter."

Students already have renamed this course, calling it "bed, bath and beyond."

A big fan of the Texas Rangers, Mort remains giddy about their 2023 World Series championship. He bragged about the rings distributed recently.

Valued at \$75,000 each, the rings are symbolic of much.

They are encrusted with enough "rocks" to start a landslide, an interchangeable top and — of all things — a secret compartment.

Their weight is about the same as the average baseball.

Players and about 40 other awardees have gushed endlessly about the rings' beauty, their gratitude and optimism about repeating as champions in the 2024 season.

Mort couldn't believe the rings are so heavy.

My uncle is optimistic for the 2024 team, joining other fans whose hope flames eternal. He admits, however, that he's concerned about bullpen depth.

Manager Bruce Boche and his coaches need to carefully inspect all relief pitchers before they reach the mound, according to Mort. Inspect? Huh?

"Yeah, with them rings being so big, coaches must be certain that relievers don't wear them on the mound," Mort joked. "If they insist

on wearing their bling, they need to be sure it's not on their pitching hands."

Mort went to a tiny high school in East Texas. I never knew it until recently, but he was on the high school baseball squad. Trouble was, he said, there were too many boys in high school — 10.

Since only nine players were needed on the team, he was always the bench warmer. On the final game of his senior year, the bases were loaded and the game was tied in the home half of the ninth inning. Two batters were out when the coach called his name to pinch-hit, despite Mort's never having played in a game.

The coach rattled off specific instructions. "Mort, I want you to look that pitcher straight in the eye, crowd the plate and get hit!"

Forever the "concept guy"

who leaves the details to others, Mort tips his hat to the Werner Ladder Company for its creative advertising in lockstep with the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

For 15 years, Werner has manufactured custom ladders for winning "March Madness" teams, both men and women. This year, they turned out 60 ladders for all NCAA tournament divisions. "I made this suggestion decades ago, so I guess the ladder people must have come across some of my old letters," Mort believes.

Werner's contribution has led to numerous illustrations about "climbing the ladder," "reaching new heights" or "making it to the top." Poor Mort. He remains a "concept guy," a legend in his own mind.

## ANNUALS

FROM PAGE C7

deemed "hardy" to the area (Zone 7-8). Examples include salvia greggii, iris, purple coneflower, black-eyed Susan, Texas betony, mistflower, pincushion flower and daylily.

Perennials come in a wide array of shapes, sizes and colors, making them

versatile for use in various garden designs. By carefully selecting a mix of perennials with various bloom times, you can create a garden that offers long-lasting color and interest. Although perennials are low maintenance compared to annuals, they require occasional trimming, deadheading, cleanup and dividing.

Annuals are known for their seasonal show. While

perennials generally flower for a few weeks per year, annuals flower all season. Some annuals are easily grown from seed with blooms expected in about 60 days.

Flowering annuals are also readily available in nurseries. They offer instant gratification; take them home, plant them and enjoy! Annuals provide variety in terms of color, size and texture. If you want a different look next

year, it's easy to switch to another type of annual.

Unlike perennials, reseeded annuals complete their lifecycle in a single growing season, but they can self-seed, producing new plants from dropped seeds — no planting required! They easily provide a continuous, almost effortless supply of new plants. But they can be too much of a good thing. Regular removal of excess

seedlings helps to prevent aggressive spread.

Combining a mix of perennials with annuals creates diverse, visually appealing gardens. By understanding the lifecycles and characteristics of these plants, you can make informed buying decisions.

Attend the LGMG Plant Sale today, 8 a.m. - noon (or until all plants are sold), LGMG Demonstration

Garden, 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or online at lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

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