



Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

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COURTESY PHOTO BY LYNN BUTLER

Sheriff: Steve Biggers arrested for allegedly tampering with government record



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve Biggers

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County Republican Party Chair Steve Biggers was placed under arrest Friday, April 19 for allegedly tampering with a government record — a third degree felony.

According to the probable cause affidavit, law enforcement stopped a vehicle driven by Biggers bearing a Texas one trip permit April 17. The permit, which had been lawfully issued, stated the vehicle trip would originate in Tyler with a destination of Granbury. By law, the permit was to last no longer than 15 days or once the vehicle reached its destination. During an investigation, law enforcement discovered Biggers had used the vehicle in Hood County at least six times for personal use, after its arrival in Hood County.

Consequently, Biggers was cited for unauthorized/improper use of a temp tag, violation of special use provisions-school bus and operating a vehicle without required inspection, along with a warning for an improperly placed temp tag. The temp tags for the vehicle were confiscated by the HCSO.

Reportedly, later that same day, Biggers appeared at the Hood County Vehicle Registration Office, where he submitted an application indicating he had not previously received a citation for violating the registration laws of the state of Texas. From the alleged false information provided by Biggers, a second temporary registration was issued.

According to a complaint submitted by Deputy Michael Harris and approved by Justice of the Peace Roger "Cotton" Howell, Harris had been advised by a source that Biggers had secured the new temporary plates. Upon investigation — including viewing the video of the Hood County Vehicle Registration Office showing Biggers conducting the transaction — a complaint was filed.

The Hood County Sheriff's Office reported that deputies conducted a traffic stop/warrant service in the 1700 block of Weatherford Highway on the afternoon of Friday, April 19. The driver, Biggers, was placed under arrest pursuant to a warrant alleging he entered false information on a government record to obtain a temporary vehicle registration from the Hood County Vehicle Registration Office.

The vehicle involved in each of the incidents outlined above is the "No School Bond" bus, which Biggers has utilized the past couple of weeks to engage and campaign with supporters and non supporters of the Granbury Independent School District bond.

According to the Hood County Sheriff Bond Report, Biggers was released from jail later the same day on a \$1,000 personal recognizance bond.

PLEASE SEE **BIGGERS** | A7

And the Bonnets in Bloom contest winner is...

From Staff Reports

The grand prize-winning photo in the HCN 2024 Bluebonnets in Bloom photo contest, sponsored by First National Bank, is shown above. The photo, taken by Lynn Butler along Farm-to-Market Road 4 near the

county line, exemplifies the Lone Star State, depicting both bluebonnets and Texas longhorns. This was one of dozens of photos submitted for this year's contest.

As the grand prize winner, Butler will receive a \$200 cash prize, a Bluebonnets in

Bloom T-shirt, and a one-year subscription to the Hood County News.

Next year's contest will begin in March 2025. Watch the Hood County News in print, online and on our social media platforms for announcements about next

year's contest.

The Hood County News sends special thanks to this year's sponsor, First National Bank, and to all the photographers across the county who submitted such beautiful photos of Texas' iconic state flower — the bluebonnet.

City releases first Comprehensive Plan survey following successful open house

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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The city of Granbury recently held its first open house meeting regarding the city's next Comprehensive Plan, with residents voicing their opinions on how to best shape the future of Granbury.

"The Comprehensive Plan is a policy document that guides the city," Director of Community Development Kira Wauwie previously told the Hood County News. "It's a vision document that establishes what the future would look like. It was adopted in 2016, and it has a generalized lifespan of being long term, which for Granbury is about 10 years, so we would anticipate it being updated now. This is our first step."

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as the city's road map for the next 10 to 20 years. It will include recommendations for addressing issues related to transportation, land use, downtown and economic development. The Granbury City Council, planning and zoning commission, and city staff will use the plan to make important land use, budgeting and development decisions.

"This first meeting is geared to inform the community on the project itself, to let them know that there's about a one-year horizon to complete it," Wauwie previously told the HCN. "They would gain information on the background of the comprehensive plan like, 'What is a plan?' and the project itself, the steps involved



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury resident Faye Landham voices her input regarding Granbury's transportation priorities during the city's Comprehensive Plan open house meeting on April 18.

and how they can contribute to the effort."

During the Comprehensive Plan open house meeting April 18, City Broadcast Specialist Chuck Licata showed a five-minute video to attendees detailing the importance of the plan, along with the city's statistics and data.

"The plan is especially important when it comes to decisions regarding development, zoning, infrastructure and transportation," Licata said in the video. "Your voice is needed to ensure that the community's input is reflected in the plan and to vet and inform planning phases. You can also help inform others about the

planning process."

Licata explained that the study will primarily look at the areas within the city limits, noting that the most prevalent land use in Granbury is single-family residential homes.

Census data shows that Granbury grew in population by almost 2,000 people over the last five years. If current growth trends continue, Licata said, Granbury could end up with a population of more than 23,000 people by 2045.

He also pointed out that Granbury is a community with two major age groups: 25 to 34, and 65 to 84, meaning the city is attractive to both young

adults and retirees.

"Age is strongly tied to housing choice," Licata said. "On average, Granbury has smaller household sizes and a larger percentage of households living in non-single-family housing compared to the surrounding area. In addition to a variety of housing types, Granbury's housing stock is on average much newer than it was a decade ago. Over 30% of existing homes in the city have been built since 2010. Overall, housing in Granbury is a mix of starter range and more expensive homes with the highest concentration be-

PLEASE SEE **SURVEY** | A3



138TH YEAR, NO. 17

Local, zone(s): 4 sections, 44 pages, plus supplements | State: 4 sections, 44 pages

INSIDE

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Annual Chamber Golf Classic a resounding success, thanks to community support

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

Our Granbury Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Classic, held at Harbor Lakes Golf Club, was a resounding success, thanks to the incredible support from our community and sponsors! We extend our deepest gratitude to our title sponsor, First National Bank of Granbury, whose generous support made this event possible.

With the backing of First National Bank of Granbury and all our sponsors, teams and volunteers, we were able to host a memorable event that brought together golf enthusiasts from across the region. Big shout out to the following sponsors:

- Title Sponsor: First National Bank of Granbury
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- Golf Gun Sponsor: Glenn Aire

- Company
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- Drink Cart Sponsor: Clear Path Home Care & Skyview Ranch Resort
- Photographer: CFX Photo
- Tee Box Sponsors: Clear Path Home Care, Wholesale Granite Direct, Josefina's Tamales, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Magnolia Realty,

Glenn Aire Company, Hood County News, Brightworks Car Wash, Southside Bank, Empire Realty Group, Metrogeek, Lake Granbury Conference Center, First National Bank, Lions Club of Granbury, Tri-County Electric Co-op, First Financial Bank, Wellington State Bank and Pinnacle Bank.

Harbor Lakes Golf Club provided a stunning backdrop for the event, and we are grateful for their hospitality and for hosting us once again. Plus, we are grateful for our Tee Box sponsors for spoiling our golfers all day long with a fantastic array of goodies, games, snacks and treats!

The success of the Annual Golf Classic would not have been possible without the participation of all the teams who played. Your enthusiasm and sportsmanship made the event truly special.



We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to ensure the smooth running of the event. Your hard work behind the scenes did not go unnoticed, and we are incredibly grateful for your contributions.

Once again, thank you to our title sponsor, First National Bank of Granbury, all our sponsors, Harbor Lakes Golf Club, the participating

teams and the dedicated volunteers. Your support has made this year's Annual Golf Classic one to remember.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year for another successful event! Check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GranburyChamberofCommerce for amazing photos of our event!

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FASTSIGNS

granbury CHAMBER

Member Spotlight

Cut, Paste & Play Shop

All your needs for scrapbooking, collage, and more!!

Cut, Paste & Play is your creative sanctuary where art meets healing! Immerse yourself in a world of scrapbooking, collage, and mixed media expression, tailored to your unique journey. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

granbury CHAMBER

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT
Nicole Wells

Business:
Aviva Granbury Senior Living
Time as an Ambassador:
4 Months

AVIVA GRANBURY

COURTESY GRAPHIC

We are so thankful for our amazing Ambassador, Nicole Wells with Aviva Granbury Senior Living! Nicole has been an Ambassador for 4 months. When asked why she loves being an Ambassador she said, "I absolutely love the people that I have met. Not only building professional relationships but personal ones, too. Being an ambassador allows me so many opportunities to engage with people, professions, and events that I would not normally have the opportunity to do." A fun fact about Nicole: "I have 4 boys, 30 chickens, 2 ducks, and 3 dogs. We have a good start to a backyard zoo. haha" Thank you Nicole for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

Granbury Community Band

CONCERT FREE

TUESDAY, APRIL 30
7PM

Granbury Baptist Church
1200 Weatherford Hwy.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

When you only know one side of a story, you are only half-smart



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

Last year the Dallas Mavericks traded for Kyrie Irving. Though he had previously won an NBA Championship and was highly regarded as a talent, the trade was viewed with a great deal of skepticism and disdain by many of those in the media. One major sports broadcasting entity graded the trade as a "D" suggesting that Irving was tough to get along with, was inconsistent in his play, was a bad teammate, and because of his antics he would never be able to achieve the level of success he once had. It was their contention that the Mavs had thrown their assets overboard and

taken on a player who would be nothing but a problem. He would never play well nor co-exist with the Mavs' superstar Luka Doncic. As a result, the team was going to flounder. Here we are a year later, and the Mavs are one of the hottest NBA teams, winning 16 or 18 games just prior to heading to the playoffs. Irving is playing at a true superstar level. What had historically been a poor rebounding and defensive team, had become one of the better teams in the league, seemingly making stops at will and rebounding every missed shot. Watching a game about two weeks before the season ended, the Mavs

were down by three with 10 seconds left with the opposing team shooting two free throws. Miraculously, the player missed both charity shots, the Mavs rebounded and moved the ball up the court to hit a three-point shot to send the game into overtime. In the extended period, the Mavs swept the opposition off the court. The telling part of the OT win was as soon as the final buzzer sounded, Irving and Doncic, the other Mavericks superstar, embraced each other at midcourt. This was not some ordinary, routine celebration; you could tell by their expressions they were excited and very pleased with what they had just accomplished. They put their arms on the shoulder of the other, and called over all their teammates to join them at center court so they could celebrate as group. It was clear to any-

one who saw this spontaneous emotion that the team was a tightknit group, and at the center of the leadership was Irving. Were the reports from last year wrong? It sure looks that way. No telling how many people were influenced by the reports and determined Irving was a "loser" who was going to be a problem, simply because someone had made some huge assumptions. The public nor the reporter truly knew what issues had caused problems with his prior teams nor if Irving was the one responsible. Even if he was to blame, it did not mean he was going to behave the same way in Dallas. We only knew one side of the story and assumed. Currently, anybody could look at Irving's play and body language and know he is excelling and happy to be a part of his team. His team is happy he is there.

We have the same sort of thing happening in our local politics. Citizens make hip pocket comments about issues, especially on social media, which are not based on anything but personal emotions and assumptions with no evidence or facts to support them. Seems like folks want to respond with vitriol rather than trying to talk with the opposition, becoming more informed with facts before making decisions on important issues. What would be the problem in listening to those with opposing views and trying to see if there is some degree of validity in their positions? Why not work to find solutions instead of causing conflict? Wouldn't it be wise to find the ground where both sides can be comfortable and then work toward answers? As we near election time, let us be reflective and analyti-

cal as we formulate our decisions. Vote not just with our hearts, but use our brains to seek out facts, question bold assertions and do not take every representation as being true before investigation. Look at the whole picture, not just the part which is in focus because it is what you already believe. People, nor a community can grow if they don't have the courage to challenge in the light of day, their ideas and preconceived notions. Making assumptions about people or ideas is nothing but a recipe for failure. Ask the teams that have had to play the Mavs recently. *Thought for the day: "It is useless to attempt to reason a man out of a thing he was never reasoned into."* -Jonathan Swift. Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out.



Folks around town

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lizz White

Say hello to our neighbor, Lizz White!

Lizz White, born and raised in the Midwest, moved to Texas over three decades ago. She found herself visiting good friends in Granbury often and decided to move here in 2015. She says the best part about living in "G town" is the people! "You can easily meet folks over a glass of wine, or end up going to dinner with new friends at one of the great restaurants." She also enjoys shopping at the unique boutiques and shops. Lizz dazzles audiences of all kinds with her band, The Mysterious Scoundrels. You can catch her doing an intimate duo at a local winery, taking the main stage with the full band about town, or performing on a parade float! Her sincere savvy, sometimes vulnerable voice sings straight from the heart. Speaking of hearts and stages... One particular evening while belting out her signature song "When a Man Loves a Woman" lead scoundrel, Bobby White, put down his guitar and dropped to one knee. Lizz said "yes" on the main stage in front of friends and fans right here on Bridge Street. They later married at the inaugural Granbury Rock-n-Blues Bash, now an annual event her band puts on every fall at the Warrens Back Yard venue. When she isn't performing music, Lizz and Bobby spend time with their goats, chickens, dogs, and current Great Pyrenees puppies which are for sale! She is past president of Lake Granbury Kiwanis and is now a board member.

SURVEY

FROM PAGE A1

ing homes that are between \$200,000 and \$300,000. In terms of income, Granbury's median household income is lower than the state medium — possibly reflecting the presence of many residents on a fixed income." According to Licata's video, Granbury's residents have also become more educated over the last decade, with high school diploma attainment rising to over 93%, and two-thirds of residents possessing at least some college education. Additional data also shows that the majority of residents leave the city for work each day. However, Granbury is not empty during working hours. Approximately 9,000 workers come into the city each day, at a net gain of about 5,400 people. The main forms of employment in Granbury are educational and healthcare services, professional services, manufacturing and financing insurance. "In summary, what does the Granbury of 2024 look like?" Licata asked, in the video. "Granbury is concentrated in terms of older population and diverse in its housing stock. The factors impacting growth and development here are high daytime population, lower median income, a high amount of available vacant land in the city limits and continued projected population growth."

Licata then asked attendees what factors contribute positively or negatively to Granbury's future, and how they should be addressed in the city's Comprehensive Plan. "A plan should also have an overarching vision," he said. "Each of the goals work best when they are connected to that vision, which centers and defines the plan. The vision should ask: What does Granbury want to be known for in 20 years?"

Attendees were then instructed to go upstairs to the council chambers, where a variety of interactive presentations were set up to gauge the community's input on Granbury's future. At a few of the presentations, attendees were asked to weigh in on some of the city's biggest issues. Using color coded stickers, residents put a dot next to the

item they felt was the biggest problem for the city. With nine votes, residents agreed that traffic congestion was Granbury's biggest issue, followed by industrial development with three votes. According to attendees, the biggest priority for the future of Granbury is growing roadway infrastructure and increasing mobility with eight votes. Establishing a clear brand and community identity, preserving historic places, and maintaining existing roadway infrastructure all tied with four votes each. As far as which retail and restaurant services residents would like to see more of, the top vote was for entertainment, followed by sit-down and full-service dining, brew pubs and doctor/dental/medical services/clinics.

In the question: What do you want Granbury to be known for in 2045, attendees voted for authentic/unique downtown as its priority, followed by small-town charm, waterfront community and historic places. When asked what Granbury's biggest asset is, residents were diverse in their answers, as they put down the city's tourism, lake, wonderful people and school. "I think this is a great idea," Granbury resident Faye Landham said about the open house. "I love this (presentation) about what our biggest issue is and it's interesting how most people put traffic congestion. I was surprised on this one though, about Granbury's biggest asset. I put 'school,' and nobody has put that. I was really surprised no one put our school because I do think our school is the biggest asset for our children."

Landham said she attended the open house out of curiosity, as she wanted to know what the city fathers think about the city versus what she, as a citizen, thinks about the city. "My only concern is that some of these things are saying they're not going to be enacted for 15 or 20 years, and I'm 83," she said. "I don't think I'm going to be here in 15 or 20 years, so I would like to see some of this stuff enacted before I die."

Dan Vanderburg, a local novelist and poet, said he attended the open house to try to stay current with what's taking place around town. "I think we have a good



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

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leadership in the community right now, with the city council members and the mayor," he said. "I think they're interested and they're all doing a good job." Vanderburg said he wishes to maintain the historic charm in downtown and around the square because it's the story of historic Granbury. "I like the fact that most of the stores downtown, their boutiques are privately owned for the most part," he said. "But I also think we need more sit-down restaurants around the town. We've got plenty of fast-food restaurants, but we need more quality places where you can sit down and get a reasonably priced meal. It's kind of hard to find these days."

Julia Pannell, a community leader and a longtime resident of Granbury, said it's wonderful that the city is being transparent with its residents. "They've done this before, and we can see that they listened, because I can see some of the things that they've done; that helps," she said. Pannell said that she would like to see a more in-depth relationship between members of the Granbury City Council, planning and zoning commission and the parks and recreation department.

"I think that if the Granbury City Council were to meet with the chair of each of those counties (((committees?))) — and they may be doing that already — but I think if they met with them, with the head of each committee, and see where they were, rather than maybe an annual report, they can address things sooner."

Pannell added that she thinks Granbury currently has one of the most aggressive and involved city councils than the city has ever had before. "You can tell that they study, you can tell that they've been thorough, and they don't always agree with each other — and that's, to me, a very aggressive, open city council," she said. As a 30-year resident of the city, Pannell said if she didn't come into the open house and voice her opinion, then she wouldn't be allowed to gripe. "I think if we want to have a say, we should show up," she said. "Show up or shut up."

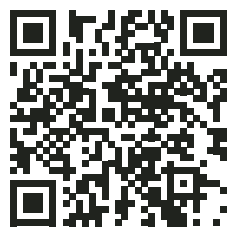
Granbury's Comprehensive Plan online survey is now available for residents who were unable to attend the open house meeting April 18. Residents can take the online survey to help shape the future of Granbury, make their voices heard by decision makers, ensure the plan meets the community's aspirations, and to contribute to the community vision and goals. To fill out the survey, scan the QR code below. The survey will be open until May 10. For more information about the city's Comprehensive Plan, visit the city website at granbury.org.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

County designates May 12-18 as National Police Week

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court designated May 12-18 as National Police Week during a regularly scheduled meeting April 23.

According to the proclamation read by Hood County Judge Ron Massingill, law enforcement agencies play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms to every American citizen.

The proclamation states it is important that all people throughout the community know and understand the problems, duties and responsibilities of our police departments and that members of law enforcement agencies recognize their duty to serve the people by safeguarding life and property, by also protecting them against violence or intimidation.

The court encourages

all citizens to set aside a time during National Police Week to recognize local law enforcement with a prayer of protection and support.

Friends of Memorial Lane will also host a ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 11, at the Jim Burks Firefighter Memorial Park to honor local law enforcement servants for their leadership and service to the community.

"Many have gone beyond the call of duty, and we have a community where these faithful have rendered dedicated service and in doing so have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving



The Hood County Commissioners Court designated May 12-18 as National Police Week during a regularly scheduled meeting on April 23.

the rights and securities for each of us," the proclamation reads.

The Hood County Commissioners Court proclaimed May 12-18 National

Police Week and May 11 as a day in which the community will join hands with others to say "thank you" to local servants from the sheriff, constables, police,

Brazos River Authority, state troopers and EMS branches.

For more information about National Police Week, visit policeweek.org online.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GISD BOND

Granbury schools are bursting at the seams. No question. So why is the bond proposal so vehemently opposed by nay-sayers? The push against the bond has ramped up significantly this go-round, resulting in significant name-calling and junior high mockery that evolves into arguments totally unrelated to the main issue.

If one looks beneath the surface of contentious Facebook threads, however, it becomes obvious that the

opposition leadership is pushing a far deeper political agenda than resistance to taxation. The broader goal is to bring down public schools. Ultra-conservative factions throughout our country have pushed for school vouchers for decades. Concurrently, they have launched a war against public schools, claiming that their "woke" agenda is eroding parents' rights — indoctrinating children and turning them against values parents wish to preserve. This same movement has shoved

common-sense conservatives out of the picture, labeling them as RINOS and leftists.

Schools have become their battleground, and GISD is bloodied and bruised, enduring unrelenting bombardment from an orchestrated local group whose impassioned rhetoric condemns the superintendent and majority of the school board, accusing them of bullying, hiding subversive activities and spending from the public, and stomping all over everybody's constitution-

al rights. Masks, books, bonds, whatever . . . their focus changes with the tide.

None of these core oppositionists have children in Granbury schools, nor, though they claim to protect our public-school children, do they give one fig for them. In fact, they discriminate against many. They simply want to be in control, and if they succeed in their quest, they will push their agenda through the front doors, back doors and leaky roofs of our schools until those schools collapse. Don't fall for their

angry rhetoric. A yes vote is a vote for Granbury's future.

Patty Sisco
Granbury

FACTS AND TRUTH

What we hear affects what we know. What we know influences what we believe. What we believe impacts what we do. That's why it is so important to listen to FACTS and truth, and not the opinion

PLEASE SEE
LETTERS | A14

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 16-22. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

APRIL 16

2:13 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on S. Morgan Street
2:29 a.m.: suspicious vehicle on E. Pearl Street
12:41 p.m.: forgery on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:06 p.m.: suspicious activity on N. Meadows Drive
4:51 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Holmes Drive
8:22 p.m.: criminal trespass on Paluxy Road
9:37 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:46 p.m.: public intoxication on N. Meadows Drive
Four minor accidents and 40 traffic stops occurred this day

APRIL 17

12:08 a.m.: disturbance on Quiet Cove
9:30 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on Hannaford Street
12:53 p.m.: theft of property on Spring Ridge Circle
2:23 p.m.: disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
2:52 p.m.: felony possession of marijuana on James Road
3:41 p.m.: suspicious activity on S. Morgan Street
5:54 p.m.: theft over \$2,500 and under \$30,000 on Acton Highway
Five minor accidents, two warrant services and 14 traffic stops occurred this day

APRIL 18

9:10 a.m.: assault on Abes Landing Drive
10:18 a.m.: shooting on N. Park Drive
2:00 p.m.: criminal trespass on S. Meadows Drive

6:01 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377

6:06 p.m.: loud music on W. Bluff Street
6:22 p.m.: vicious animal on Siesta Court
7:19 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:06 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:14 p.m.: threat on W. Pearl Street
11:02 p.m.: assault on Balboa Court

Two major accidents, a warrant service and 18 traffic stops occurred this day

APRIL 19

2:51 a.m.: open door on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:05 a.m.: lost property on W. U.S. Highway 377
3:47 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:08 p.m.: noise complaint on W. Pearl Street
11:17 p.m.: driving while license invalid on E. U.S. Highway 377

Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 24 traffic stops occurred this day

APRIL 20

6:26 a.m.: suspicious activity on W. Pearl Street
3:41 p.m.: public intoxication on Saratoga Boulevard
One major accident, four minor accidents, and 12 traffic stops occurred this day

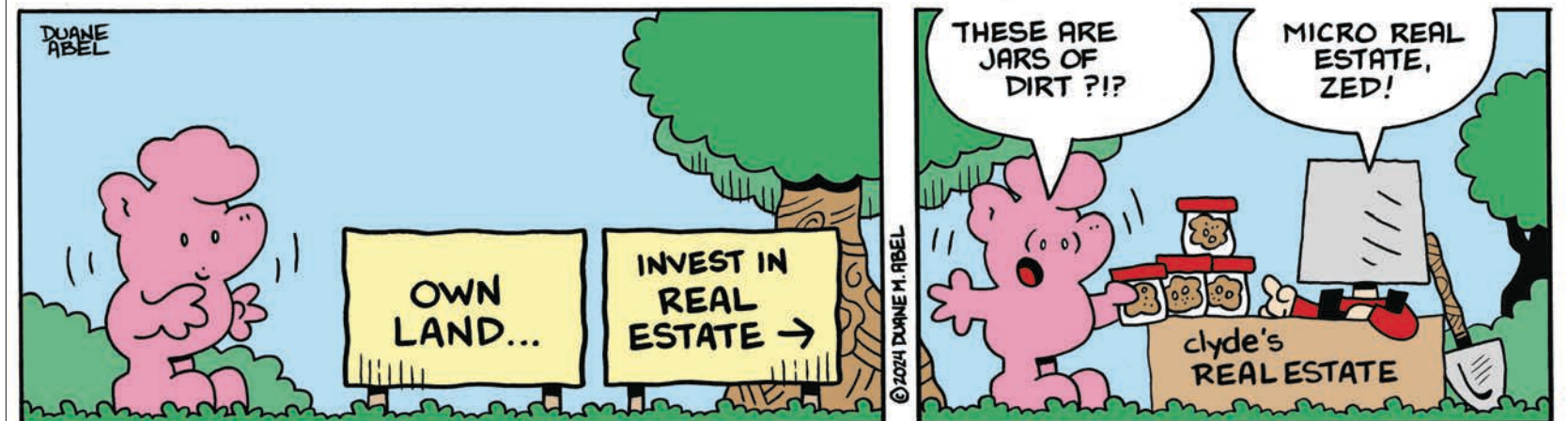
APRIL 21

3:41 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:13 p.m.: criminal mischief on Dawn Court
5:00 p.m.: fraud on Ruffins Road
7:02 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:13 p.m.: public intoxication on Lipan Highway
Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 22 traffic stops occurred this day

APRIL 22

4:00 a.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on N. Houston Street
8:39 a.m.: identity theft on Mallard Way
9:09 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on W. Pearl Street
9:57 a.m.: driver without a license on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:27 a.m.: felony possession of marijuana on W. Pearl Street
11:52 a.m.: terror threat on E. Pearl Street
2:43 p.m.: child abuse reported on Summerhill Court
3:09 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:31 p.m.: forgery on N.E. Loop 567
10:07 p.m.: disturbance on Paluxy Road
Three minor accidents and 17 traffic stops occurred this day

ZED by Duane M. Abel



CALENDAR

ONGOING

FORWARD TRAINING

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 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.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

GRANBURY COMMUNITY Band Spring Concert 7 p.m. at Granbury Baptist Church, 1200 Weatherford Highway. Admission is free.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

MS EXCEL/WORD class begins. Class runs through May 23 Tuesday and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. Call 817-573-6677 or email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 3

MELODY BELLES singers, women's choral group, present a spring concert: "Wishes & Dreams." 7 p.m., Langdon Center Concert Hall, 308 E. Bridge St. Free to the public. Donations welcome. Details, 817-999-1364.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

ACTON CEMETERY annual meeting 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Owners and family members are welcome to attend. No covered dishes, purchase lunch at Spring Creek. Questions? 817-326-4427.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

OPERA GUILD of Granbury meeting. Check-in/social time: 10 a.m. (new time), entertainment by Granbury Theatre Academy Kids with Matt Beutner at 11 a.m., meeting 11:30 a.m., luncheon at noon. The buffet is \$18, only cash and checks are accepted. Reservations are required for lunch and/or meeting by Friday, May 3 at noon. If you have a standing reservation and don't plan to attend also notify by same time. granburyog@gmail.com, or 817-776-2898.

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

City proclaims May 6-10 Economic Development Week



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

City Manager Chris Coffman, left, and Mayor Jim Jarratt, right, present a proclamation designating May 6-10 as Economic Development Week during a Granbury City Council Meeting April 16. Economic Development Director Lance LaCour, middle, was also recognized by Jarratt and Coffman.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury City Council issued a proclamation declaring May 6-10 Economic Development Week in the city during a regularly scheduled meeting April 16.

According to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, National Economic Development Week was created by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in 2016 to increase awareness of local programs that create jobs, advance career development opportunities and increase the quality of life.

Mayor Jim Jarratt read the proclamation, which states economic developers cultivate thriving neighborhoods, champion sustainability and resiliency, boost economic prosperity, enhance the quality of life and build robust tax bases.

According to the proclamation, the mission of economic development professionals is to proactively recruit economic development opportunities and new businesses, work with existing businesses to assist with business retention and expansion, support development of public infrastructure, and serve as an information clearinghouse.

Economic development professionals complete connections between community stakeholders to collaborate in promoting job creation, community investment, infrastructure advancements, and an optimistic future, the proclamation explains.

PLEASE SEE **MAY** | A7



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

City Manager Chris Coffman expressed his appreciation for the IT staff following the cyber attack last summer during a Granbury City Council meeting on April 16.

Livestreaming resumes for city meetings

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

After a nine-month hiatus, Granbury residents can once again watch city meetings from the comfort of their own homes.

Livestreaming officially resumed for the Granbury City Council meeting April 16 — the first meeting to be livestreamed following the city's cyber attack last summer.

On July 30, 2023, the city of Granbury's computer network was hacked, which resulted in the city declaring a catastrophe Oct. 17

"The initial infection started from something being clicked that activated the malicious software," Granbury Director of IT Services and Patrol Officer Chris Collins said during a city council meeting last August. "That software used that user's credentials to traverse the network. Anywhere that user logged into previously automatically infected those machines because the hacker had the credentials. Because that user was logged into our net motion system, it allowed that to travel from the police department side to city side."

During the network hack, city utility

customers were unable to make payments online and had to drop off payments in person. Credit card payments were also not accepted during the outage. Late fees and penalties were not collected and shutoffs were not conducted during this incident.

In January, utility billing resumed normally. All accounts that did not make regular payments or payment arrangements were subject to penalties and/or shutoff beginning in February.

"Tonight, we are back live," Mayor Jim Jarratt said during the April 16 meeting. "Our feeds that you have been getting on YouTube, you can now just go to granbury.org, click where it says, 'in the meeting,' and you can be right here with us."

With livestreaming resumed, City Manager Chris Coffman expressed his appreciation for the IT staff for being a well-dedicated group of individuals who provide exceptional effort to the city.

"We experienced the cyber event as you all well know, and they worked tirelessly to restore our systems, putting in countless hours of work," Coffman said. "Additionally, they provided various support projects such as the city hall renovation, access and control implementation, and we want

to commend you for your hard work." Coffman explained how on the night of the initial incident, Information Systems Technician Steven Swiney put in more than 20 hours of work. After a few hours of sleep, he woke up and continued his efforts to mitigate the network issue.

Likewise, Coffman said Collins has been a "blessing" for the city, with his depth of knowledge in cybersecurity.

"The fact that he is still one of our police officers is a double bonus for our city," Coffman said. "He offered great leadership skills to his team and organizations. He spent more time than you can imagine on this event that we had in 2023. We spent literally hundreds of thousands of dollars upgrading the IT system to where it would be more robust moving forward. Basically, it took a five-year plan and he and his team implemented the five-year capital improvement plan last year. We've still got some more things to do, but he implemented that to get us where we are today, and his team worked tirelessly to get it done."

Coffman added that in the midst of the cyber attack, Collins continued to renovate city hall with new wiring and

PLEASE SEE **RESUMES** | A7



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DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR TRAVIS LETTER PLAQUE



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Pictured are those who participated in the dedication ceremony for the Hood County bronze Travis Letter plaque on Saturday, April 20.



Pictured are the Texian Volunteer Army of 1836 at the courthouse during the ceremony.



Bill McNutt presenting Judge Ron Massingill with the Alber Martin Award.



The ceremony was well-attended.



From left; Bill McNutt, John Vick, Phil Harris, Judge Ron Massingill, Senator Brian Birdwell and Ron Sutton gathered around the plaque.

Community cleans up Granbury with 'trifecta' of events

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The city of Granbury is cleaner than it has been in months — and it's all thanks to the community.

On April 13, the city hosted its second Great Granbury Cleanup, where 180 volunteers spent their Saturday morning picking up trash along frequented roadways in town, like U.S. Highway 377 and State Highway 144.

Across the city, students, families, sports teams, church groups, and local service organizations donated their time to give back to the community — picking up

more than a ton of trash in the process.

"We had a lot of new people and a lot of people returned back for the Great Granbury Cleanup, so I was very pleased with that," Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale said during the event, in a video created by City Broadcast Specialist Chuck Licata. "A lot of trash out of the community and after today, it'll be a lot cleaner."

"It's amazing," Place 6 Council member Greg Corrigan said in the video. "I mean, anytime you can bring a group of people together to do something good for the community, it's always a



PHOTO COURTESY CITY OF GRANBURY YOUTUBE VIDEO

PLEASE SEE **CLEANS** | A11 Granbury City Council members along with other Granbury residents prepare to take part in the city's Great Granbury Cleanup on Saturday, April 13.



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RESUMES

FROM PAGE A5

cables, cameras and a security system, while also working with the city's insurance provider to gain all of the benefits possible from the cyber expense.

In addition, GIS Analyst Ian Patrick continued to handle the day-to-day GIS requests and learned how to reimage and deploy user systems to ensure the timely restoration of user services during incident recovery.

"What that means is all of our computers that were able to be reused tend to be reimaged, so he did that in his office while the other guys were out doing other work," Coffman explained.

Swiney also obtained two certificates: one as a Spillman administrator and the other as a P25 radio system administrator.

"During this last year-and-a-half, we implemented the P25 radio system, and we had to have people trained to run those computers to run that radio system," Coffman said. "(Swiney) was one of the first ones to get that training. He's also been actively pursuing his network certification, which he plans to complete this year."

Finally, IT/GISD Technician Travis Watkins — the newest addition to the IT team — also received his P25 radio system administrator certificate.

"That's a big change for us," Coffman said. "Now, we have two people here with the IT team that are certified to work on the P25 radio system that is basically the Granbury Radio Network, which serves hundreds of first responders at this point and will continue to grow."

Granbury's new regional radio network may be the first of its kind in Texas, allowing the Granbury Police Department to connect with several first responders in the area like Texas EMS, Air Evac and CareFlite medical transport companies, Hood and Erath County Sheriff's Offices and volunteer fire departments, Stephenville Police and Fire Departments, Tarleton State University, the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and the United States Marshals Service.

"I just wanted to publicly recognize these gentlemen for their hard work and what they've been putting the time in and the effort," Coffman added. "Most cases happen behind the scenes, and without their dedication and willingness to go the extra mile, the city's recovery from the cyber event would be greatly diminished and our IT services would not be as great as they are today."

Coffman added that Collins recently returned from a conference and was "shocked" at the level of security that's lacking in the industry.

"Local governments are vulnerable, beyond what we can imagine or talk about, and we're very blessed to have this team working with us and providing the services behind the scenes all the time," he said. "Thank you, guys. We appreciate it."

Granbury City Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m., while Planning and Zoning meetings are usually held the second Monday of every month at 6 p.m.

To watch the meetings in real time, visit granbury.org/live online.

City issues tickets to Granbury carnival for failure to obtain permit



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury City Council issued tickets to the Pride of Texas Shows for failure to obtain a special use permit before setting up a carnival at the Reunion Grounds from April 11-14.

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Many Hood County residents were ecstatic to learn that a carnival was in town from April 11-14 at the Reunion Grounds — but it wasn't all fun and games for this fair.

During a regular meeting of the Granbury City Council April 16, City Manager Chris Coffman revealed that the carnival, Pride of Texas Shows, had failed to obtain a specific use permit before setting up earlier that weekend — leaving the city with no choice but to issue tickets to the company.

"It's not an objective job," Coffman said. "We have rules that we have to enforce. Our city code specifically tells me as the city manager to ensure that all ordinances are followed, so when somebody violates the law, they remove the due process that the neighbors had from council

to be able to award a permit for that temporary use. They fully circumvented that, and that's very unfortunate."

According to legalmatch.com, a special use zoning permit allows a piece of property or land to be used in a manner that deviates from the normally accepted use in the area.

A specific use permit is required for certain types of uses, according to the Granbury website. Article 4 of the Zoning Ordinance defines which uses require a specific use permit. A specific use permit application and a site plan must be submitted and approved by

Granbury City Council before the use is permitted.

The Pride of Texas Shows is a family-owned and operated amusement company based out of Elm Mott that provides rides, games, and food concessions to fairs, festivals and events throughout the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska.

"It's unfortunate that you ask somebody not to continue to violate the law, and they continue to do it anyway, so it's very disheartening to have to write three tickets instead of one," Coffman said. "I guess it was a business decision. They think it's cheaper to pay the ticket than to lose money by not being in business."

Coffman explained that there were a total of 10 different work teams involved in the situation, including the building permits and inspections department, the

code enforcement department, inspections team, community development team, tourism team, the Granbury Police Department, the Granbury Municipal Court, the legal department, Granbury City Council, and Coffman himself as the city manager.

"All were involved (because of) those people coming into town to set up a carnival without going through the right process," he said. "Very disheartening to see somebody do that."

Coffman said now that the city has enforced its code, it's up to the court system to do its job.

"It caused a lot of internal stress trying to figure out how to be gentle and enforce the law," Coffman said. "It's very stressful to think that you're going to have to stop somebody from doing something that they wanted to do, probably as a fundraiser for

the organization."

According to a Facebook post which has since been deleted, Pride of Texas Shows advertised itself as the "largest carnival ever in Granbury," and had tagged Hood County Livestock Raisers and Reunion Grounds by HCLRA in the post.

"On their behalf, I'm sure the owners of that property that were cited don't remember the last time they went through the process a couple of years ago and neighbors were complaining about the carnival, so it's probably different leadership," Coffman explained. "I'm not sure what happened to those folks, but I think in the future that they will probably comply with this."

The Hood County News reached out to Pride of Texas Shows for comment but did not receive a response by press time.

BIGGERS

FROM PAGE A1

People familiar with the process explained to the Hood County News that a personal recognizance bond, or PR bond, is a bond that allows the accused to be released from jail on the promise that they will appear in court on a certain future date. Biggers later posted on his personal Facebook page that Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 Earl "Dub" Gillum had released him on the PR bond.

"The honorable Dub Gillum came to my rescue," Biggers said on Facebook. "Like a hot knight in shining armor, my hero made it possible for me (who had been booked on a 3rd degree felony) to walk out of jail for \$100."

"Mr. Biggers is my neighbor," Gillum said. "His family called me along with a few other people. I have personally known Mr. Biggers for the past five years through the Republican Club and Republican Club Executive Committee, which he is Chairman of. I will always

help out my neighbors in Hood County."

Gillum said although he was not the "on-call" JP, he has a "track record" of going to the jail if he is available when called, just as he is to sign warrants or mental commitments.

Once he was contacted to magistrate Biggers, Gillum said he contacted the on-call Justice of the Peace, Roger "Cotton" Howell, and let him know that he would be performing that duty.

According to an email from Admin Support Manager and Criminal Investigations Assistant Jodie McGuire, Gillum arraigned Biggers at approximately 6:45 p.m. April 19. He did not arraign anyone else that day.

"A bond is to ensure a defendant's appearance in court," Gillum said. "It's not a punishment. Mr. Biggers is well known in this community and an elected official. He is not a 'flight risk.'" Gillum said Biggers' charge is a nonviolent crime and that Biggers was trying to rectify the traffic offense.

In response to the arrest,

Biggers publicly claimed on his Facebook page that the Hood County Sheriff's office is corrupt. "Thank you, Sheriff Roger Deeds. NOW PEOPLE KNOW," Biggers said on his page. "They know just how deep the corruption goes. And just how evil pervades Hood County. This good 'ole boys' network is alive and well if you're willing to kiss the ring." When the Hood County News asked Biggers exactly whose ring needed to be kissed and what specific information he had that such a "network" existed, he declined to comment.

Biggers also publicly posted a photo of Hood County Sgt. Joshua Lane, who was the arresting officer in his case. Biggers said Lane is a "fine, upstanding example of the corruption in Hood County." When asked by the HCN what specific examples he had of Lane being corrupt, he declined to respond.

Biggers told the HCN he believes the Hood County Sheriff's Office is "being weaponized by local politicians." He also recently started a campaign on the

Christian crowdfunding website, GiveSendGo, where he is asking for support in fighting against the HCSO.

"We have a campaign to defeat a 161,000-million-dollar bond for GISD," the campaign states. "The efforts we are making are steam rolling over the 'Yes' people, so the Hood County Sheriff's Department has been weaponized to stop or interfere and slow momentum. A THIRD-DEGREE FELONY FOR A TRAFFIC STOP! I was booked into the Hood County jail, fingerprinted, photographed, and detained for six hours. IF LAW ENFORCEMENT CAN DO THIS TO CITIZENS AND TRY TO MUZZLE THEM FOR EXPRESSING OPPOSING VIEWS, THEN OUR COUNTRY AND FREEDOMS ARE FINISHED!"

When asked by the HCN who had weaponized the HCSO against him and what specifically they had done to interfere with his campaign efforts, he declined to respond.

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds responded to the

statements on social media made by Biggers.

"My people work hard on everything they do and if we can help people and work with people we will," he told the HCN. "Our job is to serve and protect the citizens of Hood County, but we must enforce the law. But if we can make contact and correct what is wrong, we will do it, but some do not listen and try to get around the system. We are fair and impartial, and we do not do anything for political reasons, but when something wrong is brought to our attention over and over, we must act. I have great employees that work hard every day to do what is right and to serve and protect everyone. I am proud to lead them serving Hood County."

Gillum added that Biggers also has an attorney, who is addressing this issue with the county.

Like all criminal defendants, Biggers is presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

MAY

FROM PAGE A5

The Granbury City Council proclaimed the week of May 6-10 Economic Development Week to recognize the important contributions made by economic

development professionals in attracting and retaining high-quality jobs and improving the quality of life in our community.

Over the span of two years, more than 500 National Economic Development Week campaigns have been created

throughout the United States and Canada, creating millions of impressions, hundreds of news stories, blog entries, videos, events and many, many activities, according to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. More than 40 communities officially

proclaimed the celebration week by signing resolutions, and many elected officials vocalized support for the profession and its contribution to their local economies.

Jarratt and City Manager Chris Coffman also recognized Economic

Development Director Lance LaCour during the meeting.

"This is one of those guys in one of those jobs that I was comparing it to earlier to a duck that's floating around out here on the pond, not doing a lot," Jarratt said. "You just don't

see what's going on underneath. What's going on underneath suddenly erupts, and everything's flying, water, feathers, everything's everywhere, and we're looking forward to that."

"It's a team effort all of the way," LaCour said.

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

HOME & BUSINESS SERVICES

5070
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We will clean your house exactly as you wish. We are available when you need us. (682)330-3419

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Call or text for a free quote for all your cleaning needs!
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5100
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NEED COMPUTER HELP?
Virus Removal/Repairs/Networks/Upgrades/Programming/Training and more. Over 25 years exp. Residential and Commercial (817) 579-8450

5110
Construction

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

5120
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Specializing in older clocks
Work guaranteed. 20 yrs exp.
Call anytime, (817) 559-9123

5140
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TECL#22551 50+ years
Residential/Commercial
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NO JOBS TOO SMALL!
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ELECTRICAL WORK
Residential and Commercial.
No job too large or small.
Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

5170
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Ornamental. Iron. Pipe. Wood. Privacy. Chain Link. Farm. Barb Wire. Non-Climb Fence. RV Covers. Metal Buildings. Pipe Fence. Carpports. Welding Service. Concrete & Stone Work. Dock Repairs. Free Estimates. (817)559-2333

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Quality cedar fences.
Redwood patio pergolas.
Licensed & bonded. 817-279-8115

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Repairs, Painting, Roofing, Plumbing, Electrical, Small concrete projects and Fencing. (682)387-2294.


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

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5200
Home Improvement

SNODGRASS PAINTING AND REMODELING, INC
One Stop Shop
A-Z Construction & Painting
A+ BBB Member
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GENERAL HOME REPAIRS AND REMODELING 30 years experience. Free Estimates. No Job Too Large or Small!
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Residential and commercial construction. No job too big, or too small. Remodel, new construction, decks, outdoor kitchens and more. Call Charlie Coleman today for a free estimate (817) 905-0983


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

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No job too small! Light fixtures, ceiling fans, faucets, new furniture assembly, blinds, repairs, odd jobs. Barry Hazel 817-891-2779

THE COWBOY HANDYMAN
Home Improvement and Repair Locally owned
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Dependable, Affordable Choice!


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CONSTRUCTION
Bobcat work, Land clearing, Brush Hog mowing, Tree work, Excavating, Gravel driveways, Trench digging, Demo and haul-off. Free estimates. Call Keith 817-559-0100

5210
Home Services

MDDM DESIGN & MANAGEMENT GROUP LLC Residential plans for custom homes, additions & remodels. mdixon@mddmgroup.com
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5220
Landscaping/Tree Service


TRUJILLOS SPEEDY LAWN CARE
Lawn Mowing & Edging
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also clean and level lots

5220
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mowing, tree removal limbs, weeding. Also, clean-up, painting concrete & trim carpenter. Free est. Jose (817) 538-6297

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

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

5240
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AFFORDABLE ROCK WORK
*Sidewalks *Retaining Walls *Mailboxes *Fireplaces
No job too small. FREE estimates. (817)279-3212

5260
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Usually same or next day service, no job too large or small. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

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

5330
Storage

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

5340
Tractor Services

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

5350
Welding

ATTENTION! BEN WELDING
Pipe fence, horse stalls, All types fences, Trailer repair, Carpports/metal buildings, Gates, Welding on heavy equipment & painting! Skid steer service. Concrete work. (682) 205-4162 Free Estimates!

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MERCHANDISE

6520
Appliances

Fridgidaire, 5.8 cf upright, freezer for sale. \$200. 830-343-7747.

6620
Miscellaneous

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

WE BUY OLD US COINS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.
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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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8030
Pets


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LOOKING FOR A COMPANION?
If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT!
Call or visit
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F1B Mini Cavapoo puppies.
75% Mini Poodle & 25% King Charles Cavalier.
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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

Lost Chiweenie. "Lucky." 13yo. Microchipped. Tagged. Lost near Reunion Grounds. \$500 reward. 682-498-0115

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Hood County News
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Tim...
...thee
...s class of 2015 raised their hooked hands w
...ong Thursday evening at the Fort Worth Cen
Hood County News
...r, it must have been difficult Monday
students to wait for the final bell. Mary
Keep up with up-to-the-minute happenings in Hood County using one of today's greatest social media sites.
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EMPLOYMENT

General



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

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

Competitive pay and great work environment.

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

Come join the Hood County News team!



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.granburyisd.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 or mail to PO BOX 531, Tolar, Texas 76476. No phone or in-person inquiries- Thank you

PECAN PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION SEND RESUMES TO DEPARTMENT MANAGERS EMAIL LISTED BELOW OR CALL 817 573-2641

*brendarhine@ppoaweb.com or Ext 351 or harold@ppoaweb.com or Ext 341 for Security Patrol Officer. Midnight Shift, FT, \$15-\$16/hr. & Security Gate Staff, PT & FT \$14-\$15/hr.

*daniel@ppoaweb.com or Ext 342 Facilities Maintenance Technician, FT, \$14-\$17/hr., Roads and Grounds Maintenance Workers, \$14-\$16/hr., Stable Master FT call manager for detail

*sfoster@ppoaweb.com or Ext 334 Food and Beverage: Servers, Bartenders, \$5/hr plus tips, days, nights, and weekends.

*jray@ppoaweb.com Ext 319 Marina Grill and Kitchen Cooks, \$15-\$17/hr.

*jd@ppoaweb.com. Ext 357 Golf Course Maintenance, seasonal and part time. \$14-\$16/hr.

Granbury ISD is currently looking for a Secretary to the Maintenance & Facilities Department to join our outstanding 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.granburyisd.org/jobs>

Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Office Employment

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING SERVICES - FULL CHARGE BOOKKEEPER/PAYROLL Bookkeeping, Payroll processing and sales tax report. Full Time. Must know Quickbooks desktop, process all aspects of payroll from paychecks to quarterly reporting. This is not an entry level position, there will be testing on knowledge. (682) 936-4542 delainetaylor@delainesplice.com

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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

PUBLIC SALES

Public Notices

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.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of SONIA SHEPPARD, Cause No. P10386, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

GINA M. TORRES 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 SONIA SHEPPARD, 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 18th day of April 2024

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

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

LAGUNA TRES ESTATES, LOTS 1 & 2, BLOCK 5R

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, May 28th, 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.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS:
To all persons interested in the welfare of George T. Hill, Jr., an incapacitated person, Cause No. G00509, County Court, Hood County, Texas. MARJOE BARNHART, Guardian Ad Litem, has filed in the County Court, Hood County, on the 12th day of April 2024, an application for appointment of Guardian of the Person for said incapacitated person.

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 the welfare of George T. Hill, Jr., 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 23rd day of April 2024

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

CITATION BY PUBLICATION -
TRC 109 & 114
STATE OF TEXAS
CAUSE NO. C2023443

MARCYNIAK HOLDINGS LLC VS. VELMA C. PARKER TO: VELMA C. PARKER IF LIVING, OR UNKNOWN HEIRS IF DEAD IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date of the issuance hereof. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation, a judgement may be taken against you.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Patrick Jeff Gray, Cause No. P10388, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Sandra Gray 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 Patrick Jeff Gray, 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 24th day of April 2024

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

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Patrick Jeff Gray, Cause No. P10388, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

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Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas this on this the 24th day of April 2024

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

Professional

8560

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

Public Notices

In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org.

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by MARCYNIAK HOLDINGS LLC as Plaintiff, against the above named person(s) as Defendant(s), by Plaintiffs original petition filed on the 16th day of October, 2023, in a certain suit styled Marcyniak Holdings LLC v. Velma C. Parker. A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2023443.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff MARCYNIAK HOLDINGS LLC, by and through its attorney of record, LUCAS LAWRENCE OF THE LAWRENCE FIRM, P.C., 63016 E US HWY 377, GRANBURY, TX 76049 brought suit under Cause No. C2023443 in the 355th District Court of Hood County, Texas, for PETITION FOR QUIET TITLE on the following described real property of which Defendants, VELMA C. PARKER IF LIVING, OR UNKNOWN HEIRS IF SHE BE DEAD, are potential parties of interest: Lot: 347, Subd: CANYON CREEK V UNIT 9 at 5712 San Jacinto, Granbury, TX 76048; under a deed from James P. ParkerIII, one of the property owners.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 1ST day of APRIL 2024.

Attorney for Defendant(s): LUKAS A. LAWRENCE
THE LAWRENCE FIRM, PC.
3016 E US HWY 377
GRANBURY, TX 76049
Telephone: 682-231-1407
Email: ATTORNEYS@LFIRMTX.COM

WITNESS ROBERTA ZAMARRON, CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
By Sarah A Roach, Deputy

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to construct a 190-foot Lattice telecommunications tower facility in the vicinity of 3678 West US Highway 377, Granbury, Hood County, Texas 76048 (32 25 25.85 N / 97 50 49.85 W). The tower is anticipated to have medium intensity dual red/white strobes.. Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications and entering Antenna Structure Registration (ASR) Form 854 File Number "A1227521" and may raise environmental concerns about the project by filing a Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest. Parties wishing to submit the request by mail may do so by addressing the request to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554. Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: EBI Consulting, c/o Project 008716-PR- CR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at 978-877-3493.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the welfare of George T. Hill, Jr., an incapacitated person, Cause No. G00509, County Court, Hood County, Texas. MARJOE BARNHART, Guardian Ad Litem, has filed in the County Court, Hood County, on the 12th day of April 2024, an application for appointment of Guardian of the Person for said incapacitated person.

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 the welfare of George T. Hill, Jr., 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 23rd 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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By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

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

Public Notices

9031

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



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

PERMIT NO. WQ0010178002

APPLICATION. City of Granbury, P.O. Box 969, Granbury, Texas 76048, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0010178002 (EPA LD. No. TX0105210) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed an annual average flow of 2,000,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 1800 Waters Edge Drive, in the city of Granbury, in Hood County, Texas 76048. The discharge route is from the plant site to directly to Lake Granbury. TCEQ received this application on February 20, 2024. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Granbury City Hall, Front Desk, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Hood County in Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.773333,32.423611&level=18>

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

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "I/we request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period.**

TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. All public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Granbury at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Chester Nolen, Director of Public Works, at 817-659-8495.

Issuance Date: April 15, 2024

GRANBURY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (3 TRACTS)

The Board of Trustees of Granbury Independent School District (the "District") hereby provides notice to the public that the District will accept sealed bids for the surface only of the following tracts of real property:

- Property No. 1:** Unimproved property (approx. 5 acres) located at 2750 Acton School Rd., Granbury, Texas 76049 (Hood CAD Property ID No. R109231), further described as Lot 1, Blk 1, Subd Acton Elementary School Addn.
- Property No. 2:** Unimproved property (approx. 7 acres) located at 2850 Acton School Rd., Granbury, Texas 76049 (Hood CAD Property ID No. R109232), further described as Lot 2, Blk 1, Subd Acton Elementary School Addn.
- Property No. 3:** Unimproved property (approx. 86 acres) located at 1301 James Rd., Granbury, Texas 76049 (Hood CAD Property ID No. R000092315), further described as Lot 1-R-1, Blk 2, Subd Acton Middle School Addn.

Minimum Bids: The minimum bid for Property No. 1 is \$625,000. The minimum bid for Property No. 2 is \$875,000. The minimum bid for Property No. 3 is \$5,000,000. These properties are being sold "AS IS, WITH ALL FAULTS."

Sealed Bids shall be delivered in writing, signed by the bidder or an authorized representative, and enclosed in a sealed envelope to the following address:

Granbury Independent School District
Attn: Assistant Director of Finance
217 N Jones St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

All bids must be plainly marked on the envelope "BID TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY." Sealed Bids must be received before **2:00 p.m. on Thursday June 6th, 2024.**

Bidders may contact Bradee Watson, Purchasing Assistant, at 817-408-4087 or bradee.watson@granburyisd.org to receive a Bid Package, which provides information concerning the properties, the District's broker information, inspections, disclosures, requirements for submission, and other important information. If sold, the properties will be conveyed subject to the exceptions and reservations contained in the Bid Package. Interested parties may also pick up a hard copy of the Bid Package from the Finance/Business Office. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in bids received. Bids received after the deadline, faxed bids, and e-mailed bids will not be considered.

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Public Notices

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION
FOR TPDES PERMIT FOR MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0014147001

APPLICATION AND PRELIMINARY DECISION. Aqua Texas Inc, 1106 Clayton Lane, Suite 440W, Austin, Texas 78723, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for a renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014147001 which authorizes the discharge of treated domestic wastewater at a daily average flow not to exceed 220,000 gallons per day. TCEQ received this application on November 27, 2023.

The facility is located at 7407 Mistletoe Trail, near the City of Granbury, in Hood County, Texas 76048. The treated effluent is discharged to an unnamed tributary, thence to Brazos River Below Lake Granbury in Segment No. 1204 of the Brazos River Basin. The unclassified receiving water use is minimal aquatic life use for the unnamed tributary. The designated uses for Segment No. 1204 are primary contact recreation and high aquatic life use. All determinations are preliminary and subject to additional review and/or revisions. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and is not part of the application or notice. For the exact location, refer to the application. <https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-97.71888,32.371111&level=18>

The TCEQ Executive Director has completed the technical review of the application and prepared a draft permit. The draft permit, if approved, would establish the conditions under which the facility must operate. The Executive Director has made a preliminary decision that this permit, if issued, meets all statutory and regulatory requirements. The permit application, Executive Director's preliminary decision, and draft permit are available for viewing and copying at Hood County Library, 222 North Travis Street, Granbury, Texas.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting about this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ holds a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting a contested case hearing or reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision. A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in a state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period; and the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ACTION. The Executive Director may issue final approval of the application unless a timely contested case hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed. If a timely hearing request or request for reconsideration is filed, the Executive Director will not issue final approval of the permit and will forward the application and request to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

All written public comments and public meeting requests must be submitted to the Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment within 30 days from the date of newspaper publication of this notice.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/comment, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC 105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Any personal information you submit to the TCEQ will become part of the agency's record; this includes email addresses. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from Aqua Texas, Inc. at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Scot Foltz, Environmental Compliance Manager, at 512-990-4400, extension 56101.


Issuance Date: April 17, 2024

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048

Garage Sales 76048

New Beginnings
Resale Shoppe & Boutique


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

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

Granbury 76049

Garage Sales 76049

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! Rescheduled to Sat.
April 27 from 7AM-1PM. Located Loop
567 and Porter Ct. Multiple houses!

MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 650 Whis-
perview Circle- Inside sale, queen
poster bed and night stand, 2 couch-
es, twin bed, buffet, large bird cage,
large small animal cage, small grand-
father clock, telephone table, chair
several other items. Saturday April 27

ESTATE SALE: GRANBURY 3901
Laramie- Estate Sale. Fri Noon till
5, Sat 9-5. 3901 Laramie Dr, DCBE.
Lots of tools, Leather couch,
framed and matted pictures,
Queen headboard and matching
dresser, antique tables and chairs,
Dining room table, RV equipment.
Too much other to mention. Friday
April 26

300 Granbury Ct. Sat Apr 27 starting at
7am. Come rain or shine! Indoor multi-
family garage sale & bake sale at Faith
Assembly of God Church. Clothing,
household goods, toys, books, Christ-
mas decor and lots of odds & ends.

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.

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April 21-27, 2024

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Affordable Owner Financed Land. We have some of the best in Texas. Hill Country, South Texas, West Texas. 800-876-9720, texasranchland.com.

AUCTIONS

Farm, Ranch & Construction Equipment, Cattle & Surplus from Bellville ISD Auction – Sat., April 27 at 9 a.m. 1036 S. FM 331, Sealy, onsite & online bidding. Tractors, trucks, trailers, livestock equip., construction equip., misc. Bellville ISD surplus will sell online - (2) buses, (2) zero turn mowers, tools (7) Smart Boards, cafeteria equipment, (19) CPU, (23) computer monitors & more. www.switzerauction.net, 979-885-2400.

CHARITY

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-855-808-4152 today!

CELL PHONE SERVICE

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ENERGY

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

EVENT

Lamesa – Chicken Fried Steak Festival, April 26-28, Lamesa, TX. More than 100 booths, live music Fri. & Sat., volleyball tournament, car & motorcycle show, children's story time, pet costume contest, petting zoo, parade, 5K run, worship service, carnival games, team roping, tumblers & dancers, Mister and Miss Chicken Fry Pageant. For registration forms and more information go to www.ci.lamesa.tx.us or call 806-872-2124 ext. 322.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 3/31/24. Call 1-855-965-0841.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Wesley Financial Group, LLC – Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-501-6864

MEDICAL

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-901-0467 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/txpress)

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We buy oil, gas & mineral rights. Both non-producing and producing including Non-Participating Royalty Interest (NPRI). Provide us your desired price for an offer evaluation. Call today: 806-620-1422. Lobo Minerals, LLC, PO Box 1800, Lubbock, TX 79408-1800, LoboMineralsLLC@gmail.com.

WATER DAMAGE

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP: A small amount of water can lead to major damage to your home. Our trusted professionals dry out the wet area and do repairs to protect your family and your home's value! If you have water in your home that needs to be dried, call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH



Celebrating
25
YEARS
OF MISSION GRANBURY

You know there is suffering you don't see...

**CHOOSE to see.
CHOOSE to help.**



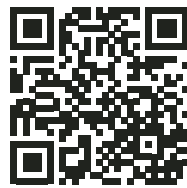
Between September 1, 2022 and August 31, 2023, we provided services for 259 residential and non-residential clients. 139 were women, 109 were children and 11 were men.

We answered 944 hotline calls and housed 107 women and 58 children in the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

Please consider making a donation to support any of the various programs available at Mission Granbury.

Learn more and donate at
<https://www.missiongranbury.org/donate>
or scan the QR code.



Thank you for your support!
817-579-6866

24-hour Crisis Hotline 844-579-6848

County declares May 2 National Day of Prayer



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Commissioners Court officially declared Thursday, May 2 as a National Day of Prayer during a regularly scheduled meeting April 23.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court officially declared Thursday, May 2 a National Day of Prayer during a regularly scheduled meeting April 23.

According to the proclamation read by Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews, America has faced trials and triumphs throughout history, and Americans have responded in prayer, seeking courage and comfort, inspiration, and joy-filled celebration as faith compels individuals to seek and cling to the light in times of darkness.

From the first gatherings of our founding fathers, elected officials have prayed and entreated those they serve and represent to join them in prayer — including the authors of the Declaration of Independence. According to the proclamation, the authors wrote that they, “the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the supreme judge of the world . . .” and carried on to present day in presidential proclamations such as last year’s invitation to “join him in asking for God’s continued guidance, mercy and protection.”

A National Day of Prayer was declared by the First Continental Congress in 1775, and is a public law established in the United States Congress in 1952. The law was approved by a joint resolution and amended by Congress and President Ronald Reagan with Public Law 100-307 in 1988, affirming that it is essential for us as a nation to pray. It also directed the former president of the United States to set

aside and proclaim the first Thursday of May annually as The National Day of Prayer.

According to the proclamation, the observance of the National Day of Prayer will be held in every state across America Thursday, May 2, with the theme, “Lift Up the Word, Light Up the World,” based on the verses found in 2 Samuel 22:29-31, “For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness . . . This God — his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him.”

On the National Day of Prayer, neighbors come together to join their hearts and voices in reading sacred scriptures and attending services to seek God, as unified prayer becomes mobilized across America.

“We express our faith and exercise our freedom in prayer, then unite our hearts and voices in personal prayer and public gatherings across America with fervent praise, repentance, love and humble intercession for our neighbor and nation, holding fast to the promises throughout the Holy Scriptures that the Lord hears and avails much as he answers the faith-filled prayers of his people,” the proclamation reads.

Leading up to the National Day of Prayer is the Bible Reading Marathon that takes place from Friday, April 26 through Wednesday, May 1, in the gazebo located on the Hood County Courthouse grounds.

Hosted by the Lake Granbury Ministerial Alliance, the Bible Reading Marathon allows each individual a 15-minute timeslot to read a portion of scripture. They pick up where the previous person leaves off and will continue reading until their

time is up.

According to the LGMA website, the first Bible Reading Marathon of Granbury was held in 2002. It takes about 85 hours to read through the Bible, so it’s broken into 336 15-minute segments. Signups are currently underway.

“Just from this morning, I have been impressed by the Lord to speak of the Bible Reading Marathon that is coming up,” LGMA Pastor Mike McMahon said during the open mic portion of the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting. “It’s absolutely imperative that we have enough people to read through the Bible. There is nothing that can replace reading through the Bible. Did you all know that the crime rate drops in Hood County for that week? Did you know that people have been saved simply by reading their Bible up there? Did you know that husbands who have brought their wives up there to read and you invite them to read, and they say, ‘I don’t do that; I can’t do that,’ have left with tears in their eyes after they read and asking if they could come back and read again?”

“If there’s any reason that you cannot sign up and read the Bible Reading Marathon, don’t tell me because I’m going to chew your ears off. You have no excuse. None of us in this room has an excuse for not signing up and reading from scripture. We have an expression of ‘It’s good for Hood.’ Well I’m going to tell you, this is superb, supernatural, dynamic and absolutely necessary for Hood County if we’re going to continue as a group in unity and in harmony.”

For more information regarding the Bible Reading Marathon, visit granburyministries.org online.

CLEANS

FROM PAGE A6

blessing.”

“I really feel like people in Granbury really care about where we live,” Place 3 Council member Bruce Wadley said in the video.

During the Granbury City Council meeting April 16, City Manager Chris Coffman recognized Vale, Licata, and Communications Manager Jeff Newpher for their leadership in the program. He also thanked GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn and Deputy City Manager Michael Ross for working with approximately 60 Granbury High School students to pick up trash.

“We probably picked up over 2,500 or 3,000 pounds of litter, and that’s pretty amazing,” Coffman said. “From the bamboo on 377 to the bridge of the lake past the water treatment, we literally had a pickup load of trash bags that was collected, just in that section alone, so it was very much needed.”

Vale also thanked Coffman for making his event come to life, as he came up with the idea in 2023 while attending a Texas Municipal League training session in San Antonio.

“Chris, thank you for all your leadership, thanks for all the volunteers and it’s great to see the community come together,” he said.

Mayor Jim Jarratt said the community’s cleanup ef-

orts did not go unnoticed. He explained how he was in Paradise Bistro when he started talking with a couple from Plano who were in town visiting.

“He says, ‘You know, this may be the cleanest city that I’ve been in, in years.’ I took that as a ‘Thank you,’” Jarratt said. “And then I’m walking over here tonight, and there’s a gentleman who came out and he had what I thought was Tads on his shirt. I said, ‘Tads. Where is that?’ Well, it was Taos, so I misread it, but it generated a conversation and came to find out he is just traveling. He lives in Washington state and he chooses to travel. He did his research, and he picked Granbury. He said, ‘This is a beautiful, beautiful community,’ and I get to take credit for that, but I know who does the work. I want to thank all of you for doing the work and making sure that this place is the kind of community that people come to and say those kinds of things. They’re saying it about you, and I appreciate this.”

But the Great Granbury Cleanup wasn’t the only event going on at the time.

The city also hosted its Shred It Instead event April 13, where Granbury residents could take three boxes of old bills, tax returns and bank statements and have them dumped into a mobile shredding truck.

About 423 cars came through the shredding line, with members of the

Granbury Volunteer Fire Department serving as volunteers for the shredding process.

During the event, attendees were also given the opportunity to tour a fire truck, meet Granbury’s finest firefighting volunteers, and donate to the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department. Approximately \$2,200 was donated to the GVFD and will go toward the purchase of firefighting protective gear.

Shred It Instead was so well attended that the city was forced to close the event 15 minutes early, as the mobile shred truck was filled to capacity. A few residents were also turned away due to the heavy turnout.

Additionally, the city’s biannual bulk trash pickup took place on the same day, with Vale adding that all three events were a “trifecta of cleaning up our community.”

Coffman explained that the city also hopes to form an organization called “Keep Granbury Beautiful,” in which the city would become a beautification affiliate with the state of Texas.

“If you’re interested in being a part of ‘Keep Granbury Beautiful,’ please reach out to us,” Coffman added. “We’re forming a corporation with a board of directors, and we need volunteers — and we need people who are interested in seeing us continue this program.”

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Lake Granbury Master Gardeners held their annual plant sale on April 20

The Lake Granbury Master Gardeners held their annual plant sale on April 20, which was promised to take place rain or shine. Despite the heavy rainfall, many happy gardeners attended the sale to gather advice and stock up on plants well-suited to Hood County. The shoppers were more than pleased as they carried home a variety of perennials, pollinator and butterfly plants, heat/drought tolerant plants, shade-loving plants, succulents, irises, lilies, cannas, and herbs.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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500 max word count 350 max word count

Contestants must be a middle or high school student residing in Hood County & also attach a cover sheet that includes their Name, School, Grade, Phone Number, Email Address, Mailing Address, and a Parent's Name.

Deadline to submit
MAY 17, 2024
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GRANBURY ISD BOND 2024

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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Safer fun in the sun

Warmer weather is here — Know how to protect yourself

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

When you think about sun protection, you might think about a day at the beach. But during your lifetime, you get sun exposure doing everyday things like walking the dog, mowing the lawn and even driving in your car. Exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays adds up over time and can increase your risk of developing skin cancer. Every year, approximately 3.3 million people are treated for basal and squamous cell skin cancer, and approximately 8,200 people die from melanoma.

"Most people don't realize that skin cancer is the most common cancer in this country," says Julian Jimenez, M.D. "If awareness were higher, people would likely be more vigilant about protecting themselves. Even with all we know about skin cancer and its causes, nearly one-third of adult Americans still get sunburned each year."

Research shows that, while awareness of the risk is higher among women, men are actually more likely to be diagnosed with skin cancer. Men tend to spend more time outside over their lifetimes than women, and their personal grooming products are less likely to contain sunscreen. When outside on a sunny day for more than an hour, only 14% of men reported using sunscreen on their faces and other exposed body parts.

Protecting yourself from UV exposure is simple, but common mistakes and misconceptions can result in increased risk. Here are some key



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ENVATO.COM

Body parts prone to heavy sun exposure (face, neck, shoulders) should receive a heavy application of sunscreen.

things to remember to help protect you from skin cancer:

SPF COUNTS

The SPF number on a sunscreen reflects its effectiveness in blocking UV rays. While everyone should use a quality sunscreen with at least SPF 15, those with fair skin or prolonged exposure to the sun should consider using a product with SPF 50 or above.

APPLICATION ERRORS

Body parts prone to heavy sun exposure (face, neck, shoulders) should receive a heavy application of

sunscreen. Applying too thin a layer leaves you with gaps for the sun to blast through. Also, sunscreen does not last for 24 hours. Be sure to reapply often, especially if you are sweating or in water.

CHECK EXPIRATION DATES

Most sunscreen products are only good for 2-3 years, maximum, less if they've been exposed to high temperatures. Be sure to check the expiration date on your bottle. If you can't find one, throw it out and invest in a new product.

AVOID SKIN REACTIONS

There are a variety of ingredient types in sunscreens. If your skin reacts badly to one set of ingredients, try another brand or formulation. Sensitive skin especially needs protection, as it tends to be more susceptible to skin cancers.

"While skin cancer is the most common type of cancer, it's also the most treatable," says Jimenez. "Protection is important, but the most critical factor in surviving skin cancer is early detection. If you see something new or changing on your body, see a dermatologist or your primary care physician about it immediately. And don't forget to check hidden places like your scalp, bottoms of your feet, toes and behind your ears."

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Jimenez, please call 254-459-7129 or visit <https://lakegranburymedical.com/DrJimenez>.

OBITS

FROM PAGE A14

Shirley Joyce Calaway

June 5, 1936 - April 13, 2024

Shirley Joyce Calaway, 87, of Iowa Park/Granbury, Texas, went peacefully in sleep to be with the Lord, Saturday, April 13, 2024. It was her wish to have a graveside service which will be held April 29, 2024, at 11:30 a.m., at Bowman Cemetery near Wichita Falls, Texas.

Shirley will be laid to rest next to her husband, Harris "Eddie" Calaway who preceded her in death on Aug. 2, 2010 and close to her beloved daughter, Kim Mason, who also preceded her on June 9, 2019.

Shirley (Raulston) Calaway was born in the small West Texas town of Clarksville to the late Artis and Lillian May (Eubanks) Raulston. Shirley and Ed married young and settled in the Wichita Falls area. She had several jobs over the years and took classes at MSU. She spent 20 plus years working for Delphi. Shirley loved taking cruises with friends, helping with her children and grandchildren, playing cards, and being a union representative which included more traveling. She loved history and was a



'true patriot.'

Shirley is also preceded in death by her father, Artis J. Raulston (7/2/1960); mother, Lillian May (Eubanks) Raulston (10/19/1996); sister, Geraldine Posey (5/5/2000) and by two brothers, Robert and Artis, Jr.

Shirley is survived by a son, Malcom Calaway; grandchildren, Corey and Anthony, John Davidson, Justin Mason, and Jimmy Mason. Other surviving family include great-grandchildren, Logan Davidson, Lilly Davidson, Brennan Davidson, Destiny Young, John Young, Annabeth Stone, Ella Stone, and by various cousins and extended family.



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The unbroken spirit of Wes Stevenson: Rodeo champion to community champion

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

In the Great State of Texas, where the legacy of the cowboy is as enduring as the land itself, there stands a Hood County man whose name is etched into the lore of rodeo: Wes Stevenson. Stevenson's journey has been one of triumph, tribulation and a relentless pursuit of excellence that has led him to the threshold of immortality both in the rodeo world and in the hearts of those in his community.

Born in Kaufman, Stevenson's first encounter with rodeo was not a chance occurrence. It was in his blood. With a father who was already part of the rodeo world, young Stevenson's future seemed to echo with the sounds of cheering crowds and the thrill of the ride from early on.

At the age of 17, he first grabbed hold of the reins, launching himself onto the backs of bucking horses, a decision that would chart the course of his life. "Riding bucking horses is probably one of the biggest challenges I ever had," said Stevenson. "It didn't come to me naturally. It's something I really had to work hard at, and that's one of the biggest things that interested me about it."

His pursuit of adrenaline and achievement didn't dis-



Wes Stevenson Riding in the National Finals Rodeo 2010.

COURTESY PHOTO

rupt his educational aspirations. After high school, Stevenson took the reins of a different challenge: higher education at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. However, the call of the rodeo was a persistent echo that followed him. In 2000, Stevenson turned pro and

joined the National Rodeo Circuit, taking his wife and, later, their daughter on the road with him. "In the rodeo business, you travel a lot of the year," said Stevenson. "If you're not going to rodeos, you're not getting paid. Luckily, I was able to take them with me all through

North America and Canada in an RV rodeoing with me."

Competing as a Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) bareback rider from 2000 to 2017, Stevenson became a fixture in the rodeo community, earning the prestige of becoming a 9x Wrangler

National Finals Rodeo qualifier.

The ride wasn't always smooth, though. In the waning months of the 2000 season, Stevenson faced a daunting hurdle — a severe leg injury while riding in Bremerton, Washington. "In the early part of my career, I

had some really bad injuries," recalled Stevenson. "The doctors in Seattle were preparing me that I was probably going to lose my leg or at least be lucky if I ever walked again, much less come back and ride bucking horses again."

The injury was a prelude to a year of recovery and rehabilitation, which saw him finishing 19th in 2001 — a remarkable comeback, considering the circumstances.

2002 was a year of dizzying highs and crushing lows for Stevenson. It was the year he broke the bareback riding world record with a 94-point ride, placing him in the annals of rodeo legend. Stevenson's record would stand for 20 years. Finally, his world record score was broken by another Hood County resident, Rocker Steiner, in 2022. Interestingly enough, Stevenson and Steiner live just down the road from one another.

Yet, the celebration was short-lived. After setting the world record at the Tour Championships in Dallas, he reinjured his leg, and what followed was a grueling series of eight surgeries over two months. Surgeons had to remove part of his legbone and then stretch the remaining part to match the length of his other leg.

He spent the rest of that

PLEASE SEE **RODEO** | B8

Lady Rattlers make history with first regional golf title; Lipan siblings to play at state

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Last season, good friends Hanna Gaylor of Lipan and Callan Nix of Tolar qualified for the Class 2A Girls State Golf Tournament together with a 1-2 finish at the regional tournament. This season they are making a return, with Nix taking the regional championship and Gaylor the runner-up.

They are bringing some friends and family with them. The Lady Rattlers won the regional team championship and Gaylor will be joined by her younger

brother, Court, who was the regional runner-up in the boys tournament, shooting a 147 (73-74).

It's the first time a Tolar golf team has won a regional championship and the first time they've sent an entire team to state since 2003.

Both tournaments were played at the Old Brickyard Golf Course in Ferris, the boys April 15-16 and the girls April 17-18.

The 2A State Tournaments are at Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin. The boys play April 29-30 and the girls play May 6-7.

Also for the Indians, who were eighth as a team at re-

gionals, Darius Steed shot a 159 (84-75).

HISTORY MAKERS

The Lady Rattlers posted a team total of 710 (356-354) to best runner-up Quinlan Boles by a whopping 60 shots at the regional tournament. Nix had rounds of 75 and 77 for a 152 total, two shots ahead of Hanna Gaylor at 154 (76-78).

"This group of girls set a goal last spring to get to state as a team. After only having one girl break 100 last year, they managed to all six break 100 at region-

PLEASE SEE **GOLF** | B3



PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT RICHARDSON

The Tolar Lady Rattlers golf team made history by winning regionals for the first time ever. They will compete in the Class 2A State Tournament May 6-7 at Lions Municipal Golf Course. Pictured are (from left) Abby Gannon, Jaycee Jones, Maddie Moczgyemba, coach Scott Richardson, Savannah Tuel, Elizabeth Tuel and Callan Nix. For Nix, this is a second straight trip to state as she placed fourth individually last season.

GHS announces top 10 in Class of 2024

From Staff Reports

Granbury High School recently announced the top 10 academic students in the class of 2024, including Valedictorian Abigail Satone and Salutatorian Bailey James.

The names of the GHS top 10, along with their college choice and field of study are listed below:

1. Valedictorian Abigail Stone | Plans to attend Trinity University with an intended major in mathematical finance and a minor in music.
2. Salutatorian Bailey James | Plans to attend Tarleton State University for basics and then transfer to Texas A&M University

to eventually go to medical school and become a pharmacist.

3. Cadence Morisette | Plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in animal science.

4. Kate Mauldin | Plans to attend Abilene Christian University to study pre-medicine. She will continue her academic and musical passions through the Honors College, Abilene Civic Orchestra and Wind Ensemble.

5. Abigail Boyd | Plans to attend Texas Tech University to major in architecture and minor in dance.

6. Ella Garner | Plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in business.

7. Mann Vaghashia | Plans to attend Southern

Methodist University to pursue a business degree.

8. Allison Dafoe | Plans to attend the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and major in health sciences. She then plans to further her education by going through medical school and becoming a doctor.

9. Konner Babiash | Plans to attend Texas A&M University to major in mechanical engineering.

10. Zephyr Tice | Plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in engineering.

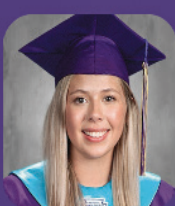
Graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 24 at 8 p.m. at Pirate Stadium. Graduation information can be found online at granburyisd.org/graduation.

COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

Granbury High School recently announced the top 10 in the class of 2024, including Valedictorian Abigail Stone and Salutatorian Bailey James.



GRANBURY HIGH SCHOOL TOP 10 STUDENTS CLASS OF 2024



Abigail Stone
Valedictorian



Bailey James
Salutatorian



Cadence Morisette



Katelyn Mauldin



Abigail Boyd



Ella Garner



Mann Vaghashia



Allison Dafoe



Konner Babiash



Zephyr Tice

GHS welding program bonding success

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

If you stop and think about it, welding is all around us. From the cars we drive to furniture we sit on and a plethora of items in between, there's a good chance at least part of it was welded together.

Given the growth of the school's agricultural mechanics program, which includes welding/metal fabrication, there's a good possibility one of those items you use in the future might have been put together by a welder from Granbury High School. Perhaps that is already the case.

The program, under the direction of Augustin Hinojosa in his seventh year, is booming with 143 students (135 males, eight females) this school year.

"I first started in 2017, I was the only teacher with welding classes. Then, in

Year 3, one of my teaching partners helped cover three classes of overflow students. By Year 5 we hired a sixth ag teacher to teach a majority of the intro level classes," Hinojosa said.

Next year the district is projected to have another record number of students taking the class since it now offers a principles of ag class at the junior high level.

"Having them take that class earlier on in their school career allows them to take more advanced level classes when they get to high school," Hinojosa said. "This will allow students starting as early as their freshman year to get hands-on experience in the shop with all we have to offer."

DIFFERENT LEVELS

First-year mechanics students start off with basic shop safety and rules. From there they move on to tool and equipment identification and learn skills such as

how to read a tape measure and operate all basic wood-working equipment, as well as building small wood projects such as bird houses, hat racks and cornhole boards.

Second semester students begin to learn the basics of metal shop and shielded metal arc welding.

"The skills they learn this semester are basic Oxy-Fuel torch setup and uses such as cutting, welding and brazing," Hinojosa said. "Then they dive into stick welding."

Second-year students take the ag facilities and design class, which allows them to learn different processes of welding. They also have the opportunity at this point to construct and build their own projects, as well as build or work on projects for people in the community.

Hinojosa said this class is given the "broken" projects and forced to figure out what they need to do to remedy this problem and the process to do so.

"I feel making them do this helps them think outside the box and teaches them problem solving with real life problems," he said.

The ag practicum class is a primarily senior-level class. The students in this class must build a project and exhibit it at the Hood County Junior Livestock Show. They are solely responsible for the planning, construction and quality of this project.

Hinojosa said this class gets to take on the bigger constructions projects that require more knowledge and skill.

"Our hopes for this class next year are to find local shops and businesses in the community to send these students to for them to get more industry experience in the welding/metal fabrication world," he said.



COURTESY PHOTO

Austin Trujillo welds an octagon smoker in a welding/metal fabrication class, part of the Granbury ISD agricultural mechanics program.

PLEASE SEE **WELDING** | B3

Granbury ISD, Tarleton State renew admission, scholarship pact

Submitted Item

Granbury Independent School District seniors in the top 50% of their graduating class will continue to earn automatic admission to Tarleton State University, thanks to a four-year renewal of the district's Distinguished High School Partners pact.

As part of the program, Tarleton State also waives

ACT or SAT requirements for students in the top half of their class and application fees for students who qualify.

Granbury ISD and Tarleton State leaders inked the renewal in October.

"Continuing our partnership with Granbury ISD ensures that some of the brightest students in Texas have the opportunity for a high-quality university

experience," said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurlley. "This partnership aligns with our commitment to be a first-choice institution for high school seniors in Texas."

The President's Guaranteed Scholarship Program assures first-time-in-college students graduating in the top half of their high school class between \$500 and \$4,000 in scholar-

ships. Students graduating from one of Tarleton State's Distinguished High School Partners will receive an additional \$500 or \$1,000. Admitted freshmen must submit a general scholarship application to determine eligibility.

"We are excited to renew our Distinguished High School Partners pact," said Dr. Jeremy K. Glenn, Granbury ISD superinten-

dent. "Tarleton State continues to be an innovative leader in higher education, offering incredible learning opportunities and a faculty who are eager to work with our students. We have seen firsthand the positive impact this partnership has made on them, their families and our community."

For more information about Distinguished High School Partners and the

President's Guaranteed Scholarship Program, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/admissions/dhsp> and <https://www.tarleton.edu/becomeatexan/guaranteed-scholarship>. To learn how to become a Tarleton State Texan, visit www.tarleton.edu/becomeatexan/index.html.

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8	Pickin' in the Pasture
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Bryson Wann operates a plasma cutter in a Granbury ISD welding/metal fabrication class, which is part of the agricultural mechanics program.

WELDING

FROM PAGE B2

BREAD AND BUTTER

Hinojosa said when it comes to creating items, cookers and smokers are what he likes to call the program's "bread and butter" projects.

"We make more of these for sale and donate items than any other projects. They are easy to build, you can customize them, and there are so many different ways to construct them," he said.

Some of the other projects students have built include utility and gooseneck trailers, hydraulic log splitters, shop tables, patio furniture, metal signs, entry gates, picnic tables, deep fryers, bed frames and deer blinds.

CONTESTS

The program's main contest is the Hood County Junior Livestock Show, held in January at the Reunion

Grounds. A majority of the big projects built in the shop are for this event alone.

This year the program produced three Grand Champion projects (Bryson Wann, Outdoor Recreation division; Reid Harrington, Cooker/Smoker division; Matthew Franklin, Trailer division), two Reserve Grand Champions/runners-up (Hayden Collins, Cooker/Smoker; Landree Harrington, Trailer), Overall Grand (Wann) and Overall Reserve champions (Harrington) and Showmanship (Harrington). Also, Gage Archer placed third in Cooker/Smoker.

From here, students sometimes compete in the larger shows, such as Fort Worth and San Antonio.

This year the program had second (Harrington) and fifth-place (Collins and Christian Cuellar) honors in the Barbecue Smoker Class at San Antonio.

"To do this at such a big show is a very big accomplishment," Hinojosa said.

"From there, one of the students took his project to the Austin Rodeo Ag Mech Show and placed first in his class and was Grand Champion in the Barbecue Smoker Division. Another big accomplishment."

Harrington was the Grand Champion in Stationary Cooking Equipment in Austin.

PREPPING FOR REAL WORLD

Hinojosa said he tries to give his students a taste of the "real world" as much as possible.

"My hope for the students after they graduate is they understand how the workforce operates and they have basic skills they can use in these jobs under their belt," he said.

He noted the program also offers industry-based welding certifications for all students. These are honored by the American Welding Society.

"My goals with this class is to become really well trained

with welding and be able to take my skills to the workforce," Kaleb Johnston, a student, said. "I would also love to be able to start my own projects, building my own things, and none of this would have been possible if it weren't for Mr. H. himself. So, personally, this class has had a benefit on me and I learned so many more things I never knew before and I am forever grateful."

Fellow student Eden Paschal is interested in entering the welding profession and loves the fact that the class is hands-on.

"I am more of a hands-on learner, and I find an interest in this class because of the environment, as well as the people and the teacher. I wanted to have a better understanding and an experience with tools and how to build things," she said. "Mr. H is one of the teachers that will help you with whatever and not judge you. This class has helped a lot with learning new things."

GOLF

FROM PAGE B1

als Day 2," Tolar coach Scott Richardson said.

"The amount of work they have put in playing fall golf and getting to the course has just been inspiring. I can't wait to watch them compete at state for a chance at the medal stand."

Also for the Lady Rattlers, Elizabeth Tuel, 176 (86-90); Maddy Moczygamba, 185 (95-90); Savannah Tuel, 197 (100-97); Jaycee Jones, 199 (101-98); and Abby Gannon, 207 (108-99).

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

The Lady Rattlers improved as a team by 81 strokes from their score

that won the District 11-2A Tournament, when they posted a 791 to win by 212 strokes over runner-up DeLeon.

FAMILY TIME AT STATE

This is Hanna Gaylor's third consecutive trip to state. Last season she finished third as a sophomore, while Nix, a freshman in her first season at state, was right behind in fourth place.

She is thrilled to have her freshman younger brother joining her, though their individual competitions will be a few days apart.

"I think we both push each other to be better," Hanna said, adding with a laugh, "Even though he gets mad when I beat him."

"We have talked about how

cool it would be for us both to make it to state, and now that we have our conversations have switched to, 'Let's make it even better and both go win it.'"

Court agreed that the siblings work together to make each other better, something he finds enjoyable.

"I really like being able to practice with my sister. We are pretty competitive with each other, so it makes us both better," he said.

What's more, keeping things in the family, they are coached by their mother, Wendy Gaylor, who knows full well how they are feeling. She was a three-time state qualifier at Haskell, winning a championship in 1998.

"I'm just so proud as their coach, but even more so as

their mom. I got to experience this same thing with my dad when I played golf in high school, and now being on the other side is great," she said. "I'm just thankful I get to be a small part of their success."

The Gaylor siblings are hardly strangers to state competition. Hanna was named the state tournament MVP as the Lady Indians won the 2023 2A state basketball championship and Court was the MVP this season as the Indians won a second consecutive basketball title.

Court also led the Indians to the 11-2A golf championship and was the individual district champion.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMBER BRANSON

Lipan golfers Hanna and Court Gaylor with their mom and coach, Wendy Gaylor (middle). Hanna will be making her third consecutive trip to the state tournament, placing third last season, while Court will be there for the first time.



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GISD robotics more than robot play

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Sure, playing with robots and robotic devices is pretty cool — and lots of fun. That’s a perk of being in a robotics program.

While that includes students in the Granbury ISD robotics program, they experience much more than play time.

“I’ve always been interested in tinkering with things and problem-solving. My goals for robotics are to improve my problem-solving and critical-thinking skills while striving to be the best team here and get first place,” sophomore Marcus Hadaway said.

Since the program started in 2017, it has been a success. It is available for students as early as third grade all the way through to seniors.

And the lessons learned are there for students even beyond.

“Robotics teaches students problem-solving skills, communication skills, how to collaborate with others within their own team and teams from other organizations, and good time management,” robotics coach Bethany Smith said. “All these skills will help

them succeed in college and/or careers.”

PROGRAM ASPECTS

There are four main jobs in robotics: programmer, builder, engineering notebook creator and driver.

“Robotics is a student-centered program. Basically, us coaches are here to guide them, but the teammates are responsible for their own learning,” Smith said. “They learn by doing, failing and try doing it a different way. This process never stops.”

Smith said much of their knowledge is gained from independent study. It teaches them to be resourceful and always be learning for the sake of learning.

“This is what is going to build the gap for college. Our students end their robotics careers with the skills needed to be college-ready,” she said.

Smith noted that robotics incorporates almost all the learning styles: visual (computer aided design drawings of robot), physical/hands on (building and driving the robot), verbal (judges’ interviews), logical (programming and building) and social (teams and collaboration).

“Any student can find a home in robotics and succeed,” she said.

SPEAKING OF DOING WELL

In fact, the Granbury program has enjoyed quite a bit of success in its short history. The program has sent teams to regional, state and JROTC Nationals.

They even had teams advance to world competition in 2022.

This year, two teams attended University Interscholastic League state competition. One JROTC team advanced to regional competition and is also representing Granbury at the JROTC National Championship April 28-30 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Matthew Shute came through the robotics program and now works at the Granbury Skating Rink. His manager, Tabitha Phillips, praised his work and believes his experience in the GISD robotics program is a valuable plus.

“His patience and problem solving are amazing. We have had quite a few issues with lights. Matthew’s ability to repair some of our dance lights has truly been a gift. The light blinks and changes colors according to the beat of the music



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Robotics team at a competition.

while rotating. I thought it was done for good,” she said.

“He took it apart, found what made it work, and it has been working ever since.”

Phillips said he also brought back to life one of the most popular items in the rink, the two air hockey tables which she said “The rink kids are absolutely cruel to.”

“I called on Matthew before I ever hired him to come look at them. We had already been looking to replace them because we couldn’t figure out what was wrong, which would have cost thousands.

“Matthew brought in some unique tools, and before I

knew it, he had the machines working in proper order. I was so relieved. We are thrilled that he works with us at the Granbury Skating Rink.”

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

“I am in robotics because being in robotics gives me purpose,” junior Samuel Elguera said. “With robotics I feel complete. My goal is to one day use my knowledge to develop games.”

Junior Jordan Boyd is co-president of the GISD program, along with senior Braden Seaborn. He said a

large appeal of the program to him is being among others who think like him.

“Here, I find a variety of like-minded people that aren’t afraid to be nerds or show their enthusiasm,” he said with a smile. “We all get to lean on one another and collaborate on organized projects.”

Robotics is one of the very few places where engineers and programmers can collaborate on a deep level.

“Personally, my goals are to be an instructor to other people,” Boyd continued. “I want to get to the top and pull everyone else higher.”



GISD Bands Aprilfest



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Saturday, April 20 all bands across GISD had their annual Aprilfest concert and fund-raiser.



GMS Honor Band performing Saturday.



AMS Honor Band performing Saturday.



GHS Wind ensemble band performing Saturday.



Businesses from all across Granbury Donated items for the silent auction with all proceeds going to GISD bands.

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.



GRANBURYISD.ORG/BOND2024

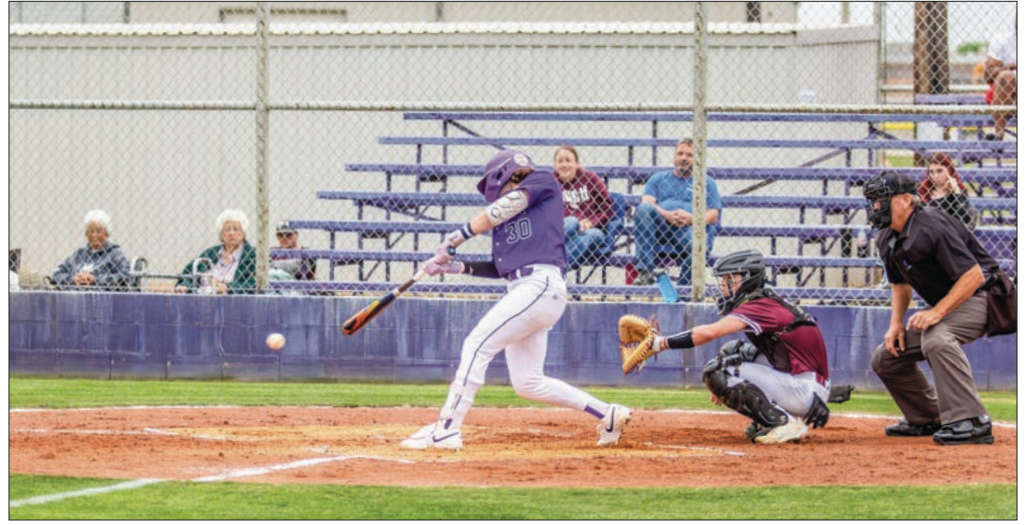
TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Between Friday, April 19 and Tuesday, April 23, the Hood County Baseball fields in Granbury, Tolar, and Lipan were home to some of the last regular games of the 2024 High School Baseball Season. For full galleries go to hcnews.com.



Rowdy Tryon making the throw to second.



Talan Brown with a hit early in the game Friday, April 19.



Talan Brown pitching Friday, April 19.



Hunter Michels in the batter box.



A Granbury Pirate Steps into the box Friday, April 19.



Murphy Page pitched a no-hitter Friday, April 19.



Catcher for the Pirates throws the ball.



Pirates after their 1-0 victory over the Saginaw Raiders.



Tyson Tarpley pitching for the Lipan Indians against the Bluffdale Bobcats.



Hunter Mills Making the play at first



Cash Bolenbarker getting a hit Tuesday, April 23.



Tyson Tarpley making it to second.



Granbury players in the dugout watching the no hitter Friday, April 19.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

SPORTS Roundup

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

Continuing his phenomenal season, Granbury junior Elijah Johnston will be competing at the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet in Austin May 3. He qualified by winning the Class 5A Region I Meet at Texas Tech University in Lubbock this past weekend.

Johnston, who previously won the District 5-5A and Area 5/6-5A championships, posted a time of 21.33 seconds in the regional final amidst inclement weather. He edged runner-up Omari Mitchell of Mansfield Timberview by .02 seconds. "He is the smoothest runner I've ever seen," Pirates coach Jody Brown said of Johnston. "And he's scratching the surface."

Johnston came close to breaking his own school record yet again. He clocked a 21.32 in winning the Area 5/6-5A Meet a week earlier.

"For him to run that time (at regionals) in that weather is just unbelievable," Brown said.

While Johnston was the lone state qualifier, the Pirates also had a strong showing in the high jump by Miller Schenewark, a state qualifier last season, and by the 4x200 relay — on which Johnston ran the anchor leg. Class 5A Region I Track Meet

Texas Tech University, Lubbock
April 19-20
Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches.

Top two finishers in each event qualify for state, along with the best third-place finisher in each event across all four regions.

Granbury results

Boys
200: 1. Elijah Johnston, 21.33 (state qualifier)
4x200 relay: 4. Kaleb Johnston, Caden Davis, Jadon Rogers, E. Johnston, 1:29.29
High jump: 4. Miller Schenewark, 6-06

3200: 8. Jaxon Glenn, 9:48.57
4x100 relay preliminaries: 13. K. Johnston, E. Johnston, Michael Grant, J. Rogers, 43.01
Girls
Shot put: 13. Ella Garner, 33-03.5
100 hurdles prelims: 13. Kate Hamlin, 16.62

TOLAR/LIPAN TRACK

Brylen Feist is continuing a tradition of successful pole vaulters for the Tolar track program. He qualified for the Class 2A Meet at the University of Texas in Austin May 3 by finishing second at the Region II Meet in Springtown with a vault of 14 feet.

Narrowly missing a qualifying spot was Lipan's Jacy Bolton, who was third in 400.

Class 2A Region II Track Meet
At Springtown, April 19/22
Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches.

Top two finishers in each event qualify for state, along with the best third-place finisher in each event across all four regions.

Tolar/Lipan results
Girls
400: 3. Jacy Bolton, Lipan, 59.89
Long jump: 4. Bolton, 16-1;
5. Bailey Gammons, Tolar, 16-0.5
Triple jump: 4. Bolton, 34-9
1600: 6. Annslee Tarpley, Lipan, 5:46.44
200: 7. Bolton, 27.44
100 prelims: 7. Bolton, 12.83
4x100 relay: 8. Tolar, 52.07
4x200 relay prelims: 9. Tolar, 1:51.85
Discus: 10. Allie Terrell, Tolar, 98-2; 14. Ashlyn Tarpley, Lipan, 79-3
4x400 relay prelims: 10. Tolar, 4:27.20
High jump: 13 (tie). Senne Imel, Tolar, 4-8
Boys
Pole vault: 2. Brylen Feist, Tolar, 14-0 (state qualifier); 11. Julian Noyola, Tolar, 11-0
Triple jump: 4. Alberto Andreatta, Lipan, 43-3.25
Shot put: 5. Sam Stewart,

Tolar, 45-4.75
4x100 relay prelims: 9. Tolar, 44.57
High jump: 9 (tie). Johnathan Pierce, Lipan, 5-8
200 prelims: 10. Caden Pate, Tolar, 23.67
Long jump: 11. Andreatta, 19-7.75
4x200 relay prelims: 13. Tolar, 1:37.10

GRANBURY BASEBALL

The Pirates (16-11, 4-7 in District 5-5A) defeated Saginaw 1-0 on the road April 19 as Murphy Page pitched a no-hitter. He walked four and struck out nine in going all seven innings.

In the pitchers dual, the Pirates only managed three hits themselves, with Kyler Crites driving in the only run in the third inning.

They followed with a 3-1 loss at home against Northwest April 23.

The Pirates were ending the regular season at Northwest at press time. They needed a win to keep their postseason hopes alive. A victory would move them into a tie with Saginaw for the fourth and final playoff berth, with the Pirates and Rough Riders having split their district series.

GRANBURY GIRLS GOLF

The Lady Pirates finished eighth in the Class 5A Region II Tournament at Lake Ridge Country Club in Lubbock with a team score of 726 (350-376).

The Lady Pirates, runners-up in District 5-5A to qualify, were led by Claire Jordan with a 169 (85-84). Akyah Ditto was next with a 179 (92-87), followed by Halle Carr at 184 (90-94), Ariel Jimenez with a 197 (93-114) and Grace Jimenez with a 208 (97-111).

Ditto is the lone senior among the group, making her fourth straight appearance at regionals.

"The girls competed hard, but the wind did not play nice," coach Becky Addison said. "Akyah has been a true leader for our program, always showing respect, guid-



Members of the Granbury Pirates baseball team celebrate after pitcher Murphy Page tossed a no-hitter in a 1-0 victory at Saginaw.

COURTESY PHOTO

ance and kindness to her fellow teammates. She has excelled in the classroom as well, earning academic all-state honors through the TGCA (Texas Girls Coaches Association) and the THSCA (Texas High School Coaches Association).

Addison noted that Ditto has received numerous scholarships including Harbor Lakes Ladies Golf Association (\$1,000), Kyle Ditto Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000), and the Lady Pirate Booster Club (\$500). Ditto earned first-team All-District 5-5A and finished second overall individually while the Lady Pirates were second as a team.

"Akyah is a very special young lady with a servant's heart," Addison added, noting Ditto plans to pursue a career helping others and doing social work. "I miss her already!"

Addison said she is already excited about next season with juniors Carr and Grace Jimenez stepping into leadership roles. Carr was second-team all-district and Jimenez was honorable mention. Also, Jordan, a freshman, was first-team all-district and shot her best rounds of the season at regionals, while sophomore Ariel Jimenez, who had her low round of the season at regionals, was honorable mention all-district.

"Halle and Grace are both

hard-working young ladies and I am expecting great things from them on and off the course," she said. "I am super excited to have these four young ladies returning," Addison said. "I have five other freshmen returning next year that will be adding more depth to our roster."

GRANBURY BOYS ALL-DISTRICT SOCCER

Senior Weston Cantrell of the Pirates was named first-team All-District 5-5A by the league's coaches. Named to the second team was junior Abel Aguado.

Honorable mentions are seniors Ty Gomez, Jack Stone and Kyle Stahl.

GRANBURY GIRLS ALL-DISTRICT SOCCER

Lady Pirates senior Emery Kirby garnered first-team All-District 5-5A honors, with senior Dominique Callahan receiving second-team accolades. Honorable mentions are junior goalkeeper Sharai Rosas, along with Tessa Rohleder and Elise Mikulskis.

TOLAR BASEBALL

The Rattlers (12-6-2, 8-0 in District 11-2A) finished a perfect run through the league with a 12-2 win at Poolville April 19.

Hitting vs. Poolville: Talan Brown two hits, three RBIs;

Jesse Owen two hits, double, three RBIs; Drake Owens two hits, double; Rowdy Tryon two hits, double, RBI.

Pitching vs. Poolville: Brown five innings, three hits, two runs (zero earned), six strikeouts, one walk.

Tolar will end the regular season at Grandview April 27 at noon, with the playoffs set to open May 4-6.

LIPAN BASEBALL

The Indians (7-9-2, 5-3 in District 11-2A) ended district with a 29-0 home win over Ranger April 19 as Jackson Posey and Dillon Hall each hit inside-the-park home runs. They defeated Bluff Dale 15-1 at home April 23.

Hitting vs. Ranger: Posey two hits, home run, walk, six RBIs; Brayden Dowdy two hits, double, two RBIs, four stolen bases; Tyson Tarpley double, triple, two hit by pitch, RBI; Teague Pemberton two hits, double, two RBI; Hall two hits, home run, two hit by pitch, four RBIs; Trew Phillips double, two RBIs.

Pitching vs. Ranger: Court Gaylor one inning, one strikeout, one walk; Phillips two innings, one hit, three strikeouts; Tucker Tims one inning, three strikeouts.

Hitting vs. Bluff Dale: Christopher Collins three hits, walk, two RBIs; Posey

PLEASE SEE **SPORTS** | B9

UMHB Senior from Granbury named All-American

Submitted Item
BELTON — University of Mary Hardin-Baylor beach volleyball players Aliana Rojas and Gracie Nichols have been named American Volleyball Coaches Association Division III All-Americans.

Nichols, a senior from Granbury, went 24-4 this season with an 18-2 mark at Line 2. She added five wins at Line 1 and one at Line 3, tying the record for winningest pair on the season. Nichols also went 3-0 at the AVCA Small College Beach Division III Championships.

"Gracie has been a very consistent and steady force for this program," head coach Mark Pryor said. "She has made every partner better with her calm and confident demeanor. She is a complete player who can

attack, defend, block, transition and basically score with any touch she has. Her consistency and her pace of play really set the tone for the program this year. She was never too low, never too high. Gracie gave us a very workman-like mentality that came in, got the job done and most importantly, did that with a smile on her face almost all the time. She really led the team this year and she did it in a very authentic way, which made it unbelievably effective."

Rojas, a junior from Victoria, went 17-10 on the season with 11 wins at Line 1. Rojas added six wins at Line 2 and earned a big win against Berry College to help the Cru clinch its AVCA Small College Beach Division III Championship.

"Ali has been a fierce com-

petitor," Pryor said. "She just wants to win in everything and I mean everything. This kid wants to win stretching, warm-ups and the match. Her work ethic has made her one of the elite defenders in Division III volleyball this season. She was really relentless all year. Ali wore a lot of teams down with just her effort, consistency and her shot-making precision... Her aggressive play and demeanor were a great thing for our younger players to see and emulate this year."

Nichols and Rojas are the first All-Americans in UMHB Beach Volleyball history. The team also won the program's first AVCA Small College Beach Division III Championship this season, going undefeated amongst Division III and NAIA opponents in 2024.



Gracie Nichols (left) of Granbury and Aliana Rojas (right) of Victoria were named beach volleyball All-Americans.

COURTESY PHOTO

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Celebration honors naming of Tarleton State's College of Business for Dr. Sam Pack

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University celebrated the naming of its College of Business in honor of esteemed supporter, honorary doctorate recipient and automotive industry legend Dr. Sam Pack April 18.

In North Texas, Dr. Pack owns Five Star Ford dealerships in Carrollton, North Richland Hills, Dallas and Lewisville, along with Five Star Chevrolet in Carrollton and Five Star Subaru in Grapevine. Additionally, he co-owns six luxury dealerships in Tulsa featuring Lexus, Audi, Volkswagen, Cadillac, Jaguar and Land Rover brands.

His historic gift of over \$10 million is the largest in Tarleton State history.

"Tarleton has a very special place in our hearts," said Pack. "As great as the university is, the best days are yet ahead, and our family wants to be a part of that. We want to make a difference in the lives of the young people, especially those that bleed purple."

The impact will be felt immediately.

"What strikes me most about Sam is he puts others ahead of himself at every opportunity," said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley. "The premise of his success has been based on relationships. He has that innate ability to make people feel valued, regardless of what their position is in a particular organization, association or entity. He values every single person and the importance of higher education."

Pack has been honored numerous times, highlighted by the national 1988 TIME Dealer of the Year tribute, the industry's most prestigious award. In 2003, he



Top left: Dr. Sam Pack and Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley unveil the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business building marker. Top right: state Rep. Shelby Slawson (District 59), state Senator Brian Birdwell (District 22), Dr. Hurley and Dr. Pack. Bottom left: Dr. Hurley, First Lady Kindall Hurley, Carol Pack and Dr. Pack. Bottom right: Dr. Pack speaking to the crowd.

received the Ford Motor Company Salute to Dealers Award, presented by Edsel Ford II, for his commitment to improving communities and the lives of individuals in them. He was also honored as a Texas Automobile Dealers Association Legend in 2006 and was named to Ford's inaugural Top Volume Dealers Hall of Fame in 2016.

"Over 40 years of service in the automotive industry, he has provided an education of his own to those around him," said John Sharp, Chancellor of The Texas

A&M System. "His business acumen, giving nature and passion for others are special traits. Dr. Pack's continued commitment to sharing his wealth of knowledge aligns with Tarleton State's efforts to increase access and opportunity for all."

More than 3,100 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business, with courses available at Tarleton State's Stephenville, Fort Worth and Waco campuses, along with online.

Students in the college work with Union Pacific, Walt Disney, Boot Barn, Saint-Gobain, Barefoot Campus Outfitter, L3Harris Technologies, Goldman Sachs, H-E-B and Amazon, among others, for internships and senior capstone projects to gain hands-on skills and knowledge.

All programs within the college are fully accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). Fewer than 6% of business schools in the world are accredited

by the AACSB, which is the premier business school accrediting body.

"Dr. Pack's impact will be felt for generations to come," said Dr. Rajarshi Aroskar, Dean of the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business.

At Tarleton State, he has already made his mark, supporting the food pantry, the President's Circle, and the Dr. James and Kindall Hurley Scholarship Endowment. Additionally, the Tarleton State University Pack Automotive Group Intern Program provides Texans

with learning opportunities that promote future career success.

Last spring, he was presented with an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Tarleton State for his humanitarian and philanthropic contributions as well as a President's Legacy Award for Excellence, Integrity and Respect at the Gala.

Overall, he supports more than 300 nonprofits, service organizations and community events.

"Dr. Pack has experienced success in all facets of life," said state Rep. Shelby Slawson (District 59). "We will work tirelessly to ensure that the college named in his honor is the best of the best."

When discussing Dr. Pack's life, state Sen. Brian Birdwell (District 22) focused on how his story will impact future generations. "As a self-made man, he will inspire Tarleton State students for years to come. His lifelong commitment to faith, family and the greater good is a tremendous example for others to follow."

In a journey filled with accomplishments and recognitions, Pack said the university naming its College of Business in his honor is a distinction that stands above all. This is just the second time an academic college at Tarleton State has been named for an individual.

"I've been honored in a lot of different ways, but it's the greatest honor that has ever been bestowed upon me," he said. "I will always be indebted to those who were instrumental in making this happen."

Learn more about the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business at <https://www.tarleton.edu/cob/>.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Baseball takes home series against UTRGV

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Texan Baseball secured the series win over the Vaqueros April 21 at the Tarleton Baseball Complex.

Tarleton State (22-18, 12-9 WAC) took the rubber match Sunday against UTRGV (19-17, 8-10 WAC) with a 7-2 final to secure the series victory for the Texans.

With a one-run ball game headed into the bottom of the fourth, the Purple and White came alive with a three-run inning to put the Vaqueros in their place.

Devon Patel got the start for Tarleton State with 2.0 innings on the mound, giving up one run on two hits, one walk and one strikeout. Reese Bassinger (3-1) secured his third win with 5.0 innings pitched, giving up no runs on four hits, no walks and five strikeouts.

Tyler Valdez (L, 1-3) started things off for UTRGV with 3.2 innings on the mound, giving up five runs on four hits, four walks and three strikeouts.

The Purple and White compiled seven runs on 10 hits, with a double from Cris

Enriquez and a pair of stolen bases with help from Kooper Shook and Tyson Drake.

The Vaqueros finished with two runs on nine hits, with one double.

The visitors were first on the board with a lone run in the top of the second. A leadoff double followed by a groundout advanced the lead runner to third. A flyout brought in the first run for the Vaqueros.

In the bottom of the third the Texans got to work, putting a pair of runs on the board to take the lead. A leadoff single from Sergio

Guerra got things going for the home team. Ike Shirey reached on a fielder's choice.

With one out recorded, Hammonds walked, and Drake also reached on a fielder's choice to see runners at first and third. Drake stole second to put a couple of Texans in scoring position and a two RBI single from Cole Miers brought the pair home, taking the lead for the home team.

In the top of the eighth things heated up for the visitors but the Vaqueros couldn't finish. With one out on the board, the two-hole singled to left center and a pair of walks followed to load the bases with a 5-1

score on the board. Braydon Risley secured a strikeout looking for the second out and Hammonds claimed the third out with a toss to second base to get the Texans out of the danger zone, leaving three runners stranded for UTRGV.

Tarleton State's half of the eighth welcome another couple of runs for some insurance. With one out recorded, Enriquez doubled to put the Purple and White in scoring position. Trace Morrison singled on a bunt and advanced to third on an error, bringing Enriquez back home for the sixth run for the home team. An RBI single from Austin Russell

made way for Morrison to come home for the final run of the inning. Shook singled to join Russell on the base path and stole second, but a pair of outs followed to close out the inning.

The top of the ninth saw the Vaqueros add another to the board, but the lone run wasn't enough to keep the visitors alive. A leadoff single was followed by a pair of outs. With the lead runner at third, an RBI single to left field made way for the second run to come in for UTRGV. A solid snag from Miers shut down the Vaqueros' comeback, closing out the afternoon with a 7-2 final for Tarleton State.

Tarleton State Latin Jazz Ensemble to host Spring Concert April 29

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — The Tarleton State University Latin Jazz Ensemble hits the stage of the Clyde H. Wells Fine Arts Center Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 29, for its spring concert.

The ensemble will present a program showcasing rhythms and melodies of Cuba and Cuban-influenced jazz.

Joining them will be the Tarleton Jazz Combo 1, performing an opening set of small group jazz, beginning with Kenny Garrett's

"Wayne's Thang," and followed by the Miles Davis/Victor Feldman composition, "Seven Steps to Heaven," "Evidence," by Thelonious Monk and Jimmy Heath's "Gingerbread Boy."

The Latin band will lead off its set with "Ran Kan Kan" by Tito Puente followed by Abelardo Valdés' "Almendra," "Mambo Inn" by Mario Bauza, and Professor Connor Kent-arranged "Passion Dance" by McCoy Tyner.

The Latin Jazz Ensemble, directed by Kent, includes

William Cazares on flute and alto saxophone; Devon Armstrong on tenor saxophone; Acacia Johnson on trombone; Jackson Griffith on bass; Brody Custer on drums; and Abbye Nash on percussion.

The Tarleton Jazz Combo 1, also directed by Kent, features alto saxophonist Nicholas Dorazil, Mattias Piatt on tenor saxophone; Alan Gutierrez on trombone; Jackson Griffith on bass; and drummer Brody Custer.

Admission is \$5 or free with a Tarleton ID.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Texan Baseball secured the series win over the Vaqueros April 21 at the Tarleton Baseball Complex.

Granbury High School District UIL results

Submitted Item

On April 5-6, Granbury High School hosted the UIL Academic District 5-5A district meet. Approximately 280 students came from seven schools to compete in several academic competitions. Most of the academic competitions took place Friday, with the speech and debate rounds Saturday. Students who placed in the top three individual places in their event, or the top team of four, advance to the UIL Academic Regional Meet in Lubbock at Texas Tech University, which will take place April 26-27. Students finishing in the top three

individually or first place as a team will advance to the UIL State meet at Austin May 13-15.

ACCOUNTING

Accounting Team: 1st Place and Region Qualified Team: Taylor Dawley, Cristy Torres, Jonathan Wyatt Green and Everett Brown.

Accounting Individual Results:

- 1st - Taylor Dawley
- 2nd - Ana Cristy Torres
- 3rd - Jonathan Wyatt Green
- 5th - Everett Brown

CALCULATOR

Calculator Applications: 2nd Place Team and regional

alternate: Marciello Lazo, Addison Shipp, Abby Stone and Addison Dunn.

Individual Calculator Results:

- 4th - Marciello Lazo
- 5th - Addison Shipp

SCIENCE

Science Team: 1st Place and Region Qualified Team: Konner Babiash, Lucas Hyde, Riley Morris and Nolan Porter.

Science Individual Results:

- 1st Place Overall: Konner Babiash
- Chemistry Top Score: Konner Babiash
- Physics Top Score: Konner Babiash

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies Team: 1st Place and Region Qualified Team: Quinn King, Cameron Ward, Alyssa Carter and Pooja Vitthalpura.

Social Studies Individual Results:

- 1st Place - Quinn King
- 3rd Place - Cameron Ward

SPELLING

Spelling Team: 1st Place and Region Qualified Team: Mann Vagashia, Jocelyn Berry, Preston Kirkland and Alejandra Landra.

Spelling Individual Results:

- 1st - Mann Vagashia
- 3rd - Jocelyn Berry
- 4th - Preston Kirkland
- 5th - Alejandra Landra

6th - Grant Rogers

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

- 5th - Nolan Black
- 6th - Collin Yarbrough
- 7th - Rylan Fleming

READY WRITING

- 2nd - Anya Peters
- COPY EDITING
- 6th - Quinn King

EDITORIAL WRITING

- 4th - Lilly Woods
- 6th - Isabella Blair

HEADLINE WRITING

- 3rd - Dakota Pool

NEWS WRITING

- 4th - Dakota Pool

INFORMATIVE SPEAKING

- 2nd - Scarlett Farnier
- 3rd - Nathaniel Looney
- 5th - Jamie Ledesma

LINCOLN - DOUGLAS DEBATE

- 3rd - Scarlett Farnier

PERSUASIVE SPEAKING

- 2nd - Lexi Scarpello

POETRY INTERPRETATION

- 6th - Kierra Black

PROSE INTERPRETATION

- 3rd - Brylea Hyde

HOOD OUTDOORS

Spring shallow water fishing action is on!



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.

Water temperatures have been a little slow to rise this year as we are actually having a spring season. Typically, we go from winter straight to summer. Lake temperatures are rising into the 70s and the fish are near their most active time of the year. If you can get on them when they are feeding right now, look out!

Luckily this time of the year, shallow water action is possible most any day. Many fish will push baitfish in the shallows. This is also when many of the baitfish species are spawning. So where

would you be if you were a predator? Most likely you will be shallow.

Though I advertise how I call fish in by thrashing the water most of the year, this is one time — when you are

fishing real shallow — you want to be sure to not spook the fish. Keep the big motor off and approach slowly. Long casts may be in order, or if you use live bait, it may be good to float your bait into the shallows under a float or balloon.

Bird action can point you to active fish. Some of our wintering birds are still around and they are always looking for an easy meal. Cranes and other birds may point you to active fish as well throughout the year.

With the recent full moon, the threadfin and gizzard shad are spawning in the shallows on most every reservoir and you can be sure there are predators that are not far behind. If you are a hybrid or striped bass angler, nothing is better than a tank full of large threadfin

shad commonly called yellowtails. I would also keep the bigger gizzard shad this time of the year as the bigger stripers and hybrids are typically not afraid of “wolfing” down a big gizzard shad.

Due to our earlier golden algae bloom, the baitfish population is down on Granbury. Catching baitfish is a little tougher, but it is possible in the backs of sloughs and creeks.

Granbury sand bass are good in shallow water especially on those warmer days. Possum Kingdom striped bass are good on topwater fished in shallow water. Crappie are moving in the backs of creeks a little later this year, but they are in shallow water. Largemouth bass are still reported to be on the beds in the shallow creeks and bays.

If you find schooling fish feeding on the surface, don't forget that you can fish below them for bigger fish. Many times, the bigger predators are laying in wait under the smaller feeding fish on the surface.

Shallow water presentations include soft plastics, swim baits, crank baits and spinner type baits. A little deeper and you can work slabs and spoons. The slabs and spoons are excellent choices on structure this time of the year but they can also be tossed into feeding fish as well.

So if you can get away this time of the year, the action is there to be taken. Watch the weather and stay off the lake in high winds. We have had numerous windy days this season. Be careful on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury is around 70 degrees on the main lake. Some creeks are stained from the recent rains. There is some floating debris, so be careful out there. Best fishing reports are for the sand bass on slabs fished from Blue Water Shores to the area in town by the swim beach. Striped bass are slow to fair on live bait fished from De Cordova Bend Estates to the dam. Largemouth bass are fair to good to 7 pounds on the beds in most area creeks and sloughs. Blue and yellow catfish are good on cut bait fished from in town to Hunter Park. Crappie are good on minnows and small jigs fished under a cork in the backs of the creeks near docks and rip rap.

RODEO

FROM PAGE B1

year in rehab, pushing his limits alongside the Texas Tech football team, where his spirit of recovery became an inspiration to many. Stevenson's comeback trail was crowned with victory at the 2007 Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo in Pocatello, Idaho, a crowning that solidified his reputation as one of the sport's greats.

This weekend, the Texas Rodeo Cowboy Hall of Fame in Fort Worth will open its doors to welcome Stevenson, a fitting tribute to a man who has embodied the spirit of

the cowboy with every ride.

In 2016, with his daughter approaching school age, Stevenson decided it was time to leave the road and settle down. “Francie and I had always said that when our kids started school, I was going to be done with rodeo,” said Stevenson. “It's hard to be a dad when you're not around.”

The allure of Hood County called to Stevenson, and he moved his family to its welcoming embrace. However, Stevenson's story isn't merely about personal achievement; it's also a narrative of community and compassion. When a local family was struggling to cope with

their child's severe illness, Stevenson didn't stand idly by. He sought to rally the community to their aid. However, he encountered a consistent challenge — the lack of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit prevented many willing hearts from providing financial support. “Everywhere I turned, it was ‘y'all aren't a 501(c)(3),’” recalled Stevenson.

Where others saw a roadblock, Wes saw a rodeo gate waiting to be flung open. In 2017, together with his wife, Francie, and his local banker, Jeffery Ross, he established the Hood County Stampede as a 501(c)(3) charity. Once they had the organization

formed, Ross told Stevenson, “Wes, you don't wait until a kid has cancer or something to start raising money. You go ahead and put on an event beforehand. Granbury doesn't have a real good rodeo, and it needs a good one, and you know how to put on rodeos.”

“So that's what we decided to do,” said Stevenson.

Run by passionate volunteers, the organization now hosts premier events, including the annual family-friendly rough stock rodeo at the picturesque Hood County Reunion Grounds overlooking Granbury.

On Saturday, May 25, the Hood County Reunion

Grounds will come alive with the latest edition of the Hood County Stampede Rodeo. This event is more than a showcase of skill and courage; it's a lifeline for the community's children and a beacon of education about the cowboy way of life. Through its efforts, the Stampede provides scholarships and financial aid, nurturing the next generation in Hood County.

Wes Stevenson's saga is one of a man who rode the wave of success, braved the tumult of setbacks, and emerged not just as a champion in the rodeo arena but as a beacon of hope and charity. Ultimately, Stevenson's legacy will be

measured not just in the records he set or the titles he earned but in the countless lives he touched, both on and off the dirt arena.

For those inspired by Stevenson's journey who are looking to support the noble cause of the Hood County Stampede, more information can be found at www.hoodcountystampede.com. As Stevenson's story shows, the spirit of the rodeo isn't just about the thrill of the eight-second ride; it's about the enduring strength and generosity that one can bring to one's community long after the dust has settled.



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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on April 20 (Puzzle 78).

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com
Puzzle by websudoku.com

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



SAME PAPER

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



Tolar Softball

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar Lady Rattlers ended the regular season with a nondistrict game, winning 6-0 at home against Benbrook April, 19. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



Rattlers on the mound between plays.



Jaylyn Miller catching the out at first.



Karia Krause getting a hit Friday.



Reese Tryon pitching in the no hitter game Friday, April 19.

SPORTS

FROM PAGE B2

two hits, walk, RBI; Pemberton double, RBI; Tarpley double, two RBIs.

Pitching vs. Bluff Dale: Tarpley 4.1 innings, four hits, one run (zero earned), eight strikeouts, no walks.

The Indians conclude the regular season against Bluff Dale in Glen Rose April 29 at 6 p.m. They play for the bidistrict title May 4-6.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Lady Pirates (13-17, 6-6 in District 5-5A) ended the regular season with a 10-0 loss at Aledo April 19.

The Lady Pirates were playing a best-of-3 bidistrict series against Fort Worth South Hills at press time.

TOLAR SOFTBALL

The Lady Rattlers (17-6, 6-0 in District 11-2A) ended the regular season with a pair of nondistrict games, winning 6-0 at home against Benbrook April 19 and 14-3 at Eula April 23.

Hitting vs. Benbrook: Jaylyn Miller three hits, double; Allyson Dobbs two hits, double, two RBIs; Karia Krause double; Reese Tryon double.

Pitching vs. Benbrook: Tryon four innings, no hits, nine strikeouts, one walk, one hit batter.

Hitting vs. Eula: Dobbs three hits, home run, two RBIs; Tryon two hits, home run, walk, RBI; K. Deaver two hits, RBI, two stolen bases; L. Gardner two hits, RBI; Senne Imel double, hit by pitch, RBI; Ava LeCluyse double, two RBIs.

Pitching vs. Eula: Tryon five innings, three hits, three earned runs, 12 strikeouts, one walk.

Tolar was playing Itasca in bidistrict at press time.

LIPAN SOFTBALL

The Lady Indians (10-6, 4-2 in District 11-2A) fell 4-2 at Cisco April 23. Ashlyn Clark had two hits and stole three bases. Gentry Kirkland hit a triple.

Lipan was playing Hamilton in bidistrict at press time.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury sprinter Elijah Johnston prepares to run. He won the class 5A Region I Meet, qualifying him for the state meet in Austin on May 3. He holds the school record in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.32 seconds.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tolar pole vaulter Brylen Feist finished second at the 2A Region II Meet, earning a berth at the upcoming state meet in Austin May 3.

Hood County News Junior

National Pool Opening Day

April 27, 2024

Did You Know?

According to the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance, the United States boasts 10.7 million swimming pools, with a breathtaking 10.4 million residential and 309,000 public pools.

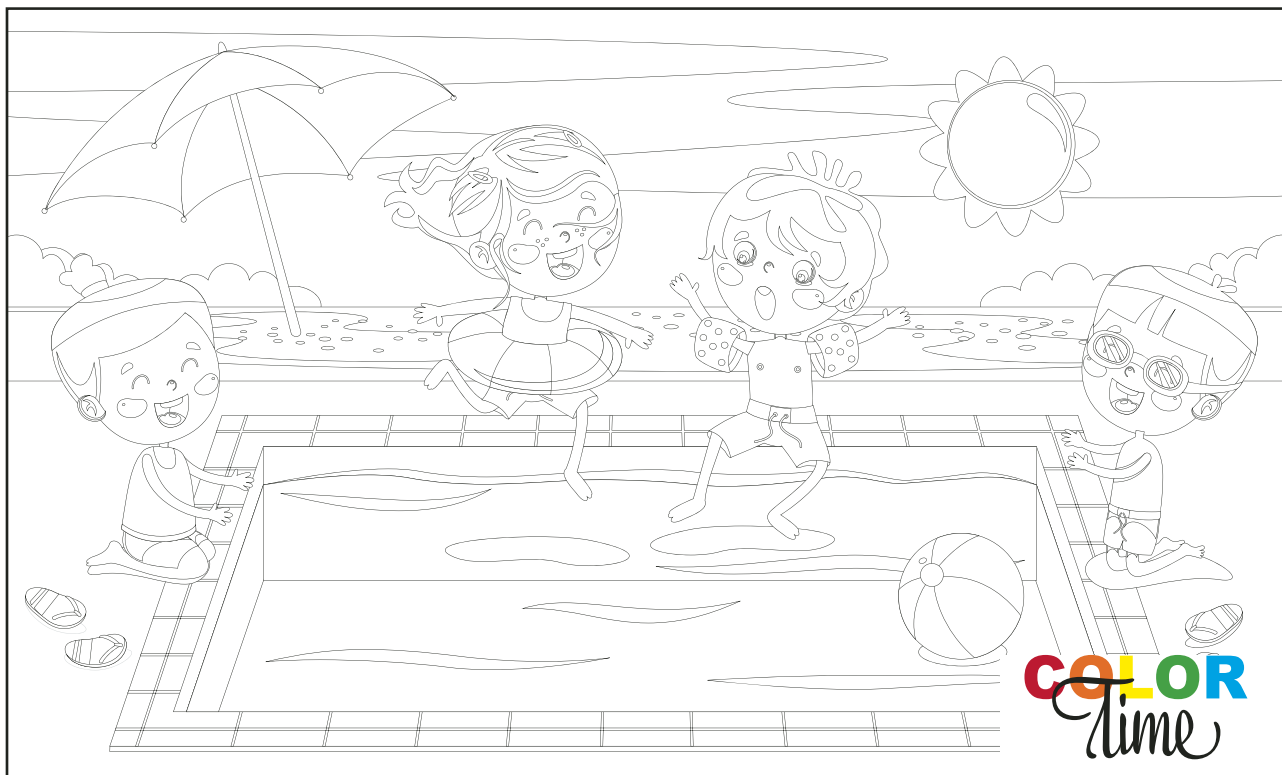
Swimming pool

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

U T S P O L F P I L F A W W W
P Z E T D I V I N G B O A R D
S Y D N A P O S Y X N V B F B
A Z I Q G O K W C H Y O X Z C
M C L D S E L G G O G A N S A
J T S Z N Z K F A V F C Q U B
S M R C T C O H W X C N F M K
S P E Z N N E Y A H G I Z M L
A O T B Z Y W K D C R L C E C
D R A U G E F I L A F C C R N
T Q W Z N E E R C S N U S P Z
E E D K E V T R K W H U W O D
C N U S A T Q V A X P C F O M
M K N U C K F R W J V T G L H
O L Y O G N I M M I W S X E F

Word Bank

- sun
- swimming
- divingboard
- goggles
- floats
- lifeguard
- sunscreen
- waterslide
- summerpool
- flipflops



National Pool Opening Day, celebrated on April 27th, heralds the arrival of splashing good times and sunny days as pools across the nation welcome eager swimmers. For kids, this day marks the beginning of aquatic adventures, laughter, and the promise of a refreshing swim.

On National Pool Opening Day, families can pack their swimsuits, grab their sunscreen, and head to their local pool for a day of water-filled excitement. From cannonballs to synchronized swimming attempts, kids get the chance to showcase their aquatic skills and revel in the sheer joy of being in the water.

Parents play a crucial role in making this day both fun and safe. National Pool

Opening Day serves as a great opportunity to reinforce essential water safety rules, emphasizing the importance of supervision, proper use of floatation devices, and responsible swimming practices.

In some places, National Pool Opening Day festivities may include special events like poolside games, music, and tasty snacks. Families can bask in the celebratory atmosphere, creating memories that will last throughout the summer.

So, on April 27th, let the pool party begin! National Pool Opening Day is a call to all water enthusiasts to jump in, make a splash, and revel in the delight of a day spent enjoying the refreshing waters of a swimming pool.

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Melanie Sukampo
Brawner Elementary Teacher

Not Pictured:
Courtney Renard
Brawner Elementary
Teacher





Hank FM is much more than just music



COURTESY PHOTO

Hank FM at Lake Granbury Conference Center.

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Special to the Hood County News

In the age of Spotify and satellite radio, traditional radio stations can find themselves jockeying for listeners against mediums that pro-

vide on-demand music at the touch of a finger.

While some stations have struggled to remain relevant, others, like 92.1 Hank FM, are doing just fine and even thriving.

For Gerry Schlegel, president of LKCM Radio Group,

which includes KTFW 92.1 Hank FM and KFWR 95.9 The Ranch, a radio station is much more than just music.

“On-demand music has certainly changed the way that people consume audio,” Schlegel said. “But it’s more than music. To be relevant,

you have to be a part of people’s lives. I think people want to be a part of a community, and we’re so much more than just an outlet that plays music. We’re local people involved in the local community who care about local causes.

“We’re visible. We’re out on the street over 300 times a year. Our studios are on Main Street in visible locations, and we keep an ear to the ground and our finger on the pulse of the issues and concerns that matter to people here in Hood County and

North Central Texas.” Proper stewardship also plays a large role, and Schlegel said LKCM is fortunate to have a solid, local ownership group, without a big debt structure.

PLEASE SEE **HANK** | C2

Hummingbird harmony: Crafting your own hummingbird utopia

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

Imagine transforming your garden into a lively hummingbird haven. These tiny, dazzling birds flit from flower to flower, adding a burst of life and color to your outdoor space. Attracting hummingbirds is not just about the joy of watching their aerial acrobatics; it’s about creating an environment where these enchanting creatures can thrive.

With a few simple changes and the right floral attractions, you can turn your lawn and garden into a buzzing hub of hummingbird activity, making every day a vibrant spectacle of nature’s wonders. With the right flowers, feeders and gardening techniques, you can turn

your backyard into a bustling hummingbird haven. Ready to begin? Let’s explore how to make your garden the talk of the neighborhood — hummingbird style!

SELECTING THE RIGHT FLOWERS

Hummingbirds are attracted to areas rich in nectar-producing flowers. Their favorites include trumpet-shaped blooms and those that are brightly colored, especially red, pink, and orange. To create a hummingbird-friendly garden:

Plant Variety: Incorporate a mix of annuals and perennials to ensure continuous blooming throughout the growing season. Good choices are bee balm, zinnias, salvia and foxglove.

Native Plants: Opt for native species that humming-

birds find more appealing and are often more adapted to your local climate.

Plant in Clusters: Large groupings of the same species of flower create a visual beacon for hummingbirds and provide a more substantial feeding area.

INSTALLING HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Adding feeders can supplement natural nectar sources, especially during peak migration times or in areas with fewer flowers:

Feeder Type: Choose a feeder with red accents as hummingbirds are drawn to the color. Avoid using colored feeding solutions; instead, mix four parts water with one part white sugar.

Maintenance: Clean feeders regularly, at least

PLEASE SEE **HARMONY** | C3



COURTESY PHOTO BY GALYNA, ENVATO.COM

With a few simple changes and the right floral attractions, you can turn your lawn and garden into a buzzing hub of hummingbird activity, making every day a vibrant spectacle of nature’s wonders.

Cicadas: Nature’s timekeepers and how to protect your garden

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

It sounds like a movie trailer for the next blockbuster disaster movie: millions of insects burrowing their way to the surface from their underground lairs to devour any vegetation in sight. But it’s actual reality and not a movie, and while it doesn’t happen very often, it’s a completely normal part of the ecological cycle and not nearly as ominous as it sounds!

First and foremost, cicadas are not dangerous. In fact, there are some definite environmental benefits, including:

• Cicadas are a valuable food source for birds and other predators.

• Cicadas can aerate lawns and improve water filtration into the ground.

• Cicadas add nutrients to the soil as they decompose.

Cicadas are a fascinating aspect of nature, known not only for their

distinctive buzzing songs but also for their unique lifecycle, which involves spending most of their lives underground. These insects can challenge gardeners and homeowners when they emerge in massive numbers every 13 or 17 years. Understanding their behavior and lifecycle is crucial for protecting your yard and plants from potential damage.

UNDERSTANDING CICADA BEHAVIOR

Cicadas are primarily known for their periodic emergence, which happens every 13 or 17 years, depending on the species. These mass emergences are a survival strategy known as predator satiation: by emerging in vast numbers, they overwhelm predators, ensuring enough survive to reproduce.

During this time, adult cicadas are active in mating and laying eggs. This phase can cause damage to young and tender plants as female cicadas make slits in the branches of trees to lay their

eggs. More on how to protect your young saplings and plants in a moment.

THE LIFECYCLE OF A CICADA

The lifecycle of a cicada is both fascinating and complex. After the eggs are laid on the branches, they hatch into nymphs. These nymphs then drop to the ground and burrow into the soil, where they will live most of their lives. Underground, cicada nymphs attach to tree roots, feeding on the sap and slowly maturing.

This subterranean phase can last for over a decade, after which the nymphs re-emerge from the soil, shed their exoskeletons, and begin the adult phase of their lifecycle. This remarkable process is not only a wonder of nature but also a critical period during which they are vulnerable to various threats, including human intervention.

TIPS FOR MANAGING CICADAS DURING THEIR BRIEF VISIT

PLEASE SEE **CICADAS** | C2



COURTESY PHOTO BY PELOOYEN, ENVATO.COM

Cicadas are a fascinating aspect of nature, known not only for their distinctive buzzing songs but also for their unique lifecycle, which involves spending most of their lives underground.

Winners Announced for Rio Brazos Art Exhibition

From Staff Reports

winners of the 26th Annual Rio Brazos Art Exhibition were announced at the show's closing reception Sunday, April 21. The Rio Brazos Art Exhibition is a juried show, born lo-

cally, that has become a national show. The juror for this year's show was Tim Harding, an artist who lives and works in Fort Worth and is an associate professor of art at Tarleton State University. The David Southern Award

for Best in Show was awarded to Adam Lancaster of Denton for his piece "Sitting Sage." The Granbury Art Alliance Award winner was Ted Larson of Kingsport, Tennessee for his work, "Lost & Found." The Mark Davis Memorial Award

was given to Cristi Frye of Burleson for "Old Flame." Featured artists (sponsored by Your Private Collection Art Gallery) included: Linda Anderle (Clovis, New Mexico) "Ellen Fills Spaces;" Stephanie Lawhorn (Rockwall)

"Shine Bright;" Angela Liu (Diamond Bar, California) "A Conversation with the Chameleon;" Margaret Shermerhorn (Katy) "Untitled;" and Maria Tate (Pflugerville) "Waman Poma de Ayala." Local artists selected

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

HANK FROM PAGE C1

"We don't have any debt... we've managed to keep all of our people, even during COVID," Schlegel said. "We didn't let anybody go during COVID, and we found opportunities during the pandemic."

Schlegel said that while formats like Spotify are convenient in certain respects, 92.1 Hank FM, which features Country music from the 80s and 90s, is a part of the fabric of the Hood County community in ways that on-demand music could never be.

"If it's just going to be music, then yeah, there are other ways to listen to that," Schlegel said. "But you have to offer people more than just music. You have to care about what they care about. We're from here, we're local and we live here. We care about the community and the people here. We raise our families here, and I think that makes a huge difference."

The biggest advantage that traditional radio stations have over on-demand music, Schlegel contends, is the people themselves.

"They're everything," Schlegel said. "To me, it's all about the people. It's all about the people who run the radio station because otherwise, it's just a bunch of expensive equipment in remote locations. You need people to breathe life into it every day, and then you need people to listen to it. Then you need to create some content that is relevant to the people in this area where they want to tune in."

"Then, of course, you need local businesses to support it because it is commercial radio. We make it free to listeners, but it takes local businesses, because it is the sponsors who really make it free. So it's all about the people and all of those constituents working together."

Schlegel said the relationship Hank 92.1 has established with the local business community and its involvement in town activities are a major part of the reason why the country station has been able to flourish.

"We have been supported very well," Schlegel said. "We have a great relationship with the Granbury CVB. We're very close with Tammy Dooley and a lot of the civic leaders in Granbury. And then we get involved with the Lakefest, which we've helped produce the last few years in September. We put on a Home and Garden show. We put on parties on New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day."

"We're down in the plaza involved in different events on the Fourth of July. So I think we are very well received. A lot of our folks live in Hood County... they live here in our community, and they genuinely care about it. That makes a huge difference."

Schlegel said he has been very blessed to have several employees work with him for 10, 15 and even 20-plus years, and has discovered combining the best features of traditional radio with the best aspects of what the on-demand music services have to offer is the best recipe for success.

"The industry has its



Hank's Team promoting LakeFest at Granbury City Beach.

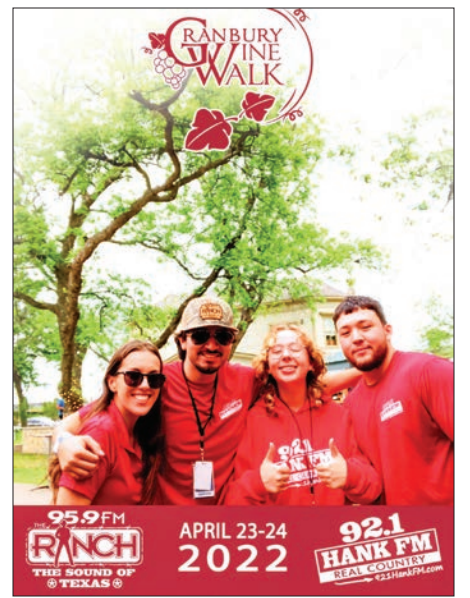
COURTESY PHOTOS

concerns, and I think you can look at situations and be afraid of them or you can find the opportunities, and then lean into those opportunities," Schlegel said. "So we've adopted a lot of digital technology and streaming. We have more and more people listening to our program online. We developed an app in the early 2000s, and that app has been downloaded on more than 850,000 handheld digital devices."

"I look at it as I've got people walking around with the potential to listen to my station on their phone in their pockets. We've also built up a lot of content online. Our platforms and social media are huge. We've got a couple of hundred thousand fans who follow us on social media. So there's a lot of opportunity if you look for it and you adapt."



Bryan Torres and Erin Wilde getting ready for Harvest Moon Festival.



Hank's Team at Landon Grounds during the Granbury Wine Walk.

CICADAS FROM PAGE C1

ABOVE GROUND

Cicadas may be loud, but they're largely harmless, and managing them doesn't have to be a headache. Here are some straightforward tips to handle this natural phenomenon without reaching for the pesticide:

SKIP THE SPRAY

There's no need to use pesticides on cicadas; they're ineffective anyway. Cicadas emerge in such massive numbers that you'll never be able to keep them all away. More importantly, cicadas don't pose a threat to people or pets. Pesticides could harm other wildlife that feed on these insects, not to men-

tion beneficial bugs in your garden. There's also the risk of exposing pets and family members to unnecessary chemicals.

THEY'RE HARMLESS

Not to belabor the point, but cicadas are harmless. Cicadas might look a bit intimidating, but they neither bite nor sting. They aren't poisonous or venomous, and many animals actually find them to be a tasty snack. Pets might get a bit of an upset stomach if they overindulge, but a few cicadas here and there won't hurt them.

PROTECT YOUNG TREES

While adult trees are robust enough to handle cicadas, young saplings might need a bit of extra care. To safeguard your young

trees, cover them with mesh or netting that has 1/4-inch openings or smaller. This prevents cicadas from laying eggs in the tender, small branches, which could cause damage.

REMEMBER, THEY WON'T STAY LONG

Cicadas are temporary visitors that don't harm the leaves, flowers or fruits in your garden. Adult cicadas feed only on small amounts of sap from trees and shrubs, so there's no need for extra protective measures like covering garden plants or adding more insecticides.

By following these simple guidelines, you can coexist peacefully with cicadas until they retreat underground again. Enjoy the natural spectacle while it lasts!

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Jane Morgan turns 100 years old



Jane came into the world in Atwood, Kansas April 6, 1924. She now resides in Pecan Plantation with her loving husband Bob. Jane is known for being a very young 100; she is active and a blessing to her husband, family, friends and neighbors, and she is so loved.

Jane Morgan turns 100.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Academy students to present “The Lion King KIDS” and Shakespeare at the Opera House

Submitted Item

Granbury Theatre Academy will present “Disney’s The Lion King KIDS” and “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” at the historic Granbury Opera House during the weekend of May 3-5, 2024.

The shows are part of the Granbury Theatre Academy Children’s Series. Sponsors for the series are Granbury Optimist Club, First National Bank of Granbury, The Hyde Law Firm, Hood County News and Merry Jayne’s.

In the cast for “The Lion King KIDS” are Jaydon Barbaree, Karlee Davis, Chloe Davison, Clark Dorr, Faye Galaviz, Aria Hawkins, Sierra Herbert, Kooper Hinrichs, Tate Marion, Stevie Morgan, Brynna Nuttall, William Nuttall, Rylie Pederson, Mason Pelkey, Rylee Privett, Eliza Rogers, Samantha Scoggins, Avery Sims, Tanner-Bob Stanfield, Finnegan Sweeney, Elly Thorne, Caleb Yeates, Cara Yeates and Scarlet Young.

According to Music Theatre International, “This musical brings the African savanna to life with Simba, Rafiki and an unforgettable cast of characters as they journey from Pride Rock to the jungle and back again in this inspiring, coming-of-age tale.”

The musical is under the direction of Kendrick Booth assisted by Gavin Clark. Music direction is by Elizabeth Miller, while Maudie Davis leads choreography. Other designers are Hannah Beth Baker for props, David Broberg for lights, Reagan Deming for set and JD Dvorak for sound.

Performance times are 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday,

May 4 and 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5.

All tickets for this production are \$15 and are available now through the GTC box office at 817-579-0952 or online at www.granburytheatrecompany.org. Online and box office processing fees apply.

For the Shakespeare play, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” cast members are Gavin Clark, Lindley Fernihough, Jonah Hardt, Elliot Elaine Hayes, Julia Huggins, Anita Jenkins, Aubrey Landers, Clayton Lankford, Topher Martin, Zoe Moore, Tinley Mullins, Meghan Murray, Clark Nuttall, Elijah Poole, Gage Ramos, Graham Ramos, Ava Shields, Blaire Stanfield, Sandra Strittmatter, Travis Trimble and Sophia Valadez.

Matt Beutner directs the play assisted by Micah Chesney. Julia Huggins leads choreography, and Jonah Hardt is the fight choreographer. David Broberg is in charge of lighting.

There is a single performance Friday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.

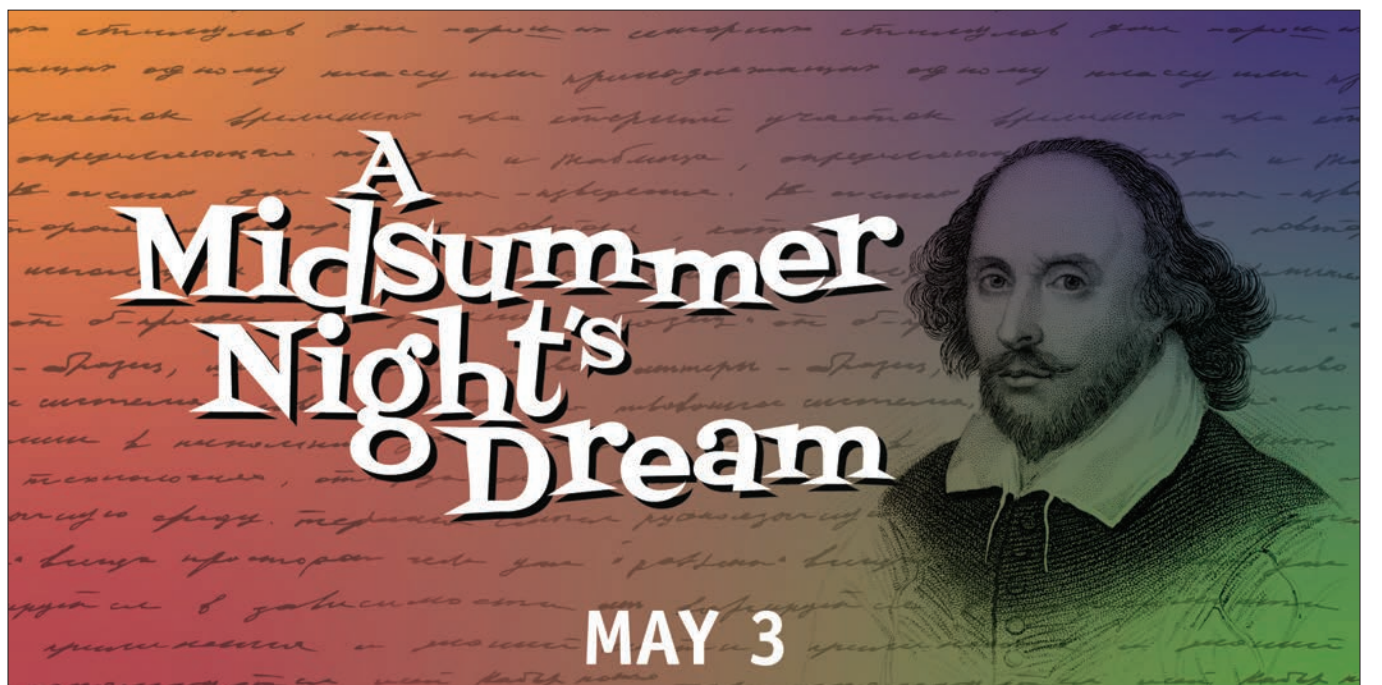
Tickets are not required, and there is no admission fee for this Shakespeare play. Donations to the academy are welcome and appreciated.

Granbury Theatre Company is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that manages the Granbury Opera House, produces critically-acclaimed plays and musicals, and hosts concerts and other special events. The company also includes the Granbury Theatre Academy, which offers after-school and summer programs to provide acting, dance and singing instruction for children and youth.



COURTESY PHOTO

In the cast for “The Lion King KIDS” are Jaydon Barbaree, Karlee Davis, Chloe Davison, Clark Dorr, Faye Galaviz, Aria Hawkins, Sierra Herbert, Kooper Hinrichs, Tate Marion, Stevie Morgan, Brynna Nuttall, William Nuttall, Rylie Pederson, Mason Pelkey, Rylee Privett, Eliza Rogers, Samantha Scoggins, Avery Sims, Tanner-Bob Stanfield, Finnegan Sweeney, Elly Thorne, Caleb Yeates, Cara Yeates and Scarlet Young.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tickets are not required, and there is no admission fee for this Shakespeare play. Donations to the academy are welcome and appreciated.

HARMONY FROM PAGE C1

once a week, to prevent mold and bacteria growth, which can be harmful to hummingbirds.

Placement: Hang feeders near flower beds or in the

shade to keep the nectar cool and fresh. Also, place them where you can easily view these delightful visitors.

CREATING A HUMMINGBIRD-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Beyond flowers and feeders, consider the overall

environment: Water Sources: Hummingbirds love to bathe! Include a misting fountain or a shallow birdbath with a dripper to attract them with the sight and sound of moving water. Shelter: Planting trees and shrubs provides not

only shelter from predators but also nesting sites for hummingbirds.

Avoid Pesticides: Keep your garden organic. Pesticides can kill the tiny insects hummingbirds rely on for protein.

Attracting hummingbirds involves more than just set-

ting up a feeder; it requires creating a garden that supports their entire lifecycle. By planting the right flowers, maintaining clean feeders, and ensuring a safe habitat, you can enjoy the dazzling beauty and dynamic presence of hummingbirds throughout the year.

As you watch these tiny birds flit and hover in your garden, you’ll find their energy and vibrancy truly infectious. Start planning your hummingbird paradise today, and soon, you’ll be part of their colorful world.

HCNEWS.COM SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Gourd Festival event



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
 Gourd lovers united on April 19 and April 20 for the Inaugural North Texas Gourd Festival at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. Visitors enjoyed family fun, shopping, unique gifts, and classes for artists of all levels at the Imagination Station. Everyone had the opportunity to create unique gourd art at the "Make-it & Take-it" table. Children made fun gourd crafts to take home and took part in the Texas Critters scavenger hunt to find gourds located throughout the displays.



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PECAN FASHION SHOW



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Pecan Plantation Woman's Club presents 'Swing into Spring!' Fashion Show.

PLEASE SEE PHOTO PAGE | C6

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan pickleball players win Battle of the Brazos 2024

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.

In the inaugural Battle of the Brazos, Pecan Plantation's pickleball players brought home the trophy. Pecan's competitors won the interclub championship defeating DeCordova Estates nine matches to eight while showing great skill and sportsmanship in the friendly competition of a close series of games that everyone enjoyed. The triumph was a joint effort from the 17 teams competing, each one of whom played a vital role in the win. Big congratulations to our community's pickleball community on this fabulous victory!

In addition, at a recent pickleball tournament in Fort Worth, strong performances came from DeAnna Berry, Jodi Davis, Tracy Davis, Carmine Esposito and Lanny Teague. Well done!

Pickleball play happens Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the PAC gym. Ladies only play is Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m., and new on the schedule is family friendly pickleball Tuesday and Friday from 6 to 7:45 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. Furthermore, the PAC has three outside courts that may be reserved (on the Pecan app or website) from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

RAINY DAY

Last Saturday brought hours and inches of rain

to Pecan Plantation, which made garage sale shopping rather soggy. May the next sale day in October enjoy abundant sunshine.

In addition, the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary-sponsored golf tournament was postponed due to the inclement weather. Watch for details on a new date for this important fundraising event.

For folks interested in the auxiliary and its work fundraising for our community's emergency personnel, a meeting of the group is on the calendar for Monday, May 6 at 7 p.m. in the EMS meeting room of the emergency services compound on Monticello Drive. Before the gathering will come a potluck meal and social at 6 p.m. Ladies and gentlemen interested in supporting this group that fundraises for Pecan's emergency services are invited to join.

LIFE SAVING

CPR classes are available this spring at the PAC with one happening today, Saturday, April 27, and another Saturday, May 18. Each day's hours run 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.

GROWING WELL

The next workday for Pecan's Community Gardens is today, Saturday, April 27, beginning at 9 a.m., and Pecaners are welcome to plant while folks are out planting and harvesting. In addition, more garden information may be found by following the group on its Facebook page: Pecan Plantation Community Gardens.

POOCH PARTY

Pooch Plantation (Pecan's off leash dog park) will host a "happy hour" event today, 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 be present selling hotdogs, brats and beverages, and Friends of Pooch Plantation (FOPP) will sell homemade dog treats.

Hood County Animal Control will hold a pet 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.

WELCOME HOME

Pecan's next new member orientation will happen Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the Pecan clubhouse. Folks may reserve a spot by sending email to Sarah Lord at sarahlord@ppoaweb.com.

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 open with April hours running from 7:30 a.m. to sunset, and May through August hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The PAC pool is closed on Wednesdays. The clubhouse pool will open Friday, May 24.

GIVING LIFE

After several successful events in our community, the American Red Cross returns to Pecan for a blood drive Wednesday, May 8, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PAC. Walkins are welcome, and folks may make appointments by visiting redcross-blood.org and entering Pecan Plantation to schedule an appointment. All donors will receive coupons from Board & Cork, Pecan Ace Hardware and Pecan's Executive Chef Jordan Ray.

BREAKFAST TIME

Breakfast service in Pecan moved to the Brazos Room last week, and accord-



COURTESY PHOTO

Pecan Plantation's pickleball players successfully brought home the trophy from the "Battle of the Brazos" pickleball tournament between residents of Pecan and DeCordova Estates. Pictured are (left to right): Pecan Plantation General Manager Rick Lantgen; Pecan Pickleball Association President Sam Butler; and Pecan Sports and Recreation Manager Joi Keahey.

ing to Ray, this change will "improve on the quality of the breakfasts the servers bring to the table." The addition of huevos rancheros to the menu is also delicious news. Breakfast service hours remain the same (7 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday), and the 19th Hole will open for lunch service at 11 a.m.

GAZEBO REPAIR

Almost a year after fire damaged the clubhouse gazebo overlooking the Brazos River, repairs are complete, and the gazebo is ready for

use by members and guests. The project had several setbacks that extended construction time, but general manager Rick Lantgen calls the current structure "a beautiful spot" and is happy for the project to be finished and members to start enjoying the views afforded from the gazebo.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Stuart Hill, who passed away March 26, and also to the family of Darrell Jones, who passed away April 13.

BOOK REVIEW

Returns aren't always a good thing

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Keep that shirt. It'll eventually come back in fashion. So many things do: roller skating and yo-yos, for instance. Car features and furniture styles. Wide paisley ties, bell-bottom jeans, vintage tees, and cat-eye glasses, those occasional darlings of fashionistas and there we go. So keep that shirt, it'll eventually come back — although, as in the new novel, "Extinction" by Douglas Preston, returns aren't always a good thing.

When the phone rang before the sun was up, Frankie Cash was instantly awake.

Nothing good comes from a predawn phone call, but this one was good and bad. For the first time, Cash was tapped to be the Agent in Charge of a case for her employer, the Colorado Bureau of Investigations' Major Crimes Division. The bad news: the son and daughter-in-law of a very wealthy man were missing.

They had been on their dream honeymoon, a guided hiking-camping trip in Colorado's Erebus Mountains, at a private resort where woolly mammoths, giant sloths and other Pleistocene herbivores had been de-extincted by scientists working in laboratories located inside abandoned mines. The animals had been genetically modified to remove any aggressiveness. Cash could see that the creatures roamed around the mountains where guests could spot them from afar, like some kind of prehistoric photo-op.

The couple was fit and comfortable with the kind of activity needed to hike in high altitudes. Their guide insisted they were nice people. Now they were missing. It didn't make sense.

But Agent Cash noted blood on the ground, spread in a wide area — blood loss, as it turned out, that was inconsistent with life. Predators? No, Erebus assured the CBI that the compound was protected from modern predators, but drones indicated via thermal imaging that there were invaders in the mountains, and they were organized. The CBI figured they were looking for six, maybe nine killers, and the killers were smart — smart enough to bring down a drone.

Smart enough that when Cash and another agent went to retrieve a busted drone, the killers stalked them . . .

The science, says author Douglas Preston in his afterword, is real and he seems to hint that his story — at least some of it — could actually happen someday soon. You should take that maybe as cold comfort while you're careening through "Extinction."

For now, just know that you're safe — as safe as you're going to be with a thriller like this one in your lap, one you could treat it as a someday-potentially true crime tale that pushes the envelope of morality in ways you won't expect. It's majestic and horrifying, both, but to further muddle things, Preston also speaks to the heart of science fiction lovers here with (at the risk of being a spoiler)

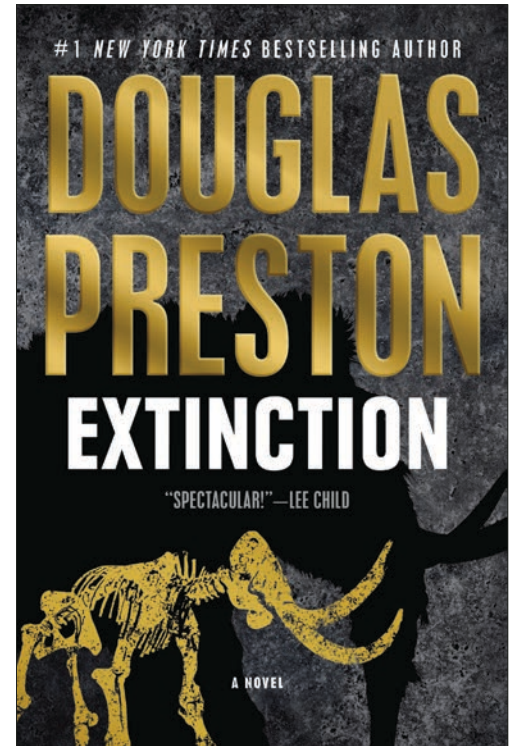


COURTESY PHOTO

Deborah Feingold

the slightest whiff of a classic Pierre Boulle novel.

Don't cheat and look that up. Instead, look for this delicious, sometimes gory, don't-try-to-solve-it-early novel that feels as real as the pounding heartbeats you'll get from reading



COURTESY PHOTO

"Extinction" by Douglas Preston, c.2024 Forge \$29.99, 384 pages

it. Take your time to enjoy "Extinction." It's a book you'll gladly come back to.

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY

A.W. (Al) Norman: Former mayor and lumber mill owner

Submitted Item

A.W. Norman was one of the colorful characters who helped give the Granbury area its unique flavor. Not too many county seats in Texas can claim having had a mayor who raised champion coon hounds, ran a successful lumber yard for 32 years, and scored a knockout punch on an angry constituent on the town square!

Mr. Norman was known to all as "Al." He opened the original Norman Lumber in 1947 on Pearl Street in Granbury on the site that is now Fuzzy's Tacos, and — fun fact: was once even a bowling alley. Al eventually moved his business to a roomy 10-acre site at 1200 W. Pearl St. There he oper-

ated the lumber yard, raised coon hounds and built a massive treehouse for his sons, Ron and Rick. The treehouse was replete with doors, windows, a zip line down to the ground and a working walkie-talkie set-up. It was an instant favorite with the neighborhood boys.

Always active in his church and the community, Al was elected mayor of Granbury in 1957 and served three terms. While serving, he pushed for the construction of a dam on the Brazos River, eventually leading to the opening of Lake Granbury in 1969. Ron and Rick provided correspondence letters between Mayor Norman and the two U.S. senators from Texas in 1957, Sen. Ralph Yarborough and soon-to-be President,

Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson, acknowledging his push to get the dam on the Brazos. Al was also instrumental in the 1959 implementation of the first sewage treatment plant in Granbury, located at the present site of Hewlett Park in downtown Granbury. A plaque acknowledging this event hangs today at our current sewage treatment facility on Water's Edge Drive.

Norman was married to his wife, Aunita, for over 57 years, but she had to share his affection with his beloved champion coon hounds, which Al raised, sold and shipped all across the country. A few of his favorites were Stopper, now in the Coon Hound Hall of Fame; Bingo, a World Champion; and my favorite namesake,

Elvis! These valuable dogs were "coon specific" and would not chase any other animal. Older Granburians still recall the raucous baying from the coon hounds every time they heard a police or ambulance siren.

Al "retired" in 1981, turning the lumber yard over to his two sons, but they both lamented that their dad still haunted the yard daily. Ever alert for miscues, Al would point them out to Ron and Rick, then explain how he would have done them. Known for his biting and acerbic wit, Al could dish it out with the best but wasn't fond of taking it. The elder Norman was small in stature but quick-tempered and pug-nacious. Trained in boxing from youth, Al once solved

a dispute with an angry citizen by scoring a knock-out punch on the town square lawn!

Early in July of 2004, the sons finally decided to quit trying to compete with the "big box" stores that had come to Granbury and sold the property to Hood County for civic use. The Ralph Walton Justice Center, the Annex and several county services now occupy the site. Al passed away at age 88, one month after Norman Lumber closed, along with another chapter of Granbury's history.

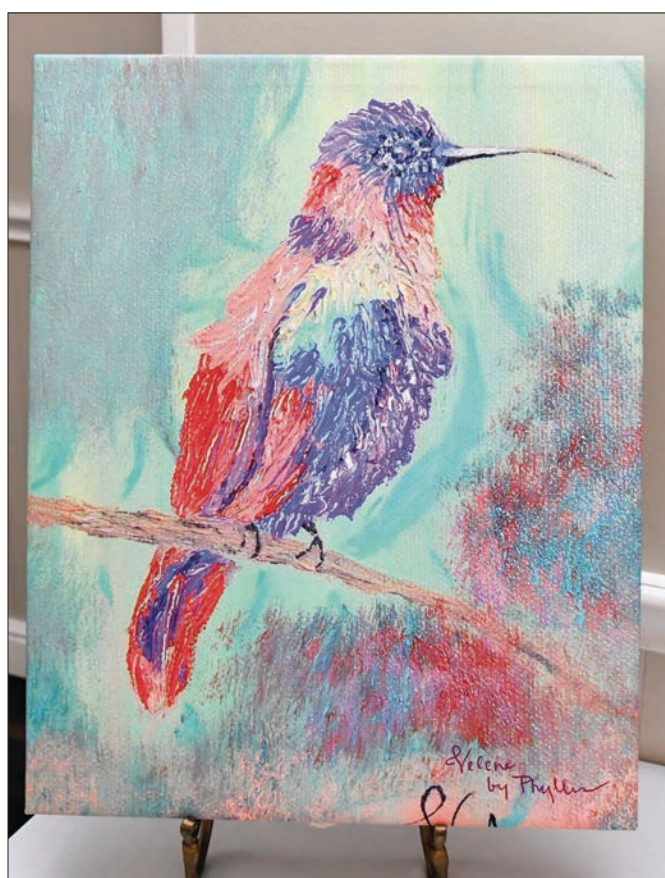
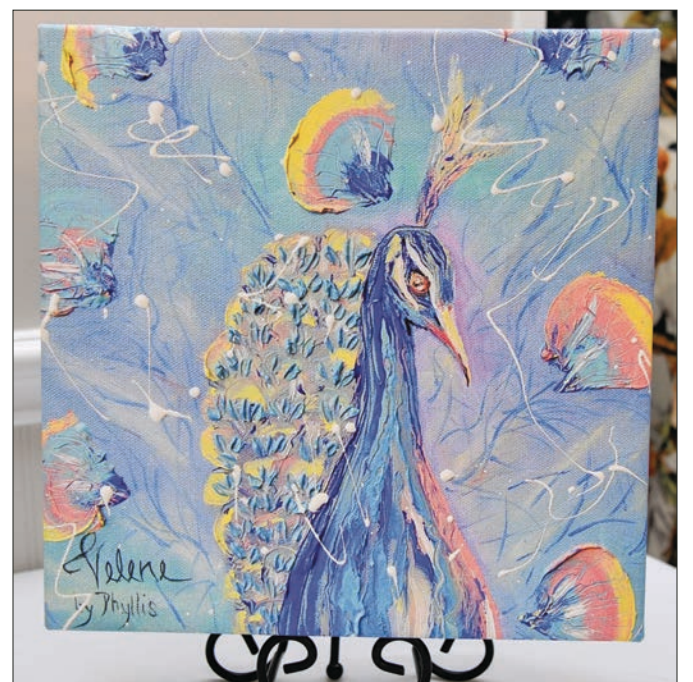
Dr. Tom Hamilton
March 2021



COURTESY PHOTO

Mr. Norman was known to all as "Al." He opened the original Norman Lumber in 1947 on Pearl Street in Granbury on the site that is now Fuzzy's Tacos, and — fun fact: was once even a bowling alley.

PECAN FASHION SHOW CONTINUED FROM C5





Friday, 26 April 2024 - Thursday, 2 May 2024

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

Challengers (R)
Fri: 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM, 10:30PM.
Sat: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM, 10:30PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:40PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 7:55PM

Civil War (R)
Fri: 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.
Sat: 11:05AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.
Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:05PM, 7:40PM

Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire (PG13)
Fri: 4:50PM, 7:35PM, 10:20PM.
Sat: 6:30PM, 9:15PM.
Sun: 3:30PM, 6:15PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:20PM, 7:05PM.
Thurs: 4:30PM, 7:15PM

Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)
Fri: 2:30PM.
Sat: 1:45PM, 4:05PM.
Sun: 10:40AM, 1:05PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM


Sensory Friendly (PG)
Sat: 10:00AM

The Fall Guy (PG13)
Thurs: 5:00PM, 7:35PM

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

Unsung Hero (PG)
Fri: 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 9:40PM.
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, 5:00PM, 7:40PM.
Thurs: 2:20PM, 4:55PM, 7:10PM

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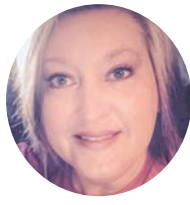
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HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

Get outside!



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

Hood County Library Director Jennifer Logsdon is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning a master's degree in Library Science during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking and of course reading.

Guess what is coming soon? Summer Reading Challenge 2024: Adventures begin at your library. Kick-off party and registration help will be June 1 from 10 a.m.-noon at the library. Before we officially begin our 2024 Summer Reading Challenge, the library has partnered with our local AgriLife Extension Agency to encourage families to come together and get outside! Our vision for this community is to foster a culture where families read and play together. According to a study by UT

Health Houston School of Public Health, only 19% of Texas youth are meeting physical activity guidelines to be active 60 or more minutes a day. Recent studies underscore the myriad of benefits of spending time in nature. As highlighted by the Child Mind Institute, outdoor play builds confidence, sparks creativity, instills responsibility and promotes physical activity, ultimately alleviating stress and fatigue. In an article published by Healthline, reading books also positively affects our



COURTESY PHOTO BY YUSUFDEMIRCI, ENVATO.COM

We invite you to join us at the library Saturday May 11 at 2 p.m. for a family day of story and outside play.

health. Reading regularly not only builds vocabulary and strengthens the brain, but it increases a person's ability to show empathy, can prevent cognitive decline, reduces stress and can bolster mental health. As parents, we know children are keen observers who emulate the behaviors of adults. By witnessing grownups engaging in outdoor activities and reading, they learn valuable habits and language skills.

However, I firmly believe that the greatest reward of these joint mind and body activities is the memories created and the bonds strengthened. All this to say: We invite you to join us at the library Saturday May 11 at 2 p.m. for a family day of story and outside play. The AgriLife Extension Agent will be here to educate and challenge families by issuing a bingo card of

PLEASE SEE **LIBRARY** | C9

GO PLAY

<p>MONDAYS</p> <p>HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.</p> <p>GRANBURY BRIDGE Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints. Information and reservations: 225-933-4074.</p> <p>SONS OF the American Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night. 5-7 p.m. American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.</p> <p>GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus — rehearsals, Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See www.granburycivicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. Come join us!</p> <p>FORWARD TRAINING Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org. or call 817-573-6677.</p>	<p>WEDNESDAYS</p> <p>HAND AND FOOT card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.</p> <p>HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.</p> <p>HABITAT FOR Humanity of Hood County Wednesdays and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We are building in the 4000 block of Sundown Trail. No experience or tools needed. Just come build with us.</p>	<p>SUNDAYS</p> <p>THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.</p> <p>FIRST MONDAYS</p> <p>HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.</p> <p>LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.</p> <p>SECOND MONDAYS</p> <p>MEETING OF the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions call 361-510-6820 or email simanek1@charter.net.</p> <p>FIRST TUESDAYS</p> <p>GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.</p> <p>SECOND TUESDAYS</p> <p>GRANBURY KNITTING Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.</p> <p>FOURTH TUESDAYS</p> <p>HOOD COUNTY 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.</p> <p>FIRST THURSDAYS</p> <p>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</p>	<p>377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.</p> <p>SECOND THURSDAYS</p> <p>HOOD COUNTY CERT meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCo-Cert@gmail.com.</p> <p>THE GRANBURY EWMA, Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbeque 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is 6 p.m. informal meeting at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2 and 3 wheel, any and all riders are welcome.</p> <p>THIRD THURSDAYS</p> <p>THE HOOD Somervell A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Hwy 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.</p> <p>SECOND SATURDAYS</p> <p>SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.</p> <p>THIRD MONDAYS</p> <p>GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.</p> <p>LOVE KNOTS Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.</p> <p>WAMS (WESTERN Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194</p> <p>LAST THURSDAYS</p> <p>MARINE CORPS League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.</p>
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GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

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Isaiah 41:13

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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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 1 John 4:12

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Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
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Romans 8:28

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.



Jeremiah 29:11

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GRANBURY CULTURAL ARTS

Art continually comes to life

BY STACEY WATKINS-MARTIN AND CORA WERLEY

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

We are all so blessed to live in a community like this that honors and supports art and artists so well. For that to continue, the community itself must be focused, goal-oriented and fully involved. There are so many opportunities for people to participate — by volunteering, making donations, buying art pieces and/or tickets to events and even coming up with ideas and connections to share.

This weekend, be an art buyer. Festival season is here in Granbury and this weekend

is the very popular and well-attended Wine Walk, a growing event that boasts not only the offerings of local wineries, food and music but also the presence of many popular artists. As an art supporter, you can buy pieces to take home with you, bringing you good memories, good things to look at and even a good investment. And because Saturday is the last one of the month, this Saturday is also Gallery Night — always a fun time when even retail outlets and restaurants become galleries highlighting musicians and even their own favorite artists (all for sale). You can expect light refreshments to keep you going all around the Square.

On May 10, be an art learner. Plan now to attend the GranburyArts second semi-annual Art Talk. This time the subject is Covelle Jones, well known Western sculptor working in bronze. He's noteworthy in Granbury as being

the creator of the two life-size bronzes you've heard so much about which are soon to be installed in the Shanley Park Sculpture Garden for your permanent enjoyment. Come to the Langdon Center to hear more. As always, you can contact one of the authors or check the Visit Granbury website for more detailed information.

Be an art designer all the time, along with GranburyArts and multiple other stakeholders. The City of Granbury is developing a plan to give a cohesive look to our city-scape — i.e. its design essence as a living entity through its public art, signage, historic preservation and parks, particularly that part of the same that is within the Texas Commission on the Arts' designated Cultural District. It will be a long but thorough process which seeks citizen input. Start thinking now . . . Be an artist yourself.

GranburyArts is getting prepared to send its "call to artists" to establish a catalog of approved artists in different disciplines to develop public art as needed — sculptures, murals, inside paintings and whatever else the City would like GranburyArts to develop. A separate call may go out for a large-scale hanging sculpture/mobile for installation in Granbury's jet-friendly airport.

Be an art participant. Come to the GranburyArts meetings. We meet most third Thursdays. Check the city's website for meeting times and agendas. Check in with either of the authors (below) in advance if you would like to have time to speak or want to send information. As a working commission, we need your ideas, what you've seen at other cities that works, etc.

Find out what's going on; be a voice for the art community's future.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Be an art participant. Come to the GranburyArts meetings. We meet most third Thursdays. Check the city's website for meeting times and agendas.



VERTERANS VOICE

Survivors may be eligible for accrued benefits

BY LINDA MALLON



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

The VA has been moving very quickly on disability claims, especially initial claims, particularly when we submit all necessary supporting documentation at the time we file. For example, when a veteran files a claim for disability compensation with all documentation supporting a diagnosed condition and a relationship between that condition and military service, an adjudicator at the Department of Veterans Affairs begins the process of evaluating the evidence, sometimes scheduling appointments for Compensation and Pension Exams to determine the veteran's level of disability.

Once all evidence is gathered and the VA is about to make a decision, sadly they may learn during the process a veteran has passed away and survivors are left wondering what to do next. Does the claim die with the veteran? The answer to that question is "not necessarily."

In cases of disability compensation where a claim or appeal is still pending, but at the time of death the VA had all the evidence needed to make a favorable decision, or a claim for a recurring benefit was allowed,

such as a pension benefit, but the beneficiary died before the award, the first living person to the deceased beneficiary may apply for accrued benefits. What are accrued benefits? These are benefits due the claimant/beneficiary but not paid prior to death, or, at the time of the beneficiary's death, checks paid to them were not cashed or deposited.

The line of succession for entitlement to these benefits is established by law beginning with the surviving spouse followed by dependent children, including those under the age of 23 who are attending school or are considered helpless, both parents, or a sole surviving parent. If the primary beneficiary fails to file a claim or waives their right to accrued benefits, persons of equal or lower succession are not permitted payment. For a claim filed and approved, the spouse would be entitled to the full amount, children would be paid in equal amounts as would both parent claimants if there are no surviving spouse or children. If only a single parent remains, they would get the full amount of the accrued benefit, however if no eligible person ex-

ists, the VA will pay accrued benefits on a reimbursement basis to individuals who paid for or were responsible for final expenses such as medical or funeral expenses with the amount limited to the actual expense paid and accrued benefits available. Substitution allows an eligible person to submit evidence in support of a claim or appeal for accrued benefits, and depending on the type of substitution, the VA provides specific forms to file within one year of the beneficiary's death and/or date of notification to the beneficiary. When the surviving spouse or dependent child is applying for Dependent Indemnity Compensation which asserts the veteran died of a service-connected disability, there is a block to check for both DIC and accrued benefits.

Other forms are used for pension accrued benefits, a parent's application, a request for substitution or for reimbursement. We have been very successful with these types of claims in the past and are prepared to assist family members or estate administrators with whatever they need to secure these benefits. Our office will be closed from May 7 to May 10 and will reopen Monday, May 13. Feel free to email lmallon@co.hood.tx.us if you have questions during that time, or call 817-579-3292.



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 FROM PAGE C7

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 Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. Storytime & Craft (Preschool) except May 29
 Events for All

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May 11 2-4 p.m.: Get Outside
 May 29 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Crafternoon

ADULT EVENTS

May 1 6-7 p.m.: The Other Book Club; "A Memory Called Empire" by Arkady Martine
 May 28 6-7 p.m.: Novel Idea Book Club: "Chennevill" by Paulette Jiles

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Left-handers and Aggies...



BY DON NEWBURY

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

The Good Book's Chapter 6 of Matthew provides challenging specifics on living the good life, but verse three seems most daunting. It concerns the importance of maintaining a chasm between the works of the left and right hands, perhaps as far as the east is from the west.

In essence, God knows, and that's what counts. As my old mother would often say, "Don't go around 'showing out.'"

Maybe I was drawn to that verse early on, what with my being left-handed. From time to time, I still gaze at a now frayed certificate I received at graduation in

1956 at Early High School. It decreed — by vote of my 25 fellow students — that I was "most likely to remain left-handed." Needless to say, all graduates were voted most likely to be something...

Anyways, in this space the other day, I wrote of the current paucity of Aggie jokes. Most of us lament this omis-

sion, and — down deep — I think most Aggies do.

One of 'em — a respected veterinarian who has practiced since 1965 and is still at it part time — called me with a new take on an old joke I've repeated hundreds of times over the past half century.

I've told it because it is a "can't miss" joke that invariably draws hearty laughter, even if some of it is muffled, perhaps even gratuitous. It's about an Aggie who allegedly studied both veterinary medicine and taxidermy at Texas A&M. Upon graduation, his business card read, "Either way, you get your dog back."...

I have meant no ill by it. As old Foghorn Leghorn used to say in the movie cartoons, "It's a joke, son."

My friend wisely chooses anonymity. Probably

he's not the only one who doesn't want others to know he reads my columns.

"I've heard that joke countless times, often from you," my friend began. "Most of my colleagues have heard it, too, and still laugh, even if out of courtesy."...

His primary purpose for calling was to let me know that upon his classmate's completion of vet studies, he was indeed both a veterinarian AND a taxidermist. At first, I thought he was teasing. Or, maybe he was setting me up for another Aggie joke.

No sirree, he was hand-on-the-Bible serious. "He was an older student, and he brought his taxidermy skills with him to vet school," my friend said. "What I most remember is that he slept through most sessions of a dairy course. Admittedly,

it was a course that few of us were interested in, since most of us were more interested in small animal practices. His sleeping in class didn't set well with the prof, so he had to repeat his senior year."

His call set me to wondering. Reckon the doctor/taxidermist had a card advertising both services? Was he ever asked to turn a prized pet into a mounted den trophy? Finally, my mind flitted back to Matthew 6:30, about "each hand minding its own business."...

On the matter of serving two masters, Dr. Kenneth Ashworth, former Commissioner of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, could well have been kidded unmercifully if details of his part time teaching in retirement had been widely

known.

He taught graduate classes in higher education at two locations — in the same semester. One was at Texas A&M University in College Station, the other at The University of Texas in Austin. His business card was printed in maroon on one side and orange on the other.

The 92-year-old educator has written numerous books. Two of my friend's titles are "Horns of a Dilemma: Coping with Politics at the University of Texas" and "Caught Between the Dog and the Fireplug." Bright and witty, Dr. Ashworth served Texas boldly and masterfully. No doubt his "fireplug" book helped him to decompress after dealing adroitly with both governmental and educational politics...

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INSIDE

A GUIDE TO VARIOUS TYPES OF HOME AWNINGS | HOW SELLERS CAN GET TOP DOLLAR FOR THEIR HOMES | HOW TO HANDLE A LENGTHY RENOVATION | RENOVATIONS THAT HELPS SELL HOMES | MAINTAINING A LAWN ROUTINELY ROAMED BY PETS | SPRING CLEANING TIPS AND TRICKS | SIGNS A HOME EXTERIOR NEEDS UPDATING | THE BASICS OF FERTILIZING A LAWN | TIPS TO MAKE A YARD LESS ATTRACTIVE TO TICKS | TIPS FOR BUDGET-FRIENDLY HOME DECOR | TIPS TO REVITALIZE A GARDEN THIS SPRING | WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

A guide to various types of home awnings

Homeowners recognize that upgrades can improve the functionality and comfort of their homes. Improving outdoor spaces has proven particularly popular of late. The National Association of Home Builders reports that outdoor living has been propelled to the top of homeowner wish lists. Plus, a recent survey conducted by the New Home Trends Institute found connection to the outdoors/nature and outdoor entertaining ranked

high among desired home designs. One way to make outdoor spaces more accommodating is through the installation of awnings. Many homeowners would like to enhance their homes with awnings but do not know where to begin. Learning about the various types of awnings can help homeowners determine which option best suits their needs.

FIXED AWNINGS

Fixed awnings are stationary on a building's exterior.

While the awnings are generally stable, they can be damaged by snow or wind. It's key to find an installation expert to make sure the awning is installed correctly so that it can withstand weather and other issues. It's also important to know that fixed awnings remain in the same position and orientation, so its best to know exactly where to place it beforehand.

RETRACTABLE AWNING

Retractable awnings are the most popular type of awnings because they can

be extended when necessary to keep a space cool or protected, then rolled or folded up when not in use. These awnings are advantageous because they can be retracted when bad weather hits to prevent damage.

MOTORIZED RETRACTABLE AWNING

Motorized retractable awnings offer the utmost convenience. Standard retractable offerings require a handle or hand crank to manually extend or fold up the awning. Motorized aw-

nings can be operated with a sensor, remote or even motion trigger. Even though they cost more, they're a favorite among homeowners.

AREAS OF USE

Awnings can be installed in various locations. Patio awnings are much preferred because of their large coverage area, which typically spans entire patios. Door awnings are installed above the exterior door of an entryway to protect visitors and occupants from precipitation and to improve the home's look. Window awnings can

add additional shade and privacy. There also are side awnings, which are essentially wall-like structures that run across a patio, garden or balcony for wind or sun protection. They're also utilized to improve privacy.

Homeowners can choose from various types of awning materials, including fabric, metal, glass, and others. Working with a reputable awning company is the best way for homeowners to peruse possible products and find awnings that will suit their needs.

How sellers can get top dollar for their homes

The process of buying and selling a home includes many movable parts. North America has experienced historic trends in the housing market in recent years. Most notably, record-high prices have dominated the real estate market over the last several years.

High prices are good news for sellers, who can probably anticipate receiving offers above listing price. In New Jersey, inventory is so low that 12.5 percent of homes in the Garden State sold above list price, according to data from RedFin. This is good news for sellers currently looking to make an excellent profit on their properties. Sellers who don't want to rely on the market alone to earn more for their homes can take various steps to get top dollar.

STAGE YOUR HOME

According to the 2023 Profile of Home Staging conducted by the National Association of Realtors®, 81 percent of buyers' agents

said staging a home made it easier for the buyer to visualize the property as a future home. Focus your attention on the living room, owner's suite and kitchen. Hiring a staging professional can be an investment that turns a sizable profit.

KNOW YOUR LOCAL MARKET

A good way to price your home and gauge if it will sell quickly is to look at the average "days on the market" for similar homes nearby. If homes are selling faster than the average DOM, that suggests high demand, which can work in your favor.

MAKE ADDED-VALUE IMPROVEMENTS

Focus renovation dollars on the types of projects that will reap the highest return on investment. Remodeling magazine annually reports the projects that offer the best ROI. In 2023, the project that reaped the highest ROI was an HVAC Conversion/Electrification, which involved converting a fossil-

fuel-burning furnace into an electric heat pump. The cost recouped was 103.5 percent.

SELL AT THE RIGHT TIME

Fewer people are shopping for homes in the dead of winter or during the middle of the school year, so putting your home on the market in spring typically brings out the largest number of interested parties, according to Opendoor. But this isn't the only time-related factor to consider. To sell for the most money, you want to list your home when you have enough equity to pay off your current mortgage, the costs of selling, and the costs of moving, says Bankrate.

GIVE CURB APPEAL A BOOST

Make sure that buyers see your home in a positive light from the first moment they pull up for a walk-through showing. According to Home & Garden, improving the landscaping can result in a value increase of up to 12 percent. Additional projects can include investing in a

new front door and garage doors. Be sure that hedges are trimmed, there are fresh flowers growing, and that walkways and the driveway are clean and tidy.

A few simple strategies can help sellers get more money for their homes.



COURTESY PHOTO

Make sure that buyers see your home in a positive light from the first moment they pull up for a walk-through.

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How to handle a lengthy renovation

The global pandemic reignited people's passions for home renovations, as they directed dollars that would normally have been spent elsewhere into the places where they were now spending the most time - their homes. According to the 10th annual Houzz & Home survey of more than 70,000 respondents in the United States, higher-budget projects cost around \$85,000 or more in 2020, compared with \$80,000 in the two years prior. Kitchen projects were the most popular among renovating homeowners.

Even though many COVID-19-related restrictions have lifted and life has largely returned to regular programming, renovations remain a popular investment. Homeowners embarking on home renovation projects understand that a certain measure of upheaval is to be expected, but some may not fully anticipate the impact that renovations have on daily life. The following are some tips for making it through a lengthy renovation.

DISCUSS THE TIMELINE WITH CONTRACTORS

It may be easier to make a plan for how much life will be disrupted if you have an idea of how long the renovation will be (if everything goes according to plan). Sit down



COURTESY PHOTO

Sit down with contractors and have them spell out the minutiae of the project. A kitchen or a bathroom remodel often requires giving up spaces that are used throughout a typical day.

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Renovations that helps sell homes

The adage “there’s a lid for every pot” suggests that, even in relation to the real estate market, there’s bound to be a buyer for every home on the market. Price is a significant variable in the minds of potential buyers, but there are additional factors that can affect the impression people get of a given home.

Certain home features can tip the scales in favor of sellers. In fact, various renovations can help sell homes more readily. And these renovations need not cost a fortune. Putting a home on the market can be stressful, but these renovations may help it sell fast.

A FRESH COAT OF PAINT

Although painting is relatively inexpensive and a job that some do-it-yourselfers can tackle, it’s not a task relished by many. Painting is messy, it takes time, and requires moving furniture. In fact, prepping a room for painting often is the toughest component of any painting job. But fresh coats of

paint can create a strong first impression. Choose a neutral color and get painting. Jennie Norris, chairwoman for the International Association of Home Staging Professionals, says gray is a “safe” color that has been trending in recent years.

MINOR BATHROOM REMODEL

Remove dated wall coverings, replace fixtures, consider re-glazing or replacing an old tub, and swap old shower doors for fast fixes in a bathroom. If there’s more room in the budget, replacing a tub, tile surround, floor, toilet, sink, vanity, and fixtures can cost roughly \$10,500, says HGTV. You’ll recoup an average of \$10,700 at resale, making a minor bathroom remodel a potentially worthy investment.

REDONE KITCHEN

The kitchen tends to be the hub of a home. This room gets the most usage and attention of any space, and it’s a great

place to focus your remodeling attention. The National Association of the Remodeling Industry estimates that homeowners can recover up to 52 percent of the cost of a kitchen upgrade upon selling a home. Buyers want a functional and updated kitchen. Trending features include drawer-style microwaves and dishwashers, commercial ranges, hidden outlets, and even wine refrigerators.

UPDATED HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEM

Better Homes and Gardens reports that homeowners may be able to recoup 85 percent of the cost of new HVAC systems when they sell their homes. Heating, cooling and ventilation components are vital to maintain. You don’t want buyers to be taken aback by an older system, and many millennial buyers are not willing to overlook old mechanical systems.

FRESH LANDSCAPING

A home’s exterior is the



COURTESY PHOTO

Certain home features can tip the scales in favor of sellers. In fact, various renovations can help sell homes more readily.

first thing buyers will see. If they pull up to a home with eye-catching landscaping and outdoor areas that are attractive yet functional, they’re more likely to be intrigued. Often buyers will

equate a home that features an impressive exterior with upkeep inside as well. The American Nursery Landscape Association says the average homeowner may spend \$3,500 for

landscaping. Improving a home’s chances to sell quickly and at a higher price often comes down to making smart improvements that catch the eyes of buyers.

Maintaining a lawn routinely roamed by pets

Vibrant, green lawns can draw attention to any landscape. Many homeowners toil for hours each week to ensure their lawns are pristine, or invest in lawn care services to help maintain a yard if they do not have the time to do so themselves.

While many treatments can be applied to lawns to help them thrive, animal waste is not among them. Pet owners who aspire to have beautiful lawns will have to take a few extra steps to ensure lawns can persevere despite the presence of furry companions.

RESEED WITH A DAMAGE-RESISTANT GRASS

There are many different types of grass, and some are more resilient than others. Tall fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, and Bermuda grass are just some of the grass varieties that can capably handle pet traffic. If replacing the entire lawn is not possible, consider reseeding or addressing the areas that pets frequent.

STRENGTHEN THE ROOT SYSTEM

It may be tempting to cut

the lawn short, particularly if dogs or cats like to nibble on longer blades of grass. But that approach could be doing the lawn a disservice. According to The Home Depot, letting the lawn grow to at least three inches will help keep moisture in the soil and prevent evaporation. That moisture will strengthen the roots, creating a healthier lawn for pets and people.

CREATE PET PATHS

Various materials can be used in these high-traffic areas to minimize the sights

and signs of pet traffic. Mulch or crushed stone can establish these pet highways and look like intended features.

SET BOUNDARIES

Pet urine contains high levels of nitrogen, which can burn grass and turn it brown. It’s not possible to water down urine or pick up solid waste immediately every time a pet goes outdoors, so designate a pet-friendly spot for potty time. Use fencing or a dog run to separate this area and help mitigate “land mines” all over the lawn.

Fencing also can keep pets out of vegetable gardens and away from potentially toxic plants.

AVOID CHEMICAL LAWN TREATMENTS

When pets use the yard and rest on the lawn, you’ll need to eliminate products that can be harmful to them. Choose all-natural fertilizers and weed and pest preventatives.

LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVES

If maintaining a lawn with

battle, consider swapping out your landscape with a variety of materials. Scale back on grass, and incorporate groundcover, hardscape materials like pea gravel, or extend the patio. Artificial turf also is an option, as it won’t brown and wither. Some turf products can even be quickly and thoroughly cleaned with water.

It can take some trial and error for pet parents to protect their lawns from the effects of having furry friends playing in the yard.

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Spring cleaning tips and tricks

Spring is a time of year when change is in the air. Trees are budding, plants are flowering, and homes laden with dark or heavy fabrics and clutter could use some lightening up.

Spring cleaning projects are popular this time of year as residents take inventory of their living spaces and aim to declutter, clean and increase efficiency. Some people find the prospect of getting organized overwhelming. Here are some tips that can help anyone master spring cleaning.

CREATE A PLAN

Make a checklist and establish a cleaning plan of attack. Focus on areas that are not regularly cleaned, as they probably need a little attention.

ASSEMBLE YOUR CLEANING KIT

Spring cleaning can be slowed down considerably if you don't have all of your equipment at the ready. Items to have on hand include an all-purpose cleaner, concentrated cleaner, microfiber cloths, paper towels, mop, vacuum, dusters, and a squeegee. Adjust your equipment based on the task at hand.

CURATE YOUR CLEANING PLAYLIST

Create a playlist with songs that will get you moving and motivated to clean.

WORK FROM TOP TO BOTTOM

Work efficiently by cleaning shelves, ceiling fans and other elevated items first, as

dust and debris will trickle down and need to be cleaned next.

PURCHASE OR RENT A CARPET CLEANER

According to the experts at Clean That Up, carpets help filter indoor air by trapping debris and allergens. By deep cleaning carpets, homeowners can improve the indoor air quality of their homes. Use a carpet cleaner on a warm, dry day so that windows can be opened and cross breezes will help dry the damp rug.

CLEAN WINDOWS

Wash windows inside and out and utilize their screens to help brighten indoors spaces.

DEEP CLEAN THE KITCHEN

Clean out and disinfect the refrigerator by wiping it down with warm water and baking soda or a vinegar-and-water solution. While in the kitchen, set the oven to the self-clean function so it becomes cleaner as well. Homeowners also can focus on cleaning curtains (including shower curtains), steam-cleaning upholstery, removing clutter from closets, cleaning out the dryer vent and duct tubing, wiping inside kitchen drawers, and vacuuming under beds and other furniture.

Spring cleaning can bring the revitalizing nature of this beloved time of year into your home.



COURTESY PHOTO

Spring cleaning projects are popular this time of year as residents take inventory of their living spaces and aim to declutter, clean and increase efficiency.

Signs a home exterior needs updating



COURTESY PHOTO

Curb appeal is often discussed in regard to the effects it can have when selling a home. But curb appeal is equally important for homeowners who aren't putting their homes on the market.

Renovations are a great way for homeowners to reshape their homes. Some may aspire to renovate so their home is more reflective of their personal taste, while others may do so in an effort to make their homes better align with modern styles and sensibilities. Regardless of why a homeowner chooses to renovate, the need to do so is often evident to the naked eye, especially when the time comes to update home exteriors.

Curb appeal is often discussed in regard to the effects it can have when selling a home. But curb appeal is equally important for homeowners who aren't putting their homes on the market. A well-maintained, aesthetically appealing home is a source of pride, while a home with fading curb appeal can make homeown-

ers feel a little sheepish. Homeowners who want their homes to maintain their curb appeal can look for signs that it's time to update their home exteriors.

CURLING SHINGLES

The roof may not be the first thing people think of when pondering curb appeal, but a damaged roof can contribute to problems that ultimately affect the exterior and interior of the home. Multiple curling shingles indicate it's time to replace the roof. The sight of curling shingles is not pretty, but the larger issue in such instances is the potential for costly water damage when water gets in through the affected shingles.

DATED ENTRY DOOR

Many home improvement

experts insist they can determine when a home was built or most recently renovated simply by looking at the front door. Steel and glass doors are popular in modern homes, so homeowners with front doors with ornate designs and oval glass inserts can likely benefit from an upgrade to their entryway. A modern front door can make a statement and real estate experts note how popular updated front doors are among buyers.

UNSIGHTLY LANDSCAPING

It's not only the physical components of the home that may suggest an update is necessary. Homeowners without a green thumb may have exterior landscaping that has seen better days. If a spring or summer day spent tending to your landscaping

is not your ideal weekend pastime, then consider replacing unsightly landscaping with low-maintenance plants or hardscaping. These alternatives to more needy plants can create curb appeal without requiring any extra work for homeowners.

CRACKED DRIVEWAYS/WALKWAYS

If the driveway looks like a busy road at the end of snow plowing season, chances are that's adversely affecting the impression people have of your home. In addition, cracked walkways indicate a need for renovations, as these areas are front and center when welcoming guests.

Updating a home's exterior can restore curb appeal and help homeowners feel better about their properties.

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The basics of fertilizing a lawn

Spring marks the return of lawn and garden season. Lawns often bear the brunt of winter's wrath, so spring is a great time to nurse them back to health, and fertilizing can be an essential component of that process.

Fertilizing a lawn can be intimidating. An array of fertilizers, with each seemingly designed to address a different issue, can make homeowners' heads spin when visiting their local lawn and garden center. However, fertilizing is a very simple task that any homeowner can tackle. In fact, fears about fertilizing are often unfounded and can be overcome with some basic knowledge of the process.

IDENTIFY WHICH TYPE OF GRASS IS IN THE YARD

The home improvement experts at HGTV note that turfgrass is divided into two categories: cool-season grass and warm-season grass. A local lawn and garden center can help homeowners identify which type of grass

is in the yard, and this often depends on location. Fescue, bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are some examples of cool-season grasses, while Bermuda, bahia, St. Augustine, and zoysia are considered warm-season grasses. Identifying which type of grass is in the lawn is important because that will indicate when to fertilize. Cool-season grasses are typically best fertilized in early spring, while warm-season lawns can benefit from an application just before especially warm temperatures arrive.

SURVEY THE LAWN TO IDENTIFY WHICH SPREADER TO USE

A small yard or a thriving lawn with only a few bald or unsightly patches may not need a full application of fertilizer. In such instances, a hand spreader can suffice. For larger lawns and areas, a broadcast spreader is the ideal option. Spreaders have multiple settings, and the

fertilizer package will indicate which setting to utilize when using the product.

TEST THE SOIL PRIOR TO PURCHASING FERTILIZER

The lawn experts at Pennington® note that a simple soil test can reveal soil pH and phosphorus and potassium levels. Soil tests can be purchased at most home improvement stores and lawn and garden centers, and they can help homeowners determine which fertilizer will most benefit their lawns.

WATER THE LAWN PRIOR TO FERTILIZING

The experts at Scotts® recommend a good watering a few days prior to fertilizing a lawn. Such an approach ensures the soil is ready to accept the fertilizer once it's applied.

FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY

Detailed instructions are typically provided on fertiliz-



COURTESY PHOTO

Identifying which type of grass is in the lawn is important because that will indicate when to fertilize. Cool-season grasses are typically best fertilized in early spring.

er product packaging. Once homeowners have identified and purchased the product they need, they can simply follow the instructions on

the packaging, including how and when to water after application, which can make fertilizing less intimidating. Fertilizing in spring can

help a lawn recover from the previous summer and winter, ensuring it's lush and green when summer entertaining season arrives.

Tips to make a yard less attractive to ticks

Backyards are ideal places to spend warm afternoons soaking up some sun. Lazy days in the yard are a big part of what makes warm weather seasons like spring and summer so appealing. But those afternoons can quickly go off the rails when an unwelcome visitor makes its presence known.

Ticks can be found throughout the world, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that only a select few types of ticks transmit bacteria, viruses and parasites, or patho-

gens, that cause diseases in people. But even if the number of tick species that transmit diseases to humans is relatively low, ticks that can infect humans are a notable threat. Such ticks carry pathogens that the CDC notes can cause a number of diseases, including Bourbon virus, Ehrlichiosis and, of course, Lyme disease, among others.

Human beings can come into contact with ticks in their own backyards. But humans can take various steps to make their lawns less welcoming to ticks.

Cut your grass short and keep it that way. Black-legged ticks are transmitters of Lyme disease, which the CDC notes is the most common vector-borne disease in the United States. Lyme disease also poses a growing threat in Canada, where data from the Public Health Agency indicates human-reported Lyme disease cases increased from 144 in 2009 to more than 2,100 in 2022. Black-legged ticks do not like environments that are dry and hot, so short grass makes lawns less attractive

to this type of tick. Consumer Reports advises homeowners who have let their grass grow a little too high (around five or six inches) to bag their clippings when cutting the grass. Lots of clippings on the grass can provide a respite from the heat for black-legged ticks.

Create a tick barrier if your property abuts woods. Woods provide a cover from summer heat that black-legged ticks crave. So properties that abut the woods may be more vulnerable to these unwanted guests than yards that do not border woodlands. A barrier

of dry mulch made of wood chips between a property and a bordering wooded area can help repel ticks, who won't want to settle in often dry, hot mulch beds.

Plant with infestation prevention in mind. Some plants can help to repel ticks because they boast certain characteristics that ticks cannot tolerate. The fragrances, textures and oils of plants like garlic, mint, lavender, marigolds, and others create less welcoming conditions for ticks. Homeowners can speak with local garden centers

for advice on tick-repellant plants that can thrive in their particular climate and on their properties.

Remove yard debris. Piles of wood, leaves and brush can make for good conditions for ticks that transmit disease. After raking leaves and gathering brush, discard the resulting piles immediately.

These measures will not necessarily prevent all ticks from establishing themselves on a property, so individuals are urged to inspect their bodies and the bodies of their pets after a day in the yard.

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Tips for budget-friendly home decor

Home interiors can be spruced up in a number of ways. Ideas run the gamut from relatively inexpensive changes in paint color to more extensive (and expensive) remodels that may include demolition and reconstruction. Investing in new home decor is another way to breathe new life into spaces, and this approach that falls somewhere in the middle in regard to cost.

Material and product costs remain high across the board, so individuals interested in

changing the furniture and other design elements in their homes might be seeking ways to do so in the most affordable way possible. In such instances, homeowners can try these budget-friendly ways to overhaul their home decor.

CREATE THE ILLUSION OF MORE SPACE

Light, bright and white are key attributes to remember when selecting design elements for rooms where you want to create the illusion of

more square footage. Painting the walls in very light colors, increasing natural and artificial light, including using well-placed mirrors to reflect light, and decorating with light-colored fabrics can help a space seem more roomy.

REPLACE THE ACCESSORIES

Replacing curtains, area rugs, throw pillows, and chair cushions is an easy way to change a room without a big investment. Consider updating some wall art and tying color schemes together with

all of the newly introduced elements.

SPLURGE ON STATEMENT PIECES THAT WILL BE USED FREQUENTLY

These may include chandeliers, unique rugs or an eye-catching piece of furniture.

SHOP 'DISCOUNT' STORES FOR FURNITURE AND ACCENTS

Traditional design centers can be great places to

find plenty of high-quality merchandise. However, don't overlook local discount or close-out centers that may have items at very reasonable costs. Stores like Home Goods, At Home and Big Lots routinely get new merchandise that changes with the season, helping homeowners to refresh their spaces without having to dig deep into their pockets. Shop the high-end stores for inspiration, then try to find "dupes" in the discount stores that will mimic the looks for less.

CUT OUT THE CLUTTER

Modern homes are lean and clean. A home's interior instantly looks more high-end and appealing when the clutter is removed. Consider keeping main living areas free from too many knickknacks and other accents. If you want to display a special collection, set aside a room specifically for such items.

There are many budget-friendly ways to make interior spaces more inviting.

Tips to revitalize a garden this spring

Gardening is a rewarding hobby that pays a host of significant dividends. Many people love gardening because it allows them to spend time outdoors, and that simple pleasure is indeed a notable benefit of working in a garden. But the National Initiative for Consumer Horticulture notes that gardening provides a host of additional benefits, including helping people get sufficient levels of exercise, reduce stress and improve mood.

With so much to gain from gardening, it's no wonder people look forward to getting their hands dirty in the garden each spring. As the weather warms up, consider these tips to help bring a garden back to life.

DISCARD THE DEAD WEIGHT

Winter can take its toll on a garden, even in regions where the weather between December and early spring is not especially harsh. Discard dead plants that have lingered into spring and prune any perennials that need it. Branches that fell during winter storms also should be

removed at this point if they have not previously been discarded.

TEST THE SOIL

Soil testing kits can be purchased at local garden centers and home improvement retailers. Such tests are inexpensive and can reveal if the soil needs to be amended to help plants thrive in the months to come.

MULCH GARDEN BEDS

Mulching benefits a garden by helping soil retain moisture and preventing the growth of weeds. Various garden experts note that mulching in spring can prevent weed seeds from germinating over the course of spring and summer. That means plants won't have to fight with weeds for water when the temperature warms up. It also means gardeners won't have to spend time pulling weeds this summer.

INSPECT YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Homeowners with in-ground irrigation systems or

above-ground systems that utilize a drip or soaker function can inspect the systems before plants begin to bloom. Damaged sprinkler heads or torn lines can deprive plants of water they will need to bloom and ultimately thrive once the weather warms up.

TUNE UP YOUR TOOLS

Gardening tools have likely been sitting around gathering dust since fall. Serious gardeners know that tools can be expensive, so it pays to protect that investment by maintaining the tools. Sharpened pruners help make plants less vulnerable to infestation and infection. Well-maintained tools like shovels and hoes also make more demanding gardening jobs a little bit easier, so don't forget to tune up your tools before the weather warms up.

It's almost gardening season, which means gardeners can start on the necessary prep work to ensure their gardens grow in strong and beautiful this spring.



COURTESY PHOTO

Discard dead plants that have lingered into spring and prune any perennials that need it.



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What to know about landscape lighting

Home improvement trends come and go, and one trend that has become wildly popular in recent years is recognizable in yards every night. Landscape lighting has transformed how people see and enjoy their properties at night, making it one of the more sought-after upgrades among modern homeowners.

Curb appeal is often seen through the lens of how homes appear during daylight hours, but landscape lighting can make homes look better and more modern, and potentially safer, after the sun goes down. With such potential, landscape lighting is worth exploring for homeowners looking to upgrade their properties.

ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF LANDSCAPE LIGHTING?

When considering landscape lighting, homeowners should know that there are various options to consider. According to the lighting experts at Lumens, spotlights project a concentrated and narrow beam of light that's usually around 45 degrees. Spotlights are often chosen to highlight specific features on a property, like a component of the landscaping. Individuals who want to cast light over wider, more general areas may consider floodlights, which Lumens



COURTESY PHOTO

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notes spread light up to 120 degrees.

Inground lighting is among the more sophisticated landscape lighting options. Lumens notes that inground lighting illuminates the whole of a tree or structure, often creating a dramatic look. These circle-shaped lights also are great at illuminating walkways and driveways.

Post lights are another outdoor lighting option, and these are often used to light up long walkways and pathways so it's easier and safer to navigate dark areas at night.

IS LANDSCAPE LIGHTING A JOB A DIYER CAN HANDLE?

Many homeowners consid-

er a do-it-yourself approach when pondering a potential home renovation, and a landscape lighting project is likely to inspire such curiosity as well. The home experts at HGTV note that the feasibility of DIY in regard to a landscape lighting project depends on the type of lighting homeowners want

to install and where they want to install it. Replacing an existing electrical fixture may be well within the skill of a seasoned DIYer, but installing a new fixture is a job best left to the professionals. Homeowners whose homes currently have no or very little landscape lighting are almost certainly better off

working with a professional. Solar lighting that does not require any electrical work can be installed quickly and easily by anyone, but such options may not provide the look homeowners are aiming for.

HOW MUCH LIGHTING IS NECESSARY?

The amount of lighting homeowners want to install is up to them. If the home currently has little or no landscape lighting, a consultation with a professional can help to determine how much lighting to install and where to install it. When discussing landscape lighting, homeowners may want to inquire about dimmers. Dimmers can increase or decrease lighting depending on the situation. For example, homeowners may want a little extra light during a party, but less when relaxing alone outside at night. Dimmers allow homeowners to adjust as necessary.

Landscape lighting is a popular home renovation trend. Homeowners considering adding landscape lighting to their property are urged to work with a skilled professional to devise and install a set-up that makes their homes more appealing at night.

RENOVATION FROM PAGE C2

with contractors and have them spell out the minutiae of the project so you'll be able to anticipate what's going on day-to-day.

START AT THE RIGHT TIME

Some contractors may say they can fit your project into their schedules in between

other jobs. While this may seem convenient and timely, your work may be put on hold if there are delays with the other job or jobs. Instead, it may be better to hold off until the contractors can devote the bulk of their attention to your renovation.

RECREATE COMMONLY USED SPACES ELSEWHERE

A kitchen or a bathroom

remodel often requires giving up spaces that are used throughout a typical day. Unless you have a spare full bathroom or kitchen, you'll need to make due. Set a microwave, tabletop electric burner and a coffee pot on a folding table in the garage or utility room. Rent or purchase a small refrigerator where you can store a few necessities. Ask your contractor to set up a make-

shift outdoor shower so you have a place to get clean when the bathroom is under construction.

PACK UP AND COVER

Remodeling one room may cause a trickle down effect on other areas. Dust from drywall sanding can infiltrate many rooms in the home. Pack and label boxes with items not immediately needed and store them in

another area. Cover most things so a film of dust won't form on them.

ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE

Sleeping in will be a thing of the past for the duration of the renovation, as may be working from a home office. Try to get out of the work zone as much as possible for new scenery and respites from the noises and smells.

EASE UP ON CLEANING STANDARDS

It's challenging to keep a home clean during a renovation. Relax standards and expect a mess for some time. Explain to guests what they'll find if they drop by.

Renovations can disrupt life, but often are well worth the sacrifices homeowners must make to see them through to completion.

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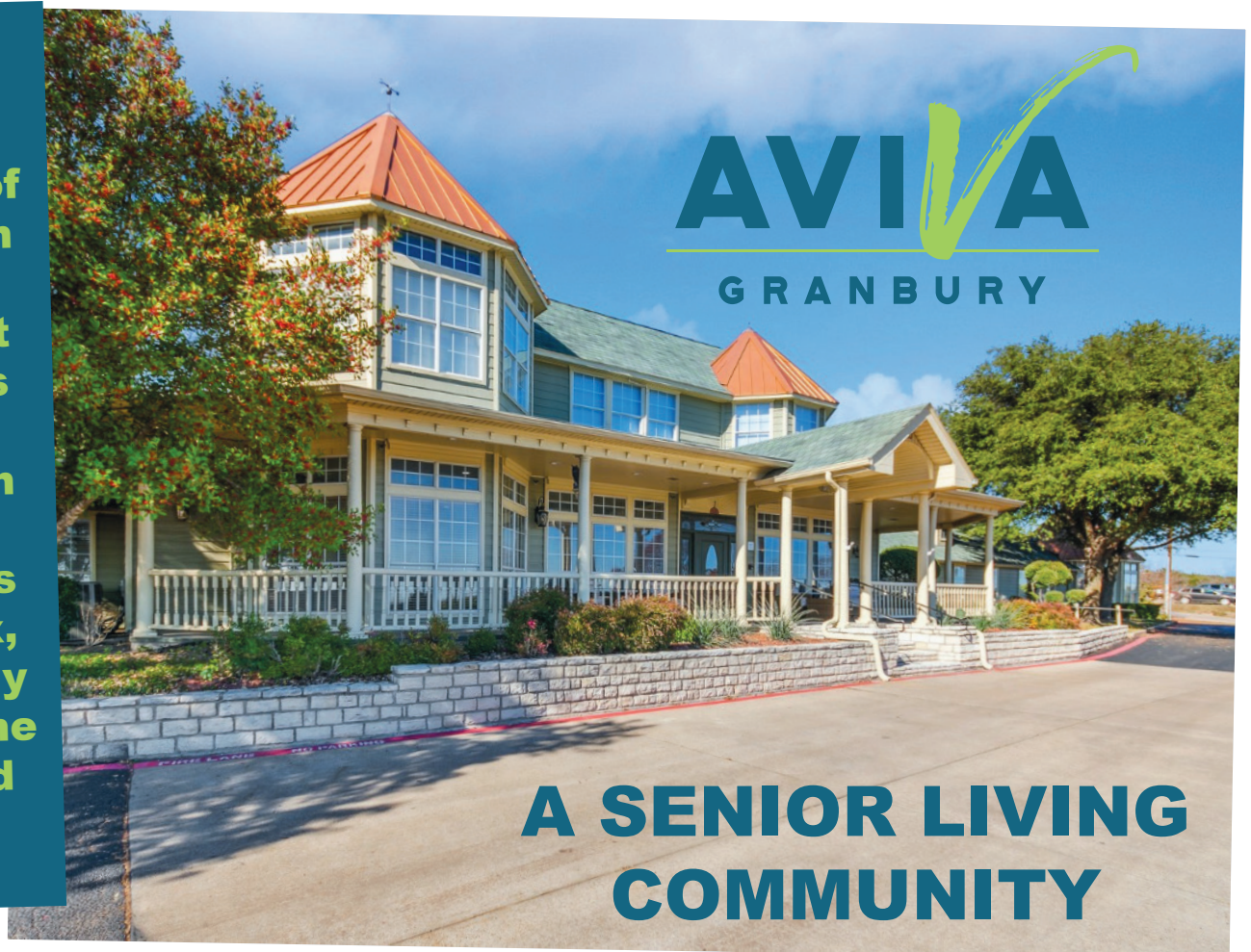
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