



GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

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[SATURDAY, May 4, 2024]

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The Brazos drive-in changes owners

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Special to the Hood County News

The drive-in theater: A sentimental relic of classic American Cinema, or a potential gathering place where families and friends can still enjoy a night out of wholesome entertainment?

It is true that fewer and fewer can be found these days, but residents of Granbury and surround-

ing communities are proud to call one of the oldest in the state of Texas their very own.

The Brazos Drive-In Theater is under new ownership and by all indications seems to be in good hands.

Jarred Hopson and his wife Joanne purchased the drive-in April 15 from Jenifer Miller, who had owned it since 1985, and for Jarred Hopson, continued stewardship of the Hood County treasure is of the utmost importance.

"I'm from this area originally," Hopson said. "I grew up in Glen

Rose, and I've got family in Granbury, so this is a place that I came to as a child. When I heard it was for sale, I wanted to see if I could keep the business running. It's a staple of Granbury. It's something that everyone in the community likes to partake in, and I thought it was a cool venture for me.

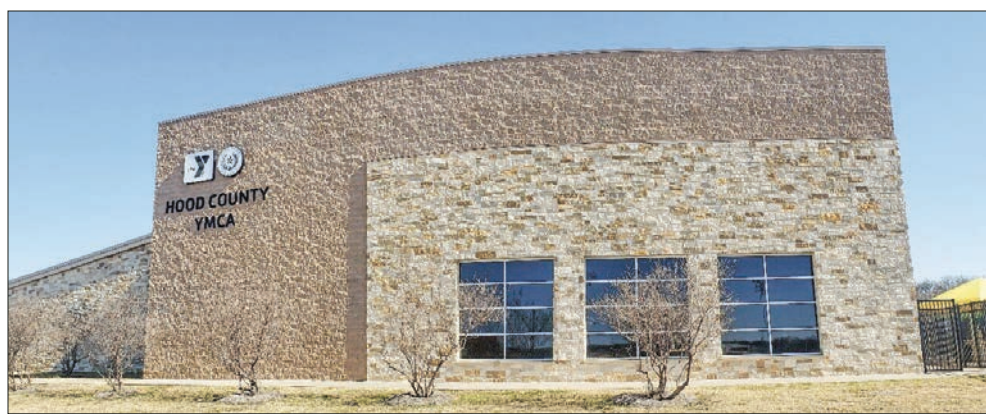
PLEASE SEE **BRAZOS** | A12

COURTESY PHOTO BY JAMES, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The drive-in theater: A sentimental relic of classic American Cinema, or a potential gathering place where families and friends can still enjoy a night out of wholesome entertainment?



County terminates lease agreement with YMCA



HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to terminate the lease agreement with the Hood County YMCA during a special meeting April 25.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court voted to terminate its lease agreement with the Hood County YMCA during a special meeting April 25.

Since the news broke on social media, many residents have been largely concerned about the future of the YMCA.

But John-Michael Corn, chief risk and resource officer for the YMCA, told the Hood County News it's not as bad as it sounds. In fact, the original lease agreement contained a termination clause.

"The original document was set up for

25 years," he explained. "It was really determined that a long-term arrangement would be best for all of the parties in order to not readdress. That said, we did put a 'terminate for any reason' or 'no reason' into that contract."

Corn explained the termination clause was a mutually agreeable decision and stemmed from the prediction that none of the original members in the parties would still be "at the table" when the contract expired around 2038.

"For any reason that it wasn't productive for any of the parties, (the lease) could be paused or stopped," he said.

PLEASE SEE **YMCA** | A6



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Hospital District Board President Christy Massey speaks about the hospital district tax during a regularly scheduled meeting April 26.

Hospital District board moves forward with hospital tax election; rate not yet set

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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This November, Hood County residents will vote whether to move forward with a proposed tax for the local hospital district — although the rate of the tax remains to be set.

Since the beginning of 2023, the Hood County Hospital District board of directors has discussed the need to review, evaluate and determine the necessity of implementing a Hood County hospital tax for maintenance and operations.

Hood County residents have not paid a hospital district tax since 1996. At that

PLEASE SEE **HCHD** | A5



138TH YEAR, NO. 17

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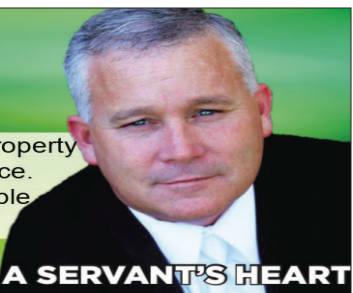
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Clint HEAD LEADERSHIP ★ COMMITMENT
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He's been in the trenches for over 30 years, fighting to protect your private property rights and mastering Texas laws. Clint does more than just show up to an office. He runs a department filling in two critical roles single-handedly, juggling double duties and all the paperwork that comes with it. Vote Clint Head for JP1

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A SERVANT'S HEART



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Confusion regarding proposed 'hospital tax'

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

We understand that there is a LOT of confusion regarding the proposed "hospital tax" you may have heard about recently in our local news, a Hospital District meeting or on social media. With so many businesses that are a part of the chamber, we wanted to be able to offer some clarifying information to them and the rest of the community.

First of all, the Hospital District and Lake Granbury Medical Center are two completely different entities. The Hospital District is a taxing entity under Hood County legally obligated to support indigent care in our county. The Hospital District



is also being asked to support emergency medical services functions. The "district tax" is regularly misnamed "hospital tax," but the reality is that Lake Granbury

Medical Center would receive no funding from the "hospital tax" the Hood County Hospital District may propose. According to Curt Junkins, CEO

of Lake Granbury Medical Center, LGMC provides hospital services for the county's indigent population at no cost to taxpayers. In 2023, it provided over \$69 million in charitable and uncompensated care for our community's most vulnerable. The medical center's emergency room provides life-saving, medically necessary care to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay. LGMC also paid \$10.1 million in taxes to our local communities last year. As a member of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, we believe Lake Granbury Medical Center and Lakeside Physicians deliver quality care to our community with no funding or connections to the Hood County Hospital District and its pro-

posed tax. The chamber and Lake Granbury Medical Center support the district's efforts to continue providing indigent care for the less fortunate as well as providing further support for vital EMS ambulance services. As our community grows and changes, the need to continue our first-class EMS service as well as paying for indigent health care becomes even more crucial. Parker County and other Texas counties have successfully sustained EMS services under a supplemental hospital district funding model. We support this effort for EMS as it is an essential community resource for pre-hospital care in Hood County.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Leadership Granbury Class of 2023-2024 Class Project: Donkey Therapy Park at T.E.X.A.S. Rescue, Inc.



Little Buccaneers 3 year old classroom- Grand Opening of H-E-B store and sandwich shop.

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT
David Davis
Business: Mattressville
Time as an Board Member: 1.5 years
Est. 2017
Mattressville

Board Member Spotlight: David Davis. We are so thankful for our Board Member, David Davis with Mattressville Granbury!! David has been on the Granbury Chamber Board for 1.5 years! When asked why he likes being a Board Member, he replied "There's a number of things that I like...one is the connection with other people who place a high value on the business community in Granbury. I'm also a curious person and like hearing what's going on in our town!" Fun Fact: David has been playing guitar since he was 10 years old! Thank you for being a Granbury Chamber Board Member!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight
TOTALCARE™
TotalCare Emergency Room
"TotalCare is more than just an emergency room. We're a company that truly cares. For nearly two decades, we've been taking care of our fellow Texans in their time of need with compassionate, honest, and fast care."

Member Spotlight: TotalCare Emergency Room. "We fulfill our promise of being committed to patients by putting our faith into action and loving and honoring our patients at every opportunity. Thus, with every encounter, you will feel caring so genuine, treatment so compassionate, and customer service and patient care so over-the-top phenomenal that each experience with us is unforgettable." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight
naf newamerican FUNDING
New American Funding
"This passion for client service is displayed in every step of the homeownership experience with focus on fulfilling our client's needs in a manner that enhances their standard of living."

Member Spotlight: New American Funding. "New American Funding enables clients of all backgrounds to accomplish the American dream of homeownership by offering a diverse product suite, competitive pricing, and our promise to provide a timely and efficient closing. Our dedication to client service during the transaction extends after the closing while we service their mortgage." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

We have rights but we also have responsibilities



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

We are all fortunate to live in a country where we have a Constitution that was written by some of the brightest minds in human history. Those gentlemen had the foresight and wisdom to create a document that recognizes the inalienable rights of its citizens. They created a balance of power where no one entity could become authoritarian over the other bodies of power, or its citizens. The founding fathers were some smart dudes. Think how smart they would have been if women had also been in the room!

One should stop for just a second and recognize at the time the Constitution

was written how foreign its concepts were to most of humanity. Previously, the

established government, kings and queens for example, had all the authority and they retained it. Citizens in such a world were "free" only in the sense of what the ruling body said they could do. There had to be specific permission granted to the citizen and short of that, the assumption was the citizen has no right to act. All power was vested in the governing body.

With the U.S. Constitution this all changed. Suddenly citizens had the right of free speech, to freely assemble, to demonstrate and freedom of religion. Citizens did not have to prove they were entitled or deserved a right; the government had to show a compelling reason why any such God-given right was to be curtailed, even in the slightest way. Certainly, this was a novel idea for its time, and an idea which places an enormous amount of responsibility on its citizens.

In the golden days of the monarchy, the kings of France or England simply dictated to their citizens what they should think and how they should act. If any one protested or resisted the monarch, the usual consequence for the violator was

death or at the least, lengthy imprisonment. In some ways this made life simple and direct. The governing source laid down the law, citizens followed the law, or they suffered the consequences.

Under the U.S. Constitution, citizens have rights, and they have the power of the vote to shape policies and actions. This places a huge responsibility upon each citizen to know what is happening in their community, to utilize their rights of free speech and assembly to meet and talk about issues, and then make a wise and thoughtful decision on how to vote. As citizens, we have an obligation to each other and to those citizens who come after us, to ensure we are operating in such a way to make sure the rights of all citizens are protected; to create a livable society where all citizens have an opportunity to grow, to thrive and to live in peace and prosperity. Unfortunately, over the last 20 or 30 years there seems to have been a shift from citizens having a responsibility for their own governance, to allowing others to govern for us.

I hear people talk about

citizenship in terms of what is best for them individually, with little concern about what is good for the community or nation. There is little movement to find solutions or to make reasonable concessions to opposing views. Our government becomes bogged down because a few wish to impose their will on the many, to accomplish a self-serving goal. The recent sessions of our state legislature are a tribute to such thinking.

It is fine to have an opinion for or against a school bond. Hopefully the decision is based on discernment and critical thinking, and not simply based on the notion of "I don't want to pay taxes irrespective of the need or demand of the community."

We citizens must understand we each have a role to play. To be a true citizen, we must think beyond ourselves and imagine what is best for our community in the long run. What will help us build a better community? What will create a next generation which will live to see our nation become stronger, more responsive to the needs of her populace? What sacrifices must we make of our time and of our resources to en-

sure a quality of life for the generations to come? Isn't there a base, a threshold, where we must take action to make sure our children are educated and prepared for the quickly changing world? Didn't citizens in the generations before us make those same decisions on our behalf, and isn't that why we had a schoolhouse to attend and teachers to educate us? Don't we want better for our children, rather than the bare minimum?

Citizenship should be about receiving the benefits of an ordered society, but also contributing our time and resources to make society better. It is the American way. It is what has made us the greatest country in the history of the world.

Occasional sacrifice is the rent we pay for the rights we have. It is not just about "me," but about all of us and those who come after us.

Thought for the day: the betterment of society is not a job to be left to a few. It's a responsibility to be shared by all.

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



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, Ana Leija!

Ana has been living in Granbury for the past 24 years. It was a long and challenging journey for Ana's family to move from Mexico to Granbury. It took decades for her father to obtain the necessary credentials and navigate bureaucratic red tape. Finally, when Ana was just 13 years old, their hard work paid off, and they achieved their dream of relocating to Granbury as a family. Ana immediately fell in love with the kind people of Granbury. On her first day of school, Ana met her best friend; the two remain close to this day. Through her, she received her first lessons in English and was guided by her new friend in wonderful ways. We all have to grow up sometime, and Ana now experiences the joy of living life with her husband, her true love whom she met here in Granbury, and their three children, two girls, ages 15 and 9, and a 10-year-old boy. The Leija family is blessed to be surrounded by a loving family (Mom and Dad, too!) who gather often, always with good food in the mix. After working at the Fire House Cafe for seven years, she has become a beloved member of the Fire House Cafe community, with regulars looking forward to seeing her warm smile and receiving her friendly service. There are many things Ana loves about our community, topping that list is the professionalism and dedication of our local law enforcement, first responders, and the security team that works so hard to keep our kids and community as a whole safe. As a mother, Ana appreciates all the Hood County News does to highlight the community, especially activities and accomplishments by the children of Hood County.

County enters agreement with Erath, Somervell to extend radio network

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously entered into an agreement — specifically, a memorandum of understanding — with both Somervell and Erath counties to extend Granbury's Regional Radio Network.

Among the first of its kind in Texas, Granbury's Regional Radio Network allows 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.

GPD's attempts to obtain an updated radio system date all the way back to 2006.

"Every other year, we have a graded exercise for the nuclear plant, and we kept getting dinged because we didn't have any interoperability, communication-wise, with anybody in Somervell County, or any other agency for that matter," Chief of

Police Mitch Galvan previously told the Hood County News. "So we, along with the sheriff, started trying to get what's called a P25 radio system that will allow us to talk to other agencies on the law enforcement network."

In April 2019, the GPD officially started a discussion during a workshop with the Granbury City Council and Hood County Commissioners Court about implementing a P25 radio system.

In May 2021, a contract was signed with American technology company L3Harris, and the new radio network officially went live last August.

Not only does the new radio network have an abundance of useful and beneficial features, but its signal strength is much stronger than it has been in the past.

Chief of Police Mitch Galvan explained how previously, GPD officers were unable to transmit radio signals out when they were stationed at Granbury High School, Lake Granbury Medical Center or Walmart.

"Our handheld radios wouldn't transmit out because they're large concrete structures, so we told them going in, 'We have to be able to communicate inside these buildings, so our handheld radios need to be able to get out of these buildings,'" Galvan previ-

ously told the Hood County News.

Galvan said the department's ultimate goal is to try and get as many other networks around the metroplex as they can on one big conglomerate talking to each other.

"If we leave here going in the metroplex, we can still communicate with them," he said, previously. "It's going to be extremely valuable to us and anybody west that joins this network to be able to communicate, well, forever, which is just absolutely huge."

Although Erath County previously joined the radio network, Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds explained this MOU will extend the system already in place.

"We built a tower up on the Diamond A Ranch and Erath County would like to have access to put equipment up there," Deeds said during a Hood County Commissioners Court meeting April 23. "That will just enhance our radio system to the west, so I'm all for it."

As for Somervell County, the MOU will allow those county officials to use Hood County's equipment on their county-owned radio tower located on the property in Chalk Mountain.

"It's our equipment, but that would allow them to interface with our equipment

to expand that part of the system too, so we'd be expanding farther to the south and farther to the southwest," Deeds said. "So, this is going to enhance everything for Hood County and our radio system, so I'd ask that you allow the judge to sign these two memoranda of understanding."

"I'm really glad that Erath and Somervell are coming on board with this," Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews said. "This really complements our system and expands that range. Communication is a good thing."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson also chimed in that this will help reduce the areas that have zero radio capabilities.

"There's still little pockets that are out there where there's no communication," he said.

"Getting off to the west side of the county, there's a lot of holes, but this is definitely going to make it better," Deeds said. "It should fix everything actually."

"It's all about communication," Massingill added.

Andrews made a motion to approve entering into a memorandum of understanding with both Somervell and Erath counties. The motion passed unanimously.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

County discusses draft of fund balance policy

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court discussed a draft of its first ever fund balance policy during a regularly scheduled meeting April 23.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson explained that a few months ago, the county's investment advisor, Jim Sabonis, recommended that the court adopt a fund balance policy, saying "all well-run counties" have such a policy in place.

"At that time, though, our new auditor, Mrs. (Stephanie) Matlock was pretty new. She had just arrived on the job, and the court felt that it was appropriate to give her several months to kind of get her feet on the ground and understand fund accounting," Samuelson said. "Fortunately, Mrs. Matlock is a very quick study. She's doing a fantastic job as our county auditor, so today is discussion only and I have provided a draft."

A fund balance policy allows a local government to set a goal or a range for its unrestricted fund balance. In essence, the policy will serve as a guideline for how the

county's funds can be spent.

According to the draft of the Comprehensive Fund Balance Policy, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 54 to improve the usefulness of fund balance information by providing clear fund balance classifications. GASB-54 abandoned the reserved, unreserved and designated classifications of fund balance and replaced them with five classifications: nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned. The five constraints serve to inform readers about the specific purposes for which resources can be spent.

The fund balance policy, according to the draft, provides guidelines during the preparation of and deliberation on the annual budget to ensure that sufficient resources are maintained for unanticipated expenditures, revenue shortfalls, and

to preserve the flexibility throughout the fiscal year to adjust funding for programs approved in connection with the annual budget.

The policy will establish the level of unassigned fund balance required for the county's general fund, road and bridge fund and library fund balance management.

The five classifications are also outlined:

Nonspendable fund balance - Fund balance reported as nonspendable represents fund balance associated with inventory or pre-paid items.

Restricted fund balance - Fund balance reported as restricted represents amounts that can be spent only on the specific purposes stipulated by creditors, grantors, contributors or other governments like tax levy funds, probation fees and construction programs.

Committed fund balance - Fund balance reported as committed includes amounts that can be used only for specific purposes determined by a formal action of the Hood County Commissioners Court, like approved projects, grants and funds.

Assigned fund balance - Fund balance reported as assigned rep-

resents amounts intended to be used for specific purposes, but not meeting the criteria to be reported as committed or restricted fund balance, like program startup costs, insurance deductibles and recommended use of fund balance at year-end.

Unassigned fund balance - Fund balance reported as unassigned represents the residual classification of fund balance and includes all spendable amounts not contained within the other classifications.

The fund balance of the general fund is of primary significance as it is the primary fund, which finances most functions of county government. According to the draft, the county desires to maintain stabilization funds in the unassigned fund balance of up to four months of regular general fund operating expenditures (35%) based on the most recently completed fiscal year. This funding is intended to provide stabilization in case of unforeseen events that may occur such as emergencies, contingencies, revenue shortfalls or budgetary imbalances.

After Samuelson finished go-

PLEASE SEE **POLICY** | A7

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, 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.

CEREMONY TO honor Firefighters of the Year from the nine local Hood County fire stations. Event to take place at the Jim Burks Memorial Park, 550 N. Travis. Sponsored by Friends of Memorial Lane. Arrive and park next door by 9:30 a.m. and take the free shuttle to the park. Seating limited to 100, ceremony begins at 10 a.m. sharp.

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.

THURSDAY, MAY 9

GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus Concert Granbury, 7 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church. Spring Concert, "Home on the Range", features well-known American folk music over the ages. The concert is free with donations gratefully accepted.

PLEASE SEE **CALENDAR** | A14

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.



HCNEWS.COM

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of April 23-29. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

APRIL 23

3:44 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:09 p.m.: suspicious activity on Ferry Boat Lane
4:21 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:26 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:33 p.m.: harassment on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:08 p.m.: suspicious activity on N. Houston Street
One warrant service, two minor accidents and four traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 24

12:29 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
2:24 a.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377

7:46 a.m.: criminal trespass on Fall Creek Highway
4:53 p.m.: disturbance on N. Plaza Drive
8:22 p.m.: disturbance on W. Pearl Street
11:40 p.m.: intoxicated driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
Thirty-three traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 25

12:07 a.m.: intoxicated driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:48 a.m.: burglary of a business on Fall Creek Highway
10:05 a.m.: disturbance on Shady Grove Drive
3:42 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:25 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:30 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
6:49 p.m.: intoxication person on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:39 p.m.: assault on Lipan Highway
Three minor accidents, a warrant service and 29 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 26

12:12 a.m.: intoxicated driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:21 a.m.: suspicious activity on W. Pearl Street
2:53 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on S. Morgan Street
4:13 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:31 p.m.: suspicious activity on Waters Edge Drive
9:22 p.m.: criminal trespass on W. Pearl Street
Two major accidents, two minor accidents and 18 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 27

2:31 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on Crawford Court
6:19 p.m.: disturbance on S. Morgan Street
9:06 p.m.: reckless driver on Meadows Drive
9:30 p.m.: burglary on N. Meadows Drive
10:17 p.m.: reckless driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:49 p.m.: hit-and-run accident involving an intoxicated driver on

Lauren Lane

Four minor accidents, two warrant services and 13 traffic stops occurred on this day

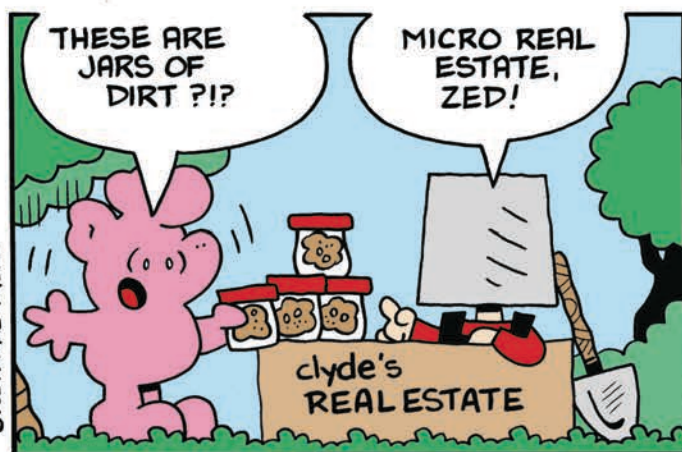
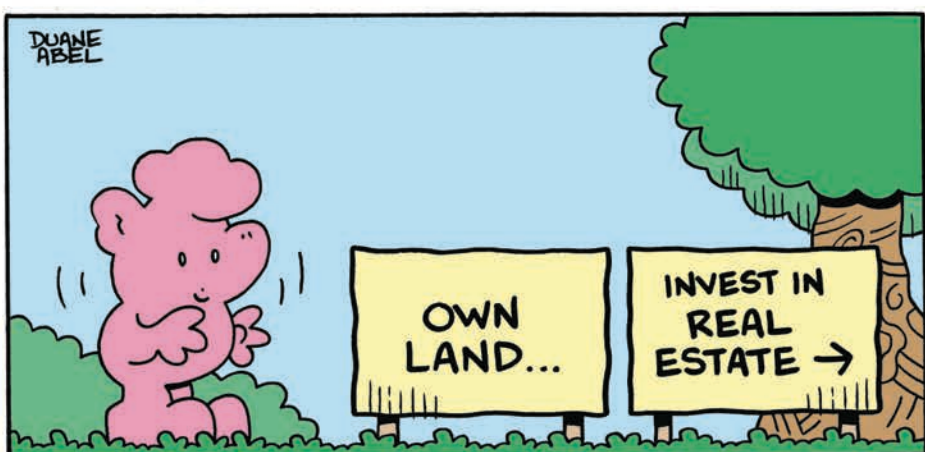
APRIL 28

1:40 a.m.: suspicious activity on W. Bridge Street
2:28 p.m.: arrest for racing on highway on Contrary Creek Road
One minor accident and 14 traffic stops occurred on this day

APRIL 29

12:55 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
8:26 a.m.: fraud on S. Morgan Street
9:11 a.m.: noise disturbance on Harbor Lakes Drive
4:08 p.m.: criminal mischief on Amethyst Court
4:17 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:29 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. Pearl Street
11:37 p.m.: noise disturbance on N. Crockett Street
One major accident, two minor accidents, a warrant service and 39 traffic stops occurred on this day

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

HCHD

FROM PAGE A1

time the tax rate was 15 cents per \$100 of valuation according to the Hood County Appraisal District.

Residents have not had to pay this tax due to a lease agreement negotiated with Hospital Corporations of America in 1996. The agreement called for HCA to pay \$15 million to the HCHD to lease the hospital from 1996-2026 with an option to renew the lease for an additional 10 years for \$1,000. Community Health Systems, Inc. is now the owner of the lease agreement.

The HCHD is responsible for paying for indigent care as well as jail inmate care as required by Texas law. Indigent care is a program that helps low-income Texans who don't qualify for other state or federal health care programs get free access to health care services. Some services include immunizations, medical screening services, annual physicals, inpatient and outpatient hospital visits, laboratory and radiology, and more.

"The HCHD is legally obligated to care for Hood County legal indigents; however, Texas state law does not require HCHD to cover health care and meds (including doctors and nurses) for Hood County inmates," HCHD President Christy Massey said during a regular meeting April 26. "Hood County Commissioners Court placed the inmate medical care charges on HCHD in 1996. Unless the current commissioners court revokes the inmate coverage by HCHD and pays inmate coverage from the county funds, HCHD will run out of funding by mid-year 2025. It should be clear to the HCHD board that the only way to meet the state of Texas mandate for legal indigents and the commissioners court mandate on inmates is the implementation of an HCHD tax on Hood County citizens and business property."

As a result of the current Hood County growth projections through 2025 and 2026 that forecast larger numbers of necessary legal indigent care, the HCHD



Hood County Hospital District Board Secretary David Kuban voices his opinion about the hospital district tax as Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle listens on during a regularly scheduled meeting April 26.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

board is currently reviewing needed legal steps to move forward on a "proposed tax increase" to be placed on the voter ballot for November 2024.

During the January meeting of the HCHD board, Massey told meeting attendees she had spoken with the Hood County Appraisal District and learned that

paying \$10 per \$100,000 property valuation, a penny-and-a-half would result in \$15 dollars per \$100,000 and two pennies would equal \$20 dollars per \$100,000. A one-cent tax would bring \$1 million into the hospital district while a two-cent tax would bring in \$2 million.

"My suggestion is we

to take care of this county," she said. "What that will end up being is \$20 per year if you have a \$100,000 appraised place. Now if you have a \$1 million appraised place, it will be more, but you're still taking care of the indigents, jail inmates and helping the ambulance services that take care of our county. If we do not end

other options that would not include a tax increase; however, certain services within the county would suffer as a direct result.

"These monies have to be diverted from the same budget as it applies to the county, and there could be an impact across the county in ways that we haven't thought through," he said.

"My suggestion is we continue to talk about it and make a vote so that we get all the information out to the county to let the people know what's going on. To know that this is the hospital district, not the hospital, that this is the hospital district, not the county commissioners and let them make their own decision. If they're for a small tax, fine. If they're not for it, fine. We will figure out some other way to deal with all this."

CHRISTY MASSEY
HCHD President

the least impactful options on the proposed tax rate includes taxing a penny, a penny-and-a-half or two pennies — though the tax could end up being higher, if one is passed. One penny would result in residents

continue to talk about it and make a vote so that we get all the information out to the county to let the people know what's going on," Massey said, during the April 26 meeting. "To know that this is the hospital district, not the hospital, that this is the hospital district, not the county commissioners and let them make their own decision. If they're for a small tax, fine. If they're not for it, fine. We will figure out some other way to deal with all this."

Massey said she wants as little tax as possible to take care of the indigent and agrees that a two-penny tax would take care of both the indigents and the two county ambulance services.

"I think one penny will take care of indigents at this point and one penny will take care of dividing money to the ambulance services

up proposing a tax that is reasonable and acceptable to the voters of this county, then we'll have to find another way of taking care of the situation."

Texas EMS Director Ricky Reeves spoke up during the meeting and said that either way, there will be a tax increase on the county, whether it be through the hospital district or the Hood County Commissioners Court.

"I think it would be a lot easier to fund the hospital district for what it's actually designed for, than the commissioners court but either way, there will be a tax increase," Reeves said. "I know you don't want a tax increase but if the hospital district fails, you still are going to be taxed to take care of these things."

HCHD Vice President Monty Lewis said there are

"Whether it be one cent, two cent, the idea should be that whatever tax rate is proposed for the voters to decide, we would not have to have the conversation for an extended period of time, so that whoever is going to operate the necessary mandates of the state — if commissioner's court decided that they wanted to handle the inmates again, which was passed on to us in 1996 — they can take that decision. But it's going to fall on the citizens of Hood County regardless."

Reeves then explained that 17% of county residents are currently in indigent care. He added that although Hood County residents haven't had to pay a hospital tax for almost 30 years, healthcare changes over time, along with growth.

"It's a retirement commu-

nity," he said. "So, for a lot of people, the payment does not meet the cost. But we're at the point now that to continue to be here, to continue to grow, to continue to serve service communities, you have to have some assistance from somewhere."

Pecan Plantation Fire Chief Michael Barrett also explained that in Pecan, residents pay \$20 a month for ambulance services — adding up to \$240 a year.

"Today we're in the same boat as Ricky is," Barrett said. "Fire receives less than 3%. The majority goes to EMS, and they need additional money. Either this passes in November, it helps Ricky and helps our units at Pecan or it doesn't, and Pecan is going to have to — in March — ask for an increase, and that increase is probably another \$20, so that's \$40 total. The double taxation has to be explained to Pecan members."

Secretary David Kuban explained that he is looking at the situation from a taxpayer's standpoint and doesn't care if the tax increase comes from the commissioners court or the HCHD — but he does care about how much it's going to cost.

"To do it the way we've been doing seems to be the most efficient and most economic," Kuban said. "But bottom line, I want us to look at what's best for the community. The whole issue about what Pecan does. Pecan's part of the county so whether you want to live in Pecan or you want to live in DeCordova and pay for the amenities and do that, that's your free will to do from the standpoint of there's certain things you can do as communities to support it. You live in this community, you pay taxes here, you pay for it. We're trying to do it the least possible way to do it from a monetary standpoint, plus you got to serve your community. I don't care where you live in the community, whether you're in the city or Pecan or DeCordova, you still have a responsibility."

"I'm a voter in this county. I get to make my choice," Massey said. "I don't get paid for any of this. We're not going to make any decisions today about how much tax money to propose or how to get that information out to the county. We'll look into different ways of getting the information out. The people that are against it, they can put the information out against it also. How it comes out in November, if we get a tax, we do. If we don't, we'll figure out how to deal with that."

The next scheduled Hood County Hospital District meeting is set for noon Friday, May 31 at the Hood County Courthouse, second-floor courtroom.

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Hood County News reporter Ashley Inge Terry named North and East Texas Press Association 'Journalist of the Year'

Hood County News staff brings home multiple awards

BY SAM HOUSTON
Hood County News
Publisher

The North and East Texas Press Association held its annual convention in Granbury April 25-27. An important part of the convention is the Better Newspaper Contest which bestows awards for excellence in various journalistic categories. More than 40 newspapers submitted entries for the competition, which is judged by independent out-of-state professional journalists.

Ashley Inge Terry, a reporter for the Hood County News, was named Journalist of the Year in a competition that encompassed all divisions. Ashley is a graduate of Jacksboro High School and Tarleton State University. She has been employed at the Hood County News for three years, having previously

worked at the Glen Rose Reporter and Stephenville Empire-Tribune.

The Hood County News staff also won the following awards:

Layth Taylor won first place in Division 2 for Best Sports Photo.

Eden Duncan Gilbreath and Emily Nava won first place in Division 2 in the Best Feature Story category. Two stories — one written by Gilbreath and the other by Nava — combined in one entry to earn the win.

The Hood County News won first place in Division 2 for Headline Writing and for Advertising.

"It is thrilling to see our staff recognized for their outstanding work. Ashley winning Journalist of the Year is a strong testament to the quality of her work and the efforts she makes to be the best journalist possible. It is high praise to win



Hood County News staff members Eden Duncan Gilbreath, Ashley Inge Terry and Layth Taylor won first place in their categories from the North and East Texas Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

DARREN CLARK | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

such an award, especially when in competition with so many outstanding professionals," HCN Publisher Sam Houston said. "Layth is

a young photographer who has a very bright future before him. I always look forward to seeing the images which he captures. Eden

and Emily should be very proud of this recognition and for their thoughtful and well written feature stories. We at the Hood County

News are fortunate to have such a talented staff and it is one of the reasons we can produce such a quality community newspaper."

YMCA

FROM PAGE A1

"With that said, there would be a year wind-down period, and during the course of that year, conversations, tweaks, whatever could happen, so the (agreement) may go forward, but it may not also."

While the court decided unanimously to terminate YMCA's lease agreement late last week, the lease will not officially end until May 31, 2025 — giving the court a total of 13 months to potentially negotiate a new lease.

"I don't think that anybody is trying to say what we've done hasn't been good," Corn said. "I think it's the ability to look at (the lease), renegotiate, and see if there are any terms that need to be tweaked. That's how the Y is looking at this."

The conversation regarding the development of the Y first started in 2013, when negotiations and public meetings between the county and the Granbury Independent School District started to take place.

"(We wanted) to really come up with a solution and a facility that would serve the needs of the community, serve the needs of the school district — particularly the swim team — and serve Hood County by creating a community center," Corn said. "The three parties were successful in that and were really all working together



PHOTO COURTESY OF YMCAFW.ORG/LOCATIONS/HOOD-COUNTY

To become a YMCA member, view current programs or indoor pool and gym schedules, please visit ymcafw.org/locations/hood-county.

for the best interest of the community at large. It went to the vote for the bond to build the building and it passed, so that's where the official relationship between the

county and the YMCA started. The conversation started in 2013 and the doors opened in 2015."

Last fall, Corn said the Hood County Commissioners Court

started discussing different lease properties in the county, like the YMCA and even the Medical Center.

He said while the news of a ter-

minated contract is jarring, he believes the court only wants to re-examine the relationship between Hood County and the YMCA.

"The Y is here. The Y isn't planning on going anywhere," he said. "We have every confidence that we'll be working with the Hood County Commissioners Court to come up with the best way forward for everyone involved — particularly and most importantly, for the citizens of Hood County."

YMCA Chief Strategy and Marketing Officer Christy Jones also added that the YMCA services will continue as planned despite the lease termination.

"People who have memberships, people who have signed up for programs, they will not experience any kind of disruption in service," she said. "That is our commitment to our community."

"From the community members that we serve to the swim team of GISD not having to drive an hour north to practice, those (residents) have been impacted in incredible ways and I'm proud of that," Corn added. "The Y, the school district and Hood County have done some amazing stuff together for the community, and I think this is an opportunity for all of us to do that again."

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

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PHOTO COURTESY OF RARRARORRO, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The colorful flags that have surrounded the Hood County Courthouse on a year-round basis will now be placed on a seasonal holiday schedule following a unanimous vote by the Hood County Commissioners Court April 23.

Year-round courthouse flags placed on seasonal holiday schedule

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The colorful flags that have surrounded the Hood County Courthouse on a year-round basis will now be placed on a seasonal holiday schedule following a unanimous vote by the Hood County Commissioners Court April 23.

Phil Harris, president of the Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT) David Crockett Chapter, spoke to the commissioners early last week regarding the weather damage on several of the flags.

"Some time ago, we started with 80 flags around the courthouse," he said. "The most destructive item for flags is the weather. It doesn't take long for a very nice flag to look like a tattered old flag that needs to be retired — and that's

where we are today."

Back in March 2023, the Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously decided to extend the period in which American flags will be displayed around the courthouse after Hood County Judge Ron Massingill noted how nice it is to see flags there — especially with the new lighting that was put in place. He noted he would like to see flags at the courthouse year-round except at Christmastime when holiday decorations are in use.

With the exception of a two-month break for the Texas and CASA flags, American flags were placed around the courthouse year-round last year — leading to many damaged flags.

"We're down to probably 10 or 15 American flags in the basement of the courthouse and maybe half a dozen Texas flags in the

courthouse that are still probably in some condition of flying but they're not," Harris said.

He explained that the new schedule will focus on the front of the courthouse facing the Granbury Opera House, where flags will be up for a nominal 10- to 14-day period around the holidays.

"(The flags will be up) seven or eight days before the holiday and then three days after the holiday, we take them down. That way, the public coming into town can see, 'Oh, there's something coming up. I wonder what that is.' 'Oh, that's Memorial Day.' 'That's Fourth of July,'" Harris said. "We're going to propose that for four holidays."

The four-holiday schedule is listed below:

Feb. 20, each year - install Texas Flags for Texas Independence Day, remove

March 6 (SRT and Texas Heroes Foundation).

May 16, each year - install American Flags for Memorial Day, remove May 31 (SRT).

June 24, each year - install American Flags for Independence Day, remove July 8 (SRT).

Nov. 1, each year - install American Flags for Veterans Day, remove Nov. 15 (SRT).

Harris said he also has an agreement with the Texas Heroes Foundation, where the SRT will borrow 12 Texas flags and place them in front of the courthouse around March 2.

"I think it's a very good idea and I like this schedule here that you've got," Massingill said.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson made a motion to approve the schedule for the placement and removal of flags along the sidewalk surround-

ing the historical courthouse. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda referred to County Auditor Stephanie Matlock setting up a nondepartmental budget line allocating \$500 each year for the purpose of replacing the damaged U.S. flags.

"You're saying borrow the flags from the Texas Heroes Foundation, so you've got the Texas flags covered. What you need is just the American U.S. flags?" Massingill asked Harris.

"Yes, and because the flags are only up about 10 days at a time instead of 365 days a year, I expect the life of flags to be much improved," Harris said. "My view is \$500 is kind of a max — up to \$500. We want to buy American-made sewn cotton flags that will look good in front of the courthouse."

Harris said he is going to take an inventory of the flags that are in the basement and make note of which ones are usable.

"I'd like to start with 12 brand new flags, and put the other flags in reserve," he said. "We have somewhere between 10 and 12 flags in the basement where the condition is unknown."

Harris requested the county purchase the flags for the courthouse, noting the 3-by-5 flags normally cost between \$35-\$45 each.

"There's at least half a dozen American makers in the United States that make good flags," he added.

Samuelson made a motion to direct the county auditor to set up a nondepartmental budget line allocating \$500 each year for the purpose of replacing damaged flags. The motion passed unanimously.

POLICY

FROM PAGE A4

ing over the draft, resident Tina Brown asked if there is a law regarding the county's reserve balance or if the four months outlined in the draft is just a recommendation.

"I just went to an auditor's conference," Matlock responded. "I actually was in a question-and-answer forum, and I pulled all the other counties that were equivalent to our size within a range, and there was a multitude of responses. Some follow the GASB rule of three months (of reserves). Others extend it out a little bit further. I think it's discretionary and dependent on how you run. I prefer a conservative, closer to six months number (in reserves) but that's just what the other counties were doing. It was definitely like a wide variety there."

"I looked to see if there was a law or statute or anything like that, and I couldn't find one," Brown said.

"I would classify this as a best practice," Samuelson said. "And as Mr. Sabonis said, most well-run counties adopt a fund balance policy. To me, it's just a guiding principle of how you manage your budget. This is taxpayer money, and we want to be sure that we're doing everything we can to have the best policies in place to make sure we're doing the right thing."

Brown asked if Hood County had a fund balance policy before and Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews replied with, "Not that I know of."

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill asked Matlock if the reserve balance has always consisted of six months under previous County Auditor Becky Kidd.

"I did find something from 2011, from Stan (McBroom) before Becky and it was when we were in a cash flow crisis," Matlock said. "At that time, we could implement a five-to-six-month reserve balance because we were having trouble. It was a shrinking economy, rather than what we're facing now as a growing economy. It's a decision based on a conservative viewpoint and the ability to maintain our budget and the ability to fund it fully, even if we don't receive all the anticipated revenues. It's better to have more in there just like on your own personal budget."

"I'm happy to say that six months sounds good to me, too," Brown said. "Especially if they encounter another drop (in cash flow)."

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle said he researched GASB

about three or four years ago and that he is in total agreement with having a written policy about the fund balance.

"I think there's been disagreement. Before we had five to eight months in the unassigned, and I'm leaning more towards three to four months," he said. "I look at it this way. Every penny that's in that unassigned balance — to look at it in a practical way — is in a savings account. It's money that we're taking from the taxpayers, and it's sitting over in an account to be used as something comes up. It's unassigned, so the question becomes, do you want to put six or seven months in a savings account of taxpayers money, or do you want a little bit less?"

"In my opinion, the lesser that we have in the fund balance — leaning towards the three-to-

four-month side — the more it puts us in a position to make sure we're staying within our budget, and that we don't have this extra fluff."

Eagle said it is also prudent for business to have more money in reserves in case the economy suffers a downturn.

"I don't know if we need six or seven months of operating expenses in a savings account, but I'm very happy that Commissioner Samuelson has actually brought this to the table," he said. "I think that this is a very good, prudent idea, and it also gives the taxpayers out here one more piece of information where they can see what we're doing — and I think that's very important."

Samuelson also added the unassigned fund balance is the last category, so if the economy suffered

a crisis, the court would start with the most restricted category and spend those funds first before moving to the next.

"If we had assigned some amount of money for projects that we anticipate coming up and ran into some sort of economic crisis, we would, in essence, cancel those capital projects and use those funds for the crisis before we ever went into the unassigned category, so that's what that order of expenditure of funds states," she said.

Because the commissioners court doesn't meet again until May 12, Samuelson said the court will have extra time to review the policy, and it will be placed on the agenda at a later date.

The current draft of the Comprehensive Fund Balance Policy can be viewed by scanning the QR code below or online at co.hood.tx.us/158/Commissioners-Court under the April 23 agenda.

SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF CO.HOOD.TX.US/AGENDACENTER

The April 23 Hood County Commissioners Court meeting agenda can be viewed online at co.hood.tx.us/158/Commissioners-Court under the April 23 agenda.

SCAN HERE



COMMISSIONERS COURT
Hood County, Texas

Ron Massingill, County Judge

<p>Kevin Andrews Commissioner, Pct. 1</p> <p>Nannette Samuelson Commissioner, Pct. 2</p>	<p>Jack Wilson Commissioner, Pct. 3</p> <p>Dave Eagle Commissioner, Pct. 4</p>
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COMMISSIONERS COURT MEETING AGENDA

Pursuant to the Texas Open Meetings Act, notice is hereby given that a regular meeting of the Commissioners Court of Hood County, Texas will be held on **TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** in the **CENTRAL JURY ROOM OF THE RALPH H. WALTON JR. JUSTICE CENTER AT 1200 W. PEARL STREET** Granbury, Texas 76048. At which meeting the following subjects will be discussed and the following matters acted upon.

*** Watch live at <https://co.hood.tx.us/StreamCourt> ***

Nothing Bundt Cakes to open Granbury location in coming months



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NOTHINGBUNDTCAKES.COM

Indulge your cravings with our individually packaged personal Bundt Cakes. Perfect as an everyday treat or a delicious gift.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

It's official — Granbury is getting a lot sweeter.

The recent news that a popular bakery will soon be opening in town is a “whisk” come true for many residents.

According to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Nothing Bundt Cakes will open a 2,285 square foot location at 1200 Waters Edge, Suite 120 — the former home of Superior Fitness.

The project's estimated cost is \$377,025, with construction set to begin June 1. The estimated completion date is currently set for Sept. 15.

Nothing Bundt Cakes was founded in 1997 by Dena Tripp and Debbie Shwetz in their Las Vegas home kitchens. Since then, it has grown to over 500 bakery locations in more than 40 states and Canada — becoming the nation's largest specialty cake compa-

ny to offer a modern spin on a classic treat, according to its website.

The retail cake store is famous for its flavorful Bundt cakes topped with the brand's signature cream cheese frosting. Flavors include lemon, lemon blueberry, red velvet, white chocolate raspberry, strawberries and cream, snickerdoodle, confetti, carrot, classic vanilla, gluten-free chocolate chip cookie, and chocolate chocolate chip (so chocolate-y they had to include the word “chocolate” twice).

Full-sized Bundt cakes come in eight-inch or 10-inch sizes as well as tiered. Bundtlets, which are personal cakes, and Bundtinis, mini cakes that can be purchased by the dozen, are additional smaller options for those with a mini sweet tooth.

Nearby locations of this favorite bakery include Hudson Oaks, Fort Worth, Burleson and Lake Worth.

Nothing Bundt Cakes has not announced an opening date yet for its Granbury location.

The Hood County News reached out

to owner Philip Bonds for comment but did not receive a response by press time.

Nothing Bundt Cakes offers a box of 12 individually packaged Bundtlets— along with a large assortment of full-size cakes—in your choice of delicious flavors online at nothingbundtcakes.com.



Keep your selfie healthy with Lake Granbury Medical Center and Lakeside Physicians

Submitted Item

In May, Lake Granbury Medical Center wants to help women be the picture of health through Keep Your Selfie Healthy: A Women's Health Week Challenge email series.

Starting May 13, Lake Granbury Medical Center and Lakeside Physicians will provide seven daily emails about women's health issues, including menopause, heart disease and the prevalence of autoimmune, pelvic floor and sleep disorders. The series is intended to help women focus on “their selfies.”

“Studies show that 50%

of women skipped preventative healthcare last year, but those screenings are crucial,” says Nancy Wagner, AGPCNP-BC, a family medicine nurse practitioner at Lakeside Physicians. “Through proactive healthcare, we can better diagnose conditions early, when they're the most treatable. Women have to remember that some conditions are asymptomatic or are often chalked up to being a ‘part of getting older,’ but your provider can help you navigate and treat those disorders.”

After the Women's Health Movement in the 1960s and 1970s, re-

nowned medical institutions and healthcare systems began focusing more on women's health. However, it wasn't until 2000 that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched National Women's Health Week, in May, Lake Granbury Medical Center wants to help women be the picture of health through Keep Your Selfie Healthy: A Women's Health Week Challenge email series.

each year on Mother's Day. This observance stemmed from disparities in care for women and women's tendency to prioritize family and career, even if their health fell by

the wayside. However, it's important that women be proactive about their health.

“Prioritizing screenings is essential because healthy women are better equipped to pursue their

goals, contribute to their communities and enjoy longer, fuller lives,” says Curt M. Junkins, CEO. “Women often play central roles in our lives, and we want our mothers, sisters, daughters and friends to

be healthy enough to take selfies for years to come.”

To Keep Your Selfie Healthy, sign up at: LakeGranburyMedicalCenter.com/Selfie.



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Hood County News

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Vehicle crashes into new CEFCO gas station

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Many Hood County residents were left shocked Wednesday morning after witnessing the aftermath of what appeared to be a car crash involving the new CEFCO gas station on Highway 51.

"That didn't take long," reads a post from Laura Watson Davis on the Hood County Breaking News! Facebook page. "Someone's already drove (sp) through the CEFCO."

The CEFCO — which celebrated its grand opening on March 28 — has only been open for

business a little over a month.

According to Granbury Police Chief Mitch Galvan, a 62-year-old female accidentally pressed the gas pedal instead of the brake pedal when she was pulling into a parking space at CEFCO. As a result, the woman drove through the glass window of the convenience store.

"No one was hurt and there was no structural damage, just damage to the window and trim," Galvan said.

CEFCO isn't the only Hood County business that suffered damage from a car crash recently. Back in December, a car crash in Acton resulted in two businesses being damaged: Acton Donuts and Standpoint Promotions.

COURTESY PHOTOS

LEFT: A car crash Wednesday morning resulted in damage to the CEFCO convenience store located on Highway 51.

BELOW: According to Police Chief Mitch Galvan, the crash resulted in damage to CEFCO's window and trim. No one was hurt and there was no structural damage.



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COURTESY PHOTOS

The Brazos Drive-In Theater in Granbury is under new ownership and by all indications seems to be in good hands.

BRAZOS
FROM PAGE A1

"I'm involved with other businesses, and I liked the opportunity to keep something going. I have the resources to keep it going, versus somebody else coming in and buying it and maybe tearing it down, so I decided to buy it."

The Brazos has been family owned and operated since 1952 and holds a special place in Hopson's heart.

"As a child, I remember coming here and playing in the grassy knoll," Hopson said. "I remember throwing the football and playing catch with the cousins. So that's memories of my childhood being here and watching movies. It's always been a family-oriented place. Watching movies is something that brings the family together, which is a good thing in this day and age."

Hopson, 37, said he believes what appeals most to people about the Brazos is the sense of nostalgia it

provides.

"I think for a lot of people, it's a timeless thing," Hopson said. "It brings back memories of their childhood. A lot of places don't have this, so it's something unique and different that people can take advantage of. The kids can play in the yard, and the adults can go and do something that they did as children."

The Brazos will feature a combination of both modern and classic movies, and will likely reserve Wednesday evenings for a specific type of film.

"Fridays and Saturdays, we're going to do first-run movies, which are the new releases in theaters," Hopson said. "Then we will do throwbacks and classics on Thursday. I also want to try to do a Christian movie night on Wednesdays."

Miller, the theater's prior owner, invested in the Brazos drive-in in the form of equipment and technology to keep up with the times.

Hopson said he has a few



Jarred Hopson and his wife Joanne purchased the drive-in April 15 from Jenifer Miller, who had owned it since 1985, and for Jarred Hopson, continued stewardship of the Hood County treasure is of the utmost importance.

ideas of his own for the drive-in.

"I want to increase the concessions and give people more options as far as food

goes," Hopson said. "I also want to run the movie theater more nights a week, and I want to run it for longer in the year, possibly through

the holidays."

The Paluxy resident said for his year, however, things will pretty much remain status quo.

"I'm going to do some cosmetic upgrades eventually," Hopson said. "But I plan to get it up and running for this season pretty much as is. We'll be doing some minor things, but we're into the typical season for the drive in, so there is not time for me to close everything down and do a lot of what I would want. So for this season, it's going to be pretty much as it has been for the last 40 years."

Entering its 72nd year of existence, the Brazos has offered a unique form of entertainment at a reasonable price to the families of Hood County, which is exactly what Hopson wants to continue.

"I want people to have a place that they can still go to with their family and watch family-oriented material at a fair price," Hopson said. "I think that is really the end goal is to bring the community together and keep that family unit close."

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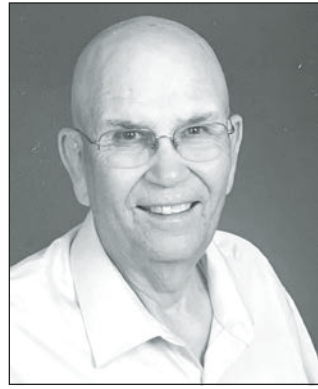
Jerry Michael Robinson

October 20, 1938 - April 28, 2024

Jerry Robinson, 85, of Granbury, Texas passed away peacefully on April 28, 2024 surrounded by family. A graveside memorial at Mount Olive Cemetery in Big Spring, Texas took place on Thursday May 2, 2024 at 11 a.m. A Celebration of Life Ceremony followed at Acton Baptist Church in Granbury, Texas on Friday May 3, 2024 at 11 a.m.

Jerry Michael Robinson was born on Oct. 20, 1938 in Big Spring, Texas to parents JC and Clara (Allison) Robinson. Jerry was raised in Big Spring and graduated from Big Spring High School in 1957. He met the love of his life, Melba O'Briant, at the Big M (Masters) drive in shortly after graduation and married her in August of 1959. Jerry went to work for Cosden Oil and Chemical in 1964 and retired with Fina Oil & Chemical in 1997 after a 33-year career in the Polystyrene and Crude Units at the Big Spring Refinery. Jerry was very proud to have had the opportunity to work at the refinery and made a lot of friends during his tenure there. Jerry had many dreams and stories about making rounds at the refinery and shared many stories about his time there.

Jerry was an avid baseball fan and loved coaching little league baseball in the American League in Big Spring. Jerry coached little league baseball for over 25 years and over this time he won two city championships and also made it to the state tournament. Jerry was known for his passion for baseball and always encouraging the catcher to give the pitcher a "good target." Jerry also had a strong love for the Lord and would share the Gospel to anyone who



would listen to and even to those who didn't want to listen.

Jerry is survived by his wife, Melba Robinson, of Granbury; two sons, Mike and Vilma Robinson of Jacksonville, Florida; Leslie and Michelle Robinson of Grand Prairie, Texas; and one daughter; Kari and Robert Eggleston of Midland, Texas; grandkids; Mike Robinson of Jacksonville, Florida; Michelle Morris and husband Alex of Jacksonville, Florida; Jonathon Robinson of Jacksonville, Florida; Phillip Robinson of Jacksonville, Florida; Nicole West and husband Jordan of Hope, Indiana; Lauren Robinson of New York City, New York; Kelsey Dillenburger and husband Blaise of Lubbock, Texas; Kristen Clutz and husband Mike of Tuscola, Texas; Keilan Eggleston and wife Ariel of Houston, Texas, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Jerry and Melba were residing in Granbury Texas and were active members at Acton Baptist Church and were blessed with many friends who were always there for support and prayers.

Arrangements were under the direction of Myers and Smith Funeral Home for the graveside services in Big Spring and Wiley Funeral Home for the celebration of life in Granbury.

Beverly Harrison

April 15, 1947 - April 13, 2024

Beverly Harrison, 76, passed away April 13, 2024 in Arlington, Texas. Visitation was held Saturday, April 20, 2024 from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Service followed at 3 p.m.

Beverly was born April 15, 1947 in Grand Prairie, Texas to Reo Mathis and Nancy. She later married James "JR" Harrison. Beverly had a passion to read and was particularly interested in JD Robb's, "In Death" series. Following her love for books, she wrote fan fictions. She admired gargoyles, daisies, and nature. She was known for her high respect for our nation's armed forces and she instilled that in her children and family. She had a collection of stuffed animals that she admired. Beverly and Holli had a tradition



of naming all the cars they had ever known.

Beverly is preceded in death by her parents: Reo Woodrow Mathis and Nancy Frances Mitchell.

Beverly is survived by her husband: James "JR" Harrison; children: Jamie Samek and husband Brad, and Holli Harrison; and many loving family members.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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Hood County News

CALENDAR from A4

MONDAY, MAY 13

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Guest speaker: State Rep. James Talarico, Democratic candidate for Texas House of Representatives, District 50. 11 a.m. United Co-op Services Community Room, 320 Fall Creek Highway. For information: 254-716-5195.

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E.U.S. Highway 377. Program will be presented by Dr. Curt Fields, the nation's preeminent Ulysses S. Grant living historian. Fields will appear in uniform and speak as Gen. Grant. This will be our last meeting until September, and you do not want to miss this program. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first time attendees. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.ncentexcwr.com>, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

SALVATION ARMY Women's Auxiliary Monthly Meeting, Acton Methodist Church Youth Building. 10 a.m.: Aloha! Hula on over! 10:30 a.m.: meeting and program. Guest speaker is Investigator Thomas Bryant speaking on fraud. Lunch provided by Baked, choice of Chicken Salad or Tropical Cobb Salad includes fruit and cookie, coffee, tea or water. \$15 cash preferred. Gratuity included. RSVP to Linda Silverhohogram5@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

THE HOOD County Republican Women's Club will host several interesting speakers at their May 15th meeting at the Wiley Center (400 U.S. Hwy. 377 East) at 10:00 a.m. The club will hear from Sharla Caro, Executive Director of the local non-profit, Rancho Brazos, who will inform the club about the Republican National Committee (RNC). Committeewoman, Kit Whitehill, will introduce herself to the club and talk about her upcoming race. The Republican Women's Club will also introduce and recognize three scholarship recipients selected by the club's Scholarship Committee. Please join us!

FRIDAY, MAY 17

MELODY BELLES singers, women's choral group, present "Wishes & Dreams," spring concert and dinner. 6:30 p.m. at DeCordova Bend Estates Country Club. Program followed by dinner. Public invited. \$20 per person plus tax and tip. For reservations, call the club at 817-326-2381.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

STROLL THROUGH Texas - the annual Stroll Through Texas event is brought to you by the Texas Heroes Foundation and will be held at the Acton Cemetery on Saturday May 18. This is a free family-friendly event that shows life in early Texas with demonstrations, presentations, interpreters and live gunfire. Opens 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Look for the Texas Flags along Fall Creek in front of the Action Cemetery.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

FREE SEMINAR on "Planning for the Future" and beyond in the Pecan Plantation Clubhouse at 10:30 a.m. Topics include conversations your family should have to create a plan, renting or selling property as part of your plan, and creating a legacy with your real estate. Seminar sponsored by Jane Johnson Realtor. RSVP by June 6 at 682-701-6559.



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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- man, Texas (Wood County)
- "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow ___ Be Cowboys"
- Texas beach baskers want ___ tan
- Texas has ___ banded armadillo
- do your sums
- Texas draws, e.g.
- TXism: "tough as a boot ___"
- TX Vikki Carr: ___ Vicenta de Casillas-Martinez Cardona
- TX Orbison (init.)
- a Great Lake
- TXism: "___ Katy bar the door"
- an organization's rules (hyph.)
- TXism: "coosts ___ ___ leg"
- Rangers' Corey Seager pos.
- stop a horse: "___ in"
- CSA general Robert ___
- golf triumph: "hole ___"
- TXism: "useless ___ ___ sow"
- main principle
- folk group "Peter, Paul ___"
- puzzle based on Texas (abbr.)
- oceans
- final layer of paint on a car
- TX Cruz or TX Cornyn
- text messaging serv.
- if it's elevated, it's one sign of prostate cancer
- TX-based 1958 western: "___ the West"
- TXism: "you don't need much ___ you sleep fast"
- go-___ small cars
- anger
- TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ hair of him"
- this TX Ron was a TV "Tarzan"
- Comanche log building: "Old ___ Courthouse"
- a pen name of TX Sandra Brown: ___ St. Claire
- TXism: "___ like an armadillo needs an interstate"
- birth state of Davy Crockett (abbr.)
- TX-filmed ___-fi film: "The Vast of Night"
- TXism: "___ ___ an orphan calf"
- TXism: "___ ___ ___"
- Abilene's Dyess military br. (abbr.)
- this Bill served two nonconsecutive terms as governor
- be careful around ___ wasps
- TX Don Henley co-wrote "___ These Nights"
- digital to analog conversion (abbr.)
- "shop 'til you ___"
- TX Wheelchel of "The Facts of Life"
- chore
- TXism: "siestas"
- cuckoo-type bird
- Shirley Mac ___ of 2011 Texas film "Bernie"
- Flynn of 1945 film "San Antonio"
- ___ or nay"
- TX Wheelchel of "The Facts of Life"
- TXism: "short as ___ eyebrow"
- sagacity
- TXism: "___ postage stick-ons"
- Steak and ___ started in Dallas
- Speedwagon

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Financial literacy: It's important for everyone

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Tony Mobly

cally moved each month from a checking or savings account to a financial account that's not used for daily expenses.

April is National Financial Literacy Month — a good reminder that all of us can benefit from boosting our financial knowledge.

But what is financial literacy? There's no one single definition, but the term certainly covers these areas:

· Budgeting - Budgeting isn't necessarily a fun activity — but it's an important one. And it's easier than ever these days, given the variety of budgeting tools available online. By tracking your spending every month and organizing it into categories, you may be able to find areas where you can cut back, such as on streaming services you rarely use.

· Borrowing - Virtually all of us carry some type of debt at various times in our lives. But it's important to manage your debt load so it doesn't become too burdensome. One way of achieving this goal is to use "good" debts wisely — such as a low-rate mortgage on your home — and avoid "bad" debts — such as high-rate credit cards used for unnecessary purchases.

· Investing - As you go through life, you'll likely have a variety of financial goals, such as making a down payment on a house, sending your children to college and attaining a comfortable retirement lifestyle. You'll achieve these goals, you'll

need to invest for them. That's why it's important to learn about different types of investments and how to develop an investment strategy that's appropriate for your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon.

We aren't born with these skills — we have to learn them. Unfortunately, as valuable as they are, they aren't widely taught to young people. In fact, according to a 2023 Edward Jones study conducted with Morning Consult, only 20% of respondents reported receiving financial education in school. This situation may be changing, though, as many states are now requiring or recom-

mending personal finance education before high school graduation.

For now, though, if you have younger children, try to teach them money management skills. You will likely find that they enjoy learning about these matters. You can make it fun for them in different ways, too. For example, to teach them about investing, why not buy them a share or two of stock of a company with which they're familiar? Charting a stock's progress and learning something of the factors affecting its price can help children build a foundation in investing, which will be valuable when they reach the age when they

can invest for themselves.

But financial education isn't just for kids. If you feel that you are lacking somewhat in any of the key financial management areas mentioned above, you can always educate yourself by reading or talking to people knowledgeable in these subjects. You also might find it valuable to work with a financial professional — someone who will take a holistic approach to your finances and make appropriate suggestions.

National Financial Literacy Month will end on April 30, but the benefits of financial literacy can last a lifetime.

PAID ADVERTORIAL

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

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

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

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK seminar Sept 13.-Dec. 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Gran-

bury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175.

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is

not provided. Fee for Grief-share workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

FIRST MONDAY

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

FIRST TUESDAY

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVERS support group, 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the 1894 Building at Acton Baptist Church,

3500 Fall Creek Highway. For caregivers, family members, friends and anyone in the community. Details: 817-326-4693.

SECOND MONDAY

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

SECOND SATURDAY

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

THIRD MONDAY

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

Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-2355.

THIRD TUESDAY

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

FOURTH TUESDAY

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO PROTECT AND SERVE

This motto is something we all are very familiar with — at least we used to be. I don't know what happened, but somewhere along the way somebody forgot to teach that in certain classes.

I had a friend who was on the side of the road the other day because he was out of gas. An officer pulled up behind him asking if everything was OK. So far so good. My friend explained that his gas gauge was broken so he had run out of gas. And this is where the exchange went south. Instead of asking if he could do anything to help, the officer asked if he could see my friend's driver license. Really? He told the officer no because he hadn't pulled him over, so there was no reason.

This is the regime the voters chose. Could you imagine if your daughter has a flat and doesn't know how to change it? I get so tired of hearing stories like this and knowing that there is absolutely nothing anyone can do to train Granbury's/Hood County's finest to

be officers to be proud of. Instead, we have single-minded tyrants that treat this town as their own personal kingdom with little regard to proper etiquette.

Unbelievably our jail is going down in the numbers as far as drug offenses go, only because the number of child crimes is out of control. We have to get this right!

**Kathy Commander
Granbury**

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS

I am an ardent supporter of our public schools, unapologetically so. Why? A good education was an almost sacred endeavor in my family. My mother was a high school English teacher. My aunt taught and served as a nurse in public schools. My sister and her husband are both public school teachers. I have a daughter who teaches in her community's school. My wife is a certified teacher and served as a paraprofessional in GISD. I served as a trustee on the school board in Plainview. My family is steeped in public education.

Public school education opens doors. Public schools expand varied life choices. Public education develops the minds of young people in order that they may be productive citizens in this great nation of ours. "God gave us brains and expects us to use them." I believe that and public school education plays an invaluable role in that process — and it does so for each student with regard to economic status, without regard to race or ethnicity, without regard to sexual orientation, without regard to family situation or circumstance. If you're a kid in this country, you are afforded an education in our public schools. That's simply part of our nation's promise to its citizens. It is surely a promise worth safeguarding.

I have watched the conversation around the GISD bond issue with great interest. I've read much material explaining the reasons for the bond and the needs in our schools which the money aims to address. I've received mailings and seen all the signs around town

encouraging either a "Yes" or a "No" vote. I've been exposed to much information — and misinformation — on social media regarding the bond. I am discouraged by the coarse conversation surrounding the vote. Much of what I've witnessed is uncivil, unnecessary, unproductive of our schools, and unbecoming of our life together as a community. The combativeness and vitriol of our words casts a negative light on Granbury and tarnishes the image we hope to portray of our community. We can do better than this.

I'll not try to recite all the facts about the bond. There is plenty of information available and if you are open to considering the facts, you have likely already done so. The Hood County News has published several good articles presenting facts and opinions on both sides of the issue and some fine letters have been published. Those that choose to be informed may certainly do so.

In an article on the city's Comprehensive Plan (HC News, 4/27/24), Chuck Licata stated, "that

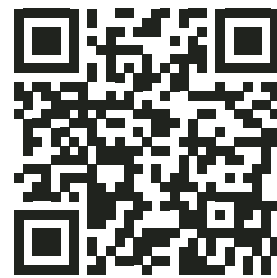
Granbury is a community with two major age groups: 25 to 34, and 65 to 84, meaning the city is attractive to both young adults and retirees." Folks, one of those groups makes up families in their child-bearing years. (I'll let you figure out which group.)

Growth is coming and our schools are not adequate to accommodate that growth. Let's take our civic responsibility seriously and vote "Yes."

**Drew Travis
Granbury**

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to www.hcnews.com/forms/let-



Letters must include author's first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

SCAN HERE TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Motorcycle safety campaign - Share the Road

Submitted item

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. TxDOT's statewide "Share the Road: Look Twice for Motorcycles"

motorcycle safety and public awareness campaign urges motorists to look twice for motorcycles, especially at intersections, where motorcycle

collisions most commonly occur.

WHY SHOULD DRIVERS BE AWARE OF MOTORCYCLISTS WHEN TRAVELING TEXAS ROADS?

On average, one motorcyclist dies in a crash on Texas roads every day. In 2023 in Texas, 599 motorcyclists were killed in motor vehicle crashes and 2,483 motorcyclists were seriously injured. The number of motorcyclists killed on Texas roads increased by 7% last year, and intersection fatal crashes in our state increased by 21%. More than half of fatal motorcycle crashes result from collisions with other vehicles. Drivers simply don't see the motorcycle or misjudge its distance and speed. The small size of motorcycles can make them appear farther away when they're actually closer. The combination of con-



traction, such as answering a phone call or changing the radio station, can have deadly consequences.

Look twice when changing lanes. Check mirrors, blind spots, and always use turn signals.

Give motorcycles room when passing them. Move over to the passing lane and don't crowd the motorcyclist's full lane.

Stay back. If you're behind a motorcycle, always maintain a safe following distance. When a motorcyclist downshifts instead of applying the brake to slow down, it can catch drivers off guard since there are no brake lights to signal reduced speed.

Slow down. Obey posted speed limits and drive to conditions.

gested roadways, distracted driving and the difficulty of seeing motorcycles in traffic has led to many preventable fatalities each year.

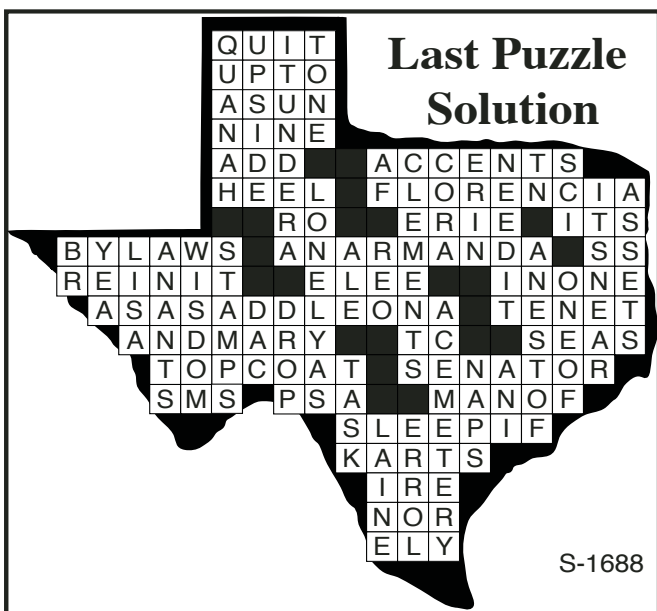
WHAT ARE SOME TIPS FOR SAFELY SHARING THE ROAD WITH MOTORCYCLES?

Take extra care when mak-

ing a left turn. It is safest to let the motorcycle pass to avoid turning in front of the rider.

Pay special attention at intersections. Nearly one in three motorcycle fatalities happens at a roadway intersection.

Give driving your full attention. Even a momentary dis-



S-1688

HOOD OUTDOORS

Did you see an alligator?



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.

Do we have alligators in Hood County? Yes we have some alligators in Comanche Creek Reservoir (formerly called Squaw Creek) but none have been reported in Lake Granbury or the Brazos River that I am aware of. If they are at Comanche Creek in Hood County, there is a possibility that they can be around other water bodies in our county.

This question came up after a recent report from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) about a small number of juvenile alligators in the Brazos River at Waco. Alligators are not abundant in the Brazos, but the river forms part of the western edge of the species' distribution in Texas and alligator sightings are not uncommon.

Alligators are naturally wary of humans and usually will stay away. The American alligator was once very common in rivers, creeks and backwater sloughs of East and South Texas, however the population was severely impacted by the 1950s. Legal protection, enhanced habitat conditions, and new water impoundment projects have resulted in a rapid repopulation of Texas by alligators

during the past 20 years. To complicate matters, an ever-expanding human population continues to encroach upon the alligator's domain. These factors contribute to increased encounters between alligators and people.

There are occasions when certain alligators become a nuisance and must be handled by the proper authorities. The current legal definition of a nuisance gator is "an alligator that is

depredating (killing livestock or pets) or a threat to human health or safety. If you determine that an alligator is a nuisance, please contact the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department law enforcement communications center in Austin at 512-389-4848.

If you see an alligator: If the alligator is not approaching people or otherwise posing an obvious threat, wait a few days if possible — even up to a week — before contacting TPWD. In spring and summer, alligators are moving to breed and find new habitat and will likely move away.

If you hear an alligator hiss, it's a warning that you are too close.

Alligators have a natural fear of humans, and usually begin a quick retreat when approached by people. If you have a close encounter with an alligator a few yards away, back away slowly. It is extremely rare for wild alligators to chase people, but they can run up to 35 miles per hour for short distances on land. Never make the mistake of thinking an alligator is slow and lethargic. Alligators are extremely quick and agile and will defend themselves when cornered. A female protecting her nest might charge a person who gets close to the nest, but she would



COURTESY PHOTO BY APRIL, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Alligators are naturally wary of humans and usually will stay away. The American alligator was once very common in rivers, creeks and backwater sloughs of East and South Texas, however the population was severely impacted by the 1950s.

quickly return to the nest after the intruder leaves.

It is not uncommon for alligators to bask along the banks of a pond or stream for extended periods of time. These alligators are usually warming their bodies; they are not actively hunting. Often a basking alligator may be seen with its mouth open; this is a way to cool its body temperature down, since alligators do not pant or sweat. An approaching human should cause these alligators to retreat into the water. (In some cases, the alligator may be protecting a nest — see below.) However, an alligator may be considered a nuisance if it leaves the banks of the water body to spend time near homes, livestock pens or other structures.

If you walk near the water and an alligator comes straight toward you, especially if it comes out of the water, it is definitely a nuisance

alligator that needs to be reported to TPWD. In many cases, these are alligators that have been fed by people or have been allowed to get human food.

Do not feed an alligator. Doing so is a crime punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

We don't have an alligator problem in Hood County nor have there been any recent sightings that I am aware of, however if you happen to see one leave it alone. Keep your phone handy to take a picture.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures are in the low 70s and continue to warm slowly. Granbury lake levels are normal. Some stained water in the backs of creeks is possible due to recent rains. Floating debris may be encountered navigating the lake (be careful out there). Granbury was releasing

water this past week due to the heavy rains. Granbury sand bass fishing continues to be good to excellent on chartreuse and white slabs fished in 12 to 20 feet of water from DeCordova Bend Estates to in town by the Shores. Striped bass are slow to fair on live bait and trolled Alabama rigs on the lower ends from Blue Water Shores to DeCordova Bend Estates. Crappie catches on small jigs and minnows are good on submerged structure and docks. Catfish including some big yellows and blues are fair to good on the upper ends on cut shad. Largemouth bass are fair to good on a variety of baits. Spinner baits, crankbaits (rattle traps) and soft plastics are all producing bass to 6 pounds in the backs of sloughs and creeks. Many catches are good near main lake points. Some top water action is possible early and late.



COURTESY PHOTO BY TIDARAT, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Legal protection, enhanced habitat conditions, and new water impoundment projects have resulted in a rapid repopulation of Texas by alligators during the past 20 years.

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KNIEPER REAL ESTATE

Are smaller homes coming to the market?



COURTESY PHOTO BY NATEEMEE, ENVATO.COM

Nationwide, more than a third (38%) of builders say they built smaller homes in 2023, and more than a quarter (26%) plan to construct even smaller homes this year.



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

Nationwide, more than a third (38%) of builders say they built smaller homes in 2023, and more than a quarter (26%) plan to construct even smaller homes this year. No, I am not talking about “tiny” houses. But there has definitely been a downward shift in the size of new construction homes.

It's related to two factors that are linked. First, we've seen changes in homebuyer preferences. Second, housing affordability has become a challenge for some buyers.

Millennials looking for starter homes and baby boomers looking to downsize are in fact the two top home buying generations and they are two of the primary reason builders are

building smaller houses.

Both groups, for different reasons, do not require homes in excess of 2,500 square feet. Many millennials are moving from either their parents' homes or smaller apartments and do not need nor can they afford a large, detached home as their first house. Similarly, baby boomers looking to move may be empty nesters wanting to downsize from their current homes and are looking for smaller homes on smaller lots which require less maintenance and offer savings on taxes, insurance and utilities.

Opting for a smaller, more budget-friendly house means you don't have to save as much for a down

payment and upfront costs of owning a home. This approach simplifies and speeds up the homebuying process, letting you become a homeowner sooner. In fact, many renters are drawn to smaller homes because they are less expensive and can start building equity quickly. For baby boomers, a smaller house budget means more money for traveling or a new set of golf clubs.

John Burns Research and Consulting (JBREC) provides independent research and consulting services related to the U.S. housing industry. Eric Finnigan, vice president of research and demographics for JBREC, states “Builders are reducing the

square footage of their homes as one way to keep costs down and their homes affordable.” Nationwide, the average size for new construction in 2023 was 2,402 square feet which is a 10.3% drop from 2018 when it was just under 2,700 square feet.

The downsizing accelerated last year, when the interest rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage reached a two-decade high, just shy of 8%. And even though interest rates have come down and are expected to go even lower this year, this downward trend in home sizes is also expected to continue.

To quote Mikaela Arroyo, vice president and chief of staff at JBREC, “It's not

solving the affordability crisis, but it is creating opportunities for people to be able to afford an entry-level home in an area ... And if you get that size down, that automatically will make it a more affordable home.”

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B

SATURDAY, May 4, 2024

Hood County News

Breazeale gave his players and fans much to broadcast



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID BREAZEALE

Now retired as Granbury Pirates basketball coach, David Breazeale is shown with his wife, Cindi, celebrating his 500th career victory. Breazeale retired this year after 14 seasons leading the Pirates, which included six playoff appearances and several 20-win seasons.

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

David Breazeale spent much of his young life wanting to be a broadcaster. Instead, he enjoyed a career giving broadcasters plenty about which to be excited.

"I used to listen to the (Houston) Astros every night. I wanted to be a big-time broadcaster," Breazeale said.

Now, after 37 seasons and a career record of 554 wins and 447 losses, Breazeale is retiring as a basketball coach. The past 14 of those seasons and more than 200 of those victories came at the helm of the Granbury Pirates.

His career includes numerous regional postseason appearances and leading Graford to the state tournament in 2000, a season that featured one of the most exciting playoff games imaginable.

He enjoyed one of the most successful coaching runs ever for Granbury boys basketball.

At age 62, Breazeale is young compared to some other coaches in the business. However, he said when you know, you just know.

"I had some buddies who retired and they all said, 'It's going to hit you in an instant

PLEASE SEE **COACH** | B7

Pirate sprinter thanks brother for getting in sport

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

It's not uncommon for a family member to send another on a trip to a place they've never been before.

In a roundabout way, that's what Kaleb Johnston did for his older brother Elijah, who will compete in the Class 5A State Track and Field Meet this weekend at the University of Texas in Austin.

"If it wasn't for him, I wouldn't be here today," Elijah said.

Elijah is a junior and was racing in the 200-meter dash Friday, May 3 at press time. He qualified by winning the Class 5A Region I Meet in Lubbock April 20, clocking a time of 21.33 seconds, just shy of his school record of 21.32 seconds which he ran in winning the Area 5/6 Meet.

He credits his success to listening to the encouragement of Kaleb, a sophomore, as Elijah was recovering from an injury he suffered while competing in motocross a couple years ago.

After straining both of his knees, Elijah, formerly a soccer player, did not compete in sports as a freshman. Then, when the time came to return to competition as a sophomore, he played soccer before joining the track team, a sport Kaleb was also involved in.

RUNNING TOGETHER

Now, in addition to running the 200 individually, he and Kaleb race together on relays. In fact, their 4x200 relay (which also included junior Caden Davis and senior Jadon Rogers) finished fourth at regionals.

"It feels good knowing me and my brother are doing this together. He's a great runner.

He'll probably be at state with me next year," Elijah said.

Elijah said Kaleb actually ran a time just under 21 seconds in his 200-meter split of the relay.

"I haven't done that. I'm telling you, he's fast, and we push each other," Elijah said. "I really wanted to break some school records with the relays and my brother."

And they have done exactly that, with times of 41.65 in the 4x100 and 1:28.58 in the 4x200.

Elijah also noted his other younger brother, Granbury Middle School seventh-grader Javen Johnston, is also speedy. He said Javen is posting times in the high 24/low 25-seconds range in the 200, which seems to be the family specialty running events.

"He'll definitely be a prod-

PLEASE SEE **SPRINTER** | B5



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Elijah Johnston (right) credits his success to the encouragement and support from his younger brother Kaleb Johnston (left).

GISD announces inductees into 2024 Academic Hall of Fame

From Staff Reports

The Granbury Independent School District recently announced its five inductees into the 2024 Academic Hall of Fame.

Inductees include former student Perla Campos, former staff members Dr. Barbara Herrington and Shari Guthery, Hood County News as the community inductee, and the late James Wann, the recipient of the Legacy Award.

PERLA CAMPOS
Former Student

Perla Campos graduated as the salutatorian of the Granbury High School Class of 2008. In addition to serving as student body president, Campos excelled in sports, academ-

ics and fine arts, and served as a leader in many student clubs and community organizations. She attended Stanford University as a Gates Millennium Scholar and graduated in 2012 with dual bachelor's degrees in international relations and Mexican American studies, with honors. She also attended the Stanford University Graduate School of Education and received her master's degree in international educational administration and policy analysis in 2013. Campos has been employed at Google since 2013, where she is currently a group global brand marketing manager at headquarters in the California Bay Area.

A proud Latina and daughter of a Mexican immigrant single mother, Campos fondly remembers her childhood

years in Granbury, having attended GISD schools from pre-K-12th grade. She credits the unwavering support of key GISD teachers as instrumental in her journey towards achieving her dreams.

As one of her former teachers and someone who has known Perla most of her life, Granbury High School teacher Tammy Bodine said she cannot think of a more deserving person for the Academic Hall of Fame.

Granbury ISD is honored to have Perla represent the district as an alumna and is proud of her many accomplishments in academics and distinguished career.

SHARI GUTHERY
Former Staff

Shari Guthery was a beloved Acton Elementary

School teacher from 1988 to 2016. While pursuing an undergraduate degree in education, Guthery's days as a Granbury Pirate began as a student teacher under legendary teacher Wanda Crossland. After college graduation, she spent three years teaching at another district before coming back to the district as an Acton Elementary School teacher where she taught until her retirement.

Brandy Lillagore shared that Guthery provided a constant stream of encouragement and guidance as her mentor teacher at Acton Elementary School 26 years ago. The Lillagore family even attributes their son's success and chosen career path as a scientist in the U.S. Forestry Service to the foundation and love for science

acquired in Guthery's class.

Rachael Bufkin, former student turned colleague, said she loved learning with Guthery when she was a student in her class and is thankful for the unique opportunity to teach alongside her favorite teacher who continues to inspire to make an impact in the lives of her students.

A former student and aspiring teacher Ashlynn Drysale said Guthery is the definition of what a teacher should be and that no one is more deserving of being a hall of fame honoree.

Today, Guthery resides in Granbury and continues working magic with students as a part-time tutor at Acton Elementary School.

Granbury ISD is honored to have Guthery represent the district as a former staff

member and is proud of the impact she made in the lives of Granbury ISD students.

DR. BARBARA HERRINGTON
Former Staff

Dr. Barbara Herrington's impressive 50-year career in education included serving as Granbury ISD assistant superintendent from 1996 to 2002 and school board trustee from 2005 to 2023.

Herrington holds an undergraduate degree in education from Texas State University, a master's degree in counseling from Our Lady of the Lake University, and a doctoral degree in education from Nova Southeastern University. The beginning of her career was spent as

PLEASE SEE **GISD** | B3

GISD recognizes 21 graduates from LEAP Academy

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District recognized 21 graduates from its LEAP Academy program during a regularly scheduled school board meeting April 22.

LEAP Academy or LEAP (Leadership Experiences to our Aspiring Professionals) is a program designed to develop leadership capacity in selected GISD leaders by providing quality learning and coaching experiences in a collaborative and supportive environment with a focus on individual and organizational growth, according to the GISD website.

"These are our instructional specialists, teachers, assistant principals or district personnel who want to give up their own time so that they can experience some deeper dives into what district level and campus level leadership looks like," GISD Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark said during the meeting. "We provide them with quality learning and coaching experiences with a focus on individual and organizational growth."

The program consists of one two-hour session per month for a total of eight meetings. To graduate from the program, participants must have regularly attended at least six of the eight meetings and participated in a half-day leadership shadowing activity.

"We hope that they gain more depth of knowledge in both campus and district leadership through eight different sessions," Clark said.



The Granbury Independent School District recognized 21 graduates from its LEAP Academy program during a regularly scheduled school board meeting April 22.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN COX, GRANBURY ISD

"These (graduates have) attended at least six meetings, dedicating their time and energy to their own professional growth and learning more about GISD."

Session topics in the program can include everything from campus budget management and campus climate/team building to strategic planning and A-F Accountability in the Texas Academic Performance Reports.

"We're grateful for the leaders of our district who presented or hosted their

colleagues to show the details about their everyday activities and duties," Clark said. "Our GISD leaders take a team approach to learning, growing and improving our practices together for students and families, so please help me honor the following professionals for LEAP Academy for 2023-24."

The 2023-24 LEAP Academy graduates include: Leah Archer, Tiffany Biggs, Jennifer Bloodworth, Haley Briggs, Meredith Brummer, Andrew Dunn, Kelly Eppler, Tiphonie Ferrer, Karin

Garcia, Lawna Greene, Liz Howard, Tanna Luckie, Jairo Martinez, Lauren McNeal, Mallory Myers, Tanya Patterson, Meredith Payne, Julie Sellers, Jason Shahan, Stephanie Slimak and Michelle Winters.

"This is our largest cohort that we've had since we started the LEAP Academy, probably about six years ago," GISD Superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn said. "When we talk about growing our own administrators in the district, it starts right here with the dedication and hard

work of these individuals. They put in a lot of hours, they did a lot of research, and as Mrs. Clark said, they spend time shadowing administrators in the district because they have a deep desire to help grow within our district. It's definitely something we take seriously and as you look across our district, it is littered with administrators who started right here at the LEAP Academy, so we're proud of each and every one of these individuals and the work that they put in this year to

make this accomplishment possible."

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE LEAP ACADEMY, APPLICANTS MUST HAVE:

- A minimum of three years of teaching experience;
- Articulated interest in becoming a campus or district administrator;
- Evidence of commitment to ongoing professional growth;
- Evidence of leadership abilities as demonstrated in current or previous positions;
- Completion of at least 21 hours in an educational administration/educational leadership Master's degree program, or hold an earned Master's degree and 18 hours toward principal certification;
- Properly completed application including comprehensive answers to the application questions; and
- Minimum of two professional references, one of which must be your current supervisor/principal.

The next class of LEAP Academy will meet monthly for eight months, beginning in September and culminating in April 2025. Academy participants will be recognized by the GISD board of trustees at its regular meeting in April or May 2025.

All applicants for next year's LEAP Academy must turn in applications by Friday, Aug. 30.

For more information about the LEAP Academy, visit the Granbury ISD website at granburyisd.org online.

Brawner teacher honored with TEA's Rising Star Award

From Staff Reports

Brawner fourth grade dual language teacher Mary Hernandez has been selected by the Texas Education Agency as the state-wide winner of the Rising Star Award for the 2024 Title III Symposium.

TEA's Rising Star Award is presented to only one certified ESL and/or bilingual teacher in the state. The recipient must be currently teaching in a Title III-funded school and have less than three years of experience.

Additionally, the award recipient must have: knowledge and use of effective, active and engaging pedagogy; strategies to meet educational needs and interests; passion for teaching and learning; and encouragement of parent, family and/or community engagement, according to txel.org.

The Brawner staff, representatives from TEA, along with Hernandez' family, surprised her on campus last week with a presentation and award for her accomplishment.

Hernandez was a Tarleton

State University student teacher intern at Brawner during the 2021-22 school year. Upon graduation from Tarleton in May 2022, she was hired for her first teaching job as a fourth grade dual language teacher at Brawner for the 2022-23 school year — where she has remained ever since.

Next year, she will transition to Baccus Elementary as a fourth grade dual language teacher to help implement the dual language program there as Granbury ISD expands the DL program to another campus.

"Walking into her classroom, you would not know she is a second-year teacher," said GISD ESL/Bilingual Coordinator Kristina Sosebee. "Mary's passion, dedication, expertise and willingness to continue learning in this profession is a true inspiration not only for her students, but all who know her. She is most deserving of this award!"

Hernandez will be honored at TEA's Title III Symposium this summer in Round Rock.

To learn more about TEA's Rising Star Award, visit txel.org/awards.



Brawner 4th grade dual language teacher Mary Hernandez has been selected by the Texas Education Agency as the state-wide winner of the Rising Star Award for the 2024 Title III Symposium. She is pictured with Granbury Independent School District staff.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

GRANBURY ISD BOND 2024

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GRANBURYISD.ORG/BOND2024

Granbury Masonic Lodge presents Lamar Awards to three GISD students

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Three Granbury High School students received a prestigious honor during the Granbury Independent School District's board of trustees meeting April 22.

Students Quinn King, Andrew Nickell and Jonathan Hutchison were each presented with the Lamar Award by the Granbury Masonic Lodge #392.

The mission of Granbury Lodge #392 is to be recognized in the community as a men's fraternity that supports community events and interest, charitable organizations and education by making good men of good moral character better through friendship and brotherly love enhanced by Masonic education and time-honored rituals, according to its website.

"Most of y'all may or may not know the history of education in the state of Texas," Masonic Lodge Representative Dudley Raybon said, during the meeting. "You would not be sitting where you are if it were not for the Masons. In the state of Texas, we began education."

Raybon explained that famous Masons included Sam Houston, William Travis, Teddy Roosevelt and George Washington.

"Basically, it originally started in England, during the days when they built great cathedrals in France

and Europe," he said. "Most of you may or may not know that we give annually throughout the United States \$365 million to education throughout this country. We're very busy with the philanthropic work and that's a very important part of it, and the biggest news is we want to give men the opportunity to work with men and become better at what they are. The old biblical saying is 'It takes men to make men better,' but it has no difference to females. It is simply a logic that does work, and we encourage them to work on that a great deal."

The Lamar Award of Excellence was established in 1988, under the leadership of Grand Master Graham Childress. Named after the second president of the Republic of Texas Mirabeau B. Lamar, the Lamar Award is presented to students and educators in recognition of outstanding personal achievement in academics, citizenship, community service or sports.

"Mirabeau Lamar was an unusual human being," Raybon said. "He was very big on education and did not like the public education system. He was raised in Georgia in the 1800s and became a self-educated man by seeking out teachers to teach him."

Lamar was a freemason and is known by some as "the father of Texas education." His work while president resulted in the passage of the first law mandating

public education, according to the Billie Mosse Masonic Lodge website located in Denison.

Additionally, Lamar convinced the legislature to set aside three leagues — more than 13,000 acres of land — for each Texas county for the benefit of public schools and an additional 50 leagues for the support of two universities: Texas Tech University in Lubbock and Texas A&M University in College Station. These land designations — along with the founding of the Texas State Library — laid the foundation for a statewide public school system in Texas.

"His focus was education," Raybon said. "He wanted to be sure people had a chance to learn. He faced hardships. He lost a wife, he lost kids, but he always put education up front because he believed if you were not educated or prepared, you could not contribute to society."

Raybon explained that the Granbury Masonic Lodge goes through a process every year where teachers and parents can nominate and vote for students or faculty members they think deserve the honor of receiving the Lamar Award.

King, the first recipient of the award, is known for her ability to spearhead various initiatives in the local community.

She organized help for the summer meals program, delivered food to over 30 families, was involved with the Salvation Army's ringing of



Granbury High School students Jonathan Hutchison, Andrew Nickell and Quinn King were each presented with the Lamar Award by the Granbury Masonic Lodge #392 during the Granbury Independent School District's board of trustees meeting on April 22.

the bell, and read to students in elementary school. In total, she gave over 200 hours of her time volunteering for food drives.

"She's done a lot of things to help students learn how to learn, and for that effort, we wanted to reward her with a couple of things," Raybon said.

King received a medal, a pin and a certificate that reads the following: "The Maribou B. Lamar Award. The second president of the state of Texas has been called the father of Texas public education for leadership in establishing quality public education in Texas.

Lamar was a member of the Masonic fraternity known then as it is today for the strong support of excellence in public schools. With this award, we recognize your exemplary achievement and give our warmest congratulations to you and your school district."

According to Raybon, Nickell faced challenges in his personal and academic life, but said he has done an incredible job of dealing with them.

He was a grand reserve champion in the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo, fared well in the state on the agriculture quiz, and conducts

engineering on F1 racing cars.

Hutchinson was on the A honor roll for the past three years, a member of the National Honor Society, and he was involved in JROTC and HOSA - Future Health Professionals. He also competed in UIL science and was a member of the student council and superintendent's council.

All three Lamar Award recipients received the certificate, medal and pin for their achievements.

For more information about the Granbury Masonic Lodge, visit granbury-lodge392.org online.

GISD

FROM PAGE B1

an instructional aide and library aide prior to becoming a language arts, journalism and math classroom teacher. Her campus leadership positions include assistant middle school principal and high school principal. In 1981, Herrington was one of two female principals in the entire state. She spent 20 years as an assistant super-

intendent in four districts, all involving curriculum and instruction in some way. She said her favorite part of her career was working with teachers. After her retirement in 2002, Herrington continued her career in the role of adjunct professor at Tarleton State University until 2012.

A committed advocate for school children and public education, Herrington is well known for coining the

phrase, "If it's not for kids, it's not for us."

Herrington still resides in Granbury with her family and loves serving her community. She is a proud grandmother and aunt to three Granbury ISD graduates and has a great niece who is currently a Granbury Pirate.

Granbury ISD is honored to have Herrington represent the district as a former employee and school board

trustee and proud of the influence she has in the school community.

HOOD COUNTY NEWS Community

The Hood County News supports Granbury schoolchildren with meaningful recognition of student achievement through feature stories, photography and sponsorships. A true hometown newspaper, the Hood County News provides quality reporting and photography of student achievement.

Under the leadership of Paul Hyde and Sam Houston since 2020, the newspaper has positively impacted the district by providing news and insights that educate, enrich and entertain.

Granbury ISD is honored to consider the Hood County News a local business partner and proud of the many contributions it makes to the community.

JAMES WANN Legacy Award

James Wann was a well-renowned leader of Texas public schools and a man of kindness and integrity. The final 17 years of his life were spent as a Granbury Pirate as Granbury ISD su-

perintendent from 1970 to 1987.

Wann held an undergraduate degree in agriculture business from Texas A&M University and a graduate degree in education from Texas Christian University. He first became a Granbury Pirate in 1952 as a teacher and coach before eventually moving to positions in Glen Rose and Tolar ISDs. His first leadership position was superintendent at Tolar ISD in 1957, where he remained until moving to Rock Springs in 1961. In 1965, Wann accepted and successfully completed the challenge of leading Marble Falls ISD, a larger school district in desperate need of new schools. He returned to Granbury in 1970 so he could be closer to his family home in Paluxy, where he was the superintendent at Granbury ISD until his passing in 1987.

Just before his passing, the school board unanimously agreed to name the new gymnasium after the beloved, longtime public educator who spent 30 years serving as superintendent in Texas public schools.

His niece, Sara Galvan, remembers how well he loved and led his family, staff and students, always encourag-

ing them to dream big and set high expectations of themselves.

Former district employee (and former Marble Falls ISD student) Jane Ann Blasingame remembers Wann as a highly respected man who made a huge impact on the school district and community. She recalls when computers first became popular and people joked that Granbury ISD already owned a computer named James Wann due to his remarkable, photographic memory.

Former colleague Ray Crass said Wann was an influential leader in education who mentored countless school leaders, many who owe him credit for their career.

Former school board trustee Ike Thomas remembers how much Wann's staff loved him, recalling the time the entire maintenance department traveled together to be with Wann at his bedside in 1987.

Granbury ISD is honored to have James Wann represent the district and proud of the legacy he left Granbury ISD. Many of his extended family members proudly accept the Legacy Award in honor of his memory.

GRANBURY ISD ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2024

Perla Campos
Former Student

Dr. Barbara Herrington
Former Staff

Shari Guthery
Former Staff

Hood County News
Community

James Wann
Legacy Award

COURTESY GRANBURY ISD

The Granbury Independent School District recently announced its five inductees into the 2024 Academic Hall of Fame. Inductees include former student Perla Campos, former staff members Dr. Barbara Herrington and Shari Guthery, Hood County News as the community inductee, and the late James Wann, the recipient of the Legacy Award.

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on April 27

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

GISD approves purchase of BeaverFit workout station for MCJROTC students

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (MCJROTC) program at Granbury High School will soon have a new workout station for its students.

The Granbury Independent School District board of trustees unanimously approved the purchase of the MCJROTC BeaverFit workout station during a regularly scheduled meeting April 22.

Housed in a standard BICON shipping container, the 10-foot performance locker is custom-fabricated to anchor a BeaverFit functional training rig and store the equipment necessary to create a world class, multi-modality training center for up to 60 people.

"BeaverFit designed a workout locker for military personnel that we would deploy overseas," Johnny Rositas, JROTC instructor, said during the meeting. "Basically, everything that we needed to work out was in a container. It could be shipped, it could be put aboard a ship, it could be flown, however it needed to get into the country, and then the service members would get everything out, conduct their workouts, and when they were done, everything would go on back into the box, and it was able to come back. It's the same concept here."

Rositas said he and Senior Marine Instructor Lt. Col.

Scott Casey were looking for something the cadets could call their own, as well as to alleviate some of the traffic in the weight room at GHS.

"There's times in the weight room where you get six or seven athletic teams and they're working out along with our kids," he said. "As the MCJROTC Physical Training Team continues to grow, it will allow them to have a dedicated workout

"The container allows students to perform various Olympic lifts such as deadlifts, squats and power cleans to build muscle,"

Rositas told the Hood County News. "The locker also includes

and agility cones. The equipment provides the cadets the opportunity to focus on functional fitness that is imperative to making better athletes. Since we have seniors that will seek military enlistments after high school, the locker provides the gear necessary to prepare them for military type conditioning."

"The locker will make it much easier for the cadets to perform their workouts throughout the school year as they prepare for upcoming meets," he said. "The cadets will also be able to utilize the locker during the summer months to keep them in shape."

Another benefit of the locker, Rositas

asked Rositas where the workout station would be installed.

"Right now, the discussions are putting it behind the bandstand since there's already a fenced-in area there, and we need a 26-by-28 space around the box, because it has some pull up bars and riggings that are attached to it. That's one course of action," he said. "Another course of action would be to put it next to the fenced-in area. There's a green space there that would require some combination of concrete and fencing around it, but hopefully we can put it in behind the bandstand there."

The total cost for the BeaverFit workout station is \$68,575, and the entire purchase would be covered by donated funds.

"I see you and your cadets out there working every day, so it's definitely something you guys can utilize," Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said.

"We think it's great," Townsend said, chiming in. "And just the fact that you had people in our community that were willing to donate enough money so we can have this, it just talks to the outstanding program that you have there."

Secretary Billy Wimberly made the motion to approve the purchase of the BeaverFit workout station. After a second from Vice President Courtney Gore, the motion passed unanimously.

area. This in turn, will free up space in the Pirate Pavilion Weight Room, which supports all of the GHS Athletic Teams."

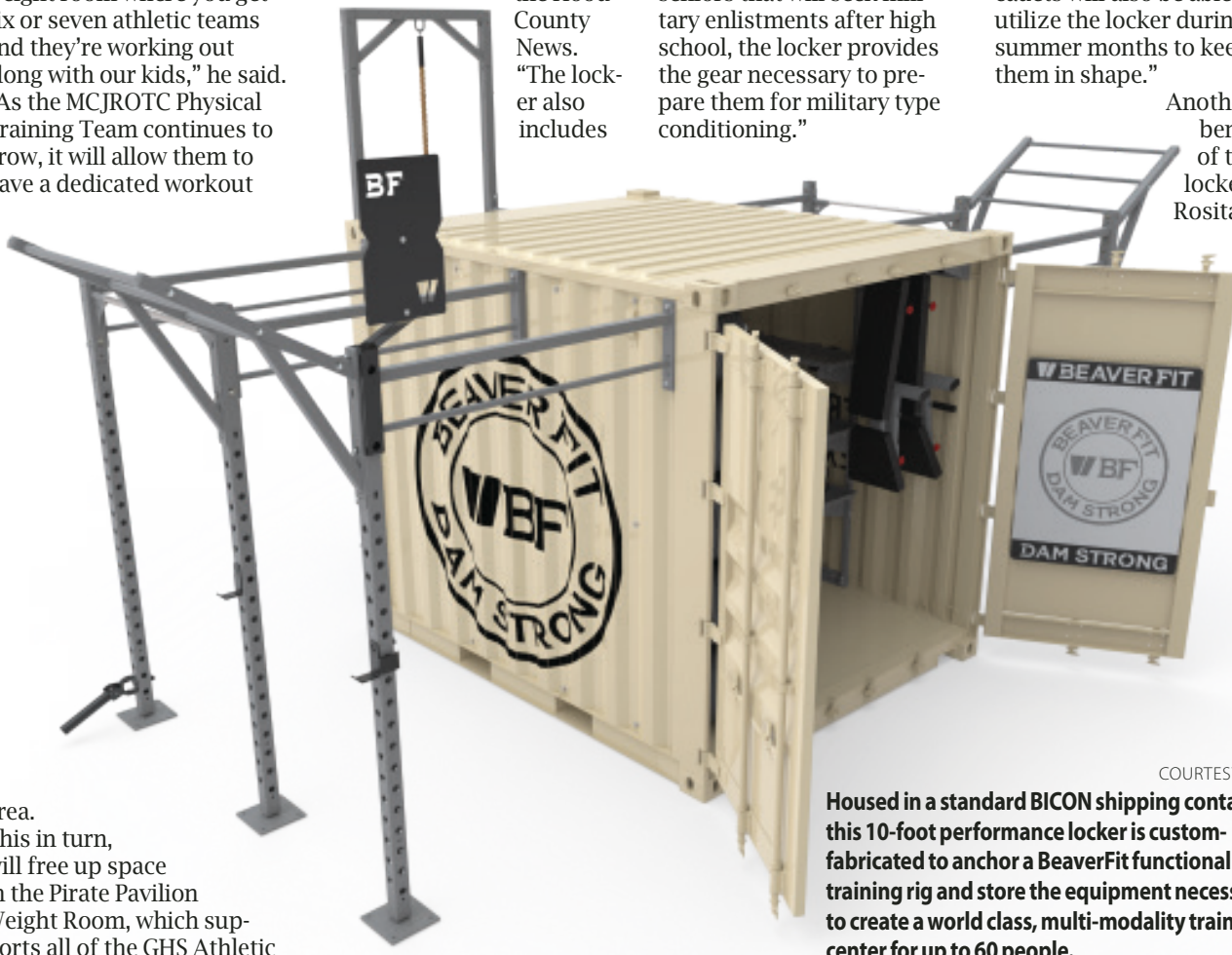
Features of the station include: two climbing wings, two stainless steel "ace" pull-up bars, three J-cups, three squat racks, a 12-foot rope tower, a wall ball target, 12 pull-up stations, two dip bars and two landmines.

different types of conditioning equipment for endurance and stamina. The container comes equipped with barbells, plates, medicine balls, kettlebells, sandbags, battle ropes, mobility bands

Rositas explained the workout station provides many benefits to the MCJROTC students, especially since it can accommodate as much as 60 athletes working out at one time.

said, is that the equipment can be easily stored inside when not in use but can still be readily accessible when needed.

During the meeting, Board President Barbara Townsend



COURTESY PHOTO

Housed in a standard BICON shipping container, this 10-foot performance locker is custom-fabricated to anchor a BeaverFit functional training rig and store the equipment necessary to create a world class, multi-modality training center for up to 60 people.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAWN BRADLEY

The Lady Pirates softball team gathered around a banner congratulating pitcher Allison Dafoe on her 500th Career Strikeout after their Bi-District Championship Game.

GHS named Bi-district champs

Dafoe 500 Career Strikeout

Submitted item

Thursday, April 25 the Granbury Lady Pirates took on the South Hill Lady Scorpions in the Bi-District Championship Game. Pirates took home the trophy with 11-0 victory, and pitcher Allison Dafoe had her 500th career stikeout. See more details B5.



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500 max word count 350 max word count

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MAY 17, 2024
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Miss Opal Lee
Grandmother of Juneteenth



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Our three Hood County softball teams have advanced to the next round of the play-offs

Trio of softball teams move to second round; Two from area competing at state track

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

Juniors Elijah Johnston of Granbury and Brylen Feist of Tolar were competing in the Class 5A and 2A State Track and Field Meets at the University of Texas in Austin at press time Friday, May 3.

Johnston was competing in the 200-meter dash and Feist is a pole vaulter. Each is making their first appearance at state.

Johnston entered state as the No. 4 seed following his winning time of 21.33 seconds at the 5A Region I Meet April 20 at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. The time, barely off his school-record time of 21.32, was posted in typical West Texas inclement weather.

The top time is 20.99, followed by 21.04 and 21.20.

Likewise, Feist vaulted in inclement weather, so much that Day 2 of the 2A Region II Meet was postponed for two days. His height of 14 feet has him seeded sixth.

The top vault is 16-8, followed by two at 15-6.

GRANBURY SOFTBALL

The Granbury Lady Pirates (15-17) advanced to the second round of the Class 5A softball playoffs, disposing of District 6-5A champion Fort Worth South Hills with ease, 9-0 and 11-0 April 24 at Burleson High School and April 25 at Saginaw High School.

The Lady Pirates finished fourth in District 5-5A. Allison Dafoe got the pitching victory in both games. She tossed a 4-hitter in Game 1, striking out six and walking a single batter. In Game 2 she hurled a 5-hitter with five strikeouts and no walks.

Hitting in Game 1: Preslee Carnes three hits, three RBIs; Hannah Dafoe two hits, two walks, RBI, three stolen bases; Morgan Johnson two hits, RBI; Karmyn Williams double, three walks, RBI; Rachel Venable double, walk, RBI; Montana Bowshire double,

RBI.

Hitting in Game 2: Venable three hits, double, three RBIs; Carnes two hits, RBI; Williams two hits, walks, RBI; Bowshire two hits, double; Abby Stone two hits; Brenna Haynes two hits; H. Dafoe double, two stolen bases; Carli Carlton double, two RBIs.

The Lady Pirates were playing Joshua (27-8) in a best-of-3 series in the area round at press time. The Lady Owls were third in District 8-5A.

TOLAR SOFTBALL

The Lady Rattlers (18-6), champions of District 11-2A, made short work of the Itasca Lady Wampus Cats, fourth in 12-4A, 13-0 April 25 in Rio Vista.

Reese Tryon pitched a 1-hitter for Tolar, striking out 13 and walking just a single batter.

Allyson Dobbs led Tolar at the plate with three hits, including a double and RBI. Kany Deaver had two hits, while Senne Imel walked twice, was hit by a pitch and stole two bases.

The Lady Rattlers were playing Collinsville (22-9-1) in a best-of-3 area-round series at press time, all games in Argyle. The Lady Pirates were the runners-up in District 10-2A.

LIPAN SOFTBALL

The Lady Indians had no difficulty with Hamilton in their Class 2A bidistrict softball game Friday, April 26, winning 24-2 in Glen Rose.

The Lady Indians collected 18 hits in the victory and pitcher Ella Sharp struck out 12 batters with no walks and a single earned run in five innings. Sharp also collected three hits at the plate, including a double and a pair of runs batted in.

Also hitting for Lipan: Ryan Atkinson three hits, double, home run, walk, four RBIs; Ashlyn Clark three hits, double, triple, four RBIs; Dixon Sinclair two hits, home run, three RBIs, four stolen bases; Sarah Marcantonio two hits, double, two RBI, two stolen

bases; Gentry Kirkland double, hit by pitch, RBI.

The Lady Indians (11-6), runners-up in District 11-2A, were playing District 10-2A champion Muenster (17-6) in the second round of the postseason in Weatherford at press time.

GRANBURY BASEBALL

The Pirates (17-12, 5-8 in District 5-5A) slipped past Northwest 3-2 on the road April 26 to move into a tie with Saginaw for the fourth and final playoff berth from district. However, their postseason dreams ended the next day with 3-0 loss to the Rough Riders at Northwest High School.

In defeating Northwest, the third-place team in district, the Pirates scored the winning run in the eighth inning as Cooper Brown had a sacrifice bunt and RBI. The Texans had tied the game in the bottom of the seventh.

Blake Bramlett had two hits for the Pirates and Braxton Heffernan doubled. On the mound, Murphy Page pitched five innings, giving up two hits, one run (zero earned) with seven strikeouts, two walks and two hit batters. In relief, Hunter Jones pitched three innings for the win, giving up two hits, one unearned run with three strikeouts, a walk and a hit batter.

Against Saginaw, Heffernan ended his high school career with a double. He also pitched five innings, giving up three hits, two earned runs, striking out four with two walks. Noah Madearis pitched two innings with one hit, one earned run, one strikeout and a walk.

TOLAR BASEBALL

The Rattlers (12-7-2, 8-0 in District 13-2A), champions of their league, were facing Moody (8-13) in a best-of-3 bidistrict series at press time. The Bearcats are the fourth-place team from District 14-2A.

The first two games were at Moody Friday night at press time, with a third game, if

necessary, in Tolar Saturday, May 4, at noon.

LIPAN BASEBALL

The Indians (7-9, 5-3 in District 13-2A), district runners-up, were playing Bosqueville (14-10-1) at press time. The Bulldogs are the third-place team from District 14-2A.

All three games were being played at Whitney Thursday and Friday.

GRANBURY TENNIS

Roland Krause of Granbury finished fourth in Boys Singles in the District 5-5A Tournament at TCU April 29-30. He is the second alternate for regionals.

Krause won his first two matches of the tournament, finishing with a 2-2 record.

Also for Granbury, the Boys Doubles team of Justin Rios and Kaden Bohny won their first match before falling to the top seeds from Aledo. In other matches, Katie Childs in Girls Singles, Tyler St. Don and Oakley Boyd in Boys Doubles, and Sullivan Williamson and McKenna Moreno in Mixed Doubles dropped close three-set matches.

"Overall, I am really proud of this group. They have come a long way this year," coach Athan Laskaris said. "Tough to lose so many close ones, especially for our seniors. However, still very proud of the way we competed, and look forward to learning and improving this offseason."

ALL-STATE/ALL-REGION BASKETBALL

Court Gaylor and Darius Steed, who helped the Lipan Indians to a second consecutive Class 2A state basketball championship, have been named Class 2A All-State by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. Also from the area, Tolar's Merritt was honored on the 2A team.

From the regional finalists Lipan Lady Indians, Taylor Branson and Hanna Gaylor were selected.

Six players from Lipan and two from Tolar also received Class 2A All-Region II honors from the TABC.

Lipan girls: Branson, Gaylor, Ashlyn Clark, Madison Cornelius
Tolar girls: Senne Imel
Lipan boys: Gaylor, Steed
Tolar boys: Imel

TGCA BASKETBALL HONORS

Hanna Gaylor and Taylor Branson were honored by the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Branson was named Class 2A All-State and Gaylor was chosen to play on the Classes 1A-4A Red team in this summer's TGCA All-Star Game.

TGCA ACADEMIC ALL-STATE

Lipan: Olivia Benitez, Taylor Branson, Ashlyn Clark, Madison Cornelius
Granbury: Ella Garner, Camryn Goodale, Brionna Johnson

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

Spring workouts have begun for the Pirates and will continue through May 16, with the annual Spring Game set for May 17 at 6 p.m.

New head coach Bobby Allison said 120 players turned out for workouts.

RODEO

With the regular season coming to an end in the North Texas High School Rodeo Association, many area competitors are in position to earn a berth in the NTHSRA Finals. The top 15 in each event advance to the Finals May 17-18.

Barrel racing: 11. Ainsley Reeves, Granbury, 357 points
Breakaway roping: 12. Kyley Kenley, Tolar, 308

Chute dogging: 1. Joseph Rickabaugh, Tolar, 959; 3. (tie) Levi Johnson, Granbury, 672

Ride-up goat tying: 6. (tie) Rylee Rickabaugh, Tolar, 693; 15. Carsyn Nolen, Granbury, 147 (21-point lead for final berth)

Walk-up goat tying: 6. Grace Burdick, Granbury, 700; 10. R.

Rickabaugh, 399
Poles: 6. Reeves, 616
Saddle bronc: 2. Johnson, 406
Team roping-header: 7. Takota Kenley, Tolar, 427
Teams: 7. Granbury, 3,269; 8. Tolar, 3,262

GRANBURY JV TENNIS

Azle Buzzy Classic
Girls Singles A: Ellie Weeks, 1st
Mixed Doubles B: Hayden Garcia/Rayleigh Langdon, 1st
Mixed Doubles A: Levi Logsdon/Kaydence Grumbine, 2nd
Boys Doubles B: Landon Areno/Jayden Shepard, 1st; Camden Lynch/Kallen Graves, 3rd
Boys Doubles A: Max Hughes/Aidan Hall, consolation champions
Girls Doubles B: Miranda Munoz/Karla Perez, 1st; Jocelyn Merendon/Daija Wedge, 2nd
Boys Singles A: Reece Hunt, 3rd; Jackson Folger, consolation champion

GRANBURY JV TRACK

District 5-5A Meet
Running distances in meters, field events in feet and inches.

Granbury results
JV Girls
Team score: 107 points, 3rd place
Top finishers
3200: 3. Kambry Zschesche, 13:24.81
4x100 relay: 1st, 52.06
100 hurdles: 1. Zaeda Sedgwick, 17.60; 2. Jina Kim, 17.78
100: 3. Tamea Busby, 13.46
300 hurdles: 3. Kim, 53.61
High jump: 2. Remi Chastain, 4-6
Long jump: 2. Busby, 15-1.5
Shot put: 1. Hanchell, 28-4.5
JV Boys
Team score: 67 points, 3rd place
Top individual finishes
110 hurdles: 2. Conner Vanquill, 16.56
400: 1. Andy DeBello, 53.24
300 hurdles: 2. Vanquill, 42.89
Discus: 1. Ryler Kersh; 122-3

SPRINTER

FROM PAGE B1

gy," Elijah said.

OTHER SPORTS

Before opting to put his entire focus on track, along with playing soccer, Elijah played a little football and baseball. But once he began running track, he found his passion — and others encouraged him to follow it.

"I thought I was pretty fast, but after soccer season I was getting into the 22s and people kept saying that was fast. I said, 'Yeah, I guess so,'" he recalled.

And, of course, he used to compete in motocross. However, after his accident he quit the sport and sold his motorcycle.

"It's very fun until you get wrecked out," he said. "I had to go through physical therapy for about six months. That's why I didn't do sports my freshman year. It hurt watching my brothers out there."

"But now, running with Kaleb, I'm at home. It's a place I'm comfortable in."

LOTS OF TRAVELING

Originally from Hawaii, Elijah and his family moved to Big Spring for a year before coming to Granbury the first time. They lived here about six years before going to Houston for a couple years.

They made their return to Granbury in 2022 when he was a freshman.

"It's good to be back," he said. "I'm proud to be representing Granbury High at state."

He's also glad to be a big part of changing the mindset when it comes to Granbury track. While the program has enjoyed success, even sending athletes to state, such as now sophomore Miller Schenewark in the high jump when he was a freshman, speed in sprint events was never one of the program's strengths.

That's something coach Jody Brown has successfully changed in his decade at the helm.

"When I got here I think we might have scored 40 or 50 points all season, but we've worked hard to change that, and it's thanks to guys like

Elijah," Brown said. "A lot of kids bought into what we were trying to do, and because of guys like Elijah, they see what can come from their efforts."

READY FOR STATE

Elijah is seeded No. 4 in his event heading into state with his time of 21.33. The top time in a tight group belongs to Jaeden Servantez of San Antonio Houston, 20.99, followed by Lake Belton's Kendrick Jones at 21.04 and Pflugerville Henderson's Amir Thompson at 21.20.

So medaling is definitely within Johnston's reach, including a gold medal.

"Once I saw that 21.32 on the board, I thought I may have a chance at state," Elijah said, recalling the Area 5/6-5A Meet in Fort Worth in early April. "Coach Brown said, 'You're sitting second in the region.'"

And when regional competition was over, Elijah was sitting on top, an accomplishment made even more impressive considering it was done during classic West Texas inclement weather and

wind in Lubbock.

"For him to run a 21.33, so close to his record, in that climate just blows my mind," Brown said. "He just keeps finding ways to amaze me and he has one more chance at state."

"I can't wait to see what he will do as a senior."

DREAMING BIG

Elijah wants to run in college and has even connected with some elite schools at the NCAA Division I level. In fact, he has even bigger dreams.

"I do want to run in college, and I also want to even try out for the Olympics in 2028," he said.

The U.S. Olympic Team Trials website lists the men's standard qualifying time as 20.24 currently.

However, he's quick to note there is a little matter of some unfinished business in high school, including that special trip to a special place for which he thanks his brother.

"I've never been to the state track meet. I hear it's pretty awesome," Elijah said. "I can't wait."



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Elijah is seeded No. 4 in his event heading into state with his time of 21.33.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Menin and McFarland set school records at Michael Johnson Invitational

Tosti improves long jump personal best to rank ninth in NCAA

Tarleton State University

WACO – Hugo Menin and Taylor McFarland each broke school records in the Tarleton State Track and Field team's penultimate regular season competition at the Michael Johnson at the Clyde Hart Track and Field Invitational April 19-20.

In a meet that involved several schools from Power Five conferences, several athletes representing countries and several athletes running unattached that competed at the Olympic and World Championship levels. The Texans broke a pair of school records running against this high-level competition and was able to notch an individual victory with Gabriele Tosti winning the triple jump while improving WAC-best length.

Men
The men's team was able to land eight top-10 performances and improve five personal bests to rank with the top 10 in program history. The squad was also able to improve four personal bests to rank in the top 10 in the WAC this outdoor season.

Menin stole the show on Friday night shattering his old best time by over a second to set the new Tarleton program record in the

400-meter hurdles in 51.46 seconds. He placed fourth behind three non-collegiate athletes. He surpassed Jeff Smith who previously held the record for his best time of 51.82 which was set in 2012.

Tosti took home the individual crown in the triple jump, once again improving his already best in the WAC and second in program history leaps. Tosti's winning jump was 15.96 meters, which ranks as the ninth best in the NCAA this outdoor season. The third ranked triple jump team in the nation also placed two more individuals in the top 11. Jaden Hall's 14.81 meter jump ranked sixth and Davi Torres placed 11th with his 14.20 meter leap.

Kevin Baez earned a podium finish in the 1500, eclipsing his previous personal best with a 3:50.70 mark, which placed third overall. He improves his fourth best personal record in program history and it ranks as the eighth individual best in the WAC this outdoor season.

Angel Gomez also improved his personal best, finishing seventh in the longest event of the weekend, the 5000. Gomez crossed in 14:39.15, surpassing his previous best by over seconds to climb into third in program

history.

Bailey Smotek and Justin Raines also earned top-10 finishes in a single event. Smotek finished eighth in the 800 in 1:54.67 and Raines earned a ninth-place finish in the 100 crossing in 10.44 seconds.

Ethan Bratton earned a 12th place finish in the discus while improving his personal best to the sixth farthest in school history and in the WAC Outdoor Competition this season with a 50.32 meter throw.

The Texans 4x100 relay team finished in fifth in 40.91 seconds consisting of Reid Vincent, Raines, Everett Sadler and David Mvundura.

Women

After a men's school record fell Friday, McFarland made a women's program record fall Saturday. McFarland clocked 54.699 seconds to finish eighth in the 800 and add school record holder to her title. She bettered her personal best of 55.09 and ran the first sub-55 800 in school history, surpassing Hannah Dudley's 55.03 mark set last season. McFarland now owns the fourth best time in the WAC this year.

Brya Davis would have set the school record in the 100, placing fourth in 11.48 seconds. She would have bested



COURTESY PHOTO

Hugo Menin and Taylor McFarland each broke school records in the Tarleton State Track and Field team's penultimate regular season competition at the Michael Johnson at the Clyde Hart Track and Field Invitational April 19-20.

her best by .22 seconds, and beat the previous program mark of 11.51, but her time was not wind legal. At the time of her race, the wind was 4.0 m/s, double the legal wind amount of 2.0 m/s, nullifying her time for NCAA and school records.

Morgan Lamberson earned a pair of fifth place finishes in the 800 and 1500. She earned a fifth-place finish in the 800, crossing in 2:14.51. In the 1500, her time of 4:34.94 ranks second best in program history and 11th in

the WAC this outdoor season. Sage Lancaster gave the Texans their second top-10 finisher in the 1500 just five seconds behind finishing in 4:39.90. Tarleton joined Baylor and TCU as the only schools to place two individuals in the top 10 in the 1500.

The program record holder in the pole vault, Hannah Cade, finished eighth with a best height of 3.90 meters. Cade previously set the record with a 4.0 meter vault earlier in the season.

Rese Schoonover ran the eighth fastest 400 meter hurdles of the WAC outdoor season crossing in 1:03.37. Aaliyah Rifort Delem registered the 10th best time in the WAC this season in the 400 meter run finishing in 56.33 seconds.

The 4x100 relay squad of Davis, McFarland, Summer Croxton and Amandine Estival earned a podium finish notching third in 45.98 seconds in the first running event of the day on Saturday.

NASA selects Tarleton State for CubeSat Launch Initiative

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — For the second consecutive year, a team from Tarleton State University's Mayfield College of Engineering will participate in NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI) with the opportunity to fly an experiment in space.

NASA, the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Space Force selected eight schools for the University Nanosatellite Program (UNP). Running May through August, the research and education program will give students the opportunity to perform small satellite research as well as systems engineering training, preparing them to work in the space industry while enhancing small satellite expertise among research faculty at U.S. universities.

Tarleton State, the only Texas university chosen, was one of 34 schools that applied for this year's UNP Mission Concepts-2 Summer Series. NASA, the Air Force and contractor personnel reviewed the proposals.

"This program reflects the importance for the Department of Defense to educate the next generation of small satellite systems engineers," said Dr. Rafael Landaeta, dean of Tarleton State's Mayfield College of Engineering. "They are seeking to develop engineers who understand the whole process of investigating unknowns, defining a mission and running a mission successfully, all from a systems engineering perspective."

The three-man team, led by the principal investigator for development of the proposal, Dr. Sotrios Diamantas, features two Tarleton State students, Braden Wells and Ashlan Benson, and a student from McLennan Community College, freshman Lloyd Alcorn.

"At McLennan Community College, we're proud of our partnership with Tarleton State University and the opportunities that are provided for our students," said MCC President Johnette McKown. "Students actively partici-

pate in activities of academic excellence and real-world experiences that are invaluable connections between rigorous scholarship and the cutting-edge practicalities of aerospace. Students like Lloyd Alcorn represent both institutions well and are prepared to be the leaders of tomorrow."

Alcorn said he was "both daunted and thrilled" by the project's high standards but added he is eager to contribute his best effort representing MCC and Tarleton State. "Working alongside some of the brightest minds in the world and having supportive peers makes this opportunity seem like a dream come true."

Benson, president of Tarleton State's Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers student chapter, echoed Alcorn's sentiments.

"I look forward to representing the Mayfield College of Engineering at such an exciting event. I think the aspect that excites me most is the idea that we're going

to be able to spend time developing our mission with both NASA and Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) engineers. Having access to their knowledge and experience is not something you get every day."

Like his teammates, Wells is eager to begin the trek, plus he sees the practical side of working with various aerospace agencies. "I'm looking forward to the incredible experience that's ahead of me. This will help build my knowledge base in the areas of an exciting future."

After spending seven weeks in New Mexico and a week at the NASA Kennedy Space Center, students in the program will return to their universities for workshops and exercises. Experts on small satellites will offer research support and feedback on improving proposals and increasing the teams' potential of being chosen to fly a real-world mission. CSLI and UNP will make their selections for future flights

in 2025.

Final presentations will take place in Albuquerque in July. The Tarleton State/MCC team also plans to attend the Small Satellite Conference, held at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, in early August.

The program covers travel expenses, enabling faculty and students to formulate teams without straining university resources.

Invited universities must propose a mission that can be flown in a satellite as small as 10 cm (3.9 inches) by 10 cm housing an experiment inside the cube frame, electronics for the experiment and a navigation system. NASA wants each team to propose an experiment related to a specific problem. "We're not looking to immediately solve the problem, but to provide a pathway to research the problem to understand it better and get closer to a solution," Dr. Landaeta said.

Tarleton State's team proposal combines with last

year's proposed specialized camera, centered on national defense. Additionally, the project could foreshadow new academic programs — minors in aerospace and space systems engineering — and has an outreach component.

"There are many critical aspects in a project of this magnitude, so there's a lot of work to do; we are thankful for the opportunity that NASA/AFRL has provided us," Dr. Landaeta said. "It's an exciting time for our students and the university."

CSLI is one of several ways NASA is attracting students to STEM disciplines. It strengthens NASA's and the nation's future workforce and develops innovative technology partnerships among NASA, U.S. industry and other sectors for the benefit of agency programs and projects.

For more information about NASA's CSLI, visit https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/heo/home/CubeSats_initiative.

TSU Texans' sweep spoiled Saturday at Seattle University

Tarleton State University

SEATTLE, Wash. – Tarleton State Softball (21-30, 7-15 WAC) dropped the final game of the three-game series to Seattle U (20-28, 12-11 WAC) 6-1 after securing back-to-back 3-1 wins April 26-27.

The Texans got the scoring started just as they did in both games of the double-header Friday. Kelci Hill put the Purple and White up 1-0 in the first as she came in to score off a wild pitch from the Redhawks.

In the bottom of the first the Red and Black responded

with a run of their own as Taylor Fitch doubled to right center scoring Jasmine Wehn tying things at 1-1.

The next two-and-a-half innings both teams were unable to move the needle leaving it tied through three-and-a-half innings.

Seattle U took its first lead of the weekend in the bottom of the fourth off a single to center by Karen Spadafora who drove in Fitch making it 2-1 Redhawks.

The scoring continued for the home team through the fifth and sixth as it put four more runs on the board

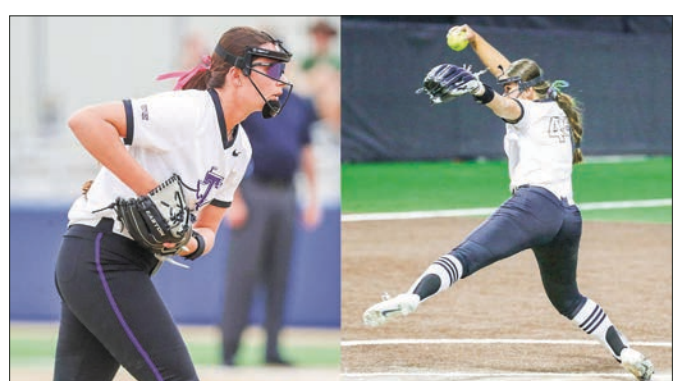
across the two innings.

Wehn singled up the middle in the fifth as Sydney Frankenberger scored on an error to make it 3-1. In the sixth inning, the Redhawks doubled their score as Wehn hit a bases-clearing doubled to center field to push the score to 6-1 which was the final for Game 3.

Tarleton State used four pitchers across six innings of work as Makenzie Dunbar took the loss moving to 3-5 on the season. Kynlee Marquez got the start and went just one inning as she gave up one run on two hits

and walked one. Dunbar controlled the circle the longest for the Texans going 3.1 innings while giving up two runs on three hits and walking a trio. Kendall Daniel went just a single inning as she gave up three runs on three hits, struck out one and walked one as well. Alexa Rehmeier tossed the final 0.2 IP giving up just a hit and striking out a Redhawk.

Seattle U used a single pitcher for the third straight game of the series as Stefanie Madrigal went 7.0 IP giving up just a single run on two hits while walking five.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tarleton State Softball (21-30, 7-15 WAC) dropped the final game of the three-game series to Seattle U (20-28, 12-11 WAC) 6-1 after securing back-to-back 3-1 wins April 26-27.

COACH

FROM PAGE B1

and you'll know," he said. "The first week we started practice this season I knew this was it."

GETTING THE CALL

Breazeale said he got the calling to pursue a basketball career as a senior at San Angelo Central High School, from where he graduated in 1980. Ironically, he landed a spot as the starting point guard despite being cut from the program as a sophomore and choosing not to play on the squad as a junior.

"I played in every league I could, though," he said. "And I just kept getting better."

That senior season on a good team, one that would have reached the playoffs by today's standards, was the only one in his career as a player. He didn't play in college, but he loved the competition.

"We had a really good season, but only one team went to the playoffs back then," Breazeale said. "And our district was tough. They called us the Little Southwest Conference."

The district, known for its football success above all — though also very good in basketball — featured Central, the third largest high school in the state at the time, along with fellow powers such as Odessa Permian, Midland Lee and Abilene.

Following graduation from high school he attended Angelo State University.

EARLY CAREER

Breazeale began his coaching career as a varsity assistant and junior varsity basketball coach, along with assisting in football and golf from 1987-91.

"Back then, everyone coached at least three sports unless you were a head coach," he recalled.

He got his first head coaching position at Santo from 1991-94. Then, it was back to Bastrop County at Smithville

for three years. At both of his first two head coaching positions, he also assisted in football and headed the golf and tennis programs.

BREAKING THROUGH

Breazeale became the head basketball coach and athletic director at Graford from 1997-2000. While he was no longer participating in football, he did also coach volleyball, golf and tennis.

"They bleed you at small schools," he said with a smile.

In 1999, he led the Rabbits to a regional tournament appearance, and in 2000 they advanced to state to play at the Erwin Center on the campus of the University of Texas in Austin.

That season also featured a playoff game with a finish for the ages.

"In the regional final, we were down six with 36 seconds left. We scored eight in that last 36 seconds to win it," Breazeale recalled, still almost giddy at the memory. "It was the only time in my life that I literally lost control of my faculties — completely."

Then, it was on to Godley for seven more great years.

"Four regional teams during that time, and it was the best," Breazeale said. "But you are always one new hire away from a great situation turning into a bad one. That happened with the hire of a superintendent and a new AD (athletic director). Sadly, it was time to go."

COMING TO GRANBURY

Breazeale left Godley and took the helm in Mineral Wells for three seasons he said he would not trade. But he and his family lived in Granbury and he did not want to move his daughters from Godley schools.

"The drive was a killer. The Granbury job opened. I knew it was a place where a lot of guys went, stay a year or two, decided they could not win, then left," he said.

But Breazeale did win in Granbury. In his third sea-

son, 2012-13, the Pirates made their first playoff appearance in more than a dozen years.

"Then in the '14-15 year, we had a legitimate chance to do something big. The best player I coached in Granbury was at the point — Clay Brawner. I had a great lane protector in Mitchell May, and really good role players along with super sophomore Eric Kirschner," Breazeale said. "We were tied for first in a tough district and Clay blew out his knee the night we beat Crowley. You can't survive that. We made the playoffs, but we couldn't make a run."

Breazeale said the ripple effects of that injury haunted him for his whole time at Granbury.

"If that team goes to a regional or beyond, this thing could have fed on itself. Young boys in junior high or elementary school could have gone to those games and lived it," he said. "Then they would know how cool it is. But it just wasn't in the cards."

In addition to the 2012-13 breaking of the drought, Breazeale led the Pirates to a half dozen postseason berths, with back-to-back playoff appearances twice, including his final two seasons. But the fierce competitor in him wanted to take the program into rarefied territory, a deep postseason run.

"We have had many playoff teams and several 20-win-and-beyond seasons. I am proud of that," he said. "But no success in the playoffs is the one thing here at Granbury that will linger awhile."

"I do think that you would have to look back a long way to find a guy who coached boys basketball here for 14 years. I am thankful that I was able to survive here that long."

FAVORITE MEMORIES

With almost four decades of doing something come many memories, and Breazeale has plenty. For



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Coach Breazeale during the 2023-2024 Season talking with the Team during a time out.

example, after a tough loss — and sometimes after an exciting win — when he couldn't sleep after, he'd say, "This is a 'Law and Order' night," a reference to one of his favorite TV shows.

Of course, joining the 500-victory club was special, made even more so when one of the sport's biggest legends paid her respects to his accomplishment

"Leta (Andrews) made a point to call me when I got to 500," he said. "And she was there when we won. That was such a great night and I'm so thankful to her for being there."

He said he'll also miss being the last one out of the gym following a home contest.

"There's something romantic about having a home game. Then, after everybody leaves and it's you and a dark gym when 45 minutes ago this place was like a U2 concert," he said.

But most of all he's going to miss the players, not only on his teams, but also in the classrooms. He still makes a concerted effort to keep up with former students.

"If you don't, why'd you get into the business," he

said. "If you don't have a relationship with your kids, in basketball and in the classroom, what an empty life you must have."

"Some of my most cherished relationships were with players but some were not. I had students in class that I still speak to often. Those are the real highlights of a career. But I will miss seeing the eyes of young men in a huddle or in the locker-room when they are totally engaged."

And there are also the assistant coaches he's had over the years.

"If you don't love the people you're working with you don't survive in this business," he said. "If you're counting the hours and just drawing a paycheck, you can't do this."

NEXT CHAPTER

Breazeale loves to golf. He's a four handicap. He also plans to spend more time with his devoted wife, Cindi.

"Cindi followed me around for 37 years and seven jobs. I moved her away from her mom at age 22. Her and my two daughters (Lauren and Courtney) are the champions," he said.

"I had 37 years to teach and coach young people. What a blessing for a kid who grew up like I did."

Of course, coaches and players have been known to come out of retirement. While that's not in his plans, Breazeale isn't closing that door.

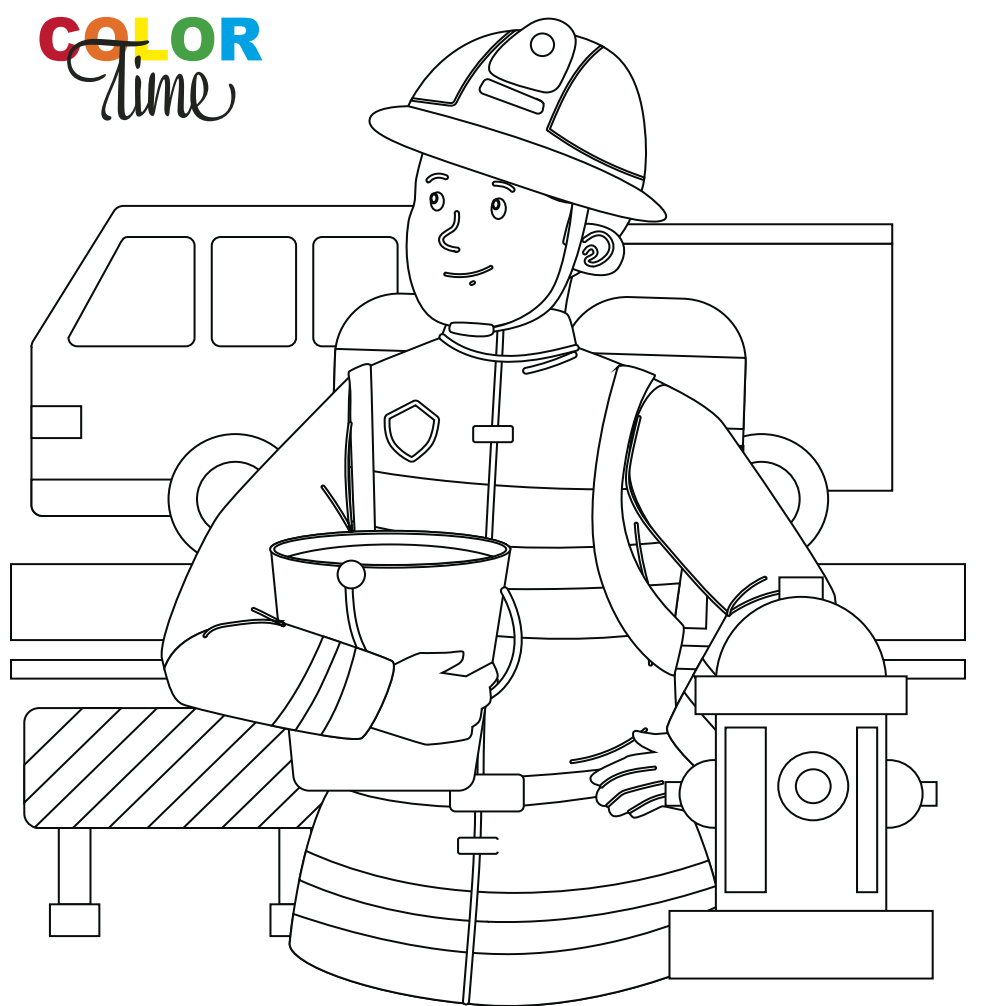
"If I can't stand it, I might get back in. You never know," he said. "But if I do get in, I will have to have my buddy (assistant) coach (Steve) Weeks by my side too. He is the best guy I have worked with in my career in so many ways."

"My buddies coach (Steve) Ward (golf coach) and (athletic director Dwight) Butler's best hire, (Lady Pirates) coach (Alan) Thorpe will be hard to leave too."

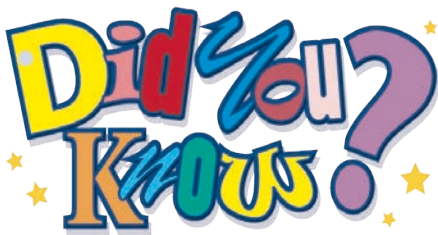
"My sisters in the English department, Jana Reid, Heather Cook and Jaclyn Bradshaw. I'll miss you girls."

As to how much golf he'll play, well, that depends also, he said.

"People ask will I play golf every day? I doubt it, it hurts too much," he said with a chuckle, again reminding us of the competitor in him. "I insist on playing from the back tees."



The fire triangle consists of three essential elements: fuel, heat, and oxygen, necessary for a fire to occur.



The estimated number of firefighters working in the U.S. is 1,115,000. Of that number, 370,000 are career firefighters and 745,000 are volunteers.



International Firefighters' Day, celebrated on May 4th, is a day when we honor the incredible bravery and dedication of firefighters worldwide. These everyday heroes risk their lives to keep our communities safe from fires and emergencies, and it's a chance for us to express our gratitude for their selfless service.

For kids, International Firefighters' Day is an opportunity to learn about the vital role firefighters play in our lives. It's a day to create thank-you cards or drawings, showcasing colorful images and heartfelt messages to let these heroes know how much

they are appreciated. Visiting a local fire station can turn this day into an exciting adventure. Many fire stations open their doors for tours, allowing kids to see the firefighting equipment up close, ask questions, and even sit in a real fire truck.

Educational activities at home or in the classroom can focus on fire safety. Kids can learn about creating escape plans, understanding fire alarms, and practicing important safety drills. These lessons empower children with knowledge that can make a difference in their lives and communities.

Wearing red and blue, colors associated with firefighting, is a simple yet meaningful way for kids to show support. Families can also participate in community events organized to honor firefighters, fostering a sense of unity and gratitude.

International Firefighters' Day is a time for reflection, appreciation, and learning. Let's celebrate the courage of these heroes who run towards danger to protect us, ensuring that their dedication is recognized and their sacrifices remembered on this special day.



STUDENT OF THE MONTH
Student: Adia
Instrument: Piano
How Long: 1 year



STUDENT OF THE MONTH
Student: Emrys
Instrument: Piano
How Long: 9 months



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VAN GRIFFITH KIA



Teacher of the Month

March • April • May



Paula Adams
GMS Teacher



Abby Osthoff
GMS Teacher



Laurie Whitley
GMS Teacher



Courtney Grant
Mambrino Elementary Teacher



Shelby Martin
Mambrino Elementary Teacher



Leah Sherrill
Mambrino Elementary Teacher



Chelsea Bond
Oak Woods Elementary Teacher



Jennifer Williams-Vickers
Oak Woods Elementary Teacher



Kathy Williams
Oak Woods Elementary Teacher



Hood County News



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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

From April 26 to April 28, Granbury hosted its unique Wine Walk event which attracts huge crowds of locals and visitors. Please see more photos on page C5.

A dramatic shift: GTC Brings “The Diary of Anne Frank” to the Opera House Stage

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

The Granbury Theatre Company is bringing a little change of pace to the Granbury Opera House with the opening of its next production Friday, May 10. Known primarily for its big, fun, flashy musicals and comedic plays, GTC is bringing the dramatic play “The Diary of Anne Frank” to the Opera House stage for a three-weekend run.

“The Diary of Anne Frank” by Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich is a powerful stage adaptation of Anne Frank’s diary, which chronicles the two years she and her family spent hiding from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II.

“The Diary of Anne Frank,” by Albert Hackett and Frances Goodrich, won both the 1956 Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award for Best Play. This lovely, tender drama is based on true events. Anne Frank is a Jewish girl in hiding during the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam in World War II. She, along with seven others, survived for two years in the sealed-off upper rooms of the annex of her father’s office building in Amsterdam. “This is a story of courage, hope, and the triumph of the human spirit,” said Natalie Guess, the show’s director. “It’s a very important story and one you don’t want to miss!”

In the play, the audience sees what life was like for Anne’s fami-

ly, the Van Daan’s, and Mr. Dussel. Throughout the play, Anne changes significantly as she moves from an immature and even antagonistic child in Act One to a more mature Anne in Act Two.

While in hiding in the annex, the occupants experience extreme highs and lows. In the final scene, the audience witnesses the sole survivor of the annex, Otto Frank, as he finishes Annes’s diary with her most famous words: “In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart.” With these words, Anne shows her transformation into an optimistic person who believes in all the goodness humanity can offer.

While the subject matter is difficult and dark, Guess says there are surprising moments of humor and tenderness. “My favorite thing about this show is that while you certainly expect to experience some grief and heartache due to the subject material, I don’t think you expect to see how much laughter and joy and just humanity and love you’re going to see on the stage.”

Alvaro Aguilar assists Guess with the directorial duties. The rest of the show’s production team includes Eme Looney, costume designer; Colton Lively, hair and makeup designer; Reagan Deming, scenic designer; Jarrett Self, prop designer; Natalie Guess, sound designer; and Cameron Barrus, lighting designer. Bentleigh Nesbit is stage manager.

PLEASE SEE **OPERA** | C4



COURTESY PHOTO

Known primarily for its big, fun, flashy musicals and comedic plays, GTC is bringing the dramatic play “The Diary of Anne Frank” to the Opera House stage for a three-weekend run.

Clear space, clear mind: Organizational strategies for home offices

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

When I retired 18 months ago, I knew I wanted to do some things that would keep me busy. I was only 60 years old, so I really felt too young to “retire.” Plus, I knew I would need to supplement my retirement income by doing some side work. So, I launched my own

digital marketing company, which I operate from a home office.

Of all the “obstacles” I anticipated that one normally thinks of when setting out on a solopreneur venture, getting and keeping an organized workspace was not one of them. After all, I had been in law office management/court administration for nearly 30 years. Organization and efficiency were

principles I had lived and worked by for years.

Little did I know that working from home is an entirely different animal. It presents unique challenges that differ significantly from the traditional office environment. One of the primary difficulties is the blurring of boundaries between personal and professional workspaces, which

can quickly lead to cluttered and disorganized physical and digital workspaces.

Research suggests that too much clutter can negatively affect your ability to focus, be productive and manage stress. Conversely, those who feel competent at controlling clutter may have a greater sense of accomplishment and experience more

positive emotions. Many of us know that living and working in a messy environment doesn’t look or make us feel good, but recognizing the need to tidy up doesn’t always result in a big cleanup session.

Leslie Clark, owner of GYST Business LLC, whose mission is to help overwhelmed solopre-

PLEASE SEE **OFFICES** | C2

Granbury Civic Charus presents free concert



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Civic Chorus performs during Founder's Day 2024.

From Staff Reports

The Granbury Civic Chorus presents its free concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 9 at Acton Methodist Church. Led by direc-

tor Steve Quinn, "Home on the Range" explores American Folk Music from the early 1800s to songs that are popular today. Many of these are very well-known songs from previ-

ous eras such as "Beautiful Dreamer," "All Aboard/Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Down to the River to Pray," "The Saints," etc. The public is invited to join Granbury Civic Chorus

in keeping our nation's musical legacy alive. Audience members find the concerts to be a fun evening. Members of the Granbury Civic Chorus agree the concerts are the highlight of

the program year. "It's work but also great fun to practice together weekly to bring entertaining free concerts to the public. Chorus members enjoy the friendship and

camaraderie with folks across our community. It's a great way to feel a part of Granbury," shared Mike Walker, vice-president of Granbury Civic Chorus.

OFFICES

FROM PAGE C2

neers and family businesses go from disorganized to streamlined, says, "In today's fast-paced work environment, where more individuals are embracing the flexibility of working from home, maintaining a clutter-free and organized home office space is paramount. A tidy workspace isn't just visually appealing; it also promotes productivity and enhances focus."

Indeed, the following tips may make getting on top of your clutter feel more manageable — and help you reduce stress.

THE BENEFITS OF AN ORGANIZED HOME OFFICE

1. Enhanced Productivity
An organized workspace directly correlates with increased productivity. Clutter, whether physical or digital, can lead to distractions and decreased work efficiency. By keeping your home office organized, you can streamline work processes and reduce time wasted on searching for documents or tools. "A well-organized home office creates a conducive environment for creativity to flourish and for ideas to flow seamlessly," says Clark.

"By investing time in decluttering and organizing your workspace, you're investing in your own success and setting the stage for increased productivity and peace of mind."

2. Reduced Stress

A cluttered environment can elevate stress levels. In contrast, a tidy and well-arranged office space can create a calming atmosphere that fosters mental clarity and focus. This psychological comfort is vital as it helps maintain a healthy work-life balance, especially in a home setting.

3. Improved Time Management

With well-organized files, physically and digitally, you spend less time sorting through piles or navigating chaotic computer desktops. This efficiency allows for better time management, giving you more opportunities to focus on core tasks and meet deadlines with ease.

TIPS FOR ORGANIZING YOUR PHYSICAL WORKSPACE

1. Declutter Regularly

Begin by removing unnecessary items from your workspace. Keep only essential items on your desk, such as your computer, a notepad, and perhaps a few person-

al items to make the space inviting.

2. Use Effective Storage Solutions

Invest in appropriate storage solutions, such as shelves, drawers and desk organizers. These can help keep your office supplies and paperwork in order, making them easily accessible yet out of sight when not needed.

3. Maintain a Clean Desk Policy

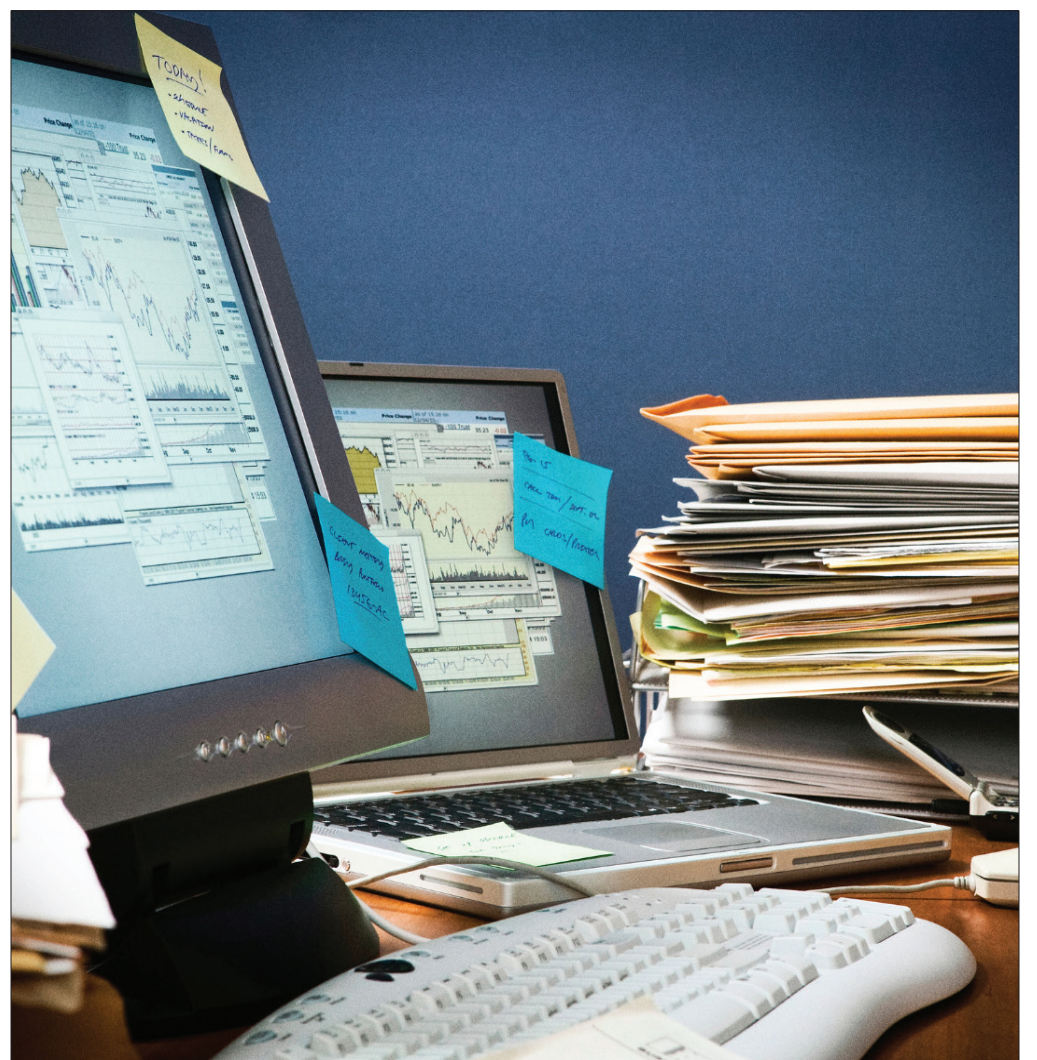
Make it a habit to clear your desk at the end of each day. This practice not only keeps your space tidy but also signals the end of the workday, helping to maintain a clear distinction between work time and personal time.

TIPS FOR ORGANIZING YOUR DIGITAL WORKSPACE

1. Streamline Your Digital Files

Organize your digital files into clearly labeled folders and regularly archive old files to keep your desktop and primary working folders uncluttered. Consider using cloud storage services for better accessibility and backup. "Just as a cluttered physical space can hinder productivity, a disorganized digital workspace can lead

PLEASE SEE OFFICES | C4



COURTESY PHOTO

Make it a habit to clear your desk at the end of each day. This practice not only keeps your space tidy but also signals the end of the workday, helping to maintain a clear distinction between work time and personal time.



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BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

It's a big deal – it really is!**BY MAURICE WALTON**

Maurice Walton is a retired attorney, a longtime Granbury resident, and president of the Bridge Street History Center.

If you have read any of my past columns, you will know that the Bridge Street History wouldn't exist if it wasn't for Georgia Ramay and Vircy Macatee. While the main purpose of my column today is to let you know what we have planned for this year's Ramay-Macatee Speakers Series event, it is impossible for me to think of the speakers series, or the history center for that matter, without thinking about Georgia and Vircy. So, out of appreciation to Georgia and Vircy, I want to share a few thoughts about them.

The first thing you need to know is that the Bridge Street History Center was Georgia's idea, period. She was the primary reason the history center was established Jan. 17, 2006. Georgia thought our community needed a "story telling" museum, not another object

museum. It's also interesting to know that as important as Georgia and Vircy were to the history center, they were not best friends. They knew each other, they had served on various commissions and boards together, and they each appreciated the other's contributions to our community. The common bond Georgia and Vircy shared was their families' deep roots in Granbury and Hood County. They both wanted to see the history of our community preserved. The idea for the Bridge Street History Center, however, was not a collaborative effort, it was Georgia's idea. At first Vircy was not really big on the idea. In fact, if you knew Vircy, you know she was not very good at recognizing that someone besides herself could have a good idea — that was just Vircy. I will say, however, when she

caught Georgia's vision, she was all in. We couldn't be what we are today without her.

Now, back to the 2024 Ramay-Macatee Speakers Series. By 2014, we had been challenged by our good friend Dominique Inge to "take the history to the people." She told us that not everyone was going to come to our museum so we needed to take history to them instead of waiting on them to come see us. We grudgingly acknowledged the wisdom of her counsel and started trying to think of ways to meet her challenge. A speakers event seemed like a way to do that. The next step toward a speakers series event was based on a hunch. Our hunch? We felt like there was a rather large group of people in our community that liked history, particularly Texas history, and that they would "come" if we could bring in good speakers. It was that group we wanted to reach. We believed if we could reach this group, it would be good for them, and it would be good for us. So, we discussed it with

Georgia and Vircy. They were in, so Sept. 17, 2014, we launched the Ramay-Macatee Speakers Series. Dr. Steven Woodworth, author and professor of history at Texas Christian University, was our inaugural speaker. His topic was "John Bell Hood and His Place in History." Georgia and Vircy were both able to attend the event. They were on the front row.

Here we are 10 years later. If you have followed the speakers series over the years, you know that since its inception in 2014, we have been privileged to have some really good speakers. I won't go over the entire list here, but for you to get the feel for what we are going to do this year, I will review a few. In 2021, we had Stephen Harrigan. Mr. Harrigan is the author of 12 books, and at that time, he had just completed his Texas history masterpiece, "Big Wonderful Thing." S.C. Gwynne, author of the comprehensive and spellbinding history of the Comanches, "Empire of the Summer Moon," spoke for us in 2022. Then, in 2023,

we had Justice Ken Wise, noted speaker on all things Texas and creator and host of the podcast "Wise About Texas," speak for us.

In 2022, I had the opportunity to introduce Gwynne to our sold-out audience at Granbury Live. In preparation for that event, I went on YouTube to see if I could pick up some information from interviews Gwynne had done. What did I find? My search revealed what I had suspected. Gwynne had been interviewed a lot over the years. What I found most enchanting was a round table discussion between Gwynne and Harrigan that was done at the LBJ Library on the University of Texas campus. It was really fascinating to see them both being interviewed at the same time, and I thought to myself "wouldn't that be great to see both of them on one stage at the same time?" I shared the LBJ Library interview with our board. We all thought the concept was really nice, but that it was probably too much to think we could accomplish that kind of program here in Granbury. Then we had



The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER
Granbury, TX

Justice Wise here in 2023, and we just couldn't resist the temptation of trying to get Harrigan and Gwynne in a round table discussion moderated by Wise. We decided to undertake the challenge. It took coordinating the schedules for Harrigan, Gwynne and Wise, but we were able to pull it off.

So, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7 at Granbury Live we will bring you "An Evening with Stephen Harrigan, S. C. Gwynne and Justice Ken Wise." Don't miss this unique opportunity to see all three of these award-winning authors, historians and speakers on the same stage. Tickets are now on sale at thenewgranburylive.com. VIP tickets are \$100 and premium tickets are \$75.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Blessings can come from unexpected places**CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER**

Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who recently moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky. She has had short stories published in eight editions of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks. cgheizer@gmail.com | 502-396-0972

The story is told of three horsemen riding through the desert one night. They came to a dry riverbed and were startled to hear a voice from the darkness warning, "Halt!"

The men obeyed the command, and the voice continued, "You have done as I commanded. Now get off your horses, pick up a handful of pebbles, put them in your pockets, remount your horses, and continue on your journey. Since you have done as I commanded, you will be both glad and

sad that you obeyed me."

The horsemen did not understand what had happened, but they rode through the night. In the early morning light, the riders reached into their pockets and discovered that a miracle had taken place. The pebbles in their pockets had transformed into magnificently beautiful diamonds, emeralds, rubies, sapphires and other precious stones.

They remembered the warning — that they would be both glad and sorry.

They were truly glad they had taken the pebbles... and truly sad they had not taken more.

Why did the travelers not take more pebbles? Was it because they were told to do so and resented having to do something they perhaps did not want to do? Was it because they did not understand the full meaning of the command and therefore were not willing to give their full cooperation? Was it because they felt inconvenienced by having their time intruded upon and resented such an invasion of their lives?

Whatever the reason, we can be sure of one fact. All the horsemen, although grateful for the pebbles they had taken, regretted not having taken more. For had they taken more, they would

have increased their wealth.

But who would have anticipated the pebbles turning to gems? How could they have known? But is not life like that, also? Do we not miss many blessings that could be ours because they come from unexpected places?

Perhaps a business colleague or friend or loved one, through a poor choice of words, tells us to do something rather than asks us. And we, in our childish defiance, balk at the request. We do it not because it is so outrageous or unreasonable or impractical. We balk because the proper words were not spoken. It is the classic case of throwing the baby out with the bath water.

We cannot differentiate between the fact and the

phrase, and therefore we refuse both. For the want of a proper word, a blessing was missed. Perhaps we missed the enjoyment of a task well done or the thrill of a project completed.

Perhaps a request is made of us, and we do not understand the underlying reasons behind the request. We usually insist upon knowing the five W's (who, what, where, when and why) of the situation, or we do not want to be involved in the matter. How many modern-day conveniences would we be living without if the inventors had insisted upon knowing all the facts before their achievements were complete?

Could we have missed the untold blessing of knowing we had helped another individual in need or being part

of another's accomplishments who only needed help in achieving them?

Could we have missed the indescribable pleasure of watching our children discover new and fascinating things in the world around them because we were too interested in our own activities? Or missed the enjoyable trip down memory lane as we busily pushed aside the elderly ones in our life because we were too busy to take the stroll with them?

We must always remember that we are to have a part of the work if we are to have a part in the blessing. We must not only count our blessings, but we must consider their source.

Our pebbles can become precious stones to us, also!

These recipes are your best bets for Derby Day

BY NANCY PRICES

Special to the Hood County News

Folks in Louisville, Kentucky turn the most exciting two minutes in sports into a month-long celebration of special events, distinct culinary traditions, and of course, bourbon. But, if you can't make it to Churchill Downs, for the May 4 iconic sporting event this year, why not get into the spirit by mixing up a batch of frosty Mint Juleps? Mint Juleps have been the official drink of the Kentucky Derby since 1983, and there are numerous variations, but the recipe provided here is just the basic version.

Another culinary tradition of the Kentucky Derby are mouth-watering Hot Browns. According to brownhotel.com, "In the 1920s, The Brown Hotel drew over 1,200 guests each evening for its dinner dance. By the wee hours of the morning, guests would grow weary of dancing and make their way to the restaurant for a bite to eat. Sensing their desire for something more glamorous than traditional ham and eggs, Chef Fred Schmidt set

out to create something new to tempt his guests' palates. His unique dish? An open-faced turkey sandwich with bacon and a delicate Mornay sauce. The Hot Brown was born!" The Brown Hotel has its world-famous recipe on its website, and I have included it here.

Serve the Mint Juleps and Hot Browns before the event and odds are that after the race, your guests will leave feeling like winners, no matter what horses win, place or show.

MINT JULEP

1 serving

4-5 fresh mint leaves, roughly torn
1/2 to 1 ounce simple syrup (recipe below)
Crushed ice (If you don't have crushed ice, put some ice cubes in a tea towel and pound with a hammer)
Splash of cold water
2 ounces bourbon
Sprig of fresh mint for garnish, optional
To bottom of serving glass, add mint leaves and simple syrup. Muddle together with a muddler or handle of a wooden spoon.
Top with plenty of crushed ice, then pour in splash of cold water and bourbon.

Stir, garnish with the sprig of mint, and serve.

SIMPLE SYRUP RECIPE

(Makes more than needed for this recipe, but leftovers can be kept refrigerated one to two weeks.)

1 cup water
1-1/4 cup granulated sugar
Add water and sugar to small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally until sugar dissolves, boiling about 2 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool completely.

THE WORLD-FAMOUS HOT BROWN

2 servings

2 ounces whole butter
2 ounces all purpose flour
8 ounces heavy cream
8 ounces whole milk
1/2 cup Pecorino Romano cheese, plus 1 tablespoon for garnish
Pinch of ground nutmeg
Salt and pepper
14 ounces sliced roasted turkey breast, thickly sliced
4 slices Texas toast (crust trimmed)
4 slices crispy bacon
2 Roma tomatoes, sliced in half
Parmesan Cheese
Paprika
Parsley



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BIG L, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Close up of a mint julep served on the rocks.

In a two-quart saucepan, melt butter and slowly whisk in flour until combined and forms a thick paste (roux). Continue to cook roux for two minutes over medium-low heat, stirring frequently. Whisk heavy cream and whole milk into the roux and cook over medium heat until the cream begins to simmer, about 2-3 minutes. Remove sauce from heat and slowly whisk in Pecorino Romano

cheese until the Mornay sauce is smooth. Add nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste.

For each Hot Brown, place two slices of toast with the crusts cut off in an oven safe dish — one slice is cut in half corner to corner to make two triangles and the other slice is left in a square shape — then cover with 7 ounces of turkey. Take the two halves of Roma tomato and two toast points and set

them alongside the base of the turkey and toast. Next, pour one half of the Mornay sauce to completely cover the dish. Sprinkle with additional Pecorino Romano cheese. Place the entire dish under a broiler until cheese begins to brown and bubble. Remove from broiler, cross two pieces of crispy bacon on top, sprinkle with paprika and parsley, and serve immediately.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Congratulations to the Auxiliary-Sponsored raffle winners

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.

Even though rainy weather last weekend led to Pecan's Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary's postponement of its annual golf tournament, the drawing for raffle ticket prize winners was dampened none.

The auxiliary happily announces raffle ticket sales garnered more than \$12,000 in profit, every penny of which goes to support our community's emergency volunteers. Many thanks go to the folks who donated prizes, purchased raffle tickets, organized the effort and sold raffle tickets. Extra special gratitude falls on Julie Logan and Seleta Webster for the countless hours they donated to the cause that forged the way to success.

Congratulations to Pecan resident Kim Wilson on winning a weekend stay at Casa Con Vista on Lake Palo Pinto, and congratulations also to all residents and friends who held winning tickets. Enjoy your prizes!

The auxiliary is working with Pecan's golf personnel to set a new date for the tournament and hopes to make an announcement soon for this much anticipated event in our community.

AUXILIARY MEETING

For folks interested in Pecan's Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service 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.

WELCOME HOME

Pecan's next new member orientation happens today, Saturday, May 4, at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the Pecan clubhouse. Both new

residents to Pecan as well as long timers are welcome.

PLANT PURCHASE

Pecan's Green Thumb Garden Club is holding a fundraiser today, 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.

RACE DAY

Pecaners are preparing their suits and hats for a Kentucky Derby Day Party today, 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.

PASSING THROUGH

On Sunday, May 5, approximately 1,000 North Texas bicycle enthusiasts will pedal through Pecan Plantation riding from Glen Rose to the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens. The ride is part of Bike MS, a fundraising bicycling series in which teams of riders raise money for Multiple Sclerosis research. Riders will find a rest station near the PAC, and Pecan motorists will want to be aware of this event on our streets.

MOM'S DAY

A Mother's Day craft event comes to the PAC tomorrow, Sunday, May 5, at 2 p.m. when little ones will be making dragonfly plant stakes. The event is free, but space is limited, and sign up is necessary: 817-573-7952.

TINY TRIBE

A new offering to Pecan's repertoire of activities comes Monday, May 6 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the PAC when "Tiny Tribe Soft Play" is on the calendar. Children ages 4 and younger (and parents) are invited to this free event with the goals of "bringing parents together and letting toddlers make friends." Soft



COURTESY PHOTO BY LANA ROBINSON

Congratulations to Pecan resident Kim Wilson on winning a weekend stay at Casa Con Vista on Lake Palo Pinto, and congratulations also to all residents and friends who held winning tickets in Pecan's VFD/EMS Auxiliary raffle ticket fundraising event. Ticket sales topped \$12,000, all of which will support Pecan's emergency volunteers.

play is a "comprehensive approach to child development" that boosts cognitive skill, enhances interaction and offers benefits to a child's growth. For more information, contact event facilitator Ashley Archie at conehead049@gmail.com.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet again Wednesday, May 8 with a full breakfast menu offered at 9 a.m. and the program beginning at 10 a.m. But before the program, attendees will enjoy a new facet of the morning, a "10-minute conversation," with Daniel Van Patten, Pecan's operations manager.

Addressing Breakfast Club will be Earl "Dub" Gillum, Justice of the Peace for Precinct 4 and a retired Texas Department of Public Safety State Trooper. His story is one of both public service and bravery that

will no doubt captivate the audience. Reservations for the morning are due by noon Tuesday, May 7: 817-573-2641.

GIVING LIFE

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

POOCH PARTY

Since inclement weather happened on the first try, another date is on the calendar. Pooch Plantation (Pecan's

off leash dog park) will host a "happy hour" event, Saturday, May 11, 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 to sell hotdogs, brats and beverages, and Friends of Pooch Plantation (FOPP) will sell homemade dog treats.

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

BIG WHEELS

Pecan's ninth annual Truck and Car Show is Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the PAC. The day is open to everyone, and events

include a free, nonjudged car show, music from the 1950s and 1960s, and barbecue with sides for purchase. No registration needed for owners with participating cars, and this family friendly event promises the opportunity to see great machines and talk cars with folks who love them.

ART EVENT

Pecan Paint Along continues with the next date being Sunday, May 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the PAC. "Paint your pet" is the day's theme, and moms are welcome since it is Mother's Day. Kathy Yoders will deliver step-by-step instructions, and no painting experience is necessary for participation. Registration is required by calling 817-573-7952, and photo submission of pets is due by Tuesday, May 7: kathylyoders@gmail.com.

OPERA

FROM PAGE C1

ing the show.

The Opera House cast stars Holly Keller in her second main stage production at the Opera House. "Holly

was in GTC's production of Anne of Green Gables earlier this year and was simply phenomenal in her role," noted Guess. "Holly lights up the stage, and she is perfectly equipped to play the role of Anne Frank."

Rounding out the Opera

House cast are Rodney Hudson as Mr. Frank, Mary-Kate Flannery as Mrs. Frank, Dan Powderly as Mr. Van Daan, Leslie Walstrum as Mrs. Van Daan, Maudie G. Davis as Margot Frank, Graham Ramos as Peter Van Daan, Bob Beck as Mr.

Dussel, Thomas Powderly as Mr. Kraler and Darcy Doyle as Miep Gies.

"This wonderful cast is really bringing these characters to life, and we cannot wait to put this beautiful and important show on the Opera House stage," said

Guess.

The show opens next Friday night, May 10, with four performances every weekend: Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. The show runs through Sunday, May 26.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.granburytheatrecompany.org, by phone at 817-579-0952, or in person at the Opera House Box Office during regular box office hours.

OFFICES

FROM PAGE C2

to unnecessary stress and wasted time searching for documents or files," noted Clark.

2. Regularly Update Software

Keep your software updated to ensure that your digital workspace runs smoothly. This reduces the likelihood of slowdowns and crashes that can disrupt your workflow.

3. Implement Email Management Techniques

Use folders, tags and rules to manage emails effectively. This will help you keep your inbox clear and prioritize communications more efficiently.

4. Consider Hiring a Small Business

Organization Consultant

Let's face it. Sometimes, the clutter gets so bad we feel completely overwhelmed, and just the thought of knowing where to start makes us break out in fever sweats. If this de-

scribes you, you may want to hire a small business organization consultant. These professionals specialize in creating order out of chaos for small businesses. A good small business organization consultant can come in and help you declutter and organize both your physical and digital workspaces.

CONCLUSION

The shift to working from home has its set of challenges, with maintaining an organized workspace standing out as a key factor for success. Both physical and digital spaces require attention to detail and regular upkeep to ensure they contribute positively to your work efficiency and mental health.

Clark best summarized it by noting, "With a well-organized digital environment complementing a clutter-free physical workspace, individuals working from home can enjoy enhanced productivity and achieve



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW, ADOBESTOCK.COM

An organized workspace directly correlates with increased productivity. Clutter, whether physical or digital, can lead to distractions and decreased work efficiency.

their professional goals with greater ease."

By implementing the tips

discussed, you can create a home office that not only boosts productivity but also

supports a healthier, more balanced work-life integration. Remember, an orga-

nized workspace reflects an organized mind.

GRANBURY WINE WALK

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Wine Walk is a three-day event which provided attendees with ample time to taste and enjoy the local flavors of wine. Wine lovers from all over flock to Granbury year-round for tastes of local wine but the Wine Walk is a special event whereby dozens of wineries head to the Historic Granbury Square. The "Wine Walkers" were able to enjoy live local music, shopping, and Texas flavors in wine, food, and art while exploring the Wine Walk's Bridge Street, Davy Crockett, Courthouse, Lucy, and Go Texan Districts, which were all outlined on their event maps.



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BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

Many tourist destinations claim to be “all things to all people,” but compared to Branson, Missouri, the rest of them miss the mark by a country mile. Nestled in the Ozark Mountains, the laid-back community not only survived the pandemic, but has roared back with numerous new attractions to strengthen its vows to be number one in tourism.

Since 2008, the “Branson buzz” has centered on the 2,000-seat Sight and Sound Theatre, where sold-out crowds are common for live performances of Bible figures. Queen Esther is the current attraction; it plays through Oct. 5.

The theatre dazzles, as does the work of some 400 people who have added production of movies, streaming and other types of electronic delivery, evidence that not everything associated with the pandemic is bad. “Thanks to these expanded efforts, we are making a far greater Christian impact than with live performances alone,” a spokesman said.

Sight and Sound’s 50th anniversary of its founding in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, looms in 2026. At the home base there, more than 800 employees set highest professional standards, as do counterparts in Branson.

We’ve been privileged to see several productions, and still “ooh and ahh” on the lavish grounds leading to the magnificent venue.

The productions have the grandeur of Broadway’s best, and with admission prices that are fractional by comparison. But wait, there’s more.

Every Branson visit provides great memories. We expect “God and country” tributes at all the shows, and undergirding most of them are intentional emphasis to the importance of family.

A great example is Clay Cooper, who also serves as an elected city government official.

He has his own theater, where he is joined in song by his wife and two sons.

He loves his community, his work and his family, pointing with pride to his youngest son who set a record last year for the Branson High School basketball team. “He took more charges than any player in our school’s history,” Clay boasted.

We also took in shows featuring the Dutton, Haygood and Petersen families. The Petersens, known for bluegrass music, are anchored by the four kids’ mom, Karren, who plays the bass fiddle. Their rendition of “Sweet Beulah Land” is a treasure.

The Haygoods — five brothers and a sister, now in their 32nd year — are known for their variety show that has achieved more than 2,000 sold-out performances. And the ever-popular Duttons span three generations.

Another “must see” is Pierce Arrow, which features Michael Cole, an amazing vocalist who came to the fore on America’s Got Talent. Their best joke? We learned that alphabet soup might be even better if the letters were in cursive!

Dean Z truly is the “ultimate Elvis” and illusionist Rick Thomas is world-class — carrying on brilliantly despite his being “under the weather” during our visit. Jay Osmond, best known for years with the Osmond Brothers, is an outstanding soloist. Now 69 years of age, he’s new at “going it alone.” He claims memories that go way, way back.

“Even as a 7-year-old, I knew about ESP,” he said. “Eat/Sleep/Practice.”

Our memory chest runneth over. We learned that Branson now has a world-class aquarium, an attraction that opened at the onset of COVID. It is remarkable.

As we wound up five days in Branson, we wished for more time to visit the more than 100 attractions, as well as The College of the Ozarks, aka, “Hard Work University.” It has much to teach all of us. It, too, is world class.

We marvel that so much has been invested in Branson, and there’s no end in sight. Who could imagine, a couple of decades ago, there would ever be a 482-room hotel in Branson? Well, there is, the Thousand Hills Resort Hotel. And there are more to come in this magical place where more than 10 million visitors showed up in 2023, with even more expected this year. The world needs more Bransons.



Pictured is the Legends Theater in Branson, MO.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW, ADOBESTOCK.COM



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BOOK REVIEW

Maybe you have room for one more

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The photo of that rescue animal tugged at your heart. Those soft eyes, the little ears, the fat furry paws . . . one more dog or cat in the family won't matter, will it? After all, what's a house without pets? In the new book "Our Kindred Creatures" by Bill Wasik and Monica Murphy, you'll see how animals moved into our hearts and homes.

In the earliest part of American history, animals were often perceived as tools.

Horses were meant for pulling or carrying. Cattle, for meat or leather. Even the creatures we treasure as pets today were kept around for hunting mice and moose, and that bothered Henry Bergh. He'd seen too many exhausted horses flogged to death on New York streets by frustrated humans and he knew that laws were lax or nonexistent so in 1866, he formed America's first animal protection organization.

It took time to change minds, though: new local laws meant new ways of perceiving animals as living beings, rather than as equipment. The enforcement of such laws was helped along by social pressure aimed at animal abusers, meant to stop their violent actions, and the sentiment spread: in 1872, Congress passed a law to make rail-

road cars for cattle more humane. Other influential activists joined Bergh in his work to change the way animals were treated in America and over time, animal protection societies sprung up all over the U.S. to protect all creatures. By extension, those societies helped clean up the environment: when horses weren't abused on the streets, fewer of them died on the sidewalks.

But neither Bergh nor his contemporaries stopped with horses, pigs or cattle. Pets enjoyed new household status and medical schools started using fewer live animals to train new physicians. Attitudes toward animals-as-entertainment changed, including the lives of circus elephants and racehorses. And in 1874, Bergh saw a need that hadn't been addressed, which was about the time when his SPCA lobbied to be able to protect children, too . . .

Here's a warning about "Our Kindred Creatures:" you'll find a lot of things in here that are hard to read, specifically, details about abused, killed, hurt and dead animals. You'll wince. You'll want to look away. Trust.

Be brave, though, and you'll find a well-packed story of animals, activism and attitude catching fire. Authors Bill Wasik and Monica Murphy don't candy-coat this story but they do speak directly to animal lovers with this book, starting the tale early in our nation's history, moving it toward a subject-within-a-subject. Once you reach the last pages, then, the authors ask you to think further ahead. Can we do even better?

To most readers, the answer will lie in the bulk of this book, as the process from kennel and barn to king-sized bed is presented with support from other parts of history to make a fine story with a few good jaw-droppers included. If you're an animal lover, all you need to know is that "Our Kindred Creatures" is a book you'll make room for.



OUR KINDRED CREATURES

How AMERICANS CAME to FEEL the WAY THEY DO ABOUT ANIMALS

BILL WASIK AND MONICA MURPHY



COURTESY PHOTO

Emmett Wasik.

COURTESY PHOTO

"Our Kindred Creatures: How Americans Came to Feel the Way They Do About Animals" by Bill Wasik and Monica Murphy c.2024, Knopf, \$35.00, 464 pages.

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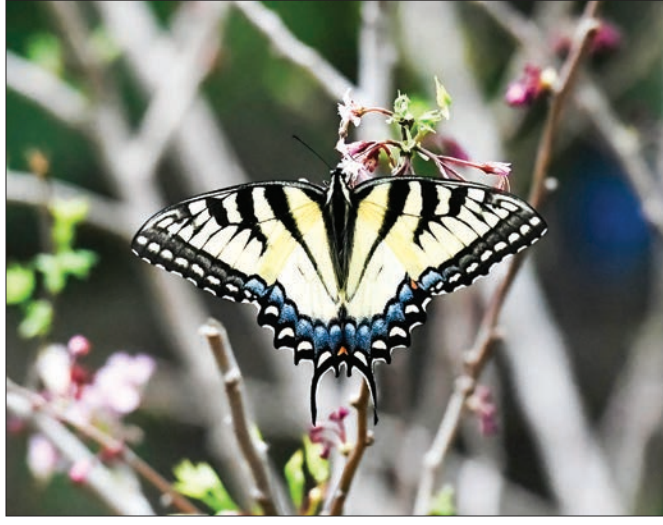
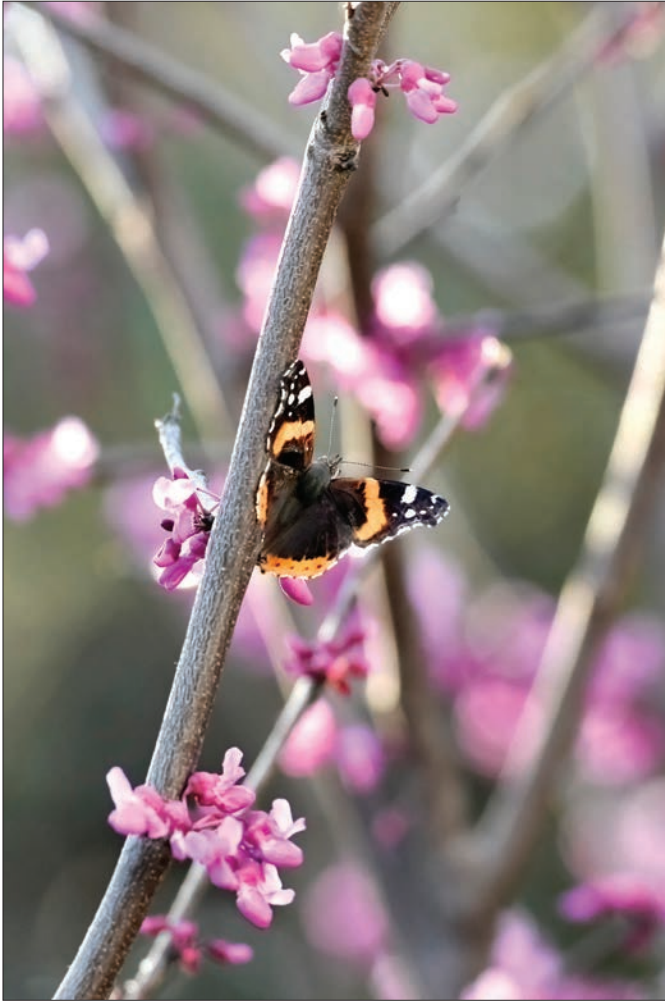
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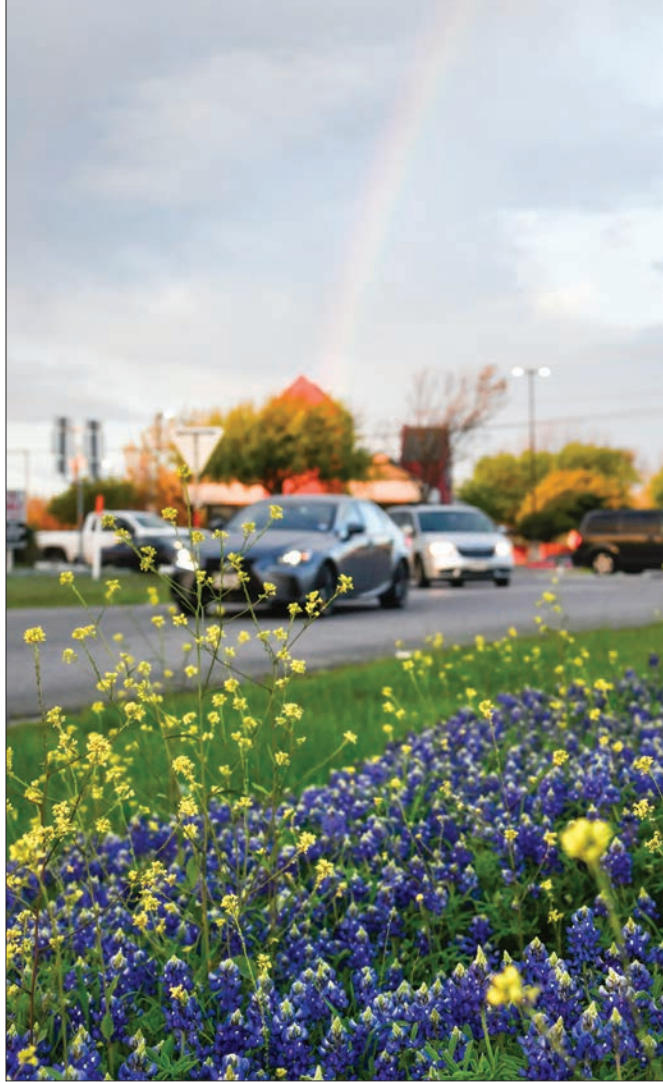
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Spring photos



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County was awash in the sights of spring this past week. Wildflowers sprinkle the landscape as bees find sustenance and a vibrant rainbow spans the expanse after a refreshing seasonal rain.



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

Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG13)
 Thurs: 3:25PM, 6:45PM

Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)
 Fri: 2:00PM.
 Sat, Sun: 11:15AM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM

Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace (PG)
 Fri: 1:30PM, 4:35PM, 7:05PM, 10:10PM.
 Sat: 10:25AM, 1:30PM, 4:35PM, 6:40PM, 10:05PM.
 Sun: 10:25AM, 1:30PM, 4:35PM, 6:40PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:45PM.
 Thurs: 4:50PM, 7:30PM

The Fall Guy (PG13)
 Fri: 1:30PM, 4:25PM, 7:20PM, 10:15PM.
 Sat: 10:30AM, 1:25PM, 4:20PM, 7:10PM, 9:40PM, 9:45PM.
 Sun: 10:15AM, 1:10PM, 4:05PM, 7:00PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM.
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:35PM

The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare (R)
 Fri: 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:35PM, 10:25PM.
 Sat: 10:45AM, 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:35PM, 10:25PM.
 Sun: 10:45AM, 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:35PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 8:00PM.
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:00PM

Unsung Hero (PG)
 Fri: 1:40PM, 4:20PM, 7:40PM, 10:20PM.
 Sat: 10:40AM, 1:20PM, 4:00PM, 7:40PM, 10:20PM.
 Sun: 10:40AM, 1:20PM, 4:00PM, 7:40PM.
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BY JACQUE GORDON



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

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GO PLAY

MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

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

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

needed. Just come build with us.

SUNDAYS

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

FIRST MONDAYS

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

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

SECOND MONDAYS

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

FIRST TUESDAYS

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

SECOND TUESDAYS

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

FOURTH TUESDAYS

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

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

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

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

SECOND SATURDAYS

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

THIRD MONDAYS

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

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

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

LAST THURSDAYS

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

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

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalm 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

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DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

Medical emergencies during travel



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www.DaydreamVacations.com

To quote the Boy Scouts, "Always be prepared!" The one detail most travelers don't think about is "what do I do if I have a medical emergency during my trip." It's important to be prepared for such an emergency.

There are several ways you can prepare yourself, including travel insurance for both medical costs and emergency evacuation, U.S. Embassy contact info, STEP program and learning about the medical system for the country you are traveling to.

Did you know Medicare does not provide coverage for hospital or medical expenses outside the United States? Retired persons may want to contact the AARP for information about foreign medical care coverage with Medicare supplement plans.

What about your normal health insurance? Contact your health insurance provider and ask. Chances are they only cover you in the U.S. This is where travel insurance can help. There are many types of insurance for travel and there is a difference between travel insurance and a travel protection plan. For example, a protection plan offered by the cruise lines may only

provide \$10,000 medical, while an insurance policy from companies like Travel Insured or Allianz may offer up to \$100,000 medical.

Travel insurance also typically includes coverage for emergency evacuation. One example of this is the helicopter that gets you to the hospital. If you have an emergency that requires immediate hospital assistance, you may require this transport. For example, in Skagway, Alaska, while enjoying your Alaskan cruise, you will need a helicopter transport as there is no local hospital in this tiny town that can only be accessed by sea and air. Helicopters even assist cruise passengers who have a medical episode in the middle of the ocean get to land quickly. These flights can cost \$75,000. Although it's not necessary, you may want to print a copy of your insurance policy and take it with you just in case you can't access it easily on your phone or computer in an area with poor internet access.

Prepare for your trip by putting the U.S. Embassy phone number for your destination country in your phone contacts. Also, enroll your trip in the STEP Smart Traveler Enrollment



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDITERANEO, ADOBESTOCK.COM

There are several ways you can prepare yourself for a medical emergency, including travel insurance for both medical costs and emergency evacuation, U.S. Embassy contact info, STEP program and learning about the medical system for the country you are traveling to.

Program at step.state.gov. If an American citizen becomes seriously ill or injured abroad, the embassy or consulate can assist in locating appropriate medical services and informing family or friends. If necessary, a consular officer can also assist in the transfer of

funds from the U.S., but the expenses are still your responsibility. Not all medical situations require this level of assistance, but it's better safe than sorry.

Many Texans enjoy traveling to Cancun and Cozumel, Mexico. Please review the information at mx.usembassy.gov/medical-practitioners/.

Important tips when receiving medical care in Mexico include obtaining a written estimate in advance of treatment, requesting an itemized bill daily, expressing billing concerns immediately, calling your insurance company first and

calling the U.S. Embassy for help. Be aware of reports that some hospitals require a \$10,000 credit card charge regardless of insurance to begin treatment.

Lastly, contact your professional travel advisor (travel agent) for additional help and insight.

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GARDEN PATCH

Create a cooling oasis

BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001. 817-680-4849

Think of your landscape as your personal oasis. In this scenario, your yard becomes more than a patch of lawn, shrubs and trees that satisfies property association requirements. It transforms into a tranquil space where you can escape the day-to-day routine.

As spring gives way to summer, it becomes essential to keep these outdoor retreats as refreshingly cool as possible. Yes, you can add structures, such as gazebos and arbors. Umbrellas are helpful as are patio roofs, shades and fans. Plants, however, are vital to your cooling strategy. Trees and large shrubs block the sun, but they also redirect wind, better ensure privacy and buffer sound.

One often-overlooked cooling strategy is using "cool" colors in your landscape design. Every color is categorized as warm, cool or a mix of these shades. Using cool or warm tones can make a space feel warmer or cooler just as they make a room ap-

pear brighter or darker. For example, purple and blue-flowering plants combine with evergreens to lower the perceived temperature. In essence, they create a visually cool space.

Incorporating cool colors into your outdoor space can provide the refreshing atmosphere that's needed in summer. Light blues and purples reflect more light and therefore absorb less heat. If you use taller plants, they create shade for lower growing plants and their surrounding area. This shade helps to reduce soil temperature, which benefits plants by slowing moisture evaporation. Increased shade, even at ground level, helps to make the garden more comfortable during the hottest parts of the day.

You won't be the only creature enjoying your flowers. Many pollinators visit blue and purple flowering annuals and perennials, such as bee balm, verbena, prairie phlox, gayfeather and pin-cushion flower. Other pur-

ple/blue beauties to add to your landscape include perennial iris, salvia, mistflower, coneflower, Mexican bush sage and Mexican petunia.

The native evergreen shrub Texas sage (Cenizo) fits well into any well-drained, sun-to-part-sun landscape. Texas sage is extremely drought tolerant once established. It has "cool" light gray or silvery green foliage, which makes it a perfect contrast to darker evergreens. As a bonus, after summer rains or when the humidity is just right, the shrubs cover themselves in small purple blooms.

Container gardens also add to the atmosphere in your backyard getaway. Cool season purple-hued annuals such as petunias and violas give way to warm season annuals such as pentas and periwinkles. Other cool hued warm season flowers to grow in containers include purple trailing lantana, purple potato vine and purple heart.

Incorporating purple and blue flowering plants into the garden can elevate its aesthetic appeal while creating a tranquil, inviting atmosphere. Whether used as focal points, container plants or accents, these calming hued plants can provide a splash of color that is as refreshing as a cool breeze on a warm summer day!



PHOTO BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Blue and purple hued plants, such as iris, combine with evergreens to create a visually cooling atmosphere in gardens.

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