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SQUEEZE THE DAY

A young customer sips her beverage with a swirly straw at King's Lemonade. PLEASE SEE STORY, A6ww. JESSE RAMIREZ JR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hospital district tax, Bitcoin noise among topics discussed at Town Hall

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County residents now have a better understanding of local issues following a Community Town Hall hosted by Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson and Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle May 16.

While many topics were discussed, the two most pressing county issues involved the Hood County hospital district tax and the noise emanating from the Wolf Hollow Power Plant.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT TAX

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 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

PLEASE SEE TOPICS | A2

Lake Granbury experiences close call with zebra mussels

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Lake Granbury almost had some unexpected — and unwanted — visitors after zebra mussels were found attached to a work barge at Rough Creek Park May 15.

"Thankfully, we caught the barge before it was launched into the lake," Brazos River Authority Public Information Officer Judi Pierce told the Hood County News. "We believe the cleanup was successful."

Zebra mussels may be the size of a dime, but they have caused alarming declines in fish popula-

tions, birds and native mussel species, according to the Brazos River Authority website.

Starting as microscopic larvae, zebra mussels grow to only 1.5 inches long and spread across Texas by hitching a ride on a boat, trailer or gear. They reproduce quickly and can block pipes that deliver water, essentially hindering recreational water opportunities because of the sharp shells which can multiply on beaches or docks, according to the BRA website. Zebra mussels also harm the fish population because they remove

PLEASE SEE MUSSELS | A13



Lake Granbury almost had some unexpected — and unwanted — visitors after zebra mussels were found attached to a work barge at Rough Creek Park May 15. ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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TOPICS

FROM PAGE A1

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."

While a tax rate has not yet been set, the HCHD board has discussed the possibility of implementing one of three options: 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 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 1 cent tax would bring \$1 million into the hospital district while a 2 cent tax would bring in \$2 million.

"Many years ago, the district worked out a deal with the hospital where they had a large sum of money, and they were able to not have a tax, so we've been running on interest for 25 years now," Eagle said. "The problem is we're running out of money. So, why are we talking about the tax now? Because we have to fund the difference. We're set up with a dilemma now in how are we going to finance the hospital district. EMS needs help. Their issue is the same as the district is, so we're kicking around the idea of the hospital tax to be put back as a separate tax."

Samuelson then clarified a rumor going around social media that the tax rate would fund the hospital, which she confirmed is not true.

"This is separate and apart from the actual hospital," she said. "This is the mandate that the state of Texas puts on counties to care for indigent, low-income folks. This is not funding the hospital, so I wanted to make sure that was



Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson and Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle speak to the public during a Community Town Hall meeting at Wings Etc. May 16.

clear. This tax does not have anything to do with the financing, or the income of the actual hospital. This is just to fund indigent care."

Eagle then explained that the only way the county can continue to provide indigent care is to place a tax rate on the Republican ballot in November.

"We've been kicking around the idea of 2 cents. Right now, your county taxes about 43 cents, I believe, so this concept is adding a few more cents on that," he said. "If this bond fails, or the tax implementation fails in November, what are we going to do? Well, that's a good question, because I'm not real sure. The statutes that created this district do not have a dissolution arrangement in it, so we're going to have to go over our state legislature and ask them to add that provision to the statute that created this district to uncreate it, so that's one option. I don't see how we're going to exist otherwise, so we're in a dilemma right now."

The other part of the equation,

Eagle said, is EMS — another organization that also requires some type of funding in order to continue operation in Hood County.

Ricky Reeves, executive director of Texas EMS, explained that since the onset of COVID-19 in 2020, Texas EMS costs have skyrocketed. He said as a nonprofit organization, Texas EMS does not receive any subsidies.

"We're at the point now that for us to stay in business and continue to give you the support, like anybody else in the state of Texas, we're going to have to have some type of assistance," Reeves said.

Prior to 1996, Texas EMS was operated by the HCHD, but after CHS took over the lease, Reeves said the hospital helped create its 501(c)(3) in 2002 — and that's how Texas EMS has been running ever since.

"We're about one or two in the state of Texas that actually runs the way we do. Unfortunately, we cannot continue to do that," he said. "Part of the mission of the hospital district is healthcare, so

we've been working on this for a while. We've asked the hospital district to include us and Pecan (Plantation EMS) in subsidizing us to a degree."

He also noted that it costs over \$4 million a year to operate Texas EMS in Hood County and added that a 2 cent tax would equate to about \$1 million a year each for both Pecan Plantation EMS and Texas EMS.

Reeves then brought up how in January 2022, the No Surprises Act was passed, which prohibits balance billing for out-of-network, self-pay and uninsured patients from certain surprise medical bills.

"EMS was included in the last legislative session, which means that I can't balance bill you what your insurance pays, and what it costs," he explained. "We used to bill the patient for the difference, if it was allowed by the insurance, but we can no longer do that. What that equates to me is about \$350,000 a year that I'm no longer going to acquire, so between the

Medicare and Medicaid we have, plus indigent care, our costs are rising, but our reimbursements are decreasing."

A member of the audience then asked Reeves if the county did approve a 2 cent tax rate, how much time would it buy before there would be a need for another increase. Reeves said it's hard to tell.

"We don't know, because we don't know what the cost is going to be in the future. We don't anticipate a very big increase in that," he said. "The 2 cents is going to be a little more than \$2 million based on the value in the county, and we all feel that that's going to be enough money to cover us for quite a few years. But again, catastrophic events can happen, and we don't know what those might be."

"This is up to you," Eagle added. "You're the voters, and information is going to be provided to you between now and November. That's not up to us. It's up to you. You're going to be the ones to decide whether this is something that you want to move forward with for yourself and your families or not. We're not laying a tax on you. It's going to be something you can vote for and decide for yourself. Frankly, I don't think Uber is going to do EMS work, so I would consider that when you're looking at this because Mr. Reeves is going to need some help."

BITCOIN NOISE

Another important topic during the Town Community Hall focused on the noise complaints in Precinct 2 due to a cryptocurrency data center on Hayworth Highway.

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

"I don't know how many servers are out there, but there's a lot of servers and they're cooled by fans and those fans make a lot of noise," Samuelson said. "They run 24/7. They don't stop. It's a low frequency, ongoing noise and it's not just irritating. There are studies that show that continued exposure to low frequency noise is harmful to the human body and also to animals as well. But we

PLEASE SEE **TOPICS** | A3

Clint Head is a man whose depth of character is as profound as his commitment to excellence. Behind his guarded exterior lies a heart so vast and giving. It's this very heart that drives him to exceed expectations in every endeavor. His professional journey is marked by an unwavering dedication to being the best, a quality that notably contributed to Hood County being honored with the County Floodplain Management Award for the State of Texas during his second year as Floodplain Administrator. Clint's ability to impartially evaluate evidence and maintain an unbiased stance is not just commendable but crucial, especially in a role as pivotal as Justice of the Peace. This position extends far beyond handling evictions, traffic tickets, and writs; it encompasses adjudicating development regulation violations and deed restriction disputes, among others. Clint's comprehensive understanding and impartiality ensure that justice is served, recognizing the significance of each case, regardless of which side one may be on. Clint Head is not just a candidate; he is a beacon of integrity and dedication, promising to uphold the values and justice Hood County residents deserve.

Vote Clint Head for Justice of the Peace Pct.1

Primary Runoff Election Election Day: May 28, 2024

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

There's nothing quite like Texas hospitality



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

Memorial Day is this weekend, and historically, the holiday marks the beginning of summer travel season. I recently learned that authorities estimate this summer will be the busiest travel season in history with a record number of flights and tourists.

I am sure there are lots of folks who spend months planning where to go on their summer vacation. Time off from work is a precious commodity and when families take their well-deserved time off, they want to spend it in a meaningful way. Many people from around the county

and around the world have planned to travel to Texas this summer to see our "sights," experience our culture, and find out what Texans are all about. For those of us who live here, the influx of visitors can be exciting as well as a little overwhelming. Why do people want to

travel to Texas? Without a doubt there are those who want to visit our national treasures — like the Alamo. They want to experience Texas history firsthand and up close. Folks travel for miles because visiting the Alamo is a bucket list item; something that most Americans want to be able to say they have experienced; something parents want their children to experience.

Other visitors want to hit our Texas beaches and enjoy the gulf waters. Still others want to visit the Fort Worth Stockyards or the San Antonio Riverwalk. Outdoor enthusiasts travel to Big Bend National Park or fish and ski on one of our many reservoirs. There is shopping in Dallas and Houston, the Kennedy Space Center, rodeos, community celebrations and food and drink. There is a desire on the part of most of the world to have a taste of all of it.

Just the thought of so many people wanting to "know" Texas and "feel and

see" Texas, should make all us Texans swell with pride. We clearly have something they do not have.

A portion of our citizens carry a small degree of disdain for visitors. They become fussy because they might experience more traffic on their streets than is usual or the line at their favorite restaurant may be a little longer. I am told some residents fear the visitors will like Texas so much they will want to move here and make us grow more than some would like. Isn't that an interesting dilemma to have — citizens being concerned travelers will be so overwhelmed with the positives of Texas they will want to move here? I do not know for sure, but I am guessing not many people in Lincoln, Nebraska experience such a fear. I hope all of us good-natured, friendly Texans open our hearts to our visitors and appreciate the value they bring to our economy and to the mystique of Texas being a unique and special place.

I think my friend, Jimmy Jack is a good example of what Texas hospitality is all about. Jimmy Jack never met a stranger. Just walking down the street with him is a lesson on how to interact with other human beings. He cannot pass a person without saying something engaging, even if it is just throwing a smile their way. It is like he wakes up with the single purpose of making sure everyone he meets has a good day. Jimmy Jack is the poster child for what a hospitable, friendly Texan looks like.

My favorite Jimmy Jack story is the time his family was getting ready to go to the movies. Everybody was getting ready to head out the door and get in the car when the phone rang. Jimmy Jack answered and spoke to the caller. His wife and children were all anxious to get to the theater and were tapping their feet on the floor and anxiously glancing at the clock on the wall, wanting Jimmy Jack to finish the call so they could

leave. Finally, after perhaps 10 minutes, his family could hear Jimmy Jack say loudly, "Nice to talk to you. See you tomorrow night at 6. Looking forward to it" and then he hung up the phone. With his entire brood staring at him, his wife finally inquired who the heck Jimmy Jack had been talking to. Without hesitation Jimmy Jack responded, "It was a wrong number, but they are coming to supper at 6 tomorrow. Sure seemed like nice folks!"

I am not going to guarantee you the above-described event happened, but I do know that Texas storytelling is another reason why people love Texas!

Welcome to all you visitors! Take your time a-going, and hurry back! Thought for the day: Travel makes one modest. It makes you see what a tiny space you fill in the world. Until next time...I will keep ridin' the storm out!

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Doug Gregory

Say hello to our neighbor, Doug Gregory!

Doug Gregory and his wife Maria have lived in Granbury since 1980. They chose Granbury as the ideal place to raise their two daughters. One daughter still lives here, and the other lives in Houston. Doug and Maria recently celebrated their 50th anniversary! Doug mentioned that Granbury has changed over the years and isn't as small as it used to be, but he's happy to still be away from the hustle and bustle. They are currently enjoying their membership and activities at the Rock Solid Global Methodist Church, a new church that they find exciting to be a part of. Doug makes sure to go fishing at least once a week, and he's pleased with the current good fishing conditions at Lake Granbury since the water is back up. Additionally, twice a month, Doug dedicates time to his sport clay shooting hobby, particularly enjoying participating in clay shoots for local charities. He goes to the Hood County News to stay updated about events and what's happening in Hood County.

CORRECTION

In the May 18 edition of HCN's 'Folks Around Town', Alex Khoury's name was misspelled. We regret our error.

City requests public's help in updating Comprehensive Plan

From Staff Reports

The city of Granbury is asking for the public's help in updating its Comprehensive Plan. First you may ask, "What

is a Comprehensive Plan?" It is the city's roadmap for the next 10 to 20 years. It will include recommendations for addressing issues related to transportation, land use, downtown and economic

development.

The Granbury City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, and city staff will use the plan to make important land use, budgeting and development decisions.

Now is your chance to give input to the process. Please take the city's survey by going online to granbury.org/plan.

TOPICS

FROM PAGE A2

need people to get involved, and we need people to be organized. We need a voice that is organized."

Samuelson said she has also been asked by several residents why the Hood County Commissioners Court hasn't resolved the noise issue. She explained that counties cannot adopt ordinances — only cities can.

"What we have to fall back on is the noise ordinance that's in the penal code," she said. "Constable (John) Shirley has been issuing citations for months. He hasn't stopped issuing citations when the noise level is over 85 decibels."

She recommended that anyone affected by the noise should come together and take legal action against the owner of the Bitcoin plant, Marathon Digital Holdings. She also encouraged residents to email state Rep. Shelby Slawson or state Sen. Brian Birdwell.

"We have a legislative session coming up in January. There are resolutions that have been put forward to address this noise issue and that's going to take legislation," Samuelson said. "You

can go to hearings about those legislations, and you can call your legislator, whether it's Shelby Slawson or Brian Birdwell, to say that you're in favor of this legislation and how it's impacting your life. Be specific. The main thing is to get organized and get involved."

Samuelson also pointed out that residents can also call the Hood County non-emergency number, as every call is documented.

"Those calls are documented, and it's a record, so if the news media or some attorney somewhere wants to pull open records to say, 'How bad is this?' and they ask for all the calls, and there's two? Well, it's not a very big problem," she said. "But if it's impacting you, you should call, and it will be documented. Most of all, don't give up. It's a long process, whether it's a legal process or a legislative process."

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

company.

On March 29, Marathon let residents know about its seven-phase noise mitigation plan, which is outlined below:

Phase #1 involves shutting off the fans of idle units facing the road. This phase was expected to be complete by mid-April 2024.

Phase #2 — which has since been completed — referred to the hiring of Stacie Howell as Marathon's new community liaisons, which was completed in March 2024.

Phase #3 involved moving eight containers to liquid cooling. This phase was estimated to be completed in April 2024.

Phase #4 includes installing vegetation and trees along the perimeter. The target was expected to break ground in spring 2024.

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

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

Phase #7 will be a continuation of Phase #3, as more

containers will be transitioned to liquid cooling. This project is currently being evaluated and a target completion date has not yet been determined.

"They are working to try to eliminate the noise," Samuelson said. "But if you all feel that that's not enough, and it's impacting your life, these are the options that you have."

Eagle then pointed out that there is a civil legal route that residents can take regarding nuisance case law.

"As far as the county is concerned, our hands are tied, because we have no legal basis to go after them," he said. "I mean, we can have people come in and have town halls like this and give people a voice to talk about it, but the county can't really do anything legal about it. What Commissioner Samuelson was giving us was just information and ideas but getting together and coming up with the pool of money or what have you, that's something to look at if you want to take it to the next level, because that may be your only avenue."

One audience member said he did look into filing a lawsuit against Marathon,

PLEASE SEE TOPICS | A4

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Hood County primary runoff election is Tuesday, May 28

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Voters will once again head to the polls Tuesday, May 28, to cast their ballots in three Republican runoff races: Hood County Republican Party Chair, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 and Precinct 112 Chair. In Texas, runoffs are triggered

when neither candidate in a primary election meets the required number of votes for victory, as the threshold is set at a majority — 50% of the votes plus one.

Candidates Zachary Maxwell and Greg S. Harrell will vie for the title of Party Chairman, after Harrell received 5,340 votes (46.13%) and Maxwell garnered 4,229 votes

(36.5%) during the primary election March 5. Candidate Melanie Jensen received 2,007 votes (17.3%).

Clint Head and Sissy Freeman will compete for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1. Freeman received 1,050 votes (40.5%) in the primary election whereas Head received 1,023 votes (39.4%). Dean Armstrong had 519 (20%).

Precinct 112 Chair candidate Robert Granger received 153 votes (47.6%) during the primary election and candidate Orville Johnson received 95 votes (29.6%) votes, meaning they will be going head-to-head in the runoffs. Laura Tuttle received 73 votes (22.7%).

There are no local runoffs featuring Democrats.

POLLS AT THE FOLLOWING NINE VOTING LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN IN HOOD COUNTY MAY 28 FROM 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. ON ELECTION DAY:

- **Hood County Annex 1** — 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury
- **Acton Methodist Church** — 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury
- **Calvary Church** — 4800 Glen Rose

Highway, Granbury

- **First Baptist Church** — 1851 Weatherford Highway, Granbury
- **Generations Church** — 5718 E. U.S. Highway 377, Granbury

- **Lipan Church of Christ Fellowship Hall** — 119 N. Caddo St., Lipan
- **St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church** — 2301 Acton Highway,

Granbury

- **Pecan Activity Center** — 9145 Plantation Drive, Granbury
- **Tolar Community Center** — 120 Tolar Cemetery Road, Tolar

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity reported through the Granbury Police Department during the period of May 14-20. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

MAY 14

- 6:19 a.m.: loose livestock on S. Pirate Drive
- 7:24 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on S. Morgan Street
- 1:27 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 1:49 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 2:05 p.m.: criminal trespass on S. Morgan Street
- 3:45 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 4:11 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on W. Pearl Street
- 5:57 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Holly Hills Cemetery Road
- 6:35 p.m.: shoplifting on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 7:58 p.m.: intoxicated driver on S. Morgan Street
- 8:12 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 9:36 p.m.: minor in possession of alcohol on E. Pearl Street
- 11:17 p.m.: assault on N. Plaza Drive

Six minor accidents and 10 traffic stops occurred on this day

MAY 15

- 10:04 a.m.: criminal trespass on Old Granbury Road
- 2:40 p.m.: criminal trespass on N. Plaza Drive
- 3:23 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 3:40 p.m.: suspicious vehicle on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 6:40 p.m.: fraud, financial abuse of elderly on N. Plaza Drive
- 7:28 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 8:11 p.m.: criminal trespass on Old Granbury Road
- 10:04 p.m.: theft on Harbor Lakes

Drive

- 10:41 p.m.: animal bite on Quiet Cove

MAY 16

- 12:35 a.m.: theft of service on Harbor Lakes Drive
- 4:46 a.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 8:03 a.m.: burglary on Rolling Terrace Circle
- 3:54 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 5:09 p.m.: theft less than \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 9:31 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377

MAY 17

- 12:31 p.m.: assault on E. Pearl Street
- 4:14 p.m.: criminal mischief on S. Hannaford Street
- 4:46 p.m.: suspicious activity on N. Plaza Drive
- 5:28 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on

S. Houston Street

Three major accidents, three minor accidents, three warrant services and 19 traffic stops occurred on this day

MAY 18

- 2:31 a.m.: noise disturbance on Old Granbury Road
- 2:12 p.m.: loose livestock on Lipan Highway
- 4:47 p.m.: criminal mischief on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 5:23 p.m.: intoxicated driver on W. Pearl Street
- 5:56 p.m.: disturbance on Thorp Springs Road
- 6:04 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 6:08 p.m.: reckless driver on E. Pearl Street

MAY 19

- 12:32 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 4:38 a.m.: public intoxication on Shannon Circle
- 9:38 a.m.: disturbance on W. Pearl

Street

- 1:47 p.m.: disturbance on Weatherford Highway
- 2:26 p.m.: theft less than \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 2:46 p.m.: criminal mischief on E. Pearl Street
- 3:51 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 4:32 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Shannon Circle
- 6:20 p.m.: theft of property less than \$2,500 on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 10:07 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377

MAY 20

- 9:17 a.m.: property found on N.E. Loop 567
- 2:11 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 8:57 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
- 11:08 p.m.: loose livestock on Lipan Highway

sound mitigation — no more than 65 decibels of sound on average and 55 at night. He said near the Bitcoin plant, the sound is measuring at 75 decibels 24 hours a day. He added that the city of Fort Worth also received \$33 million in grants to “protect the homes” at the tail end of the Perot Field Fort Worth Alliance Airport.

Resident Cheryl Shadden explained that individuals can now have their property appraisal re-evaluated and added that she has been keeping records of videos and data for her tax appraisal hearing coming up June 3.

“One of my neighbors has had their home for sale for over four months,” Shadden said. “They haven’t had any viewings, they haven’t had anybody come and look, and they’ve dropped the value of the house \$100,000. Our property out there is worth nothing. We can’t pick up and move, we can’t sell, so what do we do?”

“That’s some data that you can get records of, like here was the property value a year ago and here’s what the house ended up selling for,” Samuelson said. “Those are real data points that you can use in your protest or in any other action

you may want to take.”

Samuelson added that this situation needs to be a “focus effort.” She recommended that residents continue writing letters to the Hood County News, to Birdwell and to Slawson so their voices can be heard.

“You’ve got to get organized,” she said. “You’ve got to have a plan. Tell your story. If somebody doesn’t believe that this is impacting people’s health and their life, they just haven’t heard your story. You don’t need a study to know that it’s impacting the peaceful enjoyment of your property.”

ZED by Duane M. Abel

WHY ARE YOU PICKING A BOUQUET OF BURRS, ALL THEY DO IS STICK TO CLOTHES?!

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DUANE M. ABEL

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CALENDAR

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CLAY SHOOT

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

LAKE GRANBURY/

HOOD County Master Gardeners Horticulture in the Hood “Showing the Colors of Summer” 9 a.m., Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. Speaker is Kathy Weaver, Weaver Nursery, Cleburne. Please RSVP to Hood County Extension Office at 817-579-3280 or use the link on the program listing at <https://txmg.org/hcmg/>

MONDAY, JUNE 10

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC

Women of Hood County monthly meeting, 11 a.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Guest speaker: Rayna Glasser, Democratic candidate for State Board of Education, District 11, and teacher at Dunbar High School. For information: 254-716-5195.

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.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19

LAKE GRANBURY/

HOOD County Master Gardeners monthly meeting at Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. Program from 1-2 p.m.: Pat Kriener, Herbolgogy and Environmental Science Teacher at TEACH of Cleburne, will present a program about ladybugs and how they help with pest control in your garden. Questions? 817-579-3280.

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.



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



granbury
CHAMBER

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Tony Mobly

Business:
Edward Jones,
Financial Advisor

Time as a
Board Member:
2 years

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Board Member Spotlight: Tony Mobly. We are thankful for our amazing Board Member, Tony Mobly with Edward Jones! Tony has been on the Granbury Chamber Board for 2 years! When asked why he loves being a Board Member, he replied, "I love being on the board because of the incredible community involvement of the members and the fact that you meet so many people that you may not otherwise encounter." Fun Fact: "I officiate high school football because I don't have enough anxiety in my life already. Seriously, the strength of my existence is my wife, Kathy. We have been married for 40 years this month and I have put her through a lot. Starting and selling businesses, relocations, real estate development late in life probably isn't what either of us saw 40 years ago but here we are. My two weaknesses are two little girls named Maisyn and Blakely." Thank you for serving on the Granbury Chamber Board!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



granbury
CHAMBER

Member Spotlight

MAGNOLIA
REALTY

Janet Lell- Magnolia Realty

"I am dedicated to find the perfect home for my clients with prompt communication and professionalism. My dedication in building a strong relationship with all my clients is top priority for me."

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Member Spotlight: Janet Lell – Magnolia Realty. "Helping others find their home is a passion for her. With a background in teaching, helping others is second nature to Janet. She has joined the Magnolia Realty family and is passionate to help clients take their next step in their homeownership journey and assist with buying and selling." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

GISD superintendent files police report against Mark Lowery for alleged threats

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Last week, Granbury Independent School District Superintendent Jeremy Glenn filed a police report against Mark Lowery, claiming Lowery made threats toward him. Lowery is the husband of school board member Karen Lowery.

According to Lt. Russell Grizzard, an officer with the Granbury Police Department was dispatched to Granbury High School May 14, following a report of verbal threats.

"GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn reported that he was walking through the high school parking lot when he passed 69-year-old Mark Lowery of Granbury and Mr. Lowery's wife," Grizzard said. "Dr. Glenn reported that he said good morning to Mr. and Mrs. Lowery, and that Mr. Lowery told him to keep walking, or he was going to get hurt."

"Granbury ISD is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all

students and staff," Glenn said in a statement to the Hood County News. "The district, in partnership with our safety and security department, has policies and procedures in place to ensure everyone's safety. The district strongly encourages families and community members to attend district events on our campuses to support the amazing things our students and staff do throughout the year. With that comes the expectation that visitors follow our policies and procedures and conduct themselves in an exemplary manner while on the district's campuses. Failure to do so is grounds for removal from the facilities. We thank our community for its support and commitment to Granbury ISD in providing safe teaching and learning environments for our staff and our students to enrich their education."

Grizzard told the HCN Lowery denied issuing any threatening remarks toward

PLEASE SEE **THREATS** | A10

Lemonade Day: The results

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

By the time you are reading this, school will be out for summer. Wow, what a fast year it has been, and if you'll give us a few minutes of your time, we'd like to wrap up our Lemonade Day by sharing with you some incredible results.

As we have previously noted, this was our 2nd Annual Lemonade Day in Granbury, and we were thankful to have sponsorship support from Constellation, H-E-B, Marathon Digital Holdings, Texas Classic Insurance, The Nest/N on the Square, First National Bank Granbury, Kiwanis Club of Granbury, Grumps Burgers, Keller Williams Realty-Jane P. Johnson, Sage Academy, Granbury Door & Window and the Cleburne Railroaders. These businesses helped us bring the program back to Granbury for the second year.

For those who supported the lemonade stands last weekend, thank you! Young students learning how to run their own business is,

and always will be, what makes Lemonade Day a special event. You see, we want kids to know about handling money; we want kids to know about income and expenses, we want kids to understand that giving back to your community is what makes us a better community. Lemonade Day helps teach kids these lessons and a lot more. It helps bring families and friends together. It helps build dreams for starting a business in the future. It puts smiles on people's faces in a world where smiles seem to be getting harder and harder to find especially when they're hiding behind keyboards. Congratulations to our overall Young Entrepreneurs of the Year ... Bluebonnet



Lemonade from Mambrino STEAM Academy ... their stand netted an impressive \$1,001.30! All the entrepreneurs of the year from each campus netted over \$600 each ... not bad work for four hours!

At the end of the day, we had 95 registered lemonade stands — that's right, 95. And, when the dust settled on the day, these kids raised, earned, sold and pocketed \$32,225; taking out their expenses, (mix, fruit, snacks, etc.) their net profit was \$24,415 ... this is money in the students' pockets! The stories they and their parents shared about wanting to help the animal shelter, Ruth's Place, Mission Granbury and

so many other organizations is enough to make one feel these kids are a whole lot smarter than we give them credit for!

Once again, a huge thank you to our sponsors, GISD, the five amazing campus principals, the fifth grade teachers, our 'Shark Tank' collaborators who invested their own money in some of the students' stands, our judges, who ventured out to visit each of the lemonade stands, the parents and, of course, the fifth grade (now sixth grade) students. They made the day a huge success along with YOU, the people of Granbury and Hood County.

RIBBON CUTTING



COURTESY PHOTO

Grill Sergeant, LLC- Grand Opening! Located at 608 East US HWY 377.

Granbury receives 'Purple Heart City' designation

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury has a new designation following a unanimous decision from the Granbury City Council Tuesday night.

Through the efforts of local veteran Kolton Krottinger, Granbury has now officially become a Purple Heart City.

"The purpose of being a Purple Heart City is to express gratitude to the sons and daughters of our community who were either wounded or killed in combat defending the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans," Krottinger told the Hood County News. "There is no criteria for meeting the designation."

The Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration presently in use and was first created as the Badge of Military merit by George Washington in 1782.

According to the city's proclamation, the Purple Heart was the first American service award of decoration made available to the common soldier and is specifically awarded to any member of the United States Armed Services wounded or killed in combat with a de-

clared enemy of the United States.

The mission of the Military Order of Purple Heart — chartered by an Act of Congress — is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives and most importantly — make sure we never forget.

According to Krottinger, there are more than 900 Purple Heart locations in the United States, honoring the 1.6 million Purple Heart recipients.

"This is a nationwide organization," City Manager Chris Coffman said during the city council meeting. "To be able to say you're a Purple Heart City, they'll put you on what they call a Purple Heart trail. We already do a lot of things for our veterans here, and Kolton said that's already recognized. I also wanted to recognize that Hood County is already a Purple Heart County, but I really felt like this was such a special event that the whole council needs to vote to offer this official proclamation."

Coffman explained that the designation will include the implementation of four

signs positioned at the entryways into the city on the main highways.

"Logistically, the way we need to work through that is work with TxDOT to get a permit to put a sign up with the proper breakaway pole that they require, and Kolton has offered to pay for the Purple Heart signs himself," he said. "We need to figure out how to fund the others. We can do that with the street department in the coming months. But I do need to offer this up as an item for consideration for the council."

"I'll just say I've had an opportunity to speak with this young man and kind of watched all the activity that he's got going on, and this is his heart for this," Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale said. "He's got a real passion for this, and I just appreciate all that you do here in the county and the city. It's a special service that he provides, and it's a real need that exists out there. Again, he has a real passion for this, and we just really appreciate you."

The proclamation states that the city of Granbury has a considerable population of highly decorated military members, active duty and retired, as well as Purple Heart recipients, or their

relatives, living in the community. The city also appreciates the sacrifices that the Purple Heart recipients have made in defending our freedoms and believe it is important we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the support they have earned, according to the proclamation.

"The city of Granbury wishes to pledge its strong support to the Military Order of the Purple Heart and for those who put their lives at risk in service of their country and their fellow citizens," Mayor Jim Jarratt said, reading the proclamation.

Place 4 Councilmember Gary "Skip" Overdier then made a motion proclaiming Granbury a Purple Heart City through the Military Order of the Purple Heart organization. Place 2 Councilmember Eddie Rodriguez seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

"This is an honor," Krottinger said. "Thank you, Mayor, thank you, Council. I think everybody up here has supported everything that we've been doing, and I wish my grandfather was here. He was a Purple Heart veteran and a prisoner of war, so thank you."

Lemonade Day a resounding success

BY DARREN CLARK
Staff Writer
darren@hcnews.com

Granbury experienced Lemonade Day on a sunny Saturday, May 18. Drivers across the area were beckoned to various stands by children and adults holding signs hawk- ing their sweet-and-sour bever-

ages. In all, 84 lemonade stands were in operation around the Granbury area. The stands were operated by over 230 fifth graders from Granbury ISD schools.

Lemonade Day teaches children about business and entrepreneurship. Prior to the event, students experienced a "Shark Tank" style interview with potential investors who

are members of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce. Each of the students found an investor for their stand.

"These teachers, students, parents/mentors and local businesses have worked lots of hours preparing for this day. They are all earning their own money ... charging their own prices ... coming up with their

own stand ideas and learning about starting and running their own business," said Brian Bondy, president and CEO of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

Students shared their earnings with a variety of Hood County nonprofit organizations.

"You see, not only are they

learning about how to start and run a business, but they're also learning that giving back (philanthropy) is how we grow as a community," Bondy said.

HCN photographers were around the city taking photos of the various students and their businesses.

PHOTOS BY JESSE RAMIREZ JR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



(From left) Emory McPhate, Eleanor Uribe, and Aubree Steele sell macaroons to a young customer at La La Lemonade.



Sophia Bone (front) and Elizabeth Daugherty (back) serve multiple drinks outside of Cotton Patch on Lemonade Day.



Jacob (left) and Quinn (right) flashily advertise the Lemon Legends Lemonade Stand on US-377.



Laila (left) and Paisley (right) add sugar to their summertime concoction on Lemonade Day.



Brawner Girls pose for a "silly picture" at their homemade lemonade stand.



Lexi Langdown (left) and Allie Underdown (right) advertise their lemonade stand to passerby's near Hewlett Park.

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County adopts budget application procedure for nonprofits



SCREENSHOT VIA YOUTUBE

Members of nonprofit organizations spoke up during the May 14 meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court due to an agenda item regarding a new budget application procedure.

“Any organization seeking funds is bound by ethical behavior, fiduciary responsibility and a steadfast dedication to serving clients with respect and dignity. I personally do not take that responsibility lightly. Nonprofits who serve this community are aware of the need for plausible transparency and proof of financial stewardship that proves the organization is worthy of investment. Nonprofits are also keenly aware of our responsibility to ensure the privacy of our clients, and confidentiality of our donors who wish to silently serve without fanfare.”

TRISH BURWELL

Executive Director of Hood County Committee on Aging

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously agreed to adopt a budget application procedure for nonprofit organizations during a regularly scheduled meeting May 14.

This new procedure will require local nonprofit organizations that are requesting funding through the Hood County budget to submit three items as part of the application process: a certificate of good standing from the state of Texas, the last audited financial statement and tax form 990. Nonprofit organizations in contractual agreement with Hood County that covers an annual subsidy and associated responsibilities are exempt from the procedure.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson explained how last year during the budget process, she received quite a bit of feedback during the budget hearings.

“The feedback I received last year was along the lines of, ‘So, people just come up and ask for money and you don’t ask them for a financial statement? Why do you not vet?’” Samuelson said. “When I looked back, and I saw what we had actually put in place during our ARPA process, I thought, ‘OK, well, here’s something that we can use.’ We had already built something that was in the ARPA application process, and (we could) use that as part of our budget process when it comes to requests from the budget for non-county expenses.”

Samuelson then suggested that the county require additional infor-

mation from nonprofits to ensure members of the court are being “good stewards of the taxpayers’ money.”

She suggested nonprofit organizations submit the following:

- a. Certificate of good standing from the state of Texas
- b. Last audited financial statement
- c. Most current financial statement
- d. Budget report showing actual receipts and expenses for the last 12-month period
- e. Liquidity calculated as cash on hand divided by average monthly expenses
- f. Program expenses as a percentage of total expenses
- g. Cash flow from operations

Ten speakers signed up to speak on the agenda item. Executive Director of Hood County

Committee on Aging Trish Burwell was first called to the podium, where she expressed her concern over the new application process.

Burwell said the most impactful information that proves a nonprofit is a viable and trustworthy organization is the nonprofit tax form 990. She also agreed with Samuelson that a third-party financial audit and a certification of good standing from the state of Texas are also good indicators that the organization has been vetted.

But while she agreed with a few of the application requests, Burwell voiced some concerns regarding client confidentiality and privacy regarding item (d), which involves nonprofit organizations submitting budget report showing actual receipts and expenses for the last 12-month period.

“Any organization seeking funds

is bound by ethical behavior, fiduciary responsibility and a steadfast dedication to serving clients with respect and dignity. I personally do not take that responsibility lightly,” she said. “Nonprofits who serve this community are aware of the need for plausible transparency and proof of financial stewardship that proves the organization is worthy of investment. Nonprofits are also keenly aware of our responsibility to ensure the privacy of our clients, and confidentiality of our donors who wish to silently serve without fanfare.”

She explained that if community nonprofits were required to hand over boxes of receipts with personally identifiable information, not only would they set themselves up for Health Information Portability

PLEASE SEE **BUDGET** | A9

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City proclaims May 25 Granbury Masonic Lodge Sesquicentennial Day

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury City Council officially proclaimed May 25, 2024, Granbury Masonic Lodge Sesquicentennial Day during a regularly scheduled meeting May 21.

Members — both past and present — of Granbury Masonic Lodge No. 392 have faithfully served the community as public servants, businessmen and participants in area activities and projects for 150 years now.

“The first lodge in Granbury was not in Granbury,” Masonic Lodge Representative Gary Merritt said during the meeting. “It was in Acton out there at that Acton cemetery. You’ll find a chapel, and in their stained glass, you’ll see the square and compass of the Masons. The reason it was there was because back dur-

ing that time on horseback, they couldn’t get across the river, so they built it there, and then as soon as they built the bridge, it was moved to Granbury. We were on the east side of the square until the year 2000.”

Masons have served in the founding and building of the state of Texas and in great capacity in our American history.

Lodge members also support educational excellence through scholarships and awards to students and teachers in Granbury and surrounding communities.

“We are very involved in infrastructure, and interfacing with charities of Hood County,” Merritt said. “Also, we’re very involved with the educational system, not only just the high schools, but all the way through. I just got through presenting scholarships at all three high

schools — Lipan, Tolar and Granbury as well.”

Merritt said to celebrate Granbury Masonic Lodge’s 150th anniversary, there will be a get together at 6:30 p.m. May 25, featuring an excellent meal and homemade desserts. Additionally, the Grand Lodge of Texas officers and other dignitaries will be coming in from Waco. The proclamation will also be read by Granbury Judge Alan Hines.

Mayor Jim Jarratt then officially recognized May 25, 2024, as Granbury Masonic Lodge Sesquicentennial Day and congratulated all who have been a part of the Granbury Masonic Lodge.

“One hundred and fifty years,” Jarratt said. “That’s outstanding.”

“Thank you very much for this proclamation,” Merritt said. “It means a lot to us, as does this day for 150 years.”



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Gary Merritt, a representative from Granbury Masonic Lodge No. 392, accepts the proclamation from Mayor Jim Jarratt that designates May 25, 2024 as Granbury Masonic Lodge Sesquicentennial Day.

Councilman Overdier honored with Leadership Fellow Award

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury City Council honored its newest council member, Gary “Skip” Overdier, Tuesday night with the Leadership Fellow Award from the Texas Municipal League.

Located in Austin, the TML exists to provide legal, legislative and training services to city governments in Texas.

“They are a support organization that supports member cities across the state, and they have a training program for newly elected and elected officials,” City Manager Chris Coffman said during the meeting. “It’s a 40-hour course, takes place over a five-day period, and it was scattered out over two months, but we want to recognize councilmember Skip Overdier for accomplishing the training. He’s got the Leadership Fellow Award,

and we want to present that to him tonight and thank him for his educational endeavors to be all that he can be as a council member.”

Coffman then explained that the training is in-depth, and said he looks forward to having Overdier share what he learned with other council members.

“Maybe we can send more people in the future,” he added.

Overdier accepted the Leadership Fellow Award and said that

throughout his campaign last year, he always keyed in on the idea that to be a member of the Granbury City Council, “you need to be a leader.”

“I’ve been to a lot of leadership training throughout the years, but I will say that every leadership class that I’ve gone to — and especially including this one — you’ll always learn something new. I don’t care how old you are, how experienced you are or how much of a leader

you are,” he said. “This was a great class, there were a lot of great people, and it was a good experience.”

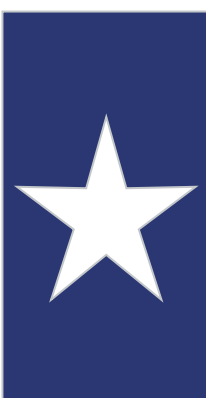
He also said he believes the training should be recommended for every council member, as the program was open to individuals in all types of careers.

“It’s a good program and I would encourage everybody to look into it,” Overdier added.

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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Worsening seasonal allergies

Longer growing seasons and warmer temperatures make more pollen

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

Itchy eyes. Nasal congestion. Sneezing. If these symptoms pop up for you during spring, summer and fall, you're among the estimated one in four Americans who experience seasonal allergies. Many people believe their allergies are getting worse every year, with more irritation over a longer period of time, and it's not their imagination.

Scientists are seeing higher pollen concentrations and lengthier pollen seasons due to shifts in weather and temperature patterns. With the earlier start to the warm season and higher average daily temperatures, plants pollinate early and seasonal allergens such as tree pollen, mold and other spores grow faster as the plants get larger. Higher wind intensity blows pollens and allergens across longer distances, bringing new allergens to the community.

All that pollen can trig-



COURTESY PHOTO BY YURIARCURSORPEOPLEIMAGES, ENVATO.COM

Scientists are seeing higher pollen concentrations and lengthier pollen seasons due to shifts in weather and temperature patterns.

ger allergic reactions in the nose and eyes when the immune system mistakes the pollen as a threat and acts in your defense. Nasal allergies, or allergic rhinitis, have symptoms including sneezing, runny nose and congestion. Red, watery or itchy eyes can be a symptom of allergic conjunctivitis, an inflammation of the lining of the eye.

"Allergies can be passed along genetically or through environmental

exposure, and they can develop as you age," said Karen Ripley, family nurse practitioner at Lakeside Physicians. "When your immune system detects an allergen such as pollen, the release of histamines causes inflammation and more mucus production, generating those familiar allergy symptoms. Higher pollen concentrations and longer pollen seasons are aggravating allergies for many people."

Over-the-counter antihistamine and steroid medications are widely used to relieve allergy symptoms. Antihistamines are available in the form of nasal sprays, eye drops and oral pills. Steroids are administered as nasal sprays.

Take steps to minimize your exposure to pollen by monitoring pollen levels and minimizing your time outdoors when counts are high. If you need to be outdoors, remove the pollen when you come inside by changing clothes and taking a shower to rinse off your hair and skin. Use the air conditioner and HEPA filters to reduce pollen indoors.

When seasonal allergies impact your quality of life, talk with your healthcare provider about symptom relief medications or treatments that can help. For more information about Karen Ripley, FNP, or to schedule an appointment, please call (817) 408-3320 or visit <https://lakegranburymedical.com/> KarenRipley

OBITUARIES

Barbara K Schwartz

December 29, 1938 - April 22, 2024

Known fondly as Bobbie, Mom, or Granny, Barbara K Schwartz, was born Dec. 29, 1938, in Bremond, Texas to Joseph Szydlak and Kathleen Hughes Szydlak. She moved to California in her teens, and she later met Alfred Schwartz whom she married. She was an amazing waitress and then helped Dad in his business of Big Al Oil Company. She was loved by everyone, and she could never remember a joke to tell them correctly for beans!

Survivors: Daughter, Tammy Christensen (Mike), Granddaughters, Katie Smith (Ben), Brid-



gette Turner (Curtis and Zayne), sisters; Shawn DeMoss (David), Connie Ragland (Fred), as well as Helen Davis and nieces and nephews.

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.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A7

and Accountability Act (HIPAA) violations, but they would also violate the trust clients and donors have put in them as charitable providers.

"I can tell you with certainty that no one serves the underserved the way nonprofits do in Hood County," Burwell said. "We are not in this field because it pays well. We serve because we are called. We serve those who are personally and profoundly impacted by adversity, but most importantly, we serve those who served us and can no longer serve themselves."

Following Burwell's statements, Samuelson clarified that item (d) that Burwell was referencing could also just include one line item that summarizes expenses — not necessarily "boxes and boxes of receipts."

"To me, you were asking for receipts and unfortunately, most of those receipts can definitely have those identifiers on them," Burwell said. "Myself

personally, I have 16 staff members and seven of them are part time. We serve 80 meals a day and we have 250 volunteers that deliver meals every day, five days a week, so we don't have the staff to pull 200 boxes out of the attic to look those up, and that's what we would have to do. It's cost prohibitive."

"That's not what I was asking at all," Samuelson said.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill then asked if the tax form 990 the nonprofits are required to turn in shows transparency. Samuelson said yes, but that the nonprofits had not been turning their tax forms in to the county.

"That's incorrect," Burwell said. "We did actually with the court last year. I know that the Hood County Area Agency on Aging did turn that into the court."

"One did, but it's not something that we have as part of our budget process, which I think we should adopt as a best practice to follow what the committee of aging did," Samuelson

said. "I'm sorry for the misunderstanding. But I wasn't asking for any details, just like a summary of receipts and disbursements."

Samuelson made a motion to adopt a budget application procedure to require nonprofits requesting funding through the Hood County budget to submit the following three items of information: certificate of good standing from the state of Texas, audited financial statement and tax form 990.

After Samuelson entered her amended motion, other speakers declined to com-

ment, except for Dr. Harold Granek who cautioned the court about "going too far" with the application process.

"I think the idea of having some set of rules is good, just let's not get too complicated," he urged.

"I think we've listened and modified, so thank you," Samuelson said.

Massingill then brought the motion, which was seconded by Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle, to a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- Canyon High class
- TXism: "sure" _____
- person living in a certain historical age
- Yo ___ Digo Creek
- TXism: "that ___ won't hunt"
- in NE Dallas County
- TX McMurry's "Lonesome Dove" was TV ___-series
- TXism: "as welcome as a skunk ___"
- across the Rio Grande from McAllen
- ___ hear it" (disappointing)
- tiled designs
- TXism: "take a stab ___" (attempt)
- cowboy mounts
- TXism: "stands on his ___ feet"
- TXism: "a ___ do you do"
- ___ Hamlin created "Alley Oop" in Iraan, Texas
- TX Nolan Ryan feats (hyph.)
- cut with a saw
- Texas like it iced
- TXism: "he'd have ___ up to be a half-wit"
- TXism for "animals"
- "he would turn Casper the friendly ___"
- grouch" (irritating)
- a Gulf pirate: Louis-Michel ___
- encouraging phrase on a golf green? (3 wds.)
- TX Perot was salesman for this corp.
- activity for males on Padre Island at spring break? (2 wds.)
- this Peter was in "Silk Stockings" with TX Cyd Charisse
- a brother of George W.
- feminine suffix
- San Jacinto general (abbr.)
- Santa ___ National Wildlife Refuge
- birth month of TX-born Steve Martin (abbr.)
- in Texas, 3rd DWI is ___ offense
- TXism: "nervous as ___"
- pan"
- expires
- "Mr. Sam" Rayburn served in the United ___
- Coleman High class
- Texas country singer, Pride (init.)
- TXism: "if he was a dog he wouldn't wag ___"
- you're on your ___
- TX Howard Hughes produced film "___ face" (1931)
- TXism: "tie up the loose ___"
- Field Scovell was "___ Bowl"
- "a ___ apple"
- "I dream of ___ night"
- 12-time Olympic host, Bob
- this Redding and TX Janis were in film "Monterey Pop"
- birth state of TX Belle Starr (abbr.)
- you're on your ___
- Maureen O' ___ was in "McLintock" with TX Chill Wills
- elephant tooth
- former Cowboy ___ "___ Tall" Jones
- college semester
- bath vats
- this Carter was in "The Grass Harp" with TX Sissy
- TXism: "___ on" (get drunk)
- Dublin may have been named after the ___ city
- CSA Gen. Lee (init.)
- TXism: "___ slinging drunk"
- farm activity: throwing slop
- TXism: "___ was in Dixie ..."
- TX golfer Byron book: "___ Played the Game"

New choices for business owners

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser

If you own a business and you offer a 401(k) or similar retirement plan to your employees, you'll want to stay current on the various changes affecting these types of accounts. And in 2024, you may find some interesting new developments to consider.

These changes are part of the SECURE 2.0 Act, enacted at the end of 2022. And while some parts of the law went into effect in 2023 — such as the new tax credit for employer contributions to start-up retirement plans with 100 or fewer employees — others were only enacted this year.

Here are some of these changes that may interest you:

NEW "STARTER" 401(K)/403(B)

If you haven't already established a retirement plan, you can now offer a "starter" 401(k) or "safe harbor" 403(b) plan to employees who meet age and service requirements. These plans have lower contribution limits (\$6,000 per year, or \$7,000 for those 50 or older) than a typical 401(k) or 403(b) and employers can't make matching or non-elective contributions. These plans are low-cost and easy

to administer but the credit for employer contributions doesn't apply, as these contributions aren't allowed, and since start-up costs are low, the tax credit for these costs will be correspondingly lower than they'd be for a full-scale 401(k) plan.

MATCHES FOR STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS

It's not easy for young employees to save for retirement and pay back student loans. To help address this problem, Congress included a provision in Secure 2.0 that allows employers the option to provide matching contributions to employees' retirement plans (401(k), 403(b), 457(b) and SIMPLE IRAs) when these employees

make qualified student loan payments. Of course, if you offer this match for student loan payments, your costs will likely increase, although these matching contributions are tax deductible. In any case, you may want to balance any additional expense with the potential benefit of attracting and retaining employees, particularly those who have recently graduated from college.

401(K) ELIGIBILITY FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

Part-time employees who are at least 21 years old and have at least 500 hours of service in three consecutive years must now be eligible to contribute to an existing 401(k) plan. The inclusion of

part-time employees could lead to higher business expenses for you, depending on the amount of contributions you may make to employees' plans. Again, though, you'd be offering a benefit that could be attractive to quality part-time employees.

EMERGENCY SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Many people, especially those who don't earn high incomes, have trouble building up emergency funds they can tap for unexpected costs, such as a major home or car repair or large medical expenses. Now, if you offer a 401(k), 403(b) or 457(b) plan, you can include a pension-linked emergency savings

account (PLESA) that allows non-highly compensated employees to save up to \$2,500, a figure that will be indexed for inflation in the future. PLESA allows for tax-free monthly withdrawals without incurring a 10% tax penalty. PLESA contributions are made on an after-tax (Roth) basis and must be matched at the same rate as other employee contributions.

You may want to consult with your tax and financial professionals to determine how these changes may affect what you want to do with your retirement plan. The more you know, the better your decisions likely will be.

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 wel-

come 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. Next session begins Sept. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175. May call anytime for help.

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.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, Christ-centered recovery program. Free dinner 6-6:45 p.m., large group meetings 7-8 p.m., small group meetings 8-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.

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).

CELEBRATE RECOVERY, Christ-centered recovery program. 12 step groups 7-8 p.m., "Friday Night Live! Church" 8:15-9 p.m. Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet Drive. 817-573-2094. Questions: Tim White 817-223-0973 or Becky Pierce 254-396-5918.

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
THE LOCAL Chapter (238) of the DAV (Disabled American Veterans) meets at 3601 Fall Creek Highway, (Good Shepherd Anglican Church) on the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. The meeting purpose is to have camaraderie with other veterans but to learn how the VA keeps its promise to take care of disabled veterans, men and women.

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

HOOD COUNTY POLITICS

I am writing in the hope that you are as sick of Hood County politics as I am. I hope you realize that the people who are screaming the loudest about how they want transparency are also the ones who are telling people like me that it is "none of my business who donated \$15,000 to the Republican Party of Hood County." They don't have to release that info, but it's just the opposite of transparent, don't you think? Why is it none of my business? I'm a Republican, I'd like to know who's donating, I'd also like to know how the money is being spent, but that's not available either. When these people say "they're not transparent," I ask what info they are looking for and try to point them in the right direction, but then the next day they are saying the same thing again. I have to wonder if they are just repeating what others are saying? Please pay attention to things like that. There is a runoff election for Precinct 1 JP,

Hood County Republican Chairman, and the Republican Precinct 112 Chair. I do know that one of the candidates for Hood County Republican Chairman, Zach Maxwell, who I support, has stated that he will make all the financial records open to the public if he is elected. I support Clint Head for Precinct 1 JP because I have watched him in court and have found him to be very knowledgeable, nonbiased, fair and civic minded. Robert Granger, who is running for Republican Chair, Precinct 112, is someone I have known since I moved here. I've always known him to be a good person, conservative, a true Republican and he has just felt the need to become more involved and I support him wholeheartedly.

Tina Brown
Granbury

TO MY FELLOW CITIZENS:

For more than 18 years you trusted me to represent you on the Granbury ISD school

board. I was proud to serve you and I thank you for your confidence in me. Today I am sad, not just because the bond failed, but because a radical group of anti-public school constituents is ravaging our district and community. Elections have become ugly, hate-filled, name-calling campaigns of misinformation. During my tenure on the board, my opponents ran on platforms and not against me personally. Thank you to Charlie Cloud, Julia Pannell and Susan Mitchell May for honest campaigns that allow us to be friends today after running against each other. Even Travis Johnson, who was handpicked to run against me by this anti-public school group, never stooped to name-calling and kept the campaign about issues and gained my respect.

Over the years, my fellow board members did not always agree, however we all honored board policy and supported any issue that was approved by the board majority. Fellow board members were respected and were almost family. In

the past three years, rogue board members who have proven to have an agenda other than serving the students, have set on a path to destroy the district and fire the superintendent. In a social media post today, Karen Lowery attacked the superintendent. She is the same Karen Lowery who sneaked into the library, lied about getting permission from the principal, lied by omission to get into the building, lied to the assistant principal about having been asked by the superintendent to be there and lied during her hearing about my correspondence with her. While she claimed that she did not lie, who should we believe, her or four respected employees of Granbury ISD? She and Melanie Graft have refused to participate in most school activities, such as awards banquets and campus activities, have refused to join fellow board members in activities or lunch at training sessions. They have taped an executive session without notifying the superintendent or me that they were taping.

While I served on the board, I refrained from speaking out about their behavior, but I can no longer be silent.

Do not be fooled by Karen Lowery's scathing social media post or Melanie Graft's vengeful comments on social this week about the superintendent. Their goal is to fire Jeremy Glenn, not on any merit, but because they and their backers do not like him. I understand there are two sides to every story, but I have been present on multiple occasions when Ms. Lowery displayed aggressive behavior toward Dr. Glenn, toward board members and toward the private citizens, so I understand why the district might take action to prevent future issues.

We all must own our own shortcomings and behaviors and I apologize in advance to anyone who is offended by this letter, but after spending a lifetime loving public schools and the students and parents that are served by unpaid school board members, I feel compelled to stand up for GISD and speak out about these wrongs

against the school. Public attacks on teachers and school leadership should not be tolerated by the citizens of Granbury ISD.

Barbara Herrington
Granbury

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

THREATS

FROM PAGE A5

Glenn. "Karen and I are deeply

disappointed in how her time of service as a GISD ... trustee has developed," Lowery issued in a statement to the HCN. "The superintendent has made

every effort to silence her and demeans her in public board meetings. His actions have limited Karen's ability to appropriately serve the children, staff and

community of voters that overwhelmingly voted for her. Unfortunately, within the past month this behavior has continued to escalate. We are confident that

when the proper authorities have reviewed the videos of both incidents, they will determine that the superintendent is the instigator and the aggressor."

Grizzard noted he doesn't anticipate any criminal charges will be filed in relation to this incident.

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1691

Lake Granbury Art Association's Annual Children's Summer Workshop

For youth ages 7-12 June 17, 18, 19, 20, 2024

9:00-9:30 Registration
9:30 11:30 CLASSES

Cost is \$10 per day. All Supplies are furnished
Classes taught by professional artists

Located at the Shanley House Next to Hood County
Libary-224 N. Travis

For additional information call:
Linda Christiansen 214-532-4743

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EMPLOYMENT

General



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

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

Competitive pay and great work environment.

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

Come join the Hood County News team!

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

State licensed, armed security officers. Fort Worth day shift, full and part time. Ed Herne (817)326-4933 Heron Security

SELF-STORAGE ASSISTANT MANAGER Pay \$18 per hour PART TIME (approx. 42.5 hrs every 2 weeks) requiring every other Saturday. Must have strong overall computer skills, including Microsoft Word and Excel. Must be comfortable with multi-tasking administrative duties and able to perform light outdoor property upkeep. Email resume to acistorage76048@gmail.com

Aairco A/C is looking for an experienced residential service tech. Good pay. Must pass background check. Please fax resume to 817-579-0706 or email to aairco@sbcglobal.net


Aairco A/C is now hiring AC installers or helpers. Must be experienced. Good pay. Must pass background check. Please fax resume to 817-579-0706 or email to aairco@sbcglobal.net



Best Electric is hiring. Apprenticeship position. One year experience. Must have apprentice license, driver's license and tools. 817-755-0350

8530 **Food Services** 5am-11am, 7 days. Flexibility available. Donuts Plus, 1741 E Hwy 377, Granbury 76049.

8560 **Professional**



North Central Texas Academy is seeking:

High school History teacher
Upper Elementary teacher

All applicants must be state certified teachers.

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

For questions please contact Amanda Schwausch at a.schwausch@nctapioneers.org

8590 **Employment Wanted**

PECAN PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION 817 573-2641

Security Patrol Officers Full-time All Shifts \$15-\$16 Per Hour Security Gate Staff \$14-\$15 Contact brendarhine@ppoaweb.com or call Ext 351, harold@ppoaweb.com or call Ext 341

Housekeeping staff needed \$12 per hour Contact sarahlord@ppoaweb.com or call Ext 335

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NOTICES

Public Notices

9031 CITATION BY PUBLICATION (DEBT CLAIM CASE) CAUSE NO. DC32400002 JK FIRE & SECURITY, LLC, Plaintiff, v. EUGENIA WASHINGTON, Defendant In the Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, Hood County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS TO: EUGENIA WASHINGTON, DEFENDANT in the above case:

This citation is issued pursuant to a petition filed by Plaintiff on November 17, 2023. Plaintiff's attorney's name and address, or Plaintiff's address, if they have no attorney, are: JEREMY F. SORELLE HYDE LAW FIRM 827 W PEARL ST GRANBURY TX 76048

Your answer must be filed with this court located at 5417 ACTON HWY. STE 104 GRANBURY TX 76049.

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. YOU MAY EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY TO HELP YOU IN DEFENDING AGAINST THIS LAWSUIT. BUT YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO EMPLOY AN ATTORNEY. YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT. YOUR ANSWER IS DUE BY THE END OF THE 14TH DAY AFTER THE DAY YOU WERE SERVED WITH THESE PAPERS. IF THE 14TH DAY IS A SATURDAY, SUNDAY, OR LEGAL HOLIDAY, YOUR ANSWER IS DUE BY THE END OF THE FIRST DAY FOLLOWING THE 14TH DAY THAT IS NOT A SATURDAY, SUNDAY OR LEGAL HOLIDAY. DO NOT IGNORE THESE PAPERS. IF YOU DO NOT FILE AN ANSWER BY THE DUE DATE, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONSULT PART V OF THE TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, WHICH IS AVAILABLE ONLINE AND ALSO AT THE COURT LISTED ON THIS CITATION.

ISSUED AND SIGNED on January 3, 2024 STEPHEN BARNETT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PCT. 3 HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

REQUEST FOR FORMAL SEALED BID The City of Granbury, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, TX 76048, is seeking formal sealed bids for Group Medical, Dental and Vision Insurance. Bids are due c/o Higginbotham, 500 W. 13th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102, by 2:00 pm CST on Friday, June 7, 2024. Information may be obtained from Higginbotham (jporter@higginbotham.net) on or after May 24, 2024. The City reserves the right to accept, negotiate, or reject any and all bids, in whole or in part, to waive any informality in any bid, and to accept any bid, which, in its discretion, is in the best interest of the City.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-30 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL, UTILITY, AIRPORT AND GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

This ordinance as adopted by the Granbury City Council on May 21, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

8560 **Professional**

9031 **Public Notices**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE GRANBURY MEADOWLARK STORAGE, WISHING TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 59 OF THE TEXAS PROPERTY CODE [CHAPTER 576 ACT OF THE 68TH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION 1983] HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF SALE UNDER SAID ACT, TO WIT: ON SUNDAY MAY 26, 2024 AT 4229 QUAIL RIDGE CT, GRANBURY, TX 76049 STARTING AT THE HOUR OF 5:00PM. SALE TO BE HELD ONLINE AT WWW.WALTCADDEAUCTIONS.COM AND WILL END JUNE 2, 2024 AT 5:00PM. A PUBLIC SALE, IN TOTAL UNIT ONLY, FOR CASH ONLY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. SELLER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO NOT ACCEPT ANY BID AND TO WITHDRAW PROPERTY FROM SALE. PROPERTY BEING SOLD IS THE CONTENTS OF THE FOLLOWING UNITS; 6: SAMANTHA HARZA: BICYCLE, DRESSER,HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; 7: WHITNEY STRAUSS: OAK TABLE,WAGON,LOCK BOX,HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; 12: DAWN KNIGHT: VACUUMS, STORAGE BINS,HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; 26: MASON GRISSOM: STORAGE BINS,TABLES,HOUSEHOLD ITEMS. THE SALE IS TO SATISFY A LANDLORD LIEN. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND. AUCTION TO BE CONDUCTED ONLINE BY COLONEL WALT CADE, ATS, BAS, CES, TXLIC:16645. CAGE LEAGUE INVESTMENTS, LLC/LESSOR

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by Brocks-Granbury LLC DBA Brock's Food and Drink to be located at 4021 Acton Hwy, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. Members of said LLC are Robert Woodrell-Member, Paul Woodrell-Member and Patrick Alfaro-Member

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF CRESSON REQUEST FOR ZONING VARIANCE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Cresson has received a request from Karen Blaylock of Cresson Bluff LLC for a variance of Chapter 30, Article VII, Section 30-291 of the Cresson Zoning Ordinance regarding required parking spaces for an eating and drinking establishment.

The City of Cresson will conduct a public hearing regarding the requested variance on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Cresson City Hall Council Chambers located at 8901 Hwy 377, Cresson, Texas 76035. All interested parties are invited to attend. Cresson City Hall is wheelchair accessible. Requests for accommodations or other services must be made 48 hours in advance.

You may contact the City of Cresson at 817-396-4729 for further information.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Dependent Administration for the Estate of MARK ALLAN DORTCH, Deceased, were issued on April 9, 2024, in Cause No. P 10226, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: JAMES DORTCH.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Steven G. Kuban Attorney at Law 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 DATED the 10th day of May, 2024. Steven G. Kuban Attorney for James Dortch State Bar No.: 24078807 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 Telephone: (817) 573-8872 Facsimile: (817) 579-1651 E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Eddy L. Herrera, Deceased, were issued on 5-16-24, in Cause No. P10382, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Linda Lee Mitchell Herrera. The residence of the Independent Executor is Granbury, Texas; the post office address is: c/o: Mark B. Dewitt, Attorney at Law, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated on the 16day of May 2024. By: Mark B. Dewitt, PO Box 1274, Granbury, Texas 76048, ph. 817-573-1181, Attorney for the Estate.

9031 **Public Notices**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the ESTATE OF SHIRLEY LEE LUDWICK, DECEASED were issued on May 16, 2024 in Cause No. P10355, pending in the County Court At Law of Hood County, Texas, to: MICHAEL LYNN LUDWICK, as Independent Executor.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present the claims to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law to: The Estate of SHIRLEY LEE LUDWICK c/o Farren Sheehan State Bar No. 24000751 Sheehan Law, PLLC 1601 E. Pfennig Lane Pflugerville, Texas 78660 Attorney for Independent Executor DATED this 16th day of May, 2024. /s/ Farren Sheehan Farren Sheehan

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Marie Rose Davis, Deceased, were issued on May 16, 2024, in Docket No. P10377, pending in the County Court, Hood County, Texas, to: Rick Lee Davis, Independent Executor c/o Martin A. Rehnitzer, Esq. State Bar No.: 24062956 388 SW Johnson Ave. Burleson, TX 76028

All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. All persons having claims should address them in care of the representative at the address stated above.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of LARRY WALTER KRAUSE, Deceased, were issued on May 16, 2024, in Cause No. P10357 pending in the County Court of HOOD County, Texas, to Barbara Ann Krause.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

c/o: Representative, Estate of LARRY WALTER KRAUSE The Hyde Law Firm 827 West Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 DATED the 20 day of May, 2024.

/s/ Riley Roden Riley Roden Attorney for Barbara Ann Krause Bar no: 24138241 Office Phone: (817) 579-5779 Fax: (817) 573-4933 Email: riley@hydefirm.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING The following Public Hearings will be considered by the PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION of the City of Granbury on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearings will also be considered by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. PL-2024-08 Replat of Lots 45 & 46 Catalina Bay II Phase One; located at 1600 and 1602 Chesapeake Bay Ct.
2. SUP-2024-02 Specific Use Permit for an Auto Repair, Major use in Heavy Commercial [HC] District; located at 4646 E Hwy 377.
3. Z-2024-02 Zoning Change from Interim Holding [IH] to Planned Development/Light Commercial [PD/LC]; located at 2101 W US Hwy 377.
4. Z-2024-04 Amend the Planned Development/Light Commercial [PD/LC], Adopted Ordinance 23-01, to revise the development plan; located at 5260 E US Hwy 377.
5. Z-2024-05 Zoning Change from Residential - 7,000 [R-7] to Planned Development/R-7 [PD/R-7]; located at Loop 567 north of Nettie Baccus Rd.
6. Z-2024-06 Amend the Planned Development/Multi-Family [PD/MF] to Planned Development/Townhome [PD/TH], Adopted Ordinance 23-67, to revise the development plan; located at 1301 Crawford Ave.

For more information, contact Community Development at 817-573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

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GRANBURY TEXAS **Hood County News** HOOD COUNTY'S LEGEND SINCE 1856 [WEDNESDAY MARCH 16, 2022]

Town halls scheduled ahead of GISD bond election

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Granbury ISD Book review completed, three more titles removed

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Hood County News



HOOD OUTDOORS

Using drag to your advantage



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.

How do you effectively use the drag on your reels? Granbury has been producing some big fish lately and making sure your drag is set correctly is important. Hopefully some of this information will help.

Most every reel available on the market today has a drag system. The drag system is a setting on a reel that will allow line to go out with a certain amount of force pulling on the line. This force is usually adjusted to prevent line breakage and/or equipment damage in most cases.

The drag systems on my reels are extremely important in catching fish. A smooth drag system to take the surges from fighting fish is what I am counting on. Most of my fishing is open water fishing so it is not necessary to "horse" the fish to the boat. A relatively loose drag is sufficient for open water fish. You don't want it so loose that you overplay the fish, but loose enough to not put excessive stress on the line size you are using.

There are cases where you do want to "horse" in the fish. Typically, this is when you are fishing where there are trees or other underwater snags where the fish will break you off if he runs too far. In this case, you may want to upsize your line test or go to the braided version as well and tighten the drag.

Drag systems on really large fish caught in the ocean are even more important as some of the fish can pull harder than you can. In fact, some captains know what the actual

setting is on their drag in pound-force. This force is typically set based on the individual using the reel as well as equipment capabilities.

Inexperienced anglers typically continually reel even though the fish is taking line. This is OK for most baitcast reels, but you can save some of your own energy by allowing the fish to run when it is taking line and reel when the fish gives you a chance. I typically get the comment that the reel is not working when the opposite is true. The reel is performing its job and the drag is set to allow the fish to run so as to not cause line breakage. If you are using a spinning reel and you reel while the fish is taking line, you are only twisting your line.

When a fish is on it is best to maintain tension on the line at all times. Keeping tension on the line is the best chance you have to make sure the hook stays in place. Big fish or little fish, this is good advice. Many folks like to lower the rod tip (pumping action) so they can gain some line back similar to what you see offshore anglers do to bring a big fish in. This is a good method, however if you are to reel down on a fish, make sure you keep the line tight. If you give the fish some slack in the line, the fish has an opportunity to get free by shaking the hook loose.

Fish can and will jump and create their own slack in the line. You can possibly keep from losing a jumping fish by lowering your rod tip, maybe even into the water, to keep it from jumping. One more

important note is to use a net when landing a big fish. Do not try to pick up a big fish by lifting your pole. The weight of a big fish and its movement could snap the line. Take the time and get the net.

You will lose some fish no matter what. The hook may not be set right or there may be a flaw on the line caused by the last fish caught, etc. Some fish have sharp gill plates that can cut the line (another reason to keep the line taught). You can minimize the losses by keeping your equipment, line and hooks in good order.

I recommend retying your outfits after each trip. I replace leaders and rework knots so that I have the best chance of landing the fish next time out. It is also a good idea to check your drag setting periodically.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures are in the low to middle 70s. Water is clearing some, but there is still a lot of debris in the water, especially on the upper ends. Be careful navigating. Sand bass continue to be good on slabs on feeding flats early and late. Best sand bass reports are coming from Indian Harbor and near DeCordova Bend Estates. Striped bass to 12 pounds are possible on live bait and trolled Alabama rigs mainly on the lower ends. Some top water action is available early on feeding flats by Blue Water Shores. Yellow and blue catfish are good on the upper ends on cut shad. Largemouth bass are fair to good on crankbaits and soft plastics worked near creek entrances. Some good topwater action for largemouth bass is possible near main lake points. Crappies are moving to their post spawn locations on structure and are good to excellent on small jigs and minnows.

MUSSELS

FROM PAGE A1

plankton from the food chain, according to the National Wildlife Federation.

According to Pierce, a BRA maintenance employee was onsite at Rough Creek Park when a large work barge arrived to be launched at the boat ramp. The employee noticed the zebra mussels attached to the barge and notified Project Manager Kyle Lewis.

Lewis inspected the barge, confirmed that zebra mussels were attached and contacted local Texas Parks and Wildlife game wardens. The wardens ordered that the barge be quarantined and for a clean-up to begin in the parking lot where the barge had been temporarily parked.

The City of Granbury then coordinated with Hood County Road Operations to provide a large street roller that could clean up the zebra mussels that had fallen from the barge by crushing them.

"It was a very successful joint project that saved the lake from being infected with these extremely prolific invasive species," Pierce said.

Invasive zebra mussels have devastating economic, recreational and environmental impacts, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Since 2009, when the first Texas infestation was identified in Lake Texoma, the department and partners have worked to monitor lakes.

"If they get into the lake, the mussels will attach themselves to every single surface, from boats to docks to water pumps — even the rocks on the bottom of the lake — doing untold damage," Pierce said. "It's very important that we do everything possible to make sure the lake is not infected."

As of August 2022, 30 Texas lakes across five river basins are infested with zebra mussels, which means the water body has an established reproducing population. The infested lakes within the Brazos River basin include: Lake

Georgetown, Lake Granger and Lake Stillhouse Hollow, according to the BRA.

As part of TPWD's efforts to help keep zebra mussels out of Texas lakes, the department has released its "Clean, Drain, Dry" campaign to ensure the pesky aquatic invasive species stays off your boat or trailer.

CLEAN

Inspect your boat, trailer and gear and remove all plant material, mud and foreign objects. One method that will help with complete coverage is to take your boat to a car wash and use high-pressure nozzles to get to those hard-to-reach and hidden areas, according to TPWD. Boats that are stored on waters known to be infested with zebra mussels may need to be professionally cleaned.

DRAIN

Be sure to pull the plug and drain all water including all live wells, bilges, bait buckets, ballast and engine cooling water, in accordance with TPWD regulations.

DRY

Make sure you allow enough time for your boat to totally dry once it's cleaned. It may take longer than you think for this to occur. TPWD recommends using a drying calculator to help make sure you are complying with the recommended drying time.

The drying calculator recommended by the TPWD can be found by going online to tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/protect_water/.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and its partners monitor for invasive mussels in Texas lakes, but anyone who finds them in lakes where they haven't been found before or who spots them on boats, trailers or equipment are encouraged to help identify and prevent new introductions by immediately reporting the sighting to TPWD at 512-389-4848 or by emailing photos and location information to aquaticinvasives@tpwd.texas.gov.



COURTESY PHOTO BY THEWATERMELOONPROJECT, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Zebra mussels may be the size of a dime, but they have caused alarming declines in fish populations, birds and native mussel species.

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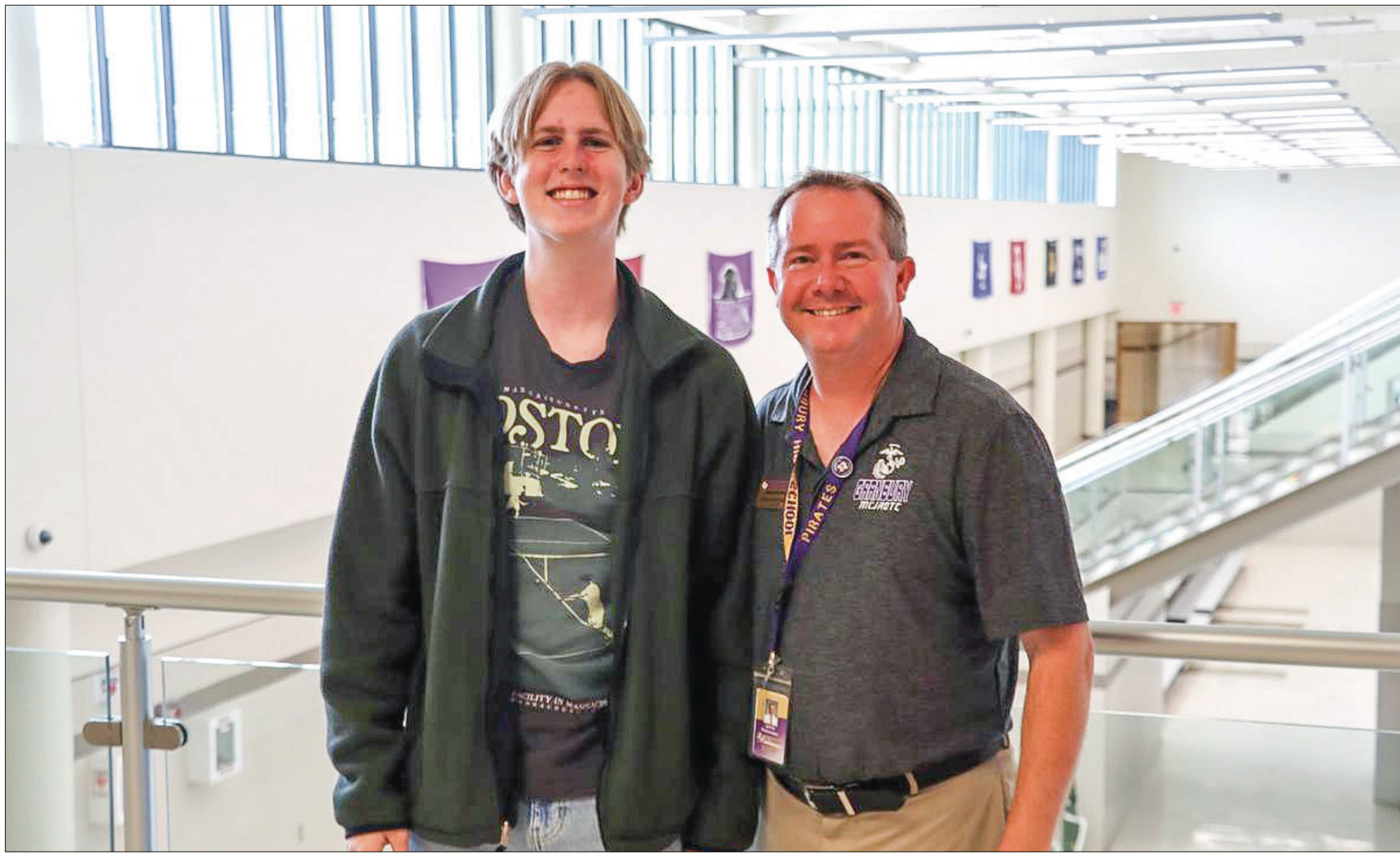
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Hood County News

GHS' Lucas Hyde named to TASSP All-State Academic Team



BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Lucas Hyde — an official graduate of Granbury High School as of Friday, May 24 — was recently selected by the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals as a member of the TASSP All-State Academic Team.

The TASSP Academic Excellence Recognition Program was established to honor and recognize high school seniors who have demonstrated excellence in areas of academic achievement, test scores and writing skills, according to the TASSP website.

Many outstanding senior students were nominated by their high school principals based on their scores on the SAT or ACT test, overall academic grade point average, pursuit of advanced diploma and other evidence of exceptional academic ability.

Each student nominated was asked to write a monitored 300 to 500-word essay to submit with their application. From this group of

Lucas Hyde is pictured with Granbury High School Principal Jamie Robinson, who nominated Hyde to the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals All-State Academic Team.

PLEASE SEE **HYDE** | B4

Retiring Butler ready for life's next chapter

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Dwight Butler recalled lying in a hospital bed last year and taking the proverbial look at his life. It was then he decided it was time to turn the page to the next chapter in the book of his life, which he said is far from finished.

Of course, it was, admittedly, close to being finished when he spent two-and-a-half months in a hospital after a motorcycle accident. This was on the heels of a couple years going to the hospital with a bleeding lung after another motorcycle mishap.

"When you're basically dead on the table you think about a lot of things," Butler said. "I thought, 'I'm not get-

ting out of here.'"

But he did get out of there. Now, at age 69, he's leaving a profession he's been in for almost five decades, the last phase serving as athletic director for the Granbury Independent School District since 2005.

"It puts a perspective on life, what's important, and while I have loved what I've done here and in my career, there's a lot more I want to do," he said. "I've done this for 46 years and that's enough."

GROWING UP/STARTING FOOTBALL

Butler grew up in a variety of places, or "all over" as he put it. One of the most impressionable places was

PLEASE SEE **COACH** | B3



Dwight Butler walking on to the field during the 2023 homecoming game.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

GISD Memorial Day essay winners honored at board meeting



Five fifth-grade GISD students were crowned the winners of the J.C. Campbell Memorial Day Essay Contest.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Five students from Granbury Independent School District received a huge honor during a school board meeting May 20.

Fifth graders Gracelyn Barker (Baccus Elementary School), Cambrie Bohney (Acton Elementary School), Elly Thorne (Oak Woods School), Mariana Espinoza (Brawner Elementary School) and Levi Cox (STEAM Academy at Mambrino) were crowned the winners of the J.C. Campbell Memorial Day Essay Contest.

The contest was initiated in 2014 by Campbell, who passed away in 2021. Campbell was a veteran and community leader who felt it was important for students to commemorate armed

services personnel who have died in service to the nation.

The program objective stated, "Many students think Memorial Day is simply a day to 'celebrate' a day off from school. They don't realize it is instead a day to 'commemorate' or remember those who have lost their lives in all American wars. The objective of this contest is to help students understand the true meaning of this day."

Prior to the school board meeting, the GISD students were honored with a 20-minute ceremony in the corridor of the administration building, where the overall grand prize winner was announced.

"I'd like to just say that J.C.'s desire to see this continue with our fifth graders, writing our essays about what Memorial Day means to them, is just as impor-

tant to me," Chief of Police Mitch Galvan said during the ceremony. "Because I believe that it's our duty and our responsibility to make sure that all our generations understand the true meaning of Memorial Day, and that it's a reflection on all the men and women in our armed forces who have given their lives to allow us to have the freedoms that we enjoy today and every day."

Galvan explained that when the contest first began, the committee wanted to find a sponsor who would give the overall grand prize winner a \$100 gift.

"I had to jump at that really quick, because I believed in this so much that I said, 'I'll take care of that level of responsibility,'" he said. "So, I've had the honor and the

PLEASE SEE **ESSAY** | B3

THS names 2024 valedictorian and salutatorian

From Staff Reports

Tolar High School announces class of 2024 valedictorian and salutatorian. Receiving the honors are Valedictorian Cooper Griffen and Salutatorian Olivia McLain.

COOPER GRIFFEN: VALEDICTORIAN

Cooper Griffen is the 2024 Valedictorian of Tolar High School. "The biggest challenge was managing extracurricular activities while maintaining a high GPA," Griffen said. As an FFA chapter officer, he honed his leadership skills, a testament to his commitment. Cooper also served as a National Honor Society officer and class officer and worked at Diverse Suspension Technology in Stephenville, where he efficiently handled orders and managed shipping.

Cooper believes the valedictorian credential will add to his resume and potentially expand his career opportunities. He plans to attend Tarleton State University in the fall and study to become a mechanical engineer, hoping to work at a nuclear power plant eventually.

For fun, Cooper likes to fish. His favorite animal is



COURTESY PHOTO

Cooper Griffen is the 2024 Valedictorian of Tolar High School.

the Barreleye fish because it looks funny. He also enjoys hunting and playing video games to relax.

Math was Cooper's favorite subject, while he found English challenging. His advice to first-year students reflects his balanced

approach to academics and life: "Do your work but also make time to enjoy life. Don't let the pursuit of grades overshadow your personal growth. Strive to do your best, and that's enough." Reflecting on his high school experience, he

admitted being surprised by the newfound freedoms and responsibilities.

OLIVIA MCLAIN: SALUTATORIAN

McLain earned the designation of 2024 Salutatorian of Tolar High School. She says her biggest challenge in attaining this goal was managing schoolwork and extracurricular activities such as student council, track, cross country and volleyball. In addition to her academic and sports obligations, McLain worked at Funky Munky Sno Cones and a sweets shop.

One year ago, McLain decided to become a dental hygienist. She plans to attend Angelo State University in San Angelo to advance this career goal.

English was McLain's favorite subject and she found chemistry most difficult. Her favorite animal is the cat, and her favorite fun things to do are hanging out with friends and shopping. To relax, she likes to run or have quiet time.

Also a member of the National Honor Society, McLain is the first person in her family to reach the academic status of salutatorian.



COURTESY PHOTO

McLain earned the designation of 2024 Salutatorian of Tolar High School.

Her advice to first-year students is to "... be involved with the school." She adds wise words that would have encouraged her upon entering high school: "The hard times won't last forever." What most surprised her

about high school was that "(I) never thought I would run cross country and actually enjoy it."

Lipan High School 2024 valedictorian and salutatorian

From Staff Reports

Lipan High School announces class of 2024 valedictorian and salutatorian. Receiving the honors are Valedictorian Taylor Branson and Salutatorian Tyson Tarpley

TAYLOR BRANSON: VALEDICTORIAN

Taylor Branson wrapped up her senior year with a GPA of 101.91. She was involved in the National Honor Society, UIL Academics, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Future Farmers of America. On top of extracurricular activities, running track, playing basketball, tennis and other hobbies, Branson says, "Balancing everything with dual credit courses and homework was a challenge."

Branson is not the first person in her family to achieve such an academic designation; her mother and older brother also earned the title of valedictorian. Branson plans to attend Abilene Christian University to pursue a career in sports psychology, where she hopes to help athletes accomplish their goals.

While Branson found learning Spanish enjoyable, history was more challenging. Her favorite animal is the elephant because they are "super cute, are able to



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Taylor Branson.

do cool things with their trunks, and have a very impressive memory," said Branson. For fun, she enjoys hanging out with friends, eating at restaurants, shopping or chilling at home with friends. She also likes to ride around her small town and listen to music to relax.

Looking back, Branson says her junior year was the most difficult academically. She advises incoming first-

year students: "Continuously work hard because it will all be worth it and allow for more opportunities in the future. Also, enjoy every moment you have in high school with your friends, family and everyone around you because as cliché as it sounds, it truly does go by quickly."

"I expected to make some good memories in high school," Branson says, "but I did not expect to have some

of the best times of my life with my basketball teammates. Everyone dreams of winning state championships in their sports, but I never expected to be blessed with winning two in my high school career. These are times and people that I will never forget."

TYSON TARPLEY: SALUTATORIAN

LHS' 2024 salutatorian is Tyson Tarpley. He says his biggest challenge through high school was maintaining a high GPA while taking many dual credit courses. Because not many students achieve this designation, Tarpley hopes being a salutatorian might open more doors to scholarships as he furthers his education.

Tarpley is the first person in his family to attain the designation of salutatorian. He was in FFA, a member of the National Honor Society for three years and was class president his senior year. He played basketball, baseball, golf and one year of cross country, and he was part of both state champion basketball teams for the last two years. "I didn't expect to be a back-to-back champion in basketball when I first started my high school career," Tarpley said. He also participated in UIL in mathematics and number sense, advancing to the regional meet in both events while making



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Tyson Tarpley.

time for youth activities in his church and riding ATVs with his family.

"I plan to study land surveying and geospatial technology at Dallas College and obtain my associate degree," Tarpley said. In pursuing a career in land surveying, he would like to have his own business in the future. Math is his favorite subject, and English is his most challenging.

Tarpley spends time with his friends, girlfriend and family for fun. His favorite pet is a cat; to relax, he listens to music or enjoys being outdoors in nature.

Tarpley advises incoming first-year students, "If you want to try something new, then do it and soak it all in. There are only four years of high school, and it goes by quicker than you think."

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COACH

FROM PAGE B1

the Navaho Reservation in Crownpoint, New Mexico.

It was where his love of sports developed.

"I went there in the eighth grade and you had no choice, you played everything," he recalled.

But it was in Artesia, New Mexico, where he became a football standout. However, it wasn't originally his own choosing as he was more connected to basketball.

"I wasn't going to play football at all. I was a Pete Maravich disciple," he recalled. "I wore those socks that were baggy. I would have worn my hair like him, but dad wouldn't let me."

But Artesia is known for its football success, having won its 32nd state championship in 2023. Butler was not only one of his team's best players, but also one of the best in the state as a middle linebacker and tight end.

"It was like being in Texas," he said. "That's where most of our coaches were from."

It was the start down a road he'd travel for many years — with a detour or two.

LIFE LESSONS

"The main thing I learned in life, and I said it at my father's funeral, is to let me fail. You learn from failure," Butler said. "A lot of people don't get that anymore. We live in a society where failure is not an option."

"If everything was constantly good, what would we ever learn from life?"

Butler did learn and applied those lessons to his career, one that included a lot of victories as a coach and leadership of young people throughout his numerous stops.

Before that success, however, came one of his toughest lessons. He went to work in the oil field on a rig.

The money was good, of course, but Butler learned the hard way it was not the life for him.

"I asked myself, 'What the

hell am I doing here?'" he said. "I quit and went back to school."

Then, he added with a laugh, "If I'd worked in the oil field my whole life I'd probably be a millionaire by now. Some of my friends are."

CAREER STOPS

Butler's coaching career began as an assistant at Hobbs High School in New Mexico from 1973-80. Then, he found his way to Texas and Monahans from 1980-83 and Abilene Cooper in 1983-84.

He returned to New Mexico as defensive coordinator at his alma mater, Artesia, from 1984-86, before returning to Texas for good. His first stop in his return to the Lone Star State was as DC at Levelland from 1986-88.

Then, he landed in Big Spring, where it seemed he would spend the rest of his career. After being DC from 1988-90 he became a head coach for the first time and enjoyed much success at the helm from 1990-2004.

But don't ask him what his career record is because he simply doesn't know — but suffice it to say he won a lot more games than he lost.

"I really have no idea how many games I've won," he said. "The main thing is to try to make sure you give young people a chance to be proud citizens as adults."

COMING TO GRANBURY

In high school, Butler became friends with the late former Granbury football coach Mike Lebby when their teams played each other at the New Mexico State Basketball Tournament. They also faced off in the state's high school football all-star game.

"He was one of the three best friends I had in this world," Butler said, pausing a second emotionally. "I miss him greatly."

When Granbury's athletic director position came open, Lebby, who had moved on to coach at Saginaw, recommended Butler for the job. Butler said he was happy at Big Spring and hadn't thought

about leaving, but the call from his good friend got him to consider a change.

"I was a head coach at Big Spring, a low socio-economic community. I never took a holiday. I invested everything in those kids," he said. "My two boys played for me."

"But I was emotionally spent. I would have probably stayed, but Mike called, and after I got here I realized how burned out I was. It just felt like it was time for a different challenge."

AD ONLY

So Butler gave up coaching football and decided to focus solely on being an athletic director for the final two decades of his career. During his tenure at Granbury, the school's athletic programs enjoyed solid success.

Of course, the girls basketball program had long been renowned with Leta Andrews, the winningest hoops coach on the planet. Other sports, such as baseball, golf and soccer had also enjoyed success.

Under Butler, all sports had a moment in the spotlight. Most notably, the football program that hadn't reached the playoffs since the late 1970s made four straight postseason appearances under now former coach Scottie Pugh — one of Butler's first hires.

"What I'm most proud of is every sport we were in the playoffs multiple times. It's the people you bring in to head those programs," he said.

THE BIGGEST LOSS OF ALL

Several years ago Butler's brother, Keith, was killed in Afghanistan. He was on a mission as a CIA operative.

"He was my hero. They called him Pops," Butler said, his voice reflecting great respect. "He was a great guy, a great patriot. He was a great example for me and anyone who knew him."

Butler said Keith was a lifelong military man who joined the Marines right out of high school. Like his brother, Keith also loved riding motorcycles.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Pictured is Dwight Butler

"He had a Harley and we were just going riding together," Butler said. "He was on his last trip for the military."

Butler regularly visits his brother's grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

REFLECTING

As he looks back on the sunset of his career, Butler said there are many memories — mostly positive — he will carry with him. What he will miss most, he said, are the relationships he built with coaches and players.

"Being around kids keeps you young," he said. "When you're a coach there's a special unspoken bond."

The biggest challenge and

what he will miss the least, he said, is some parents overstepping their bounds.

"I'm not against it (parents being involved), but you need the right kind of parents. I'm all for that, the positive kind," he said. "Enjoy what your kids are doing. Don't try to make them into an All-American."

"This is a time when kids are creating memories for the rest of their lives. Let them have fun and do that."

WHAT'S NEXT?

Butler is finished riding his Harley Road King, or any motorcycle, he said.

"That's what I was going to do in retirement. Now, I'm going to learn to play golf

again," he said with a smile.

He said he'll spend more time with family, which includes his oldest son Bowe, a human resources representative in Charleston, South Carolina, and his youngest, Tye, who is in the insurance, oil and cattle business in Artesia.

He and his wife, Kathy, who is the business manager for the GISD, have five grandchildren — three from Bowe and two from Tye.

And he's about to face a new challenge in his life — what to do with some spare time.

"I'm going to have to do something," he said, chuckling. "I've never taken a summer off."

ESSAY

FROM PAGE B1

privilege to award the grand prize winner \$100 every year, and I'm going to continue to do that until somebody stops me."

He then announced the winner of the essay contest, with its topic of "What Memorial Day means to me," was Levi Cox — who coincidentally accepted the award on his birthday.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I want to thank you very much for writing such wonderful essays," Galvan said. "Y'all did an incredible job."

Cox was then asked to read his essay out loud, which reads:

"Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day. It was originally called this because people would go to fallen soldier's graves and decorate them. The first Decoration Day was May 5, 1868. Many towns claimed to have held the first Decoration Day, but Waterloo, New York got the most credit for the first Decoration Day.

Waterloo calls itself "The birthplace of Memorial Day." This happened after the Civil War. Memorial Day became a national holiday in 1971. It is held on the last Monday of May each year. It will be celebrated on Monday, May 27, this year. Memorial Day is for remembrance of soldiers who died in war fighting for America and its freedom.

"For Memorial Day, my family and I go to a cemetery where my great-grandpa is buried. My great-grandpa fought in the Vietnam War and died. Every Memorial Day, we go to his grave and decorate it as a family. We decorate the grave with bouquets of flowers that are red, white and blue for the colors of the American flag. Then we take photos to remember the day. After we visit the grave, we go to my paw paws' house and hangout, have a barbecue and have fun.

"To me, Memorial Day is a day to remember and honor fallen soldiers who have sacrificed themselves for America and for our freedoms. When I was younger, I wanted to be in the Army so

bad I dressed up as a soldier for Halloween three years in a row. I also only liked to watch videos about the Army. When I am older, I would like to be a part of the U.S. Army to serve America just like my great-grandpa did. I would like to start putting flags up in my yard. Because without those people, we might not be America today. If it wasn't for them risking their lives daily to protect us so we would be safe from our enemies. Not only do these soldiers risk their lives for Americans, they never think twice about it. So, this Memorial Day, I want to do everything I can to remember and honor the fallen soldiers."

Julia Pannell, community leader and former chairman of the Friends of Memorial Lane, spoke during the school board meeting Monday and explained there were a total of 471 essays submitted for the contest.

"To make it time effective, we had a beautiful ceremony at 5:30," she said. "I hope you take the opportunity to go out and look what Mambрино school did to have it set up

for the winners. It was wonderful. A part of that was Mitch Galvan, the (police) chief that has for eight years presented a \$100 check to the all-district level winner, which you will meet tonight, and also, Faye Landham, who gave each winner a gift. Each winner was presented with a medallion and each winner was presented with a big blue ribbon."

As each student was announced, Pannell recommended that anyone in the audience as well as the school board members see the "beautiful display," outside the board room.

"We thank you, young people, for taking the time to understand what Memorial Day is," Pannell said. "It was so vital to J.C. Campbell that students understand what Memorial Day is."

"Thank you to the Pannells and to Faye Landham and all the others that worked to allow this to take place," board President Barbara Townsend said. "Four hundred and seventy-one essays is a lot to read. J.C. would be very, very proud."



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Chief of Police Mitch Galvan awards STEAM Academy at Mambрино student Levi Cox a \$100 prize for being the overall grand prize essay winner.

As the overall winner, Cox will also be asked to read his essay May 27, at 8:30 a.m. during the Memorial Day

Ceremony at the Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park, 561 N. Travis St.

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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on May 18

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

THS UIL Social Studies team takes second at state

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
Lauren@hcnews.com

The Tolar UIL Social Studies team placed second, and Merrick Warren placed fourth in the individual competition. The event occurred at the University of Texas in Austin, Tuesday, May 14. The competition was held in the Robert A. Welch Hall at 1 p.m., and the results

were announced in the Hogg Memorial Auditorium hours later.

The THS Social Studies team placed first in regionals (the round before state, held at Grayson College in Denison), and the team members individually placed first, second, third and fourth. Therefore, they qualified to compete at the state level.

Schools from 1A to 6A participated, with Tolar rep-

resenting the 2A category. The THS team consisted of seniors Jaxson Boisjolie and Hunter Keith, and juniors Nick Florea and Merrick Warren, with senior Cage Wolf present as an alternate.

Tolar ISD arranged transportation, with the UIL Coordinator Landi Friemel driving, accompanied by social studies teacher and coach Cal Lowry. Family members, including Michael and Melanie Warren, Terese

Wilson, Joyce Blich, JoAnne Huston and Linda Bell, attended the event to support the team.

Initially nervous, the team members' anxiety eased upon entering the testing room. The state competition, a rigorous 90-minute test, required participants to answer 45 multiple-choice questions and write an expository essay. The essay focused this year on the Indian Independence Movement

and the geography of countries around India. Over 200 contestants from various school levels participated, with approximately 300 attendees overall.

With a record of six state championships, Lowry led the team's preparation. Tolar has consistently had representation at the state level under his guidance.

"We couldn't be prouder of the team!" Melanie Warren, a parent, said. Although

the team did not clinch the top spot, the journey was deemed a significant achievement. The team acknowledged the need for more preparation, particularly with new members joining next year.

Tolar High School's participation in the UIL Social Studies State Competition showcased its dedication, skill, and spirit of continuous improvement.

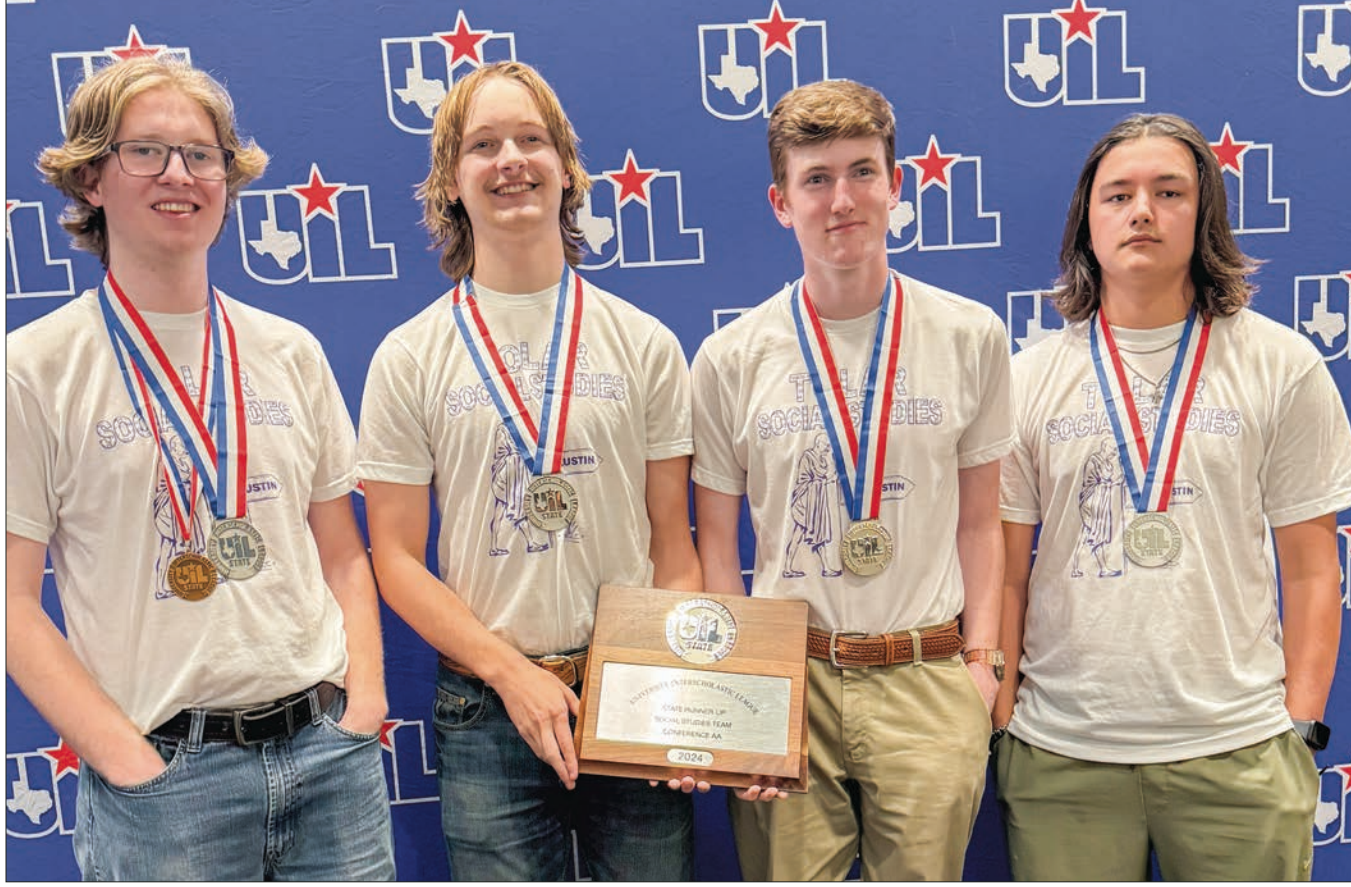


PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE WARREN

THS Social Studies Team places second at UIL State competition. From left, Merrick Warren - Junior, Jackson Boisjolie - Senior, Hunter Keith - Senior, Nick Florea - Junior.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE WARREN

Merrick Warren takes 4th place in the UIL Social Studies State Individual competition.

Granbury Lions Club awards 10 scholarships to Hood County students

From Staff Reports

The Granbury Lions Club recently awarded 10 scholarships to graduating seniors at Granbury High School, Tolar High School and Lipan High School.

For 2024, the Lions Club gave two scholarships to THS seniors, two scholarships to LHS seniors and six scholarships to GHS seniors.

Lion Ryan Scott said there were a total of 97 applicants from all three schools this

year.

"Selecting 10 students from 97 was quite challenging!" he said. "We had a great selection of applicants this year."

Students are only required to complete a scholarship application if they have applied and been accepted to a college/university for the fall semester. They also write an essay and if selected, sit through an interview with three members from the Granbury Lions Club.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured are the Granbury High School recipients of the Granbury Lions Club scholarships for 2024. From left includes Kelly Dang, Alyson Pyles, Sydney McDowell, Jaxon Robinson, Brooke Marak and Peyton Bills.

Trinity Faith Academy celebrates honor graduates



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2024 graduates of Trinity Faith Academy. L to R: Jaylen Howell, Rynne Swanson, Elizabeth Long, Pixie Easley, Abigail Duncan, Lillian Behrens and Haley Goodner

From Staff Reports

Trinity Faith Academy celebrates its all-female and all honor graduates this year. The lowest GPA among the graduates was a 3.84 and four of them had a 4.0; therefore, they each graduated either Summa Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.9-4.0, or Magna Cum Laude with a GPA of 3.7-3.8.

All the seniors at Trinity Faith Academy took dual credit classes from Weatherford College and excelled there as well, with most of the students qualifying for the dean's list and Phi Theta Kappa honor society, though some did not purchase stoles. Each of the seven students was a distinguished graduate as well, meaning they took three years of foreign language class, had at least four dual credit classes and 30-plus hours of community service.

The graduates are as follows:

LILLIAN INAH BEHRENS

Magna Cum Laude, Distinguished Graduate. Behrens plans to finish her associate degree from Weatherford College and then see where God leads.

ABIGAIL GRACE DUNCAN

Summa Cum Laude, Phi Theta Kappa, Psi Pi NHS, Distinguished Graduate. Duncan will attend the University of Arkansas to pursue a degree in international business.

PIXIE RAIN EASLEY

Magna Cum Laude, Weatherford Honors Program, Phi Theta Kappa, Dean's List at Weatherford, Distinguished Graduate, first place in Weatherford College Creative Writing Contest. Once Easley

finishes her associate degree from Weatherford College in December, she hopes to begin a path in entrepreneurship.

HALEY MARIE GOODNER

Summa Cum Laude, Phi Theta Kappa, Distinguished Graduate, Dean's List Weatherford College. Goodner's plans are to finish an associate degree at Weatherford College next year and then transfer to complete a degree in dental hygiene.

JAYLEN TAE HOWELL

Magna Cum Laude, Spanish Honor Society, National Society of Leadership and Success, Distinguished Graduate. Howell plans to pursue a degree in radiological technology in Corpus Christi.

ELIZABETH MARIE LONG

Phi Theta Kappa, National Society of Leadership and Success, Summa Cum Laude, Distinguished Graduate, Psi Pi NHS, Weatherford College English Student of the Year, Mississippi State ASAP Camp winner. Long will attend Mississippi State University to pursue a degree in accounting and eventually obtain a CPA license and practice public accounting.

RYANNE ELIZABETH SWANSON

Summa Cum Laude, Dean's List at Weatherford College, Distinguished Graduate, qualified for Phi Theta Kappa, accepted into Angelo State Honors Program. Swanson plans to continue working at H-E-B while she majors in accounting; she may complete an internship before moving into a financial position.

HYDE
FROM PAGE B1

outstanding young scholars, only 20 seniors from across the state were chosen for the TASSP All State Academic Team.

"It's pretty cool," Hyde told

the Hood County News. "I remember getting called in to write the essay and I didn't expect to actually get selected afterwards."

Each nominee received a score based on their GPA, SAT or ACT score, which accounted for 65 points of the nominee's total score.

The essay portion of the application was scored by the Academic Excellence Committee and accounted for 35% of each nominee's total score.

"It's all kind of weird to me," Hyde said. "I don't have the highest GPA and I'm not valedictorian, but I guess I

met some guidelines that made them pick me."

Hyde said he would like to credit his parents, Paul and Stephanie Hyde, for providing him with the ability to focus on his academics as well as his academics for making the task "so easy."

Following graduation,

Hyde will attend Texas A&M University in College Station and plans to major in chemical engineering.

As a member of the TASSP All-State Academic Team, Hyde will be invited to the TASSP Summer Workshop June 13, where the 20 winners will be introduced and

honored with a luncheon featuring their parents and principals. Each of the 20 graduating seniors will also receive an unrestricted scholarship of \$500.

Cornerstone Christian Academy names 2024 valedictorian, salutatorian

From Staff Reports

Cornerstone Christian Academy has named its valedictorian and salutatorian of 2024. Valedictorian Taylor Stultz and Salutatorian Madison Jones took this year's honors.

TAYLOR STULTZ: VALEDICTORIAN

Cornerstone Christian Academy's valedictorian for 2024 is Taylor Stultz. While a student at CCA, Stultz participated in the National Honor Society, student council, and Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica. She also played varsity volleyball while at CCA.

Stultz continues the family tradition as her mother was valedictorian of Santo High School. Stultz shares about her favorite class: "My favorite class in school was Mrs. Swaim's English class, however this class was also my most difficult class, but ultimately pushed me as a student and a writer."

Stultz found the largest challenge to achieving the goal of becoming valedictorian was the grit the last months of school required. "The biggest challenge for me in attaining this goal was pushing through the end of the year when graduation was in sight, but still having to put my best effort into my schoolwork."



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Taylor Stultz

Stultz sees herself launching her own interior design firm in the coming years, a passion she discovered three years ago. She will continue toward this goal as she continues her studies at Tarleton State University.

Working while going to school was another challenge Stultz overcame. Her

advice is: "Do not base your work ethic on anyone else around you, but always work diligently and passionately for what you want to achieve, not what others tell you to achieve."

The most surprising thing to Stultz about her years at Cornerstone is the close bonds she made while there.

"I knew I would make close friends throughout high school, however I did not expect to become a true family with my classmates, as they have all grown to be like siblings to me, which is what makes graduating so difficult. I am not only saying goodbye to my friends, but to my brothers and sisters as well," she said.

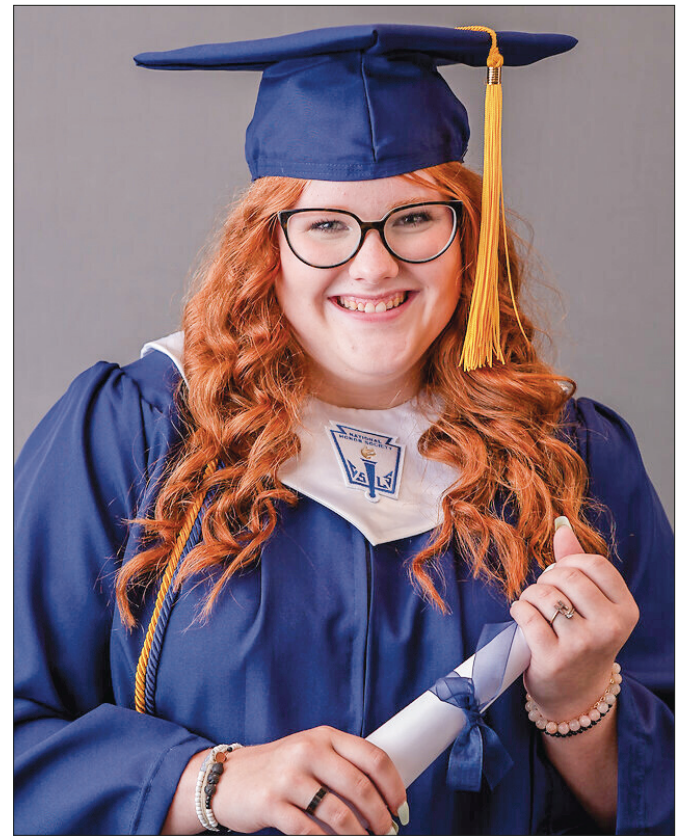
MADISON JONES: SALUTATORIAN

Cornerstone Christian Academy's salutatorian for 2024 is Madison Jones. While at CCA, Jones was a member of the National Honor Society, Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, and played volleyball.

Jones feels the salutatorian honor has given her confidence in herself and shows that she exhibits dedication and skills she knows she will use going forward.

Jones has aspirations of working in a hospital as an anesthesiologist. She has felt called to this profession since she was a little girl. To continue her education Jones will attend Texas Woman's University for her undergraduate studies. Jones says she will see what God has planned for her graduate studies.

While studying at CCA, Jones found calculus to be her favorite class and also the most challenging. Jones



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Madison Jones

says she was constantly challenged in all her classes and adds "my class was full of incredibly smart individuals."

Jones babysat as her high school job. "I loved the privilege of taking care of children," she said.

Jones' best advice to incoming freshmen is to be yourself.

"Be unapologetically you, do not change yourself for validation from others," she said, explaining that she learned many valuable lessons while a student at CCA.

"I didn't expect to bond with people as much as I have but that's one of the perks of attending a small school," Jones shared.

Hensley and Hernandez take top honors at Premier High School

From Staff Reports

Premier High School has named its valedictorian and salutatorian of 2024. Valedictorian Hailey Hensley and Salutatorian Jaziel Hernandez took this year's honors.

HAILEY HENSLEY

Hensley was a part of Junior Leadership Council during her time at Premier. Hensley also served on the student council where she poured her energy into the role of president. "I am very proud of what we were able to achieve the last three years," Hensley said. Hensley feels these leadership opportunities allowed her to grow as a student and a person.

Her career goal is to pursue law. With a keen interest in constitutional and appellate law, Hensley will first attend Tarleton State University where she will major in political science, possibly double majoring in communications. After attending Tarleton for her undergraduate studies, Hensley hopes to attend the University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

Hensley realized she wanted to pursue law three years ago. "I always had an interest in law and politics, and after



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Hailey Hensley

attending Texas Bluebonnet Girls the summer of my junior year, I really knew law was right for me," she said.

"I did not expect to do so many incredible things outside of the academic

setting. I was able to attend Texas Bluebonnet Girls State, spearhead several blood drives at my school, and volunteer for organizations like Miracle League and Hope Live Walk, among other

things. I had so much fun throughout high school, and I would not trade those experiences for the world."

Hensley found the most challenging aspect of school the dual credit classes. "My favorite subject in school was English, specifically American literature. It was my first senior year dual credit English, and I absolutely loved every paper, project and group discussion. The subject I found most difficult was dual credit macroeconomics. My professor started the semester by telling us economics would be challenging; I should have believed him."

"My advice to incoming freshmen is to do what you love, and don't worry if you are not sure what you want to do with your life yet. As a freshman I wanted to be a musical theater major, so don't worry if your goals or dreams fluctuate as you move through these last four years. Have fun, make friends, and when you teachers tell you to study, trust me when I say you should study," shared Hensley.

Hensley continued, "I wish someone would have told me that high school would be a trial and error. I ended up switching schools midway through freshman year



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Jaziel Hernandez

because I was not in the right environment for me, and I now know that it was the right choice. I moved through several clubs and hobbies before I found where I truly thrive, so defi-

nately I wish change would've been more normalized to me before high school."

Salutatorian Jaziel Hernandez did not respond to a request by the HCN for an interview by press time.

GCCA names its Class of 2024 valedictorian

From Staff Reports

Grace Classical Christian Academy has named its valedictorian of 2024. Valedictorian Ty Bowden.

TY BOWDEN: VALEDICTORIAN

Grace Classical Christian Academy presented Ty Bowden with the title of valedictorian for his academic achievements. "I was just doing my best," Bowden said, adding, "Physics was one of my favorite classes and helped draw me to the engineering field." For university, he plans to attend Texas A&M and study en-

gineering. In the future, he would like to work for Tesla.

The opportunity to go to Italy, see a part of the world and apply knowledge about things he learned in school was significant. "The art and architecture are visible remains of the world that we have studied," said Bowden. His other favorite subject was languages (Latin and Greek), while his most challenging subject was history.

After working at Chick-fil-A for a year, Bowden was promoted to shift leader. He was involved in Lakeside Youth, played tennis and

performed in a One-Act Play. He acknowledges how quickly high school flew by and advises incoming first-year students, "Don't procrastinate. Enjoy the opportunity to learn among friends."

While Bowden doesn't have a favorite animal, he finds turtles particularly intriguing. He engages in various activities in his leisure time, from playing spike ball, tennis and ping-pong with friends to enjoying the soothing tunes of 'chill' music and relaxing naps.

"I appreciate the classi-

cal Christian education I've received and the value that GCCA provided — a way to improve how the students think about life."



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Ty Bowden



ConGRADulations Class of 2024



Matthew Caleb Andrews



Crystalina James Bartholomew



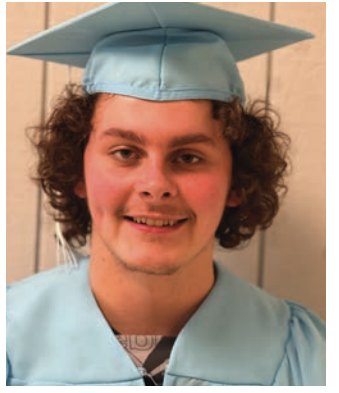
Leland Neil Becker



Dillon James Belcher



Jaiden Arnell Brewster



Patrick Del Bryant



Neil Ray Campbell



Hannah Mae Cone



Joseph Trenton Cook



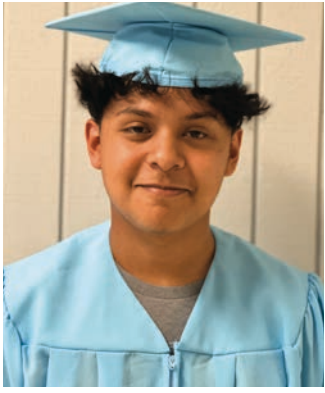
Lillie Bea Cornwall



Landon Thomas Dickey



Julicia Lizzet Enriquez



Joseph Espinoza



Broly Scott Goforth



Noah Robert Guinn



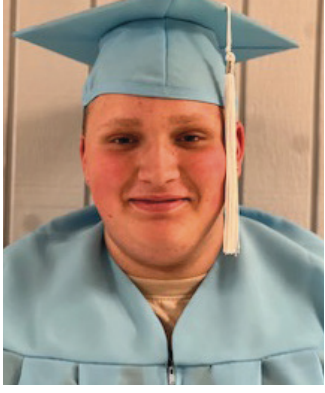
Hayden Hall Hickey



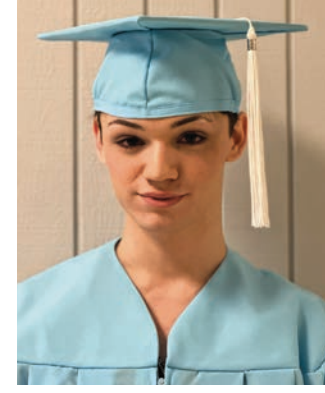
Angel Huerta-Guia



Idania Huerta-Guia



Hudson Henry Hunt



Dakota Lee Johnson



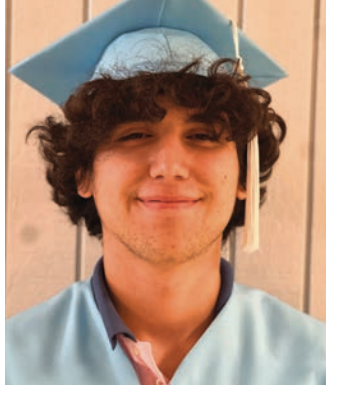
Juan Jose Marquez Lopez



Justin Curtis Maserang



Mariana Lisette McWilliam



Michael Labrada McWilliam

Matthew Caleb Andrews
December 2023 Graduate
Received Endorsement
I want to thank my parents, friends, and all the teachers who have helped me reach this achievement. I'm hoping to go to a 4-year college and get my major in architectural engineering. As Bob Marley said, "Live the life you love; love the life you live."

Crystalina James Bartholomew
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
30+ Hours of Community Service
I want to thank my parents for always supporting my goals. I want to thank my best friend, Sammi, for helping me stay positive through school. Thank you to everyone who always believed in me.

Leland Neil Becker
May 2024 Graduate
Thank you, STARS Accelerated High School. I am so grateful for the opportunity to graduate early and to the teachers who helped me achieve that goal. I am excited to move forward into my adult life prepared with the knowledge and skills I learned.

Dillon James Belcher
May 2024 Graduate
Forward Training Center Graduate
I want to thank my Mom and Mimi for pushing me to go to school and motivating me to graduate. I also want to thank all of the teachers at STARS for believing in me and making sure that I graduated.

Jaiden Arnell Brewster
May 2024 Graduate
I made it!

Patrick Del Bryant
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement

A thank you to the Slaters who took me in and kept me on track. Without y'all, it wouldn't have been possible.

Neil Ray Campbell
December 2023 Graduate
Forward Training Center Graduate
Microsoft Word and Excel Certifications
Thank you, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Dollins, Mrs. Hughes, and Miss Lewis for being the best teachers one could ever have. Thank you, Mrs. Rodriguez, for creating an environment where students feel comfortable and achieve their dreams.

Hannah Mae Cone
May 2024 Graduate
Thank you to every single teacher and staff member at STARS for having faith in me when I didn't have a drop of it. I am forever grateful for what you have done for me. You will also be forever in my heart, and I'll think of you all the time until the day I die. Thank you, STARS.

Joseph Trenton Cook
May 2024 Graduate
Thank you to all the teachers and students for making my time here worth it.

Lillie Bea Cornwall
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
30+ Hours of Community Service
Thank you so much for everything y'all have done to get me to where I am now. I have finally achieved my lifelong goal of graduating high school and receiving my diploma. I don't think I could've done it without the encouragement and motivation I was given. I'm definitely going to miss y'all!!

Landon Thomas Dickey
December 2023 Graduate
Forward Training Center

Graduate
Microsoft Word and Excel Certifications
30+ Hours of Community Service
Thank you to the teachers who pushed me to succeed, to the friends I made even though I talked a bit too much at times, to my family who was always encouraging me, and, of course, Ryann, my girlfriend, who was my #1 supporter since the beginning.

Julicia Lizzet Enriquez
May 2024 Graduate
I want to thank all my family for helping me, encouraging me to finish school, and giving me the support I needed. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for y'all. Thank you, Mrs. Rodriguez, and all the amazing teachers here who helped me get done and out.

Joseph Espinoza
December 2023 Graduate
Thanks to all the teachers for helping me get to this point.

Devin Deon Fleming (no photo available)
May 2024 Graduate
I want to thank my mom, dad, and grandma.

Broly Scott Goforth
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
Thank you, Mrs. Dollins and Mrs. Morris, for pushing me beyond my limits, and to Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Hughes for being the funny/relatable teachers. Thank you to Thomas Wise for being my best friend at STARS, and to Ms. Sharla and Mrs. Rodriguez for giving me the opportunity to come to STARS.

Noah Robert Guinn
May 2024 Graduate
Microsoft Word and Excel Certifications
Coming to STARS was one of the best decisions

I have ever made. The faculty did everything in their power to make sure I moved forward to achieve my dreams. They pushed me farther than I could even push myself. Even through the negatives and the positives, they never stopped believing in me. I will forever be grateful for everything they have done for me. Thank you for letting me become a STAR!

Hayden Hall Hickey
May 2024 Graduate
Thank you for everything you have done and all the help to get me graduated. Thank you to my family for getting me to school every day and pushing me to be a good person.

Angel Huerta-Guia
May 2024 Graduate
Forward Training Center Graduate
I wanna thank all my teachers at STARS for pushing me to graduation. I also wanna thank my dad; he is a good role model.

Idania Huerta-Guia
December 2023 Graduate
30+ Hours of Community Service
Le quiero dar las gracias especialmente a mis padres y familia porque siempre creyeron en mi. It wasn't easy; there were times when I wanted to give up and not keep going. But look, I made it to the end!

Hudson Henry Hunt
May 2024 Graduate
I want to thank Mrs. Rodriguez for giving me a chance to get into this school due to my past, as well as believing in me and hearing me out. I also want to thank my parents for helping me and believing that I could succeed.

Dakota Lee Johnson
May 2024 Graduate
Thank you, Mrs. Dollins, for making sure everyone in class felt involved.

Thank you, Mrs. Lewis, for your ecstatic inviting energy, and thank you to Mrs. Morris for helping me when I needed it most. And to everyone else I didn't get to mention, thank you for putting smiles on everyone's faces.

Juan Jose Marquez Lopez
December 2023 Graduate
I am grateful for all the support you have given me in recent months. Thanks to all the teachers for helping me, and thanks to God because He is the one who allows everything.

Justin Curtis Maserang
May 2024 Graduate
I want to thank my dad for always being there for me and helping me along the way with so much in life. I want to thank my Aunt Roro for everything she does for me. I want to thank my cousin Chad for being like an older brother to me for all these years, and I want to thank all my friends for always believing in me, especially my best friend Chandler for being my homie. Love y'all.

Mariana Lisette McWilliam
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
Thank you to Mrs. Rodriguez and STARS staff for the support, thank you to my Mom and Dad for the love, and thank you to God for the strength.

Michael Labrada McWilliam
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
I have to thank Mrs. Rodriguez for helping me graduate by accepting me into STARS and by pushing me even when I had no motivation. I would also like to thank

all the staff for helping me become the person I am today.

Tomas Mendoza
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
Microsoft Word and Excel Certifications
Thanks for everything that y'all did for me and for helping me to get to this point. I'm really grateful.

Charley Ryenne Miller
May 2024 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
Microsoft Word and Excel Certifications
I want to thank my support group which has stuck with me for the last two or more years. You guys have stuck by my side through thick and thin, and I never could've done anything without you guys: Ollie, Milo, Stephanie, my mom, my dad, my step-mom, and my friend group outside of Granbury. I love you guys, and I can't thank you enough.

Ryann Ester Mull
December 2023 Graduate
Received Endorsement
Forward Training Center Graduate
Microsoft Word Certification
30+ Hours of Community Service
I want to thank Landon for always supporting me and being by my side throughout this journey. I also want to thank my mom and dad for putting up with me and pushing me to exceed expectations. In addition, thank you to my sister, Reagan, for loving me unconditionally throughout everything. Thank you, STARS, for helping me through this chapter in my life. Your efforts did not go unnoticed.



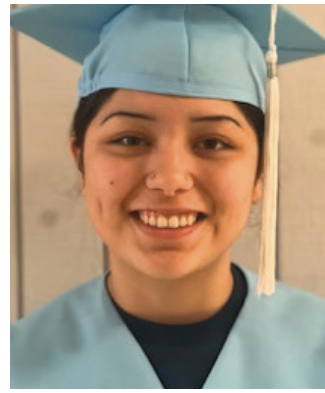
Tomas Mendoza



Charlseyy Ryenne Miller



Ryann Ester Mull



Miriam Adrianna Ramirez Stone



Alyssa Nicole Rodriguez



Isabella Emma Rodriguez



Miguel Angelo Rodriguez



Natalie Nicole Rodriguez



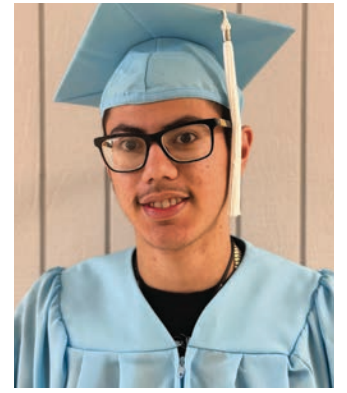
Brock Evan Rose



Alora Denae Saavedra



Dominic Luis Sanchez



Michael Raul Sandoval



Joshua Glee Slater



Ronan Sebastian Snyder



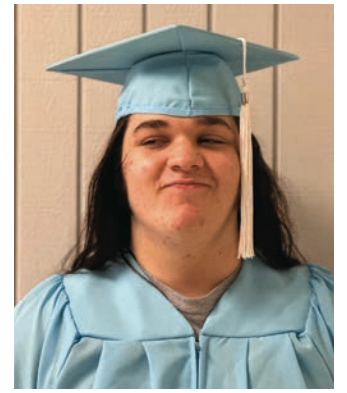
Mikayla Lynn Sobczak



Kerri Chyenne Underwood



Mikayla Danielle Ward



Thomas Eugene Wise



Sydnee Erin Wright



Lynden Brock Zedrick-Privette

Graduate 30+ Hours of Community Service
Thank you for the opportunity to push myself to succeed and graduate faster than I would have.

Natalie Nicole Rodriguez
December 2023 Graduate Received Endorsement Forward Training Center Graduate Microsoft Word Certification

Thank you to all the teachers who helped me with my classes, I wouldn't have graduated without all of your help. Thank you for pushing me to do my best. I also want to thank my family and boyfriend for supporting me throughout it all.

Brock Evan Rose
May 2024 Graduate Received Endorsement Forward Training Center Graduate Microsoft Word Certification
Thank you, Mom, for being the biggest support in my life. If it wasn't for you, I wouldn't have been motivated enough to succeed in all of the things that I am accomplishing in life right now.

Alora Denae Saavedra
May 2024 Graduate Received Endorsement
I would like to especially thank my family, friends, teachers, and counselors for helping me through this journey.

Dominic Luis Sanchez
May 2024 Graduate
I would like to thank my Grammy. I couldn't ask for more support from her and my Papa. I love you all so much. You have been the best at putting up with me and helping me through all this. Also, shout out to my teachers.

Michael Raul Sandoval
May 2024 Graduate
Thank you to everyone who helped me get to this point, especially my family for pushing me to get this far.

Joshua Glee Slater
December 2023 Graduate Received Endorsement Microsoft Word Certification
To all the wonderful people at STARS, teachers and students, thank you for being kind and helping at every turn to get me out of here.

Ronan Sebastian Snyder
May 2024 Graduate
I am glad that I was able

to go to STARS, because they worked with me until the last minute to get me graduated and finished with high school.

Mikayla Lynn Sobczak
May 2024 Graduate Received Endorsement Forward Training Center Graduate Microsoft Word and Excel Certifications 30+ Hours of Community Service

The people I want to thank most are my parents and my aunt. They believed in me and helped me get here in many ways; however, there are so many people I can also thank. I just cannot list them all. I love you. Thank you for everything.

Kerri Chyenne Underwood
May 2024 Graduate Received Endorsement Forward Training Center Graduate
I just want to say thank you to everyone for pushing me to be the best I can be, but one person in particular is my sister. Thank you for making sure I never give up and pushing me to achieve my dreams.

Mikayla Danielle Ward
December 2023 Graduate Forward Training Center

Graduate Microsoft Word and Excel Certifications
Thank you to all my friends and family who encouraged me and pushed me to keep going even when I wanted to give up. And thank you to London Rose who has changed my outlook on life and has made me want to be better.

Thomas Eugene Wise
May 2024 Graduate
Thank you for giving me another chance to set my future on the right path.

Sydnee Erin Wright
December 2023 Graduate Received Endorsement Forward Training Center Graduate
Thank you to all my family for the support you gave me to help me graduate high school and prepare for college. Also, thank you to the teachers for believing in me.

Lynden Brock Zedrick-Privette
May 2024 Graduate Received Endorsement Forward Training Center Graduate
Thank you to all my teachers for pushing me through my classes and giving me the opportunity to be on this stage.



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LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lady Rattlers huddled up between innings.

A season of firsts for Lady Rattlers comes to end; Rattlers fall in third round

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

A historic softball season came to an end for the Tolar Lady Rattlers in the Class 2A Region II semifinals with losses to Crawford of 6-4 and 7-4 May 15 and 18 in Glen Rose.

The Lady Rattlers (22-8) advanced farther in the post-season than any other Tolar softball team ever has. They also had some individual accomplishments along the way.

Senior pitcher Reese Tryon ended her career with over 600 strikeouts. She also posted 62 victories. Both are the most ever by a Lady Rattler pitcher.

Junior catcher Allison Dobbs hit 11 home runs, a single-season record, including a clutch 3-run shot to rally the team in its regional quarterfinals win over Hico.

"To be a part of history making in our program is an honor, a memory that will forever be etched on my heart as the head coach and on the girls' hearts accomplishing this with their teammates who committed fully to the goal we set at the beginning of the year," Tolar coach Christy Collie said.

"Each year our seniors choose the motto for the team and this year's motto 'Out Play, Out Work, Out Last' was definitely lived out and was perfect for the chemistry and talent our team had this season."

The Out Play part of the motto was to outscore their opponents, which included outscoring their District 11-

2A opponents 65-5 and their postseason foes 59-23.

And they fought Crawford, ranked No. 3 in the state and state champions in 2022, leading the second game 4-3 late. In the first game they closed to within 5-4 after six innings.

"In the end Crawford (26-5) outscored us, but the girls worked and worked and worked," Collie said. "We just came up a few scores too short."

The Out Work part of the motto focused on being dominant players offensively and defensively, Collie said, making plays that stretch the opponent's confidence and rattles them. "Plays that take hits away, catch runners stealing bases and rolling double plays to get us out of the inning," she described. "Offensively, we hit shots and holes, making our opponents' defense work and move and pressuring them with aggressive base running."

Collie said Out Last represented the mental part of the game.

"Outlasting the pressures our opponents created and outlasting our own moments of doubt or frustrations when plays weren't going our way. Choosing to be mentally strong each play and each at bat," she said. "Choosing our teammates over our own 'self pity' moments we can fall into when things aren't going the way as planned. I truly believe living this out as a team is what helped us to accomplish our team goal which was to make it to the regional semifinals."

The Lady Rattlers return 13 players next season as

the program moves up to the Class 3A level.

Tolar hitting in Game 1 vs. Crawford: Senne Imel home run, RBI; Jaylyn Miller one hit, walk; Dobbs one hit, RBI; Kanyyn Deaver, one hit, two RBIs; Tryon walk.

Tolar pitching: Tryon 7.0 innings, seven hits, six runs (four earned), four strikeouts, five walks, four hit batters.

Tolar hitting in Game 2: Dobbs one hit, RBI; Tryon one hit, RBI; Ava LeCluyse one hit, walk, RBI; Imel two walks; Jorgia Reed walk; Miller RBI.

Tolar pitching: Tryon 6.0 innings, nine hits, seven earned runs, nine strikeouts, four walks, hit batter.

TOLAR BASEBALL

Despite the loss of a plethora of talent from last season, the Tolar Rattlers once again had a great season. The Rattlers (16-9-2) advanced to at least the third round of the playoffs for a fourth straight season, including a regional finals appearance in 2023.

This season ended with losses of 5-3 and 5-0 to Valley Mills (32-2), ranked No. 3 in the state, in the Class 2A Region II quarterfinals May 15 in Glen Rose.

The Rattlers graduated six players from their regional finalist team and lost another key starter in the state championship football game in December due to a torn ACL. "The guys stepped up and competed hard in their place. We won our district and reached the third round of the playoffs for the fourth year in a row because of these players," Rattlers

coach Lance Alford said.

Along the way, the Rattlers gave Alford his 100th win as a head coach.

"I'd trade the 100 wins if that meant we could play into June again this year," he said.

In the opening game, the Rattlers scored two runs to take a 3-2 lead after the top of the sixth against Valley Mills before the Eagles rallied with three runs in the bottom of the sixth. The second game was a scoreless tie through the first four innings.

The Rattlers, who will be competing in Class 3A, will return five players next season.

Tolar hitting in Game 1: Talan Brown one hit; Cutter Cain triple, RBI; Jesse Owen home run, RBI; Merritt Imel one hit; Drake Owens one hit; Mitchell Alford hit by pitch.

Tolar pitching: Owens 5.1 innings, eight hits, five runs (two earned), five strikeouts, five walks; Oakley Saffer 0.2 innings.

Tolar hitting in Game 2: Rowdy Tryon one hit, walk; Noah Yanish one hit, walk; Cain one hit, walk; Brown walk; Imel walk.

Tolar pitching: Brown 6.0 innings, seven hits, four earned runs, one strikeout, two walks; Saffer one inning, two hits, one run (zero earned), one strikeout.

GRANBURY BOYS SOCCER

Joshua Croft has been hired as the new head coach for the Pirates. He comes to the program from Bridgeland High School in Cypress, where he helped the Bears go 16-5-3, win District

16-6A and reach the second round of the playoffs.

Croft replaces Drew McKinney.

GRANBURY BASEBALL

Four members of the Pirates (17-12, 5-7 in District 5-5A) were named to the all-district team by the league's coaches. Named to the first team were senior outfielder Gavin Current, senior shortstop Hunter Jones and junior pitcher Murphy Page.

Senior outfielder/pitcher Braxton Heffernan is an honorable mention.

Academic all-district accolades went to Heffernan, Jones, Come Bradley, Blake Bramlett, Derek Marquardt and Eli Sisco.

RODEO

Granbury High junior Carsyn Nolen is wrapping up her year as Miss North Texas High School Rodeo. She also competed in ride-up goat tying, qualifying for the NTHRSA Finals with results still being tabulated at press time.

Her father, Chase Nolen, is a professional barrelman (rodeo clown who entertains the crowd and protects the rider after they're off the bull/horse) and her stepmother, Melinda Brock Nolen, grew up competing in the NTHSRA.

SUMMER CAMPS

Granbury ISD summer sports camps, all at Granbury High School, include:

Boys basketball - May 28-31, grades 1-5, 9-11 a.m.; incoming grades 6-9, Granbury

High School, 1-3 p.m. Cost \$80.

Football - June 3-6, grades 1-6, 8-11 a.m. Cost \$75.

Baseball - June 3-6, grades K-4, 8-10 a.m.; grades 5-9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost \$90.

Softball - June 3-6, grades 2-6, 8-9:30 a.m.; grades 7-9, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Cost \$70.

Girls soccer - June 10-13, grades 6-9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Cost \$75.

Boys soccer - June 10-13, grades 7-9, 6-8:30 p.m. Cost \$75.

Co-ed soccer - June 10-13, grades K-5, 8-10 a.m. Cost \$75.

Tennis - June 17-20, grades 2-9, 8-10 a.m. Cost \$70.

Boys basketball - June 24-27, grades 1-5, 8-10 a.m.; grades 6-9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost \$80.

Football - July 29-31, grades 7-9, 8-11 a.m.. Cost \$75.

Volleyball - July 29-31, grades 7-9, 8-10 a.m. Cost \$75.

Tolar summer sports camps, all at Tolar High School, include:

Girls basketball - May 28-30, grades 1-6, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; grades 7-9, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Cost \$50.

Football - July 17-21, grades 7-9, playmaker camp, 10 a.m.-noon; grades 3-6, passing camp, 6-8 p.m. Cost \$40.

Football - June 24-28, grades 7-9, linemen camp, 10 a.m.-noon. Cost \$40.

Football - July 29-Aug. 1, grades K-9, 6-8 p.m. Cost \$40.

Volleyball - July 29-31, grades 7-9, 8-10 a.m.; grades 4-6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Cost \$50.



Granbury Spring Game

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Friday, May 17 the Granbury High School football team held an intersquad spring scrimmage where the Pirates defense faced off against the Pirates offense in Pirate Stadium. For full gallery go to hcnews.com



Hayden Meyer and Jonathon McCandless chat between plays.



Some Granbury offensive players watch the Granbury spring game.

PLEASE SEE FOOTBALL | B11

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State to Celebrate 125 Years of Excellence

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — This fall, Tarleton State University will launch its 125 Years of Excellence celebration to honor the esteemed history and cherished traditions of the institution.

Paying homage to the vision of founder John Tarleton, the celebration will commence Sept. 3 with a special ceremony. A formal indoor event featuring Texas A&M System, city, state and legislative speakers will initiate the festivities before moving to Alumni Island for a Birthday Bash. Additional details regarding the launch day happenings will be available at a later date. The celebration will kick off the official 125th anniversary of the university's inaugural week

of classes in 1899.

Throughout the year, events and activities will be branded and promoted as part of the celebration. Some highlights include Family Weekend Sept. 27-28 and Homecoming Week Oct. 6-12, with others to be announced in the coming months.

The celebration will align with the first year of NCAA Division I championship eligibility, as well as the 89th Legislative Session.

"For 125 years, the gates of our university have been open to opportunity for all," said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley. "We will leverage the foundation from our history to propel us forward as our Texans make a

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY®



transformative impact on the region and state. We're excited to celebrate with our students, alumni, faculty and staff over the next academic year."

The celebration will honor Tarleton State's rich history and traditions, pay tribute to generations who have contributed to a legacy of student success, and build excitement for the future.

An official logo set has been approved for the 125th-anniversary celebration. The mark is primarily a purple and white number "125" with the Tarleton State logo placed at the core of the mark, symbolizing 125 years of pursuit for victory and honor, echoing the sentiment of Tarleton's revered color song, "All Hail the Proud Defenders of

the Purple and the White." These two colors stand as the essence of the mark with a delicate thread of lavender between, which underscores the unity of the hues, mirroring the unity found in every Tarleton State Texan.

"This is a historic milestone that displays Tarleton State's enduring spirit," said Vice President for University Strategy and Chief of Staff Dr. Credence Baker, chair of the 125th planning committee. "When Texans see the 125 Years of Excellence mark, they will experience a sense of pride while recognizing their involvement in something extraordinary."

For more information, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/125years/>.

Tarleton State Baseball concludes regular season action with most runs in 2024 campaign

Tarleton State University

ARLINGTON - The Texans shut the door on UTA's hopes of a weekend sweep, with four four-run innings to hand the Mavericks their lone loss of the weekend on Senior Day, Saturday, May 18.

Tarleton State (27-28, 17-12 WAC) closed out regular season action against UT Arlington (22-33, 16-14 WAC) with a bang. The Texans closed out the day with a 19-9 final, the most runs the Purple and White have put up all season.

Jake Burcham got the start for Tarleton State with 2.0 innings on the mound, giving up two runs on two hits, no walks and one strikeout. Parrish Beagle (W, 3-1) saw 1.0 inning on the bump, giving up three runs on three hits, no walks and one strikeout.

Caden Noah went 1.0 inning to start off the afternoon for UTA, giving up no runs on no hits, no walks and one strikeout. Aaron Calhoun (L, 0-6) pitched 3.1 innings, giving up six runs on seven hits, one walk and one strikeout.

The Texan offense was hot, compiling 19 runs on 22 hits with Cris Enriquez's second home run of the series and seventh of the season. Mason Crews (2), Kooper Shook (1) and Austin Russell (1) each claimed doubles for the visitors while Ike Shirey and Russell tallied a stolen base each for the Purple and White. The regular season finale saw Tarleton State record a new season high in hits, runs and RBI (18).

UTA finished out the afternoon with nine runs on nine hits with one home run, three doubles and one stolen base.

The home team struck first with a pair of runs coming across in the bottom of the opening inning. The leadoff was hit by a pitch and the first out followed. The three-hole reached on an error from the Texans and a wild pitch saw the pair advance. A two RBI single to right tallied the first two for UTA.

Tarleton State was quick to get back in the fight, cutting the lead in half with a run in the top of the second. Enriquez was hit by a pitch and advanced on a balk. The first out was recorded, making room for Enriquez at third. As the second out was tallied, Enriquez scored to get to Texans on the board.

The Purple and White kept applying pressure with a four-run inning in the third. A leadoff walk saw Crews on base and Shirey singled on a bunt to add another to the base paths. Mason Hammonds singled to right field to load the bases and Trace Morrison came through with a single to send Crews across the plate. A double play followed but with a lone out keeping the Texans alive, Enriquez singled to score Morrison and Hammonds, putting the visitors in the lead. Smith reached on a fielding error, scoring Enriquez to bring the total to 5-2 for Tarleton State.

The Mavericks refused to back down, putting up four runs of their own in the bottom of the inning. A



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Cris Enriquez sliding into third

pair of hit-by-pitches and a walk loaded the bases for the home team. A three-RBI double tied the game and a flyout brought in the sixth run to put UTA back in the lead.

After a scoreless fourth inning across the board, the Texans tallied another couple of runs in the fifth. Hammonds singled as the leadoff. With one out recorded, Cole Mears walked and an RBI single from Enriquez tied things up again. Smith brought Mears home on a single to give the Purple and White the lead again at 7-6.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Mavericks put up three runs to retake the lead and score their final runs of the

afternoon. With two outs recorded, a double to left center kept the inning alive for the home team. A second double followed to bring in the tying run. A two-run home run tallied the final pair of runs for UTA, giving them a temporary lead at 9-7.

The Texans wasted no time and refused to let off the gas, scoring four runs in each of the next three innings.

In the top of the seventh with one out, Enriquez left the yard for the second time this weekend, making it a one-run game. Smith singled and Russell reached on an error then stole second to see a pair of Texans in scoring position. Shook singled to bring

Smith across, tying things up at 9-9. A sacrifice bunt from Crews made way for Russell to come home and Shirey followed with a single to score Shook for run 11, completely changing the momentum of the game.

The top of the eighth opened with a trio of singles from Morrison, Mears and Enriquez, tallying another run with no outs recorded. A pitching change followed, and the first out was secured for UTA with another run coming in. The second out followed and a single from Shook advanced Tyson Drake as the pinch runner for Enriquez. Crews doubled to bring in another couple of runs bringing the lead to

15-9 for the visitors.

Tarleton State didn't let up, scoring another four runs in the ninth to secure a healthy lead. With one out on the board, Morrison singled to get the Texans on base. The second out followed and Jordan Andrade stepped up to the plate in place of Drake. Andrade singled to add another runner on the path and Smith singled, scoring Morrison. Russell did more damage with a double that brought Andrade across and a final two RBI double from Shook brought in the final runs for the Purple and White for a 19-9 final.

Barbara Jean McKeage endowed nursing scholarship established at TSU



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The estate of the late Barbara Jean McKeage, a longtime nurse, honored her legacy recently with the creation of an endowed scholarship at TSU to benefit students in the School of Nursing.

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — The estate of the late Barbara Jean McKeage, a longtime nurse, honored her legacy recently with the creation of an endowed scholarship at Tarleton State University to benefit students in the School of Nursing.

McKeage started her career as a secretary, with a dream was to one day be a nurse. She eventually worked her way through school and achieved her goal of becoming a registered nurse. Much of her career was spent in the intensive care unit, first in Troy, Missouri, and later in Stephenville.

She regularly volunteered to take holiday shifts at the hospital so other nurses with children could spend the holiday with their families. She enjoyed a long career and a calling she loved before retiring in 2007.

McKeage often talked about how difficult it was to go back to school to become an RN and how proud she was of that accomplishment.

Her final desire was to use some of what she and her husband Bob had been blessed with to make a difference for others who are called to the career of nursing.

McKeage's estate gifted Tarleton State with \$84,000

to create the scholarship fund which will benefit others for years to come.

"We are grateful for this generous gift from Barbara Jean McKeage's estate," said Dr. Ramona Parker, associate vice president and executive dean for the College of Health Sciences. "This gift allows the nursing school to provide scholarships for nursing students. Establishing this endowment speaks to Mrs. McKeage's desire to support others like her, who answered the call to become a nurse and be of service to others."



TOLAR RATTLERS AND LADY RATTLERS TEAMS FINISH STRONG



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Tolar Rattlers baseball team finished its season in Glen Rose Wednesday, May 15 in a 0-2 series loss against the Valley Mills Eagles. The Lady Rattlers started their series Wednesday as well in Glen Rose against the Crawford Lady Pirates. The Lady Rattlers season ultimately came to an end Saturday, May 18 with a 0-2 series loss. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



Jesse Owen swinging towards the ball.



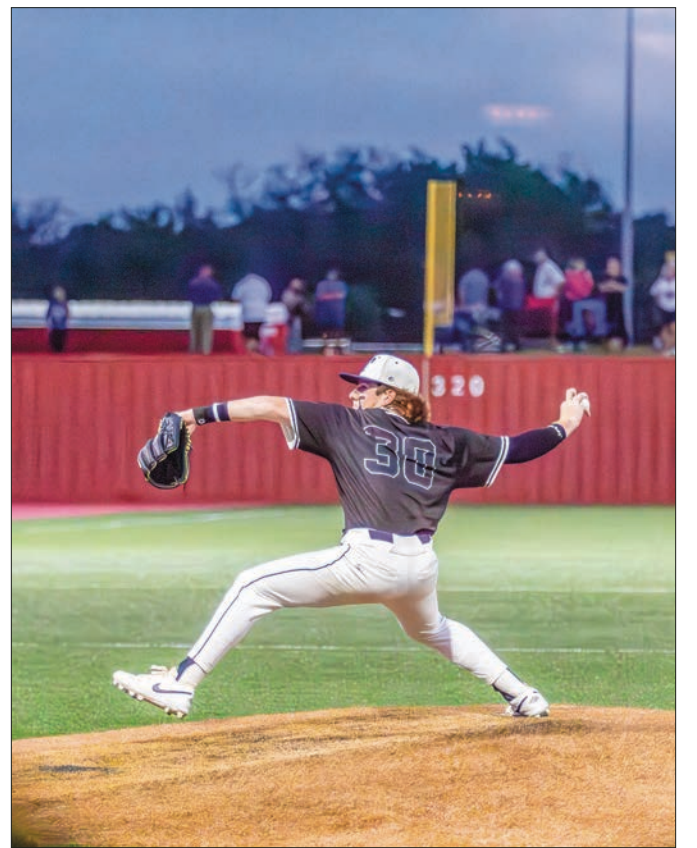
Oakley Saffer on the mound for Rattlers.



Rowdy Tryon hitting the ball.



Jesse Owen behind the plate for the Rattlers.



Talan Brown pitching in game two Wednesday night.



Reese Tryon pitching for the Rattlers.



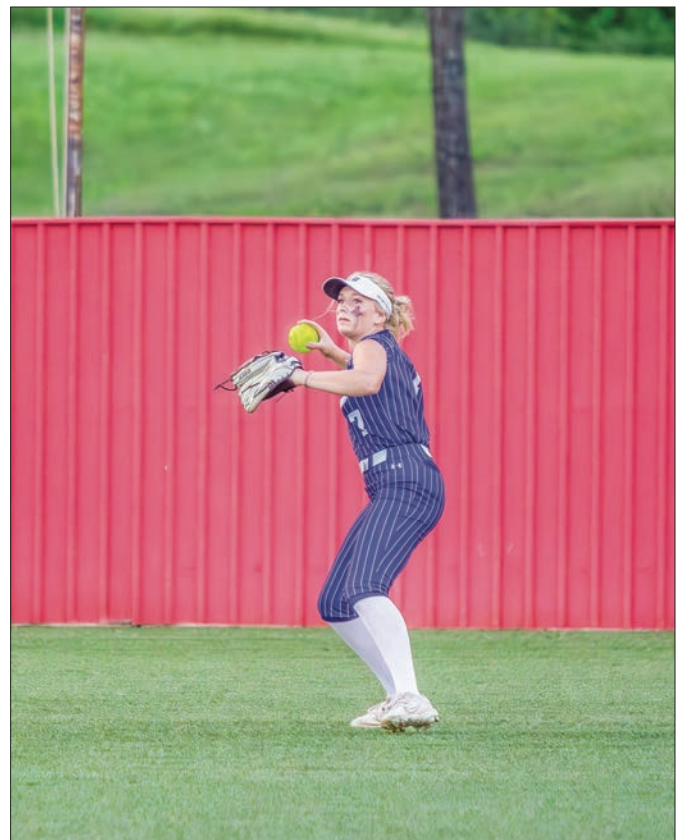
Senne Imel coming into home after hitting a homerun.



Senne Imel making the catch at first.



Ava LeCluyse swinging at the ball.



Milly Taylor throwing the ball in.

FOOTBALL

FROM PAGE B8



The crowd watches the Granbury spring football game.



Hayden Meyer looks for an open receiver.



Montayvon Thomas runs the ball, trying to work past the Granbury defense.



Granbury's new head football coach Bobby Hill leads the scrimmage.



Spencer Taylor works the ball down the field.

HCN Junior

National Children's Gardening Week, celebrated annually in late May, is a wonderful opportunity for kids to explore the joys of gardening and connect with nature. This special week encourages children to get their hands dirty, discover the magic of growing plants, and appreciate the wonders of the natural world.

For kids, National Children's Gardening Week is an invitation to embark on exciting gardening activities. Planting seeds, nur-

turing young plants, and watching them grow are not only fun but also provide valuable lessons about responsibility and the life cycle of plants.

Families can create a mini-garden at home, whether it's a small container garden on a balcony or a patch in the backyard. In schools, teachers may organize gardening projects, allowing students to actively participate in cultivating flowers, herbs, or vegetables.

Educational activities during this week can include lessons on plant care, identifying different types

NATIONAL Childrens GARDENING WEEK

MAY 25- JUNE 2, 2024

of flowers, and understanding the role of insects in pollination. Parents and teachers can explain the environmental benefits of gardening, fostering a sense of responsibility for the planet.

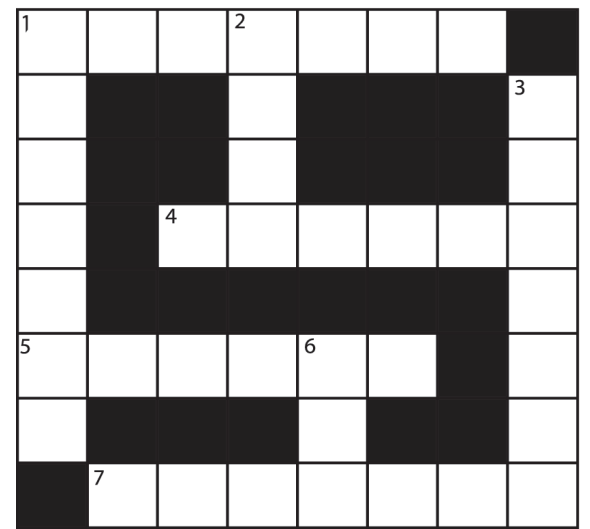
National Children's Gardening Week also offers opportunities for creativity. Kids can express themselves through garden-themed art projects, creating colorful plant markers, decorative pots, or even painting rocks to add a touch of whimsy to their outdoor space.

Engaging children in gardening not only pro-

motes physical activity and outdoor play but also instills an appreciation for the environment. Through hands-on experiences, kids develop a deeper connection with the natural world, learning about the importance of conservation and sustainable practices.

So, during National Children's Gardening Week, let the gardening adventures begin! Whether it's planting flowers, growing vegetables, or simply enjoying the beauty of outdoor spaces, this week encourages kids to cultivate a love for nature that can last a lifetime

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1. Slope of land
- 4. Petaled plant part
- 5. Sweet liquid
- 7. Soil fertilizer

DOWN

- 1. Places to grow plants
- 2. Knob for tuning
- 3. Pick crops
- 6. Short for ampere

Answers:
Across
1. Grading 4. Flower 5. Nectar 7. Compost
Down
1. Gardens 2. Dial 3. Harvest 6. Amp

COLOR Time



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Pecan Plantation Woman's Club Scholarship

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Thursday, May 17th, at the May meeting, the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club proudly presented \$7,000 in donations to local charities and awarded \$10,000 in scholarships to local students. The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club considers charity presentations and the awarding of scholarships to high school seniors in Hood County as the highlight of their year. Four of the five scholarship recipients joined PPWC Vice President Gerta Howell on stage to receive their certificates. From left, Granbury High School's Peyton Mitchell, Lipan High School's Damaris Amador, VP Gerta Howell, Miriam Ramirez Stone, and Kerri Underwood, both from Granbury's STARS Academy. Mikayla Sobczak, also from STARS Academy, could not attend.

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Robert G Jones: A blessed life

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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On a warm Texas morning, Robert G. “Bob” Jones sits on the backyard deck of his home in Granbury, reflecting and reminiscing about his life’s journey — one that had brought him here to this very spot. A symphony unfolds in the distance as Egyptian Geese honk and Finches chirp in the bright sun. His mind drifts back from humble beginnings to marriage and children to his days in the U.S. Air Force, where, as a fighter pilot, he shot through the skies defending his country during the tense days of the Cold War.

But to truly understand Jones’, one must travel back to his childhood a few miles from Merigold, Mississippi where Jones was born Feb. 9, 1935. He vividly recalls the arrival of electricity followed by the installation of a well, bringing running water and an indoor bathroom to their home. The 5-year-old boy happily said goodbye to the outhouse!

Jones’ father, Carl Booth Jones, a man with skills in farming, mechanics, carpentry and more, managed operations on his grandfather’s plantation. He oversaw farming activities and equipment maintenance. Despite a brief stint at Mississippi State College, his battle with alcohol later overshadowed much of his life, though he triumphed over addiction in his later years.

Jones’ mother, Imogene Thomasson Jones, known as



Robert G Jones and Beverly Jones pictured on their Granbury back porch.

Jean, pursued education at Morehead Junior College and Delta State College. A devoted mother and homemaker, Jean was a strong and faithful Christian, and actively participated in the Merigold Baptist Church community.

TRAGEDY STRIKES

“I can picture in my mind the exact place and time when I first learned about the bombing of Pearl Harbor. We were going home after church following a noon meal with my grandparents. We heard the announcement on our car radio on this fateful day, Dec. 7, 1941,” The onset of World War II would soon be followed by catastrophic family loss that would break young Jones’

heart.

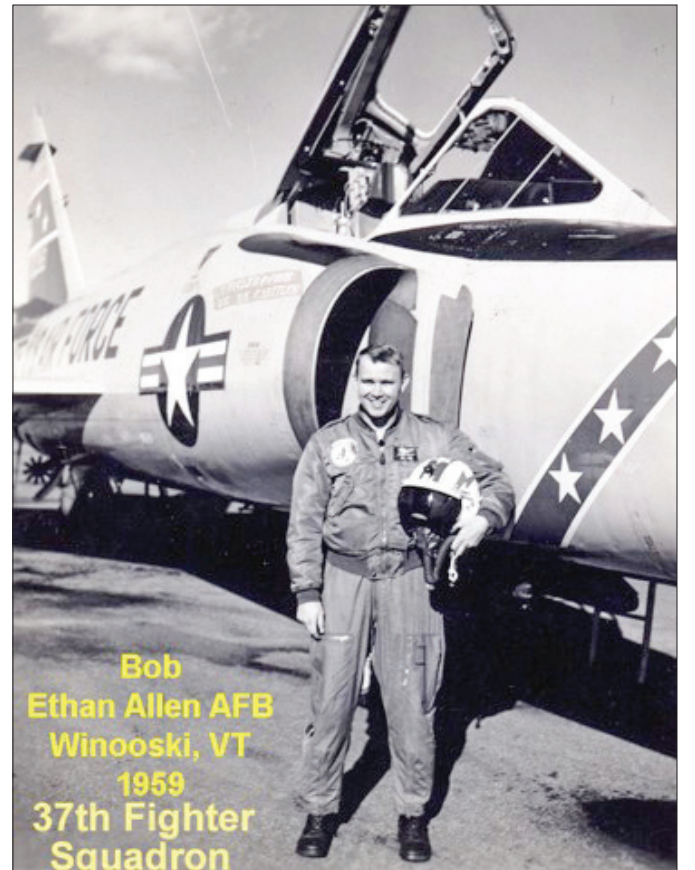
His mother was killed in a tragic auto/train accident that took the lives of two other people and seriously injured Jones’ father and younger brother, Bert. Jean’s death left a void that would profoundly shape young Jones’ path. With his family shattered by grief, Jones found comfort and stability in the loving embrace of his grandparents, who became his pillars of strength and sources of unwavering support.

Jones was the second of three sons, raised amidst the sprawling fields of his grandfather’s plantation in the Mississippi Delta. His paternal grandfather, “Pop,” owned a 3,000-acre planta-

tion in the Mississippi Delta, primarily cultivating cotton, corn, oats and alfalfa; he bred mules for sale, as well, all while serving as the long-standing mayor of his small town. His paternal grandmother, Em, stepped in as a loving mother figure. She dedicated herself entirely to raising Jones and his siblings — the epitome of maternal devotion.

MAMAH LOUELLA

During these formative years, Jones’ faith was deepened, thanks to the influence of his maternal grandmother, Mamah Louella Thomasson. Her devotion to living a Christian life left an indelible mark on Jones’ heart, shaping his values and



Bob at Ethan Allen AFB, Winooski, Vermont, 1959. 37th Fighter Squadron.

guiding his moral compass.

During an annual revival service at church, Jones’ older brother, Billy, accepted the invitation. It was a powerful encouragement for Jones, who made his own profession of faith days later. “I recall,” he said, “that when I came forward during the invitation, our pastor asked if I wanted to talk about my decision. I told him, ‘No, I want to be baptized!’”

Not long after the baptism, Billy and several friends went to see a new German

and Italian POW camp being constructed in Merigold. While conversing with guards, one of their guns accidentally discharged, striking Billy. He died shortly afterward in the Cleveland Hospital.

PROVIDENTIAL BLESSINGS

As Jones grew older, he found himself at a crossroads, grappling with the loss of his mother, brother, and the challenges of adoles-

PLEASE SEE JONES | C3

Many Mansions: Providing vital life resources to single moms

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Parenting is hard enough when two parents are involved — but for single mothers, the weight of carrying that responsibility alone can feel overwhelming at times.

As a widow, Molly Williams knows exactly what that feeling is like, which is why she felt compelled to help other single moms navigate life through the guidance of Jesus Christ and her non-profit: Many Mansions.

Founded in 2018, Many Mansions provides life-giving resources — through Christ’s Kingdom — to single moms with dependent children in Hood, Somervell and Johnson counties in Texas.

“Many Mansions exists to serve widows and orphans,” Williams says in a video on the Many Mansions website. “We consider widows and orphans to be not just someone whose husband passed

away from this Earth, but also someone who’s been abandoned and is raising their kids on their own.”

Williams met her now-husband, Mike, through GriefShare, as they had both lost their spouses. As Molly was a single mom and Mike was raised by a single mother, the couple felt there was a reason they were brought together.

“We kind of knew that there was more to the story than just the two of us,” Molly told the Hood County News. “We just kind of kept having single moms put in our path to help and as we helped them, we started thinking about starting a nonprofit.”

According to Molly, Many Mansions helps single moms in a variety of areas — anything from a month’s rent to utility bills to even education.

“We knew when we started, we wouldn’t be able to really cover everything ourselves, so we’ve partnered with



Many Mansions board of directors include founders Mike and Molly Williams, Randy Hurtado, Amanda Sparks, Bart Rogers, Ann Tague and Traci Cooper-Ives.

some people,” she explained. “We pretty much like to be the hands and feet of Jesus where we can. We’ve helped with people getting cars, because if you can’t get to work and you can’t get your kids

to school, you really can’t provide for yourself, so all of those necessities that they do to survive, we help with.”

A central theme to Many Mansions is to “pivot” to other organizations that

share in its mission. Pivot Partners are organizations that focus on a specific set of needs, whether that be helping with automotive needs, job skills, mentoring young men to learn skills, or even protecting single moms from dangerous situations.

Many Mansions’ Pivot Partners include: Good Samaritan Auto (automotive repair), PaPa’s Pantry (food and nutrition), churches (community), Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children (safety and shelter) Forward Training Center (job training, finances) and Advance Camp (equipping the fatherless).

“Three out of five children are being raised in a fatherless home,” Molly said. “Fatherless children are at a dramatically higher risk of drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, poor educational performance, teenage pregnancy and criminality. These moms are doing the best they can on their own, but we get to help support

them in trying to be both mom and dad for their children and show their children their Heavenly Father. One of the best ways to do this is to connect them to the body of Christ and to his resources. It is why we do what we do.”

Last year, Many Mansions helped a total of 94 single moms. There are currently eight open cases right now, including several mothers who are escaping domestic violence situations.

“We help moms who might be in an abusive situation, and they can hide for a period of time,” Molly said. “It’s really neat to give them some hope. I know from being a single mom myself that you’re just beat up. I mean, you’re trying to do mom, you’re trying to do dad, and your kids don’t understand why they don’t have this, and they don’t have that, and why dad’s not there. There’s just a lot of pressure in the world, and you’re trying to

PLEASE SEE MANSIONS | C4

The Granbury Church of Christ pastor departs for new position

BY JOHN ENGLISH
Special to the
Hood County News

The Granbury Church of Christ will experience the end of an era this month as Pastor John Knox departs for his hometown of Lubbock to assume the position of Dean of Student Ministry at the Sunset International Bible Institute.

Knox, 62, has served the Granbury Church of Christ as preaching minister since August of 2004 and has been in full-time ministry since 1987.

The Lubbock native, whose original ambition was to be a teacher, said his new position will allow him to give back in the same manner that was critical to his development as a pastor.

“It’s going to be a teaching and administrative role,” Knox said. “My interest was to be able to train younger people coming up to be in ministry. At this age, and at this stage in life, I’ve got 37 years of experience. So the opportunity to be able to equip others is really exciting.”

The Granbury pastor holds a Bachelor of Arts in speech communications and a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling from Lubbock Christian University, as well as a Master of Arts in Biblical studies; he also holds a doctorate in ministry from Abilene Christian University.

Knox said the decision to leave the Granbury Church of Christ was “very painful” because of the deep roots he

and his wife, Jan, have established in Hood County.

“This church allowed me the opportunity to grow,” Knox said. “Churches can either look at your assets and who you are, or your abilities and what you can grow into. I felt like the church here gave me the room to grow, and I feel like I have grown a lot in 20 years. There are churches that are patient, and they work with you and they choose to dwell on things that you do well instead of your liabilities. I don’t think that there is another church that could have done any better.”

Apparently, the feeling is mutual.

Bill Coleman has been a member at the Granbury Church of Christ for six years and credits Knox with

his decision to not only stay but become active in the church.

“John warmly welcomed me into the congregation, made suggestions as to how I could become involved in service programs inside the church and the community, and quickly assigned me to worship assignments,” Coleman said. “His example of unselfish service has been a true inspiration to me.”

But perhaps an even deeper admiration for Knox comes from the types of ministry in which he serves.

“John has unselfishly given untold hours in counseling and mentoring students in the Granbury schools,” Coleman said. “He has served as the chaplain for first responders in Granbury and Hood County. This duty

required him to comfort so many families after the loss of loved ones — victims of auto accidents, violent crimes, suicides, domestic abuse and so forth.

“He underwent intensive training as a negotiator in order to provide a higher level of service in his role as chaplain. John has been a superior example of giving back to his community. His wife, Jan, has been a tremendous supporter of his work.”

Knox has served in crisis ministry since 1990, and said, while at times difficult, he could not imagine ever giving it up entirely.

“My initial intent when I started was that this would be my way to give back to the community,” Knox said. “That didn’t last long. It turned into a calling very

quickly. I would even say that it gets in your blood. So that has been a really meaningful and significant aspect of my ministry for the last 34 years.”

Knox said crisis ministry can be extremely challenging at times, but his faith in Christ and desire to help others is what constantly renews his spirit of service.

“When I’m working a call that is emotionally difficult, that means it is difficult for the officer, too,” Knox said. “We’re in this together, so it’s not only being able to serve that person in your community who is having the worst day of their life, but you’re also getting to serve the servant. I think that’s what has kept me going, especially as I

PLEASE SEE CHURCH | C2

Honored veterans: Local heroes journey to Vietnam Memorial

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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It was during a regular evening meeting of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter 238 when four friends, their hearts filled with anticipation and hope, submitted their names for the DFW Honor Flight opportunity. Honor Flight DFW is dedicated to honoring veterans' sacrifices by providing them with an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., to visit iconic memorials representing their service. The veterans, who thought being selected would be a long shot, were overjoyed when each of the four received notification of their selection to the program for the May 18-19 Honor Flight.

Veteran Army soldiers Don Caldwell, Gary Keel, Shores Turner and Veteran Navy Sailor Ken Horton arrived at Love Field for their 11 a.m. flight to Baltimore, Maryland. They understood they would be honored for their military service to this country, but what they experienced would be a lifetime gift.

Honor Flight #55 was full. Every seat on the flight was occupied by a Vietnam veteran clad in ball caps emblazoned with the words 'Purple Heart' and blue golf shirts marked with the Honor Flight logo — a symbol of unity and shared experiences. The soldiers, sailors and airmen sitting shoulder-to-shoulder would become acquaintances and friends. The plane landed at Baltimore-Washington International Airport and taxied slowly through a magnificent 'water salute' delivered by two mammoth fire tanker trucks, a testament to the support and respect of the community. The ceremony was just the beginning of a journey filled with camaraderie and compassion.

Once inside the terminal, Caldwell, Keel, Turner, Horton and the other Honor Flight members were surprised to hear the loud ringing of a bell by a man in a velvet tri-cornered hat, breeches, and buckled shoes — the town crier. "Hear ye! Hear ye!" he said, "Vietnam veterans coming through!" Hundreds responded with cheers and applause, reaching out to shake the veterans' hands, saying, "thank you" and "welcome home," and stepping aside as the men walked by. "Another wet-eye time," Horton said. It was a new and beautiful homecoming for the

Vietnam veterans — 50 years later. "(It was) the welcome home that we did not get when we came home from Vietnam," said Turner.

Each soldier was assigned a guardian to accompany them throughout the journey, supported by a team of volunteer medical professionals. These well-trained, compassionate individuals guided and assisted their charge in any way they could. Turner and Keel voiced they were most surprised by "the guardians caring for us so much." The love, care and respect shown by the guardians who refused to let their assigned veteran pay for anything they wanted or needed profoundly impacted the veterans. "(The guardians said) it would take away from their experience of giving honor and grace to the veterans," Keel said, voice cracking with emotion.

Keel, Turner, Caldwell and Horton also visited The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, guarded by volunteer sentinels 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They do this because the Unknown Soldiers buried in the tomb deserve the very best the sentinels have to offer. The sky was overcast, and in utter silence, the assembled watched the awe-inspiring display of respect. The only sound was the clicking of the sentinels' metal heel taps on the concrete as they marched, rifles in arms.

One evening, after dinner in Washington, D.C., in yet another display of national pride and appreciation, each veteran was presented with a challenge coin by their guardian to commemorate the Honor Flight event.

Another reception awaited the men upon their arrival at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, where a sea of people parted to welcome and honor the Vietnam veterans.

The four honorees were most anxious to visit the Vietnam Wall to pay tribute to the over 56,000 military men and women who died during the Vietnam war. "I knew some of the names. It's an incredible feeling to see the names of men you served with who died in combat," Keel, who fought in special forces, said. Turner brought memorial photos and note cards which he set at the base of the Vietnam Wall in memory of five men from his company who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Caldwell's guardian held an umbrella in the drizzle and dried the name on the Wall with a cloth. Rain mixing with tears, Caldwell captured the etching or "rubbing" of



Pictured are 45 Veterans from the Honor Flight #55, May 18-19, 2024.

COURTESY PHOTOS



From left: Shores Turner, Don Caldwell, Ken Horton, and Gary Keel stand and salute in front of the Korean War Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.



Gary Keel places a quarter on the gravestone of Army First Lt. Audie Murphy.

a soldier's name, classified as "MIA" — the brother of a friend. "I got a 'rub' for my sister-in-law; her cousin was KIA," said Horton.

At Arlington National Cemetery, Keel thoughtfully placed a quarter on the gravestone of U.S. Army 1st Lt. Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier. Murphy was short and had the nickname "Two-bits."

Dale Carnegie said, "Respect is love in action." The demonstration of respect and admiration bequeathed on these grateful servicemen from Granbury had a profound effect that didn't end with Washington, D.C. On their flight back to Dallas Love Field, an Honor Flight volunteer told the plane full of veterans, "In the military, you had 'mail call.' We're going to have a 'mail call.'" Bags loaded with hundreds of cards and letters were opened and distributed. The cards and letters were written by hand to each veteran by neighbors, school children, clergy, family members, friends, co-workers and more. The honorees were stunned to tears by the re-



Photo of Commemorative Challenge Coin awarded to each Honor Flight veteran.



Shores Turner leaves photos and cards at Vietnam Wall in memory of those he served with.

spect they received. Another surprise celebration awaited the veterans at the Dallas airport. As the men came through the terminal, they were greeted by friends and loved ones cheering, applauding and crying — a fitting "welcome home" for the nation's

best — our veterans. Since its inception, Honor Flight DFW has flown over 2,000 veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam to Washington, D.C. The trip encompasses visits to significant memorials, including those dedicated to WWII, Korean and Vietnam veter-

ans, and landmarks like the Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima), Navy Memorial, Air Force Memorial and Arlington Cemetery. For more information about the Honor Flight program visit Honor Flight DFW | Honoring Dallas Fort Worth Veterans online.

CHURCH

FROM PAGE C1

have aged, these officers are younger than I am, and I've experienced a lot more than they have. I can walk with them knowing what it's like." Knox said there have been

some rewarding moments over the years that serve as a reminder of why this type of work is so important.

"On occasion, and it doesn't happen very often, you'll get a hand-written note from a family," Knox said. "I received a letter after a girl drowned several

years ago, and I did after a 16-year-old was killed in a car accident. I received one after a double homicide in 2008. When you get those from these families, you realize you have really made a difference. It's very meaningful work, and I think it is real ministry. I think being

out in the field as things are unfolding, that's what real ministry is all about."

Knox has served as the campus minister at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls and spent three years in Muleshoe in a senior minister role. He has also ministered

to a church in Woodward, Oklahoma.

The Lubbock man said he had a special message for his congregation at the Granbury Church of Christ that he planned to deliver as part of his final sermon.

"I want them to know that I truly care and that I was

invested in their lives," Knox said. "That's important to me. I want them to understand that I wasn't here for any other reason than to invest in them and invest in the life of the church as a whole."

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DIY Summer: creative activities for families

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

With the end of the school year just on the horizon, summer is here, and the long, sunny days provide the perfect backdrop for quality time with the kids. With rising costs and hectic schedules, parents are often on the lookout for fun, simple and budget-friendly activities to keep their children entertained and engaged. From crafting to camping under the stars, here are 10 delightful summer activities that promise a mix of fun, education and creativity without breaking the bank.

1. NATURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Turn a regular afternoon into an adventure with a nature scavenger hunt. Make a list of items like leaves, rocks and flowers, and see who can find them first in your backyard or a local park. This not only keeps the kids active but also sparks their interest in the natural world. While this can be an easy activity to do in your own backyard, you can also explore other

settings like the Granbury Hike and Bike Trail or the Acton Nature Center.

2. DIY WATER PARK

Why spend a fortune at a water park when you can create one in your own backyard? Set up a kiddie pool, lay down some plastic tarps for slides, and turn on the sprinklers. This homemade splash zone offers a cool respite from the summer heat and hours of laughter.

3. PICNIC AND STORY TIME

Pack a lunch and some of your children's favorite books and head to one of Granbury's beautiful parks. After a meal, dive into story time or encourage the kids to create their own tales inspired by their surroundings. This is a fantastic way to blend relaxation with imaginative play.

4. CRAFTING WITH RECYCLABLES

Teach your kids about sustainability while having fun by using recyclables for crafts. Old cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and jars can be transformed into art projects



COURTESY PHOTO

These great activities provide fantastic opportunities for learning, creativity and fun. More importantly, they allow families to make the most of the summer without spending a lot of money.

ects or new toys, showing kids that creativity can be eco-friendly too.

5. BIKE PARADE

Organize a bike parade in your neighborhood. Children can decorate their bikes with

streamers, stickers, and balloons. This activity is perfect for community building and gives kids a sense of pride in their creativity and independence.

6. HOMEMADE PIZZA NIGHT

Turn dinner time into a fun activity by making homemade pizzas. Let each child choose their toppings on the pre-made dough. This not only makes meal preparation an interactive experience but also teaches basic cooking skills.

7. BACKYARD CAMPING

Set up a tent in the backyard for an overnight adventure. If allowed, build a small campfire for roasting marshmallows and sharing stories. It's the perfect setting for a memorable night under the stars right at home.

8. SIDEWALK CHALK FESTIVAL

Give your kids sidewalk chalk and let their creativity run wild on the driveway or sidewalks. They can draw pictures, write messages or create colorful games like hopscotch. It's a wonderful way for kids to express themselves artistically.

9. LIBRARY SUMMER PROGRAMS

Check out the summer programs at your Hood County Library. Most li-

braries offer free activities that include crafts, reading challenges, and educational games. It's a great way to keep kids engaged with learning and reading over the summer months.

10. GARDEN TREASURE BOXES

Start a small garden where kids can grow simple plants like vegetables or sunflowers. They can also decorate treasure boxes to collect special items they find in the garden, such as unique leaves or stones. This teaches responsibility and the basics of gardening.

These great activities provide fantastic opportunities for learning, creativity and fun. More importantly, they allow families to make the most of the summer without spending a lot of money. Engaging in these simple yet enriching activities can help create lasting memories that your children will cherish for years to come.

What are some of your favorite summer activities that you like to do with your kids? I'd love to hear about them!

JONES

FROM PAGE C1

cence. Yet, amidst the trials, hope emerged in the form of James and Jewel Merritt, a couple deeply rooted in their Baptist faith whose arrival in Merigold would change Jones' life forever. Merritt recognized and encouraged Jones' interests and abilities. Consequently, Jones decided to study engineering in college where he would become actively involved in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). Through James and Jewel Merritt's guidance and mentorship, Jones rediscovered his faith and committed himself to a life dedicated to serving others.

COLLEGE AND A GIRL

With newfound purpose, Jones pursued his dreams of higher education, enrolling at Mississippi State University to study mechanical engineering. There, he met the love of his life, Beverly, whose presence would bring a lifetime of joy and companionship into his world.

Beverly attended Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus, approximately 30 miles east of Mississippi State University. While at MSCW, she forged a close friendship with one of Jones' cousins, Miriam. One weekend, Beverly accompanied Miriam to her hometown in Merigold for a Saturday night football game at Delta State College in Cleveland. They happened to be sitting several rows behind Jones, who was listening intently to another match between Mississippi State and LSU on a portable radio. Miriam shouted down

to inquire about the score. Beverly did the same several times afterward and a relationship blossomed.

BORN TO HUNT

Born into a lineage where hunting was a cherished tradition, Jones became an avid hunter and shooter from his earliest years. His grandfather and his friends established the Merigold Hunting Club on the banks of the Mississippi River in Bolivar County, covering nearly 20,000 acres between the levee and the river. This property became a sanctuary for Jones, who spent countless hours in a small log cabin constructed by his great-grandfather.

Having held membership in the club since his early days in the military, Jones has witnessed its evolution. Despite its purchase and reorganization in 2004, the Merigold Hunting Club remains a vibrant hub for outdoor enthusiasts.

Jones' primary gunning activities later shifted to wing shooting and shooting trap and skeet at the Fort Worth Trap and Skeet Club. However, his love for adventure extended beyond hunting, as he and his wife traveled across the USA, Europe, Canada and the Caribbean Islands. From skiing to SCUBA diving, they explored the world's wonders together.

A CALL TO THE SKIES

Jones' interest in aviation and desire to become a pilot was evident early on. During his summers, he worked in ground support duties for his uncle, Henry Jones, who owned an agricultural flying business and had served as a transport pilot in the Army Air Corps during WWII.

Jones was active in the Air Force ROTC throughout college and was commissioned as second lieutenant. Upon graduating from Mississippi State with a degree in mechanical engineering, he secured employment at Chance Vought Aircraft in Grand Prairie, for approximately six months before embarking on active duty with the Air Force. Jones qualified for Air Force Pilot Training School and Advanced Pilot Training School. Subsequently, he took to the skies as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force.

Assigned to the 37th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron in Burlington, Vermont, Jones became part of the 26th Air Division of the Air Defense Command, ADC — playing a crucial "first line" defensive role against potential Russian air invasions. However, the base where he was stationed was closed as part of a transition from interceptor aircraft to an increased focus on missile defense systems. In retrospect, Jones believes, this was somewhat premature.

Though challenging and demanding, Jones enjoyed being a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force. However, it was not the lifetime career he preferred; he decided to resign from his regular commission and resume his career in engineering. Due to successive world crises in Berlin and Cuba, Jones' initial attempts at resignation were denied.

SACRIFICE AND CHANGE

Jones' final year of service was spent on a remote tour in Thailand, where he was part of a small team of USAF personnel tasked with teaching air defense procedures to Thai Air Force personnel as the Vietnam War escalated.



COURTESY PHOTO

Photo of Jones' home in Merigold, Mississippi.

The separation from his family — including his wife and 18-month-old twin sons — was a brutal sacrifice.

After serving with honor and distinction, Jones left the Air Force and accepted a position with General Dynamics in Fort Worth. There he engaged in design work on the environmental control system for the F-111 aircraft. He enjoyed a rewarding career spanning 34 years with General Dynamics and its successor, Lockheed Martin Aircraft, primarily focusing on mechanical systems design and management. His contributions extended to programs such as the F-16, A-12, F-22 and F-35, providing him with stable employment in an industry known for its instability.

AN HISTORIC MOVE

Lady Luck smiled upon them as they found their ideal home in 1997. As retirement beckoned, Bob and Beverly Jones found peace and tranquility in the historic and neighborly town of Granbury, surrounded by family, friends and the beauty of nature. Initially, they upheld their attendance at Western Hills Baptist Church in Fort Worth for roughly five years, worshipping alongside longstanding friends. Following this, they transitioned to becoming members of Lakeside Baptist Church in Granbury, a dedication spanning two decades.

As they approached the milestone of 90 years of age, Jones and his wife decided to retire from skiing and SCUBA diving, opting instead

to focus on their shared passion for shooting dove, waterfowl and clay targets.

Embracing the changing seasons of life, they find joy and fulfillment in the simple pleasures of nature, the camaraderie of fellow enthusiasts, and the love of family. They have been blessed with four children, 13 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren, with more expected. They delight in spending as much time as possible with their family.

And so, as the sun sets on another day, Jones smiles as he recalls a life filled with love, faith, and adventure. Though the years have brought their share of trials and triumphs, he remains grateful for every step of the journey, knowing each chapter has led him closer to the place he calls home.

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DANCING DREAM
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MAY 31 THRU JUN 1

31st Annual Showcase of New Homes scheduled for first two weekends in June

Submitted Item

GRANBURY – The 31st Annual Showcase of New Homes, presented by Hood County Builders Association, will feature 37 homes available for public viewing during the two-weekend event. The tour is scheduled the first two weekends in June. The event is open to the public Saturday, June 1-2 and June 8-9 and homes will be open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

This free tour is a great

way to see the building trends and meet with builders while searching for your dream home. There are 21 subdivisions featured in the Granbury, Tolar, Glen Rose and Johnson County areas. There are 22 builders who will be presenting 37 homes.

Builders in and around Hood County have opened these homes, some specs and some custom builds, for the public to catch a glimpse of the new building trends and techniques being used in the building process. Many

homes feature energy efficient packages and unique green building technology along with many smart features.

Many of the builders will be at the homes and available to answer questions or give personal tours. Price ranges of these homes are from the mid \$300,000s to over \$2 million. This wide variety of price ranges gives prospective home buyers many options and an avenue to see building styles and concepts.

Hood County Builders Association is a nonprofit association based in Hood County and supports the building industry in Hood and surrounding counties. For more information regarding the 30th Annual Showcase of New Homes tour log onto www.hood-countybuilders.org. An online tour magazine will be available on the website beginning May 30 (not recommended to download or print – file is very large). Legend pages 6, 7 and 8 can

be easily printed for address purposes. The website will have the most up-to-date information regarding the homes – if any have sold, if any are unavailable for touring, etc. It will also have a list of the addresses of the homes for easy GPS location and will have a list of locations where the magazine can be obtained. Each home will have the free tour magazine as well.

The association asks the public to refrain from trying to enter the gated subdivi-

sions or tour homes prior to the tour dates and times and to follow the rules of each subdivision regarding speed limits, parking, etc.

Come enjoy the 31st Annual Showcase of New Homes, which is free to the public, in the Granbury and surrounding areas. The builders are looking forward to meeting you. Questions? Contact: Hood County Builders Association, Billie Jones, 817-573-4007, 254-396-4356, cell; hoodcountybuilders@gmail.com.

PUB MCDONOUGH SNEAK PEEK

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

If you weren't one of the lucky ones with the invitation, here's your VIP Sneak Peek at the new Pub McDonough. Hosts Kevin and Mary McDonough were thrilled to showcase the Pub and treat guests to complimentary drinks and appetizers. Although not officially open yet, The Pub McDonough, located at 529 North Houston Street, will open its doors on Memorial Weekend, serving breakfast tacos from 8 am to 11 a.m. on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and offering Irish tacos and Dubliners from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The bar will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.



MANSIONS

FROM PAGE C1

earn money and do everything you can to take care of your kids, and sometimes (you feel) very helpless. It's great that God has given us resources and things so that we can help them have some hope and know that they have the Savior."

Traci Cooper-Ives, program director for Many Mansions, also echoed Molly's statements regarding feelings of helplessness.

"For me personally, I was a single mom for five years, and it was a very lonely place," Cooper-Ives said. "You feel beat up. You have to figure it out all on your own."

Cooper-Ives said more than anything, she wants to offer single moms hope through mentorship opportunities within local churches.

"Molly and I both go to StoneWater Church and Molly was part of a single mom's ministry before Many Mansions ever started. I was grateful to find that ministry because in many churches, you hear a lot about families and couples,

so you kind of feel like you don't fit," she said. "But when I found that ministry, it was just life changing to have people that got me and then that led to three specific friends that I still talk to every single day. Even though I'm married now, we are still talking all the time and supporting each other. That made all the difference in my life to help me know I wasn't alone."

Now years later, Cooper-Ives' main role with Many Mansions is to help churches develop their own single mom's ministries to foster a sense of community between women who need that type of support.

"Churches have volunteers and people who have hearts to help single moms, so we're just trying to give those churches resources to do that, so that we can connect the moms we help with to those churches, and they can also send moms to us," Cooper-Ives said. "That's the blessing that we really want."

Support for Many Mansions — from financial and housing to clothing and cars — comes from donations and events. As a faith-based 501(c)(3) organiza-

tion, Many Mansions does not receive funding from any government entity, and yet is still able to operate on less than 3% of its budget for operations.

"People who want to help certainly can give," Cooper-Ives said. "Our budget comes from two events and also individual and corporate sponsorships, so we certainly love that. We have opportunities for people to volunteer at different events, and if somebody just has an idea of how they want to volunteer, we'd be open to hearing that, but right now, the biggest, biggest way that people can help is if they go to a church, and they have a heart to start a ministry. It can be a small group, but just helping to connect us with the right people at churches, so that we can help them start that ministry (would be a big help)."

There are four ways to get involved with Many Mansions: as a donor partner, as a volunteer, as a Pivot Partner, or as a church partner.

Molly added that monthly donors also help immensely, as staff can know what to expect each month in terms

of finances.

"Of course, praying for us as a group and getting involved is great, too," she added.

Many Mansions defines a "single mom" as a mother whose children are under the age of 19, lives in either Somervell, Hood or Johnson County, and is legally and physically without a spouse or live-in partner. Many Mansions does not define a candidate to be a single mom if she is married, engaged to be wed, or otherwise engaged in a relationship outside that of biblical marriage. Mothers who are in the process of divorce are considered on a case-by-case scenario but are generally not a focus of the organization.

To apply for assistance from Many Mansions, single mothers can go online to many-mansions.org and fill out an application. After receiving an application, a case manager will contact that individual within 24 hours to go over the application and discuss next steps.

For more information or to donate to Many Mansions, visit many-mansions.org online or



COURTESY PHOTO

Many Mansions Case Manager Kati Dawson, left, is pictured with Many Mansions Program Director Traci Cooper-Ives.

email manymansions-singlemoms@gmail.com. Donations can also be mailed to: Many Mansions

P.O. Box 2475 Glen Rose, TX 76043.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Community Gardens Club members enjoy memorable day

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. dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

Mother's Day was particularly special for Community Gardens members Cindy Ricci and Susan Reid when they worked the soil alongside Cindy's daughter and Susan's daughter-in-law, Robyn Reid. Robyn and husband Andy have been Granbury residents since 2022, and they were delighted when both sets of parents chose to relocate to Pecan Plantation that same year. Lovely spring weather surrounded the workday where gardeners harvested potatoes, onions, garlic, turnips and herbs.

will be on hand to provide musical entertainment while folks enjoy eating breakfast with family, friends and neighbors.

AUXILIARY MEETING

In addition, the next meeting of the collective auxiliary comes Monday, June 3 at the EMS meeting room with a potluck meal beginning at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. All ladies and gentlemen interested in supporting this group that fundraises for our emergency volunteers are invited to join.

Finally, the auxiliary happily announces a new date for its annual golf tournament: Saturday, July 27 beginning at 8 a.m. on Pecan's course. Currently, all playing slots are filled, but in mid-June, a waiting list of players will be formed on the occasion that any registered golfers are unable to attend the new date.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Memorial Day signals the beginning of summer, and Pecaners may celebrate the season Monday, May 27 with a clubhouse pool party from noon to 3 p.m. when swimming, music and games will be on the agenda. The pool will remain open until 8 p.m.

The Double Ace Band will take the stage and play from 6 to 10 p.m. for the street dance, but before the music begins, face painting, midway games, a bounce house, a petting zoo, and food and beverage sales will begin at 4 p.m.

Tickets required for games and food will go on sale at the clubhouse Tuesday, May 21, and all-day wristbands for the bounce house will be available for purchase. Partygoers may also obtain both tickets and wristbands on event day.

Families are welcome to bring lawn chairs and

blankets to the clubhouse circle to enjoy the festivities, but no outside alcohol is allowed.

CLUB FITTING

Pecan will host an XXIO club fitting at the Pecan driving range Wednesday, May 29. Participants must make an appointment to attend. Contact the golf pro shop for more information.

DINNER EVENT

A wine tasting dinner is on the menu for Wednesday, May 29 beginning at 6 p.m. when folks may experience a night of Latin cuisine and wines featuring Familia Torres. Reservations are necessary and may be made by calling the clubhouse front desk: 817-573-2641.

FRIDAY FLICK

A golf cart drive-in movie comes Friday, May 31 at 9 p.m. at the PAC. The featured film is Migration, and free popcorn will be part of the evening. The PAC will be open for snack sales and restrooms.

PRIZE OPTION

Pecan's general manager Rick Lantgen announces the prize for the closest to the pin challenge at our neighborhood's upcoming member/guest golf tournament Thursday, June 6 through Sunday, June 9. The golfer taking this title will receive "a regular old treasure chest" filled with \$5,000 cash. The rules are the same for each day of the tournament with a competition for the grand prize Sunday afternoon. A few spots remain in the tournament for golfers who have a partner and are ready to sign up: 817-573-2645.

TOURNAMENT TEAM

Moreover, during the member/guest golf tournament, volunteers are needed to make the event run smoothly. Folks who would like to help register golfers, monitor greens, and assist with other light tasks during tournament days may sign up at the golf pro shop.



COURTESY PHOTO OF SUSAN HARRIS

Mother's Day weekend brought a workday for Pecan's Community Gardens, and two members, Cindy Ricci and Susan Reid, enjoyed an especially memorable holiday when their daughter and daughter-in-law, Robyn Reid, joined the event. Pictured left to right are Susan Reid, Robyn Reid, and Cindy Ricci.

BREAKFAST EATS

Pecan early birds will want to take their families and their appetites to the EAA 983 Chapter Hangar and Planeview Park Pavilion at the Pecan airstrip this morning, Saturday, May 25, for a hearty pancake breakfast hosted by our community's Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary and the Granbury Lion's Club. The morning is a fun, family event and fundraiser for our neighborhood's emergency services. Pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee will be served from 8:30-11 a.m., and tickets are available at the door: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 5-10. Furthermore, the Marina Trio

TALENTED GAL

Granbury resident and Pecan food and beverage employee Madison Gilmore has used her artistic talent to make the Pit at Pecan's marina more inviting. At age 16, Madison has literally "left her mark" in our community by painting a mural on an internal wall of the venue. Folks may view her work when dining and enjoying the lake views. Many thanks to Madison for sharing her

gift with our community.

WELL DONE

Congratulations to Pecan resident Jeff Mastick on being chosen "Firefighter of the Year" for Station 80. Fire stations throughout Hood County submitted a name for the honor and chose a recipient based on skill, training, dedication to the department, and service to the community. Jeff has served both Pecan and surround-

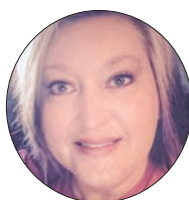
ing Hood County through Pecan's Volunteer Fire Department for the past four years. Thank you to Jeff, and all our community's emergency personnel, for aiding residents on a daily basis.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Twila Boak, who passed away May 8, and likewise to the family of Chelia Sanderford, who also passed away May 8.

HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

Summer reading for ALL — adventure begins at YOUR library!



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

Hood County Library Director Jennifer Logsdon is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning a master's degree in Library Science during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking and of course reading. jlogsdon@co.hood.tx.us | 817-573-3569

Spring seems to have lingered longer than usual here in Texas this year, thanks to all the precipitation keeping temperatures mild. But let's not be fooled — soon the temperatures will start to rise, and many people will

be searching for fun ways to stay cool.

If you're one of them, look no further! The library is the perfect place for you. The possibilities here are endless. When you step into the library, you enter a world of

adventure and imagination. You could become a pirate searching for lost treasure, a knight slaying dragons, an explorer discovering new lands, or a detective solving mysteries. The library offers a free travel voucher to any place you can imagine — all through the pages of a book. By opening a book and diving into its story, you can let your mind be transported to incredible places, all while staying comfy and cool indoors.

Beat the heat this summer



— check out a book!

EXCITING SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE LIBRARY FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES

Parents, if you're seeking free educational entertainment for your children this summer, look no further.

The Hood County Library has an exciting lineup of activities planned for June and July.

Join us in kicking off summer the right way at our Kick-Off Party June 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. Get your family registered for the Summer Reading Challenge,

participate in a family scavenger hunt through the park and library, enjoy balloon animals made by the talented mother-daughter duo Tubbie and Peanut, and collect a free book. And of course, all the kids can enjoy a free Funky

PLEASE SEE **LIBRARY** | C6

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JULY	4 Irish Tacos & Brews
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	4-7 4th of July Weekend Celebrations and Parade
	7 Texas Fallen Officers Day
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	May 25th, 2024 7:00pm A Night with Patsy Cline Lisa Layne as Patsy Cline!
	May 31st, 2024 7:30pm Moe Bandy 10 # 1 Hits, 40 Top Ten Hits, 66 Chart Hits, 5 Gold Albums & much more
	June 1st, 2024 7:00pm Texas Flood The BEST Stevie Ray Vaughan Tribute
	June 7th, 2024 7:30pm Petty and The Heartshakers A Tom Petty Tribute

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Where do we go from here?



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

The old hymn declares that we are marching to higher ground. Our prevailing culture, however, suggests otherwise.

Consider a joke marking the rounds at the turn of the century when the internet was beginning to take hold. A couple of 10-year-olds were chatting aimlessly during summer doldrums. Something about Washington, D.C. came up. "What does the 'D.C.' stand for?" one asked.

"I'm not sure," the other responded. "Maybe Dot Com?" ...

We chuckled, half-thinking that even 10-year-olds

might "get it right" about the District of Columbia.

Now, let's fast-forward to the here and now. A new set of kids ponders the same question.

"I think I know," one responded, "Maybe Den of Confusion." The other chimed in, "It might be District of Conflict, District of Chaos or even Dire Consequences." Perhaps we all need to search again for D.C.'s original intent ...

For the masses, things seem upside down. We are confounded by multiple challenges leading to much head-scratching. Sometimes I find news

accounts confounding and often trivial. For example, I read the other day that hundreds of species of fish are getting smaller. This is purportedly true; you can look it up.

Scientists claim that warming temperatures and loss of oxygen in the sea are inducing shrinkage of such fish as tunas, groupers and salmon, notably since 1960. It started near the Arctic Circle. Now, nearly three-fourths of marine fish populations sampled worldwide have seen substantial decrease in body weight, as much as 16% in 64 years ...

Should such diminishment continue, some changes seem to be inevitable. Future fishing hooks and grills may be smaller. Game wardens may have to change the length of fish deemed legal to take home. Tellers of fish tales — and

there are many — may have to shorten the distance of outstretched hands used to describe the length of trophy catches. One day they may even brag about catching one "this short," with hands barely separated!

For folks usually seeing fish only in grocery store meat sections, this "news" may seem trivial. For true fishermen, however, most "fishy" topics can find their way into stories worthy of hearing ...

One such sportsman was the late David Gilley. His was a well-ordered life. He and Marijane, his wife of some 54 years, raised two sons, Lance and Blake, who became the center of their parents' universe. David, a Cleburne High School graduate who aimed for the stars early on, not only excelled in football, but also was winner of the Kiwanis

Club's Sportsmanship Award in 1966.

Each season of life brought new blessings for the Gilleys, who jointly majored in doing "all things family." He coached his sons in both YMCA football and Little League baseball and was a board member for years of Western Little League. Later, he and Marijane supported both sons in junior high school and at San Angelo Central High School, both on and off the playing fields.

And did they ever value summers, immersed in water sports. He taught his sons (and numerous others) how to water ski and was a proud member of the Concho Bass Club. In 1998, David caught a Lake Nasworthy bass that weighed in at 12.43 pounds, a record catch ...

All this to say that this

Christian gentleman, with a 41-year Santa Fe Railroad career, learned early on what was important, always treading the trail of giving back. That's what he did for his wife and family, including five grandchildren and legions of others he guided and befriended.

A true sportsman, he shared the story of his prized fish catch many times, gesturing it to be "this long!" Now, here's ironclad proof of his love for both family and fishing. He bragged that his record fish was bigger than his first grandbaby who was born three months later!

Kiwanians recognized this true sportsman nearly 60 years ago. Thousands of others he taught along the way fully agree ...

LIBRARY

FROM PAGE C5

Munky snow cone.

STORY TIMES EVERY WEDNESDAY

Join us every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. for engaging story times.

- Preschool through first grade: Meet in the Jeanell Morris Room with Ms. Cookie for delightful stories and a fun take-home craft.

- Second grade through fifth grade: Gather in the Pecan Room with Ms. Jennifer for captivating stories and interactive activities.

SPECIAL GUESTS AND EVENTS

We're thrilled to host several special guests throughout the summer. Stay updated by following our Facebook page and website for more information. While all special events are free, registration for a

ticket is required due to limited space. Tickets will be available one week prior to each event.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Don't miss out on our Summer Reading Challenge, open to all ages. That's right — parents and grandparents can join in, too. There's no better way to encourage children to read than by reading alongside them. To participate, register with ReadSquared at <http://hoodcountylibrary.readsquared.com/>, select your age group, and log your daily reading. Earn prizes and a chance to win the grand prize at the end of summer. For more details, visit our website at library.hoodcounty.texas.gov. Click on the "Summer Reading" tab at the top of the page for instructions for how to register, log reading and see all our summer events.

We look forward to seeing you

this summer!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHILDREN EVENTS

Wednesdays June and July: Storytime 10:30 a.m. for pre-K through fifth grade

Thursdays: 4:30 p.m. Code Club (8-12 years)

SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS

June 1, 10 a.m. to noon: Summer Reading Kickoff

June 11, 11 a.m.: Adventures in Orienteering ages 8-12 (reading a compass)

June 15, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.: Wildlife on the Move (registration required, limited seating)

June 28, 10 a.m.: Digging for Dinosaurs (registration required, limited seating)

June 29, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Noah Hill Fossil Museum Exhibit



SUMMER TEEN EVENTS

June 18, 5:30 p.m.: Create your own Comic Adventure

ADULT EVENTS

June 5, 6 p.m.: The Other Book Club: "Ruthless Vows" by Rebecca Ross

June 20, 6 p.m.: Novel Idea Book Club: "When the Jessamine Grows" by Donna Everhart



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Friday, 24 May 2024 - Thursday, 30 May 2024

Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R)
 Fri: 12:15PM, 3:30PM, 6:45PM, 10:00PM.
 Sat: 10:00AM, 12:40PM, 3:55PM, 4:00PM, 7:10PM, 10:25PM, 10:30PM.
 Sun: 10:00AM, 12:40PM, 3:55PM, 7:10PM, 9:35PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:30AM, 12:30PM, 3:45PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM


If (PG)
 Fri: 11:35AM, 2:10PM, 4:40PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.
 Sat: 11:20AM, 1:55PM, 4:25PM, 6:55PM, 9:30PM.
 Sun: 11:20AM, 1:55PM, 4:25PM, 6:55PM, 9:25PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:00AM, 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, 10:20PM

Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG13)
 Fri: 12:00PM, 3:20PM, 6:35PM, 9:50PM.
 Sat: 11:45AM, 3:05PM, 6:20PM, 9:35PM.
 Sun: 11:45AM, 3:05PM, 6:20PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 12:30PM, 3:45PM, 7:00PM, 10:15PM

Sight (PG13)
 Fri: 11:30AM, 2:10PM, 4:50PM, 7:30PM, 10:10PM.
 Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 1:15PM, 3:55PM, 6:35PM, 9:15PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:30AM, 1:10PM, 3:50PM, 6:30PM, 9:10PM

The Fall Guy (PG13)
 Fri: 1:05PM, 4:05PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM.
 Sat: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:55PM, 9:55PM.
 Sun: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:55PM, 9:50PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:15AM, 1:10PM, 4:05PM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM

The Garfield Movie (PG)
 Fri, Sat: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
 Sun: 11:25AM, 1:55PM, 4:25PM, 6:55PM, 9:25PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 10:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:15PM, 6:45PM, 9:15PM



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GRANBURY ARTS

Good News!

BY STACEY WATKINS-MARTIN AND CORA WERLEY

Stacey Watkins-Martin and Cora Werley are local artists and members with several others of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission. Both work diligently with many other people and organizations to promote Granbury as the exciting arts destination it has become.

GranburyArts has many plans in the works, most involving artist participation. To that end, we have been working on developing a catalogue of artists qualified for the work we will need who meet city vendor requirements. We are using an online artist site called "CaFE" (Call For Entry) to solicit artist applications. Artists will submit information and photos of their work, submissions will be

reviewed, and specific artists will be asked to be included. Then every time we need to have artist help with something — for example, the Opera House windows, utility box wraps, murals and even recommending painters for the concrete butterflies around town — we will go to the catalogue and identify the artist(s) appropriate for that project. It's a great time, energy and money saver over trying to locate artists for every new project.

So the good news is that CaFE will now be up and running any day. We are excited to see who responds and hope to see some of our readers and local artists included in that catalogue. Please contact us with any questions.

It's possible that other



COURTESY PHOTO

As always, this Saturday is Last Saturday Gallery Night — please come see the following retail art outlets from 5 to 8 p.m.

calls may go out from time to time for specific projects as well.

If you missed it, we had our second Art Talk May 10th, honoring the works of Covelle Jones, the renowned local bronze sculptor who created Silent Prey and Black Star, large monument statues which will be placed in the Shanley Park Sculpture Garden hopefully this year. Collectors generously brought their works

for us to view and speakers told us much about Jones personally. We anticipate hosting additional Art Talks twice a year and welcome your suggestions for topics.

Since we are still in the beginning stages of developing our Cultural District, we are looking to other communities to learn from their experiences. On May 31, we will have representatives

PLEASE SEE **ARTS** | C9

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: 515-54-6498.

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 weight-watchers.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.

MONTHLY MEETING of the Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 817-910-8174.

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.

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Isaiah 41:13

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalms 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
 1 John 4:12

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 254-646-9926

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 817-663-5384

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 817-573-8968

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And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

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BOOK REVIEW

The women who created a president

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Is it really better to have loved and lost, rather than to never have loved at all?

Ask your average teenager and the answer would be a resounding and emphatic "no." As an adult, though, Alfred, Lord Tennyson's words likely have a wider meaning. In the game of love, you win some, you lose some, and in the new book "The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt" by Edward F. O'Keefe, your position in life matters not.

Though he later had a reputation for adventure and derring-do, young Theodore Roosevelt was soft-hearted and gentle. His many illnesses may've had something to do with that; as an infant, he suffered from "cholera morbus" and other maladies; as a young boy, he took to his bed from many afflictions. Because he wasn't rough-and-tumble like other boys, he had few playmates other than his siblings: oldest sister Bamie, younger sister Conie, brother Elliott, and a "bonus sister," Edie Carow, who lived nearby.

In later years, Conie (who was the same age as Edie) would say that Edie and "Teedie" seemed destined to be together. When the Roosevelt family embarked on a trip to London, Teedie

cried upon leaving his friend. He wrote Edie long letters while he was away at Harvard. He named his boat after her.

Alas, says O'Keefe, on Aug. 22, 1878, something happened between them, maybe a marriage proposal that Edie wasn't prepared to accept. Roosevelt headed back to Harvard, broken-hearted, but not for long: not two months later, he met Alice Hathaway Lee.

Much has been written about Valentine's Day of 1884, and the losses Roosevelt sustained. After the funerals, Roosevelt did what he always did: he left his home and threw himself into action - leaving behind a baby daughter and grieving families.

But he kept in touch with family, and in the fall of 1885, he was in New York, visiting with his daughter and Conie, when Edith Carow came to call. Accidentally or on purpose, the former crushes came face-to-face and "... within forty days of their reunion, they became secretly engaged."

Chances are, if you know anything about our 26th president, you have an image of a manly-man, the hunting-camping-horseback type. He was like that, yes, but in "The Loves of



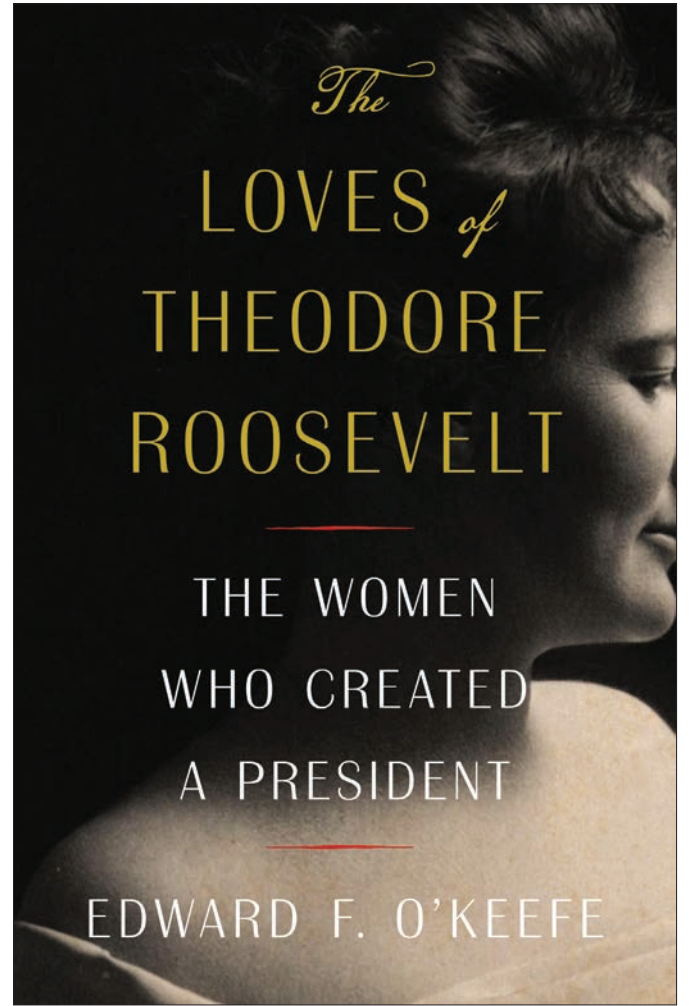
David Burnett

COURTESY PHOTOS

Theodore Roosevelt," you'll see a surprisingly marshmallowy TR.

Indeed, author Edward F. O'Keefe presents evidence that Roosevelt had a downright soft side, and could actually be almost floral in his emotions. O'Keefe shares letters written by the future president that prac-

tically ooze with Victorian emotion, which knocks any old image you might have aside. Forget all that Rough Rider stuff; Roosevelt was a mushy romantic at his core, and while he did hold some typical late-nineteenth-century attitudes about women and race, he was also quite progressive, which is another



"The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt: The Women Who Created a President" by Edward F. O'Keefe. c.2024, Simon & Schuster \$30.99, 464 pages

er pleasant shocker in this very fine book.

Obviously, this is a good tale for history fans and those who like unique biographies, and romance

readers may find what they crave in it, too. Try "The Loves of Theodore Roosevelt," and you'll love it, too.

ARTS

FROM PAGE C7

from Rockport's thriving art community here at the Langdon Center at 1 p.m.

to share their remarkable progress and what they did to achieve it. If you are interested in volunteering for grant writing or other donation possibilities for any arts organization, please plan to attend. There is no

cost and simple refreshments will be served.

As always, this Saturday is Last Saturday Gallery Night - please come see the following retail art outlets from 5 to 8 p.m.: Your Private Collection Art

Gallery, D'Vine Wine, Lake Granbury Art Association (LGAA - on Travis Street by the Library); Baron's Creek (upstairs), St. Helen's (James Spurlock upstairs) and others who decide to participate (and if that's you,

please let us know so we can include your venue in the future).

It will be so helpful to us if you, as readers, will communicate with us about art events you are aware will be happening, artists you

would like to see profiled, suggestions for public art projects around the City, or even just personal questions about advancing your own local art opportunities. We need to hear from you and thank you in advance.

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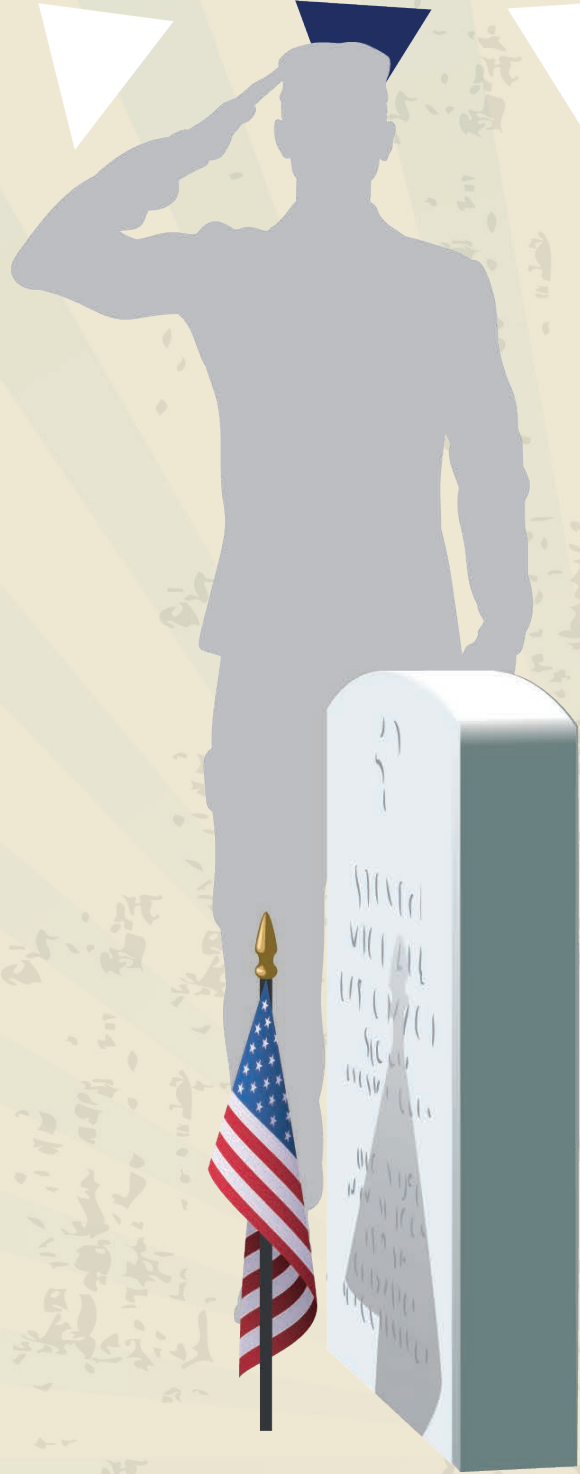
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