

CLASS OF 2024

Happy tears were in abundance Friday evening at Pirate Stadium as almost 500 Granbury seniors received their high school diplomas. Despite a weather delay of one hour, at 9 p.m. the event proceeded as planned.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

MORE PHOTOS
PAGE B7

Granbury Mayor Pro Tem announces retirement



COURTESY PHOTO

Steven Vale

BY ASHLEY TERRY
 Staff Writer
 ashley@hcnews.com

After almost three years of serving on the Granbury City Council, Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale has officially announced his retirement following the end of his term in November.

Vale — who posted his official announcement on social media — stated that he and his wife, Lori, plan to pursue their passions for traveling, meeting new people and experiencing what it's like to live in different parts of the country.

"Sometimes it becomes necessary to pause, reset, change your attitude and change your latitude," his post reads.

Later this year, the couple also plans to relocate to an area close to where Vale grew up near Tampa, Florida.

"As such, I will not be seeking reelection to the Granbury City Council in November. I've always thought that serving in politics should be a temporary privilege, not a career," he said.

The Vales first moved to Granbury in 2013 after Steven Vale retired from a 34-year career as director of sales at Kraft Foods.

Shortly after the couple settled in, Vale found a part-time job as a ramp attendant at the city-owned Granbury Regional Airport in 2014. This position, Vale said, merged his love of flying with part-time work.

"As a private pilot, this was the perfect fit for me and a way to start connecting with our community," Vale told the Hood County News in 2021. "We are the welcoming point for our many guests coming into Granbury by air. I enjoy greeting visitors and giving them directions to hotels, shopping and restaurants in our beautiful community."

It didn't take long for Vale to get involved locally either, as he served as president, treasurer and secretary of his homeowner's association.

He also served on the city of Granbury Planning and Zoning Commission for three

PLEASE SEE VALE | A8

Harrell, Freeman, Granger emerge victorious in runoff election

BY ASHLEY TERRY
 Staff Writer
 ashley@hcnews.com

Unofficial runoff election results Tuesday night show Greg S. Harrell is the new Hood County Republican Party Chair, while Sissy Freeman and Robert Granger claimed the titles of Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 and Precinct 112 Chair, respectively.

As of 8:56 p.m. Tuesday night, unofficial results reported that Harrell received 1,829 votes (63%) for Republican Party Chair compared to Zachary Maxwell's

1,071 (36.9%). At that time, only 94% of precincts had reported the results of this race.

Freeman garnered a total of 528 votes (63%) for Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, while Clint Head received 310 (36.9%).

In the closest runoff election, Granger pulled 53 votes (58%) for Precinct 112 Chair and Orville Johnson garnered 38 (41%).

For this election, the total number of ballots cast was 2,981, representing 5.94% of Hood County's 50,153 registered voters.



138TH YEAR, NO. 22

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 40 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 40 pages

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Workforce issues will dominate our community's future

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber participated in an Accelerator Session hosted by Workforce Solutions North Central Texas this past week focusing on workforce issues in Hood, Erath and Somervell counties. The data from WSNCT provides a unique snapshot into our current employment, and perhaps more importantly, our future.

A quick snapshot of Hood County shows a 2023 population of 67,808 and projects to grow by 7,559 in the next five years representing a 9.1% increase. Citing data from Lightcast Q1 2024 Data, the median household income for the county is \$75,900, and the living wage is \$29,848. According to the U.S. Census, 6,645 people are mak-



ing less than the living wage.

Our labor participation rate (the participation rate is the percentage of the population that is either working or actively looking for work) is 56.4% from 2018-2023 and represents the lowest percentage of labor participation among the three counties. As of 2023 there

were 21, 573 jobs in Hood County which represents a 9.2% increase over the past five years. Our unemployment rate has remained steady at about 3.7%.

Some challenges the workforce will be dealing with in the years ahead include having enough skilled labor to address shortages

in health care, automotive technology, child care and avionics. Demand has the potential to outstrip the supply of ready-to-work candidates. In addition, as baby boomers continue to age out of the workforce, more pressure will be put on existing generations to fill the voids created by these experienced employees, managers and owners.

In fast growing industries like accommodations and food service, manufacturing, construction and government, the competition for talent will create opportunities for employers to recruit, retain and reward their employees.

All the data reinforces the need to ensure that our high schools are turning out career-ready students

by teaching trades and skills for those who opt into the workforce upon graduation. While two-year and four-year degrees will still have a place in the future economy and workforce, having usable skills learned in high school will offer a significant number of good paying opportunities for future classes. We learned that GHS has partnership programs with local auto dealerships, Forward Training Center and also has CTE teachers participating in WSNCT Teacher Externship programs. These forward-thinking programs (and more to come) will be excellent ways for our high school graduates of the future to be ready to carry the mantel of workforce readiness into the years ahead.

W.I.B. MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

granbury CHAMBER

WOMEN IN BUSINESS COMMITTEE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Rachelle Sem

Business:
Capital Title

Years on WIB Committee
1 year

Capital Title
A Shaddock Company

COURTESY GRAPHIC

Women In Business Committee Member Spotlight: Rachelle Sem-pictured attached. We are thankful for our Women in Business Committee Member, Rachelle Sem with Capital Title. Rachelle has been on the Women in Business Committee for 1 year! When asked why she likes being on the WIB Committee, she replied, "I am a proud member of the Women in Business Committee since the beginning of 2024, I am passionate about fostering environments where women support, uplift, and empower each other. Being part of this committee allows me to contribute positively to a cause I deeply believe in—advocating for women's success in the business world and personally." Fun Fact about Rachelle: she has spent a decade competing in figure, bodybuilding, and physique competitions, embracing challenges and celebrating strength in all its forms! Thank you for serving on our Women in Business Committee, Rachelle!

CORRECTION

In the May 25 edition of the Hood County News there was an error at the end of the letter from Ms. Herrington. The letter incorrectly said "Ms." instead of "Mr." The correct sentence should read, "I understand there are two sides to every story, but I have been present on multiple occasions when Mr. 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 further issues."

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Pictured is the Brazos Pregnancy Center ribbon cutting to celebrate their 30th anniversary and expansion, located at 1812 Acton Highway.



Pictured is the Caring Transitions ribbon cutting to celebrate their 10th anniversary and rebranding, located at 2015 South Morgan #104.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Learning English as a second language seems close to impossible



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.
sam@hcnews.com | 817-573-7066, ext. 260

We are fortunate to have a young woman working in our office who relocated to Texas last year from the Ukraine. She and her family were minding their own business and living a happy life when suddenly they found themselves and their country under siege from invading Russian forces. She taught at a university and prior to the start of the war never considered living anywhere else but her homeland.

To make a long story short, the young woman and her family made their way to the United States, and she is now working at the newspaper. She is very

smart and a good worker, but understandably has a few struggles with speaking English.

Let me be clear, Oksana's English is pretty darn good

for someone who has had to totally immerse themselves in a vastly different foreign language. She is conversive and does a much better job speaking English than I would be speaking Ukrainian after such a short time. I admire that she works at her language skills and wants to be the best she can be. Oksana's language journey got me to thinking how hard I would have it if I were in a similar situation. Have you ever imagined trying to learn English as a second language? Think of the challenges:

Change can mean "to alter" or it can be the money you get back after you make a purchase.

Fall is what happens if you do not watch where you are going, or it could be a season of the year.

Light can help you see in

the dark or it can make fireworks explode.

Lead means to go to the front or it is a heavy metal.

Wind is a gust of air, or it is what you do to an old clock.

A dove is a bird related to a pigeon, but dove is what you did in the pool last summer.

A minute is 60 seconds, but something minute is very tiny.

But wait, there are more issues to confuse a beginner. Then there are homophones; words that have the same sound as another but are spelled differently.

The horse trainer was hoarse from calling out commands all day.

The savings from the ads add up over time.

We could all see the ship sinking into the sea.

The crews on the cruise

ship worked hard to make sure everyone enjoyed their experience.

If that isn't enough to confuse any linguist, then there are negatives without positives:

"Inert" means lacking any chemical reactions. There is no "ert" to indicate the opposite.

"Inhibit" means to prevent or discourage from doing something. There is no "hibit."

There are a number of disgruntled people, but you will never meet a "gruntled" person.

Then there are contronyms, which are words that have two contradictory meanings such as:

Bill, a payment or an invoice for payment.

Custom, a common practice or a special treatment.

Dust, to add fine particles

or to remove them.

Fast could mean either quick or stable.

Overlook is to supervise, or it can be to neglect.

Trim: to decorate or to discard something

Poor Oksana. Trying to learn all the idiosyncrasies of the English language must be a tremendous challenge. To make things worse, she has settled in Texas, so she is going to have to learn two new languages: English and Texican. I reckon y'all can appreciate anyone fixin' to accept that challenge. God bless her heart!

Thought for the day: "England and America are two countries divided by the same language." — George Bernard Shaw

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

Folks around town



Don Bell

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Say hello to our neighbor, Don Bell!

Many years ago, Don and his wife Jane, who have been married for 61 years, accepted a buyer's offer and sold their family ranch in Tennessee. They had decided to settle close to their son and his family in Weatherford. The Bells' son, daughter-in-law, and two granddaughters (ages 12 and 14) all show horses and have won world championship honors! Don and Jane moved from Weatherford to Granbury 15 years ago. Part of the draw to Granbury was the extremely nice and friendly people of Hood County. The Bells' social activities now completely revolve around the fellowship they found at Solid Rock Global Methodist Church. "We are a community, and there is nothing we wouldn't do for one another. That's a fact," Don said. The couple also enjoys the wide array of festivities and the uniqueness of Granbury. Coming from Tennessee, the Bells thoroughly enjoy our north Texas mild winters. Don shared, "We have a little ranch here, and I still buy and sell farm equipment. I enjoy partnering with Donnie Johnson." Don told us that the Hood County News is very informative and will keep you up to date on everything important in Hood County.

County proclaims June Elder Abuse Awareness Month



The Hood County Commissioners Court designated the month of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month during a regularly scheduled meeting May 28.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court designated the month of June as Elder Abuse Awareness Month during a regularly scheduled meeting May 28.

According to the proclamation, abuse of older adults and people with disabilities is a community concern, affecting thousands of people across Texas. In fact, there were 120,069 reports of elder abuse and people with disabilities in Texas last year.

Stacey Butler, a specialist with Adult Protective Services, told the court na-

tional research has shown that as many as one in 10 older Americans are abused and neglected each year.

"Adult Protective Services is a state agency that investigates abuse and neglect, financial exploitation of the elderly and substantially impaired. We provide resources or intervention to prevent maltreatment," she said during the meeting. "Our older adults are vital contributing members of our society, and everyone deserves the right to live free from abuse with dignity and respect."

Adult abuse affects men and women of all income and ability levels and all cultural and ethnic back-

grounds in all communities. Abuse against older adults and people with disabilities is also grossly underreported because of social stigma, embarrassment and fear.

"Elder Abuse Awareness Month reminds us that elder abuse has implications for all of us and it is important to find the right solutions," Butler said. "Therefore, it is imperative that we continue to raise awareness and take steps to prevent it in our communities."

As elder abuse is "everyone's business," according to the proclamation, the Hood County Commissioners Court proclaimed the month of June Elder Abuse Awareness

Month. Additionally, the court urges all residents to work together to reduce abuse and neglect of older adults and people with disabilities.

"On behalf of our program, I would like to thank our community partners, stakeholders, first responders, judicial partners, local government and the commissioners for their continued support in helping APS carry out its mission — which is to protect older adults and people with disabilities," Butler added.

To report abuse, neglect or exploitation, call the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue: 10 a.m. Wednesday

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Granbury volunteer firefighter honored for heroic, life-saving action



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Joshua Tanner Green, a member of the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, was publicly recognized Tuesday morning during the Hood County Commissioners Court for his heroic actions in saving an individual's life. Green, left, is pictured with Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

A member of the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department was publicly recognized Tuesday morning during the Hood County Commissioners Court for his heroic actions in saving an individual's life.

According to Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson, firefighter/paramedic Joshua Tanner Green was traveling north toward Weatherford March 29, when he came upon a wreck and began to slow down.

As he neared the scene, Green discovered there was a rather serious wreck involving a motorcycle. Several people had stopped and were talking to the injured rider and an unknown gentleman was holding pressure on the injured man's thigh. As Green approached, he noticed the bleeding was severe.

From his years of being a combat medic from October 2009 to November 2017 — and with two tours to Afghanistan — Green always made sure to keep a tourniquet ready. He ran back to his truck to grab the tourniquet and quickly applied it to the injured individual.

He then began to assess the patient by borrowing a phone to look at the patient's pupils.

After firefighters and EMS arrived on scene, Green notified the paramedic of the tourniquet placement and exam findings. He continued to assist in further treatment until a helicopter arrived to transport the rider to a hospital.

According to the proclamation, emergency room doctors stated that had Green not stopped and placed the tourniquet on the injured man, he would have bled to death at the scene from his injuries.

"I, Jack Wilson, commissioner for

Precinct 3, along with all the members of the Commissioners Court of Hood County, Texas, do hereby recognize and congratulate Mr. Joshua Tanner Green for his heroic lifesaving efforts that saved the victim's life," Wilson said.

He also encouraged all citizens of Hood County to join him in recognizing Green as he continues to serve the residents of Hood County, Irving Fire Department, and his ongoing service as a member of the Texas Army National Guard where he is assigned to Texas Medical Detachment 1 in Grand Prairie as a combat medic.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of May 21-27. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

- MAY 21**
4:00 a.m. suspicious activity on W. Pearl Street
11:02 a.m.: criminal trespass on Vineyard Road
6:36 p.m.: theft over \$2,500 and under \$30,000 on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:35 p.m.: driving without a license, prior conviction on E. Pearl Street

One major accident, four minor accidents, and 28 traffic stops occurred on this day

- MAY 22**
12:56 a.m.: driver with suspended driver license on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:17 a.m.: criminal trespass on Vineyard Drive
2:43 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on W. U.S. Highway 377
3:22 p.m.: threat on Gateway Hills Lane
4:11 p.m.: arrest evasion on Plains Court
4:36 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:44 p.m.: unauthorized vehicle use on Sheila Drive

- 8:29 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:20 p.m.: theft on E. Bluebonnet Drive
Three minor accidents and two traffic stops occurred on this day

- MAY 23**
2:12 a.m.: disturbance on Harbor Lakes Drive
8:34 a.m.: criminal mischief on Weatherford Highway
11:37 a.m.: disturbance on Lipan Highway
2:21 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on

- Heather Drive
3:39 pm.: assault on E. Pearl Street
6:12 p.m.: intoxicated driver, third offense on S. Morgan Street
10:50 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
Two major accidents, four minor accidents, a warrant service and 19 traffic stops occurred on this day

- MAY 24**
2:05 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:16 a.m.: child found on W. Pearl

- Street
8:01 a.m.: arrest evasion using a vehicle on Bluebonnet Drive
9:24 a.m.: theft on N. Plaza Drive
10:11 a.m.: unauthorized use of a vehicle on N. Plaza Drive
12:46 p.m.: assault on S. Park Drive
2:46 p.m.: assault on S. Meadows Drive
3:37 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:14 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:32 p.m.: hit-and-run accident

PLEASE SEE **BLOTTER** | A8



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

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

SATURDAY, 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/hcmsg/>

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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

FATHER'S DAY Car Show at Watermark Senior Living, 100 Watermark Blvd. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. 'Camp Meeting Boys' will provide the entertainment, great food abounds, contest judged by chiefs of police and fire and the mayor. Questions? Call 817-573-3434.

MEETING OF the Hood County Hospital District Board at noon in the Annex I meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. Questions call 817-579-3200.

PLEASE SEE **CALENDAR** | A14

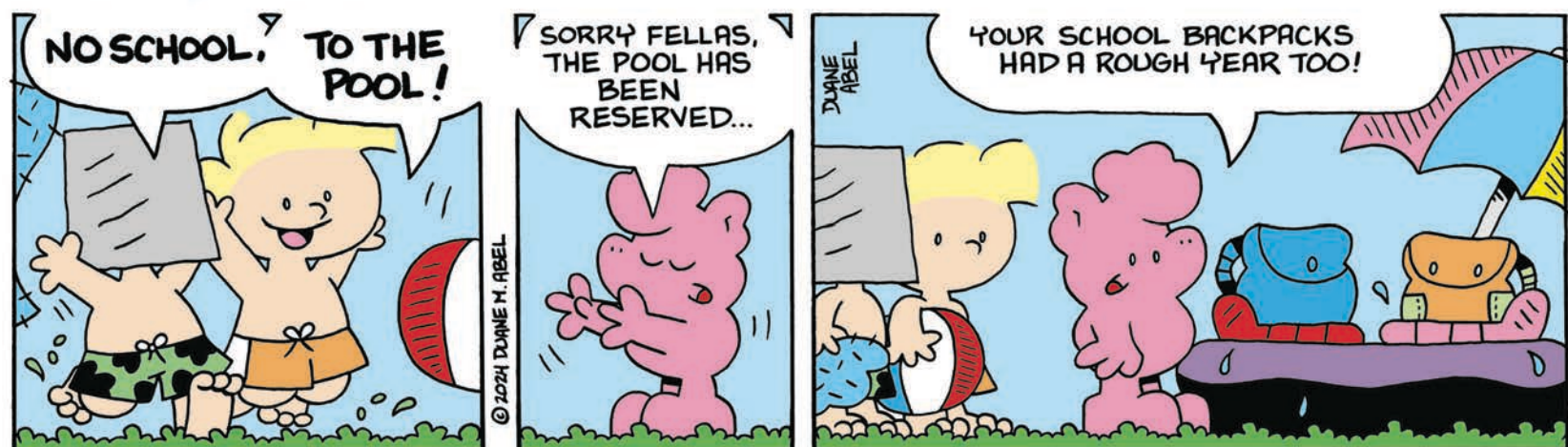
TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



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Lest we forget
MEMORIAL DAY

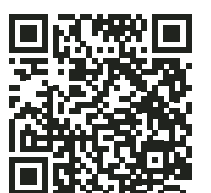


PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Memorial Day ceremonies began at 8:30 a.m. Memorial Lane, located within the Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park, where the Friends of Memorial Lane had a ceremony to honor and remember all those who have served or are serving, especially those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during their service. As the courthouse clock struck at half past noon, the Memorial Honoring the Fallen Veterans of Hood County took place on Bridge Street, close to the southwest corner of the Hood County Courthouse lawn where the Fallen Hero Memorial is located. Finally, crowds gathered under the shade of canopies mid-afternoon for A Field Of Flags Honoring Hometown Heroes. Affectionately known around town as the "Flag Lady," Gold Star Mother, Gail Joyce, lost her son in the Black Hawk Down battle in Mogadishu and lost her husband to complications from Agent Orange in Vietnam. With a desire to preserve their legacies and honor them in remembrance, Gail started the Granbury Field of Flags in 2012. Ten years later, she introduced the hero banners to create the organization Honoring Hometown Heroes. To kick off the summer season the Historic Granbury Merchants Association hosted a fun-filled long holiday weekend with street vendors and food trucks for families young and old. As always, the popular Patriotic Pooch Pageant on Saturday was a huge hit.



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HOOD COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Every Saturday at the Hood County YMCA you can find the Hood County Farmers Market. Rain or shine they will be at the YMCA Saturday mornings.



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1	Dinner in White
8-9	Lone Star Street Rod Association 49th State Run
8	Pickin' in the Pasture Feat. Kevin Fowler
JULY	
4	Irish Tacos & Brews Fest
4-5	Granbury TX 4th of July Rodeo
4-7	4th of July Weekend Celebrations and Parade
7	Texas Fallen Officers Day Ceremony at Memorial Lane
AUGUST	
3	Blazin' Saddle 75 Bike Rally
SEPTEMBER	
Aug. 30-Sept. 2	Labor Day Weekend Celebrations
11	Patriot Day Ceremony at Memorial Lane
21-22	The Spooky Spectacle Convention 2024

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

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Precinct 2 residents present Constable John Shirley with Certificate of Appreciation



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley received a Certificate of Appreciation from residents Tuesday morning as a way to honor his "dedication and exemplary service to all Precinct 2 residents."

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley received a unique honor Tuesday morning when he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court.

But instead of the county issuing the certificate, this recognition goes even deeper.

Shirley was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the residents of Precinct 2 for going "above and beyond" the call of duty in serving his precinct.

Before the certificate was presented, several residents came

up to voice their appreciation for Shirley in doing his job as constable.

Former Granbury City Council candidate Alex Wolf explained how he moved to Granbury 10 years ago. During that time, he has gotten to know his neighbors, Granbury City Council members, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, and of course, Shirley himself.

"John is not just a constable; he is an integral part of our community," Wolf said. "He actively participates in local events and engages with residents to understand and address our concerns. He keeps us up to date with town halls, social media and even picks up the phone when I call. This commitment to

serving and protecting us has been nothing short of exemplary."

Wolf went on to say Shirley serves the community with integrity and care and explained how he upholds the law of compassion and wisdom.

"Constable John Shirley has shown unwavering dedication to our community — consistently going above and beyond to ensure our safety and well-being," he continued. "Thank you, John, for your service and dedication, and the positive example you set for all of us. I'm proud to have you as my constable."

Samuelson then read a "mail-in" letter she received from Thomas Mead, former president — and resident — of Pecan Plantation.

In Mead's letter, he explained how he had recently retired as president of the Pecan Plantation Country Club and Homeowner's Association. During that time, he had gotten to know Shirley and had observed his "devotion to serving his community firsthand."

"Those who live within the gates of Pecan know that emotions can get stirred up and social media can get used to fan the flames when some issues are faced by the board," Mead's letter reads. "John has always kept up with the pulse of his community and stepped up without asking. When committee and board meetings address volatile subjects and mutiny with a bound, John would make sure either he or his deputy were pres-

ent to assure peace and safety to our community. John has always listened to those within our community and has taken action when needed or provided simple answers when appropriate ... John has always done what is right, not what is popular, and has taken the stones cast upon him knowing there is refuge in truth. And for this, we say thank you and well done."

Mead also spoke as a resident of Pecan Plantation, rather than a representative of any other organization. He expressed his thanks for Shirley, stating that his presence in the community has made a difference, and that he serves with the tenacity of a bulldog.

PLEASE SEE **SHIRLEY** | A8

Hood County earns 2023 Safety Achievement Award

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County earned a distinct honor Tuesday during a regularly scheduled Hood County Commissioners Court meeting.

According to a press release from TAC, Hood County received the 2023 Safety Achievement Award from the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool (TAC RMP) for its record of commitment to safety in the workplace, as well as for controlling the county's workers' compensation claims.

"We're recognizing some of the things that the county has done," TAC Risk Control Specialist Joe Szcwzyk said. "They implemented policies, and they kept losses at a minimum trying to reduce those losses with workers comp. This is a workers compensation award, and it recognizes everything that the county has done through training, policy implementation and mitigating risk."

According to the press release, Hood County works to reduce employee injuries and obtain substantial savings for taxpayers by minimizing workers' compensation costs through its commitment to safe practices among county employees.

To qualify for the award, the county must participate in TAC RMP's Workers' Compensation Program, have a safety program or accident prevention plan, and meet additional criteria. Hood County is one of 19 TAC RMP members statewide to earn this award.

Governed by a board of county officials, TAC RMP has provided counties with protection against



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County received the 2023 Safety Achievement Award from the Texas Association of Counties Risk Management Pool (TAC RMP) for its record of commitment to safety in the workplace, as well as for controlling the county's workers' compensation claims

risks and liabilities for 50 years. TAC RMP's risk control programs and services help Texas counties promote safety and save tax dollars.

"As your risk control consultant, I do all kinds of stuff — provide training and education to mitigate risk, help with facilities

inspections, help look at roofs, and help find maintenance management tools for the county to use to stay up to date on maintenance," Szcwzyk explained.

Following the announcement of the award, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill asked Szcwzyk if this achievement will reduce the coun-

ty's rates.

Szcwzyk responded that although he's not the "rates guy," the county can adjust its modifier based off losses and completed training to keep the workers' compensation premiums from rising.

"Now if you add employees, your costs are obviously going to go up,

but we can definitely minimize how much it goes up as a result of your efforts," he said. "You guys did a great job. You should be very proud of the work the county has done."

Hospital District board votes to place 2-cent tax on ballot

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the
Hood County News

After deliberating for months and attempting to educate the public, the Hood County Hospital District board voted Friday, May 24, to add a hospital district tax to the November ballot. The tax proposed is an ad valorem tax on property of 2 cents per \$100 of valuation.

The debate among board members had been whether to place 1/2 cent, 1 cent or 2 cents per \$100 of valuation on the ballot in the November election.

The proposed amount will appear on the ballot as a tax. All Texas residents are responsible to pay for indigent and jail inmate care by law through their county

or their hospital district (if they have one).

In most counties residents pay an ad valorem tax to cover indigent and jail inmate care. Prior to 1996, Hood County residents paid this tax as well. At that time the rate was 15 cents per \$100 of valuation.

In 1996, Hospital Corporations of America negotiated an agreement that allowed them to lease the hospital for \$15 million from 1996-2026, with an option to renew for an additional 10 years for \$1,000. At about the same time, the Hood County Hospital District board voted to do away with the hospital district tax entirely. The problem, states the board, is that now they will have to reinstate a tax.

The HCHD has maintained

operations from this fund since 1996 but funds are drying up.

Discussion opened to questions from the floor. Some residents wondered why the tax had to be on property values.

"The legislation actually tells you that it can only be an ad valorem tax," Ricky Reeves of Texas EMS explained.

Additionally, there was discussion as to whether this would change services for the residents of Pecan Plantation who have an ambulance service. The assurance was that the hospital district tax would not change the arrangement between Pecan and the Texas EMS ambulance service.

The board voted to accept a bid from Pavlik & Associates for \$10,000 (not including postage) to provide services to educate the

community about the proposed tax. The company's role will be to make the citizens aware of what the tax is and what it will pay for so they can make an informed decision about how they would like to vote.

Hospital District board members agree the optics on a "new" tax are problematic. HCHD Board President Christy Massey explained she is not a fan of taxes but if the tax is not passed when the citizens vote and subsequently the Hospital District ceases to exist due to a lack of funds, then the Commissioners Court will likely pass the tax on to the voters.

"Either way, we are going to have to pay a tax," Massey said.

SHIRLEY FROM PAGE A7

"Your experience in dealing with people with autism, communication disabilities and other differences shows your compassion and judgment, and should set a benchmark for others to follow," Mead continued in his letter. "Your dedication to finding facts before forming opinions shows you seek truth and justice for those who serve and fairness even for those who are on the wrong side of the law. You understand the laws you are sworn to uphold as well as your duty of due diligence and the accused rights of due process. There was always more to the story and you're always willing to read to the end and serve without bias, prejudice or agendas."

Within the past few months, Shirley has been instrumental in advocating for Precinct 2 residents regarding the fan noise from the Bitcoin data center. Earlier this year, he also started issuing \$500 citations to the owners of the plant, Marathon Digital, LLC, under the Texas Penal Code involving disorderly conduct — a situation that Precinct 202 Chair Craig Mayberry brought up during his statements.

Mayberry spoke on behalf of his constituents in saying "kudos" to Shirley for going above and beyond his duty in every way imaginable. He stated that Shirley has been devoting his time to serve the people of Granbury and Hood County, whether it's helping children across the street or "engaging with the large technocratic giant that has had an impact on our community."

"He has just committed himself non-stop day and night, above and beyond duty for the folks here in Granbury and for Hood County," Mayberry said. "For that, we thank you."

Precinct 218 Chair Clint Helton told the court Shirley had assisted him on three separate occasions with issues aligning with his duties as constable. He also added that in his experience, Shirley has been just a phone call away.

"During the primary campaign season this year, I knocked on hundreds of doors in Pecan Plantation, campaigning and promoting John Shirley and others for election," Helton said. "During that time, there were so many people where I wouldn't have to say anything to promote John Shirley. They would just stop and say, 'Hey, John Shirley, he's a great guy. He helped us. He's got our vote.' Outside of that context, they told me how John Shirley helped them in their time of need and all hours of the day or night, once staying virtually all night up at someone's home to help them."

Helton added that Shirley is readily available to help and that he's a tireless, big server to Hood County residents.

"Precinct 2 is very blessed to have Shirley as our Precinct 2 constable," he added.

Following the conclusion of public comments, Hood County resident John Highsmith presented Shirley with the Certificate of Appreciation to honor his dedication and exemplary service to all Precinct 2 residents.

"I just wanted to add this also," Highsmith said. "So, whenever I have had conversations with people about you (Shirley), a certain phrase comes up. And it's amazing. It comes up it seems like every time and that phrase is 'above and beyond,' so with that, we in Precinct 2, we want to show our appreciation to you, on May 28, 2024."

The timeless joy of sitting on your porch or patio

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

In today's fast-paced world, finding moments of tranquility and connection can be a challenge. Yet, there's a simple, timeless joy in sitting outside on your porch or patio every day. These outdoor spaces offer more than just a place to rest — they are sanctuaries where life's gentle moments unfold, allowing us to breathe, reflect and reconnect with ourselves and our loved ones.

SLOWING DOWN AND FINDING BREATH

Sitting on the porch, the world slows down enough for you to catch your breath and start again. They offer a space where time seems to stand still, providing a much-needed pause from the hustle and bustle of daily life. Here, we can reset our minds, allowing the tranquility of our surroundings to restore our spirits.

MEMORIES AND MOMENTS

A porch is a place where memories linger like the sweet scent of blossoms in the air. Porches and patios hold a unique place in our hearts, often becoming the backdrop for our most cherished memories. Whether it's watching the sunset with a loved one or enjoying the morning's first light with a cup of coffee, these spaces become intertwined with the fabric of our lives.

UNWINDING AND CONNECTING

On the patio, we unwind, we connect, and we savor the simple symphony of nature's whispers. The patio is a place of relaxation



COURTESY PHOTO

There's a simple, timeless joy in sitting outside on your porch or patio every day.

and connection. It's where we come together with family and friends to enjoy the natural world around us. The gentle rustle of leaves, the chirping of birds and the rustling breeze create a soothing symphony that helps us unwind and connect on a deeper level.

CONVERSATIONS AND STARS

The best conversations often happen on a porch, under the open sky and with the gentle eyes of the stars. There's something magical about sitting on the porch, engaging in meaningful conversations while the stars

twinkle above. These moments foster a sense of intimacy and openness, allowing us to share our thoughts and dreams under the vast, open sky.

THE RHYTHM OF LIFE

Life's gentle moments often unfold on a porch swing — back and forth, with the rhythm of a serene heart. The simple act of swinging on a porch swing can bring a profound sense of peace. The rhythmic motion mirrors the natural flow of life, reminding us to take things slow and savor each moment.

LAUGHTER AND JOY

A patio holds not just potted plants but pots of shared laughter spilling over the edges. Patios are not just physical spaces; they are emotional havens where joy and laughter flourish. Sharing moments of happiness with friends and family adds a special warmth to these outdoor sanctuaries.

NATURE'S INVITATIONS

From the porch, every sunset is an invitation to breathe, every sunrise a promise to begin anew. Watching the sun rise and set from your porch or patio con-

PLEASE SEE PORCH | A11

BLOTTER FROM PAGE A4

on E. U.S. Highway 377

Fourteen traffic stops occurred on this day

MAY 25

9:50 a.m. theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:13 p.m.: reckless driver on Saratoga Boulevard
5:06 p.m.: SWAT callout on Porter Court
6:13 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:45 p.m.: trespass on E.

U.S. Highway 377

One warrant service and 42 traffic stops occurred on this day

MAY 26

12:45 a.m.: suspicious activity on N. Plaza Drive
1:40 p.m.: theft on Weatherford Highway
3:37 p.m.: threats on E. U.S. Highway 377
3:43 p.m.: trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:08 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:05 p.m.: harassment on Hayloft Lane

10:40 p.m.: disturbance n Paluxy Road

11:01 p.m.: intoxicated driver on E. U.S. Highway 377

11:15 p.m.: reckless driver on N. Plaza Drive

One minor accident and 20 traffic stops occurred on this day

MAY 27

2:00 a.m.: intoxicated driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:58 p.m.: public intoxication on S. Morgan Street
1:05 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
2:40 p.m.: driver with in-

valid driver license on E. U.S. Highway 377

3:56 p.m.: loose livestock on Crawford Avenue

5:54 p.m.: loose livestock on Weatherford Highway

8:33 p.m.: threats on E. U.S.

Highway 377

9:42 p.m.: fireworks on Jacinth Lane

10:35 p.m.: fight on E. U.S. Highway 377

11:27 p.m.: suspicious activity on Jasper Lane

One major accident, a minor accident, and 22 traffic stops occurred on this day

VALE

FROM PAGE A1

years and was subsequently elected to Granbury City Council in 2021, and mayor pro tem in December 2023.

Vale previously told the HCN he filed for the council seat because he had a desire to serve.

"My wife and I are very involved in our neighborhood, our church and our community," he previously stated. "The council position gives me an opportunity to further support our community and the citizens of Granbury."

Lori Vale also quickly im-

mersed herself in various areas of serving in the community — most notably as a volunteer with Forward Training Center and Visit Granbury.

"We have always tried to be involved in and serve our community," Steven Vale said on his social media post. "At this point in our life, we are ready to write the next chapter of our 'true life adventure.'"

He said he has enjoyed his time serving on the Granbury City Council, as well as the relationships he has made along the way.

"I am proud of what I, along with my fellow coun-

cil members, have accomplished during my time on council," Steven Vale said. "I am committed to fulfill my responsibilities of city councilman through the end of my term with the same attention, determination and conviction as I have these last two-and-a-half years."

He added the pair will forever cherish the memories and relationships they have made in Hood County as they forge on to a new life.

"We thank you for your love, support and friendship," Steven Vale said. "The community of Granbury will always hold a special place in our hearts."

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8040
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Hood County Animal Control,
1550 Weatherford Hwy,
Granbury, Texas 76048.
817-573-4277



MISSING DOG- Tan with white around the face and paws. Rat terrier mix. Went Missing around Blue Branch Ranch off Tin Top Hwy on May 24th. Please call 682-888-6125

8510
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.

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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

8560
Professional



North Central Texas Academy is seeking:

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

8510
General

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>
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Heron Security

Airco 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 airco@sbcglobal.net

Airco 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 airco@sbcglobal.net

8 openings for Golf Course Maintenance in the Granbury area: Operate machinery, water greens, rake bunkers, edge cart paths, clear brush, seeding, laying sod, picking up debris, manual lawn mowing, and plant shrubs and flowers. Persons should be able to lift up to 50lbs. Position could become full time work.
Hours for the position are M-Su, 7AM-3:30PM.
Pay will be \$18-20/hour.
Interested persons should contact Ana or Janie at 972-251-2269, 8AM-4:30PM, M-F.

8510
General



The Hood County News is hiring a responsible, committed leader in our insert room.

The insert supervisor is responsible for coordinating the insert team to effectively meet multiple daily deadlines.

Must be detail oriented, have flexible hours and be comfortable in a fast-paced warehouse environment.

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Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage License by Christina's LLC dba Christina's American Table, to be located at 119 E. Bridge Street, Granbury, Hood County, Texas. The owners of said corporation are co-managing members Gary Folger and Katie Folger.

8560
Professional

Notice of Adoption of District Rules
On May 15, 2024 the Board of Directors of the Acton Municipal Utility District (District) adopted an amendment to the District's Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan (Plan). The Plan describes how the District will manage water use during times of drought or shortage of supply and includes civil penalties of not to exceed \$500 per day of violation and for the disconnection of water service for repeat violations, along with certain revised enforcement provisions. The purpose of the Plan is to promote water conservation in the District and to manage water supplies during shortages. The Plan, including the enforcement and penalty provisions, is posted on the District's website (AMUD.com) and the full text of the Plan, and all of the District's policies, are on file at the District office where they may be read and copied by any person. The District office is located at 6420 Lusk Branch Court, Granbury, Texas 76049-2035.

9031
Public Notices

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 1, 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.

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, June 14, noon, at Hood County Annex I meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury. For more information, 817-579-3200.

9031
Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of CHERYL KAY REGAN, Deceased, were issued on May 16, 2024, in Cause No. P10349, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: ERIN REGAN DRUMMER.

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 20th day of May, 2024.
Steven G. Kuban
Attorney for Erin Regan Drummer
State Bar No.: 24078807
107 E. Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 573-8872
Facsimile: (817) 579-1651
E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

9031
Public Notices

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for CSP 2024-5 for doors and locks.
Bid proposals are available online on <https://granbury.ionwave.net>.
The bids are open immediately and will close 6/10/24.
Please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087.

9031
Public Notices

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The bids are open immediately and will close 6/10/24.
Please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087.

Granbury 76048
PUBLIC SALES

Garage Sales 76048

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Sat. 10am - 4pm
Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

1206 3rd Street- Fri 5/31 & Sat 6/1, 8am-4pm. Multi family garage sale. Rain or shine!

Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048

ESTATE SALE: 501 Tahiti Dr.- Fri-Sun, May 31-June 2, 8am-5pm. Western style king size bedroom suit, TVs, dishes, lots of odds and ends!


1501 Misty Meadow Dr- June 1, Saturday only. 7am-3pm. Dining/kitchen tables, hutch, desk, rocking chair, dresser, display table, lots of fishing, boating, antiques & vintage glass, golf, hardware, clothes, plants, Beanie Babies, and more.

Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

THIS OUT!
GARAGE SALE:
905 Mallard Pointe Dr
Saturday, June 1 Only! 8am-noon.
Lots of jeans, men's and juniors, other clothing items too.

Church Rummage Sale: 2016 Acton Hwy at SDA Fellowship Hall. June 2, noon-5pm. June 3-5, 8am-6pm.

The Hood County News



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AUCTIONS

Bankruptcy Sale, Bid Deadline June 14, TwentyFour25, Galleria Office Building, 2425 W. Loop South, Houston, TX. 11-Story, 285,000± SF, Class A Building. Sale Subject to Stalking Horse Bid of \$18,600,000. Minimum Overbid: \$19,750,000. Ideal for office, hotel, residential or mixed-use. 855-755-2300, HilcoRealEstateSales.com.

Large Absolute Auction Thurs., 10 a.m. June 6. Beautiful New Home Furnishings & Decor, Commercial Office Furniture & Decor. 1,000's of items, 100's of lots. All furnishings brand new. Items located at 4906 Topline, Dallas, TX. Inspection: Tues. June 4 & 5th 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and starting At 8 a.m. day of auction. Auction held at: Dakil Auctioneers, Inc., 200 NW 114th St., Okla. City, OK. See website for detailed listing & pictures, 405-751-6179 Bid live on-line at www.dakil.com.

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Hood County News

PORCH
FROM PAGE A8

nects you with the natural cycles of the day. These moments offer daily reminders to breathe deeply and embrace new beginnings with each dawn.

ART OF STILLNESS

Porch sitting is an art — a still life painting where thoughts color the canvas of tranquility. The practice of sitting on the porch is an art form in itself. It requires us to be still, to observe and to reflect. This stillness allows our thoughts to flow freely, painting a serene picture of inner peace.

FOOTPRINTS OF CONNECTION

Every patio step, worn and weathered, carries the footprints of friends and family coming home. Each step on the patio holds the history of those who have walked there before. These weathered steps are a testament to the connections and memories forged in this special place.

STORIES UNDER THE STARS

Under the porch light, the night gathers stories, and we become both teller and audience, wrapped in starlight. As night falls, the porch light creates a cozy ambiance for storytelling. These stories, shared under the starlit sky, weave a tapestry of shared experiences and dreams.

Sitting outside on your porch or patio every day is more than just a leisurely activity. It's an opportunity to slow down, create lasting memories, connect with nature and loved ones and find peace within the rhythm of life. Embrace this timeless joy, and let your porch or patio become a cherished sanctuary where life's simple pleasures unfold.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pancake breakfast brings Pecaners together for fundraiser



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.
dianelong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

Approximately 100 people attended the pancake breakfast hosted by the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary and the Granbury Lions Club last weekend. Folks gathered at the EAA hangar to enjoy pancakes with all the trimmings as well as musical entertainment provided by The Marina Trio. The event generated almost \$1,300 to benefit Pecan's emergency personnel. A big "thank you" to everyone who made the day such a success!

AUXILIARY MEETING

Pecan's VFD/EMS Auxiliary will meet collectively 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.

In addition, 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.

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 on 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.

SWIM TIME

Last week's Memorial Day party signaled the opening of the clubhouse pool with hours of 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily with the exception of being closed Mondays. The Poolside Lounge has the same hours with window service available. The PAC pool now has summer hours of 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily except for its weekly closure Wednesday.

WELL DONE

Congratulations to Pecan resident and STEAM Academy at Mambrino instructor Deidra Zschiesche for being named "Elementary School Teacher of the Year" in the Granbury Independent School District. Ms. Zschiesche was honored at a recent employee banquet.

SPLISH SPLASH

The first session of swim lessons for the summer be-



COURTESY PHOTO BY LANA ROBINSON

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary and the Granbury Lions Club recently held a fundraising breakfast benefiting Pecan's emergency volunteers. The successful day netted almost \$1,300. Pictured left to right are Pecan VFD Fire Chief Mike Barrett and auxiliary volunteers Paula and Doug McDaniel.

gins Monday, June 3 and runs through Friday, June 14. Three classes are available: mom and tot; beginners, and older swimmers. Certified swim instructors lead all levels. Sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

PLAY BALL

Soccer camp comes to Pecan Monday, June 3 through Thursday, June 6 at the soccer field at the PAC. Players ages 4 to 6 will meet from 9 to 10 a.m. with ages 7 to 10 gathering from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. A YMCA soccer coach will lead the instruction, and participants should bring a soccer ball, shin guards and water.

EXERCISE TIME

Deep water aerobics begins Tuesday, June 4 with classes running weekly Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m. Pre-registration at the PAC is required for class-

es with certified instructor Leslie Stain.

MUSIC TIME

The next session of beginner guitar lessons at the PAC with instructor Carolyn Troland begins Thursday, June 6. Lessons run each Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m. for six weeks and are \$25 a lesson. Students should bring a guitar with new strings. Sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

TRIO TUNES

The Marina Trio will be playing Friday, June 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. for folks to enjoy while dining on food from The Pit and viewing the lake.

SUMMER JAM

On Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, Pecaners will enjoy Summer Jam on the clubhouse steps when musical artists The Josh Weathers Band, The Lost Shaker of Salt Band and The Windbreakers

will be featured. All neighbors are invited to enjoy this free event.

GO FISH

Pecan's annual kids' fishing tournament comes Monday, June 10 at 8 a.m. on the golf course hole #10 pond. All ages are welcome. Bring a fishing pole; bait provided.

GOOD READ

The Hood County Library's bookmobile will be at the PAC Wednesday, June 12 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return materials to the bookmobile.

TEA TIME

A most favorite summer event in Pecan comes Friday, June 14 when the princess tea party happens at 2 p.m. at the clubhouse ballroom. All ages are welcome, and sign-up is required as seating is limited: 817-573-7952. Princesses are





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Drinking from the garden hose: a hazardous practice

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

In the scorching summer heat, the nostalgic act of quenching one's thirst from the garden hose may seem appealing, but risks are involved today. It's 90 degrees in the shade, and the garden hose is the nearest option for water — is drinking from the hose a sensible choice?

The answer is no. The charming notion of sipping cool water straight from the hose has evolved into a hazardous practice due to various factors, including sickness from the presence of lead, physical injury from burning or whipping, microbial contamination, and chemical toxins.

Granbury Lakeside Physician Dr. Katherin Kline warns that even minimal ingestion of lead, especially by children, can result in the following symptoms: behavior and learning problems, lower IQ, and hyperactivity, slowed growth, hearing problems, and anemia.

In rare cases, ingestion of lead can cause problems ranging from behavioral issues to seizures and even death, according to the EPA. Lead, a toxic metal, lurks in many garden hoses, particularly in the fittings and connectors made of brass. To reduce the risk of exposure, experts suggest opting for hose fittings made from lead-free materials such as aluminum, stainless steel, or nickel.

In addition to possibly ingesting small amounts of lead by drinking from a garden hose, high water pressure and temperature on a hot summer day could cause injuries.

In 2021, Global Pediatric Health published results from research

it conducted on the risk of burns from scalding water in loose garden hoses exposed to sunlight. They found the surface temperature of garden hoses, especially when placed on grass or concrete, increased significantly, reaching peak temperatures between 12:30 and 3 p.m. on grass and at 3:30 p.m. on concrete. This temperature rise can heat the water inside the hose to between 103 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit, posing a scalding risk, especially for individuals with circulatory disorders and/or skin diseases.

When the water in a hose reaches over 109 F, it can attract animals like chipmunks, groundhogs and rabbits, who may mistake it for food or use it to sharpen their teeth. This behavior can lead to burst hoses, as increased pressure from hot and cold weather degradation of materials can weaken the hose, according to information from BackyardOverhaul.com.

Mary Eve from Fine Homes and Living acknowledges another common hazard associated with garden hoses — water pressure. "When a garden hose is turned on, water pressure can build up quickly and the hose can whip around uncontrollably. This can be dangerous, especially if the hose hits someone or something," she said. It is wise to



COURTESY PHOTO BY TIERNEY, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The charming notion of sipping cool water straight from the hose has evolved into a hazardous practice due to various factors, including sickness from the presence of lead, physical injury from burning or whipping, microbial contamination, and chemical toxins.

inspect the garden hose for physical damage, including wear, corrosion or misuse.

Understanding PSI — pounds per square inch — is essential so you have the right hose and water pressure for your intended use. In her article, PSI of a Garden Hose — A Guide to Select a Suitable Pressure Hose, Sharon Vanessa says, "The average water pressure rating for hoses is between 30 and 50 PSI. However, when

purchasing one, it is important to check this feature as some can reach above 140 PSI!" Keep in mind that this pressure is lower than the standard home water pressure. Check the manufacturer's specifications if you need more specific information about a particular hose.

Drinking from a garden hose seemed natural decades ago. Aside from possible injuries such as lead poisoning, water force and temperature,

society has become acutely aware of microorganisms.

The water from the garden hose is the same as used in your home, but it's not subject to the same stringent regulations as indoor plumbing. While water delivered to homes undergoes thorough treatment and is regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), garden hoses are not. So, even though the water may come from the

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OBITUARIES

Pat "Mimi" Thompson Logan

November 2, 1929 - May 24, 2024

Patsy "Mimi" Thompson Logan, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to many, passed away on May 24, 2024 in Granbury, Texas. She was born on Nov. 2, 1929, in Long Beach, California to James "JA" Thompson and Mae Dooley Thompson.

Known affectionately as "Suds," Pat spent her early years helping run the family laundry before graduating from Alvarado High School. She then dedicated almost four decades of her life to working at Southwestern Bell Telephone. Pat's commitment to hard work and dedication was evident throughout her life.

In marriage with Hoyte Logan, they were blessed with two children: Shannon Logan (Lisa) and Kelly Lynn Stiles (Craig). Together they raised their family in the Briar Oaks and Burleson area before settling in Granbury in 1991. She spent countless hours alongside her husband creating beautiful woodwork and paintings that will forever be treasured by their family. She will be remembered as a devoted member of the Granbury First United Methodist Church where she found solace and community. Her faith was an integral part of her life and she lived it with grace and compassion. Pat also cherished her time spent with her bunco group.

Mimi leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, and kindness that has touched the hearts of everyone fortunate enough to know her. Her spirit lives on through those whose lives she enriched over the years - especially during teatime gatherings dressed up alongside great-granddaughters named after herself-Logan Olivia Byrd- and Andi Leigh Byrd- who brought immeasurable joy into every moment they shared together.

Mimi will be deeply missed by all who knew her. Her memory lives on through her loving grandchildren: Sonya Reinhardt Byrd and husband Justin Byrd; Patrick Liam Logan; Marcus Iian Logan, and Ryan Scruggs; granddaughter-in-law: Jesse Logan;



step-grandchildren: Cameron Mosier and Clay Mosier; great-grandchildren including: Logan Olivia Byrd, Andi Leigh Byrd and Mae Logan among others.

She is also survived by extended family members including stepchildren Hoyte Odell Logan and Debbie Cornelius along with their families. Additionally remembered are the Looper and Duckett families whom she cherished deeply.

Her best friend Louise Rhodes held a special place in Mimi's heart for many years as they shared countless memories together that will never be forgotten.

Mimi is preceded in death by her husband: Hoyte Logan; parents, JA and Mae Thompson; sister Robbie Alexander and husband Jim; infant sister: Eva; granddaughter Sian Logan; friends Loretta, Estha, Margie, Dorothy, and Sugar.

The family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Concho Heart Hospice and The Oaks of Granbury for providing compassionate care during Patsy's final days.

A service honoring Mimi's life was held at Wiley Funeral Home on Thursday, May 30 at 11 a.m. The visitation began at 10 a.m. until service time. Later that day at 3 p.m. she was laid to rest at Glenwood Cemetery located in Alvarado, Texas.

May we find solace knowing that while she may no longer walk beside us physically, she remains forever present within our hearts as we carry forward the lessons learned from such an extraordinary woman whose impact knows no bounds.

Mary "Roberta" Rodgers Huddleston

April 3, 1934 - May 21, 2024

Mary "Roberta" Rodgers Huddleston, 90, beloved mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully on Tuesday morning, May 21, 2024 in Granbury, Texas.

Roberta was born on April 3, 1934, in Granbury, Texas to the late Willie and Ader Rodgers. She spent many years as a cashier and loved working with the public and meeting new people. Roberta was a member of Southside Baptist Church in Granbury. She married the love of her life, C.H. Huddleston, on May 29, 1953, at the bride's home in Granbury. She was passionate about quilting, sewing, and gardening.

Roberta is survived by her daughters, Mary and husband Donald Neely and Julie and husband Terry Gray; and six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Roberta is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews; as



well as many friends.

In addition to her parents, Roberta was preceded in death by her husband, C.H. and her son, Phillip. She was also preceded in death by her four sisters and three brothers.

Service was Saturday, May 25 at 11 a.m. at Wiley's Funeral Home in Granbury with visitation at 10 a.m. before the service. Burial was at Rough Creek Cemetery in Granbury.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation to your favorite charity.

Gregory Dean Langston

September 21, 1968 - May 19, 2024

Gregory Dean Langston of Granbury passed away on Sunday May 19, 2024. Celebration of life services will be held on Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 2 p.m. at Wiley funeral home with Reverend Jerry Thorpe officiating.

Greg was born in Odessa, Texas on Sept. 21, 1968, to Herman Lynn Langston and Mildred Ann Dennis Miller.

While living in Wichita, Kansas, he attended Goddard High School. When he turned 17, he joined the U.S. Navy.

Greg loved to play the piano and guitar. He played by ear, never had any lessons. He loved to cook for his family. He watched Guy Fieri to get ideas. He loved to fish and just sitting and watching the lake. He was a truck driver for many years. Greg was baptized at Tyler Road Baptist Church, Wichita, Kansas at the age of 12.

Greg married Melissa Diane Hammonds. They had one son, Douglas Langston. He was previously married to Rebecca



Dunegun. They had two daughters, Desire' and Sarah.

Greg is survived by his wife, Melissa, son Douglas, daughters Desire' Hammel, Sarah Maddox. Stepdaughters Ashleigh Johnson and Amber Webb. Mother, Ann Miller and Stepmother Beverly Langston, sister-in-law Sharon Langston, Nephew Andrew Langston, Aunts Judy Tinney and Freddie Thorpe, Grandchildren, Grace and Raelynn, Ollivander, Stephen, Cooper, and Penelope.

He was preceded in death by his father, Herm Langston and brother Doug Langston.

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 Szydluk and Kathleen Hughes Szydluk. 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.

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ACROSS

1 TX Trini's "If ___ A Hammer"

5 Oldham County seat

6 TX Percy Foreman defended James ___ Ray (MLK killer)

7 western writer Zane

8 TXism: "fits like scales ___ fish"

9 struts

16 this Harper was in "Crimes of the Heart" with TX Sissy

18 San Antonio Zoo has big collection of these animals

21 Taylor of Texas-based "Giant" (init.)

22 ___ Sandberg said "Texas is valor and swagger"

23 Trinity High class

24 uncommissioned officer

30 TXism: "___ as hollering 'snake' at a quilting bee"

34 Sally of "Back Roads" with TX Tommy Lee (init.)

35 TX rancher Norris' "___ of One"

36 Don ___ Aury was first to claim Galveston

37 this Michael was in TX Audie film "Arizona Raiders"

39 Austin bridge mammals (3 wds.)

43 WWII atom bomber ___ Gay

44 this TX Jack was president of the MPAA

45 TXism: "good ___ boy"

46 "___ the night before Christmas ..."

47 UT astronomers measure the distance between the ___ earth

49 chief counsel to "Red Scare" Sen. McCarthy (2 wds.)

52 Texas "Mr. Sam" (init.)

53 TXism: hunkered down and rarin' to ___

54 no longer gettin' milk from mama ocean paintings

55 Philippine Island

59 amateur sports org. (abbr.)

60 Capone & Jolson

61 "Steak and ___"

DOWN

1 TX Buck Owens tune: "___ a Tiger by the Tail"

2 in Robertson County on U.S. 79

3 TXism: "slippery as ___ pig"

4 this Timothy starred with TX Crystal Bernard on "Wings"

9 "Father of Texas" (init.)

10 predecessor

11 Lone ___ State

12 TX Audie Murphy

13 refer to indirectly

14 TX creek: ___ Lo Digo Creek

15 whirlpool tub

17 Aggie coach Gene (1965-71)

19 home of "Old Rip" the horned frog

20 TXism: "___ a squirrel up a tree"

24 "doesn't apply" on a form (abbr.)

25 TXism: "living high ___ the hog"

26 ex-Cowboy offensive coach, Turner (1991-93)

27 flavored coffee additives

28 spotted wildcat endangered in Texas

29 "falling star"

31 TXism: "wore my fingers to the ___"

32 this Scala was in "Ride A Crooked Trail" with 12-down

33 TX O. Henry's "A Fog in ___"

38 "___ gone and done it" (uh oh)

40 Gov. Richards

41 TXism: "call ___ day" (quit)

42 TXism: "write ___ he can't read fast"

48 TXism: "___ a bull give milk?" (no)

50 ___-round school

51 Astro headwear

56 Lufkin High class

57 TXism: "big fish in a ___ pond"

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Don't let investments take a vacation

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Tony Mobly

ful about how you evaluate results. Don't compare your portfolio's results against those of a market index, such as the

S&P 500, which tracks the stock performance of 500 large U.S. companies listed on American stock exchanges. This comparison may not be particularly valid because your own portfolio ideally should include a range of investments, including U.S. and foreign stocks, corporate and government bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other securities. So, instead of checking your progress against a market index,

use benchmarks meaningful to your individual situation, such as whether your portfolio is showing enough growth potential based on a compounding rate of return to keep you moving toward a comfortable retirement and other long-term goals.

INVEST WITH A PURPOSE

When you work intensely at something, it's usually because you have a definite result in mind. And this sense of purpose applies to investing, too. If you buy a stock here, and another one there, based on "hot" tips you might have seen on television or the internet, you may end up with a jumbled sort of portfolio that doesn't

really reflect your needs. Instead, try to follow a long-term investment strategy based on your financial goals, risk tolerance, asset accumulation needs, liquidity and time horizon, always with an eye toward where you want to go in life — how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.

BE STRATEGIC WITH YOUR INVESTMENTS

Over the years, you will likely have a variety of competing financial goals — and you'll want your investment portfolio working to help achieve all of them. That means, though, that you'll likely need to match certain

investments with specific goals. For example, when you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar plan, you're putting away money for retirement. But if you want to help your children go to college or receive some other type of post-secondary education or training, you might want to save in a 529 education savings plan, which allows tax-free withdrawals for qualified education expenses. Or, if you want to save for a short-term goal, such as a wedding or a long vacation, you might choose an investment that offers significant protection of principal, so the money will be available when you need it. Ultimately, this type of goals-based investing

can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.

When you take a vacation, you will hopefully be more relaxed and refreshed. But if you let your investments stop working as hard as they should, the results could be stressful. So, be diligent about your investment strategy, monitor it regularly and make those moves appropriate for your situation. By doing so, you can't necessarily guarantee a long day at the beach, but you'll have a good chance of enjoying a sunny outlook.

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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.

OBITS CONTINUED FROM | A13

Rose Marchbanks Tipton

April 4, 1929 - May 25, 2024

Rose Marchbanks Tipton left this life on Saturday May 25, 2024, in Mineral Wells, Texas.

Funeral: 11 a.m. on Friday, May 31, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Lipan, Texas. Burial: Bishop Cemetery, Lipan Texas. Visitation 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, May 30, 2024, at First Baptist Church of Lipan, Texas. Services under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home.

Rose was born to Jasper W. and Vera Smith Marchbanks on April 4, 1929, in Brownfield, Texas. During her early life they traveled east, sharecropping and buying and selling property until they came to Lipan in the 1940s. It was here, in 1949, that she met the love of her life, Mr. Charles Tipton. He was farming a property next door when he saw her and went to ask her father if he could take her on a date.

They were married the following summer and spent the next 64 1/2 years as husband and wife. Always at his side as they farmed, initially raising turkeys and crops, and later hogs and cattle on a farm that would come to be known as "Pork Chop Hill." As they reached retirement age, they traveled across the U.S., sometimes taking us along to enjoy that time with them.



Charles and Rose would come to be known by most kids in town as Mom and Dad, and later as Granny and Papa. Rose was a central figure for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, but also for many others in the community as a maternal figure.

Rose was preceded in death by her husband Charles Tipton, her parents, brothers BT and Ather, sisters, Lora Mae, Dovie, Estelle, and Inez, and her three boys, Max, Marvin Dale, and Sam.

Rose is survived by her sister Leona Wilson, grandchildren, Neal & Laurayne Tipton, Richard and Ellie Tipton, J.R. and Destiny Campbell, 19 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Tareca and Michael McKee

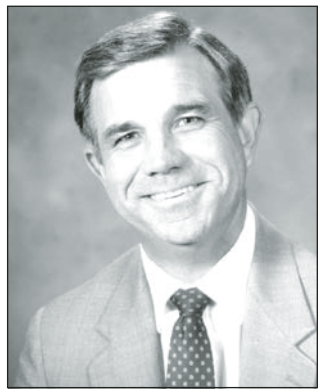
Michael "Mike" Joseph McKee and Tareca Jay McKee, beloved husband and wife, passed away on Feb. 13, 2022, and May 18, 2024, respectively.

A visitation will be held for Tareca on June 1, 2024 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. A closed casket service will follow at 2 p.m. at the Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, in Granbury, Texas. Light refreshments will be provided following the service.

Tareca was born May 22, 1948, in Cement, Oklahoma to RJ and Lorena Daugherty. Tareca was a graduate of the University of Science and Arts in Oklahoma. She dedicated her life to education and was a passionate educator who touched the lives of countless students throughout her career. Tareca was a woman of many talents and passions. Among these, Tareca was the owner and operator of Sylvia's Florist in Groves, Texas for many years and her creativity was reflected in her floral designs. She had an artistic soul and found joy in expressing herself through art. Tareca was known for her commitment and dedication to her family and friends. Her warmth and kindness touched the lives of many throughout the years.

Tareca was preceded in death by her parents, RJ and Lorena Daugherty, and more recently her husband, Michael "Mike" McKee.

Mike was born on Oct. 31, 1944, in Chickasha, Oklahoma. He was the only child born to Joseph and Ruby McKee. Throughout his life, Mike exemplified dedication and excellence in everything he pursued. Mike was a graduate of Oklahoma State University and received a degree in electrical engineering. His professional journey led him to become a vice president for Time Warner Communications where he pioneered the use of satel-



lite and fiberoptic communications, which revolutionized how we communicate today. Mike was known for his unwavering dedication to everything he pursued. His commitment to excellence was evident in all aspects of his life. Whether it was at work or at home, he always strived for perfection. Mike was a man of strong convictions and unwavering dedication to his beliefs. He was actively involved in Republican Party politics and worked tirelessly to make a positive impact on his community. His passion for politics was matched only by his deep love for his family -- particularly with his grandchildren.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents.

Mike and Tareca's life was one filled with love and dedication to their family. On Dec. 25, 1970, the couple married, and their union brought forth three beautiful children: Lareca Green, Loree McKee, and Levi and wife Michele McKee; his grandchildren, Bud Green, Calie Green, and Danica McKee.

Larry Adear Ballenger

April 24, 1946 - May 22, 2024

Larry Adear Ballenger, age 78, passed away on May 22, 2024, in Weatherford, Texas. Larry was born in Mineral Wells, Texas on April 24, 1946 to Adear and Myrtle Herring Ballenger. Larry grew up on the family peanut farm in Lone Camp exploring the banks of the Brazos River in search of Indian arrowheads. He learned how to weld at Santo High School, which turned into a lifetime career. Larry married Sharon O'Bannon on Nov. 6, 1964 building a loving and dedicated family for the next 59 years and seven months. In the 1970s he started KL Fabrications and became well known in the oil and gas industry. After closing his business, he taught him-

self the dying art of blacksmithing.

He continued his passion for metal working until the last few months, making hand forged knives and spurs. Larry was preceded in death by his parents Adear and Myrtle Ballenger. Survived by wife Sharon Ballenger, daughter Tammy and husband John Cooper, son Keith and wife Amber Ballenger, and son Chad and wife Renee Ballenger.

Grandchildren include Zac and wife Kasey Cooper, Paige and husband Jacob Moore, Whitney and husband Bradley Waldrup, Faith, Hayley, and Maddie Ballenger. Also, survived by sister Sharon Bryant and three great-grandchildren.

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.

CALENDAR from A4

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, Herbology 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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

HOOD COUNTY Americans meet at Harbor Lakes Country Club, 2100 Clubhouse Drive from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The event will feature speaker of the Texas State House candidate Hannah Bohm. Topic "Defending Democracy: America Cares." Join the group for "Defending dignity for all Texans." Questions? Call 972-345-0271.

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1692

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KNIEPER REALTY

Let's talk about flood insurance; Do you need it?



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

Not every home on Lake Granbury (or the Brazos River) has flood insurance — not all of them need flood insurance. But it is a question you should ask anytime you are considering the purchase of real estate adjacent to any body of water.

The Brazos River Authority (BRA) website tells us Lake Granbury is a water conservation lake, built to capture flood waters, but it does not guarantee that the shore-

line around the lake will never flood. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website contains a wealth of information including interactive

flood maps that will let you plug in an address and locate any property to determine the risk level for flooding. However, it is important to recognize those are flat maps with shaded areas depicting risk levels that do not have the "finished floor elevation" of every property.

If you are getting a mortgage, your lender will check the FEMA maps, and if your property is in a shaded high-risk area, they will require flood insurance. That, simply put, means you could be at the top of a hill 100 feet above the lake and still be required to procure flood insurance unless, or until, you provide documentation

to FEMA showing the property's finished floor elevation is above the flood plain. This is accomplished with an elevation certificate, which must be done by a registered professional land surveyor.

Sellers are required to disclose if their property is in the flood plain, however they do not always know for certain if they are or are not, especially if they paid cash for a property and didn't have a lender checking the FEMA maps for them. Longtime property owners also may not know if their property is in a flood plain because FEMA has changed the minimum elevations over the years, so what once wasn't

in the flood plain may now be. Just because a property hasn't ever flooded, doesn't mean it will never flood, so caution and due diligence are always recommended.

There has been widespread flooding throughout Texas recently, and May 21, the Texas Water Development Board reported that Lake Granbury was 99.9% full, at an elevation of 692.71 feet, with more rain on the horizon. Without in any way minimizing the devastation from flooding and seriously scary storms that so many of our Texas residents have experienced recently, it is still in my nature to always be grateful for rain. Having ex-

perienced what serious and prolonged drought can do to an area, seeing our lake full always makes me smile. But recent weather events offer a stark reminder that while flood insurance may add some cost to your dream of a waterfront home, it is worth every penny if your property is in a high-risk area.

This is, of course, an oversimplification of all that is involved in determining if your property needs flood insurance or not, so please, if you have questions give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com. We would love to hear from you.

HOSE

FROM PAGE A12

same source, by the time it leaves the safety of your inside pipes and travels through the hard plastic of your garden hose, that water is full of toxins and contaminants, making drinking water from your outdoor hose unsafe and even dangerous to water your fruits and vegetables.

Heading into the heat of the summer, Mr. T.J. Riggio, superintendent of the Acton Municipal Utility District, offers wisdom

and insight into the perils of drinking from a garden hose — the risk of contaminants. "There are multiple health risks associated with drinking from a garden hose," Riggio said, "There is the very probable possibility that a water hose will contain stagnant water left over from the previous use. Standing and stagnant water is never safe for consumption as it provides a biological breeding ground. There is much to consider about drinking from the garden hose," Riggio adds, "such as where the

hose is ordinarily kept. If the hose is in a yard where dogs or other pets defecate, then there is the possibility the discharge end of the garden hose is contaminated."

According to the organization Green Science Policy, stagnant water, microbial growth and chemical leaching from materials used in hose manufacturing contribute to the existence and development of harmful bacteria. Toxins, including Giardia, Cryptosporidium, Legionella and E. coli, can also be present. Chemicals

such as phthalates and bisphenol A may disrupt hormones and cause cancer. The myriad of dangerous microorganisms thriving and lying in wait in a garden hose is the chief reason to avoid drinking from it.

Some first signs of bacterial contamination from drinking from a garden hose could include gastrointestinal illnesses, causing symptoms like diarrhea, vomiting and stomach cramps. Continuous exposure to chemicals from garden hose water could result

in hormone disruption, kidney damage and certain types of cancer. Pets, too, are vulnerable to the perils of contaminated hose water, facing health hazards similar to those of humans.

Today's garden hose has been centuries in the making. Early watering methods, consisting of essential tools such as buckets and watering cans, led to the invention of the leather and steel watering pot. Garden hose technology leaped ahead in the 19th century with the introduction of rubber. These

modern hoses have increased flexibility, easier maneuverability and storage. Despite the advanced technology, garden hoses harbor hidden dangers.

The charming days of drinking from the garden hose on a hot summer's day are overshadowed by grave health concerns in today's environment. With safer alternatives, such as faucets connected to the municipal water supply, it is wise to avoid the practice of drinking from a garden hose.

PECAN

FROM PAGE A11

encouraged to don their finest royal accoutrement and enjoy tea, hors d'oeuvres, crafts and music.

YOUTH GOLF

Signups for Pecan's Junior PGA League are happening now at the golf pro shop: 817-573-2645. Summer 1 League runs June 26-28 and Summer 2 July 24-26 with hours of 9 to 10 a.m.

MOVING ON

Pecan's Recreational Vehicle Club enjoyed a spring mini rally at Dinosaur Valley in Glen Rose and has two fall rallies on the calendar. The group's website has recently been updated, and folks may

visit it for current information on the group: ppoarv.org.

TWINKLE TOES

Little dancers who have studied with Dance Dreams at the PAC this school year

presented a lovely recital to showcase their learning. Classes will resume Sept. 9. Congratulations to the participants on a successful year!

SERVING WELL

Li Cross on behalf of

Pecan's Fidget Chicks thanks neighbors who have recently donated items to the group. More than 100 sensory mats designed and assembled by the Fidget Chicks go to memory care facilities across America each month.

WATERFRONT LISTINGS



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\$510,000

1207 Caballo Way, Granbury



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GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Hood County home sales remain steady in first quarter 2024



BY JACQUE GORDON

Jacquie and her husband David moved to Granbury in 2007. They have five children and fifteen grandchildren. A Realtor since 2017, she has been with Keller Williams her entire career and in Gary Keller's top 200 agents in the company for the past year. She was a Granbury Association of Realtors board member for three years and is now president of the board. jacquiegordon@kw.com | 817-243-4324

The number of homes sold in Hood County during the first quarter of 2024 was identical to the total number sold in the first quarter of 2023. Home inventory increased slightly, while the median price of \$325,000 was 6.5% less than in 2023. The increase in inventory and the decrease in median price will give buyers more options than they had in past years.

Months of inventory, a statistic that measures how long it would take to sell the homes currently on the market at the current pace of sales, increased from 3.6 months at the end of the first quarter last year to 4.7 months at the end of the 2024 first quarter. A "balanced market" is 6 to 6.5 months of inventory. Hood County is below the "balanced" marker - but better than 2023.

Active listings increased 25%. There were 514 compared to 412 at the end of the 2024 and 2023 first quarters, respectively.

Homes were on the market 12 more days compared to the same period last year. However, the days to close remained flat.

REALTORS® are collaborating with buyers to find that "perfect" home. While interest rates have remained stubborn, there are good opportunities for buyers. For sellers, prices remain good. Regardless of which side of the transaction you are on, it is always smart to work with a REALTOR® who can provide information and guidance.

If you are looking for a real estate professional, you can find a full list of realtors and contact information by visiting the Granbury Association of Realtors® website at www.Granburyrealtors.com.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

Ma and Pa - beloved great-grandparents

BY CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER



Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky in 2019. She has had short stories and articles published in six editions of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks. She was a public school teacher for 17 years, earlier in her professional career.

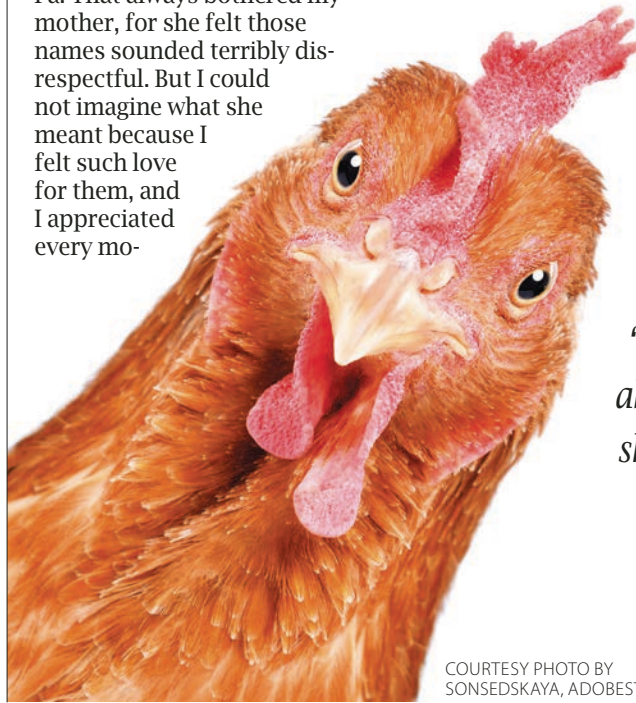
My family was small in numbers on my mother's side, but what I lacked in quantity, I made up for in quality. I was blessed with two great-grandparents until I was 7 years old. And great they were — loving, caring, hard-working folks from German stock, better known as the Kesselring clan.

I had only one cousin from my mother's side, and we had a true love-hate relationship. Dick was five years older than me, and he delighted in teasing me. I loved being with him, but I hated being the object of his creative "big cousin, little cousin" games. But one thing Dick and I had in common was our love of spending time at our great-grandparents' home in Marietta, Ohio.

Dick always referred to our great-grandparents as Grandma and Grandpa Kesselring, but I somehow began calling them Ma and Pa. That always bothered my mother, for she felt those names sounded terribly disrespectful. But I could not imagine what she meant because I felt such love for them, and I appreciated every mo-

ment I spent in their presence.

Dick and I were city kids, and we obviously knew nothing about country living. I believe Ma forgot that one day when she invited us to go along to the chicken house, where she collected our evening meal. When she placed the chicken on that tree stump and lopped off its head with her hatchet, I was not prepared to see the body go running around the yard. I did not realize what I was witnessing was merely muscle reactions, and that the chicken was feeling no pain.



COURTESY PHOTO BY SONSEDSKAYA, ADOBESTOCK.COM

To this day, I can remember screaming, "Ma! Ma! You didn't kill it! It's still alive!"

Poor Ma. She instantly realized her mistake in allowing me to watch and quickly snatched me up in her arms and hustled me into the house, painfully apologizing for her err in judgement. I think Ma regretted that incident until the day she died, but as much as I loved that lady, I n-e-v-e-r went near that chicken house again! And from that day forth, I had a vivid understanding of the phrase, "Running around like a chicken with its head cut off."

Back then, kids did not get the candy treats they frequently get today. Our treats were fresh fruits and vegetables. Ma and Pa loved mashed potatoes. And the family could count on having them nearly every meal. So when Ma would begin peeling the potatoes, Dick and I would suddenly appear out of nowhere. Our parents had told us not to ask for food, and we obediently complied.

We didn't ask.

We merely stood beside Ma with that drooling "puppy dog" expression kids still use today when they want something special. She knew how much Dick and I loved raw potatoes, so she gave us the first two potatoes after we magically appeared at her side. And we didn't even have to ask!

Along with fixing potatoes, Ma was an expert at preparing huge pots of fresh green beans. Dick and I loved them, too.

We followed our predictable pattern of suddenly appearing.

Ma followed her predictable pattern of giving us raw beans. And everyone was happy.

Oh, how I wish I could turn back the hands of time and relive those wonderful memories.

I would turn back the hands of time to the evenings when Dick and I would get out two glass jars and catch lightning bugs in Ma and Pa's front yard. Pa had punched holes in the lids for us, for we always turned the bugs loose at the end of the day.

I have always loved the taste of good cold water, even as a kid. And Ma's water was especially good, but that meant trips to the bathroom during our bug-catching endeavor. I thought my bugs were smarter than Dick's because mine kept finding their way out of my jar.

I must be a slow learner because it took me a while to figure out what was happening. I started in the house with my jar of bugs, but Ma stopped me at the door with the stern admonition, "I love you, but there will be no bugs in my house."

Dick didn't put my bugs in his jar. He simply turned them loose because he knew it drove me nuts. And the strangest thing about my disappearing bugs ... every time I asked Pa about it, he never seemed to have seen anything. Do you suppose he and Dick had some sort of agreement between the two of them?

"Dick and I were city kids, and we obviously knew nothing about country living. I believe Ma forgot that one day when she invited us to go along to the chicken house, where she collected our evening meal."

CAROL HEIZER
Columnist



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B

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 2024

Hood County News

Pirates return to spring ball, new coach likes results

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

For the first time in almost a decade, the sound of football pads colliding and coaches blowing whistles on a practice field could be heard in the month of May. Spring football returned to Granbury this year with a renewed excitement as Bobby Allison takes the helm of the program.

"It was exciting for our coaches, and especially our new coaches, to get out on the field with our kids," Allison said. "Overall, it was beneficial for us to get out and have 17 football practices and a spring game. There was lots of progress and the kids had lots of fun."

"It has been about eight years since spring ball was done here, so it was new for lots of players, parents and the community."

Allison was hired in December, taking over for Sonny Galindo, who served as the interim head coach for the 2023 season. Allison has two decades of experience at the high school level at Odessa, Sharpstown, Levelland, San Angelo Central and Northwest. He also spent two seasons as the special teams coordinator at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. Allison will bring to the



Ivan Kijntchee works the ball past defensive player Joseph Crain during the spring game Friday, May 5.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

program both a new offense and defense, which he said is critical for players to learn before beginning their first season under him and his coaches in the fall. He said they are implementing a spread offense that will utilize a tight end and a flexible defense that will be able to play three-down and four-down fronts.

"(They are) systems that are fun, simple and allow the kids to play fast," he said.

He was pleased with what he saw as the players absorbed the new systems.

"I thought it was important to have spring ball and allow our kids to have as many practices as possible learning our new schemes, and they did a great job of picking these up," he said.

Allison noted the Pirates have two returning defensive starters and four on offense, another reason for spring ball. He said now is the time

to start finding out who will fill the remaining starting positions — along with who will be key reserves.

"It is so important for our younger players to start learning early to fill these roles. We had many younger players that really stepped up this spring and are ready to continue to work this summer," he said.

The Pirates are entering a new league in the fall. They will be in District 3-5A

Division I. It will include two-time defending Division I state champion (and 12-time overall champion) Aledo (16-0 in 2023), Richland (12-1, third round of playoffs), perennial power Denton Ryan (8-3, second round), Denton (4-7, bidistrict), Azle (3-7), Keller Fossil Ridge (3-7), Birdville (4-6) and Brewer (3-7).

"Almost every district in this area has its challenges and this one is no different,"

Allison said. "It is one where you are going to have to be ready to play every single week and that is what is exciting about it."

The Pirates are coming off a 3-7 season in which they started 3-0 before stumbling. Despite the inexperience of the squad, optimism is high for more in the fall, which Allison credited greatly to the players' enthusiasm about the new changes.

"We have to focus on us and doing everything we can to be the best we can, and I can't say enough of how our kids have already bought into this," Allison said.

2024 GRANBURY PIRATES FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SCRIMMAGE

Date TBD, Saginaw, site TBD

PREDISTRICT

Aug. 30, Waco High, 7 p.m.
Sept. 6, at Waco University, 7 p.m.

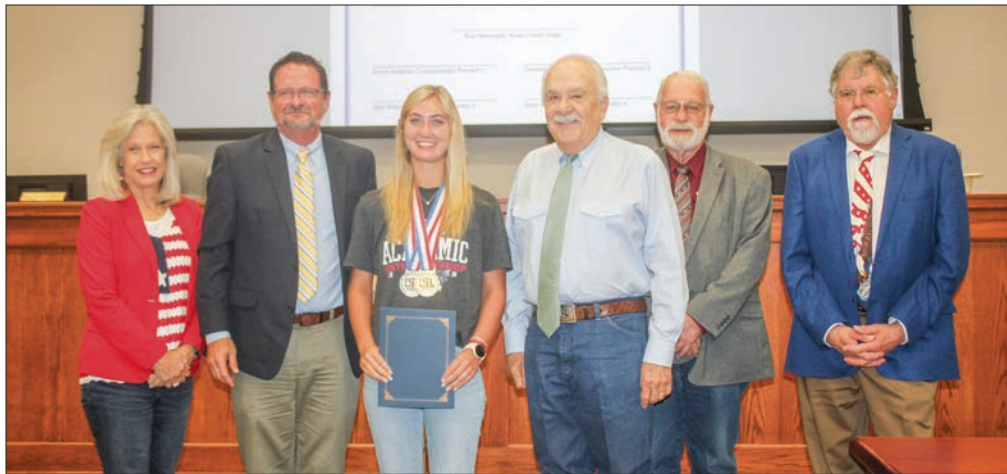
DISTRICT

Sept. 13, at Birdville, 7 p.m.
Sept. 20, Keller Fossil Ridge, 7 p.m. (senior night)
Sept. 26, at Denton Ryan, 7 p.m.
Oct. 11, Aledo, 7 p.m.
Oct. 18, at Richland, 7 p.m.
Oct. 25, Azle, 7 p.m., (homecoming)
Nov. 1, at Denton, 7 p.m.
Nov. 8, Brewer, 7 p.m.

LHS student Sarah Marcantonio wins state Multiple awards won in Journalism

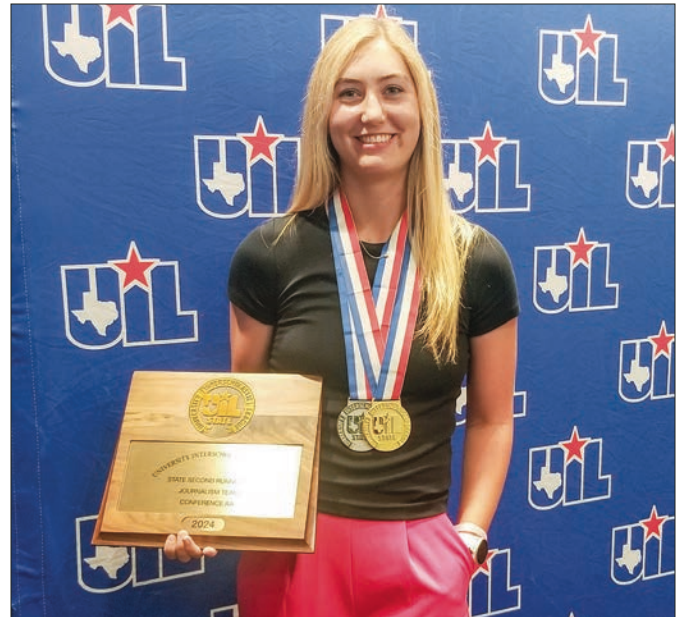
From Staff Reports

Lipan High School was well-represented by its journalism team at the Journalism State UIL event. Held at The University of Texas at Austin, the State UIL contest is the pinnacle of high school journalism competitions. Former journalism coaches from various high schools across the state judged the submissions. In this challenging environment, Sarah Marcantonio rose to the occasion, winning the state championship for editorial writing, securing second



The Hood County Commissioners Court recognized Sarah Marcantonio as the 2024 Texas UIL 2A State Champion in Editorial Writing during a regularly scheduled meeting May 28.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



Sarah Marcantonio wears her State Champion and 2nd place medals while holding the 2nd Runner Up Journalism Team plaque she won after competing at the State UIL Academic Meet in Austin

PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDI FIELDS

PLEASE SEE STATE | B4



Granbury SEAL doing the backstroke during morning practice on May 29.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

SEALS set to make another summer splash

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood
County News

In 1990 Janet Steenberge reluctantly began a small swim team at the DeCordova pool, not because she didn't love the sport, but because she thought someone else could do a better job.

She was wrong. Today, the Granbury SEALS Swim Team is one of the more renowned throughout Texas as it prepares to begin a new season of competition in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF).

"There was a family in town aligned with USA Swimming who lived in DeCordova. Marsha McMahon — the mom — asked me several times if I would like to coach a swim team out of DeCordova, which I declined as I did not think I was qualified," Steenberge said. "She and the then club manager talked me into starting and coaching a swim team."

THE EARLY DAYS

That first season the SEALS had 24 swimmers and competed with other country clubs in the area. Soon, they had people from outside of DeCordova inquiring about how they could swim on the team, so they started a "branch" of the team.

"So the team was split into two parts, with some of the swimmers only seeing the other swimmers at the meets, as the team was growing fast," Steenberge said.

"In an effort to provide more people an opportunity to be on a swim team based in Granbury/Hood County, we met with the Granbury City Council and the GISD School Board. We asked them to let us use the old City Pool that was just sitting empty."

That became the SEALS' summer home for many years before moving to the YMCA a few years ago.

"In the meantime, we had meetings with TAAF Region 4 leaders

to explore more options for meets. I also put more attention into getting more training and education in the art of swim coaching," Steenberge recalled. "The team continued to grow each year, the high school team improved dramatically, and we were able to offer opportunities for swimmers to dream and succeed with their swim careers on higher levels."

"At the same time, we have always provided a place and a sport where boys and girls, men and women of all abilities and skills can develop their swimming and become the most supportive teammates possible."

WORLDWIDE SUCCESS

Perhaps the most notable swimmer to come out of the SEALS program is Dana Vollmer. As a child she started with the SEALS and went on to win seven gold medals and break world records swimming in the Olympics.

Vollmer competed in the Olympic Swim Trials at age 12, and

at 16 she qualified for the squad and competed in her first of three Olympics.

Other notables coached by Steenberge who went on to swim four years in college include Seabre Pope (North Texas), Georgia Steenberge (Notre Dame), Xela Steenberge (University Of Tampa and University College Dublin), Cole Rezsosfi (Trinity), Kaylee Brawner (Incarnate Word), Ann Wilcox (Trinity) and Jessica Gryder (Wayland Baptist and McMurry).

Other collegiate SEALS swimming alumni include Nick Vollmer (TCU), Brock Holmgreen (Air Force Academy), Anthony Castillo (Centenary), Mary Power (Southwestern), Avery Buchanan (Hillsdale), Abby Swaim (McMurry), Mackenzie Reiner (McMurry) and Tyler Gentry (McMurry).

"These aforementioned swimmers started college swimming then needed to focus on their academics. The

PLEASE SEE SEALS | BX

GISD implements new silent panic alarm system

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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As early as this summer, Granbury Independent School District will be implementing a new silent panic alarm system to ensure the safety of staff and students.

On May 5, 2023, Texas Senate Bill 838/HB 669 — also known as Alyssa's Law — was passed in Texas. This bill requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to install silent panic alert technology in classrooms by the start of the 2025-26 school year. According to the Raptor Technologies website, the technology must allow for immediate contact with district or school emergency services and agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments and fire departments.

“This is a requirement from the state of Texas,” GISD Chief of Security Wade Clark said during a school board meeting May 20. “Every school district has to have this system in place. When this first came out, we started researching what our options were.”

Clark said several schools were using the Raptor program, which was already a vendor for the district. He said it was a “fairly affordable option,” and the Texas Education Agency responded that the system met all the criteria for the senate bill.

However, Clark said he was later informed by the state



Granbury ISD Chief of Security Wade Clark speaks to board members regarding the implementation of a silent panic alarm system during a meeting May 20.

that Raptor met the criteria — as long as it was not used on a personally owned device.

“I imagine that’s because

they had some pushback, where some people probably didn’t want to put an app on their personally owned device,” he said. “So, they said,

‘You can still use Raptor as your option if you provide all your employees with a (district-owned device),’ which is cost prohibitive. The search

began for what now meets the criteria and is a good product.”

PLEASE SEE **ALARM** | B4

GISD approves crowdsource fundraising for district programs

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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District programs can once again use crowdsource fundraising at Granbury Independent School District following an approval from the board of trustees May 20.

Crowdsource fundraising, also known as crowdfunding, is a way to raise funds by collecting small amounts of money from a large group of people online.

In the past, GISD used crowdsource fundraising to send an email out to student contacts to ask for a small program donation.

However, GISD Director of Athletics Lamont Moore said current parent teacher guidelines prohibit crowdsourcing due to past issues regarding an overuse of the fundraising method.

“The reason why it was prohibited was because past board members, staff and parents were bombarded with emails and texts about donating,” Moore said. “I believe in this case, we will set guidelines and parameters that will not allow that to happen in the future. It was overused, and those parameters and guidelines will not allow that moving forward.”

He added that booster clubs will receive annual training on district guidelines to ensure total transparency over the funds received.

“A few years ago, we did do away with crowdsourcing for a couple of reasons,” Superintendent Jeremy Glenn confirmed. “One, I don’t think organizations were clear with families and parents on why it was being done, so there was information being put out that wasn’t necessarily factual as it related to why parents and families should donate. Two, was the bombardment of emails and



Granbury ISD Director of Athletics Lamont Moore speaks to the board of trustees about crowdsource fundraising during a regularly scheduled board meeting May 20.

receiving an email every week until you donate. It just became excessive.”

Glenn said the biggest reason he could give trustees to encourage them to approve the agenda item is how intentional Moore has been in the district since his arrival — especially through his efforts to transform the athletic program into a digital-only system.

“He has taken our athletic program cashless to make sure that, again, the safety of all funds are secure, and the money that is spent by parents, families or community in any program goes exactly where it’s supposed to go,” Glenn said. “We’re not putting our kids and our children in a position where they have to have a lot of cash. Ultimately, it provides a safer environment for fundraising, so for those reasons, we would ask that you reconsider revers-

ing that policy and allowing our programs to use crowdsourcing.”

Vice President Courtney Gore made a motion to approve allowing the district programs to use crowdsource fundraising. The motion was seconded by Place 2 Trustee Nancy Alana.

But before a vote took place, Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft had a few concerns regarding the fundraising method.

“Are we aware of the tax laws that go along with crowdsourcing?” Graft asked.

“Absolutely,” Moore said. “OK, and so how can we plan to remain in compliance for the income reporting? Do we have something set up for that?”

“PTO and booster clubs are required to be a 501(c)(3) and they do file a form 990, I believe — that is recording their income,” Chief Financial

Officer Emmett Whitefield said.

Graft also asked if crowdsourcing would affect any other funding the district receives. Whitefield said booster clubs and PTO groups are both limited in the number of fundraisers they can have.

She also asked what would happen if an amount was donated over what was needed and if there are any laws regarding financial overflow.

“There’s no laws against going over the goal, no,” Moore said. “That’s actually, we feel, like a bonus. Once we have those guidelines and the meetings with the PTO and boosters about what we require, we’ll have total transparency about how much they need and is given over.”

Graft asked if the app would accommodate those who wish to donate anonymously. Moore said it will. She also asked if the GISD at-

torney would sign off on any legal implications associated with crowdsourcing.

“Typically, when you’re talking about booster clubs, if something wasn’t done correctly, it would fall back on the booster clubs,” Glenn said. “We give them all of the state guidelines, we inform them of what their responsibilities are, but ultimately, they take ownership of that.”

“They are independent sources outside of the district,” Whitefield said.

Gore then made a comment that when her son was in band, the district allowed the boosters to crowdsource. However, since that option was taken away, she said it has greatly affected the organization’s ability to raise funds.

“The amount that those organizations were able to do for the students above and

beyond what the district does was greatly impeded, and I’ve seen the effects of that firsthand,” Gore said. “I know with the new parameters that they’re going to put in place, I believe it’s going to be used judiciously and our students are going to gain from this. It’s going to benefit them ultimately, in the long run.”

President Barbara Townsend said she was one of those individuals who wished to get rid of crowdsourcing as she was receiving 25 to 50 emails from different students every week, asking her to donate to an organization.

“I finally had to get hold of each one and say, ‘Stop,’” Townsend said. “We can’t go back to doing it that way.”

“Absolutely. I agree,” Moore said. “When I heard that, I was like, ‘Wow.’ I’ve never seen that actually. Each kid is supposed to contact their contacts — not anything outside of it. The kids are reaching out to their contacts, people they know.”

“They felt like they knew me,” Townsend said, chuckling.

Alana commented that there is also a safety issue that goes along with not having the crowdsourcing option in place.

“Putting them out there in the community to raise funds is always an issue that we need to look at,” she said. “With them handling money, it really puts them in an awkward position and making sure that they keep up with that money. Just as far as security measures (are concerned), this is an excellent idea, and it keeps our kids off the streets asking for money.”

Townsend then put the motion to vote. The motion passed 6:1, with Graft voting in opposition.



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Working different depths – get out early for that top water bite



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.

Most any time of the year, it is a good idea to work different depths until you locate a depth where the fish seem to be located. This time of year, the fish can be at a variety of depths. The great thing about this time of the year, many times they are on top.

On occasion, the depth where they feed will be consistent for a while, other days the bite will vary at different depths. The point here is not to get fixated on one depth. If the fish are not biting; move around and work different depths until you locate the fish.

This is where your sonar (fish finder) really helps. I know I use my graph religiously to help locate baitfish and predators. If I am fishing a known spot, I usually start near where I caught them last and then move deeper or shallower until I can locate a promising scenario.

We all know that most species associate themselves with underwater structure of

some type unless they are chasing bait in open water. Ridges and points near shallow and deeper water are good places to start. When you can locate structure and there is baitfish present, even better. If the bite is off, your best chance to catch a fish is to get the bait on their nose and typically this is near a drop off or structure where the fish hold when they are not as active. Fish usually like to have deep water adjacent to a feeding hump, ridge point or flat.

Time of the day and the weather conditions, of course, can impact where the fish will be. Early and late in the day during low light conditions, look for that shallow bite. Overcast days may have

the fish shallow for extended periods. On bright sunny days you may need to move out some. Rainy days can bring on the bite especially in the dead of summer.

Seasons will also come into play on where the fish will be. Fish may be real deep in the winter as that is where the warmest spot may be. In the summer when the thermocline sets in, most of the predators will be right near the thermocline or above. Below the thermocline oxygen levels are typically too low to support life.

Time to enjoy the spring/summer action which is usually early and late. See you all on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures are in the middle 70s and rising. The stained water is clearing in most areas, however there is still some debris floating. Largemouth bass continue to be good on topwater early and late and near deeper points and docks later. Sand bass continue to be good on slabs and spinners fished near Indian Harbor to Blue Water shores on shallow flats. Striped bass are in 15 to 25 feet of water from near Indian Harbor to Stripper Alley on the lower



COURTESY PHOTO

If the fish are not biting; move around and work different depths until you locate the fish. This is where your sonar (fish finder) really helps.

ends. If you got some fishing in this last Memorial Day weekend you probably had to go to another lake with clear water. Granbury is stained and is difficult to fish. Trolling rattle traps over points is probably your best chance to get active fish to chase on Granbury. Despite the muddy water, the pleasure boaters were out in abundance. Hopefully the lake will settle out the next couple of weeks and the

fishing will return.

Squaw Creek has some relatively clear water and stained water. Tilapia catches are improving. Black bass continue to be good on soft plastics near laydowns.

Possum Kingdom and Whitney have caught a lot of water. PK is near full pool. Whitney is 5 feet high. However, there is clear water to fish on the lower ends on both reservoirs. I was on Whitney this past weekend

and stripers are good in numbers on live shad fished near the island and near the state park in 24 to 32 feet of water.

Benbrook is 8 feet high and access is limited. Other metroplex lakes are also over pool and you should call before you head out. Bridgeport is near pool level and the hybrid action is reported as good. All ramps are open on Bridgeport.

SEALS

FROM PAGE B1

great thing is it got them to a good school," Steenberge said. "We currently have SEALS swimmers in college giving our community a good name."

They include Tyler McDermott (Austin College), Brady Porter (Malone University) and Jordan Buchanan (Hendrix).

"Each of these, along with over 3,000 other SEALS are great people with whom we have had the privilege to spend some time as they passed through the program on their way to being successful in various walks of life," Steenberge said.

STEADY SUCCESS/FAMILY FOCUSED

At the height of the program, SEALS team swimmer

numbers were close to 300 people. When Covid struck in 2020 it dwindled to about 60. Last year they numbered about 160.

"The community bounced back and regained its vitality and focus on group and team participation," Steenberge said. "I do not know what to expect this year. We are hoping for the best with lots of return swimmers and families."

Families are big part of SEALS. In fact, it's been a regularity to have siblings participate together, and now children and even grandchildren of the early swimmers have passed through the program.

It's also one of the reasons Steenberge said they chose to compete in TAAF, which also focuses on family involvement.

"All age groups can compete in TAAF. There is even

an age 6-and-under division that can compete for the TAAF State Meet. A positive thing about TAAF is they are very good about including all the members of the family with no restrictions on age," she said. "We sometimes have the entire family swimming."

ALL TOGETHER

"We like to keep the atmosphere a very safe place for swimmers, with a team focus — all of the camaraderie that goes with team and community — where they can come and not be afraid to make a mistake, learn swimming skills and make some lifetime friends along the way," Steenberge said. "We have swimmers on the team that grew up swimming and now bring their children to swim practice, and swimmers who swam and are now coaches pass-



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Janet Steenberge coaching the SEALS during morning practice May 29.

ing on the tradition." The SEALS have coaches who have been with the program for years, including Vicki Hamrick, Jane Zembraski, Jonah Delaney, Kori Brawner, Melissa Ward, Porter, Charles Overton (current Granbury High School coach), Amber Stone and Travis Thompson.

"They all bring their love of swimming and expertise to the pool," Steenberge said.

"One of the greatest things about SEALS is how many moving pieces there are and how important

each person is to the whole picture. Without all of the volunteers and people willing to keep the dream alive for our youth and our community we would not exist," Steenberge continued. "We are fortunate to have the support of our past and present high school coaches."

SUMMER SCHEDULE

The SEALS will begin the summer competition schedule Saturday, June 8 at Weatherford against Weatherford, Mineral Wells,

Stephenville and Bedford. The next week they will host their own annual meet against the Ridglea Pool Association, Mineral Wells and The Colony.

On June 22 they travel to Grapevine to face Grapevine, Denton and Trophy Club to end the regular season.

The TAAF Region 4 Meet is set for July 13-14 at the Carroll ISD Aquatics Center in Southlake. From there, qualifiers will advance to the TAAF Games of Texas July 25-28 in Brownsville.



SEAL swimming during morning practice May 29.

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on May 25

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

1				8		4		
	3							
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		1		3				9

GISD enters MOU with Forward Training Center to provide job training

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury Independent School District officially entered into a memorandum of understanding agreement with Forward Training Center May 20, to provide the Powered for Life program for Granbury High School SOAR students on campus during the day.

According to Assistant Superintendent Tammy Clark, SOAR is an accelerated learning environment for GHS students who need to obtain a few additional credits to graduate.

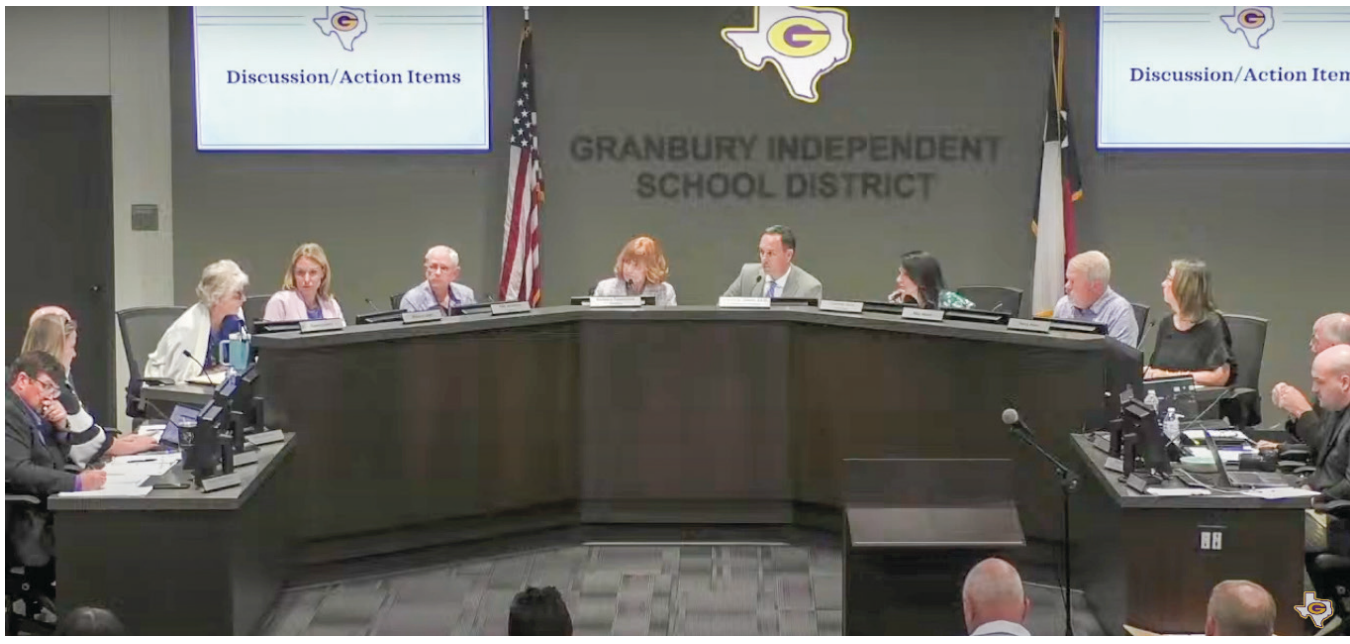
Powered for Life is a program provided by Forward Training Center to help individuals gain tools and skills necessary to gain future employment.

The agenda item was first brought up during the April 22 school board meeting to allow students to attend the Powered for Life program and for interested parents or guardians to attend the Jobs for Life voluntary adult program — both taking place at GHS. However, Place 7 Trustee Karen Lowery had a few concerns regarding the adult program taking place at the high school.

Since the program would take place after hours, the district's Raptor security system would not be operating and there would not be any security at GHS during that time.

Lowery said her main concern was that Forward Training Center's background checks aligned with GISD's because under the Background Screenings section of the MOU, it states that "Parent participants with criminal histories are not prohibited from the Jobs for Life course which is held after school hours on site."

"I understand this is a great program, and it's going to offer much-needed educa-



SCREENSHOT COURTESY YOUTUBE

Place 7 Trustee Karen Lowery speaks to the Granbury ISD board members regarding the MOU with Forward Training Center during a regularly scheduled meeting May 20.

tional opportunities for our parents," Lowery said, during the April board meeting. "However, we need to be cognizant of our safety and security of our students and our property. We're going to have extra students there afterwards, we're going to have no security there, we're not going to have any escorts — people just kind of come and go as they want."

"I know some parents that have actually done the programs simultaneously with their children," Vice President Courtney Gore said, during the April board meeting. "If I understand correctly, they are wanting to make it accessible to parents who might not otherwise have resources like this that may have a criminal history. I think the concern is that some of those parents might be with some of our kids."

"That's a fair concern," Clark responded. "They would not be alone with our kids. But if that's something that you want us to strike from this MOU, we can."

The agenda item was

then tabled until the next school board meeting May 20. During that meeting, Clark explained that in light of Lowery's concerns, the district had shifted the MOU with Forward Training Center to only include the Powered for Life voluntary program for GHS SOAR students. The program would also take place on the GHS campus during the day.

With parent permission, students can engage in two sessions of the Powered for Life program per week over the course of eight weeks in curriculum that focuses on the following: overcoming roadblocks, conflict resolution skills, resumes/interviewing skills, customer service satisfaction, higher educational opportunities, locating summer/part time entry jobs, their God-given gifts and purpose, building healthy relationships, strengthening communication skills, managing conflict, business and community resources, and earning money for a secure future.

According to the memo re-

garding the Forward Training Center MOU, volunteers and instructors from the center already undergo advanced criminal background checks through publicdata.com and those volunteering/instructing at the GHS site will also go through GHS' volunteer background check process, AppGarden, to ensure the safety of the students.

The opportunity will also include parent permission before participation and will not take away from students' coursework or studies.

Clark said she had been working closely with Forward Training Center Executive Director Monica Hays to draft another application for GHS students who might be interested in the Powered for Life program but are not in SOAR.

"Students at GHS who indicate that's something that they're interested in, and they get their parents' permission — just like the students in SOAR — they can go after school hours, and participate that way," she said.

The volunteers, Clark said, will also undergo Forward

Training Center's background check as well as the district's appgarden check.

"(Forward Training Center) has made a different change so that they are going to do background checks yearly on all of their people," she said. "I think that addresses all the concerns that were raised last time, so it is recommended that the board approve the MOU with Forward Training Center for the provision of voluntary Powered for Life programming for our SOAR high school students at GHS, and all of our other students at Forward Training Center."

Following Clark's introduction, Gore then made a motion to approve the updated MOU with Forward Training Center. Secretary Billy Wimberly seconded the motion.

Once discussion began, Lowery explained that she wanted to make it clear that she is in "total agreement" for providing this educational opportunity for all children. She also thanked Clark for working with her in changing the MOU.

Lowery then asked if there were any plans to expand the MOU and Clark said there were not any plans currently.

"If we expand the MOU, we'll come back to the board," Clark said. "At this time, we're going to start small and have it just during the school day at GHS because the students can participate at Forward Training Center after school."

Lowery reiterated that she is in total agreement with the program but suggested the board take a moment and examine the relationship with the center in lieu of a recent incident that allegedly took place.

"A records check shows there's been some issues at the training, and we were not made aware of that at the last board meeting," she said. "They had an employee arrested for an active warrant, and there was a call for a wellness check with a man with a machete and calls of a suspicious vehicle, as well as it was mentioned earlier, an arrest for someone in their company stealing political signs. I just think there needs to be a little bit of thinking about how much we want to be associated with them."

Gore then asked what the offense was regarding the employee who was arrested. Lowery said she would show Gore in the back room, but she wasn't going to talk about it in public.

"It's kind of hard to make a decision without all the information," Gore said.

"I've got it all right here," Lowery said. "The police reports that says that there was an employee that was arrested when they were called to the building."

With a motion on the table, President Barbara Townsend then called for a vote to approve the updated MOU, which passed with Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft and Lowery voting against the motion.



COURTESY OF GRANBURY ISD

STARS Accelerated High School had 33 graduates for the 2024 class. Pictured in front row: Jaiden Brewster, Miriam Ramirez Stone, Isabella Rodriguez, Lillie Cornwall, Alora Saavedra, Hannah Cone, Charley Miller, Crystalina Bartholomew and Justin Maserang. Row #2: Angel Huerta-Guia, Hayden Hickey, Miguel Rodriguez, Julicia Enriquez, Thomas Wise, Mikayla Sobczak, Noah Guinn, Devin Fleming and Kerri Underwood. Row #3: Hudson Hunt, Joe Cook, Dillon Belcher and Michael Sandoval. Row #4: Mariana McWilliam, Ronan Snyder, Michael McWilliam, Tomas Mendoza, Lynden Zedrick-Privette, Dominic Sanchez, Broly Goforth, and Brock Rose. Not pictured: Patrick Bryant, Leland Becke and Dakota Johnston.

STATE

FROM PAGE B1

place for feature writing, and contributing to the second runner-up position for the journalism team.

Cindi Fields, LHS journalism teacher, and UIL journalism coach said, "Marcantonio has participated in UIL writing events since she was in elementary school. Sarah practices weekly and challenges herself to improve."

The road to the state competition was paved with victories as Marcantonio was named district champion for news writing, second place for copy editing, second place for feature writing, and third place for editorial writing. At the regional competition, Marcantonio earned the regional title for editorial writing, third place for news writing, third place for feature writing, eighth place for copy editing, and first place journalism team member.

There are journalism team scores, Fields says, in which "...each individual qualifies and competes on his or her own with scores counting toward a team score." On competition day, each student at the UIL journalism event is provided with a prompt or topic. They must follow specific writing rules and formatting.

Marcantonio will receive additional recognition May 22 at the Lipan ISD school board meeting.

ALARM

FROM PAGE B2

Assistant Chief of Security Jon Mueller and Clark met with several Texas school districts to see what kind of systems they had in place.

Once the bidding process began, vendors were asked to provide a line-item bid, based on a list of specs provided by the TEA that was

compliant with both the safety grant and GISD. A total of 440 vendors were invited to bid and 12 responded.

After careful consideration of the 12 submissions through the bidding process, Director of Technology Brent Wilson, Purchasing Assistant Bradee Watson, Mueller and Clark narrowed it down to three companies to demonstrate the product: Crisigo, Visual Techniques Inc, and

Cloud Ingenuity.

Following demonstrations from all three companies, Clark and his team recommended awarding the purchase of Silent Panic Alert Technology (SPAT) to Cloud Ingenuity LLC for \$219,561.54. The pricing includes hardware, licensing and installation.

"They were all pretty similar in cost, as far as the initial upfront, turnkey price

between \$200,000 up to about \$280,000. This one was square in the middle," Clark said. "But the cost over 10 years, this product was the clear winner by far. It had a good reputation. The people that we checked with that were using the system were happy with the system. I leaned heavily on Brent because of the technology pieces of this application, and this was the clear winner

in our opinion."

Clark said the purchase of this system is funded by a state of Texas grant specifically allocated for SPAT for Granbury ISD. The service would be for a one-year term, expiring July 2025.

"They've assured us that if we approve this, and we move forward with it, we'll have this installed and ready for us to train staff when they return August 1," he

said.

Secretary Billy Wimberly then made a motion to approve Cloud Ingenuity LLC as the provider for the silent panic alarm system and for it to be installed at Granbury ISD. Place 2 Trustee Nancy Alana seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously by the board.

Much Ado About Nothing makes quite an 'Ado'

Grace Classical Christian Academy takes play to state

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

"Much Ado About Nothing" turned out to be quite the opposite as the actors of Grace Classical Christian Academy were invited to compete at state. Chartered in 2012, GCCA has brought productions to the community for four years, including its full interpretations of Shakespeare's piece performed in March at Granbury Live. It was after that production the GCCA theater director got a call from the Texas Christian Athletic Fellowship (TCAF) inquiring if Grace would like to compete in its one-act play division.

"I am so proud of our student actors! They are all hard-working young men and women and with very full plates of rigorous academics, as well as athletics, so to take on Shakespeare and to perform it with excellence, was an especially exceptional feat," Ashley Keith, theater arts director for Grace shared with

excitement. The choice of Shakespeare was entirely the students'. "Our students actually requested that we perform 'Much Ado About Nothing.' It was all their idea! I was nervous about taking on such a challenging script, especially since we'd never attempted Shakespeare in its original language, but the students did an outstanding job from the very beginning!" Keith said.

Directing young actors to perform Shakespeare well seems daunting but Keith goes on to explain, "Our theater program at GCCA is still very new, but one of the goals of our school is that our students learn how to think (not just what to think or to just memorize a bunch of facts for a test), but actually learn how to learn. So teaching them the skill of acting is actually not very difficult, because as classically educated students, they have been given the tools to know how to learn new things — in this case acting."

"At the start of our rehearsal season, we read

through a version of the play that was translated into modern English, just so we could make sure we really understood what each line meant," explained Keith, "But it didn't take long before the magic of Shakespeare's writing began to unfold before their eyes, and we all began to fall in love with the style, poetry and humor of his beautiful words."

TCAF judge Amy Hay praised the choice of Shakespeare as well as the interaction between actors. Her notes to the troupe include these words: "Very well done! Excellent story telling. Very good job choosing a show for this cast. I can see very deliberate cast work, relationships, emotional building, and blocking. I believed the leads, and very good work by supporting actors giving meaning to the scene. Thank you for choosing a challenging play. Great ensemble. I love this show!"

Keith herself grew up acting on stage and competed in the one-act play division when she was a student of Granbury ISD.

"Rebecca Walters was my wonderful director at Granbury High School and I have such fond memories of learning from her! Our plays always did well in UIL competitions; in fact, we went to state my senior year."

The opportunity to direct these young actors has been a rewarding one for Keith. "After many years in the workforce and raising children, I am so grateful that God opened up an opportunity for me to use my love of theater for his kingdom."

Keith was able to direct her own children in the production along with their peers. Her daughter Wren Keith, a seventh grader, said, "It's been a huge blessing to be able to perform Shakespeare. It's written so incredibly. It's so fun getting to see my friends and classmates become their character. By the end of the show, I couldn't imagine anyone else playing their role."

Actor Jacob Hoshauer, a 10th grader, said a key highlight was time with friends. "Being a part of the state competition was a truly wonderful experience. Getting

to assume my role one final time right alongside my best friends was definitely something I won't ever forget!"

Hoshauer added, "Additionally, watching the other plays in the competition really blew me out of the water! They showed me different ways I could improve and hone my skills in the future! I'm so thankful I got to compete in a God-centered way and I hope we get this opportunity again in the future."

Rebekah Hoshauer, a senior too, enjoyed the camaraderie but also the opportunity to see other works. "Having the opportunity to go to state was an awesome experience! I loved getting the chance to perform our play together one more time and I really enjoyed getting to watch everyone else's plays as well!"

Keith isn't sure which piece will be chosen for next year's play but she looks forward to working hard alongside the students on whatever is chosen. "At this time, we do not have a drama class elective at GCCA, so all our one-act play rehearsals

are done as extracurricular activity after school, which means the students put in a lot of after-class hours to really hone the show. However, they love the experience so much that they're willing to make the sacrifice of personal time that pulling off a great theatrical performance requires."

She adds, "As a classical Christian school, we place a high value on being able to communicate clearly and winsomely in front of an audience, which being on stage provides ample opportunity to practice. It's so fun to see students blossom and grow as individuals as they develop their characters."

Wren Keith looks forward to future productions as well, "Acting is so fun because you know the story, but every time you perform it, it changes slightly somehow, which is good because it gives diversity to the performance."

For more information on Grace Classical Christian Academy go to graceclassical.com. For more information on TCAF go to tcafellowship.com/fine-arts.



Seniors Ty Bowden and Landon Martin perform in Grace Classical Christian Academy's performance of "Much Ado About Nothing."



Sophomore Jacob Hoshauer performs in Grace Classical Christian Academy's performance of "Much Ado About Nothing."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CARRIE SMITH



Senior Dylan Humphries performs in "Much Ado About Nothing," the one-act play chosen by GCCA.



Back row, L to R: AshDan Elliff, Rebekah Hoshauer, Rylee Humphries, Glenn Hoshauer, Noah Hurt, Landon Martin, Dylan Humphries, Eden Cain, Ty Bowden, Jose Jimenez, Luke Gjone, Jacob Hoshauer, Claire Hutchings, Wyatt Keith. Seated, L to R: Peyton Humphries, Audrey Monroe, Wren Keith, Anna Heck. Not pictured Pierce Thomas.

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Grace Classical Christian Academy Class of 2024



Pictured is graduate Ty Bowden.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pictured is graduate Luke Gjone.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pictured is graduate Rebekah Hoshauer.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pictured is graduate Dylan Humphries.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pictured is graduate Noah Hurt.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pictured is graduate Claire Hutchings.

COURTESY PHOTO



Pictured is graduate Landon Martin.

COURTESY PHOTO

Congratulations Grace Classical Christian Academy Class of 2024





GHS Class of 2024

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury graduation was delayed by one hour, but the event proceeded as planned. The clouds cleared over Pirate Stadium just in time for nearly 500 graduates to gather for their memorable event. Every space in the bleachers was filled with friends and loved ones who came to witness the accomplishments of the graduates. To top it all off, everyone was treated to a spectacular fireworks show as the commencement exercises drew to a close.





PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Coach Alford talking with a Rattler player during the playoff game Wednesday, May 15 at Glen Rose High School.

Alford exiting as Rattlers baseball coach; Granbury's Johnson wins NTHSRA title

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

After four seasons at the helm and turning the Tolar baseball program around into one of the best in the region, Lance Alford has resigned as head coach and accepted a teaching position in the Weatherford School District.

During his four years leading the program, the Rattlers enjoyed their best stretch in program history. They were 84-32-4 with four district championships and only one league loss during his tenure.

Three of his four teams reached the Class 2A Region II quarterfinals, including this past season. The 2023 team had the deepest post-season run in team history, reaching the regional final, defeating perennial state power and defending state champion Valley Mills in a best-of-three series along the way.

Alford's resume' includes 115 total wins with stops at Gonzales and McKinney Christian as head coach and as an assistant at Allen and Coppell. He also coached in the Texas Collegiate League, also known as the Cape Cod League of the South.

No announcement had been made concerning his replacement at press time. "Coaching in Tolar was a true blessing. Six years ago coach (Jeremy) Mullins (former football coach/athletic director) gave me and opportunity to join an outstanding staff," Alford. "Then, four years ago he allowed me to lead the baseball program."

RODEO

Levi Johnson of Granbury

captured the chute dogging title at the North Texas High School Rodeo Association Finals in Saginaw recently. In one of the weekend's tightest competitions, he scored 175 points to edge the runner-up with 168. Tolar's Joseph Rickabaugh was third with 154 points.

Johnson also placed second in the saddle bronc competition. Also from Granbury, Ainsley Reeves was third in poles and 12th in barrel racing.

Rylee Rickabaugh of Tolar placed in the top 10 in two events, fifth in goat tying-horse and walk-up goat tying.

Kyley Kenley of Tolar placed 10th in breakaway roping, Grace Burdick of Granbury was 11th in walk-up goat tying and Carsyn Nolen of Granbury finished 15th in goat tying-horse.

In the team standings, Granbury was seventh with 3,647 points accumulated throughout the season and Tolar was eighth with 3,584.

TOLAR/LIPAN BASEBALL

Seniors Jesse Owen and Talan Brown were named Co-MVPs of the All-District 13-2A Baseball Team by the league's coaches. The district champion Rattlers dominated the awards, with senior Merritt Imel receiving Offensive MVP, junior Cutter Cain being named Defensive MVP and junior Drake Owens being tabbed Pitcher of the Year.

Lipan senior Tyson Tarpley was named Utility Player of the Year and Indians freshman Jackson Posey is the Newcomer of the Year.

First-team accolades from Tolar went to senior Mitchell Alford, junior Hunter Michels and sophomores Rowdy Tryon and Noah

Yanish. Senior Oakley Saffer was picked for the second team and senior Clayton Stemberge is an honorable mention.

First-team honors from Lipan were awarded to senior Brayden Dowdy, junior Hunter Mills and freshman Tucker Tims. Named to the second team were sophomores Johnny Pierce and Riggin Morris, along with freshman Court Gaylor, while honorable mentions are junior Cash Bolenbarker and sophomore Chris Collins.

Tolar also had several academic all-district honors go to Alford, Brown, Imel, Michels, Owens, Stemberge and freshman Lucas Mills.

The Rattlers reached the Class 2A Region II quarterfinals this season while the Indians advanced to bidistrict.

TOLAR/LIPAN SOFTBALL

Senior pitcher Reese Tryon of Tolar was named the District 11-2A MVP by the league's coaches. She finished her career with over 600 strikeouts and 62 wins.

The Lady Rattlers had the deepest playoff run in program history this season, reaching the Class 2A Region II semifinals. The Lipan Lady Indians, also from 11-2A, likewise had the deepest playoff run in team history, reaching the third round.

Junior Senne Imel of Tolar and senior Ashlyn Clark of Lipan shared Co-Offensive MVP honors. Lipan senior Dixon Sinclair was named Defensive MVP.

Tolar junior Allyson Dobbs was selected Catcher of the Year, while Lipan senior Sarah Marcantonio was chosen as Utility Player of the Year. The Fighters Award went to Lipan junior Dawson



Levi Johnson chute dogging during the Tolar High School Rodeo at the Hood County Reunion Grounds April 26.

Oliver.

Tolar first-team selections are senior Ava LeCluyse, along with sophomores Kanyn Deaver, Jaylyn Miller and Ava Massey. Second-team picks are sophomore Lane Gardner and freshman Milly Taylor. Junior Kaira Krause and freshman Jorgia Reed received honorable mention.

Lipan first-teams picks are junior Ella Sharp and sophomore Ryan Atkinson. Second-team honors went to sophomore Finley Shockley and freshman Gentry Kirkland, with senior Rylei Cudd and freshman Sari Thompson receiving honorable mention.

Tolar academic all-district accolades were awarded to LeCluyse, Dobbs, Imel, Gardner, Deaver, Reed, Miller, Massey, freshman Lillie Uselton and sophomores Kylee Jo Lane and Kaylee Smith.

Lipan academic all-district honors went to Marcantonio, Clark, Sinclair,

Cudd, Atkinson, Shockley, Thompson, freshman Kenzley Rhody and sophomore Addison Tarpley.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirate Touchdown Club handed out its annual scholarships. They went to seniors Daniel Cain, Alan Orocio, Tyler Rogers, Jadon Rogers, Cooper Silva, Parker Temple and Reid Wyss.

SUMMER CAMPS

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

- 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:

- Football: June 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



Hailey Hensley, valedictorian of the Class of 2024 at Premier High School, received a \$750 scholarship from Jr. Leadership Granbury. Dr. Patti Birney Jr., Leadership Granbury class leader, awarded her the scholarship.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State Baseball wins WAC Tournament

Tarleton State University

MESA, Ariz. — Tarleton State Baseball has done the improbable, the impossible, the unfeasible – win a conference tournament during NCAA Division I reclassification.

The Texans won the WAC Tournament in Mesa, Arizona, Saturday, May 25 to become the first baseball program to win a conference tournament during NCAA Division I reclassification.

The 5-seed Tarleton State knocked off the 4-seed California Baptist in dominant fashion 9-1 in a winner-take-all nightcap at Hohokam Stadium. This marks the third conference tournament championship by the Texans in their NCAA era (2018, 2014), and they're the first team to win the WAC Tournament in a team's inaugural appearance since UTSA did so in 2013.

Tarleton State has posted its most postseason wins since 1992, going 5-1 throughout the WAC Tournament, all of this with a first-year head coach, Fuller Smith.

Tarleton State University and Tarleton Athletics hope this isn't the end of Texan Baseball's season, as they are submitting a request to the NCAA for reevaluation of the postseason ban for reclassifying institutions.

The Texans are 32-29 after their WAC Tournament championship, their most wins in a season since 2018 (35). They entered Saturday

undefeated in the double-elimination tournament, getting two cracks at CBU if need-be. The Lancers won the first game 8-4 to push the championship into a winner-take-all nightcap. The Texans cruised through it, going up 5-0 through three, plus sitting the first 15 Lancers down as they entered the sixth dishing a perfect game.

Tarleton State was in control the entirety, just missing out on a shutout in the ninth. The Texans outhit the Lancers 17-4, with five Texans earning a multi-hit outing, and four pitchers allowing just six baserunners all night, striking out seven.

"I'm so proud and happy for these guys, because all these seniors who stuck it out and wanted to be part of a championship, they got to do this," Smith said immediately on the broadcast after the win. "For me, I get more joy out of (the players celebrating) than anything else. Wins are great, but watching them have fun together, that's awesome."

Smith has won back-to-back WAC Tournaments. He was an assistant coach at Sam Houston last season when the Bearkats won it all. He was tabbed to be Tarleton State's head coach in June, and in his first season, he led the Texans to the promised land.

Texan Baseball becomes the first Tarleton State program to win a conference tournament at the NCAA Division I level.

They had to knock off

the Lancers twice this week to do so, facing CBU three times in their six games at the WAC Tournament. The Texans opened with a 12-6 win over 8-seed Sacramento State during the single-elimination opening round on Tuesday, then beat the Lancers in comeback fashion 5-3 on Wednesday. Tarleton State followed with wins over the top two ranked teams, 1-seed Grand Canyon 4-2 on Thursday, then an 11-1 run-rule victory over 2-seed Abilene Christian Friday.

In the first game on Saturday, CBU jumped out to a big lead, going up 7-0 after three. The Texans kept fighting and strung some offense together late, a foreshadow for what was to come in the second game on the weekend. The Lancers won Saturday's opener 8-4.

In the championship decider, Cole Miers began a two-out rally with a single, which was followed by a Cris Enriquez single. Hunter Smith then doubled to right field on the first pitch he saw to put Tarleton State ahead 1-0 after one.

The Texans then scored four runs in the third, a rally that began with a Trace Morrison opening walk. Miers singled him home, then Smith gathered another RBI with a single to score Miers to make it 3-0. Tyson Drake promptly followed with a two-run blast to open the floodgates, making it 5-0 Purple and White.

Tarleton State then added



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Baseball has done the improbable, the impossible, the unfeasible – win a conference tournament during NCAA Division I reclassification.

another in the fourth, again on a Smith RBI with two outs, scoring Morrison.

After five, the Texans were up 6-0 in the middle of a perfect game. Parrish Beagle started and went six-up six-down. Reese Bassinger (W, 5-2) followed with nine straight outs before allowing the leadoff in the sixth to double down the left field line. He induced three straight groundouts after that to finish his day with the win, going four innings, allowing the single hit, striking out four.

Offensively, Tarleton added one in the eighth on an Enriquez RBI single, and two in the ninth courtesy a pair of RBI doubles by Mason Crews and Mason Hammonds. Grant

Garza pitched the seventh and eighth innings, allowing no runs, one hit, one walk and striking out one. Jack Driskell, who closed out Sam Houston's WAC Tournament victory under Smith last year, closed it out for Tarleton State this year, allowing one earned run on two hits and a walk, striking out two.

Smith had the best game at the plate for Tarleton, going 3-for-4 with three RBI, a walk and a run scored. Enriquez also had a three-hit game, going 3-for-4 with one RBI and a walk. Hammonds went 3-for-6 with an RBI and a run, Ike Shirey went 2-for-4 with a stolen base, and Miers went 2-for-5 with an RBI and two runs. Morrison reached based four times (1-for-3, three

walks, two runs), and Drake had two RBIs on his home run. Crews had an RBI double and a run scored, plus Kooper Shook had a hit and a run.

CBU had a hit by four different batters, Nos. 5-8 in the order. The Lancers used six pitchers, with starter Brandon Downer (6-6) taking the loss, as he allowed three earned runs on five hits and a walk in two innings, striking out one.

The WAC announced its 12-man All-Tournament Team shortly after the championship, with five Texans earning spots. Miers was tabbed the WAC Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, and joining him on the All-Tournament Team are Bassinger, Enriquez, Hammonds and Smith.

Tarleton State to kick off 125 Years of Excellence celebration with nationally televised football game

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE— As part of its 125 Years of Excellence celebration and T-Week, Tarleton State University has moved up the date for its

home football game against McNeese State University to Saturday, Aug. 24 at Memorial Stadium.

This will be the first nationally televised football game in program history for the

Texans.

"Kicking off the celebration of the last 125 years of excellence at our university in front of a national audience is an exciting opportunity to showcase our Texan pride,"

said Tarleton State University President Dr. James Hurley. "This monumental opportunity allows us to show why Tarleton State has become one of the fastest growing universities in the country. This is an incredible step in our quest to become the premier comprehensive national university. I can't think of a better way to kick off a new academic year and highlight the outstanding accomplishments of our faculty, staff and students."

The university and the athletic department will be coordinating efforts to sell out Memorial Stadium. This historic game will be a special part of the celebratory events honoring the 125th year of Tarleton State.

"I'm thankful for President Hurley, McNeese State Director of Athletics Heath Schroyer and Commissioner Brian Thornton for their hard work and cooperation in making this game happen," said Vice President and Director of Athletics Steve Uryasz. "Now

it's time for Texan Nation to fill Memorial Stadium. We've got 125 years of Tarleton State, a nationally ranked football team and we're ready to compete for an FCS national championship. It's truly an exciting time to be a Tarleton State Texan."

The game was originally slated for Sept. 14, with both sides working together to make the week zero meeting possible. The date will now serve as a bye week for the Texan football team.

"I'm really excited to move our game with Tarleton State to week zero this season," said Schroyer. "I want to personally thank Dr. Hurley for working with me on this and for his leadership during this entire process. The ability to help kick off the 2024 college football season on a national broadcast is a fantastic opportunity for us both. Enhancing our brand as an athletic department and as a university has been one of my major objectives at McNeese State, and this move helps

us do just that. I couldn't be more excited."

More information on the broadcast and a kickoff time will follow in the coming weeks. Season tickets are available now at <https://tarletonsports.com/tickets/> or by calling 254-968-1832.

Last season, the Texans went 8-3, including winning four straight to cap the campaign.

For more information on the 125 Years of Excellence celebration, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/125years/>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

As part of its 125 Years of Excellence celebration and T-Week, Tarleton State University has moved up the date for its home football game against McNeese State University to Saturday, Aug. 24 at Memorial Stadium. This will be the first nationally televised football game in program history for the Texans.



Tarleton State to host 6 Todd Whitten Football Camps between June-July at Memorial Stadium

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State will host six Todd Whitten Football camps this summer at Memorial Stadium in Stephenville, three set in June and three in July.

There are camps available for virtually all youth ages, starting with the Little Texans Camp June 3-5. The last camp of the summer will

be July 20.

ALL SIX CAMP DETAILS CAN BE FOUND BELOW:

Little Texans Camp

Dates: June 3-5
Ages: 5-12 or entering seventh grade in fall 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m. through 4 p.m. daily (check-in starts at 8 a.m.)
Cost: \$120 plus small pro-

cessing fee (includes camp insurance and meal)

One-Day Camp #1

Date: June 8
Ages: 14-24
Time: 1-5 p.m. (registration starts at 11:30 a.m.)
Cost: \$40 plus small processing fee

High School Elite Camp

Dates: June 17-19

Ages: eighth-12th grade as of fall 2024

Time: Check-in is 2-4:30 p.m. on Day 1, check-out is 12 p.m. on Day 3
Cost: \$175 plus small processing fee for commuter, \$300 plus small processing fee for overnights (meals included)

One-Day Camp #2

Date: July 13

Ages: 14-24

Time: 1-5 p.m. (registration starts at 11:30 a.m.)
Cost: \$40 plus small processing fee

Friday Night Lights

Date: July 19
Ages: 14-24
Time: 6-9 p.m. (registration starts at 5 p.m.)
Cost: \$40 plus small processing fee

Texan Specialist

Date: July 20
Ages: ninth-12th grade as of fall 2024
Time: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. (registration starts at 8 a.m.)
Cost: \$75 plus small processing fee
For full information regarding any of the six camps, and to register, visit www.tarletonfootballcamps.com.



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

This past Memorial Day weekend the Hood County Reunion Grounds was home to the annual Hood County Stampede a PRCA sanctioned bareback riding event on May 25. Hood County residents cheered on professional rodeo athletes from all over the United States and the world. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



Upward Award Banquet

PHOTOS BY **JESSE RAMERZ** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
 Tuesday, May 21 Upwards Sports held its 2024 award banquet.



Kymber Legan shows off her awards at the Upwards basketball banquet.



Atlas Austin sports his basketball jersey at this year's Upwards banquet.



Elle and Kate Oliver, twins, wear similar outfits at the Upwards basketball banquet.



Debbie Taylor (left) and Leta Andrews, both retired coaches, at Upwards basketball banquet.

INTERNATIONAL TABLETOP DAY
June 1, 2024

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 B C W H E T N H C B H
 G Q W J C B S T P B T
 I N S T R U C T I O N
 N K Q T Q E F O U C K

International Tabletop Day, celebrated on June 1st this year, is an exciting invitation for kids to explore the realm of board games and tabletop adventures. On this special day, children can gather with friends and family to enjoy the thrill of face-to-face gaming, fostering social interaction, strategic thinking, and loads of fun.

For kids, International Tabletop Day provides the perfect opportunity to dive into a variety of games, from classic board games like Monopoly to innovative tabletop adventures. Whether organizing a tabletop game marathon at home or participating in community events at local game stores or libraries, children can immerse themselves in a world of diverse gaming experiences.

The educational benefits of tabletop games are substantial, enhancing critical thinking, teamwork, and communication skills. Parents and teachers can choose age-appropriate games that align with learning objectives, turning the day into an enjoyable educational experience.

International Tabletop Day also introduces kids to the vast array of tabletop games available. From strategy games that challenge the mind to cooperative games that encourage teamwork, children can explore different styles and find the ones that resonate with their interests.

Board games often bridge generational gaps, offering an inclusive and enjoyable experience for the whole family. International Tabletop Day emphasizes the value of shared experiences, laughter, and friendly competition, creating lasting memories for kids and adults alike.

So, on June 1st, let the tabletop adventures begin! International Tabletop Day is a celebration of the joy of gaming, where kids can roll the dice, draw cards, and immerse themselves in the delightful world of tabletop fun.

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Tolar Elementary Teacher



Amber Terrell
Tolar Junior High Teacher



Kamri Ashmore
Tolar High School Teacher



Calie Vance
Lipan Elementary Teacher



Brennan Harris
Lipan Junior High Teacher





LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A reenactor portrays Texas Tejano hero Juan Seguin and talks about the Battle of the Alamo.

Texas Heroes Foundation's Stroll Thru Texas History

BY LAYTH TAYLOR
Special to the
Hood County News

The Texas Heroes Foundation held its 14th annual Stroll Thru Texas History event at the historic Acton Cemetery off Fall Creek Highway May 17-19. It's a local event held every year on the third weekend of May at the Cemetery. The Stroll gives Hood County and surrounding area students and families a chance to walk through live interactions and reenactments depicting different points and heroes throughout Texas' colorful

and vast history. The event is put on by the Texas Heroes Foundation. "It's a nonprofit that was founded in 2012," said Errol Flannery, a member of the board. "Our purpose is to teach Texas history to people of all ages, in particular our fourth and seventh grade students in schools who are learning Texas history." The main draw for the event is the live demonstrations and reenactments put on by volunteers. When asked what people can expect when coming out to the stroll, Flannery said, "We've got Tejanos explaining the history of

the Tejano People, we have Native Americans, we've got Civil War reenactors, black powder demonstrations, we have a group called the Texian army of 1836; they talk about the history of the Texas Revolution. We also have a Texas Rangers reenactors group that go into the history and the weapons of the Rangers." Along with the ones Flannery mentioned, this year also featured a working chuck wagon that showed and gave samples of food made in the traditional chuck wagon way. Not only can families learn about Texas' rich and vibrant his-

tory in a fun and unique way, but the weekend also featured live music from singers, guitar players and young fiddle players performing traditional period cowboy music. The location of the Stroll at the Acton cemetery has very deep Texas history roots as well. "So, I'm a fourth great-grandson of David and Elizabeth Crockett," Flannery said. "Elizabeth Crockett came to this area and settled in 1854 with three of her children. We are located right outside the Acton cemetery; the burials began in this cemetery in the early 1850s. Elizabeth Patton

Crockett died in 1860 and was buried here," Flannery said regarding the location of the event. According to the Texas State Historical Association, a bill was proposed in 1911 to the Texas legislature by state Senators Offa Shivers Lattimore and Pierce Ward to elect \$2,000 to erect a monument over Elizabeth Crockett's grave. In 1913, the 28-foot statue depicting a pioneer woman looking west, representing Elizabeth Crockett, was unveiled. It is now just known as the Acton State Historical Site. At one point it was the smallest State Park in Texas, but it

is no longer maintained by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and has been in the care of the Texas Historical Commission since 2008. Mark your calendar for the third weekend of May next year so you and your family can take a Stroll Thru Texas History with the Texas Heroes Foundation to learn and enjoy the history of Texas. For more information about the event and the Texas Heroes Foundation go to texasheroesfoundation.org. PLEASE SEE PHOTO PAGE | C6

Granbury celebrates tourism impact with Friends of Tourism brunch

From Staff Reports

Visit Granbury's celebration was the third annual Friends of Tourism Celebration Brunch, held at the Lake Granbury Conference Center Wednesday, May 22. The event, open to the community, brought together tourism stakeholders and partners to demonstrate their support for Granbury's thriving tourism industry. The City of Granbury Convention & Visitors Bureau — Visit Granbury — commemorated National Travel and Tourism Week from May 19 to 25, spotlighting the vital role of tourism in the local and regional economy and the State of Texas.

Nate Gieryn, deputy director of Travel Texas, spoke about the significance of tourism to the Texas economy and Granbury's various state designations received through the Governor's Office. City Manager Chris Coffman stressed the importance of tourism to everyone in Granbury. At the same time, Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale officially recognized National Travel and Tourism Week and its impact on Granbury and Hood County. Several individuals and organizations were honored with Distinguished Friends of Tourism Awards at the ceremony. State Sen. Brian Birdwell, state Rep. Shelby Slawson and Stacie Howell

were recognized for their outstanding contributions to tourism. Sam Houston of the Hood County News was named Media Partner of the Year. Brian Bondy from the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Rick Neely representing the Lonestar Street Rod Association 49th Annual State Run, the Granbury Dallas Spartan Trifecta, and Granbury Dallas Tough Mudder teams were also acknowledged as Distinguished Friends of Tourism. Hard Eight BBQ and Vicki Nivens were selected as the Lake Granbury Conference Center's picks for their significant contributions. PLEASE SEE TOURISM | C7



PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF NEWSPHER

Tammy Dooley presents Senator Brian Birdwell with the Distinguished Friend of Tourism Award.

Vietnam veterans gather yearly, this year Granbury was on the itinerary

BY EDEN DUNCAN
GILBREATH
Special to the
Hood County News

As we honored those who gave all this past Memorial Day, no one feels the solemnity of this day more than those who did return from combat to join their families. Every year since 1978 at the reunion in Kentucky the Vietnam Veterans of Company C, 196 Light Infantry Brigade, American Division gather along with

their wives to reminisce and to spend precious time together. The week prior to Memorial Day, the veterans visited Hood County as part of their itinerary for this year's reunion. Granbury can now be included on the list of reunion sites for these soldiers that also includes LeClaire, Iowa; Keystone, South Dakota; Rapid City, South Dakota; Deadwood, South Dakota; Gatlinburg, Tennessee; Lake Geneva, Wisconsin; Jefferson City, Missouri; Mackinaw

City, Michigan; Collinsville, Illinois; Little Rock, Arkansas; Manitou Springs, Colorado; New Orleans, Louisiana; San Antonio and many more. Veterans enjoyed a tour of the small personal museum of Ben Musquez of Granbury at his home before enjoying a luncheon at Dolce Vita where the Musquez daughters cheerily served their parents, Ben and Maria, along with Ken Ruesch and wife Tai, Russ Wright and wife Gail, Frank Smith and

wife Lana, Larry Ferguson, Tom Price and wife Jeanne, Gary Capshaw, Ching Lau and wife Jeanie, and Sandi Corman, widow of Lee Corman. This year's event was planned by Tom and Jean Price, Gary Capshaw and Ben and Maria Musquez. Each year, the event is planned by various members of the group. The veterans planned this year's reunion to take place in Fort Worth with a jaunt to Granbury to make attending the reunion easier

for Ben and Maria. Musquez was older than the company he led when he volunteered to lead these "boys" in Vietnam. No men were lost while Musquez led his soldiers. "Maria and I hadn't been able to join the past few years. Gary Capshaw is the ringleader, he worked for an international company overseas. He said to them 'Let's have it in Fort Worth so Ben and Maria can attend.' Tom Seacrest and Marilyn wanted to attend but

couldn't at the last minute," said Musquez. The numbers vary to as few as three veterans or sometimes over 20, usually numbering somewhere in the teens. Some have barely missed a reunion but some have never attended. Originally their numbers were more. "Company strength varied because of casualties, R & R or end of tour. Full strength (which we never saw) would have been PLEASE SEE VETERAN | C4

Revving Up: The LSSRA's 49th State Run



Rob Noyes' 1931 Model A (dually) with a 12 Valve Cummins diesel engine.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Eric and Carol Laudahl receive the 2023 Top 10 Award at LSSRA State Run. From left: LSSRA Chairman Rick Neely, Eric and Carol Laudahl, Central Texas Director Jack Hanson (Fireman Jack), and Treasurer/North Texas Director Jimmie McMahon.



Laudahl's 1956 Chevrolet Pickup 3200 series named Casper: LT1 Corvette engine with a 4-speed automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, A/C.



L to R: Jim Galley with his 1930 Model A (Alumirod) all aluminum and all hand crafted. Tom Mareina with his 1967 Ford Cobra (replica) with a 428 Super Cobra Jet engine. Erik And Carol Laudahl with their 1934 Ford 5 Window Coupe.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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For anyone who has ever marveled at the sleek curves of a vintage car or felt the rush of excitement at a bustling car show, the Lone Star Street Rod Association's Annual State Run (LSSRA) in Granbury is an event not to be missed. This year's celebration of automotive craftsmanship and fellowship is June 7-9. Car enthusiasts and the curious from across Texas and beyond are welcome to visit for a weekend of sports fun.

EXPANDING THEIR SCOPE

More than a display of shining chrome and roaring engines, the (LSSRA) State Run demonstrates the interest, passion, commitment and community spirit to the automobile sport.

Founded in 1974 with only 16 members, the LSSRA is a community of individuals bonded by their love for all things automotive. And the Annual State Run isn't your average car show — it's a vibrant gathering where people

come to share stories, swap tips and experience the beauty of classic vehicles. Over the years, the association has expanded its scope, welcoming cars from 1972 and older and, more recently, the club changed its policy.

"In 2011 the members voted to include all vehicles from 1972 and older and in 2023, the members voted to have a rolling date of 30 years, so now we include more newer vehicles to the show. This means, starting next year, at our 50th Annual State Run, we will be including vehicles from 1995 and older," said longtime member of the LSSRA, editor and representative Eric Laudahl.

MORE THAN A SHOWCASE

Laudahl shares the association's mission, saying, "We're not just showcasing cars; we're building friendships and giving back to the community." It's this sense of friendship and camaraderie that sets the State Run apart, making it more than just an event — it's a family reunion with a side of horsepower.

Laudahl highlights the core ideals that drive the LSSRA

and the State Run: "Safety, recognition, participation, promotion, coordination and communication are the pillars that guide our efforts. From advocating for safe driving practices to promoting camaraderie among enthusiasts, we strive to positively impact our community," he says. The association also actively supports rod enthusiasts by advocating for their interests in areas such as vehicle legislation and public perception at the state level.

A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

The LSSRA events are made possible through active participation from its members, whether it's attending runs, contributing to newsletters, or getting involved in benefit drives. The club's emphasis on engagement reflects the belief that the more you invest in the sport, the more rewarding the experience becomes.

By promoting their passion, street rod enthusiasts can win over the public, government and fellow fans, making the hobby even more popular and respected. But with so many events happening at the same

time across Texas, staying organized is key. The Lone Star Street Rod Association (LSSRA) rises to the challenge of coordination by pulling together to make sure each event is a hit, thanks to their teamwork and community spirit.

Effective communication among Texas rodders happens with the sharing of ideas; the LSSRA keeps the sport active and up to date, ensuring that it continues to thrive for years to come. So, whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or simply curious about the world of street rodding, the LSSRA invites you to join in its efforts to promote safety, fellowship and advocacy within the dynamic world of classic cars.

CHARMING LOCALE

With its warm hospitality and scenic charm, Granbury has been the cherished host city for the Annual State Run for the past eight years. LSSRA and Laudahl are grateful to the city of Granbury and its residents, emphasizing the importance of giving back to the community that welcomes them with open arms.

GROWING UP IN THE GARAGE

Reflecting on his own journey into the world of cars, Laudahl shares fond memories of learning and bonding with his father in the garage. "My father was into cars at a young age and was a man of many talents, including mechanics," Laudahl says, "That is where I grew up, in the garage, learning and doing. He restored multiple classics in his time, but we spent a lot of time on a 1969 Chevrolet Camaro SS, a true labor of love. Now that I am older, I still have the passion for vehicles, and my wife, Carol, is right there with me."

ONE OF A KIND

The success of the Annual State Run is only possible with the dedication of numerous individuals, including the nine core board members, and the support of the host car club. Laudahl acknowledges the invaluable contributions of each LSSRA member and extends gratitude to their spouses for their unwavering support.

The State Run isn't just about admiring vintage rides;

it's also an opportunity to promote safety, recognize achievements and foster community participation. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or just curious about classic cars, there's something for everyone at this one-of-a-kind event.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

As the 50th Annual State Run approaches, Laudahl extends a warm invitation to all. "Come join us for a weekend of fun, friendship and fantastic cars," he says. "Whether you're a car lover or just looking for a good time, you won't be disappointed."

So, mark your calendars for June 7-9 and head to the Granbury Conference Center to register for the State Run. Admission is free, so bring the whole family and experience the thrill of vintage cars and community unity firsthand. It's an event you'll remember long after the engines have stopped roaring.

For more information about the club, to see photos of vehicles, and learn about membership, visit www.lssra.com

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Picture-perfect summer: top iPhone camera tricks for amazing photos

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the
Hood County News

Summer is here, bringing with it the perfect time for family vacations, beach outings and endless outdoor adventures. With so many picture-perfect moments on the horizon, now is the ideal time to ensure your iPhone camera is set up to capture the best shots.

Whether you're a casual snapper or an aspiring photographer, mastering these camera settings can transform your photos from ordinary to extraordinary. Let's explore the best iPhone camera settings that can help you capture stunning images every time.

SHOOTING IN RAW

On iPhone 12 Pro and later Pro models with iOS 14.3 or later, you can take photos in Apple ProRAW. Capturing images in RAW format can significantly elevate your photography. Unlike JPEGs, RAW files contain unprocessed data directly from your camera sensor, preserving more detail about the scene. This extra information allows for extensive adjustments to high-lights, shadows and colors during post-processing, dramatically enhancing your final image.

Although RAW files are larger and require more storage, the flexibility they offer is invaluable, especially for professional photographers. Apps like VSCO and Adobe Lightroom are great for editing RAW files, and with a bit of practice, you'll find the results are well worth the effort.

To enable the RAW setting on your iPhone, Open Settings > Camera > Formats and enable "Apple ProRAW" (available on newer models).



COURTESY PHOTO BY RAUL, ENVATO.COM

Whether you're a casual snapper or an aspiring photographer, mastering these camera settings can transform your photos from ordinary to extraordinary.

RULE OF THIRDS

The rule of thirds is a timeless photography principle that can instantly improve your composition. By dividing the frame into nine equal parts with two horizontal and two vertical lines, this grid helps you position your main subject along these lines or at their intersections. Doing so creates a balanced and visually appealing photo, guiding the viewer's eye naturally across the image.

This technique adds depth and interest, making it a favorite among both amateur and professional photographers. Enabling the grid

on your iPhone camera can help you effortlessly apply the rule of thirds to your shots. Go to Settings > Camera. Then toggle the "Grid" switch on.

HDR SETTINGS

High Dynamic Range (HDR) photography is all about capturing a broader spectrum of light and detail in your photos. By combining multiple exposures, HDR can enhance both the shadows and highlights in a scene. While newer iPhone models have advanced HDR capabilities, be cautious — overusing HDR can make your photos

look overly processed and unnatural. I prefer to turn HDR off for a more natural look and then manually enable it in challenging lighting conditions, like low-light scenes. Experiment with HDR to see when it best enhances your photos.

To turn off your HDR setting, navigate to Settings > Camera. Then toggle off "Smart HDR" or "Auto HDR" (depending on your model).

MANUAL EXPOSURE AND FOCUS

Auto settings are convenient, but they often fall short in complex lighting conditions. Manually ad-

justing your iPhone's exposure and focus gives you better control over the final image, ensuring it matches your vision. To do this, simply open the Camera app. Tap the screen to focus, then swipe up or down on the sun icon to adjust the exposure.

If you're in a situation where you're moving between light and dark areas, lock the focus and exposure by pressing and holding on to the screen until you see "AE/AF Lock." This can greatly impact the mood and quality of your photos, making manual adjustments a valuable skill to master.

PRESERVE SETTINGS

One common frustration with iPhone photography is the camera reverting to default settings after each use. By enabling the "Preserve Settings" option, you can save your preferred camera modes, filters and settings, ensuring your camera opens with these preferences intact.

This feature is particularly useful for photographers who frequently switch between specific modes. It saves time and ensures you don't miss important shots, allowing you to maintain a consistent workflow and focus more on capturing great images rather than constantly adjusting settings. To preserve your camera settings, open Settings > Camera. Scroll to "Preserve Settings"

By mastering these iPhone camera settings, you can significantly enhance your photography and capture stunning images with ease. So, dive into your camera settings, experiment with these tips, and watch your photos transform from good to great!

Nine quick ways to de-stress during a busy week

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the
Hood County News

Life can get overwhelming, especially during a hectic week filled with endless tasks and responsibilities. But don't let stress take control. Here are nine simple yet effective techniques to help you relax and find your calm amidst the chaos. These quick stress relief tips are easy to incorporate into your daily routine and can make a world of difference in how you handle the pressures of a busy life.

1. DEEP BREATHING EXERCISES

Start by sitting or lying down in a comfortable posi-

tion. Inhale deeply through your nose, letting your abdomen expand. Exhale slowly through your mouth. Repeat for a few minutes. This simple exercise helps reduce heart rate and promotes relaxation.

2. PROGRESSIVE MUSCLE RELAXATION

To relieve physical tension, try tensing each muscle group in your body for a few seconds and then relaxing them. Begin from your toes and work your way up to your head. This technique helps you become more aware of physical stress and reduces overall tension.

3. SHORT WALKS

When you feel stress building up, take a brisk walk outside or around your office for 5-10 minutes. Physical activity boosts endorphins, the body's natural mood lifters, and helps you feel more energized and less stressed.

4. MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

Find a quiet spot and focus on your breathing. Observe your thoughts without judgment, and gently bring your focus back to your breath whenever your mind wanders. This practice enhances mental clarity and reduces stress by keeping you grounded in the present moment.

5. QUICK STRETCHING

Incorporate a series of gentle stretches for your neck, shoulders, back and legs into your routine. Stretching reduces muscle tension and increases blood flow, helping you feel more relaxed and refreshed.

6. LISTEN TO MUSIC

Put on your favorite calming music or nature sounds. Music has a powerful effect on our emotions and can quickly soothe and improve your mood, making it a great tool for stress relief.

7. AROMATHERAPY

Use essential oils like lavender, chamomile or eucalyptus in a diffuser or apply a few drops to your wrists. These

scents are known for their relaxing properties and can help reduce anxiety and promote a sense of calm.

8. QUICK JOURNALING

Spend a few minutes writing down your thoughts and feelings. Journaling helps process emotions and can provide a sense of relief, allowing you to clear your mind and reduce stress.

9. HYDRATION AND HEALTHY SNACKS

Don't forget to drink a glass of water and snack on healthy options like fruits or nuts. Proper nutrition and hydration improve energy levels and reduce stress, ensuring your body is well-equipped

to handle the demands of a busy day.

Incorporate these quick and effective stress-relief techniques into your daily routine to maintain balance and find peace, even during the busiest weeks. Your mind and body will thank you!

By taking just a few moments for yourself each day, you can significantly improve your overall well-being and approach each task with a clearer, calmer mindset. Remember, managing stress is not just about handling immediate pressures but also about creating a sustainable, healthy routine that nurtures your mental and physical health in the long run. Stay calm, stay balanced and keep thriving!

DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

Why pay more for travel? It can be worth the upgrade



BY ZAC WILSON

Zac Wilson is a Certified Travel Advisor, ASTA Verified Travel Advisor, CLIA Master Cruise Counselor, and owner of Daydream Vacations Travel Agency in Granbury. www.DaydreamVacations.com

Air: Flights are full. If you are in the cheap seats, your carry-on will be forcefully checked below due to lack of space in the overhead bins. Cheapest seats are next to the bathrooms where people stand in line and crowd you, plus the smell. Pay a little more to upgrade from row 30 to row 15. Of course, when flying to destinations that are eight or more hours away, like a European River Cruise you should consider upgrading to business class for more comfort on a very long flight.

Food and beverage service: Most resorts have exotic locations, beautiful beaches, and nice hotels and amenities, but the biggest difference in quality is the food and beverage service. There are many differences including buffet

vs. cook to order, quality of ingredients, menu options, the difference between quantity of food and quality of cuisine. There is a big difference between resorts that have multiple cheap buffets and those that include fine dining options at dinner. Beverage service is also quite different at economy resorts compared to luxury resorts. It's not just the quality of the name brand spirits or wines, but also the skill of the bartenders. If you're a foodie or a connoisseur you need to upgrade to a nicer resort, the bargain deal you found online is not going to please you. Talk to your travel advisor to find the right resort for your taste buds.

Shuttle service: The cheapest airport shuttle is a van filled (packed) with many travelers. They may

not be going to the same resort, so you may have to endure a few stops along the way. A nice upgrade is a private airport transfer, but those aren't the same either. Some are simply a private transfer nonstop in the same uncomfortable van. At least you don't stop for others, and you're not crowded. But a private transfer in a luxury town car is great. Some resorts have a range of vehicles from BMW to Rolls Royce.

Included activities: The cheapest deals for all-inclusive resorts do not include onsite activities and tours. Like a cruise line, you must pay for each individual activity. This can quickly become more expensive than luxury resorts that already include activities in the cost. For example, while Sandals resorts may appear to be more expensive up front, they already include scuba diving (two tanks per day), snorkeling, Hobie Cat sailing, glass bottom boat tours, paddle boards, golf, tennis or pickleball, and



COURTESY PHOTO BY PHOTOVIS, ENVATO.COM

Cheapest seats are next to the bathrooms where people stand in line and crowd you, plus the smell. Pay a little more to upgrade from row 30 to row 15.

more. Resorts with cheap deals online or at big box stores often include zero activities and charge a high price for each one. You often end up spending more money on your cheap online

deal than a proper itinerary recommended by your travel advisor.

Comfort: For my personal vacations, my biggest concern is the quality of the bed mattress and pillows. I need

rest and quality sleep! There is a big difference in comfort between cheap getaway resorts and luxury resorts, and different cruise lines as well. It's worth the upgrade.

Reverend Angela Madden Scott brings fresh leadership to First Presbyterian Church Granbury

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
Lauren@hcnews.com

As Hood County prepares for a new chapter in its spiritual journey, the Rev. Angela Madden Scott steps into her role as the pastor and head of staff at First Presbyterian Church (FPC) Granbury. Her tenure will commence June 1, with her first Sunday service June 2. Scott brings a wealth of experience and a profound sense of duty and love to her new position. About her calling, Scott considers it "... a holy privilege to love people in all circumstances."

Regarding Granbury's First Presbyterian Church, she says, "God is here and doing many important things through the people who gather weekly at 10 a.m. in person and online and through their outreach, educational opportunities and fellowship."

JOURNEY TO MINISTRY

Scott's journey to Texas is marked by a deep-seated commitment to ministry, which began with her ordination 18 years ago and has since taken her across various regions to serve in churches from Kentucky to Kansas, Ohio and Missouri.

Growing up in Wichita, Kansas, she felt the stirring of a call to ministry at a young age. "I did what most

of us do and I said 'No' to God," Scott says.

After graduating college, she went to law school and though she toured seminaries, again, Scott deferred the call. "Upon graduation from law school, I quit my job to move home to care for my mom who had ALS — Lou Gehrig's disease," Scott says. Through the next six years of her mother's challenging medical journey to becoming a quadriplegic, Scott began to "really listen to God in a much more 'open' and less resistant manner." Her mother died June 16, 2002 — Father's Day.

Then came the pivotal moment in Scott's life when she heeded the call that had long been nudging her toward ministry.

With the unwavering encouragement of her husband and ministry partner, Jack Scott Sr., she found the courage to pursue her path. There were only two seminaries in the U.S. at that time that allowed students to have pets on campus. That narrowed the decision down. Scott was given ample scholarships. "My husband quit his job as a stockbroker and he sold our home in five days," she says. "I quit my six-figure job and found a home for my third pet (a bunny) since we could only have two pets on campus." With Scott's dad's help, the family was

relocated within three weeks. "The Penske truck broke down in Okawville, Illinois," Scott says, "about 250 miles from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. It had to be towed the rest of the way."

Scott's first call to preach was with the greater church of the PCUSA in its headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. Scott was an associate for Ecumenical and Mission Partnerships for Europe and the Middle East. With an undergraduate degree in International Studies and a law degree from Washburn Law School, Scott's first sermons after ordination were in Egypt and Lebanon. She appreciates the diversity of God's world as well as the opportunity to find common ground through mediation, communications and mutual partnerships.

FAMILY

Scott's unique path to marriage was prompted by her mother's involvement and creativity, and it all came together like a romantic comedy with a happy ending. "I knew instantly he was the one," Scott says. "My husband ... is a partner in ministry. He is a soulmate who understands that when God calls us, we cannot deny what beauty God is creating." Together, they have a son, Major Scott, age 14, but are a blended

family that includes two grown children and two grandsons.

VISION AND MISSION

As part of her mission, Scott is eager to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment at First Presbyterian Church Granbury, where all are embraced and accepted. "FPC has a robust music program led by Dr. Priscilla Allen, Jane Seley and Emily Graham that includes The Chancel and Bell Choirs and children's voices. Special music is also provided. The IT team and sound team take seriously their roles of enhancing worship and broadcasting it for anyone around the globe."

PCUSA is a Christian church of the reformed tradition. Congregants can expect sermons filled with wisdom and warmth to uplift and inspire. Scott's message for the June 2 sermon is called, "Play the Ball Where the Monkey Drops It!" The children's message is "Builders Together for Jesus." Congregants can look forward to special fellowship events following worship services, as well as upcoming gatherings like the church picnic June 28.

"As a curious and non-judgmental leader, I love that this church (PCUSA) throws wide open the doors to illustrate the character of God's own heart: open



COURTESY PHOTO

Reverend Angela Madden Scott, new minister at First Presbyterian Church, Granbury.

and loving," Scott says. She looks forward to walking with families through all moments of their life stories: baptisms, confirmations, transitions, death, sickness and yes — even stress. "In life and death, we belong to God."

For Scott, her arrival at First Presbyterian Church Granbury represents not

just a new chapter, but a sacred opportunity to weave her unique gifts and experiences into the rich tapestry of faith and community. As she steps forward with humility, grace and a deep sense of purpose, she invites all to join her in the journey of faith, love and service.

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY

Hugh Morris Raupe

BY DIANE STOUT

Diane Stout has been an ardent participant in preserving Granbury and Hood County History. She has also been a long-time director of the Bridge Street History Center.

Hugh Morris Raupe was mayor of Granbury from 1971-1976 and played a significant role in rescuing the city from enormous debt and putting it on sound financial footing.

Those were tough economic times for our fair town. The City of Granbury was \$187,000 in debt to the Brazos Electric Corporation, and the State of Texas was threatening to put the city into receivership. Raupe and other city officials went to Austin to work out a solution with the attorney general, and a deal ensued that allowed Granbury to repay the debt over time. The city employees could not even purchase a pencil without good reason during that repayment period.



When Raupe (pronounced "Rawp") took office, the streets on the north side of town were still unpaved. Never one to sit on his hands, Raupe tackled the problem by hooking a paving machine to his Chrysler and paving the roads himself.

Raupe eventually took up bicycling to improve his health. He was a common sight cycling all over Hood County. At one point, he even cycled to Waco and back. Bad knees finally forced him to scale back his riding.

Raupe was quite the multi-tasker and had a fix-it shop on Lambert Street

just north of Pearl Street. His specialty was sharpening tools. "From scissors to surgical tools to clippers to saws, you can get them all sharpened expertly by Raupe!" proclaimed the Hood County News in 1980.

One of the most enduring stories about Raupe is his unwavering commitment to the Hood County courthouse clock. He spent over 20 years winding the clock weekly by hand, a testament to his dedication. It was only when his knees gave out, and he couldn't climb the stairs anymore, that he had to stop.

Preserving Granbury history was another of Raupe's interests. He and Loren Wilson, along with Weldon Newman, plant manager from 1939-1948, were made committee chairmen to restore the turn-of-the-century electric plant on Brazos Street. Many things needed doing in that era, and Raupe obviously didn't mind doing them himself if that's what it took.



COURTESY PHOTO

Hugh Morris Raupe was mayor of Granbury from 1971-1976 and played a significant role in rescuing the city from enormous debt and putting it on sound financial footing.

Raupe was born July 27, 1922, in Eliasville in Young County, the son of Carl Bryan Raupe and Lattie Eula Morris Raupe. He had one brother, Buell, and two sisters, Julia and Mary Ruth Raupe Price. Brother Buell was a public relations executive who was a former

Foreign Service officer, Eastern Airlines executive, and aide to House Speaker Jim Wright when Wright was a U.S. representative and U.S. House Majority Leader.

Raupe married Virginia Joyce Umphress in 1941. They had three sons: Victor, Loy and Loren, and one

daughter, Candace. He was a World War II veteran who saw action in Sicily and Italy. A former employee of Granbury Post Office, he also spent time as an insurance agent.

Hugh M. Raupe died July 29, 1993. He was 71.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Veterans' first reunion, Kentucky, 1978. L to R: Gary Capshaw, Charles Surface, Lee Corman, Ching Lau and Lonnie Thurston.

VETERAN

FROM PAGE C1

about 140 men, but it got as low as 40 or so. Field strength was typically about three quarters of everybody assigned to the company," shared Capshaw.

"Your title in the Army depends upon your assigned duty, which can often change as you advance in rank. Most of us started out as privates assigned to a platoon and squad, so our title would be rifleman unless we carried a weapon other than a rifle. Then it might be grenadier (the grenade launcher), RTO (radio telephone operator), or machine gunner/assistant machine gunner. At one time or another, I personally carried all three titles in Vietnam," explained Capshaw. He went on, "We were infantry whose only function is to seek out and kill the enemy. That's what we did."

Capshaw also said, "I wish people could understand that while most of us are proud of having done our duty when others would not, we're not particularly proud of the things we had to do. Essentially, the in-

fantry during a war requires you to do just about everything you've ever been taught is morally wrong. What is good becomes a liability and what is morally reprehensible is now commendable. If you do enough bad, they give you a medal for it.

"After the war, our little band defied the stereotype of Vietnam veterans. Most of us worked at one, or a very few jobs, all our working life and nearly all of us have been married to the same woman for 50 years. We don't have any raging alcoholics or drug addicts (though some did struggle with that for a while) and only one has been to prison. We all seemed to readjust fairly well, though that's not to say we haven't had our challenges. But we adapted and overcame, just like we did in Vietnam. While we did not break the mold of the 'troubled veteran,' we didn't necessarily fit it snugly either."

"The nation didn't rally behind the troops. Nam veterans were looked down on and their service to their country was not acknowledged or appreciated," said Smith. "Many of us were drafted into



Brotherhood and care shown for Ben Musquez of Granbury by a member of his company.

service. It was a good experience in that I was exposed to many different cultures and many different personalities. People need to understand we were sent to do a job and that we did the best we could

PLEASE SEE VETERAN | C9



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"First Frost" by Craig Johnson
c.2024, Viking, \$30.00, 336 pages



BOOK REVIEW

Surf's up!

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

The sand feels good on your toes as you dig them in, scanning the horizon for just the right wave. When you see it, not knowing what kind of ride you'll get back to shore. It might be smooth, like a Caddy on a newly-paved road. Or, as in the new novel "First Frost" by Craig Johnson, it might be the roughest ride you've ever had.

Rachael hadn't wanted him to leave.

Truth be known, he really didn't want to go but Walt Longmire had a date with Uncle Sam. It was 1964, he'd just graduated from college and he'd have rather had a summer of surf and sand but Vietnam called. With hopes of being deployed stateside, Walt and his friend, Henry Standing Bear, had enlisted and in a few days, Henry needed to be in Louisiana, Walt was supposed to have been in South Carolina, and Rachael would be a memory of love left.

The afternoon before they left, though, the sea had one last thing for Walt and the Bear: a small boat capsized during a storm, and Walt saved a few lives, including Henry's. The authorities arrived with ambulances, but the police were more interested in learning about the drugs that washed up in the aftermath.

Walt and Henry knew nothing so they drove off, leaving behind their old lives and questions they couldn't answer. But somewhere near Albuquerque, while Henry slept, Walt took a wrong turn and ended up in the middle of

nowhere, surrounded by sand and cacti in an all-but-ghost-town called Bone Valley.

The locals were not happy to see them.

Bone Valley, as Walt eventually learned, had once been the site of a Japanese internment camp for the "worst of the so-called worst," and the man who ran the town didn't want anyone poking around. He wanted Walt and the Bear gone.

Better yet: dead and gone.

Oh, my. Cutting the chase, yes, you need this book. Yes, clear your calendar. But read author Craig Johnson's last book ("The Longmire Defense") first. You'll be glad you did.

Without being a spoiler in either case, "First Frost" takes off a little bit after the previous book stops but it ties loose ends and also includes a forty-year-old tale that'll capture you, making both then and now richer for the reading. Richer — and more exciting, since this book takes you to the new hometown of a madman and introduces new characters you'll hope to see again, all of which twist the tale in so many jaw-dropping ways that you'll be gasping.

Oh, and humor. There's a running joke in this book that readers will love, stuck inside this hair-raising story. Come to think, you might want to get an EKG, to be sure your heart can take it. Just sayin'.

Yep, "First Frost" is that kind of book: funny, sassy and fast-paced, perfect for mystery mavens and thriller cravers. Find it, clear your calendar, and wave goodbye to your weekend.

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BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001. 817-680-4849

You select the right plants, place them in the right light and tend to their needs. And yet ... the plants fail. Why? It's best to rule out pests or diseases, but chances are good that they are not the problem. Odds are greater that your plant failed due to an environmental factor, such as a poorly drained site.

To survive, plants need oxygen at the root level. The air spaces in saturated soil are filled with water, which can suffocate plants. Poor drainage also promotes disease, such as root rot, nutrient deficiency, increased toxicity and degraded soil structure. Before replacing the failed plants, it's best to correct drainage issues. Start by identifying the problem, which will lead you to the proper solutions. Begin by asking: Where is the water coming from? Is the soil compacted? Is your property improperly graded? Are drainage pathways blocked? Are gutters installed?

Soil and grading — If the soil is compacted, loosen it by digging, tilling or aerating. Add organic matter such as compost to improve the soil structure. Take steps to ensure that the land surrounding planting beds is graded in a manner that directs water away from beds and buildings. Try adding swales or

berms to redirect water flow. In poorly drained sites, it's a good idea to garden in raised beds that are filled with loose, well-draining planting mix. Top dress all planting beds with organic mulch, which breaks down and improves soil.

Rain gardens — Avoid planting in low-lying areas unless using plant species that tolerate boggy soil. Make use of these low-lying areas by creating rain gardens, which are designed to absorb and manage rainwater runoff. They also minimize erosion. Use deep-rooted, water-loving plants, such as native grasses. Also use water-tolerant perennials such as Louisiana iris, swamp sunflower and cardinal flower.

French drains — Dig these trenches, which are filled with gravel or rocks, in a manner that redirects water away from plantings or structures. Typically, a perforated pipe is installed in the drain to absorb and quickly move the water to an area that better handles the excess flow.

Gutters and downspouts — Water that flows off roofs will wash away soil and flood plants. Add gutters with downspouts to manage this flow. Extend downspouts or modify them so that they do not empty forcefully into planting beds. Connect them



Use water-tolerant plants such as Louisiana Iris, in rain gardens and in poorly-drained areas.

to a rainwater harvesting system if possible. Keep gutters free of debris to prevent blockage.

Permeable paving — Water can rush over hard surfaces and into planting areas. Consider replacing some of the impermeable surfaces, i.e., concrete walkways and driveways, with paving materials that allow water to seep into the ground.

Irrigation — Avoid overwatering, which is a top reason for plant death and disease. Water deeply, but with less frequency to encourage plants to grow deep roots. Adjust sprinkler heads and timers to prevent pooling

water.

Traffic flow — Direct foot traffic in alternate directions and reduce use of heavy equipment to minimize soil compaction, which can impede drainage.

Monitor and adjust — Regularly visit your landscape after heavy rain to check for standing water. Check beds to ensure soil is draining. Make adjustments to correct issues.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or online at lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

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A Stroll Thru Texas History



Errol and Hannah Flannery portray David and Elizabeth Crockett.



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
A presenter shows how homesteaders used a spinning wheel.



A fiddler plays some traditional period western music.



A member of the Texian Volunteer Army of 1836.



A board shows the Tejano hero Patricia de la Garza De Leon's history.



A member of the Texian Volunteer Army of 1836.



Jeannie M. Luna portrays Patricia de la Garza De Leon.



A presenter shows some traditional Native American beading.



Errol Flannery talks with some guests in his David Crockett regalia.



A Texas Ranger reenactor talks with another reenactor in traditional Victorian garb.



A Texas Ranger reenactor checks out the chuckwagon cooking.



A reenactor portrays Texas Tejano hero Juan Seguin and talks about the Battle of the Alamo.



A volunteer gives a demonstration of traditional chuckwagon cooking.

TOURISM

FROM PAGE C1

Sue Ooten and Suzanne Walshe were honored as Distinguished Volunteers, while Dicey Smith received the Volunteer of the Year award.

The Visit Granbury

History Ambassadors and the Volunteer Information Professionals (VIPs) team were also recognized for their dedication and service.

Tammy Dooley, director of Visit Granbury and the Granbury Convention & Visitors Bureau, outlined the organization's mission to promote Granbury as a

premier destination for leisure and business travel to positively impact the city's economy.

Dooley highlighted the significant impact of tourism on Granbury's economy, citing Travel Texas' report of \$56.3 million in direct travel spending in 2023, which includes pur-

chases made by travelers during their visit, such as lodging taxes and other applicable local and state taxes.

"Direct tax receipts amounted to \$4.5 million. In Hood County, the impact was even greater, with \$81 million in direct travel spending and \$7.5 mil-

lion in direct tax receipts," Dooley said. Underscoring the strength of Granbury's economy, she added, "As evidenced by our strong hotel occupancy tax (HOT) revenues, and our increasing sales tax. In 2023, Granbury, for the first time ever, experienced two consecutive years of hotel occupancy tax

over \$1M."

The celebration featured local entertainers and showcased the new Visit Granbury Celebration Capital of Texas promotional video. Plans are already underway for the 2025 event.

For more information, visit visitgranbury.com.



Nate Gieryn, Deputy Director of Travel, speaks at the Friends of Tourism Celebration.



Vickie Nivens, Hard Eight BBQ restaurant owner receives Distinguished Friend of Tourism Award. Granbury Conference Center Manager Mike Linnabery, Conference Center Sales Executive Crystal Douglass, Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley, Visit Granbury Event Coordinator Rhiannon Moline, and Visit Granbury Assistant Director Kristen Gibson are presenting the award.



Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley and Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale at the Friends of Tourism Celebration.



President and CEO of Granbury Chamber of Commerce, Brian Bondy, receives the Distinguished Friend of Tourism Award. Visit Granbury Event Coordinator Rhiannon Moline, Visit Granbury Assistant Director Kristen Gibson, and Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley are presenting the award.



Visit Granbury Assistant Director Kristen Gibson, Suzanne Walshe (Distinguished Volunteer award recipient), Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley and Visit Granbury Event Coordinator Rhiannon Moline are presenting.



Visit Granbury Assistant Director Kristen Gibson, Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley, Dicey Smith (Volunteer of the Year Award recipient), and Visit Granbury Event Coordinator Rhiannon Moline are presenting.

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Forward Training Center's Annual Clay Shoot Fundraiser



COURTESY PHOTO

Group photo- all Forward Training Center volunteers who worked so hard to make the event happen: L to R front: David Straka, Laurie Lilly, Luly Blankenship, Sherry Muncy, Linda Husong, Cheryl Wenrich, Julia Richardson; L to R back: George Sutton, Vince Blankenship, Jim Lilly, Valinda Nelson, Monica Hays, Lori Vale, Christy Clark, Mirta, Wallace Wood, Bob White, Steven Vale, Buster Offutt

From Staff Reports

GRANBURY, Texas (AP) — The Forward Training Center of Hood County is gearing up for its 6th Annual Clay Shoot Fundraiser. This event supports educational and job skills programs aimed at empowering underserved residents of Hood County.

Forward Training Center (FTC) provides free classes ranging from job skills training to GED preparation, targeting individuals who may not realize their potential due to generational poverty. "Our mission is to break this cycle of poverty by offering education and training opportunities," says Monica Hays, executive director of

FTC.

The Clay Shoot, which will occur at the Defender Outdoors Clay Sports Ranch, 8270 Aledo Road, Fort Worth, TX. 76126, June 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., is a vital fundraising avenue for the programs. Hays says, "Since these educational and job skills programs are offered free of charge, the event helps raise the necessary funds to sustain them."

The fundraiser originated with Rory and Chris Matthews, two passionate volunteers dedicated to the cause. Their vision has led to exponential growth in the event since its inception in

PLEASE SEE **FUNDRAISER** | C12



Chelsey Brown, Ladies' High Score Shooter 2023.



Gordon Bond, Highest Overall Shooter 2023.



Matthew Abernathy, who is this year's Clay Shoot Committee Chairman.

COURTESY PHOTOS

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Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga (R)
Daily except Tues, Thurs: 10:00AM, 12:50PM, 3:45PM, 7:00PM, 10:15PM.
Tues: 12:30PM, 3:45PM, 7:00PM, 10:15PM.
Thurs: 12:30PM, 3:45PM, 7:05PM, 8:50PM

If (PG)
Daily except Tues, Thurs: 10:20AM, 1:15PM, 4:05PM, 6:35PM, 9:05PM.
Tues: 10:55AM, 1:30PM, 4:05PM, 6:35PM, 9:05PM.
Thurs: 10:40AM, 1:10PM, 3:45PM, 5:30PM, 8:55PM

Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes (PG13)
Daily except Thurs: 12:25PM, 3:40PM, 6:55PM, 10:10PM.
Thurs: 11:00AM, 2:15PM

Sight (PG13)
Daily except Thurs: 10:50AM, 1:30PM, 4:10PM, 6:50PM, 9:30PM.
Thurs: 10:30AM, 1:10PM, 3:50PM

Summer Camp (PG13)
Daily except Thurs: 10:00AM, 11:15AM, 1:40PM, 4:05PM, 6:30PM, 8:55PM.
Thurs: 11:30AM, 2:05PM, 6:30PM, 10:20PM

The Garfield Movie (PG)
Daily except Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:45PM, 4:15PM, 6:45PM, 9:15PM.
Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:45PM, 6:20PM, 8:05PM

The Watchers (PG13)
Thurs: 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:50PM

TMNT: Mutant Mayhem - Kids' Summer Series (PG)
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VETERAN

FROM PAGE C4

under trying circumstances," shared Price.

Price continued, "The bond is serving together and having survived a fraught time in not only our country, but in the military. It was not a pleasant time coming home. There was no "Thank you for your service" back then. Returning soldiers were routinely looked down upon and met with derision. I am glad that that has changed for these younger veterans." Price was a sergeant and squad leader, and Smith was in his squad.

"There's just something about sharing the misery, fear and ever-present specter of sudden, violent death which forced us to rely on each other, in spite of any differences we might have had. That common experience made us tighter than family out of necessity. Carrying that on into civilian life was a choice we made," explained Capshaw.

But Capshaw states the best thing about the reunions is not the memories of war but rather the opportunity to know one another as human



COURTESY PHOTO

Ken Ruesch, Russ Wright, Frank Smith, Larry Ferguson, Tom Price, Gary Capshaw, Ching Lau. Sitting: Ben Musquez

beings over the years and be a part of one another's growing families.

The love that these veterans have for one another has not faded with time.

"We became closer than brothers in Nam," said Smith, "and we feel the same way about each other to this day. The brothers who never came home are still remembered."

Lau agrees. "The best thing is getting together with my brothers. I don't have a birth brother but these are my brothers!"

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at 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.

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: bskaggs@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

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

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Somervell A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Hwy 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

SECOND SATURDAYS

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

THIRD MONDAYS

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

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

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

LAST THURSDAYS

MARINE CORPS League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

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1 John 4:12

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254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
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817-326-2270

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817-326-4693

Allison Baptist
9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
4804 E. Hwy. 377
817-579-5424

Brazos River Baptist
2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
1840 Acton Hwy.
817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
5041 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
Hwy. 56
254-965-3840

First Baptist
7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
817-613-2322

First Baptist
214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan
254-646-2484

First Baptist Thorp Springs
2815 Lipan Hwy.
817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
Glen Rose
254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
1851 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-7137

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315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
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Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
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Lakeside Baptist
500 W. Bluebonnet
817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
1625 Mambrino Hwy.
817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
4501 Peppertree Rd.
817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist
1844 Acton Hwy.
817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
4791 Fm 2803, Lipan
940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
7178 Fall Creek Hwy.
682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow
254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
910 Paluxy Rd.
817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
820 Paluxy Rd.
682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
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BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

In the growing-up years of long ago, close enough was usually good enough. Precision rules now, though, and “guesstimates” that were acceptable then don’t pass muster now.

We commonly helped befuddled motorists, suggesting they turn on the county road after crossing three cattle guards, right after spotting a big red barn, or upon seeing a lone chimney, its house burned down by a lightning strike.

Kids think we were deprived, not having GPS gadgets to provide precise direc-

tions to our destinations. (I still can’t remember what “GPS” stands for.) Sometimes friendships begin when old-fashioned methods of yesterday are employed ...

All this to say that at least one person in Granbury recently turned the tables on “old-fashioned way” directions. FYI, the First Christian Church, now in its 151st year, traces its beginnings to 1873, when a minister named Joseph Clark — with sons Addison and Randolph, both also preachers — arrived in Granbury from Fort Worth to found what

was initially called AddRan College. Thinking there were too many “temptations” for their students in both Fort Worth and in Granbury, they decided on Thorp Spring, since it was “seven miles from any known sin.” (After a few years, the college moved to Waco, then to Fort Worth, where the name was changed to Texas Christian University.)

I digress. In 1986, First Christian left its small wooden structure near downtown to West U.S. Highway 377, a few miles “out in the country” at the time. That’s when they dedicated their beautiful Austin stone structure.

When asked downtown for directions to the church, locals suggested heading west on 377, keeping eyes peeled for the hilltop church on the left ...

Within a few years, however, Tractor Supply opened

a store next to the church, at which time inquirers would be advised to watch for the church right next door to Tractor Supply. This was the easy way out, and for the past 20 years or so, FCC has been known as “the church right next door to Tractor Supply.”

Pastor Justin Jeter was in Tractor Supply recently, and an employee was eager to tell him about a new customer who said he learned the store is right next door to First Christian Church.

Nope, no GPS needed for these directions ...

The late Choc Hutcheson, the most interesting person I’ve ever known, grew up when Lubbock was “more like a town.”

He’d hear his folks giving telephone directions to their home, zigging here and zagging there, proceeding through two traffic lights,

watching for a prairie dog town and finally, for an Onyx gasoline station located only a few feet from the Hutcheson residence. He said giving such directions often required several minutes, perhaps wearing down a pencil or two.

“Better directions would have suggested that visitors aim for a Lubbock water tower — perhaps 150 feet tall and visible for miles in every direction — located right behind our house.” ...

My friend Don Wilson borders on genius status in “horse sense” and beyond. I mean that by comparison, his “elevator” zooms to the top of most any skyscraper, while mine struggles to reach the third floor. An Air Force veteran, he has distinguished himself since becoming a pilot in 1971.

He is now in his 34th year with American Airlines and

an instructor in its flight academy for several years. Earlier, he was a captain — flying Boeing 767s — often with 225 or so passengers on board. Usually, his destinations were major European cities.

He recently made an admission at his wife Jajuan’s memorial service. “Unless I’m outdoors in the sunshine, I have no sense of direction,” he said. (Luckily, he had two other pilots with him and computers churning out stuff about north, south, east and west as well as up and down.)

On the road he needed only Jajuan — his wife of almost 53 years whom he met when they were seventh graders in Hawley — to provide navigational skills along the way ...

The Buzz on beekeeping in Hood County: a sweet tradition

BY LAUREN DAVIS

Staff Writer
Lauren@hcnews.com

In the tranquil landscapes of south Hood County, amidst the tranquil breeze and blooming wildflowers, Kirk Kirksey enriches his life while contributing to the local ecosystem as a small-scale beekeeper. “We sell some honey every year. We occasionally sell bees,” he says.

Married for 52 years to his beloved wife, Joy, the Kirkseys have two grown children and two grandchildren. A Master Gardner, Joy is no stranger to outdoor pursuits and supports their beekeeping venture, even feeding the bees if need be. Together, they extract and bottle the honey post-harvest.

What inspired Kirksey, a retired healthcare computer executive who loves new experiences, to start beekeeping? Eight years ago, he faced health challenges that limited his mobility, leaving him unable to continue previously enjoyed sporting activities. “I read a lot about beekeeping and had a friend who was a beekeeper. It looked like something I could study and do, so I bought six hives,” explains the retiree.

Kirksey invested in essential tools and equipment needed for his budding enterprise, such as the hives — “the physical structure where one hopes the bees will live,” he says, adding, “Obtaining bees and tools like protective gear (suit, jacket and gloves), a hive tool, and a smoker

were next.” Each element plays a crucial role in ensuring both the beekeeper and the bees thrive in harmony.

Italian honeybees are Kirksey’s choice. He feels they are better adapted to our climate and environment, whereas beekeepers in the northern U.S. may prefer honeybees better adapted to cold weather. He acknowledges that other types of honeybees often appear in his hives.

Bees can be kept in a backyard or a rooftop, but safety should be a prime consideration. Children, pets, and service persons playing or working near a hive can be at high risk of being seriously stung. Kirksey warns, “Honeybees can be very, very aggressive (and unpredictable) at times.” With safety

measures in check, soon, his backyard was a haven for the hardworking pollinators.

“Getting stung occasionally, I will say, just goes with the territory,” admits Kirksey. “However, good quality protective gear, if used correctly, will eliminate most stings.”

Yet, beekeeping is not without its stings and surprises. The beekeeper recounts a memorable moment — he got too close to the hot metal when lighting his smoker, which resulted in a small hole in the veil (face netting) of his bee suit. “...the bees,” he says, “found the hole instantly. I got several stings on my face. I learned quickly that if bees are in your bee suit, running away doesn’t do much good.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIRK KIRKSEY

Kirk Kirksey manages a hive at Rancho Incognito.

THE RIGHT QUEEN

“The life of a honeybee begins with the queen,” Kirksey says,

“She’s responsible for laying up to 1,000 eggs a day during spring and summer.

These eggs hatch into larvae, which then develop into capped pupae. Finally, they emerge as mature worker bees.”

Beekeepers constantly PLEASE SEE **BUZZ** | C12

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BUZZ

FROM PAGE C11

must check to ensure the queen is present and healthy and that worker bees are developing as they should. "A healthy hive is often referred to as "queen right." Worker bees, who live for about 45 days, have various tasks inside the hive before spending the last two weeks of their lives outside, foraging for pollen, nectar, water and resin which they use to make propolis — the "glue" bees use to reinforce hive structure and provide protection against pathogens.

Beekeepers have special tasks to attend to each season. The following dates are approximations and depend on local environmental conditions.

Throughout the year, beekeepers have distinct responsibilities with the changing seasons. Kirksey explains during the first bloom period from Winter Solstice to mid-May, "the queen resumes egg-laying after winter lull. Bees gather pollen from small blossoms to convert to larval food. Populations inside hives explode as new worker bees are born. Hive peak population could reach 20,000-30,000 individuals." During this time, beekeepers may

need to supplement honey stores with sugar syrup, adjust hive configurations to prevent swarming, and treat varroa mites to maintain hive health.

In the season of nectar flow (mid-May to the end of June), large nectar-bearing blossoms appear. Bees bring home nectar to convert to honey, and beekeepers may split hives to prevent swarming.

"The summer dearth beekeeper season is June to mid-September," Kirksey says, "The dog days of Texas summer have burned up most wildflowers. Bees may gather "honeydew" from oak and pecan trees as a nectar substitute."

In winter prep, mid-September to Nov. 1, bees conserve resources, and beekeepers prepare hives for colder weather. Bees reduce their population to around 8,000. "In our area, honeybees must have 20-30 pounds of honey inside the hive to survive the winter," says Kirksey.

Finally, during winter (mid-November to mid-March), bees cluster to keep warm, allowing beekeepers a break from active management.

Understanding these cycles is crucial for beekeepers to maintain healthy colonies year-round. Honeybees use a

complex biochemical process to transform plant nectar into honey. The last step requires them to reduce the water content to less than 18% and seal it with a wax cap. Beekeepers extract honey by removing wax caps from frames, which are then spun in an extractor to remove honey. Extracted honey is strained to remove beeswax. Lastly, the Kirkseys only bottle their honey in glass jars.

When asked about the most memorable moment in his beekeeping experience, Kirksey answered, "... the first time I tasted honey fresh from my own hive."

CONTROVERSY

Beyond the honey harvest, hive caretaking and inspections, Kirksey recognizes that environmental conservation and biodiversity are very controversial issues. He emphasizes the vital role honeybees play as mass pollinators.

"Honeybees and other insects share the same problems, mainly loss of habitat and the poisoning of food sources with pesticides and herbicides. Insects/pollinators — not just honeybees — benefit from the scientific and political effort to solve these problems."

Beekeeping is exciting and can be done in different ways,

whether you're a big business or someone with a few hives. But it's easy to underestimate how much time, money and know-how it takes. Many new beekeepers need help, with about 70% failing in their first year.

"The essence of beekeeping is problem-solving. There is no cookbook formula for success. In many ways, successful beekeeping relies more on the resilience and adaptability of honeybees than on the beekeeper's skill. There is always something new and often surprising to learn. Beekeeping is a continual learning/trying journey. There will be failures. There will always be successes." After all, as Kirksey aptly puts it, "Ask three beekeepers the same question, and you'll get five different answers. Each answer will start with 'It depends ...' Many things work. The key is finding what works best for you."

CONTINUALLY LEARNING

As the president of the Glen Rose Dino-Bee Beekeeping Club, Kirksey and other local beekeepers learn from one another and promote beekeeping practices. He is also a board member of the Texas Honeybee Education Association (THBEA), which is part of the Texas Beekeepers

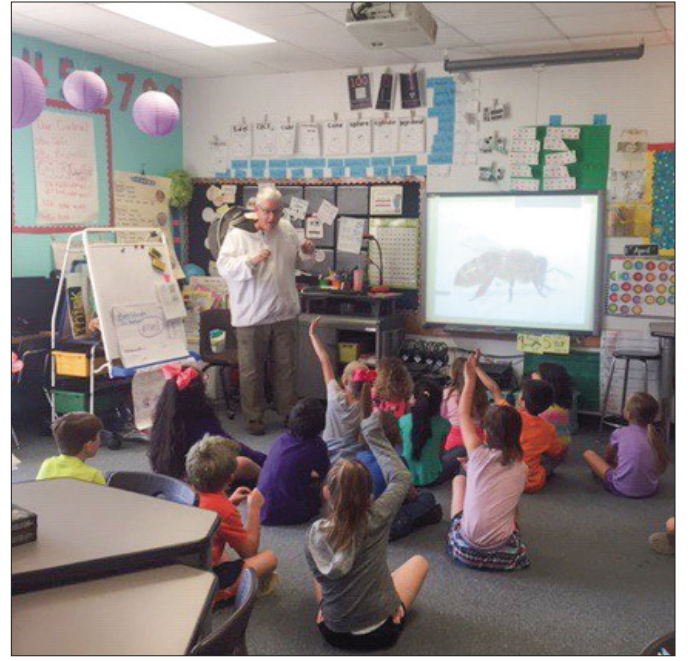


PHOTO COURTESY OF KIRK KIRKSEY

Kirk Kirksey teaches students at Baccus Elementary about bees in 2019.

Association. Kirksey says, "We are committed to promoting beekeeping education across Texas. Clubs like ours try to give people a clear picture of what beekeeping involves, both the good parts and the tough parts."

Through teaching, workshops, mentorship programs and community outreach, Kirksey is honest about the work, risk and money

involved. "It might sound discouraging," he says, "but it's important to know what you're getting into if you want to succeed in beekeeping."

If you are interested in more information about beekeeping and classes, visit www.dino-bee.com or on Facebook.

FUNDRAISER

FROM PAGE C8

2019. "All funds raised are dedicated entirely to supporting Forward Training Center's programs," says Hays, "These funds cover expenses such as curriculum materi-

als, food, childcare and necessary equipment, ensuring the continuity and effectiveness of the programs."

The event is open to the public and promises a day of fun and competition. Participants, aged 12 and above, can bring their own guns and ammunition, al-

though ammunition can be purchased at the venue.

"To register, you can call Forward Training Center at 817-573-6677, visit us online, or come by our office at 600 W. Pearl Street in Granbury," says Hays.

There will be contests, activities, barbecue pro-

vided by Hard 8 BBQ, and awards for the top-scoring teams and individuals, with recognition for ladies and youth shooters. Additionally, all participants will receive swag bags, with raffle and auction items.

The success of the Clay Shoot Fundraiser wouldn't

be possible without the support of numerous sponsors, the dedication of volunteers, the expertise of consultants and Defender Outdoors Clay Sports Ranch for serving as the venue. Forward Training Center continues its mission of fostering life-changing experiences through educa-

tional initiatives, not only for adults but also for the youth through programs like Powered for Life.

For additional information, contact: Forward Training Center 600 W. Pearl St. Granbury, TX 817-573-6677. Website: ForwardTrainingCenter.com.

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