



A BLAST FROM THE PAST



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTOS

The 2024 Annual Fourth of July Hometown Celebration and festivities begin on Thursday July 2 and end on Saturday July 7.

Granbury to celebrate '50 Golden Years' of fireworks and family fun

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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From humble beginnings to a beloved tradition, Granbury's annual Fourth of July celebration has continuously brought the community together in a shared display of love and local pride.

While the first-ever Granbury Fourth of July was an "undaunted success," according to a 1976 article from the Hood County News, it's safe to say that co-founders Charlie and Jean Cate never anticipated just how grandiose the celebration would become 50 years later.

1974
According to the HCN article, between 7,500 and 10,000 people were on hand to join in Granbury's inaugural Fourth of July celebration. The event began with a Pet Parade and ended with a giant fireworks display over the lake. In between came a parade, fish fry, dancing, music, a fashion show, bicycle contests, hot dogs, cake, children's rides — and the hot air balloons. The first balloon went aloft during the parade to please the crowd while other balloons followed throughout the

afternoon. While Granbury's first Fourth of July did not have a theme or a grand marshal, the senior citizens of Hood County were saluted at the event.

1984
The 10-year celebration in 1984, however, wasn't as widely attended as previous years. The HCN reports that since July 4 fell on a Wednesday, attendance was lower due to work conflicts. Buffalo burgers were still a hot item though, with about 1,200 burgers sold on the square. Additionally, Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce President Bobbie Jordan said she heard

PLEASE SEE **BLAST** | A5

Dressed in red, white, and blue from head to toe, this patriotic cutie from 2002 was ready to celebrate in Granbury style.



COURTESY PHOTO

Luke Cunningham

Former youth minister arrested on child sexual assault allegations

From Staff Reports

Luke Cunningham, a former student minister for Lakeside Baptist Church, was recently arrested and charged with sexual assault of a child and aggravated sexual assault of an adult.

The 41-year-old pastor was arrested June 19 by United States Marshals in Shallowater — a small town near Lubbock — on suspicion of sexual assault of a child, according to the Lubbock County Jail inmate list.

While in jail June 20, Cunningham was charged with two counts of sexual assault of a child and one count of aggravated sexual assault of an adult.

His bond was originally set at \$200,000 by a judge, but an additional \$300,000 was recommended by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office due to the new charges, resulting in a \$500,000 total bond.

According to a statement released by Lakeside Baptist Church, the pastors and lay leaders received information from outside the church that Cunningham had been accused of inappropriate conduct with a minor in another church. Upon learning of the accusation, LBC immediately suspended Cunningham, barred his interaction with the church and students, and conducted an investigation. Within days, LBC stated that it had found enough evidence

PLEASE SEE **MINISTER** | A2

Suspect fatally shot after firing at HCSO deputies

From Staff Reports

Hood County Sheriff's Office deputies recently experienced a harrowing incident after a disturbance call resulted in a fatal exchange of gunfire.

According to Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds, deputies responded to a disturbance in the 4000 block of Peak Road around 9 a.m. Monday, June 24. Upon arrival, HCSO deputies were fired upon by a single suspect. HCSO deputies then returned fire and the suspect was later pronounced deceased.

"There is no active threat to the community at this time and no deputies were seriously injured," Deeds said.

The Texas Department of Public Safety — Texas Ranger Division responded to the scene and is investigating the incident. There is no further information to be released at this time, according to officials.



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

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GRANBURY'S HOMETOWN 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 4

- 7:15am | Kiwanis Firecracker 5k Run/Walk at Tidwell Field
- 9:00am | Parade at Beginning At Granbury High School
- 9:00am-5:00pm | Vendors on the Square
- 11:30am | Mambrino Music Crew at Granbury Square Plaza
- 12:00pm | Texas Elite ATA Martial Arts Demo at Granbury Square Plaza
- 1:00pm-2:00pm | Mysterious Scoundrels Trio at Granbury Square Plaza
- 3:00pm-5:00pm | Jason Elmore and the Hoodoo Witch at Granbury Square Plaza
- 7:30pm | Granbury TX 4th of July Rodeo at Reunion Grounds
- 9:45pm | FIREWORKS SHOW! K-HITS 95.5 will simulcast the Fireworks Show.

*Military Vehicle Display at Langdon Center All Day-All Weekend

JULY 5

- 10:00am-5:00pm | Vendors on the Square
- 10:30am | YMCA Line Dancing at Granbury Square Plaza
- 11:00am | Dance Dreams at Granbury Square Plaza
- 11:30am | Texas Elite ATA Martial Arts Demo at Granbury Square Plaza
- 1:00pm-2:00pm | Jason Cartmell Trio at Granbury Square Plaza
- 3:00pm-5:00pm | Landon Dodd & TheDancehall Drifters at Granbury Square Plaza
- 7:30pm | Lost Shaker of Salt at Granbury Live
- 7:30pm | Granbury TX 4th of July Rodeo at Reunion Grounds
- 7:30pm | Disney's Newsies The Musical at Granbury Opera House

JULY 6

- 10:00am-5:00pm | Vendors on the Square
- 10:00am | YMCA Zumba at Granbury Square Plaza
- 10:30am | Gym-Kat Sport Center at Granbury Square Plaza
- 11:00am | Hot Dog Eating Contest by Southern Star Market at Granbury Square Plaza
- 11:30am | Texas Elite ATA Martial Arts Demo at Granbury Square Plaza
- 1:00pm-2:00pm | The Suitcase Trio at Granbury Square Plaza
- 2:00pm & 7:30 pm | Disney's Newsies The Musical at Granbury Opera House
- 3:00-5:00pm | Texas Slim Trio at Granbury Square Plaza
- 7:00-9:00pm | Mysterious Scoundrels at Bridge Street
- 7:30pm | Lost Shaker of Salt at Granbury Live
- 9:30pm | LASER LIGHT SHOW at Bridge Street

JULY 7

- 10:00am-4:00pm | Vendors on the Square
- 1:00pm | Texas Elite ATA Martial Arts Demo at Granbury Square Plaza
- 1:30pm | Pie Eating Contest at Granbury Square Plaza
- 2:00pm | Disney's Newsies The Musical at Granbury Opera House



Scan the QR code for a full list of events, trolley info, and where to watch the parade and fireworks.

granburychamber.com/hometown-4th-of-july/

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Exciting Women In Business Afterhours Event: Bougie Bingo!

PRESENTING SPONSOR





AFTER HOURS

BOUGIE BINGO

July 23 | 5:30-8pm
Celebration Hall

\$30 Members / \$40 General Admission!!



REFRESHMENT SPONSORS





Granbury Chamber of Commerce

The Women In Business committee is delighted to announce its upcoming Afterhours event, "Bougie Bingo," scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Celebration Hall. This event promises an evening of networking, fun, and of course, bingo!

EVENT DETAILS:

- **Date:** Tuesday, July 23rd
- **Time:** 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
- **Location:** Celebration Hall
- **Sponsors:**
- **Presenting Sponsor:** Pearl Dentures and Dental Care
- **Refreshment Sponsors:** D'Vine Wine, First National Bank, and Capital Title

This special event is designed to bring together women from various business sectors in a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. Bougie Bingo is not your average bingo night; it combines

the classic game with a touch of elegance and sophistication and a vibrant ambiance, making it a perfect opportunity for professional women to unwind and socialize.

Pearl Dentures and Dental Care, our presenting sponsor, is known for its exceptional dental services and commitment to community involvement. Its support ensures Bougie Bingo will be an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

Our refreshment sponsors, D'Vine Wine, First National Bank and Capital Title, will provide a delightful selection of beverages and snacks. D'Vine Wine will offer a curated selection of fine wines to enjoy throughout the evening, enhancing the upscale bingo experience. First National Bank and Capital Title's contributions guarantee guests will have plenty of delicious refreshments to complement their night of bingo and networking.

Tickets for Bougie Bingo are \$30 for chamber members and

\$40 for general admission. Each ticket includes two drink tickets, a delicious charcuterie spread, and the chance to win exciting door prizes. This is an excellent opportunity for women to connect, share ideas and build relationships in a supportive and dynamic environment. Whether you're looking to expand your professional network or simply enjoy a fun night out, Bougie Bingo has something for everyone.

Don't miss out on this fantastic event! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, July 23, and join us at Celebration Hall for a night of Bougie Bingo. Come ready to play, mingle and enjoy a memorable evening with the incredible women of our business community.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Granbury Chamber at www.granburychamber.com or call us at 817-573-1622. We look forward to seeing you there!

PLEASE SEE MORE COMMUNITY BUSINESS | A4

MINISTER

FROM PAGE A1

to turn him over to the personnel committee, who immediately released him from employment.

LBC immediately reported what was discovered to law enforcement agencies with the state of Texas, as well as agencies in both Lubbock and Granbury. Pastors and lay leaders also encouraged those with direct information to contact law enforcement and all other staff was instructed to come forward and cooperate fully with law enforcement.

LBC announced it continues its partnership with MinistrySafe, a program that provides comprehensive training, screening forms, policies and an online system of prevention in sexual abuse risk.

"Pastoral and lay leaders are evaluating the events leading to the present crisis so that we can provide the best safeguards for our children and members," the statement reads. "Although we are not aware of any assaults having occurred with any of our students, we wish to say again that we stand ready to continue offering help with professional counselors. Moreover, if you or your child have been a victim of sexual abuse or have information that would help law enforcement, please contact law enforcement immediately."

LBC stated it stands firmly against clerical sexual abuse and added that if the Southern Baptist Convention had a working database for offenders, the church would've likely never been exposed to Cunningham.

"We plan to do everything

possible to encourage national leaders to exercise their spiritual responsibility, identify perpetrators in the churches, and stop this from happening again," the statement reads. "Until then, we plan to reevaluate and institute our own even more rigorous processes. Out of respect for law enforcement officers, we must refrain from commenting any further about particular people or events.

"We ask you to join with us in praying for the victims of clerical sexual abuse, in praying for perpetrators to repent of their gross evil and be brought to justice, and in praying for all of the families and churches who have been harmed."

As of press time, Cunningham is currently being held in the Lubbock County jail. The investigation is still ongoing.



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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Are times tough, or are expectations out of control?



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.
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Over the course of the past year Taylor Swift has been performing concerts around the country and around the world. She is a phenomenon, an icon, and an entertainer whose success is truly not comparable to those who came before her. Since her entrance into show business in 2006, she has been nothing short of a musical comet soaring across the heavens with an intensity never previously experienced.

She is the first performer whose wealth comes primarily from music, who can genuinely be classified as a billionaire. She sold over 200 million records by 2019!

This past year Taylor began her "Eras Tour" and tickets were priced at a ridiculously high amount. But no one ever experienced the sticker shock Swift fans

received once her April 19 album was released. Once her new music was introduced, her remaining nine U.S. tour shows had an average, just-to-get-in-the-door price of \$2,600 a ticket! No, that is not a misprint; I am not hallucinating: according to Billboard Magazine, it is a fact. This means for two 16-year-olds to go to a concert in New Orleans or Indianapolis, the cost would be over \$5,000! What does it say that the shows were sold out?

Here are some numbers which will shock you. According to Billboard, if, instead of going to the concert in New Orleans, a "Swiftie" would travel to Paris to see the same show, the base ticket price was 87% less! This literally means two people could buy concert tickets for a Paris show, fly there, stay in a nice hotel, experience Paris and return home, and still be money ahead. Why were tickets cheaper in Europe? There was still a

large demand and the shows sold out, but Europeans would simply not pay like Americans, and the promoters knew that.

I am not going to challenge the affection fans have for Taylor Swift. They adore her and there is nothing wrong with that. Just two weeks ago someone who I musically admire, George Strait, had the largest ticketed event in the history of North America. Over 110,000 fans attended the show with the host, Texas A&M, setting prices from \$59 to \$3,000 per ticket. Remember, 110,000 people were at this single show. Clearly, paying huge numbers for a concert ticket is not limited to young teenage girls; it crosses all demographics.

The thought that runs through my mind is: how many people who went to those shows were late making their car payment, ran up the balance on a credit card which was already too big, or failed to meet some other

financial obligation because they went to the show? I am afraid to learn the answer.

Personally, I have a hard time trying to imagine spending this kind of money for a couple of hours of entertainment. These are not people saving their lunch money and doing without because they want to go to the concert next weekend. These are people spending three or four months' worth of groceries to go to a show, maybe even the cost of several months' worth of house payments! Their priority was not on the amount of the expenditure, but what they wanted to do in the instant. Not only do they want to do whatever they wish, but they seem to feel like they are entitled to it.

Have I ever spent money foolishly? I guess that would be a matter of opinion and I am sure I have demonstrated poor judgment a time or two. But what happened to meeting obligations first, and then spending what is

left over on fun and frivolity? I keep hearing people complain about how families are struggling, how inflation is robbing them, and how it is tougher to get by. I think some of that may be true but at the same time it is a lot tougher when people spend money they don't need, at a time when they shouldn't be spending at all. Life never told you that you were entitled to something just because you desired it. There once was a time when folks knew that and practiced it.

At the end of the day, I'm not sure the folks who go about seeking the instant gratification they cannot afford are any happier than their counterparts — they are just poorer.

Thought for the day: I want my children to acquire all the things I could never afford; then I am going to move in with them!

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Jerry Floyd

Say hello to our neighbor, Jerry Floyd!

Jerry and his wife, Jana, were drawn to Granbury by the allure of lake life after he retired from the oil and gas business in 2020. Their love for boating and fishing made Granbury an obvious choice for retirement. They enjoy hosting their son, Travis, and daughter, Sarah's, families and spending time with their four grandchildren, three of whom inherited a love of swimming and regularly participate in summer SEALS swim sessions at the YMCA. Travis enjoys weight training, while Jana participates in water aerobics at the Hood County YMCA. The couple love the people of Hood County and especially enjoy the community and fellowship they find as members of the Granbury Baptist Church. As season ticket holders, the Floyds take in the fabulous productions of the Granbury Theater Company and also enjoy attending many of the Granbury Live! tribute concerts. They have been subscribers of the Hood County News since their first year in the area and especially look for information on local sports, fishing reports, and local politics. Seeing a grandchild's name and even a photo from a SEALS meeting in the HCNews is always a delight for the Floyds.

Hood County News shines at the Texas Press Association Convention

From Staff Reports

The Texas Press Association celebrated its 50th annual convention last weekend in College Station. The meeting saw dedicated newspaper professionals from throughout Texas come together to share ideas, business practices and development plans in hopes of carrying on the best characteristics of the newspaper

profession. As part of the proceedings, the Association presented its annual Texas Better Newspaper Contest Award Winners.

In the contest, newspapers from around the state submit samples of photos, news stories, columns, advertisements, sports writing, layout and other aspects of newspapering. The entries are judged by a panel of out-of-state newspaper profes-

sionals for their quality and excellence.

Hood County News staff member Layth Taylor was the first place winner for outstanding achievement in the field of photojournalism in Sports Photography Division 5.

Additionally, Hood County News Publisher Sam Houston was recognized as the first place winner in the Column Writing Category for an entry

from his weekly column, "My Front Porch."

Hyde Media Group LLC President Kim Ware received the distinguished and coveted Frank Mayhorn Award for Service to the Community. In addition to her role as president of Hyde Media, Ware is the publisher of the Tri-County Reporter, a Hyde Media newspaper located in Azle.

Sheriff's Office, GISD enhance student safety through new agreement

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Sheriff's Office and the Granbury Independent School District have entered into a new agreement — specifically a memorandum of understanding — to enhance student safety.

According to the MOU, both the HCSO and GISD desire to enter into a memorandum of understanding with regard to communication and coordination of efforts between the agencies. This cooperative effort will assist in the agencies' respective responsibilities and mission to serve the citizens of both Hood County and GISD.

"They're going to have tactical channels to talk amongst themselves, and that won't bother us; they won't be coming into dispatch," Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds said. "The only way we're going to get something into dispatch on one channel is if they've got a critical incident or they need an ambulance, fire truck or law enforcement, then

they can switch the channel over from whichever school they're at, call into dispatch at that point in time, and we'll dispatch it like a regular call."

With an agreement already in place between the city of Granbury, GISD and the Granbury Police Department, Deeds said the GPD will be the main entity responding to any problems on campus, as most schools are in the city limits.

"We only have (STEAM Academy at) Mambrino out in the county, so the vast majority of their schools — unless something really bad happens — it'll be Granbury (PD) that's responding," he said.

Deeds added that previously, HCSO was receiving second- or third-hand information during serious school incidents. However, with this new MOU in place, Deeds said HCSO will now receive "direct from the source" information.

"It's not going to do any extra stuff for overloading the dispatchers, but I think it'll help protect the kids; that's the main thing," he

added.

According to the MOU, GISD shall call and/or radio the HCSO's Emergency Communications Center to advise of any serious incident that occurs within GISD. The HCSO ECC shall then dispatch an appropriate response per its current standard operating procedures.

The term "serious incident" includes, but is not limited to the following crimes, offenses or situations or evidence thereof:

1. Any first degree felony;
2. Murder or attempted murder;
3. Aggravated robbery where a firearm or knife is used;
4. Aggravated sexual assault;
5. Sexual assault of an adult or a child;
6. Any report of indecent exposure or solicitation of a child;
7. Aggravated assault where a gun or weapon is used or threatened;
8. Any bomb or explosive weapon is used or threatened;
9. Any disturbance where

a mass or group is involved (i.e., riot); or

10. Any medical emergencies, due to the complexity of processing the call for service, should be sent via 911 and at last resort by radio.

The Hood County Sheriff's Office ECC shall actively monitor one talk group designated by the Granbury Independent School District.

Either party may withdraw from and terminate the MOU on 90 days' written notice to the other party.

The MOU will also be re-evaluated during the 2026 budget cycle to undergo a fiscal evaluation to see how many radio calls and dispatch calls are being routed through the ECC and to see how many man-hours are being devoted to the talk group.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson made a motion to enter into the memorandum of understanding between GISD and the HCSO. Following a second by Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle, the motion passed unanimously.

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Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

County designates July 7 as Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Day

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

HOOD COUNTY Americans will 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.

FREE TRAVEL presentation about Spain at noon as part of the Healthy Connections program at Lake Granbury Medical Center. To register call: 682-500-1524.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

GRANBURY COMMUNITY Bank Free Patriotic Concert, 3 p.m. at Granbury Baptist Church, 1200 Weatherford Highway.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

GRANBURY JAZZ Orchestra Free Concert, 3 p.m. at Granbury Baptist Church, 1200 Weatherford Highway.

MONDAY, JULY 8

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Meet the Juneteenth Essay Contest Winners and our high school senior TDW scholarship recipients. 11 a.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377, Granbury. Details, call 254-716-5195.

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.

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE FOURTH OF JULY!



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Members of the Hood County Commissioners Court stand with Friends of Memorial Lane Chairman Laura Fisher during the designation of July 7, 2024, as Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Day in Hood County.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to designate July 7 as Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Day in Hood County during a regularly scheduled meeting June 21.

According to the proclamation, Gov. Greg Abbott originally designated July 7 as Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Day in Texas in 2016 in recognition of the

ultimate sacrifice made by Texas law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. Abbott made the day official with the signing of

House Bill 3042 during the 85th legislative session, following the 2016 attack on peace officers in Dallas. The attack resulted in the death of five officers.

The proclamation states this was the deadliest attack on U.S. law enforcement since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack.

"It is our officers who put their lives on the line for us every day, to ensure our safety and wellbeing," the proclamation states. "We must stand in support of

these brave men and women and their sacrifices must be remembered."

The Hood County Commissioners Court recognizes July 7, 2024, as Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Day in Hood County, and asks that all citizens take a moment to honor the memory of these fallen heroes who died in the line of duty and to pray for their families and communities.

Friends of Memorial Lane Chairman Laura Fisher also announced during the

meeting that a vigil will take place at 8 p.m. July 7, at Memorial Lane Park, 550 N. Travis St., to honor all Texas officers killed from July 1 to June 30 in the last calendar year.

A memorial flag will also be presented to the family of the late Hood County Jail Corrections Officer Dusty Wren, who passed away Feb. 29.

"Thank you for all your support," Fisher added.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS FROM | A2

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Member Spotlight

Granbury Christmas Light Installers
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Granbury Christmas Light Installers

"Christmas decorations for your home should be safe, quick and easy. But all too often hanging Christmas lights is more of a hassle than a joy."

COURTESY GRAPHICS

New Member Spotlight: Granbury Christmas Light Installers. "We thrive on Christmas Light customer service. We have over 20 years decorating experience. Not only can we service your holiday installation needs but we have the extra decoration services of a full graphic design department for banner installation and window graphics at your disposal." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Member Spotlight

U.S. DERMATOLOGY PARTNERS

U.S. Dermatology Partners on Hwy 377

"U.S. Dermatology Partners is one of the largest dermatology practices in the country, caring for more than 2 million patients each year with over 100 locations across eight states."

New Member Spotlight: U.S. Dermatology Partners. "U.S. Dermatology Partners is one of the largest dermatology practices in the country, caring for more than 2 million patients each year with over 100 locations across eight states. Whether you're seeking treatment for a specific skin condition or require preventative care, our dermatologists are here to be your lifelong skincare partners. From childhood to your golden years, you can trust us to deliver exceptional results and support you at every stage of your skincare journey." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Jeremy Glenn

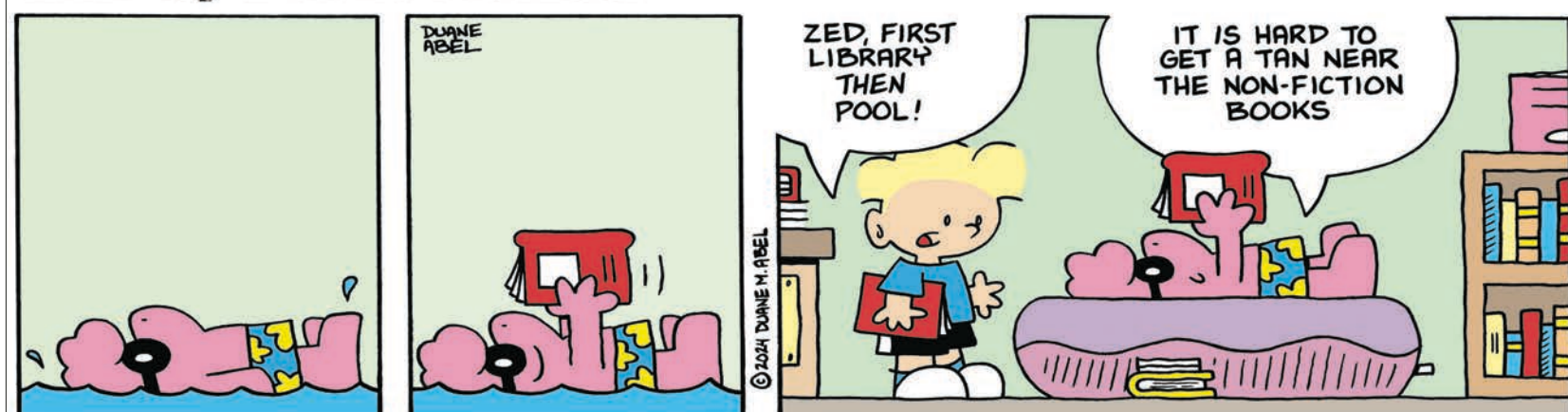
Business: Granbury ISD
Time as a Board Member: 5 years

Board Member Spotlight: Dr. Jeremy Glenn. We are thankful for our Board Member, Dr. Jeremy Glenn with Granbury ISD!! Dr. Glenn has been on the Granbury Chamber Board for 5 years! When asked why he likes being a Board Member, he replied, "The Chamber provides incredible networking opportunities and an opportunity to serve in a growing, vibrant community." Fun Fact about Dr. Glenn: "I was a 7-time Grammy Award-winning country music star Kacey Musgraves Junior High English Teacher." Thank you for serving on the Granbury Chamber Board!

CORRECTION

The Hood County News inadvertently listed incorrect names as the winners of the Juneteenth Essay Contest. The winners in the Middle School Division were First Place Jack Martin and Second Place Dash Greenway. The winners in the High school Division the winners were First Place Ronnie Graves, Second Place Eli Sisco, and Third Place (Tie) Nora Asanti-Wiredu and Anthony Batey. We apologize for this error.

ZED by Duane M. Abel





MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTOS

John Calvin Campbell, known to most as J.C., kicked off the 2008 July 4th as Parade Marshal. Campbell, a widely beloved and respected figure in Granbury, passed away on March 30th, 2021

BLAST

FROM PAGE A1

comments about the parade being the “best parade they have ever had.”

The 1984 theme was “Oldies but Goodies,” and the Cates were named dual grand marshals; they became grand marshals again in 1992.

1994

For the 20th anniversary, Granbury saw a record number in attendance as more than 40,000 people attended the three-day event. Some observers thought the fireworks display over the lake topped all previous shows, and the parade also included a record-breaking 140 entries.

The 1994 theme was Lake Granbury Splash Blast, and former GSD basketball coach Leta Andrews was named the grand marshal for that year.

2004

Granbury’s Fourth of July 30th celebration for 2004 was also a success, as more than 50,000 people gathered to experience the festivities. Christy Brabec, Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce office manager, said everything went a little smoother than years past. More people gathered at the Family Fun area at Shanley Park than in previous years, as the area included family-friendly activities including a rock-climbing wall, petting zoo, airbrush tattoos and an old-fashioned candy store.

Commemorative 2004 Fourth of July T-shirts were also available for sale at the Lake Granbury Area Chamber of Commerce. The shirt featured a logo created for the anniversary celebration by local artist Eden Duncan, who is a current staff writer/content manager for the Hood County News.

The theme for 2004 was 30 Red, White and Beautiful Years and the grand marshal was local historian Mary Kate Durham.

2014

Granbury’s patriotic tradition was alive and kicking for the 40th anniversary. Thousands lined the street for the parade and good crowds were reported for activities all weekend. Granbury Chamber of Commerce President Mike

Scott told the Hood County Commissioners Court before the celebration the event was expected to bring “close to 100,000 into the county” over the three-day weekend, having a tourism impact of \$3 million to \$5 million.

The theme was 40 Years of Patriotic Tradition and the grand marshal was, again, Jean Cate, along with Judge Ralph Walton.

MILESTONE YEARS

2020

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Scott canceled the popular 4th of July parade. The chamber later reinstated the parade and festival but agreed that the celebration would be promoted as a locals-only event. However, the city, county and chamber agreed to cancel the parade a second time. Plans for vendors and a July 4 fireworks show remained in place.

There was not a theme or a grand marshal for 2020.

2021

Perhaps one of the most memorable Fourth of July events was the year 2021, when attendees “soaked” up the fun during a heavy rain pour. According to HCN Publisher Sam Houston — who wrote about the event in his column that year — initially the rain was lightly falling, but not more than 10 minutes in, the sky opened up and “Mother Nature released her rainy fury.” He said the rain seemed to come down in buckets as military vehicles, wagons, trailers, horseback riders, and floats rolled down the street. He said the observers applauded and waved to their friends in the parade and laughed at how “Granburians did not have the good sense to come in out of the rain.”

“At one point, I looked at my wife and asked if she could remember the Fourth of July parade from six years ago,” Houston said in his column from July 10, 2021. “She looked at me and shook her head no and then curiously asked me, ‘Why?’ I told her, ‘No one remembers the parade from six years ago, because it was simply a terrific Granbury Fourth of July parade. Everyone will remember this parade because the Chamber kept it going during a downpour.’”

Even current Granbury Chamber of Commerce President Brian Bondy — who was in his first year as president in 2021 — said he had no idea that everyone was having a blast in the rain.

“It really spoke to the community’s love for this event,” he told the HCN. “This community loves independence, they love this country, and that parade is a reflection of both of those values. ... I’ll never forget it, and if you ask people about the year that it rained, they’ll be able to tell you exactly where they were.”

50 GOLDEN YEARS OF STARS AND STRIPES

For half a century, Granbury has been fostering patriotic spirit in residents and visitors alike in a crescendo of red, white and blue — and this year is no different.

This year’s theme is 50 Years of Stars and Stripes and the grand marshal will be Kevin Watson, owner of Empire Realty. To make the honor even more special, Watson was born in 1974 when the parade first began.

“There’s so many stories like that of people who were part of it, and they’re still here,” Bondy said. “When you look at the names of people who were grand marshals, you would think it would be all these famous people, but a lot of them were just regular folks.”

Some “famous” former grand marshals include radio personality Dick Siegel, Olympic gold swimmer Dana Vollmer, and Peter Mayhew, who played Chewbacca in Star Wars.

“It’s pretty fascinating from a historical perspective to just take a look at it all,” Bondy said. “Not only the years that we’ve done it, but thousands of people that have been a part of it. Kids grew up in the parade who are now business owners here or are now retiring here, and it’s pretty amazing.”

Bondy said he still gets goosebumps every year once he sees how many attendees the parade and fireworks bring out.

“Unusually so, it’s carried on for 50 years,” he said. “There’s a lot of communities that started out with good intentions and younger generations come up, but they don’t necessar-

ily want to do the work, and so it falls by the wayside. This one hasn’t fallen by the wayside and that speaks volumes about the people in this community over the last 15 years who have kept the tradition alive. Now, we have to carry that torch forward, and make sure it stays going forward for the next 50 years.”

For the past several years, the parade has only allowed around 80 float entries to minimize the length of the parade. However, with this year being a special celebration, Bondy said the chamber decided to “take the lid off.”

“We said, ‘Because it’s our 50th, let’s go and see how many floats we can get.’ We stopped (allowing entries) on the 31st of May, and then we had quite a few that got on the waiting list so we made the decision to let them in,” Bondy said. “We’re going to have over 100 entries — and that’s before we include our elected official VIPs. ... It’s going to be exciting to see a lot of floats this year, and (many) organizations are coming in from other parts of the state that will be entries in the parade. We’re just really excited.”

The four-day celebration this year will feature many live musical performances and the parade will also feature a military vehicle from a company called War Fox. “They’re going to be driving a street legal armored personnel carrier in the parade along with a couple of other military trucks,” Bondy said. “They’re going to be on display at the Langdon Center all weekend. Kids can climb on it, sit in it, touch it, feel it, all that kind of stuff, so it’s very family friendly.”

To continue with the one-of-a-kind festivities, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce has also opened up a merchandise store online that will feature 50th anniversary hats, tumblers, tote bags, tennis shoes, patches and bandanas.

“We’re also having commemorative coins made, and we’re going to give each of the parade entries a coin,” Bondy said. “We’re also going to sell those. There’s only going to be 250 coins made, and by the time it’s all said and done, there’ll be fewer than 125 available for sale.”

Overall, Bondy added he is excited for the 50th anniversary celebration — especially because it’ll bring out the stories of residents who attended the parade many years prior.

“When you start hearing about, ‘Remember back in ‘78?’ — that’s when it starts to become more than just an event, and that’s what we believe it is,” he said. “It’s more than just an event; it’s a celebration of 50 years. And this community has been supporting it (all along).”

Spark new memories, not fireworks, this Fourth of July



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

By attending community-sponsored displays, you can enjoy the celebrations from a distance, without putting yourself or your loved ones in harm’s way.

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

As Independence Day approaches, Lake Granbury Medical Center and Lakeside Physicians emphasizes the importance of fireworks safety to prevent injuries and avoid a trip to the emergency department. While fireworks have been an integral part of Fourth of July festivities since 1777, it has not been without risk and should be handled only by experienced pyrotechnicians.

“Leave the fireworks to the professionals,” said Jill Gregg, pediatric nurse practitioner. “By attending community-sponsored displays, you can enjoy the celebrations from a distance, without putting yourself or your loved ones in harm’s way.”

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, fireworks-related incidents have led to a significant number of injuries and fatalities. In fact, in 2022, there were 11 reported deaths and more than 10,000 injuries treated in emergency departments due to misuse, malfunction or tip-overs.

While the majority of incidents were due to amateurs attempting to use professional-grade or homemade fireworks or explosives, less powerful fireworks like firecrackers and sparklers can also cause significant damage. The National Council on Fireworks Safety research shows more than half of sparkler-related injuries happen to children under the age of 14.

While seemingly a harmless way to celebrate, sparklers can reach temperatures exceeding 2,000°F — hot enough to melt some metals.

“If sparklers can melt metals, imagine the severity of the third-degree burns they can cause to hands,”

said Gregg. “Even with adult supervision, there is no safe way for a child to handle a sparkler.”

The most common injuries seen in emergency departments are burns — accounting for 38% of all fireworks-related injuries — but it is important to remember that fireworks injuries can range from minor cuts and bruises to amputation or blindness. The areas most susceptible to injury are hands and fingers, legs, head, face, ears and eyes.

If you or a loved one does get injured, head to the nearest ER if a burn is larger than the size of a palm or if there are any key indicators of infection such as redness, swelling or drainage. For more information or to schedule an appointment with Jill Gregg, pediatric nurse practitioner, please call (817) 326-3900 or visit her online at <https://lakegranbury-medical.com/JillGregg>.



This little buckaroo from way back in 2002 enjoyed a good meal at the reunion grounds before settling in to view the fabulous fireworks display over Lake Granbury.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANDRII, ADOBESTOCK.COM



PRACTICAL METALS BREAKS GROUND IN CRESSON

A new chapter begins



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Practical Metals' founders in white hardhats (pictured from left) Chance Roberts, Nate Roberts, Wade Turner, and Cresson Mayor Ron Becker celebrate with all attendees at the groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, June 24.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff writer
Lauren@hcnews.com

Practical Metals, a division of Practical Building Systems, held a groundbreaking ceremony Monday morning, June 24, at 900 North Cresson Highway in Cresson's B&B Business Park. The event, marked by enthusiastic participation from local dignitaries, industry partners and community members, set the stage for the significant impact the business is expected to have on the Cresson and Hood County economies and beyond. The Practical Metals facility, which will initially span 10,000 square feet, is scheduled to be operational by the beginning of the new year.

The ceremony began slightly later than planned, with attendees navigating morning traffic, but " ... everything was on schedule," confirmed Wade Turner, co-founder and CEO of Practical Metals. "We waited a few minutes as people were still arriving, but overall, it was a timely start."

Among the notable attendees was Cresson Mayor Ron Becker, who graced the occasion as the guest of honor and delivered an inspiring speech. Becker highlighted the positive economic impact and growth potential Practical Metals brings to Cresson. In addition to Becker, the event saw participation from police officers, business partners, staff and family members. A particularly moving moment was the arrival of retired Gunnery Sgt. Aubrey McDade, a Navy Cross recipient and fellow Marine who served with Turner in Iraq.

Turner founded Practical Metals in partnership with Nate Roberts and his son, Chance Roberts, through a collaboration with their company, Asset Materials. The partnership is rooted in their shared Marine Corps background, though they did not serve together. Turner

and Nate Roberts' friendship and mutual respect culminated in forming Practical Building Systems. The merging of their expertise allows them to tackle market challenges and provide superior customer service. "We focus on a customer service model, building relationships with our clients to help them operate more efficiently with high-quality products," Turner explained.

Turner and cofounders Nate Roberts and Chance Roberts took to the stage to address the crowd. "First and foremost, I want to thank Mayor Ron Becker and the people of Cresson for welcoming us and making us feel at home," Turner said. He also thanked their industry partners, vendors, clients and families for their unwavering support.

The weather was a cooperative partner for the day's events. "Thank God for the breeze," Turner joked, appreciating the favorable conditions accompanying the ceremony.

Practical Metals, part of the broader Practical Building Systems, specializes in manufacturing panels, flat sheets, trim components, and converting roll coil into products for commercial



Cresson Mayor Ron Becker welcomes Practical Metals to town at groundbreaking on June 24.

roofers and general contractors. While they occasionally take on residential projects like barndominiums and horse arenas, their primary market is commercial structures, including the current project of building a tabernacle.

Customer service is at the heart of Practical Metals' business model. Turner emphasized the company's focus on building strong client relationships, drawing inspiration from companies like Amazon. "We answer the phone, we take care of our clients, big or small. Speed and efficiency are the biggest names of the game," Turner stated.

Choosing Cresson was both strategic and sentimental. "Cresson is set for significant growth, and we wanted to be part of that,"

Turner said. "It's a great place with friendly people, and its location allows us to distribute our products evenly throughout Texas." The central location of the new facility aids in its goal to establish a national footprint in the coming years.

Turner envisions Practical Metals playing a vital role in the local community, especially regarding employment. Practical Metals is already reaching out to potential employees and preparing training programs for various departments to foster a positive company culture. "We want to bring back those old, traditional American business values where people truly enjoy their work," Turner remarked.

As a service-disabled veteran-owned company, there

is a strong commitment to hiring veterans and fostering a company culture where employees take pride in their work. "We practice what we preach," Turner emphasized. "We want our employees to be proud to say they work for Practical Metals."

Practical Metals has already begun the slow hiring process, targeting individuals with industry experience to head various departments. "We expect to be fully operational by the first of the year, with experienced staff in place," Turner said.

Philanthropy is a crucial component of Practical Metals' core values. Becker and the City Council will play a key role in helping the company contribute effectively to the community. Additionally, Turner and his wife, Cassandra, are actively

involved in local educational initiatives, advocating for vocational skills alongside traditional academic pathways.

Working with local and industry partners is essential as Practical Metals begins this ambitious project. "Our competitors are also our partners," Turner said, emphasizing the industry's unique dynamic that encourages mutual growth and success.

Monday's groundbreaking marks the beginning of a promising journey for Practical Metals, poised to bring innovation, employment and economic growth to Cresson and beyond. With a steadfast commitment to quality and customer service, Practical Metals will significantly impact the metal manufacturing industry.



Pictured from left: Chance Roberts, Nate Roberts, Wade Turner, and Cresson Mayor Ron Becker break ground at Practical Metals.

Hood County partners with Bosque County for new inmate housing



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds speaks to the Hood County Commissioners Court about housing inmates at the Bosque County Jail during a regularly scheduled meeting June 21.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County officially entered into an interlocal agreement with Bosque County regarding the housing of jail inmates during a regularly scheduled meeting June 21.

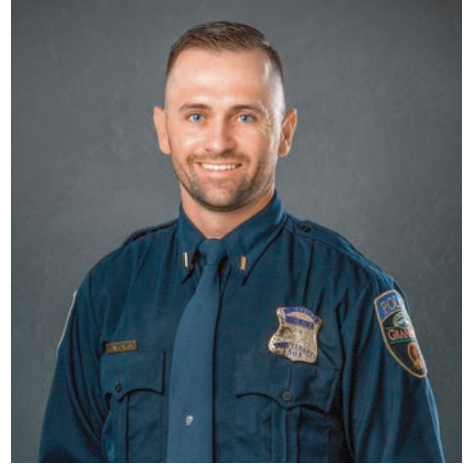
The agreement states that Bosque County currently has excess capacity and the ability to provide housing and care

for Hood County inmates at the Bosque County Jail. In this agreement, Bosque County will provide detention services for

inmates of Hood at the jail, which is owned, operated, and managed by Bosque County. In return, Hood County will pay Bosque County a per-diem rate for detention services under the agreement in the amount of \$85 per inmate per day. According to Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds, Hood County is always looking for another location to house inmates, as the jail has maxed out its capacity.

"Right now, we're doing okay with what we have. We haven't been told to come and get them, but we feel we need to get these contracts in place, just in case," Deeds said. "I got an email that they (Bosque County) had some room and they were wanting to bring on inmates if anybody needed to do so. This was a contract that they put together at \$5 bucks a day per inmate, but it's

PLEASE SEE **HOUSING** | A8



COURTESY PHOTO

Garrett Wiginton: Granbury Deputy Chief of Police.

Granbury PD welcomes new deputy chief of police

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff writer
Lauren@hcnews.com

On Monday, June 17, Garrett Wiginton was promoted to deputy chief of police at the Granbury Police Department. With over 16 years of law enforcement experience, Wiginton is set to bring his extensive knowledge and dedication to his new leadership role.

"I am excited and grateful for the opportunity to serve as the deputy chief of police for the Granbury Police Department," said Wiginton, reflecting on his promotion. Since joining the department in 2008, Wiginton has held key positions such as patrol officer, patrol sergeant, and, for the past seven years, patrol lieutenant, overseeing the patrol division's daily operations. Additionally, Wiginton has dedicated 13 years to the regional SWAT team and has 10 years of service in the United States Army Reserves.

Wiginton acknowledges his new role

PLEASE SEE **CHIEF** | A8

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7 STRAIGHT YEARS

HOUSING

FROM PAGE A7

a backup.”

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews asked Deeds how many beds Bosque County currently has available. Deeds said the number fluctuates from day to day, but the last time Chief Deputy Steve Smith spoke with representatives from Bosque County, they “acted like they had 230 beds.” Deeds added that Bosque County is also actively issuing contracts for other counties to use the additional jail space if needed.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson asked Deeds if it would be feasible to move inmates to Bosque County who are currently housed elsewhere with a higher daily rate.

“We could do that,” Deeds said. “Johnson County’s 100 bucks a day, and it’s not that much more with your drive too, so that’s why I’m always telling the guys back there in the jail, ‘Let’s get them out of the expensive beds and get them into the cheaper beds.’ We do that all the time. That’d be a little less — 15 bucks a day less — and we can get some moved out.”

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle pointed out that Bosque County’s contract for \$85 a day per 30 inmates would equal \$2,550, but that it’s currently \$71 a day to continue housing the inmates at the Hood County jail — totaling \$2,130.

“The difference is \$420 to send these 30 inmates out, plus transportation,” Eagle said. “I just wanted to point that out.”

Samuelson then made a motion to allow County Judge Ron Massingill to sign the interlocal agreement with Bosque County regarding the housing of jail inmates. With a second from Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson, the motion passed unanimously.

CHIEF

FROM PAGE A7

encompasses the entire department. “As deputy chief, my responsibilities will include overseeing the operations of the patrol division, criminal investigative unit, and the administrative section. (I will be) working closely with division commanders to meet the chief’s intent on operations, as well as city leadership and community expectations for our agency,” he explained.

Three core principles — accountability, grace and servant leadership — form the bedrock of Wiginton’s philosophy. “True servant leadership is always placing the needs of others before your own,” Wiginton noted. He is resolute in applying these principles to foster a supportive and efficient department, where each individual’s needs are valued, and the collective goals are achieved.

As deputy chief, Wiginton’s primary goal is to assist Chief Mitch Galvan with implementing organizational objectives and continuing to build on an identity of family,

community and professionalism. “Chief Galvan has done an excellent job of instilling these values within our department, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue building on that identity,” he said.

One of Wiginton’s key initiatives is maintaining and enhancing public trust and safety through transparency, openness and community involvement. “We benefit from a public trust that many other agencies nationwide are not as fortunate to have. Maintaining that trust requires continuous engagement with the community,” he emphasized.

Addressing the department’s challenges, Wiginton highlighted the importance of maintaining public support amid the city’s rapid growth and tackling the nationwide issue of recruiting qualified law enforcement officers. “To address these challenges, we must seize every opportunity to engage with our community and continue building that relationship. We also need to modernize our recruiting strategies to attract

“As deputy chief, my responsibilities will include overseeing the operations of the patrol division, criminal investigative unit, and the administrative section. (I will be) working closely with division commanders to meet the chief’s intent on operations, as well as city leadership and community expectations for our agency.”

GARRETT WIGINTON

Deputy Chief of Police, Granbury Police Department

qualified applicants,” he said.

Reflecting on his career, Wiginton finds the camaraderie among his colleagues to be the most rewarding aspect. “There is a special connection you build with people,” he shared, “when you have stood shoulder-to-shoulder with them and faced the darkness together.

“I would also like to express my gratitude to my beautiful wife, Amber,” said Wiginton. “Her unwavering support throughout my career has been instrumental in reaching this milestone. While officers are frequently recognized for serving the community, their spouses are unsung heroes. They quietly support their partners, managing the challenges of missed birthdays and holidays and leaving the house when the phone rings in the middle of the night — keeping everything together behind the scenes.”

Wiginton encourages college and high school students to consider a career in law enforcement if they feel called to

this profession. “Pursue it relentlessly,” he advises. “Look into departments you’re interested in and do ride-alongs if you’re over 18. Make sure that the department’s culture meets your expectations. In the meantime, work as hard in your current position as you would in your dream department. Often, we have people who apply for work with a poor work history or a pattern of poor decision-making, and we have to pass on their applications. Set yourself up for success by having the highest moral character and being a model employee.”

Wiginton’s inspiration for choosing a career in law enforcement was his father, who served in the field for 35 years. “It was a culture I was immersed in my whole life. I saw everything he was a part of, like the dive team, swift water rescue and the SWAT team,” said Wiginton. “However, I also saw the other side of law enforcement, where he could positively impact and truly minister to others. I remember one time Dad ran into a family who

couldn’t afford their kids’ presents right before Christmas. He and some other officers bought Christmas presents for them out of their pocket, and I got to ride with him to deliver them to the parents on Christmas Eve without the kids knowing. At around 10 years old, I knew then that I wanted to do the same thing when I grew up.”

In his spare time, Wiginton enjoys playing sports with his kids and helping coach their youth leagues, working out at Community Fitness Granbury, and doing almost anything outdoors. “We enjoy going camping, mountain biking and fishing. I’m pretty sure my kids go camping just for the s’mores, though,” he says.

The Granbury community eagerly awaits Deputy Chief Wiginton’s positive impact as he continues the organization’s tradition of excellence. Under his leadership, the department aims to meet community expectations while embodying the principles of service and commitment Wiginton values deeply.

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OBITUARIES

Robert "Bob" Bevill Jr.

June 22, 1936 - June 22, 2024

Robert "Bob" Bevill, Jr. passed away Saturday, June 22, 2024. Graveside service: 10 a.m., Thursday, June 27, 2024, Holly Hills Memorial Park, Visitation: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m., Friday, June 28, 2024, First Baptist Church, Granbury. Celebration of Life Service: 11 a.m., Friday, June 28, 2024, First Baptist Church, Granbury. Services under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home.

Bob was born on June 22, 1936, in Vivian, Louisiana to Johnnie Bevill and Robert Bevill Sr. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corp. He worked as a computer software engineer for General Dynamics and retired from Lockheed Martin.

Bob loved his Lord and Savior. He loved his church and church family very much. He served as a Deacon for many years. He sang in the choir and sang solos and in a quartet. He also sang in the Judge and Jury Quartet for the com-



munity. Bob loved boating, fishing, and fishing. He was preceded in death by his mother, Johnnie Bevill; father, Robert James Bevill Sr.; brother, John Bruce Bevill; and daughter, Becky Bevill.

Survivors: loving wife of 58 years, Mary Richardson Bevill; son, Robert Tillman Bevill; brother, George Andrew Bevill; sister, Anna Bevill Hunsicker; granddaughter, Cami Bevill Duni and her husband David; grandson, Drew Bevill; and many friends and relatives.

Carolyn Fisk Kagy

November 12, 1854 - June 19, 2024

Carolyn Fisk Kagy, age 69, passed away on June 19, 2024 in Clifton, Texas. Carolyn was born on Nov. 12, 1954 in Fort Worth, Texas. Carolyn was a cherished member of the community and a beloved family member.

Carolyn attended Cedar Hill High School and Tarleton State University. She was a long-time resident of Granbury where she was the marketing manager at the Granbury CVB. Carolyn retired to Clifton, Texas after working for the City of Rosenberg as the manager of the Rosenberg Civic Center.

Carolyn enjoyed the outdoors, traveling, and hunting. She was an extraordinary Siamese cat mom.

Carolyn is survived by siblings Dana Comeau, Julie Comeau, and David



Fisk as well as eight nephews and nieces.

No services are scheduled per Carolyn's request and donations can be made to the following charities:

ORCA-orcahope.org, Austin Siamese Rescue-austinrescue.org, Weatherford Whiskers-weatherfordwhiskers.org.

DPS Announces New Texas Highway Patrol Assistant Chief

By The Texas Department of Public Safety

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announces the promotion of Bruce James to Assistant Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol (THP). This promotion is a result of the retirement of Assistant Chief Justin Chrane who served the department for nearly 30 years.

"For nearly three decades, Justin Chrane represented the best of the Texas Department of Public Safety, and we will be forever grateful for his service and dedication to protecting Texas," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "I have no doubt Bruce James will continue with the highest standards we've come to expect, and I look forward to seeing all that he accomplishes in this new role."

Justin Chrane served the department for 27 years, first joining in January of 1997 as a THP Trooper, serving in Decatur, Terrell and Austin. He would later be promoted to sergeant and serve in Bastrop, before being promoted to lieutenant at the Capitol in 2006. In 2008, Chrane promoted to captain and served as the K-9 Coordinator. He was then stationed briefly in El Paso after promoting to major in 2014. Chrane then transferred back to

Austin as operational major and served as the Executive Director of Operation Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort (CARE), a nationwide initiative to reduce and prevent crashes. In March 2020, Chrane promoted to Assistant Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol. Chrane is a second-generation employee.

BRUCE JAMES, ASSISTANT CHIEF, TEXAS HIGHWAY PATROL

Bruce James began his law enforcement career as a patrol officer with the San Angelo Police Department (SAPD) in 1987. He later transferred to SAPD's Criminal Investigation Division specializing in child abuse and neglect investigations. James also spent time serving as SAPD's hit-and-run investigator. In 2000, James joined DPS, his first duty station being in Ozona. In 2007, he transferred to



COURTESY PHOTO

Bruce James, Assistant Chief of the Texas Highway Patrol

the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement (CVE) service and subsequently promoted to sergeant and lieutenant in 2008 and 2011, respectively. In 2014, James promoted to captain in Garland, then transferred to Weslaco and promoted to major in 2018. In 2019, he transferred one last time to serve in the THP Chief's

Office at DPS headquarters in Austin. In June 2024, he was promoted to Assistant Chief. James received the DPS Purple Heart Citation in 2012 and graduated from the Texas DPS Command College in 2017.

James' promotion is effective immediately. He remains stationed at DPS headquarters in Austin.

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SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

1 "got a ___ in my throat" (emotional)

5 TX Roy Orbison hit "It's ___" (1964)

6 home of Baylor

7 film ___ (scam)

8 commercials, e.g.

9 Clay Allison epitaph: "He never killed ___ did not need killing"

16 peko and green

18 in Bandera, "Dixie ___" for city slickers

21 ___ Campo, Texas

22 Maureen O' ___ of film "Rio Grande"

23 TXism: "his facts ___ elastic" (liar)

24 TXism: "it ___ poke in the eye with a sharp stick"

30 TX-based Sunoco once was "___ Company"

34 TXism: "bend ___ elbow" (drink)

35 record companies

36 TX Roy Bean's court ___ was in his Langtry saloon petty quarrels

37 ___ Court is last resort for civil appeals

43 TX Gene Tierney 1945 film: "Leave ___ Heaven"

44 delicious melon: "Pecos Can ___"

45 WBAP ___/FM

46 "it's ___ better days"

47 TXism: " ___ on her" (pretty girl)

49 degraded

52 Texas-based American Airlines would hire this aircraft mainten. worker

53 dir. from Andrews to Junction

54 wind turbine part

55 TXism: "never sign anything in ___ of a neon light"

DOWN

1 Texas Registered Longhorn Beef is this (2 wds.)

2 birth town of TX McConaughey

3 TXism: " ___ su casa" (neighborly)

4 seniors dance

9 just one of 8-across

10 this Ali took TX Foreman's title in 1974 "Rumble"

11 TX singer Meat Loaf was born Marvin Lee ___

12 noted fictional detective, Wolfe

13 thin, ghostly figure

14 laugh word

15 TXism: "plain as the ears ___ mule"

17 7-Eleven slushies

19 Texas Nokona baseball gloves are hand ___

20 this Josh was Aggie offensive line coach (2019-22)

24 great NFL and UT quarterback, Bobby (nit.)

25 enjoy fried okra

26 you can make ___ at Lone Star Park

38 in Duval County on U.S. 59

40 ___ Ross State University in Alpine

41 once a rival to the AP news agency

42 "E" of "EMT"

48 ___ Ward, Texas in Hale County

50 TX Kenny sang you gotta know when to hold 'em and when to ___ 'em

51 OJ's judge, Lance

56 four-bagger by an Astro or Ranger

57 make ecstatic

Talk to your family about wealth transfer

TONY MOBLY
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser

Tony Mobly

Americans have actually discussed generational wealth transfer with their families.

Perhaps this low level of communication is not surprising — clearly, talking about wealth transfer and estate plans can be emotional. But having these discussions is important, for several reasons:

STRENGTHENING FAMILY BONDS

Generational wealth transfer shouldn't be seen simply as a transactional event. By discussing your parents' plans and wishes, and your own expectations, you can

build a sense of unity and shared purpose. And you can develop a common philosophy about how your family's legacy goals will be carried forward through the succeeding generations.

AVOIDING UNPLEASANT SURPRISES

If you or other family members are expecting a certain inheritance and things turn out differently, disappointment and bad feelings may occur. But this can be avoided by having a discussion beforehand that clearly outlines your parents' intentions. You still may not agree with them, but at least you'll know what to expect — and you won't make the mistake of acting in advance on any assumptions about what

you'll inherit.

DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE STRATEGIES

Passing on wealth to a new generation as part of an overall estate plan can be more complex than you might think. Are your parents using tax-smart strategies? Would they benefit from establishing a living trust? Are the beneficiary designations on their retirement accounts and life insurance policies accurate and up to date? If you suspect your parents may not have properly addressed these issues, you may want to bring up the benefits of working with an estate-planning attorney and a tax advisor.

PROTECTING AGAINST INCAPACITATION

Many people go through their senior years with few, if any, physical or mental impairments. But there are no guarantees. If one or both of your parents were to become incapacitated and unable to handle their financial affairs, it could cause serious problems with their wealth transfer and estate-planning goals. But if you can discuss your parents' plans with them while they are healthy and alert, you can encourage them to take the proper steps, such as reviewing outdated estate-planning documents and designating you or another family member as power of attorney to make health care and financial decisions on their

behalf should they become incapacitated.

While the benefits of having wealth-transfer and estate-planning discussions are clear, starting the conversations can be tricky. You need to show that you want to initiate these talks because you're concerned that proper plans need to be in place and understood by everyone involved. If you have a good relationship with your parents, you should be able to start these conversations, but you'll still need to be sensitive when bringing up the subject.

One final word: Estate plans can take some time to develop — so, the sooner you have these discussions, the better.

EMPLOYMENT

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.

Come join the Hood County News team!



HOUSE PARENTS needed at North Central Texas Academy. Both live-in and shift positions available. Apply online at: https://happyhillfarm.org/residentparents/

FRONT GATE ATTENDANT needed at North Central Texas Academy. Please pick up an application at our front gate located at 3846 N. Hwy. 144, Granbury, TX 76048.

RANCH HANDS Ranch hands needed to live on a ranch in Tolar/Paluxy. We offer a salary and free rent in a three bedroom, two bath home. We prefer horse experience, tractor experience, dozer experience, general maintenance experience, swimming pool knowledge, yard maintenance, house cleaning, etc. References are required. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL 214-616-6822.



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

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Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.

Come join the Hood County News team!

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

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

8560
Professional



North Central Texas Academy is seeking:

High school History teacher
Upper Elementary teacher
All applicants must be state certified teachers.

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

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

NOTICES

9050
Personal Lost & Found

LILY PAD FOUND: Large lily pad in lake, in vicinity of Indian Harbor and Canyon Creek. Owner can ID by calling 817-579-5063.

9031
Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC/ONLINE AUCTION Pursuant to Chapter 59 Texas Property Code, 1st Source Storage Center now Granbury Self Storage, which is located at 212 Temple Hall Highway, Granbury, TX 76049 and 409 Western Hills Trail, Granbury, TX 76049 will begin an online auction with storageauctions.com of contents to satisfy the landlord's lien. The sale will begin online on June 22, 2024 ending July 18, 2024 as posted.

Property will be sold to the highest bidder for cash only! The contents must be removed from the property within 48 hours of the winning bid. The seller reserves the right to reject any bid or withdraw from the auction. Contents from the following tenant will be sold: Matthew Steitz, Summer Valle, Dennis Horning Jr., Christopher Swanson, and Amanda Swanzly.

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

OLD WD RANCH, SEC D, Lots 38R-1 through 38R-7

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, July 23rd, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE-of property to satisfy landlord's lien.

The sale will be conducted on <https://storageauctions.com/> and will be sold to the highest bidder for cash on July 18, 2024, at 10:00 AM. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property includes contents of spaces at SHS Granbury 3726 FM 4 Granbury TX 76049: Gen. tools, furniture, kids items, misc. boxes and totes Tenants include: Adam Shockey, Eva Reed.

LEGAL AD
Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for fences and gates under RFP# 2024-6.

The scope of work and specifications are available online on <https://granburyionwave.net>. Proposals will be accepted until closing on July 9th, at 2pm.

All questions regarding the bid should be asked inside the bidding system. If you have trouble connecting to ion-wave please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.watson@granburyisd.org.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is to Creditors of the Estate of Joan Michaelaalen Toler, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Joan Michaelaalen Toler, Deceased were granted to the undersigned on the 16th of May, 2024 by Hood County Court at Law, Probate Court, Hood, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate is hereby required to present the same to Ray Toler; within the time prescribed by law.

My address is c/o J. Shelby Sharpe; Law Office of J. Shelby Sharpe 6100 Western Place Suite 912 Fort Worth, Texas 76107
Executive of the Estate of Joan Michaelaalen Toler, Deceased. Cause No. P10346 (817) 338-4900 utlawman@aol.com

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8560
Professional

9031
Public Notices

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The City of Granbury, Texas, will hold a Public Hearing in regard to the submission of an application to Texas Parks & Wildlife (TPWD) for Local Parks grant funds. The public hearing will be held at 6 PM on July 8, 2024 at Granbury City Hall, 116 W Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas. The agenda will include discussion of the citizen participation plan; development of local housing, community development, and recreation needs; amount of TPWD funds available; explanation of eligible activities in the programs; use of past TPWD funds; citizens' views, proposals, questions, and comments; discussion of the application process.

Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact the City Hall at 817-573-1114 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact the City at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

If you are unable to attend, please submit your views and comments to Aaron McLain, amclain@granbury.org.

AVISO DE AUDIENCIA PUBLICA
La Ciudad de Granbury, Texas, llevara a cabo una Audiencia Publica con respecto a la presentacion de una solicitud a Parques y Vida Silvestre de Texas (TPWD) para fondos de subvencion de Parques Locales. La audiencia publica se llevara a cabo a la 6 PM del Julio 8, 2024 en el Ayuntamiento, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas. La agenda incluire la discusion del plan de participacion ciudadana; desarrollo de necesidades locales de vivienda, desarrollo comunitario y recreacion; cantidad de fondos TPWD disponibles; explicacion de las actividades elegibles en los programas; uso de fondos pasados de TPWD; opiniones, propuestas, preguntas y comentarios de los ciudadanos; discusion del proceso de solicitud.

Las personas con discapacidades que deseen asistir a esta reunion deben comunicarse con el Ayuntamiento al 817-573-1114 para coordinar la asistencia. Las personas que requieran ayuda o servicios auxiliares para esta reunion deben comunicarse con la Ciudad al menos dos dias antes de la reunion para que se puedan hacer los arreglos apropiados.

Si no puede asistir, envie sus opiniones y comentarios a Aaron McLain, amclain@granbury.org.

To: All interested Agencies, US Fish and Wildlife, US Army Corps of Engineers, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Granbury plans to submit an application to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department for a Local Parks Program Grant. Pursuant to Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990, to determine the potential effect that its activity in the floodway, floodplain, and wetlands will have on the human environment. If funded, Grantee shall complete trail and other recreation improvements at Lambert Branch Park which is approximately 6.16 acres in size. Project improvements to include trail installation, landscaping, lighting, and other recreation improvements. Per FEMA Map 48221C0185E, eff. 4/5/2019, the improvements are located in the floodway, 100-year floodplain, and 500-year floodplain. According to the Fish & Wildlife Services, National Wetlands Inventory, improvements may also occur within wetlands. The proposed project is located on property owned by the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains and wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Commenters are encouraged to attend the City of Granbury's public hearing on July 8, 2024 at 6 PM at Granbury City Hall, 116 W Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas. If you are unable to attend, please submit your views and comments to Aaron McLain, amclain@granbury.org.

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9031
Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CITY OF CRESSON REQUEST FOR ZONING VARIANCE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Cresson has received a request from William Colby Kreutzer of Kreutzer Investments LLC for a variance of Chapter 30, Article VII, Section 30-291 of the Cresson Zoning Ordinance regarding required parking spaces for "other office or professional business".

The City of Cresson will conduct a public hearing regarding the requested variance on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Cresson City Hall Council Chambers located at 8901 Hwy 377, Cresson, Texas 76035. All interested parties are invited to attend. Cresson City Hall is wheelchair accessible. Requests for accommodations or other services must be made 48 hours in advance.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RALPH WENDELL GEE were issued on May 29, 2024, in Cause No. P10366, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: ROGER EDGAR GEE.

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 18th day of June, 2024.
Steven G. Kuban Attorney for Roger Edgar GEE State Bar No.: 24078807 107 E. Pearl St. Granbury, Texas 76048 Telephone: (817) 573-8872 Facsimile: (817) 579-1651 E-mail: skuban@kubanfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of ALMA JOYCE VARDEMAN, Deceased, were issued on May 16, 2024, in Cause No. P10339, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: STEVEN MICHAEL VARDEMAN.

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 19th day of June, 2024.
Attorney for Steven Michael Varde-man 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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on June 25, 2024, Letters Testamentary were issued to LINDA MAE PLASTER by the County Court of Hood County, Texas, in the case styled in the Estate of Raymond Plaster, Jr., Deceased, under Cause No. P10419 pending on the probate docket of the Court.

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

Dated: June 25, 2024
Linda Mae Plaster
Executor of the Estate of Raymond Plaster, Jr.
c/o Christian & Christian PLLC 1405 W. Pearl St. Granbury, TX 76048 /S/ MarJoe D. Barnhart State Bar No. 24045498 Email: marjoe@christianandchristianlaw.com 1405 W. Pearl St. Granbury, TX 76048 (682) 936-4003 Attorney for Linda Mae Plaster

Advertisement to Bid
City of Granbury

The City of Granbury is accepting sealed competitive unit bids for the following:

Purchase 1500 KVA Transformer RFP No. 23-24-08 until July 18, 2024 at 2:00pm CST, at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to: City of Granbury Municipal Service Center

Attn: Purchasing Department "City of Granbury 1500 KVA Transformer RFP No. 23-24-08" 401 N. Park Street Granbury, TX 76048

Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website <https://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing> starting July 1, 2024 at 2pm. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048

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1204 Water's Edge Dr., (Across from the Movie Theatre) #heretohelp
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4-family sale. See image for details at "Classifieds" at hcnews.com. Furniture, household items, clothing, children's books. Fri-Sat, June 28-29. 2006 Ports O Call Ct.

Multi-family garage sale: Fri, June 28, 8am-4pm and Sat, June 29, 8am-7 10 W Bridge St, Granbury.

Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 2211 Tree Top Ct- Baseball collectibles, artwork, bedding, household items, clothes, and much more!

We're located in the back of the Bentwater neighborhood. Saturday June 29

MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 508 Longhorn Trail Moving/estate sale inside Lots of antiques, furniture, kitchen gadgets, clothes. Saturday, June 29

HUGE YARD SALE! 2 families. Too much to list. Fri-Sun, June 28-30. 7am-7pm. New items each day. 4001 Country Meadows Cir (6 min from H-E-B).

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EVENTS

Bluegrass on Ballard -Wylie, TX, Sat. June 29. Arts & Crafts, Car Show, Music, Food & Fun in Historic Downtown Wylie on Ballard Ave. For more info or to pre-register for car show, visit DiscoverWylie.com.

ICA's 50th Annual Convention & Trade Show, July 1-3, San Marcos, TX. Cattle producers don't want to miss this! Top industry speakers, BQA certification, 4-5 CEU credits for pesticide applicator license, live cattle handling, 50+ vendors, golf tournament, and more. 512-620-0162, ICATexas.com.

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City unanimously approves construction of Archer Court turning lanes

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury City Council unanimously approved an expenditure for the construction of both a right turn and left turn lane on U.S. Highway 377 at Archer Court during a regularly scheduled meeting June 18.

The turning lanes — which will be located at the new entrance to the Granbury Regional Airport terminal building — were initially recommended by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for safety reasons.

“When TxDOT did the review, they did say that for safety purposes that these are needed and if you’ve driven out there, you’ll agree going both directions that the speed of traffic is going to be very helpful in making safe turn maneuvers off of 377 on to Archer Court,” Deputy City Manager Michael Ross said during the meeting.

The construction of Archer Court is complete, and there is about \$16,000 remaining in that project budget available for use on the turn lanes. There is also a 10% contingency on the \$2,754,684 Archer Court project, which equates to a total of \$291,754 available

for use.

“There was a 10% contingency that you approved on Dec. 6 of 2022, which gives us plenty of funding to recommend an expenditure for the construction of those turn lanes in an amount not to exceed \$125,000, so we’ll combine that with that \$16,000 to get us the total number needed to construct those turning lanes,” Ross said.

“Michael, great idea,” Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale said. “I mean, I think that’s certainly needed there. I’ve been in and out at Archer Court a couple of times, and getting in there, you have to look in your rearview mirror pretty hard to make sure nobody’s crawling up behind you. ... It’s a good project for safety.”

Place 3 Councilman Bruce Wadley asked Ross if the turning lane construction would interfere with the U.S. Highway 377 expansion project. Ross said while he



Deputy City Manager Michael Ross speaks to the Granbury City Council regarding the construction of both a right and left turn lane on Archer Court at the Granbury Regional Airport during a regularly scheduled meeting June 18.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

is not heavily involved with that project, he doesn’t believe the expansion will affect Archer Court.

“If it changes, then they will have to address that change,” City Manager Chris Coffman said. “They’re telling us to do this now, and

they’ve reviewed the plans, approved them and said, “This is what you need to do.”

Ross added he is still waiting for an answer from Jay Mills Contracting as he has encouraged the company to get construction completed

before the airport’s ribbon cutting July 22.

“We’ve been working on this for quite a while and I’m glad to get it finally to this point,” Coffman added.

Vale made a motion to approve an expenditure for construction of the

right turn and left turn lanes on U.S. 377 at Archer Court at the entrance to the Granbury Regional Airport for an amount not to exceed \$125,000. Following a second by Place 4 Councilman Skip Overdier, the motion passed unanimously.

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Texas State Parks Pass price to increase Sept. 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF TPWD.TEXAS.GOV/STATE-PARKS/DINOSAUR-VALLEY

At Dinosaur Valley State Park located in Glen Rose, you can walk in the dinosaur tracks left in the bed of the Paluxy River.

By The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

AUSTIN— The Texas State Parks Pass, which gives passholders and their guests unlimited free day-use access to all 88 Texas State Parks, is increasing its annual price from \$70 to \$95 on Sept. 1. This is only the second time the price has increased since the program was instituted in 2004.

“We hope people take advantage of the next few months by getting their annual Texas State Parks Pass before the price increases this fall,” said Jill Kreindler, Texas State

Parks Marketing and Brand Manager. “Summer is the perfect time to explore new parks and possibly have new experiences with family and friends. If you’ve always thought about investing in a

park pass, this is the perfect time to do it!”

There are special events at parks that happen only during the summer, added Kreindler.

“Some parks really pull out all of the stops and make an ideal space for summer fun,” said Kreindler. “Garner State Park hosts a dance every night through the summer from 8:30- 11 p.m. until mid- August. At Palo Duro Canyon State Park, the TEXAS Outdoor Musical runs Tuesdays through Sundays at the Pioneer

Amphitheater at the park. The show tells the stories, struggles and triumphs of early settlers through song, dance, fireworks and lots of Texas humor!”

Texas State Parks benefits extend beyond the front gate, with a half-price discount for the second night of camping when visitors stay two or more consecutive nights in the same campsite or screened shelter. Passholders also get 10 percent off most retail and rental items and park stores, special discounts for activities and events and

a subscription to the State Parks Getaways e-newsletter with seasonal activity ideas and highlights. Additionally, the shipping and handling fee previously in place for online and phone pass orders will no longer apply.

Current Texas State Parks Pass holders who have a pass expiring after Sept. 1 can renew early (up to 150 days prior to expiration) to get another 12 months of pass benefits at the \$70 price.

The Youth Group Annual Pass (YGA), which allows free entry to state parks

for nonprofit youth group members and a number of adult sponsors, will rise from \$100 to \$150. YGA applications received in August but paid on Sept. 1 or after will pay the new fee price. Email Youth Group Annual Pass with questions about application status.

Texas State Parks Passes can be purchased on our reservation website, in person at most state parks, or by phone at (512) 389-8900. For more information, visit our Frequently Asked Questions page.

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GHS Robotics Camp

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LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury High School Robotics team held its junior high summer robotics camp June 24-28 at the Granbury High School CTE building.

Vollmer going into Swimming HOF

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

Thanks to Dana Vollmer, legendary sportscaster Bob Costas said the words “Granbury, Texas” in a worldwide showing of the 2004 Olympics in Athens, Greece.

The world was introduced to a 16-year-old swimming phenom who would go on to win seven medals — including five gold — over three Olympics.

Vollmer won gold as part of the U.S. Swim Team’s world-record-setting 800-meter relay (7:53.42) in 2004. Then, she captured gold in three events in 2012, setting an individual world record in the 100 butterfly (55.98 seconds), along with again winning gold on the 800 relay and on the 400 relay, which set a world record of 3:52.05.

Now, Vollmer is among a dozen honorees to be inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame Saturday, Oct. 5 in Fort

Lauderdale, Florida. “Dana put the town of Granbury on the map for swimming when she went to the Olympics. Every time she swam, they announced Dana Vollmer from Granbury, Texas,” said Granbury SEALS coach Janet Steenberge. “With this kind of exposure more people became interested in swimming in Granbury and it gave many youths in our community dreams and hope.”

STEENBERGE KNEW WHAT WAS COMING

Steenberge was there in the beginning when it became clear Vollmer was more than just another good swimmer. Vollmer was a member of the SEALS at a very young age, but Steenberge said it was obvious she was headed for greater things.

“One of my fun memories of Dana swimming was at the old cement city pool (now the Dana Vollmer Municipal Swim Center). I had just come back from a coaching clinic that featured Eddie Reese (former swim-

ming coach at the University of Texas in Austin). He kept talking about the dolphin kick being the fifth stroke and how we as coaches needed to be teaching the dolphin kick,” Steenberge recalled.

“Well, I have Dana who is about 7 and some other swimmers (including Dana’s brother Nick Vollmer and Steenberge’s own children Georgia, Brier and Xela, all of whom went on to compete in college) swimming in the lane by the wall and they are dolphin kicking on their sides and looking good.

“The Hood County News had sent a reporter to do a story (former sports editor Norm Peterson) and he asked why I had given little children such a difficult kick. My response was ‘You never know who will be an Olympian.’ Well, Dana mastered that kick and added arms to become a world record holder in butterfly.”

Unlike today, with the team swimming at the modern YMCA, when Vollmer swam with the SEALS they used the old Granbury

city pool. It was not really equipped for competition, though Steenberge and her team made it work for many years — and with great success.

NEXT STEP

But for Vollmer to move on to the greatness Steenberge saw in her, another step had to be taken.

“Really, because of the pool situation and other factors, Cathy (Dana’s mom) and myself, along with several other parents decided to take our children to Fort Worth to do a swim tryout for a USA swim team FAST (Fort Worth Area Swim Team),” Steenberge said. “The coach doing the tryout for the team was the head coach, Ron Forrest. Ron himself was a very good swimmer and held several school records at TCU.

“It was under Coach Ron’s guidance that Dana’s — who was 11 or 12 at the time — full potential really came to light, although she had

PLEASE SEE **VOLLMER** | B4



PHOTO COURTESY OF JANET STEENBERGE

A young Dana Vollmer when she competed for the Granbury SEALS swim team. Now, after a career that includes seven Olympic medals — including five gold — she will enter the International Swimming Hall of Fame in October.

GISD board divided: Vote fails on Title IX resolution



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury ISD board of trustees discuss the proposed Title IX resolution during a regularly scheduled meeting June 24.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District board of trustees deliberated over a resolution regarding Title IX guidelines during a regularly scheduled meeting June 24.

Although the resolution did not pass, board members participated in a spirited debate over whether the agenda item was even necessary following Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton’s most recent advisory published June 18.

TITLE IX

Title IX is a civil rights law enacted in 1972 that prohibits sex-based discrimination at

federally funded colleges and K-12 schools.

But recent changes to Title IX regulations were announced by the Biden administration that would have redefined sex discrimination and sex-based harassment to prevent misconduct based on sex stereotypes, pregnancy, gender identity and sexual orientation, according to the Texas Tribune.

In opposition, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott sent a letter to President Biden April 29, stating that the president has exceeded his constitutional authority in rewriting certain aspects of Title IX.

Abbott’s order came the same day Paxton announced he had sued the Biden administration to block the Title IX changes.

Paxton stated: “This attempt to subvert federal law is plainly illegal, undemocratic and divorced from reality. Texas will always take the lead to oppose Biden’s extremist, destructive policies that put women at risk.”

Additionally, Paxton released an advisory June 18 stating he had successfully stopped the implementation of rules by the Biden Administration’s Department of Education that would have forced Texas schools to adopt radical “transgender” policies in violation of state and federal law. According to Paxton’s news release, the federal court found

PLEASE SEE **TITLE IX** | B3

Three Granbury ISD campuses receive Capturing Kids' Hearts award

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Three Granbury Independent School District campuses received a significant honor during the regularly scheduled school board meeting June 24.

Acton Middle School, Granbury Middle School and STARS Accelerated High School each received the Capturing Kids' Hearts Rising Star Award — the highest honor a first-year implementer of the program can receive.

Capturing Kids' Hearts is a program that equips professionals in K-12 education to implement transformational processes focused on social-emotional well-being, relationship-driven campus culture and student connectiveness, according to the program website.

"The Rising Star recognition is what we give to schools who are implementing (the program) with fidelity and consistency,"

Nikki Shipley, CKH secondary strategist said during the meeting. "The support and love that I've seen these principals and these teachers give to the students of this community has been very impressive. It's hard implementing a new system and process in the first year, (but) they've done it really well with a lot of fidelity and heart, so that's why they were awarded these awards, and I'm honored to give them tonight."

The Capturing Kids' Hearts program was previously implemented in GISD's secondary campuses in April 2023, with Stacie Brown, director of curriculum and instruction, advocating for CKH in the hope it would strengthen relationships between teachers and students.

In reading the memo affiliated with the program last year, Brown added that Capturing Kids' Hearts "trains teachers, staff and administrators overarching skills to use in helping to develop self-management

with our students, high performance classrooms, using team building skills and social contracts, techniques for dealing with conflict, negative behavior and issues with disrespect."

As CKH already proved successful in Granbury Middle School, Acton Middle School, Granbury High School and STARS Accelerated High School's Behavior Transition Center, the professional development program was implemented district-wide in March.

"We did some preliminary data research ... based upon the out-of-school suspension, in-school suspension, partial days, half days, full days, etc. there has been between 25% to 50% decrease in our discipline referrals at our secondary campuses since this was implemented," Brown said, during the March 25 school board meeting. "I also got some feedback from our principals. Our principals wanted to highlight the interactions

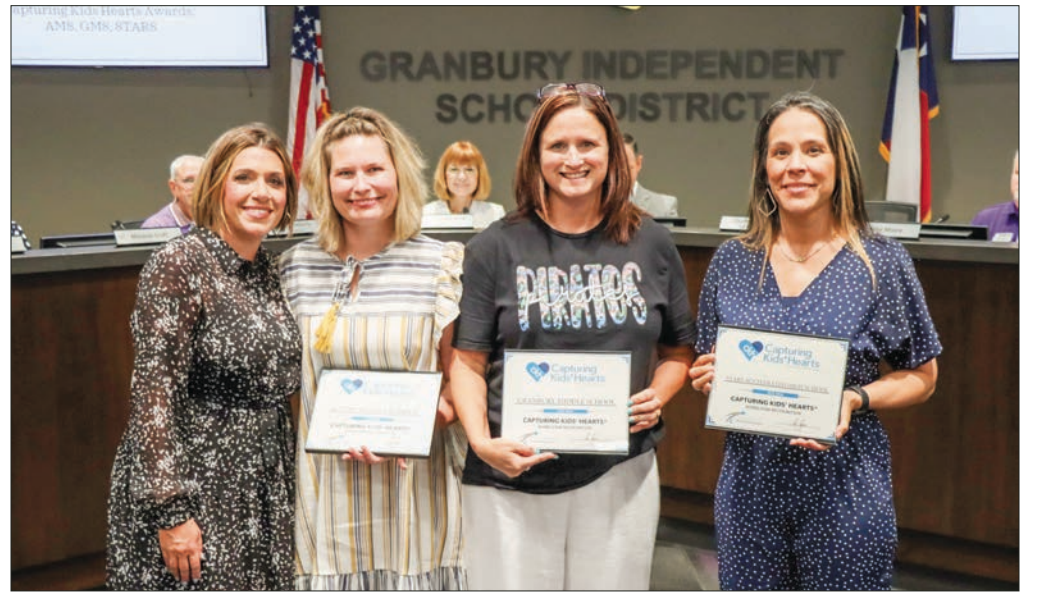


PHOTO COURTESY OF RYAN COX/GRANBURY ISD

Acton Middle School, Granbury Middle School and STARS Accelerated High School received the Capturing Kids' Hearts Rising Star Award during a regularly scheduled Granbury ISD board of trustees meeting June 24.

specifically with the classroom teachers. The use of affirmations and specific activities and skills that are done helped to build an atmosphere of extended trust with and between students.

So, this goes beyond just having our teachers being part of relationships with our students — this is the process of developing relationships between our students as well."

For more information about Capturing Kids' Hearts, visit capturingkids-hearts.org online.

GISD board clashes over proposed HCAD audit

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Amid parliamentary confusion and points of order, the Granbury Independent School District board of trustees found itself in a spirited debate over a proposal for a forensic audit during a regularly scheduled meeting June 24.

Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft and Place 7 Trustee Karen Lowery initially submitted a resolution to the board calling on the Hood Central Appraisal District to conduct a forensic audit.

The topic first came up during a Granbury City Council meeting May 21 when Mayor Jim Jarratt expressed concerns that excess funds from the HCAD were not being returned to the appropriate taxing entities.

"I have no reason to believe that there's anyone that has taken a financial gain," Jarratt explained, during the council meeting. "I have no reason to believe that at all. I do believe though, that there are processes and procedures that have probably been inherited, at least two and maybe more ... that raise concern."

Jarratt said the reason the HCAD was holding the excess funds was due to a desire to construct a building — specifically, a home office for the appraisal district.

"When you start spending money, it's the approval of the entities, and there's a resolution process that you go through to request that of the entities — and it never occurred," he previously said.

According to Jarratt, a contract was written between HCAD and Cauble Hoskins Architects that involved a \$333,000 purchase for the home office, however even after the deal fell through, \$132,000 in taxpayer funds was never returned to the entities.

"I have documentation from the appraisal district, and it shows a selling point made to the appraisal district by Government Capital Corporation, and it was not made to the appraisal district; it was made to the HCAD Home Office Corporation, which if you go back and look at the minutes, there's a resolution that has been made by the HCAD to form a home office corporation, naming the directors of the HCAD as directors of the home office corporation, but not responsible to the HCAD," Jarratt said. "The information documents, the bylaws, they all seem to contradict the tax code."

The Hood County Commissioners unanimously approved a resolution May 28, also calling on the HCAD to undergo a forensic audit of

the prior five fiscal years.

During the commissioners meeting, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson explained that last summer, there were a lot of questions surrounding the appraisal district and the funds that were being held in non-compliance with Texas Tax Code 6.0 — which ultimately resulted in a refund back to the taxing entities of more than \$2 million.

"It has since been discovered that the prior board of the appraisal district also misappropriated an additional \$387,000," Samuelson said May 28. "This additional expense occurred as the result of the Central Appraisal District forming the Hood Central Appraisal District Home Office Corporation, appointing themselves as directors and seeking to borrow \$6.2 million from Government Capital Corporation to build a new building. The \$387,000 was then spent on architectural design and construction fees, including fees to appraise and survey the GISD-owned property that was being pursued as a swap for the existing HCAD office building. The HCAD Home Office Corporation formation documents and the bylaws are in direct conflict and contradict the requirements of the Texas Tax code 6.0."

According to Lowery and Graft's resolution, it was also the concern of GISD that there may be additional funds that were inappropriately allocated. They requested the district also be assured prior inappropriate budget actions and practices have been corrected.

As soon as discussion began, however, Secretary Billy Wimberly issued a point of order, stating the Agenda Item Request Form was inappropriately filled out. Wimberly said the resolution does not apply to the business office and facilities of GISD, nor does it fit any strategic planning goals relating to the business and operations check made on the form. The form also indicated there would be no financial impact to GISD with this resolution.

"I move to suspend indefinitely this request for resolution presented," Wimberly said.

"When I submitted this, you didn't come back and tell me there was anything wrong with it," Lowery said. "You went ahead and agreed to put it on the agenda."

Place 2 Trustee Nancy Alana seconded Wimberly's motion.

"You've made your point. I understand what you're saying," Board President Barbara Townsend said, addressing Lowery. "The only prob-

lem I have with it is it really does have financial impact, because where their budget comes from, 52% of their budget comes from us. So, if they do a forensic audit, we are paying 62%, so we have to look at 'Do we have the money in our budget for them to do a forensic audit?' And we don't even know how much it's going to cost, so I really worry about that."

Wimberly also pointed out that HCAD gets audited every year and that they have had successful, clean audits every time. He said he considers the audit a "waste of money."

"I think a better question is how much taxpayer's money has GISD already spent on the cost of an unapproved HCAD building, and how much more we're going to allow this to go on," Lowery said. "This is not an audit. This is a forensic audit, and there's a big difference."

Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft added that the city of Tolar, Granbury City Council and the Hood County Commissioners Court have already approved a resolution to request the HCAD to undergo a forensic audit.

"I think it's a way to be transparent to the taxpayers," she said. "It is their money, so if we choose not to do it, I don't think that plays well with the voters at all."

"But none of those others are having to pay the bulk of it that we are; that's the thing," Townsend said. "I mean, Tolar is what? 2%? Maybe 5%? And we're 62%. We have no idea what the price is. I propose that those entities that want to do the forensic audit should go ahead and definitely have it done, and they split the cost of it."

Lowery then suggested for the board to suspend the rules for public speaking and allow Mayor Jarratt to explain the situation. Wimberly pointed out the board had already made a point of order and that a motion was on the table.

Alana said she doesn't understand how the school district has the authority to request a forensic audit from the HCAD. She seconded Wimberly's comment that there haven't been any "red flags" brought up in any of the HCAD's previous regular audits.

"I also know that this is more of a political issue than it is anything else," she said. "We have a group of politicians that enjoy sowing the seeds of mistrust in the community, and this is another political strategy to get the taxpayers to not trust those that have been appointed to take care of their finances. ... It is my opinion that this is pure politics, and I will not vote for a forensic audit."

Lowery gave an overview about the situation, stating that without the taxing entities' approval May 18, 2023, the HCAD passed a resolution to purchase GISD property for \$565,000 and to borrow \$6,250,980 to build a new HCAD building. She explained that all emails and correspondence regarding the HCAD's home office were laid out in a red book.

"This expense to the taxpayers was not approved by the taxing entities as required," she said. "I think there's enough things here and in this red book, if you look through it, that says that there needs to be a forensic audit for the taxpayers."

"I don't question any of what you just said, but I do not believe that a forensic audit is called for when they do a regular audit every year and there have been no indications of anything," Alana said.

"Regular audits are only balance sheets," Lowery explained. "To do a forensic audit, they're going to look at each line, each thing, and see where there might be a problem."

"I will not vote for a forensic audit," Alana repeated.

Wimberly then called a question, which is a motion to end discussion on an item and to immediately bring a pending question to a vote.

However, the call to question left many members confused about what they were voting on.

Townsend first asked members to vote on the resolution for the HCAD forensic audit but was corrected by Wimberly that the vote was on whether or not to call the question.

"We're voting on whether or not to actually vote on this," Townsend said. The board voted unanimously in favor of its understanding of the motion.

"Now we're going to vote on whether or not we want the resolution to conduct the audit, correct?" Townsend asked.

"The motion was the move to suspend indefinitely the request for the resolution as presented," Wimberly said.

"We have to revote that because that is not what people thought they were voting on," Townsend said.

Following more deliberation, the board voted 4:2 to end discussion on the topic, with Lowery and Graft voting against the motion.

The second motion was for the board to suspend indefinitely the request for the resolution as presented. The motion passed 4:2, with Lowery and Graft voting, "No." Vice President Courtney Gore was absent from the meeting.



Tolar fourth in Lone Star Cup standings

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The prestigious Lone Star Cup, awarded annually by the University Interscholastic League, is one of the most sought after prizes among schools at all levels across the state. It rewards them for across-the-board success, from academics to athletics and everything in between.

Tolar placed fourth among Class 2A, which featured one of the closest races with the top four teams separated by just 13 points. Tolar scored 56, only three points behind third-place Shelbyville with 59 and runner-up Crawford with 60. Shiner took the top spot with 69 points.

Schools were awarded points for their depth of success in cross country, marching band, military marching band, volleyball, robotics BEST, football, congress, spirit, film, basketball, robotics FIRST, academics, one-act Play, theatrical design, track and field, golf, tennis, softball and baseball.

"This school year has been highlighted by success in many areas. Within the Lone Star Cup competition, the dedication and efforts of our students, coaches and sponsors paid off with at least one playoff win for every team sport," noted Tolar Superintendent Travis Stillwell. "Multiple teams set new school marks for playoff victories."

Highlighting Tolar's success in the 2023-24 school year was the Rattlers' state championship game appearance in Class 2A Division I, along with a state tournament appearance by the Lady Rattlers golf team, the first since 2004. Individually, pole vaulter Brylen Feist advanced to state.

"It means a great deal to the school and community to finish where we did this year. We have great support from our school board, booster club and school administration that cares deeply to provide what is needed for all programs to be successful," Tolar Athletic Director Blake Mouser said. "To finish in the top five, it takes multiple deep playoff runs across different activities and sports."

"We look forward to growing all of our UIL programs and providing more students opportunities to compete and showcase their abilities."

In addition to the state appearances, the Lady Rattlers volleyball team reached the regional final for the first time, softball advanced to the program's first regional semifinal, boys basketball and baseball each reached the third round of the playoffs and girls basketball made it to the second round.

"It was a tremendous honor to watch our students compete with pride and tremendous effort," Stillwell said. "Our students, faculty, and staff always strive for excellence. And, as a district, we could not be more proud of them."

Tolar is moving into Class 3A for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years.

LIPAN

Despite not having a football team or varsity volleyball team, Lipan tied for 20th in Class 2A with 38 points. The school year was highlighted by a state championship — the second straight for the Indians basketball team.

Also, three individuals advanced to state. Siblings Hanna and Court Gaylor qualified in girls and boys golf, respectively, while Annalee Tarpley competed in cross country.

The Lady Indians basketball team reached the regional final and softball tied for the best season in school history by advancing to the third round of the playoffs. Baseball also made a bidistrict appearance.

OTHER CUP WINNERS

Class 6A: Southlake Carroll, 111; Katy Seven Lakes, 93.
5A: Lucas Lovejoy, 109; Aledo, 91.
4A: Canyon Randall, 117; Canyon 94.
3A: Holliday, 88; Corpus Christi London, 81; Brock, 77.
1A: Gail Borden County, 69; Jayton, 66.

HOOD OUTDOORS

It's thermocline time!



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.

As the water approaches the upper 80s, stratification of the water column occurs on most of our area reservoirs. This stratification creates a layer of water where most of the fish will congregate to survive. Many of our area waters are starting or have been stratifying and therefore it is a good time to discuss this phenomenon once again.

The thermocline is a layer of water somewhere within the water column where the warmer upper waters are prevented from mixing with those at a deeper depth. This barrier prevents the interchange of nutrients between the two areas which creates essentially two separate environments in the watershed.

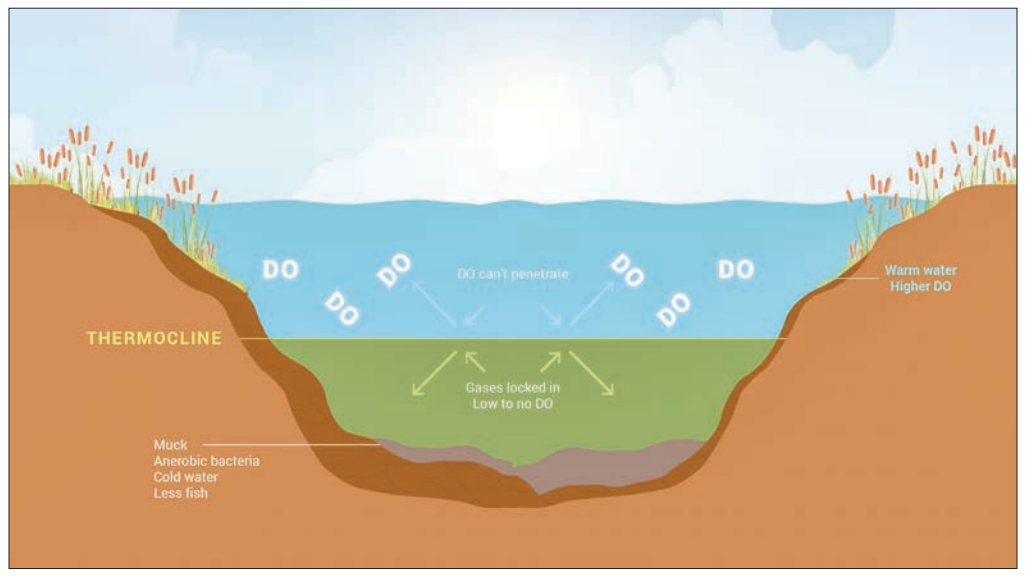
In a water column that is stratified, the thermocline is an area between the warmer water up to the surface called the epilimnion and the cooler water below called the

hypolimnion. The epilimnion is the upper layer that stays relatively mixed and the temperature is relatively constant throughout its region. The thermocline is generally a relatively shallow region between the epilimnion and the hypolimnion where the temperature change is relatively large. The hypolimnion is the lower layer of water whose temperature is relatively constant. Life is scarce in this hypolimnion region, as sufficient food and oxygen may be in short supply. The thermocline is important to angling because it represents the deepest, coolest, oxygenated water for the fish to survive in. It is where most species migrate to and stay during hot water conditions except for transient feeding activities.

Different lakes will have different levels where the thermocline exists. Different areas on the same lake

may have different levels where the thermocline exists. Generally, most sonar graphs will show the thermocline. You may have to increase the intensity to see it, but it will show it as a dark area resembling constant debris or clutter. Consult your instruction manual as it typically has pictures of what a thermocline should look like on your graph. Many of us striped bass anglers using live bait will find the thermocline real quick when we realize our live bait dies quickly at a certain depth. The thermocline on Granbury usually develops around 20 feet down. Lake Proctor develops the shallowest thermocline I have ever seen. At times on Lake Proctor only the top 10 feet of water can hold fish. Deeper, cooler lakes usually develop thermoclines at deeper depths.

This thermocline can change with the influx of fresh water or heavy wind, which can mix up the water. As long as the water stays warm and continues to heat, this thermocline will most likely be present. Some shallower lakes or ponds apparently may never develop a



COURTESY PHOTO

Graphic showing what the thermocline is.

thermocline.

Use your electronics to locate fish. The thermocline will congregate fish at one level making it generally easier to find them. Now getting them to bite is another story. Try several different patterns and different sized baits. Stressed out fish may be more apt to hit a smaller bait. If you troll, set your depth right at the thermocline. You may be able to find active fish by running your baits all along the thermocline level until you can find an active fish. Don't be afraid to chum the water with diced shad as this may bring on the bite where nothing else will.

Concentrate your efforts

around this thermocline in the summer, and your chances for catching fish will most likely improve.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury is currently full and water temperatures are in the upper 80s and even hotter in the backs of sloughs. Thermoclines are present on many areas of the lake. Most fishing is better early and late. Sand bass fishing continues to be good near Indian Harbor and near DeCordova. Some surface schooling is occurring with fish chasing bait on many areas of the lake. Striped bass continue to be good to excel-

lent on live bait or trolled Alabama rigs. Fish are suspended near the thermocline or are on ledges and drop offs near feeding flats. Good catches are reported near Blue Water Shores and near DeCordova. Largemouth bass are fair to good to 6 pounds on soft plastics and deep diving crankbaits worked near main lake points and humps. Deeper docks are also producing. Crappie fishing is good on small minnows or crappie jigs worked on submerged timber from Water's Edge to DeCordova. Catfish are fair to good on cut bait fished mainly at night near creek entrances.

TITLE IX

FROM PAGE B1

that "to allow [the Biden Administration's] unlawful action to stand would be to functionally rewrite Title IX in a way that shockingly transforms American education and usurps a major question from Congress. That is not how our democratic system functions."

Paxton's news release states that because the court struck down the Biden Administration's unlawful rule, Texas schools do not and should not adopt or enforce any of the policy changes contained in the rule. The release continues, "Texas students are now safe from losing their Title IX protections and the school districts are protected from the threat of the loss of federal funding."

In the new legal advisory, Paxton explained: "This ruling covers all Texas school districts and ensures no district in our state will have to comply with the Biden Administration's illegitimate interpretation that Title IX includes gender-identity requirements, including allowing men into women's restrooms, locker rooms, sports teams, or requiring students or teachers to use pronouns based on

gender identity rather than biological sex. And if any Texas school district adopts a policy or procedure that conflicts with or contravenes state law, then I will pursue every remedy available to protect students and teachers from these illegal and radical policies."

SPEAKER COMMENTS

During the public comment section of the GISD board meeting, a few residents voiced their opinion on the agenda item to denounce changes to Title IX.

"Title IX is fine, insofar as it prohibits discrimination against males and females," Dennis Monder said. "However, the Biden administration's and Department of Education's attempt to broaden it to include a prohibition against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identification is not. Regardless of how anyone feels personally about these changes, a federal district court in Texas on June 11, ruled that such prohibition is illegal. ... Our creator made us male and female. Yes, the district should denounce these changes, but even in the absence of such denunciation, the district must follow Attorney General Paxton's direction on this matter and not con-

travene the findings of the federal court."

David Rogers said the proposed rewrite of Title IX has a "very destructive potential" to place men in girls' locker rooms.

"This will endanger the safety and well-being of our female athletes as they compete," Rogers said. "This denies their civil rights to be able to compete for athletic excellence, so I strongly would ask the GISD board of trustees to have a resolution denouncing Title IX."

GISD TRUSTEES DEBATE

While the agenda item was initially aimed at denouncing the Title IX changes under the Biden administration, GISD's resolution underwent a motion change when Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft wished to align the district's policies with Paxton's latest advisory.

"I'd like to move that we accept the resolution to Title IX that GISD will comply with Attorney General Paxton's advisory and will not allow men into women's restrooms, locker rooms, sports teams, or require students or teachers to use pronouns based on gender identity rather than biological sex," Graft stated. "Additionally, GISD will make appropriate adjust-

ments to our GISD policies to ensure our policies conform to this standard."

Place 7 Trustee Karen Lowery seconded Graft's motion.

Before a vote could take place, Place 1 Trustee Mike Moore asked to table the motion as Paxton had "already taken care of it." He added that the resolution seemed like a "moot point."

Board President Barbara Townsend said she agreed with Moore, adding that Texas students are also safe from losing Title IX protections and school districts are protected from losing federal funding.

"Keller, Tyler and Carroll have passed this resolution," Graft said. "I feel that GISD needs to assure the community where we stand on this issue. We need to take a strong stance and pass policies and rules to protect the children of Hood County. If you don't agree with that, vote against it."

"Yeah, but the AG just took care of that for us," Moore responded.

"It doesn't mean another administration can't come in," Lowery said. "But we need to be sure that parents understand now that we are going to stand behind AG Paxton."

Secretary Billy Wimberly then brought forth a few

pieces of background information from the Attorney General's Office, stating that June 11, U.S. District Court and Judge Reed O'Conner in Fort Worth issued a 112-page ruling stating that the Department of Education did not have the authority to extend the ruling of Title IX in the state of Texas.

"The Department of Education cannot enforce those changes in Texas, so that makes this resolution moot until it comes back before that or that judge is overruled by the U.S. Supreme Court," Wimberly said. "Right now, we're talking about something that's moot in the state of Texas because the judge has ruled that that cannot take place and the attorney general backed that up with what you read earlier."

"I think we all agree with the point of the resolution," Place 2 Trustee Nancy Alana said. "I personally feel like there is no need for a resolution at this point because it's already been decided. However, I do agree with the points that were made in this, so I think it's just an act of if we want to let our community know where we personally stand on this issue, we can do that. But as far as adopting a resolution, the issue is moot."

"I don't think it hurts to

make sure that the governor and the AG know that Granbury is going to stand by them on this, but that's my opinion," Lowery added.

Following discussion, the board took a vote regarding Graft's motion to align GISD's policies with Paxton's advisory.

"I don't understand why we're voting on it when something is already in place," Moore said.

"We're voting on it because the motion's there, so we're going to vote," Townsend said.

The motion failed 4:2, with Graft and Lowery voting for the resolution. Vice President Courtney Gore was absent during the meeting.

"I want to make it clear that I agree with the point of the resolution; there is just no need for a resolution," Alana added.

"I support that and totally agree with what Nancy's saying," Moore said. "I want it to be known."

Townsend concluded the discussion by adding, "I appreciate the fact that Attorney General Ken Paxton has taken care of this issue for us; that is why he is our attorney general. I also believe it's a moot point and we will follow as Granbury ISD in what our state tells us to follow."



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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on June 22

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Local students run mock government at Boys State and Girls State

BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH
Special to the
Hood County News
eden@hcnews.com

Some local students were given the opportunity to participate in Boys State and Girls State programs this month. The American Legion has been sending boys to Boys State since 1935 and the American Legion Auxiliary celebrated 80 years of sending girls to the Texas Bluebonnet Girls State in

2024. Students attended the weeklong camps which shared a similar vision but had slightly different focus and took place in different locations. Both the Boys State and the Girls State programs focus on knowledge of the legislature. The Boys program has a physical fitness component whereas the Girls Program includes a component focusing on mental wellness.

The Boys State program takes place at the University of Texas in Austin, while

the Girls State program is at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. The number of students participating yearly depends on available funds. There is a prescreening process and students invited to participate in the process must submit an essay to be considered.

"The purpose is to instruct our youth to the duties, privileges and rights of American citizenship," said Brenda Towers, staff member and transportation coordinator of the event for American Legion Auxiliary Unit 491.

Towers went on to explain more about the purpose of the Girls State program that is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. "It is the belief of the American Legion Auxiliary that from active individual participation in government affairs of a mythical 51st state will come a broader understanding of the responsibilities of citizenship in a democracy and a deeper appreciation for its great privileges. We feel citizens return to their communities with an increased knowledge

of governmental activities and heightened ideals of American citizenship." Ken Lobo, commander of American Legion Post 491, explains the similar values of the Boys State program sponsored by the American Legion. "At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments."

Lobo explains, "Operated by students elected to vari-

ous offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs."

The students are assigned to different branches. At Girls State students operate a "51st state" for the duration of the week.

The boys at Boys State, according to Lobo, become a part of one of the two fictional political parties. "The

PLEASE SEE STATE | B7

GISD approves \$750K sale of AES property to Anchor Fellowship Church

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District board of trustees voted 3:2 to sell five acres of land on Acton School Road to Anchor Fellowship Church Granbury for \$750,000 during a regularly scheduled meeting June 24.

According to a memo from GISD Chief Financial Officer Emmett Whitefield, the board determined Aug. 21, 2023 that the five acres located at 2750 Acton School Road were "surplus" and "not necessary to meet the current and foreseeable needs of the district for educational purposes."

The district then contracted with VYBE Realty LLC

and started the bid process described in Texas Local Government Code Section 272.001.

Whitefield explained that GISD received sealed bids June 6, and the highest bid for the five acres was received from Anchor Fellowship Church in the amount of \$750,000 — which is above the minimum bid amount.

According to the memo, the bid included language that the district would grant utility easements — if needed — across the district's adjacent property to connect water and sewer service from Acton Municipal Utility District. The bid also includes granting a 40-foot-wide ingress/egress roadway easement from the property to James Road, with the exact location to be

mutually agreed upon by the district and buyer. The cost of the roadway would also be at the expense of the buyer.

The memo states that administration was in favor of granting these additional easements as part of the property sale, however, the board may agree to award this bid with or without these additional easements.

"The proposed resolution will delegate the authority to the superintendent to negotiate and execute the contract amendments to the contract, and other documents necessary to affect the conveyance of the property," Whitefield said. "It is the recommendation of administration that the board of trustees approve the resolution authorizing the sale of real property con-

sisting of five acres more or less located at 2750 Acton School Road Granbury, Texas 76049."

Place 7 Trustee Karen Lowery commented that since the district is unsure what other amendments might be required by the buyer, the court should refrain from committing to the easements until the entire agreement can be presented.

"We should reserve our approval and disapproval until the agreement has been finalized by both parties, so we know exactly what this is going to be about," she said. "I just believe that there needs to be a lot of transparency with this. It's a big transaction. It's a good price for the school, but we need to make sure that as it all comes out

that it's all the same and stays the same."

Finance Purchasing Manager Houcine Chraibi clarified that the district did receive final agreements from the attorney. He said apart from the amendment the buyer requested regarding the notice of sale and listing — which was designed to protect school districts — that was the only easement they asked for.

Place 2 Trustee Nancy Alana asked Lowery if there were specific amendments she wanted to address.

"No, it just said that the superintendent was going to execute this, and then there could be other amendments," Lowery said. "If we go ahead and do all of this and we approve it, can there be other

amendments made after that point?"

"Beyond the scope of the easement for wastewater or whatever, no," GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said.

Alana made a motion to accept the recommendation of the sale of five acres located at 2750 Acton School Road to Anchor Fellowship Church. Place 5 Trustee Billy Wimberly seconded the motion and it passed 3:2, with Lowery and Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft voting "No." Place 1 Trustee Mike Moore recused himself from the vote as he is a member of the church and Vice President Courtney Gore was absent from the meeting.

VOLLMER

FROM PAGE B1

been showing promise since she was 7 years old, setting two state records and winning gold at the TAAF (Texas Amateur Athletic Federation) State Meet."

Vollmer burst onto the national scene in 2000 at the age of 12 when she was the youngest swimmer to compete at the Olympic Trials. She did not make the team, but those who saw her knew it was only a matter of time — four years, to be exact.

BREAKING THROUGH

Vollmer did make the 2004 Centennial Olympic Games in Athens. And though she took a step back in 2008, not qualifying, she rebounded strong in 2012 and again in 2016 with her "Momma on a Mission" tour as 17 months after giving birth to her first son in March 2015, she competed in the Rio Olympic Games.

In Rio, she won gold in the 400 medley relay, a silver in the 400 freestyle relay and a bronze in the 100 butterfly, and was the only mother in the sport of swimming to win a gold medal.

HAVING HEART

In all, Vollmer won a total of 32 medals in major international competitions,

including 19 gold.

Perhaps the most impressive part of her career was she accomplished this with a heart challenge.

In 2003, Vollmer underwent heart surgery to correct a condition called supraventricular tachycardia, which produces a quickened pulse rate of about 240 beats per minute. After that surgery, an electrocardiogram indicated to her cardiologists that she might have Long QT syndrome. Further testing ruled out the condition.

Still, her physicians recommended that she always have a defibrillator at the poolside whenever she swims in case of a heart emergency.

HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE

Vollmer, who was largely homeschooled because of her schedule, also fulfilled another dream when she joined the Granbury High swim team for the 2004-05 school year. She still holds the state record in the 200 freestyle with her time of 1:45.64, which won the Class 6A championship that season.

In college, Vollmer first enrolled in the University of Florida, and swam for the Gators in 2006. As a freshman, she earned four honorable mention All-American

honors.

She then transferred to the University of California in Berkeley, where she finished her NCAA career competing for the California Golden Bears swimming and diving team under coach Teri McKeever from 2007 to 2009. Vollmer was the Golden Bears' most valuable swimmer for three consecutive years, the Pac-10 Swimmer of the Year in 2009, and the 2008-09 recipient of the Honda Sports Award for Swimming and Diving, recognizing her as the outstanding college female swimmer of the year.

She earned 20 All-American honors as a Golden Bear swimmer, won individual NCAA championships in the 100-yard butterfly in 2007 and 100-yard and 200-yard freestyles in 2009, and led the Golden Bears to their first NCAA team championship in 2009.

LIFE OUTSIDE SWIMMING

Vollmer is married to Andy Grant, a former swimmer for Stanford University. They have two sons, 9-year-old Arlen and 7-year-old Ryker.

In fact, Vollmer even competed when she was carrying Ryker, in the 50 free at the 2017 Arena Pro Swim Series Indy while six months

pregnant. She participated in preparation for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, though she would later retire in 2019.

Today, Vollmer is a motivational speaker. She and Steenberge stay in touch regularly.

"I am so proud of the woman she is and how she always strives to give back to the swimming community and the well-being of others," Steenberge said.

COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury's Dana Vollmer won seven Olympic medals, including five gold, in her swimming career. She is now a motivational speaker and will be inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame in October.



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LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A camper shoots from the bench Monday, June 26.

Tolar Rattlers linemen third in state

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The Tolar Rattlers, in their first competition after their move up to Class 3A, placed third at the State Lineman Challenge in Abilene last Saturday, June 22. The competition was at Hardin-Simmons University. Goliad won the competition and Lexington was second. Last season the Rattlers placed fourth in Class 2A. However, as they are moving up to Class 3A in the fall, they competed at the higher level this year.

Participants were Cash Clark, Sam Stewart, Zane Graham, Tony Combs, Peyton Brown, Hunter Michaels, Lane Kutej, Drew Cooper and Bryce Towns

Tolar was the fastest 3A school in the dumb bell stack and obstacle course events, along with the worm and farmers carry. The competition featured a host of different events designed to challenge participants in a variety of ways.

"Our lineman competed well all spring and into summer in the Lineman Challenges. Winning the qualifying tournament (in Abilene) earlier in the summer was a great kickoff to the year," Tolar head football coach Blake Mouser said. "The guys are working hard at our summer strength and conditioning camp, Camp Rattler, and the results are showing."

"It's not easy to go compete on a Saturday during the summer in the heat and these guys were fired up to do so. Shout out to our defensive line coach, Brandon Higgins, for helping set up everything and being there to help."

TRACK AND FIELD

Three members of the Granbury Pirates track team and another member of the Dolan family are advancing in USA Track and Field and Amateur Athletic Union competition this summer.

Competing for Fort Worth Xpress track club, Elijah Johnston and his younger brother Kaleb qualified for the USATF regionals July 4-6 in Seguin. Also from the Pirates, Caden Davis qualified for the AAU regionals going on this weekend at Chisholm Trail High School.

Elijah Johnston, who finished third in the 200-meter dash at the University Interscholastic League Class 5A State Track Meet in early May, qualified for Seguin in that event and the 100, running the Boys 17-18 division at Springtown recently. He posted a seventh-place finals time of 22.15 seconds in the 200 and ran a 10.81 in the 100.

In addition, he ran the anchor leg of the winning 4x100 relay that was clocked in 41.49.

Kaleb ran the second leg of the runner-up 4x100 relay in the Boys 15-16 division at Springtown, as the quartet came in with a time of 42.75. He was also seventh in the 100 with an 11.14.

Davis, competing in the Boys 17-18 age group for the Fort Worth Flyers, ran the first leg of the 4x400 relay that finished sixth with a time of 3:42.89, also at Chisholm Trail.

Also competing in Seguin will be Malachi Dolan, the younger brother of 2022 national champion (Boys 13-14, AAU 3,000 meter run) and 2023 runner-up (Boys 15-16, USATF) Gannon Dolan. The younger Dolan qualified by placing fourth in the 1500 in

the Boys 9-10 age group in Springtown, clocking a time of 5:57.

The top eight finishers in their events at the regional qualifier advanced to regionals. From there, the top five in each event will qualify for Junior Olympics. For USATF that will be in College Station July 22-28 and for AAU it will be in Greensboro, North Carolina July 29-Aug. 3.

SEALS SWIMMING

The Granbury SEALS swept their home meet recently. In combined scoring, the males and females scored 2,899 points to 2,089 for runner-up Ridgela Pool Association.

Breaking it down, the SEALS female swimmers amassed 1,222 to 934 for RPA, while the males scored 1,573 to 1,123 for RPA.

Also competing in the meet were Walsh, The Colony and Mineral Wells.

Top SEALS finishers were (distances in yards)

Boys/Men

Asher Beatty, 11-12: Third in 50 breast, 48.67

Rocky Blutworth, 40-Over: Second in 50 Free, 32.18; first in 100 IM, 1:28.46

Kyle Brawner, 13-14: First in 100 Free, 1:00.69; second in 50 Back, 32.54; first in 50 Breast 36.37

Logan Crowe, 13-14: First in 50 Back, 29.42; first in 50 Fly, 27.08; first in IM, 1:02.06

Jace Esquivel, 11-12: Third in 100 Free, 1:21.58; first in 50 Back, 43.09; third in 50 Free, 36.57

Zane Frasier, 9-10: First in 50 Free, 35.50; second in 25 Back, 21.24; first in 100 IM, 1:36.47

Maverick Harris, 6-Under: First in 25 Back, 39.51

Reid Holdridge, 8-Under: Second in 50 Free, 48.38; first in 25 Back, 24.58; first in 25 Free, 20.95

Tripp Lanzara, 8-Under: First in 25 Fly, 46.93; second in 25 free, 39.65

Davis Moore, 9-10: Second in 25 Fly, 27.37

Colby Parker, 15-17: First in 100 Free, 56.83; third in 50 Free, 25.44

Brady Porter, 18-24: First in 50 Back, 34.58; first in 50 Fly, 29.55; first in 200 Free, 1:52.71

Mason Prince, 11-12: Second in 50 Fly, 36.28; third in 100, 1:27.00

Adler Snow, 13-14: Second in 100 Free, 1:05.01; second in 50 Fly, 30.91; first in 50 Free, 29.02

Connor Spence, 11-12: Second in 50 Back, 43.34

Patrick Steenberge, 40-Over: Third in 50 Free, 39.97

John Stone, 11-12: Second in 100 Free, 1:07.42; third in 50 Fly, 39.04; second in 100 IM, 1:26.2

Lee Stuart, 15-17: Second in 50 Fly, 27.64; second in 100 IM, 1:05.13; first in 200 Free, 2:42.86

Crosby Tyler, 6-Under: First in 25 Free, 36.43; second in 25 Back, 42.89

Noah Wagnon, 11-12: Second in 50 Free, 30.05

Cameron Ward, 15-17: First in 50 Fly, 26.51; first in 50 Free, 23.95; first in 100 IM, 1:03.21

Jude Ward, 11-12: First in 50 Breast, 37.13; first in 50 Free, 27.54

Girls/Women

Olivia Bedgood, 18-24: First in 100 free, 1:16.26; First in 50 back, 42.01; First in 50 free, 33.28

Kori Brawner, 18-Over: First in 200 Free, 2:30.49

Leah Citzler, 11-12: First in 25 Back 19.75; first in 100 IM; 1:32.85

Bethany Crowe, 15-17: First in 50 Back, 29.75; first in 50 Breast, 34.52; first in 100 IM, 1:04.91

Burkley Massey, 13-14: First

in 50 Breast, 35.38; first in 50 Fly, 30.11; first in 50 Free, 26.96

Lilli McKelvy, 11-12: Second in 50 Back, 36.94; second in 50 Breast, 45.95

Allie Parker, 13-14: Third in 50 Breast, 41.91; third in 50 Free, 29.82

Annabel Ross, 11-12: Second in 100 Free, 1:22.39; second in 100 IM, 1:26.73

Eliana Sanchez, 8-Under: Third in 50 Free, 51.64; first in 25 Fly, 31.19

Rory Stephan, 9-10: Second in 25 Back, 23.11; third in 25 Breast, 30.63; second in 25 Free, 22.46

Bailey Stone, 13-14: First in 100 Free, 1:08.49; first in 200 free, 2:38.36

Tristy Stuart, 40-Over: First in 50 Back, 38.09; first in 100 IM, 1:24.29

Hayley Taylor, 8-Under: Second in 25 Breast, 33.55

Ellie Uribe, 11-12: Second in 50 Fly, 1:09.39

Hannah Ward, 15-17: Second in 50 Breast, 38.06; second in 100 IM, 1:11.91

Sailor Winters, 8-Under: Third in 25 Breast, 38.31

Avery Young, 15-17: First in 100 Free, 1:02.13; first in 50 Fly, 29.89; first in 50 Free, 27.67

Elizabeth Zieschang, 11-12: First in 100 Free, 1:07.28; first in 50 Back, 35.32; first in 50 Free, 30.07

Relays

Mixed

15-17 200 Medley Relay: 1. Bethany Crowe, Leander Stuart, Hannah Ward, Cameron Ward, 1:56.93; 2. Kori Brawner, Brady Porter, Colby Parker, Jina Kim, 2:04.05

Boys/Men

6-Under 100 Freestyle: 1. Crosby Tyler, Maverick Harris, Collin Baysinger, Sailor Baxter, 2:45.58

9-10 100 Medley Relay: 1. Jaxon McKelvy, Zane Frasier,

Davis Moore, Jacob Bufkin, 1:46.35

13-14 200 Medley Relay: 1. Adler Snow, Logan Crowe, Kyle Brawner, Jace Esquivel

11-12 200 Medley Relay: 1. Noah Wagnon, Jude Ward, Mason Prince, John Stone, 2:21.73

8-Under 100 Freestyle Relay: 3. Jeremiah Sorrells, Jason Conn, Maddox Harris, Crosby Tyler, 2:27.70

Girls/Women

8-Under 100 Medley Relay: 2. Austin Conn, Tripp Lanzara, Reid Holdridge, Jeremiah Sorrells, 2:23.95

11-12 200 Medley: 1. Lilli McKelvy, Elizabeth Zieschang, Annabel Ross, Abby Parker, 2:33.13

9-10 100 Freestyle Relay: 2. Aubrey Snow, Aurora Stephan, Addison Limon, Harmony Martin, 1:42.40

JUNIOR GOLF

A pair of Granbury Pirates teammates tied for the top spot recently in a tournament on the North Texas PGA Junior Tour. Quinn Bradley and Landon Womack, competing on the Medalist Tour, each shot 77 in the Boys 15-18 division at Texas Star in Eules June 20.

Other recent results involving area players include:

Prep Tour

Prairie Lakes, Grand Prairie Boys 9-10 (nine holes):

2. Townes Chauveaux, Granbury, 37 (one stroke out of lead)

Medalist Tour

Hidden Creek, Burleson Boys 13-14: 5. Henry Ballew, Granbury, 86

Boys 15-18: 5. Womack, 79

Texas Star, Eules Boys 15-18: 29. (tie) Braxton Pugh, Granbury, 91

All-American Tour

Shady Valley, Arlington Boys 15-18: 28. (tie) Womack, 79-76 = 155



GHS MCJROTC Rifle Camp

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Marine Corps Junior ROTC Rifle Team had its summer rifle camp for any incoming seventh through the 10th-grade students June 24-28. Photos are from Monday camp. See more photos in the photo gallery at hcnews.com



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Dr. J. Michael Leger named dean of Tarleton State School of Nursing



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. J. (John) Michael Leger

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University has named Dr. J. “John” Michael Leger its dean of nursing, effective July 1.

In this role, Leger will manage the administrative functions of the School of Nursing and focus on the plans and initiatives that support Tarleton Forward 2030: Our Future-Focused Strategic Plan.

He comes to Tarleton State after spending the past 10 years at The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston. At UTMB, he has served as a professor, track coordinator for the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) executive nurse leadership track, and the inaugural interim track coordinator for the nursing

PhD program.

“Dr. Leger is well-equipped to lead our School of Nursing, having over 20 years of experience as a healthcare executive, including roles such as chief nursing officer, vice president of nursing, and hospital CEO,” said Dr. Ramona Parker, associate vice president and executive dean for the College of Health Sciences. “I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and am confident that, under his leadership, we will continue to advance and strengthen our program.”

During his time at UTMB, Leger taught primarily in graduate-level programs and served as an adviser to special initiatives in the undergraduate programs. He also designed, developed and initiated an on-

line orientation program in 2015 called CORE, which improved the preparation of incoming MSN students for the realities and expectations of online education. Through the program, the university saw improved on-time graduation rates and lower attrition rates in participants.

Additionally, he assisted in creating a similar program to include RN-BSN students, which later expanded to include doctoral programs.

“Visiting the campus and the people I met during my interviews only reassured me that I had made the right decision to pursue this position,” said Leger. “The pride of the faculty, staff and students in Tarleton State University is evident in how they speak about the culture

and the excitement for the future. I see nothing but opportunity at Tarleton State, and particularly the future of the School of Nursing. I look forward to working with Dr. Ramona Parker and the faculty, staff and students at the university.”

In 2024, Leger received the UTMB School of Nursing Alumni Association Hall of Fame Award. He was also the UTMB Academy of Master Teachers Faculty of the Month recipient in February 2023. A registered nurse, he holds a doctorate in nursing research and education from UTMB and a master’s degree in business and healthcare administration from Our Lady of the Lake University in Houston. He earned his bachelor’s degree in nursing from UTMB.

Online student harnesses prior coursework, experience to expedite degree

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Amber Taylor doesn’t have time to spare. As a single parent of a busy teenager and a full-time worker looking to advance in her field, she was drawn to Tarleton State University Online’s flexible route to a bachelor’s degree. Now, just over two years later, Taylor is graduating with a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree in information technology with an undergraduate certificate in cybersecurity.

“Having a degree from Tarleton State will open so many doors for my future,” said Taylor. “I know this is what I want to do, and as a nontraditional student turning 37 the week before graduation, I have life experience on top of proving that I can be knowledgeable and dedicated.”

Taylor had attended Tarleton State after high school, but life challenges caused her to drop out to work full time. She eventually earned an associate degree elsewhere and worked in banking and then information technology jobs. She currently works for an IT support company.

“I knew I wanted to stay in this field, and to do so I would need to have a degree to advance or obtain other jobs,” Taylor said. “Since I have always loved Tarleton State, I started researching and found online degree plans.” Her adviser reviewed her transcripts and suggested the BAAS program, in which she could apply previous course credits as well as work experience to complete her degree faster and more efficiently.

The Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) degree from the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business utilizes prior business-related technical or vocational coursework, documented employer training records, continuing education credits or certifications as sources of credit. The program is intended to allow students seeking a bachelor’s degree to complete coursework quickly.

“This was a huge help financially and timewise,” said Taylor. “I had such amazing help and advising from start to finish that ensured I was able to utilize my previous credits and what degree plan would work best for me. It was hard at times, manag-

ing working full time, having an active high schooler and managing being a full-time student. But I did it!”

Her daughter was a major influence in her decision to move forward with her degree, Taylor said.

“She was in middle school when I decided to go back to college. That age is so impressionable, and I wanted her to know that no matter what happens, if you really want something and are willing to work hard, you can achieve your goals. “I am a single mom, and to give her what she deserves I have to put in the work. I try to go to as many of her events, games, etc. as possible,” Taylor added. “Online learning was the only option for me and discovering that Tarleton State could help me with that, it was not a hard decision to make.”

She said the experience also helped her learn to trust herself to self-manage and prioritize her classes on top of her job and parenting roles.

“It has helped me learn my strengths and weaknesses and shown me that I can handle stressful times with a lot going on.” It can be dif-



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Amber Taylor, right, with her daughter, Mattysyn. Taylor said Mattysyn strongly influenced her decision to move forward with her degree through Tarleton State University Online.

icult to teach yourself, she said, but her professors were helpful and she experienced good communication. She would recommend Tarleton State Online to anyone wanting to continue their education.

“There is such a wide variety of degree plans to explore and find what is right for you. It is never too late to go back to school.”

Tarleton State University’s

online option offers more than 20 undergraduate completion programs and 22 graduate degrees, all designed for ultimate flexibility and affordability to empower busy adults, working professionals and lifelong learners to unlock their potential.

In addition, 10 unique professional completion degrees allow students to convert experience into credit by recognizing the value of

existing knowledge gained through professional training, certifications and technical coursework, accelerating their degree path.

To learn more about Tarleton State Online, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/online/>.

To learn more about the BAAS options at Tarleton State, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/degrees/business-baas/>.

Tarleton State’s Rachael Capua featured on Fort Worth Newsmakers list

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Dr. Rachael Capua, dean of Tarleton State University Fort Worth and vice president for external operations, has been honored as one of 27 individuals highlighted in the Dallas Business Journal’s first ever Fort Worth Newsmakers list.

Fort Worth is now the 12th largest city in the country and the fastest-growing big city in Texas. The Newsmakers list is com-

prised of business, government and education leaders who are making decisions that will have direct impact on the economy, housing market and workforce for years to come.

Capua plays a key role in the growth trajectory of Tarleton State’s Fort Worth campus, where 24 new undergraduate programs will begin serving first- and second-year students this fall. To accommodate new and existing areas of study, a best-in-class

Interprofessional Education Building is nearing completion and will add 102,000 square feet of classroom, laboratory and collaboration spaces aimed to increase access to quality healthcare and education in the region and beyond.

In addition to Fort Worth, Capua is responsible for Tarleton State’s outreach locations in Waco, Bryan and online, including community college relations statewide. Effective July 1, the division of external operations will

also oversee extended education and lifelong learning programs for the university, providing flexible and cost-effective options for personal and professional development including industry specific upskilling through self-paced eLearning courses and non-credit bearing certification programs.

“I am deeply honored to be recognized alongside this list of Fort Worth leaders, all of whom I have great respect and appreciation for,” said Capua. “Each of these indi-

viduals has an unwavering commitment to our community and its growth. Believing in the power of partnership, I look forward to continuing our work together.”

Enrollment projections at Tarleton State Fort Worth are expected to reach up to 10,000 students within the next six years, in line with Tarleton Forward 2030: Our Future-Focused Strategic Plan.

A second-generation Mexican-American and former community college

transfer student, Capua graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in advertising and public relations from TCU as a Chancellor’s Scholar. She earned a master’s degree in higher education from the University of Oklahoma and a doctorate in higher education from SMU.

To learn more about Tarleton State Fort Worth, visit www.tarleton.edu/fortworth/.



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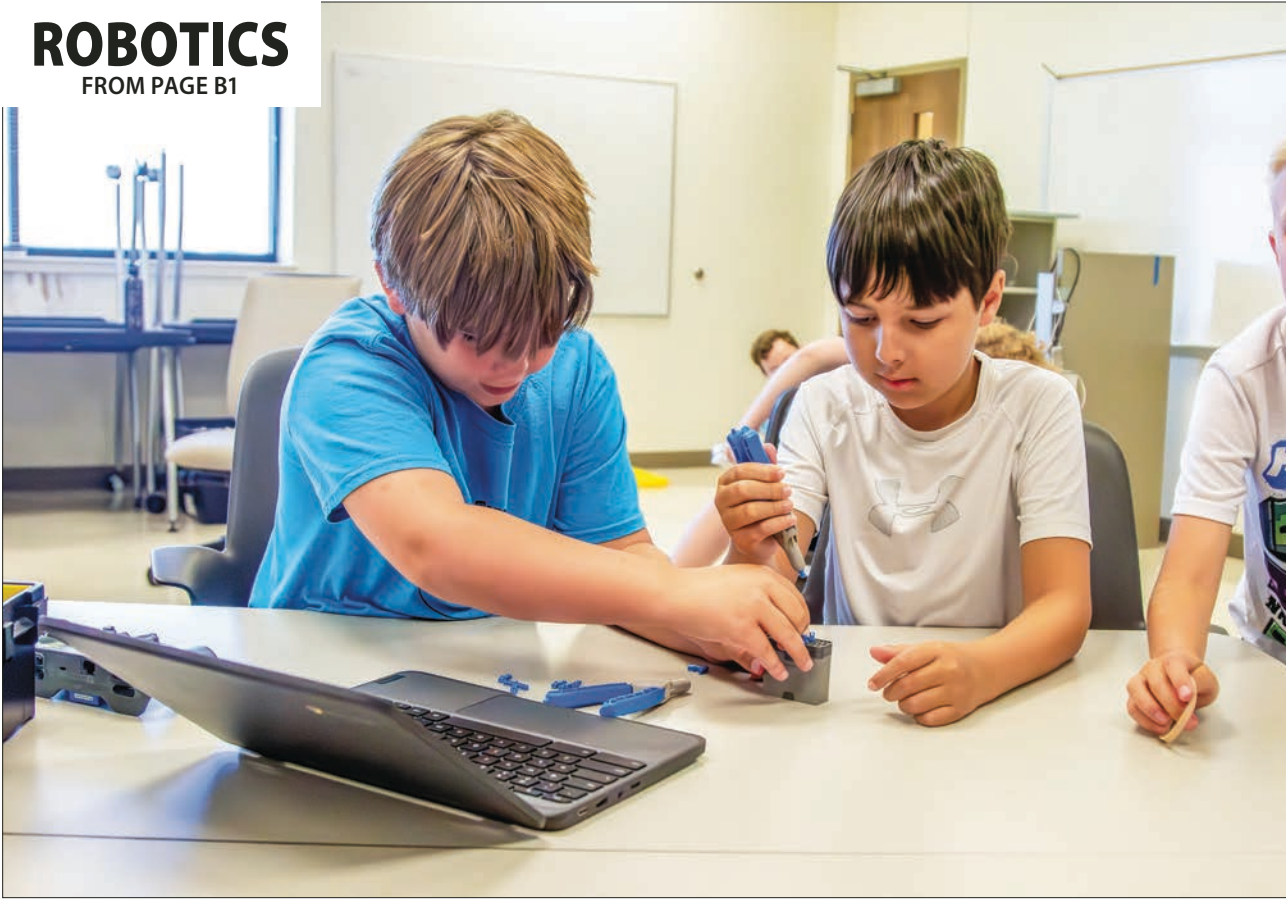
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ROBOTICS

FROM PAGE B1



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

STATE

FROM PAGE B2

students begin the process of holding meetings to select delegates from the fictional precincts, cities, county and state governments. The students select representatives to fill positions on platform and rules committees who will design a platform for a political convention. Alliances are made and discussions with opposition leaders are held. In fact, each dorm room is comprised of representatives from the two different political parties in order to encourage the art of discussion and compromise."

Towers describes the camps as "nonpartisan laboratories of government."

"ALA Girls State delegates are a diverse group with a shared desire to learn and lead. ALA Girls State 'citizens' come together from small towns, big cities and rural areas all across Texas," Towers said.

"My favorite part of Girls State was the community,"

shared Jessica Van Buren, an incoming senior at Glen Rose High School. "I was blessed to be part of the City N, Neptunes. There was an immense amount of support that came from not only my city but our entire county, party, and state," Van Buren said.

Participant Andrew Bowen, an incoming senior at Granbury High School, agreed. "My favorite part was we were able to come together and acknowledge other people's thoughts without forcing our own. Also, the meetings actually talked about real world conversations and problems," Bowen said.

The students who attended left with a different view of government.

"Before going to Girls State I felt I had no power as a person. I felt that one vote truly wouldn't matter. After all, I'm only a single person. But at Girls State, you truly learn how much one vote makes a difference. You learn how close ties are. And in government elections one

vote truly makes a huge difference," shared Monzerath Arias, who will be a senior at Premier High School this fall.

Van Buren concurred. "I learned a deeper understanding of the legislative branch. As I got to be part of our senate at Girls State I was able to see bills debated and truly understand the amount of thought and time that was dedicated to each idea, whether it passed or not."

The young men who attended Boys State found their eyes were opened as well.

"I learned how much depth is put into the voting process to ensure fairness and correct votes are accounted for. My favorite part about Boys State was probably seeing how confused all of us were going into it and seeing the growth (during the week) as we created our own government," said Brantly Thrasher, who will be a senior at Granbury High School this fall.

The Boys State and Girls State programs leave lasting impressions. All the atten-



COURTESY PHOTO

Local student Jessica Van Buren on the right met new friends from all over Texas while participating in Texas Bluebonnet Girls State.

dants left with a better understanding of government, and each expressed valuing the responsibility of voting with new appreciation.

"Participating in this unique program has taught me that everyone has a voice

that deserves to be heard and it's crucial that you take every opportunity to vote for your representatives," shared Aiden Lemens, rising senior at Granbury High School.

Preston Barden, also an

incoming senior at Granbury agreed. "Boys State has motivated me to vote because I understand how important every vote is," said Barden.

HCN Junior



How they SAY that in...

- ENGLISH:** Fish
- SPANISH:** Pescado
- ITALIAN:** Pesce
- FRENCH:** Poisson
- GERMAN:** Fisch

International Fishing Day, observed on June 29th, casts a line of excitement for kids to explore the world of angling and appreciate the

joys of fishing. It's a day that celebrates the timeless connection between humans and water, fostering an appreciation for nature, patience, and the thrill of catching a fish.

For children, International Fishing Day offers a unique opportunity to

Did You Know?

READING, TRAVELING AND FISHING ARE SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR HOBBIES AROUND THE WORLD.



learn the art of fishing. Whether they are beginners or experienced young anglers, families can plan a fishing trip to local lakes or rivers. This provides kids with the chance to cast their lines, feel the anticipation of a bite, and experience the wonders of the great outdoors.

Parents and mentors play a crucial role on International Fishing Day by sharing fishing tips and techniques. Kids can learn about setting up tackle, identifying different fish species, and understanding the significance of responsible fishing practices. This includes learning catch-and-release techniques and respecting fishing regulations to help preserve the delicate balance within aquatic ecosystems.

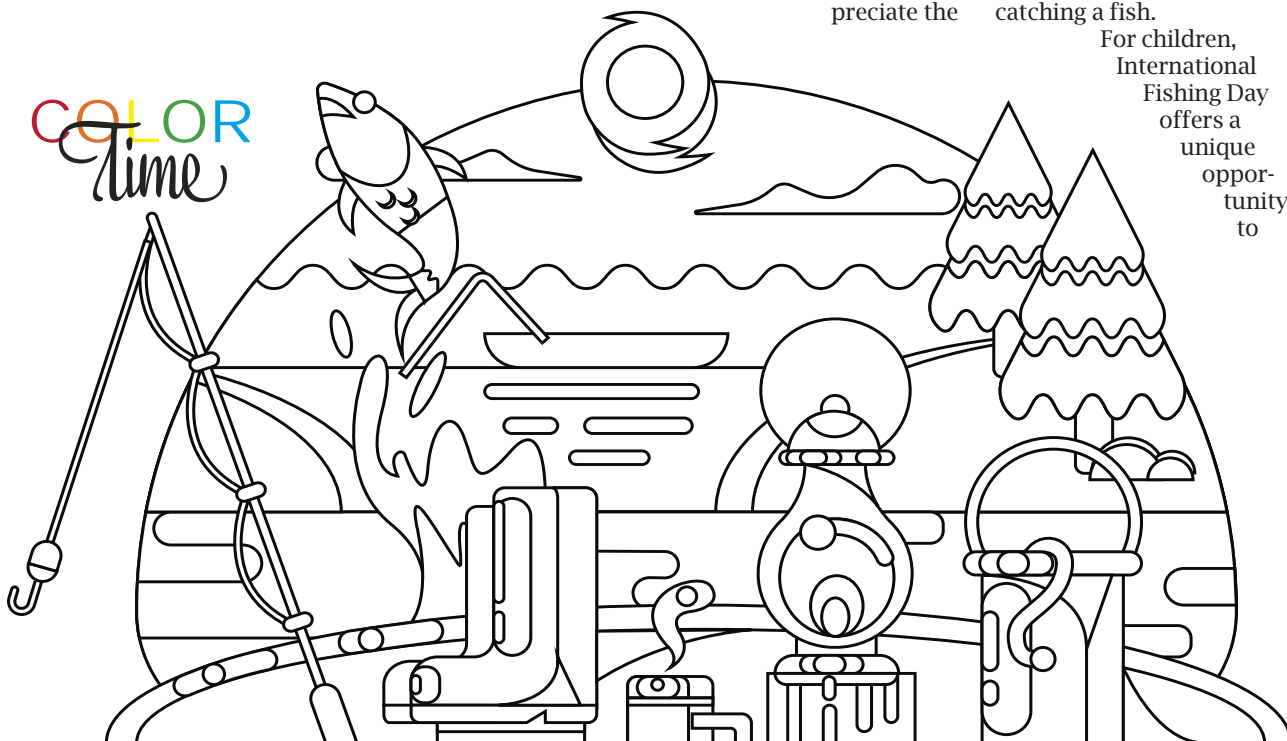
International Fishing Day isn't just about catching fish; it's an opportunity for kids to connect with nature. Families can spend the

day by the water, appreciating the tranquility and beauty of natural landscapes. Fishing teaches children patience, focus, and an understanding of the delicate balance within aquatic ecosystems.

Children can document their fishing adventures through drawings or storytelling, creating lasting memories of the day spent by the water. It's also a chance for families to share stories about the cultural significance of fishing and its role in communities around the world.

Through International Fishing Day, kids can develop a lifelong love for the outdoors and gain a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between people and water. Whether it's the thrill of a catch, the serenity of a lakeside retreat, or the camaraderie with family and friends, this day celebrates the joy and traditions of fishing.

COLOR Time



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Constitution Camp

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

From June 17-21, Constitution Camp was held at the Langdon Center Concert Hall and the grounds of the Langdon Center. The camp was open to children aged 7 to 13 and aimed to educate them about the United States Constitution.



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Bowling us over: Pins Alley's winning formula



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PINS BOWLING ALLEY

Glow bowling at Pins Bowling Alley. In addition to bowling, Pins serves delicious food with a diverse menu ranging from appetizers to gourmet sandwiches to pizza. There is live music Thursday nights and various digital games like archery and castle destruction, appealing to both kids and adults.



League bowling at Pins Bowling Alley.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
Lauren@hcnews.com

Pins Bowling Alley, formerly known as Granbury Lanes, has been a staple of local entertainment since its inception in the 1980s. Under the ownership of Josh Jensen, Pins continues to offer a fun and engaging outlet for families and individuals alike.

Jensen, whose family owns Newscope Marketing for Ford Motor Company, saw an opportunity to bring more entertainment options to the area. "Honestly, it was for sale and the price was pretty reasonable," Jensen said. "There really wasn't much for families to do in Granbury, so it seemed like a great opportunity to provide a place for people to come together and have fun."

After acquiring the bowling alley from Maureen Wolf, Jensen made significant changes. "When we took it over, we wiped out the entire place, went in with a bobcat, and leveled every wall," he explained. "We entirely redid the layout, repositioned the kitchen and bar, and raised the ceilings. The pinsetters are the original Brunswick A2s from 1957, which adds a nostalgic touch."

Pins Bowling Alley is busiest on Mondays, Thursdays,



Adult men enjoying an evening of bowling.

and weekends. "We keep pretty busy during weeknights with leagues," Jensen noted. "We have two senior leagues on Monday and Friday, mixed leagues on Monday and Wednesday nights, and we're starting a youth clinic this July."

Despite the constant

need for maintenance and repairs, Jensen credits his team's dedication for the alley's smooth operation. "I have a great team of managers who help keep everything running," he said. "It's a blessing. I have a food and beverage manager who runs the kitchen.

I have a head mechanic in the back, a manager at the front desk, and an indispensable lead bartender."

One of Pins' most popular attractions is Glow Bowl, held Friday and Saturday nights. Jensen, who grew

PLEASE SEE PINS | C3



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIDGE ROBERTS

Ridge Roberts accepts a certificate and trophy for winning the National Championship Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho.

Ridge Roberts: Fiddle virtuoso wins National Championship

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
Lauren@hcnews.com

Ridge Roberts, a 21-year-old fiddle prodigy from Granbury, clinched the title of National Grand Champion at the National Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho, June 22. Adding another accolade to his already impressive career, Roberts' prizes included \$2,400, a bronze trophy, a champion's jacket, a belt buckle and a certificate.

Known for his exceptional talent and dedication to the craft, Roberts' journey in music began at the tender age of 7. He was inspired by his father's fiddle-playing.

"My dad started playing the fiddle in his 40s but stopped when he had a family," Roberts recounted. "I heard him play a couple of times and was instantly hooked. He showed me the tunes he knew, and I never

put it down after that." Roberts' musical journey is deeply rooted in his family. Despite having three somewhat musically inclined brothers, Ridge is the only one who pursued the fiddle seriously. "One of my older brothers played the saxophone, and another briefly played the fiddle," Roberts shared. His father now primarily focuses on working on fiddles.

Homeschooled during his formative years, Roberts credits his flexible education model for allowing him the time to hone his craft, travel to gigs, and participate in fiddle contests across the United States. His parents' support was instrumental, with his mother often driving him to competitions and lessons while his father worked.

"I started taking lessons from Joey McKenzie when

PLEASE SEE FIDDLE | C2

Goodbye to a river How Lake Granbury transformed Hood County

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

As someone who has lived in the Granbury/Hood County area for almost 40 years now, I've definitely been witness to a lot of change. When I moved here in the mid-'80s, the first red light you encountered on U.S. Highway 377 coming into town from Fort Worth was the one at Davis Road, where the Kentucky Fried Chicken and Davis Crossing Shopping Center are located.

As you headed west on the U.S. 377 Bypass, there were a few eating places on either side of the highway, but not many. A seafood restaurant called Key Largo used to sit where the Aldi Grocery Store is now located. Of course, the Around the Clock Granbury's only 24-hour business at the time, was where the current Sonic Drive-In is located.

The old Walmart (pre-Super Center days), where the current Stonewater Church is located, was literally on the

edge of town. All the development west of it — the new Walmart Super Center and all the development that now exists between it and the lake — was still years away.

Before you start bemoaning all that growth and change, you should probably know that the growth I've seen in my time here pales in comparison to what locals experienced in the decade from 1970-1980. What was the catalyst for all this rapid growth? You've probably guessed it if you've read this far into this article. If you said the building of Lake Granbury, you're correct.

Whatever one might say about Lake Granbury, it is much more than just a picturesque body of water. It is a testament to vision, perseverance and the transformative power of development. Indeed, the damming of the Brazos River to form Lake Granbury stands as the single most transformative event in the history of Granbury and Hood County.

This monumental project,

PLEASE SEE LAKE | C3

Keep your cool

preventing heat-related illness in Texas

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

As if it were a seasoned actor waiting for its cue line to enter a scene, the Texas heat has taken center stage. Just a few days after summer officially arrived, so did our first 100-degree day last weekend. To no one's surprise, the National Weather Service has issued its first heat advisory of the summer.

If you've experienced at least one Texas summer, you know it's essential to stay informed about heat-related illnesses and how to prevent them. During extremely hot and humid weather, your body struggles to cool itself effectively. When the body heats up too quickly or loses too much fluid or salt through dehydration or sweating, the risk of heat-related illness increases. Understanding the symptoms and knowing the right first aid measures can be lifesaving. Here's how you can stay safe and enjoy your summer.

RECOGNIZING HEAT-RELATED ILLNESSES

Heat cramps Heat cramps are often the first indication that your body is struggling with the heat. These painful muscle cramps and spasms, usually occurring in the legs and abdomen, are accompanied by heavy sweating.

SYMPTOMS:

- Painful muscle cramps and spasms
- Heavy sweating

FIRST AID:

Apply firm pressure on the cramping muscles or gently massage them. Provide sips of water unless the person feels nauseous; then stop giving water. Seek medical attention if cramps last longer than one hour. Heat exhaustion When heat cramps are not addressed, they can escalate to heat exhaustion. This condition is marked by heavy sweating, weakness, cool and clammy skin, a rapid pulse and potential dizziness or fainting.

SYMPTOMS:

- Heavy sweating
- Weakness or tiredness
- Cool, pale, clammy skin
- Fast, weak pulse

- Muscle cramps, dizziness, nausea or vomiting, headache, fainting

FIRST AID:

Move the person to a cooler environment, preferably one that is air-conditioned. Loosen clothing and apply cool, wet cloths, or have the person sit in a cool bath. Offer sips of water. Seek medical attention if vomiting occurs, symptoms worsen, or last longer than an hour.

Heat stroke Heat stroke is a severe and potentially fatal condition where the body can no longer regulate its temperature. This requires immediate medical attention.

SYMPTOMS:

- Throbbing headache
- Confusion
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Body temperature above 103°F
- Hot, red, dry or damp skin
- Rapid and strong pulse
- Fainting or loss of consciousness

FIRST AID:

Call 911 or get the person to a hospital immediately. Move the person to a cooler, air-conditioned environment. Reduce body temperature with cool cloths or a bath. Do not give fluids.

TIPS FOR PREVENTING HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS

Stay cool Wear appropriate clothing: Opt for lightweight, loose-fitting clothes. Stay cool indoors: Spend as much time as possible in air-conditioned places. If your home lacks air conditioning, visit places like shopping malls or public libraries. Even a few hours in a cool environment can make a big difference when you return to the heat. Check with your local health department for heat-relief shelters in your area. Reduce indoor heat by using your stove and oven less. Take cool showers or baths: A cool shower or bath can help you cool off quickly. Schedule outdoor activities carefully Limit outdoor activities: Try to restrict outdoor activities to the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or evening hours.

Rest often in shady areas: Allow your body to recover by taking frequent breaks in shaded areas.

PACE YOURSELF

Cut down on exercise: Reduce your physical activities in hot weather. If you're not used to working out in the heat, start slowly and gradually increase your pace. Know when to stop: If the heat makes your heart race and leaves you gasping for breath, stop all activity. Move to a cool or shaded area and rest, especially if you feel lightheaded, confused, weak or faint.

WEAR SUNSCREEN

Prevent sunburn: Sunburn can impede your body's ability to cool down and increase the risk of dehydration. If you need to be outdoors, wear a wide-brimmed hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher. Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going out and reapply according to the instructions.

STAY HYDRATED

Drink plenty of fluids: Increase your fluid intake, regardless of your activity level. Don't wait until you're thirsty to drink. Avoid sugary or alcoholic drinks, as they can cause you to lose more body fluid. Also, steer clear of very cold drinks, which can cause stomach cramps.

Replace salts and minerals: When you sweat heavily, you lose salt and minerals that need to be replaced. Drinking sports drinks can help replenish these lost nutrients. If you are on a low-salt diet or have medical conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure, consult your doctor before consuming sports beverages or salt tablets.

CONCLUSION

By recognizing the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and taking appropriate preventive measures, you can enjoy the Texas summer safely. Remember, staying cool, pacing yourself, wearing sunscreen and staying hydrated are key strategies to beat the heat. For more detailed information on heat-related illnesses, visit the NWS and/or CDC websites. Stay cool ... and safe, Hood County!

BEAT THE HEAT: Extreme Heat

Heat-related deaths are preventable

WHAT: Extreme heat or heat waves occur when the temperature reaches extremely high levels or when the combination of heat and humidity causes the air to become oppressive.

WHO: Children, Older adults, More males than females are affected, Outside workers, People with disabilities

WHERE: Houses with little to no AC, Construction workites, Cars

HOW to AVOID: Stay hydrated with water, avoid sugary beverages, Stay cool in an air conditioned area, Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothes

Outside Temperature 80°

During extreme heat the temperature in your car could be deadly!

Inside 109°	Inside 118°	Inside 123°
Time Elapsed: 20 minutes	Time Elapsed: 40 minutes	Time Elapsed: 60 minutes

HEAT ALERTS: Know the difference.

HEAT OUTLOOK	HEAT WATCHES	HEAT WARNING/ADVISORY
Minor Excessive heat event in 3 to 7 days	Excessive heat event in 12 to 48 hours	Excessive heat event in next 36 hours Major

DID YOU KNOW?

- Those living in urban areas may be at a greater risk from the effects of a prolonged heat wave than those living in rural areas.
- Most heat-related illnesses occur because of overexposure to heat or over-exercising.
- Sunburn can significantly slow the skin's ability to release excess heat.
- During 1999–2009, an average of 658 people died each year from heat in the United States.

\$30 BILLION estimated total cost of the 2012 US drought and heatwave.

For more information on ways to beat the heat please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat>

280609-B

COURTESY PHOTO

If you've experienced at least one Texas summer, you know it's essential to stay informed about heat-related illnesses and how to prevent them.

FIDDLE

FROM PAGE C1

I was 10," said Roberts. "Joey has been my mentor for about 10 years, and now we play in a band called the Western Flyers, a Western swing trio inspired by Bob Wills' music."

Roberts' dedication to the fiddle was evident from the beginning. Initially practicing for 30 minutes daily in exchange for video game time, he quickly grew more passionate, eventually dedicating most of his day to the instrument. "I was home-schooled, so after school-work, I had all day to sit around and play," he said. One of Roberts' most memorable experiences was performing at the Grand Ole Opry in 2021, a reward for winning a fiddle contest in Nashville in 2019 right before the pandemic struck. He had to wait a year, but said, "It was an amazing experience. Although I only played for 40 seconds, it was unforgettable."

Roberts shared a story about an unusual mishap he faced while performing at the contest in Weiser. "The A string on my fiddle broke on the second note," he recalled. "I had to quickly change the string and get back on stage. Despite this setback, the performance

was fine — it all went well."

Roberts' musical talents extend beyond the fiddle; he plays guitar, sings and writes songs. "I started composing my own tunes early on because I didn't have access to many fiddle tunes," he said. One such composition, "Goliad," written in honor of the Battle of Goliad, is available to view on YouTube. He also recorded a fiddle CD about four years ago and is working on a new album with the Western Flyers, which is expected to be released in the coming months.

"I perform about 80 shows a year with the Flyers and travel around the country for various gigs," Roberts noted. In addition to performing with the Western Flyers, Roberts plays at local nursing homes through a contract with Wings Over Texas, a hospice company founded by Robin Houghton, who taught Roberts' father to play the fiddle.

Reflecting on his approach to music and his recent victory, Roberts shared, "For the Grand Ole Opry, I didn't need to prepare specifically because I had played the tune many times. The same goes for the National Championship. It's about being ready for anything," he said. His dedication to

practice fosters adaptability and preparedness.

Roberts is passionate about traditional country music and Western swing. When asked about the current state of country music, Roberts said, "There's not much of a role for the fiddle in modern country music. I don't keep up with who's on the charts. The newest thing I listen to is probably George Strait. I hope there's a turn towards traditional country music," he said, preferring instruments like the fiddle, steel guitar and drums over digital music.

Roberts describes Western Swing as "dance music," a style originating in the 1930s with bands like the Light Crust Doughboys, led by Milton Brown and Bob Wills. "Western Swing is the official state music of Texas, which hardly anybody knows," he said. "I'm a Texas-style fiddle player all the way."

Despite his achievements, Roberts remains humble and grateful. "I haven't faced many challenges in my years of playing. The biggest was struggling with my second tune, 'Ashokan Farewell,' but I've been steadily progressing since then," he shared. "I'm a perfectionist, always paying attention to details and striv-

PLEASE SEE FIDDLE | C4



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIDGE ROBERTS

Ridge Roberts and his rhythm guitar team after Roberts' championship win on Saturday. (L to R) Darrin Meeks, Hyatt Hopkins, Ridge Roberts, and Tim Hodgson.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

The current world of commercial flying

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.

Many of us have had the experience of flying commercially, either nationally or internationally, to our desired destination. Flying used to be enjoyable — simply purchase your ticket, check in with your luggage, make your way to the appropriate gate, and wait to board your flight. It was rather simple and usually pleasant. But it is certainly not in today's world. You contend with restrictions on everything from the size of your carry-on to the weight of your checked luggage to the number of ounces for liquids.

Now ... about airports ... People used to dress appropriately for flying — from business casual to Sunday attire. Now some folks on board look like they crawled from a rag bag. Passengers used to sit in seats wide enough to take a deep breath without bumping into the person next to you. To make the flight as pleasant as possible, passengers used to be able to stretch their legs so their knees were not

bent at a 90-degree angle. Not now. I would suggest airlines offer departing passengers a squirt of WD-40 to loosen their locked-up knees.

The world's largest airport is the same size as New York City. King Fahd International Airport near Dammam, Saudi Arabia, has a larger area than any other airport. It's 780 square kilometers, or about 300 square miles. That's almost the size of New York City — yes, all five boroughs. As Guinness World Records points out, it's larger than the entire neighboring country of Bahrain, which has three airports of its own.

ATL is the world's busiest airport. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta, Georgia, is the busiest airport in the world for passengers, serving 93,699,630 people in 2022 — and aside from a brief blip in 2020, it has held the No. 1 spot since 1998. It's not even close: The next-busiest airport for passengers, Dallas/

Fort Worth International Airport, was more than 20 million people behind in 2022. So why is it so popular? First, there aren't a lot of other international airports in the immediate area, so it's the closest international airport for much of the South. It's also Delta Air Lines' biggest hub. It makes a lot of sense for transfers, too. According to the airport, it's within a two-hour flight of around 80% of the population of the United States — and unlike the major metropolitan areas that you'd maybe expect to be the busiest, it doesn't have to deal with traffic from other nearby airports.

The world's tallest air traffic control tower is in Saudi Arabia. The tower at Jeddah King Abdulaziz International Airport in Saudi Arabia stands at 136 meters (446 feet), and surpassed the next-tallest tower, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Malaysia, in 2017. The tower in Saudi Arabia is about as tall as the Great Pyramid of Giza.

Airlines pad times to make flights appear punctual. On paper, flights take a lot longer than they used to, even though the airports are located in the same place and the planes haven't gotten slower. It's because airlines have started adding some



COURTESY PHOTO

Passengers used to sit in seats wide enough to take a deep breath without bumping into the person next to you.

extra wiggle room so that a plane has a better chance of landing at its destination on time, even if it has a delayed departure. Despite this, around 30% of planes still arrive more than 15 minutes after their scheduled arrival time.

The shortest commercial runway is in the Caribbean. The island of Saba, located in the Lesser Antilles, is only around 5 square miles, so there's not a lot of room for an airport. (The island is

also filled with rocky cliffs — it's the tip of an underwater volcano.) They make do with only 900 feet of usable runway. For context, the typical commercial runway is between 8,000 and 13,000 feet long.

An Amsterdam airport in Holland has a giant park inside. Airport Schiphol has all sorts of quirky, cozy amenities, including a library, an art gallery, and three-dimensional cow tiles, but Airport Park blows them all away.

The green oasis opened in 2011, and while the vast majority of the plants are fake, it's built around the very real trunk of a 130-year-old copper beech tree. To give the illusion of the outdoors, the airport pipes in parklike sounds such as birdsong. Visitors can even hop on a bike that also charges their phone. For a real breath of fresh air, there's a small outdoor terrace.

LAKE

FROM PAGE C1

completed in 1969, not only altered the physical landscape but also catalyzed a wave of economic, social and cultural changes that reshaped the entire region.

The initial concept for Lake Granbury was part of a broader six-dam master plan conceived in 1935 by the founding members of the Brazos River Conservation and Reclamation District, now known as the Brazos River Authority or BRA.

However, funding challenges and the changing priorities of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' flood control projects delayed its realization. Originally intended to be a hydroelectric facility, the DeCordova Bend site was repurposed as a water supply source for steam-electric production. This shift was facilitated by a contract with TXU Electric, which purchased water for industrial use, including cooling water for a natural gas-fired steam electric power plant on the reservoir. Notably, this project's funding was achieved without using tax dollars.

In 1961, over 300 people gathered to listen to BRA board member Walter Humphrey outline the plans for the dam. As reported in the March 2, 1961 edition of the Hood County News Tablet, Humphrey declared, "A dream which began 30 years ago is close to realization now." His words echoed the community's optimism and anticipation.

The benefits of the new lake were widely recognized. An article in the Hood County News Tablet Oct. 17, 1963, listed the advantages, including a reliable water supply, enhanced recreational opportunities, increased tourism and economic growth.

The proposed construction



COURTESY PHOTOS

DeCordova Bend Dam construction, June 1968

of the DeCordova Bend Dam also inspired literary work. John Graves' book, "Goodbye to a River," captures the essence of the Brazos River and the impending changes brought about by the dam's construction. The Fort Worth Press aptly described the project as a "Bonanza," highlighting the anticipated boom in the area.

These predictions proved accurate as Granbury and Hood County experienced a significant population and economic boom following the dam's completion. More on that in a moment.

Construction of the DeCordova Bend Dam commenced Dec. 15, 1966. This massive concrete and earthen structure, standing 84 feet tall and housing 16 floodgates, was named after Jacob Raphael De Cordova. De Cordova, a prominent land agent and colonizer, played a significant role in the area during the late 1830s following the Texas Revolution. His contributions to the development of Texas, including serving a term in the Texas House of Representatives in 1847,

made him a fitting namesake for this monumental project.

The start of construction in December 1966 marked the beginning of a new era for Hood County. Restaurants, hotels, car dealerships, and subdivisions sprang up, reshaping the small town of Granbury. The dam was completed and water impoundment began Sept. 15, 1969, officially giving birth to Lake Granbury. A formal dedication, attended by hundreds, was held in the spring of 1970.

The impact of Lake Granbury on the local community was profound. Between 1970 and 1980, Hood County ranked sixth among all U.S. counties for the highest growth rate, according to the Texas State Historical Association. The reservoir completion turned the county into a popular recreation and resort center and retirement community. The number of retail establishments in Hood County skyrocketed from 192 in 1970 to 777 in 1980. The population tripled from 5,443 in 1960 to 17,714 in 1980, reflecting the transfor-



Groundbreaking Ceremony - DeCordova Bend Dam, December 15, 1966

DeCordova Bend Dam groundbreaking, Dec. 15, 1966



DeCordova Bend Dam dedication, Spring 1970

native effect of the lake.

Today, Lake Granbury remains a vital water supply source and is a thriving habitat, stocked with various species of fish such as striped bass, white bass, largemouth bass, channel and flathead

catfish, crappie and sunfish, making it a popular destination for fishing enthusiasts.

From its conception in the 1930s to its realization in the late 1960s, the lake has profoundly impacted this community. By converting a

dusty, sleepy little town into a vibrant hub of recreation, tourism and community growth, the creation of Lake Granbury has left an indelible mark, forever changing the destiny of Granbury and its surrounding areas.

PINS

FROM PAGE C1

up in the picturesque landscapes of Washington with its stunning mountain and forest views, reminisced, "We used to enjoy the outdoors during the summer without melting in the heat. Incorporating Glow Bowl at Pins in Granbury was a no-brainer. It's a big draw."

In addition to bowling, Pins serves delicious food

with a diverse menu ranging from appetizers to gourmet sandwiches to pizza. There is live music Thursday nights and various digital games like archery and castle destruction, appealing to both kids and adults. The alley also hosts numerous fundraisers, supporting local sports teams and community members in need.

Running a bowling alley comes with its challenges, especially with Texas' heat affecting the AC units

and the aging pinsetters requiring constant attention. However, Jensen finds great joy in the community aspect of the business. "I've met a lot of good people and regulars who are genuinely nice," he said. "I enjoy the freedom of not having a 9-to-5 job and the unique hours that come with running a bowling alley."

Looking ahead, Jensen has plans for the extra property adjacent to the bowling alley. "We've deliberated on

putting in some batting cages," he shared, highlighting his commitment to expanding the recreational offerings for Granbury residents.

Jensen and his wife, Brittni, have a 6-month-old son; they appreciate the family-friendly environment Pins Bowling Alley has helped to foster. "My son will definitely grow up bowling, but whatever sport he wants to play is great," Jensen said.

The COVID-19 pandemic

posed significant challenges, but Pins Bowling Alley weathered the storm. "We were able to maintain some staff and do to-go orders," Jensen recalled. "The PPP funding helped keep everyone on payroll, and after reopening, 2021 and 2022 were some of our best years ever. People were eager to come back out and have fun."

Through dedication, community support, and a passion for providing a fun and

safe environment, Jensen has turned Pins Bowling Alley into a beloved local institution. As he continues to innovate and expand, Pins remains a cornerstone of entertainment in Granbury, bringing joy to families and individuals for years to come.

For more information about Pins Bowling Alley, visit <https://pinsbowlingalley.com>

BOOK REVIEW

Come on in, the water's perfect

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

It feels refreshing, just like you want it to be on a day like today. You've been waiting for weeks to sit on a deck chair, enjoy a cold adult beverage, and then ease yourself into the water to float awhile. Or climb up and take a dive, g'wan, let's see it. The water's perfect so, as in the new book "Swimming Pretty" by Vicki Valosik, show us what you've got.

Nineteen-year-old Benjamin Franklin was just showing off.

Heading home on a boat after a "day's amusements," Franklin's friends eagerly begged him for a show of his talents in the water. Franklin, whom Valosik says absolutely "loved ... an audience," stripped down naked, leaped overboard and proceeded to do what few men of his age dared to do: he swam.

As for women in the early 1700s, swimming was flat-out unheard of. It hadn't been long, after all, since women who could swim were accused of witchcraft.

In ancient Greece and Rome, swimming was a pastime men and women both enjoyed. To be able to swim was a sign of intelligence then, and a way to honor the gods of the sea. When Christianity arrived, though,

swimming was seen as indulgent, excessive, scandalous, even pagan — an attitude that barely changed for hundreds of years.

Shortly after Franklin's little exhibit, the benefits of being in the water were confirmed.

Suddenly, natation was a "science" to be learned. Men swam often, often in the nude; women, on the other hand, were expected to remain modest, using bathing machines for a quick dip in the drink. After public pools and bathhouses became popular, women were welcomed to watch the aquatics, thus learning that swimming could help keep them fit — though the tight costumes female swimmers wore weren't perceived as "respectable." By the turn of the century, however, the unabashed "New Woman" hiked her heavy skirts and entered squarely into ... more 'male' spaces ..."

Especially the aquatic ones.

So the plan is to dig your toe in the sand this summer, or watch the world pass by at the side of a pool. Either way, you'll want something to read, and "Swimming Pretty" is perfect.

If you've only got time for a quick dip, author Vicki Valosik lets you get your



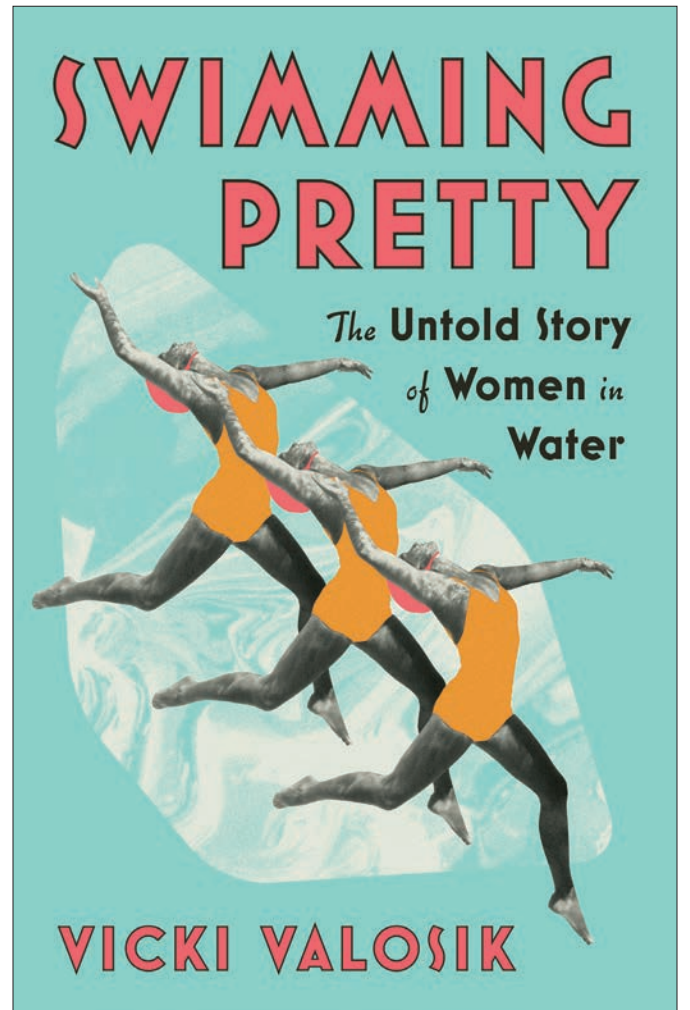
Vicki Valosik

COURTESY PHOTOS

feet wet with many pictures to browse, which will make you long to go deeper into this fascinating pocket of hidden culture. Brush the sand off your bottom and dive in, knowing this book isn't just about taking to the water: within its pages, you'll wade into world attitudes, women's suffrage, the rise of

American interests in exercise and fitness, and a look at the way we like our vacations and our leisure. Wave good-bye to your time.

If you enjoy reading about movies, theater and other pop culture, this is the book to have; if you like history, you'll be right in your depth. Pack "Swimming Pretty" and



"Swimming Pretty: The Untold Story of Women in Water" by Vicki Valosik, c.2024, Liveright, \$28.99, 422 pages

a waterproof bookmark in your beach tote and jump right in.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIDGE ROBERTS

After being named National Grand Champion at the Fiddle competition, Ridge Roberts receives a congratulatory hug from 1982 National Champion John Francis.

FIDDLE FROM PAGE C2

ing to improve."

Roberts hopes to continue playing with the Western Flyers and possibly lead a band in the future. "I want to keep improving my fiddle playing, singing and songwriting. I'm just trying to make as many connections as possible and see where God leads me," he said.

Roberts also gives fiddle lessons to all ages, aiming to keep the art alive. "Fiddling is a dying art, and not many people play the fiddle. I'm

trying to keep it alive by teaching others and getting them hooked," he said. He believes Western Swing has a unique charm that appeals to many once they hear it. "It's happy music, and people love it even if they don't know what it is."

Roberts' influences include Bob Wills, Merle Haggard and Texas-style fiddle player Terry Morris. He dreams of playing at the Ryman Auditorium, the original home of the Grand Ole Opry.

"It's apparent that what I have is a gift from God.

I can't take any credit for it, and I'm just glad I get to share it with people," Roberts said.

As Roberts continues his musical journey, his dedication and passion for preserving traditional fiddle music remain unwavering, inspiring many along the way. For more information or to see Robert's performance schedule, visit: ridgeroberts.com



Ridge Roberts on fiddle warming up with Tim Hodgson before the third round at the National Championship Fiddle Competition on Saturday, June 22.



SAME PAPER

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

HCNEWS.COM

Radio Operators Field day



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Often referred to as "ham radio," the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century and has grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators. On June 22-23, the members of the Hood County Amateur Radio Club (HCARC) participated in the annual ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) Field Day, held during the last weekend of June. Local HCARC members set up at the Granbury Reunion Grounds for 24 hours to contact amateur radio operators across the United States, Canada, and beyond. Their goal was to "Be Radio Active" and make as many radio contacts as possible from remote locations with other amateur radio operators. Field Day is a time when various aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight its diverse roles and to practice emergency response capabilities. It offers an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to organizations that it might serve in an emergency, as well as to the general public. The HCARC holds its monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center.



VETERAN'S VOICE

Avoid stress on family members by being prepared

BY LINDA MALLON



Linda Mallon, a retired Army master sergeant, found her niche working with veterans and their families in Granbury. She is a former claims administrator for Blue Shield of New Jersey and later senior personnel sergeant, taking care of soldiers' careers for more than 20 years.

linda.mallon@co.hood.tx.us | 817-579-3292.

I've covered this subject before, but it is becoming increasingly important for me to remind everyone how important record reviews are, not only if you are still in the military but after you leave or retire.

While on active duty as a personnel senior sergeant, we arranged for annual record reviews for every single soldier in our charge. At division level, we traveled in teams to units and what we found was pretty scary. Soldiers who divorced never changed their Soldiers Group Life Insurance, meaning if they should die, their former spouse would receive the insurance money. They didn't update their SF 93 which designates who would receive unpaid pay and allowances at the time of the soldier's death. I fear I could potentially run into this again with veterans and military retirees, creating a nightmare for the surviving spouses. It's critical to make sure your beneficiaries are reviewed and updated on all insurance, annuities and survivor benefits programs especially after a divorce, a beneficiary dies or a child is grown and moved on and the spouse may need to be the sole beneficiary.

If a retiree is divorced and remarried, the new spouse should know where the divorce decree is, if the former spouse is still designee for survivor benefits or if the designee for unpaid retired pay is up to date. Also, the spouse needs to know if the retiree even paid into the Survivor Benefit Program and which program they enrolled in so they don't expect a portion of the retiree's annuity and get a surprise after death that a smaller amount than expected is coming or nothing at all. If a former spouse passes away before the military retiree, and they were designated as the beneficiary, it is critical to update that information with the new spouse immediately.

In the case of military retirees there are two benefits that come from Defense Finance and Accounting Office the spouse should be aware of and those are the month of death entitlement and the SBP. Month of death means if the veteran died on day 15, the designated beneficiary will receive those 15 days pay owed to the retiree. Survivor Benefit Program or SBP requires payment of a monthly premium and pays a portion of that re-



COURTESY PHOTO

In the case of military retirees there are two benefits that come from Defense Finance and Accounting Office the spouse should be aware of and those are the month of death entitlement and the SBP.

tired pay to the surviving spouse monthly. Payment of that monthly premium must be up to date or DFAS will require the survivor to pay "back premium" before they will pay out the annuity; sometimes after calculations, it may be more than you would get in the long run depending on the age of the beneficiary. Military retirees should create a MYPAY account <https://mypay.dfas.mil/#/> so they can review and print their monthly annuity statement

which will show SBP premium deductions, beneficiaries, etc., and changes can be made online. Veterans should make sure survivors know where insurance policies, DD214s, wills, and other important papers are to avoid unnecessary stress on the family and so they can ensure the veterans wishes are followed.

Information about retiree and annuitant pay, forms and general questions may be found at <https://www.dfas.mil/>. Report a military

retiree's death by calling 1-800-321-1080 or by going to the DFAS website and choosing the survivor drop down menu to complete a form online. Our office will also assist with applying for retiree survivor benefits through DFAS. SBP is not the same as Dependent Indemnity Compensation or DIC, which is a VA benefit for survivors of service members who die on active duty or veterans whose cause of death is considered "service connected."

Veterans and retirees should discuss their benefits with their spouses so they have an understanding of their entitlements in case of disability or death. If the veteran is not sure, or needs information to help the spouse better understand VA benefits, please contact our office for an appointment. Our office will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4 and 5, and will reopen Monday, July 8.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Auxiliary fundraiser shines brightly in raising funds for emergency volunteers



PHOTO COURTESY LANA ROBINSON

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary fundraises for our community's emergency personnel, and the group was recently represented by Co-Presidents Jeanie Curry and Donna Bullis, along with Pecan Fire Chief Mike Barrett and his wife, Sherry, at a Cleburne Railroaders baseball game. Chief Barrett threw out the first pitch of the game, which was a fundraiser for the Auxiliary.

BY DIANE LONG



A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 29 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother, and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 16 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read. dianedlong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary is celebrating a successful day with Cowtown Gold and Silver and the profits generated for our community's emergency personnel. The day netted over \$1,300, every penny of which benefits our neighborhood, and the auxiliary

thanks supporters of the event who brought metals to be evaluated and sold, purchased auxiliary t-shirts and supported the betterment of Pecan. Special accolades go to volunteers Patty Eatmon, Joy Rice, Jill and Tommy Hosek, Terry Vaux, Juana Brookshire and Emily Kinney who hosted the day's events.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

In addition, the auxiliary is seeking a dynamic volunteer to chair the 2024 Pecan Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the PAC. This occasion is the longest running fundraiser hosted by the auxiliary, and certainly one of the most popular. For details, call Donna Bullis 817-454-0422 or Seleta Webster 806-646-0656.

MEETING TIME

The next meeting of the PPVFD/EMS Auxiliary is set for Monday, July 1 at the EMS building located at 9518 Monticello Drive. Folks may come at 6 p.m. to enjoy

a potluck meal and social prior to the 7 p.m. business meeting. Top priority for the evening's work will be the upcoming golf tournament fundraiser that has been delayed from April and rescheduled for Saturday, July 27, on the Pecan course. Attendees will receive details and updates on the adjustments to the event that have occurred because of the date change. Having volunteers present and informed helps ensure a successful tournament day. The golf tournament is the auxiliary's largest annual fundraiser and best opportunity to secure funds for our neighborhood's emergency person-

nel. Discussion will also take place concerning the arts and crafts fair coming in the fall as well as the auxiliary's campaign to recruit new officers for the coming year. All Pecan ladies and gentlemen interested in fundraising for our emergency volunteers are invited to attend.

CANDLE CREATION

A candlemaking class with "Scents of Humor" is today, Saturday, June 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the PAC. The fee is \$55 per participant and includes a 16-ounce candle and a car diffuser.

PARTY TIME

America is celebrating its

248th birthday next week, and Pecan Plantation will hold a day's worth of celebratory activities in our country's honor.

The day will feature a clubhouse pool party from noon to 3 p.m.; face painting, midway games, bounce houses and food and beverage sales beginning at 4 p.m.; a parade beginning at 5 p.m.; a petting zoo from 5 to 7 p.m., and live music from the Jack Mason band on the clubhouse front steps from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets (to be used for food and activity purchases) are currently on sale at the clubhouse, as are

PLEASE SEE PECAN | C9

Lakestone car show

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON ½HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Lakestone Terrace Senior Living recently held its annual car show featuring the Granbury Car Club and Craft Fair. The event raised \$500 to donate to the Hood County Parkinson's Group for their 'Moving Day' initiative. The Best of Show awards for 2024 went to Bob Stevens with his Mandarin Orange 1956 Ford Sunliner and Zack Hughes with his vintage Green & Wood 1913 Buick. Molly James, the Lifestyle Director for Lakestone Terrace, presented the winners with gift cards and certificates. Annette Bush (right) from the Hood County Parkinsons group received the \$500 donation check.



COURTESY PHOTO

Now it's time to solicit sponsors! It's a few hundred dollars and you will get to pick which art adorns the box you pick.

GRANBURY ARTS

Calling ... you!

BY STACEY WATKINS-MARTIN AND CORA WERLEY

Stacey Watkins-Martin and Cora Werley are local artists and members with several others of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission. Both work diligently with many other people and organizations to promote Granbury as the exciting arts destination it has become.

Have you always wanted to contribute to our arts community in some way, but you're not an artist and not sure how you can be of help? As you may know, GranburyArts has been actively working to solicit artists to provide the art needed to wrap our local utility boxes as we have discussed in this column previously.

Now it's time to solicit sponsors! It's a few hundred dollars and you will get to pick which art adorns the box you pick. The art is created in a wrap form (think longevity) and you will be allowed to add a small banner noting your sponsorship. The art available for sponsorship will be focused on what people will positively connect with emotionally and what will draw those in who are passing by on foot, on bicycles or even quickly in vehicles. There will not be any advertising or commercial imagery. It must be detailed enough to discourage those tempted to graffiti and cannot feature an individual, a political campaign, political views or political influences. The art you will present to the community in this dramatic way must be created with an emphasis on the history and natural beauty of our town, our flowers/pets/butterflies and our outstanding lake.

This will be a fun way to honor that important person in your life. Imagine their surprise driving by a

favorite artwork on a previously utilitarian box ... and then seeing it was sponsored by you! It's also a good way to honor and share your favorite artist with your neighbors and the rest of the community. And, of course, your generous sponsorship will be reflected on the GranburyArts website and otherwise publicized.

The wraps last for about two years and will be replaced when GranburyArts or the City of Granbury feels it no longer represents the art accurately. You may sponsor another box with a different piece of art at the end of life of the first box. You may also sponsor multiple boxes at the same time, of course, subject to availability.

For further information, please contact one of the authors at her email address below and we will answer all your questions.

As always, this Saturday is Last Saturday Gallery Night — please come see artists at the following locations from 5-8 p.m.: Your Private Collection Art Gallery (Pam Tullos), D'Vine Wine (David Calton and live music with Nin Hulet), Lake Granbury Art Association (LGAA — on Travis Street by the library); Baron's Creek (upstairs); St. Helen's (James Spurlock upstairs) and others who decide to participate (and if that's you, please let us know so we can include your venue in the future).

Again, it will be so helpful to us if you, as readers, will communicate with us about art events you are aware will be happening, artists you would like to see profiled, suggestions for public art projects around the city, or even just personal questions about advancing your own local art opportunities. We need to hear from you and thank you in advance ...





Maureen Karl,
DDS FAGD

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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
27-28	Texas Cowboy Symposium - Texas State Championship Chuckwagon Cook-off and Western Swing Festival
	HANK FM Lake Fest
28	
OCTOBER	
3-27	The Sleepy Hollow Experience - Langdon Grounds

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

HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

Summer reading for all: Adventure begins at your library!

BY JENNIFER LOGSDON



Hood County Library Director Jennifer Logsdon is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning a master's degree in Library Science during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking and of course reading. jlogsdon@co.hood.tx.us | 817-573-3569

What an adventure we've had with so many of you this summer! And it's not over yet!

Hood County Library is thrilled to announce that 754 readers have joined its Summer Reading Challenge, with participants ranging from newborns to 99-year-olds. The library has been buzzing with activity, and if you're looking for a break from the heat, come get in on the action. If you haven't registered for the challenge yet, act fast — tomorrow, June 30, is the last day to sign up for a chance to read and win prizes.

So far this summer, we've hosted some incredible special events. Mr. Eric from Wildlife on the Move visited with his fascinating collection of animals. He taught us about how animals evolve and adapt to their environments. He brought along a red-tail boa constrictor, a speckled kingsnake, a savannah monitor lizard, an American alligator, a Virginia opossum, and a tenrec, which is similar to a hedgehog. Some of us even mustered up the courage to interact with these amazing creatures.

On a stormy day, a few of our school-age kiddos came to the library to learn how to

use a compass. Navigating with a non-digital compass is called orienteering. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Moores from Master Naturalist for leading this lesson and providing hands-on experience.

STORYTIME UPDATE:

Due to the overwhelming response we received for storytime this week, we have decided to make some changes. The following schedule will take us through July 24.

Mondays at 10:30 a.m. — Preschool-aged children up to those entering first grade.

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. — The same story for preschool-aged children up to those entering first grade.

Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. — Story and Activity Time: For kids in second to fifth grades, held in the Pecan Room. Follow the pawprints from the front desk to drop kids off. Kids will not be released into the library afterward; an adult must pick them up.

For families with older children who attend the second to fifth grade storytime, we encourage you to bring your younger children Wednesday, as the older group will have only one storytime session per week.



Fun times with stories on the beach!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNIFER LOGSDON

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES:

***Capacity Limit:** Only 60 people will be allowed into the big room at a time. Once we reach 60 people and/or 10:30 a.m. arrives, the doors will be closed, and no one else will be admitted.

***Adult Attendance:** Only one adult per family, please. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation!

In addition to our usual storytimes at the library,

Ms. Robyn, our bookmobile conductor, has been hosting story time on the beach every Friday in July. It has been a huge success.

Thank you to everyone who has participated and made these events memorable. We look forward to continuing this journey with you and creating more wonderful summer memories at Hood County Library!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS

July 13, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

— Pirates! Limited seating at each presentation. First come, first seated up to 50 total each session.

July 16, 2 p.m. — Vape Escape (ages 10+) sponsored by STAR Council

SUMMER TEEN EVENTS

July 16, 5 p.m. —

Adventures in Dungeons & Dragons RPG

ADULT EVENTS

July 3, 6 p.m. — The Other Book Club: "Hellbent" by Leigh Bardugo

July 23, 6 p.m. — Novel Idea Book Club: "Last Summer at the Golden Hotel" by Elyssa Friedland



Having fun getting some wiggles out between stories!



Choose your own adventure storytime with second through fifth graders.

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A Quiet Place: Day One (PG13)
 Fri, Sat: 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 6:05PM, 7:15PM, 8:30PM, 9:45PM, 10:55PM.
 Sun: 11:45AM, 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 5:45PM, 7:15PM, 8:15PM, 9:45PM.
 Mon: 11:45AM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 6:15PM, 7:00PM, 8:45PM, 9:25PM.
 Tues: 12:10PM, 2:40PM, 5:10PM, 6:20PM, 7:40PM, 8:50PM

Bad Boys: Ride Or Die (R)
 Fri, Sat: 11:05AM, 1:50PM, 4:35PM, 7:20PM, 10:05PM.
 Sun: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM, 9:45PM.
 Mon: 12:45PM, 3:35PM, 6:25PM, 9:15PM.
 Tues: 12:05PM, 2:55PM, 5:50PM, 8:40PM

Despicable Me 4 (PG)
 Wed: 11:15AM, 1:40PM, 4:05PM, 6:30PM, 8:55PM.
 Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:40PM, 4:05PM, 6:30PM, 8:50PM

Horizon: An American Saga Chapter 1 (R)
 Fri, Sat: 10:20AM, 10:50AM, 2:10PM, 2:40PM, 6:00PM, 6:30PM, 9:50PM, 10:20PM.
 Sun: 10:30AM, 11:45AM, 2:20PM, 3:35PM, 6:10PM, 7:25PM, 10:00PM.
 Mon: 11:20AM, 12:30PM, 3:10PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 8:10PM.
 Tues: 11:00AM, 12:05PM, 2:55PM, 3:55PM, 6:55PM, 7:45PM.
 Thurs: 12:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM

Inside Out 2 (PG)
 Fri, Sat: 10:50AM, 11:45AM, 1:15PM, 2:10PM, 3:40PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.
 Sun: 10:30AM, 11:25AM, 12:55PM, 1:50PM, 3:20PM, 4:15PM, 6:40PM, 9:05PM.
 Mon: 11:00AM, 11:45AM, 1:25PM, 2:10PM, 3:50PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.
 Tues: 10:30AM, 11:05AM, 1:00PM, 1:30PM, 3:30PM, 3:55PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM

Migration - Kids' Summer Series (PG)
 Tues, Thurs: 10:00AM



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PECAN

FROM PAGE C6

bounce house wristbands, and both will also be available on party day. Neighbors are invited to bring family, friends, and lawn chairs for fun and fellowship. Parade participants (golf carts, bicycles, antique cars, floats and horses) should arrive at the Nutcracker clubhouse at 4 p.m. to line up.

ART CLASS

Summer artistic expression classes led by Anita Lloyd, Ph.D. have three spots on the PAC calendar. Watercolor painting classes both for adults and youth (ages 8-15) will happen weekly beginning Tuesday, July 9 (youth from 2 to 3 p.m. and adults from 4 to 5:30), and oil painting will begin weekly gatherings Tuesday, Aug. 6. For more information or to register, call the PAC front desk: 817-573-7952.

GARDEN GOODNESS

Pecan Plantation's

Community Gardens Club enjoyed a very "happy hour" in the garden recently when members united to enjoy homemade appetizers made with fresh, organic ingredients from the garden. Partakers dined on pesto pasta, cucumber sandwiches, tomato basil focaccia bread and artichoke dip. A few lucky attendees received custom made kitchen towels showcasing vegetable themes.

The Gardens Club's next calendar event will happen at Pecan's July 4 fete when club members will facilitate carnival games to boost funds toward securing a storage building to house tools and equipment.

Members of the Gardens Club hail from a variety of gardening backgrounds and hold a mix of differing levels of expertise. The group focuses both on growing organic vegetables and building friendships. For information on joining the club, send email to susanharris21@yahoo.com.

BAKE OFF

A cookie decorating class with a July 4th theme for chefs ages 8 and older is set Saturday, July 6 with two time slot options: from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Participants will learn beginner cookie decorating skills and will take home the delicious bounty of their labor. Instructor Donna Swarb will lead the class, and registration at the PAC is required: 817-573-7952.

ALL ABOARD

The inaugural "Mystery Bus" dinner and ramble was such a success that a repeat outing is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10. Members received email with a signup link, and spots will quickly fill.

SUMMER FUN

Activities for the youngest residents of Pecan are not slowing down this summer. The final session of swimming lessons in Pecan begins Monday, July 8 with three levels of classes available. "Let's Sing and Act" with

Pecan favorite Rebecca Faiola will introduce students ages 7 to 16 to musical theater, singing and acting from July 15-19. Little Artisans Crafting Camp is on the calendar for July 8-12 with Kate Little. Session two of golf, tennis and swim camp runs July 9-12, and tennis and more sports camp session 4 comes July 16-19.

YOUNG BROADWAY

A most favorite annual event in Pecan is the Missoula Children's Theater week and production, and this year's show is "Hercules." Auditions will take place Monday, July 22 with rehearsals on the schedule all week culminating in two performances Saturday, July 27. Children entering first through 12th grades are invited to join this free event. Many years ago, my own children participated in these theater camp weeks, and our family holds happy memories of Missoula and its presence in Pecan. Sign up at the PAC front desk.

GO PLAY

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

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

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

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

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

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

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters

Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

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

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.

MELODY BELLS singers of Granbury, women's choral group, seeks new members who love to sing 3-part harmony, especially first or second soprano. Also seeking experienced piano accompanist. Weekly Thursday rehearsals for Christmas concert season start Aug. 29, 10 a.m. to noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge St. Concerts performed during first two weeks of December. For more information, please call 817-999-1364.

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.

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SUNDAYS

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

FIRST MONDAYS

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

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

SECOND MONDAYS

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

FIRST TUESDAYS

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

SECOND TUESDAYS

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

FOURTH TUESDAYS

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

MONTHLY MEETING of the Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 817-910-8174.

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired,

at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

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

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

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Somervell A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Hwy 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

THE HOOD County Democratic Club meets each month at 1410 Pearl St., Annex #1 at 7 p.m. Questions? Call 817-233-5453.

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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Isaiah 41:13


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Proverbs 3:5-6

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.



Psalms 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you, do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.



Isaiah 41:10

DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.
 1 John 4:12

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 Good Shepherd Anglican
 3600 Fall Creek Hwy.,
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 Crossing Place
 1900 W. Hwy. 377
 817-573-1581

Elm Grove Assembly Of God
 3630 Hill City Hwy, Tolar
 254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
 300 Granbury Court
 817-326-2270

BAPTIST
 Acton Baptist
 3500 Fall Creek Hwy.
 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

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
 Viva
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
 3300 Oak Trail Dr.
 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

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 1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow
 254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
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 817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
 820 Paluxy Rd.
 682-936-4988

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 254-835-4375

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 817-573-5318

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 817-579-0509

Western Hills Baptist
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 817-736-9647

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 817-573-0107

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 817-573-5431

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 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 817-578-0626

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 817-910-8868

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 608 Shady Grove Dr.
 817-736-3041

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 Downtown Church Of Christ
 310 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-9862

Granbury Church Of Christ
 1905 W. Pearl
 817-573-2613

Lipan Church Of Christ
 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
 254-646-2297

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 Christ
 4219 Old Granbury Rd.
 817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
 3006 Thorp St.
 817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
 8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4397

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 817-279-6753

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 817-573-4259

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 2301 Fall Creek Hwy.,
 817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
 1400 N. Meadows Dr.
 817-573-5011

METHODIST
 Acton Methodist
 3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4242

Cresson United Methodist
 110 South Crook St., Cresson
 469-730-6496

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 301 Loop 567,
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 682-498-3838

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 5601 Temple Hall Hwy, 682-
 317-9385

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 921 Lipan Dr.
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PENTECOSTAL
 Hood Pentecostal
 3100 Beechwood St.,
 817-279-0363

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
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OTHER
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Romans 8:28

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.



Jeremiah 29:11

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GARDEN PATCH

Display your patriotic colors

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

Show your love of country this year with a colorful liberty garden. In the good ole USA, that means infusing planting beds with red, white and blue toned plants. Bonus points go to creative gardeners who include plants with names that match the patriotic theme, such as firecracker plant and iris flag!

Tending a patriotic garden is a creative way to celebrate July 4th. With careful plant selection and thoughtful design, your garden can become a vibrant tribute to national pride while also being a stunning backdrop for all your outdoor festivities.

Create your red, white and blue display with seasonal annuals or use native and well adapted plants for a longer lasting statement. The trick to achieving this bold look is to select plants

with similar life cycles. You'll want plants in all three colors blooming at the same time.

Design your liberty garden to best show off its colors. Keep smaller plants to the front of beds and borders and taller plants at the back. Tall plants also look nice when planted in the center of a shaped landscape bed, such as in the middle of a circular bed. For added depth and dimension, add a white trellis, fence or arbor. It will provide support for tall or climbing plants while reinforcing the color scheme. Brightly colored red, white or blue containers filled with blooms will also enhance the overall look. Plants to consider include:

Texas Star Hibiscus, *Hibiscus coccineus* — This native perennial features

large, star-shaped red flowers. Grow it in full sun. This beauty tolerates drought but handles wet and dry conditions once established.

Firecracker plant, *Russelia equisetiformis* — An annual, this plant is known for its tubular red flowers that attract hummingbirds. It prefers full sun and well-drained soil. Minimal watering is needed after establishment. Prune tip plants to encourage repeat flowering. Other annuals to try include periwinkle, purslane, poppy, zinnia or plumbago.

Oxeye Daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare* — Similar in appearance to Shasta daisy, Oxeye features classic white petals with yellow centers. This perennial beauty adapts well to poor, rocky, higher pH soils and drought conditions. Deadhead flowers to prolong blooming.

Mealy Blue Sage, *Salvia farinacea* — This drought tolerant perennial produces blue flower spikes that lure pollinators. Like many salvias, it fares best in full sun and well-drained soil. Although it appreciates

regular watering, it tolerates drought. Many other perennial and annual salvia cultivars produce red, white or blue blooms, such as red autumn sage, *Salvia greggii*, black and blue sage, *Salvia guaranitica*, and white Autumn sage *Salvia greggii* 'Alba'.

Texas Betony, *Stachys coccinea* — A drought-tolerant, low-growing perennial, this native plant comes in both red and white blooming varieties. It thrives in alkaline soils and is considered deer resistant. Plant it in full sun to part shade.

Blackfoot Daisy, *Melampodium leucanthum* — This heat-loving perennial thrives in challenging soils. It is known for its ground-hugging growth habit and small, delicate white flowers with yellow centers that cover the plant in hot, dry weather. Water it sparingly.

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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Tending a patriotic garden is a creative way to celebrate July 4th. With careful plant selection and thoughtful design, your garden can become a vibrant tribute to national pride while also being a stunning backdrop for all your outdoor festivities.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

5 o'clock Friday at the factory



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who writes weekly. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

A Texas doctor, closing out a hectic week, hoped it to be his final medical appointment.

He stared at a Q-tip that was devoid of cotton at both ends.

"This Q-tip must have gotten right up against 5 o'clock Friday at the factory," he muttered.

In the span of one week recently, I felt that my photograph might be placed alongside a "customer is always wrong" essay, thinking my value about the same as a "cottonless" Q-tip.

On three occasions, I was "done wrong."

In each case, I felt as if I'd been hit full in the face with a blivit, a rural term coined by a farm boy whose job it was to feed the hogs. He said a blivit describes a five-gallon bucket filled with 10 gal-

lons of hog slop.

Okay, maybe my beefs didn't rise to that degree of disappointment, but surely the requisites for a "frankfurter foul-up" have been met.

Maybe you've had a similar week or plowed through a "clinker" recently.

Whatever, I have chosen to smile about my misadventures, now making headway toward a "smiley-face" expression from one deeply frowned. I have opted, though, to "rattle some chains" at Best Buy, the Carnation Company and Sam's Club.

Let me offer details in order of chagrin. At Best Buy, attempts to buy a new computer went awry. I used my credit card for the purchase, understanding there'd be an additional charge for

data transfer and extended warranty.

When it became evident the data transfer to the new computer would be delayed, I decided to forego the purchase. I returned to the sales clerk — the computer box unopened — about a half-hour later, requesting the transaction be voided. I got the obligatory "no problem" response.

But there was. He had voided the charge for the computer only, and when I questioned him, he said that I would need to void the remaining \$180 online ...

That didn't sit well with me, but I decided to "play it out." Back home, I was never able to explain my problem to TWO Best Buy "online" responders. After an hour, I gave up.

I sent two emails to Best Buy's media relations email address, but the only responses were two emails indicating that my emails had been received.

Two days later, I received an apologetic phone call

from a local Best Buy manager. He promised to void the charge, adding that the sales guy should have given me the option of handling the matter by phone. The clerk didn't, though, perhaps leaning "right up against 5 o'clock Friday at the factory."

Second is an ongoing issue with plastic cap removals from Carnation Instant Breakfast cartons. Neither my wife nor I can do so without pliers.

I sent emails to the media relation office.

Again, I received emails that mine had arrived, but nothing more. Is this not a legitimate beef, or at least chopped liver?

Now, on to Sam's, where I purchased new eyeglass lenses in January. The technician indicated that there'd likely be a bill later for charges not covered by insurance. I understood, I really did!

In March, I received the expected bill, responding with a check for \$125, expecting a "paid in full" acknowledgement.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Corner-cutting" seems to be prevalent in our world, so we should be vigilant at every turn.

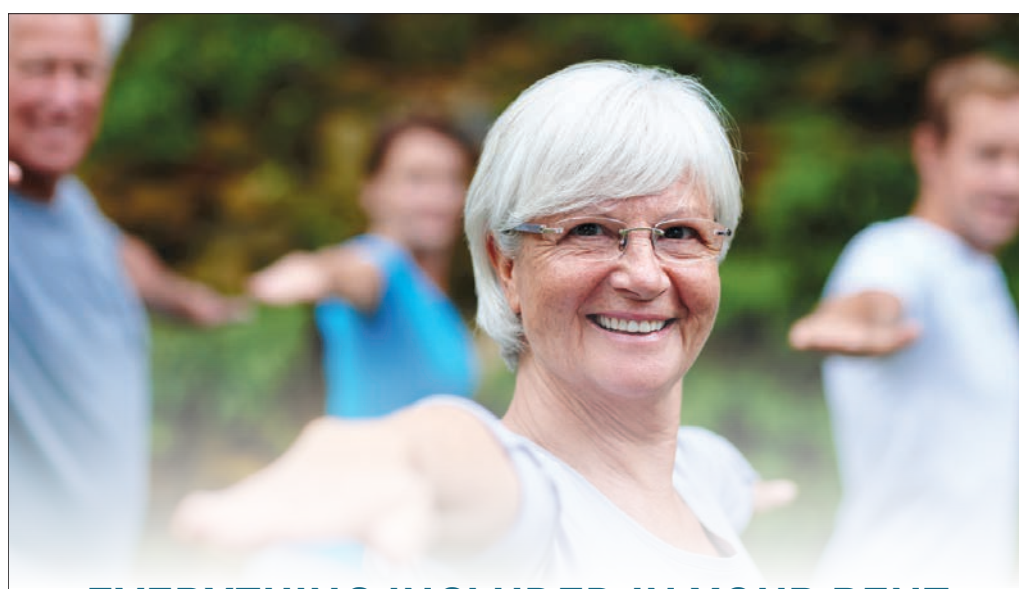
Three months later, however, I received a second "statement balance" due for the same amount. With but a vague recollection of the earlier notice, I almost wrote another check. Instead, I called customer service, learning that the bill had been paid, so I could "tear up the second notice."

I'm in the slack-cutting mode in all three instances.

Many customers, I'm thinking, would simply have writ-

ten a check for the second eyeglass billing, since there were no "past due" reminders. (I'm just sayin')

Let's be eternally vigilant. "Corner-cutting" seems to be prevalent in our world, so we should be vigilant at every turn. Too many, it seems, are "right up against 5 o'clock Friday at the factory" somewhere, perhaps everywhere



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