



## AN EVENING WITH GWYNNE, HARRIGAN AND WISE

PHOTO COURTESY JAY GODWIN, LBJ LIBRARY

Elizabeth Crook (author of "The Which Way Tree" and "The Madstone") moderates "An Evening with S.C. Gwynne and Stephen Harrigan" at the LBJ Library Oct. 16, 2019. From left are Crook, Harrigan and Gwynne. Harrigan and Gwynne will join Justice Ken Wise Nov. 7 in Granbury.

## The Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series celebrates 10 years

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH  
Special to the Hood County News

This year marks 10 years since The Ramay-Macatee Speaker Series began as a special event hosted by the Bridge Street History Center. Past events have offered exceptional speakers to sold out crowds. This Nov. 7, seats will be more coveted than ever at Granbury

Live's intimate venue as BSHC presents "An Evening with Gwynne, Harrigan and Wise." Justice Ken Wise will be the moderator of the round table format where he will host authors S.C. "Sam" Gwynne and Stephen Harrigan. All three historians are giants in their field. The subject? Our beloved Texas, about which the three gentlemen are well versed. This won't be a history lecture but

rather an entertaining evening of storytelling — factual, historically accurate storytelling. For all of human history, people groups have gathered together around the fire or water source and delighted in a good story. In more recent history, cowboy lore includes the vision of dusty boots gathered

PLEASE SEE **SERIES** | A5

## U.S. Commerce Department invests in Granbury Airport infrastructure

From Staff Reports

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced a significant investment to bolster economic development in Granbury. The Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) will allocate a \$1.5 million grant to the city's Economic Development Department for vital infrastructure enhancements at Granbury Regional Airport. These improvements aim to enhance airport capabilities, enabling access for larger aircraft and stimulating business growth in the region. In conjunction with \$405,000 in local matching funds, this grant is projected to generate substantial economic benefits. According to estimates by the grantee, the initiative is expected to create approximately 80 jobs and stimulate \$43 million in private investment.

"This funding marks a pivotal moment for Granbury's economic landscape," remarked Raimondo. "By modernizing Granbury Regional Airport, we aim to foster job creation, attract new enterprises, and strengthen the region's economic resilience."

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Y. Castillo emphasized the EDA's commitment to fostering local economic growth. "This project exemplifies our collaborative efforts with local communities to enhance economic vitality through strategic infrastructure improvements," noted Castillo.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott highlighted the state's robust business environment and praised the EDA's initiative. "Texas continues to attract leading global enterprises, and this grant underscores our commitment to ensuring Granbury remains a hub for innovation and economic prosperity," Abbott said.

Sen. John Cornyn also commended the grant's potential impact on Hood County, emphasizing the crucial role of efficient airport infrastructure in driving sustained economic progress.

The project is funded under the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, which allocated additional resources to the EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance Program for disaster recovery efforts. For more details, please visit EDA's Disaster Supplemental webpage.

*Economic Development Administration leads federal economic development efforts by promoting competitiveness and readiness for global economic challenges. As part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the EDA invests in communities, fosters regional collaboration, and promotes job creation, innovation and sustainable economic growth across the nation.*

## City's budget workshop highlights growth, upcoming projects

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury City Council held its annual budget workshop June 26 and laid out the city's financial roadmap — focusing on upcoming projects and sustainable growth initiatives for the year ahead.

The city's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 is a detailed plan of where money comes from and

where it will be spent to uphold the city's mission and vision for the future. By law, the city cannot plan to spend more money than it generates.

"What people may not realize is by law, the city has to have a balanced budget," Communications Manager Jeff Newpher told the Hood County News. "People may not realize that at home, they can put money on their credit cards, so it's not always equal — but the city

has to be balanced." City Manager Chris Coffman explained that the city's current budget is \$59 million. The total expenditures planned are \$57,439,900, with nearly \$2 million allocated specifically for capital expenses.

While the city will continue to invest about \$1 million in street improvements next year — specifically Gifford Street, Howard Clemmons Road and Plaza East Court — Coffman said the city has

also talked about the possibility of conducting a comprehensive road improvement plan.

"We can't seem to get caught up at a million dollars a year, and the price of streets have increased dramatically as well," Coffman said. "A million dollars doesn't go as far as it used to, so we may end up putting together a comprehensive plan and issuing bonds to do millions of dollars' worth of street reconstruction. ... But the roads are failing,

and they need to be reconstructed with new base material, and a million dollars just doesn't go far in doing that, so we may be looking to do that in the next 12-14 months."

Given the city's constrained budget for fiscal year 2025, Coffman noted it will be a conservative year for significant advancements, barring ongoing projects such as the construction of the

PLEASE SEE **BUDGET** | A6



138TH YEAR, NO. 28

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 32 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 32 pages

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Freedom of speech floats our boat

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

Now that our 50th Annual Hometown 4th of July Celebration is in the rear-view mirror, it's time to reflect on the importance and value of our founding fathers' desires for the people of this country to enjoy freedom of speech. It seems we are in a struggle in this country for what exactly is the definition of freedom of speech.

Driven by media and tech and anchored by political parties on both sides of the spectrum, it seems everyone has their own interpretation of freedom of speech ... and if you don't agree with that interpretation, you are automatically in the wrong. Borrowing on my civics class from high school, freedom of speech and expression are granted to us in the Constitution. There are no qualifiers. Period.

Having received a couple of notes from attendees who were at our 4th of July parade, they took exception to a couple of entries,



Best of Parade: Century 21 Judge Fite.



Best Equine: Triple Cross Cowboy Church.

and suggested that perhaps the Chamber should screen (censor) those who don't espouse "our views." We get it ... not everyone is going to agree with everything 100% of the time. We have learned (and are still learning) about horrific events in our country's past, and we learn from those things with the hope of never seeing them

repeated. What concerns us is that if we screen (censor) floats because we don't think they fit a certain ideology or deserve to be there, where is the objectivity? We end up getting caught in a conundrum of banging our drums for the freedoms fought for and won through multiple wars, but leaving out others

because they don't fit our narrative.

So, what is the definition of freedom of speech? We've learned that during the pandemic, big media and big tech — and big government — worked together to alter our freedom of speech so that only their narrative was espoused, and they squashed or dis-

credited anything that went against their messaging. Do we subscribe to decency? Absolutely ... there are very clear standards and ordinances that address this, but censorship?

As we look ahead to our next 50 years, will we constantly have to monitor who gets to participate in

parades and who doesn't? We're not sure what the future will bring, but we know that with 117 entries in this year's parade, the spirit of our great country is still very much alive, and we believe that our founding fathers would feel the same way.



Best Commercial Float: Empire Realty Group.



Best Community Float: Ruck Forward.



Best Walking Group: Iglesia Cristiana Vino Nuevo.



Best Float: The Edge Realty.

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Politics is one thing, agendas are another



**BY SAM HOUSTON**

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

In the past few days, the executive committee of the Republican Party of Hood County met to determine who will appear on the November ballot as the Republican candidate for the position of district clerk. The prior elected district clerk, Tonna Newman, passed away in February after the time for candidates to declare for the primary election. Under Texas law, since Newman died in the middle of the term, the district judge appoints someone to fill in until the next election.

Judge Bufkin received a multitude of applications for the position and interviewed several candidates. The judge has been quoted as having said "due to the

prolonged illness of Ms. Newman, the district clerk's office badly needed someone who could come in immediately, get caught up, and bring stability." According

to Bufkin, he "was looking for someone who was eminently qualified to do the job." After careful consideration he selected Roberta Zamarron.

According to all sources, Zamarron did exactly what the judge hoped for. She came in, worked hard, and used her experience and knowledge to best serve the courts of Hood County and all its residents. Surely, how the courts are administered is an important job and worthy of the best qualified and most skilled person available.

Melanie Graft did not apply to be appointed to fill the vacant position.

Since the primary season had passed at the time of Newman's death, by Texas law, the party's executive committee must vote to decide who will appear on the official election ballot as the candidate for the Republican Party. Recently, the executive committee met and almost immediately went into executive session, meaning the discussion was closed to the public, including the press. At the close of this private session, the executive committee announced it had voted to place the name of Melanie Graft on the ballot rather than Roberta Zamarron.

Just to be clear, Roberta Zamarron, a respected Republican woman with experience and skill, who was selected by the district judge to fill the position and who has already been performing the job admirably, was not placed on the ballot. Rather, someone who has no experience in running or work-

ing in a court clerk's office, and without legal training or experience, was selected instead. The reasons why will never be truly known to the public because the meeting and vote were held in private.

Irritated voters have commented on social media and in local conversation, not only because of the result of the vote but the way it came about. The vote of the executive committee was reportedly 7 to 7 and Graft, who is on the executive committee, failed to recuse herself from voting even though she had a vested interest. Some Republicans have expressed in strong words that these actions were unfair, unethical and just flat out wrong.

To find out the "why," I instructed Hood County News reporter Ashley Terry to inquire of Republican Party Chair Greg Harrell the reason, his authority for conducting the meeting in executive session, and why Graft was allowed to vote. The HCN hoped to be directed to the authority with which the executive committee acted or at least an explanation of its reasoning so we could accurately report to our readers. Unfortunately, Mr. Harrell did not respond to the specific questions asked. His response was ... "now we will go out and get Republicans elected in November." There was no answer to our reasonable inquiry as to why the matter was addressed in executive session or why Graft was permitted to vote. The written questions the newspaper submitted were simply ignored.

It seems to some that a very qualified and talented Republican was already in the district clerk's office, but for some reason the executive committee decided to go in a different direction. The question that begs to be asked is "what direction are they going and why?" Does Graft have greater experience in the operation of the district clerk's office? Does she have practical experience and knowledge of how the court system works? How is she a better candidate over someone who seemingly everyone agrees is a good Republican office holder? This is not intended to indict Graft; perhaps she is a perfectly suited candidate — but aren't the voters entitled to know why this happened? How is she better? Surely the public deserves an explanation. Where is accountability?

If one looks at the recent history of the candidates endorsed by the local Republican executive committee, no one should be surprised why so many are curious about the motives involved. During his first term, County Judge Ron Massingill faithfully performed his duties as an office holder but remarkably was not endorsed by his own party when he sought reelection. Rather than Judge Massingill, the local Republican executive committee endorsed a candidate with a dubious background who has since been arrested on an assault charge. Despite not receiving the Republican Party's endorsement, Massingill went on to win reelection and did so in a landslide.

Does that signal how far out of touch with the feelings of the voting public the executive committee might be? The bigger question may be "why was the executive committee so opposed to Judge Massingill?" Could it be he refused to abdicate his duties and responsibilities and blindly follow the instructions of party leadership?

Another candidate the executive committee recently "vetted" was its candidate for city council. He withdrew from the race following his arrest for possession of child pornography! No, you cannot make this stuff up.

Shouldn't a responsible electorate be entitled to ask the executive committee why they eliminated a qualified, successful candidate from the ballot? Perhaps the executive committee's definition of a "good" candidate needs to be set forth, so everyone understands the criteria. Is a good candidate someone capable of doing the job or someone who will do as they are told by the Republican powers to be?

When the day comes that we stop electing good candidates because of their ability to fulfill the obligations of the job they are seeking and start selecting candidates on the basis of their loyalty to a particular segment of the party, we have something less than the democracy our founding fathers envisioned.

Thought for the day: Politics is too important to be left to the dang politicians!

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

## Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

**Robert Morrow**

### Say hello to our neighbor, Robert Morrow!

Robert Morrow serves as the airport operations manager at Granbury Regional Airport. His responsibilities include supervising fueling operations and managing aircraft, and catering to the needs of both the area's Air Evac and CareFlite air ambulance services. With extensive experience from a long career in the commercial airline industry, this role has proved to be a perfect fit for him in his retirement. Five years ago, Robert and his wife, Barbara, moved to Hood County to be near to Robert's three adult children - two daughters and a son - as well as their seven grandchildren. They are fond of the beautiful countryside and the numerous horse farms near their home. The couple enjoys the companionship of their two dogs, and Barbara is actively involved in local animal rescue efforts. With seven grandchildren, there's always something happening. Their eldest grandchild keeps the family engaged with cross-country motorcycle competitions, which they make an effort to attend as often as possible. Robert mentioned he believes Barbara stays updated on local news through the Hood County News online. To stay informed about local news and events, visit hcnews.com.

## County designates July 21-27 Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Commissioners Court officially designated the week of July 21-27 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week during a regularly scheduled meeting July 9.

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court officially designated the week of July 21-27 as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week during a regularly scheduled meeting July 9.

Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week is a celebration that originated in 1999 when members of the American Probation and Parole Association began to request that states across

the country recognize the more than 100,000 people involved in community corrections. According to the APPA website, in 1999, the organization began lobbying every state to make a proclamation that one week in July would be PPPS Week.

According to the county's official proclamation, community supervision and corrections are essential safeguards to public safety.

In addition, when someone commits an offense, the hardworking pretrial, probation and parole officers

are the ones who collectively work to prevent future victimization. To do their duties appropriately, they assess risk, design supervision plans, serve as sources of accountability and promote positive change among offenders who have been released into communities, the proclamation states.

"Men and women who work in community supervision and corrections are the front lines of reducing re-offense rates," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said, reading the proclamation.

"By encouraging offenders to be productive, law-abiding members of society, their work is vital to breaking the cycle of crime."

The Hood County Commissioners Court there-by proclaimed July 21-27, 2024, as Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week. The court also encourages all Texans to extend appreciation to these officers.

"Their courage and commitment highlight the best of Texas," Massingill concluded. "This is really impressive, and they do a great job."

**Hood County News**  
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**Publisher**  
SAM HOUSTON  
sam@hcnews.com

**Vice President of Operations**  
DARREN CLARK  
darren@hcnews.com

**Content Coordinator**  
EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH  
eden@hcnews.com

**Designer**  
HILARY McALLISTER  
hilary@hcnews.com

**Staff Writer**  
ASHLEY TERRY  
ashley@hcnews.com

**Staff Writer**  
LAUREN LAFLAMME-DAVIS  
lauren@hcnews.com

**Staff Writer**  
JEREMIAH FLORES  
jeremiah@hcnews.com

**Photographer/Designer**  
LAYTH TAYLOR  
layth@hcnews.com

**Designer**  
JEREMIAH FLORES  
jeremiah@hcnews.com

hcnews.com

**138 YEARS IN HOOD COUNTY**  
USPS 249-520  
P.O. Box 879, Granbury, Texas 76048  
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Fax: (817) 279-8371

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**Market Selector**

Local Association  
Granbury Association of REALTORS®

Market Type  
County

Market Name  
Hood County

Frequency  
Monthly

Date  
June 2024

Property Type  
All (SF, Condo, Townhouse)

Construction Type  
All (Existing & New)

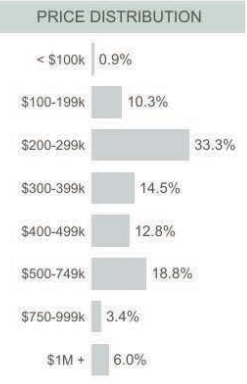
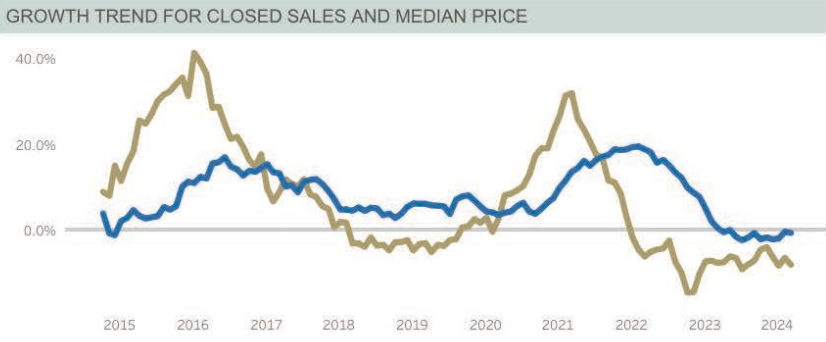
June 2024 Market Statistics - Hood County

**Median Price**  
**\$335,000**  
▼ -6.3% YoY

**Closed Sales**  
**119**  
▼ -21.2% YoY

**Active Listings**  
**649**  
▲ 25.8% YoY

**Months Inventory**  
**6.1**  
▲ 1.6 YoY

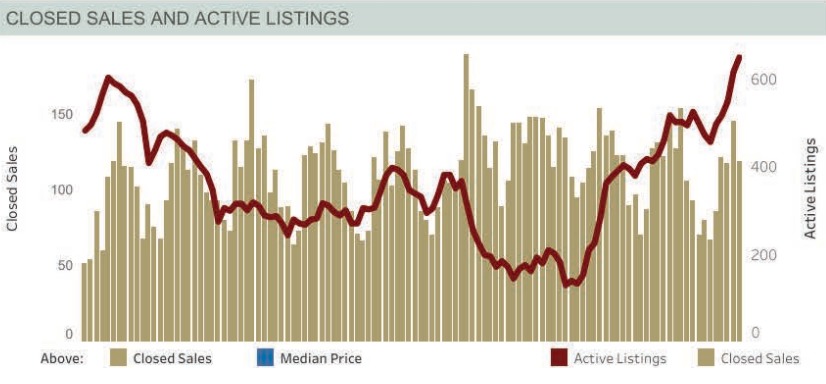


TRANSACTION TIME STATS

**Days on Market**  
**61**  
12 days more than June 2023

**Days to Close**  
**30**  
2 days more than June 2023

**Total Days**  
**91**  
14 days more than June 2023



HOME VALUATION STATS

**Median Price/Sq Ft**  
**\$189.57**  
▼ -3.0% YoY

**Median Home Size**  
**1,768** sq ft

**Median Year Built**  
**2005**

**Close/Original List**  
**94.3%**

The graphic shows the Hood County market statistics for June 2024.

**Market Selector**

Local Association  
Granbury Association of REALTORS®

Market Type  
County

Market Name  
Hood County

Frequency  
Quarterly

Date  
June 2024

Property Type  
All (SF, Condo, Townhouse)

Construction Type  
All (Existing & New)

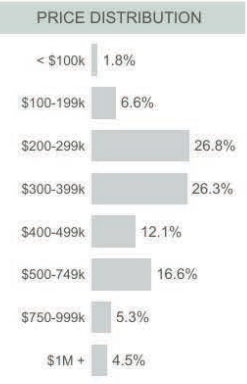
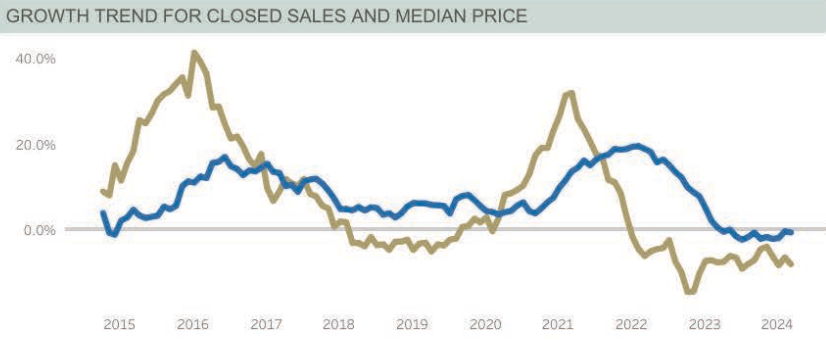
2024 Q2 Market Statistics - Hood County

**Median Price**  
**\$349,000**  
▼ -0.3% YoY

**Closed Sales**  
**382**  
▼ -5.5% YoY

**Active Listings**  
**649**  
▲ 25.8% YoY

**Months Inventory**  
**6.1**  
▲ 1.6 YoY



TRANSACTION TIME STATS

**Days on Market**  
**62**  
9 days more than 2023 Q2

**Days to Close**  
**32**  
3 days more than 2023 Q2

**Total Days**  
**94**  
12 days more than 2023 Q2



HOME VALUATION STATS

**Median Price/Sq Ft**  
**\$192.25**  
▼ -2.3% YoY

**Median Home Size**  
**1,809** sq ft

**Median Year Built**  
**2007**

**Close/Original List**  
**95.5%**

The graphic shows the Hood County market statistics for the second quarter of 2024.

### Hood County Housing Report

**June 2024**

**Median price**  
**\$335,000**  
↓ **6.3%**  
Compared to June 2023

**Active listings**  
↑ **25.8%**  
649 in June 2024

**Closed sales**  
↓ **21.2%**  
119 in June 2024

**Days on market**  
Days on market: 61  
Days to close: 30  
Total: 91  
14 days more than June 2023

**Months of inventory**  
**6.1**  
Compared to 4.4 in June 2023

Price Distribution: \$0-\$99,999 (0.9%), \$100,000-\$199,999 (10.3%), \$200,000-\$299,999 (33.3%), \$300,000-\$399,999 (14.5%), \$400,000-\$499,999 (12.8%), \$500,000-\$749,999 (18.8%), \$750,000-\$999,999 (3.4%), \$1,000,000+ (6.0%)

The graphic shows the Hood County Housing Report for June 2024.

### Hood County Housing Report

**2024 Q2**

**Median price**  
**\$349,000**  
↓ **0.3%**  
Compared to same quarter last year

**Active listings**  
↑ **25.8%**  
649 in 2024 Q2

**Closed sales**  
↓ **5.5%**  
382 in 2024 Q2

**Days on market**  
Days on market: 62  
Days to close: 32  
Total: 94  
12 days more than 2023 Q2

**Months of inventory**  
**6.1**  
Compared to 4.4 in 2023 Q2

Price Distribution: \$0-\$99,999 (1.8%), \$100,000-\$199,999 (6.6%), \$200,000-\$299,999 (26.8%), \$300,000-\$399,999 (26.3%), \$400,000-\$499,999 (12.1%), \$500,000-\$749,999 (16.6%), \$750,000-\$999,999 (5.3%), \$1,000,000+ (4.5%)

The graphic shows the Hood County Housing Report for the second quarter of 2024.

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**MEETING OF** the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at 7 p.m., Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court, Granbury. Presentation of Rodgers Aerial Post and Flight of the Vinfiz. Call 817-910-8174 for more information.

**FRIDAY, JULY 26**

**HOOD COUNTY** Hospital District board of directors regularly scheduled meeting at noon in the Annex I Meeting Room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Drive, Granbury. Call 817-579-3200 for more information.

**TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS**

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

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y's class of 2015 raised their hooked hands w  
ong Thursday evening at the Fort Worth Cen  
Hood County News

ar, it must have been difficult Monday  
students to wait for the final bell. Mary

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# Marathon plant manager acquitted of noise violations

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

After a two-day trial earlier this week, Marathon Digital Holdings plant manager David Fischer has been acquitted of all charges related to alleged noise disturbances near residential areas in Hood County.

Marathon, the owner of the Bitcoin data center near the Wolf Hollow plant, has been the subject of several articles across the nation as residents have complained that the fans used to cool down the cryptocurrency computers are the cause of several health concerns. Many residents believe the low-frequency hum emanating from the plant is the source of their nausea, migraines, vertigo and ear infections.

For the past several

months, Precinct 2 Constable John Shirley has written several citations against Fischer, stemming from the Texas Penal Code under disorderly conduct Section 42.01 (c)(2) which reads, "a noise is presumed to be unreasonable if the decibel level exceeds 85 after the person making the noise receives notice from a magistrate or peace officer that the noise is a public nuisance." Such a violation is a Class C misdemeanor with a fine up to \$500 per occurrence.

Local attorney George Freeman attended the trial in its entirety but does not represent either the defense or the prosecution. According to Freeman, testimony showed Shirley initially wrote 13 citations. One citation was thrown out for evidentiary reasons, and the remaining 12 proceeded to

trial Monday, July 8.

Hood County Attorney Matt Mills told the Hood County News that a batch of tickets had also been written against the company itself, but this trial only focused on the citations against Fischer.

As the trial began, Mills presented a case supported by Shirley's sound readings and testimonies from affected residents, aiming to establish that Fischer was responsible for the alleged disturbances.

However, Fischer's defense attorneys from Gill & Brissette mounted a vigorous defense, challenging the accuracy of the sound readings and questioning the credibility of the complaints. They argued that Shirley had political motivations linked to his reelection campaign, which influenced his enforcement actions.

"They pointed to some serious irregularities in Constable Shirley's process," Freeman said. "They showed through testimony and through cross-examination of Constable Shirley and expert testimony that his readings were inaccurate and erroneous, and that they really didn't offer proof of anything. They showed serious irregularities in the way the citations were processed through his office, and then they showed that he had written few citations. But once the campaign season for the primary (began) in which he had an opponent, he wrote them with much greater frequency. The defense's argument was that Constable Shirley needed an issue to assure his reelection, and he latched onto this as that issue. As the defense put it, he 'rode to reelection on the back of David Fischer.'"

Freeman said the defense also questioned Shirley about his techniques in measuring the sound readings. The last witness, he said, was a "defense expert," who demonstrated Shirley's inadequate calibration of equipment and incorrect interpretation of decibel scales.

"His readings just weren't trustworthy," Freeman said. "The statute just says how many decibels of sound is presumed to be unreasonable, but there are different kinds of decibels. There's DBA and DBC and one of those is in the sound spectrum humans can hear and the other is not. There was just a lot about taking these readings that Constable Shirley didn't know, and the expert testimony showed that."

Following testimonies from both prosecution and defense, the six-person jury reached a unanimous verdict within an hour, declaring Fischer not guilty on all charges.

"They were required to fill out 12 different verdict forms — one for each of the citations — and they found (Fischer) unanimously not guilty for all 12," Freeman said.

Mills said the jurors who gave him feedback agreed that the low-hum frequency emanating from the data center is an "unreasonable noise."

"The hangup was determining beyond a reasonable doubt that David Fischer was personally responsible," he said. "I'm disappointed for the victims. We may proceed later against the company itself."

## SERIES

FROM PAGE A1

around the fire before bed to "spin a yarn."

Justice Wise sits on the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston. He is a member of the Texas Judicial Council, a director of the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas and an adjunct professor at Houston Baptist University. Wise, who regularly speaks about Texas history, was honored in 2021 by the Texas House of Representatives for preserving Texas history. Wise's award-winning "Wise About Texas" podcast does its fair share to make Texas history come alive for people everywhere.

The atmosphere will be relaxed as Wise, Gwynne and Harrigan know one another and have appeared together before. In fact, Gwynne mentions taking walks with friend and peer Harrigan where each lives in Austin.

Wise feels none of the three will stay on script for long. "I will be off whatever meager script I bring immediately, because I'm very familiar with their work. I've known them through their work longer than we've known each other personally."

"I've interviewed them both before, and what's fascinating to me about authors is the way they see the world and how they take what they observe and communicate it to people in words, and how they paint pictures with words."

Unlike Wise, who is a fifth-generation native Texan with roots dating back to Houston in 1836, neither Gwynne nor Harrigan are native to Texas. Harrigan has called Texas home since the age of 5 and Gwynne moved here as an adult. Both Gwynne and Harrigan, like Wise, have resumes as long as your arm and yet all three are warm, witty and approachable.

Gwynne worked for Time



PHOTO COURTESY STEPHEN HARRIGAN

**Writers S.C. "Sam" Gwynne, Elizabeth Crook and Stephen Harrigan at the LBJ Library Oct. 16, 2019.**

New York Times bestseller and Notable Book. "The Gates of the Alamo" won the TCU Texas Book award, the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and the Spur Award for Best Novel of the West. Harrigan's award-winning "Big Wonderful Thing: A History of Texas," is considered by many to be the consummate book on Texas history — a riveting tale of events.

Harrigan has written many movies for television including HBO's award-winning "Last of His Tribe," starring Jon Voight and Graham Greene, and "King of Texas" for TNT starring Patrick Stewart, Marcia Gay Harden and Roy Scheider. His latest work for television is an adaptation of "The Which Way Tree" by Elizabeth Crook. Harrigan and Crook collaborated on the screenplay with Robert Duvall as producer.

BSHC hosted Harrigan in 2022 for its Ramay-Macatee Series. "I am just really thrilled to be back. Yeah, I have been there by myself once, but it's really going to be fun with Sam and Ken. I think you know we all know each other. It will be fun for us to talk and I hope it will be fun for other people to listen."

Wise was the Ramay-Macatee speaker in fall 2023. He looks forward to returning as well. "I want them (Gwynne and Harrigan) to talk about their process, but I also want them to talk about their view of historical events, because it is very interesting to learn how they view history, because everyone views it a little bit differently, depending on how history is useful to you."

Tickets to "An Evening with Gwynne, Harrigan and Wise" are available online at granburylive.com. or at 800-340-9703. General admission seats are \$75, VIP seats are \$100, and seating is limited. Discounts on group rates are available. B.Y.O.B., but no wheeled coolers are allowed.

82 weeks on the New York Times Bestseller list, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. Notably, Taylor Sheridan of "Yellowstone" fame will bring "Empire of the Summer Moon" to the screen after battling to acquire the chance to do so for a decade.

Gwynne's book "Rebel Yell: The Violence, Passion and Redemption of Stonewall Jackson" was also a New York Times Bestseller.

Harrigan is a longtime writer for Texas Monthly and his work has appeared in an extensive list of well-known publications including The Atlantic, Outside, The New York Times Book Review, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, Conde Nast Traveler, Audubon, Travel Holiday, Life, American History, National Geographic and Slate.

Twelve books of fiction and nonfiction are to Harrigan's credit and awards for both his journalism and his books are numerous. His book "The Gates of the Alamo," was a



PHOTO COURTESY KEN WISE

**Justice Ken Wise will moderate "An Evening with Gwynne, Harrigan and Wise" at the roundtable discussion Thursday, Nov. 7 at Granbury Live.**

up."

Gwynne is probably best known for his books on American history. His book "Empire of the Summer

Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History" spent



*"I am just really thrilled to be back. Yeah, I have been there by myself once, but it's really going to be fun with Sam and Ken. I think you know we all know each other. It will be fun for us to talk and I hope it will be fun for other people to listen."*

**STEPHEN HARRIGAN**  
Author

PHOTO COURTESY STEPHEN HARRIGAN

**Writers S.C. "Sam" Gwynne, Philip Meyer (author of "The Son") and Stephen Harrigan at the site of the Second Battle of Adobe Walls in the Panhandle. Gwynne and Harrigan will join Justice Ken Wise for a round table discussion at Granbury Live Thursday, Nov. 7.**

# County secures two emergency animal shelters through MOUs

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously voted to allow Hood County Judge Ron Massingill to sign a memorandum of understanding with two local organizations, officially designating them as emergency animal shelters.

The agreements solidify the animal shelter designation of Triple Cross Cowboy Church at 3470 Lipan Highway and the Hood County Livestock Raisers Association at 641 Reunion Court.

During the regularly scheduled meeting July 9, Emergency Management Coordinator Margaret Campbell explained that the two locations will provide shelter and assistance to animals in the event of wildfire, flood, or any other emergency or local disaster.

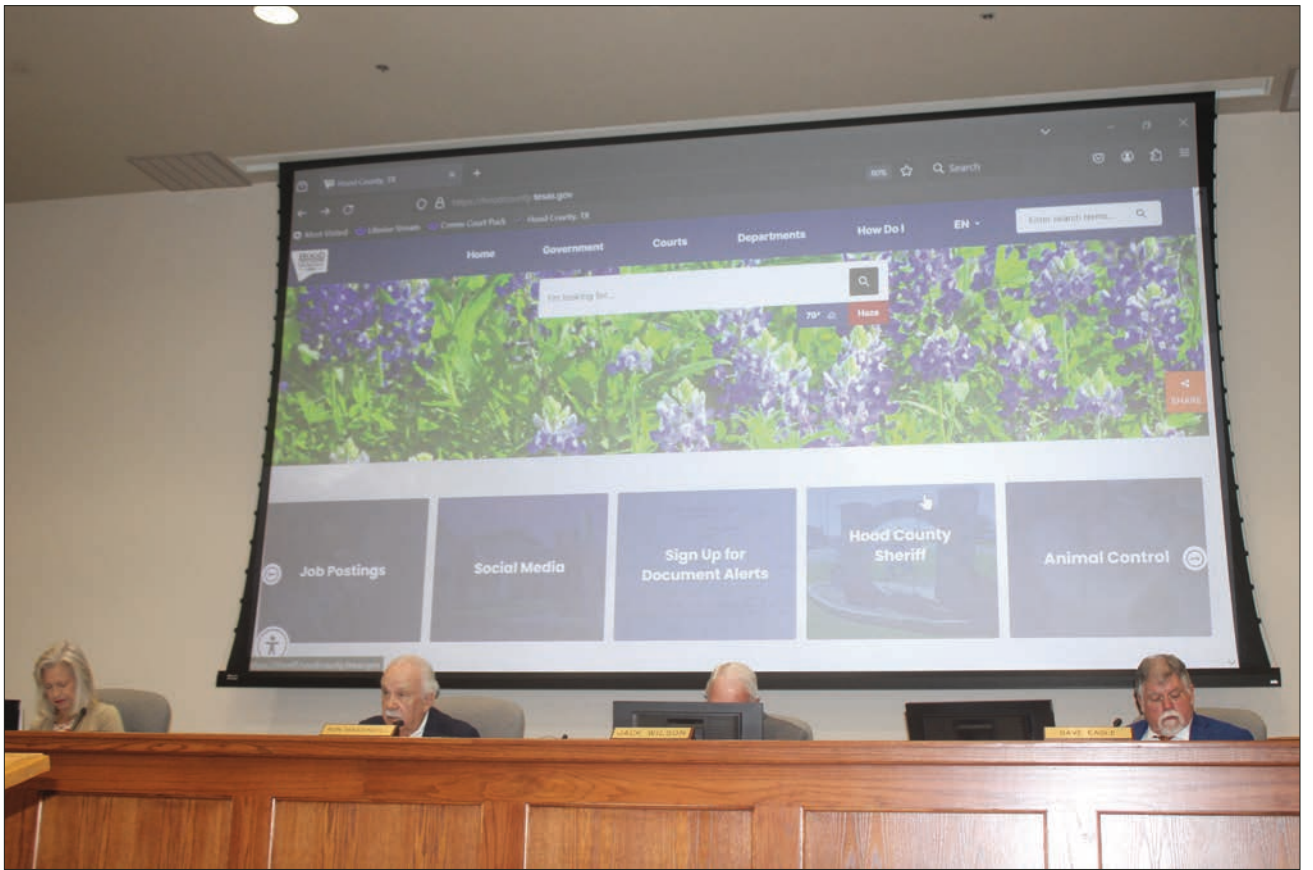
"A little over a year ago, we met with several different agencies across the state of Texas to develop a comprehensive animal issues plan, which outlines what we do during a disaster with our animals, whether it be livestock or small pets, to humanely treat them," Campbell said. "The plan outlines that the best practice is to have an MOU in place with any facility that we're going to shelter animals. That way, if anything happens, the county is not responsible, and neither is the other (party) should something happen."

According to the MOUs, the facilities will be used to shelter household pets and livestock. These efforts will include but are not limited to housing animals, providing emergency veterinary care, caring and feeding for animals left in evacuation sites, providing lost and found information services to the public, reuniting animals with their owners, decontaminating animals, and euthanizing animals when necessary.

Campbell explained that one location will primarily serve small animals, while the other will serve larger animals. She explained that both agreements outline the same responsibilities.

The agreement is for a period of one year and shall be self-renewable annually for up to five years from the end date of the agreement unless written termination is given by either party.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson made the motion to allow the county judge to sign an MOU with both locations, designating them as emergency shelter locations. Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson seconded both motions and they passed unanimously.



Hood County officials are currently finalizing preparations to launch a new and improved county website Wednesday, July 24.

# County greenlights launch of new website

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County residents can now look forward to a digital upgrade as county officials finalize preparations to launch a new and improved county website Wednesday, July 24.

During a special meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court June 11, the court reviewed the county's proposed new website to make necessary changes before its official launch date.

As the topic was discussed, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson stressed the importance of the website by calling it the "face of the community."

"This is what everyone

sees when they go to the website of Hood County, so I thought we should take a look at it and make sure that it looks good," she said.

The commissioners "walked through" the pages of the site together as a resident would do if trying to find information about the county. The court discussed the pros and cons of the current site while viewing each page in order to address where improvements needed to be made.

Hood County's Assistant Chief of Information

Technology Owen Curnutt explained that the home page of the new website is important and will allow residents to navigate to each county department easily.

"One that is very near and dear to you, Nannette, is going to be the agenda center," Curnutt said, adding that the new search feature will allow residents to find certain agenda topics much faster and easier than before.

"With the old one, the searching wasn't really

PLEASE SEE WEBSITE | A7

# BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

East Wastewater Treatment Plant — which will cost the city about \$34.5 million. Coffman mentioned the city is also wrapping up the reconstruction of the South Wastewater Treatment Plant, which cost around \$25 million.

A new subdivision in Saratoga is also moving forward, with Coffman stating that more than 2,000 homes will be constructed during the city's moratorium (a temporary development delay).

"That's a big deal. That's going to cause a lot of people to move to town," he said. "We're trying to go through the planning process and work with people to get things uniform to be planned and organized within the city limits, and that's not easy to deal with. The city can no longer involuntarily annex property adjacent to the city limits, so that makes working with developers to become part of the city a little more challenging, but we're being successful in that on some points."

The new runway at Granbury Regional Airport has also been completed.

Additionally, efforts are underway to finalize construction of a new terminal building, as well as a new fuel farm — both of which will be funded using grants. These projects are expected to be completed by 2026.

As for vehicle purchases this year, the city plans to buy four police vehicles using money from the general fund, and three courtesy cars for the Granbury Regional Airport using revenue from jet fuel sales — totaling approximately \$99,000.

"Things are really hopping at the airport," Coffman said. "We're selling lots of jet fuel and business is good; we're extremely pleased with that. That's why we're able to take some of that revenue from the fuel sales for those vehicles that are needed. People fly in on \$30 million jets and we don't have a rental car place, so we're going to try to provide some kind of a reliable vehicle that you can use locally — not to drive to Fort Worth or anywhere — but drive locally to take care of their business while they're in town. We're currently using worn-out Tahoes from the police department for that function, and they've been broken down a few times, so we're trying to spiff up

the image out there with a new runway, a new terminal building, and have a little better quality of life to attract more fuel sales."

Coffman explained that the courtesy vehicles serve not merely as "freebies" for the city, but as a means to generate revenue.

"They come in, and they go to the businesses on the square and the restaurants and they spend hundreds of dollars. They stay in the bed and breakfast, so the city might collect from that as well," he said. "If they go to Christina's and they've got a table for eight with wine and dessert, that trickles down to the owner and the waitstaff. It's really generating funds trickled down throughout the city and a number of different people benefit."

There's a common misunderstanding that property tax is the primary revenue source for Granbury — but in reality, it's sales tax that provides the largest portion of funding.

According to a video produced by City Broadcast Specialist Chuck Licata, when residents purchase an \$11.36 combo meal from Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers, the state keeps 66 cents of that total,

the county receives 5 cents, and the city earns 16 cents.

"Sales tax is collected on almost everything sold at the retail level and online," Licata said. "Granbury collected about \$12.3 million in sales tax in the fiscal year that ended September 2023. That's a lot of money. But here's the good news. The sales tax is paid by both residents and tourists. When visitors buy meals and merchandise at our stores, they're paying taxes and a portion of that is revenue for the city of Granbury. As more people visit and purchase things, the city collects more sales tax."

"More revenue comes from the city budget than property tax, and that's why keeping the property tax rate low is a priority," Newpher added.

The current property tax in Granbury is 38.5 cents. According to Licata, the proposed rate for next year is the same — 38.5 cents — so for a \$300,000 home, the annual city portion of the homeowner's property tax bill stays the same.

"One thing that's important to know is the city does not set the valuation on your home — the Hood Central Appraisal District does,"

Licata said. "Over the last decade appraised values have been increasing in our thriving community. City council members have considered the rising property appraisals and intentionally kept the city tax rate at or below other cities."

According to Licata's video, Granbury's tax rate is the lowest compared to other surrounding towns, like Stephenville (38.7), Weatherford (39.9), Godley (51.6), Benbrook (56.5) and Cleburne (58.1).

Another tax that benefits Granbury residents is the hotel occupancy tax. When tourists visit the town and stay in hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfasts, an extra 13% is added to their bill. The state gets 6% and the city keeps 7%.

"This past year, the city collected more than \$1.1 million in hotel occupancy tax and almost all of it was paid by people who don't live in Granbury," Licata said.

Coffman said over the next decade, he anticipates the city will have approximately \$250 million in capital projects related to sewer infrastructure — especially as the community continues to grow at a rate of about 4% annually.

"That's pretty substantial growth, and it's hard to keep up with it," Coffman said.

"So, we've got a study that's been completed that's called the Capital Improvement Plan for Water and Sewer. It lays out what those needs are, and it (will cost) a quarter of a billion dollars over the next 10 years. The new growth should help pay for that."

As city officials have now introduced a detailed strategy aimed at strengthening the city's finances for fiscal year 2025, the next step is to invite feedback from the community. There will be a public meeting Sept. 3 asking residents to share their thoughts on the budget.

"It's a challenge," Coffman added. "You're either growing or you're dying. If you're shrinking, you're dying. If you're not growing at all, and you're stagnant, you're dying. It's like a pawn. You're either growing and you're thriving or you're not."

For more budget information, archives, current budgets, and line by line detail, visit granbury.org/opengov online.



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21-22	The Spooky Spectacle Convention 2024
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	HANK FM Lake Fest
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
3-27	The Sleepy Hollow Experience - Langdon Grounds
4-6	Oktoberfest
5	Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival
?5	Mission Granbury 5k/1k Ghost Run
12	Brazos River Corvette Club Annual Charity Car Show
12	Granbury Rock N Blues Bash

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# County implements pipeline permit policy

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court implemented a pipeline permit policy during a regularly scheduled meeting July 9.

According to Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, this policy will protect taxpayers from the cost of repairing county roads should they be damaged by pipeline construction.

"I get calls almost weekly from people complaining about this company or that company tearing up the county roads, so this policy will require a permit and a bond to ensure that the roads will be restored if they are damaged," she explained.

The policy states that any person, company or corporation desiring to place utilities or pipelines in or across the rights-of-way of public roads in Hood County shall obtain a permit from Hood County Commissioners Court for the construction, operation and maintenance of said pipeline. Public utilities are not subject to this policy.

Prior to the start of construction, the permittee must also fill out a form and turn it in to Hood County Road Operations at 3640 W. U.S. Highway 377 for approval by Commissioners



Road Operations Director Donald Linney addresses the court regarding a pipeline policy permit during a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court July 9.

Court.

Road Operations Director Donald Linney told the court the idea of implementing a pipeline policy had been previously discussed. He explained that the proposed pipeline permit had originated in Jefferson County but has since been modified to suit the needs of Hood County.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill asked Linney if he is notified in advance before pipeline construction takes places. Linney said normally companies will notify the judge first, but he will usually be informed of the construction about four or five months ahead of time.

"If this was to go into

effect, they would tell us where they're crossing at, and at that time, we can determine what routes they're going to use to get to that crossing," Linney said.

"You could also go out and take pictures of the before so that what it looks like afterwards, you would know whether they had restored it to the same quality

that it was before they were there," Samuelson said. "That's the complaints that I get is that they're tearing up the roads. Mr. Linney and his crew are awesome. I call them and then the next day, they're out there, or even the same day. But that's us spending taxpayer money to fix a problem that was caused by a private com-

pany, and this just protects the taxpayers. This is our fiduciary responsibility to ensure that we are protecting the roads."

As the policy outlines, the permittee shall immediately, at its own expense, repair or replace all public property and all private property, including, but not limited to, driveways, fences and mail boxes, located in, along or adjacent to public right-of-way, which may be damaged or destroyed by any action or inaction of the permittee.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews said this new policy will promote better communication — especially stemming from recent construction damage that had occurred. He clarified that he's not criticizing the pipeline operators but said this permit will allow the county to pinpoint areas that need addressed and to better assess any construction damage moving forward.

Due to uncertainty within the court regarding public notification procedures, Samuelson made a motion to adopt the pipeline permit policy for Hood County, with the condition that County Attorney Matt Mills clarify the necessary procedures. Following a second by Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson, the motion passed unanimously.

# Disaster preparedness and resiliency website launches to help Texas small businesses

From Staff Reports

According to FEMA, 40% of small businesses that close in the wake of a disaster never reopen, and an additional 29% go out of business within two years of a disaster. BeforeDuringAfter, a new multi-functional website, hopes to change that.

BeforeDuringAfter was designed to help Texas small

businesses prepare for, respond to and ultimately recover from natural disasters and other unpredictable incidents. It is now available statewide at [beforeduringafter.com](http://beforeduringafter.com).

BeforeDuringAfter was created through a public-private partnership between Texas Mutual Insurance Company, TEXSAR, the Texas State University Institute for

Government Innovation, OneStar Foundation and the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, with additional support from Wells Fargo.

"At TEXSAR, we pride ourselves on preparedness," said Justin McInnis, president at Texas Search and Rescue. "This new platform better connects Texas communities with their local emergency management

officials, trusted disaster focused data sources and response agencies, ultimately helping small businesses prepare before a disaster and providing them with necessary resources to navigate and recover from the unexpected. We're proud to partner with like-minded organizations to launch a tool that can make a difference for small businesses and the

communities in which they reside."

To help small businesses with resources, BeforeDuringAfter provides a readiness roadmap that outlines essential steps to help them prepare before a disaster strikes, includes access to crucial government information and local news updates during a disaster, and features a recovery time-

line that includes steps businesses can take to help them bounce back after a disaster.

For more information on BeforeDuringAfter and to learn how to prepare your small business before disaster, visit [beforeduringafter.com](http://beforeduringafter.com).

## WEBSITE FROM PAGE A6

good, so when you searched, it really only brought up the title of the document into consideration; it never really worked well," he said. "But with this one here, we can see (a search result) that's come up often was Wolf Hollow, so now if we search for Wolf Hollow, we're get-

ting 109 results. That's definitely going to be a lot nicer for anybody trying to do their homework. (They will be able to) go back and look at what was said and what was done at last court and what was on the agenda minutes. This will make it easier for them to do that."

The court did not take any action June 11 but decided to push the launch date back to allow Curnutt to continue

modifying the website. Once the issues were resolved, the plan was for IT to request the approval of the commissioners to "go live" on the website during the July 9 court.

"After the workshop that we had, we went through and made all of the changes that were requested of us," Chief Information Officer Drew Wiederkehr said during Tuesday's meeting. "There

were a few emails from Commissioner Samuelson of other changes that needed to be made, and those were all made, so really, we're just looking for the green light to go live."

"I also asked several people outside of the county to just take a look at it and see if they saw anything (that needed to be changed)," Samuelson said. "I got really good feedback that

they liked it much better than our old website. (They said) it was easy to navigate, and they could find things they needed. I think it looks great."

Following a short discussion, Samuelson made a motion to establish July 10 as the date to direct the IT department to make [hoodcounty.tx.gov](http://hoodcounty.tx.gov) the primary URL for the county, as well as implement an auto redirect

to the new site.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

According to Wiederkehr, the website will officially go live two weeks from July 10, which will be Wednesday, July 24.

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# Commissioners approve \$400K transfer to cover out-of-county inmate costs

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court recently approved a \$400,000 transfer from Fund 55 to address the escalating costs of housing out-of-county inmates.

During a regularly scheduled meeting July 9, Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds explained that funds had depleted this past fiscal year, leaving approximately \$27,500 left in the current line item to pay bills.

"We've had some pretty high months with March at \$154,725, April at \$167,920, and May was \$186,445," Deeds said. "Just estimating it off of that, we figured (we would need an additional) \$800,000 to \$850,000 (to cover the costs)."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson said she had calculated the math based on the current inmate numbers and associated costs. She explained that by multiplying the number of inmates by the daily rates and by projecting for the 90 days left in the fiscal year, she approximated the total number of funds needed to be around \$384,000. She empha-

sized that this figure did not include potential savings from utilizing the lower rates in Bosque County.

Based on her calculations, Samuelson recommended allocating \$400,000 for out-of-county inmate costs to provide a financial "buffer," to ensure enough funds could cover any unforeseen expenses.

"I'm at your mercy to do it," Deeds said. "We have to pay the bills and we have to continue processing inmates and keeping inmates."

In the future, Samuelson said she hopes to alleviate pressure on the district attorney's office and the district judge by expediting cases in order to limit the number of inmates who have been incarcerated for long periods of time.

"There's a lot of unknowns," Deeds said. "You hope for the best, but you've got to plan for the worst."

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill asked Deeds whether he believed an \$800,000 allocation would be necessary to cover out-of-county inmate expenses through the remainder of the fiscal year. Deeds confirmed and clarified that his

PLEASE SEE **COSTS** | A11



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Sheriff's Office was crowned the winner of the Battle of the Badges blood drive by Carter BloodCare. Sheriff Roger Deeds accepted a trophy from Carter BloodCare during a regularly scheduled Hood County Commissioners Court meeting July 9, in recognition of the May event.

## Sheriff's Office honored with Battle of the Badges award

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Sheriff's Office was awarded a shiny new trophy Tuesday for its exemplary participation in the county's annual Battle of the Badges blood drive.

For the past five years, Hood County Youth Services has held a Battle of the Badges blood drive in a friendly com-

petition to see which law enforcement agency can recruit the most blood donors.

During a regularly scheduled Hood County Commissioners Court meeting July 9, Debbie Grover, field recruiter for Carter BloodCare, announced that the HCSO was crowned the winner of the Battle of the Badges — receiving the title, trophy and bragging rights as the ultimate prize.

"I just want to let y'all know what an amazing job they did," Grover said. "This year we collected 85 pints of blood in one day, (which) can help up to 255 patients in need." She added that the blood drive also brought in 18 first-time donors.

Since the Battle of the Badges began in Hood County, Grover said Carter BloodCare has collected 425 units of blood, which can as-

sist 1,275 patients in need. "We could not do what we do without these generous volunteers," she added. "They use their own time and the people that come in and donate blood, they do it on their own time. I truly appreciate every single one. Hood County is amazing for coming out and donating blood and thank you to the Hood County Youth Services. They are an amazing group."

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- Last year we distributed 53 A/C Units and 51 box fans.
- Please consider making a monetary donation to **OPERATION COOL DOWN** so we can purchase more A/C Units and Box Fans to meet the need.
- Donations can be made on our website [www.missiongranbury.org](http://www.missiongranbury.org). Click on the sun emblem. You can also mail or drop off a check at our Resource Center located at 3611 Plaza East Court, Granbury, Texas 76049.

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Mission Granbury, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, provides community services in Hood County.

**Mission Granbury Resource Center 817-579-6866 #HERetoHELP**

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# Classifieds

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Deadline: Saturday issue, 10 a.m. Wednesday

## REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

**Homes for Sale**  
On Lake Granbury, 2 acres, house with 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, 3594 sq ft, guest house, boat dock, etc. Appraised for \$1,650,000. Priced now @ \$1,500,000. Call for more details and an appointment. (817)480-4472

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## Homes for Rent

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## MERCHANDISE

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### Miscellaneous

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

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## LIVESTOCK & PETS

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**LOOKING FOR A COMPANION?**  
If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT!  
Call or visit  
**Hood County Animal Control**  
1550 Weatherford Highway,  
Granbury, Texas 76048  
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**ATTENTION!**  
**ANIMAL PLANET'S JACKIE BIBBY OF RATTLESNAKE REPUBLIC WILL BE HOSTING THE 24th Annual Snake-Proofing Seminar** Hunters, working dog/pets. Snake-proof your dog August 10, 2024.  
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### Pets Lost & Found

**IF YOU HAVE LOST OR FOUND AN ANIMAL, please contact Hood County Animal Control, 1550 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, Texas 76048. 817-573-4277**

## EMPLOYMENT

### General

**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.**  
**Competitive pay and great work environment.**  
**Please apply at 1501 S. Morgan St.**  
**Come join the Hood County News team!**

- HELP NEEDED Help needed for part time driver, food prep & cook and someone to deep clean. Doesn't have to be the same person for each job. Mail resume to Secretary, P. O. Box 879, Granbury, TX 76048

Granbury ISD is currently looking for a HVAC Assistant to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply. Criminal background checks and fingerprinting will be required. Competitive wages and excellent benefits, including health insurance and retirement. Apply online at <https://www.granburyisd.org/jobs>  
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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>  
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OBITS CONTINUED FROM | A11

Anna May Mayo Rawls

May 30, 1930 - June 28, 2024

Following her recurring battle with cancer, Anna May Scott Mayo Rawls peacefully passed from this life on Friday, June 28, 2024, in Fort Worth, Texas with family by her side. She had just completed 94 years on earth, born on a farm in Sanger, Texas on May 30, 1930, to Henrietta Wood and Reuben Leroy Scott. Anna was an only child, and her mother died when Anna was 10, so she was raised primarily by her loving grandmother Minnie (Lewter) Wood. Alonzo Oliver Wood was Anna's grandfather, name-sake of his uncle Alonzo P. Gordon, a Granbury merchant, legislator, teacher, and builder of the venerable house off Granbury's square. Anna graduated from Sanger High School in 1947 and North Texas State College, now the University of North Texas, in 1950. She obtained a Master's Degree in Education from Sul Ross State University.

Anna met her husband Robert Vernon Mayo on a double date with her North Texas State roommate and Robert's roommate from Texas A&M. Anna and Robert were married March 22, 1951. Anna and Robert lived in many towns across Texas where Anna taught school, ultimately moving to Fort Stockton in 1964 where they raised their three children, Bobby, Eric and Margaret.

Anna was a middle school teacher for 22 years in Fort Stockton and over the years taught history, social studies, English learning students and gifted and talented students. She cared for her husband, Robert, for many years during his long battle with cancer until his death in 1985. Anna subsequently retired from teaching in 1988 and, in 1995 married William Wayne "Bill" Rawls, a family friend from the First United Methodist Church in Fort Stockton. Anna and Bill lived in El Paso, Texas and Kingman, Arizona before retiring to Christoval, Texas and building their home on Bill's family place, with his wonderful clan close by, and pouring themselves into Christoval United Methodist Church activities and the Christoval and San Angelo communities. Bill predeceased Anna in January 2023.

Anna was an award-winning artist in oils and watercolors and exhibited her works in Fort Stockton, Odessa and San Angelo. She was also an award-winning quilter and learned the art from her mother, Henrietta and her grandmother Minnie while growing up on the farm in Sanger. In the weeks before she passed, Anna documented memories of her early life and recalled that, as a young girl, her "job" during quilting was to sit in the middle of the layers of cotton and fabric while it was being smoothed and readied for the final, laborious hand quilting process. Anna continued to sketch and paint until the last few months of her life. She indulged her interest in art, history and other cultures during her retired years with travel that took her to the former Soviet Union, the Bahamas, Mexico City, Alaska, Hawaii, London and too many U.S. states to mention. She often journeyed with her retired Fort Stockton school teacher chums including Dean Deerfield, Ann Skylstad, Betty Coker, Esther Lannom, Sammie Pfister, Jeannie Shackelford and Carol Shack. She recalled these trips frequently and cherished the memories in her later years of life with great fondness for these lifelong friendships, and a glint in her eye of secrets known only to them. Scrabble was another beloved pastime for Anna,



and it was a challenge for the family to best her. They rarely did.

Anna loved all things Texas and most especially the abundance of Texas wildflowers every spring with bluebonnets, indian paintbrush and sunflowers being her favorites. She was a lifelong Dallas Cowboys fan and one of her dreams was to attend a Dallas Cowboys football game. Her family gifted her with tickets to a Dallas vs Seattle game this past November which she attended with Margaret and her grandson Matthew. Anna touched and was always concerned with everyone she met. As they were exiting the game, Margaret and Matthew were faced with a long walk to a wheelchair ramp through the crowd. A group of Cowboys fans recognized their dilemma and just lifted Anna's chair and carried her down the steps. She was extremely grateful for their help while concerned that these four big strong guys would hurt themselves carrying her down a flight of six steps.

Anna had deep Texas roots with ancestors in Texas before it became a state in 1845. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and was consequently fascinated with what genealogy could tell us.

Anna is survived by her three children, Bobby Mayo, Eric Mayo and Margaret Mayo and grandson, Matthew Schiller; three stepchildren, Cindy Rawls Chapman (Jim), Nora Rawls, and Billie Rawls Hill (Larry) nine step-grandchildren and 14 step great-grandchildren. Anna is also survived by her dear sister-in-law, Linda Mayo Nix (Garry), niece April Mayo Odom (Derrick), cousin Jimmie Sills Kinsfater and numerous extended family all who will miss her greatly.

The family wishes to thank Anna and Bill's Christoval neighbor, Barbara Madrid, for her unwavering friendship over the years. Anna's superb caregivers from Carelinx, HomeWatch Caregivers, Discovery Villages/Alliance Assisted Living and EveryCare Hospice helped to ease her final months and days and our gratitude to them can never be repaid.

Anna's expressed wishes were for no service, and her ashes to be scattered at the Sanger farm where she grew up, with inurnment in seasonable weather at the Mayo plot in Tolar, Texas.

Please make any remembrances to one of the following organizations that Anna volunteered for throughout her life, American Cancer Society, Meals on Wheels, Women's Chamber of Commerce, Women's Society of the United Methodist Church, or the charity of your choosing.

To her children and grandson, her step-grandchildren and step-great grandchildren, the family members and friends whom she mentored as they became teachers, and most especially, the 2,000-3,000 pupils she taught across the state, Anna leaves a legacy of Texas grit - never, never, never, ever give up.

With love, Bob, Eric, Margaret and Matthew

Dolores Smith Guinn

July 12, 1930 - June 4, 2024

Dolores Smith Guinn, formerly of DeCordova, Texas, passed away June 4, 2024, in the Maryland home of her daughter, Sue Justice, with whom she had lived since June 2018.

Dolores was born July 12, 1930, in Greenville, Pennsylvania, to Ford and Margaret Smith. She married Kenneth Guinn and later married Paul Bortz. She and Ken remarried in May 1992 and made their home in DeCordova.

While in Greenville, Dolores worked for the PA DOL, retiring in 1990. She also served as Justice of the Peace for many years. In Texas, Dolores was active in the United Methodist Church in Acton. The Guinn's traveled the world with their friends, and both were avid golfers.

Dolores had a passion for crafts and joined the senior center near her home in Maryland, where she made ceramics for her many family members. She enjoyed her time with family, especially her great-great-grandson, leaving



them with many stories from her childhood at her grandfather's farm through the end of her 93 years.

Surviving are her four children, Ford, Mary, Susan and John; three stepchildren, Doug, Roger and Suzanne; 12 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and her great-great-grandson. She was predeceased by her husband Ken, a grandson and stepson.

She will be interred with Ken at the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery in Texas. Her memories will live on through her loving family.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of July 2-8. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity

- JULY 2: 8:21 a.m.: theft of property on S. Morgan Street; 12:52 p.m.: theft or property on E. U.S. Highway 377; 2:31 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on S. Morgan Street; 4:52 p.m.: trash dumped on Acton Highway; 9:30 p.m.: noise disturbance on Hill Boulevard; 10:09 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on W. Pearl Street; \*Two warrant services and 35 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

- JULY 3: 1:38 a.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377; 10:26 a.m.: criminal mischief on W. Pearl Street; 12:59 p.m.: disturbance on Harbor Lakes Drive; 1:16 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377; 2:04 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on Holly Hills Cemetery Road; 2:40 p.m.: assault with a deadly weapon on Kessler Drive; 5:48 p.m.: reckless driver on W. Pearl Street; 7:00 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on S. Morgan Street; 11:01 p.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377; 11:11 p.m.: disturbance

PLEASE SEE BLOTTER | A13

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

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

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

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

STARTING A New Life is a grief support group for those who have lost a loved one through death. This includes the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 26 years, this group has helped people work through their grief process. If you, or someone you know, is suffering from the loss of a loved one, come or bring them to our next session that began March 19, 2023. We are Christian based, nondenominational, and welcome all who are suffering. We meet 3-5 p.m. on Sundays in the parish hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Ben Bradley at 575-706-5703 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK

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

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

GRIEF SHARE RECOVERY seminar and support recovery seminar and support group meets at 10 a.m. at Interim Hospice, 1314 Paluxy Drive, Suite 200. Childcare is not provided. Fee for Griefshare workbook is \$15. Details: 817-573-7474.

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

EVERY FRIDAY PUNCHIN' PARKINSON'S

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

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

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

FIRST MONDAY

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

FIRST TUESDAY

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

SECOND MONDAY

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

SECOND SATURDAY

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

THIRD MONDAY

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

THIRD TUESDAY

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

FOURTH TUESDAY

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

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

Last Puzzle Solution grid with words like BEBES, ICES, SLAP, CITY, UPS, WBT, PLACE, ISTHERE, HOTASA, TEHERAN, DOORON, GOTBAD, EDEN, KPOS, KNOLLE, DIMES, ENOLA, ASMIN, MONEY, SAILOR, MAN, GOMER, TEENKINGS, TOMESS, DR, DOME, ROAR, NYC, EDDY, CUTE, GULE, WAS, SRS

KNIEPER REALTY

# Ask for a copy of the deed restrictions



**BY PAM KNIEPER**

Pam Knieper, broker/owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 top producer in Hood County for more than 15 years and running. She is known as the waterfront expert and the authority on real estate.

Regardless of whether a property is in a mandatory homeowners association or not, there can still be limitations on what you can or cannot do with your new home and land in the form of deed restrictions. Also known as covenants, conditions and restrictions, these 'rules' are tied to the land and can have a serious impact on the use and enjoyment of a property.

Looking at a house that needs one more bedroom and thinking that's an easy fix, you will just add on in the future? Better check the CCRs because there may be deed restrictions that limit the number of bedrooms.

Basic restrictions speak to things like the type of construction, size, single or multi-family, building materials and setback lines. But after that it can get a bit more complicated.

Some CCRs will not allow certain makes or models of automobiles, or they will impose a maximum age of vehicles, and it is not at all uncommon to see a limit of how many cars can be parked at a residence.

If you want to put in a swimming pool, you should make sure that is not prohibited. In Granbury, I can point to multiple areas where the restrictions do not allow for satellite dishes, parking a boat or RV in your driveway, fences over a certain height, trampolines, tree houses and/or swimming pools. It is also not uncommon to see restrictions on the type, breed, and/or number of household pets at a residence.

Storage buildings and/or workshops may or may not be allowed, and some will require they be built using the same or similar exterior



COURTESY PHOTO BY IRIANA SHIYAN, ADOBESTOCK.COM

**Regardless of whether a property is in a mandatory homeowners association, there can still be limitations on what you can or cannot do with your new home and land in the form of deed restrictions.**

materials as the main house. Don't make the mistake of thinking that because it is in the country on 5 or 10 acres that there are no rules. Many rural properties have CCRs. Some limit the number of livestock you can have 'per

acre,' and even more limit the 'type' of animals you can have.

Short term rentals are a hot topic of conversation these days, and whether you are for or against, knowing what the deed restric-

tions are is critical. Some restrictions will limit your ability to lease your home on a typical lease, requiring a minimum year's lease or more, and in some instances requiring that you own the home for a minimum of one

year or more before you will be allowed to lease it out.

Enforcement of deed restrictions without the aid of an active HOA can be a little more difficult. There are no deed restriction police, but these covenants are enforceable by the justice court, and neighbors wanting to protect their property values have and will continue to win these battles in court because the law is typically on their side.

As I have said before, I am not an attorney and would never dream of giving legal advice, but as a REALTOR® I know that one of the best bits of wisdom I can share with you is, "Always ask for the deed restrictions," study them carefully, and make sure there is nothing contained in those documents that might destroy your dreams for the property you are purchasing. As always, if you have questions about this article or real estate in general, please give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at [www.WeSellGranbury.com](http://www.WeSellGranbury.com). We would love to hear from you.

## BLOTTER

FROM PAGE A12

on E. Bridge Street

\*\*One major accident, three minor accidents and 13 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

### JULY 4

2:45 a.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on E. U.S. Highway 377

10:04 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. Pearl Street

10:56 a.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

11:52 a.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

5:41 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377

7:09 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

7:10 p.m.: assault on N. Plaza Drive

8:56 p.m.: loose livestock on Weatherford Highway

9:17 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

10:54 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377

\*\*A major accident, two minor accidents, a warrant service and 27 traffic stops

occurred on this day\*\*

### JULY 5

12:43 a.m.: intoxicated person on S. Morgan Street

3:14 a.m.: noise disturbance on Quiet Cove

2:10 p.m.: intoxicated person on E. U.S. Highway 377

2:35 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on N. Travis Street

4:05 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Meander Road

4:42 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

6:08 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on Reunion Court

7:07 p.m.: disturbance on W. Pearl Street

8:41 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377

8:58 p.m.: loose livestock on Lipan Highway

9:12 p.m.: loose livestock on W. Moore Street

10:31 p.m.: noise disturbance on Meadowlark Lane

\*\*Two warrant services and 10 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

### JULY 6

11:51 a.m.: theft over \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377

5:10 p.m.: theft over \$100

on E. U.S. Highway 377

6:44 p.m.: disorderly conduct on E. Bridge Street

\*\*Officers conducted 35 traffic stops on this day\*\*

### JULY 7

2:13 a.m.: suspicious activity on E. Rucker Street

11:41 a.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377

1:57 p.m.: reckless driver on E. U.S. Highway 377

4:14 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Meander Road

8:19 p.m.: harassment on Hayloft Lane

\*\*A major accident, a minor accident and 32 traffic stops occurred on this day\*\*

### JULY 8

11:35 a.m.: theft on Rolling Terrace Circle

11:46 a.m.: property damage on S. Morgan Street

2:14 p.m.: suspicious activity on N. Plaza Drive

6:22 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

10:32 p.m.: assault with bodily injury on Kathy Lane

\*\*Officers conducted 42 traffic stops on this day\*\*



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MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Local young entrepreneurs made sun catchers, tie-dye, macrame, sewing, crochet crafts, leatherworks, mehndi (or henna tattoo), and more. Located at 103 Chaparral Drive, Hub on 51 is a coffee shop and homeschool resource center. See full gallery at [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com). Please see Kids B2 for more photos.

## Acton Middle School hits high notes *Varsity treble choir to perform at TMEA convention next spring*

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
[ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com)

Members of Acton Middle School's Varsity Treble Choir will be tuning up this fall as students prepare for a pitch-perfect performance at the Texas Music Educator Association Clinic/Convention in February 2025.

The TMEA Clinic/Convention is one of the largest and most well-attended music conferences in the world. According to the TMEA website, the annual convention provides unparalleled opportunities for professional development

for current and future music educators at every level and discipline. With over 30,000 attendees — including 10,000 active music educators — the clinic showcases the finest choirs, bands and orchestras in the state of Texas.

According to AMS Choir Director Randall Walters, the Varsity Treble Choir was invited to perform at the conference following a rigorous screening process.

"Each year the Vocal Division invites a small number of choirs to perform at the convention to showcase the best and most talented music programs in the state," he explained. "You

are required to submit three years' worth of recordings and propose a 25-minute set of songs that are musically diverse, vocally challenging and entertaining to a large audience. There are then two separate judging panels that make the final decision and invitation. There is no official state championship competition for choirs in Texas, but this is as close as it gets!"

To make the experience even more exciting, this is the first time a group from AMS has been chosen to perform at the convention — and only the fourth group in Granbury Independent School District history.

"While it is the first time a choir from AMS has been chosen to perform at TMEA, the girls that will represent us this coming year are connected to all of the great choirs that came before them," Walters said. "This group has received the sweepstakes award for 15 years in a row at UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest (all First Division Ratings). It is true they inherit a responsibility to keep those standards. However, our focus has never been on ratings or fame; it's always been about relationships and building up people. We instill confidence and pride through a positive class environment,

rigorous, impactful teaching and life lessons along the way."

Some of the mantras and sayings Walters instills in his students include phrases like, "Be the first follower," and "Blowing out someone's candle doesn't make yours shine any brighter."

The goal, he said, is to build the group up in such a way that they love each other and will give their best during rehearsals and performances.

"We teach them also to respect and give their best for the audience, not for a good rating or selfish praise, but so that the message of the music can be felt by others

and make a difference in the world," Walters said. "We say to them, 'We're not just singing today, we're changing lives.'"

The AMS Varsity Treble Choir consists of the best seventh- and eighth-grade female singers selected by audition. Walters explained that the students try out for a specific voice part — soprano 1, soprano 2 or alto. The audition includes singing a part on "The Star-Spangled Banner," sight reading a piece of music, and a signed contract stating they will maintain passing grades in

PLEASE SEE **CHOIR** | B4



COURTESY PHOTO

Andy's path to recovery has been marked by the unwavering support of students, friends, colleagues, and members of the community who have all rallied behind him during this challenging time.

## 'Road to recovery'

*Former GMS principal shows improvement after extended ICU stay*

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
[ashley@hcnews.com](mailto:ashley@hcnews.com)

Former Granbury Middle School principal, Andy Smith, has demonstrated remarkable progress in his recovery journey following an extensive stay in an intensive care unit.

Smith — who was admitted in early June due to severe pancreatitis — has been gradually regaining strength and responsiveness and has officially moved out of the ICU as of July 8, according to his wife, Mary Smith.

"He's been awake now for two weeks," Mary Smith told the Hood County News. "He's becoming more alert and he's getting stronger every day."

She explained that her husband's symptoms first began June 5, when he started experiencing severe nausea and abdominal discomfort.

"He was in such pain, and he was having a very hard time breathing, so that's when we went to the emergency room," Mary said. "They did a scan and discovered his pancreas was just really inflamed. They put him on oxygen and everything, but no matter what they did at the ER, it was not helping at all, so then they decided they needed to transfer him im-

PLEASE SEE **SMITH** | B2

# KIDS

FROM PAGE B1

On Saturday, June 29, young vendors paid a modest fee and set up for the first-ever "Kids Business Market" on the grounds of Hub on 51. For full gallery go to [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com)



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# Coaches react to 'Dave Campbell's' predictions

**BY RICK MAUCH**  
Special to the Hood County News

Granbury and Tolar will enter the 2024 season with new head football coaches. And whether it's living up to expectations or proving expectations wrong, each has a point to the folks at "Dave Campbell's Texas Football" magazine. The publication, called by many the Bible of Texas football, has the Tolar Rattlers picked to win District 5-3A Division II. The Rattlers are moving up in classification after finishing as the 2A Division I state runner-up last season. Meanwhile, the Granbury Pirates are picked ninth in the nine-team District 3-5A Division I, arguably the toughest 5A district in the state.

**GRANBURY**  
The Pirates have nowhere to go but up as they begin a new era under the leadership of new head coach Bobby Allison. Coming off a 3-7 season that saw them begin 3-0, they are expected to return six offensive and two defensive starters. "We talk a lot about not

getting caught up in outside noise, whether it is positive or negative. It is about us and what we believe inside this building," Allison said. Allison said of the Dave Campbell's prediction "I would say it does not inspire me more than I already am every day with the opportunity to work with our athletes to help them reach their goals and become the best versions of themselves on and off the field."

The Pirates' district foes include the likes of two-time defending state champion Aledo (16-0 in 2023), which is ranked No. 1 in the state in the preseason. Right behind the Bearcats are No. 2 Denton Ryan (8-3, second round) and Richland (12-1, third round).

Rounding out the playoff picks is Brewer (3-7) in fourth place. Also in the district, in order of predicted finish are Keller Fossil Ridge (3-7), which is dropping down from Class 6A; Birdville (4-6); Denton (4-7, bidistrict); and Azle (3-7). "We have a challenge in this district, like any other 5A district in the metroplex, but a challenge like this

gives myself and coaches the opportunity bring out the best in our players," Allison said. "We will build a stronger and more resilient team."

"This challenge is what makes it fun. We will have to be ready to play every single week, that is for sure."

**TOLAR**  
Despite moving up in classification, the Rattlers' reputation is commanding respect. It also doesn't hurt that they anticipate seven starters back on both offense and defense from a 14-2 squad.

Tolar enters the season ranked No. 11 in the state in 3A Division II. "Being picked first usually means you've had recent success with having some talent coming back, which is the case for us," new head coach Blake Mouser said. "Even with moving up to 3A, we have competed against bigger schools in recent years, so we feel like we are prepared and ready."

Anticipating such a move, and to prepare themselves for district and the postseason, the Rattlers have been scheduling larger schools in pre-district for years.

And while they'd obviously like to prove the folks at Dave Campbell's right because it would mean they emerge as league champions, Mouser said it's how the season ends that matters most.

"We are excited for the year, but preseason rankings and picks are for conversations amongst fans," he said. "Our job as players and coaches is to continue to work this summer and create good practice habits during fall camp that will carry us throughout the year."

"Our goal as a program is to get to a point where we understand that winning is usually a byproduct of consistent effort that our athletes bring every day. Successful programs just don't show up Friday nights. They understand that it's their daily work ethic to be their best that inspires them to attain their individual and team goals."

Senior running back Peyton Brown of the Rattlers is the preseason selection as the district offensive MVP. Despite missing seven games with an injury last season, Brown returned in time for the playoffs and

finished with 560 yards and a dozen touchdowns.

Two seasons ago, Brown ranked among the top running backs in the nation as he collected 2,777 yards and scored 49 TD as the Rattlers finished 13-1 and reached the state quarterfinals. In his high school career, he has 4,731 yards and 89 touchdowns.

"We have a great senior class returning, along with multiple underclassmen who received great experience during the playoff run last year," Mouser said. "The goal is to have a foundation in our program that each year we have guys ready to fill the void of graduated players, which is why it's so important to keep kids in the program from junior high to junior varsity as they are the future leaders of our program."

Mouser, like any coach, wants to win. However, he said his inspiration doesn't come from wins and losses.

"Don't get me wrong, I want to be at a place that wins, where the community is driven to win as well, but at the end of the day, my ultimate goal as a coach is to develop young men to become men of honor," he

said. "That is where my inspiration will always come from."

Someone in the Rattlers' new district is going to go from being a playoff team to sitting at home this postseason. Five of the six teams played beyond the regular season a year ago, but only four teams advance from each district.

Eastland (3-8, bidistrict) is picked second, followed by Early (6-6, area) and Clifton (3-8, bidistrict) as the playoff picks. Brady (3-8, bidistrict) and Dublin (1-9) round out the league predictions.

"Top to bottom, this is a very competitive district. Since being on the job, I have told our team that we expect to win, and that approach will always be the same, which is based on our program's hallmarks of discipline, effort, toughness and honor," Mouser said. "As a team, if we can play and practice with great discipline, effort and toughness while honoring our team by being accountable, then the wins will be a by-product of that."

"We will have to display those weekly in our district schedule to compete for a playoff spot and ultimately our goal as district champs."

# Premier High School of Granbury honored as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School

**BY LAUREN DAVIS**  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

Premier High School of Granbury has been recognized as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School for the second consecutive year. This prestigious award highlights the school's dedication to fostering a positive and caring environment for its students through the CKH program.

Additionally, Marsha Grissom was named 2024 Campus Director of the Year among Premier High Schools across the state. "We are all responsible for the success of the Capturing Kids' Hearts program in our school," said Grissom. "This award simply reinforces the fact that we truly care about our students and their potential to become positive citizens and lifelong learners."

PHS has been involved in the CKH program for several years, continuously improving its approach by building solid relationships with students and their families. The entire staff has committed to the program, implementing daily builders that contribute to its success.

"The initial training for teachers was between 32 and 40 hours," Grissom explained. "The training time was immersive, engaging, insightful and enjoyable."



Premier High School of Granbury earned distinction as a Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase School.

The CKH mission is straightforward: to win students' hearts and lead them to their personal best. Responsive Education Solutions, which funds the program, supports this mission.

"As a staff, we totally believe this is a worthy program," Grissom said. "One of the beauties of the program is that our students know what to expect when they walk in our doors daily, and they know they will be cared

for in a safe and caring learning environment."

Capturing Kids' Hearts equips K-12 education professionals with transformational processes focused on social-emotional well-being, relationship-driven campus

culture, and student connectedness. The program includes experiential training, expert coaching, a character-based student curriculum and personalized support.

The foundation of CKH dates back to its founder,

Flip Flippen, who was inspired by his second-grade teacher, Mrs. Matthews. Her encouragement led Flip to dedicate his life to helping people reach their potential. This vision has since grown, and today, according to the CKH website, CKH introduces its processes to over 37,000 educators each year nationwide.

"We have consistently participated in the program by celebrating our students through the models and foundation builders of the Capturing Kids' Hearts program," Grissom noted.

Through CKH, PHS of Granbury continues cultivating relational capacity, improving school culture, strengthening trust between teachers and students, building self-managing classrooms, creating accountability, improving academic performance, and fostering trauma-informed care.

"The recognition as a CKH National Showcase School is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and students," Grissom said. "We are proud to be part of a program that makes such a positive impact on our community."

Premier High School of Granbury's commitment to the CKH program and its students ensures it will continue to practice excellence in education and shape the leaders of tomorrow.



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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Acton Middle School's Varsity Treble Choir will perform at the Texas Music Educators Association Clinic/Convention in February 2025.

**CHOIR**  
FROM PAGE B1

school. "It is generally between 18 and 24 singers, but there is no set number of personnel," he said. "Last year there were 22, and this year there are 23 students — 19 eighth graders and four seventh graders." Once selected to the choir, the students are required to audition for the TMEA Region 30 All-Region

Choir, participate in the UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, and in the Solo and Ensemble Contest hosted by AMS. "In addition to that, we give four public concerts, tour the GISD elementary schools at Christmas, sing 'The Star-Spangled Banner' at sporting events, and give various other community performances throughout the year as needed and requested," Walters said. "Our students also partici-

production, are often in the top 10% of class rank, and are involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities both at school and abroad, including volleyball, cheerleading, community theater, volunteer work, church and family." Walters said when he first learned the Varsity Treble Choir had been selected to perform at the TMEA clinic, his initial response was "joy and elation." "We are eager to share their unique talent with our

Texas Music Educator community friends, and family," he said. "We have a wonderful, hardworking group this year. I can't think of anyone else we would want for the journey. They are going to be great!" He added he is excited for the opportunity to represent all the choir directors who are currently teaching or have previously taught at Granbury ISD. "The theme of our performance at TMEA is 'Legacy,' and features song selections

that were suggested by or performed by the directors that have directed the AMS Varsity Treble Choir through the years since the school opened, like Alicia Campbell, Greg Doss, Christine Adams and Emily Ross," Walters said. "We have all dreamed of taking a choir to TMEA over the years." The AMS Varsity Treble Choir will perform at the TMEA Clinic/Convention during the second week of February at the San Antonio Convention Center.

"Our current staff (myself and co-teacher Emily Ross) are overjoyed that we are able to carry on the tradition of AMS Choir," Walters added. "I'm personally excited to join the ranks of my role models and mentor teachers that have taken a performing group to TMEA. It represents the culmination of my life's work with our most precious resource — students!"






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PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Elijah Johnston of Granbury High School during warm ups at the high school track during the 2023-2024 track season.

# Local trio qualifies for Junior Olympics

**BY RICK MAUCH**

*Special to the Hood County News*

Two members of the Granbury Pirates track team and a younger runner from the area will compete in their respective Junior Olympics soon.

Elijah Johnston and teammate Caden Davis, both of whom will be seniors this coming school year, competed in the Boys 17-18 age group and qualified with their performances in the USA Track and Field Region 12 Championships in Seguin last week. Johnston was a member of the Fort Worth Xpress track club, and ran the anchor leg of the third-place 4x100-meter relay, posting a time of 41.23 seconds.

"I'm very proud of our team. We all have been working really hard for this moment, so I couldn't be any happier," Johnston said.

Davis, running for the Fort Worth Flyers, also competed in the Boys 17-18 division at the Amateur Athletic Union Region 18 Championships at Chisholm Trail High School. He ran the second leg of the fifth-place 4x400 relay that clocked a 3:34.03.

Also in the USA TF event, Malachi Dolan of Mach I Track Club placed second in the Boys 9-10 1500 run, finishing in 5:27.84.

The top five in each event qualified for Junior Olympics. USA TF is scheduled for July 22-28 in College Station. AAU is set for July 29-Aug. 3 in

Greensboro, North Carolina.

Kaleb Johnston, Elijah's younger brother, also competed in the USA TF event. He was part of the Boys 15-16 4x100 relay that had a fourth-place preliminaries time of 42.76 to qualify for the finals. However, a false start in the finals disqualified them.

**HOOD COUNTY FLYERS**

As the team makes final preparations to compete in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Meet in Southlake July 11-12, the Flyers are coming off a strong performance in Eules recently. Highlights included:

\*Brendan Thorne took first place in the Boys 14-Under age group, winning the 800-meter, 1600 and 3200.

\*Wylie Barstow won the 80-meter hurdles in the Boys 12-Under category.

\*Thea Gray placed second in the Girls 8-Under long jump with a career-best effort of 7 feet, 4 inches.

Another highlight was a fun coach/parent relay. The Flyers' quartet placed third. "No injuries!" exclaimed Flyers coach Crystal Burenheide said with a smile.

The foursome consisted of coaches Matt Gray and Craig Tidwell, along with parents Karl Kreusel and Bryan May.

Burenheide said the team has 31 athletes registered to compete at regionals. From there, qualifiers will advance to the TAAF

Summer Games of Texas in Brownsville July 25-28.

**SEALS SWIMMING**

The Granbury SEALS swim team hopes to continue a strong summer when they compete in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Region 4 Meet this weekend in Southlake. Qualifiers will have the opportunity to compete at the TAAF Summer Games of Texas in Brownsville July 25-28.

The SEALS will have 60 competitors at the regional meet, coach Janet Steenberge said.

"For many of the swimmers this is their first big meet and they are nervously anticipating the chance to swim against others who have experience and are focusing on fine tuning their skills," she said. "The closer the meet gets the more excitement is in the air."

**JUNIOR GOLF**

Granbury's Nic Merkle finished second in the Boys 11-14 age group in a Texas Junior Golf Tour event at Lantana Golf Club recently. He shot a 263 over three rounds (88-87-83), improving each round.

In the Girls 11-14 division at Bridlewood in Flower Mound, Lipan's Laney Barnett placed sixth with a 195 (96-99).

In the Medalist Division of the North Texas PGA Junior Tour, Grady Molder of Granbury tied for seventh in a tournament at Pecan Valley in Fort Worth. He

shot an 83 over 18 holes.

**PIRATE TD CLUB GOLF TOURNEY**

The Granbury Pirate Touchdown Club Golf Tournament is scheduled for Aug. 9 at Pecan Plantation. The tournament, which will have a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start, will include dinner.

Cost to enter is \$500 for a four-person team. Sponsorships are also available in the following packages:

- Cart sponsor — \$100, logo/name on a cart
- Hole sponsor — \$300, logo/name on a lawn sign at the teebox or green
- Scoreboard sponsor — \$250
- Scorecard sponsor — \$1,000

For more information, contact Christine Summers at 817-995-0448 or Sarah Riley at 817-279-2203.

**GRANBURY FOOTBALL**

Granbury ISD has made a change with its ticketing process by going completely digital, which means cash and check will no longer be accepted.

The 2024 Granbury Pirate football season tickets will become available for everyone to purchase starting July 22 and lasting through Aug. 5. Season tickets are \$40 per seat, plus additional processing fees for five home games.

Season tickets will only be purchased online.

Gold Cards will go on sale Aug. 5 and are \$10 for ages



PHOTO COURTESY MACH I TRACK CLUB

Malachi Dolan has qualified for the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in College Station July 22-28 by finishing second at the regional meet in the Boys 9-10 age group in the 1500-meter run.

55 and older, also available by credit only.

Contact Amber Nikzad at [amber.nikzad@granburyisd.org](mailto:amber.nikzad@granburyisd.org) or call the athletic office 817-408-4020 for more information.

**GRANBURY CAMPS**

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

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

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

**TOLAR CAMPS**

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

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

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOOD COUNTY FLYERS

The quartet (from left) of coaches Matt Gray and Craig Tidwell, along with parents Bryan May and Karl Kreusel finished third in a coaches/parents relay at the Eules Meet for the Hood County Flyers track team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOOD COUNTY FLYERS

Thea Gray, age 7, placed second in the Girls 8-Under long jump at the Eules Meet for the Hood County Flyers, jumping a career-best 7 feet, 4 inches.

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Home kickoff times slated for Tarleton Football

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Kickoff times for Tarleton State Football's six home games are officially set, the Texans announced Thursday.

The Texans, who are set to compete in their first season as a full-fledged NCAA Division I program in 2024, open the season at Memorial Stadium Saturday, Aug. 24 at 2:30 p.m. Tarleton State's next four home games — Sept. 28 vs. Southeastern Louisiana, Oct. 12 vs. Utah Tech, Nov. 2 vs. Eastern Kentucky and Nov. 16 vs. Abilene Christian — will be played at 6 p.m. The regular season finale Nov. 23 against Central Arkansas will kick off at 2 p.m.

Shining in its first four years in NCAA Division I, Tarleton State has posted four straight winning seasons and finished with the third highest winning percentage in a reclassification period since 2004 at .610 (25-16). Owing the best winning percentage in the

**2024 HOME GAME TIMES**

<b>MCNEESE STATE</b> AUG. 24   2:30 PM	<b>EASTERN KENTUCKY</b> NOV. 2   6 PM
<b>SLU</b> SEPT. 28   6 PM	<b>ABILENE CHRISTIAN</b> NOV. 16   6 PM
<b>UTAH TECH</b> OCT. 12   6 PM	<b>CENTRAL ARKANSAS</b> NOV. 23   2 PM

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Kickoff times for Tarleton State Football's six home games are officially set, game times subject to change.

state among all Texas D1 and D2 programs since 2018 (.727, 48-18), the Texans were ranked No. 19 in Craig Haley's 2024 FCS Football Preseason Top 25 Rankings

on Opta Analyst last month. Season tickets start at just \$150 and are on sale now by visiting [TarletonSports.com/Tickets](http://TarletonSports.com/Tickets) or by visiting the Tarleton Ticket Office locat-

ed on the west side entrance of Memorial Stadium in person. Single-game tickets will be available for purchase the week of each home game on Mondays.

The Texans finished the 2023 season 8-3 overall and 4-2 in United Athletic Conference play, good for second in the league. Head coach Todd Whitten was

named UAC Coach of the Year, his fifth career Coach of the Year accolade.

Tarleton State ranked first in the UAC in yards per play (6.4), rushing yards per game (201.7), rushing touchdowns (25) and was second in the conference in points per game (33.3), yards per game (430.5) and yards per rush (5.2). In addition to ranking in the top two in the UAC in five categories, the Texans finished in the top 25 nationally in all those categories.

Defensively, the Texans had the most defensive touchdowns in the conference (four, tied-fourth nationally) and led the UAC in fumbles recovered (11, tied-ninth nationally), yards per play (4.8, 17th nationally) to go with sacks (26, tied-28th nationally). Tarleton State also finished in the top four in the UAC in takeaways (18), tackles for loss (65), and scoring defense (24.5 points per game). Tarleton's special teams led the UAC in kickoff returns (24.3 yards per return, fourth nationally).

## Tarleton State hires Bobby Carter as head coach of Texan Track and Field, Cross Country

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - Tarleton State has hired a rising star to lead the next era of Texan Track and Field and Cross Country. Tarleton Athletics announced it has tabbed Bobby Carter as the next head coach of the programs.

Carter joins the Texans after spending the last eight years as an NCAA Division I assistant track and field coach, including four years at the Power Five conference level. He served the last three seasons at Arizona (2021-24), three seasons at Navy (2018-21), one season at Oral Roberts (2017-18) and one season at Nebraska (2016-17).

"Bobby Carter has a tremendous reputation and we were impressed by his knowledge, charisma and potential during our process of choosing the right candidate for our head coaching position," Vice President and Director of Athletics Steve Uryasz said. "Coach Carter's up-and-coming career path matches our own department's rise to national prominence, and he brings instant credibility to our track and field and cross country programs."

A two-time All-American himself while competing at Nebraska from 2009-14, Carter has guided six First Team All-Americans, 132 conference finalists, 115 conference medalists and 29 conference champions across his coaching career.

"I am honored to be the next Track and Field and Cross Country head coach at Tarleton State University," Carter said. "As the head coach, I am committed to guiding this program to the

best of my abilities and also ready to win some championships with our dedicated staff, alumni and student athletes. I would like to thank Vice President Steve Uryasz for this opportunity and for believing in me. I look forward to leading and inspiring our athletes to achieve their highest potential, both on and off the track and contributing to the rich tradition of athletic excellence at Tarleton State."

Carter spent the last three years as Arizona's jumps and multis coach. The Wildcats credited Carter for helping "lift the jumps and multis to newfound heights in the national picture," guiding several student-athletes to some of the top marks in program history and competition at the NCAA Championships.

Just two weeks ago, Carter had a Men's 4x100m team compete in the NCAA Championships at Oregon, where they advanced to the NCAA Finals after shattering the school record. The 4x100 relay team ran a program record 38.75-second finish on Day 1, besting the previous school record of 38.85 seconds. Carter also had a student-athlete advance to the NCAA Championships in both the long jump and triple jump, qualifying on a best long jump of 25-4.75 and triple jump of 52-2.5. The same student-athlete won the Men's Triple Jump at the Pac-12 Championships in mid-May.

In his second season in 2022-23 with Arizona Track and Field, Carter and the Wildcats had a Second Team All-American long jumper. The men's track

and field team finished 18th in the USTFCCA National Rankings. The Wildcats were ranked by the USTFCCA as high as seventh in the women's long jump and ninth in the women's triple jump nationally.

"Tarleton State has hired one of the finest young men who I ever coached in my 57 years of coaching," retired Nebraska Track and Field head coach Gary Pepin said. "Bobby is a very convicted family man and Christian. He was an outstanding athlete at Nebraska and is definitely a hard worker. Bobby always has the best interest of the athletes at heart, on and off the track. Bobby wants to see his athletes strive for high goals and get the most out of their God-given talents. He thinks graduation, life after track and field, and becoming a productive citizen is most important. Tarleton State made a terrific hire."

In his three years at Navy, Carter coached jumps and helped guide the program to seven Patriot League team titles. In his final season, Carter coached three All-Conference athletes on the road to the program's third consecutive Outdoor Conference Championships sweep. Carter coached two all-conference student-athletes in the long jump and triple jump, plus coached three to school records.

"Bobby Carter is a young, smart, energetic and very knowledgeable coach," Texas Tech Director of Track and Field and Cross Country Wes Kittley said. "He has been coached and mentored by the great Gary Pepin, former head coach at Nebraska, Joe Dial,

former head coach at Oral Roberts, and Fred Harvey, the current head coach at Arizona - three coaches who I have admired for years. So, he definitely is ready for this challenge. He has worked himself up through the ranks and is ready to be a head coach!"

In his lone year at Oral Roberts, Carter helped develop six All-Americans, 14 conference champions and 10 school record holders. Before making his way to Oral Roberts, Carter coached at Nebraska, his alma mater. He was responsible for four All-Americans including the USATF Junior Outdoor Triple Jump Championship winner with a mark of 53-2.25.

"I think Bobby Carter is a great coach," California Director of Track and Field/Cross Country Robyne Johnson said. "I had the opportunity to know him when he was at Navy while I was the head coach at Boston U. Bobby is tremendously passionate about what he does, and he is a great coach. He will do a great job elevating the program at Tarleton State."

Carter was an elite athlete himself, competing for Nebraska in the long jump and 4x100 relay. He was a two-time All-American, finishing 12th in the long jump at the 2010 NCAA Indoor Championships and seventh at the 2012 NCAA Outdoor Championships competing as part of the 4x100 relay. During his time at Nebraska, Carter also earned scholar athlete distinctions.

Carter comes from a decorated Track and Field family including his uncle Michael



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Coach Bobby Carter

who holds the American national high school record of 81 feet 3.5 inches in the shot put and was also an Olympic Silver Medalist in shot put in 1984. He won three Super Bowls with the San Francisco 49ers and was the first man to win an Olympic medal and a Super Bowl ring in the same season. Bobby Carter's cousin, Michelle Carter, is the current American record holder in the shot put (67-8), set at

the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio when she won a gold medal. She is the first United States women's athlete to win the event since the competition began at the 1948 Summer Olympic Games in London, and only the second American to win any medal in the event.

Bobby Carter and his wife Nataly have three sons, Maiyan, Kobe and Maasai.

## Tarleton State University Fort Worth to host open house for prospective graduate students

### Tarleton State University

FORT WORTH — Tarleton State University invites prospective students to explore graduate-level degree programs at a 9 a.m. open house Saturday, July 13, at Tarleton's Fort Worth location off Chisholm Trail Parkway at 10850 Texan

### Rider Drive.

Prospective students will have the opportunity to meet with graduate program representatives and receive valuable advice on how to succeed in graduate school. Additionally, application fees will be waived for attendees who apply within a week of the event.

Tarleton State Fort Worth offers a variety of master's-level programs, including accounting, business administration, clinical mental health counseling, communication studies, counseling, criminal justice, curriculum and instruction, educational administration, medical laboratory services, nursing administra-

tion, nursing education, psychology, public administration and social work.

The university also offers a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program in educational leadership and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program in criminal justice, both designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills to

excel in their fields.

Tarleton State provides flexible class schedules with day, evening and weekend options, in addition to a fully online campus offering 15 graduate degree programs. For more information about Tarleton State Fort Worth's graduate programs, visit [www.tarleton.edu/graduate](http://www.tarleton.edu/graduate)

or contact Dr. Mweni Ekpo, graduate recruitment manager, at [ekpo@tarleton.edu](mailto:ekpo@tarleton.edu). To learn more about the university's online programs, visit [www.tarleton.edu/online](http://www.tarleton.edu/online).

Interested attendees should RSVP at [www.tarleton.edu/graduate](http://www.tarleton.edu/graduate).

**SMITH**  
FROM PAGE B1

mediately by ambulance to the hospital so that he could get (seen by) a specialist.”

On June 6, he was admitted to Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, where he was later diagnosed with necrotizing pancreatitis.

“It’s very, very painful,” Mary said. “It’s the pancreas trying to basically die.”

According to WebMD, necrotizing pancreatitis happens when the inflammation and damage from pancreatitis causes tissue in the pancreas to die — or necrotize. Necrotizing pancreatitis has a range of severity, but complications of necrosis are serious. Symptoms and treatment options will depend on how severe the necrosis is.

Once the diagnosis of necrotizing pancreatitis was confirmed June 8 — which coincidentally was the same day as Andy Smith’s birthday — he was immediately

sedated, intubated, and placed on a ventilator to help him breathe.

“They just said with the pancreas that it’s just so very painful that they can’t control the pain no matter what they give him,” Mary Smith said. “They said the best way is to just let him rest to try to calm everything down.”

The hardest part, she said, is the fact that she was never given a concrete reason as to why his symptoms suddenly developed. She said he had no prior medical conditions and currently does not take any medication.

“There really just was no reason (why this could have happened),” she said. “And, you know, that’s what’s kind of the hard part about all this and figuring out why this could have happened so quickly.”

Andy remained sedated and on a ventilator for the following three weeks. Gradually, doctors began the process of awakening him, and subsequently replaced the ventilator with a trache-

ostomy tube.

Since Andy Smith has now been discharged from the ICU and moved into another room on a different floor at Baylor, Mary Smith said the next step is to remove the feeding tube and to work on his strength.

“He still has weeks to months of recovery, physical therapy, and speech therapy,” she said. “He’ll probably actually be transferred to a rehab facility to get his strength back and to relearn how to talk. He can talk OK now with the tracheostomy in, but the plan is he won’t have the tracheostomy forever, and so once they get that out, he has to learn to talk again with his normal voice. Even just learning to swallow again ... you don’t realize when you’re lying there for a month that you kind of lose everything.”

Andy Smith’s path to recovery has also been marked by the unwavering support of friends, colleagues, and members of the community who have all rallied behind

him during this challenging time. As of Tuesday, July 9, a GoFundMe page has now raised \$16,335 of the \$40,000 goal.

“Everybody’s been sharing it, which is so nice of them. I mean, complete strangers have shared it and have donated; it’s just wonderful,” Mary Smith said. “I’ve shown it to him and I asked him, ‘Do you know this person?’ and sometimes he knows who they are ... but there are so many people whom he doesn’t know. It’s just friends of friends of friends.”

Even though Andy Smith submitted his resignation from his three-year stint at Granbury Middle School in December — with his contract officially ending in June — Mary Smith said he has gotten so much support from former students and colleagues.

“He just always loved every school he was at. He loved the teachers, the students, all the faculty,” Mary Smith said. “He’s really going to

miss being at a school, but I think with this happening, him not having to go back to work at a school actually will probably be the best thing for him. It’s kind of odd that he didn’t have another job lined up to be a principal at another school, because with all this going on, obviously, it probably wouldn’t have worked, so it’s kind of weird the timing that it happened.”

Andy Smith’s plan following his resignation, Mary Smith said, was to expand their current Burleson business, Uptown Cheapskate, by adding a second location in Waco.

While the details of that plan are uncertain at the moment, Mary said the short-term goal is for her husband to get as much rest as possible so he can recover.

“The downside with the pancreas is you have to let it rest; that’s all you can do,” she said. “It’s not like a surgery or anything like that. It’s just a lot of rest, meaning you can hardly eat anything, because they don’t

want the pancreas having to do anything, basically, so it takes months of rest. Luckily, we’ve already had one month, so we’re hoping the next month really shows that the pancreas is getting better, and the inflammation has gone down.”

The Smiths have been married 26 years and they have two children: Mason, 25, and Madison, 18.

To donate to Andy Smith’s care, visit [gofundme.com/support-dr-andy-smiths-fight-in-icu](https://www.gofundme.com/support-dr-andy-smiths-fight-in-icu); Cash App: [Cash.app/\\$mary42177](https://cash.app/$mary42177); or Venmo: [Venmo.com/u/Mary-Smith-246](https://venmo.com/Mary-Smith-246).

“I’m just so glad we’re finally on the road to recovery, because when they’re lying there for weeks, you just have no idea what’s coming,” Mary added. “I’m just so glad we turned the corner. He can smile and he can talk some, and he’s aware that we’re there. It’s just so nice to be able to see that in him. We just appreciate all the help that we can get right now.”



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Andy Smith was the Granbury Middle School principal for three years. He submitted his resignation last December.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Andy Smith, former Granbury Middle School principal, has now been discharged from an intensive care unit at Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth, where he was diagnosed with necrotizing pancreatitis.

**H&CN Junior**

National Barbershop Music Appreciation Day, observed on July 13th, is a melodious celebration inviting kids to explore the harmonious world of barbershop music. This day encourages families to appreciate the unique vocal stylings and camaraderie that define this a cappella art form.

For kids, National

**COLOR Time**



**NATIONAL Barbershop Music Appreciation Day**  
July 13, 2024

Barbershop Music Appreciation Day offers a chance to listen to and learn about the rich history of barbershop music. Families can enjoy performances, whether live or recorded, showcasing the close harmonies and lively melodies characteristic of barbershop quartets.

Parents and caregivers can share interesting facts about the origins of barbershop

music and its cultural significance. Kids may even be inspired to try their hand at singing or harmonizing, fostering a love for music and the joy of creating harmonies with others.

National Barbershop Music Appreciation Day celebrates the sense of community and joy that comes from singing together. Families can engage in sing-

alongs, watch virtual performances, or attend local events that showcase the beauty of barbershop music.

So, on July 13th, let the harmonies fill the air, and take a moment to appreciate the timeless melodies and vocal artistry of barbershop music. It’s a day to share the joy of singing and revel in the unique and delightful soundscapes created by this cherished musical tradition.

**New Word**

**QUARTET**

a group of four people playing music or singing together.

**Did You Know?**

As a general rule, barbershop quartets use a tenor-tenor-bari-tone-bass arrangement, with the second tenor singing the lead.



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# Hood County included in new adoption program

## Businesses are urged to participate in the program

From Staff Reports

Fort Worth — The Gladney Center for Adoption, one of the leading adoption agencies in the country, announced it has been selected by the State of Texas to administer the Heart Gallery program in 19 North Texas counties including Hood County.

The Heart Gallery program takes professional photos of children in foster care who are available for adoption and then creates an online gallery of these photos, as well as galleries that are displayed in businesses and other public venues. The goal is to raise awareness and help kids find forever homes.

“We are proud the State of Texas has asked us to lead this important project,” said Gladney CEO Mark Melson. “It’s another recognition of the outstanding work that Gladney does in helping kids needing homes, as well as helping adoptive families and birth mothers. The Heart Gallery is a natural ad-

dition to our ongoing work. The Heart Gallery shows the beautiful faces of children in foster care who are available for adoption. And by placing the gallery online and in local businesses, we can advocate for them to a much broader audience and share their stories — all with the goal to find their forever families.”

Gladney will operate the Heart Gallery in 19 counties including: Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Fannon, Grayson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise. In each of these counties, Gladney is working to promote a Heart Gallery of

kids in that area who are in need of adoptive families. For more on the Gladney Center for Adoption, go to <https://www.adoptions-bygladney.com>. For more on Heart Gallery of North Texas, go to <https://heartgallerynorthtexas.org>.

### HOOD OUTDOORS

## Summer catch and release not recommended for striped or hybrid striped bass



BY MICHAEL ACOSTA

As a licensed professional fishing guide, Michael Acosta shows you how to find them. The Granbury resident of 30 years has been fishing all his life and has been a licensed guide since 1998.

Catch and release is generally effective for striped or hybrid striped bass when the water temperatures are 70 degrees F or lower. You still must take precautions as I will discuss herein to ensure the fish has the best chance for survival. This goes for all species that are caught and released.

You do not want to knowingly release a fish that is obviously going to die due to deep hooking or a gill/bleeding injury where death appears imminent. You should keep this fish to eat if that is possible.

You may better preserve the striped/hybrid striped fishery in the summer if you stop fishing for that species after you catch your limit.

This goes for other species as well. A large percentage of the released striped and hybrid striped bass may die even though they swim away. Stress-related mortality increases greatly for striped or hybrid striped bass when water temperatures are at 80F or higher. Those folks who catch and release numerous strippers or hybrids on a summer outing may be killing more fish than the angler that stops fishing once his limit is reached. The striped or hybrid striped bass limit in Texas waters is five fish per person with an 18-inch limit. Texoma has a different limit due to the abundance of small fish (10 fish, two of which can be over 20 inches). If you catch an undersized

fish, you are required by law to release it. There are times you don’t have a choice but to release the fish. If you do have to practice catch and release in the summer or for that matter any time of the year, you can improve the fish’s odds of survival with some simple rules.

First, do not play the fish out until it is completely exhausted. Bring the fish in quick to minimize stress. You may have to use heavier tackle to accomplish this. The use of circle hooks or barbless hooks can help as they have been proven to gut hook less than standard J hooks. Do not use stainless steel hooks that will not deteriorate in the fish’s body. The use of artificial baits may kill less fish as these baits are less likely to gut hook a fish. Replacing treble hooks with single hooks may also help to reduce injury to the fish.

If you can keep the fish in the water while you remove the hook, this is preferred.

Netting or handling the fish may remove some of its protective slime coat making it susceptible to infection. If you do land the fish, return it to the water as soon as possible.

The water temperatures on most area lakes are well into the 80s now and won’t be decreasing for quite a while. A little conscious effort by all when on the water will help all our fisheries. We look forward to seeing you on the water.

### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury water temperatures remain in the upper 80s. Water levels are near normal. Thermoclines are present around the 20-foot level. Best fishing for most species is early and late. Striped bass are good to 12 pounds from DeCordova to the dam near channel edges in 10 to 20 feet of water. Best bait for striped bass is live shad and trolled Alabama



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hale family, who reside in Pecan Plantation, had a July 5 outing on Lake Granbury with some big striped bass. Pictured are (L-R): Steve Sumberaz, Melissa Smith, Mason Sumberaz, Joe Hale and Virginia Hale.

rigs. White bass are good on trolling spinners and pet spoons and are good near Indian Harbor, Striper Alley and near the Shores. Channel catfish are good on cut bait and hot dogs mid-lake near shallow flats and humps around 15 feet down. Crappies are suspended on underwater timber and

bridge pilings from Sandy Point to Indian Harbor to Waters Edge. Largemouth bass are active early near main lake points. Top water early is good with fish holding to shaded areas such as docks near the heat of the day. Largemouth are good on crank baits and soft plastics.

### GOOD FOR HOOD

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Brittany Bowers

817-573-7066 ext. 232 / brittany.bowers@hcnews.com

Heidi Gebhardt

817-573-7066 ext. 235 / heidi@hcnews.com

Madison Lazaro

817-573-7066 ext. 236 / madison@hcnews.com

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## Clark to lead First United Methodist Church

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

The congregation of Granbury First United Methodist Church welcomes the Rev. Craig Clark as its new pastor. Clark brings with him a rich tapestry of life experiences and a profound commitment to ministry. His journey to the pulpit is marked by a significant career shift: He transitioned from the specialty chemical industry, where he spent 15 years, to answering a higher calling into ministry.

The North Texas and Central Texas conferences of the United Methodist Church will merge into the

Horizons conference Jan. 1, 2025. Clark explained, "Our bishop and the cabinet appointed me across conference lines from North Texas to Central Texas to serve as pastor at Granbury First."

Clark's wife, Christina, joins him in this new chapter, and both have expressed their gratitude for the warm welcome they have received from the Granbury community.

Clark's path to the ministry began after years of teaching Sunday school and leading an intensive 36-week Disciples Bible study. His active engagement in prison ministry further affirmed the call. "Listening to

someone's story of struggle and sharing God's unconditional love can create a powerful shift in their lives," he said.

### A CHANGED HEART

"I've always felt a deep calling toward prison ministry," Clark shared, "A few years ago, a church family reached out to me about their daughter, Samantha, who had been arrested during a meth house raid. In her early 20s, abandoned by her friends, and at rock bottom due to addiction, Samantha's life was marked by heartbreak and poor choices.

PLEASE SEE CHURCH | C2



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury First United Methodist Church welcomes new pastor, Rev. Craig Clark, and his wife, Christina.

## A tale of two buildings and interwoven lives

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

In the heart of Granbury's historic square stand two remarkable buildings, each with a unique story.

The structures at 110 and 114 N. Crockett St. are more than just architectural gems; they reflect the vision and determination of local business owners who have become an integral part of Hood County. Through their efforts, these entrepreneurs have breathed new life into historic spaces on the square, blending tradition with innovation. Their work not only preserves Granbury's rich heritage but also propels it into a dynamic future.

### T.W. "DUB" THOMAS

In 1934, a kerosene stove explosion leveled T.W. "Dub" Thomas' shop on East Pearl Street to the ground. Undeterred, Thomas relocated to the square in Granbury, setting up Dub's Place in a modest 14-foot by 20-foot sheet iron building at 110 N. Crockett St. for which he paid a mere \$25. Dub's Place, a true testament to his resilience, offered Independent gas at 15 cents a gallon and stocked an eclectic range of items from fan belts to candy. Dub famously traded for anything from chickens to tractors, as revealed in his online memoir.

In the first year, Dub balanced his store responsibilities with a job as a mail carrier on the Star route from Granbury to Thorp Spring. His wife Callie, brother Cecil and employee Pete Rowe managed the shop. By 1946, Dub's thriving business necessitated expansion; he constructed a two-story concrete tile structure at the same address. The store then began selling Exxon gasoline products, known at the time as "Humble." "By 1973," Dub said, "time and



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Two historic buildings: (on the left) Celebration Hall at 114 N. Crockett St. and Granbury Live at 110 N. Crockett St.

toil had changed me." He could no longer keep up the pace and handed the reins to his son, Billy Joe (Scooter) Thomas.

In 1978, Scooter Thomas sold Dub's Place to W.B. Hopson, who continued to run the business under its well-known name. Dub said in his online memoir, "I just went with the business as part of the fixtures and continued to serve the public as a parts salesman."

Hopson sold 110 N. Crockett St. in 1982 to Weston Blair. Brian and Lori Hennington transformed it into Hennington's Café and Catering Company, which offered gourmet southern cuisine and cooking classes during the summer. Co-leasing the space was an antique

mall owned by Diane Davis, owner of Stringfellows and the Merry Heart Tea Room.

### T.C. MITCHELL AND CHARLIE TIPTON

In 1957, Dub's Place welcomed a neighbor when T.C. Mitchell and Charlie Tipton opened Mitchell's Garage at 114 N. Crockett St. The garage sold International Harvester farm equipment and specialized in automatic transmission repairs.

### THE MCCRAES

In Sandi Henning McCrae's book, "Tom McCrae How do you spell it... G.R.A.C.E.," she chronicles the life of Tom McCrae, from his youth in Plains to his eventual residence in Granbury. His journey began with a stint in

the Texas oilfields, working alongside his older brother, Mac. In the 1950s, inspired by Mac's service in the 7th Cavalry Division of the U.S. Army, McCrae joined the National Guard while Sister (Carol) McCrae worked in the surplus line insurance business in Dallas.

The 1960s brought significant changes for Tom McCrae. He married Freda Donica, and they had a daughter, Sam. However, the marriage soon ended, leading him through a series of job changes. His career path led him from hauling dirt to insurance adjusting, fashion sales and manufacturing.

Tom's life took a pivotal turn when he encountered Braniff Airways flight attendant Sandi Henning.

Following a whirlwind courtship, they married, propelling Tom's fashion career forward as he designed and sold jeans.

In the 1970s, Tom and Sandi McCrae took a break from fashion to open the first "I Can't Believe It's Yogurt" (T.C.B.Y.) store in Dallas, later expanding to a second location before selling the business. Returning to fashion, they designed jeans with Ken Wiley under the brand Gotcha Covered. They also designed signature jeans and T-shirts for Gilley's, the legendary honky-tonk in Pasadena.

Tom was hugely successful in his business endeavors. However, he felt something was missing and made an appointment with his doc-

tor, who was also a friend. Tom left the clinic with a Bible, and a few years later, he became a born-again Christian.

Tom's entrepreneurial spirit led him to create Champ, his activewear line. In 1982, his good buddy Curtis Graf introduced him to The Great American Race, the first-ever vintage car rally race offering a \$250,000 purse. When Tom and Curtis discovered they were the only registered entrants, Tom bought the race, transforming it into a beloved event. The first race occurred in 1983 and saw 69 cars journey from California to Indianapolis, culminating in a victory lap at the Indy 500.

In 1989, Sister McCrae joined Tom in the race, strengthening their sibling bond. She had traveled as an insurance broker for 25 years, and her career took her to many foreign countries. She was a regular at national and regional conventions. Sister McCrae sold her insurance partnership in 1993 and went to work for Tom McCrae at The Great Race Headquarters in Dallas.

### A RACE TO GRANBURY

The Great American Race, billed as the "world's richest vintage car race," involved promotions in over 800 cities, distributed \$3 million in prizes, and covered five million vehicle miles.

In 1995, Granbury's Chamber of Commerce learned The Great American Race was looking for a museum home and approached Tom McCrae.

The pitch worked. The entire staff of The Great Race loved Granbury's small historic town charm, but there was a big problem — no space on the square. That same week, the Mitchell-Tipton building became available, as Charlie Tipton

PLEASE SEE INTERWOVEN | C2

## Hot: The origins of the dog days of summer

BY MICKY SHEARON  
Special to the  
Hood County News

Well, here we are, on the other side of the July 4 holidays, and now we settle into that sweltering summer period we sometimes refer to as "the dog days of summer."

When we think of the "dog days of summer," we might picture our furry friends panting in the sweltering heat, sprawled on cool tile floors in desperate search of relief. But this evocative phrase, which conjures up images of the laziest, hottest days of the year, actually has roots that go back thousands of years, tracing a lineage through the stars and ancient civilizations.

### THE CELESTIAL ORIGINS OF THE DOG DAYS

The true story behind the "dog days" begins not with dogs but with the stars. Ancient Greeks, known for their keen observations of the heavens, noticed that the peak of summer's heat corresponded with the period when Sirius, the brightest star in the sky, rose and set in conjunction with the sun. This star, found in the constellation Canis Major (Latin for "Greater Dog"), was aptly named "Sirius," meaning "glowing" or "scorcher" in Greek.

To the Greeks, it seemed logical: the blazing sun plus the fiery addition of Sirius resulted in the oppressive heat of midsummer. Greek

mythology further deepened this connection by associating Sirius with the loyal dog of the hunter Orion, thus embedding the star within a tale of celestial companionship.

### FROM GREEKS TO ROMANS: A HOT TOPIC

The Romans, inheriting much of their astronomical knowledge from the Greeks, also placed Sirius in the constellation Canis Major. They termed this searing period "dies caniculares," translating to "days of the dog star." This nomenclature neatly encapsulated the overlap of Sirius' heliacal rising (its first appearance before dawn) with the sun, which they believed heralded the hottest days of the year.

The Romans meticulously recorded these celestial events, ensuring that their understanding of the "dog days" was passed down through generations, eventually seeping into English vernacular by the 1500s as "the dog days."

### SHIFTING STARS: AN ASTRONOMICAL TWIST

An intriguing twist to this ancient story is the astronomical reality that the positions of stars have shifted over millennia due to the precession of the Earth's rotation. This means that the period we now refer to as the "dog days of summer" no longer coincides precisely with the heliacal rising of Sirius as it did in ancient

times.

According to modern calculations by sources such as the Farmer's Almanac, the current "dog days" span from July 3 to Aug. 11. This is a significant shift from the days when the Greeks and Romans first noted the phenomenon. In fact, in about 10,000 years, the date of Sirius' rising will have shifted so much that future generations will experience these "dog days" during winter months in the northern hemisphere.

### A TIMELESS EXPRESSION

Despite these celestial shifts, the phrase "dog days of summer" has endured, transcending its astronomical origins to become a

cultural idiom. It's a phrase that now evokes the universal experience of summer's most intense heat, the lethargy it inspires, and perhaps a wistful longing for the cooler days to come.

In modern times, the dog days are more likely to be spent with our canine companions lounging in the shade, enjoying a cold drink, or perhaps taking a dip in a pool. While we may no longer look to the sky to predict this period, the enduring legacy of the "dog days" reminds us of the intricate connections between our lives and the cosmos, as well as the timeless nature of our shared experiences with the changing seasons.

# DAR members attend Continental Congress

## From Staff Reports

Five members of the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, were among the more than 4,000 members who traveled to the nation's capital for the 133rd Continental Congress, the latest gathering of the longstanding service organization's annual meeting held June 26-30. Representing the local chapter at the week-long convention were Granbury residents Marcy Carter-Lovick, Kathy Hanlon, Robin Akin, Christine Copeland and Sydney Lovick of Southlake.

The convention consisted of business sessions, committee meetings, social functions, and was topped off with formal evening ceremonies at which national DAR award recipients were honored.

At the Opening Night Ceremony, Librarian of Congress Dr. Carla Hayden received the DAR History Award Medal. The National Defense Night Ceremony, celebrating our nation's military personnel and veterans, welcomed Admiral Linda Fagan, commandant of the United States Coast Guard. Other

national awards were presented during the week to outstanding individuals celebrating excellence in historic preservation, education and patriotism.

On the final day of the Continental Congress, Marcy Carter-Lovick completed her three-year term as State Regent of Texas. She now holds the title of Honorary State Regent and is a candidate for the national office of Registrar General. Kathy Hanlon was elected to serve as State Historian of Texas. Robin Akin, Regent of the Elizabeth Crockett Chapter, was appointed as the Texas State Vice Chair of the DAR Project Patriot Committee — USO; and Kimberly Locus as Texas State Vice Chair of the Constitution Week Committee.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was founded in 1890 to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Its members are descended from the patriots who won American independence during the Revolutionary War. The National Society boasts more than 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters worldwide, while the Texas Society has more



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured from left at the DAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C. are Christine Copeland, Marcy Carter-Lovick, Robin Akin, Kathy Hanlon and Sydney Lovick.

than 19,000 members in 203 chapters located across the state. DAR is one of the world's largest and

most active service organizations. To learn more about the work of today's DAR, visit [www.DAR.org](http://www.DAR.org).

For information about the local chapter, visit [www.texasdar.org/chapters/ElizabethCrockett/](http://www.texasdar.org/chapters/ElizabethCrockett/).

## INTERWOVEN

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passed away in May 1995 at the age of 76.

The privately owned International Harvester dealership on the square was leaving and making way for The Great Race headquarters and Hall of Fame Museum of antique race cars. Sister McCrae said, "We'd borrow 13 (Great Race cars) every year, and we'd put them on display, write up a program about them, and charge an admission to come in."

### EXPANDING THE RACE

Sister McCrae moved to Granbury in 1996, followed by Tom and Sandi McCrae in 1998. That same year, Weston Blair approached Tom about the impending vacancy of 110 N. Crockett St. — the Hennington's barbecue restaurant and the antique mall were moving. Tom McCrae then purchased the building.

### THE UPTOP RANCH

The McCraes began plans for the second floor of 110 N. Crockett — their most recently acquired space. Sandi McCrae was the architect, while Tom McCrae was the general contractor who supervised the remodeling of the 5,000 square foot space. "Tom was afraid that having everything that was up there would be too much," Sister McCrae explained, "so we put these trusses in (the ceiling for reinforcement). Soon, the UpTop Ranch was born, becoming "Texas' only zero lot line ranch." The McCraes held wildly popular Bible studies at the ranch. In attendance were Russ and Wendy Hearn, "The Really Big Show" corporate musicians, who had just moved to Granbury, and Ike and Trisha Thomas.

As the McCraes and the Hearn visited one evening, 110 N. Crockett St. sat quietly when Russ Hearn asked Tom McCrae if he had ever considered putting music in the space. A new venture developed within moments and a deal was consummated with a handshake. In eight weeks, with expenses three times higher than initially



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Great American Racer driving through Granbury.

budgeted, 110 N. Crockett St. had been transformed into a music theater.

### OPENING NIGHT

In November 1999, with Sister McCrae handling group ticket sales, Granbury Live began entertaining families with heartwarming patriotic and Christian-themed performances (a la "Branson") featuring the Hearn, Carey and Dena Dyer, with Tom McCrae as the master of ceremonies and "Downtown" Kerry Brown as producer.

### SAVING GOODBYE

In 2002, Tom McCrae sold The Great Race to Rally Partners — a group of 11 great racers — and the office moved to San Marcos. Sister McCrae said she "moved there for a year to show administration the 'ropes' about entrants,

cities, and sponsors, etc.," returning to Granbury in 2003 to work at Granbury Live."

With the closure of The Great Race Museum, 114 N. Crockett became Celebration Hall — a space for event rental to the public that is still operating in this capacity today.

Tom McCrae was ready to expand the idea of Christian family music entertainment with the possibility of a new venue in Fredericksburg to be called Main Street Live. On a country road west of Lampasas, on his way to meet with the town's Chamber of Commerce in May 2005, Tom lost control of his motorcycle, crashed and died instantly at the age of 65.

### ANOTHER SALE

Granbury Live continued under the guidance of the late producer,

Brown, until 2011 when it closed. The Granbury Opera House utilized the theater while it underwent renovations of its current location. The space transitioned to other uses until 2013 when The Thomas Group — Ike and Trisha Thomas and sons, Ryan and Justin — purchased the buildings and then leased 110 N. Crockett St. to Sean Mitchell for Big City Music Review for three years. Sam Houston was the manager for about 18 months, followed by Kishla Hackler, who has handled Granbury Live management since then and continues to do so today. The entertainment format of the music venue has changed to tribute bands. 114 N. Crockett St. continued as Celebration Hall.

### MARVIN

Several years ago, Sister McCrae

visited Tractor Supply and picked up a tall ceramic pig. The store had donated it as an auction item for the Brazos Pregnancy Center's Gala. Captivated by its charm, she immediately placed her bid and secured the pig, naming him Marvin.

The story of 110 and 114 N. Crockett St. is a testament to resilience, innovation and community spirit. These buildings, much like the lives interwoven within them, reflect the heart and soul of Granbury. Today, reminiscing about her family's legacy, Sister McCrae, a beloved Granbury ambassador, can often be seen driving around with Marvin strapped into the passenger seat — a silent witness to the changes. Her journeys through the evolving landscape of Granbury serve as a reminder of this historic town's enduring legacy and vibrant future.

## CHURCH

FROM PAGE C1

"The county jail allowed me to visit often, and when I first met Samantha, she was guarded and skeptical." Clark continued "However, her eyes revealed pain, regret and a flicker of hope. She shared her story of turning to meth to numb her sorrow and being betrayed by friends who left her to face the consequences alone.

"Moved by her story, I told her the parable of the Prodigal Son, emphasizing God's unconditional love. Tears streamed down her face as she asked, 'Do you really think God could love someone like me?' I assured her, 'Absolutely. God's love knows no bounds. You are his beloved child, and he is waiting for you with open arms,'" Clark recounted.

"We prayed together, and I saw hope in her eyes. This encounter reaffirmed my belief that the church's role is to model Christ-like love — being inclusive, nonjudgmental and welcoming to all. By embodying this love, we can inspire others and create a ripple effect of positive change," Clark said.

### FRESH VISION

As he steps into his new role, Clark is driven by a clear vision to make disciples and grow the church in numbers and spiritual depth. His approach centers on three key areas.

First, Clark aims to build a supportive community within the church. He plans to foster a strong sense of belonging through small groups, community events and personal engagement. "Every member should feel valued and connected,"

Clark said, emphasizing the importance of creating an environment of mutual support and deeper relationships.

Second, discipleship and spiritual growth are at the heart of Clark's mission. He intends to offer various opportunities for spiritual development, including Bible studies, workshops and mentorship programs. "Encouraging active and intentional engagement with faith is crucial," Clark noted, expressing his hope to nurture a vibrant and committed congregation.

Third, Clark highlights the importance of community engagement and outreach. He believes in looking beyond the church walls to engage with the broader community. By identifying and addressing local needs through outreach initiatives, partnerships with local organizations, and

community service projects, Clark aims to demonstrate Christ's love in practical ways. "Our mission is to serve and make a positive impact on the community," he said.

Clark's comprehensive approach reflects his commitment to fostering a dynamic and inclusive church that grows in both numbers and spiritual depth.

### EMBRACING CHALLENGES

Clark understands the significant challenges facing the United Methodist Church, including navigating differing views on social issues and attracting younger members. He believes in working toward unity while respecting diverse perspectives and finding ways to make church services and programs relevant and engaging for younger generations.

One of his strategies includes leveraging technology to expand the church's reach. By developing a solid online presence through streaming services, social media and digital resources, Clark hopes to connect with a broader audience and cater to those unable to attend in person.

As he embarks on his journey with Granbury First United Methodist Church, Clark shares a message of hope, unity and commitment to growth. He encourages the congregation to engage with the community, share its stories of faith and transformation, and embrace spiritual and communal growth opportunities.

Clark emphasizes the importance of unity and love, urging the church to celebrate diversity and find common ground in shared faith. He calls on the congregation to be open to

personal and communal transformation and focus on discipleship and compassionate service.

Beyond his pastoral duties, Clark brings a personal touch to his ministry. He enjoys Rangers baseball, being a grandfather, spending time with his golden retriever Penny, flying kites, remote-controlled airplanes and college football.

Under Clark's leadership, Granbury First United Methodist Church anticipates a future rich with spiritual growth, community engagement, and a strengthened sense of unity and purpose. Clark said, "Together, we aim to build strong, lasting relationships that enrich our lives and those of the people around us. As Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden' (Matthew 5:14, NIV)."



# These small shrimp are big on taste

**BY NANCY PRICER**  
*Special to the Hood County News*

A few months ago, a local grocery store had those frozen, teeny-tiny, small uncooked shrimp (100-200 count) on sale for \$1.97 per pound. I wasn't sure what I was going to do with them at the time, but it was a deal too good to pass up. I bought four one-pound bags. My 10-year-old grandson, Hudson, loves shrimp and thought he would like shrimp fried rice. It was a hit.

The recipe I followed asked for 26-30 count uncooked shrimp, but the small ones worked out perfectly.

What I like about this recipe is that you can cook the different parts in stages. So you can make most of it ahead of time and keep it in the refrigerator if you so choose. Then just before you are ready

to eat, you saute the onions and rice, follow the rest of the recipe and enjoy. This recipe makes six servings and leftovers are just as delicious. I've read that this freezes well, too, although mine gets eaten before it can make it to the freezer.

Here's a little tip to prepare the rice if you have an electric pressure cooker. Add two cups of rice and two cups of water to pressure cooker. Pressure cook on high for three minutes, let it naturally release for 10 minutes, then do a quick release. Remove the lid, fluff with a fork, cool, place in a container and refrigerate overnight. If you can't wait overnight, spread it out on a cookie sheet and put it in the refrigerator uncovered until cold. It should only take a few hours.

**SHRIMP FRIED RICE**

Adapted from <https://na->

- tashaskitchen.com
- 1 pound uncooked shrimp
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3 tablespoons olive oil or canola oil, divided
- 4 large eggs, beaten
- 1/4 cup green onion, chopped
- 5-6 cups leftover chilled white rice
- 12 ounces frozen peas and carrots, thawed
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sesame oil

In a medium bowl, mix the shrimp, cornstarch, salt and pepper. Let sit at room temperature for 10 minutes.

Heat a large non-stick skillet on medium high heat. Evenly distribute 2 tablespoons oil in skillet.

Add shrimp in a single layer. Cook about one minute per side or until cooked through. Remove to a bowl.

Over medium heat, add beaten eggs to the same skillet. Break up the eggs with a spatula and cook until no longer runny. Remove to a bowl.

Wipe down the skillet with a paper towel and return to medium/high heat. Add 1 tablespoon oil and green onion. Saute onions about 30 seconds.

Stir in the rice, then spread it evenly over the pan and cook for one to two minutes without disturbing it. Then stir and saute another one to two minutes. Rice should sizzle.

Drizzle 2 tablespoons soy sauce (or add to taste) over rice and stir well.

Add sesame oil and vegetables; mix well.

Add cooked shrimp and cooked eggs back to the pan; mix well. Continue to cook until the rice is hot and sizzling, stirring frequently. Add more soy sauce to taste, if desired.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY PRICER

This recipe makes six servings and leftovers are just as delicious.

# Learning from history to prepare for the future *Hood County Senior Center transforms to serve local seniors*

**BY TRISH BURWELL,**  
*Executive director of HCSC  
Special to the Hood County News*

Abraham Maslow once stated, "In any given moment we have two options: to step forward into growth or step back into safety." This resonated with me as we recently delved into addressing the long-term needs of the Hood County Senior Center and its meaning in our community. Times have changed. Change is difficult and sometimes feared, but change is necessary. For us, change ensures those who previously served our communities are not overlooked as they age. The center has changed greatly over the years, and every step has been a courageous leap of faith to better serve older adults while maintaining the center's original intent.

Although I had the pleasure of delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteering and helping with fundraisers for years prior to my becoming the executive director, I learned the beautiful history of our beloved center only recently from long-time Hood County resident Tommy Brisco, dedicated volunteer and husband to one of its originators. The story is sweet, and one I hope is conveyed to future generations.

In 1974, times were tough for older rural Americans. In Hood County, three community-minded women began providing seniors in need a home-cooked meal. Bettie Brisco began by offering meals at church and other places in town. Hospital employee Gloria Whitley helped Bettie Brisco provide deliverable meals to homebound and isolated seniors through the hos-

pital. They expanded their vision by enlisting the help of Frances Burks, who was knowledgeable in formulating organizational bylaws and structure, and the Hood County Committee on Aging (HCCOA) was born. Burks agreed to take the lead as president until a suitable director was found, and subsequently Whitley retired and assumed that role.

The Hood County Senior Center began in Granbury's historic Shanley House. There were no charitable organizations at that time to help, nor could local government assist, so board members worked diligently on fundraising to provide meals. The center eventually outgrew Shanley, which initiated an agreement to share space with the American Legion. Growth again necessitated additional space. Planning began for a new building, and land

was purchased. From 1996 to 1999, the board prepared to build. First National Bank loaned the organization money to build, and on Sept. 13, 1999, the E. Moore Street building was completed. Equipment was purchased through the Army Supply, and the County Dance came to fruition as a fundraiser. Whitley quickly spread the word that seniors in need were being served, leading to generous community donations that helped sustain the center. Eventually, the county and the city were in positions to help with annual donations, and both entities still help to this day.

You might ask why we work so hard to serve our older adults. What does this mean to our community? Twenty-five percent of our county is comprised of adults age 65 and older. One in three seniors lives alone. Of those, one in four feels

lonely. Loneliness leads to health problems, costing clients and the community thousands of dollars. We serve those who served us and can no longer serve themselves. We alleviate social isolation and food insecurity and ensure local older adults have a nutritious meal and a wellness check. Our volunteers and staff love our clients, and they serve with compassion and sincerity. And we hold dear those who generously donate without hesitation to ensure client needs are met. I love the people and the purpose of the center. What we do is crucial, and as our older population increases, the need increases, which means change is inevitable.

We are again amid a metamorphosis and preparing for large projected numbers with an expanded kitchen space. The future also holds plans for an additional

building on the property for expanded life enrichment programs. With its rich history and deep roots in Hood County, the center has become a silent icon to local seniors who darken our doors. It means something to our clients and our community. As we continue to press forward, the purpose of the center remains the same. I am proud to be a part of this amazing organization and appreciate those who support it. Thank you, Hood County, for your continued dedication to preserving the roots of the Hood County Senior Center while we prepare for expansion. We could step back into safety, but without a forward trajectory, our mission — and our clients — would be lost.



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## HOTDOG EATING CONTEST

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
The Granbury Square Plaza was home to many different activities over the Fourth of July weekend, one of which was a hotdog eating contest sponsored by the local YMCA Saturday.



# Granbury's Golden July 4th Celebration

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

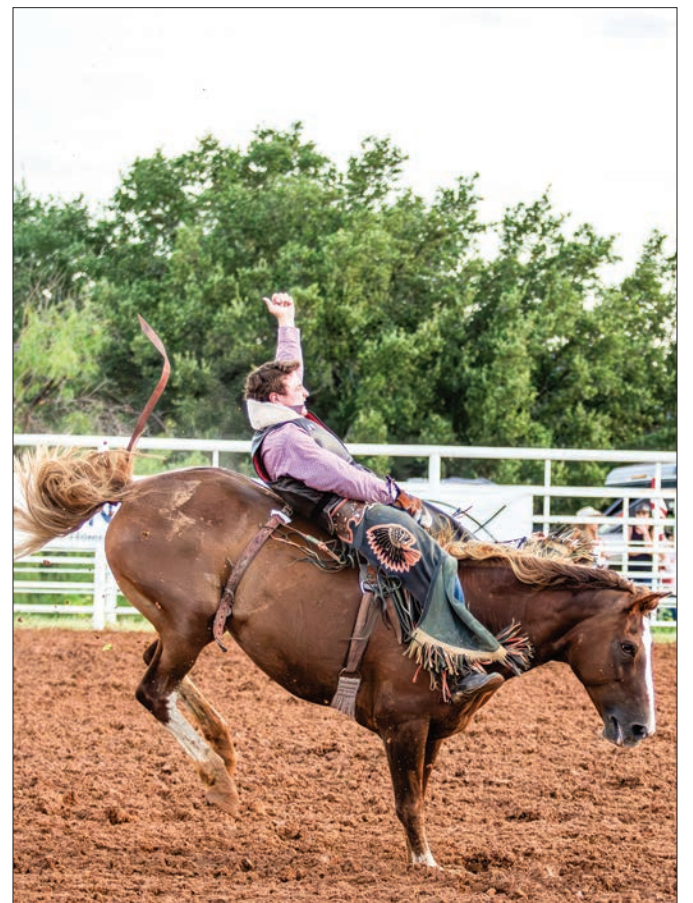
The Granbury Chamber of Commerce proudly presented the highly anticipated 50th Annual Fourth of July Hometown Celebration. The four days of fun began July 4 with the beloved Hometown Parade. The day ended with a breathtaking fireworks finale, lighting up the night sky over Lake Granbury.



# GRANBURY RODEO SHOW

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A mother and her son brought home the adult and junior contest prizes. Cowboys from all over the world came to the Hood County Reunion Grounds Thursday and Friday for the Granbury Fourth of July rodeo put on by Byrn Rodeo Productions. On Saturday, July 6, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce sponsored a fun laser light show that had Bridge Street full of excited Hood County residents. See [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com) for laser light show photos and more rodeo pictures.



## Sunshine and smiles: cherished summer memories

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the  
Hood County News

Summertime holds a special place in our hearts. It's a season filled with endless possibilities, laughter and sunshine. As the days grow longer and the air warms up, we are reminded of those precious moments that have become our favorite summer memories. Here, we take a journey through some of those unforgettable experiences that bring a smile to our faces and warmth to our hearts.

### A SPLASH OF FUN: POOLSIDE MEMORIES

For many, the best summer memories start by the pool. The smell of chlorine, the sound of splashing water, and the sight of colorful floats create a perfect backdrop for fun-filled days. Whether it was diving into the cool water, playing pool games with friends, or simply lounging with a good book, the pool was a place where time seemed to slow down, and the only thing on the agenda was to enjoy the moment.

### ADVENTURES IN NATURE: CAMPING UNDER THE STARS

There's something magical about sleeping under the stars, surrounded by the

sounds of nature. Camping trips often top the list of favorite summer memories. From setting up the tent to roasting marshmallows over a campfire, every part of the experience is a cherished memory. Hiking through scenic trails, fishing in quiet lakes, and sharing ghost stories by the fire made these trips unforgettable. The connection with nature and the simple pleasures of outdoor life create lasting impressions.

### ROAD TRIPS AND NEW HORIZONS

Summers are synonymous with road trips. Packing up the car and hitting the open road brought a sense of freedom and excitement. The journey itself, filled with sing-alongs, roadside diners and quirky attractions, was just as memorable as the destination. Exploring new places, from bustling cities to quiet towns, each stop added a new chapter to the story of a perfect summer. The feeling of discovering the unknown and making spontaneous decisions added a layer of adventure to these trips.

### FAMILY GATHERINGS: BBQS AND PICNICS

Nothing says summer like a good old-fashioned BBQ or picnic. Gathering with

family and friends, sharing delicious food, and enjoying each other's company created some of the best summer memories. The aroma of grilled burgers and hot dogs, the taste of fresh lemonade, and the joy of playing outdoor games brought everyone together. These moments of togetherness, laughter and love are the essence of a happy summer.

### BEACH DAYS: SUN, SAND AND SURF

For many, summer isn't complete without a trip to the beach. The feeling of the warm sand between your toes, the sound of waves crashing against the shore, and the endless horizon of the ocean create a sense of peace and joy. Building sandcastles, collecting seashells, and taking dips in the salty water are memories that last a lifetime. The beach is a place where worries are left behind, and the simple pleasures of life are embraced.

### FESTIVALS AND FAIRS: COM- MUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Summer is also a time for community celebrations. Local fairs, music festivals and parades bring people together to celebrate and have fun. The bright lights of carnival rides, the sound of live music and the excitement of winning a prize at a game

booth create a festive atmosphere. These events are a highlight of the summer, providing entertainment and a sense of community spirit.

### LAZY AFTERNOONS: READING AND RELAXING

Not all summer memories are about adventure; some are about relaxation. Lazy afternoons spent in a hammock with a good book or lying on the grass watching the clouds drift by are just as precious. These quiet moments of solitude and peace provide a perfect balance to the hustle and bustle of summer activities.

### CHILDHOOD MEMORIES: SIMPLER TIMES

For many, the fondest summer memories are from childhood. Playing outside until the streetlights came on, riding bikes around the neighborhood and chasing fireflies in the evening are memories filled with innocence and joy. The simplicity of those times, without the distractions of technology, made summers feel endless and magical.

### FRIENDS FOREVER: BONDING AND MAKING MEMORIES

Summer is a time when friendships are strengthened and new ones are formed. Whether it was attending summer camps, having



COURTESY PHOTO

Building sandcastles, collecting seashells, and taking dips in the salty water are memories that last a lifetime.

sleepovers, or just hanging out at the local park, the bonds created during these times are strong and lasting. The shared experiences, laughter and adventures build friendships that often last a lifetime.

### SUNSETS AND STARGAZING: THE BEAUTY OF NATURE

Finally, summer evenings bring their own special magic. Watching the sunset, with its vibrant colors painting the sky, followed by

stargazing on a clear night, create a sense of wonder and tranquility. These moments of appreciating the beauty of nature and the universe leave a lasting impression.

So what are your favorite summer memories? I'd love for you to share them with me! Email me at [micky@hcnews.com](mailto:micky@hcnews.com) and tell me about your favorite summer memories, old or new! Here's to the summers yet to be made. Cheers to sunshine and smiles!

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# Pecan Plantation celebrates America's independence in style



PHOTO COURTESY DIANE LONG

Pecan Plantation celebrated July 4 in style with a parade, pool party, live music, carnival games and a street dance. Participating in the golf cart parade were (L-R): Charles Zajicek, Collett Zajicek, Regina Rockwood, Noelle Zajicek, Jim Rockwood and Carol Zajicek. Regina and Jim are Pecan residents, and Carol is Regina's sister who was joined by her husband and granddaughters from Bedford for Pecan's festivities.

BY DIANE LONG



A Mississippi native who has been a Texas transplant for 30 years, Diane Long is a wife, mother and former English teacher who has written Pecan Plantation Bits for 17 years cumulatively. She spends her time both gathering neighborhood news and collecting new books to read. dianelong@yahoo.com | 817-579-9360

Pecan residents love to celebrate, and the community's July 4 party proved an excellent opportunity for neighbors to do so. The parade boasted participants on bicycles, golf carts, antique cars and horseback while spectators cheered them on their route. The swimming pool was quite popular, the midway full of games, the dining room boasted food, while live music, bounce houses and a petting zoo rounded out the festivities. Happy birthday to America, Pecan style!

COURT CHEERIO

In the spirit of Wimbledon tennis play, Pecan tennis folks will don their "Wimbledon whites" and taking to the grass court (near the golf driving range) for competition along with Pimm's cups and strawberries and cream today from 8 to 11 a.m. Spectators

and participants are both welcome.

FREE FLICK

The next drive-in movie at the PAC is tonight, Saturday, July 13, beginning at 9 p.m. with "Wonka" as the featured film. Popcorn will be free to movie goers, and the PAC will be open for snack purchases and restrooms. Golf carts and blankets for lawn picnics are welcome.

PAINT EVENT

The next "Pecan Paint-Along" with artist and instructor Kathy Yoders is scheduled for Sunday, July 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the PAC. Participants should bring a photo of what they desire to paint, and the session will encompass step-by-step instruction. No previous painting experience is necessary for the afternoon when an acrylic painting will

be completed for artists to take home. All supplies are included, folks should wear an old shirt or apron, and "bring your own beverage" is part of the day. Register at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

WELCOME HOME

Pecan's next new member orientation will take place Tuesday, July 16 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the clubhouse. All new residents to our community, as well as folks who would like a refresher of the amenities and area, are invited to attend. Reserve a spot by sending email to sarahlord@ppoaweb.com.

GENEALOGY GROUP

Pecan's Genealogy Group has its next meeting on the calendar for Tuesday, July 16 at 10 a.m. at the EMS training room located on Monticello Drive. Everyone is welcome, and being a Pecan resident is not required to attend. Folks will hear an in-depth recounting of Hood County history from Karen Nace. For complete information on the Genealogy Club, contact Kay at 682-459-5718.

CALLING PERFORMERS

"Let's Sing and Act Camp" with Pecan resident and local celebrity Rebecca Faiola runs July 15-19 with classes for two age groups: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for campers ages 7 to 11 and 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. for students ages 12 to 16. This class takes place before the Missoula Theater group arrives in Pecan and will equip participants with instruction in musical theater. Email Rebecca with questions (rebeccashowbiz@gmail.com) and sign up at the PAC: 817-573-7952.

THEATER TIME

A very exciting summer activity for the students of Pecan is when the Missoula Children's Theater bunch arrives, and this year's dates are July 22-27. "Hercules" is the featured show, and auditions begin Monday, July 22 at 10 a.m. Rehearsals will happen all week and culminate in two performances Saturday, July 27 at 2 and 4 p.m. Children entering first through 12th grades are welcome. Sign up at the PAC for this free event.

PLEASE SEE PECAN | C9

## END OF ACTIVE SERVICE MATT YOUNG A NOVEL



COURTESY PHOTO

"End of Active Service" by Matt Young, c.2024, Bloomsbury, \$28.99, 304 pages

BOOK REVIEW

# Talking to yourself

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

You're talking to yourself again. And why not? A conversation with someone glib and interesting is fun, even when it's one-sided. Reminders, debates, profundity, nobody listens to you better than you. Sure, it might look funny. You're probably teased for talk-talk-talking to thin air. But as in "End of Active Service" by Matt Young, maybe you're not alone after all...

He was just "trying to feel alive." It had been two months since Dean Pusey had left the Marine Corps. For two months, he'd been sleeping in his old childhood bedroom, listening to his pacifist stepfather's pontifications and creeping around the house when everyone else was gone, pretending to secure it from hidden enemies.

He was 23 years old. The "biggest thing" he'd ever done was join the Marines.

But now, he was trying to be a civilian, which is how he ended up at a bar. Which is how he met Max — Maxine — and end-

PLEASE SEE YOURSELF | C7

I'VE BEEN THINKING

# The depth of grief

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.

I especially enjoy writing my columns that leave my readers feeling happy and light-hearted, but this column is of an entirely different nature, for we are approaching the holiday season. Those individuals who have lost loved ones find it difficult to cope with such a time of the year — whether their loved one has recently passed away or whether it has been a period of time. It is for this reason I write these words, either to help soothe your own grief or the grief of someone you may know.

We use the word "stages" to help describe the grieving process, but this can be misleading. This process is not some type of systematic step-by-step procedure that has a definite beginning and end to each portion of the grief journey. The familiar phases of a grief journey (which may not come in the listed order) include shock or denial, bargaining, anger or guilt, depression and confusion, and hope or acceptance. We are frequently taught that the first four of these phases are bad and not to be focused upon. Since

PLEASE SEE GRIEF | C10

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GARDEN PATCH

# Learn to dry garden

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

Summer's first 100-degree day marks the return to weeks without substantial rainfall. Despite the occasional summer storm, area landscapes and gardens are likely to suffer unless they've been planted with heat and drought in mind. A dry garden, also called a xeriscape, is designed to thrive in low-water conditions. By using drought-tolerant plants and utilizing efficient water management practices, dry gardens offer a sustainable landscaping solution.

True xeriscapes use plants that survive with minimal water. Often, these plants have specific adaptations, such as deep root system, waxy or hairy leaves, or the ability to store water in leaves. Succulents, for in-

stance, hold water in their foliage.

When designing a dry garden, it is crucial to group plants according to their water needs. This way, plants that need little water do not get overwatered. Likewise, plants that require more moisture do not go thirsty. Known as hydro-zoning, this practice makes it easier for gardeners to design their irrigation systems and ensures plants receive appropriate moisture.

Water conservation is the core principle behind dry gardening. To this end, every effort should be made to use the most efficient irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation and soaker hoses. Efficient irrigation delivers water close to the plants'

root systems, minimizing waste that occurs due to evaporation and runoff.

Dry gardens often incorporate areas dedicated to groundcovers and tree groupings. They also include a significant amount of hardscape, such as gravel paths, patios and decorative or functional features, such as fire pits or stone walls. Some of these elements might also manage water runoff and store rainwater, such as dry stream beds or rain barrels. The idea is to reduce the amount of plant life that needs watering while also adding visual interest.

Contrary to popular belief, xeriscapes are not limited to rocks and cacti. Both may be used. However, a dry garden often makes use of numerous plant species and incorporates organic materials, such as compost.

Locate dry gardens in well-drained areas and prepare the soil in advance of planting. For example, add compost to boost soil structure, provide nutrients and enhance drainage. In poorly



COURTESY PHOTO

True xeriscapes use plants that survive with minimal water.

drained areas, use raised beds. All planting beds should be mulched. Organic mulches such as bark, will moderate soil temperature. Gravel is an inorganic mulch, so it should be limited to areas with plants, such as agave, that need fewer nutrients and less heat protection.

While dry gardens generally need less maintenance than lawns, they require upkeep, such as weeding, prun-

ing and monitoring for pests and disease. Regular maintenance of irrigation systems will better ensure that plants remain healthy and aesthetically pleasing. When irrigating, water deeply, but infrequently.

Examples of drought-tolerant plants include succulents such as agave, perennials such as Blackfoot daisy, Turk's cap and autumn sage, ornamental grasses such as

Mexican feather grass and Lindheimer muhly as well as shrubs and trees like red yucca, Texas sage and desert willow. Native and well-adapted plants generally fare best.

For answers to your horticulture questions, please call the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Hood County at 817-579-3280 or go online to visit lakegranburymastergardeners.org.

## PECAN FROM PAGE C6 DAY MEETING

The next Chit Chat luncheon for PPWC ladies will be Thursday, July 18 in the clubhouse ballroom. Social time begins at 10 a.m. with lunch following at 11:30 a.m. This casual time of food and fellowship happens while the PPWC recesses collective meetings for the summer. All Pecan ladies are invited to join the PPWC whose tenets are friendship, fellowship, philanthropy and a pursuit of the arts.

### TOURNAMENT TIME

Briggs Berry, a student at Granbury High School and Pecan resident who passed away at the age of 18, left a mark on the golf community, and an annual tournament will take place Saturday, July 20 in Briggs' honor. This event began four years ago and has provided more than \$5.7 million in college scholarships to young men and women in the metroplex. The 2024 tournament will be a four-person shamble with a gift certificate payout for top finishers and contest winners. For complete tournament information or to sign up to play, visit the Nutcracker Golf Shop, and questions, sponsorship in-

quiries and completed entry forms may be sent to gm@nutcrackergc.com.

### GIVE LIFE

Carter BloodCare will be at the PAC Monday, July 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Pecaners received email with a QR code allowing registration and securing a donation time. Folks may also contact Carter directly at 800-366-2834. All donors will receive a beach towel while supplies last.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet again Wednesday, July 24 when Alicia Saldana from

Solaris HealthCare will discuss hospice, palliative and home health care options. Breakfast service begins at 9 a.m. with the presentation following at 9:45 a.m.

### GOOD SWING

Golf camp for the youngest competitors of Pecan is on the calendar for July 24-26, and registration is happening now at the golf pro shop: 817-573-2645. Camp runs from 9 to 10 a.m. each day.

### BOOKS AROUND

The Hood County Bookmobile will be in the PAC parking lot Wednesday July 24 from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Patrons may both check out and return items to the bookmobile. For more information, folks may contact Robin Scanlon with the Hood County Library at 817-573-3569.

### SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary is seeking a dynamic volunteer to chair the 2024 Pecan Arts and Crafts Fair slated 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.

### CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

The final session of Golf, Tennis, and Swim Camp is set for July 30-Aug. 2, and two more sessions of Tennis and More Sports Camp will happen July 16-19 and July 23-26. Sign up for these events in the tennis shop: 817-579-9412.

### SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Ruel Dixon who passed away June 19.

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

# Holiday afterglow are alive and well



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Don Newbury is a longtime public speaker and former university president who is Texas' longest-running syndicated columnist, writing weekly since 2003. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872

Afterglows are wonderful but are waning of late. Many folks forfeit times of warm reflection, too busy in endless pursuits of whatever comes next.

Oh, afterglows are still around for important life events such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, promotions, holidays and such, but not like in yesteryear, when few roses went unsmelled.

Uncle Mort and his gang down in the thicket ignore the calendar, determined to enjoy afterglows after such trivial triumphs as finding quarters under sofa cush-

ions, sometimes even dimes ...

Yes, afterglows are alive and well in the thicket, and Mort says July 4 this year was perhaps the best one yet.

From the standpoint of noise and skies ablaze with brilliant colors, not much was different.

What was different was the raucous laughter heard throughout the swamp.

Sometimes the squeals and howls competed with the booming sounds of heavy-duty "ka-boomers." During lulls, they were unmistakable, seeming to originate

from an old house bought recently by a couple from the city. Appearance wise, they seemed to fit right in, what with their two-digit Social Security numbers, furrowed brows and hair that has seen the snow of many winters ...

Ever bold, Mort decided to arise early on July 5, steer his golf cart to the new neighbor's place, get the lowdown on the laughter and then proceed to his gang's afterglow at the general store.

Following introductions, Mort asked about the raucous laughter. The couple looked at each other and laughed again, clearly understanding why there'd be such an inquiry. After all, only hours earlier, they were on their porch swing sharing jokes, not knowing that their piercing laughter was wafting well beyond their picket fence. Instead, it was racing

across their little stretch of America, all the way to the fruited plain.

"We still find the old jokes to be funny," the newcomer said. His wife nodded in agreement. They also think that if they simply numbered their jokes, they could laugh just as heartily upon remembering what each number stands for! Mort asked them to repeat the joke that had elicited the greatest laughter, the sound of which exceeded that of cherry bombs exploding 'round about ...

They told of another older couple; they, too, were on their porch swing, but on an ordinary evening.

"Honey, if I won the lottery, what would you do?" the hubby asked. "I'd take my half and leave you high and dry," his wife answered. "You're in luck," he fired back. "I won \$20 yesterday.

Here's your \$10, and let's stay in touch."

Mort joined them in hearty laughter, then headed for the general store.

Upon arrival, Mort soon "ruled the conversational roost," ready to share the story that had created so much laughter the night before. He requested silence, hopeful to keep his "train of thought on track."

"Train of thought? You don't even have a caboose of thought," one of his cronies cackled.

Again, this gaggle of "yes-teryar" holdovers yakked and "dominoed" until the sun drooped westward. A good time was had by all ...

A funny thing happened to me last week as I walked down a church hallway.

I heard someone yell, "Hey, Shorty!" Since this was my nickname 75 years

ago before my height shot upward, I naturally reacted. "How did you know my old nickname?"

"I didn't know it was your old nickname," my friend responded. "I was referencing shortness of breath." ...

Don't we run short on laughter? Maybe it's because we're not looking for it much anymore. Still, it remains an important elixir for happy lives.

Recently, I heard a new response to the old "how-are-you-doing?" query. We smile, of course, even at responses we've heard thousands of times — such as "not bad for an old man," "on the top side of the grass" or "better'n I deserve."

For the new response, my smile broadened, and I filed it away to plagiarize later: "I'm still vertical and ventilating." ...

## GRIEF

FROM PAGE C6

these are self-explanatory, we will not deal with them further. Rather, we will focus on grief aspects of which many individuals may not be aware.

We think of "language" as either spoken words or body language. But in dealing with grief, there is another language — a silent language that expresses a deep emotion when words simply will not come. This language? Tears — when there are no words to ex-

press one's feelings or define one's thoughts. The inability to verbally express oneself during this time may cause some people special concern — especially those with whom language has always come easily.

However, this is a very normal response to a very abnormal situation. Tears are a form of communication, if only within oneself.

There is a profound solemnity about tears, but there is also a strength about them — a strength that expresses both a powerful heartache and an indescribable love. We may blot

our tears from our cheeks or our clothing. But dealing with the blot that tears leave on our heart can be much more difficult — if not impossible, at times.

Someone once said the journey of grief is like an unplanned journey into a foreign country because the person is thrust into completely unfamiliar territory that is frightening and unsettling. There are unseen curves, twists, and turns — and there is the feeling of complete unpreparedness in looking to the future.

But unlike a journey into a foreign country from which

you will eventually return home, the journey of grief can be a lifelong one, and you will never return to where you began. No one can prepare you for this journey. You may not even be able to prepare yourself. You will have your own individual response based upon your personality, a faith upon which you can rely, the exact nature of the death, and your own personal coping skills for dealing with loss and grief.

In closing, we must remember that grief is a messy journey, and there is no "right" or "wrong" way to

travel it. That is, unless we attempt to hide or run from it. It will eventually manifest itself — physically, mentally, emotionally and/or spiritually. It can be an enemy that can destroy us if we do not conquer it.

The statement below is located in the front of my book and is the tribute to my two children. You may find comfort in accepting it as your own as you journey into the future:

"I loved you with a love that knew no depth or height,

and your death will not prevent me from loving you

still."

NOTE: This column is a series of excerpts from my book titled "Losing Your Child — Finding Your Way," but this same information is equally relevant to the loss of any loved one. However, the death of a child is particularly heart-breaking because it runs contrary to nature. For this reason, grief counselors tell us that losing a child is significantly more devastating than even the death of a spouse.

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