



County adopts tax abatement policy to spur economic growth

BY ASHLEY TERRY
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The Hood County Commissioners Court voted 3:2 to adopt a tax abatement policy during a regularly scheduled meeting July 9.

The policy — which aims to offer reduced property taxes to eligible businesses — was implemented by the court with the goal of potentially bolstering economic growth in the county.

According to the resolution, members of the court believe tax abatements within specified guidelines and criteria will attract and retain desirable commercial enterprises in Hood County, thereby serving as a crucial tool for contributing to the county's economic development.

"I've stood up here and stated publicly and adamantly that low taxes are the driving economic factor for this county, and I think that's the thing that we need to focus on," Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews said, during the meeting.

The agenda item was initially tabled during the last Hood County Commissioners Court meeting June 21 to account for changes on the proposed policy. Due to the fourth iteration of the policy, Hood County resident John Highsmith compared the agenda item to a horror movie, noting that it keeps coming back for worse.

Highsmith said that while reinstating policies doesn't guarantee all tax abatements will be granted, having a policy in place would make any company foolish not to at least consider seeking a tax abatement upon entering Hood County. He also questioned the belief that offering tax abatements will give Hood County a significant economic advantage, when it's likely to occur regardless.

"If they see that (an abatement) is out there, it's there for the asking and they're going to ask for it, so I think you're going to get a lot of companies that would otherwise go into Hood County — a low tax county — and say, 'Hey, can we have that, too?'" he said. "I don't understand why you think this is going to be necessarily a big advantage for Hood County in trying to do economic development. You're going to get the economic development; you don't need the tax abatements."

Resident Robert Tabor expressed his general opposition to tax abatements, referring to them as corporate welfare, drawing on his experience in corporate acquisitions.

Tabor also raised concerns about Andrews removing specific types of desired Hood County industries from the policy. He argued that by defining the county's preferred industries in the policy, it would attract more of those companies to the area — especially if they're considering relocating.

"If you know what type of industries you want here that you think are great for this county, why not list them?" he asked. "I mean, when companies start looking at areas to relocate, they're going to look at if you have guidelines for abatements and what kind of deals you can offer them. But you need to understand and control what you want in (Hood County)."

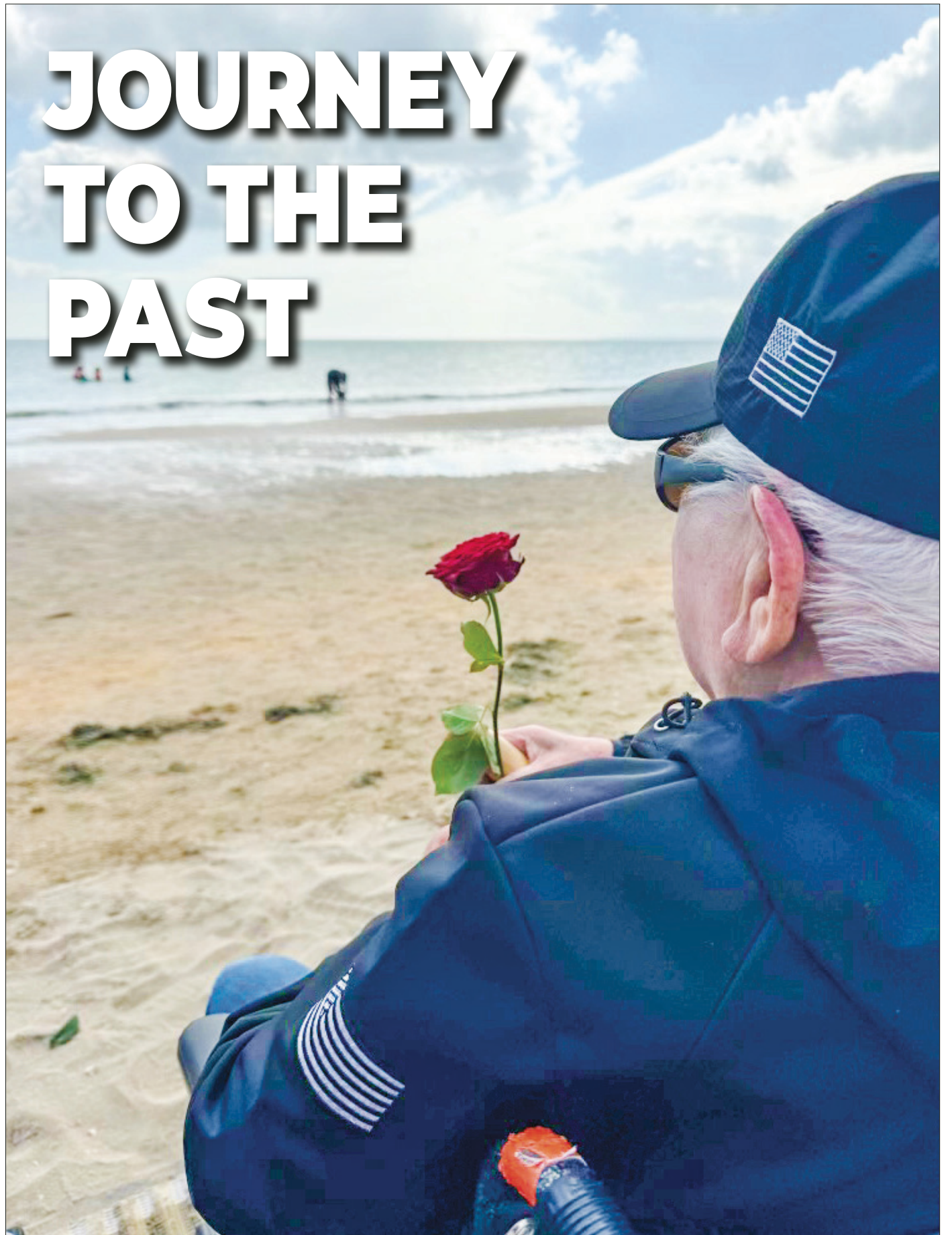
Following Tabor's comments, Andrews addressed some of his generalities — like removing the preferred industries from the policy — stating that he doesn't want to paint himself into a situation where he has to give an abatement to a company.

"With (the policy) being a little bit more vague and a little bit more general, it gives us more latitude to deny," he said.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said he agreed with Tabor that businesses typically evaluate whether a county offers an abatement policy before selecting that

PLEASE SEE **ABATEMENT** | A3

JOURNEY TO THE PAST



COURTESY PHOTOS

World War II veteran Charles Baldwin pays tribute to those lost during the battle of D-Day by laying a single red rose on Utah Beach, during the trip to Normandy, France last month.

WWII veteran reflects on D-Day at 80th anniversary

BY ASHLEY TERRY
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At 102 years young, Granbury's own Charles Baldwin is living proof that age is just a number — especially when it comes to reliving epic adventures!

In his most recent experience of a lifetime, the spirited World War II Air Force veteran dusted

off his military boots and journeyed back to the shores of Normandy, France, where he once stormed the beaches on D-Day.

Honoring the courage and sacrifice of countless soldiers, American Airlines offered nearly 70 World War II veterans the chance to partici-

PLEASE SEE **PAST** | A5

Charles Baldwin, a retired Air Force fighter pilot, was able to take a trip of a lifetime when American Airlines took him and 70 other veterans back to the shores of Normandy, France to honor the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Granbury's Jon Back nominated as Democratic candidate for district clerk

BY ASHLEY TERRY
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The Hood County Democratic Party has officially announced the nomination of Jon Back as its candidate for district clerk in the upcoming November election.

Back, a long-time Granbury resident and retired Navy veteran, was selected July 12 by a unanimous vote of 11 members of the Democratic executive committee.

According to Hood County Democratic Party Chairman Adrienne Martin, Back expressed a commitment to run the office in an "impartial and nonpartisan

manor."

"He's a hard worker, he's got an immaculate character, he's a kind person, he's a fair person, and I've never heard anybody say a bad word about him," Martin told the Hood County News.

While a few other members of the Democratic executive committee toyed with the idea of running for the district clerk nomination, Martin said they changed their minds once they found out Back had decided to run.

"The reception, as far as him being our candidate, people seem really excited," Martin said. "And I've heard from Republicans who are really excited about him running,

so that's encouraging."

A few weeks ago, tensions unfolded following the Hood County Republican Party executive committee's decision to place Melanie Graft as the Republican nominee for district clerk.

Many Hood County residents immediately took to Facebook following the decision, stating that current interim district clerk Roberta Zamarron was the better candidate. Several residents also complained about the transparency and fairness of the electoral process, expressing concerns that the meeting was not held in open forum. Others stated how it was "unfair" to allow Graft to vote as a member of the ex-

ecutive committee when Zamarron was not a member of the board. Comments also stated that Graft should have recused herself during the vote.

"The Republican nominee, Melanie Graft's, tenure on the Granbury ISD school board has been marred by petty partisan politics and controversy," Martin said, in a social media statement. "In contrast, Mr. Back offers a wealth of knowledge and experience from his prior career as nuclear network coordinator at the Comanche Peak Power Plant."

Back — who has lived in Granbury for almost 40 years — is also famous for putting on the

Granbury Christmas Lights display at his home in the South Grove neighborhood with his late wife, Suzanne.

"He works on it like, I think, all year long, and it syncs up with the radio," Martin told the HCN. "People like, line up to see his house. He looks like Santa Claus, so I think he sometimes comes out as Santa Claus, too."

Martin said Back is not a "super political" person, but is still highly involved in his community, as he is a regular attender of the GISD school board meetings and the meetings of the Hood County

PLEASE SEE **NOMINEE** | A4



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

RLG hosts Pickleball Palooza Extravaganza Aug. 24 at TX HOP Club

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

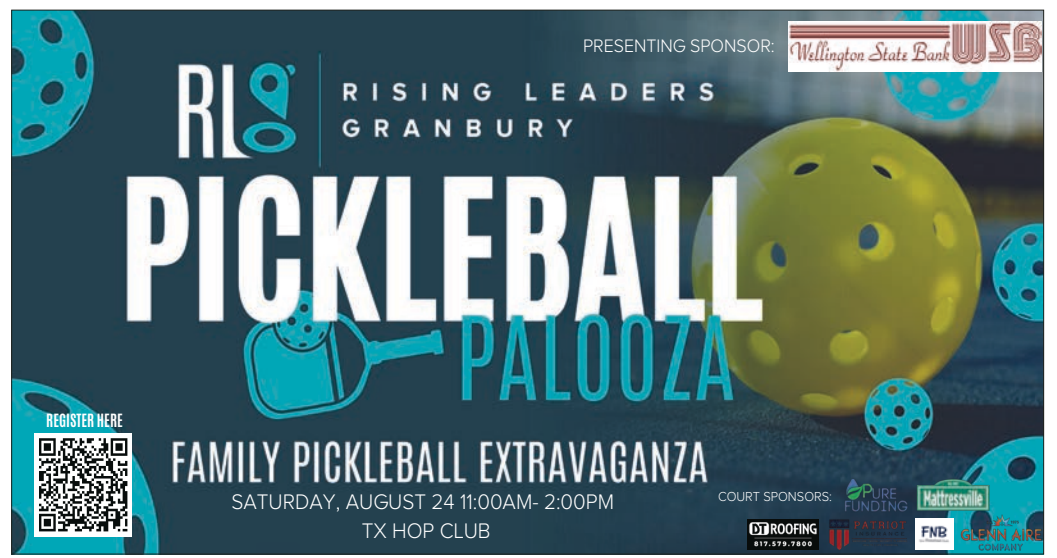
Come join the excitement at Pickleball Palooza hosted by the Rising Leaders Club of Granbury! This exciting event, generously sponsored by Wellington State Bank, is scheduled for Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at TX HOP Club. This event promises a thrilling day of fun for the entire family!

This event offers a chance to get on the court, grab some food, and make connections. Located at TX HOP Club, this event offers a chance to experience this fun sport whether you're a beginner or a pro. There's something for everyone!

Registration is open to all ages: \$10 for kids age 12 and younger, \$20 for chamber members, and \$30 for general admission. Your registration not only guarantees a day filled with excitement but also supports the Rising Leaders of Granbury's initiatives in the Granbury community. Huge shout out to not only our present-

ing sponsor Wellington State Bank but also to our court sponsors: Pure Funding, Mattressville, DT Roofing & Construction, FNB of Granbury, Glenn Aire Company and Patriot Retirement Group. We are grateful for your support and your commitment to our community. Additionally, we'd like to extend a special thank you to our sign sponsor, 817 Print, and to our amazing host, TX HOP Club! Thank you all for helping us bring our community together through the joy of pickleball! Court sponsorships and refreshment sponsorships are still available so please email info@granburychamber.com for more information.

Don't miss out on the Pickleball Palooza! Come out, grab a paddle and join us for a memorable day on the court. Let's make this event a smash hit together! For more information and to purchase tickets, check out www.granburychamber.com or call 817-573-1622.



This exciting event, generously sponsored by Wellington State Bank, is scheduled for Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at TX HOP Club.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Acton Place Park

COURTESY PHOTO

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

granbury CHAMBER

New Member Spotlight

Stand Strong Fencing of West Fort Worth

"We don't just build fences; we craft barriers that amaze and stand the test of time, ensuring your safety, privacy, and peace of mind."

Stand Strong Fencing of West Fort Worth: "We don't just build fences; we craft barriers that amaze and stand the test of time, ensuring your safety, privacy and peace of mind. Our diverse range of fencing caters to both residential and commercial clients alike, ensuring that no matter the scale or complexity of your project, we have the expertise and resources to bring your vision to life." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

granbury CHAMBER

New Member Spotlight

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817 Print: "The newest printing company for signs and printing needs. Anything from business cards, signs, copy and print and billboards! Exceptional quality and personalized service to meet all your needs with expertise." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

New Chamber Members & Renewals

Welcome to our New Chamber Members who joined in June!

World Class Cleaning, LLC
Home Grown Group Realty, LLC
Legacy Broker Group - Caitlyn Upham, Realtor

Thank you to the following members who renewed their Chamber Membership in June! We appreciate your continued support!

Upbring
Herter Electric Service
Event O Matic
VYBE Marketing & Media
Pearl Dentures & Dental Care

Generations Plumbing
The Bike Rack
Brazos River Authority
Carter Landscape Design & Installation
Empire Realty Group - Kylee Peterson
Award Surveying
Integrity Urgent Care
Edward Jones - Chad Carroll
Star AC Supply LLC

Carey & Sons Marine
Taco Casa
EECU Credit Union
KASH for Kids
Beehive Homes of Granbury
Chicken Express
Guild Mortgage
Town Square Publishing
TX HOP Club
Edward Jones - Tony Mobly

The Salvation Army of Hood County
Moncrief Cancer Center
Sendra Title
Woods Furniture
Tommy's Properties
Somervell Floors
Higginbotham & Associates
Holson, Inc.
Goranson Bain Ausley

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

A unique way to spend free time



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

People find a lot of ways to spend their free time. There are those who like to enjoy visual experiences like going to museums or art galleries. Others prefer to participate in sporting activities like playing golf, or perhaps fishing and hunting. Still others enjoy going to the movies, or hiking, or even “collecting.”

It seems the popularity of some of the ways we expend time run in cycles. For instance, when I was a young boy, crocheting was something that a great many women did to pass the time of day. I can still see both my grandmothers sitting in their respective rockers crocheting.

It was something which would occupy their time but at the same time serve a useful purpose like creating a blanket for a new grandchild. It has been years since I have seen someone crochet, but I was recently informed that crochet is making quite a comeback and has become

quite a fad with the younger folks.

Another new craze is a game called “Pickleball” which has burst on to the activities scene and created a huge stir of excitement. Pickleball courts are being built everywhere, and folks by the tens of thousands have become passionate participants. It offers competition, exercise and fun, which is something folks seem to seek

I must admit I have a rather silly and unexplainable interest in spending spare time looking at real estate. When I was a young family man, I would occasionally go to real estate “open houses” to see all the new home designs and decorating ideas. I would examine the flooring, the use of space, how the rooms were laid out, and soak up all the differ-

ent ways a house could be designed. I was hoping to expand my knowledge in preparation for building a home for myself someday, but as it turns out that dream has never come to pass. Maybe I chose to spend my time that way for the simple joy of exploring something new.

Lately, I have taken to looking at real estate in other towns and even other states. I look at lakefront property, raw land, and occasionally the condominium market. This weekend I had some free time and I caught myself looking at lakefront homes in the Ozarks and comparing the prices with lakefront property here in Texas. I checked out a variety of distant locations and found it fascinating to see what your money can buy in California, as opposed to what you can get for your buck in Tulsa.

As I look, I sometimes fantasize about jumping up and making a move, though in my rational mind, I do not believe that will ever happen. It is not the actual move that I seek, it is the joy in my heart and the adrenaline that flows through my veins when I imagine living in new surroundings and experiencing what it might have to offer. What will winter be like in Michigan? How humid will it be in the Ozarks? How often will I lay out on the beach if I live in Sarasota? These are only a few of the unanswered questions in life.

The other night my wife saw me looking at my tablet and asked me what I was reading about. At that moment I was reviewing real estate in Gulf Shores, Alabama, a place I have never been. I sort of chortled at her and said, “nothing, just taking

a quick trip in my mind.” Maybe my exploration is time wasted, but the thrill of the hunt for a host of new experiences is something I hope never separates from me.

For some folks, there is always a longing to know what is on the other side of the hill and to wonder what other life possibilities a man might experience. I’ve learned that it does not take me long before I realize how much I like the journey I am already on. But I sure do like sitting back, letting my mind drift and enjoy the fantasy of what might have been. The dream may be better than living the dream. I think it usually is.

Thought for the day: For those who dream, there is no such place as “far away.” Until next time ... I will keep ridin’ the storm out.

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Allyson Tidlow

Say hello to our neighbor, Allyson Tidlow!

Allyson Tidlow was eager to get going in life and feels very grateful that the staff at Granbury High School worked with her to graduate in 2023, a full year ahead of schedule! Anyone who shops at “The Pug” might recognize Allyson there in her role as Assistant Manager. She thrives in her job, overseeing operations at what they describe as a boutique and tacky little gift shop on the historic Granbury Square. “The owner of this place is amazing; she runs four different stores. I don’t know how she does it!” Allyson loves her job and the wide array of diverse visitors drawn to Granbury, with who she thoroughly enjoys sharing stories and information.

She loves life in Hood County in general. “It’s so nice and friendly here. It feels safer than other towns I’ve lived in.” A lot of her free time is spent with friends at concerts and festivals. “You might think I’d be burned out with people, but I’m not!” She especially loves country music. Fun fact: Allyson’s cousin Micheal Hix is a hugely popular entertainer who performs regularly at Granbury Live! Allyson tells us, thanks to the Hood County News we always know what’s happening. “The Hood County News is just always present.”

A big part of Allyson’s inspiration comes from her mother and grandfather, who are both teachers. She is preparing to start college courses to pursue a career in elementary education. She hopes to gain experience by substituting the next few years here in Granbury.

City creates tax abatement zone at Granbury Regional Airport

BY ASHLEY TERRY

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The city of Granbury recently made a crucial move toward attracting more aerospace companies to the area.

In a unanimous vote, the Granbury City Council approved the creation of a tax abatement reinvestment zone at the Granbury Regional Airport, during a regularly scheduled meeting July 2.

The decision — authorized under Ordinance No. 24-36 — designates the entire 320.48-acre airport area as Granbury Reinvestment Zone Number Five, which aims to encourage aviation

and aerospace companies to establish operations within Granbury by offering potential tax abatements.

“Simply, it creates the tax abatement environment reinvestment zone to build and incentivize projects at the airport in the future,” City Manager Chris Coffman said during the meeting. “At this current time, we have no tax abatement agreements in place or (any) being considered right now, but this is a proactive move that (Economic Development Director) Lance (LaCour) helped us with as we move forward with economic development at the airport.”

Coffman explained that should the

city have a project come to fruition, the council will hold a vote to publicize it, offer a 30-day notice, conduct a public hearing, and then consider approving the tax abatement agreement.

“We’re just, I would say, setting the dining room table for activity later should it happen,” he added. “This reinvestment zone will last for two years.”

Place 6 Councilmember Greg Corrigan made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 24-36, approving the creation of a tax abatement reinvestment zone at the Granbury Regional Airport.

Following a second by Place 4 Councilmember Skip Overdier, the motion passed unanimously.

ABATEMENT

FROM PAGE A1

location for their operations.

“If it doesn’t have an abatement policy, there are going to be plenty of other counties that do have an abatement policy, so they’re going to skip over that county,” Massingill said. “I think everybody up here, all of us on this bench here, are going to take a very, very hard look at anybody being entitled to an abatement as to what it does for the good of Hood County, before we’re going to give anybody any kind of a tax break; it’s got to be for the benefit of Hood County, and there’s a million factors that can go into that.”

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle said he disagreed with Massingill’s perspective, asserting that the county government’s role should not interfere in business operations and private property rights.

“This is with all due respect, but the more I’ve looked into this, the more I’m just flat out against an abatement policy,” he said, adding that he aligns his views with the Republican platform’s principle of reducing government involvement in business affairs. “I think that any kind of abatement policy is ill advised, but that’s just me.”

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson then highlighted Hood County’s rapid growth and the county’s infrastructure needs, like additional schools and road improvements. She also brought up how the county has one of the lowest, if not the lowest, tax rates compared to neighboring counties, which already serves as a strong economic draw.

“This is already an economic incentive,” she said. “If businesses are looking to come here, they’re going to see

that and they’re going to see the job base here. It’s not the government’s job to pick winners and losers. We already know there’s growth. The employment base is here, industries will go where there’s an employment base, an economically favorable environment, and a low tax rate — that’s Hood County.”

Saying competition is what it’s all about, Massingill added that if Hood County adopted a tax abatement policy, it would be “in the game” with neighboring counties like Johnson, Erath and Parker.

While he said he was personally not in favor of tax abatements, Massingill said he would support them if they clearly benefited Hood County residents.

“If there is a benefit to the people of Hood County, I want to be able to — and I think it’s our fiduciary duty — to take that benefit for the people of Hood County,” Massingill said. “I’m not going to be bound by any doctrine that’s just going to say, ‘I don’t care what kind of benefits this business would bring to Hood County, we’re not going to give you a tax abatement.’ That’s why I’m saying that you got to look at each project, each business, each thing on an individual basis and make the best decision for the people of Hood County ... I think that an abatement policy is something that we do need, but then you have very stringent requirements that a business must make before they’re entitled to an abatement.”

Andrews then made a motion to approve the tax abatement guidelines as presented. Following a second from Precinct 3 Jack Wilson, the motion carried 3:2, with Eagle and Samuelson voting, “No.”

POLICY INFO

Tax abatement applicants shall com-

plete the Hood County Application for Economic Development Incentives found on the Hood County website and include a payment of \$1,000.

Once an application has been submitted, the Hood County Commissioners Court shall review any requests for a tax abatement. The court then decides whether economic development incentives should be offered in each individual case. The court’s recommendation shall be based upon a subjective evaluation of the following criteria: employment impact, fiscal impact and community impact.

The tax abatement policy states that Hood County is not under any obligation to provide a tax abatement to any applicant, and that all applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

These guidelines and criteria herein follow Section 312 of the Texas Tax Code and shall be effective from the date of passage and remain effective for two years from such date of adoption unless otherwise amended or repealed by a three-fourths vote of the commissioners court. Even if deferred, the abatement period may not exceed 10 years.

Sections 312.402(a-2) and 312.204 of the Texas Tax Code detail the entities that are authorized to request tax abatements, the duration of the abatement period, and the specific conditions to be met.

For more information about the tax abatement, visit the Hood County Commissioners Court agenda for July 9 and click on the link next to agenda item No. 2 under “VII: Miscellaneous Business to be discussed and considered for approval” to see the full policy document.

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
Saturday issue:
10 a.m. Wednesday

Proposed IT activity reporting process sparks debate among county officials

BY ASHLEY TERRY
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Members of the Hood County Commissioners Court engaged in a lively discussion last week regarding the potential implementation of a daily reporting process for IT personnel.

Although no formal motion was made regarding the agenda item, county officials engaged in a 30-minute discussion that showcased opposing viewpoints on transparency and operational efficiency.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle opened the discussion by highlighting the importance of tracking time, as he said it was essential for accurate billing and quality control.

"I'm in the dark a lot with the IT department," he said. "I'll confess, I don't know that much about how the IT department operates. I mean, I know they keep our computers going, and all that kind of stuff, but for me, I need some benchmarks. I need quality control points, and I think we need to do diligence to understand exactly what's going on with employees in the department on a daily basis."

Eagle recommended exploring resources like the DataPine website to understand the benefits of IT analytics better. He mentioned several advantages of interactive reporting, including enhanced decision-making, improved productivity and reduced costs, stating that these tools could help streamline processes and foster greater confidence in the department's operations.

"Running an IT department is no easy feat, and I think (IT Chief Information Officer) Drew (Wiederkehr) can testify to that," Eagle said. "There are countless things to consider on a daily basis, not to mention long term initiatives to focus on ... There's plenty of other material to read about this, about

taking more care in what you're doing on a daily basis or an hourly basis to give us some sort of data points to work from when we're looking at budgets."

In response to Eagle, Wiederkehr stated that the IT department utilizes a ticketing system that allows him to print reports on the number of tickets, response times, and the departments where most time is spent. He expressed his willingness to provide these reports if the court deems them useful.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill noted the challenges faced by both Parker County and the city of Granbury after experiencing a network hack, where they each suffered financial losses and significant downtime in their systems.

He explained that during a similar hacking attempt on the county's systems, both Wiederkehr and Assistant Chief of Information Technology Owen Curnutt quickly detected the threat — preventing any data loss and sparing the county a significant financial burden.

"We had Homeland Security here, the FBI here ... and those people were so laudatory in their praise about our IT department," Massingill said. "These guys immediately picked up on it and saved this county millions of dollars. We never lost one bit of information, and never had to hire any outside people. They did such a marvelous job where everybody else around us, it cost them millions of dollars."

Massingill praised the IT team's responsiveness, recounting instances where he reached out to them in the middle of the night with urgent issues, and said they always delivered.

"They've never let me down," he said. "I have the highest praise for these people, and I have never had any complaint about anybody in this department."

He also expressed pride

in the work of the IT department, stating, "If it's not broken, why are we trying to fix something by putting another requirement in?"

"We're trying to improve on something that I was so proud of. I mean, we were all under a cloak of certain secrecy that we couldn't say anything, but these guys did a marvelous job," Massingill continued, resulting in a round of applause from the public. "I'm proud of our employees, and I think they do one great job and I'm against putting another something on for them to do ... I don't think this is necessary. I don't think we should be creating another job for IT department when they've done such a fabulous job for Hood County."

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson also shared her extensive background in IT, noting that throughout her 30-plus years in the field, it was common to track the time spent on various projects like coding and troubleshooting. She emphasized that many software programs exist specifically for IT time reporting, making it a common procedure across departments.

"There's a saying that what gets measured gets done," Samuelson said. "This is also a management tool for Drew to be able to develop his employees. 'You had this amount of time spent on this. Was there something I could have helped you with?'"

As a manager, director, supervisor, when I was on the other side of the timekeeping, I used those documents to help me develop my staff; that's why there's so many uses for this. It's just a normal process that every IT department does. It's not anything that's out of the ordinary."

She went on to explain that if timekeeping were not widely practiced, there wouldn't be a dedicated software to provide this service. "This is just a way for two things," Samuelson said.

"To help Drew manage and develop his staff, and also ensure that we as the court are spending our dollars correctly. It's just another way to be fiduciary responsible for the tax dollars."

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews told Wiederkehr he appreciates his efforts to save the county money. He also questioned if there was a way to track the time spent on individual support tickets without making the process burdensome.

Wiederkehr said he is open to providing the reports, as long as the IT department can continue utilizing its current system.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson emphasized there are certain activities within IT that cannot be publicly disclosed for security reasons. He also expressed concern about departments utilizing micromanaging tactics to lead their teams.

"Are we going to start having road ops do a ticket every time they go to fix a pothole?" Wilson asked. "Because that's where we're headed."

During public comments, Hood County resident Brad Yarborough raised a question about the employment status of IT staff. Once Wiederkehr confirmed there are only three hourly employees, Yarborough argued that implementing a time clock for the salaried employees is unnecessary.

"To me, this is just micromanaging something the court doesn't need to do," he said. "Dave talks about trying to save money and whatnot ... If you're that concerned about money, then why isn't every department having to turn in timesheets? To me, this is just your way of trying to control everything in this county, starting with IT. I would not recommend doing this because again, if you ask any IT guy, it's just a waste of their time."

"I'm an IT guy," Samuelson

added.

"I've been in IT for over 20 years," Yarborough said. "It's a huge waste of time ... If you're going to do it just for IT, you need to do it for everybody."

Hood County resident Harold Granek referenced his prior experience as a retinal specialist, noting that sometimes the end results matter more than the hours logged.

"I was in a profession where I fixed eyes, specifically, and there was one retina person who said, 'Well, he would spend more than two hours fixing an eye,'" Granek said. "The difference between his results and mine was at a much higher successful rate and doctors tended to refer to me because I got success — that's the key in IT. You want to know what the result is. If I spent just two hours and quit, but I spent two-and-a-half hours and fixed the eye, that's what mattered to people."

"If Drew found it useful to have this accounting, I'd say go with it. Otherwise, it strikes me as additional paperwork that will take time and therefore in some sense, costs the county money."

What we want from IT is the result, and we're getting results with them without this accounting process. Unless Drew found that useful, I would think that we should continue what we're doing and get good results."

Eagle then posed a question to Wiederkehr, asking if he could tell the court exactly what his hourly employees do during their 40 hours on a daily basis.

"Is that what you want me to do?" Wiederkehr asked. "Yes, I can do that."

"But you couldn't do it right now, right?" Eagle asked.

"I can," Wiederkehr said. "Everything is tracked on the ticket system."

"Everything is tracked on a ticket by employee when they come in, and when they

leave, so you can give us a time sheet for each employee?" Eagle asked.

"Is that what you want? Yes," Wiederkehr responded.

"That's not what I asked you," Eagle said. "I asked you, 'Is it something that can be done with what you've got right now?'"

"Yes. That's all I'm saying," Wiederkehr said. "I can do a report if that's what you want."

"I've learned everything I need to learn today," Eagle said.

Samuelson expressed that if there's an existing report, it should be shared with the court. She later clarified that they mainly need a summary by person, day, or week. Wiederkehr said he can deliver whatever frequency the court prefers.

Following more discussion, Andrews remarked that the IT department can build on the information they already have and questioned the necessity of a formal motion. Finally, Massingill suggested Wiederkehr send any reports that are currently available, and the court will provide feedback if any additional information is needed.

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

TUESDAY, JULY 23

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.

MONDAY, AUG. 12

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC
Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Guest speaker: John DeLorme, State Democratic executive committee member, Congressional District 25. 11: a.m. Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377, Granbury. Details: 254-716-5195.

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



The Hood County Democratic Party has officially announced the nomination of Jon Back as its candidate for district clerk in the upcoming November election.

NOMINEE

FROM PAGE A1
Commissioners Court.
"He's kind of unusual in

that way, because usually to get people to go, I have to go to the (Democratic) meeting and say, 'OK, we need some people to show up for this

or that,' but he won't even be at the meeting, and I'll see him there," she said. "He just does it on his own."

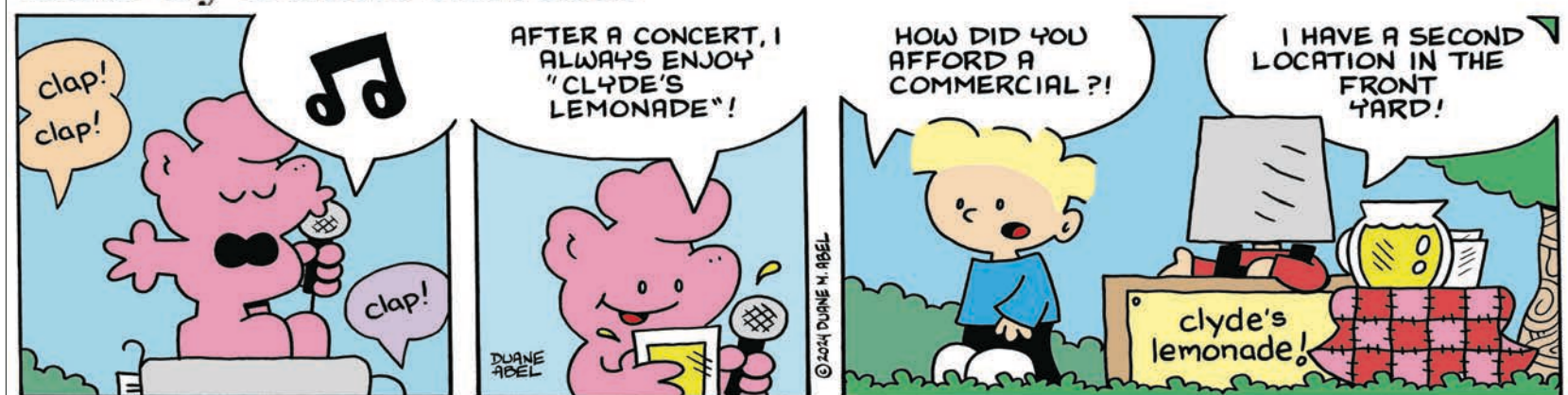
Overall, Martin said Back is

a "great candidate," for the role of district clerk and is also a "man of integrity."

"He's got the background to do the actual job of clerk,

and we're excited to have him," she added.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



VETERAN

FROM PAGE A1

pate in the 80th anniversary celebration — and Baldwin was one of the lucky few chosen for this extraordinary experience.

“Well, of course I was excited about it because hey, that was a big deal,” Baldwin told the Hood County News.

According to history.com, D-Day was the name given to the June 6, 1944, invasion of the beaches at Normandy in northern France by troops from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and other countries during World War II. France at the time was occupied by the armies of Nazi Germany, and the amphibious assault — codenamed Operation Overlord — landed some 156,000 Allied soldiers on the beaches of Normandy by the end of the day.

Despite their success, some 4,000 Allied troops were killed by German soldiers defending the beaches. At the time, the D-Day invasion was the largest naval, air and land operation in history, and within a few days about 326,000 troops, more than 50,000 vehicles and some 100,000 tons of equipment had landed, history.com reports. By August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and in spring of 1945 the Allies had defeated the Germans. Historians often refer to D-Day as the beginning of the end of World War II.

“I hadn’t thought about it that much until this trip, but someone came up with a statement to the effect that this invasion, D-Day, was the incident, so to speak, that saved the civilized world — and that’s big,” Baldwin said. “Because had that failed, if we were alive, we’d be speaking German or Japanese. That was the turning point, and I never had really thought about it like that, but it surely was.”

WAITING IN THE WINGS

While several World War II veterans knew at least six months ahead of time they would be embarking on such a monumental trip, Baldwin experienced a last-minute surprise after a fellow veteran was unable to go on the trip due to health concerns.

As luck would have it, Joshua Holm — a close friend of Baldwin’s and founder of Steel Hope Foundation in Mineral Wells — discovered there was a last-minute opening and recommended Baldwin as a replacement.

“I got an email from a friend, and she’s like, ‘Do you know anybody?’” Holm told the HCN. “I said, ‘I know someone right now.’ The problem was, we were only a few weeks away from the trip and this is like a half-year vetting process, but I’m like, ‘But this person can do it. This would be a perfect candidate for you,’ and they said, ‘OK, let’s do it.’”

In just a few short weeks, Baldwin was officially approved to go, with Holm commenting he couldn’t think of a more deserving person to be honored with the trip.



Charles Baldwin was grinning ear to ear when he and his son J.R. (Russ) had the pleasure of meeting legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg, during his Normandy trip.



Upon meeting Charles Baldwin, President Joe Biden gave him a challenge coin, that reads, “Eightieth Anniversary: 46th President of the United States of America — Joseph R. Biden, Jr, D-DAY,” on one side, with the date and the quote, “They also serve who only stand and wait,” depicted on the other side.

“He reminded me a lot of my grandfather, so I started building a relationship, and we started just connecting on a personal level,” Holm said. “He’s very humorous, witty, humble and a very honorable person. It’s very easy to honor someone who is very humble.”

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

According to an American Airlines press release, the historic trip started at American’s headquarters in Dallas-Fort Worth with a kickoff dinner that included a 1940s-era big band and the Victory Belles from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans. Veterans were also given a special heroes’ arrival by American Airlines team members before heading to Dallas Fort Worth International airport, where the celebration continued.

Upon arrival at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris, the World War II veterans were welcomed by cheers and handshakes as they made their way through the newly

refurbished terminal.

A brief welcome ceremony in the terminal included remarks by U.S. Ambassador to France Denise Bauer and the President of France’s Mission Liberation 80 Task Force, Ambassador Philippe Étienne. The veterans were welcomed by the U.S. Embassy’s Marine Detachment and the ceremony included a choir performance by children from Marymount International School.

The following morning, the veterans participated in a wreath-laying ceremony at Suresnes American Cemetery that featured a solemn performance by the service academy choir and a lone bugler from the U.S. Naval Academy honoring the fallen with “Taps.”

Lunch was served as the veterans cruised down the Seine River and the evening was spent honoring the fallen during le Ravivage de la Flamme ceremony beneath the Arc de Triomphe.

The veterans spent two days in Paris before they traveled to the Normandy region for commemorative events.

The arrival in Normandy started with a heroes’ welcome by school children and World War II re-enactors in Houllgate followed by a visit to Le Memorial de Caen, a museum and war memorial commemorating World War II and the Battle of Normandy.

A visit to historic Omaha Beach provided time for the veterans to walk in the heroic path of those who stormed the beaches 80 years ago and lay a wreath to honor those who didn’t survive the beach landing. The afternoon was spent among the bunkers and bomb craters of Pointe du Hoc and honoring the U.S. Army Rangers who scaled the steep cliffs June 6, 1944.

On Utah Beach, the veterans paid tribute by each

laying a single rose in honor of the fallen. A historic chateau served as the backdrop for a special lunch that was attended by senior military leaders from the Department of Defense and other dignitaries. That afternoon, the veterans were the primary focus in Sainte-Mère-Église as thousands gathered to cheer their arrival into the town made famous by the Airborne soldiers who parachuted into the area.

The events in Normandy concluded with a ceremony marking the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings at the Normandy American Cemetery, where more than 9,000 U.S. service members from World War II are laid to rest.

MEMORABLE ENCOUNTERS

While the D-Day experience was memorable itself for Baldwin, he also got the opportunity to meet two prominent celebrities.

Since his granddaughter, Angie, works for the Amblin film company in Los Angeles, Baldwin had the pleasure of meeting legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg — creator of films like “Jaws,” “E.T.” and “Schindler’s List.”

“We were at a luncheon at one of the events and a big mob of people were surrounding Steve — I call him, Steve — and I waited until it cleared out,” Baldwin explained. “I approached him, and I said ‘Steve, my granddaughter works for your outfit. You better get me a screen test. I hadn’t got it yet and I’m tired of waiting.’ He got a big laugh out of that and we chatted a while.”

Another unforgettable encounter came when Baldwin had the unique chance to meet President Joe Biden, being one of just eight out of 70 veterans selected for the honor.

“I got to meet the president and his wife,” he said. “There were suits every-

where, Secret Service or whoever those guys are that travel with him. There were a bunch of them. They all look alike and dressed alike.”

Biden also gave Baldwin a challenge coin that reads, “Eightieth Anniversary: 46th President of the United States of America — Joseph R. Biden, Jr, D-DAY,” on one side, with the date and the quote, “They also serve who only stand and wait,” depicted on the other side.

“We went to shake hands and he had (the coin) in his hand,” Baldwin said.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

As Baldwin reflected on the D-Day trip, he shared his experience as a fighter pilot during WWII with the HCN, noting he contracted the flu shortly before D-Day. Although he was in Belgium with his unit just prior to the event, he was unable to fly during the initial days of the Battle of the Bulge.

Baldwin explained that due to poor weather conditions, their air support was limited, prompting plans for a possible evacuation of their field. However, when the weather improved, they resumed flights, which he identified as a “crucial turning point” in the battle as their air missions were allowed to commence.

“They told us before we went overseas there in New York that when you get over there, there’s no good whiskey or anything, so if you want anything you better take it with you,” Baldwin recalled. “Well, I wasn’t a drinker, but I did get me a bottle of whiskey to take. I was going to save it and open it up on D-Day for a victory drink whenever the war was over in Europe. Well, that night, we were packing all the stuff in our bag and I said ‘Man, I can’t believe this,’ so I opened it up, and everybody in my bunch had a little drink. But then dadgum if it

wasn’t cleared up. I could’ve saved it! That ruined my celebration drink.”

Baldwin also described how before joining his unit during the war, their group operated from two bases in France, strategically positioned near the front lines to minimize flight time and maximize time spent over targets. He explained that fighter planes had limited flight capabilities compared to bombers, with missions averaging around two-and-a-half hours.

He also recalled a specific base near the commune Sainte-Marie-du-Mont that has since been abandoned and expressed a desire to locate it during his visit. Baldwin said he made an effort to connect with locals who could guide him to the base, but soon realized that many spoke fluent English and were from different parts of the world, even Boston.

“People were there from all over the world, and it really hits you when you realize that this is not just a little thing between the United States and France; this was all over the world,” Baldwin said. “I just hadn’t realized the enormity of it until that brought it out very clearly that people traveled there from all over the world for this occasion.”

HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS

As Baldwin recounted the week-long trip, he revealed that the highlight of his experience was the warm reception from the French. He said as veterans traveled by bus or in wheelchairs, they were greeted with gratitude and appreciation at every stop. Baldwin noted each veteran was accompanied by a member from the unit, including cadets from various military academies.

“Everywhere we’d go, there’d be people lined up and they were so glad to see us. They said, ‘Thank you. Thank you,’ and that impressed me more than anything about the whole trip,” he said. “The pictures and all that were great. The whole thing was just fabulous, but that was the one thing that impressed me more than anything is the sincere welcome and the sincere gratitude that was expressed.”

He said he was particularly moved by how families lined the streets, expressing their thanks and wanting to shake hands.

“Little kids kept wanting our autograph, but we didn’t have time. It would’ve held up the whole thing, but that was the most impressive thing about the trip,” Baldwin said. “I was also impressed by the neatness and cleanliness of the countryside in France. My son (Russ) and I both noticed that and we made a conscious effort in our travel on the bus, just to look for something trashy, but we had yet to see one scrap of trash on the roadside. France is a really pretty place.”

Baldwin also shared that every bus in their group was equipped with at least one nurse and often several doctors who were incredibly attentive.

“You could stub your toe and they’d be right there to help,” he noted, highlighting their importance in addressing the health needs of older veterans. With the average age of the group being around 100, and one member being 107, Baldwin stressed just how crucial medical assistance was on the trip.

Overall, Baldwin said, returning to Normandy, France was quite an experience, as it allowed him the opportunity to reflect on his past and pay tribute to the memories of his fallen comrades.

With a twinkle in his eye and a grin that could light up the French coast, Baldwin embraced the memories of 1944, proving that some battles never truly fade — they just become incredible stories waiting to be shared.



Veteran Charles Baldwin holds a wooden model of a USS Texas (BB-35) battle ship from Navy veteran Johnathan Chasteen, owner of Captains Log Woodworking and Engraving, during the American Airlines trip to honor the 80th anniversary of D-Day.

Sliding into success: Acton Place Park debuts new playgrounds with ribbon cutting

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

After several years in the making, Hood County children can now enjoy a playtime paradise at Acton Place Park — complete with sliding, climbing and endless amounts of fun!

The park came alive with cheers and laughter July 10, as the ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of two brand new playgrounds: one for toddlers and one for bigger kids.

The toddler playground features three small slides, a small climbing area and a few interactive activity panels, while the larger playground for older children features three bigger slides and larger climbing areas.

"It feels amazing to be able to give the community something that they can use right away," Hood County Development District No. 1 President Todd Hall told the Hood County News. "The kids have been so anxious over the last six months to be able to get out and actually have an amenity to use, so to have a first-class amenity like the two playgrounds right now is just an amazing accomplishment for all of our boards. We're just so grateful for the support from the Granbury Optimist Club and those other entities in the community that have been helping along the way."

In April, the Granbury Optimist Club generously donated \$50,000 to the Hood County Development District No. 1 to be used for the park as part of its matching community grant program.

"The development district has put about \$87,000 and



PHOTOS COURTESY GRANBURY OPTIMIST CLUB

Acton Place Park came alive with cheers and laughter July 10, as the ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official opening of two brand new playgrounds: one for toddlers and one for bigger kids.



change into what's at the park currently," Hall previously told the Hood County News. "Then this year for the

2024 budget, we approved \$150,000 for construction and infrastructure, and then we also approved a \$50,000

matching community grant program, just because we wanted a way for community members to be able to make

LEFT: After several years in the making, Hood County children can now enjoy a playtime paradise at Acton Place Park — complete with sliding, climbing and endless amounts of fun!

their money go further." With \$150,000 from HCDD No. 1, plus a total of \$100,000 from the matching community grant program, Acton Place Park had a total of \$250,000 approved for construction in 2024.

"This is going to be instrumental in finishing the first phase of the project," Hall said. "We can start using it right now."

As the two playgrounds, landscaping, turf area and sidewalks are already in place, Hall noted the next steps in construction involve installing plumbing and electricity for the restrooms, as well as

finishing the crushed granite path between the playground and turf areas to prepare for future picnic tables.

"Hopefully we'll be able to get started on the dog park, if we find the right community partner for that project," he said. "We would (also) love to get a shade canopy over the playgrounds. We have received a bid for that shade canopy at \$47,000, so again, there's another opportunity for the right community partner to come in and hopefully get that done sooner rather than later. We'd love to get it done by next summer."

The idea for Acton Place Park — located at 360 Silverton Drive in Acton — began back in September 2020, when a group of friends and neighbors came together to discuss the idea. In February 2021, a board of directors for the project was formed.

PLEASE SEE **PARK** | A12

City workers recognized for heroic efforts in crisis response

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Public works employees may not have the most glamorous jobs, but they are the backbone of city infrastructure as they work diligently to address challenges and keep communities thriving.

While their work often goes unnoticed, their behind-the-scenes contributions play an important role in ensuring that cities, towns and counties continue to function smoothly — especially in the face of adversity.

During a Granbury City Council meeting July 2, City Manager Chris Coffman recognized these unsung heroes for their efforts in resolving two serious incidents: a major traffic disruption and a critical infrastructure repair.

During a June 27 incident, two city streets workers along with Fire Marshal Kevin Jones responded to a significant vehicle collision involving

an 18-wheeler carrying rip-rap rock (large boulders of concrete) on U.S. Highway 377. Despite sweltering temperatures, these individuals worked tirelessly to clear the road so traffic could resume.

"It was 101 degrees, and they were picking up every stone ... and then they used a blower to clear the small debris out of the road as well," Coffman said. "It solved a huge problem for the traffic, otherwise we would have been waiting for a different crew from the trucking company to come and reclaim all their material and move it out of the way. This is a good example of our people succeeding and getting things done."

Coffman explained the employees rose to the occasion and took initiative to tackle the daunting task on their own.

"Traffic was backed up for a long way prior to them being able to move the rock and stone," he said. "And it wasn't a little gravel. It was



PHOTO COURTESY YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

City Manager Chris Coffman recognizes city employees for their efforts in resolving two serious incidents: a major traffic disruption and a critical infrastructure repair.

big chunks of rock, the size of cantaloupes and bigger. Hats off to Cody, Kevin and Jeff for what they did at that crash."

Similarly, just a few days later, another team of public works employees responded to a critical water leak discovered in a main transmission line July 2. Working through the night and into the scorch-

ing morning sun, the workers meticulously repaired a split PVC pipe, preventing a potential water crisis for the community.

"It (The pipe) had been improperly installed decades ago upon a bed of rock and the rock had actually cracked the pipe to the length where the pipe was split for about

eight to 10 feet," Coffman said. "Those guys worked tirelessly this morning through the night trying to get everything lined up, but they accomplished it and got the water leak fixed today."

Coffman commended the water department for its collaboration, highlighting the efforts of six individuals who

worked tirelessly under the hot summer sun.

"You can't imagine how hot it is out there, digging down in a hole with no breeze, so hats off to Paul Gast (city water distribution/collection superintendent) and his team for putting that together and saving us with that water problem," he added.

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GVFD's Jesse Slaughter certified as master firefighter

GVFD Assistant Chief Jess Slaughter.

COURTESY OF GRANBURY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

From Staff Reports

Granbury, TX — Jesse Slaughter, assistant chief for the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, has been certified as a master firefighter. Master firefighters are the elite members of the fire service. There are only 514 certi-

fied master firefighters in the state of Texas. Slaughter started his firefighting career in 1999 with the Brady Volunteer Fire Department. He served as a volunteer in Brady for 18 years, rising to the rank of assistant chief. Slaughter moved to Granbury with his family in

2018 and joined GVFD. Slaughter is the second master firefighter serving on GVFD. Donnie Hurd II, training captain, was previously certified as a master firefighter. Master firefighters are certified by the State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA). Candidates

for master firefighter must hold a Firefighter II certification, have completed at least 400 hours of additional training across five categories that encompass all aspects of the fire service, and have served as a firefighter for a minimum of 10 years.

Rainbow Girls host scavenger hunt and accept applications

From Staff Reports

The Brazos River Assembly of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls will conduct a Back-to-School Scavenger Hunt and Pizza Party Aug. 3. All young ladies ages 11-20 are invited to participate. The event will take place on the Court House Square at the gazebo from 10:30 a.m. to noon and then conclude at the Masonic Lodge on Farm-to-Market Road 51 for a pizza party and refreshments.

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls is a youth service organization sponsored by the Masons. The organization teaches leadership training through community service. The organization is open to all young women ages 11-20 regardless of race or religion. Rainbow Girls is represented in 46 of the United States and 20 other countries worldwide.

The Rainbow Girls is not a religious group, but an organization rooted in the Christian faith and membership encourages those beliefs. Trained mentors (usually mothers who have themselves been Rainbow Girls) create a safe, caring environment where responsible, older girls interact with younger girls. Leadership opportunities, community service and charity play a central role.

Brazos River Assembly 385 is Hood County's local assembly. Lee Shifflett, past master of Masonic Lodge #392 is the masonic liaison to the local chapter's advisory board.

Shifflett states, "This is indeed one of the finest organizations for young ladies. Not only do they get to interact with each other face-to-face, they learn life building skills beyond those taught in school and at church. Being a Rainbow Girl is a terrific way to hone your skills to be a courteous, kind and caring adult but also a strong community organizer and leader."

Young ladies interested in membership need not be related to a mason or a member of the Eastern Star. Leadership feels that, just like in any organization, face-to-face interaction and camaraderie are essential to being successful.





Interested young ladies need to submit an application with a small associated fee to the assembly to be considered for membership. Anyone interested may text "PIZZA PARTY" to 682-229-5266. A responsible adult must accompany each girl.

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A responsible adult is required to accompany the girls.
Young Ladies ages 11 - 17 are invited

When: August 3rd, 2024
Scavenger Hunt
**Where: Granbury Court House
Square Gazebo**
Time: 10:30 AM to Noon
Pizza Party
Where: Masonic Lodge on Hwy. 51
Time: Noon
(immediately following the Scavenger Hunt)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

"CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG?"

~ RODNEY KING

People strive for unity; hope for it and yet in one aspect of life no one wants it. That aspect is politics. Democrats don't want unity with republicans and vice versa. Each side wants to win. That is how the political game is played. A long time ago a Jewish Messiah raised up many followers in a time where the system of government could be called tyranny. This Messiah did not call his followers to change the system, but instead to change their hearts and deeds. Most of the countries in the world do not have the same type of political system we do, but you will find Christians in all of them. In China you do not see "Million believer marches" or much public evidence of their existence at all yet they thrive. Pilate the Roman governor of the time was on the hot seat from Rome and the Jews, any sense of rebellion could topple his position. Yet Pilate did not see Jesus as a threat to him, which likely meant he was not publicly making statements against the government. If we want to follow Jesus' example, then I suggest we focus on our personal lives and serving the Creator over radical political change. Jesus was not viewed as a political radical so why should we be?

Phoenix Van Daele
Granbury

UTTER DISILLUSIONMENT

In the good ol' days, I had faith in the United States of America's Supreme Court. Donning the robes of justice were individuals who may not have agreed on much but they could agree to disagree

and keep the halls from being jammed up on decisions.

From Justice Thurgood Marshall we received: *"Where you see wrong or inequality or injustice, speak out, because this is your country."*

From Justice Sandra Day O'Connor we received: *"The law is constantly evolving, and judges must be able to adapt to those changes and interpret the Constitution in a way that is relevant to modern society."*

From Chief Justice John Jay we received: *"Every citizen ought diligently to read and study the Constitution of his country and teach the rising generation to be free. By knowing their rights, they will sooner perceive when they are violated and be the better prepared to defend and assert them."*

I believe I could fill up a legal pad with quotes from all justices since the inception in October 1789 but in the interest of time and patience, I'll simply say this. Although I didn't know any of them, I would imagine they had some sense or they would not have been chosen for such an important job. The lifetime appointment however might have been a mistake. Having trustworthy justices always made me feel safer. With today's court of nine, my trust meter is on the blink. With the decisions being made today on all sorts of topics, the mindset is that of something unsettling.

Being the ultimate anything must be exhausting — especially to those who possess even an ounce of ethics in their chemical make-up.

From Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg we received: *"Justices continue to think and can change. I am ever hopeful that if the court has a blind spot today, its eyes will be open tomorrow."*

We've lost some greats and we've lost some good ones. Unfortunately, we're stuck with a majority of others.

L F Postero
Granbury, Texas

DEAR EDITOR,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the inclusion of the Sons of the Confederacy in our Fourth of July parade. The chamber argued that this is a matter of free speech. Yes, we as a country enjoy freedom of speech, but that has nothing to do with choosing to display symbols of racism and treason. That choice is not only offensive but also detrimental to our community. Confederate flags are symbols of slavery, segregation and oppression. If you're OK with that being displayed to people who come from all over to enjoy our parade, perhaps you should ask yourself why.

Before you say "history," let me remind you of the actual history of the Confederate flag. The flag was never an official flag of the Confederate army. It was one of many battle flags individual units deployed during the war. When the war ended, the flag disappeared. It was brought back during the Jim Crow era, long after the Civil War was over. The flag was adopted by white supremacist groups like the KKK as a symbol of resistance to the civil rights movement. It has been used since then to intimidate and marginalize our fellow Americans.

The Sons of the Confederacy, the group whose float was covered in the treasonous flag, is not even from Granbury! Why don't they parade their flags around their own town? Why is Granbury taking on a controversial group who

can only hurt our town's reputation? To please people who aren't even a part of our community?!

The Sons of the Confederacy are active promoters of the Lost Cause, a historically inaccurate view of history which downplays the role of slavery and promotes a romanticized version of the Civil War. A large chunk of The Sons of the Confederacy's membership broke off from the group years ago. The exiting members were disturbed by the group joining forces with white supremacy and anti-Semitic groups.

While we cherish the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, we must also acknowledge that these freedoms come with responsibilities. The responsibility to denounce symbols of hatred and treason is one of them. Promoting these symbols under the guise of free speech undermines our values and ignores the bigotry at the heart of the issue. As a country, we have decided that racism and bigoted attitudes are best left in the past; we need to build toward a future where all men and women are truly created equal. As a community, we have a responsibility to create an inclusive and respectful environment for all. We must stand together against racism and intolerance, and that starts with rejecting symbols that promote such ideologies. I implore the chamber to look a little further into what they are promoting. Hate speech may be considered free speech but it is not free of consequences.

Adrienne Martin
DeCordova, Texas

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Dear friends and neighbors,
This week, our community,

county, state and country have celebrated what makes America unique throughout the world and world history: an acknowledgment of freedoms gifted to us by our creator.

Of these, the right to vote and the right to express ourselves without fear of retribution are paramount, and perhaps are our most sacred.

When these rights aren't respected — when we feel disenfranchised by the political systems around us — feelings of despair and apathy creep in.

"My vote doesn't count."
"One person can't make a difference."

"Why bother?"
These are all emotions one feels when he or she is pushed out of the decision-making process. This is especially true here in our community, as shady politics have once again disenfranchised good people.

A few weeks ago, the Republican executive committee embraced nepotism rather than sound logic in selecting the Republican nominee for the office of district clerk. The acting district clerk has, by all accounts, been stellar in the role, working hard to bring accounts current and serving the district in a timely and efficient manner. The sound, logical thing to do would be to place her on the ballot as the Republican nominee and allow her to continue to serve the county and district moving forward.

Instead, the Republican executive committee — with new leadership — chose someone not qualified for the position. The committee had an opportunity to take a step toward uniting our local party; however, they chose politics over what was right for the party and the citizens of our county. What

was once an opportunity for reconciliation is now just another black eye for the Hood County Republican Party.

There is a silver lining. Had this vote been taken six months ago, it would have most certainly been nearly unanimous, with only two brave individuals willing to stand against the blatant act of nepotism. We have made progress in reclaiming our party, but there is still much work to do.

Now is the time to get engaged. The United Republicans of Hood County was formed to welcome all local Republicans seeking a place to exchange ideas and freely debate issues without fear of retribution or exile. Beginning in August, we will meet the second Monday of every month at the Wiley Center, 420 E. U.S Highway 377, at 6 p.m. We invite you to come join us!

Bret Deason
Chairman, URoHC

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

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Homes for Sale

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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.
Click on Snake-Proofing Seminar at www.carringtonkennels.com or e-mail to: carringtonkennels@gmail.com (254)835-4010 or (817)776-1117

Standard poodle puppies, 1 male, 3 females, 8 weeks old, ready for adoption. First shots. \$800 each. 432-296-2046.

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

- 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 Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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

Office Employment

Management company located in Granbury is now looking for an energetic, organized, and detail-oriented person to hire as a part time full time Administrative Assistant. The general role description is to assist the administrative staff in every aspect of their day. Job duties include follow up communications, calendaring, special project work, errands, and miscellaneous tasks.
No experience is required. Reliable transportation is needed as some driving in the Granbury local area is required. Please send resume to joe@eagle-resources.com

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Hood County News

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NOTICES

9031
Public Notices

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, July 26, noon, at Hood County Annex 1 meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury. For more information, 817-579-3200.

GRANBURY HOUSING AUTHORITY WAITLIST Granbury Housing Authority is in the process of transitioning from the Public Housing Program to the Section 8 Tenant-Based Housing Choice Voucher Program and partnering with Waco Housing Authority & Affiliates to administer the vouchers and managing the waitlist.

The Public Housing waiting list will close permanently and no applications will be accepted after July 31, 2024 for all bedroom sizes (0,1,2&3).

Waco Housing Authority will open the waiting list for the units under the voucher program pursuant to their policy. When the waiting list is open, a public notice announcing the opening and application procedure will be advertised. (817) 573-1107 julia@granburyhousing.org

HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP2024-09 GROUP MEDICAL & VISION

Hood County Commissioners Court & Hood County Purchasing Department 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048 817-408-3440

Proposals are solicited for furnishing Hood County with a Group Medical & Vision Insurance for employees, officials, and dependents as set forth in this proposal request for a period of October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, in accordance with the following conditions. Please bid each coverage separately. You may request copies of this packet from the Purchasing Department or make copies for each product for which you are sending a proposal.

Proposals may be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at <http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com>. It is free to register and to bid. Proposal documents may also be obtained at the Purchasing Agent's Office located at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1 Granbury, TX 76048, or through the Hood County Purchasing Website:

<https://hoodcounty.texas.gov/bids>. Proposals will be publicly opened in the Purchasing Dept, 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048 at 11 :00 A.M., Monday August 5th. Proposals are scheduled to be awarded at a meeting of the Commissioners' Court in August 2024. Anco Insurance Managers LTD will be negotiating the premiums with all bidders. If you have any questions regarding the RFP, you may contact Anco Insurance Managers LTD, Life & Health Department, 979-776-2626.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Maria De Jesus Hernandez, Cause No.P10321, County Court of Hood County, Texas. Lorren Manzano in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship in Lieu of Small Estate Affidavit and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Maria De Jesus Hernandez, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 11th day of July 2024
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TEXAS ENTERPRISE ZONE
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury will conduct a public hearing at its regular meeting on August 6, 2024 in the Council Chambers located at 116 West Bridge Street in Granbury, Texas. The purpose of the hearing is to receiving public comments on adoption of a resolution nominating "Black Tie Aviation, LLC" for Enterprise Project and Enterprise Zone Status pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 2303, the Texas Enterprise Zone Act, as amended. This nomination will enable the City to pursue the creation of the proper economic and social environment to induce the investment of private resources in productive business enterprises and to economically disadvantaged individuals. Tax and other incentives may also be discussed at this hearing. The Enterprise Project is proposed to be located at Granbury Regional Airport. All interested persons are encouraged to attend and speak at the hearing. For additional information contact Chris Coffman at 817-573-1114.

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Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Donna Suzanne Smith, Cause No. P10424, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Beverly Anne James in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and for Independent Administration to declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Donna Suzanne Smith, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 10th day of July 2024
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy Clerk

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by BXB LLC dba Brick by Brick, to be located at 804 E Pearl St, Granbury, Hood County, Texas, 76048. Officers of said LLC are RH VENTURES LLC, Manager. TANA E ROGERS, Manager of RH VENTURES LLC. SBH Heritage LLC, Manager of RH VENTURES LLC. Kyndal R Hall, Manager of SBH Heritage LLC.

Notice to Creditors
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of STEVE FRED FRANK, Deceased, were issued on July 12, 2024, in Cause No. P10428, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Bethany Frank. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Lukas A. Lawrence Attorney at Law
3016 E. Hwy 377
Granbury, Texas 76049
Lukas A. Lawrence
Attorney for Bethany Frank
State Bar No.: 24078832
Telephone: (682) 231-1407
Facsimile: (817) 984-3954
E-mail: Attorneys@LFirmTX.com
(682) 231-1407
attorneys@lfirmtx.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of John Loyd Everidge, Deceased, were issued on July 12, 2024, in Cause No. P10440, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Jason Lang Everidge.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Jason Lang Everidge
390 W 7th St.
Tolar, Texas 76476
DATED the 15 day of July, 2024.
/s/ E. Mark Piland
E. Mark Piland
Attorney for Jason Lang Everidge
State Bar No.: 16008870
1107 W. Pearl St, Ste 101
Granbury, TX 76048
Telephone: (817) 579-0207
Facsimile: (866) 406-4629
Email: markpiland@pilandlaw.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of July, 2024, Letters Testamentary on the Estate of Sandra Jean Pond were issued by the Honorable County Court of Hood County, Texas in Cause No.P10431 pending on the Probate Docket of said court. The Independent Executor is Cherie Elaine Stueber.
All persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time prescribed by law, to the Independent Executor as shown below:
Cherie Elaine Stueber, Independent Executor of the Estate of Sandra Jean Pond 1113 Pheasant Ridge, Keller, Texas 76248

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of FRANK VIRGIL JOHNSON, Deceased, were issued on July 12, 2024, under Docket No. P10429, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Frankie H. Johnson. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:
Representative,
Estate of Frank V. Johnson
c/o Robin C. Crow
CROW-HENLEY LAW PLLC
P.O. Box 6654
Granbury TX 76049
All persons having claims against the estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated July 15, 2024.
By Robin C. Crow
Attorney for Applicant

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TEXAS ENTERPRISE ZONE
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Granbury will conduct a public hearing at its regular meeting on August 6, 2024 in the Council Chambers located at 116 West Bridge Street in Granbury, Texas. The purpose of the hearing is to receiving public comments on adoption of a resolution nominating "Black Tie Aviation, LLC" for Enterprise Project and Enterprise Zone Status pursuant to Texas Government Code, Chapter 2303, the Texas Enterprise Zone Act, as amended. This nomination will enable the City to pursue the creation of the proper economic and social environment to induce the investment of private resources in productive business enterprises and to economically disadvantaged individuals. Tax and other incentives may also be discussed at this hearing. The Enterprise Project is proposed to be located at Granbury Regional Airport. All interested persons are encouraged to attend and speak at the hearing. For additional information contact Chris Coffman at 817-573-1114.

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF LOCAL OPTION ELECTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A SPECIAL LOCAL OPTION ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE 5TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITION: "THE LEGAL SALE OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INCLUDING MIXED BEVERAGES" (LA VENTA LEGAL DE TODAS BEBIDAS ALCOHOLICAS INCLUYENDO BEBIDAS MIXTAS).

That a special local option election has been ordered for November 5, 2024, for the City of De Cordova, Texas, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City the proposition provided herein below so as to permit the voters to vote "FOR" (A Favor) or "AGAINST" (El Contra) the proposition, with the ballots to contain such provisions, markings and language as required by law. See Ordinance 2-2024 for further information.

Polling locations for the election will be determined in the Joint Election Contract with Hood County. The polling locations shall be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the date of the election. The election will be conducted in accordance with the Joint Election Contract by and between the City, the County of Hood and other units of government, and the Texas Election Code.

Early voting by personal appearance by any qualified City resident will be conducted at the County Election Administrator's Office located at County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. Early voting by personal appearance for the election will be conducted by the Hood County Elections Administrator as Early Voting Clerk on October 21-25, 2024, from 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.; October 26, 2024, from 7:00 a. m. to 7:00 p. m.; October 27, 2024, from 9:00 a. m. to 3:00 p. m.; and October 28-November 1, 2024, from 7:00 a. m. to 7:00 p. m.

Applications for early voting ballot by mail shall be mailed to: Stephanie Cooper, Early Voting Clerk, County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. Applications for early voting ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on October 25, 2024.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Lena Zan Thomas, Cause No. P10459, County Court of Hood County, Texas. Charles Michael Tidwell in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship, for Agreed Independent Administration and Appointment of an Independent Administrator with Power To Sell Property and To Serve Without Bond Pursuant to Sections 401.003, 401.005 and 401.006 of the Texas Estates Code and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Lena Zan Thomas, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate. Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so. Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 16th day of July 2024
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

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Public Notices

AVISO DE ELECCION DE OPCION LOCAL
SE NOTIFICA POR EL PRESENTE DE UNA ELECCION ESPECIAL DE OPCION LOCAL A CELEBRARSE EL DIA 5 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2024 CON EL PROPOSITO DE PRESENTAR A LOS VOTANTES LA SIGUIENTE PROPOSICION: "THE LEGAL SALE OF ALL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES INCLUDING MIXED BEVERAGES" (LA VENTA LEGAL DE TODAS BEBIDAS ALCOHOLICAS INCLUYENDO BEBIDAS MIXTAS).

Que se ha ordenado una eleccion especial de opcion local para el dia 5 de noviembre de 2024 para la Ciudad de DeCordova, Texas, con el proposito de presentar a los votantes habilitados de la Ciudad la proposicion proporcionada a continuacion en el presente de manera que se permita a los votantes votar "FOR" (A favor) o "AGAINST" (En contra) de la proposicion y de manera que las boletas contengan dichas disposiciones, marcas y lenguaje de acuerdo con las exigencias de la ley. Ver la Ordenanza 2-2024 para obtener mas informacion.

Los lugares de votacion para la eleccion seran determinados por el Contrato de Eleccion Conjunta con el Condado de Hood. Los lugares de votacion estaran abiertos en el horario de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. en la fecha de la eleccion. La eleccion se celebrara de acuerdo con el Contrato de Eleccion Conjunta celebrado entre la Ciudad, el Condado de Hood y otras unidades de gobierno, y el Codigo Electoral de Texas.

La votacion anticipada en persona por cualquier residente habilitado de la Ciudad se realizara en la Oficina del Administrador de Elecciones del Condado, ubicada en County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. La votacion anticipada en persona para la eleccion sera realizada por el Administrador de Elecciones del Condado de Hood en calidad de Oficial de Votacion Anticipada del 21 al 25 de octubre de 2024, de 8:00 a. m. a 5:00 p. m.; el 26 de octubre de 2024, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.; el 27 de octubre de 2024, de 9:00 a.m. a 3:00 p.m.; y del 28 de octubre al 1 de noviembre de 2024, de 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m.

Las solicitudes de boleta de votacion anticipada por correo deberan enviarse por correo postal a: Stephanie Cooper, Early Voting Clerk, County Annex 1, 1410 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas. Las solicitudes de boleta de votacion anticipada por correo deben ser recibidas a mas tardar al cierre del horario de oficina del 25 de octubre de 2024.

ORDENADO POR EL CONSEJO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD DE DECORDOVA, CONDADO DE HOOD, TEXAS, EL DIA 18 DE JUNIO DE 2024.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Public Hearing will be held by the GRANBURY CITY COUNCIL on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. All Public Hearings will be held within the Council Chambers of Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

1. Annex - Ordinance to annex 1.118-acres, Lot 1R, Block 5 located at 105 Bahama Ct. per petition for voluntary annexation in the City of Granbury, Texas.

For more information, contact Community Development at 682-279-8250 Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-38
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE AIRPORT FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024.

This ordinance as adopted by the Granbury City Council on July 16, 2024, is on file in the Office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE
Rummage Room Open Tues & Thurs, 8am-2pm, First Sat. of the month 9am -1pm 306 Kings Plaza. 817-573-7801.

New Beginnings
Resale Shoppe & Boutique

817-964-3445
1204 Water's Edge Dr.,
(Across from the Movie Theatre)
#heretohelp
Shop: Mon.-Fri. 9am - 5pm
Sat. 10am - 4pm
Donate: Wed.-Sat. 10am-3pm

MOVING SALE: GRANBURY 624
Newlin Ln: Consolidating two households. In A/C and garage. July 19 & 20 9am-5pm Cash Only. Items for all and at good prices!

Fri & Sat, July 19 & 20, 8am-6pm. 2915 Sycamore Ct, OTS. Misc household items, women's clothes, something for all. Come and see!

Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049

GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 2505 Alta Vista Ct- Huge sale. Tools tools tools! Hundreds of hard back books. Children's toys and books. Men's suits \$5 women's clothes \$1 each. Household item, all must go! Friday July 19 & Saturday 20th

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ENERGY
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Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-855-704-8579 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move.

HOME IMPROVEMENT
Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, waving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. (Offer ends 8/25/24.) Call 1-855-965-0841.

EVENT
The Great Texas Mosquito Festival – July 25-27. Clute Municipal Park, Clute, TX. Live music, carnival, tournaments, mosquito chase 5K, petting zoo, vendors, BBQ cook off and more. mosquitofestival.com.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE
Wesley Financial Group, LLC Timeshare Cancellation Experts. Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 855-501-6864.

MEDICAL
Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 866-747-9983.

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WATER DAMAGE
WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-877-727-3027. Have zip code of service location ready when you call!

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OBITUARIES

James Charles Royse

July 4, 1945 - July 12, 2024

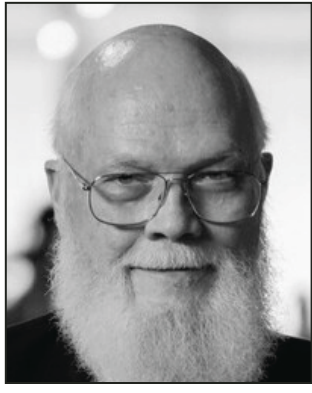
James Charles Royse, 79, of Granbury, Texas, was called to Glory on Friday, July 12, 2024.

He was born in Pine Bluff, Arizona on July 4, 1945 to Carl and Lillie Bell Royse. He always joked that the fireworks on Independence Day celebrated not only America's birthday, but his as well. He was the last surviving and youngest of 12.

James met the love of his life and wife of 59 years, Joyce, while attending Dallas Christian College. They were married on June 4, 1965. They have two sons James (Jamey) Crawford Royse, married to Toni Royse, and John Charles Royse, married to Valerie Royse. They adopted their granddaughter, Jacquelyn Marie (Royse) Garcia, married to Brian Garcia, in 2004. They have seven grandchildren: Mara Belle, Jordan, Jillian, Liam, Julie, J.C., and Kinley. They also have two great-grandsons, Royse and Tobias.

James was passionate about serving the Lord and leading others to know Him as their Lord and Savior. He was involved in ministry in some capacity most of his life. Whether as a head pastor, elder, deacon, or just living in his community, he continually strived to live a life worthy of the calling he had received. His final ministry was through the Granbury Church of Christ serving the people of Harbor Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

James participated in various community organizations in Granbury since moving here in 2001 including the Granbury Chamber of Commerce and Granbury Citizens Police Academy. He



was an active Granbury Lion and worked with his fellow Lions in serving his community through their perfect attendance recognition, flag routes, pancake dinners, and eyeglass donation and recycling. He was also the first to wear the Lion's Club mascot, Simba, in many parades and school events. Over the last few years, James also portrayed Santa Claus at school functions or family gatherings to the delight of all the children he encountered.

James and his love for life and mischievous nature will be missed by so many. While we mourn the loss of a great and godly man here on Earth, we know he was welcomed into Heaven with great rejoicing and celebration.

There will be a viewing at Wiley Funeral Home this Sunday, July 21, 2024, from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. A Memorial Service celebrating his life will be held on July 31 at the Granbury Church of Christ, 1905 W. Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76048, at a time to be announced. His burial will take place on Aug. 1 at Fitzhugh Cemetery, 2540 Country Club Road, Allen, TX 75002, at a time to be announced. Donations to the Granbury Lions Club or Lions Club International would be great.

Terri Beckingham

January 7, 1981 - July 12, 2024

Terri Lynette Beckingham went to be with the Lord on July 12, 2024. Terri was born on Jan. 7, 1981.

Terri loved hunting and fishing. She loved hunting for rocks at the river. Terri loved playing with her grandchildren.

Terri is preceded in death by her father, Terry Ellis.

She is survived by her husband Troy Beckingham, sons Riley Trumble and Cade Beckingham, daughter, Haley White, nephew, Clinton Eugene Ellis, grandchildren, Waylon and Rylane, mother, Beverly Ellis, brother Billy Ellis, and several aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



Terri will be missed dearly but in our hearts. We will see her again in heaven.

Services will be held on Saturday July 20 at 2 p.m. at Generations Church in Granbury.

Rose Mary Walthall

December 1, 1933 - June 24, 2024

Rose Mary Walthall, 90, went to be with her heavenly father on June 24, 2024, after a long and beautiful life.

She was born in Fort Worth, Texas on Dec. 1, 1933, to Dr. Robert Walthall and Mary Sherwood Walthall. Her father had just begun his dental practice in Granbury where he was the only dentist until 1970.

Rose Mary graduated from Granbury High School in 1951. Her college experience started at Howard Payne University. She transferred to the University of North Texas where she graduated in 1956 with a triple major in secondary education, history, and music with a minor in English. She began her 30-year career as a public-school teacher in Rockport. Over the years she taught in Lubbock, Irving, Coppell, League City, and Fairfield.

In 2001 she moved back to Granbury where she was the director of education for Sylvan Learning Centers. She also volunteered with Jobs for Life. Outside of work her life centered around her church family at First Baptist Granbury, friends, neighbors, and her family.

In January of 2024 she moved to Kingsland, Texas to an assisted living facility near her nieces, nephew



and their families.

Rose Mary was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, John Sherwood Dyer, and Joe McBryde Walthall, sister-in-law Virginia (Jan) Ann Dyer, and a niece Mary Virginia Dyer Gielstra.

She is survived by her daughter Kimberly McDonald Porcher, grandson Maxwell (Max) Tyler Porcher, nieces Sheralyn Dyer Nobles (Lynn), and Jacqueline Dyer DeVault (Mike), nephew Robert (Bob) Dyer (Belinda).

She is also survived by eight great nieces and nephews, and 20 great-great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held July 28, 2024 at 3 p.m. in the chapel of First Baptist Granbury. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to First Baptist Granbury, 1851 Weatherford Hwy, Granbury, TX 76048, or a charity of your choice.

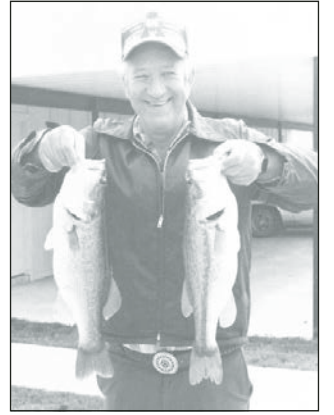
James Sanders

September 12, 1934 - July 9, 2024

Jim "Skeeter" Sanders, 89, passed away July 9, 2024, at home surrounded by his family.

Jim was born on Sept. 12, 1934, in Huntingdon, Tennessee to the late Kenneth and Brooxie Sanders. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Josephine.

Jim was employed by the Bell Telephone Company in the late 1950s. He then began employment with the Chrysler Corporation in Huntsville, Alabama at the Redstone Arsenal where he was fortunate enough to be a part of the NASA space program. Jim was transferred to Cape Canaveral, Florida where he continued to work through the NASA Apollo Lunar and Skylab programs. In 1976, Jim moved his family to Chattanooga, Tennessee where he worked as an I&C test engineer for the Tennessee Valley Authority nuclear program. In 1981, Jim relocated to Granbury, Texas to work as an I&C startup engineer at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant. He eventually retired from Comanche Peak.



Jim is survived by his daughter Sherry Kilpatrick and her husband "Bo" of Granbury, Texas, son, Kenney Sanders of Granbury, Texas, two grandsons, Evan Kilpatrick of Granbury, Texas, Kasey Kilpatrick, wife Tiffany and great-granddaughter Lilyanna of Lincoln, Arkansas, his beloved sister, Nancy Wise of Selmer, Tennessee, and his constant fur-baby companion Pepper.

Jim enjoyed fishing, golfing, gardening and spending time with family and neighbors. He especially loved watching Texas Rangers baseball!

There will be no memorial service at his request.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A12

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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ACROSS

1	TXism: "if ___ rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)	38	TXism: "___ lap dog"	1	2	3	4
5	gorillas	39	most delicious	5			
6	TX Freddy Fender's "Wasted ___ and Wasted Nights"	41	cut off a branch	6			
7	TX Bob Wills' "Take ___ Back to Tulsa"	42	Texas legal specialty: "oil ___"	7			
8	San Angelo is seat of ___ Green County	45	LBU took ___ of office on Air Force One	8			
9	TXism: "got as much ___ a hibernating bear" (idle)	46	TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)	9	10	11	12
15	"Ben ___ Hospital" in Houston	47	TX Roy Orbison early group: "___ Kings"	13	14		
16	TX Audie Murphy 1955 film about his war exploits: "___ Back"	48	Dallas-owned FM "Texasville" town	15	16		
19	TX Paula Prentiss film: "The ___ Henry Orient"	49	sand drifts	17	18		
21	TXism: "that's a fine how ___ do"	52	TX Lefty's "If You've Got the Money ___ Got the Time"	19	20		
22	people with no skin or hair pigment	53	none	21	22		
27	TXism: "beller"	54	this Ernie won 1995 Byron Nelson	23	24		
28	these are blue on the state flower	55	DOWN	25	26		
29	TXism: "___ a doornail"	1	TXism: "if a hog ___ wings he'd be an eagle"	27	28		
30	"Las ___ Wildlife Management"	2	agcy. that watches over the environ.	29	30		
32	actress Taylor of Texas "Giant" (init.)	3	Baylor County seat	31	32		
33	Galveston got 15 inches in the "___ Snow" of 1895	4	what GM operates in Arlington (2 wds.)	33	34		
36	TXism: "___ got a prayer" (hopeless)	8	some Texans ski here in New Mexico	35	36		
37	TX Young Netflix series: "Cobra ___"	9	TXism: "strong enough ___ you're liable ___" (coffee)	37	38		
		10	TX Roy Orbison's "___, Pretty Woman"	39	40		
		11	___ Kalb, TX is in Bowie County	41	42		
		12	Nacogdoches is "The ___ in Texas"	43	44		
		13	TXism: "a mess of" (2 wds.)	45	46		
		14	Dionne 1967 hit: "I ___ Little Prayer"	47	48		
		15	TXism: "he ___ ___ to his own beat" (independent)	49	50		
		16	a road Texans have to pay to drive on	51	52		
		17	if your dog has ___ you're liable	53	54		
		18	how to clean a bookshelf (2 wds.)	55	56		
		20	___ Smith County 22 anno Domini abbr.				
		23	TXism: "crooked as a dog's hind ___"				
		24	ABC's Bret and ___ Maverick				
		25	best possible father of TX singer Lefty Frizzell				
		26	pots and ___				
		31	unaccounted for soldiers (abbr.)				
		34	TX-born singer Autry (init.)				
		35	Texas' country noncommercial FM in Commerce				
		37	"last year I kudn't spel engineer, now ___ won."				
		40	TXism: "pushing up bluebonnets"				
		43	TXism: "the real McCoy"				
		44	rods and ___				
		50	former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)				

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What to know before 'reversing' your retirement

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser



Chad Carroll

First, if you've been taking Social Security, be aware that you could lose some of your benefits if you earn over a certain level, at least until you reach your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. Specifically, if you are under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefit payments for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit, which in 2024, is \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above a different limit, which, in 2024, is \$59,520.

Social Security will only count your earnings up to the month before you reach your full retirement age, at which point your earnings will no longer reduce your benefits, regardless of how much you earn. Also, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amounts to credit you for the months your payments were reduced due to your excess earnings. Social Security also allows you to pay back early benefits

received if you withdraw your application within 12 months of starting benefits. This move could help you receive substantially higher benefits at full retirement age.

Your Social Security isn't the only benefit that could be affected by your earnings. Your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums are based on your income, so they could rise if you start earning more money. Also, your extra income could push you into a higher tax bracket.

Nonetheless, you can certainly gain some benefits by returning to the working world. Obviously, you'll be

making money that can help you boost your daily cash flow and possibly reduce some debts. But depending on where you work, you might also be able to contribute to a 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. And regardless of where you work, you'll be eligible to contribute to an IRA. By putting more money into these accounts, you may well be able to strengthen your financial position during your retirement years. You might also be able to receive some employee benefits, such as group health insurance — which could be particularly valuable if you haven't yet

started receiving Medicare. In addition to the potential financial advantages of going back to work, you might get some social benefits, too. Many people enjoy the interactions with fellow workers and miss these exchanges when they retire, so a return to the workforce, even if it's on a part-time basis, may give you an emotional boost.

In the final analysis, you'll want to weigh the potential costs of going back to work against the possible benefits. There's no one right answer for everyone, but by looking at all the variables, you should be able to reach a decision that works for you.

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SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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

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

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

EVERY SUNDAY
STARTING A New Life is a grief support group for those who have lost a loved one through death. This includes the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 26 years, this group has helped people work through their grief process. If you, or someone you know, is suffering from the loss of a loved one, come or bring them to our next session that began March 19, 2023. We are Christian based, nondenominational, and wel-

come all who are suffering. We meet 3-5 p.m. on Sundays in the parish hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Ben Bradley at 575-706-5703 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

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

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

GRIEF SHARE 14-WEEK seminar. Next session begins Sept. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare.StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175. May call anytime for help.

PEDALING FOR Parkinson's

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

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

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

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

tails: 817-573-7474.
RE|ENGAGE MARRIAGE Enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige.kitchens@stonewaterchurch.com.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OBITS CONTINUED FROM | A12

Marie Cherry Lewis

July 31, 1949 - July 9, 2024

Marie Cherry Lewis was born July 31, 1949, to Joe Quannah "Slim" and Ima Lorie Cherry, the ninth of 10 children. She passed away, July 9, 2024, at home surrounded by her family. She was a proud member of the Tolar Class of 1968 and proud that her three daughters were Tolar graduates as well. She had an amazing 41-year career as a hairdresser working in Arlington, Granbury and Acton. Her biggest accomplishment though was her family. On July 12, 1968, she married the love of her life, Douglas Lewis. They welcomed three beautiful daughters into their family. She was a loving mother and nana. She was lovingly called Aunt Rea by many nieces and nephews. She enjoyed vacations, playing cards, and spending time with her grandchildren. She wore the title of Queen well. She was an active member of the Tolar Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Ima Jo Hard and husband Floyd, Emma Lou Tullos and husband Claudy, Tressie Davis and husband Bob, brothers Gene Cherry and JQ Cherry and wife Judy, brother-in-law Larry Reneau and sister-in-law Danette Lewis as well as several nieces and nephews. She is survived by husband Douglas Lewis of Tolar, daughters Christa Mar-



shall and husband Warren, Lyndi Wells and husband Jason of Granbury, Ashley Gill and husband James of Tolar, grandsons Ethan Wells of Denton, Charles Peacock of Stephenville, Axtyn and Truitt Gill of Tolar, granddaughter Landry McCallum and husband Mason of Dallas, great-grandson Jason Eli McCallum of Dallas, sisters Clara Billings and husband Harold of Tolar, Susie Campbell and husband Malcolm of Lebanon, Oregon, Shirley Reneau of Winnsboro, Dee Hague and husband Gayle of Yantis, sisters-in-law Kathie Cherry of Tolar and Drenda Lewis of Granbury, brother-in-law Darrell Lewis and wife Pat of Granbury and numerous nieces and nephews. Services will be held July 27, 2024, at Tolar Church of Christ (8604 US-377, Tolar). There will be a visitation at 10 a.m. followed by a celebration of life at 11 a.m.

Vicki Louise Burns

November 25, 1948 - July 11, 2024

Vicki Louise Burns (75) of Granbury, Texas passed away peacefully on July 11, 2024. Graveside service for Vicki was held July 17, 2024, at 1 p.m., at Pleasant View Cemetery, Troy Texas. There is no visitation scheduled. Vicki was born Nov. 25, 1948, to Samuel and Elizabeth Burns, in Temple, Texas. Vicki will be best remembered for her caring for others attitude that she so passionately showed to everyone she met. Because of that passion for others, she worked with People Helping People, Mission Granbury, and was a great supporter of Alzheimer's Association. Vicki also spent time as a teachers aid in Grand Prairie, Texas and as an executive receptionist for a law firm in Dallas, Texas. Vicki is survived by her Life Partner and Soulmate, Ken Cobler of Granbury, Texas; Cousin, Bill Brown



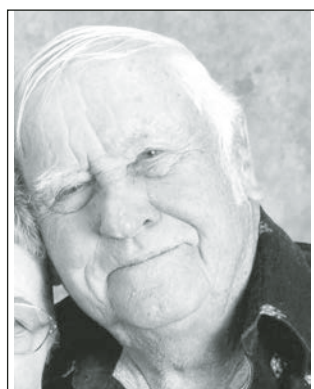
and wife Carole of Temple, Texas; close friends, Jacque Collier of Georgetown, Texas and Billie Ruth Clinard of Temple, Texas; and Cherry and Robin Dobbs. Also Connie Phillips and numerous childhood friends of Temple and Troy Texas.

Vicki was preceded in death by her parents. Services under the direction of Martin's Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas.

Carl Martin Unger

September 26, 1932 - July 11, 2024

Carl Martin Unger, 91, passed away on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at his home in Granbury with his family by his side. He was born Sept. 26, 1932, in Crawford County, Pennsylvania to Irvin and Mable Unger. Carl was a United States Army veteran. He was a retired bricklayer who also raised cattle, had a pecan orchard and enjoyed farming. He loved to restore antique tractors and was a member of the Glen Rose Tractor Club. Carl was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings. He is survived by his wife of (31) years, Kathy Scoggins Unger, daughter, Dianna Hammett and a



grandson, Nathaniel Hammett. Graveside services were held at 10am. Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at Squaw Creek Cemetery in Glen Rose/Rainbow, Texas under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury.

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 9-15. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

JULY 9
 9:28 a.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
 11:36 a.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
 12:32 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway

377
 2:03 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
 6:31 p.m.: loose livestock on N.E. Loop 567
 8:32 p.m.: loose livestock on N.E. Loop 567
 11:36 p.m.: suspicious vehicle on S. Morgan Street
 One minor accident, a warrant service and 27 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 10
 7:33 a.m.: found property

PLEASE SEE **BLOTTER** | A13

PARK

FROM PAGE A6
 "The community really doesn't have anything that's in this area that has walking trails," Hall said in a previous interview with the HCN. "Some of these commercial areas that you've probably been to in Fort Worth that have outdoor turf areas, and people are hanging out, playing catch, and they're doing outdoor movies — that's kind of the vision for this park is to have a multifaceted amenity area for families to be able to use."
 The HCDD No. 1 purchased the land needed for this project off North Gate Road between the Main Place, Grand Place and Acton Landing neighborhoods. Plans for the park include two playgrounds, a sand volleyball court, a garden, a walking trail, a dog park, a pavilion, restrooms, a concert stage with an inflatable movie screen, an area for food trucks and a basketball court.
 While Hall said there currently isn't a completion date for the park, he plans to finish phase one by the end of 2024 or by the spring of 2025.
 "Right now, we haven't had a lot of vehicles to worry about parking, except for this event, but if we see that there's a need for parking right away, then we might push that up in 2025," he said. "Otherwise, we will move on to the next lot between Silverton (Drive) and North Gate (Road) that will have basketball courts, sand

volleyball, and additional walking trails."
 Since installation, the playgrounds themselves have been a big hit with local children. Hall specifically gave a shoutout to Granbury Optimist Club President Cyndi Acosta and the rest of the board members for being "instrumental" in making the playgrounds come to fruition.
 "Everyone loves it," Hall said. "We really hope that this playground installation inspires other business owners and organizations within the community to join up with us sooner rather than later."
 While Hall said the response to the playground has been overwhelmingly positive, many Hood County residents have experienced difficulty navigating to the park.
 "Currently, the address for the park is 360 Silverton Drive, but the easiest access to the playground is from Clearwater (Place) from the south end of the park," he explained. "We do have signage that is also going to be done this year, which we hope that will also help assist people in locating it, but the more events that we have there, the more visibility and awareness we're going to have about the park."
 As for future events, Hall said Acton Place Park's next major event will be a "Christmas in the Park," currently scheduled for the first part of December.
 For future updates on the park, follow the Acton Place Park Facebook page.

Last Puzzle Solution

S-1699

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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Keeping your brain sharp

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

Considering the sorts of stories he's written over a decades-long career, you might not think Stephen King is afraid of anything. While you are right that he doesn't tremble at the thought of monsters, there is one thing he fears — Alzheimer's disease.

It's no wonder that even the King of Horror (no pun intended) is wary. Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia, impairs the memories and thinking skills of over 7 million people in the U.S. The disease can also lead to mood changes and confusion, and it's the fifth-leading cause of death of people age 65 and older.

"It's so important that we focus on the one organ that keeps everything going in our body," mentions Nancy Wagner, family nurse practitioner at Lakeside Physicians, "and that's our brains. Research shows that many factors contribute to brain health."

While many believe aging is the cause of Alzheimer's, that is not the case. However, risks do increase as we get older — doubling every five years after our 65th birthdays.

Though some risk factors, like genetics, are beyond our control, there are aspects of our health we can manage to potentially lower our risk, such as:

PROTECTING YOUR BRAIN PHYSICALLY
Head injuries have a known link to an

increased risk of dementia. Therefore, it is important to protect your brain by wearing a helmet when playing sports and a seat belt when in a moving vehicle.

MANAGING YOUR HEART HEALTH
Studies show that the brain and heart are closely connected. In fact, any damage to the heart and blood vessels, including high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and diabetes, also can increase the risk of Alzheimer's and vascular dementia.

FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR OVERALL HEALTH AND LONGEVITY
According to a recent study, people who engaged in all six of these health behaviors — eating a healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables, not smoking, drinking alcohol in moderation, getting 150 or more minutes of moderate-to-vigorous exercise per week, maintaining a body mass index of less than 30 and getting six to nine hours of sleep per night — cut their risk of dementia by half.

CHALLENGING YOURSELF
A recent analysis of 38 studies found that older adults who read, write or even make crafts have a 23% lower risk of developing dementia. Pursuing new hobbies, taking classes and playing strategy games are also great ways to

stay mentally active.

STAYING SOCIAL
Spending time with friends and family can help reduce the risk of dementia by preventing social isolation.

Studies show that socially active seniors experience slower cognitive decline, while those who feel isolated have up to a 50% increased risk of dementia.

Sounds like a good excuse to get out and about with some friends. Or a sign to read a little Stephen King.

To schedule an appointment with Nancy Wagner, family nurse practitioner, please call her office at 817-573-4585 or visit her online at <https://lakegranbury-medical.com/NancyWagner>.



STOCK PHOTOS

Head injuries have a known link to an increased risk of dementia.

BLOTTER

FROM PAGE A12

on N.E. Loop 567

1:32 p.m.: intoxicated person on E. U.S. Highway 377

1:33 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on James Road

3:09 p.m.: lost property on E. U.S. Highway 377

3:23 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

3:40 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

8:01 p.m.: fraud on Tahiti Drive

**Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 13 traf-

fic stops occurred this day**

JULY 11

9:24 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on Lipan Highway

6:41 p.m.: fraud on N. Rough Creek Court

7:30 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

8:10 p.m.: theft on James Road

One major accident, a minor accident and 27 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 12

7:37 a.m.: theft on E. U.S.

Highway 377

9:27 a.m.: found property on N.E. Loop 567

11:29 a.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377

1:09 p.m.: assault on Bobbie Ann Court

4:48 p.m.: fraud on Red Bird Lane

4:57 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

11:54 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street

Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 25 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 13

3:19 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Quiet Cove

5:19 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377

7:27 p.m.: noise disturbance on White Cliff Road

11:45 p.m.: noise disturbance on Rolling Terrace Circle

One major accident, four minor accidents and 11 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 14

2:24 a.m.: theft under \$100 on S. Morgan Street

10:24 a.m.: suspicious ac-

tivity on E. U.S. Highway 377

7:27 p.m.: loose livestock on Lipan Highway

7:39 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377

Two minor accidents and 22 traffic stops

JULY 15

11:02 a.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377

1:55 p.m.: theft of property over \$2,500 on E. U.S. Highway 377

2:59 p.m.: assault on N. Plaza Drive

3:19 p.m.: driver with invalid license on E. Pearl

Street

4:10 p.m.: loose livestock on E. U.S. Highway 377

4:33 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377

5:22 p.m.: reckless driver on Old Granbury Road

6:54 p.m.: theft of property over \$100 and under \$750


7:31 p.m.: loose livestock on W. Moore Street

9:45 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377

Thirteen traffic stops occurred this day

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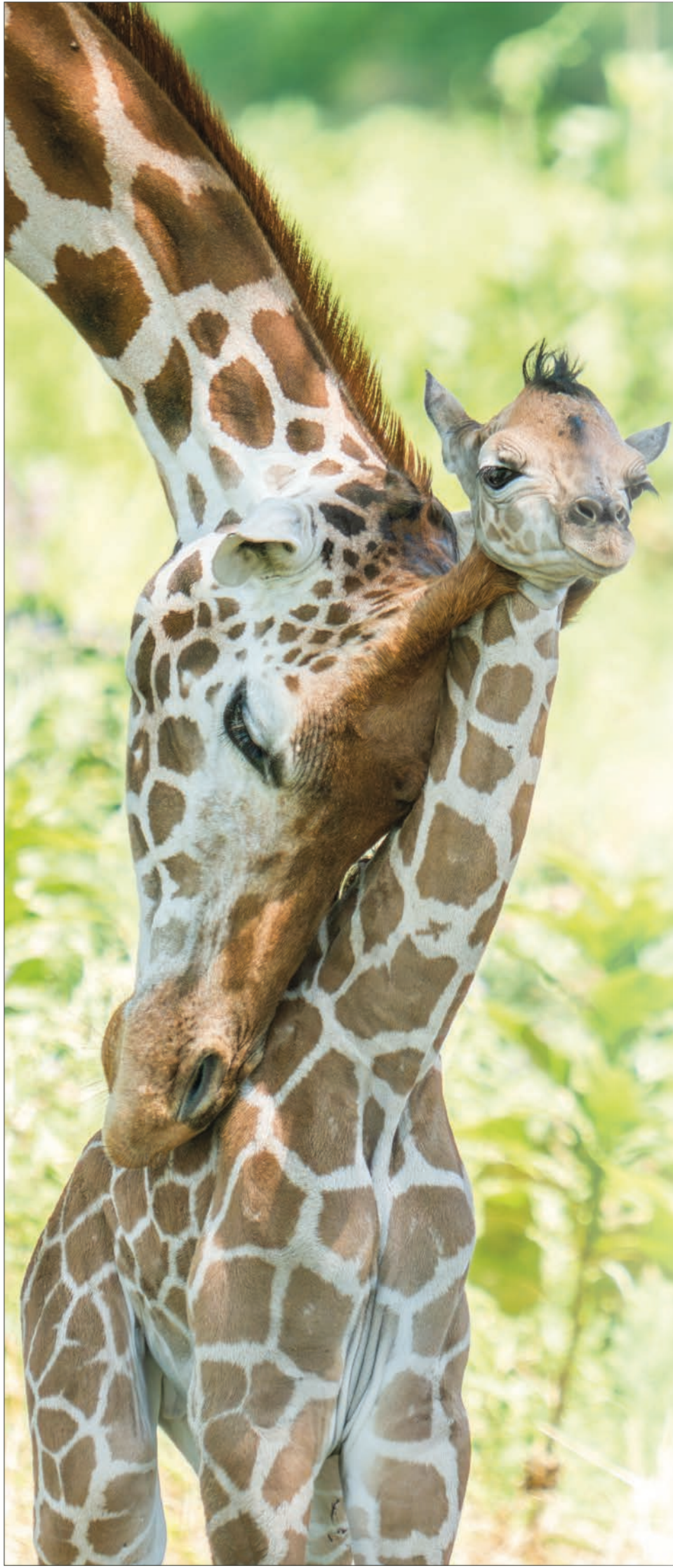
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Fossil Rim welcomes giraffe calf

From Staff Reports

Glen Rose — Fossil Rim Wildlife Park shared the exciting news it has welcomed a new giraffe calf to the park. The new baby was born to experienced mom “Snorgie” in late June and is doing well.

Fossil Rim Wildlife Center is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) wildlife conservation facility that specializes in captive-breeding programs for endangered and threatened animal species.

“Snorgie” is the mother to one of the four female calves born in March 2023, making her yearling daughter, “Waffles,” a big sister. The calf has yet to be named, and spends the majority of its day keeping close to mom and nursing.

Giraffes are herd animals, which means family groups spend time together and protect each other. When it comes to calves, it’s not uncommon to see other females pitch in to help care for the baby.

The park shared it is “excited to watch this new calf grow and see how it interacts with the rest of the giraffe tower.”

The giraffe calf can be seen on the public self-guided tour.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOSSIL RIM WILDLIFE CENTER

A new unnamed baby Giraffe was born to mom, Snorgie.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Local artist Reagan Deming was asked by Acton Elementary Principal Maggie Walton to paint a mural inside the school to celebrate learning and encourage young minds. One section of the mural depicts the words, “Smile, you’re at Acton Elementary School,” in colorful, bold letters.

Mural magic: Local artist brings color, inspiration to Acton Elementary School

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Local artist Reagan Deming has officially come full circle, harnessing the artistic talents she uncovered in her own elementary school to inspire a new generation of stu-

dents — at that very same institution, nonetheless. A Granbury native and former student of Acton Elementary School, Deming was recently asked by AES Principal Maggie Walton to create a mural inside the school to celebrate learning and encourage young minds. “She posted (the ques-

tion about looking for an artist) on Facebook, and I guess a whole bunch of people commented and said that I should do it,” Deming said. “Whenever I got her number, I reached out, and she said that I was the number one, so that suggested person, so that was it.” The mural, which took

Deming only five days to complete, features bright colors and inspiring messages aimed at young learners. One section outlines the phrase, “Where your story begins,” and features various symbols relating to the other depicts

PLEASE SEE MURAL | B4

GISD school board reviews budget and engages Zonta

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

The Granbury ISD school board meeting on July 15 commenced with a heartfelt tribute to retired GISD teacher Louise Hidalgo, who passed away recently. She was a beloved educator whose impactful career touched many students’ lives. The board highlighted her numerous contributions.

School board secretary Billy Wimberley led the invocation, focusing on community, purpose, and guidance.

Place seven trustee Karen Lowery led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

Superintendent Jeremy Glenn introduced the district budgeting process report, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to present. He set the stage for a video about school funding.

The video, produced by Raise Your Hand Texas, detailed how school funds are allocated. Over half of every dollar spent goes toward instruction and teacher

salaries, with a significant portion allocated to facility maintenance. The remaining funds cover additional staff, student needs, extracurricular programs, IT infrastructure, and safety provisions. The video emphasized the impact of inflation on school funding and called for legislative support to address rising operational costs.

Glenn discussed the upcoming 2024-25 budget, highlighting efforts to present a balanced budget and potentially lowering the school tax rate for the eighth consecutive year. He credited the finance team for its hard work and noted lower attrition rates and successful hiring efforts. The discussion also covered upcoming events, including teacher training and convocation, and praised the maintenance and transportation teams for their diligence.

Glenn presented the personnel report and recommended its approval; the board unanimously approved the report. During the consent agenda, Lowery

PLEASE SEE BUDGET | B3

Nace and her friends love their county and preserving its history

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

When Karen Nace moved to Hood County 35 years ago, she immediately began to notice something. While the city has always kept up with progress, folks have also been very careful to respect the history that helped make Granbury and the county famous.

Of course, being a part-time librarian from Pennsylvania, another area that greatly respects its history, Nace was familiar with such a passion. She began to listen carefully to her new neighbors.

"I was a substitute teacher for (Granbury ISD) initially, but then worked at Books on the Square and the Opera House ticket office, so I met many of the 'old-timers' who loved to share their history," she recalled. "They were proud of their families and their accomplishments."

Now, she herself is one of those who can't wait to share the list of achievements from folks in Hood County. Nace became one of the many Hood County Historical Society and Hood County Genealogical Society volunteers.

She also joined the Daughters of the American Revolution to honor the patriots who saved this country in the 1700s. She is currently the DAR registrar and heads both historical preservation

and conservation committees for the local Elizabeth Crockett Chapter.

"As registrar for DAR, I work with any woman who would like to join our chapter by getting her application completed and often finding and attaching approved proof for each generation back to the original patriot," she said. "It falls into my love of genealogy, but DAR is very specific about what they will accept and how they want it prepared. They've been doing this since 1890, and have it very well spelled out."

She also does historical and genealogical research when people ask. She has researched several businesses and homes in Granbury and done many family genealogies.

"There are several of us that enjoy the research and are always available to help others," she said. "Pecan Plantation has a genealogy group that I participate in and I have presented several historical programs for other organizations throughout the county."

While Nace loves being a volunteer, she is humble in her efforts and quick to note she is one among many making sure history is preserved.

"We have a hard-working core group, but we like to have at least two people together when the buildings are open, and for special events we need even more to make things go smoothly," she said.

PRESERVING HISTORY

Nace can be seen regularly volunteering at some of the area's most treasured historical sites, including the Old Jail Museum, the Train Depot and the Yeats-Duke Cabin. In fact, she is the volunteer director for Hood County Museums through the Genealogical/Historical Society, something she modestly owns up to when asked.

"I sort of became the director as others left or passed away, so I became director by default," she said with a smile. "I have never shied away from work and I love the history and the research. The other volunteers are wonderful to work with. It's a little like family."

Train service to the depot began in 1887, but the original depot burned in 1912. The current brick building was built in 1914 and operated passenger service until the early 1970s and freight until 1982.

"The City of Granbury fronted for a lease from the railroad in 1983 and subleased it to us in the same year. We have operated it for 41 years but are in need of both volunteer help and financial support in order to keep operating for the public benefit," Nace said. "One half the building is dedicated to train history and artifacts and one half contains the old county records that were being discarded by the county. Rather than have them go to a landfill, citizens of the

county came and took them home until we were able to restore the depot. We have all the book indexes on our website as well as many family stories and other historical facts at granburydepot.org."

She added that the Old Jail, which was built in 1885 and was in operation as the county jail until 1978, is also still having artifacts and stories added since the Genealogical/Historical Society took it over in the mid 1990s. The very first museum was the Yeats-Duke Cabin in 1975.

"The owners let the Historical Society operate a museum until 1980, then sold the building to a private individual and everything that had been donated was stored until 1995 when we opened the Old Jail," Nace said. "It is interesting to see history go full circle."

LOTS OF TRAFFIC

Nace said the museums average between 8,000-10,000 people each year among all three.

"Last month we had a Frenchman who was a policeman, and the next week a German who was in their law enforcement. Both had found us online and were very interested to see an old jail and the additional history we offer," she said. "This week we had a family from Missouri who came specifically to see our museums and help their children learn more about history."

She added the museums also open for school trips from GUSD, other schools and often home schoolers who want a field trip. Also, some of the senior centers and even scout troops in this and surrounding counties come to visit.

DEVOTED FAMILY

The Nace family originally moved to Texas in 1989 so their 18-year-old son could attend Texas A&M. In fact, he now works for the school.

"He had decided in fourth grade that was the college he would attend," Nace said. "His brother came as a junior at GHS and also graduated A&M but joined the Army and now works at the Pentagon in military intelligence. He doesn't mind visiting Texas, but never liked the summer heat."

Both boys grew up volunteering whenever their mom needed them. And though they have moved away and have their own lives now, they still help when needed.



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Karen Nace standing in the opening of the jail cells.

"The one at College Station still keeps my computers and electronics going for the museums," Nace said. "We get together in January for a family Christmas, and this year my younger son flew out again in the spring from Virginia to help shear llamas."

Those would be the llamas she and her husband, Bryan, have on their farm, along with a variety of other animals.

"My first love on the farm is our horses. In our younger days we rode endurance rides, but now they are just wonderful to be around," she said. "The chickens are very practical, and we have a variety so we get really colorful eggs."

"The goats and llamas help with weed eating, and we have a pond with bass, catfish, blue gill, and sunnies — I think, not my strong suit."

OTHER WORK

In 2003 when Andy Rash was elected Hood County Judge, she became his court administrator. They worked together for eight years, and Rash is a member of the Genealogical/Historical Society, honoring his family that came here in the 1850s.

"I did juggle volunteering with a real job until 2010, and was also running GHz Communications Inc. with my husband until 2020, when he retired and we closed that business," she

said. Now, alongside volunteering, the focus is on the farm in Mitchell Bend. Along with goats, llamas, horses and chickens are five dogs that Nace said "People thought they could just throw away."

BUSY, BUSY, BUSY

Nace said it's not uncommon for her to volunteer up to 60 hours a week, especially when she gets requests from folks about their families, offices or buildings. Also, she said the DAR asks their volunteers to keep close records of their work.

"It's almost embarrassing, but I don't sit still very well, so it seems I'm either doing something on the farm, working on the local history, or my family genealogy," she said.

She has visited many cemetery locations, including places not available to the general public, and has met many original family descendants through her work.

With the help of others over the years she has written or helped write several historical markers both for the state and also for the City of Granbury. Until recently she was writing the quarterly newsletter for the Genealogical/Historical Society.

"There aren't always enough hours in a day, week or month," she said, smiling.

PLEASE SEE MUSEUM | B5



Pictured is the old jail museum.



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28	HANK FM Lake Fest
OCTOBER	
3-27	The Sleepy Hollow Experience - Langdon Grounds
4-6	Oktoberfest
5	Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival
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HOOD OUTDOORS

Summer towing



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.

The Texas summer heat will stress most anything that is subjected to it. We generally focus on getting our vehicles ready for the heat but many folks will overlook their trailers. Many of us trailer our boats many miles each week. Spending a little time on maintenance on your trailer can save a big bundle down the road. This article covers trailer maintenance issues that can be applied most any time of year and especially in the summer.

One common failure on boat trailers or any trailer is the wheel bearings. Wheel bearings fail due to insufficient grease, worn bearings or due to water damage. In many cases a trailer that is not used on a regular basis will develop rust pits on the bearings which will eventually lead to failure. A trailer that is used more consistently may be less prone to pitting provided there is sufficient grease in the hub.

It is a good idea to rework and repack the bearings each year. This should keep you out of trouble. Make sure you refill your bearing protectors regularly. There are many different types of oil systems for trailer bearings. The idea here is to keep water out of the bearings. I usually try to ensure that the bearings are full after a couple of trips. I also like to feel the hub after a long trip to see if they're hot. If they are not hot to the touch they are probably in good shape. If they are hot, you should probably replace or repack them immediately.

Some of the newer bearing systems even have a sight glass to check liquid oil levels in the bearings.

I have found that for most trailers, a complete hub with new bearings and races is just a few dollars more than a replacement set of bearings, races and seals. You may want to consider purchasing a hub as a backup for your trailer especially if you trailer long distances. Those of you with a single axle trailer may want to seriously look into this option. Trying to replace damaged bearing races on the side of the road in 100-degree weather is definitely not in the fun category. Those of us with a tandem trailer can run on one axle for a short time even though it is not advisable. It wouldn't be a bad idea to have a spare hub for any boat trailer. One more thing: don't overfill some bearing protectors as they can over pressurize in the heat and damage seals or pop out seals allowing water to enter more easily.

As most of you know, tires can also fail in the heat. Make sure your tires are in good shape and properly inflated. Blowouts aren't any fun either.

Some other tips for trailering include making sure your hitch is rated to handle whatever load you are pulling. A bumper hitch may



COURTESY PHOTO

A trailer that is properly sized for the load will better cushion the boat down the road.

or may not be sufficient to pull your load. Some bumper hitches are only rated for small loads and trailer balls have different ratings. For example, a good bumper can be rated to pull 5000 pounds, but if it only has a 3500 pound ball on it, it's only good for 3500 pounds.

It is also a good policy to make sure your trailer is level when attached to the tow vehicle. A trailer that is too high in the front may sway when running down the road. Whatever hitch you do use, make sure the trailer latch is pinned. I use a pad lock to lock the latch to the ball hitch. Make sure your safety chains are attached as well even on a short trip. Losing a boat on the road would definitely not be fun.

Make sure your trailer is suited for the load. A real stiff trailer carrying a light boat can damage the boat by transmitting the bumps on the road to the hull. A trailer that is properly sized for the load will better cushion the boat down the road. Also make sure your boat is securely strapped down at the bow and at the transom. A boat bouncing around on the trailer will surely get damaged over time. I have had an experience where my hull was damaged

due to the trailer not properly supporting the bow weight. It can happen even on trailers provided with the boat.

If you are carrying a heavy load, position the load over the axle(s) if possible. For us striped fisherman, trailering the boat with a large capacity bait tank will add 8 pounds for every gallon of water on board (e.g. 50 gallons will add 400 pounds of load). Special consideration should be taken for this type of load addition.

Another overlooked item is the web strap on the trailer winch. These straps can dry rot fairly quick (mainly due to the sun and water). I watched my boat head out in the lake with no one aboard due to a failed strap while launching. Replace the entire strap or remove the dry rotted portion that will normally appear sun-bleached. There are normally several extra feet of the strap to use on the winch.

A big problem most of us have to deal with in the Brazos River is the salt content. It is advisable to get an aluminum or galvanized trailer when you buy a boat. A standard steel trailer will rust fairly quickly. You should rinse your trailer after every fishing trip

to remove the salt. This will extend the life of your trailer. If you do see rust, take care of it quick. There are special paints that are rust resistant.

Make sure you take care of that trailer as it must get you there. See you on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Lake Granbury summertime continues with lake temperatures in the upper 80s. Thermocline is present on many areas and is typically about 20 feet down in the water column. Striped bass fishing continues to be good to 12 pounds on live bait and trolled Alabama rigs. Largemouth bass are good in numbers with an occasional bigger fish to 7 pounds. Largemouth are best on crankbaits and soft plastics worked near docks and main lake points. Sand bass are good early and late from DeCordova to Indian Harbor. Look for schooling fish chasing baitfish in open water. Crappie are fair to good on jigs and minnows on submerged timber mid-lake. Catfish continue to be good at night on many areas of the lake with some big fish to 30 pounds possible.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE B1

requested the June 24 minutes be tabled to correct documentation discrepancies. Another board member proposed additional changes to the minutes, leading to a discussion and clarification on the amendments needed.

The board discussed amending the meeting minutes. The motion on the table was to strike specific lines that claimed insufficient documentation. After some discussion and agreement, the motion was amended to strike three specific lines from sections 11b, 11c, and 11d. One board member recused herself from voting as she was not present at the previous meeting — the amended motion passed with six votes in favor and one recusal.

GISD Board Vice President Courtney Gore, presented several community donations for various school funds. The donations included:

- \$630 from the Lady

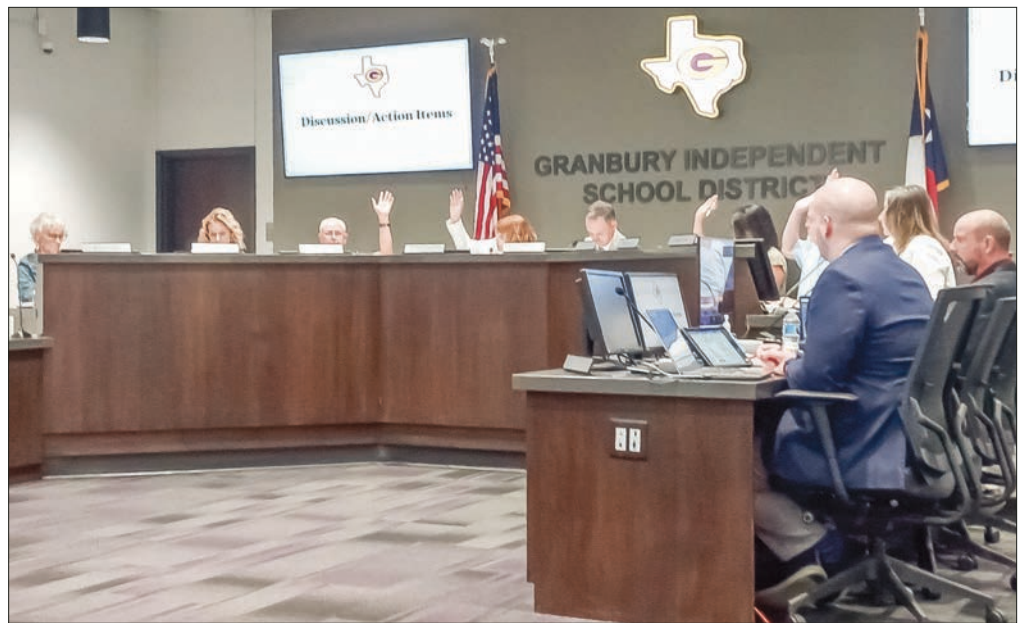
Pirates Softball Booster Club for summer camp T-shirts

- \$360 from the Granbury Optimist Club for the Junior Optimist Activity Fund
 - \$171 from the Granbury Optimist Club to support the GHS Band
 - \$200 from the Hood County Committee on Aging for the Pirate Production Studios Activity Fund
 - \$175 from Sweden Entertainment LLC for the Pirate Production Studios Activity Fund
 - \$175 from Prosperity Bank for the Robotics Activity Fund for the 2024-2025 season
 - \$400 from Eric Sullivan, Crystal Blake, and Michelle Lucero for Substitute Appreciation gift cards
 - Various amounts totaling \$5,179.05 from Operation School Supplies, Sharon Jessup, Granbury Optimist Club and Trustee Billy Wimberly for school supply orders
- The total amount donated was \$7,615.05. The board expressed gratitude to the community for its support.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda items with the noted amendments, and it passed unanimously.

Glenn presented the consideration for the approval of a warranty deed for 10.05 acres from the City of Granbury to the board of trustees for Granbury ISD. He provided background information about the property's history, including its use by the school district and the city's plans, which ultimately did not move forward. Due to a recall provision in the contract, the property is being reverted back to GISD. The board discussed the responsibilities of insurance, utilities, and property maintenance. A motion was made to accept the property back and authorize the board president to sign the deed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

GISD Chief Financial Officer Emmett Whitefield and Glenn presented a proposal from Zonta Intelligence for a comprehensive demographic study



COURTESY PHOTO

GISD trustees take a vote at the board meeting Monday, July 15.

for the 2024-2025 school year. The study would include:

- A 10-year enrollment forecast
- An analysis of demographics and enrollment history
- Geocoding of student databases

• Various other analyses
The proposed contract price is \$22,000, which is included in the budget. The board discussed the history and reliability of demographic studies and agreed to engage Zonta Intelligence for the survey.
The GISD board meet-

ing concluded successfully, maintaining a high decorum throughout. The board addressed many important issues, and with just two weeks remaining before the teachers return for the upcoming school year, the atmosphere was notably light-hearted and optimistic.



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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on July 13

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

GISD announces free and reduced meal policy for 2024-25

From Staff Reports

Granbury ISD Child Nutrition announced its policy for providing free and reduced-priced school meals for children served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program during the 2024-25 school year. As of July 15, households can access the free and reduced-price school meal application on the GISD website under the Child Nutrition Department Tab. Households can access the application online through MySchoolApps.com. The online meal application will be included in the student re-enrollment packet on Skyward Family Access. Paper applications are available at each GISD school office and at the administration building at 217 N. Jones St. Paper applications can be turned in to your student(s) school front office or to the Child Nutrition Department at the

administration building.

CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used to determine a child's eligibility for free or reduced-price school meals benefits:

INCOME

- Household income that is at or below the income eligibility levels

CATEGORICAL AND PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Households receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservation (FDPIR)
- Child's status as a foster child, homeless, runaway or migrant
- Child is enrolled in Head Start

INCOME ELIGIBILITY

For households that

qualify based on income, an adult in the household must complete the application. The paper application and online application both require the following information:

- Names of all household members.
- Amount, frequency and source of current income for adults and children.
- Last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member filling out the application, or if the adult does not have a social security number, check the box for "No Social Security Number."
- Signature of the adult household member completing the meal application is attesting the information provided is correct.

CATEGORICAL OR PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Granbury ISD Child Nutrition is working with state and local agencies to identify all children who

are categorically and program eligible. Granbury ISD Child Nutrition will mail a letter to households by July 31, indicating their meal benefit status. Once a letter is received, the household does NOT need to complete another application. Any households that do not receive a letter and feels it should have may contact the Child Nutrition Meal Application Specialist, Amanda Ford at 817-408-4091 or email amanda.ford@granburyisd.org. Any household that receives a letter and wishes to decline school meal benefits, must contact Amanda Ford at 817-408-4091 or email amanda.ford@granburyisd.org.

DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price school meal policy, Child Nutrition Meal Application Specialist, Amanda Ford, will be the reviewing official. She will review paper

and online applications and determine eligibility. Households dissatisfied with the reviewing official's eligibility determination may wish to discuss the decision with the reviewing official on an informal basis. Households wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request orally or in writing to Emmett Whitefield, chief financial officer, emmett.whitefield@granburyisd.org or at 217 N. Jones St., Granbury.

UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact their student's school and Amanda Ford in Child Nutrition at 817-408-4091. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for school meal benefits if the household's income falls at

or below the current income eligible guidelines. For a full breakdown of the income eligibility guidelines, visit the Child Nutrition page on the GISD website at www.granburyisd.org.

EMMA ROBERSON EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

Students attending Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy will not complete the National School Lunch Program and Breakfast Program meal application due to the campus qualifying for the Community Eligibility Program. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at no cost. However, households will have to complete the Children and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meal application form to qualify for the snack program. The CACFP application can be found by visiting the Child Nutrition page on the GISD website at www.granburyisd.org.

MURAL

FROM PAGE B1

the words, "Smile, you're at Acton Elementary School," in colorful, bold letters. "It's really just encouragement for the kids there," Deming said. "Whenever the kids walk in, it just brightens up the room. That first one says, 'Where your story begins,' and then the whole wall is full of different school-related things that they may end up getting interested in, so there's math things and science things and art, and all of that on the wall itself; that's meant to be a really great place for them to take pictures in front of on their first day of kindergarten. The one in the auditorium area, that one says 'Smile,' and they talked

about having all their school pictures taken in front of it." Deming noted the artwork has transformed the gray and drab space to a bright, colorful and cheerful environment for the students. "It brings some happiness into this school," she added. This experience also evokes heartwarming memories from Deming, as she was given the opportunity to give back to a school that nurtured her artistic abilities at such a young age. "I remember really finding out that I was good at art in, I think it was third grade, while I went to Acton Elementary School," she said. "(I have) memories of second and third grade there, so it was cool just remembering the music programs in the auditorium. I remember all the little, tiny memories

of being in third grade and trading pogs in that space. That was really cool to be able to put something that's semi-permanent in a space that has history for me." With a degree in music composition and a flourishing career as both a scenic designer and painter at the Granbury Opera House, Reagan's artistic journey has evolved over the years. Although she initially worked in title insurance, her passion for art blossomed after opening a local painting studio, Painting with a Twist, in 2018. After a challenging period during the pandemic, her mural work began to take off, and she quickly became a beloved figure in the community. In addition to her artwork at AES, Deming has painted murals for various local

businesses, including the Hood County Library and Lake View Inn — bringing her signature style to the community. "I've also got one, it was the Square Cafe, but it's now a shoe store," she said. "The bar scene with all the people in it? That was a fun one. My whole family is actually painted into that one because I needed people in the mural, so I was like, 'I need to take a picture of you in this pose,' so I sent that to all my brothers, my dad, and my sister-in-laws, too. I said, 'OK, you need to look like this,' so you can see my brothers and their wives in those paintings, too." As she reflected on her journey, Deming emphasized the joy of helping others visualize their dreams through art.

"One of the things I also really love to do is help people who can't necessarily do the creative thing, but they have a vision for something," she said. "I want to help that come to life and help people be creative without them having to go through the stress of actually doing the painting." With word getting around the community about Deming's latest AES mural, she has started to receive more interest from the public regarding future artistic commissions. "I have gotten a lot more attention for this mural than any of the other ones," she said. "I think it's the time of year and just how bright and happy it is, but it spurred off some more mural opportunities for me, which is great." While she can't guarantee

the mural's permanence at AES, Deming said she hopes it will remain visible for many years to come. "I didn't put my name on it anywhere, so I'm not like, asking the kids to remember me or anything, but who knows how long they'll be up there?" she said. "I can't say that it's going to be there forever, but the kids in a decade probably will still be able to see it, so hopefully it stays for a while." Through her art, Deming not only enriches her community but also fosters a lasting connection between past and future generations of students — all the while adding a splash of color to their lives.



Artist Reagan Deming standing in front of her Smile mural at Acton Elementary School.

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



Acton Elementary School's latest mural, which took local artist Reagan Deming only five days to complete, features bright colors and inspiring messages aimed at young learners. One section outlines the phrase, "Where your story begins," and features various symbols relating to school subjects.

COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

From left: Pitcher Reese Tryon and catcher Allyson Dobbs for the Lady Rattlers. Jesse Owen, catcher for the Rattler baseball team.

SPORTS Roundup

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

As pitcher and catcher, Tolar's Reese Tryon and Allyson Dobbs led the Lady Rattlers to a lot of victories together.

Now, both have been selected by the Texas Sports Writers Association as honorable mention Class 2A All-State.

Tryon, who graduated recently, posted 62 career wins and had over 650 strikeouts during her time with Tolar. Her senior season she was 16-2 with 191 strikeouts.

Dobbs, a junior, hit a team-record 11 home runs this past season, along with batting .433. She also had eight doubles, meaning 19 of her 39 hits were for extra bases, along with driving in 41 runs.

This past season the battery helped the Lady Rattlers advance to the Class 2A Region II semifinals, their deepest playoff run in team history. In each of the previous two seasons they were key in Tolar reaching the third round in 2022 and second round in 2023.

TOLAR ALL-STATE BASEBALL
Catcher Jesse Owen of

the Rattlers was named first-team Class 2A All-State by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Owen, a recent graduate, helped the Rattlers win the District 13-2A championship. They subsequently advanced to the third round of the postseason, finishing the season with a 16-10-2 record.

Owen was also District 13-2A Co-Most Valuable Player this past season, sharing the award with fellow senior Talan Brown.

LOCKHART NEW CORNERSTONE COACH

Brandt Lockhart has been named the head boys basketball and baseball coach at Cornerstone Christian Academy.

Lockhart has been the varsity head basketball coach at Joshua High School for the past seven years. During his time leading the Owls, he guided them to their first postseason appearance in 39 years in 2021, earning him Johnson County Coach of the Year honors. That was followed by the program's first 20-victory season in four decades in 2022.

Before coming to Joshua,

Lockhart led Clarendon to the playoffs six times in his seven seasons at the helm, including two appearances at the state tournament and a state runner-up finish in 2017. He was named Panhandle Coach of the Year in 2011 and 2017.

Lockhart has seven years of baseball experience as a varsity assistant. He helped lead Clarendon to three district championships, three bi-district championships, two area championships and one regional quarterfinals championship.

"I am excited for the opportunity to lead the students at Cornerstone in athletics and in the classroom. I am thankful that the Lord and the administration have given me this opportunity."

Lockhart has a bachelor's degree from McMurry University where he played basketball and met his wife Debby. They have two children, Ashley, 31, and Chance, 26.

TRACK

Two competitors from Granbury will participate in the USA Track and Field Junior Olympics July 22-28 in Bryan-College Station.

Elijah Johnston, an incoming senior at Granbury High,

will compete as the anchor leg of the Boys 17-18 4x100-meter relay for Fort Worth Xpress track club. The relay team finished third in the Region 12 championships in Seguin recently, clocking a time of 41.23 seconds.

Johnston finished third in the state in the 200-meter dash at the University Interscholastic League Class 5A State Meet for Granbury High in May.

Also competing will be Malachi Dolan in the Boys 9-10 age group, qualifying in the 1500 run for Mach 1 Track Club in Weatherford. He was second with a time of 5:27.84.

Malachi is the younger brother of Gannon Dolan, who won a national championship in the 3000 in the Boys 13-14 age group in 2022 and finished second in the 15-16 category last summer.

Also, Caden Davis, a teammate of Johnston on the Pirates high school team, qualified for the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics in Greensboro, North Carolina July 29-Aug. 3. Competing for the Fort Worth Flyers in the Boys 17-18 division, he ran the second leg of the fifth-place 4x400 relay at the Region 18

Championships at Chisholm Trail High School, posting a time of 3:34.03.

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 tee box 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

Ticket purchases for Granbury Pirate football games are now digital. Cash and checks are no longer accepted.

Season tickets will become available 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 55 and older, also available by credit only.

Contact Amber Nikzad at 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

MUSEUM

FROM PAGE B2

NOT ALONE

Nace is quick to give credit to her fellow volunteers and their hard work and dedication.

"The volunteer duties are not just mine, there is a core of people who keep all three museums running smoothly. It takes a village to manage all the tasks, and each person has something to offer that makes our museums special," she said. "When I came here and was accepted into the original group, they too had their talents that they shared as volunteers. Everyone needs

to understand, volunteering costs that person something, maybe giving of their time, gas money to drive to the locations, and even a learning curve, adding to their history base.

"To me, I appreciate a volunteer who gives freely of their time and energy to make our county a friendly place to visit. None of us collect a paycheck for what we do, but we all do it to the best of our abilities.

"It has been with the help of other volunteers that we keep all this going and it makes me look good."

Nace praised one volunteer who has digitized over 150 of the old books and

ledgers at the depot and is working with old paper files now, some dating back to the 1875 time frame.

"She works when she can, and it is the only guarantee the records will survive another 100 years," Nace said.

JOIN THE EFFORT

Nace said more volunteers are always needed.

"We are always asking the local visitors who come by the museums to consider volunteering. We need additional help to make our museums as special as we believe they are," she said. "Whenever anyone comes to visit we ask them to sign in so we have an idea where

they come from."

Anyone interested in helping can come by the museums when they are open or come to a meeting at the Depot at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month from January through October.

"We ask that the individual be willing to give us at least one afternoon a month. Most of us are willing to shift days if we can in case of a conflict, but the schedule seems to work well," she said. "One of our regular volunteers grew up in Granbury, but lives in Arlington now and still drives down once a month to help us out. The rest of us come from all over the county to provide some his-

tory and entertainment for our visitors."

Nace said the hours for the public to visit the Old Jail and the Yeats-Duke Cabin are Friday-Sunday from 1-4 p.m., sometimes longer, depending on the volunteers. They try to staff the Depot Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1-4 p.m.

"If we had more volunteers, we would happily be open more," she said. "There is a lot to see and a lot of original records at the depot. We have the largest collection of artifacts in the county and rather than box them away, we display everything we can. There is something

for everyone."

MORE TO COME

The Genealogical/Historical Society is in the process of rebuilding the Snider Cabin that was originally moved to Granbury from Hill City in 1968, Nace said.

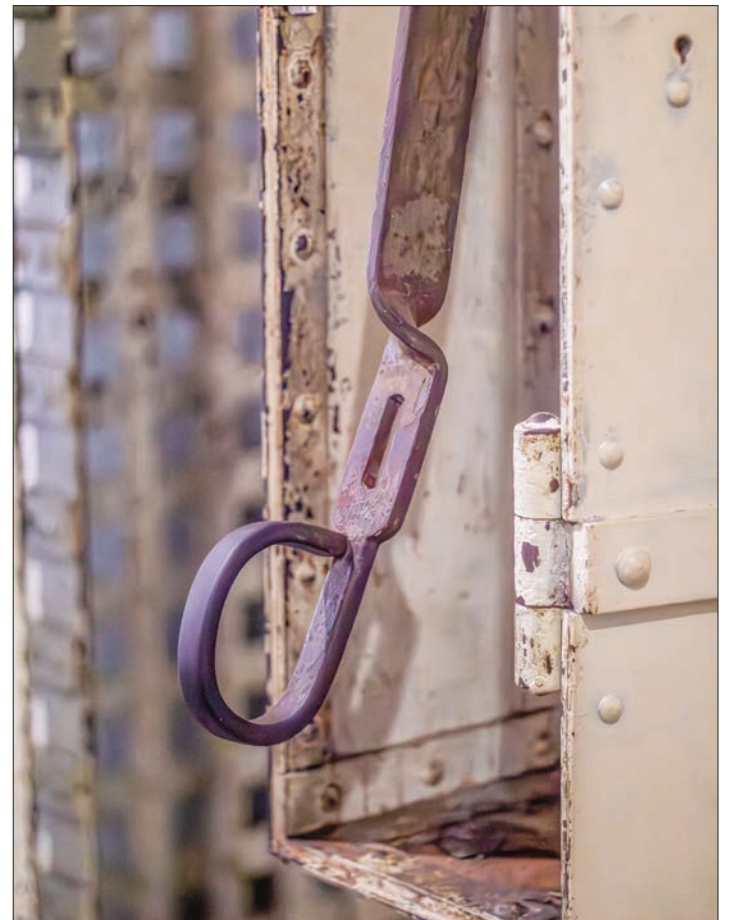
"It was in very bad shape, but we have finally found a great log cabin builder to help us restore the 1800s building," she said. "This endeavor is not cheap and we are definitely looking for donations to our 501(c)(3) to complete the project.

"In a town where 'Texas History Lives' we strive to keep our history alive!"



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

One of the oldside rooms that has been a bedroom and office show what it looked like when it was the old dispatch set up at the jail museum.



The lever that slams shut the doors on the cells is why jail is sometimes called the slammer.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

TSU offensive coordinator Adam Austin named to Dave Campbell's Texas Football 40 Under 40 list

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State's offensive coordinator Adam Austin received special recognition this week, as Dave Campbell's Texas Football named him on its 40 Under 40 list.

"Dave Campbell's Texas Football is proud to honor the best young coaches across Texas with our fifth annual 40 Under 40, recognizing 40 of the rising stars in the coaching ranks," Dave Campbell's Texas Football detailed.

Austin is entering his fourth season with Tarleton State, and his first as the offensive coordinator. He spent the last three seasons as the quarterbacks coach and pass game coordinator for the Texans. Austin will continue to lead the quarterbacks in 2024.

Dave Campbell's Texas Football wrote that Austin "has a penchant for developing quarterbacks into all-conference and national award contenders."

Last season with Austin's guidance, the Texans averaged 33.3 points per game, the second best average in the United Athletic Conference, 13th most in all of FCS. They also averaged 430.5 yards per game (second in the UAC, 14th in the FCS) with 6.4 yards per play (most in the UAC, 11th in the FCS).

Over the past three seasons, Austin's quarterbacks have consistently put up elite performances. Victor Gabalis ranked first in yards per completion in the conference, as well as fourth in overall passing efficiency last season. His best game was in Tarleton's 59-17



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

romping of Stephen F. Austin, where he threw for 389 yards and four touchdowns on 15-of-19 passing. In Austin's first

two seasons at Tarleton, his quarterbacks produced seven 300-plus yard performances, including the most in the Western

Athletic Conference in 2022 with five. Also that season, the Texans finished third in the WAC with 24 passing touch-

downs, throwing for 2,883 yards across 11 games, averaging 262.1 passing yards per contest.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Money magazine has named Tarleton State University one of the "Best Colleges in America" for 2024.

Money Magazine names Tarleton State among "Best Colleges in America"

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Money magazine has named Tarleton State University one of the "Best Colleges in America" for 2024.

Money's analysis showcases the country's top colleges and universities based on graduation rates, cost of attendance, financial aid and alumni salaries.

The magazine looked at more than 2,400 four-year public and private nonprofit colleges and universities in the U.S. Following the evaluation process, only 31% of institutions were honored. The three main categories

were quality of education, affordability and student outcomes.

"This recognition is a credit to the tremendous work of our faculty, staff and students," said Tarleton State President Dr. James Hurley. "We are proud to provide a university experience where access and opportunity come first. Our commitment to helping students grow academically, socially and professionally through a first-class education is unwavering."

The star ratings system is designed to help students build a list of standout schools that fit their budget.

Tarleton State received three stars.

Other Texas colleges and universities named on the list include Baylor University, Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, Texas Tech University and the University of Texas at Austin.

Tarleton State students hail from 230-plus Texas counties, 48 states and 47 countries. Over 50% are the first in their family to attend college. As a result of the work of faculty, staff and students, the university is turbocharging the economy with a total annual impact of \$2 billion for the state.

TSU names Dr. Keldon Bauer interim dean of Dr. Sam Pack College of Business

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Dr. Keldon Bauer has been named interim dean of Tarleton State University's Dr. Sam Pack College of Business, effective July 15.

In his current role as associate dean in the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business and associate professor of finance, Bauer is responsible for undergraduate

students and curriculum in addition to his teaching responsibilities. He played an integral role in the successful application for accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and previously served as a department head.

"Dr. Bauer has filled multiple roles admirably during his time at the university," said Dr. Diane Stearns,

Tarleton State provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. "We are grateful for his contributions and appreciate his willingness to serve in this capacity."

Bauer earned a bachelor's degree in finance from the University of Utah and holds an MBA in quantitative analysis from Utah's David Eccles School of Business. He received a

doctorate in finance with minors in economics and statistics from Texas Tech University.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this new role," said Bauer. "I look forward to working with our outstanding, student-centered faculty and industry partners to continue delivering world-class business education from the Dr. Sam Pack College of Business."

For more information on Tarleton State's Dr. Sam Pack College of Business, visit www.tarleton.edu/cob/.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY
Dr. Keldon Bauer



Tarleton State University Tennis ranked in top 10 among all Texas D1 programs

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State Tennis has quickly become an elite NCAA Division I program. According to the official ranking system used at the collegiate level, Tarleton State is in the top-10 in their region.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association posted its ITA Collegiate Tennis Rankings for all regions recently, slotting Tarleton State No. 9 in the Texas Regional Rankings. There are 22 NCAA Division I programs in the state of Texas, and in just four years of being a D1 program, Tarleton is recognized as one of the top teams in the state.

Over the past three seasons, Tarleton has gone 52-15 (.776), 18-3 (.857) in conference matches, with top-two finishes in both the regular season standings and conference tournament in each of the last two years. Last season the Texans finished 17-4 and 6-1 in Western Athletic Conference play, advancing to the WAC Tournament championship match.

Under head coach Elianne Douglas-Miron, in four years at the D1 level, Tarleton has won the WAC Coach of the Year award, the WAC Player of the Year award, the WAC Freshman of the Year award, and 14 All-Conference honors (seven Singles All-WAC First Team, one Doubles All-

WAC First Team, five Singles All-WAC Second Team, one Doubles All-WAC Second Team). They've also earned 33 midseason monthly or weekly awards (two Singles Player of the Month, one Doubles Team of the Month, 15 Singles Player of the Week, and 15 Doubles Team of the Week).

ITA's Top-10 Regional Rankings are Texas A&M at No. 1, Texas at No. 2, Texas Tech at No. 3, Baylor at No. 4, SMU at No. 5, TCU at No. 6, Rice at No. 7, UTSA at No. 8, Tarleton State at No. 9, and Texas A&M- Corpus Christi at No. 10.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Two camps remain in July and early August for campers to learn and focus on technique, individual instruction, tennis scoring format, games and point play.

Texan Tennis hosts summer camps at Tarleton Tennis Facility

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - The new Tarleton Tennis Facility will play host to Texan Tennis Camps for the first time this summer.

Two camps remain in July and early August for campers to learn and focus on technique, individual instruction, tennis scoring format,

games and point play.

From July 29-31, there will be a camp for ages 13-18, with the final camp set for Aug. 1-2 for ages 5-12.

Tarleton Tennis Camps will be staffed with Tarleton State coaches alongside current and former members of the Tarleton State tennis team.

Essential camp details can be found below. For full in-

formation and to register, visit www.tarletontennis-camps.com.

Tarleton Texan Tennis Camp July 29-31
Ages: 13-18
Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon
Cost: \$150
Tarleton Texan Tennis Camp Aug. 1-2
Ages: 5-12
Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon
Cost: \$100

Operation School Supplies

StoneWater partnership results in new location, time for distribution day

From Staff Reports

In an exciting new partnership, StoneWater Church will now host Operation School Supplies to ensure that local students will have everything they need for the upcoming school year.

As StoneWater Church officially takes the helm of the organization, OSS' school supply distribution location and time has been changed to Tuesday, Aug. 6, from noon-6 p.m. at the church lo-

cated at 911 E. U.S. Highway 377.

More than 1,500 applications were received for Operation School Supplies this year. Families who applied for assistance will be able to attend and pick up their school supply kits. Those who missed the application deadline can still participate in the resource fair, with the possibility of receiving extra kits on a first-come, first-served basis. OSS

applications will also still be accepted for an extra nine days.

For questions about sponsorships or volunteering, contact Raesha Garland at raesha.garland@stonewater-church.com.

For questions about applications, contact Granbury Independent School District's Director of Community Relations Lissa Oliver at lissa.oliver@granburyisd.org.



PHOTO BY ROMANR ADOBESTOCK.COM

More than 1,500 applications were received for Operation School Supplies this year. Families who applied for assistance will be able to attend and pick up their school supply kits.

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

Sheriff Oran "Mornin' Son" Baker



BY MAURICE WALTON

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

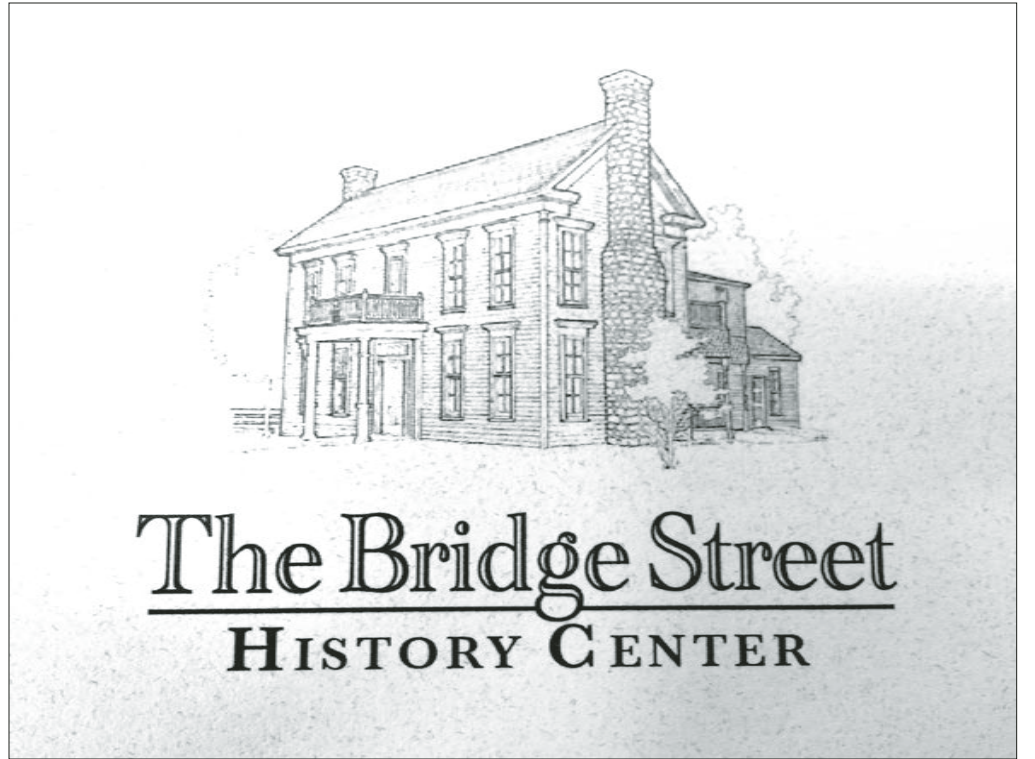
I never met Sheriff Oran "Mornin' Son" Baker. He died July 20, 1975. My wife and I didn't move here until 1978. Even though I didn't know Sheriff Baker, I felt like I did. He was Vircy Macatee's father. Vircy was my friend, and she never tired of telling me about her family. In fact, as I have mentioned before, Vircy wrote two books — and I mean big books — on her Hood County family lineages, the Bakers and the Barkers. I heard a lot of stories about most of the major players in those families. She spoke most frequently about her great-grandfather, Wilson Hopkins Barker, and her father, Oran Baker. I have written about Wilson Hopkins Barker, and from what I can tell, he was a character. Today, I want to tell you a little — just a little —

about Oran Baker.

Oran was born in Paluxy Jan. 7, 1894. His father, Austin Baker, died at age 41, when Oran was 5 years old. At the time of his father's death, Oran's mother, Lelu, was 26 years old with six children, and she was expecting a seventh. (I know that sounds a little questionable, but I have reviewed the records, including the 1900 census records.) In her book about the Bakers, Vircy details the sad events surrounding Austin's death. After Austin's death, Lelu remarried and the family moved to Mitchell Bend, where Oran began school for the first time at the age of 12. Oran was drafted into military service in 1918 and was discharged in 1919 when World War I ended. When he returned to Mitchell

Bend, he met and married Fern May Barker Sept. 19, 1920. Oran and Fern had three children, Vircy, Mary Geneva and Oran Clinton. After reading Vircy's account of the early years of her parents' marriage, I can only say it was a hard scramble existence, just like most people in rural Hood County in the 1920s and 1930s. Oran did what he had to do to feed, clothe and educate his family. He worked on State Highway 144 when it was being built, he raised some peanuts, livestock and chickens. As Vircy remembered it, her mother and the kids helped with "the plowing, hoeing, taking care of the garden and orchard, as well as taking care of the chickens, hogs and milk cows." Finally, in 1950, Oran, in an effort to fulfill his dream of becoming a law man, announced for the office of sheriff and tax assessor of Hood County.

Before I tell you a little about Baker's years as sheriff, you need to know this little tidbit about how he qualified to run for the office.



The Bridge Street HISTORY CENTER

When Oran decided to run for sheriff of Hood County, he lived in Mitchell Bend and part of his property was in Hood County and part was in Somervell County. Of course, to serve as sheriff of Hood County, he had to live in Hood County. According to Vircy, the Baker home was built on the county line. I mean, the county line literally ran through their house. The bedrooms were in Somervell County and the kitchen was in Hood County. Vircy said her father taught her to tell people that she slept in Somervell County and ate in Hood County.

Oran was first elected sheriff and tax assessor of Hood County in 1951. He served until 1954. He served again from 1969-1972. Yes, I said he served as sheriff and tax assessor. At this point in Texas, in rural counties, the office of sheriff and tax assessor was often a combined office. You will have to remember, as hard as it is for us to grasp today, Hood County's population in those years probably didn't exceed 6,500. In Hood County, the offices of sheriff and tax assessor were not split into separate offices until 1971. During the time he served as tax assessor, he "deputized" his wife, Fern, and she worked as tax assessor, and Baker ran the sheriff's "department." During both terms, the sheriff's department was a one man show. There were no deputies. If the sheriff needed help to make an arrest, he would deputize a fellow citizen. Incidentally, the only time Baker found it necessary to carry a gun was when he was going to make an arrest. It is also worth noting that back when Baker was Sheriff, he and Fern lived in what is today the old Hood County jail. Fern cooked for the two of them and for any prisoners who happened to be incarcerated in the old jail.

One of the most interesting events of Baker's tenure as sheriff occurred during his first term of office. On Aug. 6, 1951, a stranger showed up in town — Jesse Woodson James. The events that occurred over the next

nine days form the basis for one of the most interesting/controversial legends in the annals of Hood County history. The sheriff was notified by the famous outlaw's grandson, Jesse James III, that Jesse was in town. Now, I say Jesse although the man's name was really J. Frank Dalton, unless, of course, you believe his story, in which case it was Jesse Woodson James. To add to the confusion, I have to note here there were some folks who asserted the name J. Frank Dalton was also an alias. Anyway, I will just refer to him as Jesse. Jesse died Aug. 15, 1951. During the nine days from the time he arrived until his final departure, Jesse talked about his true identity to Sheriff Baker. He also shared some of his exploits as an outlaw and Confederate bushwhacker. Upon Jesse's death, the sheriff was called upon to do a postmortem examination of the body. I've read it, and it is very interesting. He determined the body had scars consistent with wounds Jesse suffered during his time as an outlaw/bushwhacker. Baker counted at least 32 bullet wounds "from his forehead to his knees," a rope burn around his neck and evidence of severe burning to his feet. Jesse, a/k/a J. Frank Dalton, was 103 or 107 when he died, depending upon whose account of the story you read. Although it probably goes without saying, there was some skepticism around town about the man's true identity and the postmortem examination. Ben Estes, a local funeral home owner and the man responsible for Jesse's interment, insisted that the sheriff counted every "old age spot" on the body as a bullet wound. At any rate, the sheriff was convinced he had met and examined the body of Jesse James. Never mind there was a body found April 3, 1882, in St. Joseph, Missouri, that the authorities identified as Jesse Woodson James. There was an explanation for that inconsistency. Needless to say, there is more to Jesse James' visit to Granbury than space will al-

low me to relate.

You should be asking "Did people really call Sheriff Baker 'Mornin' Son', and, if they did, where did he get the nickname?" Let me say first of all that most of the people I know that lived here while Oran Baker was sheriff don't remember that much about his actual service. They were too young. What they do remember is that he was called "Mornin' Son." Why? In the June 13, 2007, edition of the Hood County News in an article entitled "Mornin' Son," Pete Kendall explained that Sheriff Baker greeted every male he encountered with the salutation "Mornin,' son." The nickname had its genesis in that common greeting. Vircy, who was interviewed for the piece by Pete Kendall, added "I really don't know where that came from, but I don't remember him speaking to someone that he didn't say 'Mornin,' son.' It didn't make any difference if it was morning or midnight. It was 'Mornin,' son, how are you'." And let me just add, that most of the "local" people I have spoken with about this unusual nickname, and how Sheriff Baker acquired it, say that it not only didn't matter what time of day it was when he used the greeting, it didn't matter whether the person he greeted was man, woman or child. It was the same greeting for everyone: "Mornin,' son."

There are a lot of other stories I could tell you about Sheriff Baker. Vircy recorded more than a few in her book, and I have heard a few from other people. To Vircy, he was the best sheriff Hood County ever had, and that is as it should be. He was her father. My conclusion about Sheriff Oran "Mornin' Son" Baker? He was a character, but he was well liked by the people he served. And, after all, isn't that what it all boils down to? What did the people he served think about him? As for me, I believe he was a colorful man and just the man for Hood County in its early transition from a rural, agricultural community to the Best Historical Small Town in America.



COURTESY PHOTO

Sheriff Oran "Mornin' Son" Baker



BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

Don't let booze on the cruise cost you your driver's license



CHARLIE SHUGART

Assistant Public Information Officer,
Brazos River Authority

Ever imagine cruising down a road that has no stop signs, speed limits, or lanes? Sounds like a video game.

Now, picture you're on a boat. Unlike roads, there are no clear paths or constant reminders to slow down when you're on the water. Sure, there are markers, but they're fewer than traffic signs. And unlike a highway, boats can come at you from any direction.

Like driving a car, operating a craft on the water requires respect for the power of the vessel and the impor-

ance of prioritizing safety. It may not feel as serious because chances are, if you're heading out on a watercraft, you're doing it purely for fun. Which brings us to people who drink on boats and don't correlate that to drinking and driving a car.

It's like taking the driving test with sunglasses on at night; your ability to focus and react plummets. This is why boating under the influence is just as dangerous, if not more so, than driving drunk.

Yes, having an open container on a boat in Texas is legal. What is not legal is for the person operating the boat to knock back a few. A watercraft driver could lose their driver's license, face a fine, jail time and ruin lives, all for boating while intoxicated.

Just like anyone operating a vehicle on land, someone operating a boat is consid-

ered legally intoxicated if their blood alcohol level is 0.08 or greater.

OK, so you're an experienced boater. You can traverse the reservoir with ease. It's become like second nature. I see you shaking your head thinking nothing could phase you.

But it's not that simple. Exposure to noise, vibration, sun, glare, wind and the motion of the water all affect boat operators and passengers, according to BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water.

"Research shows that hours of exposure to boating stressors produces a kind of a fatigue, or 'boater's hypnosis' which slows reaction time almost as much as if you were legally drunk. Adding alcohol or drugs to boating stress-factors intensifies their affects — each drink multiplies your accident risk."
— BoatUS Foundation for

Boating Safety and Clean Water

So, how exactly does alcohol have an impact? According to BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water, when a boater or passenger drinks, the following occurs:

- Cognitive abilities and judgment deteriorate, making it harder to process information, assess situations and make good choices.
- Physical performance is impaired — evidenced by balance problems, lack of coordination and increased reaction time.
- Vision is affected, including decreased peripheral vision, reduced depth perception, decreased night vision, poor focus and difficulty in distinguishing colors (particularly red and green).
- Inner ear disturbances can make it impossible for a person who falls into the water to distinguish up from

down.

Alcohol creates a physical sensation of warmth — which may prevent a person in cold water from getting out before hypothermia sets in.

Alcohol is one of the main causes of boating accidents in the state, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. A boat operator with a blood alcohol concentration above 0.10% is estimated to be more than 10 times as likely to die in a boating accident than an operator with zero blood alcohol concentration, according to BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water.

And worst of all, boating while intoxicated can shatter someone's life, even when they weren't the one breaking the law.

Law enforcement officers in Texas have the authority to stop and board any vessel.

They can check for compliance with boating safety regulations and conduct sobriety tests. Texas law establishes the following penalties for BWI, according to Boat-ed.com.

First conviction carries a fine of up to \$2,000 and/or jail time of up to 180 days. Second conviction carries a fine of up to \$4,000 and/or jail time of up to one year.

Third conviction carries a fine of up to \$10,000 and/or jail time of two to 10 years.

Creating a safe and enjoyable boating experience for everyone starts with recognizing your vessel as a powerful machine. Recreational boaters who prioritize responsible operation contribute to a positive boating culture.

Enjoy the water this summer. But make sure everyone else gets the chance to do the same.

"Research shows that hours of exposure to boating stressors produces a kind of a fatigue, or 'boater's hypnosis' which slows reaction time almost as much as if you were legally drunk. Adding alcohol or drugs to boating stress-factors intensifies their affects — each drink multiplies your accident risk."

BOATUS FOUNDATION FOR BOATING SAFETY AND CLEAN WATER



PHOTO BY TYLER ADOBESTOCK.COM

Enjoy the water this summer. But make sure everyone else gets the chance to do the same.

H&CN Junior



National Moon Day, observed on July 20th, commemorates the day humans first set foot on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission in 1969. For kids, National Moon Day is an opportunity to explore the wonders of space, learn about the historic moon landing, and appreciate the significance of lunar exploration.

Families can engage in educational activities, such as watching documentaries about the Apollo 11 mission, reading books on space exploration, and exploring online resources that provide insights into

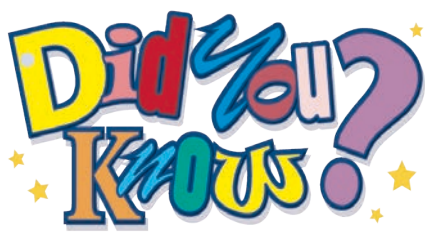
the moon and space travel.

Parents and caregivers can share interesting facts about the moon, its phases, and the astronauts who took part in the historic moon landing. Kids may be inspired to create moon-themed art projects or even participate in stargazing activities to observe the moon in the night sky.

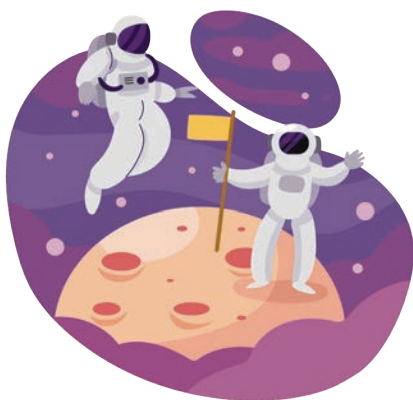
National Moon Day encourages families to reflect on the achievements of space exploration and inspire future generations to reach for the stars. Observing this day is a wonderful opportunity for kids to develop an interest in science, technology, en-

gineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, fostering a curiosity about the universe beyond our planet.

So, on July 20th, let the imagination soar, and take a moment to appreciate the historic milestone of the moon landing. National Moon Day is a celebration of human achievement, curiosity, and the endless possibilities of exploring the cosmos.



GRAVITY ON THE MOON IS ONLY ONE-SIXTH AS STRONG AS GRAVITY ON EARTH. IF YOU JUMPED ON THE MOON, YOU'D GO SIX TIMES HIGHER.

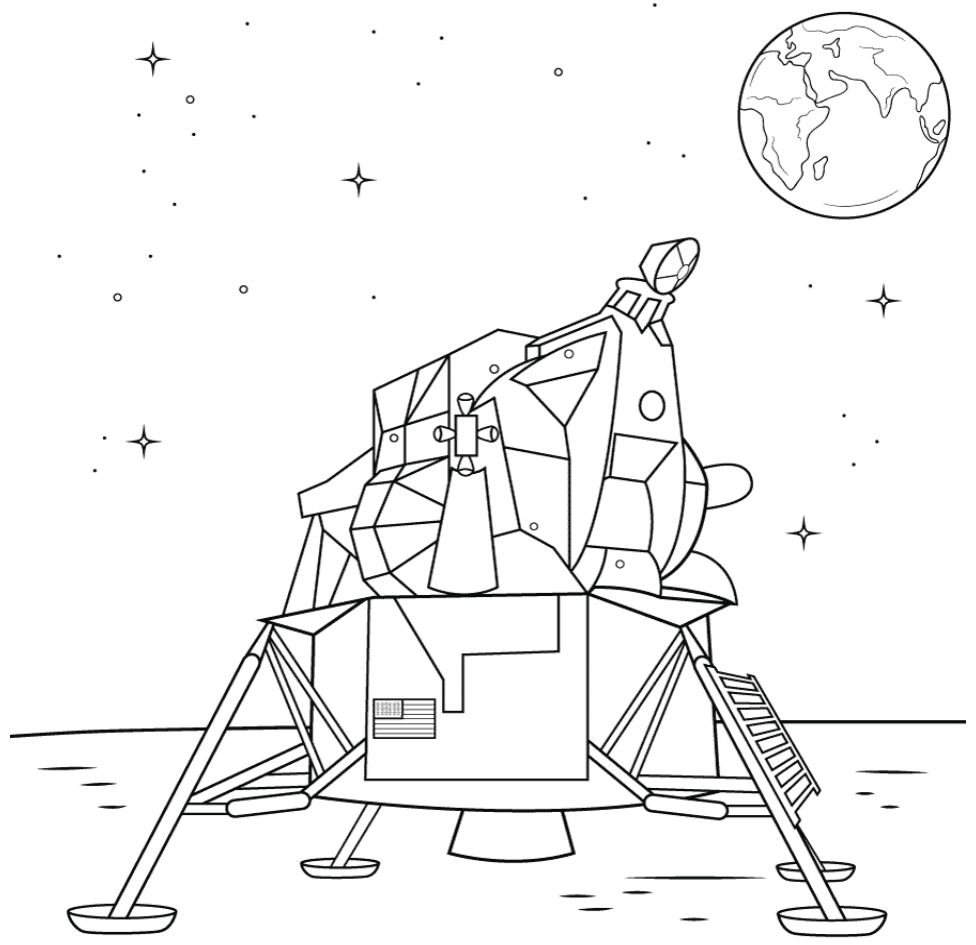


THIS DAY IN...



HISTORY

- **1810:** CITIZENS OF BOGOTA DECLARE THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROM SPAIN.
- **1960:** SIRIMA BANDARANAIKE OF CEYLON BECOMES THE WORLD'S FIRST ELECTED FEMALE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT.
- **1969:** ASTRONAUT NEIL ARMSTRONG BECOMES THE FIRST MAN TO WALK ON THE MOON.



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RC Boat Show makes waves in Granbury

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

On Saturday afternoon, July 13, the Western Area Modeling Society (W.A.M.S) hosted its inaugural “W.A.M.S on the Water” event at Hewlett Park.

Finace Bogle coordinated the event, which saw approximately 20 entries, a mix of adults and children participating, and numerous spectators in attendance.

“We had advertised on some of the Hood County pages as well as our Facebook page to get the word out,” Bogle explained. The event featured various radio-controlled (RC) boats. “We were all out there just enjoying the hobby. We had some sailboats, speed boats, gas boats, electric — a little bit of everything,” Bogle added.

July 13’s event marked the first RC boat show in Granbury, aiming to bring together RC boat enthusiasts who typically race or run their boats with a small group of friends. “We wanted to get together; this was a first of its kind in Granbury. We’re planning on hosting it two or three times a year from now on out,” said Bogle.

The idea for the RC boating event stemmed from conversations among local club members. “About four or five of us run in Granbury regularly. I also go to Fort Worth and run with a couple of guys up there, and then I’ve also gone over to Weatherford and run with a few guys. We were like, man, what if we just held an event and all met in Granbury?” Bogle recounted.

The various boats at the event ranged from entry-level models costing around \$300 to larger, more advanced ones valued between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Sizes varied from 12-14 inches to some as long as four to five feet. The gathering was not only about members enjoying the hobby but also about introducing it to newcomers. “We got three new club members yesterday from people in Granbury who’ve never even known that stuff like this was a thing around here,” Bogle noted.

For those interested in getting started with RC boating, Bogle assures you that no specific background is needed. “You could buy a \$400 boat with

PLEASE SEE **RC BOAT** | C3



PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Finace Bogle of Granbury, a member of the Western Area Modeling Society, drives his RC boat at an RC boat event Saturday, July 13.

Texas Cowboy Symposium to host second annual Chuckwagon Cook-Off at Warren’s Backyard



COURTESY PHOTO

Texas Cowboy Symposium Cook-off attendees enjoy a chuckwagon meal.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

The Texas Cowboy Symposium will host its second annual Chuckwagon Cook-Off at Warren’s Backyard, 2901 Weatherford Highway Sept. 27 and 28. This year’s event promises a unique blend of culinary competition, living history and family-friendly entertainment.

Homer Robertson, chairman of the Texas Cowboy Symposium, shared his journey and passion for Dutch oven cooking, eventually leading him to chuckwagon cooking. “I got started in the ‘80s when my grandmother passed away. She lived out in Thorp Spring, and when we cleaned out her house, we found a cast iron Dutch oven,” said Robertson. “These pots are often called range ovens or camp ovens. They have a lip around the outside and three legs to keep them off the ground.”

His journey into chuckwagon cooking is deeply personal, shaped by family influences and a long career as a firefighter. “My mother and grandmother were both excellent cooks. I spent 37 years as a firefighter, where cooking and recipes were a big part of the culture,” Robertson reflected. “My wife is a great cook, and my son, who grew up around the chuckwagon, is in the food industry.”

Robertson’s fascination with Dutch ovens evolved into a hearty interest in chuckwagon cooking, a culinary tradition rooted in the history of the American West. “Chuckwagon cooking is part of living history,” he explained. “The chuckwagon was invented just a few miles away from here in Weatherford by Charles Goodnight.”

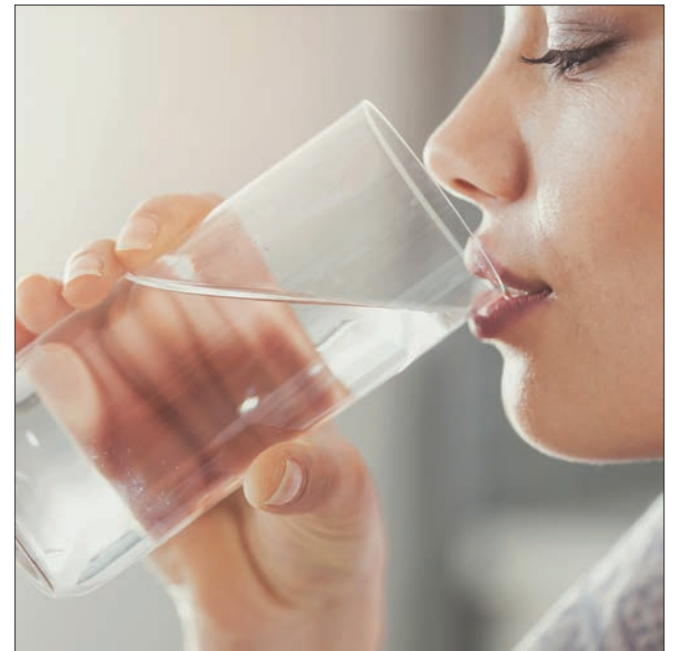
The term “chuck” in “chuckwagon” stems from 19th-century cowboy lingo, where “chuck” referred to food or provisions. Thus, a “chuckwagon” carried essential food and cooking supplies for

cowboys during cattle drives and long journeys.

The historical significance of the chuckwagon dates back to the post-Civil War era when Texas was economically destitute but rich in wild cattle. Cowboys would drive these cattle north to the closest railroads in Missouri or Kansas, necessitating a reliable way to feed the cowboy crews. “Think about it — it was the original food truck!” said Robertson.

Chuckwagon cook-offs are now famous throughout the Southwest, especially in Texas. “We’ll have wagons from Texas, Oklahoma — all over — coming in for this event,” Robertson explained. Chuckwagon cooking offers a unique, historically authentic experience unlike typical BBQ or catering. He added, “These cook-offs are two-part events. We judge the wagons for authenticity, ensuring they look like they

PLEASE SEE **COOK OFF** | C2



COURTESY PHOTO

According to the Mayo Clinic, even mild dehydration can cause symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, dry mouth and dizziness.

Hydration hacks

How to survive a hot Texas summer

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

A few weeks ago, I wrote an article about summer safety tips. It received a great response, and a physician friend of mine suggested I write another article focusing on what they felt was the one most important summer safety tip for people of all ages — staying properly hydrated.

Texas summers are known for their extreme heat, often soaring well above 100 degrees Fahrenheit. This intense heat can quickly lead to dehydration, a severe condition affecting your health and well-being. Staying adequately hydrated is crucial for maintaining energy levels, cognitive function and overall health. This article combines research, expert opinions and anecdotal experiences to provide you with practical tips for staying hydrated during the hot Texas summer.

UNDERSTANDING DEHYDRATION

Dehydration occurs when

your body loses more fluids than it takes in. According to the Mayo Clinic, even mild dehydration can cause symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, dry mouth and dizziness. Severe dehydration can lead to more serious complications like heatstroke, kidney failure and even death. Therefore, understanding the signs of dehydration and knowing how to prevent it is essential.

HOW MUCH WATER DO YOU NEED?

The amount of water you need can vary based on your activity level, age, weight and environmental factors. The Institute of Medicine recommends an average daily intake of about 3.7 liters (125 ounces) for men and 2.7 liters (91 ounces) for women. However, during the hot Texas summer, you may need more. Experts suggest that active individuals or those spending extended periods outdoors increase their water intake to compensate for increased sweat loss.

PLEASE SEE **SUMMER** | C3

Bartending brilliance

Mixology at Sledge

BY LAUREN DAVIS
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On the afternoon of Saturday, July 13, Sledge Distillery hosted an exclusive copper still mixology class. This unique event allowed participants to craft cocktails in the heart of Sledge's production facility, surrounded by copper stills and whiskey barrels. The sellout class showcased the rich history and craftsmanship behind the Sledge Distillery brand.

Four Sledge employees provided an intimate and hands-on learning experience for 13 guest students from various locations, including Fort Worth and California, as well as residents of Hood County. Lead bartender/instructor Lydia Sledge guided participants through making an Old Fashioned. The second cocktail was a Lemon Drop martini, which bartender Barb Vickers taught. Tasting expert Thomas Becker and seasoned bartender and event and retail manager DeAnna Berry were on hand to provide additional expertise.

Each guest in the class had access to a comprehensive set of tools, including al-

cohol, bitters, fruit, sweeteners, rocks and martini glasses with domes, muddlers, jiggers, blow torches, various flavored wood chips, mixers and garnishes. This ensured everyone could fully immerse themselves in the art of mixology.

Before class participants created their version of the drink, Sledge conducted a 'dry run,' explaining the recipe, ingredients and techniques used to make the cocktail. The Old Fashioned lesson, crafted with Sledge's Rocky Branch Bourbon, included a tutorial with a kitchen blow torch to smoke flavored wood chips. This technique added a hint of smokiness to the drink, en-

hancing its flavor profile.

The second elixir, the Lemon Drop Martini cocktail made with Sledge's signature Sir Cooper's Southern Gin, presented by Vickers, was also a hit with the class.

The story of Sledge Distillery is steeped in history and family tradition. Mark and Susan Sledge, the current owners, have turned a cherished family recipe into a successful distilling venture. In her City Lifestyle article, Gabby Cullen explains the origin of Sledge's craft. It can be traced back to World War II, when Mark Sledge's father, Dub Sledge, concocted a moonshine recipe while serving in the military. Upon returning home, Dub Sledge

abandoned his moonshine endeavors to marry his love, Kathryn, who disapproved of drinking, dancing and smoking. However, years after Dub Sledge's passing, Mark Sledge discovered his recipe in an old cedar chest filled with war memorabilia. Inspired by his findings, Mark Sledge and his friend Gary began experimenting with the recipe on his back porch, eventually leading to the establishment of Sledge Distillery.

Located on a family ranch 10 miles southwest of Granbury, Sledge Distillery is committed to traditional, handcrafted methods. The Sledge team grinds the grain on the front porch, cooks the

mash, and distills the spirits using one 80-gallon copper still and two 50-gallon stills. They are involved in every step of the process, ensuring each batch meets their high standards. This dedication to quality over quantity sets Sledge Distillery apart in craft spirits.

Berry highlighted the distillery's commitment to creating engaging and interactive experiences for their patrons. "We are always coming up with fun and interactive concepts for classes and events. Our motto is 'Come as friends and leave as family,'" she explained. This philosophy was evident throughout the mixology class, as participants bonded

over their shared interest in craft spirits and cocktail making.

The success of several copper still mixology classes has set the stage for future events. Sledge Distillery's next class, with a capacity of 15 people, is expected to sell out quickly, reflecting the growing interest in this unique culinary and educational experience. For more information and to secure a spot in the next class, interested individuals are encouraged to visit Tickets for The Copper Still Mixology Class in TOLAR from TicketLeap.



LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Sledge Distillery copper still mixology class instructors (L-R): Barb Vickers, Lydia Sledge, Thomas Becker and DeAnna Berry raise a glass to kick off the event.



COURTESY PHOTO BY NACY ANDERSON, ADOBESTOCK.COM
A homely vintage truck is a reminder of National Ugly Truck Contest Day July 20.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESISTOL HATS

Homer Robertson, chuckwagon cook and chairman of the Texas Cowboy Symposium, carries an authentic chuckwagon coffee pot at a campsite.

The charming lesser-known July 20 holidays

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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From commemorating the Apollo 11 moon landing to celebrating quirky and unique traditions, July 20 is filled with diverse observances. Moon Day and Space Exploration Day honor monumental achievements in space history, while National Fortune Cookie Day adds a touch of whimsy with its cultural delight. The lesser-known National Ugly Truck Contest Day celebrates the charm of well-worn vehicles. Toss Away the "Could Haves" and "Should Haves" Day, observed on the third Saturday of July, encourages reflection and moving forward. These holidays offer a mix of historical significance, cultural appreciation and personal growth.

MOON DAY

Moon Day, celebrated July 20, commemorates the historic Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969, honoring human ingenuity, bravery and the spirit of exploration. According to NASA, the exact year it was established is not documented. However, it is recognized as a significant date in space exploration history.

There are a myriad of ways to observe Moon Day. Some include hosting moon-gazing nights with telescopes and discussions about space and watching documentaries or movies about the Apollo missions. Organizing science fairs or educational events on space science and astronomy for schools and communities is a great way

to commemorate the day, as is sharing stories, photos, and facts about the moon landing on social media to raise awareness.

WORLD JUMP DAY

World Jump Day, originated by Torsten Lauschmann, a German entrepreneur, is observed annually July 20. Lauschmann believed coordinating a global 'jump' could make a difference. The idea aimed to change the Earth's orbit and unite people potentially. As stated by TodaySpecialDay.com, Lauschmann was motivated by scientific concepts and a passion for raising awareness about the environment.

NATIONAL FORTUNE COOKIE DAY

Observed annually July 20, National Fortune Cookie Day does not have a specific, documented creator or organization that initiated it, according to NationalToday.com. It is a fun and light-hearted celebration highlighting fortune cookies' cultural significance and whimsical nature, often associated with Chinese cuisine in America. Anyone interested in this unique day could visit a local Chinese restaurant and enjoy a meal with fortune cookies. Making homemade fortune cookies with personalized fortunes for friends and family is a fun way to acknowledge the day. Sharing interesting and humorous fortunes on social media or organizing a fortune cookie crafting workshop where participants can bake and write their own fortunes could also make the day memorable.

NATIONAL UGLY TRUCK CONTEST DAY

National Ugly Truck Contest Day, observed July 20, is a quirky holiday celebrating the character and stories of unique, well-worn trucks. While its origin remains undocumented, the day likely began as a grassroots celebration that gained popularity over time. Communities can mark the occasion by organizing ugly truck contests with prizes for the most "distinctive" vehicles and sharing photos and stories on social media using a dedicated hashtag. DaysOfTheYear.com suggests creating a playlist featuring songs like "Don't You Buy No Ugly Truck" by Dixie Drifter (1989) and "Pretty Girls Don't Ride in No Ugly Truck" by Mikala Minecci (2013). Additionally, festivities may include hosting parades or shows featuring these trucks and involving local car clubs and enthusiasts in judging the contests.

SPACE EXPLORATION DAY

Space Exploration Day and Moon Day, both celebrated July 20, honor milestones in space history. Moon Day specifically commemorates the Apollo 11 moon landing in 1969, while Space Exploration Day celebrates broader achievements in space science. Communities interested in observing Space Exploration Day can host public lectures or seminars with space science experts, organize visits to planetariums or science museums, conduct space-themed trivia contests, and collaborate with schools on space-related projects.

TOSS AWAY THE 'COULD HAVES' AND 'SHOULD HAVES' DAY

According to National Today, this 'mental health' day was created by author and motivational speaker Martha J. Ross-Rodgers to encourage people to let go of the past and live in the present. Toss Away the "Could Haves" and "Should Haves" Day, celebrated the third Saturday of July, encourages people to let go of past regrets and focus on the present and future, promoting mental health through reflection and mindfulness. Letting go of regrets will also promote well-being and a focus on the present and future. Observances include hosting workshops on letting go of regrets, writing down and symbolically discarding regrets, sharing inspirational quotes and stories, and organizing community walks or exercise sessions. By observing this holiday, communities can celebrate personal growth in an engaging and meaningful way.

These fun and unique days, from Space Exploration Day to World Jump Day to National Ugly Truck Contest Day, highlight the diversity of celebrations that bring people together unexpectedly. Whether jumping to alter Earth's orbit or appreciating the character of well-worn trucks, these observances foster community spirit and creativity. They remind us to embrace curiosity, celebrate individuality and find joy in the shared experiences that make our world a more vibrant place.

COOK OFF

FROM PAGE C1

did in the 1880s, with no plastic, plywood or stainless steel. It's a living history lesson." This year's event is expected to feature between 13 and 15 wagons and feed approximately 600 people.

The second part of the competition involves judging five food categories: meat, beans, bread, dessert and potatoes. All food must be cooked over wood fires, with nothing prepackaged or frozen. "The meat is always beef because they didn't take chickens on the trail. Our dessert will likely be a peach cobbler cooked in a Dutch oven, which people just love," said Robertson.

Preparation for these events is intensive, with most cook-offs taking place in the spring and fall when the weather is optimal. The participants practice year-round, perfecting their recipes and techniques. "This year, our event is on the 27th and 28th of September at Warren's Backyard. Tickets sold out last year, and we've had great support from Visit Granbury and the local community," said Robertson.

The competition will also include a youth cook-off Friday, featuring high school students who will assist in cooking a steak and a dessert. The goal is to involve

the younger generation in this culinary tradition. "This will be our second annual Chuckwagon competition. It's the Texas State Chuckwagon Cook-Off Championship," Robertson announced. Awards will be given out Saturday night before the dance.

In addition to the cook-off, the event will feature western swing dances both Friday and Saturday nights, as well as entertainment throughout the day Saturday, including cowboy poets, historians and youth fiddle players. "People can walk through the wagons, see the history and watch the cooking process. It's not just a meal; it's dinner and a show," Robertson said.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit Warren's Backyard's website. Combination tickets will be available, including options for dinner and dance tickets for Saturday night and separate dance or dinner tickets. Prices are expected to be around \$60 per ticket and will be available next week.

"The Texas Cowboy Symposium is more than just a cook-off. It's about sharing food, history, and creating lasting memories," said Robertson.

For the latest updates, visit the Texas Cowboy Symposium Facebook page: <https://m.facebook.com>

Sailing into memorable adventures on Lake Granbury with Tiki Cruises



Tiki Cruise boat Captain Kirk Grable and cruisers enjoy the trip on Lake Granbury.

COURTESY PHOTOS

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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For Kirk Grable, life on the water has always held a unique charm. Grable now channels his passion into Tiki Cruises, a business that aims to create lasting family memories on Lake Granbury. The company has been a part of the Granbury community for the past four years and has quickly become a local favorite.

"I grew up on the water with boats all my life, and from a very young age, we didn't have all these gadgets back then. Back then, it was an old black inner tube you pulled behind the boat, skiing and just having a good time," said Grable, adding, "They've come a long way with the fun stuff."

As water sports evolved, so did his family's enjoyment — transitioning from water skiing to embracing newer thrills like wakeboarding, wake surfing and kneeboarding.

Grable, a police officer, firefighter and paramedic, runs Tiki Cruises with

his wife Cheryl, a retired teacher who manages bookings and other behind-the-scenes work. The Grables launched Tiki Cruises on the coast, using a smaller vessel for family outings. However, as operational challenges increased in that area, they sought a more suitable location and found it in Granbury.

"We started our cruise business six or seven years ago in Port Aransas. We've been operating in Granbury for the last four years," Grable noted. Raised in the Aledo area, Grable spent much time in and around Granbury. When considering where to move their cruise business, Granbury's cohesive community and robust tourism opportunities made it an ideal choice.

"Granbury is a tight-knit community with great recreational appeal," Grable said. "It's everything we were looking for, and we want to be good stewards of the community. Exposing people to not only Granbury but the Texas culture is something we're passionate about."



The Tiki Cruise boat awaits departure on Lake Granbury.

COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Safety is a top priority for Grable and his team. Having captained various vessels, including a 47-foot yacht, Grable emphasizes safety. "All of our captains are United States Coast

Guard certified, which is unheard of being as far inland as we are. Normally, you would find that to be the case around the Gulf Coast, but Captain Tray, Captain Calvin and I are Coast Guard captains."

The adherence to stringent safety protocols is a hallmark of Tiki Cruises. "We have an impeccable safety record," Grable noted. Children under 13 are required to wear life jackets.

PLEASE SEE **TIKI** | C4

Granbury Theatre Academy's Summer Camp brings Disney magic to the Historic Granbury Opera House

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

GRANBURY, TX — The Granbury Theatre Academy is once again captivating the community with its annual Summer Theatre Camps, hosted at the iconic Historic Granbury Opera House. This year, 160 enthusiastic young performers aged 8-18 will dive into the enchanting world of Disney's "The Little Mermaid Jr." during an intensive two-week camp.

The academy, led by Director Matt Beutner, has structured the camp into two age groups. The younger participants, aged 8-12, attend sessions from 8 a.m. to noon, while the older group, aged 13-18, meets from 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Over the course of these two weeks, both groups are fully immersed in learning and rehearsing the entire production of "The Little Mermaid Jr.," a process that culmi-

nates in a series of performances at the Granbury Opera House.

"Summer Camp is the academy's most high-profile event of the year. With two weeks of camp followed by 10 straight days of performances, we take over the Opera House for a month!" says Beutner. "The dedication and hard work of these young talents will be showcased through their performances, which are sure to surprise and delight audiences."

The teens will present their rendition of the beloved Disney musical across two consecutive weekends, July 19-21 and July 26-28, with eight performances in total. Meanwhile, the juniors will light up the stage with four evening shows from July 22-25.

One of the standout aspects of the Granbury Theatre Academy's Summer Camp is its emphasis on inclusivity and growth for all participants. "We ask a lot out of our students, and

every year, one of our goals is to surprise audiences with what we've put together in such a short amount of time," Beutner explains. "My primary goal is to feature as many young performers as possible, giving them all opportunities to learn and grow."

The two-week camp boasts a Who's Who of local and regional theatre professionals working as camp and production staff. Maudie Davis and Thomas Powderly assist Beutner with directorial duties. Both Davis and Powderly are Granbury Theatre Academy alumni.

Other Granbury Theatre Academy alumni serving on the production team include Elizabeth Biz Miller, assistant music director, and Hannah Baker, choreographer. "One of the things I am most proud of is that we give our alumni students opportunities to gain real-world experience serving on production teams," said Beutner. "Many of these

former students are pursuing degrees in the performing arts in major university programs."

The balance of the production team is all Granbury Theatre Company professional staff, including Ashley Green, music director; Whitney Shearon, stage manager and light designer; Eme Looney, costume designer; Jonah Hardt, set designer; John David Dvorak, sound designer; Colton Lively, hair and makeup artist; and Jarrett Self, prop master.

The Historic Granbury Opera House provides a perfect backdrop for these young thespians. Steeped in history and rich in cultural significance, the venue adds an extra layer of magic to the productions. The community can expect a delightful and professional-quality experience, a testament to the dedication of the academy's staff and students.

For those who cherish local arts and theatre, the Granbury Theatre

Academy's summer productions are a must-see. With tickets expected to sell out quickly, community members are strongly encouraged to secure their seats early. The shows not only entertain but also support the burgeoning talents of Granbury's youth, making it a rewarding experience for all involved.

Witness the extraordinary talent of local youth as they bring the underwater world of Ariel and her friends to life. This summer, Granbury Theatre Academy promises an unforgettable journey "under the sea."

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Granbury Theatre Company's website at www.granburytheatrecompany.org or contact the Historic Granbury Opera House box office at 817-579-0952. For more information about the Granbury Theatre Academy, visit its website at www.granburytheatreacademy.org.

RC BOAT

FROM PAGE C1



PHOTOS BY **LAYTH TAYLOR** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

John Borden gets his boat ready to go on the water Saturday, July 13.

everything you need to go to the water. There are even classes of races for beginners who've never raced before," he said.

The event was relaxing, with participants and spectators ranging from teenagers to octogenarians. "It's very laid back — a lot of cutting up and laughter," Bogle shared. The event went smoothly with no significant challenges. "It came together fairly well. I think we had between 15 and 20 drivers, and then total, we had probably 25 to 30 boats that were there."

The only incident of the day was Bogle's boat accident. "I crashed my boat — a Miss Geico Proboat — going 80 plus miles an hour. It flipped about 10 times across the water," he recounted.

The funds raised from entry fees and club dues go toward enhancing the sport. "All money raised helps fund our club by supporting our lease with the city and improving the field. We will have a full RC park when it's finished," Bogle explained. The club, primarily an RC airplane club, also has an RC car track at its field which does not support the boating events.

Located at the old city landfill at 3400 Calico Court, the facility boasts an RC airplane runway and an off-road short course truck track. Plans include building a 16-foot by 80-foot shade structure to provide shelter during events, pending special permits from the state due to the location being an old landfill. The RC car track was built entirely through donations from local Granbury businesses, costing the club nothing.

Anyone wishing to donate to the club can contact wams2021@aol.com.

SUMMER

FROM PAGE C1

EXPERT OPINIONS ON STAYING HYDRATED

Drink water regularly: Dr. John Smith, a sports medicine specialist, emphasizes the importance of drinking water consistently throughout the day. "Waiting until you're thirsty is not the best indicator of hydration needs," he says. "Thirst is a late sign of dehydration."

Monitor your urine color: A simple way to check your hydration status is to observe the color of your urine. Pale yellow indicates proper hydration, while darker shades suggest a need to drink more fluids.

Incorporate electrolytes: Sweating causes you to lose not only water but also essential electrolytes like sodium, potassium and magnesium. Sports drinks, coconut water and electrolyte tablets can help replenish these vital minerals.

Eat water-rich foods: Incorporating fruits and vegetables with high water content, such as watermelon, cucumbers and oranges, can contribute to your overall hydration.

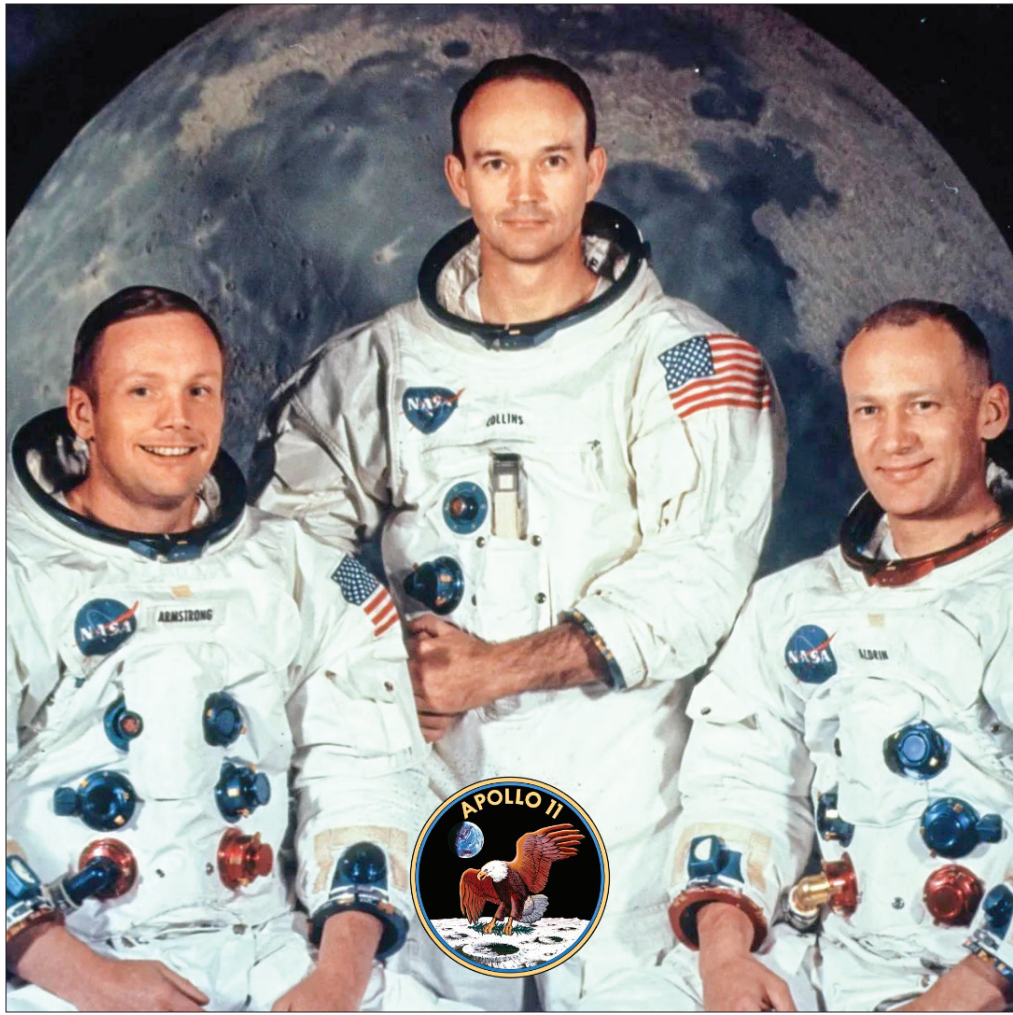
Avoid diuretics: Alcohol and caffeinated beverages can increase fluid loss, so it's best to consume them in moderation, especially during peak heat hours.

ANECDOTAL EXPERIENCES

Many Texans have developed their own methods to stay hydrated during the sweltering summer months. Granbury resident Maria

PLEASE SEE **SUMER** | C4

Moon memories: Recalling Apollo 11's historic achievement 55 years later



Apollo 11 crew (L-R): Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin

PHOTO COURTESY NASA PUBLIC ARCHIVES

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

In the late 1960s, life was a kaleidoscope of change and excitement. Bellbottoms and tie-dye ruled the fashion scene, and transistor radios buzzed with the latest hits from The Beatles and Motown. Families gathered around their living room televisions — often encased in wooden consoles the size of small sofas — tuning into everything from the evening news with Walter Cronkite to the out-of-this-world adventures of Star Trek.

Amidst the backdrop of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement, there was a palpable sense of anticipation and possibility, culminating in a moment that would bring the entire world together: the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Fifty-five years ago, the world held its breath as astronaut Neil Armstrong took humanity's first steps on the moon. The Apollo 11 moon landing was not just a triumph of science and engineering but also a testament to human determination



and imagination. On July 20, 1969, at 3:17 p.m. Texas time, the "Eagle" had landed, and the world would never be the same.

For those of us who grew up idolizing NASA and the Apollo missions, the events of that day remain etched in our memories. I was 7 years old, glued to our Motorola console television, utterly captivated by the sight of the lunar module touching down on the moon's surface. Six-and-a-half hours later, at 9:56 p.m., I watched in awe as Neil Armstrong descended the ladder and set foot on the moon, proclaiming, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

This monumental achievement was the culmination

of years of effort, driven by President John F. Kennedy's bold vision. In a 1961 speech, Kennedy had committed the United States to landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth before the decade was out. This audacious goal was set against the backdrop of the Cold War, with the United States and the Soviet Union locked in a fierce space race. The Soviets had taken an early lead by launching Sputnik, the first artificial satellite, in 1957 and putting the first human, Yuri Gagarin, into space in 1961. However, the Apollo 11 mission would see the United States seize the ultimate prize.

The excitement of the moon landing was felt in every corner of America. Diane Hedges, who was about to start ninth grade in San Antonio that fall, recalls, "It was summertime, and we were out of school for the summer. As we always did, my family had watched the Apollo lift-off before this. My entire family was watching the moon landing on our television in the living room.

PLEASE SEE **APOLLO** | C5

TIKI

FROM PAGE C2

ets, and guests receive thorough safety briefings before each cruise. The team also conducts boat safety inspections to ensure everything is in top condition.

"We have not had any incidents on Tiki Cruises. Before we cruise, we give a comprehensive safety briefing to include how to respond in the event of a search and rescue, how to respond in the event of an abandoned ship, how to respond in the event of a man overboard, and restroom rules. We present a uniform and standardized explanation every time we go out," Grable emphasized.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As ambassadors for Granbury, Tiki Cruises rec-



Captain Kirk Grable aboard his Tiki Cruise boat on Lake Granbury.

ommends local businesses and educates guests on regional history and ecology during cruises. "We are a catalyst in that we recommend other businesses in town just because most people that

sail with us are looking for a variety of things to do around Granbury," Grable explained.

Tiki Cruises shares knowledge about the community, discussing the history of the Brazos River, local landmarks like Elizabeth Patton Crockett's gravesite, and the area's ecology. This educational aspect enriches the cruise experience, making it fun and informative.

The business has partnered with local establishments like Mesquite Pit and D'Vine Wine to enhance the guest experience. "We have a partnership with Mesquite Pit that allows us to moor out of their location," Grable said. Guests can order their meals an hour before departure, and the food is delivered to the boat. Mesquite Pit manager Laura Fuller explains, "We send

out a 10% food discount for the people that get on the Tiki Cruises." D'Vine Wine also offers delivery convenience to Tiki Cruisers who order beverages with them in advance.

MAINTAINING A PERSONAL TOUCH

Despite receiving inquiries about franchising, Grable prefers to maintain their boutique business operation. "We are not a franchise; we're a mom-and-pop operation. We've been approached about franchising, but I believe no one cares for your product as much as you do," he said. Grable emphasized that maintaining their reputation for safety and creating fun family memories is more important than expanding for the sake of profit.

The unique Tiki boat,

manufactured by Sightseer, has enhanced safety features, including a bathroom. Tiki Cruises offers a variety of packages, including private cruises for up to 20 people. Guests can bring their beverages and snacks or utilize Tiki Cruises' partnerships with local businesses for a complete experience.

LOOKING AHEAD

Tiki Cruises operates seasonally, from Spring Break through the first week of December, depending on weather conditions. Prices are affordable, with adult tickets at \$55 and children's tickets at \$50. Grable and his team continue to explore new offerings, such as karaoke and corporate events, to keep the experience fresh and exciting for their guests.

Reflecting on the journey, Grable emphasizes the importance of being a good steward of the community and the Texas spirit. "Our goal is to provide an outstanding business standard and to promote Granbury as a destination," he said. "We recommend other local businesses to our guests, sharing knowledge about the area's history and attractions."

From its early days in Port Aransas, Tiki Cruises remains committed to creating memorable family moments. It offers a range of experiences, ensuring every cruise is filled with photo-worthy memories and personalized service.

For more information about Tiki Cruises and to book your next adventure, visit its website.

SUMMER

FROM PAGE C3

Gonzalez shares her experience: "About a year ago, I started using a hydration tracking app I downloaded on my phone. It alerts me to drink water throughout the

day, and I can log my water intake throughout the day as I go. Something as simple as that has made it much easier to drink the water I should be drinking daily."

PRACTICAL TIPS FOR STAYING HYDRATED

Start your day with water: Start your day by drinking water to kickstart your hydration.

Carry a water bottle: Invest in a reusable water bottle and always keep it with you. This makes it easier to sip water throughout the day. Set reminders: Use phone

alarms or apps to remind you to drink water regularly.

Infuse your water: Add slices of lemon, cucumber, or mint to your water for a refreshing twist that can encourage you to drink more.

Hydrate before, during, and after exercise: Drink water before exercising,

take small sips during your workout, and rehydrate afterward.

CONCLUSION

Staying hydrated during the hot Texas summer is essential for maintaining your health and well-being.

By following these tips and incorporating practical strategies into your daily routine, you can beat the heat and enjoy the summer safely. Remember, consistent hydration is vital — don't wait until you're thirsty to take a sip. Stay cool, stay hydrated and have a great summer!

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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Popcorn tradition crosses state lines



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

A popcorn tradition was born 50 years ago this summer in the garage of our home in southwest Fort Worth.

That was some 26 tons of popcorn and four machines ago. It was sparked by the late Dr. Veda Hodge, who owned a string of movie theaters and multiple West Texas oil wells.

She heard that I was making snow cones for our preschool daughters and neighborhood friends — albeit settling for “snow” with texture akin to road gravel. We used a near-antique machine purchased in a second-hand store. Dr. Hodge insisted on

providing a used popcorn machine so we'd have treats more popular during cooler months ...

We provided snow cones for all takers. After all, unit costs were held to about two cents each. Happily, neighbors helped out, freezing ice in gallon jugs.

Popcorn soon was consumed not only by neighborhood children, but also from speaking lecterns, where I appeared more than 100 times annually for more than 50 years. For two decades, Halloween has been a big deal, with between 500-700 youngsters showing up for treats.

Somewhere, Dr. Veda is smiling.

Popcorn probably best defines my presidency/chancellorship at Howard Payne University. The tradition — along with taking students and others parasailing at Lake Brownwood — provides fond memories. So does an introduction once made by a dear departed friend, George Dolan, whose daily front-page column in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram delighted readers for three decades.

He called me “the nation's ‘unstuffed’ college president.”

It is a description I treasure. All my popcorn machines have been, uh, experienced, with some nearing antique status. When I bought a large coffin-shaped popcorn machine from an old theater 22 years ago, I thought it would

serve the rest of the way.

A kink in the acquisition loomed, however. Our garage would not accommodate two cars AND an oversized popcorn machine. Simple solution: Our modest Burleson retirement home — under construction at the time — was widened by just two feet, thus accommodating the machine.

I don't remember — and don't care to remember — how much this added to the cost, but it has been worth it, even though Brenda, my wife of almost 58 years, still frets a bit, referencing “that odor in the garage.” I contend that it's an “aroma.” ...

Fast forward to the here and now: David Williams (HPU, 2005) is a “do-everything” kind of guy. He reconstructed a popcorn machine that is virtually identical to the one Dr. Hodge gave me.

He sent me a picture, and yep, the machine was for sale.

I purchased it sight unseen and soon he delivered it to our home. Uh oh. Now I had two machines — one bigger than now needed and the other a sentimental favorite — like the ones seen on sidewalks outside of small theaters for the convenience of popcorn-purchasing passers-by.

After 29 years of handing out presidential, then chancellor popcorn, it is time for me to shift gears. I'll settle for my smaller machine, and now hand out PEP-corn (aka, “president emeritus popcorn.”) ...

This spring my wife and I had lunch with Dr. and Mrs. Brad Johnson at College of the Ozarks near Branson, Missouri, where he has been president for about

two years. In his earliest years of college administration, we served together at HPU, where his wife, Laura, received her baccalaureate degree.

During lunch, they both mentioned their hope to find a tradition like ours at HPU. “What about sharing the tradition into the next 50 years?” I asked. Did I ever have a deal for them!

Recently, they had a big “whoop-de-do” with a program to celebrate the passing of the scoop. Featured were printed programs, balloons and a sumptuous luncheon. I stumbled a time or two when emotions got in the way, sometimes saying, “Um,” thus unknowingly creating a new acronym that's a perfect fit for both HPU and CofO. “U MATTER” is conveyed with each bag. May the tradition live on! ...

BOOK REVIEW

So. Much. Red. Tape.

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

So many forms to fill out to keep the lights on, help with housing, feeding the family. So much ink spent on acronyms: WIC, SNAP, EBT. So much time waiting for what you need, keeping the wolves from the door. Is it you or, as in the new book “Holding It Together” by Jessica Calarco, is constantly being in the red on the rise?

Once upon a time in America, Congress funded inexpensive national childcare.

That was in the early part of World War II, when the country needed women to help build weapons, ships and planes while paid childcare facilities kept their kids safe — around the clock, if needed. Then, at war's end, the funds were halted and many women — especially needing help and jobless again — were back to Square One.

And that, says Calarco, is how it goes: women pick up the slack in America. They make do with what they have, no matter how meager. This, and because women are our society's “invisible glue,” they “protect the economy from crumbling, too.”

Calarco calls ours a “DIY society ... where people are expected to solve their own problems ...” A DIY society assumes that women will do what needs to be done — whether it's to take a third job or do without per-

sonal needs, or scrounge to find diapers and formula. If they have children, a DIY society knows that women will find childcare somehow. It hits poor, single mothers hard, and Black families hardest. It assumes that women and girls will be mothers, catching them in a “mommy trap.” Such a society also assumes that if a woman has the means, she will rely on another woman to clean her house or care for her children.

So what can be done?

We can “demand (a) social safety net,” says Calarco. We can try to eliminate the patriarchy of the system. But the biggest solution can be summed up in one word: vote.

Let's start here: “Holding It Together” is going to unleash some emotions in you.

Anger and outrage, for some readers. Desire for action, for others. You may agree, and you may question what you learn. The bottom line is that author Jessica Calarco will make you think about what you read and what can be done to change a system that, she says, keeps women from getting ahead. Readers may be surprised to learn the history of current policies, and how perceptions of women's labor at home and at work are designed to keep the status quo. You may also be surprised to see that all women — no matter their income or situation — as well as some men are affected by our “DIY society.”



Author Jessica Calarco.

This is the kind of book you take to a political rally to talk about. It'll get your dander up, one way or the other. There's a touch of feminism inside here but moreover, you'll read an urgent, furious cry for action. Find this book; “Holding It Together” may make you see red.

While you're thinking about safety nets for children and mothers, also look for “What are Children For?: On Ambivalence

HOLDING IT TOGETHER

HOW WOMEN BECAME AMERICA'S SAFETY NET

JESSICA CALARCO

COURTESY PHOTOS

“Holding It Together: How Women Became America's Safety Net” by Jessica Calarco, c.2024, Portfolio, \$30, 336 pages.

and Choice” by Anastasia Berg and Rachel Wiseman (St. Martin's Press). It's a book that looks at the question of having children or not, and it could help you decide: become a parent, or no? Head's up: the authors say that this is not just an issue for women ...

APOLLO

FROM PAGE C4

We heard Neil Armstrong say, ‘One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.’ It was a great time for the United States to be the first country to have a man walk on the moon.”

For many, the moon landing was not just a national triumph but a deeply personal experience. Melinda Ray, at the time a resident of Lubbock, Texas, and a fan of futuristic shows like Star Trek and Lost in Space, vividly remembers, “I remember sitting on the floor in front of the TV in our den, watching every bit of that moon mission, from blastoff to the landing on the moon and then the trip back to Earth and the splashdown. I really believed, and still do believe, in a future in which humankind uses that ‘one small step for man’ and really does turn it into a ‘giant leap for mankind!’”

Grant Wood's father was an engineer who worked as a third-party quality control manager for the Apollo spacesuit program. “Even as a first grader, I loved the space program!” Grant recalls. “The suits were handmade for each astronaut by a team of women at International Latex Corporation. ILC was the same company that made Playtex bras and girdles! It was late in the evening, and since I was 6, my parents woke me up to watch. My parents had a small color TV in their room, and we all sat on the bed and watched Neil Armstrong climb down the ladder and step onto the moon. It was amazing to me. I hope I get to see it happen again in my lifetime.”



PHOTOS COURTESY NASA PUBLIC ARCHIVES
Neil Armstrong steps down LEM ladder to the lunar surface, July 20, 1969.

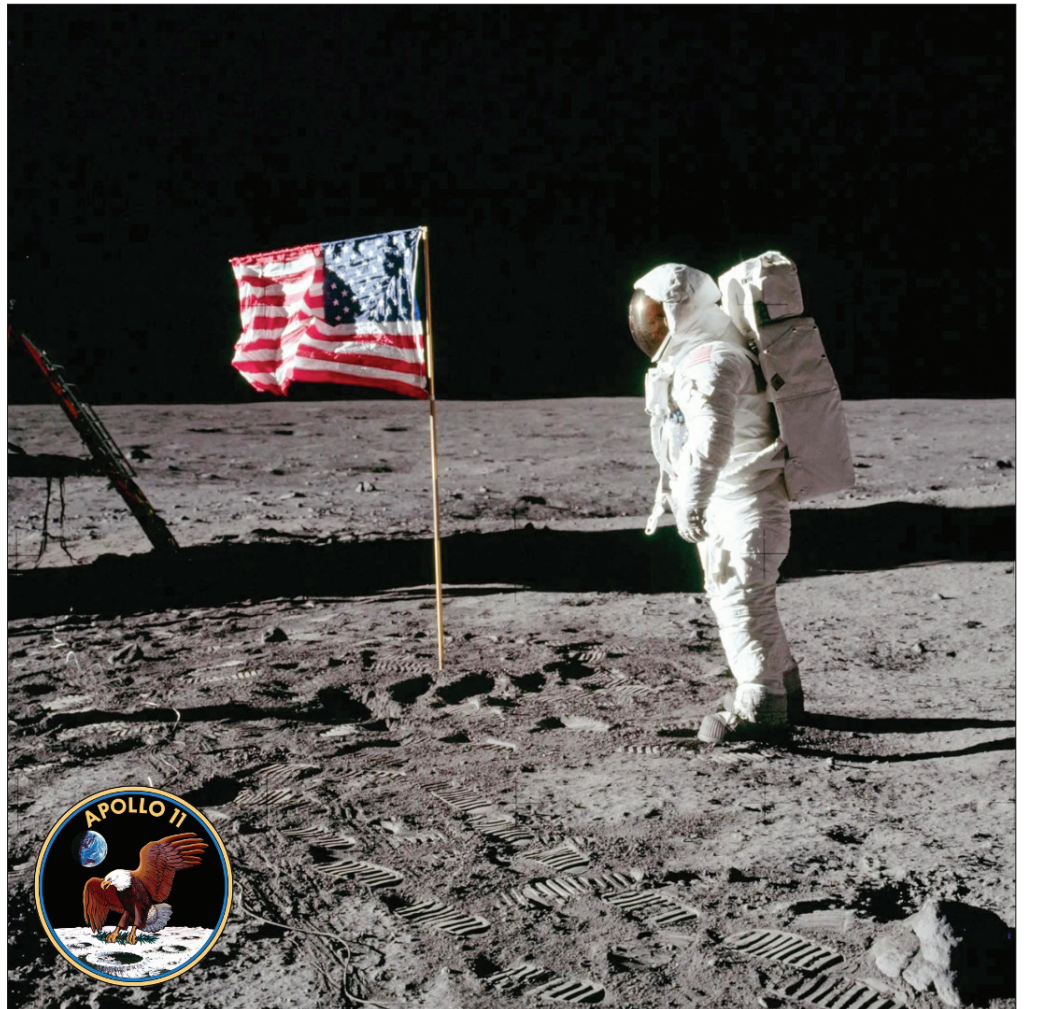
The moon landing was a beacon of hope during a tumultuous time in American history. Rebecca Freeman, who was 15 at the time and living in Azle, remembers the nightly news juxtaposing the Vietnam War and NASA's progress. “Each and every night, the 6 o'clock news was book-ended by a segment detailing the most recent body count and engagements of the Vietnam war, and then a segment spotlighting NASA's progress on the Apollo 11 project. Despair and Hope. Every night. Sitting on the linoleum floor between Dad and Mom in their recliners. I have detailed memories of watching the moon landing. ‘One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.’”

For some, the moon landing was a moment of family bonding and national pride. Dallas resident Dan White re-

calls, “I remember the whole family up past our bedtime, huddled around the television set, watching a scratchy video of a man walking on the moon coming to us from another world. It made me feel so proud to be an American!”

For others, the success of the Apollo 11 mission is a special memory for reasons other than its humanitarian triumph. Karen Nace shares a more personal story: “I was in college in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, dating a science major, so we watched it at his frat house. I ended up marrying that guy!”

The journey to the moon and back was fraught with peril, and many shared Gari Wise's anxiety. “I lived in Hurst, and remember watching the launch on TV worried about the mission. Then I watched when Neil



Astronaut Buzz Aldrin places the U.S. flag on the lunar surface, July 20, 1969.

Armstrong walked on the moon. What a great historical event! I felt relieved when Neil, Buzz and the crew returned and splashed down safe and sound. I'll always remember the first words from the moon: ‘One small step for man and one giant leap for mankind!’”

Looking back, it's clear that the Apollo 11 mission was more than a scientific milestone; it was a moment that brought people together, inspired generations and demonstrated what humanity could achieve when united

by a common goal. As we celebrate the 55th anniversary of this historic event, it's important to remember the spirit of exploration and curiosity that drove us to the moon and continues to drive us today.

The Apollo 11 moon landing remains a shining example of what we can achieve when we come together as a nation, united by a common goal. It was a time when our collective hopes and dreams propelled us beyond the confines of Earth, showcasing our boundless ingenuity and

determination.

As we reflect on that historic moment, we are reminded of our immense pride and the incredible possibilities that lie ahead. So, the next time you look up at the moon, ask yourself, when will we be going back, and who will that be? Let the spirit of Apollo inspire us to reach for the stars once more, proving that with unity and vision, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

YMCA Children's Market

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Farmers Market hosted its 2nd Annual Youth Entrepreneur Day at the Hood County YMCA. The event invited young people aged 8-18 to showcase their handcrafted items, which they were required to make or create themselves. Alongside the young entrepreneurs, regular vendors were also present at the market. The Hood County Farmers Market operates every Saturday from 9 am to 12 pm, offering a wonderful chance to support our local artisans and economy.



CINERGY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, 19 July 2024 - Thursday, 25 July 2024

A Quiet Place: Day One (PG13)
Daily except Sat: 11:50AM, 2:25PM, 5:00PM, 7:35PM, 10:10PM.
Sat: 12:25PM, 3:10PM, 5:50PM, 8:35PM

Deadpool & Wolverine (R)
Thurs: 4:00PM, 6:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM, 10:00PM

Despicable Me 4 (PG)
Daily except Thurs: 11:45AM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:25PM.
Thurs: 11:45AM, 12:55PM, 2:10PM, 4:35PM, 7:00PM, 9:00PM

Despicable Me 4 - Sensory Friendly (PG)
Sat: 10:00AM

Fly Me to the Moon (PG13)
Daily: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:05PM, 7:10PM, 10:15PM

Inside Out 2 (PG)
Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 8:45PM.
Thurs: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM

Shrek - Kids' Summer Series (PG)
Tues, Thurs: 10:00AM

Twisters (PG13)
Daily except Tues, Thurs: 10:00AM, 10:40AM, 12:55PM, 1:35PM, 3:50PM, 4:30PM, 6:45PM, 7:25PM, 9:40PM, 10:20PM.
Tues: 10:40AM, 12:35PM, 1:35PM, 3:30PM, 4:30PM, 6:25PM, 7:25PM, 9:20PM, 10:20PM.
Thurs: 10:05AM, 1:05PM, 3:35PM, 9:30PM

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Hood County News

MONDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints. Information and reservations: 225-933-4074.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night, 5-7 p.m. at American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus — rehearsals, Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See www.granburycivicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. Come join us!

FORWARD TRAINING Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org. or call 817-573-6677.

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY JAM Session 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brock's Food and Drink, 4012 Acton Highway. Bring your instrument or get up and sing. Details: 505-710-5100.

AMATEUR RADIO Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 p.m., on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mex-

ican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB, 6-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

GENERAL TRIVIA, 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

MELODY BELLS singers of Granbury, women's choral group, seeks new members who love to sing 3-part harmony, especially first or second soprano. Also seeking experienced piano accompanist. Weekly Thursday rehearsals for Christmas concert season start Aug. 29, 10 a.m. to noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge St. Concerts performed during first two weeks of December. For more information, please call 817-999-1364.

FRIDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meets every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10:30 a.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

SUNDAYS

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments

every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

LOVE KNOTS Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

SECOND MONDAYS

MEETING OF THE LAKE Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions call 361-510-6820 or email simanek1@charter.net.

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday each month (except November and December) at 7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 817-910-8174.

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway

377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

HOOD COUNTY CERT meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr. HoodCo-Cert@gmail.com.

THE GRANBURY EWMA, Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbeque 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is 6 p.m. informal meeting at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2 and 3 wheel, any and all riders are welcome.

THIRD THURSDAYS

THE HOOD Somervell A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Hwy 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

THE HOOD County Democratic Club meets each month at 1410 Pearl St., Annex #1 at 7 p.m. Questions? Call 817-233-5453.

SECOND SATURDAYS

SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

LOVE KNOTS Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

WAMS (WESTERN AREA) Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

LAST THURSDAYS

MARINE CORPS League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

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DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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 1 John 4:12

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 1900 W. Hwy. 377
 817-573-1581

Elm Grove Assembly Of God
 3630 Hill City Hwy, Tolar
 254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
 300 Granbury Court
 817-326-2270

BAPTIST
 Acton Baptist
 3500 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4693

Allison Baptist
 9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
 254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
 4804 E. Hwy. 377
 817-579-5424

Brazos River Baptist
 2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
 817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
 817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
 1840 Acton Hwy.
 817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
 5041 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
 Hwy. 56
 254-965-3840

First Baptist
 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
 817-613-2322

First Baptist
 214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan
 254-646-2484

First Baptist Thorp Springs
 2815 Lipan Hwy.
 817-573-3339

Glen Rose First Baptist
 201 West Gibbs Blvd.,
 Glen Rose
 254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
 1200 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
 1851 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-573-7137

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
 Viva
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
 3300 Oak Trail Dr.
 Lakeside Baptist
 500 W. Bluebonnet
 817-573-2094

Mambrino Baptist
 1625 Mambrino Hwy.
 817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
 817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
 4501 Peppertree Rd.
 817-279-6430

Paluxy Baptist
 1844 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-5111

Patillo Baptist
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 940-769-2968

Pecan Baptist
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 682-205-1565

Rainbow Baptist
 1571 North Fm 200, Rainbow
 254-897-2121

Southside Baptist
 910 Paluxy Rd.
 817-573-1462

Sovereign Grace Baptist
 820 Paluxy Rd.
 682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
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 254-835-4375

Vineyard Baptist
 320 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-5318

Waples Baptist
 1200 Temple Hall Hwy.
 817-579-0509

Western Hills Baptist
 507 Western Hills Trail
 817-573-7588

BIBLE
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 201 E. Clifton Rd.
 682-498-3014

Granbury Chapel Bible Church
 5150 N. Gate Rd.
 817-736-9647

CATHOLIC
 St. Frances Cabrini Catholic
 2301 Acton Hwy.
 817-573-2131

CHRISTIAN
 Dayspring Christian
 3314 S. Clifton
 817-573-0107

First Christian
 2109 W. U.S. Hwy. 377
 817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vino Nuevo
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
 5904 Walnut Creek Circle
 817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
 608 Shady Grove Dr.
 817-736-3041

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Downtown Church Of Christ
 310 W. Pearl St.
 817-573-9862

Granbury Church Of Christ
 1905 W. Pearl
 817-573-2613

Lipan Church Of Christ
 112 N Caddo St., Lipan
 254-646-2297

Old Granbury Church Of
 Christ
 4219 Old Granbury Rd.
 817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of Christ
 3006 Thorp St.
 817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
 8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4397

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 1106 Weatherford Hwy.
 817-279-6753

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 4530 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-6074

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 3734 W. Hwy. 377
 817-573-4259

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 Emmanuel Lutheran Elca
 2301 Fall Creek Hwy.,
 817-326-2201

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 1400 N. Meadows Dr.
 817-573-5011

METHODIST
 Acton Methodist
 3433 Fall Creek Hwy.
 817-326-4242

Cresson United Methodist
 110 South Crook St., Cresson
 469-730-6496

Granbury First United
 Methodist
 301 Loop 567,
 817-573-5573

Solid Rock Global
 Methodist Church
 3410 Glen Rose Hwy
 682-498-3838

Temple Hall United Methodist
 5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-
 317-9385

Tolar United Methodist
 8812 Hwy. 377, Tolar
 254-835-4005

Waples United Methodist
 4323 Waples Rd.
 817-573-9076

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 1226 Ross Lane
 817-573-6825

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 Granbury Church Of The
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 921 Lipan Dr.
 817-573-4041

PENTECOSTAL
 Hood Pentecostal
 3100 Beechwood St.,
 817-279-0363

Calvary Church of Granbury
 4800 Glen Rose Hwy
 817-559-7372

PRESBYTERIAN
 First Presbyterian
 303 W. Bridge St.
 817-573-2337

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
 Granbury Seventh Day
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 2016 Acton Hwy.
 817-326-3573

OTHER
 Anchor Fellowship
 1300 James Rd.
 682-990-8551

Bear Creek Community
 18553 South Hwy. 377,
 817-396-3245

Brazos Covenant Ministries
 1950 Acton Hwy.
 817-579-0968

Calvary Family
 3306 Oak Trail Dr.
 314-606-1211

Center Point
 4332 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-554-3432

Christian Science Society
 528 N. Crockett
 817-573-0457

Church On Thistle Ridge
 4900 Sonterra Ct.
 917-326-5501

Crossroads
 200 S. Crook St., Cresson
 817-886-9577

Fellowship Church Of Hood
 County
 2401 Cedar Crest Dr.,
 817-579-9332

Generations Church Of
 Granbury
 5718 E. Hwy. 377,
 817-326-5378

Hope Community
 3206 W. Hwy. 377
 254-243-0350

Lipan Cowboy
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And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

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Jeremiah 29:11

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For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Fear not, I am the one who helps you."

Isaiah 41:13

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Proverbs 3:5-6

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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up. When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalms 94:18-19

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary boasts a full calendar



PHOTO CREDIT LANA ROBINSON

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary holds a full calendar with fundraising events for the community's emergency personnel. The group also participated in Pecan's July 4 event. Pictured are (L-R): auxiliary volunteers Susan Lee, Jana Pounds (seated), Co-President Donna Bullis (standing), Sandy Stultz and Co-President Jeanie Curry.

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 Plantation's Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary is comprised of ladies and gentlemen who fundraise year-round for our emergency volunteers. The group's largest event, its annual arts and crafts fair, is on the calendar for Saturday, Sept. 28. Outstanding artisans, crafters, and vendors will "show up and show out" on the PAC fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both gates will be open for the public to participate in the day when handcrafted home décor and gifts, artwork, jewelry, apparel, yard art, quilts and holiday decorations will be available for purchase. More details will be released in coming weeks, but interested artists and vendors who would like to rent a sale space may contact Joy Rice for complete information: 254-289-2224 or jdreauxiliary@gmail.com.

GOOD EATS

In addition, the auxiliary is calling on all Pecan cooks who might be interested in providing dinner for our

community's volunteer firefighters at their next scheduled trainings, which fall on the third Thursday of each month. Meals slots for August, September, October and November are currently available. Food for approximately 15 adults is requested, and dishes may be homemade or from a restaurant. Folks interested in this service opportunity may contact Patty Eatmon: 951-970-5490.

LEADERS SOUGHT

The auxiliary is seeking a new slate of officers who would like to steer the group in 2025. Offices that need to be filled include president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Folks who fill these roles are invaluable both to the auxiliary and the emergency personnel who daily keep our community safe. Involvement and participation by neighbors is greatly appreciated.

MEETING DAY

Finally, the next regular meeting of the auxiliary

comes Monday, Sept. 9 at the Charlie Lee Memorial EMS building on Monticello Drive. All Pecan residents are invited to attend the potluck meal that begins at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. New auxiliary T-shirts will be available for purchase at the meeting. Quantities are limited, and Julie Logan may be contacted about securing a particular size: 727-252-3702.

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 is happening today, Saturday, July 20, in Berry's 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.

THEATER CAMP

A very exciting summer activity for the students of Pecan happens when the Missoula Children's Theater troupe 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: 817-573-7952.

GIVE LIFE

Carter BloodCare will be at the PAC Monday, July 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Pecaners received an 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.

CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

The final session of Golf, Tennis, and Swim Camp is set for July 30 through 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.

RUNWAY LABOR

The Pecan Plantation airport was closed for two days last week for painting and striping. The updates will ensure the facilities are in top working order for Pecan's air traffic.

GATE REPAIR

Director of Pecan security Harold Aydelott announces that after several days of being closed, the member gate of our neighborhood's front entrance is repaired and operational, thus reducing wait times to enter Pecan. After having been damaged multiple times because of vehicle collisions, Aydelott reminds residents to refrain from tailgating and to be vigilant when passing through both entry gates to ensure facilities remain functional. Residents should also ensure gate passes are in working order and that vehicles with

toll tags not conflict with the gate system. Questions, concerns, or needs for assistance with security decals may be directed to the security office: 817-408-3511.

PARTY MACHINE

Reservations for the next "Mystery Bus" event opened last week, and residents received email with a sign-up link. This very popular event is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 14, and spots will fill up fast.

EVENING SPARKLE

Wednesday, July 31 will bring a special evening to the clubhouse when Executive Chef Jordan Ray will present a meal served with Champagne Bollinger, the "007" of champagnes. The front desk is currently receiving reservations for the event: 817-573-2641.

LUNCH SERVICE

As of last week, lunch service in the Brazos Room of the clubhouse has ceased. Breakfast and dinner, as well as special events and catering services, will continue. The 19th Hole and The Pit at Pecan's Marina serve midday meals.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Edna Fortman, who passed away July 4.

DPS reminds Texans of vehicle safety inspection changes

By the Texas Department of Public Safety

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of Public Safety reminds Texans of upcoming changes to the state's Vehicle Safety Inspection Program that will eliminate most vehicle safety inspections. House Bill 3297, which was passed by the 88th Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2023, abolishes the Vehicle Safety Inspection Program for non-commercial vehicles.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2025, non-commercial vehicles will no longer need a vehicle safety inspection prior to

registration. However, all non-commercial vehicles in the state will be subject to a \$7.50 inspection program replacement fee. This fee will be added to your total when you register your vehicle with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

New vehicles (those of the current or preceding model year on the date of purchase) purchased in Texas that have not been previously registered in Texas or another state are required to pay an initial inspection program replacement fee of \$16.75 to cover two years.

VEHICLES REGISTERED IN

EMISSIONS COUNTIES

While comprehensive vehicle safety inspections will be eliminated for all non-commercial vehicles, Texas whose vehicles are registered in emissions counties will still be required to have emissions tests.

Emissions tests are required in major metropolitan areas, including Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris and Montgomery counties; Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall and Tarrant counties; Travis and Williamson counties; and El Paso County. Bexar County will be added to the list of counties requir-

ing emissions tests in 2026.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

All commercial vehicles in all counties will still be required to obtain a passing vehicle safety inspection. Because they will be required to pay for that safety inspection, commercial vehicles will be exempt from the inspection program replacement fee.

All vehicles will still need to be registered; the registration process will continue to be managed by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.



PHOTO COURTESY BEN, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The Texas Drawn Hunt Program, which issues permits for drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas, is now accepting applications for a shot at nearly 9,400 permits in more than 60 high-quality hunt categories.



Hunter on a private Texas ranch hunting in the winter.

PHOTO BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Texas Drawn Hunt Program opens applications for the 2024-25 season

By the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

AUSTIN — Hunters will have new opportunities and scenery this fall through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s (TPWD) drawn hunt permits program.

The program, which issues permits for drawn hunts on both public and private lands throughout Texas, is now accepting applications for a shot at nearly 9,400 permits in more than 60 high-quality hunt categories.

“The opportunities offered through our online Public Hunt Draw System give hunters a tremendous variety to hunt and see Texas at an affordable cost” said Kelly Edmiston, TPWD public hunting coordinator. “Throughout the state, we have seen lack of access to land being a major barrier of entry for folks interested in hunting. The public hunt program gives everyone an opportunity to hunt without the costly investment.”

Among the offerings available through the Texas Public Drawn Hunts system: hunts for white-tailed and mule deer, pronghorn, turkey, alligator and dove, plus guided packages for exotic species and bighorn sheep. There were 292,000 applications last year.

Applicants for e-Postcard hunts and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Antlerless Deer Permits must have a current Annual Public Hunt Permit (APH) to apply. APH permits go on sale annually Aug. 15. Last year, the sale of 58,417 APH permits generated approximately \$2.7 million in revenue for wildlife conservation and public hunting opportunities.

The Drawn Hunts Catalog interactive map shows all drawn hunt opportunities by category or by area. All applications, fee payments and permit issuance are handled electronically. To participate, applicants will need internet access, an email address and a credit or debit card. The customer ID number from the applicant’s hunting or fishing license is the most effective way to access the system.

Application fees range from free to \$3 or \$10, depending on the hunt category. Adult hunters who are selected may need to pay a special permit fee of \$80 for regular hunts and \$130 for extended hunts. Some categories, such as the youth-only hunts, require no application fees or permit fees. Permits are open to resident and non-resident hunters alike.

Application deadlines are the 1st and 15th of each month between Aug. 1 and Nov. 1. Aug. 1 is the deadline for all alligator hunt categories and private lands dove hunts. Aug. 15 is the deadline for archery deer, archery mule deer, pronghorn, private land pronghorn and javelina.

A full list of category deadlines can be found on the Drawn Hunts Deadlines webpage. Hunters can apply until 11:59 p.m. CST on the application deadline. Applicants can check their drawing status online at any time.

For more information or to start the application process, visit TPWD Drawn Hunts. For questions, contact hunt@tpwd.texas.gov or call 512-389-4505 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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