



'THIS SHOULD HAVE NEVER HAPPENED'

Granbury resident Mark Lowery is pictured walking with President George W. Bush during Lowery's time as a Secret Service agent.

Granbury's Kellye SoRelle expected to enter guilty plea in Capitol riot case

From Staff Reports

Kellye SoRelle, former Granbury attorney and Oath Keeper leader, was expected to enter a guilty plea July 17 in charges stemming from the Capitol riot back in 2021.



Kellye SoRelle

COURTESY PHOTO

Although the Hood County News has not been able to confirm whether SoRelle indeed pleaded guilty last month, it was reported by WUSA9.com that SoRelle's attorney, Horatio Aldredge, officially filed the motion Monday, July 8. In the motion, Aldredge requested the U.S. Marshal's Service to cover SoRelle's travel expenses from Texas to Washington, D.C., for the plea deal that was scheduled last month. The Washington Post reports that Assistant Federal Defender Maureen Scott Franco highlighted SoRelle's indigent status in the unopposed motion, and it was not contested by the government.

According to the Washington Post, the motion did not identify which of the four charges in SoRelle's indictment she intended to plead guilty to from her September 2022 arrest. According to a previous Hood County News article, the four-count indictment of SoRelle by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia included charges of tampering with evidence, obstruction of an official proceeding, conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, and being inside the Capitol during the insurrection.

SoRelle — who was also a former Republican candidate for the Texas House of Representatives — was one of approximately two dozen people with links to the Oath Keepers militia charged as part of the government's largest Jan. 6 case to date.

The Oath Keepers is an American far-right anti-government militia, most well-known for its suspected launch of an hours-long Capitol protest in which supporters of former President Donald Trump interrupted a meeting of Congress while it was certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election. Although the certification of electoral votes was delayed, President Joe Biden was sworn in as president two weeks later.

According to WUSA9.com, SoRelle was present with Oath Keepers founder and her boyfriend, Stewart Rhodes, on the Capitol grounds Jan. 6, although she did not enter the building. The Washington Post notes that while SoRelle was not charged with using force to obstruct the peaceful transfer of presidential power between Trump and Joe Biden, the four-count indictment alleged she collaborated with Rhodes outside the Capitol to "intimidate and thwart" the work of lawmakers.

SoRelle — who was one of the last members of the Oath Keepers to be charged — initially entered a not guilty plea. However, her case was put on hold when a judge declared her mentally incompetent in June 2023, just one month before her scheduled trial. The Washington Post reports that U.S. District Judge Amit P. Mehta did not provide specific reasons but noted that both government and defense experts agreed she was suffering from a mental illness or defect that impaired her ability to understand the proceedings or assist in her defense.

WUSA9.com reports that last June, Mehta ordered SoRelle, who had been on pretrial release, into the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for competency restoration. SoRelle was sent to the Federal Medical Center, Carswell in Fort Worth and was later deemed "competent to stand trial" by Mehta Feb. 8, following a two-and-a-half-month evaluation.

During that time, Aldredge contended his client was still not competent and requested additional time for a follow-up evaluation, which Mehta granted. Mehta also ordered SoRelle to be released from the BOP and returned to her previous condition of supervision.

According to The Washington Post, more than 1,400 individuals have faced federal charges related to the Jan. 6 attack, including more than 500 for assaulting, resisting or impeding police. More than 130 are accused of using weapons or causing serious bodily harm that day. Approximately 1,000 have either pleaded guilty or been convicted at trial, with about a third facing felony charges and the remaining two-thirds charged with misdemeanors.

The Washington Post also notes that Stewart Rhodes and five co-defendants were the first to be charged and convicted of seditious conspiracy in the extensive Jan. 6 investigation. Rhodes, one of the most prominent figures linked to the riot, was found guilty of plotting to forcibly obstruct the lawful transfer of power following the 2020 election. He was sentenced to 18 years in a federal prison last May, with his expected release date set for Jan. 28, 2037, according to the BOP.

WUSA9.com reports that before the July 8 court filing, SoRelle was scheduled to start trial Nov. 12, with a status hearing planned for July 10.

Former Secret Service agent speaks out on Trump's assassination attempt

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The nation is still reeling from former President Donald Trump's attempted assassination during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania Saturday, July 13.

THE SHOOTING

Although the incident is still being investigated, it was revealed that the shooter, 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks, opened fire at the former president using an AR-style rifle. Trump — who was immediately surrounded and protected by Secret Service as he was rushed into a vehicle for safety — suffered an in-

jury to his ear.

According to CNN, Crooks, who was killed by Secret Service agents following the shooting, fired on Trump while perched on a nearby rooftop outside the rally's security perimeter.

The shooting resulted in the death of one rally attendee and left two others critically injured; however, the two in-

jured have since been reported as stable.

As investigation of the incident continues, the Secret Service faces significant scrutiny and demands for congressional investigations regarding its management of security at the rally, according to CNN.

There have also been rumors circulating that some Secret Service agents were involved in the assassination attempt, while others have suggested that the entire incident was staged, either by Trump or President Joe Biden.

TikTok, X, Facebook and other social media platforms have also been flooded with dark humor in the aftermath of the shooting, with nu-

merous memes surfacing to make fun of the situation and Trump himself.

A CALL FOR PATIENCE

While many details surrounding the incident remain unclear at this time, former Secret Service agent and Hood County resident Mark Lowery urges the community to remain patient and understanding as the investigation unfolds.

"Don't judge the Secret Service until a competent, transparent and timely investigation has been completed," he wrote, in a Letter to the Editor. "This is a complex and challenging responsibility.

PLEASE SEE **TRUMP** | A3

A treasured gift: HCN publisher receives handmade crocheted stocking

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

Hood County News publisher Sam Houston was recently surprised to hear crochet has made a big comeback. In fact, handiwork of all kinds that had all but died off has enjoyed a recent renaissance as young people take an interest in what was grandmother's sport.

Houston mentioned this phenomenon in his "From My Front Porch" column of July 20. In the column he ruminated on the various ways people enjoy spending their free time, from sports to crochet to real estate. He noted that some hobbies seem to run in cycles, becoming more or less popular in different eras.

Crochet has captured the hearts of many in ways that it hasn't in decades — since it was part of fashionable

outfits of the 1970s. Fashion, like hobbies, runs in cycles; the 1970s styles have returned and with them, crochet.

Online crochet groups abound and the return to handmade goods on websites such as Etsy has also fueled the fire.

Barbara Bass took a special interest in Houston's column. Eighty-nine year old Bass is the grandmother of J.D. Tuggle who works for the Hood County News in the press department.

Bass complimented Houston on his column, which is a favorite of hers. "I want you to know that

PLEASE SEE **GIFT** | A6

EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Sam Houston, publisher of the Hood County News, shows his crocheted stocking, a recent gift from 89 year old Barbara Bass, the grandmother of J.D. Tuggle, who works for the Hood County News in the press department.



COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Leaders in Government luncheon is right around the corner ... and so is the 89th Legislative Session!

BY BRIAN BONDY

In a little over five months, the 89th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature will convene in Austin. With the primary season behind us, there will be more than 30 freshmen lawmakers in the House, and they will have their hands full with passing a balanced budget that will address a multitude of needs in the State.

Through the Granbury Chamber of Commerce's Leaders in Government luncheon series, sponsored by Tri-County Electric Cooperative, we have the opportunity to hear from a wide variety of



elected officials across all levels of government. With the new session on the horizon, the chamber is excited to be hosting state Sen. Brian Birdwell and state Rep. Shelby Slawson Friday, Aug. 9, at the Lake Granbury Conference Center

starting at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$35 per person and a sponsored table is \$500. Reservations can be made by calling the chamber at 817-573-1622.

Granbury and Hood County have been fortunate to have strong lead-

ership representing our interests in Austin with both of these elected officials, and knowing the challenges the state will be facing over the next two years, both of them will provide insight into priorities and available funding. Texas continues to be one of the most preferred states in the country for business growth and expansion. The pro-business climate has contributed to numerous companies relocating their operations from all over the country to Texas.

Water development and conservation, workforce development and public education, transportation and infrastructure, property taxes,

quality of life and many others will be the subject of much discussion and debate starting in January. Getting a preview from our local officials will help give you a better picture of what to expect as the session unfolds. And, because the session only lasts until the end of May, our legislators have to do a LOT of work in a relatively short period of time.

We hope you'll join us for our Granbury Chamber of Commerce Leaders In Government luncheon Friday, Aug. 9, and don't forget to save the date for Hood County Day at the Capitol, Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025.

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Positive Worth LLC
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COURTESY GRAPHIC

New Member Spotlight: Positive Worth LLC. Positive Worth exists to create holistic value for organizations and leaders through speaking, training, coaching and consulting." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

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RIBBON CUTTINGS



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Regional Airport — Grand opening of new terminal and new runway.



COURTESY PHOTO

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Living with our mistakes is a part of life



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

Humans are fallible and in some ways our failings are what make us endearing. But in other ways our shortcomings are the source of personal irritation and frustration, so much so that it is sometimes hard to appreciate the lesson life is teaching us.

We recognize the good Lord who created us humans gave us a higher intellect than other creatures. With that intellect comes a level of responsibility which the lower animals do not have. Wait a minute — that may not be entirely fair when the lower animals make a mistake in

judgment, the price they pay is usually their life. For example, when a small fish exercises poor judgment and swims near the surface of the lake in clear sight of the bald eagle resting in a neighboring treetop, the fish's poor judgment is violently confirmed when the eagle

dives in and swoops the fish out of the water making it the "catch of the day." With our greater degree of brainpower, we humans can make a wider variety of mistakes than just swimming too close to the surface. Fortunately, most of the mistakes we make in a civilized society are not paid for by sacrificing our lives like the fish in my example, though occasionally we feel so remorseful about a mistake we might wish we could die.

Stop and think about the absent-minded, lackadaisical, silly mistakes you have made over the course of your life. The mistake that may come to mind for some could be marriage to a certain ex-spouse. Admittedly, in some instances a bad marriage can be a huge mistake. But I am referring to the everyday "dealing with life mistakes" like pulling your vehicle into oncoming traffic and not seeing the truck that hits

your front quarter panel and spins you off into the ditch. Clearly the oncoming truck was there, but for whatever reason, we simply did not see it; a mistake is made, and consequences result. If we are lucky, the mistake only costs us financially.

Then there is just plain, old absent-mindedness like the time in graduate school when I thought my final exam was Wednesday. When I showed up to take the test, I learned that the exam had been administered the day before! I had gotten the date wrong! The stress and mortification I suffered until I could contact my instructor and beg her to allow me to take the test, was excruciating. Fortunately, through the grace provided me by my forgiving professor, predicated on a promise I had not talked to anyone else who had taken the test and learned what the questions were, I did not have to repeat

a whole semester of school. Reminiscing about the situation still makes my heart shudder thinking about how bad the consequences might have been. After realizing I had made a mistake, the worst part was trying to reconcile why I had made the mistake in the first place. What caused me to write the date down incorrectly? Why had I been confused? Did somebody else screw up and tell me the wrong date?

Yes, when a mistake occurs, it is human to attempt to deflect blame on someone or something else. Is there a logical explanation which will absolve the blame or the consequences of the mistake? While on a rare occasion there is a legitimate explanation and the mistake is someone else's fault, much more commonly the mistake is ours. The sooner we admit to the mistake and accept our failings, the quicker we can deal with the

consequences and get back on track. The tragedy is not the mistake; the tragedy is the failure to learn from the mistake, rather than taking steps so it does not happen again. Without mistakes, how would we learn and get better? Sometimes it is hard to accept learning a lesson is a good thing. Like the time we printed last week's date on this week's paper. After some shame, embarrassment and aggravation, a lesson was learned and will never be forgotten. I bet we all learned a lesson this week, whether we liked it or not. It was probably a lesson worth learning.

Thought for the day: Mistakes are like knives that either serve us or cut us, as we grab them by the blade or by the handle.

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Rob and Christy Kilmer

Say hello to our neighbors, Rob and Christy Kilmer!

Eighteen years ago, its small-town atmosphere and great amenities drew Rob and Christy Kilmer to Hood County. Originally from Dallas, they began their life together as Woodrow Wilson High School sweethearts. They fondly refer to the school as "Heisman High." The couple continued on a path to a full and happy life, raising three kids who in turn have blessed them with seven grandkids. When the family can get together, there's a good chance sporting events, golf and fishing are involved. After the couple retired — Rob from the energy industry and Christy from her job as a registered nurse — they decided to move from the Houston area to Pecan Plantation. Charlee, their sweet little girl dog, gets all the attention she needs. Fishing (at least once a week) and golf ... and more golf, are Rob's favored activities in his downtime. Rob served for years for Hood County Habitat for Humanity as a construction site volunteer, while Christy poured her heart and soul into her long-time volunteer efforts for Ruth's Place. Nowadays, the couple has slowed their lives down a bit and spend their volunteer hours together every week delivering for Meals on Wheels. The Kilmers have enjoyed reading the Hood County News for the past 18 years. Christy said "We look forward to seeing the local happenings and reading Sam's & Dr. Newbury's columns."

City to sponsor free tire recycling event Aug. 17

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Are you ready to get rid of that pile of old tires gathering dust in your garage?

The city of Granbury's second annual free tire recycling event is just around the corner — creating a perfect opportunity for residents who may be a tad late with their spring cleaning.

On Saturday, Aug. 17, from 8-11 a.m. swing by the Granbury Service Center located at 401 N. Park St. to dispose of your tires at no cost.

"It's so simple," City Communications Manager Jeff Newpher told the Hood County News. "You take your tire, you put it in your vehicle, you drive to the service center ... park your vehicle there, pop the trunk, some-

body will help you throw them into the back of a trailer, and those tires will be recycled. That's how simple it is."

Newpher admitted he wasn't sure of the origins behind the tire recycling initiative but emphasized the city's commitment to environmental responsibility.

"City leadership, which includes the mayor, council and the city manager, are trying to be more environmentally responsible," he said.

This is only the second year for the city to host this event, but Newpher said he hopes it will garner more attention than last year — especially because it will be open to everybody, not just

Granbury residents.

"It's open to anyone except commercial tire dealers," he said. "If your business is tires and you're looking to dispose of them, this is not the event for you."

For tires to be recycled, they must be less than 54 inches high and 16 inches wide. They also can't be split, chopped or covered in excess amounts of mud. Tires from heavy or agricultural equipment will not be accepted either, along with tire rims.

"Just hose them off before you bring them if they're all dirty and muddy," Newpher said. "The equipment that prepares them for recycling,

you don't want all of that mud and dirt getting into it."

With a few simple guidelines to follow, the city's free tire recycling event will offer Hood County residents an easy way to positively impact the community — one tire at a time.



PHOTO COURTESY BY BAGAS, ADOBESTOCK.COM

On Saturday, Aug. 17, from 8-11 a.m. swing by the Granbury Service Center located at 401 N. Park St., to dispose of your tires at no cost.

TRUMP

FROM PAGE A1

Until one has performed this duty one cannot understand the depth of responsibility and level of detailed work it requires to be successful in each and every event. I have performed countless site advances, many much larger than this one in Butler, Pennsylvania. I have questions like many of you, but I also have a perspective many of you do not have. I ask that all of us refrain from critical judgment, spreading uncorroborated information and humorous memes."

Lowery — who served in the Secret Service for 24 years and retired as the Senior Executive Service Special Agent in Charge — shared that the Secret Service has a motto: "We don't make history. But we sit on the front row of history and observe it."

"It's a very demanding

job and a very challenging job," Lowery told the Hood County News. "It's 24/7. You can't fail. We saw what happened on the 13th of July. It could have been much more tragic. I asked people to think, 'Would that have potentially changed the history of our nation in the world?' I think it would have."

The responsibility of the Secret Service, Lowery said, is to "keep our protectees alive," so they can freely make decisions to lead the country — and the world — without fear of assassination.

HISTORY

One of America's oldest federal law enforcement agencies, the Secret Service was originally created in 1865 during the Civil War to stamp out rampant counterfeiting in order to stabilize America's young financial system, according to secret-service.gov.

It wasn't until the assassination of President William McKinley in 1901 that the Secret Service was tasked with the full-time protection of the president of the United States.

Throughout the years, protective details of the Secret Service have grown and evolved, often in response to assassinations, close calls or other major security events, according to ABC News. In fact, Lowery said the Secret Service has had a "successful career" in preventing assassinations since presidential candidate Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination in 1968.

"Our protection responsibilities and investigations have expanded throughout the years," Lowery said. "There was an attempted assassination on (politician) George Wallace in the early 70s, President (Gerald) Ford had two attempts on his life, President (Ronald) Reagan

had an attempt on his life, and of course, the attempt on President Trump's life. We've had a very successful career, if I may, in preventing assassinations."

BEHIND THE SCENES

Lowery explained that new recruits in the Secret Service undergo a period of assessment in the field office to determine their suitability for high-stakes assignments, including the president's detail. He emphasized that agents are closely monitored during this time to ensure they are trustworthy.

"There's a period of time when the agency is watching the agents to see who's really suitable to go to the president's detail. You got to fully know this person," he explained. "The Secret Service can't put somebody next to the president of the United States and have any concerns

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
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10 a.m. Wednesday

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER



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What's bugging you?

Mosquitoes thrive in summer because heat is beneficial to their life cycle as it's what often draws us outdoors. Female mosquitoes, the culprits behind those itchy welts, need blood to nurture their eggs, and there are more "victims" out and about during the summer months.

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

When we say something is "in our blood," it's usually a positive. It means that traveling, music or whatever we hold dear is so important that it seems written into our DNA. And while we don't have the same affinity for mosquitoes, there is a connection between our DNA and their attraction to us.

"Nothing ruins a day or night out as much as these annoying bugs swarming around us," mentions Karen Ripley, family medicine nurse practitioner at Lakeside Physicians. "However, there are some solutions that can help keep these pests away and some of the illnesses they can carry."

WHY DO BITES SEEM WORSE IN THE SUMMER?

Mosquitoes thrive in summer because heat is beneficial to their life cycle as it's what often draws us outdoors. Female mosquitoes, the culprits behind those itchy welts, need blood to nurture their eggs, and there are more "victims" out and about during the summer months.

WHY DO I SEEM TO GET BITTEN MORE THAN OTHER PEOPLE?

Interestingly, these bloodthirsty ladies have preferences when it comes to their meals. Who they choose to bite has to do with factors such as:

- **Blood type:** While some discount this as a myth, at least three studies in 1974, 2002 and 2019 have found mosquitoes prefer Type O blood.

Still, that doesn't mean A, B and AB are off the hook.

- **Body odor:** We aren't suggesting you need more deodorant. Our scents can vary in "attractiveness" and are caused by diet, genetics and hygiene. And while undetectable to our noses, these pesky bugs particularly like the scent of the oily layer that coats our skin (it keeps our skin moisturized and protected).

- **Breathing:** Sorry to break it to you, but just breathing tells mosquitoes a meal is nearby. That's especially a problem for pregnant women, whose CO2 levels are 21% higher and body temperatures are elevated compared to nonpregnant people. This makes them twice as likely to be bitten.

- **Clothing color:** Dark colors, such as black and dark blue can make you a target. Some think this is because dark colors help retain heat, and mosquitoes are attracted to warmth.

- **Drinking beer:** It's often a staple at neighborhood barbecues but tossing back as little as one beer can make them buzz toward you. While no one is sure why, researchers think it may be because of beer's effect on our blood and body temperatures. The bugs might also like the

carbon dioxide released when you crack one open.

- **Genetics:** Timothy C. Winegard, author of "The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator," suggests that up to 85% of mosquito bites may be due to our DNA. A study with twins further supported this, as identical twins were more similar in attractiveness to mosquitoes than fraternal twins were. Like we said — sometimes it's just in your blood.

ARE ALL BUG SPRAYS CREATED EQUAL? ALSO, CAN I USE IT AND SUNSCREEN?

To protect against mosquito bites, use EPA-approved insect repellents — but apply it after your sunscreen. Remember to use repellents with picaridin, IR3535 or lemon eucalyptus oil, but the most effective types contain 10 to 30% DEET. (However, researchers are working on a repellent that lasts months after one application.)

HOW CAN I KEEP MOSQUITOS OUT OF MY YARD?

Eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed (puddles, bird baths, etc.), keep your lawn mowed, remove leaf litter and keep a barrier of wood chips or gravel between wooded areas. This can reduce the risk of both mosquitos and ticks.

HOW CAN SOMETHING SO SMALL MAKE ME THIS ITCHY? AND HOW CAN I MAKE IT STOP?

When mosquitoes bite and draw

out blood, their saliva also injects us with proteins and anticoagulants to thin our blood. Our bodies register those foreign substances, which triggers our immune systems and leads to inflammation.

Over-the-counter treatments like antihistamines, anti-itch creams or benzocaine can provide relief. However, resist the urge to scratch, as that can break the skin and lead to infection.

IS IT TRUE THESE LITTLE PESTS CARRY DISEASE?

Although most mosquito bites only cause irritation and itching, there are situations when medical help is necessary. Mosquitoes are notorious for transmitting diseases such as West Nile, Zika, dengue, malaria, yellow fever and chikungunya. These diseases infect around 700 million people annually and claim more than one million lives worldwide. So, if you experience symptoms like fever, headache, rash, body aches or a stiff neck in the three to 14 days following a bite, it's important to see a doctor.

We know the summer is for barbecues and pool parties, but you don't have to let mosquitoes bug you. Just remember to protect yourself the best way you can so your summers are filled with fireflies rather than itchy surprises!

To schedule an appointment with Karen Ripley, family nurse practitioner, please call her office at 817-408-3320 or visit her online at <https://lakegranburymedical.com/KarenRipley>.

CALENDAR

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FORWARD TRAINING

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

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.

SATURDAY, AUG. 31

JOIN FORWARD

Training Center for the August Granbury Airport Breakfast fundraiser from 8-10 a.m. See the runway in action with arriving and departing aircraft. Questions? Call 817-573-6677 or email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

CHISHOLM TRAIL

100 Club "Honoring Our Heroes" golf tournament at 9 a.m., Squaw Valley Golf Course, Glen Rose. Benefits the mission to "Stand in the gap for our first responders and their families in times of tragedy." For more information or to donate please visit CT100.org.

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



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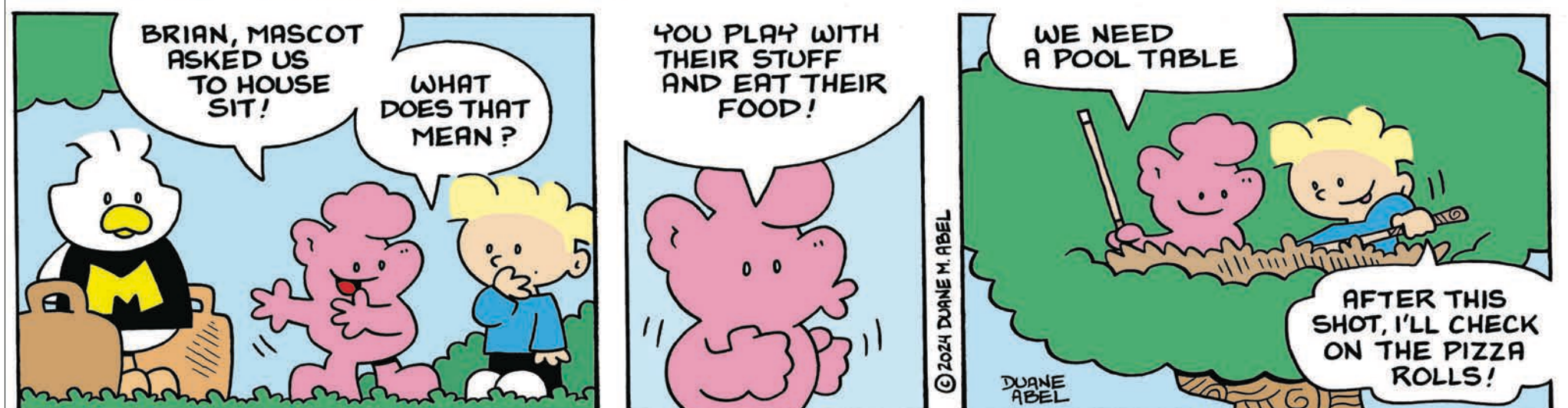
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"Nothing ruins a day or night out as much as these annoying bugs swarming around us. However, there are some solutions that can help keep these pests away and some of the illnesses they can carry."

KAREN RIPLEY
Family Medicine Nurse Practitioner, Lakeside Physicians

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Treasure Troves: The art and business of collecting

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Director of Operations Deldon Krueger showcases The National Collector's Estate Buyers Guild's buying event in the Comfort Suites in Granbury from August 5 to 10.

Krueger's deep connection to antiques began in his childhood. "Growing up, my parents owned several antique stores, which sparked my career interest," Krueger shared. His grandfather, a watchmaker and jeweler, also played a crucial role in shaping his path.

As a child, Krueger had to polish silver, glassware, china, and pottery in his parents' stores whenever he brought home poor grades. "I really resented it at the time, but what I didn't realize is I was getting a 'PhD' in valuables and antiquities," Krueger said.

His passion for coins began when he was eight years old. "My step-grandfather had cancer at the time and lost a bunch of weight, and he lost his Masonic ring somewhere out in the yard," Krueger said. "He went down to the local electronics store in 1982 and bought a metal detector and struggled with it. Frustrated, he handed it to me, saying, 'Figure this out.'"

Krueger started metal detecting in the yard. After finding numerous old beer-can pull-tabs, he discovered his first coin: an 1832 large cent.

Large cents were a type of American penny minted from 1793 to 1857 and finding one from 1832 was significant. For an eight-year-old, finding a 150-year-old coin was thrilling and cemented his interest. Krueger shared, "I was an instant millionaire and an instant archaeologist in my mind, and I've been metal detecting ever since."

Krueger's business partner, Bobby Enright, shared insights about their working relationship and history. They met when Krueger attended a corporate training session led by Enright around 2010. Based in Ohio, Enright plays a significant role in the business's administrative aspects.

When asked about memorable antiques, Enright mentioned, "The most intriguing

item I've encountered in this business was a rather rare Gibson guitar. It was something I'd never seen before."

Enright mentioned that they frequently encounter war memorabilia, often accompanied by incredible stories. "Hearing how a customer acquired these items — whether they were actually at war or received them as gifts — is always fascinating," he said. One of the more unusual items he has seen was Johnny Cash's bed, authenticated by Cash's secretary. He noted that there are always remarkable finds in this treasure hunt, and it's astonishing how new surprises continue to emerge. Enright added, "Just when you think you've seen it all, something new appears at the next show."

In the past, when Krueger

worked for a now-defunct company, they bought unusual items like an electric chair from Sing Sing Prison.

At one point in his career, Krueger worked for a traveling roadshow that did appraisals but didn't buy items, which left people needing money. He said, "People would get the appraisal, but then no one would offer them money, and some of these people needed money." This disconnect inspired him to join a company which bought items directly from people.

Krueger, a certified diamond grader and a licensed auctioneer in Indiana and Texas, established his first auction gallery in Indiana and another in Springtown. He noted that today's economic challenges often lead them to sell valuables like gold, silver, and collectibles.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Deldon Krueger, Director of Operations for the National Collector's and Estate Buyers Guild.

By selling directly to him, people receive more money and get paid immediately, instead of consigning their items, paying a 45% fee, and waiting up to three months for the auction. This arrangement is more beneficial for the client, as the items might

Krueger recalls getting goosebumps as he tells the story. Having just finished his paperwork from a previous client, he was approached by a gentleman who dropped four coins onto the table. Krueger was facing away, so he glanced back

and recently had to place his wife of 62 years into a nursing home. Krueger explained that if one isn't independently wealthy in Tennessee, the state can claim assets like retirement funds to cover long-term medical care. Furthermore, a recent hailstorm had left Clarence needing \$4,800 for a roof deductible.

While continuing to authenticate the coins, Krueger gathered more information about Clarence. "And come to find out, he served in World War II in the 4th Marine Division on Iwo Jima. My grandfather was in the 4th Marine Division and fought on Iwo Jima. And so, now I'm, like, bound to this man — and I want to be absolutely as fair as I can to him."

Given that the last auction for coins like those Clarence presented had occurred nine years prior with no recent comps available, Krueger decided to seek help from a prominent auction house. After discussing the situation with a contact there, Krueger determined a fair price.

"I told Clarence, 'I'm going to give you a number for

"He was overwhelmed. Clarence's lip quivered, tears flowed freely, and he rocked back and forth in his chair. It took him about 45 minutes to compose himself entirely."

Not all encounters are as profound. Krueger recalled humorous incidents, including a woman trying to sell what she claimed was Elvis Presley's fecal matter.

"She came in with a box of flatware and a shoebox, saying her great-grandmother had passed away, and all six granddaughters received a sterling silver set. However, when I checked, it turned out to be stainless steel from Oneida, not sterling silver. So, I punched it up on my laptop. I was like, 'look, I can buy this set at Walmart for \$18.87. And that's rollback pricing.'

"She exclaimed, 'You're a charlatan!'

"I'm someone who has spent the last 42 years of his life in antiquities and precious metals..." Krueger responded.

He continued, "Upset, she pulled out the shoebox, saying, 'You've never seen anything like this before.' And I said, okay. And I opened it up, and it just looked like a twig — a little round piece of twig that she claimed was Elvis's fecal matter. When I asked how she obtained it, she revealed, 'On August 19, 1971, I had a one-night stand with the King.'"

He humorously recounted how he dealt with the situation, maintaining professionalism despite the absurdity. "I try and hold the high ground and aim to be as fair as possible because I have a reputation to uphold," Krueger said.

This philosophy extends to his diverse acquisitions, which range from coins to Lalique crystal vases to African mahogany busts and costume jewelry. However, National Collector's Estate Buyers Guild avoids large items like furniture because they are difficult to ship and don't sell well at auction.

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Enright shared insights into the industry. "We see trends based on age groups, especially baby boomers retiring and selling their collections," he said, noting the importance of adapting marketing strategies to modern platforms like social media.

Krueger stressed the importance of building rapport with clients, contrasting his approach with that of less personable competitors. He understands the emotional and financial motivations behind selling heirlooms and investments, necessitating empathetic and genuine communication. "You have to talk with people. You can't just talk at them," he noted, emphasizing that trust and likability are crucial in his business.

The Guild sets up buying events in different cities, starting in Texas with plans to expand to Florida and New England. "It's so much fun dealing with colonial coins in New England," said Krueger.

The National Collector's Estate and Buyer's Guild has a show scheduled for August 5-10 at Comfort Suites Hotel in Granbury, with plans to continue in Arlington and Dallas-Fort Worth.

For more information, visit the National Collector's Estate Buyers Guild on Facebook at fb://profile/61560009834268 or by email: Nationalcollectorsguild@gmail.com

Director of Operations, Deldon Krueger, evaluates items for a client at a National Collector's and Estate Buyers Guild show.

One of the more unusual items he has seen was Johnny Cash's bed, authenticated by Cash's secretary. He noted there are always remarkable finds in this treasure hunt, and it's astonishing how new surprises continue to emerge.

not sell for the desired price at auction.

"Gold is now at the highest it's ever been. It's hit \$2,400 per ounce," he noted, highlighting the economic challenges driving people to sell their valuables.

Emphasizing his ethical approach, Krueger explained, "I try to hold the high ground... This is my livelihood." He noted that maintaining control and ethics in his business helps avoid issues with the Texas Department of License and Regulation.

GOOSEBUMPS

One of Krueger's most memorable experiences involving valuable items centered around a man named Clarence.

While doing a show in Knoxville, Tennessee,

and asked, "What do you have there, old timer?" The man replied that he thought the silver's value was around \$120.

Krueger assumed the coins were just some ungraded silver eagles, considering silver was about \$30 an ounce. But when he turned around, he nearly choked — he was looking at four 1794 flowing hair silver dollars, of which only about 1,758 were minted. With only 20 or 30 still known to exist, Krueger initially suspected these might be counterfeit.

Using his scale, micrometer, metal authenticator, coin authenticator, and microscope, Krueger began to verify their authenticity.

The coins were authentic.

GETTING TO KNOW THE MAN

At 93 years old, Clarence

these four coins. If you had taken them to a pawn shop or coin shop and said you thought they were worth \$120 total, they likely would have given you that amount, and you wouldn't have known any better."

"I continued, 'But for these four coins, I'm going to offer you... Please take a deep breath and try to stay calm. It would ruin my week if you get too excited and have a heart attack right here. So, for these coins, which you thought were worth \$120, I'm offering you \$56,000.'

"Clarence leaped across the table and embraced me, his tears streaming down my neck as he hugged me and trembled. I helped him back into his chair and said, 'Clarence, please take a deep breath and stay calm. I'm giving you \$56,000 per coin.'



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HOME IN ON MORE BUYERS

Preventing hot car emergencies

Pediatric vehicular heatstroke (PVH) poses a serious threat. Health experts warn that a child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's.



COURTESY PHOTO BY ASPHOTOSUDIO, ENVATO ELEMENTS

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates about 40 children a year die from heatstroke after they were left or became trapped in a car. Roughly one child every 10 days loses his or her life in a hot car.

Metro Creative Connections

Parents often do everything within their means to keep their children safe in and outside their homes. Throughout the years, child safety seats have helped reduce the risk of serious injuries to children while riding in vehicles. However, incidents of hot car injuries and deaths have increased.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration indicates about 40 children a year die from heatstroke after they were left or became trapped in a car. Roughly one child every 10 days loses his or her life in a hot car. The NHTSA also says there have been more than 950 hot

car deaths among children since 1998. The National Safety Council says nearly every state has experienced at least one death of a child succumbing to heat stroke in a hot car since 1998. The agency reports that a record number of 53 children died after being left in hot vehicles in 2018 and 2019.

Pediatric vehicular heatstroke (PVH) poses a serious threat. Health experts warn that a child's body temperature rises three to five times faster than an adult's. When a child remains in a vehicle without ample ventilation, that child's body temperature can rise quickly, turning into a dangerous situation. Heatstroke begins when the core body temperature reaches about 104 F.

Many children who were injured or killed in PVH incidents have parents and caregivers who are thoughtful guardians. No one sets out to "forget" their child in a car. Since younger children sit rear-facing in safety seats, sometimes their pres-

ence is obscured. Those who are rushing around or parents with miscommunication may not realize their child is in the car seat. It is essential that parents and caregivers get in the habit of always checking the back seat before locking the car doors. Heeding some additional tips also can prevent PVH.

Leave your purse, wallet or another item in the back seat so you are forced to go in the back to retrieve it. This is an added security measure to check the back seat and ensure the car seat is empty.

Never leave a child in a vehicle unattended for any length of time, even if you

only intend to run into a store for a few minutes. Rolling down the windows or parking the car in the shade does little to adjust the interior temperature of the vehicle.

Write a note or place a stuffed animal in the passenger's seat to remind you that a child is in the back seat.

Keep the car locked and keys out of reach. Children being forgotten in the car is not the only cause of PVH incidences. Sometimes kids hide or play in cars and become trapped. The NHTSA says 25% of PVH deaths occur after kids gain access to unattended vehicles.

Be an observant bystand-

er at all times. If you see a child alone in a vehicle, make sure the child is alright and responsive, then attempt to locate the parents. If the child seems in distress, attempt to break the window of the car and call for emergency services immediately.

Instances of PVH and similar accidents are not exclusive to summertime. A car can become hot quickly even if the temperature outdoors seems relatively mild, says Consumer Reports.

Various strategies can help prevent hot car injuries and deaths in children.

How drivers can help fight distracted driving

By Metro Creative Connection

As recently as two decades ago, many drivers never would have imagined answering phone calls through their automobiles or spending time at stoplights strolling through their social media feeds. But such is the reality for modern drivers, who must now contend with myriad distractions while behind the wheel.

Distracted driving now poses a significant threat to drivers, their passengers and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving was responsible for the deaths of more than 3,100 people in the United States in 2019. Data from Transport Canada's National Collision Database indicates distracted driving contributes to an estimated 21% of fatal collisions in Canada.

A growing reliance on smartphones to do everything from play music to provide driving directions to check work emails has



COURTESY PHOTO BY BIASCIOALIALESSANDRO, ENVATO ELEMENTS

Distracted driving now poses a significant threat to drivers, their passengers and pedestrians. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, distracted driving was responsible for the deaths of more than 3,100 people in the United States in 2019.

made it harder than ever for drivers to ignore their devices. Though the temptation to pick up the phone may prove hard for motorists to overcome, the following are some strategies they can embrace en route to becoming

safer, less distracted drivers.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT POLICES DISTRACTED DRIVING

Many community lead-

ers have attempted to curb distracted driving by introducing legislation designed to penalize drivers who are caught with their eyes on their devices and not on the road. The National Conference of

State Legislatures reports there are currently 24 states that prohibit drivers from using handheld cellphones while driving. Such laws are effective. In fact, a 2010 study published in the journal Traffic Injury Prevention found that driver handheld phone use was estimated to be 24% to 76% lower up to seven years after handheld phone bans took effect in Connecticut, the District of Columbia and New York. Such figures indicate the far-reaching impact of legislating against distracted driving and underscores the importance of supporting such legislation.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

A recent study from AAA found that electronics use is the leading source of distraction for teenage drivers. Parents can set a positive example for their children by turning their notifications off when they get behind the wheel so they aren't tempted to respond to an alert or incoming message. If necessary, parents can place their phones in the glove compartment prior to starting their vehicles.

Setting such an example increases the likelihood that kids recognize the dangers of combining driving and devices.

RECOGNIZE DEVICES AREN'T THE ONLY DISTRACTIONS

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety notes that devices alone don't tell the story of distracted driving. Drivers can easily become distracted by adjusting a radio, eating and drinking while behind the wheel, grooming and interacting with passengers. Drivers must not discount the impact that all their behaviors can have on their ability to pay attention behind the wheel. When driving, stick to driving. If drivers need to do anything else, like take a sip of water, eat lunch or adjust their car stereos, they should do so only after pulling off the road and putting their vehicle in park.

Distracted driving poses a significant threat to anyone on the road. But it's a threat that can be eliminated entirely when drivers are motivated to do so.

GIFT FROM PAGE A1

I have five children, seven grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

In 1976, I crocheted a Christmas stocking for my first grandson and since then all of them have a Christmas stocking," said Bass.

She continued, "Last year, 2023, I crocheted 69 stock-

ings. I did it just to pass the time. I give them to other family members and their children and grandchildren, friends and strangers."

Bass doesn't know how many stockings she has crocheted in her years with

her crochet hook — but one of her happy new recipients was Houston himself — as Bass sent him his own stocking with her letter.

"It was so nice to receive the gift from Mrs. Bass. It is nice to know readers are

paying attention and care enough to send me a memento. She definitely put a big smile on my face," shared Houston.

The letter included some sage advice from Bass to Houston, "Don't forget to

hang it up next Christmas and maybe Santa will fill it with something good."

Houston intends to do just that.

Railroad Depot and City clash over parking



COURTESY PHOTO

The Hood County Railroad Depot.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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The Hood County Historical and Genealogical Society is the guardian of records and artifacts related to Hood County history. The Old Jail Museum and Yates-Duke Cabin display historical artifacts, while the Railroad Depot houses the origi-

nal records, family stories and railroad memorabilia.

Recently, the society found itself at odds with the City of Granbury regarding parking lot usage.

The city recently emailed museum volunteer Karen Nace a 30-day lease termination notice, bringing this long-standing tension to the forefront. Both parties have concerns about parking access, historical preservation and community needs.

THE SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE

For more than 41 years, the Depot Committee has leased and maintained the railroad depot property, including sharing parking spaces with local businesses like the GOAT distillery.

Alan Lash, president of the Genealogical and Historical Society, expressed concerns about the city's intentions. "The city wants to take over the entire parking lot and use it for public parking," Lash

said, reiterating, "For 40 years, that parking lot's been open, and anybody that wanted to park there could. And nobody did because it's a half-mile from the square."

Nace explained the museum's problems began when a new nearby business, The Pub McDonough, was being constructed. Workers started using the depot's parking lot without permission, causing disruptions for the society and leaving trash.

While the museum has occasionally allowed its parking lot to be used for events unrelated to the depot, Nace noted the increased demand sometimes led to overcrowding. "There was no space left for museum visitors and volunteers."

It has been reported to the Hood County News that the Railroad Depot had a little over 500 visitors last year.

The society permits visitors to enter the depot parking lot through one en-



Patrons of Pub McDonough parked their cars at the Railroad Depot, leaving no space for volunteers of the Depot.

trance, while the other two entrances are blocked off with a chain.

Nace and the society are concerned about the city's intentions regarding the lease changes. The society relies heavily on donations to continue its research, education and preservation work and pay the depot bills.

The society is concerned about the additional burden of legal expenses for review-

ing the reworked lease from the city and questions who will cover those costs.

The depot houses original courthouse records from the 1870s to the 1970s that were being discarded by the county. It also maintains an extensive collection of historical documents, artifacts, maps and family records donated by local families.

"The depot incorporated records from the library which were being removed

from public availability," Nace said, adding, "We maintain a website of indexes and other old Hood County information."

The 1983 Sublease Agreement indicates that the City of Granbury leases the Passenger Depot property, which includes the parking lots (over 20,000 square feet), to the Hood County Genealogical and Historical Society.

In response to lease prob-

lems, the society has asked the railroad, which owns the property, for help. Nace explained that past incidents, such as a previous mayor's attempt to take over the building, illustrate ongoing conflicts over property rights and usage.

THE CITY'S STANCE

According to Jeff Newpher, Communications Manager for the City of

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TRUMP

FROM PAGE A3

they're going to harm them, man or woman."

While there can be anywhere from 20 to 200 Secret Service agents assigned to protect the president at any given time, Lowery explained that the number varies based on the specific site and event. He also clarified that agents typically surround the president as part of their "working shift," noting that the number of agents in that shift is usually pretty set but can vary based on circumstances.

"It's a tremendously responsible job, and the history of the world hinges on the safety of our world leaders and for them to be able to work in a safe environment without worry of assassination," Lowery said. "If we can't provide that to them, it's going to impact their ability to serve the American people."

Reflecting on his own experience, Lowery noted that his understanding of protection deepened significantly after joining the White House detail. He said he thought he had a solid grasp of security protocols, but since learned there is a vast array of sophisticated tools and strategies in place to ensure safety at high-profile events.

"It's not until you actually go to the White House detail do you see the depth and the tools that are available, the sophistication of what protection's really like, and the complexities it takes to make



COURTESY PHOTO

During his 24-year career as a Secret Service agent, Granbury resident Mark Lowery had the honor of serving as protector to President Ronald Reagan during his term in the 1980s.

a venue safe," he said.

He recounted a significant event during President Reagan's visit to an auditorium at Ohio State University, where approximately 12,000 people had gathered. As guests passed through the security screening, Lowery said he and his team were prepared for the president's arrival in about 20 minutes when they received an alarm-

bomb threat in the building.

"I could make the decision to direct the motorcade and president to not come to the site, but ultimately my decision was to bring the president and the event went without incident," he explained. "But I also looked out and saw 12,000 souls, men, women and children that didn't come to that site that day and expect to be hurt, so that's the responsibility that I don't

think people understand.

"Unfortunately, that agent (in Butler) will live the rest of their life knowing that someone lost their life at their site, and that's a huge responsibility. And that responsibility never goes away."

UNDER REVIEW

Lowery expressed his belief that the attempted assassination on Trump should never have occurred. He shared his confidence that a thorough advance was performed on the outdoor venue, despite challenges posed by factors like long-range visibility and high ground.

"Once the investigation has concluded, we will know from a survey report on what their plan was," he said. "There's assignment logs for each and every police officer and each and every agent. We will know who was supposed to do what, at that venue ... Clearly, something broke down in the execution of that, but we the people right now don't know what happened."

Lowery said the protective shift did a "marvelous job" during the incident, stating that they acted effectively to protect the former president. He noted that as soon as Trump realized he had been shot, he instinctively dropped down, prompting the agents to quickly surround him and form a human shield. Lowery acknowledged that some people questioned why the presidential candidate wasn't evacuated sooner but emphasized there was an active gunman

at the scene. He said once the shooter was neutralized, the agents assessed the former president's condition, checking for any additional injuries and ensuring he was alert and able to communicate.

"They executed their plan precisely the way it was designed to play out," he said. "You don't want to move a protectee into another gunfight."

Lowery added there is a high likelihood that if the counter sniper team had not neutralized the shooter, he would've continued to shoot into the crowd, possibly injuring not only the Secret Service agents and Trump, but more citizens as well.

"It was a tremendous shot (by the counter sniper) — even though it was not a long-range shot — but it probably prevented the loss of life," he said.

Lowery also voiced concern about the spread of conspiracy theories and unverified information on social media before the investigation into the attempted assassination has completed — labeling it dangerous and unhealthy for the community and the nation as a whole.

"I just ask people to please don't criticize Secret Service agents who were working without having the facts," he said. "I was frustrated after watching the four-and-a-half hours of testimony (of the director) but I have complete confidence at some point we will know what was planned. Until that time, I'm deeply disturbed by the American

people, friends of mine, and residents within this community who are spewing social media conspiracy theories and throwing out supposedly evidence that they found without knowing the facts — and that's dangerous. It's not healthy for them. It's not healthy for America."

Lowery emphasized that while the Secret Service can conduct extensive training at its Beltsville facility, including drills for "assaults on principles" with flashbangs and dummy rounds, nothing can fully prepare agents for real-life scenarios.

"I've been involved in shootings," he said. "And until you're there, the scream of the crowd, the sounds, the madness that's going on, you can't train that to the level of real life."

It may take a while before all of the facts behind Trump's assassination attempt are revealed — but until that time, Lowery urges community leaders and elected officials to take a stand and guide residents in refraining from posting their speculations on social media.

"I am confident the truth will be provided," his Letter to the Editor states. "I am expecting a competent and transparent investigation! From my experience there are preliminary surveys, post assignment logs, CP Logs and many witness interviews that will determine what went very wrong at this rally. This should have NEVER happened!"

DEPOT

FROM PAGE A7

Granbury, the society operates during posted hours of 1-4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

While it has occasionally utilized a few parking spaces at the depot to support

its activities, the society currently restricts public access to the approximately 40 parking spaces adjacent to the Railroad Depot, even when closed.

"The current lease expires Aug. 21, 2024. The city and the society are currently in discussions for a new lease," Newpher explained. This new agreement aims to

address the society's needs while also allowing residents and visitors access to the unused parking spaces.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S CONCERNS

Lash mentioned that despite offering the west parking lot for city use multiple times, the assistant

city manager, Michael Ross, dismissed the suggestion of compromise each time.

"Let's try this as an experiment," Lash suggested. "We'll let you (the city) have use of the western parking lot there, the one that's closest to the street, and see how that goes."

In response to Lash's statement that Ross dis-

missed the society's suggestions, Newpher said, "This agreement will be publicly considered and approved by the Granbury City Council. The city feels the process will be slowed down if it responds publicly to statements made during discussions."

The society is deeply concerned about the potential

impact on its operations. "We're the protectors of history. We operate the depot, maintain the displays and bring people in to learn about everything," Lash emphasized

HCN contacted Pub McDonough for comment, but they declined to respond.

Edward Jones

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KAREN'S EXPERT CLEANING SERVICES Residential cleaning. Serving our area since 1994. (817)776-0260

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Specializing in older clocks
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ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
TECL#22551 50+ years
Residential/Commercial
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NO JOBS TOO SMALL!
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Residential and Commercial.
No job too large or small.
Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

Fencing

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Ornamental. Iron. Pipe. Wood. Privacy. Chain Link. Farm. Barb Wire. Non-Climb Fence. RV Covers. Metal Buildings. Pipe Fence. Carports. Welding Service. Concrete & Stone Work. Dock Repairs. Free Estimates. (817)559-2333

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5170
DOUG STULTS CONSTRUCTION
Since 1970.
Quality cedar fences.
Redwood patio pergolas.
Licensed & bonded. **817-279-8115**

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5200
SNODGRASS PAINTING AND REMODELING, INC
One Stop Shop
A-Z Construction & Painting
A+ BBB Member
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Bobcat work, Land clearing, Brush Hog mowing, Tree work, Excavating, Gravel driveways, Trench digging, Demo and haul-off. Free estimates. Call Keith 817-559-0100



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New construction, remodel, carpentry, paint, sheetrock, tile, stone, cement, doors, windows. Interior, exterior. Commercial. Residential. Insured. **817-363-7656**

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Residential and commercial construction. No job too big, or too small. Remodel, new construction, decks, outdoor kitchens and more. Call Charlie Coleman today for a free estimate (817) 905-0983

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*Power Washing
*Sheet Rock Repair
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5220
TRUJILLOS SPEEDY LAWN CARE
Lawn Mowing & Edging
Tree Trimming & Removal
817-559-5152
also clean and level lots

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TREE SERVICES & FORESTRY
MULCHING
Tree Removals, Stump Grinding, Tree Trimming, Emergency/ Hazardous Removals
Land/Lot Clearing & More
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Branchbosstreeco@gmail.com

Lawn Service: 10+ years mowing. Smiling faces all over Granbury. Also, long pole chain saw for tree work. Call or text 817-219-2359.

FATHER & SON
Trim * Removal
Senior Discount
817-296-2880



CALL FOR SPECIALS
Tree work, gutters, flower beds, shrubs. Brush hogging, tractor work. Senior discounts. **817-793-2245**

Masonry

5240
AFFORDABLE ROCK WORK
*Sidewalks *Retaining Walls
*Mailboxes *Fireplaces
No job too small. **FREE estimates. (817)279-3212**

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5260
HAULING & CLEAN-OUTS
Usually same or next day service, no job too large or small. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

Plumbing

5260
PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE WORK
Clean-outs, French Drains, and French Pit. Free Estimates. We take all credit cards. Call 817-566-4785

MERCHANDISE

Miscellaneous

6620
WAGON YARD.COM We sell local honey, Watkins, Howard Products, Mexican Vanilla. Repair Battery Clocks, Elec Lamps. 817-573-5321

WE BUY OLD US COINS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS.
Call 817-559-3131

LIVESTOCK & PETS

Pets



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

ORANGE TABBY 10 Weeks, First shots given. 4 males and one female, ready for their forever home. (817) 894-4065



LOOKING FOR A COMPANION? If you are looking for a companion animal to give a forever home, OPT TO ADOPT! Call or visit **Hood County Animal Control 1550 Weatherford Highway, Granbury, Texas 76048 817-573-4277**



JULIE'S DOG HOUSE GROOMING
Very Reasonable; Senior Discount (817) 408-5288
wilsonjulianne@gmail.com

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**

The HCN Classifieds...

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EMPLOYMENT NOTICES

General

8510
Valvoline ExpressCare Now Hiring Experienced Quick Lube Technicians. Duties consist of preventative maintenance, such as oil changes, top off vehicle fluids, replace filters, light bulbs, and wiper blades and service writer. Our shop is consistently voted Best of Hood County. Come join our team. Apply in person 3501 East Hwy 377.

PECAN PLANTATION OWNERS ASSOCIATION
Part-time & full-time receptionist for front desk.
Part-time & full-time housekeeping staff.
\$12-\$14 an hour.
Contact sarahlord@ppoaweb.com or call (817)573-2641 ext 335

CLASS A CDL DRIVER FOR EXPERIENTIAL MARKETING AGENCY Responsibilities: Travel alongside our tour assistants to some of the most thrilling events across the country, including fairs, rodeos, sporting events, and car shows. Your primary role will be to promote a leading automobile manufacturer by showcasing their products and engaging with consumers. Qualifications: Valid Class A CDL license with a clean driving record. How to Apply: Please send your resume, cover letter, and any relevant driving certifications to [bethanyh@newscope.net]. Please include "CDL Driver - Experiential Marketing" in the subject line. (817) 326-4277 bethanyh@newscope.net

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

Granbury ISD is currently looking for an 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.granburysid.org/jobs> Granbury ISD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Nursery Care Lead Attendant and Assistant Attendant Needed 2 Openings
First Presbyterian Church Granbury a Vital and Vibrant Church

Do you love Jesus and have a love and passion for caring for children? First Presbyterian church Granbury is a vibrant and growing church. If you have the necessary talents coupled with a faith filled caring heart, contact us right away to partner with FPC to shape, create, and implement future generations of dedicated disciples. Excellent pay: \$25 an hour for Lead Attendant, and \$20 an hour for the Assistant Attendant Approximately 5 hours per week (Sunday morning 8:30-11:30 and Wednesday evening 2 hours). A successful candidate will pass a criminal background check and a drug test. Do not let this opportunity get away: contact Rev. Angela Madden Scott/Head of Staff at RevAngela@fpcgranbury.org or call 817-573-2337 Ext. 2. Policy prevents members from applying.

Public Notices

Public Notices

9031
Granbury Independent School District is soliciting proposals for CTE Instructional Supplies and Equipment under CSP# 2024-9 & Athletic Trainer Supplies, Equipment, Uniforms/Clothing under CSP 2024-8.

The specifications are available online on <https://granburyionwave.net>. Proposals will be accepted until closing on August 20th, at 2pm. All questions regarding the bid should be asked inside the bidding system. If you have trouble connecting to ionwave please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.watson@granburysid.org.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.Storagetreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 11:00 A.M. on August 12, 2024. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Lonnie Day- household items, misc. outdoor, kid's toys.
Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury 817-573-2416

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice to Creditors for Estate of Charles Vernon Flowers, Jr., Deceased. Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Charles Vernon Flowers, Jr., Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 12th day of July 2024, by the County Court of Hood County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Vernon Michael Flowers, Independent Executor, within the time prescribed by law.

My address is
c/o Jessica L. Dunne
Farrow-Gillespie Heath Wilmoth LLP
1900 N. Pearl Street, Suite 2100
Dallas, Texas 75201
Independent Executor of the Estate of Charles Vernon Flowers, Jr., Deceased. CAUSE NO. P10410

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice to Creditors for Estate of Carolyn Lee Flowers, Deceased. Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Carolyn Lee Flowers, Deceased, were granted to the undersigned on the 12th day of July 2024, by the County Court of Hood County, Texas. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same to Vernon Michael Flowers, Independent Executor, within the time prescribed by law.

My address is
c/o Jessica L. Dunne
Farrow-Gillespie Heath Wilmoth LLP
1900 N. Pearl Street, Suite 2100
Dallas, Texas 75201
Independent Executor of the Estate of Carolyn Lee Flowers, Deceased. CAUSE NO. P10409

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration with Will Annexed for the Estate of Lewis A. Cleveland, Jr., Deceased were issued on July 24, 2024, in Cause No. P10415, ending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Christopher Cleveland.

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: Tracy S. Bush
Attorney at Law
201 E. Bridge St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

Public Notices

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SUE HICKS GREEN a/k/a ELSIE SUE GREEN, Deceased, were issued on July 24, 2024, under Docket No. P10451, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Kim Leann McIntire. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:
Representative,
Estate of Kim Leann McIntire
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 25, 2024.

LEGAL AD
Hood County Purchasing Agent's office will receive sealed bids at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, until 10 am August 29, 2024. Bids will be opened in a public meeting at that time and place.

RFB2024-07
Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete (HMCA) Bids may be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at <http://cohood-tx.bonfirehub.com>. It is free to register and to bid. Bid documents may also be obtained at the Purchasing Agent's Office located at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048 (817-408-3440), or through the Purchasing page of the Hood County website: <https://hoodcounty.texas.gov/bids>
Hood County reserves the right to award by unit cost or lump sum discount and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court.
For additional information, contact the Hood County Purchasing Agent at gtilleman@hoodcounty.texas.gov.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of RHONDA L. MUCKLEROY, Deceased, were issued on the 24th day of July, 2024, in Docket No. P10454 pending in the Probate Court of Hood County, Texas, to: ROBERT G. MUCKLEROY, III, Independent Executor.

Claims should be presented in care of the Independent Executor's attorney at the following address:
c/o Kandice R. Damiano
The Blum Firm, P.C.
777 Main Street, Suite 550
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
Dated: July 26, 2024
KANDICE R. DAMIANO
Attorney for the Independent Executor
777 Main Street, Suite 550
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
(817) 334-0066
State Bar No. 24070057

PUBLISHED NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Letters of Guardianship of the Person and Estate of Earnest Douglas Wilson, an incapacitated person, were issued on July 17, 2024, in Cause No. G00512, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Lois Renee Hawthorne, Guardian of the Person and Estate.

All claims can be addressed to the Guardian of the Person and Estate's attorney, Tracy S. Bush, at 201 E. Bridge St., Granbury, Texas 76049.
All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Hood County News

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www.hcnews.com

9031
Public Notices

GRANBURY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY (2 TRACTS)
The Board of Trustees of Granbury Independent School District (the "District") hereby provides notice to the public that the District will accept sealed bids for the surface only of the following tracts of real property:

Property No. 2: Unimproved property (approx. 7 acres) located at 2850 Acton School Rd., Granbury, Texas 76049 (Hood CAD Property ID No. R109232), further described as Lot 2, Blk 1, Subd Acton Elementary School Addn.

Property No. 3: Unimproved property (approx. 86 acres) located at 1301 James Rd., Granbury, Texas 76049 (Hood CAD Property ID No. R000092315), further described as Lot 1-R-1, Blk 2, Subd Acton Middle School Addn.

Minimum Bids: The minimum bid for Property No. 2 is \$875,000. The minimum bid for Property No. 3 is \$5,000,000. These properties are being sold "AS IS, WITH ALL FAULTS." Sealed Bids shall be delivered in writing, signed by the bidder or an authorized representative, and enclosed in a sealed envelope to the following address:
Granbury Independent School District
Attn: Assistant Director of Finance
217 N Jones St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

All bids must be plainly marked on the envelope "BID TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY." Sealed Bids must be received before 2:00 p.m. on Monday, August 12th, 2024.

Bidders may contact Bradee Watson, Purchasing Assistant, at 817-408-4087 or bradee.watson@granburysisd.org to receive a Bid Package, which provides information concerning the properties, the District's broker information, inspections, disclosures, requirements for submission, and other important information. If sold, the properties will be conveyed subject to the exceptions and reservations contained in the Bid Package. Interested parties may also pick up a hard copy of the Bid Package from the Finance/Business Office. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informality in bids received. Bids received after the deadline, faxed bids, and e-mailed bids will not be considered.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of Rodney John Rader, Deceased were issued on July 24, 2024, in Cause No. P10403, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Rick Rader.
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: Tracy S. Bush
Attorney at Law
201 E. Bridge St.
Granbury, Texas 76048

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Michael Ray Ragan, Cause No. P10426, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
Michael Truman Ragan in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Michael Ray Ragan, 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 this on the 7th day of June 2024
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estates of Pamela Anne Glass, Cause No. P10473, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
Thomas R. Glass in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and For Letters of Administration and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Pamela Anne Glass, 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 30th day of July 2024
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

9031
Public Notices

Brazos Electric Power Cooperative is proposing to add an antenna licensed by the Federal Communications Commission to an existing communications tower at the Stockton Bend Substation, 1375 NE Loop 567, Granbury (Hood County), Texas, 76048. The Stockton Bend tower, erected in 2008, is a 100-foot-tall self-supported tower with an 8-foot lightning rod. The new antenna would include one 3-foot parabolic antenna installed at an elevation of 45 feet above ground level. No lighting will be installed on the structure. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the effect the facility and licensed antenna may have on any historic property may send comments to Jennifer Brosz, Stantec, 8401 Shoal Creek Boulevard, Suite 100, Austin, TX, 78757, 737-307-8498, or by email to jennifer.brosz@stantec.com.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of LARRY MARVIN PARKS, Deceased, were issued on July 24, 202, in Cause No. P10365 pending in the County Court of HOOD County, Texas, to: Julie Annece Parks Bellville.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Representative, Estate of LARRY MARVIN PARKS
The Hyde Law Firm
827 West Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED 07/30/2024
/s/ Riley Roden
Riley Roden
Attorney for Julie Annece Parks Bellville
Bar no: 24138241
Office Phone: (817) 579-5997
Fax: (817) 573-4933
Email: riley@hydefirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of DANA J. KIRKLAND, Deceased, were issued on July 24, 2024, in Cause No. P10443 pending in the County Court of HOOD County, Texas, to: BRIAN CRAWFORD.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Representative, Estate of DANA J. KIRKLAND
The Hyde Law Firm
827 West Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED 07/31/2024.
/s/ Riley Roden
Riley Roden
Attorney for Brian Crawford
State Bar No. 24138241
827 West Pearl Street
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 579-5779
E-mail: riley@hydefirm.com

Advertisement to Bid
City of Granbury
The City of Granbury is accepting sealed competitive bids for the following:
For the installation of Automated Weather Observation System, AWOS III PT, RFP No. 23-24-11 until August 19, 2024 at 2:00pm CST, at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to:
City of Granbury Municipal Service Center
Attn: Purchasing Department
Automated Weather Observation System [AWOS III PT] RFP No. 23-24-11
401 N. Park Street
Granbury, TX 76048
Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website <https://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing> starting August 5, 2024 at 2pm. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of KATHRYN WHITE HUFFMAN, Deceased, were issued on July 24, 2024, in Cause No. P10447 pending in the County Court of HOOD County, Texas, to: Walter Huffman.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o: Representative, Estate of KATHRYN WHITE HUFFMAN
The Hyde Law Firm
827 West Pearl St.
Granbury, Texas 76048
DATED 07/31/2024.
/s/ Riley Roden
Riley Roden
Attorney for Walter Huffman
State Bar No. 24138241
827 West Pearl Street
Granbury, Texas 76048
Telephone: (817) 579-5779
E-mail: riley@hydefirm.com

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9031
Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
TRC 109 & 114
CAUSE NO. C2023455
NORMA MALDONADO VS. EVA PEREZ
TO: EVA PEREZ
IN THE 355m DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. You are hereby commanded to appear and defends such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date of the issuance hereof. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation, a judgement may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by NORMA MALDONADO as Plaintiffs, against the above named person(s) as Defendant(s), by Plaintiff's Original Petition filed on the 17th day of NOVEMBER, 2023, in a certain suit styled:
NORMA MALDONADO VS. EVA PEREZ.
A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2023455.
A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff NORMA MALDONADO, by and through its attorney of record, JEREMY SORELLE of THE HYDE LAW FIRM, PLLC, 827 W. PEARL ST, GRANBURY, TX 76048 brought suit under Cause No. C2023455 in the 355th District Court of Hood County, Texas, for PETITION FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT TO QUIET TITLE on the following described real property of which Defendant, EVA PEREZ, is a potential party of interest for the following property:
Lot 11 in Block 8 of Montego Bay Subdivision, in Hood County, Texas, as shown by Plat of said Addition recorded in Volume 2, page 43, Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. The property is known as 3620 Montgomery, Granbury, Texas 76048.
Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 26th day of JULY 2024.

PUBLIC SALES

Granbury 76048
Garage Sales 76048
Multi family garage sale. 3543 Kelly Ct. Fri & Sat 8/2 & 8/3, starts at 7am. Household goods, home decor, small kitchen appliances & accessories, tools, furniture, clothes, lots of baby items and lots of misc.
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

Granbury 76049
Garage Sales 76049
ESTATE SALE BY CARING TRANSITIONS: GRANBURY 5707 Nutcracker Dr.- AUG. 2-3 Tell City hard rock maple furniture; mid century console stereo; A-B steins; pool furniture; Christmas; golf clubs/gear/decor/memorabilia; tools. Photos at estatesales.net. 9a-5p FRI 9a-3p SAT
Fri & Sat 8/2 & 8/3, 8am-1pm.
325 Casas Del Sur St. Big garage sale. Everything must go!

Public Notice
Q&A
What is a public notice?
It's information about important government activities. Notice in the newspaper is required for a good reason — to make sure it's NOTICED. It's crucial to government transparency...and government accountability.
Your local paper is the most visible, independent source for this crucial service. We not only print notices in the paper, but post them on our website and a statewide website at no extra charge. And they're archived forever, so there's a permanent and unalterable record.
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Hood County News

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TexSCAN Week of July 28-Aug. 3, 2024

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Backup power – peace of mind. Get a standard warranty of 7 years, \$849 value. Call 888-925-0261, Briggs & Stratton Energy Solutions.

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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.

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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.

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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 "Jim" Cecil Mull, Jr.

February 18, 1945 - July 24, 2024

James "Jim" Cecil Mull, Jr. passed away on Wednesday, July 24, 2024.

Memorial service: 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 31, 2024, Lakeside Baptist Church.

Graveside services with Full Military Honors will be held at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024, at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery. Services under the direction of Wiley Funeral Home.

Jim was born on Feb. 18, 1945, in McCaysville, Georgia to Ann and James Cecil Mull, Sr. He married Nancy Dianne Massey on Dec. 16, 1966, at Riverside Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. He proudly served his country for 24 years in the United States Air Force. He served in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was a retired schoolteacher, working at Birdville ISD and Lakeside Christian Academy.

Jim was a member of Lakeside Baptist Church where he was a deacon



and was active in the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry ministry. He was always helping others. He enjoyed playing golf, traveling, and model railroads. He was preceded in death by his parents: Cecil and Ann Mull.

Jim is survived by his wife: Nancy Mull, children: Amy Smith, and Jeff Mull and his wife Jennifer, grandchildren: Reagan Mull, Ryann Mull, Hunter Mull, and Chance Baer, sister: Sharon Reynolds and Rodney Bollinger, and nieces: Jenny Wiggins and her husband Donnie, and Rebecca Westerhof.

Gary Richard Dotter

August 7, 1942 - July 27, 2024

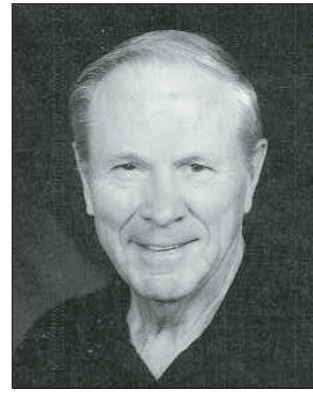
Gary Richard Dotter died Saturday, July 27, 2024, from complications of Parkinson's disease. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on Aug. 7, 1942, to Florence Hassing Dotter and Richard N. Dotter. He grew up playing sports, especially baseball. He graduated from Normandy High School and immediately signed with the St. Louis Cardinals Baseball Club at the age of 17. He played baseball on farm teams and was a left-handed pitcher in the Big Leagues for the Minnesota Twins. With the Twins, Gary had a baseball card, and at 19 he was the youngest player at the time to pitch for the Twins.

Gary also served in the Army reserves for six years.

After retiring from baseball Gary moved to Wichita Falls, Texas where he owned racehorses with Carter McGregor. He was a graduate of Midwestern State University from which he received a business degree.

On June 20, 1970, Gary married Christi White in Wichita Falls. Their marriage lasted 54 years.

Gary's business career was in the computer/book-keeping/accounting fields. In 2001 the couple moved to Trophy Club, Texas. Gary retired from Perot Systems in 2007. The couple then moved to Pecan Plantation south of Granbury, Texas. Through the years, Gary enjoyed cycling, working cattle on his land near Henrietta, Texas, and later, golfing after retirement. He also was a long-time member of the Major League Baseball



Players Alumni Association.

He was predeceased by his parents and brother-in-law, Rich Kamler.

Gary is survived by his wife, Christi Dotter, sons David (Vi) of Alpine, Texas, Will of Austin, Texas and grandchildren, Jessie, Liem, Danh, and surrogate granddaughter Trang Pham, his sister, Linda Kamler, nephew Brian Kamler (Suzanne), niece Tricia Palmer (Jason), and several great-nieces and nephews.

Gary's memorial service will be at 1 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024, at Wiley Funeral Home, 400 US Hwy 377 E., Granbury, Texas. He chose to be cremated.

Honorary Pallbearers are Bubba Beard, Larry Berend, Jack Bryant, Gary Boehm, Jerry Ellis, Mike Herbert, Ed Jensen, Walt Langley, Brad Runge and Bob Wilson.

The burial will be at Riverside Cemetery in Wichita Falls, Texas at a later date.

Contributions in Gary's memory may be made to Pecan Plantation VFD and EMS, 9518 Monticello Dr., Granbury, TX 76049, Parkinson's Foundation, Michael J. Fox Foundation, or a charity of your choice.

Thomas "Tom" Maxwell Hartley

August 2, 1942 - July 9, 2024

Thomas "Tom" Maxwell Hartley, 81, of Granbury passed away on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. Service: 1 p.m., Friday, Sept. 6, 2024, Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery.

Tom was born on Aug. 2, 1942, in Peoria, Illinois to George and Mara Hartley. He earned his degree from Texas A&M in 1964 and was a Certified Public Accountant for the Internal Revenue Service. He was proud of his career with the IRS.

Tom proudly served his country in the United States Army. He was promoted to the rank of Captain and served as a helicopter pilot. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, 15 awards of the Air Medal, Bronze Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and National Defense Medal.

Tom owned a 1969 Cessna 150J airplane that he loved to fly and maintain. He took his grandchildren on many trips to visit the family farm in Illinois. The 60-acre family farm has been in the family for generations and was valued by Tom.

Tom took great pride and love in the organization and charting his ancestry through genealogy.



This was one of his favorite hobbies which he shared with his late wife, Micki.

Tom was a very devoted and humble servant of God. He was often praising and rejoicing in the name of the Lord and his many blessings. He began his own ministry to better serve God's will. His business card had the quote: Colossians 3:17 "...do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..." He was preceded in death by his father, George C. Hartley, his mother Mara M. Ristic Hartley, his wife, Micki J. Burselson, and daughter, Laurie L. Nowak.

Tom is survived by his grandchildren, Megan E. Reynolds and her husband William J. Reynolds; and Randy M. "Trey" Gauwain, and great-grandchild Emiel J. Reynolds.

Sherry Lamond Bryant

September 18, 1944 - July 24, 2024

On July 24, 2024, Sherry Bryant, 79, of Granbury, Texas lost her long and valiant battle with cancer. She was born to John and Frances Thompson on Sept. 18, 1944, in Fort Worth, Texas. She met the love of her life, Kenneth Bryant, Sr. and together they cherished one another for 38 years until his passing in 2015. Sherry is survived by her children, Cindy (Chris) Oberlander and Alan (Joel) Keith. Grandchildren, Zeb (Jen) Oberlander, Luke (Haley) Oberlander, along with great-grandchildren Finley, Braylee, Bently and Kaydence Oberlander. She is also survived by bonus children, Kenneth Bryant, Jr, Becky Elkins, Christy Hayman, George Bryant, David Bryant and their families as well as sister, Paula Booker. Left to cherish her memory are many nieces, nephews and loving friends. Sherry was preceded by her husband, her parents, her brothers John, Bob, and her sister Sheila. The family would



like to thank Dr. David D'Spain and Dr. Chad Weldon for their kind and wonderful care over the past decade. Sherry fought with grace and determination. She always had a smile and a warm hug ready. She is fiercely loved, and she will be greatly missed. Visitation was held Thursday, Aug. 1, 2024, from 6-8 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury. Memorial service was Friday, Aug. 2, 2024, at 1 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home. Interment immediately followed at Holly Hills Cemetery in Granbury.

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Perpetual Care Cemetery and Masoleum

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MARTIN'S Funeral Home & Cremation Services 817-573-1154

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- oil rich countries
- Patricia of Texas-based film "Hud"
- "in ___" (work well together)
- TXism: "sticks like ___ a road"
- Cuero's Turkeyfest race: "Great ___ Gallop"
- Gulf game fish
- dove sound
- TX Bobby, co-founded the Black Panther Party
- unoriginal, trite
- "tit for ___"
- "in ___" (work well together)
- TXism: "sticks like ___ a road"
- Cuero's Turkeyfest race: "Great ___ Gallop"
- Gulf game fish
- dove sound
- TXism: "he's lower than pond ___"
- Army inspector, e.g. (abbr.)
- in 1991, IRS sold some of TX Willie Nelson's property to pay this (2 wds.)
- "___ Mission" is oldest in Texas
- smokestack
- TXism: "dot the i's and cross the ___"
- TX Roy Orbison's "___, Pretty Woman"
- golf ball holders
- siroin and brisket are cuts ___
- TXism: "he's a ___ nuff Texan"
- star of "Bandit Kings of Texas," Lane
- former San Angelo festival: "Fiesta ___"
- "mister" in Mexico
- in Brown County on U.S. 67 & 84
- taxi cost
- illegal motion by a Ranger pitcher
- corporate raider, TX
- Pickens
- how unhappy fans showed disapproval

DOWN

- TXism: "attacked like conventioners ___"
- how shearers charge? (2 wds.)
- cowboys are big
- in Callahan County on I-20
- 37th governor, Shivers
- tidy
- Neil Diamond's "___, I Said"
- late Texas singer, Gilley (init.)
- live music TV show: "___ City Limits"
- TXism for "fellow"
- enjoyed a meal
- rose stalk
- t-shirt size
- TX Gary Morris hit: "The Love ___ Me"
- planting dirt
- LBJ Supreme Court nominee, Fortas
- in the 1990s, it was easy to find one in Texas (2 wds.)
- TX Ronnie who sang with Brooks
- long, narrow cut in Columbus, TX: "Tate-___"
- Brandon House"
- TXism for "fellow"
- enjoyed a meal
- TXism: "mad as a wet ___"
- TXism: "from womb ___" (lifetime)
- TXism: "at the drop of ___" (impulsive)
- TX Gary Morris hit: "The Love ___ Me"
- planting dirt
- LBJ Supreme Court nominee, Fortas
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- star of "Bandit Kings of Texas," Lane
- former San Angelo festival: "Fiesta ___"
- "mister" in Mexico
- in Brown County on U.S. 67 & 84
- taxi cost
- illegal motion by a Ranger pitcher
- corporate raider, TX
- Pickens
- how unhappy fans showed disapproval

Are you afraid of outliving your money?

TY ANDREW
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser

Do you worry about running out of money during your retirement years? If so, how can you help prevent this from happening?

In the first place, if you have this type of fear, you're far from alone. Consider this: 58% of retirement savers from all age groups, including current retirees, say that outliving their assets is their greatest retirement fear, according to a study by Cerulli Associates, a financial services research organization.

This type of fear can certainly affect your quality of life when you retire. Still, there's no need to panic - be-



Ty Andrew

cause you can take steps to help prevent the running-out-of-money scenario. Here are a few to consider:

KNOW HOW MUCH YOU'LL NEED DURING RETIREMENT

You need to get a clear picture, or at least as good an estimate as possible, of how much money you'll need to support your retirement lifestyle. Once you do retire, some costs, such as transportation or other work-related expenses, might go down, while others - medical expenses, in particular - will likely go up. The fear of running out

of money, like many fears, is caused largely by what you don't know, so having a good sense of how much you'll need in retirement can help reduce your anxieties.

BUILD FINANCIAL RESOURCES BEFORE RETIREMENT

You're probably at your peak earning capacity in the years close to your retirement, so consider contributing as much as you can afford to your IRA and 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

MAXIMIZE YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS

You can start collecting Social Security as early as 62,

but your monthly benefits will be larger if you can afford to wait until your full retirement age, between 66 and 67. (Payments will "max out" at age 70.)

RE-ENTER THE WORKFORCE

Going back to work in some capacity is one way to possibly help build retirement resources and delay taking Social Security. If you have a particular area of expertise, and you enjoyed the work you did, you might be able to go back to it on a part-time basis or do some consulting. You could boost your cash flow, and potentially extend your contributions to an IRA and to an employer's retirement plan.

CUT COSTS DURING RETIREMENT

Possibly the biggest cost-cutting measure is downsizing - are you willing and able to move to a less expensive area or scale down your current living space? Of course, this is an emotional decision, as well as a financial one, and downsizing isn't for everyone, but it might be something to at least consider. As for the lesser ways of reducing expenses, take advantage of senior discounts, which are offered in many areas, including entertainment, public transportation, restaurants and retail establishments. And look for other opportunities, such as cutting out streaming services you don't use.

LOOK FOR MORE INCOME FROM YOUR INVESTMENTS

As you get closer to retirement, and even when you do retire, you might want to adjust your investment portfolio to provide you with more income-producing opportunities. However, even as a retiree, you'll want some growth potential in your investments to help keep you ahead of inflation.

Ultimately, the more you can bolster your financial security before and during retirement, the less fear you may have of outliving your money.

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 grief support group for those who have lost a loved one. For the past 27 years the group has helped people work through their grief journey. The sessions begin twice yearly with the next session beginning Oct 20. This is a Christ-Centered ministry, meeting at 3-5 p.m. in the Education Building of St. Frances Cabrini Church. For more information, please call Phillis or Bill Brewer at 817-573-8915

EVERY MONDAY

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

ACTON AL-ANON 12 Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information call 817-308-3300.

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 Coun-

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

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

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

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.

ACTON AL-ANON 12 Step Group meeting noon to 1 p.m. Located in the Acton Library in the same building as fire department, 6430 Smokey Hill Court. For more information call 817-308-3300.

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

LOCAL CHAPTER 238 of the Disabled American Veterans now meets at Charterhouse, 959 Charterhouse Circle, Granbury at 7 pm. The purpose of each meeting is to help the Veterans Administration keep its promise to take care of disabled veterans and to promote camaraderie among veterans, both 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.

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Advice for sellers

BY JACQUE GORDON



Jacquie and her husband David moved to Granbury in 2007. They have five children and 15 grandchildren. A REALTOR® since 2017, she has been with Keller Williams her entire career and in Gary Keller's top 200 agents in the company for the past year. She was a Granbury Association of REALTORS® board member for three years and is now president of the board. jacquiegordon@kw.com | 817-243-4324

Selling a home can be complicated — you're probably trying to purchase another property while selling this one. Using a REALTOR® will save you time and money by setting the correct price for your home, marketing and showing your property, advising you about the pros and cons of offers submitted for your home, helping you negotiate favorable terms, and negotiating on your behalf.

SET A PRICE

If you ask too much, you may not find a buyer. If you price the home too low, you'll cheat yourself out of money. Websites with quick value estimators aren't the way to determine the value of your home. Go to the only people with the data and the expertise to accurately read your market: REALTORS®.

MARKET YOUR PROPERTY

In preparing your home for viewing by prospective buyers, remember that people buy on emotions. Your home has to feel right, or buyers will look elsewhere. Look at your home objectively and listen to suggestions from your agent about ways to make your home more appealing, such as cleaning, decluttering, removing personal items, making cosmetic repairs, etc.

CONSIDER YOUR OPTIONS

When a buyer makes an offer, what do you do? Your REALTOR® will help you review it. If you're lucky enough to have more than one offer, he or she will discuss your options to do what's best for you. Once an offer is accepted by you and the buyers, the buyers will perform inspections and finalize the deal.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CITIZENS OF HOOD COUNTY AND ALL AMERICANS,

Assassination attempt should have NEVER happened!

Hood County residents, don't judge the Secret Service until a competent investigation has been completed. This is a complex and challenging responsibility. Until one has performed this duty one cannot understand the depth of responsibility and level of detailed work it requires to be successful in each and every event. I have performed countless site advances, many much larger than the one in Butler, Pennsylvania.

I have questions like many of you, but I also have a perspective many of you do not have. I ask that all of us refrain from critical judgment, spreading uncorroborated information and humorous memes. To our community leaders and elected officials, now is the time to be a leader and demonstrate how we as citizens should react and not participate in this senseless social media speculation. I am confident the truth will be provided. I am expecting a competent and transpar-

ent investigation! From my experience, there are preliminary surveys, post assignment logs, CP Logs and many witness interviews that will determine what went very wrong at this rally. This should have NEVER happened!

Following the assassination of President McKinley in 1901, an author named Murat Halstead wrote a book called "The Illustrious Life of William McKinley." It was copyrighted in 1901. President McKinley was the third American president assassinated in 36 years. I read this book many years ago. I used to read the below passage to the young agent staff in Dallas to remind them of their high level of responsibility for the liberty and safety of democracy in America.

"The lessons taught by the tragedies of the murderous martyrdoms of Presidents, are that public opinion must be formed — active, organized and aggressive — for effective war upon anarchy, or the glory of our government of ourselves will decline. There is more than the assassination of our first citizens and officers, more than murders and attempts at murder of

Presidents, that is involved. It is LIBERTY of the land that the anarchist strikes with his assassin's hand. LIBERTY and ORDER must be inseparable. It is anarchy that is the foe of freedom the everlasting enemy of free government."

Where are we in America? God bless the Secret Service, God bless President Trump and God bless America!

Mark L. Lowery
U. S. Secret Service
Special Agent in Charge
(retired)

THE BEAUTY OF DEMOCRACY

For the past several years we, the majority of U.S. citizens, have felt that the far-right has had the upper hand. More dedicated to skullduggery it seemed the extremists were always a jump ahead. They were steadily closing in on their objective; dismantling our Republic.

As all youth baseball players have experienced, I remember once suddenly feeling that championship game start to slip away. In the pit of my stomach there was a tangible sensation of

the momentum shifting. That must be what conservatives are feeling right now. With this election nearing the clubhouse turn they must be experiencing that same feeling of "Big Mo" slipping away.

Our democracy has a great, built-in self-leveler. It's "we the people;" it's time to save our democracy! VOTE!

Charles Stonick
Granbury

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

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

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

DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

European Christmas markets river cruises



BY ZAC WILSON

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

Experience the centuries old holiday traditions of Europe at its most festive time of year and immerse yourself in the magic of the holidays with visits to some of the world's most timeless Christmas markets. Sailing on the Rhine River, you'll enjoy a mug of glühwein while exploring the

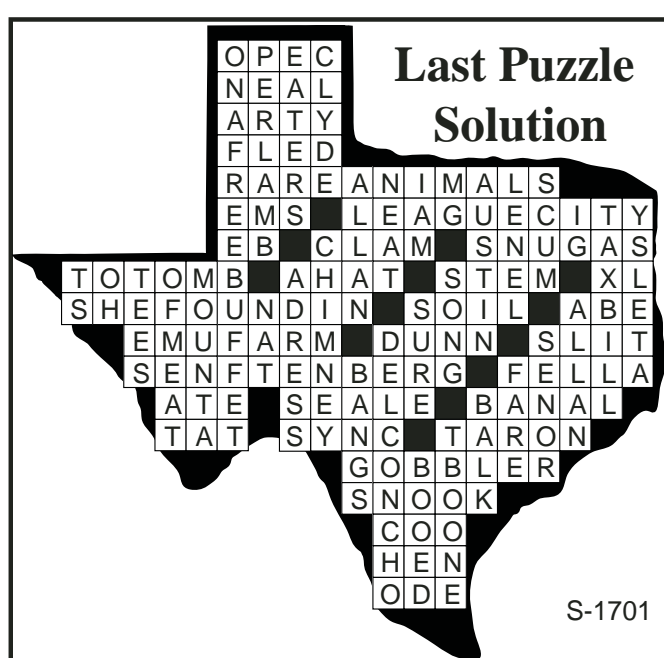
Cologne Germany Christmas Market located in front of the UNESCO-designated Gothic cathedral. The Capital of Noël Strasbourg has the oldest and largest Christmas Market in France. Gengenbach Germany boasts the world's largest Advent calendar. You'll find choirs, sweet treats, performers of

all kinds, tidings and cheer, carolers and traditional handmade gifts in Christmas Markets across beautiful and exotic cities like Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava, Salzburg and Regensburg.

Christmas Market River Cruises are unique and only sail between late November, around Thanksgiving, through the Christmas holiday. The two most popular rivers to experience the best Christmas Markets in Europe, France, Austria, Hungary and more are the Rhine River and the Danube River. Many of our favorite

holiday traditions trace their origins to Europe, and the Würzburg Christmas Market began in the early 1800s. Nuremberg features the festive Christkindlesmarkt, the largest and oldest Christmas Market in Germany. Regensburg Christmas Market at Thurn and Taxis Palace is one of Bavaria's most beautiful and romantic experiences. Vienna has many markets that seem to magically appear around every corner. Budapest's Vörösmarty Square offers

PLEASE SEE CRUISES | A13



POLICE BLOTTER

City of 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 23-29. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

JULY 23
 2:50 a.m.: suspicious activity on N. Meadows Drive
 11:54 a.m.: intoxicated person on E. U.S. Highway 377
 3:07 p.m.: vicious animal on Quiet Cove
 4:48 p.m.: theft of property on S. Meadows Drive
 10:23 p.m.: assault on Second Street
 A warrant was served, and two minor accidents and 10 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 24
 12:44 a.m.: assault on Parkwood Lane
 12:50 a.m.: suspicious activity on White Cliff Road
 9:25 a.m.: animal cruelty on Quiet Cove
 11:49 a.m.: criminal mischief on Jason Lane
 4:12 p.m.: forgery on N.E. Loop 567
 4:14 p.m.: criminal mischief on E. Moore Street
 4:46 p.m.: disturbance on E. Pearl Street
 8:15 p.m.: disturbance on Overstreet Boulevard
 **One minor accident and

23 traffic stops occurred this day**

JULY 25
 11:19 a.m.: fraud on Spring Ridge Circle
 3:58 p.m.: possession of marijuana on N. Park Drive
 5:25 p.m.: assault with a deadly weapon on E. U.S. Highway 377
 6:53 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
 7:08 p.m.: noise disturbance on White Cliff Road
 7:20 p.m.: harassment on Spring Ridge Circle
 10:34 p.m.: loose livestock on Lipan Highway
 **One minor accident and

24 traffic stops occurred this day**

JULY 26
 8:09 a.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
 9:48 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on Glen Rose Highway
 11:17 a.m.: criminal mischief on E. U.S. Highway 377
 11:39 a.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
 11:55 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
 2:07 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on S. Morgan Street
 2:43 p.m.: suspicious activity or circumstance on E. Pearl

Street
 4:01 p.m.: assault on N. Plaza Drive
 5:47 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
 Four minor accidents and 25 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 27
 2:30 a.m.: theft over \$100 and less than \$750 on S. Morgan Street
 10:11 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
 10:17 a.m.: noise disturbance on E. Pearl Street
 10:48 a.m.: noise disturbance on N. Plaza Drive
 11:52 a.m.: criminal tres-

pass on E. U.S. Highway 377
 10:54 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
 7:45 p.m.: intoxicated person on E. U.S. Highway 377
 9:48 p.m.: suspicious activity on N. Meadows Drive
 10:03 p.m.: theft on Waters Edge Drive
 10:20 p.m.: shots fired on Sunflower Lane
 10:24 p.m.: suspicious activity on Weatherford Highway
 One major accident, one minor accident, and 11 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 28
 12:10 a.m.: noise disturbance on Quiet Cove

12:13 a.m.: noise disturbance W. Pearl Street
 12:44 a.m.: city code violation on N. Park Drive
 1:44 a.m.: suspicious activity on Weatherford Highway
 9:53 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
 11:11 a.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
 3:29 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
 3:41 p.m.: juvenile runaway on Saratoga Boulevard
 6:21 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on W. Bridge Street
 6:57 p.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377
 7:58 p.m.: assault on N. Plaza Drive
 10:44 p.m.: theft on Acton School Road
 11:12 p.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377
 Four warrants were served and 39 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 29
 2:17 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
 4:46 p.m.: property damage on E. U.S. Highway 377
 5:40 p.m.: criminal trespass on Paluxy Road
 6:34 p.m.: reckless driver on N. Plaza Drive
 9:21 p.m.: noise disturbance on Sheila Drive
 One warrant was served, one major accident, six minor accidents, and seven traffic stops occurred this day

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CRUISES
 FROM PAGE A12
 traditionally handmade gifts. There are so many wonderful details that make a Christmas Market River Cruise magical. Here are a few of my favorite things:
 Exuberant decorations in charming cities and towns.
 Yuletide cookies, cakes and fresh baked treats.

Cobblestone streets illuminated with holiday lights. Angelic songs by strolling carolers. Storybook villages and snowcapped castles on the riverside. Hand carved toys and ornaments from Christmas past. Music performances, tree trimming and cooking demonstrations. Glad tidings and cheer. Hot chocolate, spicy glühwein and gingerbread. Roasted chestnuts and sweet treats

of every kind. Exciting festivities and events. Adding to the magic of the holiday, the weather is oftentimes snowy, creating a beautiful winter wonderland.
 My personal favorites are the extraordinary food and treats. Schmalzkuchen is a vanilla or lemon-flavored ball of fried dough rolled in sugar. Lebkuchen are gingerbread cookies coated in chocolate or sugar icing. Maroni are

sweet roasted chestnuts. Heibe Schokolade is a perfectly made hot chocolate. Pfannkuchen are crepes filled with cream, Nutella or fruit. And you'd be surprised at the savory treats too; there are so many festive sausages and potato pancakes and more.
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NCTA volleyball team awarded academic distinctions

From Staff Reports

In July 2024, the North Central Texas Academy was chosen by The American Volleyball Coaches Association for notable academic awards.

North Central Texas Academy was honored for the second year in a row with both the AVCA Team Academic Award, plus the distinction of Team Academic Honor Roll for being in the top 20% of GPAs for the 2023-2024 school year.

A record number of volleyball programs have earned the AVCA Team Academic Award sponsored by INTENT. More than 1,400 collegiate and high school volleyball programs maintained a year-long grade point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale (or 4.1 on a 5.0 scale), to earn the award for their classroom excellence during the recently completed academic year.

Coach Chris Smith said, "I along with the administration are very pleased with success the team continues to have both on and off of the court."



The North Central Texas Academy volleyball team of 2023-2024 won state and recently was honored by the American Volleyball Coaches Association for notable academic awards.

COURTESY PHOTO

Changing of the guard: Carter departs Lipan ISD for Hereford

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Lipan — Dr. Ralph Carter, the esteemed superintendent of Lipan Independent School District, has resigned after being hired as superintendent of Hereford ISD, a 4A district with approximately 4,000 students.

Carter's departure marks the end of a significant era for Lipan ISD, a 2A district with 450 students, where his leadership has been highly regarded.

In a heartfelt statement, Carter expressed the difficulty of his decision to leave Lipan. "The school district is in excellent shape, the community is extremely supportive, there is a good board in place, there is an excellent staff that sets the bar high and absolutely some of the best students in the state," Carter said.

He highlighted the district's successful extracurricular programs and high academic results, reflecting on the enjoyable time he and his wife, Susan, spent in Lipan. Carter is set to move to Hereford in August.

Mike Morrison, a member of the maintenance department, praised Carter's hands-on leadership and dedication. "Dr. Ralph Carter is my preacher for over five years, friend and supervisor," Morrison stated. "He was always interacting with all the students and encouraged them in everything they were interested in. He was a true leader and led by example, even mopping water in the middle of the night when the library flooded." Morrison also noted Carter's efforts to maintain campus safety through the implementation of the Guardian Plan and his willingness to get involved in various tasks, from mowing grass to cleaning fence lines.

Cindi Fields, a teacher and UIL coordinator at Lipan High School, commended Carter's motivational leadership and his role in the district's many achievements. "Dr. Carter has led and cheered us on over the years, encouraging students, teachers, coaches and sponsors alike," Fields said. "We have achieved numerous awards under his direction, including competing — and winning — at the state and national levels." She also acknowledged his efforts in building a greenhouse, which introduced new classes for skill development, and his consistent engagement with students to address their concerns.

"I wish only continued success for Lipan ISD, its students and staff as well as the community as a whole," Carter remarked. "I will always remember the great community support and student success that runs through the history of the school."



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Back-to-school 101: A helpful parent's guide

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

As the lazy days of summer draw to a close, the countdown to the first day of school begins. For many families, this time of year brings a mix of excitement, anxiety and a dash of chaos. As the parents of five kids, my wife and I have experienced our share of the first days of school. Admittedly, some were smoother than others!

But fear not, dear readers! We've compiled a list of tips and advice to help you and your kids start the new school year on the right foot. So, grab a cup of coffee, put your feet up, and let's dive into some back-to-school brilliance!

PLAN A FUN FINALE FOR SUMMER

Make the last days of summer memorable with a family outing or a special activity. Whether it's a picnic at the park, a day

trip to the zoo, or a movie marathon at home, creating a fun end to the break can help everyone transition more smoothly into school mode.

GET BACK INTO A ROUTINE

Ease back into school schedules by gradually adjusting bedtimes and wake-up times. Start this process at least a week before school begins. This way, the first day of school won't come as a shock to anyone's system — at least not a complete shock!

ORGANIZE SCHOOL SUPPLIES TOGETHER

Make a fun family event out of shopping for school supplies. Let the kids pick out their favorite notebooks, pens, and backpacks — in accordance with your school's supply list, of course. When you get home, organize everything together, and label items if necessary. This not only builds excitement but

also ensures nothing is forgotten.

CREATE A HOMEWORK STATION

Set up a dedicated, distraction-free space for homework and studying. Stock it with all the necessary supplies, like pencils, paper and a calculator. This will help kids get into the habit of focusing on their schoolwork and keeping everything they need in one place.

SET GOALS AND EXPECTATIONS

Have a family meeting to discuss goals and expectations for the new school year. Encourage your kids to set their own academic and personal goals. This can range from improving grades to making new friends or joining a club. Having clear objectives can motivate them to stay on track.

MEAL PREP MAGIC

Save time and stress on busy mornings by plan-

ning and prepping meals ahead of time. Create a weekly menu and prep lunches and snacks the night before. Consider healthy, easy-to-grab options like fruit, cheese sticks and pre-made sandwiches.

GET INVOLVED

Stay engaged with your child's education by attending school events, meeting teachers and joining the PTA. Being involved not only shows your support but also helps you stay informed about what's happening at school.

ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

In age-appropriate ways, foster independence by encouraging your kids to take responsibility for their own tasks, such as packing their lunch, organizing their backpacks and setting their own alarms. This not only builds confidence but also

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YOUR PLACE FOR BACK TO SCHOOL NEWS

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Lipan Summer Softball



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
 The Lipan Lady Indians softball program hosted its 2024 summer camp July 25-26. Photos are from the kindergarten through fourth grade camp Friday July 26, at the Lady Indians softball field.



Tolar Summer Volleyball



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
 The Tolar High School Lady Rattlers volleyball team held its 2024 summer camp for incoming seventh through ninth grade students, July 29-31. Photos are from the July 30 camp in the THS practice gym. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



BOOK REVIEW

The front seat is going to need a lot of work

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Yeah, it's roomy but the seat belt is completely missing. Still, four on the floor, zero-to-25 in three seconds, it runs on cheap fuel, she's got a lot of kick, it's workable. This is the ride you've wanted since you were 14 years old. As in the new book "The Horse" by Timothy C. Winegard, what'll you do with that one horsepower?

Imagine the bravery of the very first person who jumped on the back of a horse.

That person may've been "some kid" on a dare, which makes sense. After all, when you're standing near a thousand-pound animal

with sharp hooves and a willingness to bite, it'd take youthful bravado to leap up and on — but someone did, roughly 5,500 years ago, somewhere near Russia.

Long before that, though, the animal that would evolve into the horse was tiny, a funny-looking creature with three toes. A few million years later, and it "would be easily recognized ... as a miniature horse" — the fossils over which early American paleontologists had a literal Bone War, so fascinated were they.

Equally "captivated," apparently, were people long before them who realized horses were multi-use creatures in industry, field, farm and trail. They ran

on grass, which was freely found almost everywhere. Horse waste was voluminous and could be used on crops or as fuel or "home insulation." Horse milk is nourishing. And while it's abhorrent to most modern North Americans, in a pinch, a horse was a meal on four feet.

Most of all, the ubiquitous use of the horse in ancient history changed nearly every aspect of human culture. Very early "domestic horses hastened the ability to get the word out," says Winegard. Later, they offered "lightning transmission of ideas, materials, innovation, trade goods, human migrations and conquering armies."

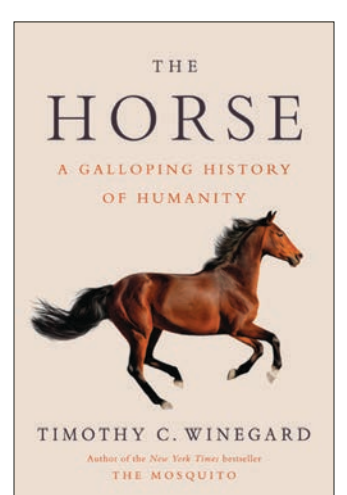
And yet, after thousands of years of labor and friendship, with the invention of a single mechanical device, "the demand for horses dried up."

But obviously not completely: Winegard says the number of horses in the U.S. now, as compared to a century ago, has gone down by two-thirds. Still, you likely don't have to go far to find a horse these days, and "The Horse" is equally easy to get.

From Greece and Rome and early science to the modern attitudes, therapeutic uses, politics and pleasure of equines in general, Winegard speaks directly to the heart of horse lovers, even when the discussion isn't entirely pleasant.

Indeed, there are some hard truths about how humans treated horses over time, and they're accompanied by photos so beware. Readers may also note an overabundance of ancient history, which is sometimes difficult to tackle. Stick with it, though; think of it like a trail ride, heavy with brush. The fun part's always just a hoofbeat away.

Horse lovers should absolutely find this book, but historians and lovers of culture will like it, too. For sure, "The Horse" is perfect for someone with a need for steed.



COURTESY PHOTO
 "The Horse: A Galloping History of Humanity" by Timothy C. Winegard, c.2024, Dutton, \$35, 519 pages

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

Life to 95 and still moving: Story of Melvin (Bud) Gifford

BY MELVIN (BUD) GIFFORD
Anecdotes by Sherry and Kaye Gifford

I have heard this: To evaluate a person's life you must "Look in, out and up."
I was born, along with my twin sister, Aug. 5, 1925, into the family of Edna and Chester Gifford. We were the middle of six children. Our farm was located south of Tolar.
We attended school at Hays College until the eighth grade and graduated from Tolar High school in 1942. I married Mae Ann Caudle March 24, 1951. Sixty-nine years later we have two daughters, (Sherry and Kaye, three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Sherry and Kaye state, "Dad is the glue that holds our family together. His life has always revolved around his family and his church. He never meets a stranger and can talk to anyone and make them feel that they have known him, and he has known them forever.

His word is his bond and if he says something he means it and will follow through with it. He is quick to laugh and to have a good time. He loves holidays and anytime the whole family can get together."
My goal was to work with my dad on the farm, but using a drought, the Lord changed my occupation to a painter. Sherry states, "He painted houses for many people in Granbury over the years. Mrs. Luton was always one to call and have him paint for her; sometimes just one room. He painted for Mrs. Black at Black's Ranch and for the Knox family at the Knox Ranch. He probably would have painted Ms. Black's home for free because she let him come out and fish in the tanks on her property. I told you about the painter's pants that he wore where when someone couldn't find the color they wanted, they would point to one of the drops of paint on those pants and say, "That color right there!"

In 1966 I began working at Norman Lumber Company but continued painting at night. After 16 years at Norman Lumber Company I was elected Commissioner of Precinct 2 in Hood County. I served in this position for 12 years. My goal was to be "Good for Hood" with the help of a good court and qualified office holders. I believe we were Good for Hood. Kaye states, "The first time he ran they were still doing the election results on the square. When they had new numbers come in they would come out and change the totals on the big black board that was out in the gazebo. The whole town was out there."
"He also loves to support the high school teams in Granbury and Tolar. He, Willie Crossland and Neal Trull would go to the games together. They would travel all over to see the teams play. He lost both his friends but still he would go to see the home games, especially basketball. If the Granbury

teams were out of town, you would find him in Tolar watching their teams. The Hood County News did a write-up about Dad attending the games."
"Dad has always been very involved at First Baptist Church. He was named Deacon Emeritus last year (2019) and given a certificate and an engraved award in a ceremony at the church."
"He also loved playing softball and played on an 'Oldtimers' team for many years. They played their games mostly in Stephenville but would go to tournaments in different places. One time they went to a tournament and found out they had been put in the wrong bracket and were playing select teams. They didn't last very long in the tournament but had a great time. He also loves to garden, grow flowers and make jelly and pear preserves. He also makes a mean chow-chow using a recipe from my great-grandmother. At Christmas he makes the best candy, espe-

cially peanut butter fudge."
THE MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING MY (12) YEARS AS COMMISSIONER WERE:
• Added Annex 1
• Purchased the old Post Office building for additional space
• Purchased land and constructed a new jail and additional land for use later
• Purchased a building to be used for a central barn with land to be used later
• Purchased road paving equipment to pave roads in-house
• Moved toward a unit system
• Most Important: Added a retirement system for all elected officials and county employees.
• Most Rewarding: In 1965, Willie Crossland, Herbert O'Neal and myself began a nursing home ministry. There was only one nursing home at the time. We would go to rooms and visit and pray with them if they

wanted us to. It was our goal to show each person the Lord loved them and we loved them. Herbert had to drop out because of health problems. As other nursing homes were started we would visit and then have a worship service. Almost every Sunday someone would say they were so glad we came; otherwise, they would not know it was Sunday. This is a ministry that began in 1965 and is still active in 2020. I am the last of the three and now it's time for better leadership. They were written up in the Hood County News on the 50th year of the ministry.
One truth I have learned in life working with people is that 95% are basically honest. When you give you will receive more than you gave.
Thank you, Hood County!

To listen to this Oral/Video interview of Bud Gifford and others, please log in to our Website, <https://bshc-granbury.org/> and look under "The Stories" tab.

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Mort and his 'sock-assister' ...



BY DON NEWBURY

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. He is Texas' longest-running syndicated humorist whose column began in 2003. newbury@speakerdoc.com | 817-447-3872.

Uncle Mort's contraptions and inventions usually are "far-fetched." Finally, he's come up with one that is "near-fetched." And it may be of considerable help to those among us who daily dread what used to be a thoughtless and effortless routine: putting on socks.

Some of us have basically surrendered, choosing to go barefoot at home, remaining sockless unless attending church, funerals or weddings.
This time, my ancient uncle has, uh, designed what he calls his "sock-assister," a device requiring only a child's jump rope, PVC pipe, a saw and a drill. With minimal safety efforts, this project may be attempted at home ...
First off, simply hearing the word "sock-assister" sounds like sibling abuse. What next, "brother-bonking?"
Mort says his device helps men get their socks on, no matter the distance between hands and feet.
He claims that most men already have the items needed to make "sock-assisters." This is particularly true if children leave jump ropes behind. Looks to me as if this is a "slam dunk" home project ...
Formerly, Mort would

have mounted a campaign to sell these items for \$9.98 (plus postage and handling).
Here lately, though, he's been overcome with benevolence. "I guess I'm feeling like the Red Lobster seafood people who figure they may as well share the recipe for their larrupin' cheddar-flavored biscuits since customers are hard to come by," he said.
Yep, this is definitely "the new Mort." ...
Here's what Mort suggests: Find a piece of PVC pipe about a foot in length. Cut longitudinally in half. For most men, 4-inch PVC works fine; for wider feet, use 6-inch and beyond that, visit a plumber. Cut a child's jump rope in half, attaching bare ends and knotting inside holes drilled near end of PVC pipe. If it is a long way down to your feet, splurge and use two jump ropes. (You can also use clothesline rope and whatever wooden scraps you like to fashion handles. And

one can glue on felt strips if edges seem rough.)
Now, for the critical first-time use. While sitting down, pull a sock over the bare end of the PVC pipe. Insert foot, well into the sock, then pull the ropes, thus removing the gadget from the foot and leaving sock in place, perhaps already half on!
This may require a bit of practice. If help is needed, consult a grandchild ...
Let me emphasize the importance of practice. My first attempt was made during a recent speaking engagement in Borger, where members of the Panhandle Press Association met.
I couldn't quite remember how to use my "sock-assister," which I had assembled a few days earlier. As the noon hour approached, I was still "sockless," so I rationalized.
First of all, I had on long pants, so that was one step toward propriety. Further, I was to be among friends, most of whom would dress "summer casual." After all, it was a luncheon, not a formal dinner. And the event was held at Frank Phillips College, where I am sure students move around campus — whether blazing hot or blizzard conditions — in shorts and sandals. I took the easy way out; I wore sandals ...
Wouldn't you know it? Members of the heralded Borger Honor Guard, all men past age 80, were smartly dressed, sporting



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Uncle Mort's 'sock-assister'.

cowboy hats and boots as they posted the colors and led pledges. Now why didn't I think of boots? No one would have known if I had on socks or not.
Turns out one other guy

also was shod with sockless sandals, and he even had on short britches. Granted, he didn't have a speaking part. Mike Hodges, president of the Texas Press Association, "dressed down" from usual

attire at his Austin office.
Finally, an aside to the guy who whispered that I'm "old and eccentric." I was eccentric several decades before I got my AARP card ...



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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on July 27

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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



GHS Summer Sports Camps



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
 Granbury Pirates football held its 2024 summer camp for incoming seventh to ninth grade students July 29-30. Photos are from the Monday, July 29 camp at GHS Pirates Stadium. This same week the Granbury High School Lady Pirates volleyball team held its 2024 summer camp for incoming seventh through ninth grade students, July 29-31. Photos are from the July 19 camp in the GHS gym.
 For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



HOOD OUTDOORS

Summertime is down rigging time



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.

If you like to troll or down rig, then summer is time for you to be on the water. Down rigging can be used year around, however it is best known as a summertime pattern especially for our Texas striped bass, hybrid striped bass and white bass (sand bass).

The reason behind the success of down rigging and trolling is depth control. You can control the desired depth and you can cover a lot of water in a relatively short time period. Its success is also based on the fact that summertime fish typically suspend in the water column and once you determine the depth of choice it is an effective way of catching these fish.

There are several ways to

down rig if you don't have the actual downriggers mounted on your boat. Pink ladies, hellbenders or dipsy divers can all be used to get your bait down. Of course, downriggers are more effective as they can put your bait at any depth better than some of the cheaper alternatives. A downrigger consists of a device with a wire line with a weighted ball and a release clip. The weight is lowered via a large reel (electric

or manual) and the fishing line is placed in the release clip. When the fish takes the bait, the line is pulled out of the clip and you can fight the fish back to the boat.

Downriggers will also work with most any lure, whereas the cheaper alternatives cannot handle crankbaits as well. Those cheaper alternatives are effective when using jigs and spoons.

There are times when the summer fish want to chase a lure and those are the days I see the boats with downriggers out catching the live bait anglers. It does happen. Typically these lures are worked either on a flat where the fish are holding or they are worked near ledges, road beds, etc. Go as slow as possible — typically around 2 to 4 mph.

When working a feeding flat, it is good for your bait to be just above the bottom. In fact, an occasional bounce of the bottom will draw in the fish. I have seen

it many times. Even if you don't down rig, you can use a deep diving crank bait at times that will bounce off the bottom which is effective as well.

With the hot days we have been having, thermoclines are being set up on almost every lake. Once you find this thermocline you can troll your baits just above the thermocline. This is the coolest water with sufficient oxygen where they can survive the Texas heat. On some reservoirs, thermoclines will be at different levels depending on where you are fishing. For example, on Lake Granbury, thermoclines have been varying from 15 to 25 feet down. It is important to note that thermocline levels can change with the wind, weather and water flow.

Probably the best-known trolling rig for stripers are 1/2-ounce pony head jigs with long curly tail trailers. Chartreuse or white or a combination will draw a

bite. Another favorite is the Alabama rig where you can troll several baits that mimic a school of bait fish.

For sand bass, the best-known trolling rig, which is also good for hybrids, is a gold/silver pet spoon trolled behind a Hellbender. A 3/4-ounce weight is added to the front of the Hellbender to help keep it down and the pet spoon is tied on a 3- to 4-foot leader behind the Hellbender. You can vary the size of the pet spoon for the size of fish you are trying to catch.

I would keep all your options open. Though I will not get on the water without live bait this time of the year, I do keep an option open for trolling. I don't do it often, but if I am, this is the time of the year.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water levels are close to normal. Water tem-

peratures are in the middle to upper 80s and are increasing with the forecasted hot weather. Thermoclines have been changing with the rain we had but are sure to be back in place this week with the hot weather. Striped bass fishing continues to be fair to good to 12 pounds on live bait or trolled jigs/crankbaits on the lower ends. Sand bass schools are chasing baits early and late and the trolled Hell/pet spoon combination is deadly. Largemouth bass are slow to fair on crankbaits and soft plastics near main lake points and near deeper docks. Crappie are fair to good on small minnows and jigs fished midlake near submerged timber about 15- to 20-foot down. Catfish continue to be better at night on cut bait fished near channel entrances on many areas of the lake. An occasional big blue or yellow catfish is possible.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury High School's Claire Jordan putting at a tournament during the 2023-2024 season.

SPORTS Roundup

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

A contingent of local golfers had standout performances in the Fort Worth Junior Golf Association Girls Championship recently.

From the Granbury Lady Pirates golf team, Claire Jordan placed third in the second flight of the Girls 14-18 Division I competition. She posted a score of 313 over three rounds of 18 holes and one round of nine holes (88-91-46-88).

In the fifth flight of Girls 14-18 Division II, her teammate Halle Carr placed second with a two-day total of 198 (100-98).

Lipan's Laney Barnett tied for first place in the first flight of the Girls 11-13 division with nine-hole rounds of 45 and 30 for a 75 total.

The tournament was played on courses in and around Fort Worth including Diamond Oaks, Pecan Valley Hills, Texas 9, Rivercrest, Benbrook Par-3, Oueste

Ranch in Weatherford, Squaw Creek in Willow Park and Hidden Creek in Burleson.

PIRATES COACH PLEASSED WITH 7-ON-7

As part of their preparation for their first season under new head coach Bobby Allison, the Granbury Pirates competed in 7-on-7 play. They both played in a league and in three tournaments.

Though Allison, per University Interscholastic League rules, did not coach the athletes himself, he is pleased with the progress they made in the competition.

"Our kids have a tremendous work ethic and improved drastically throughout. The goal of 7-on-7 is for our kids to get to spend time together, throw and catch, attack the football on defense, but more importantly learn how to communicate with each other and work through adversity as a team," Allison said. "There was so much

growth and I am extremely proud of them. Devoting the time to play 7-on-7 can be difficult in the summer with many of our kids working, playing baseball and going on vacations, but the turnout throughout was outstanding and it was fun to watch them improve."

Participating for the Pirates were Hayden Meyer, Jackson Arnett, Cooper Cumba, Zane Knight, Chase Cantrell, Macully Skeens, Carson James, Andy DeBello, Jonathan McCandless, Derek McGuire, Spencer Taylor, Bryson Hager, Casen Moore, Garrett Noah, Ayden Parkinson, Austin Reeves, Conner VanQuill, Aidan Felton, Eli Sisco and Caleb Johnson.

VOLLEYBALL SET TO START

Teams around the state can begin practicing Monday, Aug. 5. A few days later scrimmages will follow.

Granbury: Aug. 9, hosting Springtown, Chisholm Trail and Peaster, noon. Aug. 10, at Trinity, noon.

Tolar: Aug. 9, at Azle with

Lake Worth and Spartans home school team, 9 a.m.; Aug. 10, at Poolville with Bridgeport, 10 a.m.

Regular-season matches get underway the following week with Granbury traveling to Stephenville Aug. 12 at 6 p.m. and Tolar hosting North Central Texas Academy Aug. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

JUNIOR GOLF

Townes Chauveaux of Granbury has had a busy summer that included several top finishes lately on the Northern Texas PGA Junior Prep Tour. He competes in the Boys 9-10 age group.

He won the Metro Area Prep Championship at Prairie Lakes Golf Club in Grand Prairie with a nine-hole score of 39. He also won at Squaw Creek, shooting a 38 over nine holes, edging Lipan's Dash Tryan by a stroke.

Chaveaux also finished second in two other tournaments recently at The Golf Ranch in Richardson with a 29 and at Watters Creek in

Plano with a 31, both nine-hole par-3 courses.

On the Medalist Tour, Lincoln Sherrill of Granbury took first place in the Boys 13-14 division at Indian Creek in Carrollton with a 76 over 18 holes. In that same division at Lake Arlington, Lipan's Lucas Skalak placed seventh with a 98.

Tolar's Alyssa Lester was seventh among girls in the 13-14 age group in the Metro Area Medalist Girls Championship at Prairie Lakes, shooting an 82 over 18 holes.

On the All-American Tour, Sherrill tied for sixth in his age division, also at Indian Creek. He posted a 151 (79-72) over 36 holes.

PIRATE TD CLUB GOLF TOURNEY

The Granbury Pirate Touchdown Club Golf Tournament will be played Aug. 9 at Pecan Plantation. The tournament will have a 1:30 p.m. shotgun start and will include dinner.

Cost to enter is \$500

for a four-person team. Sponsorships are also available in the following packages:

Cart sponsor: \$100, logo/name on a cart
Hole sponsor: \$300, logo/name on a lawn sign at the teebox or green
Scoreboard sponsor: \$250
Scorecard sponsor: \$1,000
For more information, contact Christine Summers at 817-995-0448 or Sarah Riley at 817-279-2203.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

Season tickets are available through Aug. 5. Season tickets are \$40 per seat, plus additional processing fees for five home games.

Season tickets can only be purchased online digitally.

Gold Cards will also go on sale Aug. 5 and are \$10 for ages 55 and older, also available by credit only.

Contact Amber Nikzad at amber.nikzad@granburysd.org or call the athletic office at 817-408-4020 for more information.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON HOOD CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Hood Central Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2025 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 15, 2024 at 5:00 PM at the Hood Central Appraisal District Office, 1902 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget is \$3,075,389.

The total amount of increase for the current year's budget is \$211,976.

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget will be 21 full time.

The number of employees compensated under the current budget is 20 full time.

2024 Budget \$2,863,413
2025 Budget \$3,075,389

Increase \$ 211,976

The appraisal district is supported primarily by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts, and cities served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

HOOD CENTRAL APPRAISAL DISTRICT
1902 WEST PEARL STREET
GRANBURY, TEXAS 76048
PHONE #817-573-2471

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The Granbury ISD will hold a public meeting at 6:00 PM, August 19, 2024 in Granbury ISD Board Room, Granbury, Tx. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Maintenance Tax	\$0.7869000/\$100 (proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
School Debt Service Tax Approved by Local Voters	\$0.1450000/\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories.

Maintenance and operations	0.01 % increase
Debt Service	1.72 % increase
Total Expenditures	0.23 % increase

Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$14,943,737,255	\$15,368,766,559
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$320,567,678	\$256,611,067
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$9,778,273,961	\$10,726,893,603
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$320,567,678	\$256,611,067

*Appraised value is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.

** "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.

*** "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

Bonded Indebtedness

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness* \$67,345,000

*Outstanding principal.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$0.7892000	\$0.1450000	\$0.9342000	\$10,684	\$1,674
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$0.6912800	\$0.1450000	\$0.8362800	\$10,100	\$1,096
Proposed Rate	\$0.7869000	\$0.1450000	\$0.9319000	\$11,238	\$1,197

*The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both.

The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$337,978	\$379,216
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$165,276	\$202,094
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$0.9342000	\$0.9319000
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$1,544.01	\$1,883.31
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$339.30

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$0.9570706. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of \$0.9570706.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment.

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$24,851,926
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$2,600,293

A school district may not increase the district's maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district's debt service.

Visit Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton Football's Britten, Cooper named to FCS Preseason All-America Team by Stat Perform

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE – Tarleton State Football senior running back Kayvon Britten and senior wide receiver Darius Cooper were named to the 2024 FCS Preseason All-America Team by Stats Perform, the organization announced July 29.

Britten, the United Athletic Conference Preseason Offensive Player of the Year, was named as a preseason First Team All-America honoree. Cooper, a Second Team All-UAC player in 2023, was placed on the preseason Third Team All-America list.

Finishing on the UAC First Team All-Conference list in 2023, Britten was also tabbed to the FCS Football Central All-American Third Team and the Phil Steele FCS 2023 All-American Fourth Team last season. Scoring in 10 of Tarleton's 11 games, the Cincinnati, Ohio, native rushed for 1,150 yards on 183 carries (6.3 yards per carry) to go with 16 rushing touchdowns. In addition to averaging 104.6 rushing yards per contest, Britten came

up with 106 receiving yards and a touchdown on 11 catches.

Britten led the UAC in rushing touchdowns (third in the FCS) and total touchdowns (tied-fifth in FCS). He was second in the conference in total rushing yards (ninth in FCS) along with rushing yards per game (tied-11th FCS) and yards per rush (21st in FCS). His 1,150 yards were the sixth-most rushing yards in a single season in Texas Football history and his 16 touchdowns were the third-most in a single season in program history.

Despite missing four games due to injury, Cooper bounced back to earn UAC Second Team All-Conference honors. Cooper finished the 2023 campaign with 622 receiving yards off 28 receptions to go with five touchdowns. His 88.9 receiving yards per game led all Texan and UAC wide receivers, having the 11th-most in FCS football.

The St. Louis, Missouri, native had two multi-touchdown games that coincided with a pair of games with at least 100 receiving yards.

Entering his fifth season as a Texan, Cooper has collected over 2,000 career receiving yards, 15 touchdowns in addition to being a two-time All-Conference player.

Britten and Cooper, who were unanimous Preseason First-Team All-Conference selections by the UAC last

week, were two of nine players from the UAC represented on Stat Perform's FCS Preseason All-American list. Tarleton State had the second-most preseason All-Americans listed by Stat Perform among UAC schools.

The Texans, who are set

to compete in their first season as a full-fledged NCAA Division I program in 2024, open the season at Memorial Stadium Saturday, Aug. 24 at 2:30 p.m. against McNeese in front of a nationally televised audience on ESPN2.

Season tickets start at just

\$150 and are on sale now by visiting TarletonSports.com/Tickets or by visiting the Tarleton Ticket Office in person located on the west side entrance of Memorial Stadium. Single-game tickets will be available for purchase the week of each home game on Mondays.



Kayvon Britten and senior wide receiver Darius Cooper were named to the 2024 FCS Preseason All-America Team by Stats Perform, the organization announced July 29.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Former special agent receives TSU's first Criminal justice Ph.D.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Mark Brown received the first criminal justice Ph.D. awarded by TSU at summer commencement.

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University marked another milestone July 26 when Mark Brown crossed the stage at summer commencement to receive his doctorate in criminal justice, the first Ph.D. ever conferred by the university.

The School of Criminology, Criminal Justice and Public Administration welcomed its first Ph.D. cohort in the fall of 2019, and Brown is the first to graduate from it. His wife of 27 years, Kim, his mother and in-laws were at graduation to cheer for him, along with a large group of extended family, friends and former coworkers.

"I am honored and humbled," said Brown. "It was certainly not my intent to be the 'first,' I just simply wanted to complete in a reasonable timeframe."

In 2019 Brown was working full-time in law enforcement while completing his master's degree in criminal justice at Tarleton State when he heard that a doctoral program was in the works. The program's student focus and practitioner approach appealed to him.

"There are many programs that provide a purely academic approach, but Tarleton State is one of only two schools that provide a practitioner approach to the Ph.D.," he said. "This is crucial in near and future development of criminal justice policy."

Brown retired from federal law enforcement in 2021 after working as a special agent for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with the United States Department of Justice.

"I worked the first part of my career in criminal investigations, and the latter two-thirds of my career were as a member of Special Response Team 3 as a tactical operator and medic. I retired as Commander of SRT 3," he said. While doing his graduate studies he worked as an interim police chief in the spring of 2022 and as a full-time faculty member at Dallas Baptist University from June 2022 until May 2023 when he started his dissertation.

"Obviously, full-time work makes any academic effort more challenging," Brown said. "I had to be disciplined in time management and unfortunately missed out

on some social and family events, but I tried to keep those missed opportunities to a minimum.

"I was fortunate to have a supporting wife and family and was able to retire and free up the time necessary to complete my dissertation. I was also very fortunate to have a very supportive dissertation committee — they never pressured me but were always available to provide support and guidance through my dissertation phase."

Alex del Carmen, associate dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts, chaired Brown's dissertation committee and served as his major professor.

"I cannot imagine a better individual to have been the recipient of the first Ph.D. awarded in Tarleton State's history," del Carmen said. "His practical experience as a federal agent with the ATF coupled with his academic formation will continue to make Tarleton proud."

Diane Stearns, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said the awarding of Tarleton State's first Ph.D. highlights the uni-

versity's 125-year commitment to academic excellence and dedication to addressing critical community and workforce needs.

"Dr. Brown's academic achievements, in tandem with his vision and extensive practical experience, will continue to reflect positively on his time at our university as he advances his work."

Moving forward, Brown's post-graduation plans include teaching and providing consulting services to criminal justice agencies, he said.

"The criminal justice system is being reformed in the wake of multiple national incidents," he said. "While change is necessary, not all change is proving beneficial to the whole of society. It is my desire to assist agencies in assessment of policy, training and community interaction to ensure they are providing excellent public safety to their citizens."

To learn more about Tarleton State's criminal justice programs, including undergraduate and graduate degrees as well as certificate programs, visit <https://www.tarleton.edu/criminaljustice/>.

Tarleton State cuts ribbon for Research and Economic Development Building

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State University's new Research and Economic Development Building officially opened with a ribbon cutting in July.

The university will share the state-of-the-art facility, located at U.S. Highway 281 and East Lingleville Road, with Texas A&M AgriLife Research and the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

Sponsored research and regional partnerships are two areas set to benefit from the new innovation ecosystem.

"Our economy is driven through research and innovation," said Tarleton State President James Hurley. "The cutting-edge research

between our university and Texas A&M AgriLife moving forward will help to meet challenges in Texas and beyond. As our university celebrates 125 years starting this fall, we are committed to building a better future for all."

In 2022-23, Tarleton State celebrated its largest-ever increase in total and restricted research expenditures and the highest jump in Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) rankings. Expenditures for fiscal 2022 totaled \$20 million, and Tarleton's HERD status moved up to 289. The next HERD Survey is scheduled to be released in November.

"Today marks a major step in bringing increased research funding

to Stephenville," said Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp. "We are proud of the work being done by Tarleton State and Texas A&M AgriLife to benefit the region. Their close collaboration here is just another example of the benefits that come with being a part of The Texas A&M University System."

Last year Tarleton State received a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration enabling the university to operate as an EDA University Center — the only one in North Central Texas and one of just 73 nationwide. In addition to \$650,000 in EDA funding, regional partners are matching the grant in-kind for a total

\$1.3 million over five years.

The space, which offers 10,000 square feet, will also house Tarleton State's Institute for Rural Economic Development and Research and the university's Small Business Development Center.

Working collaboratively, Tarleton State and Texas A&M AgriLife will conduct research and create programs that improve the lives of Texans.

"Buildings bring people together," said Jeffrey W. Savell, vice chancellor and dean for agriculture and life sciences for Texas A&M AgriLife. "As we work to set new standards for our communities, this new building will advance cutting-edge research and innovation,

sustainable production systems, resource development and economic strength. We look forward to what this building, and most importantly, the people in it, will accomplish."

The new Institute for Rural Economic Development and Research will merge discovery and innovation to grow industries and foster job opportunities. Tarleton State will work alongside other Texas A&M System institutions, regional universities, start-up companies, business incubators and chambers of commerce to help drive North Central Texas prosperity.

State Rep. DeWayne Burns (District 58) said the benefits will be significant. "The impact of this building to

Stephenville and the region will be immense. As a proud Tarleton State Texan, I am excited to see the innovative research that takes place moving forward."

"Strong partnerships through research and innovation are needed for economic resilience and prosperity," said Vice President for Tarleton State's Division of Research, Innovation and Economic Development Rupa Iyer. "This new building will pave the way for incredible achievements in the years to come. We look forward to continuing to work with AgriLife as we start this next chapter."

Mustard Design was the architect and The Christman Company the builder.

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Auxiliary Golf Tournament brings record-setting day



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

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary hosted its annual golf tournament last weekend, and the event proved a huge success. Although the originally scheduled tournament day brought stormy weather, the rescheduled date displayed nothing but blue skies and a full playing field. At final count, the net proceeds (every penny of which benefits our community's emergency personnel) was more than \$27,000, and the auxiliary members send heartfelt thanks to the sponsors, donors, Pecan and clubhouse staff, and the many volunteers who completed tasks before, during and after the tournament. What an excellent example of teamwork in our neighborhood!

Congratulations to the players who took home tournament prizes: first place team: Mitchell Kammerer, Chester Bardin, Dustin Young and Daniel Aparicio; second place team: Jeff Martin, Michael Stephens, Dave Jansen and Curtis Almond; third place team: Amber Willhite, Billy Hoggatt, Karen Currington and Doug Currington; and fourth place team: Jay Arrington, Andy Prikryl,

Danny Guidry and John Heffernan. Special awards for the day included a golf bag donated by Jennifer and Marc Lancaster won by David Pritchard; Longest Drive prize, Daniel Aparicio; Closest to the Pin, Chester Bardin; Cleburne Railroaders package, Ashley Kraft; and the 50/50 Pot Drawing went to Dan Young.

MEETING DAY

The next regular meeting of the auxiliary will be 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.

WELCOME HOME

A new member orientation is taking place today, Saturday, Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room. The event welcomes new residents of Pecan as well as long timers who would like a "refresher" session on the amenities of

our community.

TINY TRIBE

The next Tiny Tribe play day is on the calendar for Monday, Aug. 5 from 1 to 2 p.m. at the PAC for children ages 4 and younger. Play activities during the hour are designed to boost cognitive skills and improve children's development.

TWINKLE TOES

Enchanted Summer Dance Camp is coming Aug. 8-10 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the PAC, and will include girls dressing up as princesses, ballet lessons, tap dancing, crafts and singing. Little ladies should bring princess accoutrement and tap shoes to the gatherings. Sign up at the PAC.

PARTY MACHINE

Reservations for the next "Mystery Bus" event have opened, and residents received an email with a sign-up link. This very popular event is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 14.

ART SCENE

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild meets the second Tuesday of each month, which puts the next gathering Aug. 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the PAC. Pecaners interested in art are invited to join the meeting, as well as the PPAG, whose dues are \$35 per year. For complete information on the guild, please visit pecanplantationartguild.com.

Artists' of the month work,



PHOTO COURTESY OF LANA ROBINSON

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary's annual golf tournament fundraiser brought a day of both fabulous golf play and funds generated in support of the community's emergency personnel. Pictured are tournament players and volunteers before teams hit the course.

as well as the work of other neighborhood artists, may be viewed in the hallway leading to the ballroom in the Pecan clubhouse, in addition to various other places of the clubhouse and the PAC. All pieces are priced to sell. Upcoming dates on the PPAG calendar include Gallery Night planned for Sept. 27 and a pop-up art show Nov. 9.

CHIT CHAT

The final Chit Chat luncheon for the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will be Thursday, Aug. 15, and reservations are due by noon Thursday, Aug. 8. To reserve a spot, email ppwcres@gmail.com.

com or call 361-215-4599.

The PPWC will begin a new club year and meet collectively again Thursday, Sept. 19.

GET GOING

Pecan's Recreational Vehicle Club recessed official gatherings for the summer months, but come September, the group will begin meeting again. For details about this fun, "on the go" bunch, visit its website: www.ppoarv.org.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

Pickleball activities continue in Pecan with open gym play for adults each weekday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Family friendly hours are

every Tuesday and Friday evening from 6 to 7:45 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from noon to 2 p.m. Outside play on the courts directly behind the PAC is available from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. with court reservations made via Pecan's website.

ROAD REPAIR

Maintaining our community often involves ensuring our streets are in good condition, and thus some road construction will begin in August. Pecaners will be receiving communication regarding closures, detours, schedules and pertinent details about upcoming road projects.

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE B1

teaches valuable life skills.

STAY POSITIVE AND SUPPORTIVE

Starting a new school year can be nerve-wracking for kids. Offer plenty of positive reinforcement and support. Listen to their concerns, celebrate their successes and

reassure them that it's okay to make mistakes along the way.

HAVE FUN!

Above all, remember to have fun. School is a time for learning, growth and new experiences. Encourage a love of learning by making education enjoyable. Whether it's through educational games, reading together or explor-

ing new hobbies, make sure to keep the joy in the journey.

Starting the school year on the right foot doesn't have to be a daunting task. With a little planning, a dash of creativity and a lot of love and support, you can set your family up for a successful and enjoyable school year. Here's to a fantastic start to the new school year!



PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDIO ROMANTIC ADOBESTOCK.COM

Above all, remember to have fun. School is a time for learning, growth and new experiences.





National Disc Golf Day
August 3, 2024



Disc golf is a flying disc sport in which players throw a disc at a target. It is played using rules similar to golf.



SCIENCE FACT!

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COLOR Time

Hey kids! Get ready to mark your calendars because August 3rd is no ordinary day - it's National Disc Golf Day! If you're looking for a fun outdoor activity to enjoy with friends and family, then disc golf might just be the perfect game for you.

So, what exactly is disc golf? Well, think of it as a combination of frisbee and golf. Instead of hitting a ball with a club, players throw a special disc into a basket, trying to complete each hole in as few throws as possible. It's like a treasure hunt in the park!

One of the coolest things about disc golf is that you can play it almost anywhere - from local parks to dedicated disc golf courses. And on National Disc Golf Day, people all across the country come together to celebrate this awesome sport.

If you're new to disc golf, don't worry! It's easy to learn, and you don't need any fancy equipment to get started. All you need is a disc and a sense of adventure. Plus, disc golf is a great way to get some exercise while having a ton of fun outdoors.

So, how can you celebrate National Disc Golf Day? Well, you could start by organizing a game with your friends at your local park.

Or, if you're feeling adventurous, why not explore a new disc golf course in your area?

No matter how you choose to celebrate, National Disc Golf Day is all about getting outside, being active, and having a blast with friends and family. So grab your discs, hit the course, and let's tee off on August 3rd for a day of disc golf fun!

Remember, the most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the great outdoors. Happy National Disc Golf Day, everyone!

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Finding friends: Deputy Harris begins crochet kindness

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

Deputy Monica Harris of the Hood County Sheriff's Office found herself searching for a reason to smile during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

"I started rollerblading on the trail again, seeing folks out and about, and knowing how hard it was for me ... I knew it was hard for others. While rollerblading I thought, 'What can I leave out to make folks smile?'"

With a passion for creating — from rock painting (MoniRocks) to Zentangle, from embroidery to vinyl work, from drawing to cake pops and from epoxy tumblers (MoniCups) to card making (MoniCards) and crochet — Harris knew she wanted to create something original to leave for others to find.

As a member of Hood County Rocks, a group that leaves painted rocks around Hood County, Harris knew the value such a group added to the community. In fact, Harris has left hundreds of painted rocks and has left them in multiple states.

"I have generally made them in a blue line theme, or the badge of the department I worked for at the time," explained Harris.

The deputy was also aware of the worldwide movement "Random Acts of Crochet Kindness." Its Facebook group focus is on leaving crocheted creations behind for others to discover.

With her experience running a group for her crocheted hats, Harris settled on creating a Facebook group focusing on Hood County and crochet and "Hood County Random Acts of Crochet Kindness" (HCRAOCK) was born.

The first creation to be left behind would be Harris' little "worry worms."

The singular mission of

HCRAOCK is to make others smile. The method by which this is done is leaving small handmade crocheted creations around Hood County for others to find. The hope is that a found creation will bring joy to the new owner. The plan seems to be working.

"Something so simple can bring joy to people when you don't know the hardships they are going through. He hangs from my rearview mirror and I named him 'Dwight' with Monica's help. I see it every day and it reminds me that there is still good out there," shared Emma Gray, a thankful recipient of a Harris made Octopi.

Membership in HCRAOCK now numbers over 400.

"Most of the group are my personal friends. I don't want to be pushy about the group and I've just let it grow naturally. So anyone who isn't my personal friend are people who joined because they found a creation," said Harris.

"The group is just for anyone who wants to leave a crocheted creation to make a stranger smile, who finds a crocheted item, or anyone who just likes seeing strangers smile!"

The group has benefits to the creators as well as to those that find the creations. Harris has been crocheting for many years. She says she was fortunate to be taught by co-worker Julie Hamilton when she was working in Chicago.

Harris asked Hamilton to teach her crochet so she would have something to do on the hour-long bus ride to and from work.

Hamilton agreed to teach Harris to crochet if she would donate her first creation — a baby blanket — to the hospital's NICU. Harris complied; it would be the first of many things she has given away.

"I like to make things that people will use. Out of all my

hobbies, crocheting potholders is the most relaxing and productive," shared Harris.

"I have ADHD and I find myself constantly needing to keep my hands busy. I can watch TV and crochet. I can also take my work with me wherever without having to pack up supplies. All I need is yarn and a crochet hook," Harris explained.

HCRAOCK member Ashlyn Fisher agrees.

"I started crocheting at seven, and I'm 30 now. My grandmother taught me as a bonding exercise and I took to it so quickly. Over the years I have progressed from small tiny projects to larger and more complex ones. It has been a hobby as well as a way for me to channel my anxiety into something productive."

Now Fisher is passing her knowledge on. "I have started to pass this down to my own daughter, and even taught my sister some basics," she said.

"I haven't had a chance to put out too many (crocheted creations)," said Fisher.

"I'm a full-time hairstylist here in town, but I plan on putting more (creations) out, whether it's just handing them out or letting people find them. Just to see the joy on someone's face is what it's about. Someone could be having the worst day, and if something like this helps turn their day around, I'm all for it."

Harris says the hobby is not too expensive — a skein of yarn costs around \$5 and

PLEASE SEE **CROCHET** | C2

COURTESY PHOTO

Lexi Evans of "Hood County Random Acts on Crochet Kindness" is the daughter of Lindsey Evans. Evans says every time they return to the ballpark her daughter hugs the pole where she found her crocheted octopus and exclaims, "I'll remember this pole for my whole life!"



Beyond medals: The core values of the summer Olympics

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the Hood County News

One of the things I love most about the Olympic Games is that for a few weeks every two years, we see athletes from all over the world — from all walks of life, all cultures, all races and ethnicities — come together in the spirit of athleticism and camaraderie to compete against one another in their respective events.

While these highly trained

athletes are no doubt at the Olympic Games to compete, do their very best, and hopefully bring home a coveted Olympic medal, there is a clear connection among the athletes. Even in the midst of competition, they have mutual respect and admiration for one another. They support one another because they all know the dedication, commitment and hard work it takes for every athlete to get to the Olympic Games.

In a microcosm sort of way, the Olympic Games are

a picture of what we all wish the world could be every single day. Indeed, the Olympics are not just a showcase of athletic prowess; they represent a philosophy of life that transcends sports, fostering a global community bound by shared ideals. The three fundamental values of Olympism — excellence, respect and friendship — form the bedrock of the Olympic Games, guiding its mission to promote sport, culture and education, all in the pursuit of a better world.

The essence of the Olympics is rooted in values that transcend the finish line and go beyond winning; it celebrates participation, perseverance and the unity of the human spirit.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

Excellence in the Olympic context is about more than just winning medals. It's about pushing oneself to achieve the highest personal standards and striving to be the best version of oneself. This value encourages ath-

letes to perform their best, inspiring others to pursue their own goals with determination and integrity. The motto of the Olympics, "Citius, Altius, Fortius" (Swifter, Higher, Stronger), encapsulates this spirit. It's a reminder that the journey toward greatness is just as important as the outcome.

DEMONSTRATING RESPECT

Respect is multifaceted and fundamental to the Olympic ethos. It encompasses respect for oneself,

for others, for the rules of the game and for the environment. Athletes demonstrate this by adhering to fair play, showing sportsmanship towards their competitors and honoring the regulations of their sports. Respect also extends to cultural differences and environmental consciousness, highlighting the Olympics' role in promoting global harmony and sustainable practices.

PLEASE SEE **OLYMPICS** | C2

Grief support ministry sees rebirth following death of leader

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

In the fall of 1997, a transformative grief support group called Starting a New Life was established at St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury.

Founded by Phillis Brod and Donna and Phillip

Gudat, the ministry has become a vital source of comfort and healing for those coping with the loss of a loved one.

Brod moved to Granbury from Victoria in 1996 after her husband passed away from lung cancer at the age of 52. Having been involved in a grief support ministry in Victoria, she sought a simi-

lar program at St. Frances Cabrini Church but found none.

Recognizing the need, Phillis teamed up with Donna and Phillip Gudat, who had found solace in a grief support program in Fort Worth after experiencing divorce. Together, the trio founded Starting a New Life, offering support to individuals grieving the loss of loved ones through death or divorce.

"Our culture does not deal with death," Brod explained. "It is the 'unmentionable' thing in life that is not discussed. In the grief group, that is what is discussed, examined and experienced, whereby people can assimilate their grief into their own beings, rather than being oppressed by it."

BILL AND PHYLLIS JOIN FORCES

One of the initial partici-

pants was Bill Brewer, who had lost his wife unexpectedly at the age of 49. After completing two program sessions, Brewer became a facilitator, dedicated to guiding others through their grief journeys. Phillis and Bill began dating in June 1998 and married in June 2001. Their partnership has been the backbone of the ministry for more than 25 years, helping countless individuals navigate the complexities of grief.

LOSING BEN

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 posed significant challenges, but the ministry adapted by moving its sessions into participants' homes due to restrictions on gatherings. Despite these hurdles, Starting a New Life continued its mission with the resilience and dedication of its leaders and participants.

Phillis and Bill stepped aside in 2022, entrusting the ministry to Ben Bradley and a team of facilitators. Tragically, Bradley, who had undergone two back surgeries, suffered a fatal blood clot May 29 of this year.

In tribute to Bradley's unwavering dedication, Phillis and Bill Brewer have returned to lead the upcoming session, beginning Oct. 20 at St. Frances Cabrini Church.

THROUGH THE PAIN

Linda Michal Siddall shared her deeply personal journey through grief, highlighting the transformative impact of Starting a New Life Ministry.

After the devastating loss of her youngest son, aged 31, under suspicious circumstances, Siddall was left to grapple with profound sorrow. A year later, his body was found, compounding the heartache of having lost

her eldest son unexpectedly years before.

"Starting a New Life Ministry gave me an outlet to talk to others who understood my pain," Siddall recounted. "Hearing about others' losses helped me put my own grief into perspective."

The ministry became a place where she could share stories, comfort others, and make new friends who had experienced similar tragedies. "The support I found in these small, private groups was invaluable. We could count on each other," she added.

Each session began with a large group prayer and discussion on various topics to address specific concerns and coping strategies. Siddall explained, "A facilitator would give a witness talk, sharing how they worked through a particular issue."

After a break for snacks

PLEASE SEE **GRIEF** | C7



COURTESY PHOTO BY VISUALPRODUCTION, ADOBESTOCK.COM

A grief-stricken woman reflects on her loss.



COURTESY PHOTO

Even in the midst of competition, Olympic athletes have mutual respect and admiration for one another. They support one another because they all know the dedication, commitment and hard work it takes for every athlete to get to the Olympic Games.

OLYMPICS

FROM PAGE C1

CELEBRATING FRIENDSHIP

The Olympics uniquely bring people together from all corners of the globe, transcending national boundaries and fostering a spirit of camaraderie. Celebrating friendship means setting aside rivalries and recognizing that we are all part of a larger human family. This value underscores the idea that there is more that unites us than divides us. The Olympic Games create a platform for athletes to build lifelong friendships,

promoting peace and solidarity among nations.

THE EVOLUTION OF OLYMPISM

The original values of Olympism, as expressed in the Olympic Charter, aimed to encourage effort, preserve human dignity, and develop harmony. Over time, these principles have evolved to reflect modern aspirations. Today, Olympism is seen as a philosophy that blends sport with culture and education, advocating for a balanced development of body, will and mind. It's about finding joy in effort, learning from good examples, and respecting univer-

sal ethical principles.

BUILDING A BETTER WORLD

At its core, the Olympic Movement aspires to build a peaceful and better world. This goal is pursued through the education of youth via sport, practiced without discrimination and in the spirit of mutual understanding, friendship, solidarity and fair play. Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games, emphasized that the true essence of the Olympics lies in participation, not just victory. His belief that "the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting

well" continues to inspire athletes and fans alike.

CONCLUSION

As we watch the Summer Olympics in Paris over the next few weeks, let's remember the Games are more than a series of competitions. They are a celebration of the human spirit and a testament to our collective aspiration for excellence, respect and friendship. Through these values, the Olympics continue to inspire individuals and unite nations, showcasing the best of what humanity can achieve together.

GRIEF

FROM PAGE C1

and socializing, participants would split into smaller groups of 6-10 people with similar losses, such as the loss of a spouse or child, for more intimate sharing.

The session concluded with a final prayer in the large group. Siddall described the witness talks as eye-openers, offering valuable insights into healing and actions that could help or hinder the process. "Small groups were a great place to ask for and give help and share ideas," she emphasized.

The impact of these sessions on Siddall's life was profound. "Sometimes I think it saved my sanity and my life. Facing the sadness and finding the will to keep living was incredibly challenging."

Despite having a solid faith before, Siddall found that the nondenominational nature of the class fostered even more growth and sharing. "It helps everyone be more open-minded," she said.

Siddall vividly recalled several witness talks — a parent who lost a son in the Black Hawk Down incident and another from a couple who lost their 10-year-old child to a medical emergency. "At least I got to keep my boys into adulthood," she reflected.

Siddall encourages anyone in need of support to give the ministry a try. "You can always quit if it doesn't meet your needs. You don't have to talk; you can just listen until you're ready. No one minds if you cry — whether you're male or female. Tears are part of the healing process."

FROM PARTICIPANT TO FACILITATOR

After several years as a participant, Siddall became a facilitator, helping others navigate their grief. "After my husband of 51 years died of cancer a few years ago, I returned as a participant and received the support I needed to get through that loss," she shared.

Having recently moved from Granbury, Siddall is considering starting a new group in her current location.

Reflecting on her journey, Siddall expressed deep gratitude for the ministry. "It changed both myself and my husband for the better. I'll be eternally grateful for the leaders and all the friendships and strength I've gained through this group. I highly recommend it."

"I've been able to literally 'start a new life,' something I never thought possible. I've even remarried a wonderful man who loves me very much, and I love him. God is good!"

EMBRACING FAITH AND GRIEF

Since its inception, more than 659 people have participated in Starting a New Life, finding a path to re-enter life carrying their grief, rather than being weighed down by it. The program spans eight to 10 weeks, with each session addressing different aspects of grief.

Participants not only confront their feelings but also find solace in the shared experiences of others. The social interactions within the group, including events like Taco Tuesday, play a crucial role in the healing process.

Starting a New Life is fundamentally a talking ministry. Sharing struggles allows others to help, share and guide people through this difficult time. The ministry's facilitators, all of whom have experienced grief themselves, provide a compassionate and understanding environment for participants.

GRIEF HAS NO DENOMINATION

Phillis and Bill Brewer's commitment to this ministry has extended beyond Granbury. In their two years away, they have introduced the program to other churches, ensuring that more communities can benefit from its life-changing support.

As they prepare to lead another session, Phillis reflects, "We are grateful that the Catholic Church has been willing to support this ministry for 28 years. But we also recognize that grief has no denomination; sooner or later, we will all experience one of the most painful things in life: grief."

The upcoming session of Starting a New Life will commence Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. at St. Frances Cabrini Church, continuing its legacy of providing comfort and guidance to those in need.

For more information about the Starting a New Life Grief Support Ministry, visit St. Frances Cabrini Church at <https://www.stfrances.net/faith-formation> | Contact the Brewers at 817-573-8915.



COURTESY PHOTO

(A pile of Octopi awaiting the new friends that will find them once they are deposited around Hood County as part of Deputy Monica Harris' "Random Acts of Crochet Kindness.")

CROCHET

FROM PAGE C1

will yield several little creations. Many of her patterns are from ravelry.com. Free patterns can also be found at theunknownorchard.blogspot.com.

"My advice, if you want to learn to crochet, is to buy a thick chunky yarn and one crochet hook to start. Then watch lots of YouTube tutorials and find a friend who can teach you in person. If you become addicted like I did, you can then buy more yarn and hooks as needed,"

Harris said.

For Harris, there are additional benefits.

"There are so many negatives in the world, so I knew I had a unique opportunity to take my hobby and my career and use it to help bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public.

"I am a deputy for the Hood County Sheriff's Office. I have been a peace officer for almost nine years now, and I spent a big chunk of that working as the truancy officer for Granbury ISD. When they eliminated peace

PLEASE SEE **CROCHET** | C3



Harris used both painted rocks and crochet as opportunity to build community between citizens and law enforcement.

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CROCHET

FROM PAGE C2

officers in our school district, I wanted a way to help get the public still excited to see me. Usually we are only around when there's something wrong.

"When I was a school resource officer, I interacted with kids and their parents every single day. Now, I've found a way to keep the public engaged with law enforcement and excited to see a county Tahoe. I drive around during my 12-hour day shift and patrol neighborhoods when I am not dispatched to a call.

"This year I started leaving my crocheted creations (so far either a worm, octopus or a pig) around Hood County while on patrol. I thought instead of the public seeing a county Tahoe and thinking 'Oh no! What's wrong in my neighborhood?' they could think 'Hey! Maybe that's Officer Harris (though she is a deputy, Harris is still called officer by many) leaving out a RAOCK!'"

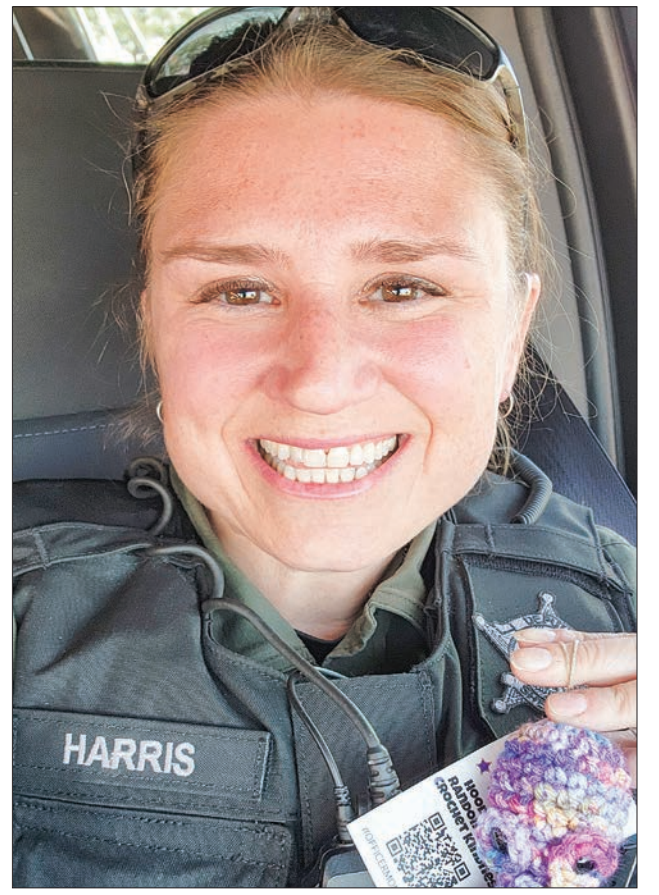
Harris is teased by her lieutenant, "What are you doing today? Oh that's right, you're going to go litter in the coun-

ty!' However, I have full support from my department to continue this journey. My captain, Capt. Jon Berry, messaged me and said 'I love that you do the random act of crochet kindness. Keep up the good deeds. You never really know just how that act can affect someone's day or even the rest of their life.'"

That rings true for young Lexi Evans, who found a crocheted friend April 16 at the Moore baseball fields. Her mother Lindsey says that every time her daughter goes to the ball fields, she hugs the pole where she found the octopus and says, "I'll remember this pole for my whole entire life!"

Harris says, "I leave a tag on mine, but that's not a requirement. My tag says 'I'm not lost, just alone. If I made you smile, please take me home. If you wish, post a pic of your find on our Facebook page, Hood County Random Acts of Crochet Kindness. #officermonicrochet.'"

"I do not leave out the RAOCK for recognition. However, it is pretty cool when you actually know people are excited to find your creations."



COURTESY PHOTO

Deputy Monica Harris with a crocheted octopus. Harris began the Facebook group "Hood County Random Acts of Crochet Kindness."

GO PLAY

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.

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.granbury-civicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. Come join us!

FORWARD TRAINING Center "Cisco" classes from 6-8:30 p.m. To sign up email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org. or call 817-573-6677.

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 9 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 10:30 a.m. yoga (private class, reservation only); 1:30 p.m. line dancing; 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers (join at weightwatchers.com); 6 p.m. Granbury clogger nights (watch or join). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY JAM Session 7:30-10:30 p.m. at Brock's Food and Drink, 4012 Acton Highway. Bring your instrument or get up and sing. Details: 505-710-5100.

AMATEUR RADIO Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 p.m., on the 147.240

MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

WEDNESDAYS

HAND AND Foot card game day. 10 a.m.; Dominoes (Mexican Train) 11 a.m. Healthy Connections, 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 9 a.m. exercise class; 10 a.m. Mahjong; 10 a.m. cards; 11 a.m. dominoes. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

THURSDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise; 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga (private class, reservation only). 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

CHESS CLUB, 6-9 p.m. at YMCA, 1475 James Road. U.S. Chess Affiliate, all ages and skill levels, children 10 and under must be accompanied by adult. Y membership not required. Details: HoodCountyChess.com.

GENERAL TRIVIA, 7-9 p.m. at Brew Drinkery, 206 E. Pearl Street. Prizes and fun. Use your phone to play. Free.

THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

MELODY BELLS singers of Granbury, women's choral group, seeks new members who love to sing 3-part harmony, especially first or second soprano. Also seeking experienced piano accompanist. Weekly Thursday rehearsals for Christmas concert season start Aug. 29, 10 a.m. to noon, at First Presbyterian Church Memorial Hall (the Annex), 301 W. Bridge St. Concerts performed during first two weeks of December. For more information, please call 817-999-1364.

FRIDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 9 a.m. exercise. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

SATURDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Hummers Walking Club, 8 a.m., meets every Saturday at Hilton Garden Inn, 635 E. Pearl St., for 5K or 10K walk for fun, fellowship and fitness. Details: 972-567-3278.

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS: 10:30 a.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

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.

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

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.

THIRD TUESDAYS

THE PECAN Plantation Genealogy Group meets at the EMS Training Room, 9518 Monticello Drive behind the fire station. Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a resident to attend. Tell gate security you are attending the genealogy meeting in the EMS Training Room. Questions? Email kcall3219@

gmail.com.

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.

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.

SECOND SATURDAYS

SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

Lake Granbury Indoor Market

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Lake Granbury Conference Center was the super-cool summer destination in Granbury on July 20th for the Lake Granbury Indoor Market. The Indoor Market featured over 80 local vendors and small businesses, live music, customer contests with a grand prize of \$200 cash, and food trucks. The venue provided air-conditioned comfort with a beautiful view of the lake.



Trivia for Technology night at the Lake Granbury Conference Center.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Saturday, July 13, Mission Granbury held their 3rd Annual Team Trivia for Technology night at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. twenty-eight teams came decked out in their finest 90s attire and answered trivia questions that were all about the 90s. Needless to say, a good time was had by all and as they left, teams were asking what the theme was for next year's event. Funds raised will support technology needs. Last year mission granbury was able to install a new camera system at the Ada Carey Shelter for Women and Children.



Don't Stop Believin': Infinite Journey rocks Granbury!

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News

Get ready, Granbury! The iconic sounds of Journey are coming to town, and they're bringing a night of music, nostalgia and fun. Infinite Journey, the premier Journey tribute band, is set to rock the Historic Granbury Opera House on the Granbury Square. This isn't just any concert — this is a full-on, high-energy, immersive Journey experience that you won't want to miss.

THE MAGIC OF INFINITE JOURNEY

Infinite Journey has been wowing audiences since 2012 with its spot-on renditions of Journey's greatest hits. Based in Dallas, this five-piece band has built a reputation for its authentic performances, capturing the soaring vocals, intricate guitar solos and powerful rhythms that made Journey a rock legend. When you close your eyes, you'll swear Steve Perry and the gang are right there on stage.

But it's not just about the music. Infinite Journey brings a level of showmanship and professionalism that sets it apart. This band doesn't just play the songs; it lives them. The band's commitment to authenticity means it performs without any vocal or instrumental backing tracks. Everything you hear is live and note-perfect.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The Historic Granbury



COURTESY PHOTO

Infinite Journey is not just a tribute band; it is a musical journey back to a time when rock ruled the airwaves. The band's dedication to recreating the Journey experience is evident in every performance, making it a must-see act for anyone who loves great music and a good time.

Opera House is the perfect venue for this unforgettable event. Known for its stunning architecture and rich history, the Opera House offers an intimate setting where every seat feels like the front row. Located on the charming Granbury Square, it's an iconic landmark that adds a touch of elegance to any performance.

"We absolutely love playing at the Granbury Opera House," said Mike Cooper,

bass guitarist and a founding member of Infinite Journey. "The venue is so intimate, and the Granbury audiences are always so revved up and ready to rock and have a great time!"

Infinite Journey will take the stage for multiple shows from Aug. 1-3. Whether you're a die-hard Journey fan or just love great live music, these concerts promise to deliver an evening of hits, including "Don't Stop

Believin'," "Any Way You Want It," "Faithfully" and many more.

WHAT TO EXPECT

Expect to be blown away. Infinite Journey's performances are known for their high energy and meticulous attention to detail. The band's lead singer, Donovan Duke, nails Steve Perry's vocal range, delivering those iconic high notes with ease. The guitar solos are electrify-

ing, the drums are thunderous, and the keyboards provide the perfect backdrop, creating a sound that's both powerful and nostalgic.

Audience members often say attending an Infinite Journey concert is like stepping back in time to the glory days of rock. The band's interaction with the crowd adds to the experience, making you feel like part of the show. Whether you're singing along to every word or

just soaking in the atmosphere, you're in for a treat.

JOIN THE FUN

Make sure to mark your calendars and grab your tickets early, as these shows are expected to sell out. Gather your friends, family and fellow music lovers for a night that celebrates one of the greatest rock bands of all time. Come ready to sing, dance and make memories that will last a lifetime.

And don't just take our word for it. Katie Daryl, host of AXS TV's "The World's Greatest Tribute Bands," raves about Infinite Journey, saying, "These guys put on a power-packed show and have mastered the sound of Journey to the core."

A TRIBUTE TO REMEMBER

Infinite Journey is not just a tribute band; it is a musical journey back to a time when rock ruled the airwaves. The band's dedication to recreating the Journey experience is evident in every performance, making it a must-see act for anyone who loves great music and a good time.

So, Granbury, get ready to rock! Infinite Journey is coming to the Historic Granbury Opera House, and it's bringing the heart, soul and spirit of Journey along. Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to relive the magic of one of rock's greatest bands.

For tickets, go to www.granburytheatrecompany.org or call the Opera House Box Office at 817-579-0952.

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28 HANK FM Lake Fest

OCTOBER
3-27 The Sleepy Hollow Experience - Langdon Grounds
4-6 Oktoberfest
4-13 Here's to CLUE - Spooky Edition
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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



DEVOTIONAL

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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 1 John 4:12

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Jeremiah 29:11



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Pancake Fly-In draws crowd despite challenges



PHOTOS BY LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The new Granbury Regional Airport.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

The Pancake Fly-in, sponsored by Avionics Technologies, occurred Saturday morning, July 27, at the Granbury Regional Airport.

Avionics Technologies sponsored the Pancake Fly-in in support of the Commemorative Air Force. The event attracted many early-morning breakfast eaters despite confusion among attendees due to the need for road signage for the new airport terminal.

The event generally takes place the last Saturday of each month. Despite the challenges, the organizers

of this Pancake Fly-in demonstrated their dedication and resilience.

Pilot and owner of Avionics Technologies LLC, Peter Hefley, along with some friends, dedicated a day before the event to ensure everything was in working order. Their commitment and quick problem-solving skills in addressing minor issues with the stove and other equipment ensured a successful breakfast event.

The new terminal, designed by the international architecture firm PGAL and constructed by Lever Construction, is not yet fully operational due to pending network connectivity and power supply issues. A

Verizon hotspot was used to manage fuel transactions as a temporary solution.

Cody Mathis, director of aviation at Granbury Regional Airport, indicated the old Fixed Base Operator on Howard Clemmons Road remains in use until full connectivity is established at the new terminal.

The overcast skies and low cloud ceiling made for unfavorable flying conditions. Regardless, the Pancake Fly-in saw a steady stream of guests. Attendees used every space in the parking lot. Volunteers, including Debbie Sherrer, served plates of pancakes on the terminal veranda. Overall, the event was successful.



Volunteer Debbie Sherrer serves pancakes at the new Granbury Regional Airport on Saturday morning, July 27.

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THE Best of Hood County HCNNews 7 STRAIGHT YEARS

Tech tribes: Which tribe do you belong to? Apple or Android?

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News

Granbury and Hood County may not have had anything like the Gunfight at the OK Corral, but there's an ongoing battle as fierce as any Old West showdown. But it's not outlaws or sheriffs drawing their guns at high noon; it's tech enthusiasts brandishing their smartphones. Yes, folks, it's the epic, age-old rivalry between Apple users and Android users. And oh, what a delightful spectacle it is!

THE APPLE TRIBE: SLEEK, STYLISH AND SLIGHTLY SMUG

Let's start with the Apple aficionados. In full transparency, let me state from the outset that I am a committed Apple tribe member. You can spot them a mile away, often sporting the latest iPhone, AirPods snug in their ears, and a MacBook tucked under their arms. These folks are the tech equivalent of fashionistas. Their gadgets are not just tools but accessories that must complement their impeccable sense of style. Apple users are the ones who sip lattes at the local coffee shop while swiping through their pristine, fingerprint-free screens. They're likely to engage in conversations about the latest iOS update, the nuances of Apple's ecosystem, and how their lives are seamlessly interconnected through their devices. For them, life is simpler with everything under one Apple-branded

roof. Simplicity, design and security are their mantras. Apple holds a significant share of the market nationwide. As of early 2024, about 47% of smartphone users in the United States prefer iPhones. This dominance is particularly strong among younger users, with 60% of people aged 18-34 opting for Apple devices. Gender-wise, Apple users are fairly balanced, though slightly more females lean toward iPhones.

But let's be honest, there's a hint of smugness, too. Owning an Apple product is a statement. It says, "I have arrived." And they wear this badge with pride, often rolling their eyes at Android users struggling to sync their devices or customize their home screens.

THE ANDROID TRIBE: DIVERSE, PRACTICAL AND PROUDLY INDIVIDUALISTIC

On the flip side, we have the Android enthusiasts. These are the folks who revel in the freedom their devices afford them. Customization is the name of their game. Want a phone with a massive screen? Done. Need a device that won't break the bank but still packs a punch? Android's got you covered. They cherish the variety and flexibility their gadgets offer.

Android users are the tinkerers, the tech-savvy individuals who enjoy getting under the hood of their devices. They're likely to be seen tweaking settings, downloading apps from obscure corners of the inter-



The differences between Apple and Android users add a rich layer to the tapestry of Hood County's community. Whether you're sipping lattes with your iPhone or tweaking your Android settings at a local diner, it's all part of the fun.

net, and boasting about their phone's superior specifications. For them, it's about getting the most bang for their buck and having a device that reflects their personality.

Nationally, Android holds a slightly larger share of the

market, with 53% of smartphone users. This platform attracts a broader demographic. Older users, particularly those aged 35 and above, are more likely to choose Android, appreciating the variety of devices and price points. The gender

split is nearly even, though slightly more males tend to favor Android.

These tech rebels scoff at the idea of being locked into one brand's ecosystem. They enjoy the competition between brands like Samsung, Google and OnePlus. While

they might occasionally envy the seamless integration of Apple products, they take pride in their ability to mix and match tech to suit their unique needs.

A PLAYFUL RIVALRY

The rivalry between Apple and Android users is not without its playful jabs. Apple users tease their Android counterparts for the latter's perceived fragmentation, while Android users retort by highlighting Apple's sky-high prices and closed system. But deep down, there's mutual respect. Each camp knows the other's preferences come from a place of genuine love for technology.

Whether you're team Apple or team Android, there's no denying that these gadgets have become essential to our lives. They keep us connected, entertained and informed.

CONCLUSION: A TECH TAPESTRY

In the end, the differences between Apple and Android users add a rich layer to the tapestry of Hood County's community. Whether you're sipping lattes with your iPhone or tweaking your Android settings at a local diner, it's all part of the fun. So next time you see someone engrossed in their smartphone, take a moment to appreciate the diversity of the tech world and maybe even engage in a friendly debate. After all, variety is the spice of life — and technology is no exception!

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