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GISD's Glenn named lone finalist for superintendent at Southlake Carroll

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury Independent School District Superintendent Jeremy Glenn is poised to take on a new career move after a development earlier this week.

Following an executive session during a special board workshop Aug. 5, the Carroll Independent School District board of trustees unanimously voted to name Glenn

as the lone finalist for superintendent in Southlake.

"Congratulations, Dr. Glenn," Carroll ISD Board President Cameron Bryan said during the meeting.

State law requires a 21-day waiting period before officially appointing Glenn as Carroll ISD superintendent. During that time, Glenn will remain with Granbury ISD to work with district staff and campus leaders to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

"It has truly been my honor to serve Granbury ISD for the last six years as superintendent," Glenn said in a GISD news release. "I'm grateful for the school board for the opportunity to work with some of the best students, teachers, parents and community members in Texas. Together, we have improved academic test scores, developed higher education partnerships, and lowered the tax rate every year while still maintaining a balanced budget. These accolades are a testa-

ment to our outstanding leadership team, board of trustees and the Granbury community that always puts the welfare of students first."

Glenn — who will replace retiring Superintendent Lane Ledbetter — served as GISD's superintendent for six years.

During Glenn's tenure, Granbury ISD had several notable achievements. The news release states that in addition to elevating academic achievement scores district wide and creating higher education part-

nerships, Glenn's accomplishments also include:

- Renovating Brawner Elementary School
- Passing a VATRE (Voter Approval Tax Rate Election) to increase staff raises
- Starting the Early Education Academy and Little Buccaneers
- Implementing a dual language academy
- TEA naming GISD a Purple Star

PLEASE SEE **GLENN** | A5

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The 16th annual Blazin' Saddle 75, Granbury's premier bicycling event, occurred on Saturday, August 3, starting from Granbury Middle School after a brief rain delay. The ride took cyclists on beautiful scenic 20-mile, 47-mile, 100-K, and 75-mile routes through the epic hills of Hood County, including signature climbs at Skulls Crossing, Mongo's Mountain, and The Peak. Registration included a T-shirt, but participants could opt for a discount without it. The event was also supported by local organizations such as the Hood County Amateur Radio Club, which provided rest stops every 10-12 miles stocked with ice, water, cold towels, Gatorade, pickle juice, fruit, and snacks. There was also mechanic support available along the route. After the ride, participants took advantage of the locker rooms provided for showers and then enjoyed an after-ride party lunch. Blazin' Saddle 75 Bicycle Rally was a not-for-profit event honored to benefit Texas EMS. See more photos at hcnews.com.

District clerk dispute continues: Zamarron files lawsuit against Republican committee

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County politics has ramped up within the last couple months, as many residents have expressed frustration over the latest district clerk nomination.

With tensions on the rise, Roberta Zamarron decided to take a stand against what she calls an unjust nomination process by the Hood County Republican Party executive committee.

Zamarron, the current interim district clerk, filed a lawsuit last week against the HCRP, Republican Party Chair Greg Harrell and Elections Administrator Stephanie Cooper for allegedly violating the party bylaws and key election laws.

She alleges that during the HCRP executive committee meeting June 26, the committee did not adhere to proper procedures when allowing her opponent, Melanie Graft,

to participate in the voting process for the district clerk nomination.

Graft, who serves as the Precinct 408 Chair and is a member of the Granbury Independent School District board of trustees, was nominated for the position during that meeting. Zamarron was appointed to the role by Judge Bryan Buffkin following the passing of former clerk Tonna Newman in February.

Members of the Hood County Republican Party executive committee voted for the district clerk nominee by way of a secret ballot. During the voting portion of the executive session, Zamarron and Graft found themselves deadlocked in a 7:7 vote. After a revote, Graft emerged victorious with an 8:6 vote, which immediately sparked discussion on social media.

Following the result, many Hood County residents took to Facebook to complain about the transparency and fairness of the electoral

process. Some expressed concerns that the meeting was not held in open forum while others said it was unfair to allow Graft to vote as a member of the executive committee when Zamarron was not a member of the board. Some comments suggested Graft should have recused herself during the vote.

"After the vote, many people raised questions about the legality of my opponent being able to serve on the committee and vote for herself while being a candidate for district clerk," Zamarron wrote in a post on social media. "A few of us researched that issue extensively after the meeting, and I believe the committee's action was incorrect under state law."

According to the lawsuit, members of the executive committee attempted to work with Harrell to rectify the errors and illegality in the candidate nomination and voting process. Unable to obtain any response from Harrell, Precinct 409

chairman Brad Yarborough made a written request for Harrell to take action to remedy the injustice. However, the lawsuit states Harrell has not responded or taken any further action.

Spurred to address the matter themselves, Zamarron and Yarborough along with Precinct 112 Chair Robert Granger and Precinct 404 Chair Mark Jackson hired an attorney and officially filed the lawsuit Friday, Aug. 2.

Zamarron stated the HCRP violated Election Code 161.005 by allowing Graft to serve as a precinct chair while also being a candidate for nomination as district clerk.

Under Texas Election Code 161.005, to serve as an officer of a political party, a person must not be a candidate for nomination or election to an elective office of the federal, state or county government.

The lawsuit states that for purposes of that specific statute, a

person becomes a candidate if "the person is nominated by a convention or executive committee."

"Here, upon becoming a candidate, Graft became ineligible to serve as a precinct chairman and member of the executive committee," the lawsuit states. "Only the members of the executive committee are permitted to participate in the candidate nomination and voting process. Since Graft became ineligible to serve as a precinct chair and member of the executive committee, her vote during the candidate nomination process constituted as an illegal vote."

Zamarron said the HCRP also violated the self-appointment doctrine, which was first set forth by the Texas Supreme Court in 1928. The doctrine prevents a body with appointment powers from appointing one of its own members to a position.

PLEASE SEE **DISPUTE** | A5

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FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Newspapers have an important role in maintaining America's freedom



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

Newspapers have had an important role in our country since the very inception of our nation. One of the biggest political issues in colonial America was free speech and the right of citizens to speak against a tyrannical government. At the very heart of free speech was the role of the newspaper. It provided information and news that helped form public opinion with the un-

derstanding that in a democracy, the electorate needs to be adequately informed so it might make enlightened decisions. From our nation's infancy, newspapers provided the information that allowed the public to go to the polls, educated on the issues of the day.

When drafting the Constitution, our founding fathers felt so strongly about the free press their first action was to draft the

First Amendment to ensure the press had certain freedoms and rights which could not be impinged upon. In no small way, the freedoms recognized in the other constitutional amendments are dependent on the protections that exist in the First Amendment. Our founders understood a voter without knowledge is simply a political token making decisions with the art of a blind chess player.

With those constitutional rights in place, our nation's newspapers helped our society as it formed opinions on the issues of the day. Whether it be the Monroe Doctrine, slavery, tariffs, women's rights, war or economic growth, American newspapers reported on the issues throughout our history. In their constitutional role, they helped ensure that truth, justice and fairness were consistently presented to the American voter. For many, reading the newspaper has been a way of life.

With the passage of time came radio, television, internet and cell phones. Without question these technological advances have altered how people receive their news. No longer are people reviewing the daily results of the New York Stock Exchange by newsprint. They no longer grab the morning paper to see the results of last night's baseball game, nor the late-night results of the local election. Some forms of communication are now "faster" than newspapers, but are they as accurate or as complete and as balanced?

The demise of the newspaper has been predicted again and again, and yet good community newspapers are still standing at their posts, providing the public with the information it needs to know.

Technology may have provided an alternative to print, but the local community newspaper still does and will always serve a vital role. There is no more credible source of local news than the community newspaper. There is no other source who will professionally communicate the goings on at the school board, the commissioners court or the city council. The local paper is the watchdog that works



COURTESY PHOTO

One of the biggest political issues in colonial America was free speech and the right of citizens to speak against a tyrannical government. At the very heart of free speech was the role of the newspaper.

to keep greed and political corruption from being cozy in the comfortable seats of power. It helps readership understand a bond issue, planning and zoning decisions, and other intricacies of government.

Of course, the community newspaper is also more than a just governmental updates and news reports. It reveals what is happening in the community, what events are taking place and when they will occur. It contains pictures that document the flood or a tornado, as well as the peewee t-ball game. It reports on those who have passed, and those obituaries become a recorded part of history that will never be erased. A community newspaper should not only reveal public issues to its readers but celebrate the events and accomplishments that are part of every community, giving people a sense of pride and ownership in where they live.

Newspapers are the canvas of your life presented to you each week without fail.

Tragically, some local newspapers in smaller and rural communities have closed because of rising costs and little to no advertising base to make their operation profitable. It is a sad and serious problem; so much so that there is pending legislation in Congress to support community news-

papers through tax credits and business credits for advertisers who do business with their local newspaper. Legislators fear that without community newspapers there will be no one to report on local government, and rural America could become an informational desert — a situation which would have been abhorrent to the founding fathers.

Newspapers will continue to evolve. Digital issues will have more and more growth as people wish to access the newspaper from their phone or laptop, and whether they are in the comfort of their home or on the road. Through it all, your community newspaper will be here, providing you with information you want and need to know in both digital and print forms.

Recent polling reported by the Texas Press Association shows a significant number of people still want to receive their local news from the community paper. They place more trust in the advertisements in their local paper than they do in TV, radio or social media ads and are significantly more likely to buy because of that trust. They value knowing what is going on in their neighborhoods and they like seeing pictures and reading stories about their friends and neighbors. They want a strong community newspa-

per to make a difference in their life in a positive way.

I am proud to be a part of the newspaper fraternity and believe we provide an essential service I hope never goes out of favor. I wish I could express to you the earnestness with which the professionals I work with go about their business and the important responsibility they willingly accept. We are not perfect but work diligently and proudly to keep you informed and to do so factually, fairly and objectively. In these days of extreme partisanship, some readers may disagree with my statement, and of course that is their right. I simply remind those critics that being objective is giving a voice to both sides and letting the readers decide which view is the best. It is not merely supporting a view because that is what many readers might like to read. Confirmation is not objectivity. Newspapers have a duty to be better than that, especially local community newspapers.

Thought for the day: "Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter." —Thomas Jefferson

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

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Elizabeth Wyss

Say hello to our neighbor, Elizabeth Wyss!

Elizabeth and her husband Scott, who have been married for 20 years, live in Granbury with their two sons: 18-year-old Reid and 14-year-old Rhett. They moved here from Fort Worth in May 2011 so their children could attend school and grow up in a small town. Elizabeth enjoys living in our close-knit lake community and loves embracing Granbury's small-town charm. Her favorite thing about living in Granbury is spending time on the lake with her boys and their friends, engaging in activities like wakeboarding, skiing, and surfing. Elizabeth will always cherish the memories they made on the water while watching her boys grow up. Reid recently graduated from Granbury High School and will be attending the University of Arkansas in the fall. Rhett is starting his freshman year at GHS, following in his brother's footsteps to play football for the Pirates. Elizabeth and Scott have been involved with the Touchdown Club Football Booster Club Board for four years with their older son, and they look forward to doing the same for the youngest. The couple finds it a great way to give back to the community and engage with local charities. When they are not at the lake or supporting the Pirate football team, you can find them enjoying live music at their local business, Bob's Off The Square, located in Granbury. Elizabeth likes to stay updated with the Hood County News online, particularly the photo galleries, to follow anything and everything involving the kids' sports, awards, and club activities.

Granbury chamber president, CEO Brian Bondy resigns

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

After three-and-a-half years serving the community as the Granbury Chamber of Commerce president and CEO, Brian Bondy has officially announced his resignation effective Friday, Sept. 13.

Bondy told the Hood County News July 30 he will transition to his new role as



COURTESY PHOTO
Brian Bondy

the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce president Monday, Sept. 16, where he will continue his commitment to community engagement while also moving closer to family.

"Those who know my

wife, (Jean) and I well know that family is very, very important to us," Bondy said.

He explained that his decision to resign largely stemmed from his desire to prioritize family, especially with the arrival of his granddaughter in 2021 and his grandson earlier this year.

"Part of the reason why I wanted to work here was to be closer to our daughter and son-in-law who live in Grand Prairie," Bondy said.

"When our kids were growing up, my parents lived in the Houston area. We were living in St. Louis at the time, and Jean's parents lived out in California, so they didn't have the grandparent interaction. It was the occasional visit, but it wasn't the same thing."

Bondy explained that the couple recently made a conscious decision to be closer

PLEASE SEE **BONDY** | A5

Hood County News
A Hyde Media Group, LLC Company

Publisher
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

Staff Writer
EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
eden@hcnews.com

Staff Writer
ASHLEY TERRY
ashley@hcnews.com

Staff Writer
LAUREN LAFLAMME-DAVIS
lauren@hcnews.com

Designer
HILARY McALLISTER
hilary@hcnews.com

Photographer/Designer
LAYTH TAYLOR
layth@hcnews.com

Designer
JEREMIAH FLORES
jeremiah@hcnews.com

hcnews.com

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USPS 249-520
P.O. Box 879, Granbury, Texas 76048
Phone: (817) 573-7066

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RETAIL ADVERTISING
P.O. Box 879
1501 South Morgan St., Granbury, Texas 76048

Marketing Consultant
HEIDI GEBHARDT
heidi@hcnews.com

Marketing Consultant
MADISON LAZARO
madison@hcnews.com

Marketing Consultant
BRITTANY BOWERS
brittany.bowers@hcnews.com

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HYDE MEDIA GROUP

Chief Operating Officer
SAM HOUSTON
sam@hcnews.com

President
KIM WARE
publisher@tricityreporter.com

Vice President Operations
DARREN CLARK
darren@hcnews.com

OUR MISSION: The Hood County News shall provide news and insights to our readers through the independent and impartial presentation of information that educates, enriches and entertains. We are proud to be a community newspaper committed to the people we serve.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Get ready for Pickleball Palooza: The ultimate pickleball social event hosted by Rising Leaders Granbury Aug. 24 at TX HOP Club

Granbury Chamber of Commerce

Are you ready to smash, dink and lob your way to victory? Join us at Pickleball Palooza, where the action is fast, camaraderie is friendly and fierce, and the fun never ends!

Don't get dinked in the kitchen, come on out and show us your ace.

This event is sure to be a banger. This is not your average tournament ... it's a social event! Pickleball Palooza, hosted by the Rising Leaders Club of Granbury, is just the place to jump into this growing sport, where you can burn between 350 to 475 calories per hour. Whether you are a pro or a beginner there's something for everyone. This family friendly event will have food and games for all ages and skill levels.

Pickleball is no longer for those 55 and older, it is growing rapidly among younger age groups. As of 2023, there were more than 38,000 pickleball courts in the United States, with approximately 1,200 new courts being added each year, including our new TX HOP Club in Granbury.

Sponsored by Wellington State Bank, the Palooza is Aug. 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at TX HOP Club. This event will bring together people of all ages and skill levels. So grab that paddle from home or at the TX HOP Club and join us!

Registration is open to all ages:

\$10 for kids age 12 and under, \$20 for chamber members, and \$30 for general admission. Your registration not only guarantees a day filled with excitement but also supports the Rising Leaders of Granbury's initiatives in the Granbury community. Big thank you to our present-

ing sponsor, Wellington State Bank, as well as our court sponsors: Pure Funding, Mattressville, DT Roofing & Construction, FNB of Granbury, Glenn Aire Company, Patriot Retirement Group, The Pub McDonough and Empire Realty Group. Thank you for your continued support and your commitment

to our community. Shout out to our refreshment sponsors: Advance America, Jacque Gordon — Keller Williams Brazos West, and The Waterin' Trough; our sign sponsor, 817 Print; and to our amazing host, TX HOP Club! Thank you all for helping us bring our community together through the joy of

pickleball! Don't miss this "Erne" opportunity. Come on out to Pickleball Palooza! Let's make this event a smash hit together! For more information and to purchase tickets, check out www.granburychamber.com or call us at 817-573-1622.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Member Spotlight: Brazos River Authority. "The Brazos River Authority exists to develop, manage and protect the water resources of the Brazos River basin. Today, the BRA's staff of more than 250 develop and distribute water supplies, provide water and wastewater treatment, monitor water quality, and pursue water conservation through public education programs." Thank you for being a member of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Member Spotlight: Home Grown Group Realty. "We know your property means a lot to you, and this is why you can trust our dedicated agents to have your best interests at heart. Our agents are some of the best and most thoroughly trained in the industry — and they have built their careers doing whatever it takes to find the right buyers and land the best deals for each and every one of our clients." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Member Spotlight: World Class Cleaning. "Since our founding, we've worked with numerous clients throughout the area. Great service begins and ends with experienced and friendly professionals, which is why we put so much consideration into selecting only the best to join our team. We complete projects efficiently and on schedule and go above and beyond to form lasting relationships with our clients." Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Ambassador of the Month: Erin Sanders. We are so thankful for our amazing Ambassador of the Month, Erin Sanders with Somervell Floors Inc. Erin has been an ambassador for a little over a year and when asked why she loves being an ambassador, she said "I love being an ambassador because I love giving back and being a part of an amazing community. I've worked with an awesome boss at Somervell floors for almost 10 years, Shirley Williamson, and next year it will be 30 years that she has had her business. It's because of Shirley that I became an ambassador. I want to give back in every way I can to this amazing community. My family always comes first in my life. My husband Jesse and I also take care of our Jeep Junkies off-road family and go all over the United States off-roading. Our life is always an adventure." Fun fact about Erin: "Not only am I a mom to my amazing grown girls and I have a 9-year-old son, I am also a grandma to six amazing grandkids!" Thank you, Erin, for being an Ambassador of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!!

For more community business visit granburychamber.com



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DISPUTE

FROM PAGE A1

The lawsuit states that Texas law has long prohibited self-appointment, which is one of three categories of common-law incompatibility. This doctrine stems from the Texas Supreme Court's ruling in *Ehlinger v. Clark*, which highlighted the inherent conflict in a member of an appointing body also serving as an appointee. The court stated that such a dual role is fundamentally incompatible, leading to a nationwide consensus that individuals with appointing power cannot appoint themselves or other members of their body to positions.

Zamarron also emphasized that the HCRP breached its own by-laws, which prohibit an individual from holding an elected public office while serving as a precinct chair. She added that these by-laws also prevent someone from acting as precinct chair while simultaneously being a candidate for a county office.

Article IV of the Hood County Republican Party bylaws expressly provides that a member of the executive committee "cannot be a holder of an elected public office or a candidate for such office at the county, state or federal level." Unlike the Texas Election Code, the bylaws do not define the terms "public office" or "candidate."

"Applying the plain and ordinary meaning of both terms, Graft is ineligible to serve as a member of the executive committee under the bylaws," the lawsuit states. "Indeed, as an elected member of the Board of Trustees of Granbury Independent School District, Graft is a 'holder of an elected public office.' Additionally, Graft being nominated made her a 'candidate' for district clerk. Accordingly, Graft's participation as a member of the executive committee in the voting process constitutes an ultra vires act (any act that lies beyond the authority of a corporation to perform)."

"Because of these concerns, my sincere hope is that a visiting judge in the district court will reverse the committee's vote and allow me to be your Republican candidate for district clerk in the November election," Zamarron wrote on social media. "Many have supported through funding and encouragement. Thank you for your support."

Zamarron expressed confidence that the matter can be resolved before the election, stating that Elections Administrator Stephanie Cooper must finalize the ballot by the end of the month.

"Since this case doesn't require a jury trial and has minimal fact issues, we should get a hearing date this month in front of a visiting judge," she told the Hood County News. "There are no consequences for the executive committee if we're successful. Nobody will be removed from office, and that's not what we're seeking to do."

The HCN sent an email to Harrell, asking for any comments regarding the recent development. He explained that since the Hood County Republican Party has not received any information about the petition — the first step in initiating the civil lawsuit — the party cannot comment on the matter.

The HCN also attempted to contact Graft and Cooper for comment but did not receive a response before press time.



PHOTO COURTESY CARROLL ISD FACEBOOK PAGE

Granbury ISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn was named the lone superintendent finalist for Carroll ISD in Southlake Monday, Aug. 5.

GLENN

FROM PAGE A1

district — the largest district in the state of Texas to have all campuses earn the designation

- Establishing character education programs
- Numerous campus and district accolades

"Dr. Glenn has served our district well for six years," GISD Board President Barbara Townsend said in the GISD news release. "His legacy will be the strong academic and financial leadership teams that he has established at Granbury ISD.

We congratulate Carroll ISD for recognizing Dr. Glenn's leadership qualities and we wish Dr. Glenn the best as he moves forward to lead Southlake Carroll."

In a CISD statement, Bryan described Glenn as a man of integrity and character, adding that he exemplifies the values that are foundational to their community.

"With a wealth of experience in educational leadership, he brings a visionary approach and a commitment to excellence," Bryan said. "We are confident that under his guidance and leadership, our schools will continue to thrive and our students will reach new

heights."

Glenn said joining CISD as superintendent is a profound honor, and expressed his commitment to maintaining the district's tradition of excellence by working with staff, parents and the community.

"I (want) to not only ensure every Dragon reaches their full potential, but to navigate and successfully lead this district through this season of statewide public education financial challenges," he said. "My family and I look forward to making Southlake our home."

Glenn said the decision to leave Granbury did not come easy, but he and his family are excited for

the opportunity to serve in Carroll ISD, as it is a "district dedicated to student success and a community with a rich tradition of excellence."

"Granbury will always hold a special place in our hearts," he said. "And we leave knowing Granbury will continue to excel."

Townsend stated that an interim superintendent will be appointed by the school board in the coming weeks. The board will begin the search process for a new superintendent in the fall of 2024 with plans to name a finalist who can start January 2025.

BONDY

FROM PAGE A3

to their grandchildren and play a more active role in their lives — an experience that his own children were lacking when they were growing up.

"Any chance we could get to be closer to (our kids), to be a resource for them, and to allow us to be part of not only their lives, but their kids' lives was very, very important to us," he said. "This opportunity allows me to literally put family first, but also be in the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce."

Bondy began his journey with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce April 1, 2021, succeeding Mike Scott, who had served as president for 15 years before his retirement in 2020.

With nearly 30 years of chamber experience under his belt, Bondy said he appreciates what he has learned from each community, as they have all provided different perspectives and priorities.

For Granbury, Bondy said community involvement was the main

focus, noting the success of the re-branding initiative, which included a new logo, brand colors and a revamped website that launched in December 2021.

Notably, a membership event in 2022 also attracted 114 volunteers and resulted in 269 new and upgraded members.

Reflecting on his accomplishments, Bondy expressed pride in the strong volunteer spirit that has flourished during his leadership, with the number of active ambassadors growing to 45. He was also instrumental in fostering initiatives such as the Women in Business Committee, which successfully hosted two summits, and the transition of the Granbury Young Professionals group into the Rising Leaders of Granbury to better serve newcomers to the area.

"(We wanted to) focus on not just the younger population, but those that are new to the community, or that are new in their positions with their company, so that they have a way to build a network, grow and get better," he said. "And, you know, that's re-

ally the whole heart of what the chamber is — it's about building relationships, and helping companies and businesses grow and get stronger."

Overall, Bondy said he is proud of the work the chamber has accomplished, adding that its success is a collaborative effort involving the board of directors, staff, members and volunteers.

"The bus is driven by all of those entities," he said. "My role is to kind of be the orchestra leader, or the conductor, if you will, and to make sure that the business is solid, and can move forward — whether it's in the day-to-day operations or planning for the future. I'd say that this chamber is in excellent shape."

Bondy said the most important lesson he has learned since joining the Granbury Chamber can be summed up in one sentence: "Never underestimate the power of community."

"It's not just me sitting behind a desk," he said. "It's all of us being involved in organizations around town to not only advance our mission, but to show that we

care about the community that we live in, and that there's power in community and there's power in involvement."

As Bondy prepares to leave a community that has quickly become like home, he remains dedicated to the relationships he has built during his time here. He added that he will miss "the people" more than anything.

"There are so many great people in this town that we've been able to build relationships with over the past three-and-a-half years," he said. "Just being able to celebrate that Granbury is the Celebration Capital of Texas, building partnerships with the city, with the county, with Visit Granbury, and the school district. I mean, we have a real passion for kids."

Bondy said he has enjoyed getting the chance to implement Lemonade Day in Granbury and being able to watch it grow in two short years.

Lemonade Day is a free, fun, experiential learning program that teaches fifth grade students how

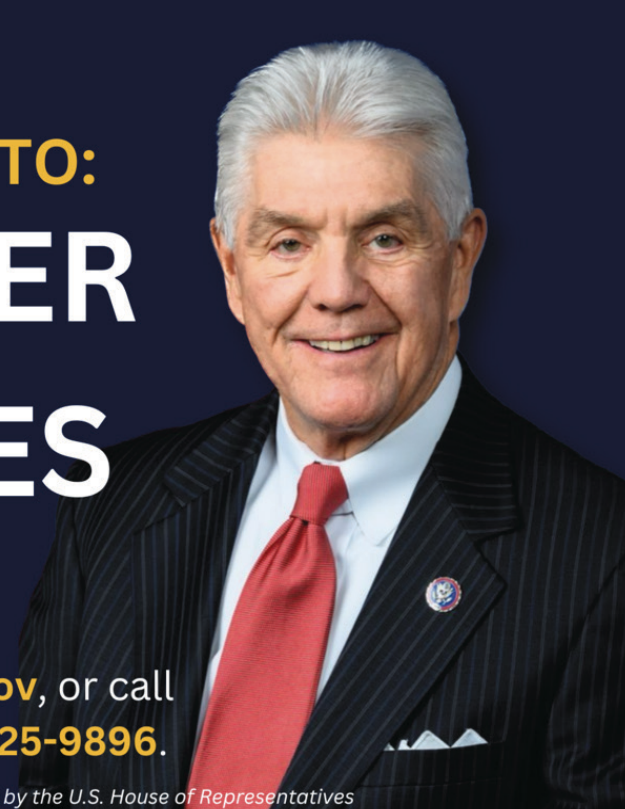
PLEASE SEE **BONDY** | A6

CORRECTION

In the Aug. 3 edition of the Hood County News, the address for the city's free tire recycling event was listed incorrectly. The correct location is 401 N. Park Drive. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

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5	Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival
5	Mission Granbury 5k/1k Ghost Run
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12	Pub Shindy

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

LANCE LACOUR: A LASTING LEGACY

*City bids farewell
to economic
development director*



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS FILE PHOTO

Lance LaCour, Granbury's economic development director, has now officially moved down south for his new role as Galveston County's director of economic development.

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

After only a few years as Granbury's economic development director, Lance LaCour has officially relocated south — trading small-town charm for the vibrant energy of a bigger community.

LaCour, who started his new position last month, is now the director of economic development for Galveston County. In this role, he will lead, manage and coordinate Galveston County's economic development activities such as planning, proposal development, county incentives, marketing, and business retention and expansion.

While LaCour wasn't in Granbury long, he spearheaded numerous initiatives that enhanced the local economy, from attracting new businesses to promoting tourism and development projects. His strategic approach and commitment

to the community have left a lasting impact — not only on residents, but to city officials as well.

During a Granbury City Council meeting June 18, City Manager Chris Coffman expressed his gratitude for LaCour's contribution, noting his efforts have positioned Granbury for future success.

"I just want to give him (LaCour) praise for all the hard work he's done on the administrative things behind the scenes that have prepared us for the next wave of economic development," Coffman said. "We just want to thank you, Lance, for all you've done for us."

Communications Manager Jeff Newpher said the city will continue to benefit from the fruits of LaCour's labor for years to come.

"Those projects are coming to completion, even after he has left working for the city," Newpher said. "Economic development, just by its nature, there's a lag to your efforts and

the time you see those projects come to fruition."

A former national racquetball champion and triathlon participant, LaCour first arrived in Granbury in June 2022.

The city hired LaCour after Coffman — with approval from the Granbury City Council — created an economic development department.

Since earlier partnerships involving the city, county, and chamber of commerce ultimately failed, Coffman previously told the Hood County News he felt an economic development department controlled and funded by the city would have greater sustainability.

LaCour was living in Humble and was president and CEO of Partnership Lake Houston, which he previously described as a combination chamber/economic development organization, when he drew the city of Granbury's attention.

By the time he joined Partnership Lake Houston, LaCour was a seasoned eco-

nomics development expert.

He had spent 15 years with the Katy Area Economic Development Council and before that, he worked in economic development roles in both Alabama and Mississippi.

LaCour is a certified economic developer (CEd) and holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a master's degree in economic development from the University of Southern Mississippi, earning awards in the regions where he has worked.

A native of Chalmette, Louisiana, near New Orleans, LaCour has enjoyed hunting, sports and fishing all his life — which might have also been one of the draws for LaCour's new role in Galveston County.

"As we all know, Lance is checking out and going down south to his natural habitat in Gulf Coast fishing," Coffman said, chuckling. "We're going to miss you. Glad to know you're still my friend, and maybe we can go fishing someday."

BONDY

FROM PAGE A5

to start, own and operate their own business — a lemonade stand. Following a successful inaugural event last year, Lemonade Day returned to Granbury for a second time May 18, with almost 100 stands participating in the second annual event.

"We thought we really hit it out of the park our first year, but then we had our second one this year, and we really did knock it out of the park — or I should say they knocked it out of the park because it's the kids and the families that participated that make Lemonade Day so special," he said. "That's one of the better takeaways from my time is being able to not only bring Lemonade Day to Granbury, but see it grow."

Reflecting on his journey as president and CEO, Bondy emphasized the importance of the relationship between a chamber of commerce and its members, adding that the relationship "can't be understated."

"It's one thing to be a chamber of commerce. It's another one to practice what you preach," he said. "I think Mike did a phenomenal job in the years leading up to his retirement, and I think that in the three-and-a-half years that I've been here, we've done some really cool and exciting things. I'm thankful for having been involved with the Rotary Club and various organizations and leaders in Granbury. It (gave me the) opportunity to be more than just sitting behind a desk — I got to become involved in the community."

In light of Bondy's resignation, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce board has initiated a search for his successor, with plans for current general manager Holly Martin to step in as interim president until a new leader is appointed.

"The position will be advertised and I think the intent is that Holly will step in as an interim president and just kind of oversee the day-to-day operations, much like she does now only as an interim, until the board gets that up and running," he said. "It's usually like a four-to-six-month process from recruiting to starting. It can be accelerated and it can also be drawn out if the candidates aren't of the quality that the board is looking for, but I don't think it's going to be a problem for this chamber to find somebody."

As Bondy embarks on his new journey, his achievements in fostering community involvement and strong connections will forever leave their mark on Granbury — leaving big shoes for his successor to fill.





"It still hasn't completely sunk in yet," Bondy said, with a chuckle. "But I think it will, as we get closer to my end date. This was just an opportunity that was tough to turn down."

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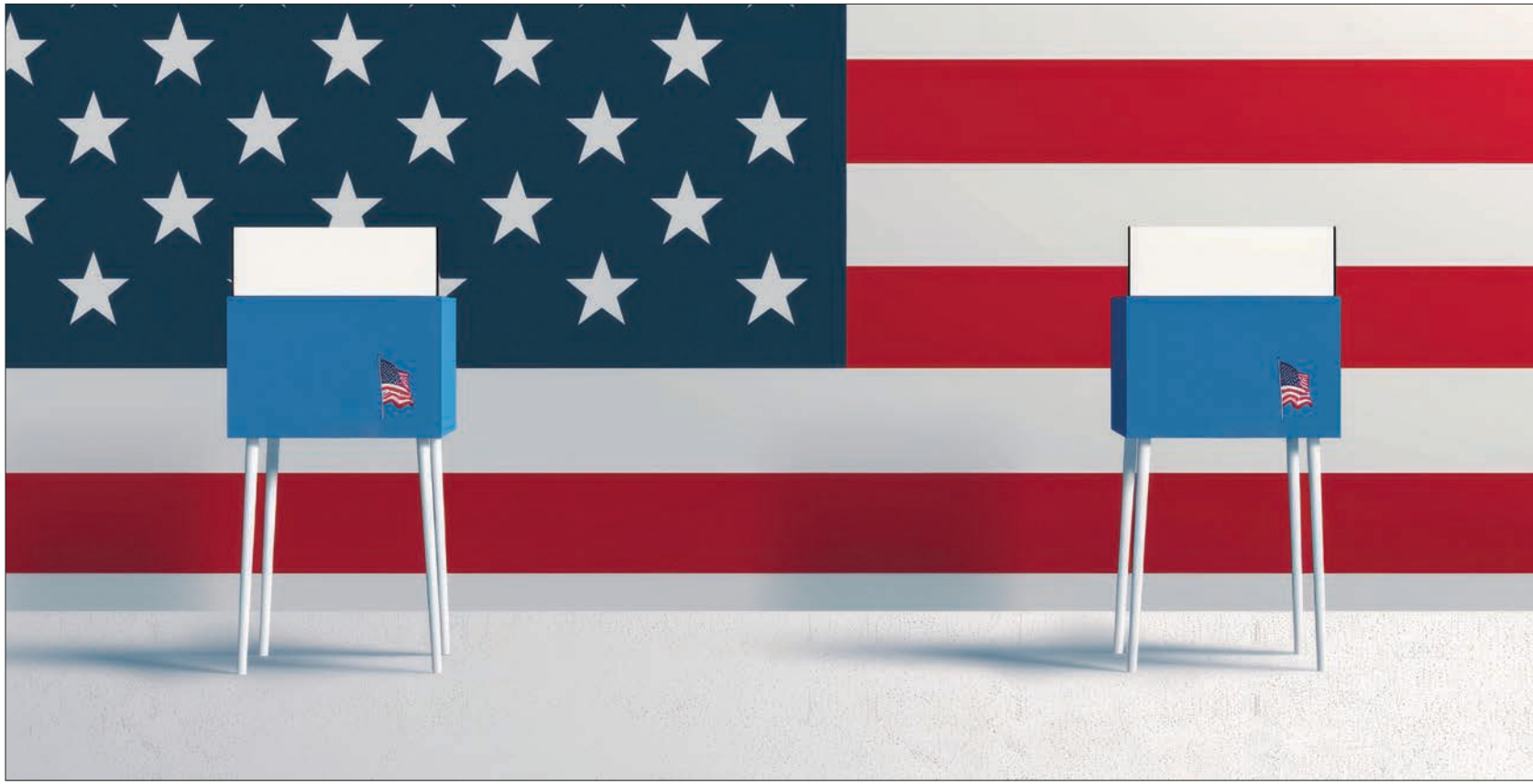
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Voting and running for office in Hood County



COURTESY PHOTO BY XARTPRODUCTION, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The filing period for anyone interested in running for office in the upcoming general election began July 20 and ends at 5 p.m. Aug. 19. Applications can be submitted in person at City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048, or via email or fax.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Hood County residents are gearing up for the 2024 General Election, which is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 5.

Here's what voters need to know about preparing to vote and running for office:

VOTER REGISTRATION

The deadline to register to vote is Monday, Oct. 7. Registration forms can be submitted by mail, post-marked by Oct. 7, or delivered in person to the Hood County Elections Office on the same day.

EARLY VOTING AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Early voting will take place from Oct. 19 to Nov. 1. Absentee ballot requests must be received by Oct. 25. Completed absentee ballots must be postmarked by Nov. 5 and received by Nov. 6 or returned in person by 7 p.m. Election Day.

MAIL-IN BALLOT INFORMATION

Eligible voters, including those 65 years or older, disabled, absent from the county, or confined in jail, can apply for a ballot by mail. Applications must be submitted to Stephanie Cooper, Hood County Elections Administrator, by mail, fax, or email, with additional mailed confirmation required within four business days.

This means if you choose to submit it electronically (by fax or email), you must also send a physical confirmation of your submission through the mail within four business days.

CITY OF GRANBURY ELECTIONS

The City of Granbury will

hold its elections for Council member Place 3 and Council member Place 5 Nov. 5. These positions are each for a three-year term.

Residents of Granbury who are registered voters are eligible to vote in this election. The voter registration deadline is Oct. 7, and early voting will occur from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1.

Only residents of the City of Granbury can vote for council members for Place 3 and Place 5. These positions are specific to city government, so only those who live within the city limits and are registered voters in Granbury can participate in the election for these council positions. To discover city boundary lines, visit: <https://www.granbury.org/827/interactive-maps>.

Residents of other areas in Hood County who do not live within the city limits of Granbury are not eligible to vote in these city council elections.

COUNCIL MEMBER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The elected council members will have significant responsibilities in shaping the city's future. Their duties include:

- Enacting local laws;
- Approving the city's budget; and
- Establishing policies that guide the city's operations and long-term planning.

Council members also represent the interests and concerns of residents, attend community meetings and serve as a crucial link between the public and city government.

In addition to legislation and policymaking, council members oversee city management and departments to ensure effective service delivery and accountability. They participate in strategic planning efforts, addressing infrastructure, economic development and environmental sustainability issues. Council members must engage with the public through meetings and forums — helping to gather input and provide information about city initiatives.

Constables also have the authority to make arrests and serve as bailiffs in the Justice of the Peace courts. **Justice of the Peace (JP):** The Justice of the Peace presides over minor civil and criminal cases, including small claims, traffic offenses and landlord-tenant disputes. JPs also conduct inquests and may perform marriage ceremonies. For additional information about this position, visit <https://www.tjctc.org>.

FILING PERIOD FOR ALL INTERESTED CANDIDATES

The filing period for these positions is from July 20, to Aug. 19, by 5 p.m. Applications can be submitted in person at City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048, or via email or fax.

HOOD COUNTY ELECTORAL POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION

Some Hood County positions are up for grabs in the 2024 General Election. Below are the positions available in each precinct (precinct areas noted below).

Precinct 1: Constable 1, JP 1, Commissioner 1 (includes voting precincts 101, 103, 105, 107 and 112)

Precinct 2: Constable 2, JP 2, Commissioner 2 (includes voting precincts 202, 211, 216 and 218)

Precinct 3: Constable 3, JP 3, Commissioner 3 (includes voting precincts 310, 313, 314 and 317)

Precinct 4: Constable 4, JP 4, Commissioner 4 (includes voting precincts 404, 408, 409 and 415)

POSITION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Constable: According to the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE),

a constable is a law enforcement officer who serves legal documents such as subpoenas, summonses and warrants and maintains peace in their precinct. Constables also have the authority to make arrests and serve as bailiffs in the Justice of the Peace courts.

For more information about Hood County elections schedules and requirements for running for public office, visit: <https://www.granbury.org/803/Elections>.

BREAKDOWN OF THE AREAS GENERALLY COVERED BY EACH PRECINCT

Precinct 1: Includes voting precincts 101, 103, 105, 107 and 112. Towns/areas covered: Parts of Granbury, DeCordova and other surrounding areas in the northeastern part of Hood County.

Precinct 2: Includes voting precincts 202, 211, 216 and 218. Towns/areas covered: Tolar, Oak Trail Shores and other areas in the northwestern part of Hood County.

Precinct 3: Includes voting precincts 310, 313,

314 and 317. Towns/areas covered: Parts of Granbury, Pecan Plantation and other surrounding areas in the southeastern part of Hood County.

Precinct 4: Includes voting precincts 404, 408, 409 and 415 Towns/areas covered: Lipan, Brazos Bend and other areas in the southwestern part of Hood County.

RUNNING FOR OFFICE — DETAILS

Individuals interested in running for office must follow these steps:

- File a Campaign Treasurer Appointment at the Hood County Elections Office at 1410 W. Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048.

- Filing must occur before raising or spending any campaign funds or announcing candidacy.

- Submit Filing Fees or Petitions: Candidates can either pay a filing fee or submit a petition with the required number of registered voter signatures to the local political party chair. The Elections Office provides detailed information on precinct-specific signature requirements.

- File Financial Reports: Candidates must file campaign financial reports with the Elections Administrator's Office according to set deadlines.

VOTER CONTACT INFORMATION

For any election-related questions, residents can contact the Hood County Elections Office at 817-408-2525 or visit the Texas Secretary of State's website: <https://www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/candidates/guide/2024/offices2024.shtml>.

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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.

TUESDAY, AUG. 20

LAKE GRANBURY

Ministerial Alliance luncheon at Forward Training Center, 600 West Pearl Street. Speakers will be Forward Training Center Executive Director Monica Hays, Program Director Laurie Lilly and a student of the training center programs. The subject is how churches can use the center's services to benefit their people.

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 21

LAKE GRANBURY/

HOOD County Master Gardeners meet at 1 p.m. at the Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. Program by Carol Montgomery from Clark Gardens in Mineral Wells to speak about growing plants in large containers. For more information contact the Hood County Extension office, 817-579-3280.

FRIDAY, AUG. 23

HOOD COUNTY

Hospital District Board meets at noon at the Annex 1 meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Drive, Granbury. Questions? Call 187-579-3200.

TUESDAY, AUG. 27

MID CITIES

Stamp Club — Granbury Branch meets at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court. Meeting begins at 7 p.m. Program about the Faroe Islands presented by Ken Aldridge. Questions? Call 817-910-8174.

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 non-profit 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.

City plans to maintain same tax rate for another year

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

During its regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 6, the Granbury City Council unanimously voted to propose a property tax rate of \$0.3850 per \$100 valuation — the same rate

the city has operated with for the last couple of years.

On July 23, the city received its Certified Appraisal Roll from the Hood Central Appraisal District, revealing a certified net taxable property value of approximately \$2.78 billion — an increase of \$69.74 million, or 3%, from preliminary valuations.

This growth reflects both increased property values and new development within the city.

Finance Director Eva Gregory addressed the council during the meeting Tuesday and explained the implications of several tax rates that were calculated by the Hood Central Appraisal District.

The no-new-revenue tax rate, which allows the city to collect the same amount of property tax revenue as last year, stands at \$0.393736 per \$100 valuation. The voter-approval tax rate, which requires voter consent for any

PLEASE SEE **TAX** | A8

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Comanche Peak secures 20-year license renewal



PHOTO COURTESY MERANDA COHN/VISTRA

Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Glen Rose has renewed its operating licenses for an additional 20 years.

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hundreds of employees at the Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Glen Rose will benefit from a recent move by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission — a decision that will ultimately secure jobs for the next two decades.

The NRC announced July 30 the company has renewed the operating licenses of Comanche Peak Units 1 and 2 for an additional 20 years. According to a press release from NRC, the two units at Comanche Peak are pressurized-water reactors, with Unit 1's operating license now set to expire Feb. 8, 2050, and Unit 2's Feb. 2, 2053.

According to a news release by plant owner Vistra Energy, the company submitted a request to the NRC in October 2022, asking for an operation extension of the Comanche Peak plant through 2053 — an additional 20 years be-

yond its original licenses.

"With demand for electricity growing at a rapid pace, reliable sources of power, like Comanche Peak, are going to be absolutely essential to meeting that need," Jim Burke, president and CEO of Vistra, said in the company's news release. "Importantly, this demand growth is happening at the same time as the country is transitioning to cleaner energy sources and many fossil plants are retiring. Electricity is one of the most basic building blocks of the economy, and extending the operation of our nuclear fleet provides decades of

support for both existing and growing sectors."

According to the Vistra release, the NRC staff noted in an April report to NRC commissioners that Vistra's "proactive and voluntary efforts" helped improve the timeliness and efficiency of the license renewal process. The company voluntarily submitted three supplements to the applications, which the staff said contributed to a 70% reduction in its requests for information compared to previous license renewals.

"We take pride in the part we play every day in powering the grid with carbon-free energy," Vistra's Chief Nuclear Officer Ken Peters said in the news release. "Our dedicated Comanche Peak team operates the plant safely and at a high level of performance, and I'm proud that this record of excellence has paved the way to securing another 20 years of operation. I want to acknowledge the tremendous work by the team who facilitated one of

the most efficient license renewal efforts with the NRC."

A two-unit facility, Comanche Peak is the third of Vistra's four nuclear plants to receive its license extension from the NRC. Once the application was submitted, NRC conducted a two-track review, releasing a safety evaluation report in March and a final supplemental environmental impact statement in April.

"The NRC is satisfied Vistra met all of the requirements to renew the licenses," NRC Public Affairs Officer Scott Burnell told the Hood County News.

The extension of Comanche Peak's operation ensures continued economic benefits to the local area — especially since the plant is operated by more than 600 employees and more than 200 permanent contractors.

According to the Vistra press release, refueling outages for the two reactors require supplemental workers and bring in anywhere

from 800-1,200 skilled technicians from across the country. As the contractors are brought in, they bring a source of substantial additional economic activity for hotels, restaurants and related businesses in the area.

The renewal of Comanche Peak's operating licenses not only promises job security for its employees but also underscores its significant economic impact, as the plant stands as the largest taxpayer in Somervell County — contributing more than \$30 million annually in state and local taxes.

As demand for reliable and clean energy continues to rise, Comanche Peak will serve as a vital asset in both the energy sector and the local economy for many years to come.

For more information about Comanche Peak's license renewal, visit VistraCorp.com.



COURTESY PHOTO BY ANDRII YALANSKYI, ADOBESTOCK.COM

During its regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 6, the Granbury City Council unanimously voted to propose a tax rate of \$0.3850 per \$100 valuation — the same rate the city has operated with for the last couple of years.

TAX

FROM PAGE A7

rate exceeding this figure, is set at \$0.439924. The proposed rate of \$0.3850 falls below both rates, allowing the council to proceed without a public hearing, as mandated by Senate Bill 2.

Gregory said that by adopting a rate lower than the voter-approval tax rate, the city can also bank any unused amounts below the unused increment rate for up to

three years, which will provide greater flexibility for future tax rate adjustments. The unused increment rate is the three-year rolling sum of the difference between the adopted tax rate and voter-approval rate, which is \$0.718077 for 2024.

The city also had the option to adopt the de minimis rate of \$0.448527, intended to provide smaller taxing units with relief from the 3.5% voter-approval tax rate. This rate, introduced under Senate Bill 2, allows smaller cities

to adopt a tax rate that can generate an additional \$500,000 in property tax revenue compared to the previous year. However, the council chose to maintain the current rate instead of pursuing this alternative.

"I might reiterate, the \$0.3850 is below the no-new-revenue tax rate of %0.03937, so we're proud," City Manager Chris Coffman said. "If you want to adopt a rate that exceeds that, now's the time to speak. There's plenty of streets to pave and infrastructure to

rebuild."

"If we do \$0.3850 it's the same as last year, and considerably lower than all these other options that we have," Place 3 council member Bruce Wadley said. "All the other options that are available to us are higher than that. If we adopt the 38-and-a-half, then we stay at the same level as last year."

"Yes, and we do not have to have a public hearing," Gregory added. The council then unanimously voted to adopt the proposed tax rate of \$0.3850 per \$100 valua-

tion, and to place the item on the agenda for the Sept. 3 council meeting.

The notice of the 2024 property tax rate along with the notice provision for the meeting to vote on the proposed tax rate is scheduled to run in the Aug. 17 issue of the Hood County News and will be posted on the city's website.

A public hearing will also be held Sept. 3 regarding the city's proposed annual operating budget for 2024-2025.

LETTER

A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD

A level playing field is the hope. One with a few divots is inevitable. Some people will do anything to win. Although, the acronym for the World Anti-Doping Agency is unfortunate, it does its best to level the playing field.

One of my goals was to coach gymnastics but if history was any indicator, I am not sure I would have been welcomed into this world of play. Winning was important but sportsmanship was more important. That was a lesson I learned from Mama. She was heavily involved with Junior Golf. I can remember riding around the course with her during the Junior Golf tournament. After shanking a shot on number four fairway, one of the golfers had some sort of meltdown and hurled his club into the adjacent trees. With his hands on his knees, wagging his head back and forth in frustration, he looked up to see Mama sitting there looking straight at him.

He came over to the cart and apologized to Mama. I got out of the cart to give them a moment. They just talked and after a few minutes, he was back on the course in a calmer manner. The thing about Mama was that you win gracefully and you lose gracefully but you behave yourself on the course at all times. That was the bottom line.

As a child, I was pretty good at a couple of sports — diving, water ballet, gymnastics, horseback riding ... I enjoyed them all but I didn't have a competitive bone in my body. I simply enjoyed the activities.

Doping seems to be a recurring theme regardless of the sport. I remember assisting my friend at horse shows — For those horses who placed first through third, I caught the tee-tee while Dr. Hoffman pulled the blood.

Watching the Paris Olympics — witnessing how talented these athletes are and knowing how much effort they exert for their specialties ... impressive doesn't come close to the feeling. I am amazed at today's difficulty levels from years past. The world of sports seems to change with the wind.

All we ask for is a level playing field. Sportsmanship should not be a dying art.

L F Postero
2024

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.

Three cyclists injured at 16th Annual Blazin' Saddle 75

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

TOLAR — A hit-and-run incident during the 16th Annual Blazin' Saddle 75 cycling event left three participants injured. The event, held at Granbury Middle School, attracted more than 1,000 cyclists. The accident occurred early Saturday morning as the cyclists navigated a section of the route.

According to the Tolar Volunteer Fire Department's

Facebook posts, Chad Hamm was on the scene and rendered aid alongside the individual, an older man, who hit the cyclists. After a few moments, the older man got back into his car and drove away.

The Tolar Volunteer Fire Department requested help searching for a silver Nissan Rogue (year unknown) involved in the hit-and-run on Hill City Highway just south of Tolar. The car was reported to be found shortly after

the incident.

Social media contributor Mike Donnelly posted about the incident, stating the driver later turned himself in to the police. Two injured cyclists were airlifted to the hospital, while the third was transported by ambulance. The current medical status of the injured cyclists remains unknown.

The accident has sparked discussions on social media about the safety of the intersections along the route.

Facebook user Lisa Kiechler highlighted the dangers, recounting a close call with a cyclist hidden by overhanging tree branches.

Local authorities are investigating the incident. Hood County News will report further as details become available.

The Blazin' Saddle 75, a well-known event in the cycling community, began at 7:30 a.m. at Granbury Middle School, located at 2000 Crossland Road in Granbury.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of July 30-Aug 5. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

JULY 30

9:11 a.m.: theft on W. Pearl Street
1:22 p.m.: theft of property on W. Doyle Street
1:57 p.m.: driver with invalid license on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:34 p.m.: theft under \$100
One major accident, one minor accident, a warrant service and 26 traffic stops occurred this day

JULY 31

8:44 a.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:07 p.m.: child found on N. Park Drive
12:29 p.m.: fraud on W. Moore Street
2:02 p.m.: auto accident involving pedestrian on N. Houston Street
5:05 p.m.: assault on Shady Grove Drive
5:15 p.m.: fraud on Waters Edge Drive
One major accident, three minor accidents, a warrant service and 14 traffic stops occurred this day

AUG 1

8:10 a.m.: criminal mischief on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:46 a.m.: reckless driver on E. Pearl Street
8:58 a.m.: criminal mischief on W. Atchley Drive
9:35 a.m.: theft over \$750 and under \$2,500 on W. Pearl Street
2:39 p.m.: fraud on Walters Drive
4:53 p.m.: violation of protective order on W. Doyle Street
6:44 p.m.: theft on Summerhill Court
6:47 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:43 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:25 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
One major accident, two minor accidents and six traffic stops occurred on this day

AUG 2

2:49 a.m.: intoxicated driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:11 a.m.: reckless driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:49 a.m.: reckless driver on Temple Hall Highway
11:21 a.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:12 p.m.: loose livestock on S. Morgan Street
2:53 p.m.: fraud on

Chaparral Drive

5:38 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:46 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:01 p.m.: stolen vehicle recovered in Kilgore, Texas
8:23 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. Barton Street
Two major accidents, three minor accidents, two warrant services and 18 traffic stops occurred on this day

AUG 3

12:09 a.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:36 a.m.: intoxicated person on Parkwood Lane
9:21 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on W. Bridge Street
10:36 a.m.: criminal trespass on Waters Edge Drive
6:21 p.m.: child abuse on W. Doyle Street
6:37 p.m.: intoxicated person on W. Pearl Street
8:40 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:24 p.m.: reckless driver on S. Morgan Street
9:29 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on Paluxy Road
10:22 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
11:32 p.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:48 p.m.: theft of a controlled substance under

\$150,000

Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 21 traffic stops occurred this day

AUG 4

4:00 a.m.: assault of a family member on N. Plaza Drive
8:28 a.m.: loose livestock on Fall Creek Highway
2:25 p.m.: property damage on W. Pearl Street
5:53 p.m.: mentally ill person on Chesapeake Bay Court
6:22 p.m.: property damage on E. Pearl Street
7:44 p.m.: mentally ill person on Siesta Court
9:26 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:46 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on S. Morgan Street
One major accident and one minor accident, and 26 traffic stops occurred this day

AUG 5

10:12 a.m.: assault on Sardiou Boulevard
10:26 a.m.: hit-and-run on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:44 a.m.: animal cruelty on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:36 p.m.: child found on Crossland Road
Two warrants were served and 47 traffic stops occurred this day



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Lipan's Ator in fifth decade of firefighting



BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

Richard Ator was enjoying a cheeseburger in a cafe in downtown Lipan when something happened that changed his life July 5, 1974.

"Melvin Rogers came running in and shouted 'Fire west of town, get in the truck. J.B. Davis' place on Davis Road,'" he recalled. "Yep, my first run with the Lipan Volunteer Fire Department. Nice hot weather like today."

"I believe R.E. Light was cutting hay when it started. Whole lot of smoke, but we knocked it out with them old trucks and no protective equipment."

Ator is still serving the LVFD today, mostly in an auxiliary role and, in his words, "doing the tasks that an old, retired mechanic can see about."

ONLY A TEENAGER

Ator was only 17 when that incident happened in 1974. He said it never entered his mind to say no when he was asked to help, even though he nor anyone else in his family had ever done any firefighting.

"Things were different back then. They just grabbed any available bodies when a call came in," he said. "It was a holiday weekend and I guess I was the only one he could find."

While Ator's great-grandparents were some of the first settlers in the area, he didn't arrive until his junior year of high school in 1973. His father served in the Navy 23 years and retired when Ator was 16, after which they moved back to the family farm to take care of Ator's grandparents.

Ator said that, while her son had found a new, albeit dangerous, venture, his mother

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD ATOR

Richard Ator, shown at a big fire in Hood County in 2022, has been with the Lipan Volunteer Fire Department for five decades.

PLEASE SEE **ATOR** | B7

C.A.S.T for Kids event — reeling in the smiles at True Grit Ranch

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

The Catch a Special Thrill Foundation (C.A.S.T.) is thrilled to announce a special event at True Grit Ranch in Granbury, scheduled for Oct. 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event promises a memorable day of fishing, fun and celebration for children with special needs.

Eric Sullivan, a Texas Farm Bureau Agent in Acton, and his wife Tracy, an administrative assistant for The Thomas Group in Granbury, have been instrumental in expanding the program locally.

"Our real goal in the foundation is maybe the kids will start pestering their parents to say, 'Can we go to the pond?'" said Jim Behnken, program director for the Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation. "Nothing beats family time and the out-

doors. Hopefully, we'll see these kids fishing with their families on their local pond next week."

A SIMPLE INVITATION

Behnken, a former fishing guide and tournament bass fisherman, brought Eric Sullivan into the program four years ago when the previous coordinators moved away.

"You're a fishing guy; you can probably help find some boaters!" Behnken remarked.

Sullivan agreed to help, initially believing his role would be limited to coordinating boaters and handling merchandise. However, he soon found himself deeply connected with the special children participating in the program, who quickly captured his heart.

FISHING FOR KIDS

Tracy Sullivan shared that in the fall of 2021, about 18 kids attended the Lake Granbury event. It was

here that Eric Sullivan met coach Deidra Zschiesche, the PE/Adapted PE teacher at STEAM Academy at Mambino Elementary School in Granbury. She approached him and said, "We have about 50 special needs kids at our school. Would you consider making this a school field trip for them in the spring?"

He was thrilled at the idea of reaching more kids. "I was super excited but didn't believe there would be any way possible the school district would approve it," Eric Sullivan admitted. Following the mantra, "all we can do is ask," they made the request.

To their surprise, the school district approved the field trip.

In April 2022, the school showed up with 58 special needs kids, along with partner helpers, teachers and parents — close to 200 people.

"We were not prepared, but we prayed and knew God would work out the details," Eric Sullivan recalled. With only about 17 boaters signed up online, he worried they would be short-handed, not



COURTESY PHOTO

Catch a special thrill (C.A.S.T.) for kids

to mention the weather. "I was extremely nervous as the buses arrived and the wind picked up," he said.

BOATERS TO THE RESCUE

"Granbury is an amazing place to live. It's a huge boating community," Tracy Sullivan said. "It is an extremely giving community of people who care about kids and lake life. And our

local boaters just kept coming that day. They heard the call, and it was like loaves and fishes. They just kept multiplying."

Despite being unprepared and disorganized, the day turned out beautifully, with kids all smiles and adults in tears of joy, especially Zschiesche and Behnken. They broke the Texas record for the most kids in 30 years

at a C.A.S.T. event that day.

PLANNING FOR MORE

Zschiesche informed the Sullivans before Christmas 2022 that nearly 70 kids had signed up for the 2023 event.

At a cost of roughly \$150 per participant, the Sullivans realized they needed a big-

PLEASE SEE **C.A.S.T.** | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

A C.A.S.T. participant marvels at a fish.

Calm first-day-of-school jitters

Staff Reports

Starting school for the first time or simply returning to campus after another summer break can lead to mixed feelings. Kids may be excited to see their friends every day, but that comes at the price of the end of lazy summer days.

The first day of school is on the horizon, and parents may discover their children seem a bit despondent that vacation is coming to a close. Such feelings may stem from more than the end of summer vacation. Some students may be nervous about going to school. New faces, new experiences and new teachers can lead to a little anxiety. Here are some ways to tame the nerves.

DO A TRIAL RUN

Before school starts, do a test run to the drop-off lo-

cation, bus stop or pick up whomever will be carpooling together. Getting into that routine can help reduce nervousness.

PARTICIPATE IN MEET-AND-GREETs

Some schools offer certain events designed to introduce students even before classes begin. Schools may host ice cream socials or picnic lunches on school grounds, particularly for younger grades. These events give children an opportunity to get to know their classmates before the first school bell rings.

TAKE A SCHOOL TOUR

If a student is about to start in a new school or will be attending school for the first time, families will want to see if they can get tours of the school and facilities. Just one glance inside can be enough to familiar-

ize students with the lay of the land, which might make things less scary on the first day.

CHECK THE CLASS LIST

Some schools do not provide a list of all students in particular classes, but increasingly those that rely on programs like Google Classroom or Canvas may enable students to see who will be in their class. Children also can use social apps like Instagram and Snapchat to locate school-associated groups to find other students. Parents and their children can brainstorm how to deal with other students who may have been difficult in the past, while also perusing lists for friendly faces.

PRACTICE CONVERSATION SKILLS

Many modern kids have their eyes locked on devices.

They may be a little rusty with ice breakers and initiating conversation. Role playing at home can give kids some ideas of how to forge new relationships in the classroom.

RECOGNIZE AND TAKE CONCERNS SERIOUSLY

Parents and other caregivers can be receptive to conversation with children regarding their concerns about starting school. Talking about feelings can help kids tame their nervousness, especially when adults take them seriously.

Children may be nervous about starting school. Parents, caregivers and teachers can work together to help students overcome these jitters quickly.

C.A.S.T.

FROM PAGE B1

ger team for fundraising and organization. Determined, they gathered key people, raised funds and sought donations from everyone they knew.

The students and teachers at Mambrino Elementary School organized a kickball tournament called "We Kick for Kids," raising \$1,700. This fundraiser was one of many efforts that contributed to their success. C.A.S.T. for Kids had so many sponsors for the April 2023 event that they almost didn't fit on the sponsor T-shirts.

Calls for boaters went out locally and on social media, attracting participants from surrounding counties and as far as Wichita Falls. They connected with a local boater, David Timm who spread the word on social media. The response was overwhelming, with over 50 boaters and 50 volunteers showing up.

The 2023 event was record-breaking, with 65 kids, plus partner kids, teachers and parents totaling almost 400 people. The day was beyond their wildest dreams, filled with community support and joy.

THE FOUNDING

Founded in 1991 and becoming an official 501(c)(3) organization in 1994, the

C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation connects children with special needs and volunteers through fishing, fostering a sense of achievement and community.

Jay Yelas, executive director of C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation, has been pivotal in the organization since 2015. Yelas, a well-known figure in professional bass fishing, retired in 2022 to dedicate himself full-time to the foundation. "My passion for people and for sharing the great sport of fishing with others, especially with children, is why I love C.A.S.T. for Kids. Amazing things happen at our events when so many good-hearted people volunteer to pour their love out on these children," said Yelas.

This year's May event at DeCordova Bend Park brought in 75 kids, breaking the C.A.S.T. record.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Sullivans are passionate about making the event accessible to more children. Recognizing the challenges and expenses volunteer boaters faced, they added a second event at True Grit Ranch. Children with special needs have the opportunity to experience the joy of fishing.

Participants age 6 and older will be paired with experienced volunteer anglers and equipped with a fishing rod, reel, tackle box, T-shirt and

hat. The local Farm Bureau agency often provides meals for the kids and volunteers, adding to the overall experience.

"This October event at True Grit Ranch will be more about catching fish rather than just fishing," Eric Sullivan explained. "The kids will be baiting hooks and catching fish all day, which will be much more engaging for them."

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Eric and Tracy Sullivan are truly grateful for the dedication and love of a remarkable group of volunteers. Their selfless work not only creates memorable experiences for the children they serve at the Catch a Special Thrill events in Granbury, but also enriches the entire community.

M.J. and John Lamoreaux are at the heart of C.A.S.T. events. Their unwavering support and willingness to tackle any task ensures everything runs smoothly. They are the unsung heroes, working behind the scenes to keep everything afloat and provide much-needed stability to the team.

Zschesche is the heartbeat of these events. Her deep connection with every child and her visionary idea to turn the event into a field trip have made it possible for 75 kids to participate.

Behnken brings his expertise, heart and soul to

every event. His commitment goes beyond his role; he is a friend and practically family to the team, infusing every event with warmth and dedication.

Jacque Gordon, a local Keller Williams Realtor, and her husband David, have been instrumental in supporting C.A.S.T. fundraising efforts. Their generous donations of time and money reflect their deep love for the community and its children.

Timm, a local fisherman, has been a game-changer in the quest to find boaters. His social media prowess has brought in over 50 local boaters and significant fundraising support. Through his connections, the team has also partnered with S.L.K.K. Bait Nation, which sends boxes of bait and gifts for the kids from fishing enthusiasts nationwide.

Deatra Harper of Promotions n' Motion has been invaluable with her promotional expertise. Her generous gift of items and discounts and her willingness to accommodate myriad needs and ideas make her a cherished partner in these efforts.

Jessica Behnken handles operations for the Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation. Her readiness to assist with any request ensures the events run seamlessly, no matter how unconventional the demands.

Lastly, Rebecca Mabe, managing director of the C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation, is the glue that holds everything together. Her meticulous financial management and organizational skills keep everything in line.

NOT JUST FOR LOCAL KIDS

The C.A.S.T. for Kids program has received overwhelming support from the community, including local businesses and organizations. Texas Farm Bureau has been a significant supporter as a title sponsor, providing funding and volunteers for the events.

One of the event's highlights is the human tunnel created by student volunteers to welcome the kids back from their fishing trip. "Seeing the kids run through that tunnel, greeted by cheers and high-fives, is the most special part for me," Tracy Sullivan shared. "It's a moment that brings tears to many eyes, including my own."

The upcoming event Oct. 12 is open to children from Hood County, Somervell County, and those from outside the area. The Sullivans hope this will encourage more families to get involved and bring their children.

"We want to make sure every child has the opportunity to participate," said Eric Sullivan. "Our goal is to create an inclusive environment where these kids can

have fun and make lasting memories."

Visit the organization's website for more information about the Catch a Special Thrill program for kids and to register for the October event. The Sullivans are looking forward to another successful event and to continuing to expand the program in the years to come.

In 2022, the foundation reached an all-time high with 79 events and over \$1 million in support. This success reflects the growing recognition and support for its mission to enrich the lives of children with special needs through fishing.

Registration is open for those interested in participating in the Granbury event for both children and volunteers.

Parents and guardians can register their children here: <https://castforkids.jotform.com/team/2024-event-forms/lake-granbury-tgr-child-reg>.

Volunteers can sign up here: <https://castforkids.jotform.com/team/2024-event-forms/lake-granbury-tgr-shore-volreg>.

The event will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and promises a day filled with fun, learning and community spirit. For more information, contact event coordinators Eric Sullivan at 817-894-4115 or Tracy Sullivan at 817-219-4488.



Volunteers M.J. and John Lamoreaux.

COURTESY PHOTO



Two event participants are amazed by their catch.

COURTESY PHOTO



Volunteer boaters get ready for their charges.

COURTESY PHOTO



Mambrino Elementary students come together to form a human tunnel for Catch a Special Thrill kids to run through.

COURTESY PHOTO



An event participant is pleased with the day's catch.

COURTESY PHOTO

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Civil War Round Table to meet in September



BY BILL DYESS

Bill Dyess, a retired attorney, has lived in Granbury since 2007, and has had an interest in the American Civil War since childhood. He is a member of the steering committee of the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table does not meet during the months of June, July and August. Our next meeting will be Sept. 9, when Dr. Anne J. Bailey, professor emeritus, Georgia State University, will speak about the actions of the Texas cavalry in opposing Union Gen. William T. Sherman's "March to the Sea" in 1864. This will be the second half of a program that Dr. Bailey initiated in our April meeting.

AUGUST IN THE CIVIL WAR

On Aug. 3, 1862, Union Gen. George McClellan was ordered to abandon his campaign in the Virginia peninsula and return with the Army of the Potomac to the Washington, D.C. area. Upon learning this, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee began moving the remainder (Stonewall Jackson's corps had already departed) of the Army of Northern Virginia from the peninsula to north-

ern Virginia, where Union Gen. John Pope's Army of Virginia was preparing an offensive action against Richmond. It was Lee's hope to defeat the Army of Virginia before it could be joined by the Army of the Potomac, in which event the Union numbers would be insurmountable.

Pope, awaiting reinforcement by McClellan, fell back along the Rappahannock River. On Aug. 26, the

Confederate army reached Manassas Junction, the area where the Battle of Bull Run had been fought the previous year. Over the next four days — referred to as Second Bull Run or Second Manassas — the Confederates, outnumbered by roughly three to two, defeated the Union Army of Virginia, poorly led by Pope, and forced it to withdraw to Centreville, west of Washington, D.C. The South suffered a total of 9,297 casualties, while Union losses numbered 16,054.

Elsewhere, small battles and skirmishes occurred across the nation, from the New Mexico Territory, where federal troops defeated the Confederate force retreating from Santa Fe to Pinckney Island, S. Carolina, where a night-time raid by Confederate troops inflicted casualties on a Union company protecting freed slaves on the island.

DID YOU KNOW?

The July 1862, Battle of Apache Pass was a harbinger of the Union's strife with Indians. On Aug. 17, 1862, the Sioux, facing semistarvation on their reservations in

Minnesota, revolted, murdering a number of settlers near Acton, Minnesota. Union troops under Col. Henry Hastings Sibley (not to be confused with Confederate Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley) finally defeated the Indians at Wood Lake Sept. 23. It is estimated the uprising took somewhere between 450 and 600 lives. Subsequently, 38 Sioux were executed for their part in the murders.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table meets the second Monday of each month, except in June, July and August, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Bar-B-Que, 317 East U.S Highway 377 in Granbury. Guests are always welcome. There is no charge for first time attendees. For more information, please refer to our website: WWW.ncentexcwrt.com, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

Civil War Round Tables exist in cities and communities worldwide. All are independent and share a common objective in promoting and expanding interest in the study of the American Civil War.



Gen. John Pope

COURTESY PHOTO

HOOD OUTDOORS

Some basic fishing guidelines to help out on the water



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.

There are few generalities that apply to most every species of fish. Other details are specific to a certain species. What we know is that the majority of the fish caught are generally from a small percentage of the available anglers and the fish caught are generally in a relatively small portion of a body of water. Learning is good, and hopefully the guidelines I discuss herein will help. Most are obvious, but a few of these may not be.

It is generally known that most anglers can increase their success by becoming intimately familiar with the species of fish they seek. This includes how they move and feed based on temperature and season.

Although there are several ways of increasing fishing knowledge, there are no substitutes for on-the-water experience. I don't know of any accomplished angler who was proficient immediately after watching a couple of fishing shows or reading a couple of magazines. Don't get me wrong, there is valuable information in books and on TV, there is just no replacement for experience. Most every angler on the

water will take advantage of the knowledge and experience of other anglers. Fishing reports, magazines, TV shows, etc., help us all. We do have to be sure to validate our sources of information as anglers do have a reputation of stretching the truth. Fishing with a guide on a body of water is one of the quickest ways to learn a body of water. Remember though that patterns and fishing are not exact sciences. What worked yesterday may not work today. This is where experience comes into play. Everyone can catch fish when the fish are real active; the real trick is to be able to catch fish when others can't.

Here are some facts that may help you on the water for most of our Texas reservoirs. Remember though that each fishing trip is different. I like to say each trip is a "new adventure," as it really is.

Fish will bite year-round, but it goes without saying that the best-known feeding times of the year are when the water is at the best temperature for the species you seek. This goes along with knowing the habits of the species you seek. You should

also choose a presentation that generally matches the forage for the species you seek, and that choice should match the size and type that is available in the body of water they reside in.

When presenting that bait make sure you position the bait for the best bite. You might ask yourself a few questions about the species you seek. For instance, is the species you seek a sight feeder? Does the species feed up or down (are their eyes on the top of their head)? Are the fish suspended or on the bottom? Getting the bait at the right depth can make all the difference.

Be persistent, work different areas and use your graph to locate fish. If they are not biting there, you should generally move on. Sometimes when fishing, you may be at the right place, but you might have to wait for them to feed. This again is where experience on the water comes into play.

Fish will eat less when the water is cold (below 65 degrees) and will obviously have to feed more with an increase in water temperature. The point here is that colder water will generally have the fish feeding less often. Less often or not, the fish will feed in the winter. From a striped bass angler's point of view, the winter is generally one of the better times of the year to catch fish. Strippers do prefer cooler water more so

than most other species in Texas.

Colors on lures can make a difference. Fish are generally more sensitive to the color red, however red can only be seen at short distances in the water. Blue or purple can be seen better down deep. The general rule among most anglers is to use light colors or actual baitfish colors on clear days and darker colors on overcast days or in stained or deeper water presentations. Adding scents can improve your bite. Fish have senses and if you can arouse those senses you will get more bites.

The warmer the water, the faster you should work your bait. This may not always be true, but generally predators will be more apt to chase bait the warmer the water gets.

Fish will generally not be as active during a weather event. Before the event, the fish may feed heavily. Rising waters will have the fish moving upstream or in the shallows. Conversely, falling water will generally have the fish moving deeper or downstream.

During spawning, feeding activity may be reduced, though some species will be more protective of an area and strike to defend it. On the other hand, spawning time can congregate fish and make them easier to catch. For instance, crappie will move into the shallows and will be easier to catch. In ad-

dition, sand bass spawning runs are always popular as these fish tend to congregate on the upper ends of a reservoir making them even easier to catch.

Most Texas predators are sight feeders, such as bass, sunfish, hybrids and strippers. Look for clearer water when the lake muddies up, except if you are fishing for catfish. Catfish really turn on in muddy flowing water.

Cloudy nights will more than likely improve the bite during the day, especially during a full moon. Watch the moon charts as these can give you key information on the feeding times for wildlife and fish.

Falling barometric pressure can improve the bite whereas rising pressure is known to slow the bite.

Cloud cover, rain and some wind will improve fishing in the summer. All of these will cool the water a little in the summer, which is generally known to improve fishing. Wind in the summer may also improve the oxygen levels in the water and may congregate the baitfish near windblown banks.

Fishing year-round of course will allow anglers to pattern fish at any time of the year. Once patterned, your chances for a great day improve tremendously. It is a good idea to document the facts including the weather and any other important detail in a fishing log. These

log entries will be useful in future trips. There will be slow days and there will be good days. For those anglers first starting out, there will probably be more slow days, but that will change with your time and experience on the water.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures are in the upper 80s to low 90s and the water level is normal. A thermocline is present and is about 15 to 22 feet down, depending on where you are. Striped bass continue to be fair to good to 12 pounds on live bait on the lower ends. Sand bass are schooling on several areas of the lake with some good reports coming from Indian Harbor, the Shores and near DeCordova Bend Estates. Crappies are good on small jigs and minnows and are being caught midlake on submerged timber with some good reports coming from around Water's Edge. Catfish are active and best at night on cut and prepared baits. Some big blue catfish are being caught on the upper ends. Largemouth bass are reported as slow to fair on crankbaits and soft plastics fished near creek entrances and near shaded docks. Some good largemouth reports are coming from the river near Tin Top.



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SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on August 3

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

Unique holidays to celebrate Aug. 9-11

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

As summer rolls on, Aug. 9, 10, and 11 bring a variety of quirky and delightful holidays that offer unique ways to celebrate. From indulging in sweet treats to embracing relaxation and honoring state pride, these days provide opportunities for fun and reflection.

NATIONAL BOOK LOVERS DAY

Aug. 9 is a day rich with significance and celebration. The first notable holiday is National Book Lovers Day, a time for bibliophiles to rejoice in their love for reading. This observance doesn't have a clear origin, but it has grown in popularity as people celebrate their favorite books and authors. Calendarr.com suggests it's also the perfect time to rearrange your bookshelves if you've been meaning to do that for a while.

To celebrate National Book Lovers Day, individuals can visit local bookstores, participate in book club discussions, or simply enjoy a good read at home. This holiday

promotes literacy and encourages people to explore new authors and genres.

NATIONAL VEEP DAY

Another important holiday Aug. 9 is National Veep Day, marking the resignation of President Richard Nixon and the ascension of Gerald Ford to the presidency Aug. 9, 1974.

Ford succeeded Nixon as the president of the United States after the latter's resignation amid the Watergate scandal, according to Anydayguide.com. While the day itself is solemn, it serves as a reminder of the importance of leadership transitions in American history.

NATIONAL S'MORES DAY

Aug. 10 offers a variety of celebrations. National S'mores Day, established by the National Confectioners Association in 2003, is dedicated to the iconic campfire treat of marshmallows, chocolate and graham crackers. Families often gather to make s'mores, enjoying the sweet and gooey treat.

People can celebrate by hosting s'mores parties, trying different variations of

the treat, or simply enjoying the classic recipe. This holiday encourages people to take a break from their busy lives and savor simple pleasures.

NATIONAL LAZY DAY

Another Aug. 10 holiday is National Lazy Day, which encourages people to take a break and embrace relaxation. Nationaltoday.com suggests the reason there is so little information about the origin of National Lazy Day is because researchers "got lazy" and did not finish digging.

The whole point of National Lazy day is to embrace doing nothing. Nationaltoday.com recommends playing some songs to keep you entertained, ".... like the 2010 song by Bruno Mars, titled 'The Lazy Song,' or grabbing a copy of 'The Myth of Laziness' by Mel Levine to better understand and debunk myths surrounding laziness and its impact on our productivity."

SPOIL YOUR DOG DAY

For pet lovers, Spoil Your Dog Day Aug. 10 is a perfect opportunity to pamper furry

friends. Although the origin of this holiday is unknown, it has been embraced by dog owners across the country.

Pet enthusiast Louise Fiolek offers budget-friendly ideas in her article on Pethelpful.com. Suggestions range from taking your canine for a walk to setting up an obstacle course, going on a picnic, teaching them a new trick and reading your dog a story. Fiolek's list includes making art, videotaping your pet and a spa day ... for the dog.

NATIONAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS DAY

National Sons and Daughters Day, celebrated Aug. 11, is dedicated to spending time with children and appreciating family bonds. Although its origin is not clear, this day encourages families to create lasting memories together.

Holidaycalendar.io indicates the day was first observed in the early 2000s and has been gaining in popularity through the media ever since.

The site lists activities that promote family togetherness such as game night,

volunteering together, taking a cooking class together, and making a scrapbook — together.

PRESIDENTIAL JOKE DAY

Presidential Joke Day is another holiday observed Aug. 11, celebrating jokes made by or about U.S. presidents. According to Julia Davis' article on Mentalfloss.com, the holiday began with a gaff by then President Ronald Reagan.

During a sound check for a radio broadcast, he made a joke. "My fellow Americans," he said, "I'm pleased to tell you today that I've signed legislation that will outlaw Russia forever. We begin bombing in five minutes."

Reagan was not aware, however, that his feed was live. And unfortunately, not everyone got the joke. Soviet officials got word of the broadcast and put the military on high alert.

Once the threat of nuclear war had abated, Americans found the situation hilarious, and decided to memorialize Reagan's famous quip by instituting National Presidential Joke Day Aug. 11.

NATIONAL RASPBERRY BOMBE DAY

The bombe, also known as "bombe glacée" in French, is a frozen dessert with a rich history. It comes from France, known for its innovative cooking. The name "bombe" refers to its round shape, similar to a cannonball, hinting at its burst of flavor.

While its creation date of Aug. 11 is not specified, Journee-mondiale.com suggests it offers a delicious way to cool off in the summer. Bakers and dessert enthusiasts use this day to create and share raspberry bombe recipes.

Aug. 9, 10, and 11 offer diverse opportunities to celebrate and reflect, each with its own unique charm. Whether indulging in s'mores, relaxing, pampering pets, honoring history or enjoying sweet desserts, these holidays remind people to cherish the small pleasures and connections in life.



PHOTO COURTESY SILVERBLACK, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Aug. 9 is National Book Lover's Day, and Aug. 10 is National Lazy Day and Spoil Your Dog Day.



PHOTO COURTESY FOOD-MICRO, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Raspberry Bombe Day is Sunday, Aug. 11; many folks will be enjoying the delightful frozen dessert that is both beautiful and delicious.

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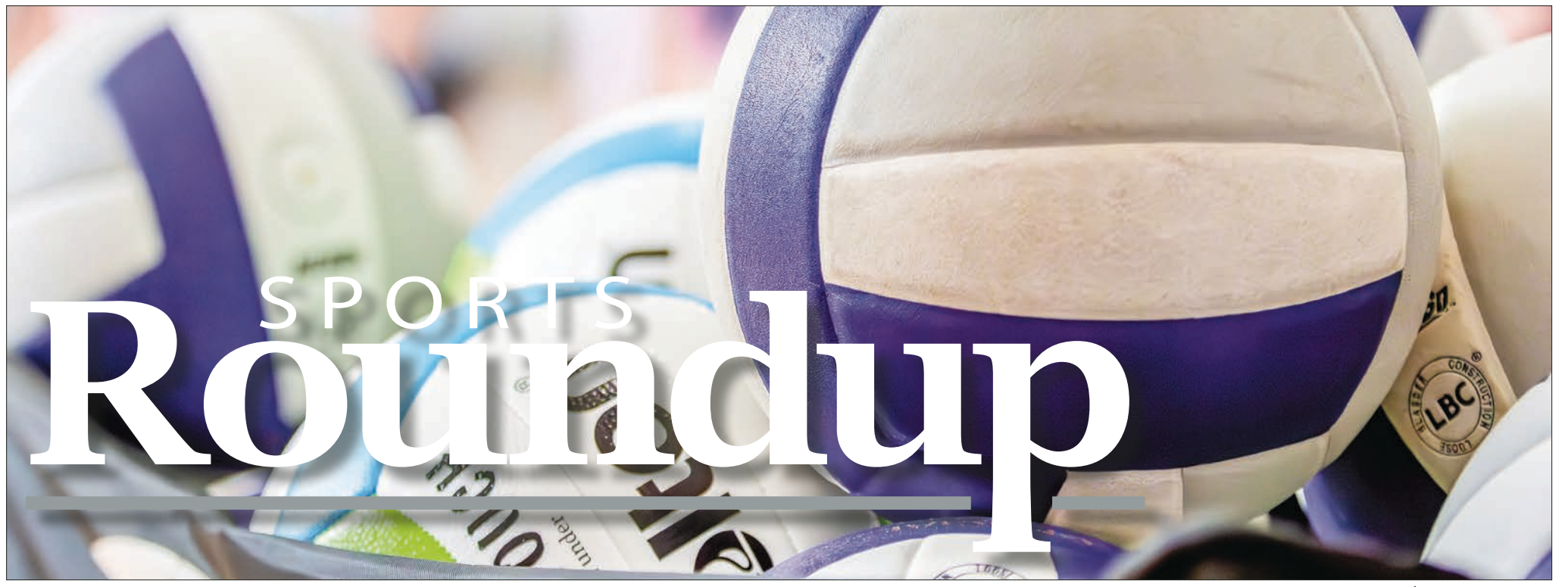
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LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

With the first week of practices behind them, area volleyball teams are competing in scrimmages this weekend and will start the regular season next week.

Flyers qualify two for national event

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

Two members of the Hood County Flyers wrapped up their summer season by qualifying for the 2026 State Games of America. They did so with their performances at the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Games of Texas in Brownsville recently.

Brendan Thorne qualified in two events in the Boys 14-Under division. He placed second in the 1600-meter run with a time of 4 minutes, 52 seconds and was also runner-up in the 3200, clocking a 10:46. Both are personal records.

Wylie Barstow qualified by placing second in the Boys 12-Under 80 hurdles, also posting a personal-record time of 13.30 seconds. He narrowly missed qualifying in a second event, placing fourth in the long jump, and was also eighth in the high jump.

The 2026 State Games of America will be held in State College, Pennsylvania July 28-Aug. 2.

Also competing for the Flyers in Brownsville were:

Ethan Garcia, ninth in Boys 16U high jump.
Luis Morales, 17th in Boys 16U 800.
Aubrey Ross, 14th in Girls 12U 1600.

SEALS SWIMMING

The Granbury SEALS swim team ended its summer competition in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation by competing in the Games of Texas recently in Brownsville.

Leading the SEALS was Jude Ward, who won gold medals in three events in Boys 11-12 age group. He won the 50-yard butterfly, 50 freestyle and 100 individual medley.

TAAF Games of Texas at Brownsville
Granbury SEALS results
Distances in yards

MALES

Herbert Baker, 11-12: 18th in 50 Butterfly, 42.83

Noah Wagnon, 11-12: Fifth in 50 Back, 36.31; seventh in 50 Free, 29.36

Jude Ward, 11-12: First in 50 Fly, 29.98; first in 50 Free, 27.24; first in 100 IM, 1:08.77

Kyle Brawner, 13-14: Seventh in 50 Back, 32.20; 10th in 50 Breast, 36.98; ninth in 50 Fly, 31.96; fifth in 200 Free, 2:19.30

Adler Snow, 13-14: 10th in 50 Back, 33.64; 12th in 50 Fly, 32.52; ninth in 100 IM, 1:14.36

FEMALES

Eliana Sanchez, 8-Under: 10th in 50 Free, 44.03; 11th in 25 Fly, 25.72

Harper Fox, 11-12: Seventh in 100 Free, 1:07.88; third in 50 Back, 35.85; eighth in 50 Fly, 35.36; fifth in 100 IM, 1:18.84

Lilli McKelvy, 11-12: Second in 50 Back, 35.70

Annabel Ross, 11-12: Seventh in 50 Breast, 42.23; sixth in 50 Fly, 34.36

Elizabeth Zieschang, 11-12: Fourth in 100 Free, 1:05.45; fourth in 50 Breast, 40.59; second in 50 Fly, 33.48; second in 100 IM, 1:17.77

11-12 200 Medley Relay: McKelvy, Zieschang, Ross, Fox, third, 2:23.24
11-12 200 Freestyle



Brendan Thorne (yellow shirt) and Wylie Barstow of the Hood County Flyers track team have each qualified for the 2026 State Games of America in State College, Pennsylvania.



PHOTOS COURTESY CRYSTAL BURENHEIDE

Relay: Fox, Ross, McKelvy, Zieschang, fourth, 2:11.71

JOHNSTON SIXTH IN USATF JUNIOR OLYMPICS

Elijah Johnston of Granbury ran the second leg of the 4x100-meter relay for Xpress Track Club out of Fort Worth in the recent USA Track and Field Junior Olympics in Bryan/College Station. Competing in the Boys 17-18 age group, the team placed fifth with a time of 40.58 in the final after clocking a 40.85 for sixth in the preliminaries.

Johnston, who will be a senior this school year, finished third in the state in the 200 dash at this past season's UIL State Meet.

Also competing at Bryan/College Station was Malachi

Dolan. He ran a personal-record time of 5:28.36 to place 26th in the Boys 9-10 1500.

JUNIOR GOLF

Quinn Bradley of Granbury continued a strong summer by finishing second in the Boys 15-18 division of the North Texas PGA Junior Golf Medalist Tour in a tournament at Fort Worth's Waterchase course. He posted nine-hole rounds of 37 and 40 for a 77 total, one stroke out of the lead.

Also, Lipan's Jack Smith tied for fifth in the Boys 13-14 division, shooting 45 and 38 for an 83 total.

VOLLEYBALL SET TO START

With the first week of practices behind them, area volleyball teams are competing

in scrimmages this weekend and will start the regular season next week. Scrimmages this Saturday, Aug. 10 have Granbury at Eules Trinity and Tolar at Poolville.

To open the regular season, the Lady Pirates travel to Stephenville Monday, Aug. 12 for a 6 p.m. start. The Lady Rattlers open at home against North Central Texas Academy at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 13.

Both Granbury and Tolar are in tournaments next weekend. The Lady Pirates are in the John Turner Classic in Pearland Aug. 15-17 and the Lady Rattlers are in the Brock Tournament Aug. 16-17.

FOOTBALL STARTING

Practices are underway for

football teams throughout the state, with scrimmages soon and regular-season opens right around the corner. Also, both Granbury and Tolar will enter the 2024 season with new head coaches.

The Pirates, led by Bobby Allison, will scrimmage at Saginaw Aug. 23. The Rattlers, with Blake Mouser at the helm, will play two scrimmages. They travel to Cisco Aug. 15 and host Jacksboro Aug. 22.

The regular season begins Aug. 30 for both Granbury and Tolar. The Rattlers open at Peaster and the Pirates host Waco High, both games kicking off at 7 p.m.



Tolar Summer Band

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tolar High School band started its summer marching camp last week July 29 in preparation for the 2024 marching season.



TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State University senior Conner Prince wins silver at Olympics



Tarleton State University

CHATEAUX, France — Tarleton State University senior manufacturing and industrial management major Conner Prince took home silver for the USA in Olympic men's skeet shooting at the Chateaux Shooting Centre.

He becomes the first competitor in school history to earn a medal in an Olympic event, according to university archives.

Ahead of the final, Prince registered a 124 to equal the qualifying Olympic record, joining Italy's Tamaro Cassandro and Chinese Taipei's Meng Yuan Lee atop the leaderboard.

Also joining Prince in the finals was his teammate and coach, Vincent Hancock, who won gold in 2008, 2012 and 2020. Other finalists included Sweden's Stefan Nilsson and Peru's Nicolas Espinosa Pacheco.

In the finals, the Tarleton Texan hit 42 of his first 43 targets. He would go on to connect on 48 of 50 overall, tying Hancock for first and forcing additional shots to determine a winner. The final tally would be 58 for Hancock and 57 for Prince. Lee took home bronze.

Prior to the Olympics, Prince expressed that it hadn't fully hit him yet what was about to transpire.

"It's a dream come true," he said at the time. "But to be honest, it hasn't really set in that I'm going to the Olympics."

Now the Bursleson native can say that not only did he make the USA team, but he earned a medal while representing his country.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Conner Prince becomes the first competitor in school history to earn a medal in an Olympic event, according to university archives.

National Cowgirl Hall of Fame to induct Tarleton State Alumna Hampton

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Former Tarleton State University rodeo standout J.J. Hampton has been selected for induction into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth.

Induction ceremonies are scheduled for Nov. 12 at Dickies Arena.

While it might be hard to believe after such a successful run in the sport, becoming a hall of fame rodeo star wasn't the initial plan.

After completing her bachelor's degree in criminal justice, Hampton, a 1993 graduate, held a career goal to become a lawyer.

"Right after graduation I sold my horse because I was planning on going to law school," she said. "That didn't work out, so I went into pro rodeo.

"God works in mysterious ways. If I'd gone to law school, I'd never have been an 18-time world champion."

Already featured in the Tarleton State Rodeo Hall of Fame, the Texas Rodeo Cowboys Hall of Fame, the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame and the Cowboy Capital Walk of Fame, Hampton sees her latest honor as a unique one.

"This is the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame," she said. "There are people in there from all over the coun-

try. It's quite an honor. I don't really have the words to say how much this means to me.

"It's a legacy for my family, my kids and grandkids, something for all of us to cherish. It's pretty special to know that people are going to walk through the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame for years to come and I'll have my own little star there."

Born and raised in Stephenville, Hampton competed in her first rodeo at 4 years old. A roper for Tarleton State's rodeo team, she was inducted to the university's Rodeo Hall of Fame in 2014. Her pro rodeo career includes 18

Women's Professional Rodeo Association world championships and 25 national titles.

Hampton, still active in professional rodeo, owns J.J. Hampton Realty in Stephenville and produces the annual Johnny Wayne Hampton Memorial Roping in honor of her late father, benefiting a scholarship fund for Tarleton State students.

Set to be inducted with Hampton are Californian Beth Cross, Canadian Kaila Mussell and The Pack Horse Library Project, headquartered in Kentucky.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State University alumna J.J. Hampton will be inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame Nov. 12 at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth.

TSU Soccer adds Stephenville native Bayleigh Chaviers to 2024 coaching staff

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State women's soccer head coach Pete Cuadrado announced the addition of former professional and Division I women's soccer player Bayleigh Chaviers, who joins the Texans' staff ahead of the 2024-25 season.

Chaviers spent 10 seasons playing at or above the high school level including a pair of professional stops in Iceland and with the Chicago Red Stars of the NWSL.

"I am super excited to add Bayleigh to our coaching staff," Cuadrado said. "Her success playing at the collegiate and professional levels will help continue to push our program forward."

Chaviers enjoyed a four-year prep career at Stephenville High School, where she was a three-sport star. She helped the Honeybees to a pair of area and bidistrict championships as well as a district title. During her time, she was a two-time First Team All-District selection. She also



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Former professional and Division I women's soccer player Bayleigh Chaviers joins the Texans' staff ahead of the 2024-25 season.

won District MVP and was named Academic All-State following her senior season. As an underclassman she earned Offensive MVP as a sophomore and Honorable Mention All-District as a

freshman. She was also a four-year letterwinner in track and a three-year letterwinner in basketball. Chaviers made academics a priority, earning recognition on the Academic All-District

squads in each of her 11 letter-winning athletic seasons.

Following her outstanding prep career, she took her talents to Coral Gables to play in the ACC for Miami

University. During her three seasons as a Hurricane, she started all 50 games she played in. During her sophomore and junior campaigns, she started every game, one of three Hurricanes to ac-

complish the feat during that span. She totaled three goals and seven assists to accumulate 13 points. She had 37 shots, with 19 on goal. Chaviers logged 4,378 minutes during her collegiate career.

"I am very thankful for the opportunity to join the staff at Tarleton," said Chaviers. "It's been awesome to see NCAA Division I soccer come to Stephenville. I am really excited to get started!"

Chaviers signed to play professionally in Iceland for a pair of seasons following her collegiate playing days. She played for two seasons for Fjardab Höttur Leiknir (FHL). After a pair of seasons she chose to return to the United States. She spent time with the Chicago Red Stars of the NWSL in 2023 before she suffered a career-ending injury in the preseason.

Following her professional soccer career, she has returned home before joining the staff ahead of the 2024-25 academic year at Tarleton State. She currently lives in Stephenville.



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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Olympics and a shrewd Frenchman

**BY DON NEWBURY**

Dr. Newbury, longtime university president, continues to speak and write. The Idle American, begun in 2003, is Texas' longest-running syndicated column. Contact: 817-447-3872. Email: newbury@speakerdoc.com. Website: www.speakerdoc.com.

Critics swear the French successfully smeared "lipstick on a pig" for a big chunk of the 2024 Olympic Games. The French, though, are used to sloughing off jokes and insults.

Someone said if they can't find an argument to join, they'll start one. Further, on slow days, restaurant waitpersons resort to insulting each other. Even the French military is thrown under the bus. Another joke claims that when a hotel kitchen fire broke out, the French army surrendered.

Seriously, though, research reveals that many fists fiercely both pounded and shook when French notables realized the proposed Eiffel Tower was no joke ...

My initial intent today was to focus on humor related to the Olympics, where TV people have done better

jobs pronouncing French names than most Texas TV goldy-throats still stumbling on "Uvalde." (Sheepish admission: Until the current Olympics coverage, I'd thought the Seine River — winding through Paris — to be pronounced "sane." TV people — correctly I'm sure — call it "sin.")

We've seen Paris from all angles, wondering if they've used all fireworks, strobe lights, baubles and beads. My "lipstick on pig" reference applies largely to the Seine River and its role in the city's sewer system. Defenders claim they'd drink from the Seine, but critics won't stick their big toes in it.

Truly, there's both humor and sadness in the TV coverage, much of which seems to be about the sizzle and not the steak. I'm reminded of the guy's first visit to a hock-

ey game, where after several minutes of intense fighting, a game broke out ...

TV moguls are pulling out all the stops, frustrated that interest in the Olympics continues to plummet. They're scrambling to enliven coverage, hoping to win back multi-millions of viewers who are no longer watching.

While admitting that glitzy coverage has reached new heights in sight and sound, we lament the considerable evidence that it trivializes — and in some cases, tramples — traditional Christian values. Many Christians are swearing "enough already."

One wag, learning that breakdancing is now a recognized sport, said that when his granddaddy's hound dogs squirmed like that, he gave 'em worm medicine. He further predicted that before long, there may be additional obscure sports, perhaps pickleball, as well as synchronized eye-rolling and underwater ice-skating ...

OK, enough rambling. Let's switch to Gustave Eiffel. His battle to make "his" tower a reality is so riveting that I printed 26 computer pages

for later perusal. Don't go there unless you really want to know more about this tourist destination that attracts some 6 million visitors annually. My cursory observations short-change you greatly, but here goes!

In the 1880s, the French wanted a signature structure befitting the World Fair. Dozens of proposals were considered, but finally, Eiffel's project was chosen, despite vehement objections voiced by numerous financiers, artists, architects and even other engineers. They claimed his "scheme" was impractical at best and cockamamie at worst.

He proved them wrong, overseeing the construction of what was — for 40 years — the tallest, free-standing, guy-wireless manmade structure in the world. At 1,083 feet, it was finally topped by New York City's Chrysler Building built in 1939 ...

When the tower opened, its elevators were not yet operative. Yet, in the first two weeks, 30,000 visitors ascended the 1,710 stair steps to the top. The Eiffel Tower



The late Gustave Eiffel and the tower he made famous.

COURTESY PHOTO

immediately "wowed" the world.

The biggest initial winner was Eiffel himself, an opportunist as well as an engineer. His contract called for him to pocket 100% of all admission income for the first 20 years! No doubt, he spent lots of time counting his money in his apartment at the tower's

top, where he entertained such luminaries as Thomas Edison.

Famous author Guy de Maupassant hated the tower. Yet, he is said to have eaten lunch daily in its restaurant, complaining that it was the only place in Paris where the structure was NOT visible ...

LEW

FROM PAGE C2

ing to nonprofit, we will be able to offer that service for free to any of those children."

Barton announced that they plan to brand their initiative as "Lew: Community at Your Fingertip," which will serve the autistic, foster care, and dementia communities.

"Our developers told us, 'If you can dream it, I can build it,'" Barton said.

"We have technology," Click added. "It is here, and it's here to stay, so let's use it to help. Let's use it for something good. I did a lot of re-

search. There's nothing like this out there, so we just want to get going and get this off of the ground. We just want to help people in a meaningful way."

As the original "Lew" app continues to grow, the pair also plans to upgrade the dementia app to include games, short articles with pictures, a feature called "Find My Loved One," and a Pinterest-type board for certain interests like quilting or hunting.

Click mentioned they also plan to start using another process called APK (Android Packaging Kit) which will allow users to purchase a tablet preloaded with the "Lew"

app — making it accessible even for those still using flip phones. This tablet would feature notifications and the ability for users to FaceTime their caregivers.

"If we can take the stress off of a caregiver just a little bit, then that's huge," Barton said. "Having to answer the question, 'What's for dinner?' 'What's for dinner?' — that's stressful. A caregiver may have heard that question 10 times in the last hour, but to your loved one, they've only asked that question one time, so it's natural for us to get snippy. But if 'Lew' can relieve a little bit of stress to where you can set up the app

to notify the loved one every 10 minutes that we're having spaghetti for supper, (that's huge). That's kind of our biggest thing is to just let Lew help a little bit."

"And it's the heart that we have," Click added. "We're not here to sell you anything. I'm not here to make money off of you. We're here to help."

Click also shared that her father would be extremely proud of her initiative, as he gave her permission to share his story to help others — exactly what the "Lew" app was intended to do.

"I know Daddy would be so happy to help in any way he could," she said.

Click announced that T-shirts are also available for purchase during the weekly support group, featuring the hashtag "We are more than dementia" on the front. The back of the shirts displays a quote from Barton's mother, who said just before her passing, "All you need is love."

"She said, 'All You Need Is Love,' and we have that," Click added. "That's what we're really trying to run on is just love."

The "Lew" app is available for download on the Google Play Store for Androids and the App Store for iPhones.

The website, lewapp.org, is also available for users

to watch how-to videos using each of "Lew's" features. Check out their YouTube channel @Lewapp for more helpful tips.

For more information about the "Lew" app, email Click at cclick@lewapp.org or Barton at lbarton@lewapp.org.

With a heartfelt mission to foster community, raise awareness, and offer support, Click and Barton are dedicated to making a lasting impact in the lives of those affected by dementia, autism, and the challenges faced by youth aging out of foster care — one app (or "Click") at a time.

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Hood County News ★★★★★
7 STRAIGHT YEARS

Favorite breads pass the test of time

BY NANCY PRICER
Special to the Hood County News
classads@hcnews.com

Denise Glavin, who handles accounts receivable and numerous other duties as assigned for the Hood County News, loves old cookbooks. In fact, she said she has at least 75. She has family cookbooks, church cookbooks and cookbooks from various other organizations.

She recently shared a few recipes with me that she enjoys. The Angel Biscuits and Apple Bread are from a family cookbook and the Beefy Jalapeno Cornbread is from her Bethany Baptist Church cookbook copyrighted in 1984.

While Betty's version of Angel Biscuits calls for either

butter or margarine, Denise said Austin Chaney used to make them all the time for holiday gatherings and always used butter.

Angel Biscuits are incredibly flaky and light. The use of yeast plus a commercial leavening agent (baking powder, baking soda, or, in some cases, both) gives these biscuits their high rise and airy texture.

"The first mention of angel biscuits was in 1950, although the actual creator is debated, as it is unclear which Southern flour brand first developed the recipe," according to kingarthurbaking.com. "Some claim it was an employee at White Lily, while others think it came from an employee at Martha White."

At this point it doesn't matter who created the recipe; what does matter is that you

make them for yourself.

Regarding the Apple Bread recipe, Austin does not state what kind of apple to use, but I would imagine a firm, less sweet/more tart apple like Granny Smith, Gala, Pink Lady or Cortland work best.

For the Beefy Jalapeno Cornbread, Denise said she likes to use pickled jalapenos. She likes the flavor in this better, but I'm sure fresh would be fine, too.

Angel Biscuits
By Betty Tucker
1 package dry yeast
1/4 cup warm water
2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/8 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine
1 cup buttermilk
Dissolve the yeast in warm water and put aside. Mix the

dry ingredients in the order given, cutting in the butter or margarine as you normally do for biscuits or pie dough. Stir in the buttermilk and the water-yeast mixture. Blend thoroughly and the dough is ready to be refrigerated in a large, covered bowl or made into biscuits.

When you are ready to bake, turn dough out onto a floured board and knead lightly as for regular biscuits. Roll out and cut with biscuit cutter and place in greased pan. Let biscuits rise slightly (if dough is cold it will take longer). Place in a 400-degree oven until lightly browned.

Apple Bread
By Austin Chaney
1 3/4 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/3 cup butter or margarine

2/3 cup sugar
2 eggs, unbeaten
3 cups shredded apple
1 cup nuts
1/2 cup maraschino cherries
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon cinnamon
Brown sugar and butter for topping

Sift first four ingredients. Cream sugar and butter. Add eggs, apple and cherries, then add nuts. Mix thoroughly and add all dry ingredients. In small bowl, combine butter and brown sugar with fingers for topping. Topping should be crumbly. Sprinkle over top of bread. Bake in greased loaf pan for one hour at 350 degrees.

Beefy Jalapeno Cornbread
By Janice Davenport
1 pound ground beef
1/4 cup chopped onion
2 tablespoons chopped

canned/jarred jalapenos
2 eggs
2/3 cup milk
1 package cornbread mix
1 can (14.75 ounce) cream-style corn
4 slices American or Velveeta cheese (Denise said you can substitute 1 1/2 cups of shredded sharp cheddar or even pepper jack cheese)

Cook meat, onion and jalapenos together until onions are almost transparent. Mix eggs, milk, corn bread mix and half the can of corn. Pour half of cornbread mixture into greased 2-quart baking dish. After draining meat mixture, pour on top of cornbread; add rest of cream corn, then place sliced cheese on top. Pour the rest of the cornbread mixture on top of everything. Bake in a preheated oven at 425 for 40 minutes. Yields 6 to 8 servings.

SCHOOL

FROM PAGE C3

to academic level, individual needs were met more effectively. Now teachers are forced to aim their teaching strategies at the middle students, thereby being much less effective (if at all) in reaching students at the opposite polar extremes of academic achievement.

The result of all these stumbling blocks? The students are running many of the classrooms in today's schools! If any reader believes this is an exaggeration, simply talk to several of today's

teachers, and you will discover the truth behind my statements.

Read any newspaper and you will find teacher shortages across the nation. Teachers are leaving their profession by the thousands, many of whom are only a few years short of total retirement or have recently begun their career (only to discover the reality of teaching). Why? It is not because they suddenly lack dedication or interest in the classroom setting. It is because their professional hands have been tied in implementing proven successful classroom strategies for learning and discipline.

Experience in many school districts has proven that lengthening the school day or increased spending is not the answer.

Where there is little discipline, there is little learning. Where there is no discipline, there is no learning.

Various reports reveal that in societies in which there are strong, stable family structure and emphasis on discipline (thereby educational achievement), students have higher academic attainment in their learning environments. Similar results are found in private schools where much lower budgets are the reality and discipline

is strongly emphasized.

So as school is about to begin again, put yourself in the teacher's place where he or she must be a daily combination of educator, nurse, counselor, confidant, mentor and spiritual advisor when requested by the student. All those roles are combined for students who come from multiple social-economic backgrounds and with "baggage" of various natures.

Teachers usually hear from parents or guardians when there is a problem. Therefore, I would offer a word of advice to anyone who has children — from primary through high school — under their care.

Take a moment and encourage a teacher in his or her daily effort to change the lives of students. I can assure readers that written notes of encouragement will be kept for many years because teaching is often a very thankless job. Teachers receive very low salaries for the amount of stress and effort the majority of them put into their profession.

One final point of confusion about the teaching profession among many members of the public is that teachers get paid for not working during the summer or that they have a two-or-three-month vacation. First,

teachers who receive paychecks during the summer months do so because they have had portions of their full pay withheld during the regular school year, thus enabling them to receive income during the summer months. Second, the majority of teachers use the summer months to recoup their physical and emotional energies for the new year, along with beginning to plan for the upcoming year.

Please take a moment and remember how much better it made you feel when someone thanked you for effort you put forth.

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and issued pursuant to judgment decree(s) of the District Court of Hood County, Texas, by the Clerk of said Court on said date, in the hereinafter numbered and styled suit(s) and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff or Constable of said County, I have on August 2, 2024, seized, levied upon, and will offer for sale the following properties, on the first Tuesday in September, 2024, the same being the 3rd day of said month, in the 2nd floor Courtroom of the Hood County Courthouse at 100 East Pearl Street, in the City of Granbury, Texas, between the hours of 10 o'clock a.m. and 4 o'clock p.m. on said day, beginning at 10:00 AM, and will proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title, and interest of the defendants in such suit(s) in and to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Hood and the State of Texas, to-wit:

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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

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Isaiah 41:10

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And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

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