



JESSE RAMIREZ JR. | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Briton Rice runs a quarterback sneak into the end zone in a scrimmage against Jacksboro.

## HCRP wins legal battle against Zamarron; Graft's nomination secure

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

A final verdict in the Roberta Zamarron/Hood County Republican Party trial was officially reached Aug. 21, with visiting Judge Graham Quisenberry ruling in favor of the HCRP's nomination process for district clerk.

### CASE BACKGROUND

Zamarron, Hood County's current interim district clerk, along with some members of the executive committee, recently sued the HCRP and its Chair Greg Harrell, alleging violations of party by-

laws, self-appointment doctrine, and election laws during the district clerk nomination earlier this summer.

According to Zamarron, the party violated its own bylaws during its executive committee meeting on June 26 by allowing her opponent, Melanie Graft, to participate in the voting process for the district clerk nomination. The initial vote ended in a 7-7 deadlock before a re-vote resulted in Graft winning 8-6, which sparked concerns about transparency and fairness on social media.

After failure to get the

PLEASE SEE **HCRP** | A4

## City council candidate withdraws amid residency dispute

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
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A Granbury City Council candidate has withdrawn from the race amid growing allegations of residency and voting fraud.

Eva Royer, who filed to run for Place 5 Friday, Aug. 16, has been at the center of controversy following claims that her residency and voting records do not align with her application.

Royer's candidacy faced immediate scrutiny when it was discovered that her official application stated she had been a resident of Granbury for nearly three years.

However, records obtained from the Hood County Elections Office revealed that during the March primary earlier this year, Royer had voted in Precinct 216, which is located outside Granbury's

city limits. This discrepancy suggested either her application was inaccurate, or she had been voting from an incorrect address.

Further investigation uncovered that the address Royer listed as her primary residence on her application is reportedly a vacation rental property managed by her real estate brokerage. The property, which has been actively rented out and listed on evolve.com, received reviews from out-of-town renters during the time Royer claimed to be residing there. Additionally, the Granbury City Council approved the property as a short-term rental in July of last year.

City Attorney Jeremy SoRelle told the Hood County News that when a candidate files to run for office, the city must verify

PLEASE SEE **CANDIDATE** | A3

## A return to the gridiron

Friday nights are once again filled with the sounds of marching bands, cheering crowds, and the crashing of pads as area high school football teams return to action. High school football in Texas has a way of bringing communities together, and has

spawned TV shows and movies like Friday Night Lights and Varsity Blues.

Granbury has a new head coach and Tolar looks to improve on the success of 2023. Check out our football previews in the B section.

## County Commissioners Court striving for efficiency

### HCAD faces major hurdles to regain public confidence following budget and audit dispute

### County allocates \$38,500 for IT assessment

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
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Hood County Commissioners Court took a decisive stand Tuesday, Aug. 27 by disapproving the Hood Central Appraisal District's proposed 2025 budget.

The court's action, supported by a 3-2 vote, not only mandates a budget revision but also calls for a comprehensive forensic audit of the appraisal district's financial records dating back to 2017.

### THE COURT'S TASK AND SOME HISTORY

The court was tasked with deciding whether to adopt a resolution disapproving the proposed 2025 budget for the HCAD, request excess surplus and reserve funds be returned

to the taxing entities, and refund monies paid for unapproved ventures that may be identified in a forensic audit of the prior five years of HCAD expenditures.

During the meeting, Hood Central Appraisal District Chief Appraiser Jeff Law presented the proposed 2025 budget to the commissioners, emphasizing the importance of its approval despite ongoing concerns about the district's financial management.

Law acknowledged a resolution passed by the commission in May 2024, which requested the 2025 budget include provisions for a forensic audit.

Similar resolutions were passed by the City of Granbury, the City of Tolar and other local entities. However, Granbury ISD later suspended its resolution over cost concerns, and Lipan

ISD chose to refrain from taking any action.

Law informed the court that HCAD's board of directors met Aug. 1 to discuss the potential audit, considering input from the various taxing units involved. He explained that while three units supported the audit, two opposed it, and six abstained from taking any official action.

### IN DEFENSE OF THE BUDGET

"Your disapproving of this budget won't resolve any of those issues that happened in the past," Law stated. "The appraisal district needs these funds going forward to accomplish our statutorily required duties."

Addressing the appraisal district's financial state, Law noted

PLEASE SEE **HCAD** | A3

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
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The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously approved a \$38,500 contract with a local firm to conduct a thorough IT assessment during a regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 27.

Early last month, Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle brought forward the idea to have the Hood County IT department undergo an audit in order to gain a clear understanding of the department's daily activities and overall performance.

The agenda item was initially met with pushback from members of the court and Hood County residents, who argued that the audit was unnecessary given the department's success. Others viewed it as a form of micromanagement.

Despite the resistance, however, the court unanimously decided to

hire SLG Technologies out of Glen Rose to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the IT department.

During the meeting, SLG Technologies President Ed Gossett addressed concerns about the proposed IT assessment, clarifying that it differs significantly from a traditional financial audit. Gossett explained that the IT assessment is not about assigning blame or penalties but rather about collaborating with the existing IT team to identify and address risks.

"IT is very unique," he said. "There are threats that change daily, if not hourly. You can look in the news and go back just within a couple of months, and you can see huge companies that have been attacked and breached because of IT issues, and they have outstanding IT departments, so it's nothing against the IT department."

PLEASE SEE **AUDIT** | A7



138TH YEAR, NO. 35

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# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS

### Granbury Chamber of Commerce: Empowering businesses, driving growth and building community

Since its founding in 1952, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce has been dedicated to enhancing and promoting the business environment and economic prosperity of Hood County. For more than 70 years, the chamber has worked tirelessly to fulfill its mission, supporting local businesses through advocacy, resources and networking opportunities. The chamber's partnerships with the county, city, school districts, community organizations and local businesses continue to fuel a thriving regional economy and a prosperous business community.

The chamber plays a vital role as the voice of local businesses, representing their interests and concerns at local, regional and national

levels. With a focus on fostering economic growth, the chamber offers a variety of resources to help businesses thrive. From networking events and workshops to educational programs, the chamber equips its members with the skills and connections necessary for success. Members benefit from increased exposure and marketing opportunities, as the chamber promotes them through various channels, ensuring that businesses stay on the map and top of mind in the community.

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is committed to building a collaborative business environment, encouraging partnerships among members that result in innovation and shared success.

By staying attuned to the evolving needs of its members, the chamber remains a driving force for economic development, helping businesses adapt to changing landscapes and seize new opportunities.

Whether you're an established entrepreneur or a passionate community member, the chamber welcomes you to join its ever-growing network. Membership offers access to valuable resources, industry expertise, and a community of like-minded professionals, all working together to create a vibrant future for Hood County.

If you're interested in learning more about the chamber's offerings, don't miss the upcoming "Maximize Your Membership" event Thursday, Sept. 5 at 9 a.m. Held at the United Cooperative Services training room at 320 Fall Creek Highway, this free event will review membership benefits, introduce the chamber's various committees, and explore ways to get involved. Registration is required,

and everyone is welcome — whether you're a new member, a long-time member, or just curious about joining.

For more information, visit [www.granburychamber.com](http://www.granburychamber.com), email [info@granburychamber.com](mailto:info@granburychamber.com), call 817-573-1622, or stop by 3408 E. U.S. Highway 377 for a visit. Come join the chamber family and let's build a vibrant future together!



New member spotlight: Lake Granbury RV Center

"New parts and accessories store. If we don't have what you need, we can order it and usually have it by the next day."

Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

New Member Spotlight: Stier Events

"Producer of unique special events and festivals!"

Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

We are so thankful for our amazing Women in Business Summit committee member and ambassador, Heather Farris-Laney with DSG Benefits Group LLC.

Heather has been an ambassador for eight months and on the Women in Business Summit committee for six months. When asked why she likes being on the WIB Summit committee, she replied "I love seeing all these amazing women coming together to bring fun events, great content and friendship to so many other women in Granbury. I love strategizing on what to bring to our WIB ladies and love seeing the results of what we're providing."

Fun Fact about Heather: "I played golf in high school and even made the All-Region team my senior year!"

Thank you for serving on our Women in Business Summit committee and being an ambassador, Heather!

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



Susan Moore Memorial Garden, Acton Elementary School, 3200 Acton School Road



Lake Granbury ER Fall Creek Grand Opening, U.S. Highway 377 at Fall Creek Highway

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# A legend comes to life



**BY SAM HOUSTON**

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.  
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This past weekend I had the pleasure of traveling to Tarleton State University and witnessing the unveiling of a 13.5 foot tall, 3,500-pound bronze manifestation of the Tarleton State mascot, the Texas Rider. This sculpture is a welcome addition to Memorial Stadium and was created by my friend and Granbury artist Mike Tabor.

Tabor styled the sculpture with a classic look. The rider sports a vintage haircut, neck rag and hat creased in a 1950s style. His hat is held in one hand flung high in the air, and the face is serious, but not

scowling. Clearly, the mascot looks like he "came to play." Mike has been quoted with saying, "I hope people feel something special when they look at it. It was special for me, the first representation of the Tarleton Texan

in human-like form; it's very meaningful."

Make no mistake, this was quite an unveiling. The event took place before the very first national telecast of a Tarleton football game and the dignitaries included Texas A&M System Chancellor John Sharp, board of regents Chairman Bill Mahomes, regents John Bellinger and Jay Graham, Dr. A Dwain, and David and Lynda Mayfield. The Mayfields and their Bar M Bar Ranch provided the funding for the artwork.

My friend and the president of Tarleton, Dr. James Hurlley and his staff did an admirable job of keeping the overflow crowd in check and the program moving quickly in the 100-degree heat. There were alumni, students, faculty members, former "Texas Riders," cheerleaders and supporters of Tarleton in all shapes and sizes, all present to catch a glance of history.

What I enjoyed most about the activities was watching Mike's family, especially his children and grandchildren. I have no way to estimate how many

"selfies" will be taken of Mike's statue over the next 100 years, but I venture few if any students or visitors will pass by without taking out their camera and capturing this magnificent piece of art and adding it to their memory book. How cool is it for the generations of Mike's family to know he has sculpted his way to become an integral part of the very history of one of our great Texas universities. For an artist, it cannot get much better than that.

My wife taught school with Mike for several years — so many that she refers to him as her "work husband." It is through their close relationship that I met Mike and his wife Suzy and have seen our friendship blossom. I was so pleased to see Mike receive the recognition he deserves, but at the same time, maintaining his good natured, self-deprecating demeanor throughout the event. It was clear to everyone present that to Mike, his work reflects upon the world in a way much greater than himself; it reflects all the good things about Tarleton University



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Mike Tabor, his wife Suzy and their family at the unveiling of the "Texas Rider" statue at Tarleton State University on Saturday Aug. 24.

and what it stands for. What more could an artist hope to accomplish?

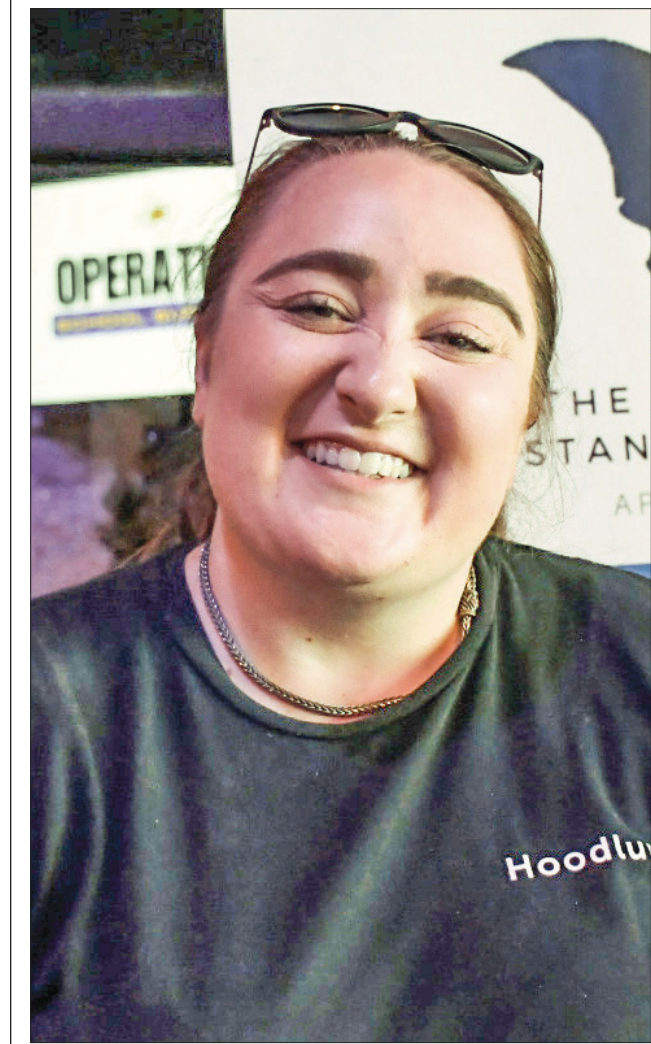
Congratulations to Tarleton University and to its alumni, students and faculty! You now have a landmark that will forever stamp Tarleton onto the

hearts of many. Good job Mike! I am proud of you as I can be.

Thought for the day: The best thing about art is that the people who create it live forever.

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

## Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Harley Walts

### Say hello to our neighbor, Harley Walts!

North, south, east, and west, lifelong Hood County resident Harley Walts has resided on "all sides" of Hood County, mainly Granbury, Harley says. She delights in living among all the different generations of the people in Hood County and the sense of community we all share. Through hard work and the lessons learned from her life experiences, she has become the Executive Director of the Hood County Substance Abuse Council. This Council is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization based in Granbury. Harley is dedicated to preventing future generations from facing the same challenges she once did. She shares this: "I strive to prevent the next generation from becoming a statistic just like I was told I was." Harley thoroughly enjoys her free time with her fiancé and family. She likes keeping up to date with the events in Hood County by reading the Hood County News, which makes her feel connected.

## County declares Aug. 31 International Overdose Awareness Day

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**

Staff Writer  
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The Hood County Commissioners Court recently designated Saturday, Aug. 31 as Hood County International Overdose Awareness Day, to address the ongoing crisis of substance abuse.

According to the proclamation read by Harley Walts, Hood County Substance Abuse Council's executive director, substance misuse and drug overdose continues to be a significant public health crisis — claiming countless lives throughout communities worldwide.

Statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that overdose deaths in the U.S. have recently surpassed 100,000 for the third consecutive year.

However, provisional data from the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics indicate a 3% decrease in drug overdose deaths between 2022 and 2023, representing a reduction of approximately 3,486 deaths. The CDC reports that this is the first annual decrease in drug overdose deaths since 2018.

According to an article from the Texas Tribune, the drug overdose rate was at 17

deaths per 100,000 residents in Texas back in 2021 — the last year with available data.

Every year, Aug. 31 is recognized as the National Overdose Awareness Day in remembrance of those lost to overdose, and to acknowledge the devastation this has brought to hundreds of thousands of affected family members and friends.

The proclamation states it is a day of coordinated response from substance use/misuse awareness groups, organizations and affected families sharing their lived experiences as part of a whole group. This day serves as an opportunity for those affected to both warn and

inform our youth, the public and the unsuspecting.

According to the proclamation, Hood County recognizes the impact overdose has on an individual, family and community, as well as the resulting deaths in our community. As a result, the county wishes to recognize those affected locally by the tragedy of overdose and bring awareness, education and prevention resources to Hood County.

The Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously approved the proclamation to address this ongoing issue and to support those affected by overdose in the community.

## CANDIDATE FROM PAGE A1

their eligibility according to the Texas Election Code. He explained that the city secretary's office collects information from various sources to ensure the candidate meets all required qualifications, as detailed in both state law and the Granbury City Charter.

SoRelle explained that when the city secretary reviewed Royer's voter registration record, questions arose about her residency. He noted that while the Texas Elections Code mandates a minimum of 12 months' residency in Texas and six months within the jurisdiction for candidates, municipalities like Granbury can impose stricter requirements.

According to Section 2.03 of the Granbury City Charter, qualified applicants (in part) "shall have resided for at least one (1) year, next preceding the election at which

they are candidates, within the Corporate Limits of the City of Granbury."

"While reviewing Ms. Royer's application it was noted that she had indicated within the application that she had resided in the city of Granbury for approximately two years and nine months," SoRelle said. "However, this was in conflict with the information received by the city secretary from the Hood County Elections Office."

SoRelle said when the discrepancies were discovered, the city secretary adhered to the Texas Elections Code and issued a notice to Royer, which informed her of the issue and disqualifying factors on her application.

In response to the discrepancies, the Granbury City Council scheduled a special meeting for Friday, Aug. 23, to review and assess Royer's qualifications and eligibility as a Place 5 city council candidate.

Section 2.04 of the Granbury City Charter stipulates the council is respon-

sible for determining the qualifications of its own members.

"It became necessary for the city council to review the filing, hear from the applicant, staff and legal counsel, consider all supporting documentation and information, and to determine the qualification and eligibility of the applicant," SoRelle stated.

However, one day before the Granbury City Council meeting was scheduled to be held, Royer submitted a formal withdrawal of her candidacy — resulting in a cancellation of the meeting altogether.

"The official withdrawal filed with the city secretary's office properly contains Ms. Royer's acknowledged signature, and, within the document provided by the Secretary of State, the language complies with the requirements of withdrawal as set out in the Texas Elections Code," SoRelle explained.

"Per the Texas Elections Code, Ms. Royer's withdrawal became effective as of the

time of its filing with the city secretary."

SoRelle also confirmed the special meeting set for Aug. 23 was canceled since it was no longer needed due to Royer's timely and legally compliant withdrawal.

The situation has not only raised questions about Royer's candidacy but has also sparked broader concerns about election integrity.

Resident Sharee Westlund, who has been vocal about the situation on social media, emphasized the importance of upholding democratic principles.

"This is not about 'cancel culture' but about maintaining integrity within our democracy, which Eva Royer has allegedly disregarded," Westlund said. "Election fraud is a serious crime and should be treated as such."

The HCN reached out to Royer for comments, but did not receive a response before press time.

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# HCRP

FROM PAGE A1

matter addressed, Zamarron, along with Precinct 409 Chair Brad Yarborough, Precinct 112 Chair Robert Granger, and Precinct 404 Chair Mark Jackson hired an attorney and officially filed the lawsuit earlier this month.

The heart of the dispute involves Graft's dual role as a precinct chair and a candidate for district clerk. Zamarron contended that allowing Graft to vote while she was also a candidate constituted a conflict of interest and breached the HCRP's rules, which prohibit individuals holding elected public offices from participating in such votes.

Zamarron's lawsuit also stated that Graft's participation in the voting process was illegal under Texas Election Code 161.005, which prohibits individuals from serving as both an officer of a political party and a candidate for an elective office. It also cites the self-appointment doctrine, which disallows a body from appointing one of its own members to a position.

## COURT PROCEEDINGS

The case was presented on three grounds: election code, the self-appointment doctrine and a violation of the (HCRP) bylaws. Although the self-appointment doctrine was briefly mentioned, the focus was primarily on the alleged violation of the HCRP bylaws.

As the trial began, a range of legal arguments and testimonies were put forward. Attorney Ryan Taylor, representing Zamarron and above-mentioned precinct chairs, contested the legitimacy of Graft's vote, citing the Texas Election Code and local bylaws. Taylor argued that if Graft's vote was deemed illegal, Zamarron should be declared the winner, as the initial tied vote of 7-7 would have been 7-6 in Zamarron's favor.

Attorney Eric Opiela, representing the HCRP and Harrell, countered that even excluding Graft's vote, she would still be the nominee due to a majority vote. He stated that Graft did not cast an illegal vote and that the only place a court can declare result is in an election contest.

## WITNESS STATEMENTS

Harrell was called as the first witness, with Taylor questioning him about the party's proposed bylaws for 2024-2025 and whether they comply with Texas law. Harrell confirmed that under the bylaws, the county chair must be a Republican, aligning with Election Code stipulations that one must vote in the Republican primary to be considered affiliated with the party.

Taylor also addressed the process of nominating candidates and whether Graft's participation in voting was appropriate. Harrell admitted he did not consult the party's parliamentarian, Dave Eagle, about Graft's eligibility to vote. Harrell acknowledged that although other precinct chairs had asked for additional time to thoroughly vet the candidates, vetting did not occur before the election. When asked if it was fair for Graft to vote while being a candidate, Harrell maintained that he believed the process was executed fairly, emphasizing that his role was to manage the procedure rather than to make decisions about fairness.

Further questioning revealed that Graft was viewed as a capable political candidate by some party members, though Harrell acknowledged that politics played a significant role in her nomination. He defended the decision to proceed quickly with the vote, citing the need to resolve divisions within the party and ensure timely placement of a candidate on the ballot.

According to Zamarron's 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, Yarborough made a written request for Harrell to take action to remedy the matter. However, the lawsuit states Harrell did not respond or take any further action.

When Taylor asked Harrell about the communication, Harrell clarified that he forwarded Yarborough's letter — full of statutory references — to the Republican Party of Texas and the Secretary of State, despite not responding directly.

Harrell also disputed the claim that Graft's absence from voting would have resulted in her prevailing, maintaining that the vote count would not have changed.

During the defense questioning, Harrell admitted he had not received any prior objections to Graft participating in the vote and only became aware of concerns through a letter from Yarborough after the meeting.

Opiela also inquired about the voting rules, particularly whether a runoff was required in case of a tie. Harrell explained that Graft's vote, if excluded, would not have altered the final tally, affirming that she would still have prevailed.

Opiela also asked if Graft's role as a precinct chair, considered a public office, should have disqualified her from voting. Harrell responded that Graft's role ended when she was nominated, thus making her vote valid.

Yarborough also testified he had raised concerns to Harrell about Graft's eligibility to vote in the dis-

trict clerk nomination process, but he did not object to the matter until he sent an email to Harrell nearly a month later. He also stated that he did not believe the process was fair.

Jackson testified he thought the voting process was "hastily called" and expressed doubts about Graft's eligibility to vote. When questioned about why he did not raise an objection at the time, Jackson explained that he had just been sworn in and chose to proceed with the process. Regarding the involvement of parliamentarian Eagle, Jackson remarked that he wouldn't be surprised if Eagle had been behind the decision to nominate Graft, adding that the process seemed orchestrated.

## CLOSING ARGUMENTS

In his closing argument, Taylor asserted that the HCRP's nomination process was fundamentally flawed. He argued that the party's bylaws, which use the broad term "public office," should take precedence over the more specific Texas Election Code. Taylor pointed out that the bylaws could have been aligned more closely with state law but were drafted to encompass a broader range of positions, including school board trustees, who are not considered county government officials.

Taylor also contended that Graft's vote in the initial tie-breaking round should be discarded, which would make Zamarron the winner. Taylor argued that Graft, as a school board trustee, was a "county" official and thus ineligible to vote under state law. He also claimed her nomination as a potential candidate made her ineligible.

"What happened here was wrong," Taylor said. "If the court were to agree with Harrell, where does it end? There's nothing to stop them from doing anything they want to. Their position is bylaws don't matter. If they don't matter, why is there a statute? Does state law not matter? That can't be the law. What is the point of justice if you can't go anywhere to find it?"

In response, Opiela defended the HCRP's nomination process, arguing that it was neither improper nor a violation of law. He contended that a school board trustee does not hold public office, and therefore, the bylaws do not need to align strictly with state law.

Opiela asserted that Graft only became ineligible to serve as a precinct chair — and to vote for the district clerk nominee — after being officially nominated. He emphasized that Graft had both the right and obligation to vote before her formal nomination.

He highlighted that according to the Texas Election Code, a person is not considered a nominee until they receive the party's vote — a

decision that falls within the party's discretion.

"What matters is what the election code says," Opiela stated. "It makes clear that they are not considered ineligible when they're nominated by an executive committee."

He also argued that even if Graft's initial vote were considered illegal, it would not have altered the final result, as the second vote clearly affirmed her nomination.

"This should have been over the night of the executive committee," Opiela said. "The vote was held; she was the winner."

Donna Garcia Davidson, representing Graft, stated that based on her experience, the nomination process followed established procedures.

She emphasized that Graft would never engage in illegal actions and clarified that a candidate is defined as someone actively seeking election. Davidson argued that since Graft was officially a candidate only after receiving a majority vote, there was no illegal vote to be dismissed.

## FINAL RULING

Upon hearing testimony from both sides, Judge Quisenberry expressed appreciation for the detailed arguments and acknowledged the importance of having comprehensive information with which to make an informed decision. He recognized the case was inherently political, stating that the "very nature of being political is what got us here today."

Quisenberry emphasized the importance of adhering to the principles of the elected judiciary and stated that the same principles apply to the position of district clerk.

"I believe in that process and up to this point, the Republican Party has supported that process. You have a win and loss whichever way this goes," he said. "When this political process concludes that person takes an oath of office. The last thing you want me to do is make a political ruling without adhering to the oath of office."

Quisenberry then denied Zamarron's request, determining that while the state law supersedes local bylaws, the specific state law in question does not explicitly include school board officials as government officials. As a result, Graft's vote was deemed legal.

"If you're seated as a juror or a judge, you have to follow the law whether you like it or not," Quisenberry added. "I'm called upon today to fulfill my oath. Like my decision or not, it's a part of public order."

Quisenberry noted that while the ruling is final, Zamarron's legal team may still appeal before the Nov. 5 election.

# CALENDAR

## ONGOING

### FORWARD TRAINING

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

### SATURDAY, AUG. 31

**JOIN FORWARD** Training Center for the August Granbury Airport Breakfast fundraiser from 8-0 a.m. See the runway in action with arriving and departing aircraft. Questions? Call 817-573-6677 or email info@forwardtrainingcenter.org.

### TUESDAY, SEPT. 3

**OPERA GUILD** Meeting at Acton Methodist Church (youth building at back of church) 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Check-in time is 10 a.m., entertainment will be Nin Hulett beginning at 11 a.m., meeting begins at 11:30 a.m. Catering by Cotton Patch, luncheon at noon. Lunch is optional, cost is \$18. Cash and check only. Reservations required for lunch and/or meeting and must be submitted by Friday, Aug 30. Please notify if you have a standing reservation and will not be attending. 817-776-2898. Meeting will return to DeCordova Bend Country Club in October.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

**HOOD COUNTY** Democratic Americans political football meeting. Colorado vs. Nebraska. 1201 Prestwick Court. Questions? Call 972-345-0271.

### MONDAY, SEPT. 9

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC** Women of Hood County monthly meeting at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. Highway 377 at 11 a.m. Courtney Gore and Bret Deason, candidates for GISD board of trustees will speak. Details: 254-716-5195.

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

**TEXAS DEMOCRATIC** Women of Hood County Annual Luncheon. Guest speaker: Holly Taylor, Democratic candidate for presiding judge of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, Place 1. Silent auction. 11 a.m. DeCordova Bend Estates Country Club. \$40, with proceeds benefiting local high school scholarships and candidates. Details: 254-716-5195.

## TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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



# HCNEWS.COM

# City of Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Aug. 20-Aug. 27. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

**AUG. 20**  
6:21 a.m.: threat on W. Pearl St.  
12:10 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377  
2:56 p.m.: theft on Reunion Court  
7:34 p.m.: noise disturbance on Jasper Lane

\*\*A major accident, two minor accidents and 17 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**AUG. 21**  
1:32 p.m.: suspicious person or activity on E. U.S. Highway 377  
4:58 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377  
6:07 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377

\*\*A major accident, four

minor accidents and 12 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**AUG. 22**  
7:17 a.m.: possession of a controlled substance on Acton Highway  
11:28 a.m.: criminal mischief on E. U.S. Highway 377  
2:55 p.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377  
4:29 p.m.: criminal trespass on N. Plaza Drive  
4:31 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377

8:28 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377  
10:27 p.m.: noise disturbance on Chanel Drive

\*\*A minor accident, a warrant service and seven traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**AUG. 23**  
2:13 a.m.: suspicious activity on Mary Lou Court  
12:28 p.m.: theft on S. Morgan Street  
12:42 p.m.: theft over

\$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377  
2:10 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377  
2:42 p.m.: reckless driver on E. U.S. Highway 377  
3:15 p.m.: intoxicated driver with BAC higher than 0.15% on Lipan Highway  
4:42 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377

5:52 p.m.: property damage on Lipan Highway  
7:21 p.m.: suspicious person or activity on E. U.S. Highway 377  
9:25 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377

\*\*A major accident, eight minor accidents, a warrant service and 15 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**AUG. 24**  
1:32 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street  
2:23 a.m.: noise disturbance on N. Plaza Drive  
9:05 a.m.: assault on E.

U.S. Highway 377  
4:06 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377  
6:56 p.m.: shots fired on Savannah Lane  
10:15 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street

\*\*A minor accident, two warrant services and seven traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**AUG. 25**  
1:11 a.m.: criminal trespass on Gallivant Drive  
1:19 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street  
3:52 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street  
12:50 p.m.: theft of service on E. U.S. Highway 377  
11:21 p.m.: stabbing on Headquarters Circle

\*\*A minor accident, a warrant service and 21 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**AUG. 26**  
4:46 a.m.: suspicious person or activity on E. U.S. Highway 377  
6:41 a.m.: hit-and-run acci-

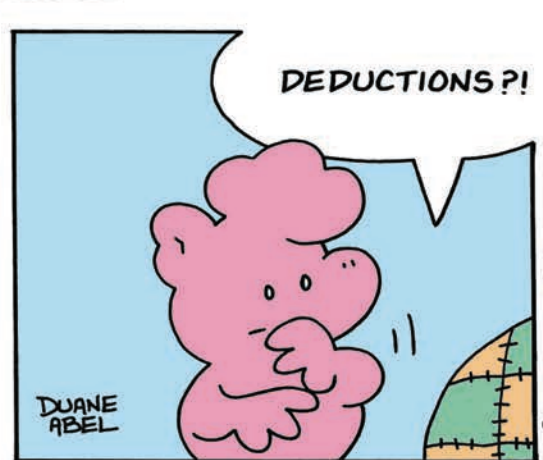
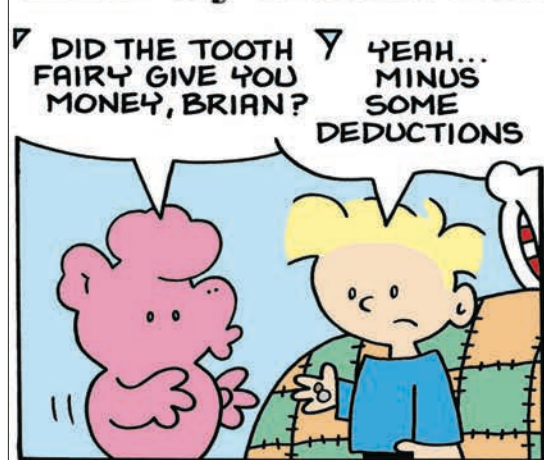
dent on E. U.S. Highway 377  
12:12 p.m.: assault on Reunion Court  
3:16 p.m.: fraud on W. Bridge Street

\*\*Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 26 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**AUG. 27**  
8:31 a.m.: noise disturbance on James Road  
8:34 a.m.: assault on Spanish Oak Drive  
10:47 a.m.: suspicious person or activity on E. U.S. Highway 377  
2:54 p.m.: criminal trespass on Paluxy Road  
6:18 p.m.: suspicious person or activity on Harbor Lakes Drive  
9:31 p.m.: arrest on W. Pearl Street  
11:52 p.m.: vicious animal on Jasper Lane

\*\*A major accident, a warrant service and nine traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

## ZED by Duane M. Abel



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# Commissioners urge TCEQ to deny air quality permit for Wolf Hollow expansion

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

The Hood County Commissioners Court adopted a resolution Tuesday, Aug. 27 urging the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to deny an air quality permit requested by Constellation Energy for the expansion of its Wolf Hollow II power generation facility — referred to as Wolf Hollow III.

The court's decision follows concerns raised by local residents and officials about potential environmental and health impacts.

If approved, the Wolf Hollow III project would serve as a critical backstop for Texas' energy grid during periods of extreme demand, such as heat waves or cold snaps.

The proposed new eight gas units would replace older, less efficient generators within the Electric Reliability Council of Texas system and help ensure reliable energy supply as additional energy sources are developed.

However, local officials and residents are wary of the environmental and noise impacts of the expansion. Constellation Energy has assured the community it will comply with all state and local noise ordinances and will not expand bitcoin operations at the site.

The outcome of TCEQ's decision on the air quality permits will determine whether Constellation

Energy proceeds with the Wolf Hollow III project.

The resolution, presented during the court session, specifically called on the TCEQ to deny the issuance of state air quality permits for Wolf Hollow II, which currently operates as a 1,115 MW combined-cycle gas and steam turbine facility.

The facility, located in Granbury, began operations in June 2017 and is owned and operated by Constellation Energy. The company has proposed expanding the site with eight additional gas-fired generators under the name Wolf Hollow III, which would add approximately 300 megawatts to the Texas grid.

During the session, Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson read a statement from Cindy Highsmith, a local resident, who expressed concerns about the potential increase in air pollutants.

Highsmith highlighted that the proposed expansion would emit significant amounts of harmful contaminants, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and hazardous air pollutants like sulfuric acid and mercury.

She emphasized the importance of Hood County maintaining its status as an "attainment area" under the EPA's air quality standards, which ensures clean air for residents and supports responsible industrial growth.

"There are three nonat-

tainment areas in Texas. They are Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth and San Antonio," Highsmith wrote. "Do we want to become a non-attainment area? I think the answer is no."

Highsmith also pointed out the proximity of the Wolf Hollow site to water bodies such as the Brazos River, Squaw Creek and Lake Granbury, raising alarms about the potential for mercury contamination in these areas.

She urged the commissioners to support the resolution to protect public health and the environment.

Samuelson concluded with a motion, "The Hood County Commissioners Court urges TCEQ to deny issuance of proposed state air quality permit 175-173, issuance of prevention of significant deterioration, air quality permit PSDTX-1636, and issuance of greenhouse gas GHG-PSD, air quality permit GHG-PSDTX-238, (8:30) for emissions of GHG and that this resolution be mailed to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of Chief Clerk, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas."

With Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle seconding Samuelson's motion, the resolution received unanimous support from the court and will be sent to the TCEQ and the offices of State Sen. Brian Birdwell and State Rep. Shelby Slawson to bolster their case against the expansion.



COURTESY PHOTO FROM ENVATO ELEMENTS BY BY ANATOLIY\_GLEB

A burn ban is when restrictions are placed on outdoor activities that may cause fires.

# County enacts 90-day burn ban

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

Outdoor burning is officially prohibited in Hood County after the Hood County Commissioners Court enacted a 90-day burn ban Aug. 27. This move follows a previous announcement made by the Hood County Fire Marshal's Office Aug. 20 that a burn ban was being put in place.

A burn ban is when restrictions are placed on outdoor activities that may cause fires. This includes outdoor burning and some welding activities.

During Tuesday's meeting, Hood County Judge Ron Massingill joked that every time the county enacts a burn ban, it rains shortly thereafter.

"But I think we need it," he added.

According to Deputy Fire Marshal Mike Stafford, the county's Keetch-Byram

Drought Index was at 622 as of Monday, Aug. 26, with the index increasing about 10 to 15 points a day.

The KBDI is an indicator used by the Texas Forest Service to relate recent and current weather conditions to expected fire behavior. Higher KBDI values indicate an increased fire risk due to lower fuel moisture. Drought conditions generally exist when the KBDI is greater than 575.

"With that, there's no question that we need (a burn ban)," Massingill stated.

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service's burn ban web map, 132 counties in the state of Texas are currently under a burn ban.

During a county's burn ban period, any outdoor burning could result in a \$500 citation for violating the order.

The Hood County website states that outdoor welding is permitted during a ban, but only if a designated spot-

ter is present with a water source for extinguishing any accidental fires.

While periods of rain help to relieve conditions that create a burn ban, the fact that it has rained does not lift the ban, the Hood County website states.

In accordance with Texas law, the ban is either on or off. Even though increased moisture and humidity help to reduce activity of fire, unless vegetation is in the growing phase, the fuel still contains little to no moisture, contributing to increased fire danger.

The Hood County Fire Marshal's Office monitors the conditions daily during the time burn bans are in place and they will be lifted as soon as burning can be done safely.

For more information about burning in Hood County, visit the county's new website at hoodcounty.texas.gov.




# LakeFest

## NOON - 10PM SEPT 28, 2024 FREE EVENT!






Party Patrol On The Beach With Sand Castle Building For Kids & Family 12PM- 4PM  
Food Trucks & Vendors at 12PM | Live Music 5PM - 9:30PM | Drone Show 9:30PM







LAKE GRANBURY CONFERENCE CENTER Join us at 621 E Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048

DETAILS AT [921HANKFM.COM](http://921HANKFM.COM) & [KHITS955.COM](http://KHITS955.COM)



# HCAD

FROM PAGE A1

that HCAD returned \$1.908 million to the taxing entities shortly before he assumed office in September 2023.

The district's current fund balance is \$426,000, with \$110,000 designated for litigation, building repairs and technology. This leaves an undesignated balance of \$316,000, or about 1.2 months' worth of reserves.

Law recommended the board adopt a policy to maintain two months of reserves, which would require approximately \$550,000.

In response to concerns about how HCAD manages unspent revenue, Law clarified that the district has consistently operated within its approved budget, often ending the fiscal year with either a surplus or a need to draw from reserves based on expenditures versus revenue.

"More than 75% of our budget is allocated to salaries and employee-related expenses," he explained, adding that any budget surplus is typically the result of unfilled vacancies, which lead to unspent salary funds.

Law also touched on past decisions to allocate surplus funds toward reducing unfunded liabilities in the Texas County and District Retirement System, a strategy in place since 2016. Additionally, surplus funds had been earmarked for potential new building projects, though those plans were ultimately scrapped, and the money was refunded to the taxing entities.

## ON REVERSING A PREVIOUS HCAD ACTION

Law mentioned he had explored the possibility of retrieving funds already deposited into the TCDRS trust fund but was informed that statutory requirements prohibit such a move. He is still awaiting confirmation of this statute.

Reiterating the district's

financial standing, Law said the current \$316,000 fund balance provides roughly two months of operating reserves. He acknowledged an earlier comment that some county entities have occasionally delayed their payments to the district, though these payments were eventually received. Based on his experience in other districts, Law remarked that it is not uncommon for large entities to delay payments by a few months.

Law addressed inquiries regarding the timeliness of payments from major contributors, specifically the Granbury Independent School District, which contributes 62% of the appraisal district's revenue. Law confirmed that, to his knowledge, the Granbury School District had never been late with payments.

"Have we ever been late?" asked Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson.

"Yes, ma'am. Last year," Law replied. He explained that a law in the tax code automatically imposes penalties on late payments, but the HCAD board has the authority to waive those penalties.

"Hood County's tardiness was addressed by waiving the penalty, and the delay was attributed to the prior auditor rather than the transition to a new auditor," Law clarified.

As the meeting progressed, it became evident that the decision before the Commissioners' Court concerned not only the 2025 budget but also restoring confidence in the Hood Central Appraisal District's financial practices.

## HCAD'S 'SPENDING SPREE' AND 'FAT BUDGET'

The conversation then shifted to the potential costs of a forensic audit, which is a matter of concern for Granbury ISD due to its significant financial contribu-

tion to the appraisal district. In response to Judge Ron Massingill's question regarding Granbury ISD's disapproval of the audit, Law clarified that if the forensic audit were included in the district's budget, Granbury ISD would be required to cover 63% of the cost, despite its disapproval of the audit.

Law also explained the difference between the standard financial audit, which was completed and presented last month, and the proposed forensic audit, which has yet to be conducted.

During his presentation, Mayor Jim Jarratt, a speaker at the meeting, raised concerns about the budget. He pointed out that at a recent Granbury City Council meeting, a decision was made to disapprove the HCAD's budget, reduce it by \$500,000, and request a forensic audit.

Jarratt argued the budget is excessively large, noting that between 2016 and 2021, \$1.8 million beyond the actuarial requirement was added to the retirement fund without oversight.

"This additional funding was done without sufficient oversight or awareness from the entities contributing to the district, effectively placing the financial burden on the citizens," Jarratt stated.

Jarratt continued his critique by highlighting what he described as a pattern of excessive spending within the HCAD. He noted that between 2021 and 2023, more than \$2 million in excess funds were available, with \$1.9 million being returned to the entities involved.

He questioned the whereabouts of an additional \$100,000 and mentioned that another \$293,000 was expected to be returned in 2023 or 2024. According to Jarratt, this pattern indicated over-budgeting and mismanagement.

He also raised concerns about recent expenses, mentioning that in December 2023, the district approved more than \$200,000 for ar-

chitectural services. Over the last three years, \$387,000 has been spent on architectural services without clear approval for building construction.

Both Jarratt and Law agreed there was no authorization to proceed with building plans.

## PRaise FOR LAW AND NEED FOR FORENSIC AUDIT

The discussion then turned to the performance and governance of the HCAD. Jarratt referenced evaluations by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, contrasting the district's 2021 budget, which met all required standards, with the 2022-2023 preliminary assessment, which highlighted significant deficiencies in governance, taxpayer assistance, and operating procedures.

"The Appraisal District has been more than forthcoming on providing information and working with the conversation," Jarratt said, adding "what it comes down to me is that this is a fat budget."

"I have confidence in Mr. Law's ability to correct these issues, given his history of high performance," Jarratt said.

Jarratt also emphasized the need for a forensic audit, suggesting that it should cover a more extended period, potentially going back to 2016, to fully understand the financial decisions that led to the current situation.

He expressed concern about the lack of clarity regarding the cost of such an audit, noting that estimates varied widely — from \$10,000 to \$100,000 — depending on the scope. Jarratt inquired whether the HCAD has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain a specific scope and cost for the audit.

Law responded that no RFP or quotes have been obtained at this time, leaving the potential cost of the audit uncertain.

## AUDIT DISCUSSION BEGAN IN MAY 2024, BUT NO RESEARCH INTO COST

Resolutions passed by the City of Granbury and Hood County in favor of conducting a forensic audit occurred in late April or early May 2024.

Despite these resolutions, no formal investigation into the potential cost of the forensic audit has been initiated, and the scope of the audit, initially proposed to cover five years, is now being considered for expansion back to 2016, potentially increasing the cost significantly.

## HCAD STAFF

### EFFICIENCY QUESTIONS

The final segment of the Hood Central Appraisal District budget meeting centered on the proposed 2025 budget, which includes high salaries for key positions and raises questions about the district's overhead costs and transparency practices.

Discussion began with a detailed breakdown of the salaries for top positions within HCAD. The chief appraiser earns \$198,000, including an \$8,000 car allowance. A new deputy chief appraiser position is proposed with a salary of \$130,000, also including a car allowance.

The appraisal manager earns \$109,000 with a \$9,600 car allowance. These positions alone account for \$437,000 in salaries, not including benefits or the district's 12% contribution to the Texas County and District Retirement System.

Concerns were raised about whether such overhead is necessary for managing a team of just eight appraisers. The discussion also highlighted the office manager/executive assistant role, with an annual salary of \$117,000, including an \$8,000 car allowance.

## FURTHER TRANSPARENCY

The discussion then shift-

ed to improved transparency and accessibility under Law's leadership, with suggestions to further enhance transparency by recording or live-streaming HCAD meetings.

Questions about the district's recourse if audits reveal discrepancies or misappropriations were raised.

The possibility of filing an errors and omissions claim with the insurance company was discussed, particularly concerning the \$387,000 spent on surveys of questionable properties.

The return of \$1.19 million and identification of \$1.8 million in excess funds were noted, signaling potential recoveries from past financial mismanagement.

The discussion turned critical as commissioners scrutinized HCAD's practice of over-budgeting and retaining excess funds, which totaled \$2.8 million over five years.

Frustrations were expressed over HCAD's resistance to external audits, with commissioners emphasizing the need for transparency and accountability, especially since HCAD's board members are not elected officials.

## THE MOTION

The session concluded with a vote on a resolution to disapprove the proposed 2025 HCAD budget.

Samuelson made a motion to adopt the resolution to disapprove the proposed budget from the HCAD, to request excess surplus and reserve funds be returned to the taxing entities, and to refund monies paid for unapproved ventures that may be identified in a forensic audit of the prior five years of HCAD expenditures.

The motion was seconded by Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle, and the resolution passed with three votes in favor and two opposed — Massingill and Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson.

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**AUDITION NIGHT**

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OF GRANBURY

7:30 P.M.  
SEPTEMBER 5, 2024 AT GRANBURY LIVE



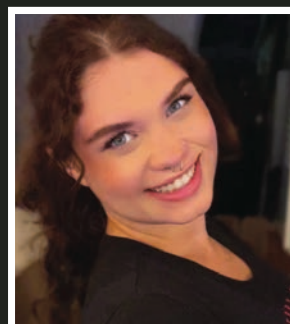
**Kiwanis**

Come support the charitable work of the Granbury Kiwanis Club at our sixth annual Voice of Granbury Audition Night, where audience votes determine our winning singer. Contestants are Debby Gordon, Barry Bente, Faith Thompson, Elizabeth Treat, Bailey Roy, Josh Lee, Courtney Current, Jenny Sturges, Santos Naranjo, Jenn Helm, Joe Savage, and Susanne Boston.

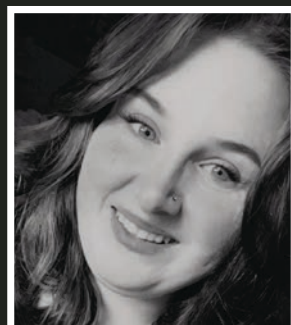
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Bailey Roy



Faith Thompson



Jenn Helm



Joe Savage

# Granbury City Council election likely canceled

From Staff Reports

The candidate filing window for the Nov. 5 Granbury City Council election has officially closed. With the election now in sight, it appears voters will not need to head to the polls for this local race.

For council person Place 3, incumbent Bruce Wadley has filed for reelection, while council person Place 5 incumbent Steven Vale will not be seeking another term. Zeb Ullom has stepped forward to run for the Place 5 seat. With both Wadley and Ullom run-

ning unopposed, the Granbury City Council is expected to cancel the election during its next meeting. The council will vote to officially declare Bruce Wadley and Zeb Ullom as elected to their respective places. If approved, this action will

streamline the process, avoiding the need for a formal election and confirming the continuation of Bruce Wadley's service and the introduction of Zeb Ullom to the city council. The action will also save taxpayers the cost of holding an election.

For more information, residents are encouraged to attend the upcoming city council meeting or visit the city's official website: Granbury.org.

## AUDIT

FROM PAGE A1

Gossett went on to explain the process will involve a collaborative effort, where his company will evaluate the current environment and then provide recommendations on enhancing processes and security. He noted he prefers not to use the term "audit," as the focus is on evaluating and enhancing the network and its security rather than conducting a traditional audit.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill emphasized that the IT department has already proven its effectiveness by successfully thwarting a sophisticated hack that prompted immediate involvement from federal and state agencies. He noted that, unlike neighboring Parker County and the City of Granbury — which both suffered severe breaches and operational disruptions — Hood County's IT team managed to prevent any data loss or financial damage.

"Doesn't that say something for our IT department?" Massingill asked, arguing that this success demonstrates the department's competence.

"I can't speak specific to that instance, because I don't know what the attack was — but to deny that there is something out there that you can assess and constantly improve on ... I mean, that's our whole goal is to constantly improve on security, improve on processes and make things better, right?" Gossett asked. "If you are breached tomorrow, that could cost the county millions of dollars."

He also recommended the county regularly conduct these assess-

ments, ideally annually or biennially, to stay ahead of evolving threats.

Massingill asked how the assessment would help the county's IT department. Gossett explained that an external review would provide another set of eyes and a fresh perspective.

"It's better to have multiple people looking at it from different angles," he explained. "We may come in and say, 'Hey, they passed with flying colors, and everything's great,' but if you find one incident on the network that needs improvement, then you know your return on investment is well paid for."

Gossett then reiterated that this will be a collaborative effort and emphasized that his company is not aiming to take over or criticize the current IT team. He added that at the end of the audit, his team will ask for a closed session to review everything with the court.

"If there is something found, that doesn't need to be published to the public," Gossett said. "That needs to be behind closed doors, and a discussion that says, 'Hey, here you have a potential risk, and this is how you address it.'"

Gossett clarified that regardless of which company is chosen for the assessment, no firm can guarantee that future issues won't arise. He explained that the goal of the assessment is to safeguard the infrastructure from both external and internal threats, noting that employees can be the "biggest threat" to security.

Massingill asked if the assessment would include suggestions on optimizing the department's time and efficiency. Gossett confirmed that the evaluation will cov-

er the entire department, offering recommendations for enhancing various aspects such as the ticketing system and daily operations.

Gossett also revealed his company has conducted assessments for the counties of both Erath and Somervell.

"The fact that you showed up here today speaks volumes," Massingill said.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson said the fact SLG Technologies is CJIS-certified is also a plus. The Criminal Justice Information Services certification is a requirement for organizations that use or access criminal justice information.

"I would just like to ease the tension, because like I said, it's not an attack," Gossett added. "This is just an assessment and a collaboration effort. Then we come back and kind of review it as a team and make recommendations. That's all we're doing."

Eagle also highlighted the one key factor in selecting a firm for the IT assessment is CJIS certification, which the firm in question has. He noted that among the five companies considered, only two are CJIS approved.

He also mentioned his own challenges with understanding IT terminology and procedures, emphasizing the importance of having an external party come in to clarify these aspects and provide a clearer picture of the IT operations.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin Andrews echoed Gossett's statement that the assessment is not adversarial toward the IT department. He explained that he is not in this for a "witch hunt."

"This is more a question of, 'What does the infrastructure look

like?' 'What's going on behind the scenes and underneath?' And 'Is there something that we need to learn?'" Andrews said. "This is not adversarial. This is, 'Is there a way to improve?'" to make sure that the next attack is stopped, like the last one was."

IT Chief Information Officer Drew Wiederkehr explained he doesn't mind going through the audit to see if the department has any vulnerabilities. However, he voiced concern about how the county will handle the findings once the assessment is completed.

Eagle responded that he doesn't have the answer to that at this time as it is impossible to predict how the county will address the findings.

"We'll have to see what happens first," Eagle said. "If it's something we can take action on immediately, yes. If it's something that's going to require a lot of money, we'll have to talk about it. But that's an unanswerable question at this stage, in my opinion, but it will be addressed."

Gossett confirmed that his company offers a risk matrix, which identifies the department's highest risks and includes a detailed cost analysis for addressing those risks. He also added that an assessment often uncovers not just costs but potential savings as well.

"We come in and assess something and we say, 'Hey, you can change this and save this much money per year.' We've done that both in Somervell and Erath," Gossett said. "We've probably saved Somervell \$200,000 a year by changing things in their network and making improvements, so it's not always a cost. Sometimes there's savings. A lot of

times there's savings."

Gossett also mentioned that if his firm were selected for the assessment, it would likely take about three weeks to commence — with the entire process estimated to take between 30 to 60 days to complete.

During public comments, resident David Farris emphasized the importance of a collaborative approach to cybersecurity assessments, drawing from his extensive experience in the field.

Farris compared Hood County's situation to his previous role in a company with a substantial cybersecurity budget, noting that while they faced constant attacks from numerous global hackers, Hood County's less prominent profile might make it less of a target. Despite this, Farris stressed that regular reviews are crucial because vulnerabilities can exist in unexpected places.

Farris also stated that he didn't hear anything from Gossett's presentation that he didn't like, adding that he agreed with everything Gossett said.

"You need to do this analysis, because the risk is too big," Farris added. "And trust me, the thing is, you may have stopped one hack, but there will be another."

Eagle made a motion to accept the proposal from SLG Technologies to conduct an assessment of Hood County's IT department at a cost of \$38,500 out of Fund 55. Following a second from Wilson, the motion passed unanimously.

"You're unanimously hired, sir," Massingill said to Gossett.

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11 Patriot Day Ceremony at Memorial Lane  
21-22 The Spooky Spectacle Convention 2024  
27-28 Texas Cowboy Symposium - Texas State Championship  
Chuckwagon Cook-off and Western Swing Festival  
HANK FM Lake Fest

**OCTOBER**  
3-27 The Sleepy Hollow Experience – Langdon Grounds  
4-6 Oktoberfest  
4-13 Here's to CLUE - Spooky Edition  
5 Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival  
5 Mission Granbury 5k/1k Ghost Run  
12 Brazos River Corvette Club Annual Charity Car Show  
12 Granbury Rock N Blues Bash  
12 Pub Shindy

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

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HOOD COUNTY SENIOR CENTER  
STEP UP FOR SENIORS 3K SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

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YOUR LOCAL HOOD COUNTY SENIOR CENTER

WALKING TO FIGHT SENIOR ISOLATION AND FOOD INSECURITY IN HOOD COUNTY

**JOIN US!**

**\$30 - 3K WALK/RUN REGISTRATION FEE**

**STEP UP 4 SENIORS IS ALMOST HERE... AND THIS YEAR IS BIG!**

The Center has served local seniors since 1977, but in addition to our annual 3K Walk/Run, we are celebrating our 25th Birthday at 501 Moore Street this year! Come join the fight against senior isolation and food hunger, donate blood, enjoy some treats and live music, and join us for our

**25th Building Birthday Ribbon Cutting!**

Help us Walk to Fight Senior Isolation and Food Insecurity in Hood County!  
September 14, 2024 - Same Day Registration: 8:30AM and Walk Begins at 9AM  
Ribbon Cutting at 10:45AM and Raffle at 11:00AM

LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER



COURTESY PHOTO FROM ENVATO ELEMENTS BY NATABUENA

## Tired of waking up at 3 a.m.?

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

“Our sleep is essential to our well-being,” states Dr. Ahmed Bhatti, board certified pulmonologist and sleep medicine physician. “We need our rest to rejuvenate our bodies and our minds.”

The temperature and lighting are perfect, you avoided screen time for at least an hour before bed and haven’t had any coffee since lunch. Still, you find yourself waking up at the same time every night, staring at the ceiling.

Sound frustratingly familiar?

If so, you’re not alone. Studies over the years show one-third of us don’t sleep through the night several days per week.

During sleep, our bodies cycle from light to deep sleep for about 90 to 120 minutes, and we go through four to five phases of that

each night. We need that rest to heal and for our bodies to balance our hormones, metabolism, blood pressure and heart rate. However, the average person wakes up at least once per night — whether they remember it or not.

So, why are we waking up at 3 a.m. and struggling to get back to sleep?

It could be due to your habits before bedtime, such as consuming caffeine or alcohol too late in the day or not keeping your room dark or cool enough. However, stress, age-related hormone fluctuations, mental health issues (like anxiety) and sleep disorders also can keep us from getting enough rest. In fact, as many as 70 million Americans suffer from some type of sleep disorder, such as insomnia, sleep apnea or restless leg syndrome.

The next time you find yourself awake in the middle of the night, try to relax

by meditating, deep breathing or listening to soothing sounds. If you cannot fall back asleep within 30 minutes, get out of bed and consider reading a book or visualizing a peaceful place, like the beach.

Just remember to stay patient. After all, fighting sleeplessness by obsessing over the clock will only increase your stress, which will keep you up even longer.

Establish a schedule by going to sleep and waking up at the same time every day, stop using technology at least 30 minutes before bedtime and cut off caffeine and alcohol three to five hours before you turn in.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Bhatti, please visit: <https://lakegranburymedical.com/BhattiMD> or call (817) 579-3994.

# Local man sentenced to 100-plus years in prison

From Staff Reports

On Aug. 9, a Hood County jury convicted Colby Nicholas Arnold, 36, for multiple counts of identity theft and drug possession. After finding Arnold guilty of the charges, the jury sentenced him to a total of 107 years in prison.

Arnold was charged with fraudulent use/possession of identifying information — 50 or more items; possession of a controlled substance — methamphetamine; and possession of a controlled substance — morphine. Because he already has numerous other felony convictions, Arnold is classified as a “habitual felon,” exposing him to a higher punishment range.

On March 3, Granbury Police Department officers were at the home of Arnold’s

neighbor looking for a lost cell phone. The neighbor indicated that Arnold repaired cell phones and computers and may be in possession of the phone in question. When officers approached Arnold about the phone he mentioned being in possession of many phones — the comment led to a search warrant being executed at his workspace.

Upon entering Arnold’s workspace, officers found drugs in plain sight and items of personal identifying information that did not belong to him. Officers further searched the space and found hundreds of items of personal identifying information — such as credit cards, membership cards, passports, drivers’ licenses and other similar items.

On Aug. 8, Hood County

Assistant District Attorney Max Lisle and Assistant District Attorney Cecily McLaughlin presented the case to a jury in the 355th District Court.

The jury sentenced Arnold to 80 years in the state penitentiary for the identity theft charges, 25 years in prison for the morphine charge, and two years in state jail for the methamphetamine charge.

“Everybody these days has been impacted in some way by identity theft. We take these crimes seriously in Hood County. I’m proud of the work that the Granbury Police Department and ADA Lisle and ADA McLaughlin did to ensure that a perpetrator of these crimes was brought to justice in our county,” said Hood County District Attorney Ryan Sinclair.

## Elevated levels of lead detected in city water supply

From Staff Reports

Water testing on City of Granbury drinking water conducted in March revealed elevated levels of lead in some samples. Although most samples had lead levels below the Environmental Protection Agency action level of 15 parts per billion, some were above that level.

The elevated levels are not a violation under federal or state law, but city officials want to make residents aware.

Though the samples were taken in March, the lab did not report results to the city until July. When the city received the report, it notified the state.

The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children and pregnant wom-

en. Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning, can significantly increase a person’s total lead exposure, particularly in infants who drink baby formulas and concentrated juices that are mixed with water.

Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion or the wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing, such as solder used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome plated brass faucets.

In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and in 2011 restricted the lead content of faucets and pipes to 0.25%.

Residents who use city water can run water to flush

out lead. If the cold water tap has not been used for several hours, run it until the temperature is noticeably colder. This flushes lead-containing water from the pipes.

The water is safe to use on plants and lawns. The lead does not harm by going through skin via bathing — only by drinking large quantities of water with high lead levels. Residents cannot get lead from their neighbors’ pipes.





Boiling the water will not remove the lead. Samples are collected on a regular basis. Results of the water samples taken at the end of July and the beginning of August should be available by the end of September.

Please call the City of Granbury at 817-573-7030 with questions.

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MKD-8652E-A AECSPAD 22607891

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**COOL DOWN**

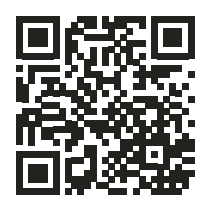
**YOU CAN HELP**

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



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**CHOOSE to see.**  
**CHOOSE to help.**



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

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

**24-hour Crisis Hotline 844-579-6848**

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8510 General

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NOTICES

9031 Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
CAUSE NO. C-2023463

CHEYENNE NICOLE GALINDO, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS NEXT FRIEND OF E.G. AND H.G., MINORS VS  
NOAH SHAWN DYKES AND JACKIE LYNN DYKES

IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
355TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

SUMMARY  
On November 02, 2022, Plaintiff's Cheyenne Nicole Galindo and her minor children, E.G. and H.G., were traveling Northbound in the 1100 block of South Morgan Street. Defendant, Noah Shawn Dykes, while attempting to make a left turn on to a parking lot, failed to yield the right of way, and struck the Plaintiff's vehicle. Defendant, Noah Shawn Dykes was operating a vehicle owned by Defendant, Jackie Lynn Dykes.

Small Taxing Unit Notice  
The City of Lipan will hold a meeting at 6:00 PM on September 9, 2024 at City Hall 105 E. Lipan Dr. Lipan, Tx to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2024. The proposed tax rate is \$0.224914 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in City of Lipan by 4.05%.

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

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

LEGAL AD  
Hood County Purchasing Agent's office will receive sealed proposals at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, until 10:00 am, September 18, 2024. Proposals will be opened in a public meeting at that time and place.

Request for Proposal  
Independent Audit Services  
RFP2024-05  
Proposals may be submitted through Hood County's page on the BonFire website at http://co-hood-tx.bonfirehub.com. It is free to register and to bid. Proposal documents may also be obtained at the Purchasing Agent's Office located at 1402 W Pearl St, Ste 1, Granbury, TX 76048, or through the Hood County Purchasing website https://hoodcounty.texas.gov/bids

Hood County reserves the right to award by "best value" and to waive formalities for the best interest of Hood County. Hood County reserves the right to reject any and all bids. All invoices shall be paid at the regular semi-monthly meeting of the Hood County Commissioner's Court.  
For additional Information, contact Hood County Purchasing Agent at 817-408-3440.

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

STROUD CREEK ESTATES, SEC 4, Lots 15R, 16R1 & 16R2

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, September 24th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

8510 General

**Granbury Independent School District**  
is soliciting proposals for a Category A 5 Gang Reconditioned Reel Lawn Mower.

The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Proposals will be accepted until closing on September 9th, at 2pm.

All questions regarding the bid should be asked inside the bidding system.

If you have trouble connecting to ionwave please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.Drake@granburysisd.org

9031 Public Notices

CITATION BY PUBLICATION  
TRC 109 & 114  
CAUSE NO. C2024183  
JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK VS.  
THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date of the issuance hereof. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation, a judgement may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org." You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK as Plaintiffs, against the above named person(s) as Defendant(s), by Plaintiffs Original Petition filed on the 19th day of July, 2024, in a certain suit styled: JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK VS. THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES. A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2024183. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK, by and through its attorney of record, IVAN ESCOBAR of PADFIELD & STOUT, LLP, 100 THROCKMORTON ST., STE. 700, FORT WORTH, TX 76102 brought suit under Cause No. C2024183 in the 355th District Court of Hood County, Texas, for PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION on the following described real property of which Defendants, THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES, are potential parties of interest: Lot 61, in Indian Harbor Subdivision, Phase V, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to Plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 81, Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. Lot 61 is located at the address commonly known as 4300 San Mateo Court, Granbury, Texas 76048. Lot 60, in Indian Harbor Subdivision, Phase V, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to Plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 81 (A-44-B), Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. Lot 60 is directly adjacent to Lot 61, and is also located at the address commonly known as 4300 San Mateo Court, Granbury, Texas 76048

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 2ND day of AUGUST 2024.  
WITNESS: ROBERTA ZAMARRON CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS BY Saraha A. Roach Deputy

9031 Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE  
Hood County, Texas will begin an online auction for the sale of a 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe, 2017 Chevrolet Silverado, 1999 Saturn SW2 Wagon, 2006 Yamaha FZ1-s MC, 2007 Kia Rondo PC, 1998 Dodge Durango, 2005 Cadillac CTS, 2007 GMC Sierra, 2005 Toyota Sequoia, 2005 Volvo XC90, 1999 Dodge Durango, 2020 Nissan Altima, 1992 Ford F150, 2010 Kia Optima, 2012 Toyota Tacoma, 2009 Chrysler Aspen, 2021 Kawasaki, 2007 GMC Yukon, 2000 GMC 3500, 2014 Chrysler 200, 2008 Dodge Caliber SE, 2001 Ford Focus, 2005 Ford Excursion, 2012 Ford, 2003 Mont Traveler Trailer, 2013 Dodge Avenger, Boat Caresma that have been declared surplus property of Hood County. Hood County online auction is with Rene Bates Auctioneer Inc. and will begin September 16, 2024 and run until September 30, 2024. Interested bidders can access the auction at www.renebates.com. Questions concerning this online auction should be directed to Hood County Purchasing Department 817-408-3440.

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting Request for Quote for Seven buses (77 Passenger Students Buses).

The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Competitive Quotes will be accepted until closing on September 9th, at 2pm.

All questions regarding the bid should be submitted online.

If you have trouble connecting to ionwave please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.Drake@granburysisd.org

A public hearing will be held by the Granbury City Council at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday September 17, 2024 at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048, to discuss and consider action to extend a moratorium, enacted on December 14, 2020 and extended on April 6, 2021, October 4, 2021, September 20, 2022, and October 3, 2023 staying the acceptance and processing of all plats and respective building permits in the eastern city limits and extra territorial jurisdiction, and to receive input from citizens regarding the extension of said moratorium as authorized by law and noticed pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 212.

A public hearing will be held by the Granbury City Council at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at Granbury City Hall, 116 W. Bridge St., Granbury, TX 76048, to discuss and consider action to extend a moratorium, enacted on October 25, 2021 and extended on February 15, 2022, September 20, 2022, and October 3, 2023 staying the acceptance and processing of all plats and respective building permits in the central and western city limits and extra territorial jurisdiction, and to receive input from citizens regarding the extension of said moratorium as authorized by law and noticed pursuant to Texas Local Government Code 212.

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting Request for Quote 2024-15 for 500 Chromebooks.

The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Competitive Quotes will be accepted until closing on September 9th, at 2pm.

All questions regarding the bid should be submitted online.

If you have trouble connecting to ionwave please contact purchasing office at 817-408-4087 or Bradee.Drake@granburysisd.org

PUBLIC SALES

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# OBITUARIES

## Wanda Janette Ragle

July 18, 1942 - August 17, 2024

Wanda Janette "Janette" Ragle, of Granbury, Texas, went to be with her Heavenly Father on Aug. 17, 2024. Janette is survived by her son, Dale Ragle; daughter-in-law, Ann Gardea Ragle; daughter, Janice McMoran; grandson, Alex McMoran; great-granddaughter, Anastasia McMoran-King; "second daughter" Marla Collins Mayo; cousins Joe Sitton, Nancy Bevers, Marcia Swan, and Wayne Baggett; and numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 66 years, Theron Martin Ragle; parents, Nathan Benjamin Harrison and Ruth Marie Harrison; sister, Margaret Ella Harrison; brother Dwaine Harrison; and brother-in-law, Kenneth Harrison.

Janette was born on July 18, 1942, and raised near Perrin, Texas, in Jack County. She grew up on a farm and understood the meaning of hard work, persistence, practicality, and dedication. After marrying her beloved Theron in 1957 at the age of 15, soon thereafter she and Theron started a family and welcomed son, Dale, and daughter, Janice. Janette was a kind and devoted mother to her children and didn't begin her work career until both of her children had started attending school. In 1968, she began working for National Farm Life Insurance Company in Fort Worth. After later moving to Granbury in 1972, she began a career in medical billing at Hood General Hospital, later known as Lake Granbury Medical Center. She worked there until her retirement in 1992 so she could be a "full time Nana" to her recently born grandson, Alex.

Janette enjoyed boating and water skiing and was an avid volleyball player back in the day. Her and Theron's love of water sports led them to move to Granbury in 1972, where they enjoyed life on the lake. She also loved to travel with her family on vacations, which were usually camping trips across the country.

Janette was always active in her community. When her children were young, she was active in the Blue Mound Elementary School PTA and served as president. She founded the Indian Harbor Ladies Club and served as its first president. She also served as secretary on the first board of directors of



the Indian Harbor Homeowners Association. Throughout the years she served multiple terms on the board of the Indian Harbor Homeowners Association up through 2017. She was also active and served on the Indian Harbor Architectural Committee for several years. Janette never met a stranger, was extremely friendly, and had a very kind heart. She developed a rich network of friends during her life and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. If you were a friend of Janette's and you were in the hospital, you could count on an almost daily visit.

Janette and Theron's love of camping and travel led them to all 50 states, with their later years spent taking several cruises with family and friends. They enjoyed attending what they called hootenannies, playing domino games with family and friends, and spending time with their family. Janette was always very witty and loved to play practical jokes on her friends. She was a very down-to-earth, strong-willed woman, and was articulate in voicing her opinions, which were frequently peppered with humor.

Janette was a very devoted wife and mother. She developed Alzheimer's in her later years and remained in her home under Theron's care and the help of other family members until June 2023, when she became a resident at Bridgewater Memory Care. Janette will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Visitation was from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, and funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, both at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas, with burial following at Clark Cemetery in Parker County.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in her name.

## Kathy Mae O'Dell

December 3, 1950 - August 25, 2024

Kathy Mae O'Dell, our loving Mom and Nanny, entered into the gates of Heaven on Sunday, Aug. 25, 2024.

A graveside committal service for Kathy was held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, at Holly Hills Memorial Park, 1900 FM 51, in Granbury.

Kathy was born to James and Lillie Wisdom on Dec. 3, 1950 in Fort Worth, Texas. Throughout her life, she lived in many cities and states, but called Granbury, Texas, her home for most of her life. She married her late husband Roy O'Dell in 1986. Kathy found her passion in healthcare and worked most of her life as a CNA in nursing homes. Upon completion of that endeavor, she worked at Walmart as a retail associate for over 20 years. Most days, you could find Kathy at the bowling alley. She was a very talented bowler and was a member of a local bowling league for many years. She also had a love for clogging and was a member of the Granbury Cloggers. She had a huge love for animals and raised many sweet dogs, cats, and even raccoons over the years. Most of all, Kathy loved her family. She found joy in the presence of her siblings, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews. She fought hard against cancer three separate times, and she won! Her bravery, determination, and strength was unmatched. Kathy knew the Lord as her personal Savior and she loved Jesus with all her heart! Her absence is very apparent to those that loved her. She will be so dearly missed, but her family and



friends find comfort in knowing that she is in the presence of her Savior and reunited with the love of her life once again.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Roy O'Dell; parents James and Lillie Wisdom; and brothers Bill, Homer, Julian, and James Jr.

Kathy is survived by her son, Lawrence Autrey and wife Londa; daughter, Tanya Swaim and husband Eric; son, Scotty O'Dell; sister, Rose Peer; brother, Luke Wisdom, grandchildren, Bobby Gomez, Kimberly & Jacob Reeves, Ashley Autrey, Troy & Victoria Autrey, Blake & Dolly Autrey, Patience Swaim, Alex & Julie Harlin, Preston Locke, Raelyn O'Dell, and Aaleyha O'Dell; great-grandchildren, Vaden, Bryson, Autumn, Tristan, Myla, Katie, Carter, Carson, CJ, Kelsey, Skylar, Colt, Maddison, Malakai, Hailey, Messiah, Hillamen, Joseph, and one on the way; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Kathy's family wishes to thank Dr. Ruxer and staff with Texas Oncology, Dr. Jennifer Smith and staff at Lake Granbury Medical Center, and her hospice team at Interim Hospice for the loving care she received.

## Charles Allen Bulloch

June 1, 1937 - August 17, 2024

Charles Allen "Al" Bulloch, born in Terrell, Texas on June 1, 1937 to George Pickney Bulloch and Annie Mae Bulloch, passed away on Aug. 17, 2024, in McKinney, Texas. Allen moved to Dallas, Texas in 1956 where he met and married the love of his life, Mary Texanna (Cooper) Bulloch on June 8, 1958. After serving as an MP in the United States Army, the couple moved to University Park in 1960 where Allen would serve for 20 years and retire from the University Park Police Department. He was a proud member of the Hillcrest Masonic Lodge, U.S. Army Veteran, youth soccer and football coach, and active caretaker of his community.

Allen relocated to Granbury, Texas in 1981 where he would continue his service as assistant police chief and retire from the Granbury Police Department with another 16 years of service. During his tenure, "Al" as he became to be known, volunteered and served in many capacities including Granbury ISD resource officer, DARE officer, and security at many local businesses. After retirement, he was elected and served as Hood County Commissioner of Precinct 4.

Allen is survived by his two sons Mark Bulloch and



David Bulloch, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. His legacy of service to country and community continues throughout our family and generations. He is preceded in death by his wife, Mary Texanna Bulloch who passed April 4, 1977 and whose faith shown bright and strong enough to lead Allen and the next generations to the love of our Lord. It is in that faith that we know that they are together again and at peace by His side.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024 at 11 a.m. at Sparkman-Hillcrest Memorial Park located at 7405 West Northwest Highway, Dallas, TX 75225.

A graveside service will be held from 11 a.m. to noon on Sept. 21, 2024 at Sparkman-Hillcrest Cemetery, 7405 West Northwest Highway Dallas, Texas 75225.

### SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

### PLEASE SEE OBITS | A12

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#### ACROSS

- 1 short crazes
- 5 TXism: "I smell \_\_\_" (suspicious)
- 6 rattling sound made by unhealthy lungs
- 7 TXism: "that gets my dander up"
- 8 Texan guard Kenyon Green was \_\_\_ twice
- 18 TXism: "\_\_\_ earned his spurs" (achieve)
- 19 TXism: "limp \_\_\_"
- 21 Faye of 1978 "Eyes of Laura Mars" with TX Tommy Lee Jones (init.)
- 22 Dallas community college: "Mountain \_\_\_"
- 23 "\_\_\_ it" (do it quicker)
- 24 "\_\_\_ quarter, call someone who cares"
- 29 camping shelter
- 30 cat with a mane found in zoos
- 31 TX Dabney Coleman 1990 film: "Where the Heart \_\_\_"
- 32 TX Jack Johnson defeated "the \_\_\_ hope" (1910)
- 34 TXism: "thinking \_\_\_ doing"
- 35 swab the floor
- 36 "Staked Plains" in NW Texas: "Llano \_\_\_"
- 37 woman's purse (2 wds.)
- 38 of sound mind
- 39 TXism: "I'd have \_\_\_ to die" (sick)
- 41 flower bud protector
- 42 "surf the \_\_\_"
- 43 TXism: "chucklehead"
- 44 "know-\_\_\_" (smarty-pants)
- 45 one hour ahead of CST
- 46 not describing Texas
- 47 no longer fresh
- 48 lab cylinder (2 wds.)
- 50 horse rein
- 51 "Texas Tea"
- 52 Texas-born actress Meredith Mac
- 53 Texas "Tarzan" actor Ron

#### DOWN

- 1 "Charlie's Angel" from Texas (2 wds.)
- 2 TXism: "mad as \_\_\_ on rooster"
- 3 "Big D"
- 4 newspaper in Daingerfield: "\_\_\_ County Bee"
- 9 Shirley Mac \_\_\_ starred in Texas-based "Terms of Endearment"
- 10 \_\_\_ of dominoes has 28 pieces
- 11 JD Vance's grandmother: "Mee \_\_\_"
- 12 Harris of Texas based 1985 film "Alamo Bay"
- 13 \_\_\_ Star, TX in Eastland County
- 14 "this \_\_\_ a drill" (real danger)
- 15 former Cowboys coach, Gailey
- 16 in Smith County on highway 135
- 17 "Davy Crockett \_\_\_ Forest"
- 20 Oak Ridge Boys sing country and \_\_\_ music
- 22 what Gov Abbott did with a bill he didn't like? (2 wds.)

### TEXAS CROSSWORD

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## What can insurance do for you?

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Edward Jones  
Financial Adviser



Ty Andrew

to happen to you, your life insurance proceeds could help your family meet at least three major needs:

■ **Paying a mortgage** - The biggest expense many families face is their monthly mortgage. If you weren't around, could your family continue paying the mortgage? Or would they have to move? With a sufficient life insurance death benefit, they could remain in their home, meeting the monthly mortgage payments, or perhaps pay off the loan entirely (although this might not be in their

best financial interest).

■ **Paying for education** - If you have young children, you may already be saving for their college education — because you know college is expensive. Without your income, would college, or some other form of post-secondary education or training, still be realistic? Again, the proceeds from an insurance policy could make the difference.

■ **Paying off debts** - You might have a car loan, credit card debt or other financial obligations. If your surviving spouse is a joint account holder for these debts, they could still be liable for paying them off. But insurance proceeds could be used to

retire the debts immediately, or over time.

All life insurance policies offer a death benefit. But permanent insurance, unlike term insurance, also offers the chance to build cash value — which can be a valuable supplement to your IRA and 401(k) or other retirement accounts.

A cash value policy such as whole life also can provide flexibility for changing financial needs or emergencies in retirement. And here's another key advantage: Because this type of policy provides fixed, guaranteed returns, it is not dependent on the performance of the financial markets and is thus insulated from the market

downturns that can happen while you're retired. So, taking money from the cash value of your whole life policy may help you avoid selling investments that have temporarily declined in value.

Keep in mind, though, that the premiums for a cash value policy will generally be substantially higher than those for term insurance. That's why some people choose to "buy term and invest the difference" rather than purchase a permanent life policy with cash value. Whether this strategy is right for you depends on a few different factors, perhaps the most important of which is your ability and willingness to consistently invest the

money you would have otherwise placed in a cash value policy.

In any case, should you choose cash value insurance, you generally have three ways to get at the money: withdrawals, loans or surrender of the policy. You'll want to weigh all the factors involved — including taxes and the effect on the policy's death benefit — when deciding on how to access the cash value.

Life Insurance Awareness Month ends on Sept. 30. But your need for life insurance, and the potential benefits it provides, can last a lifetime.



# Granbury launches new online portal for permit applications

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

The City of Granbury has introduced a new online platform designed to simplify the process of applying for permits and managing development services. The platform, available at <https://granburytx.portal.opengov.com/>, allows residents and businesses to complete all permitting-related tasks from their computer or mobile device, eliminating the need for in-person visits to City Hall.

The portal is user-friendly and offers a comprehensive range of services. Users can apply for various types of permits, submit necessary documentation, track the status of their applications, and even schedule inspections — all online. The platform supports a variety of permits, including those for residential and commercial construction, electrical work, plumbing, mechanical systems and more.

To begin, users need to create an account on the portal. Once registered, they can select the appropriate permit type, fill out the required forms and upload any necessary documents. The system provides clear instructions to help applicants meet all requirements, minimizing the chances of errors or delays in the approval process. Payments for permits can be made directly through the portal, making the entire process more efficient.

The types of permits available through the platform include:

- Residential building permits: For new construction, additions, alterations, repairs, demolitions, re-roofing, fences, driveways, solar panels and generators.
- Commercial building

permits: For new construction, additions, repairs, finishouts, demolitions and more.

- Electrical, mechanical, and plumbing permits: Separate permits are available for both residential and commercial projects.

- Swimming pool permits: For both residential and commercial pools.

- Temporary permits: For construction field offices, sales trailers and other temporary structures.

- Health permits: Including those for food establishments, mobile food vendors and hotel/motel operations.

- Special event permits: Applications for festivals, parades and other events must be submitted at least 30 days before the event. For parades on Pearl or Houston Streets, applications are required 60 days in advance.

- Fire permits: These permits, which are reviewed and approved by the fire marshal, focus on fire prevention and safety. The portal allows for the submission of fire permit applications and plans, ensuring that all necessary precautions are taken to protect lives and property from fire hazards.

- Sewer and water permits: For work related to the city's water distribution and wastewater collection systems, including the installation and maintenance of septic systems. These permits are essential for ensuring all work complies with city standards and protects public health.

The portal also handles permits related to land use, zoning and code compliance. Residents can request zoning verification letters, submit variance applications and even report potential violations of city ordinances.

Before starting any work within the City of Granbury,

contractors must complete a registration process. Each trade involved in a project is required to apply for its own permits and schedule inspections independently.

The City of Granbury has adopted the 2021 International Code Series with the 2021 North Central Texas Council of Governments amendments and the 2020 National Electrical Code, ensuring that all construction and development work meets the latest safety and building standards.

For questions or additional assistance, users can email the community development department at [comdev@granbury.org](mailto:comdev@granbury.org). To explore the new portal and begin the permitting process, visit <https://granburytx.portal.opengov.com/> and create an account today.



COURTESY PHOTO FROM ENVATO ELEMENTS BY STOCKCENTRAL

The new portal supports a variety of permits, including those for residential and commercial construction, electrical work, plumbing, mechanical systems and more.

## Texas tops list of states whose residents lack health insurance

Rank	State	Insured rate	Uninsured rate
1	Texas	83.40%	16.60%
2	Georgia	88.30%	11.70%
3	Oklahoma	88.30%	11.70%
4	Wyoming	88.50%	11.50%
5	Florida	88.80%	11.20%
6	Nevada	88.90%	11.10%
7	Alaska	89.00%	11.00%
8	Mississippi	89.20%	10.80%
9	Arizona	89.70%	10.30%
10	North Carolina	90.70%	9.30%

From Staff Reports

New data has identified the states where the highest percentage of residents lack health insurance — with Texas ranking first.

The analysis from personal injury attorneys Bader Scott examined the latest data from the United States Census Bureau, highlighting significant disparities in access to healthcare in comparison to the national average, 7.4% of uninsured residents.

Texas ranks highest, with 16.6% of the state's population without health insurance — 124% above the national average. The state continues to face significant healthcare access barriers, leaving many of its residents without essential health coverage. Georgia and Oklahoma tied for second at 11.7%.

At the opposite end of the scale, Massachusetts boasts the highest insurance rate, with 97.6% of its population covered by health insurance. Hawaii follows closely with a coverage rate of 96.5%, while Vermont is third with 96.1%.

According to the Texas Medical Association, the uninsured are up to four times less likely to have a regular source of health care and are more likely to die from health-related problems. They are much less likely to receive needed medical care, even for symptoms that can have serious health consequences if left untreated. About one-in-six Texans live at or below the poverty level. For children, the ratio is nearly one-in-five. Extending health coverage to the uninsured could improve their overall health by 7-8%. A lack of insurance also increases their dependence on Medicaid which could have financial consequences.

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Texas based Ted Lyon and Associates law firm is representing local residents challenging Marathon Digital Holdings' (bitcoin data mine) Operation, located near Granbury Texas. Lawsuits are being prepared on behalf of nearby residents affected by it's excessively loud and harmful sound. The sound is generated by it's massive cooling system fans with levels reaching as much as 90db. These levels have been documented by local authorities on multiple occasions. Local residents in close proximity are experiencing this unwelcoming sound 24/7. It has been reported through multiple news organizations, harmful effects include: sleep interruption, vibrating windows in local homes, migraines, nausea, psychological issues, vertigo, hearing loss, hypertension, heart palpitations, chest pains, panic attacks, anxiety, tinnitus and more!

**NOISE POLLUTION CAN BE HARMFUL AND DEADLY TO HUMANS AND ANIMALS.**

*If you or someone you know lives near this bitcoin mine, and are experiencing any of the above symptoms, you could be entitled to fair compensation for your suffering.*

Marathon Digital Holdings (mara) is valued at over \$4.63 billion. It's client, Bitcoin, has a net value of \$1.33 trillion.

If you have been directly and adversely affected, including your health being compromised, **contact the law offices of Ted Lyon and Associates.** (Tedlyon.com)

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## Dr. Glenn's farewell

*Celebrating six years of academic excellence, growth at GISD*

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

When Jeremy Glenn first applied for the role of superintendent at Granbury Independent School District in 2018, he never could have imagined the impact he would have on the students, staff and even the entire community.

But six years later, his tenure has left an indelible mark on Granbury ISD — transforming the district with significant academic improvements and financial stability.

As Glenn prepares to transition to his new role as superintendent at Carroll ISD, he takes a look back on all of the milestones and accomplishments from the past six years that make Granbury ISD “one of the top school districts in the metroplex,” — in his book anyway.

Under Glenn's leadership, Granbury ISD experienced a notable rise in overall test scores, a consistent reduction in the tax rate, and continued financial stability with a balanced budget.

“The accomplishment I'm most proud of was working with our school board and administrative team to recruit and retain an incredible



COURTESY PHOTO

GISD superintendent Dr. Jeremy Glenn never have of imagined the impact he would have on the students, staff and even the entire community.

teaching staff across the district for our students,” Glenn told the Hood County News.

He was also instrumental in renovating Brawner Elementary School; implementing a dual language academy; establishing charter education programs; starting the Early Education Academy and Little Buccaneers; and passing a VATRE (Voter Approval Tax Rate Election) to increase staff raises.

“These accolades are a testament to our outstanding leadership team, board

of trustees and the Granbury community that always puts the welfare of students first,” Glenn said in a previous GISD news release.

While Glenn was instrumental in achieving several notable milestones at GISD, he also dealt with his fair share of challenges.

One of the biggest obstacles, he said, was the difficulty in passing a bond to accommodate the district's rapid growth.

Despite strong community support and close results in recent bond elections,

the district has yet to secure funding necessary for expansion.

However, Glenn said he still remains hopeful that future efforts will ultimately address the pressing need for additional educational facilities.

“The last two elections were very close and I'm confident the community will come together in the future for much needed schools in our district,” he said.

Reflecting on his tenure, Glenn also explained how the challenge of navigating

the COVID-19 pandemic was a particularly memorable experience in 2020. While it was a difficult year dealing with the school closures, Glenn expressed how proud he is of Granbury ISD for being one of the first school districts to re-open in the state of Texas.

As he looks ahead to his new role at Carroll ISD, Glenn offers advice to his successor on how to build on the district's successes.

“Over the last six years, Granbury ISD has developed strong working relationships

with the city of Granbury, Hood County and local civic organizations,” he explained. “My recommendation is for leadership to continue developing these partnerships in the best interest of students and the community.”

Glenn said although he is looking forward to becoming a part of Carroll ISD's team — especially due to its rich tradition of success — he acknowledges the deep sense of loss he feels as he leaves

PLEASE SEE **GLENN** | B2



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury ISD Chief Financial Officer Emmet Whitefield noted, “These new buses will help us keep up with the demands of our growing district and improve the comfort and safety for our students.”

## GISD approves \$750,000 for new school buses to upgrade aging fleet

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

Granbury Independent School District plans to acquire new school buses following a resolution passed by the school board Aug. 19. The board approved a proposal to allocate \$750,000 from the district's committed fund balance toward the purchase of five new buses, addressing an urgent need for fleet modernization.

During the meeting, GISD Chief Financial Officer Emmett Whitefield highlighted the necessity of updating the district's aging fleet. “The commitment of these funds will allow us to proceed with the planned purchase of new buses,” Whitefield said. “We anticipate the funds will come from the sale of five acres in Acton at James Road, which is projected to be completed soon.”

Currently, GISD operates

54 regular buses and 18 special education buses, many of which are over a decade old. According to Whitefield, the district has purchased 19 buses out of maintenance and operations funds since the 2015-16 school year. The last major purchase was made using bond money from 2013, which funded 16 buses over three years.

Whitefield emphasized the new buses are crucial for maintaining reliable transportation services for the district's students. “We have an aging fleet with some buses exceeding 150,000 miles,” Whitefield noted. “These new buses will help us keep up with the demands of our growing district and improve the comfort and safety for our students.”

The board's resolution also commits \$540,000 to the Instructional Improvement Fund, ensuring the district remains above the 20% fund balance requirement set forth in policy. The policy mandates that GISD main-

tain a sufficient fund balance to support fiscal independence in times of financial need or crisis.

Superintendent Jeremy Glenn emphasized the necessity of maintaining and expanding the district's bus fleet. “With our district covering 225 square miles and running 54 bus routes daily, it's critical to have reliable transportation,” he said.

Glenn highlighted the extensive use of the district's buses, noting that they collectively cover the distance equivalent to traveling from San Diego to Charleston, South Carolina, and back each day. “We go through a thousand gallons of fuel per day,” Glenn said.

GISD has faced significant challenges with its aging bus fleet amid the sweltering Texas heat. Recent complaints from parents have highlighted persistent issues with the air conditioning sys-

PLEASE SEE **BUSES** | B2

## GISD board names Ann Dixon interim superintendent

From Staff Reports

The Granbury Independent School District board of trustees voted at the regularly scheduled board meeting Aug. 19 to hire Ann Dixon as the district's interim superintendent.

Dixon has a doctorate of philosophy in administration from Walden University, a Master of Arts in elementary and early childhood education from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and a Bachelor of Science in speech and hearing pathology from Oklahoma State University.

Dixon will join GISD Aug. 27 and will serve until the district names a permanent superintendent, likely in December 2024. Dixon's appointment comes after Jeremy Glenn was named

superintendent of Carroll ISD. Glenn served as GISD superintendent from 2018-24.

“I am pleased to announce Dr. Ann Dixon as our interim superintendent,” Board President Barbara Townsend said. “Dr. Dixon has a wealth of knowledge and experience which will smooth our transition as we search for the next superintendent of Granbury ISD.”

Dixon's 50-year career in public education includes teaching and school leadership positions in the San Antonio region. In addition to serving as the Somers ISD superintendent in the 1990s, she most recently worked as interim superintendent in 20 other school districts in Texas. She has notably been the interim superintendent in Midland, Galveston, Cedar Hill,

Decatur, Red Oak and San Marcos ISDs.

“I am honored and excited to be selected as the interim superintendent of Granbury ISD,” Dixon said. “GISD is an admired district in the state and will attract premier candidates for their future superintendent. Since school has started, I will need to hit the ground running and look forward to making many new friends.”

Additionally, Dixon also has experience at the state level. She has worked with the Texas Comptroller's Office and the Texas Legislative Budget Board, as well as serving as a mentor for many first-time superintendents. For her distinguished service to her profession and community, the 76th Texas Legislature recognized her with a resolution of commendation.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Granbury Independent School District board of trustees voted at the regularly scheduled board meeting Aug. 19 to hire Ann Dixon as the district's interim superintendent.



# GISD implements teacher incentive program to attract, retain educators

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

With teacher retention rate at an all-time low across Texas, Granbury Independent School District is taking significant steps to improve retention and recruitment across the board.

During the GISD board of trustees meeting Aug. 19, it was revealed the district is in the process of implementing a new program aimed at recognizing and compensating top-performing teachers.

## TEACHER INCENTIVE ALLOTMENT PROGRAM

The program, Teacher Incentive Allotment, was established by House Bill 3 during the 86th Texas Legislature, and will offer Texas teachers six-figure salaries based on their performance and designation.

According to a video shown at the meeting, the goal of TIA is to reward, retain and recruit effective teachers, while also improving student outcomes. The TIA website states that through local designation systems, districts can identify and designate outstanding teachers based on student growth and classroom observation. In return, teachers are eligible to generate funds for their district based on their performance.

The TIA is built into the Texas school funding formula, and districts receive an annual allotment for each eligible teacher they employ. The amount of the allotment depends on the teacher's designation level and the campus where they work.

Teachers can earn designations in three levels: recognized, exemplary or master. The district will receive a TIA allotment between \$3,000 and \$32,000 for each employee-designated teacher, with higher amounts for rural and high-need areas. Educators can also reach recognized status by obtaining a national board certification.

Once a designation is achieved, it lasts five years, or until a teacher's national board certification expires. A teacher's designation will move with them if they decide to work in another district. If the teacher meets eligibility requirements at their new district, then the funds generated will be awarded to the new district during the next

year's allotment cycle.

Districts who want to be approved for a local teacher designation system will need to develop and implement a system based on teacher observation and student growth measures. The Texas Education Agency approves district systems based on their validity and reliability.

According to the video, getting approval for a local teacher designation system involves a two-step process over three school years.

First, the district develops its system and submits it to the Texas Education Agency for review. After TEA approves the application, the district starts gathering data about teacher performance and student growth. In the following year, the district submits this data and proposed designations to Texas Tech University for validation. TEA then reviews this validated data to give final approval for issuing designations.

Districts can use the TIA funds in several ways, but they must spend at least 90% of the allotment on teacher compensation at the designated teacher's campus. They can also use up to 10% of the funds to support the local designation system, or they can split the funding with other eligible educators.

## GISD'S PROGRESS SO FAR

Stacie Brown, GISD's director of curriculum and instruction, explained to the board during the Aug. 19 meeting that the district is only in year one of applying for the designation. She said GISD is currently focused on developing its local designation system, and that the district has already completed a letter of interest, appointed a TIA lead, and set up a dedicated email for inquiries.

Brown explained the district has also already formed a local designation development committee with input from principals across various educational fields to ensure a well-rounded group. Recently, the committee was briefed by representatives from Crowley ISD, who shared their experiences from their fourth year in the TIA program.

For the fall, three specialized committees have been created to handle student growth measures, T-test evaluations and communications.

Weekly meetings, dubbed "TIA Tuesdays," will continue through January, with all information and meeting minutes posted on the GISD website to keep the community informed.

## NEXT STEPS

Brown also outlined the upcoming steps in the process. The district will submit its application to the TEA in April. After receiving TEA approval, the district will begin capturing data on teacher performance and student growth. This data will be validated by Texas Tech University before TEA reviews it for final approval. By the end of the third year, in February, the district will announce which teachers have earned designations.

"The three big, critical decisions that we have to make with our committee this fall is who can earn the designation," Brown said. "How are we going to decide which campuses/teachers are eligible? We have to make sure that we designate observations, student growth measures, and if there's any optional components that we want to consider, like 'Do we want to be considering anybody that mentors a younger teacher?' 'Do we want to give them some sort of credit?' ... Then we have to come back and we will decide how we want to distribute the funds and the timing of compensation."

Brown noted Granbury ISD has welcomed designated teachers from other districts, including a teacher from Fort Worth last year. To accommodate this new addition, the district had to quickly create a spending plan to outline how the teacher's compensation would be handled.

"You guys know the three big things: recruit, retain and reward," she said. "We want to reward our teachers, and we want to recruit teachers from other places. The teacher that came from Fort Worth, they only received 75% of the funds, so we decided, with Fort Worth salary, we wanted to give 90% of those funds back directly to the teacher. You can start to compete with other districts depending upon the percentage that you give back to your teachers, as well as the timing of compensation."

Brown noted that GISD must allocate at least 90% of its TIA funds directly to



COURTESY YOUTUBE SCREENSHOT

Stacie Brown, Granbury ISD's director of curriculum and instruction, speaks to the board of trustees about the Teacher Incentive Allotment program during a regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 19.

teacher salaries for those in classroom roles. The remaining 10% will be used to support district initiatives, including funding for National Board Certification cohorts and potential extras like mentoring programs or various surveys. She said the district is exploring how to best utilize this portion of the budget to enhance their support for teachers and improve educational outcomes.

According to Brown, GISD will dedicate the next four Tuesdays to developing its student growth measurement system, followed by three Tuesdays focusing on evaluation and calibration processes. Additionally, they will work on establishing effective communication channels between the district and schools.

"One of the big things that Crowley said to us is start with your highest area of need — start small," Brown said. "We know that the national board certification is available for any teacher right now, so we will make sure that we review that with our local designation district committee."

Feedback will be gathered from campus administrators, and a draft of the Teacher Incentive Allotment guidebook will be posted online for public review before submitting the final application to the Texas Education Agency.

## BOARD MEMBERS WEIGH IN

Following Brown's presentation, GISD Board President Barbara Townsend asked if every school district had a different way of handling the Teacher Incentive Allotment program.

Brown confirmed that every district follows a "unique" approach, and that GISD has

consulted and reviewed 50 different guidebooks from across the state.

"I know it's a lot of work for the teachers, but in the end, it's worth it," Vice President Courtney Gore said. "I just want to make sure we're making sure it's worth it for the teachers. I've talked to some teachers where it wasn't worth their time to put in the effort, because at the end of the day, they just weren't getting enough of that allotment, so I want to make sure we're compensating our teachers fairly for the amount of work they're going to be putting into this."

Brown clarified that the National Board Certification differs from the TIA system. She explained that under TIA, the district is responsible for tracking and documenting student growth, rather than the teachers themselves.

She added that GISD has also developed a system for this process, including calibration based on past data to estimate how many teachers might receive designations. Brown said this system aligns with state standards for recognized, exemplary and master levels, ensuring that designations are consistent across the state, not just within the district.

"There are financial incentives for teachers to go through this quite complex process, correct?" Secretary Billy Wimberly asked Brown. "There are," she said. "It is tied specifically financially to teachers, and we would want our spending plan to reflect — like Mrs. Gore said — we want our teachers to get the majority. Obviously, 90% has to be given back for the local designation, so there are multiple ways, but not all teachers have a student-based

measure."

Brown also confirmed that the monies provided by TIA are not sourced locally but are instead allocated from the Foundation School Program. This state-level funding is managed and distributed directly by the state, rather than being drawn from district budgets.

"And why didn't we start this earlier?" Wimberly asked, chuckling.

"We did, believe it or not," Brown said, adding that efforts to initiate the program had been underway for years, led by GISD principals Margaret Rodriguez and Maggie Walton. "They had done that for multiple years, but they were not getting the level of buy-in that they were wanting. When teachers started getting money, it's what started increasing the buy in, and then we were like, 'Listen, we're going to go forward with this.' Maggie and Margaret have been working for several years ahead of this as well."

Place 2 Trustee Nancy Alana acknowledged that the report was an introduction to the new program and noted that more detailed updates will be provided throughout the year.

"Great job," she said. "Y'all have put in a lot of work."

"I know this is a heavy lift by your department, but I think it's worthwhile," GISD Superintendent Jeremy Glenn said. "I know I speak to a lot of teachers, and they are certainly tracking TIA as we go to recruit and retain the best teachers. This is just another resource and another pool of money we can look at, so thank you guys for what you're doing, being champions for kids. We appreciate it."

## GLENN

FROM PAGE B1

Granbury ISD.

"We have made so many friends here and we will definitely miss those close relationships," he said. "Additionally, I'll miss the incredible teachers, staff and students that make Granbury ISD great."

Glenn explains his decision to leave Granbury ISD was not driven by a desire to move on but rather by the compelling career opportunity at Carroll ISD. He said he and his family carefully considered this next step

and felt it was a path they were meant to follow.

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

## CITY OFFICIALS PRAISE GLENN

Glenn may have left a lasting impression on the school district, but Granbury city officials also recognized his significant contributions to the community.

During the Carroll ISD school board meeting Aug. 26, Granbury officials re-

flected on Glenn's remarkable impact in the community during the meeting's public comments.

City Manager Chris Coffman praised Glenn's collaboration and integrity during his tenure, stating that Carroll ISD has "stolen a fantastic community leader."

"During COVID, he (Glenn) worked with our emergency management team like you wouldn't believe and opened up school facilities. We had places for people to get inoculated that wanted it. He was working to keep the kids safe, providing disinfectant and chemicals

and cleaning agents to help anywhere in the community that needed it," Coffman said, during the meeting. "I've been in this business as a city manager for 27 years, and I've never experienced the amount of collaboration, cooperation and success that Dr. Glenn has brought to our community."

Coffman went on to explain that Glenn is an exceptional leader whose departure is a significant loss for Granbury. He highlighted that, despite navigating numerous behind-the-scenes challenges and political tensions in the community, Glenn maintained unwavering integrity and professionalism.

"I'm just telling you, you've got a man of God here," Coffman said. "He's got integrity that's unquestionable, and he lives above reproach ... This man is high quality, top shelf, first class, and we hate to see him go, but you are truly blessed to have him."

Deputy City Manager Michael Ross echoed Coffman's praise, noting his close involvement with Glenn through their work in the Rotary Club of Granbury.

"I couldn't agree more. He's one in a million," Ross said. "He is certainly one of the leaders of our community. Dr. Glenn walks the talk, and there's no doubt about



COURTESY PHOTO

As Glenn prepares to transition to his new role as superintendent at Carroll ISD, he takes a look back on all of the milestones and accomplishments from the past six years that make Granbury ISD "one of the top school districts in the metroplex," — in his book anyway.

that. We're going to miss him so much, but you're getting a very good individual."

As Glenn prepares to take his talents to a new school district, Granbury ISD bids

him farewell with a heavy heart — knowing his legacy of excellence and leadership will undoubtedly make a significant impact at Carroll ISD.



COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Glenn meeting and hanging out with kids in one of the school's libraries.



# Tolar football preview: Rattlers enter 3A ready to bite

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

The Rattlers have been here before, and they were successful. This time, however, they are coming with a lot of talent and ambitions.

From 2016 to 2019, Tolar competed in Class 3A Division II, posting a 23-21 record. It advanced to the playoffs three times, including a second-round appearance.

Now, the Rattlers are back at that level. On the heels of a 42-13 record over the past four seasons in 2A Division I, they are ready to make even more noise at the higher level.

Tolar is coming off a 14-2 season that saw them finish second in the state. They return seven offensive and eight defensive starters from that team, several of whom also helped them to a 13-1 record and the state quarterfinals the season before, and even some who were there when they went 10-3 and advanced to the third round in 2021.

In other words, Tolar has experience with a capital E among its returning starters.

They also have a new head coach in Blake Mouser, who, like former coach Jeremy Mullins — now leading the new Eagle Mountain program — simply knows how to win.

Before coming to Tolar Mouser was at Austin Vandegrift for 11 years and was the offensive coordinator for the past decade. He helped lead the Vipers to 106 wins, including a run to the Class 6A Division II state

championship game in 2022.

From 2013 to 2022, the Vipers reached at least the second round of the playoffs each season. This included seasons of 14-2, 12-1, 12-3, 11-3, 11-1 and 10-3.

"We feel like we can compete if we take care of ourselves each week with the way we practice and prepare," Mouser said. "Moving up a classification is great for our sub-varsity teams as we have two JV squads and over 60 junior high kids playing, so we will be able to get them games and have more experience playing."

## RETURNING TALENT — OFFENSE

The Rattlers have seven starters returning on offense, including a running back who, it could be said, when healthy is not only one of the best in Texas, but also one of the best in the nation.

As a junior, Peyton Brown was among the nation's leaders with 2,777 yards and 49 touchdowns. Last season, despite being injured (ankle) for the majority of the regular season, he finished with 560 yards and a dozen touchdowns in nine games.

For his career, Brown has rushed for 4,731 yards and scored 90 touchdowns.

Joining Brown as returning offensive starters are fellow seniors wide Brylen Feist (16 catches, 188 yards, two TD) and Talan Culbertson (17 catches, 187 yards, three TD), tight end Drake Owens (9 catches, 75 yards, two TD), and linemen Sam Stewart, Zane Graham and Toby Combs.

Culbertson is also in the battle to be the starting quarterback this season.

Owens and Stewart were named first-team all-district, with Feist, Culbertson and Graham seconds team, along with Combs being honorable mention. Also, while not starting, key reserve sophomore running back Kelvin Murray received honorable mention.

## RETURNING TALENT — DEFENSE

The majority of the starting defense is back, led by district defensive MVP senior linebacker Drake Owens (136 tackles, four for loss, one sack, four interceptions, two fumble recoveries) and senior district defensive lineman of the year Cash Clark (103 tackles, 12 for loss, seven sacks, one interception, two fumble recoveries).

Also back are fellow seniors lineman Hunter Michels (95 tackles, 16 for loss, six sacks, one interception, one fumble recovery), linebackers Brooks Stone (41 tackles, nine for loss, three sacks, one fumble recovery), and Ty McClure (65 tackles, five for loss, one sack, two interceptions), along with defensive backs Caden Pate (29 tackles, one interception) and cutter Cain (77 tackles, 12 for loss, four sacks, two fumble recoveries).

The lone non-senior among the returning starters is sophomore defensive lineman Cayden Abrego (30 tackles, six for loss, three sacks).

Michels, McClure and Cain were named first-team all-



JESSE RAMIREZ JR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Aided by his blockers, Peyton Brown cuts through the Jacksboro defensive line.

district, with Abrego, Stone and Pate second-team. Stone was also named first-team all-district punter after averaging 37 yards per kick.

Three returning Tolar defenders were named all-state by the Texas Sports Writers Association. Owens was second-team, with Clark and Cain honorable mentions.

## OTHERS TO WATCH

Among newcomers and some who went back and forth between varsity and JV last season who could make a quick impact are:

Sophomore quarterback Briton Rice, up from the JV and battling for the starting job.

Murray, who saw some action on varsity last season, also could see some time at

linebacker.

Junior wide receiver/defensive back Noah Yanish, up from JV.

Junior wide receiver Dacen Watkins, up from JV.

Senior wide receiver Zane Terrell, who played basketball last season.

## DISTRICT

The Rattlers will compete in District 5-3A Division II. Five of the six teams in the league reached the postseason in 2023, led by Tolar, with Dublin (6-6) having advanced to the second round.

Also, Eastland (3-8), Clifton (3-8) and Brady (3-8) reached bidistrict, with Dublin (1-9) rounding out the district.

"Every team has solid programs with quality coaches in communities that

care about their program," Mouser said. "We look forward to a fun year! Our schedule is tough with seven of our 10 opponents last year making the playoffs and all 3A schools.

"I have told our team that we expect to win, and that approach will always be the same which is based on our program's hallmarks of discipline, effort, toughness and honor.

"I can't thank the community of Tolar enough for welcoming myself and my family, along with seven new coaches to the school. The support the program receives is second to none, and I look forward to seeing our stands rocking this fall!"

## BUSES

FROM PAGE B1

tems on the district's buses. Despite efforts by the maintenance team to address these problems, the extreme temperatures have compounded the difficulties.

"In the last couple of weeks, we've experienced temperatures reaching 100 degrees with heat indexes soaring to 110 degrees," said Whitefield. "We're running buses that are essentially un-insulated, and with blacktop temperatures sometimes hitting 150 degrees, it's a tough situation."

Glenn praised the GISD maintenance department. "They've been able to keep our buses up and running this year, and even though it's an older fleet, they've been able to keep the air conditioners on and working," he said. "Although it still gets hot, because again, when you're stopping and you're opening the door so frequently, and you have 60 kids on a bus, it's going to get a little warm, but I know they're working hard to make it more comfortable,

and certainly that'll come as the weather cools off."

At the meeting, resident Beverly Chaney said she was "shocked" by the spread of false narratives about the district. "I wasn't shocked about what I found out about GISD," she said. "I was shocked that so many people are spreading a false narrative without doing research. Things are being said that are simply not true, and those things are being repeated as fact. It's amazing to me that that's happening."

Cheney addressed concerns about the district's transportation situation and defended the board's approach. "I researched the district's transportation history and found that we have been diligently updating our fleet," Cheney said. "Despite some criticism, our district has made significant efforts to manage and improve our transportation services."

She pointed out that 19 of the district's buses are more than 12 years old and have over 125,000 miles on them. "I wonder how many of us in this room drive a 12-year-old vehicle," she remarked.

Many of these buses have

had major work done, including engine overhauls and replacements, to keep them running. "These buses drive routes that average 100 miles a day, carrying precious cargo, and they're doing it this week in record heat," Chaney said.

She urged the board to maintain the 4.4% of the annual budget designated for transportation and suggested that those criticizing the school district and the transportation department online should redirect their energy elsewhere.

The decision to use committed funds for bus purchases follows a previous failure of a bond measure that would have included additional buses. The new resolution will allow GISD to purchase the buses without the need for new bonds, utilizing funds from property sales.

Whitefield further explained, "The commitment of these funds will be reflected in our audit, showing that they are earmarked for vehicle purchases. This is a strategic move to ensure we can maintain our fleet effectively."

# Hood County schools receive top financial integrity ratings from TEA

From Staff Reports

Preliminary ratings have been released and Hood County school districts received top ratings for financial accountability for the previous school year. Granbury, Lipan and Tolar school districts each received an "A" rating from the Texas Education Agency with all three school districts receiving a perfect or nearly perfect score.

Established in 2001 by the 77th Texas Legislature,

the school Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas ensures that Texas public schools are held accountable for the quality of their financial management practices, according to the TEA website.

The system is designed to encourage Texas public schools to better manage their financial resources to provide maximum allocation possible for direct instructional purposes.

This is Granbury ISD's seventh year to receive a perfect score. Tolar is re-

peating a perfect score, and Lipan is up from a score of 98%, with all three districts consistently exhibiting financial integrity with the highest scores achievable. All these scores are considered a superior achievement for exemplifying high-quality financial management practices.

To review the ratings for all school systems visit the TEA School FIRST webpage for school districts.



FREE FILM SCREENING  
LETTER TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH

HOOD COUNTY PASTOR COUNCIL  
Presented At  
BRAZOS COVENANT MINISTRIES  
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Thursday, September 12, 6:30 pm

### SYNOPSIS

From New York Times best-selling author Eric Metaxas comes a riveting new film challenging audiences to take a stand in the face of evil. The striking similarities between the church in early Nazi Germany and the modern American church are chilling and grim. This is the hour of the American church.

LETTER  
to the  
AMERICAN  
CHURCH



Calling All Singers!

Granbury Civic Chorus

Rehearsing on Mondays from 7-9 p.m.

Acton Methodist Church  
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1st Fall Rehearsal Sept. 9  
Arrive at 6:30 p.m. to Sign-Up  
Christmas Concert on Dec. 12

All Singers are Welcome!!  
Especially Need More Tenors and Basses



SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



# Granbury football preview: New coach, new hope for Pirates

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the  
Hood County News

It could be said the Granbury Pirates football program and new head coach Bobby Allison were made for each other. He's also coached players of all levels, including college.

The Pirates, meanwhile, are looking for the secret to winning again consistently. Their last playoff appearance was in 2019 under Chad Zschiesche. As far as consistent playoff appearances, not since a stretch of four seasons (2010-13) have they had back-to-back post-season berths.

While the past two seasons took a dip in the second half, each started out with much promise for the Pirates. They were 4-0 in 2022 before finishing 4-6 and began 2023 with a 3-0 record before finishing 3-7.

### IMPRESSIVE RESUME'

Allison came to Granbury after spending the past 10 seasons at Justin Northwest, where he was defensive coordinator, assistant head coach and recruiting coordinator. In only one season, he was

instrumental in turning the Texans around from 1-9 in 2015 to 10-2 in 2016.

The Texans have been playoff regulars ever since, including a 10-3 record and third-round playoff appearance in 2023.

Allison's two decades of experience also includes Odessa, Sharpstown, Level and San Angelo Central. At Sharpstown, where he was co-defensive coordinator, he helped the Bobcats win 10 games for the first time in 20 seasons and advance to the playoffs. At Sharpstown, he helped end a 29-game losing streak with a 6-4 record in his first season.

### RETURNING TALENT

The Pirates return just two starters on each side of the ball. On offense, senior quarterback Hayden Meyer is back, along with senior offensive lineman Enrique Sanchez.

Meyer, who became the starter later in the season, operated out of an offensive that ran the ball the vast majority of the time (expect more of a balance in 2024), and only threw the ball 30 times, completing 14. However, the comple-

tions went for an average of more than 20 yards as he finished with 287 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions.

On the ground, Meyer rushed 74 times for 250 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Allison said concerning the 2024 offense and defense, they will operate out of a "Spread offense that will utilize a tight end, and a flexible defense that will be able to play three-down and four-down fronts — systems that are fun, simple and allow the kids to play fast."

Returning as starters on defense are junior linebacker Chase Cantrell and senior cornerback Eli Sisco. Cantrell was honorable mention all-district last season after registering 65 tackles (43 solo), two sacks and four tackles for loss.

Allison noted several key newcomers who could contribute to success this season, including defensive players Brysen Hager, sophomore, and senior Tahj Clayton at safety, and junior Cooper Sandness at defensive end. Key newcomers to the offense include juniors Jonathan McCandless at



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Granbury High School new head football coach Bobby Allison during the spring game May 15.

wide receiver and tight end Macully Skeens.

### DISTRICT

The Pirates will compete in arguably the toughest league in the state in their classification. District 3-5A Division I includes two-time defending state champion — and state-record 12-time overall — Aledo (16-0 in 2023), along

with fellow perennial power Denton Ryan (8-3, second round) and Richland (12-1, third round).

Aledo is preseason ranked No. 1 in the state, Ryan is second and Richland seventh.

Also in the league are Denton (4-7, bidistrict), Birdville (4-6), Brewer (3-7), Azle (3-7) and Keller Fossil

Ridge (3-7), which is dropping down from Class 6A.

"This is a very competitive district, and that is what makes it exciting," Allison said. "It is one where you are going to have to be ready to play every single week and be at your best."

"Kids are working hard and focused on getting better every day."

# NCTA students attend awards and Dallas Cowboys game

From Staff Reports

Multiple North Central Texas Academy students were on hand at AT&T Stadium to see Jourdan Lewis of the Dallas Cowboys receive the Ed Block Courage Award and then watch the Cowboys play the Chargers Saturday, Aug. 24.

Additionally, some of the students got the opportunity to play catch with Dallas Cowboys players.

Annually, the Ed Block Foundation honors one player from each NFL team who

is voted by their teammates for their courage and inspiration. The recipients stand as role models for their ability to overcome adversity while also serving in their communities.

According to Chuck Shipman of NCTA the "Dallas Cowboys Courage House" is a residence for boys on the NCTA campus. It is usually occupied by high school age boys.

Each NFL team coordinates with its affiliated Courage House throughout the year, lending support through various avenues, including host-

ing and attending fundraising events, and by providing memorabilia and experiences for auctions and raffles.

The NFL teams also organize player visits and invite youth to team activities. Monetary support is offered by donating gifts-in-kind for needy children and other things to improve their welfare.

COURTESY PHOTO

Multiple NCTA students were on hand at AT&T Stadium to see Jourdan Lewis of the Dallas Cowboys receive the Ed Block Courage Award






# LakeFest

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# Hood County Sports



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR AND JESSE RAMIREZ | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

With school in full swing for the fall semester, fall sports have started in Hood County. Photos are from Tolar High School and Granbury High School teams from Aug. 22-27. For full galleries, visit [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com).





LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

GHS Lady Pirates volleyball team huddled up during a game August 27.

# Pirates, Rattlers set to open football seasons

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the Hood County News

The 2024 high school football regular season began at press time with games that count "for real" on the record. The Granbury Pirates were at home against Waco and Tolar was playing at Peaster.

Both teams are on the road this next Friday with 7 p.m. contests.

### GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirates are making a trip to Waco to face University. The Trojans have turned their program around from 0-10 in 2022 with back-to-back playoff appearances.

The Pirates, meanwhile, are hoping to reach the postseason for the first time since 2019.

Since 2006, the Trojans have had four 0-10 seasons and three 1-9 campaigns. Prior to 2022 they had 13 straight nonwinning seasons.

This will be the third meeting between the teams, with each having won at home. University won 46-35 in 2020 and the Pirates won 56-27 in 2021.

The Pirates return two offensive and two defensive starters. University has eight offensive and eight defensive starters back.

Granbury offensive leader from 2023: QB Hayden Meyer, 287 yards, three TD passing, 250 yards, two TD rushing; OL Enrique Sanchez.

University offensive leader from 2023: WR London Evans, 51 catches, 876 yards, 11 TD, rated No. 3 athlete in nation.

Granbury defensive leader from 2023: LB Chase Cantrell, 65 tackles, four for loss, two sacks; DB Eli Sisco.

University defensive leader from 2023: LB Joaquin Martinez, 123 tackles, 21 for loss, interception, three sacks.

### TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers are on the road for a second straight week to open the season as they travel to Teague to face the Lions for the first time ever. Tolar is preseason No. 11 in Class 3A Division II and Teague is No. 22 in 3A Division I.

The Rattlers return seven offensive and eight defensive starters from last season's 14-2 squad that finished second in the state in 2A Division I. The Lions have seven offensive and five defensive starters back from an 8-4 team.

Both teams are regulars in the postseason, with the Rattlers having advanced to the third round in 2021 and the state quarterfinals in 2022. The Lions reached the second round last season.

Tolar offensive leaders from 2023: RB Peyton Brown, 560 yards, 12 TD in just nine games due to injury, career total of 4,731 yards and 90 TD; WR Talan Culbertson, 17 catches, 187 yards, three TD.

Teague offensive leader from 2023: QB Zak Leija, 1,644 yards, 13 TD passing, 830 yards, seven TD rushing.

Tolar defensive leaders from 2023: LB Drake Owens, 136 tackles, four for loss, sack, four interceptions, two fumble recoveries; DL Cash Clark, 103 tackles, 12 for loss, seven sacks, interception, two fumble recoveries.

Teague defensive leader from 2023: LB Jaden Cole, 113 tackles.

### GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pirates (10-12) hosted the Granbury Classic last weekend. All-tournament accolades went to Allyson McCabe.

Defeated Lubbock Coronado 2-0

Kills: Blakely Bleeker 8  
Digs: Lilyan McCall 14,  
McCabe 13

Assists: McCabe 18  
Receptions: Audrey Greinert 6  
Defeated San Antonio

Holmes 2-0

Kills: Bleeker 5

Aces: McCabe 6, Mattie Weaver 4

Digs: McCall 9

Assists: McCabe 10

Receptions: McCall 11

Lost 2-1 to Odessa Permian

Kills: Masyn Noe 9,  
Kailynne Sermarini 7

Blocks: Noe 4

Digs: McCall 22, Megan James 11

Assists: McCabe 21

Receptions: McCall 18

Defeated Mansfield

Timberview 2-0

Kills: Bleeker 8, Jayla Hayes 8

Aces: McCabe 3

Digs: McCall 11

Assists: McCabe 22

Receptions: McCall 7,  
Bleeker 7

Lost 2-0 to Amarillo

Tasco

Kills: Bleeker 5

Digs: McCall 15

Assists: McCabe 10

Receptions: Greinert 12,  
McCall 11

Lost 2-0 to El Paso Eastlake

Kills: Bleeker 5, Hayes 5,  
Sermarini 5

Digs: Weaver 7

Assists: McCabe 17

Receptions: Greinert 13

Lost 2-0 to Mansfield Lake

Ridge

Digs: McCall 8, McCabe 8

Assists: McCabe 11

Receptions: Weaver 12,  
McCall 11

Defeated Stephenville 2-0

Kills: Sermarini 7

Digs: McCall 12, Weaver 8

Assists: McCabe 19

Receptions: McCall 19

Defeated Odessa Permian

2-0

Kills: Addie Cowling 8

Digs: McCall 10

Assists: McCabe 18

Receptions: Weaver 10

The Lady Pirates then hosted

Wichita Falls Legacy on

Aug. 27, winning 3-0.

Kills: Noe 10, Bleeker 7

Aces: Greinert 6

Digs: McCall 14, Greinert

10

Assists: McCabe 29

Receptions: McCall 7,  
Weaver 7

This weekend the Lady

Pirates are in Orlando, Florida in the prestigious KSA Events Fall Classic, facing some of the best volleyball teams throughout the nation. They return home to host Glen Rose Sept. 3 at 6 p.m.

### TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers (6-8) participated in the Glen Rose Tournament last weekend.

In pool play, the Lady Rattlers defeated Waco Robinson 2-0, then lost 2-0 to Midland Christian, Springtown and Blum.

In the Silver Bracket they won two of three, falling 2-1 to Grandview before defeating Fort Worth Trinity Valley and Arlington Grace Prep 2-0.

Tournament standouts included the defense of Sophia Walters, along with the blocking and killing of Allie Terrell, Atley Kolb and Senne Imel, and the setting of Abbie Soileau.

In a nontournament match Aug. 23, they hosted Valley Mills and won 3-0. Lily DeWitt and Allyson Dobbs led the way with their hitting.

On Aug. 27, the Lady Rattlers traveled to Grandview, falling 3-1. Standouts were Kanzi McQuain, Soileau and Kamryn Kolb, who returned from an injury.

Tolar is playing in the Rio Vista Tournament this weekend. They host Poolville Sept. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

### GRANBURY CROSS COUNTRY

The Lady Pirates competed in the Spartan Invitational in Burleson last Saturday. The Pirates were in the Southlake 2-Mile the same day.

Jaxon Glenn paced the Pirates, placing fifth with a time of 9 minutes, 35.10 seconds over the 5K course. Also, Jacob Wolfe broke the top 50, finishing 44th with a clocking of 10:55.97.

The Lady Pirates placed seventh in their meet, second among Class 5A teams.

They were led by Ava Stein, 22nd, with a time of 22:39 over 5K. Josefina Berry was 34th in 23:21 and Kambry Zschiesche was 39th in 23:31.

The Granbury girls junior varsity was led by Elyse Jernigan, 31st, 26:34; and Karolina Berry, 34th, 26:52.

Both teams were competing in the Burleson Elk Run at press time. The Lady Pirates will then be in the Keller Fossil Ridge Run of the Panther Sept. 5, with the Pirates next participating in the Texas A&M High School Cross Country Invitational Sept. 13.

### LIPAN CROSS COUNTRY

Annslee Tarpley led all Lipan runners with a third-place individual finish in the Bridgeport Invitational recently. She clocked a time of 15:37.10 over the 3.2K course.

Lipan was competing at Keene at press time and travels to Port Aransas Sept. 7.

### GRANBURY TENNIS

The Pirates/Lady Pirates began District 5-5A play by defeating Keller Fossil Ridge at home recently, 15-4.

"After losing to them last year 14-5, this was a huge win for us. Not only did we lose to them handily last year, but this is a very competitive team in our district," Granbury coach Athan Laskaris said. "It really showed that the hard work we put in all summer and off-season is paying off and gives us a confidence boost heading into a tough next few weeks of district."

"We are extremely proud of our players and how they competed. We had several very close girls matches, and we came out victorious in the majority of them, giving us the advantage in the team score."

The Pirates swept the boys side of the ledger, winning all doubles and singles matches.

Boys doubles  
Tyler St. Don/Colten Whitefield won 6-1, 6-1  
Roland Krause/Oakley Boyd won 6-2, 6-4  
Braxton Bailey/Chase Bohney won 6-1, 6-4  
Girls doubles  
Ava Hamrick/Lili Vaughn came back from down 2-5 in a set and won 7-5, 7-6  
Allie Kazmier/Atleigh Young won 5-7, 6-2, 12-10  
Mixed doubles  
Kallen Graves/Ellie Weeks won 8-3

Boys singles  
Krause won 6-1, 6-3  
Whitefield won 6-1, 6-0  
St. Don won 6-1, 6-1  
Bailey won 6-3, 6-1  
Boyd won 6-2, 4-6, 10-6  
Cohney won 6-4, 6-0  
Girls singles  
Mandi Labelle won 6-3, 6-2  
Albane Combres won 6-3, 6-2

Young won 6-2, 2-6, 10-8  
Vaughn won 6-2, 7-6  
Granbury also won its junior varsity match against Fossil Ridge, 18-1.

Boys doubles:  
Levi Logsdon/Hayden Garcia won 8-0  
Camden Lynch/Reece Hunt won 8-0  
Jayden Shepard/Landon Areno won 8-0

Girls doubles  
Mckenna Moreno/Rayleigh Langdon won 8-1  
Kenia Jimenez-Zuniga/Miranda Munoz won 8-3  
Joselin Briones/Kyleigh Ledesma won 8-2

Boys singles  
Lynch won 8-0  
Logsdon won 8-0  
Garcia won 8-0  
Hunt won 8-4  
Whitlock won 8-1  
Noah Lilley-Martinez won 8-0

Girls singles  
Moreno won 8-2  
Kaydence Grumbine won 8-1  
Briones won 8-1  
Langdon won 8-0  
Munoz won 8-2

Ledesma won 8-7  
Granbury was hosting defending district champion Alledo at press time.

## SPORTS

FROM PAGE B5



# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Tarleton State staves off McNeese on national stage to start 2024 1-0

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE - All eyes were on the Tarleton State Texans nationwide Saturday, Aug. 24, and all eyes witnessed a Tarleton State Texan victory to start their season Won-and-0.

The Texans (1-0) staved off McNeese (0-1) 26-23 to win the second college football game played nationally in 2024, the first on United States soil. The Week 0 contest was broadcast on ESPN2, the first time Tarleton State Football has played on linear television.

In Tarleton State's first full-fledged NCAA Division I season, the Texans started 2024 where they left off in 2023, extending their winning streak to five straight, their longest winning streak at the D1 level. This is the first time Tarleton has won five straight since beginning 2019 11-0.

"Winning's hard," head coach Todd Whitten said postgame. "We're 1-0, that's the good thing. There were some difficult conditions out there for both sides, and I thought both teams played really hard, I thought it was a really good college football game."

The Texans won their fifth season opener over the past seven seasons on the heels of a strong offensive first half and a defense that forced four turnovers.

The Texans forced a fumble on the third play of the day, as new linebacker Bam Smith stripped quarterback Clifton McDowell, and defensive back Blake Smith jumped on it to give the Texans the ball early.

Tarleton State picked up one first down on its opening drive before new kicker Michael James booted one through from 53 yards out to make it 3-0 Texans. It was Tarleton State's first 50-plus yard field goal make in 15 years (Nov. 14, 2009, at Texas A&M-Kingsville).

The Cowboys responded with a 75-yard touchdown scoring drive, a 43-yard connection from McDowell to Jamaal Levi to give McNeese the lead 7-3. The Texans



All eyes were on the Tarleton State Texans nationwide Saturday, Aug. 24, and all eyes witnessed a Tarleton State Texan victory to start their season Won-and-0.

didn't let the Cowboys hold the lead long, or even again. Tarleton State marched 64 yards on 10 plays, punching it in from a yard out with Derrel Kelley III.

On McNeese's second play of the ensuing drive, Tarleton earned its second takeaway of the opening frame with a defensive touchdown. Linebacker Caimyn Layne forced running back Joshon Barbie to cough it up into DB Kasyus Kurns' hands, who returned it 31 yards for the score. Tarleton ended the first quarter ahead 16-7.

Tarleton didn't relent to start the second quarter on offense, taking it down 83 yards across 12 plays. Quarterback Victor Gabalis lobbed a perfect ball over a blanketing DB, and wide receiver Keylan Johnson showed off the hands to come down with a 26-yard touchdown to make it 23-7 Tarleton State.

James added a 34-yard field goal on Tarleton's next drive to make it 26-7 Texans. The Texan defense forced two more turn-

overs before the half was over, as defensive back Omar Emmons picked off McDowell around midfield, and on the Cowboys' very next drive, Kurns forced another Barbie fumble, as he recovered his second of the game.

The Texans led 26-7 at the break.

The second half was starkly different from the first half as Tarleton State lost its starting quarterback. Gabalis, who completed 11-of-18 for 140 yards and touchdown in the first half, suffered a thumb injury and didn't return. Tarleton's offense couldn't muster much in the second half, totaling 76 yards across seven drives. Texan backup quarterback Jaden Pete spelled Gabalis and finished 1-of-8 for four yards.

"Things got a little more difficult for us when we lost Vic at halftime, there was an injury to his thumb. I think he'll be OK, I don't know how long it will be, but he couldn't grip the ball very well," Whitten said. "So

yeah, I think we were 1-of-8 throwing in the second half, so we couldn't get anything going. They got a lot of opportunities, and our defense was on the field (for a long time). To overcome adversity like we did with the injury there, I was proud of our guys."

Tarleton's defense held the Cowboys at bay nearly the whole third quarter, allowing a 36-yard field goal with 46 seconds left in the frame. That broke a seven-straight-drive stretch of the Texans blanking the Cowboys, and Tarleton State took a 26-10 lead into the fourth quarter.

McNeese started to make things interesting with just under 10 minutes to play. Cowboy running back D'angelo Durham scampered from seven yards out to make it a 26-16 game, but McNeese missed the extra point to keep it a 10-point difference.

Tarleton's running backs Kayvon Britten and Kelley powered the Texans down the field into a scoring chance, but the Texans

missed a field goal to keep McNeese alive.

The Cowboys used that spurt on the very next play, as McDowell connected with Matthew McCallister for an 80-yard touchdown. Tarleton's lead was down to just three, 26-23.

McNeese forced a three-and-out to get the ball back down three with 2:56 to play. Starting at their own 11-yard line, the Cowboys methodically drove to Tarleton's 22-yard line with 11 seconds left. In field goal range, McNeese was penalized with a false start that forced it to take its final timeout to avoid a 10-second runoff that would have ended the game. That also pushed the Cowboys back five yards, which proved to be the difference from McNeese tying the game and losing the game, as the kick sailed just wide right.

The Texan faithful released a collective sigh of relief as Tarleton State left Memorial Stadium 1-0.

Britten showcased why he was a unanimous pick for UAC Preseason Offensive

Player of the Year by rushing for 164 yards on 25 attempts, averaging 6.6 yards per carry. Kelley had 41 yards on 12 carries to go with his touchdown. Wide receiver Darius Cooper finished with six catches and 85 yards, and Johnson two catches for 37 yards and a score.

Defensively, Kurns had two fumble recoveries, a fumble return touchdown, a forced fumble, and six total tackles. Layne recorded a forced fumble and a sack, with four total tackles. Linebacker Caden Holt and defensive lineman Tramaine Chism each had a tied-team-high seven tackles. Ty Rawls had a sack and five total tackles. Bam Smith had one FF and five tackles, and Blake Smith had one FR and six tackles.

Adrian Guzman had a strong day punting, averaging 46.3 yards across his six boots, launching two 50-plus yards and two inside the 20.

McNeese's McDowell completed 13-of-19 for 242 yards, two touchdowns, an interception and a fumble lost. Micah Davey had the big game defensively for the Cowboys, recording 14 tackles and a half-sack.

The Texans have now won nine straight games when wearing their purple helmets, dating back to 2022.

It was a packed day across the board at Tarleton State, as the Texans unveiled a new Texan Rider statue in front of the Memorial Stadium Ticket Office. Texas A&M University System Chancellor John Sharp was part of the ceremony and was honored by Tarleton State for his service, as the retiring chancellor conducted the coin toss and was given a special commemorative football.

The Texans playing on the big stage will continue next week, as Tarleton State heads to a much-improved Baylor squad in Waco. The Texans and Bears will clash Saturday, Aug. 31, at 6 p.m. at McLane Stadium, for what will be Baylor's season opener.

## Tarleton Soccer drops tight battle against Houston

### Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — Tarleton State dropped a tightly-contested 1-0 battle against Houston Sunday afternoon at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

The Cougars earned their first victory of the season to improve to 1-2-1. The Texans (1-1-3) hold the most matches played in the nation.

Mikayla Kendall set a season high with 13 saves, the second-highest mark in program history.

Jenaya Brown led the Texans with a pair of shots, both falling on goal.

Just 10 minutes into the game, Houston fired a shot off the corner of the post, but Kendall was able to corral the loose ball and prevent any rebound opportunities.

A few minutes later, the Cougars netted the first goal of the game, but it was negated by a Houston offside call

that kept the game tied at 0. The score remained deadlocked at the end of the first 45 minutes.

In the first half, the Cougars out-shot the Texans, 8-0, with five on goal. Kendall recorded five saves.

At the midpoint of the second half, the Texans nearly pushed across the first goal of the afternoon. A flurry of Texans caused traffic in front of the goal, creating an open shot for Brown. Brown's foot nearly scored the first goal, but the Cougars keeper barely grasped the ball to keep the game even at zero.

Kendall kept the game tied at zero with a diving save five feet out of the box. After a Houston corner, the Cougars nearly took the lead, but a diving Kendall found the ball in her fingertips to keep the game, nil to nil.

In the 83rd minute, the

Cougars broke through to take a 1-0 lead. Houston's Amanda Adams dribbled down the bench side of the field and fired a shot at Kendall. The ball kicked off of Kendall's body where Ramsey Davos was able to deposit the deflected ball into the back of the net to give the Cougars the advantage, 1-0.

Nealy a minute later, Reagan Wagg streaked past the Cougars defense to make the goalie the only defense. Wagg took it to the corner and found Macy Hellwig on the opposite side post. Hellwig's header just grazed over the top of the crossbar, keeping the Cougars in the lead.

The Cougars held the advantage in shots (20-5), shots on goal (14-3) and corners (6-1). Houston's Oliva Dietrich pitched her first shutout of the season.



Tarleton State dropped a tightly-contested 1-0 battle against Houston Sunday afternoon at the Tarleton Soccer Complex.

# Get your singing voice ready Granbury

From Staff Reports

Too early to think about Christmas? Not so. It may be hot now, but the Granbury Civic Chorus has Christmas in mind. Fall weekly rehearsals start Monday, Sept. 9 in the choir room at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway.

Granbury Civic Chorus director Steve Quinn has selected the fun and challenging music the choir will sing at the Christmas Concert Dec. 12. Returning this season is the talented Shannon Quinn as accompanist.

The chorus leadership wants to stress that anyone who loves to sing and has experience is welcome; the choir is especially in need of tenors and basses at this time.

Practices are typically from 7-9 p.m. Come early Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. to sign up and pick up music. Attendees are encouraged to wear red or green to get in the Christmas spirit. For more information go online to GranburyCivicChorus.org or e-mail granburyciviccho-2001@gmail.com.

**Too early to think about Christmas? Not so. It may be hot now, but the Granbury Civic Chorus has Christmas in mind. Fall weekly rehearsals start Monday, Sept. 9 in the choir room at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway.**

COURTESY PHOTO



# Hood County approves new AgriLife Extension agent

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

On Tuesday, Aug. 27, during the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting, Amanda Salinas was officially appointed as the new county extension agent

for agriculture and natural resources. Salinas, who will complete her master's degree this fall, has more than four years of experience with the extension service and Prairie View A&M.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Hood County continues its mission of bridging research

with practical applications to enhance residents' lives. The service offers educational programs in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, community development and 4-H and youth development.

Jay Kingston, recently appointed as the district administrator following Donald

Kelm, Ed.D., became AgriLife Extension's associate director for county operations Aug. 10, 2023. Kingston introduced Salinas, praised the work of outgoing agent Hannah Galloway and highlighted AgriLife Extension's contributions, including childcare provider training, health programs like Walk

Across Texas and youth development through 4-H.

The Commissioners Court unanimously approved Salinas' appointment. "We are excited to welcome Amanda to our team and anticipate the valuable impact she will have on our community," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Kevin

Andrews.

Salinas expressed her enthusiasm for working with Hood County residents and is eager to engage with local master gardeners and other community programs.

## HOOD OUTDOORS

# Dove Season in Texas!



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.

Dove season will start again this September as it always does, and Texas hunters will be out in force. Dove season is like a holiday event in Texas. Dove season for the north zone runs from Sept. 1 through Nov. 10 and again from Dec. 20 to Jan. 7. The Central Zone starts Sept. 1 and runs through Oct. 27 and again from Dec. 13 through Jan. 21. Hood County is in the Central Zone. Consult the Texas Parks and Wildlife 2005 — 2006 Outdoor Annual for all regulations and limits.

The dove limit this year is 15 dove per day (white wing, mourning and white tipped) with no more than two white tipped. Possession is limited to three times the daily bag limit. Special white wing areas season in the South Zone is Sept. 1-2, 5-8 and 13.

The South Zone, for those of you heading south, is Sept 14 through Oct 27 and Dec 13 through Jan 21. Limit is the same in the south zone as it is for the North and Central zones.

All across North America, from Mexico to Canada, the mourning dove is the most popular migratory game bird in North America. This bird is extremely sport-

ing. The mourning dove's speedy flight and its ability to change directions quickly make it a difficult target at times.

The most successful dove hunters generally begin their season by scouting possible feeding and watering areas prior to hunting season. Typical areas that many hunters look for are areas with wild sunflower, recently harvested grain or hay fields and, of course, if there is water nearby this may help especially during a dry summer.

Once you find an area to hunt, set up where you believe the birds will fly from their roost to where they

will feed. Many will set up near water. It is good to have some cover if possible or camouflage, though many will sit in open areas on the edge of open fields.

Many dove hunters will work together in an area to keep birds moving. It is advisable to have a good distance between each hunter for safety reasons. If you are hunting close together, it is a good idea to decide where each person's shooting window is. Another option is to take turns, but this doesn't work too well when a bunch of birds are flying.

One thing about dove hunting is that it does not take a whole lot of equipment. A camouflage t-shirt and hat, a bucket to sit on and a shotgun and you are in business. You may want to have some sunscreen and an ice chest this time of year. Don't forget the bug repellent.

Twelve- or 20-gauge shotguns with improved cylinder or modified chokes are the most popular guns. Smaller gauge shotguns can be used as well, but they require you to be a better shot as you have less shot to kill with. Regardless of which gauge is chosen, it is a good idea to pattern your gun before the season begins. It is also a good idea to practice on some clay targets before heading out, as these flighty birds can be really sporty.



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Father and son during dove season setting up decoys

There are a few different ways to clean dove, but the way I was taught as a kid is to remove the head, push the feathers off of the breast and pull out its breast. Some folks cut the breast out.

Dove are excellent table fare and can be cooked a number of ways. Many folks will fry or grill the breast. Many local recipes include baking or grilling the breast wrapped in bacon.

If you get a chance, get out there and enjoy a dove hunt. Don't forget your eye and hearing protection.

### HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Remember, hunting and fishing licenses are on sale.

Most licenses expire Aug. 31. Don't get caught with an expired license.

Lake Granbury water level is falling and it about 1.5 feet low. Watch for submerged obstructions. Water temperatures are in the upper 80s to low 90s. We could use a good rain to cool things off and to bring the lake back up. Thermocline is still present around 20 feet down on the lower ends.

Striped bass on Granbury are slow to fair to 10 pounds on trolled Alabama rigs and live bait fished from Striper Alley to the dam. White bass (sand bass) are fair to good on trolled baits and slabs from in town by the Shores to Indian Harbor in 10 to

15 feet of water. Some sand bass are chasing bait in open water. Largemouth bass are fair to good on deep diving crankbaits and soft plastics worked near humps and ridges off creek channels. Some good topwater action reported in major creek entrances and main lake points. Crappie fishing is good on small minnows and jigs fished off standing timber from near Waters Edge to DeCordova Bend Estates. Catfish are active on many areas of the lake. Best catfish action is reported late evening or night on cut shad and prepared baits. Look for flats and humps off the main channel about 15 feet deep. See you on the water!



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**SUDOKU**  
Solution for the puzzle on Aug. 24

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

# AMS student Paola Lumbreras attends prestigious science and technology opportunity

From Staff Reports

Paola Lumbreras of Granbury was one of 32 middle school students who attended the Joint Science and Technology Institute East, an educational opportunity to expand their knowledge and experience in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). JSTI East is a one-week residential pro-

gram in Maryland for current middle school students that exposes them to scientific research through hands-on projects. There is also a two-week component for high school students, teachers, and alumni of the JSTI program.

Lumbreras collaborated with scientists and was mentored by Department of Defense scientists and

experts in STEM fields. Students worked with their peers to complete a hands-on research project in a professional lab setting. Project topics included: Raspberry Pi, Forensic Chemistry Water Quality and Antibiotic Discovery.

The educational program, held July 20-26, was a fully-funded research opportunity for middle school students

from the United States and from U.S. Department of Defense schools around the world. It was sponsored by the Chemical and Biological Defense Program and managed by Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. The program encouraged students to gain confidence in their own abilities, increased STEM literacy and exposed students to the im-

portance of STEM through hands-on research. "We love this weeklong immersive event for students. It's an opportunity to learn from a mentor — researchers who are experts in a STEM field — in a real-world setting," said ORISE Associate Manager Jennifer Tyrell. "JSTI opens the door for middle schoolers to perform research in an area

they're interested in, experience a day-in-the-life of people who work in that field and make relevant networking connections. Our participants gain so much value from this program."

For a complete list of JSTI participants visit, <https://orise.orau.gov/jstieast/participants.htm>.



## GHS Volleyball Classic



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Lady Pirates are hosting their annual Granbury Volleyball Classic from Aug. 22-24 at Granbury High School. Photos are from day one and day two of the classic. For full galleries go to [hcnews.com](https://hcnews.com).



# H&C N Junior

## National Eat Outside Day

Aug 31, 2024

Are you ready to take your meals to new heights? On August 31st, get ready to celebrate National Eat Outside Day by enjoying your favorite foods in the great outdoors! National Eat Outside Day is all about embracing nature, soaking up the sunshine, and savoring delicious meals al fresco style. Whether you're picnicking in the park, dining on the patio, or having a backyard barbecue, this special day encourages everyone to step outside and enjoy the beauty of nature while en-

joying good food and great company. There's something magical about eating outside - the fresh air, the warm sunshine, and the sounds of nature all around. It's a chance to escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life and connect with the world around us in a meaningful way. So, how can you celebrate National Eat Outside Day on August 31st? The options are endless! Gather your friends and family for a picnic in the park, complete with sandwiches, salads, and refreshing drinks. Spread out a

blanket, lay out some tasty treats, and enjoy a leisurely meal surrounded by nature's beauty. If you prefer a more casual affair, fire up the grill and host a backyard barbecue. Grill up some burgers, hot dogs, and veggies, and invite your loved ones to join you for an outdoor feast filled with laughter and good times. Feeling adventurous? Pack a backpack with some snacks and hit the trails for a scenic hike. Find a picturesque spot along the way to stop and enjoy a picnic lunch while taking in breathtaking views of the

great outdoors. No matter how you choose to celebrate, National Eat Outside Day is all about enjoying delicious food in the fresh air and sunshine. So grab your picnic basket, fire up the grill, or lace up your hiking boots, and let's make August 31st a day to remember! Remember, the most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the simple pleasures of outdoor dining with friends and family. Happy National Eat Outside Day, everyone! Let's make it a deliciously memorable celebration!

### Picnic

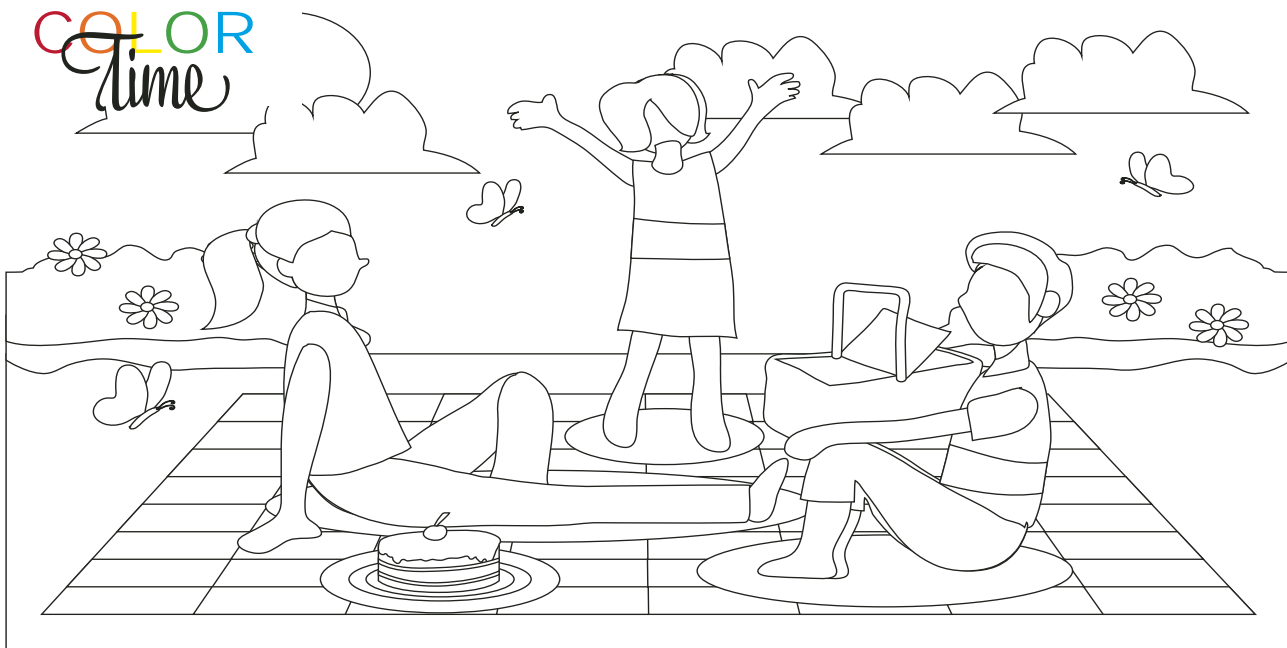
Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

T C S T A B L E T V  
 W A Y Z H G G C E F  
 Q M O E C W N W K B  
 I P S C I H I W S L  
 H I C N W N K L A A  
 C N E A D B I E B N  
 N G N T N I H K Q K  
 U Z I U A Y R O Z E  
 L Q C R S A Y R Y T  
 N U F E P I C N I C

### Word Bank

- 1. nature
- 2. hiking
- 3. camping
- 4. table
- 5. basket
- 6. park
- 7. lunch
- 8. picnic
- 9. scenic
- 10. sandwich
- 11. blanket

### COLOR Time



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Heraldic Eagle..... 1798-1804  
Gobrecht dollars..... 1836-1839  
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Morgan dollars..... 1878-1904  
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| Audemars Piguet | Patek Philippe |
| Cartier         | Omega          |
| Ditishiem       | Benrus         |
| Breitling       | Panarai        |



\*WORKING OR NOT

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| Necklaces       | Bracelets     |
| Charm Bracelets | Coctail Rings |
| Pendants        | Pendants      |

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- |            |                 |                  |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|
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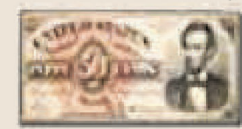
Gold & Silver Certificates



Fractional Currency

Old/Rare Currency

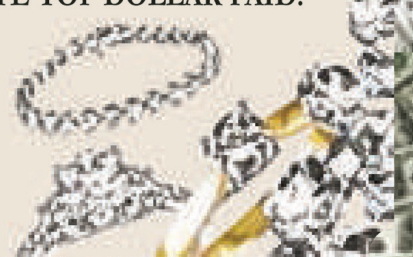
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## Voice of Granbury Audition Night returns for sixth year

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News  
eden@hcnews.com

Thursday, Sept. 5, Granbury Live hosts The Voice of Granbury Audition Night. The event begins at 7:30 p.m.

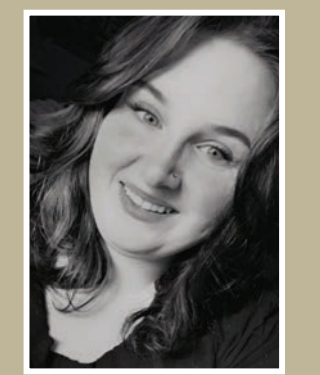
This is the sixth year of the Voice of Granbury fundraising event for the Kiwanis Club. The Voice's "Main Event" show takes place in January, with Audition Night occurring place in September. The top three performers from Audition Night will qualify for the January show, and the winner earns \$250. Winners are determined by audience vote.

The participants for Thursday night's Audition Night are Josh Lee, Barry Bentle, Debby Gordon, Jenny Sturges, Bailey Roy, Santos Naranjo, Joe Savage, Faith Thompson, Elizabeth Treat, Susanne Boston, Jenn Helm and Courtney Current.

Josh Lee — Lee is from Granbury and moved here more than 25 years ago. He's 36 years old and has been singing since he was 2 years old. His mother and father gifted him with a natural talent and love for all genres of music. He's been a part of a few bands over the years and played locally and around the state. He is super excited to be a part of the lineup and can't wait to see what happens.

Barry Bentle — Bentle was born in Texas and has a wonderful family. A business owner for many years, he is now working in the radiology field. Perhaps the Elvis concert his dad took him to as a kid was what hooked him on music. He has been singing ever since. His family enjoys several different genres of music, and his children now have that same excitement for singing.

Jenny Sturges — Sturges is a worship leader and Christian songwriter, vocalist and pianist. She's been living in Granbury since 2006. She's a computer nerd by day — aka software support technician. She plays music at various events and churches around the D-FW area.



The participants for Thursday night's Audition Night are (Top Left to right) Josh Lee, Barry Bentle, Debby Gordon, Jenny Sturges, Bailey Roy, Santos Naranjo, Joe Savage, Faith Thompson, Elizabeth Treat, Susanne Boston, Jenn Helm and Courtney Current.

Her biggest passion is being a mom to her beautiful children — Luke, 18, Grace, 16, Abby, 8 and Anna, 7 (her little girl in heaven). She's been through a lot in her life, but God is her lifeline, her anchor and her hope.

Bailey Roy — Roy is the daughter of Shawn and Lindsay Roy and is the oldest child of three. She is a sophomore at GHS. She strives for

academic excellence, because she knows being the best at everything she does will open opportunities for her future. She is involved in FFA and loves spending all her free time fishing. Deep sea is her favorite, but she is happy in any setting. Her future focus is to become a traveling therapeutic farrier and have a taxidermist job on the side.

Santos Naranjo — Naranjo was

born and raised in Corpus Christi. His passion for singing began at an early age, and in high school he joined the choir. The choir toured several cities, including Granbury in the late '80s, and that is when he dreamed of moving here in the future. In 2012, that dream came true. Santos has been running karaoke shows at many other local venues over the past 12 years. In addition,

he has volunteered his time and singing voice at several charitable events that include the VFW and Honoring Hometown Heroes.

Joe Savage — Savage grew up in North Fort Worth, but he now lives in Granbury. After a failed professional career, Joe started earning his living making music. Over the

PLEASE SEE VOICE | C2

## Grace under pressure: Mastering life's daily challenges

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News  
micky@hcnews.com

Everyday life is full of little challenges that can catch us off guard and drain our energy. From dealing with a difficult co-worker to facing unexpected traffic on the way to an important appointment, these moments can trigger negative reactions that make us feel overwhelmed, stressed or even angry. But what if there were a way to handle these situations with grace, preserving our energy and staying true to our best selves?

At the heart of our reactions to these daily annoyances are deep-rooted, subconscious fears that stem from our evolutionary past. These fears are part of the fight-or-flight response, which was essential for survival when our ancestors faced real dangers like wild animals or hostile environments. Today, however, these responses are often out of place, leading us to overreact to situations that aren't life-threatening.

But there's good news! By recognizing these ingrained responses and applying a few simple strategies, we can navigate life's challenges with grace and ease. Here are five

powerful tips to help you maintain your composure and stay positive, no matter what life throws your way.

### 1. Ground yourself: Calm the storm within

The first step in dealing with any challenge is to ground yourself. When you feel the stress rising, pause and take a few deep, slow breaths. This simple act sends a signal to your brain that you are safe, allowing your body to calm down and switch off the fight-or-flight response. Deep breathing helps to bring your focus back to the present moment, making it easier to assess the situation calmly and rationally.

Try this quick exercise the next time you're faced with a stressful situation: breathe in slowly for a count of four, hold for four and then exhale for a count of four. Repeat this cycle three or four times, and you'll notice a significant reduction in your stress levels.

### 2. Think of your ideal self: Aspire to be the best version of you

When challenges arise, it's easy to slip into a negative mindset, but this only adds to your stress and frustration. Instead, take a moment to think of your ideal self — the person you want to be in these situations. This could be someone who is patient,

kind and understanding, even when faced with difficulties.

Focusing on your highest potential can help you shift your mindset and respond in a way that aligns with your values. This not only helps you avoid feelings of guilt and regret later but also promotes personal growth. Over time, consistently striving to be your ideal self in challenging situations will become a natural habit.

### 3. Appreciate the goodness in others: Let go of grudges

In the heat of the moment, it's easy to focus on the faults of others, especially when they seem to be the cause of our problems. However, hold-

ing onto grudges only keeps you stuck in a negative loop. Instead, try to see the goodness in others, even in difficult situations.

Recognizing the strengths and positive qualities in those around you can help you to let go of anger and resentment. This doesn't mean you have to ignore bad behavior, but rather that you choose to focus on the positive aspects of the person. This shift in perspective can make a huge difference in how you feel and how you respond to challenges.

### 4. Embody grace: Align your actions with calmness

PLEASE SEE GRACE | C4

## A life of adventure and love: remembering Frankie Bone

BY LAUREN DAVIS

Staff writes  
lauren@hcnews.com

Frankie Bone, 36, a beloved member of the Granbury community, passed away tragically in a car accident Friday, Aug. 9. The accident occurred near Garcia's Restaurant on Farm-to-Market Road 4, just three miles from his home. The exact cause of the accident remains under investigation.

Bone, known for his adventurous spirit and love of the outdoors, was a talented photographer, painter and writer. Though not yet published, he authored three books, two of which were completed before his death.

A born-again Christian, Bone had battled anxiety and depression for much of his life. His love for travel and exploration was matched only by his devotion to his family.

The evening of the accident, Frankie Bone had visited his father in Thorp Spring and was on his way home for dinner when

the tragedy occurred. His mother, Denise Bone, who had just finished cooking pork chops, grew concerned when he didn't answer her calls — something entirely out of character for her son, who always responded promptly. "I called him a hundred times a day," Denise Bone said. "We all did."

Denise Bone's concern deepened when Bone's father mentioned that Frankie Bone had left his house 30 minutes earlier but still hadn't arrived home. Denise Bone continued to call, only to be met with silence. Unbeknownst to her, first responders were already at the crash site, working desperately to save her son.

The wreck occurred at 9:04 p.m.; Denise Bone's phone showed she had called her son seven times between 9:10 and 9:22 p.m. An officer eventually answered one of those calls, delivering the devastating news that Frankie had passed away.

Frankie Bone's car had reportedly gone off the road,

overcorrected and ramped over a driveway culvert before landing in a small grove of trees. The impact of the crash was severe, but the exact details of what caused the accident remain unclear. Police have not indicated any evidence of foul play, and Frankie Bone was not under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the crash. His mother suspects a medical issue, possibly a heart attack, could have played a role.

Despite the tragic circumstances, Denise Bone takes solace in the fact that her son appeared peaceful in his final moments. "He doesn't have a scratch on him," she said. "I've seen him three times since the accident, and he looks beautiful."

Frankie Bone's funeral was held at Granbury Baptist Church Aug. 17, where hundreds of friends and family members gathered to pay their respects. The service was followed by a procession to Holly Hill Memorial Park, with the Granbury

Police Department assisting in blocking traffic to ensure the safety of those attending.

Lee Jackson, the funeral director at Brown Owens & Brumley Funeral Home in Fort Worth, remarked on the large turnout and the overwhelming support for Frankie's family. "I felt like it was a beautiful tribute paid to Frankie in respect to the number of people in attendance," Jackson said. "We had 250 memorial handouts and ran out pretty quick after people started coming."

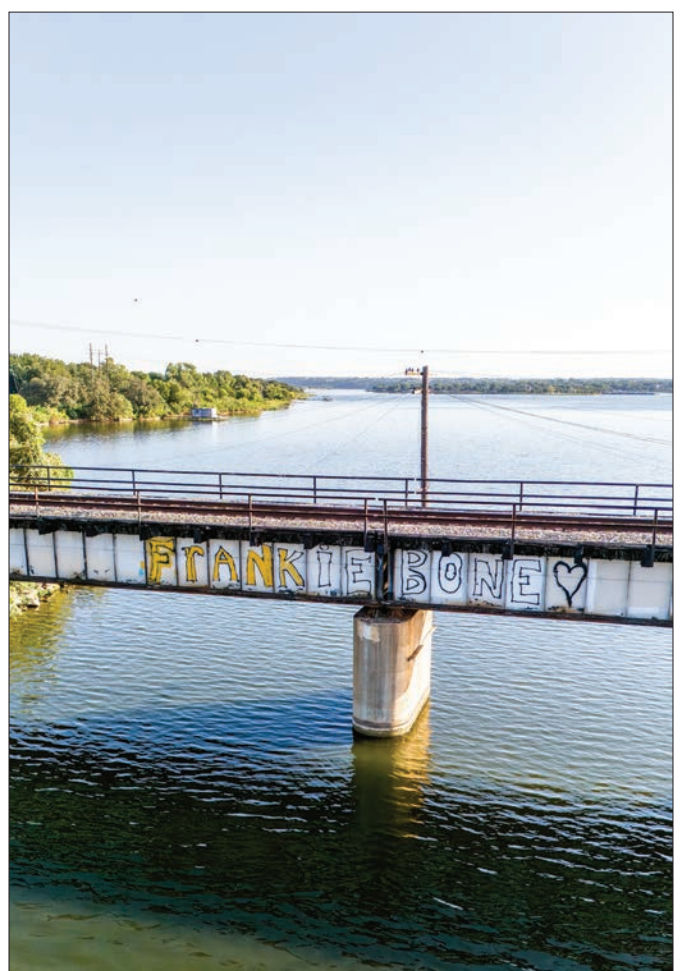
"The church was full," younger brother David Bone said. "And the parking lot was packed."

The Bone family continues to await the results of the crash investigation. In

PLEASE SEE FRANKIE | C2

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Several days after Frankie Bone's death, a graffiti rendering of his name was drawn on the bridge over Lake Granbury.



**KNIEPER REALTY**

# Why do sellers and buyers rarely meet before closing?



**BY PAM KNIEPER**

Pam Knieper, Broker/Owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 Top Producer for more than 15 years in Hood County and running. She is known as the Waterfront Expert and the Authority on Real Estate.

Typically, in Real Estate sales, buyers and sellers rarely meet each other before closing. Have you ever wondered why? As a general rule, real estate agents frown on buyers and sellers having face time. Things can get really messy, really fast, and it is our job to prevent that from happening, hence the effort to keep buyers and sellers apart.

Communication between the principals leaves so much room for misunderstandings that can harm the negotiations. Completely innocent remarks can sometimes turn into unintentional insults. Buyers excitedly sharing with the seller their plans to redecorate can be perceived by the seller as an insult to their decorating style. A seller's comments

about how much they enjoy the sounds of children's laughter up and down the street could be a deal killer for the 'children should be seen and not heard' type of buyer.

And if one of these small misunderstandings or missteps happens before all the contingencies have been met, what looked like a solid contract could fall apart.

Sellers and buyers often want to meet the other parties, and that is understandable. Selling the family home can be an emotional event and knowing the home is going to someone that will take loving care of it can be reassuring. Buyers, on the other

hand, love to get first-hand information about a property from the sellers. If it turns out a seller and buyer get along, it can make the transaction much easier. But what if you don't get along? There's always a chance that you may not like each other. If this happens, it could have the reverse effect and make negotiations extremely difficult, if not impossible.

Or, what if you, the seller, accidentally say something that could be misconstrued as a violation of the Fair Housing Act? Even the most innocuous remark about the local churches, or a statement like 'this is a family neighborhood' can be mis-

interpreted as looking for a certain type of person, and this type of violation is much more serious than simply stepping on someone's toes. You could end up in court.

These are just a few of the reasons most REALTORS® will agree that the less a seller knows about a buyer (except for their financial ability), the fewer the opportunities for problems to ensue. That doesn't mean you should never get to meet. Right before or right after closing is the ideal time for the parties to meet. A short tour of the home when the seller can show the buyer what the secret switch behind the door is for, or how

to operate the sprinkler system is a great idea. It's the perfect time to meet, shake hands, and wish each other luck in your respective new adventures.

Up until that point, trust your REALTOR® to manage the communications, it's one of the major things you are paying us for. If you have questions about this article, or just about Real Estate in general, please give us a call at 817-219-0456 or contact us online at [www.WeSellGranbury.com](http://www.WeSellGranbury.com). We love hearing from you, and we love talking about real estate.

## VOICE

FROM PAGE C1

last decade, Savage has released his original music to the public and plays weekly around Texas. His classic voice and thoughtful lyrics give his music an appeal that gets better with each listen.

Faith Thompson — Thompson is thrilled to be a part of the Voice of Granbury with the chance to perform for you all. She is 23, and she's lived in Granbury for roughly two-and-a-half years. Singing has always been a huge

hobby in her life, and she was inspired by her mom to start singing. She can't wait to share her love of this art with you.

Elizabeth Treat — Music has always been an essential part of Treat's life. Her family is known for its musical gifts. Whether they are leading worship at church, jamming around a campfire, or caroling door-to-door during the holidays, their songs and voices can be heard. She has always had a deep connection to art, poetry, music, animals and the beauty of nature. She believes that music unites us all.

Susanne Boston — Boston has been singing since she was a young child. Since then, she has not stopped singing. Because others recognize her love of music and her talent, she has been asked to perform at various events in and out of her community. On the weekends, you can find her singing karaoke with her husband. On Sundays, she will be the mezzo-soprano singing in the worship team. Boston has the heart and ability to make you love her and her songs.

Jenn Helm — Helm is a devoted stay-at-home mom

of two boys and has always had a passion for music. Growing up, she performed in church, on various stages, and even on the Main Street stage at the Indiana State Fair. These days, she shares her love for singing with her children and enjoys impromptu performances in the shower, keeping her family life lively and joyful.

Courtney Current — Current is a dedicated professional with a passion for both business and healthcare in her role as Managing Partner of Concho Hearts Hospice Granbury. A loving mother of four and proud

CoCo of one, she finds joy in family and community. Current's commitment to her community shines through her involvement as a Granbury chamber ambassador and as a member of the Leadership Granbury Alumni Class of 2022-23. Additionally, she is a founding member of the Elder Care of Hood County Senior Adult Advocacy Group, where her advocacy for senior adults makes a lasting impact.

Debby Gordon — Gordon moved to Granbury in October 2020 from Fayetteville, Arkansas, but

knew Granbury from living in Fort Worth for 31 years. She recently retired as the event coordinator for the Historic Granbury Merchants Association since 2021. Her dogs are her babies as she has no children. Gordon sings with the Granbury Civic Chorus where she is beginning her third year. She is involved with the Kiwanis of Granbury along with other organizations like the Opera Guild and Forward Training Center.

Tickets may be purchased at [ticketstothecity.com/](http://ticketstothecity.com/) purchase.

## FRANKIE

FROM PAGE C1

the meantime, they cherish the memories of a son, brother, father and uncle who brought joy and love to everyone he met. His love for travel and exploration was matched only by his devotion to his family.

Frankie and David Bone were close brothers. "I looked up to him so much.

Frankie was the coolest big brother, and we could sometimes read each other's minds like twins," David Bone said. "I'm devastated without him. Life is painful without him."

According to Denise Bone, Frankie Bone's pride and joy was his 17-year-old son, Brayden Bleeker, who was his best friend and looked just like him.

"You couldn't walk away

from Frank without learning something new," said Amber Bone, Frankie Bone's sister-in-law. Frankie Bone's love for his family and friends, his deep Christian faith, and his desire to help others battling depression defined his life.

"Frankie was adventurous. He loved adventure," Denise Bone shared. "He would grab a fishing pole, take us camping, we'd go deep-sea

fishing."

Frankie Bone leaves behind a legacy of love, adventure and creativity. Denise Bone takes comfort in the knowledge that her son is at peace, and the community's support has provided some solace during this tragic time. Frankie's story is a reminder of the profound impact one life can have on so many.

"We don't have regrets," Denise Bone said. "He knew

I loved him, and I knew he loved me. The only thing keeping me together is what I know about Frankie," she explained. "And I know it's going to be up and down, but I'll tell you, knowing your kids are Christian makes all the difference in the world."

COURTESY PHOTO

Photographer, writer and painter Frankie Bone loved people and life.



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# Remembering what matters: 5 truths for tough times

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the  
Hood County News  
micky@hcnews.com

"Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get." This famous line from one of my favorite movies, "Forrest Gump," perfectly encapsulates the unpredictable nature of life. We often find ourselves navigating through unexpected challenges, just as we discover the variety of flavors hidden within a box of chocolates.

Life is, in fact, a series of unpredictable events, often filled with ups and downs. It's easy to feel on top of the world when things are going well. But when life takes a turn for the worse, it's just as easy to feel lost, overwhelmed and disconnected. During these challenging moments, there are certain truths that can help anchor us, guiding us back to a place of peace and resilience. While seemingly obvious, these truths are often forgotten in the heat of the moment. Let's explore five essential things to remember during tough times.

## 1. Life is short and unpredictable

Deep down, we all know that life is fleeting, and nothing is guaranteed. Yet, when faced with the reality of mortality — whether it's our own or that of someone we love — we're often caught off guard. It's like missing the last step on a staircase, momentarily throwing us off balance. This truth, though difficult to fully grasp, can serve as a powerful reminder to live fully today.

Instead of letting the fear of death or the unknown paralyze you, let it motivate you to live more boldly. Don't wait for tomorrow to take action on your dreams, spend time with loved ones, or experience the joy of the present moment. Life's most significant loss isn't death itself but the opportunities we miss because we're too afraid to take that next step. So, embrace today with courage and passion, and make the most of your time.

## 2. Change is inevitable

One of life's constants is change. No matter how stable things might seem at the moment, change is always on the horizon. Change can be daunting to think about, especially when we're comfortable or when it's unwelcome. But it's important to remem-

ber that change is often necessary for growth.

Consider this: the situation you're in right now, whether good or bad, will not last forever. Circumstances evolve, people come and go, and what seems overwhelming today may be a distant memory tomorrow. By accepting and adapting to change, you can find peace in the present and hope for the future. Remember, every season of life has its purpose, and every challenge brings with it an opportunity to grow stronger and wiser.

## 3. Your response is your power

We can't control everything that happens to us, but we can control how we respond. This truth is a cornerstone of resilience. In challenging times, it's easy to feel powerless, but by focusing on our reactions and decisions, we can regain control over our lives.

Patience and perseverance are key. It's not about waiting for things to improve but about maintaining a positive attitude while working toward a better outcome. Your actions, more than your words, define who you are. And often, the most powerful thing you can do

is to let go of what you cannot change and focus on what you can — yourself. By adjusting your mindset and approach, you can turn even the most difficult situations into opportunities for growth.

## 4. Hard times build strength

There's a saying that goes, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." While it may sound cliché, it holds a significant truth. The storms of life — those difficult, trying times — are often the very experiences that shape us into who we are meant to be.

Hardships strip away the nonessentials, leaving behind only what truly matters. They force us to confront our deepest fears, to endure pain, and to push beyond our limits. And in doing so, they reveal an inner strength we may not have known we possessed. It's in the midst of these struggles that we often find our most significant source of resilience and growth. So, when you're facing a tough time, remember that it's not just about surviving — it's about emerging stronger on the other side.

## 5. Embrace the unknown

One of the most unsettling aspects of life is not know-



COURTESY PHOTO

We can't control everything that happens to us, but we can control how we respond.

ing what the future holds. But uncertainty doesn't have to be a source of anxiety; it can also be a source of freedom. When you accept that you don't have all the answers, you open yourself up to new possibilities and experiences.

Life's greatest adventures often come when we let go of our need for control and allow ourselves to be carried by the winds of change. You may not know where you're

headed, but that's okay. What's important is that you keep moving forward, trusting that the journey itself will lead you to where you need to be.

As you navigate life's uncertainties, keep your mind open and your spirit willing. The path may be winding and unpredictable, but it's on this journey that you'll find growth, new perspectives and perhaps even joy in the unexpected.

# Nurturing the soul: The power of self-care and community

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the  
Hood County News  
micky@hcnews.com

In today's fast-paced world, getting caught up in the whirlwind of our daily routines is easy. We juggle work, relationships, hobbies and the ever-present ping of notifications, often feeling like we're racing against the clock. But amidst all this chaos, we possess two incredible gifts: the luxury of looking after ourselves and the honor of looking after each other. Though simple in concept, these two acts hold immense power in shaping our lives and communities for the better.

## THE LUXURY OF SELF-CARE

Self-care has become somewhat of a buzzword in recent years, but it's much more than just a trend. At its core, self-care is about nurturing our physical, emotional and mental well-being. It's the luxury of pausing in a busy day to ask, "What do I need right now?" Whether it's a walk

in the park, a quiet moment with a book, or simply getting enough sleep, these small acts of self-care accumulate to create a life of balance and fulfillment.

Consider this: just like a car needs fuel and maintenance to run smoothly, we need to recharge and tend to ourselves to operate at our best. Self-care is that maintenance. It's not selfish or indulgent; it's essential. When prioritizing our well-being, we become more resilient, energized and ultimately more capable of handling life's demands.

But self-care isn't just about bubble baths and face masks (though those are great, too!). It's about setting boundaries, saying no when necessary, and allowing ourselves the space to grow. It's about recognizing that we deserve to be cared for by ourselves first and foremost. When we embrace this, we create a foundation that supports us in being our best selves.

## THE HONOR OF CARING FOR OTHERS

While self-care is vital,

we must also recognize the deep, inherent value of looking after each other. Human beings are social creatures wired for connection and community. When we care for others, we enrich not only their lives but also our own.

A special kind of joy comes from acts of kindness — whether it's lending a listening ear, offering a helping hand, or simply being there for someone in need. These moments of connection remind us that we're all in this together and that our lives are intertwined in a web of shared experiences.

Caring for others doesn't require grand gestures. It's in the little things: checking in on a friend, sharing a meal, or offering words of encouragement. These acts may seem small, but their impact is profound. They create ripples of positivity that extend far beyond the immediate moment.

Moreover, when we support others, we foster a sense of community and belonging. We create en-

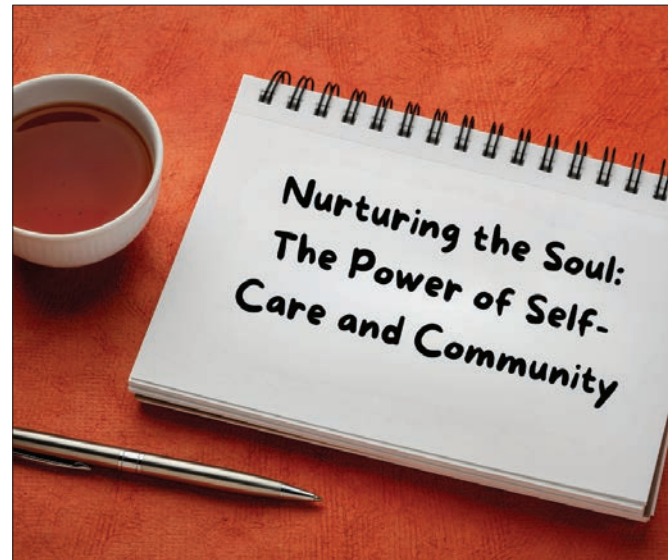
vironments where people feel valued and understood and where they can thrive. In turn, we receive the same care and support, reinforcing the idea that we are never truly alone.

## THE SYNERGY OF SELF-CARE AND CARING FOR OTHERS

Interestingly, the luxury of self-care and the honor of caring for others are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they complement each other beautifully. They are two sides of the same coin. When we take care of ourselves, we have more to give to others. We're more patient, more empathetic and better equipped to handle the challenges that come our way.

Conversely, when we care for others, we often find a sense of purpose and fulfillment that enhances our own well-being. It's a beautiful cycle — by nurturing ourselves, we become better caregivers, and by caring for others, we enrich our own lives.

In a culture that often emphasizes rugged individualism, productivity and suc-



COURTESY PHOTO

We possess two incredible gifts: the luxury of looking after ourselves and the honor of looking after each other.

cess, it's crucial to remember that taking care of ourselves and each other is the true measure of a well-lived life. We have the luxury of looking after ourselves, and it's a luxury we should never take for granted. But we also have the honor of looking after each other, and in that, we find the heart of what it

means to be human.

So, as you go about your day, ask yourself: How can I care for myself today? And how can I care for someone else? In answering these questions, you'll find a deeper connection to the world around you and a greater sense of peace within.

# Slump Survival Guide: How to navigate tough times with grace

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the  
Hood County News  
micky@hcnews.com

We've all been there — the days when everything feels heavier, when the simple act of getting out of bed feels like a monumental task. It's as if motivation has taken an unannounced vacation, leaving you to trudge through your daily routines with no energy or enthusiasm. Welcome to what many of us know as a "slump."

Slumps are those difficult periods where our mood and

motivation plummet, making even the simplest tasks feel overwhelming. Whether triggered by a significant life event or appearing out of nowhere, slumps can be frustrating and disheartening. But here's the good news: slumps are not permanent. With the right approach, you can find your way out, and you don't need to push yourself to the brink to do it. In fact, the best way to navigate a slump is with kindness and compassion toward yourself. Let's explore how.

## 1. Accept where you are

One of the first and most

important steps in overcoming a slump is to accept it. It's easy to fall into the trap of self-criticism, telling yourself you should be more productive or that you should be feeling better. However, this kind of thinking only deepens the slump. Instead, acknowledge how you're feeling without judgment.

Imagine your emotions are knocking at your door. Instead of pretending you're not home, open the door and invite them in. Acknowledge them for what they are — signals that something needs your attention. By accepting your feelings, you can start to manage them rather than letting them control you.

## 2. Reclaim your routine, one step at a time

When you're in a slump, routines often go out the window. The habits that once kept you grounded can suddenly feel impossible to maintain. Rather than trying to jump back into your full routine all at once, start with the basics.

Focus on small, manageable tasks that don't overwhelm you. For example, if your bedtime routine has fallen apart, start by setting a goal to be in bed by a specific time. Once you've reestablished that small part of your routine, you can gradually add more habits back in. The

key is to take it slow and allow yourself to rebuild your routine without pressure.

## 3. Create a system of gentle accountability

Accountability is often associated with strict rules and harsh consequences, but it doesn't have to be. In fact, gentle accountability can be a powerful tool to help you stay on track without adding unnecessary pressure.

Consider creating a system that works for you — whether it's a simple to-do list where you can check off small tasks or a supportive group of friends who can encourage you without being demanding. This kind of soft discipline can help you maintain consistency while being kind to yourself.

## 4. Understand that feelings aren't facts

In the depths of a slump, it's easy to believe the negative thoughts that accompany it. You might feel like you're not good enough, that you're failing, or that you'll never get out of this rut. But it's important to remember that feelings, while real, are not facts.

Your emotions are clues, guiding you to unmet needs or unresolved issues. Instead of letting them dictate your reality, use them as a compass. Ask yourself what your feelings are trying to

tell you. Are you exhausted and in need of rest? Are you feeling disconnected and in need of social interaction? By addressing the underlying needs, you can start to alleviate some of the emotional weight.

## 5. Set achievable goals

When you're in a slump, the idea of setting goals can feel daunting. You might be tempted to set big, ambitious goals in an attempt to pull yourself out of the slump quickly. However, this approach often backfires, leading to feelings of failure when the goals aren't met.

Instead, focus on setting the smallest, most achievable goal possible. For example, if you're struggling to get moving in the morning, set a goal to simply put on your shoes — no need to go for a run — just put on your shoes. By setting easy-to-achieve goals, you can start to build momentum and regain your confidence.

## 6. Remember: This too shall pass

One of the most comforting truths about life is that nothing lasts forever. Slumps, like all challenging periods, are temporary. It's important to remind yourself that this difficult time is just a season, not a life sentence. My dad had a saying when I was a kid that, as

an adult, has come to mean a great deal to me. Whenever an unexpected challenge arose, he would say, "Never make a single event bigger than it really is." My dad wanted us kids to know that no matter what challenge or hardship we might be facing in life, it was only temporary.

During this time, be patient with yourself. Allow yourself to move through the slump at your own pace, and trust that brighter days are ahead. The more you can embrace this mindset, the easier it will be to navigate through the tough times with grace and compassion.

## CONCLUSION

Slumps are an inevitable part of life, but they don't have to define you. By accepting your feelings, reclaiming your routine, setting achievable goals and practicing gentle accountability, you can start to find your way out. Remember to be kind to yourself along the way — after all, self-compassion is one of your most powerful tools.

So, take a deep breath, give yourself permission to move slowly, and trust that you can get through this. Before you know it, you'll be back on track, feeling more motivated and ready to tackle whatever comes next.



COURTESY PHOTO

Slumps are an inevitable part of life, but they don't have to define you.

# Get ready to smile: Chicago tribute band 'Beginnings' comes to the Granbury Opera House

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

If you're a fan of the iconic band Chicago, you're in for a treat! The Granbury Theatre Company is thrilled to present "Beginnings — A Celebration of the Music of Chicago," a tribute band that has been capturing the magic of Chicago's music since 2002. The band will perform three shows at the Historic Granbury Opera House Friday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

**A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE**

Formed in New York City, Beginnings was created out of a shared passion for the legendary music of Chicago. Known for its electrifying performances and note-perfect renditions of Chicago's hits, Beginnings has become the nation's premier tribute band to America's favorite rock 'n' roll band with horns. Fans across the country rave about the band's ability to recreate the sound and feel of Chicago's original, classic-era seven-piece lineup, bringing to life hits like "25 or 6 to 4," "Saturday in the Park," and "If You Leave Me Now."

Their performances are fueled by a love for the music and a dedication to their fans. Whether you're a longtime fan of Chicago or new to their music, Beginnings promises an unforgettable experience. Grammy Award-winning producer and engineer Obie O'Brien says it best: "Being a musician and fan of Chicago for many years as well as performing in bands that played Chicago material, I can say unequivocally that Beginnings is as close to the original band as you'll get!"

**MEET THE BAND**

Beginnings is composed of an exceptional group of musicians who each bring their own unique flair to the stage:

Doug Woolverton on trumpet, is a versatile musician with a deep love for jazz and classical music. His trumpet solos are both powerful and emotional, paying homage to the original brass section of Chicago.

Chris Milillo on drums, is the heartbeat of the band, keeping time with precision and energy that drives the rhythm section to new heights. His drumming is a tribute to the original power and groove



The band will perform three shows at the Historic Granbury Opera House Friday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m., and Saturday, Sept. 14 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

that Chicago's percussion brought to the music.

Lenny La Pinta on bass, anchors the band with his rock-solid bass lines. His playing is the foundation that allows the rest of the band to soar, capturing the essence of Chicago's sound.

Dan Hendrix on trombone, adds depth to the brass section with his rich and smooth playing. His trombone work adds that extra layer of authenticity to the band's performances, making the horns come alive.

Scott Chasolen on keyboards and vocals, brings a dynamic range to the band, replicating the intricate keyboard parts that are a hallmark of Chicago's music. His vocal contributions also add to the lush harmonies that define Chicago's sound.

Ryan Ball on guitar and vocals, is the band's driving force with his searing

guitar solos and powerful vocals. He captures the spirit of Chicago's original guitarist, bringing both intensity and finesse to the band's performances.

**GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!**

Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of Chicago's music live at the Historic Granbury Opera House. Whether you're a longtime fan or discovering Chicago's timeless music for the first time, Beginnings promises to "Make You Smile" with its dazzling and authentic tribute.

Tickets are available online at [www.granburymusic.com](http://www.granburymusic.com) or by calling the Opera House Box Office at 817-579-0952. Get ready to be transported back to the golden age of rock 'n' roll with Beginnings — this is one concert you won't want to miss!

**GRACE**  
FROM PAGE C1

Physical responses to stress, such as clenching your fists or tensing your muscles, can reinforce the feeling of being overwhelmed. To counter this, consciously align your body language with the grace you want to embody. Relax your shoulders, soften your facial expression, and move with calm, deliberate actions.

When your physical state reflects calmness, it helps to create a sense of inner peace and control. This not only affects how you feel but also how others perceive you, often leading to more positive interactions and outcomes.

**5. Open up to the world: Connect and contribute**

Humans are social creatures, and connecting with others is essential for our well-being. When faced with challenges, it can be tempting to withdraw, but this often makes things worse. Instead, open yourself up to the world — reach out to others, share your experiences and contribute to something larger than yourself.

Whether it's volunteering, joining a community group, or simply offering support to a friend, these connections help to fulfill our innate need for belonging and purpose. When we feel connected to others, our problems seem smaller and we gain a broader perspective on life's challenges.

Conclusion: Turning challenges into opportunities

Dealing with everyday challenges gracefully is not about avoiding difficulties or pretending they don't exist. It's about recognizing our natural responses and choosing to react in a way that reflects our best selves. By grounding yourself, aspiring to be your ideal self, appreciating the goodness in others, embodying grace and connecting with the world, you can turn daily challenges into opportunities for growth and positive change.

With practice, these strategies will become second nature, helping you to navigate life's ups and downs with grace, composure, and a sense of inner peace.

**THE IDLE AMERICAN**

*Up with parrots, down with whoops*



**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](mailto:newbury@speakerdoc.com). Website: [www.speakerdoc.com](http://www.speakerdoc.com).

Uncle Mort had never heard of "support parrots," but admits he shouldn't have been surprised.

"Seems like way too many of my friends are either sued or getting sued, but none of the squabbles involve birds," he laughed. This was his jovial response upon reading recently that a New York City woman was awarded three-quarters of a million dollars when neighbors complained that her parrots were "too noisy."

The birds' owner, Meril Lesser, had lived in an apartment for several years before the legal battle started in 2015 when neighbors complained of the birds' "noisiness." No doubt Lesser and her parrots laughed all the way to the bank when the brouhaha was settled recently ...

Damian Williams, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said the settlement is "the largest recovery the Department of Justice has ever obtained for a person with disabilities whose housing provider denied them their right to have assistance animals."

Mort assumes the ruling applies to fowl as well, and/or that perhaps New Yorkers lump anything that breathes into the animal category.

Anyways, the news set him to thinking about a possible "win-win" scheme that historically melts into a "lose-lose." ...

It's not Mort's first experience with "comfort

creatures." Years ago, when he heard that whooping cranes were making a comeback, he almost helped out.

When their numbers were dangerously low, he offered a practical solution.

"Just take a bunch of 'regular cranes' and teach 'em to whoop," he suggested ...

Now, he envisions making fast bucks rounding up the regular cranes down in the thicket.

Properly fed and nested, these birds could readily become support cranes, he believes. Since East Texas cranes aren't known for whooping, Mort thinks those New Yorkers will pay big bucks when he labels 'em "whoopless support cranes."

A similar ploy went afoot years ago when Mort offered "support possums," which he said didn't stay awake long enough to provide much support ...

While on the subject of whooping, there's bound to be "record whoops" come Nov. 30 when Texas A&M University and the University of Texas hook up in College Station to resume a football rivalry that never should have ended.

The Aggies and Longhorns played annually for 96 years, ending when A&M jumped to the Southeastern Conference in 2011. For decades, the A&M/UT annual Thanksgiving showdowns were givng memorabilia and featured nationally on TV.

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**Beginnings**  
A TRIBUTE TO CHICAGO  
SEP 13 THRU SEP 14

## PECAN PLANTATION BITS

# First fall meeting scheduled for Pecan's Widows and Widowers Club



PHOTO COURTESY OF PECAN WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS CLUB PUBLICITY

The Pecan Plantation Widows and Widowers Club recently enjoyed a trip to Sledge Distillery where they toured the facilities and enjoyed eating hamburgers. Pictured are (L-R): Dale Heid, Ann Schumann, Jon Heinson, Lana Weaver, Peggy Wetle, Jerry Wynn, Caryl Mahaffey, Linda Boysen, Betty Curbo and James Steele.

## BY DIANE LONG



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

The Pecan Plantation Widows and Widowers Club will welcome fall with its next meeting Thursday, Sept. 5 beginning at 5 p.m. in the clubhouse ballroom. To accommodate schedules, the group's regular collective meeting day has moved to the first Thursday of the month, and the upcoming date will hold an outstanding presentation by Pecan residents Janet and Dwey Powers, known for sharing their knowledge and photographs of birds. At next Thursday's gathering, the Powers will enlighten attendees on fall bird migration as birds follow their way along the shores of the Brazos River and quite possibly into Pecaners' backyards.

Janet and Dwey began their serious birding adventures following Dwey's retirement, and they have traveled around the United States following and photographing various migrating birds. They declare their most satisfying adventure is attracting the migrating

birds to the watering and feeding features on their very own property, resulting in some beautiful, feathered residents right here in Pecan, with the bald eagle and her mate being among the most fascinating ones to watch and photograph. In addition to hearing about the Powers' intriguing hobby, folks at the gathering will enjoy a unique Chinese buffet prepared by Chef Jordan Ray and the clubhouse staff.

All Pecan widows and widowers are invited to join the club, and for complete information on both the upcoming meeting as well as the club's presence in our community, contact Caryl Mahaffey at [caryl.mahaffey@charter.net](mailto:caryl.mahaffey@charter.net).

## PARTY TIME

Pecaners will mark the end of summer with a Labor Day Street Dance Saturday, Aug. 31 and a pool party Monday, Sept. 2.

The street dance will feature up-and-coming record-

ing artists The Vintage Yell, a duo from north Texas described as performers of "soulful Americana." The music will begin at 6 p.m. on the clubhouse steps and continue until 9 p.m.

The pool party will run from noon to 3 p.m., and the clubhouse pool will close for the season at 8 p.m.

## SWIM TIME

After the clubhouse pool closes on Labor Day, the PAC pool will continue operating daily through October with the exception of Wednesday.

## TENNIS TIME

Junior Tennis for the fall begins Wednesday, Sept. 4 with ages 6 through 9 on the courts from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. and ages 10 through 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Sign up in the pro shop: 817-579-9412.

## WELCOME HOME

The next new member orientation is on the calendar for Saturday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the Pecan clubhouse. Both residents new to our community, as well as long timers who would like an update on our neighborhood's amenities, are invited to attend. Secure a spot by contacting Sarah Lord at [sarahlord@ppoaweb.com](mailto:sarahlord@ppoaweb.com).

## AUXILIARY DATE

The next meeting of the Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary comes Monday, Sept. 9 at the Charlie Lee Building of the emergency services compound on Monticello Drive. A potluck meal begins at 6 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7 p.m. All Pecan residents interested in this group that supports and fundraises for our community's emergency service volunteers are invited to join.

## ART SCENE

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild has several dates on the calendar, the first of which is its next collective meeting planned for Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 10:30 a.m. at the PAC. Guests and prospective new members (Pecan residents ages 18 and over who love art) are welcome. Also coming up in the fall are a slab plate pottery workshop Tuesday, Sept. 24, the very popular annual gallery night Friday, Sept. 27, and a pop-up art show and sale Tuesday, Nov. 19. Pecaners may enjoy the work of PPAG members as it is showcased at the clubhouse in hallways, dining areas and meeting rooms as well as at the PAC. All pieces are priced to sell.

## MYSTERY EXCURSION

The next "mystery bus" excursion is on the calendar for Wednesday, Sept. 11. Folks signed up for this adventure will depart from the clubhouse front steps.

## GOOD GAME

Pecan's monthly bingo night has a new standing date. It is now scheduled for the second Thursday of each month, with the next gathering coming Thursday, Sept. 12 at 5:30 p.m. "September's Surprise Bingo" is the theme of the night.

## SING ALONG

Karaoke in the 19th Hole with DeeJay Santos returns Saturday, Sept. 14 from 7 to 10 p.m. Both participants and audience members are invited.

## RALLY DATE

The Pecan Plantation Recreational Vehicle Club has a mini rally scheduled for Sept. 15-18 at Pecan's Shady Campground. For complete information on this "on-the-go" bunch, send email to [rvclub@ppoarv.org](mailto:rvclub@ppoarv.org).

## DIRECTORS NEEDED

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service will hold its annual meeting Saturday, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.,

and at the time, five directors will be elected. Pecan members willing to serve a three-year term on the board may apply. Folks who feel their experience and background qualify them to serve as a director may send a one-page resume to the VFD/EMS office at 9518 Monticello Drive or submit via email at [ppems@ppvfdems.com](mailto:ppems@ppvfdems.com). Deadline for submission is Tuesday, Sept. 17.

## ROAD WORK

While road resurfacing continues in various parts of Pecan, residents who live in the affected areas are reminded that garbage collection in work zones will be earlier than usual. So, for Pecaners who live on a street currently under repair or one that is getting ready for construction, trash must be at the curb prior to 6 a.m. each Tuesday, and this schedule will continue for the duration of road repair since areas under construction will be serviced first. Once road crews begin their work for the day, garbage trucks will not travel through work zones and no trash pickup in those areas will occur.

## HOLIDAY TIME

Happy Labor Day to the readers of Pecan Bits, and may our community welcome a pleasant fall.

## BOOK REVIEW

## Your usual chair at the table is unoccupied

## BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Down the hall, your bed's still made; the blankets, straight. The noises you make, the scent of you, it's all gone, missing from the places you should be. Will you return soon? Only you can be sure but, as in the new novel "Spirit Crossing" by William Kent Krueger, there are people hoping you will.

Annie O'Connor hadn't wanted to come back home for anything but the family wedding that was a month away. She hadn't wanted to leave Guatemala, though she spoke to her partner, Maria, about home in many warm ways. She wasn't afraid that she'd encounter problems for being what the Anishinaabe called "Two-Spirits," because her family was open and loving. No, Annie had another se-

cret, and she didn't know if she'd have time to tell it.

Like a lot of 7-year-olds, Corcoran O'Connor's grandson, Waaboo (Ojibwenowin for "Little Rabbit") was curious, active and smart. Unlike his contemporaries, however, Little Rabbit knew the spirit world, and so when he seemed to speak to spirits in the woods one afternoon, his grandfather paid attention — and Cork made a grisly discovery.

Daniel English, O'Connor's son-in-law and Waaboo's father, worked as a tribal police officer and he'd been talking angrily about the large number of Native American girls who'd gone missing in northern Minnesota, and how the local police did little about it.

Case in point: the young woman who lay in a shallow grave in a blueberry patch.

Daniel believed — hoped — she was one of the Lakota girls he'd been searching for.

But Waaboo said there were two girls whose spirits were lost. Was the other spirit that of Olivia Hamilton, a white girl whose father had money, and who the police were trying hard to find? Why were young women disappearing without a trace in northern Minnesota? And, as the county and tribal police got closer to a killer, why would someone want to murder a little boy who saw people that others could not see?

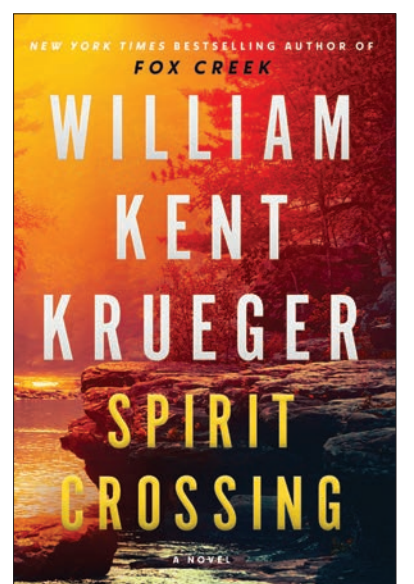
It's been a long summer, and you've missed Cork O'Connor, haven't you? Yep, so you're good and ready for another installment, and "Spirit Crossing" will make you very happy.

As you've come to expect, author William Kent Krueger pulls

readers into this novel in his O'Connor series quick and easy, with characters you can't help but get involved with — including some of Krueger fans' old favorites, and new folks you'll really want to get to know. It's like attending your hometown's small-town festival and running into new friends and people you've known for years but haven't seen in awhile. You're happy to have a cold one with some of them.

Others, big jerks and trouble-makers, not so much.

If this is your first Cork O'Connor novel, reach back a few — at least three or four novels — to get your bearings. If you're already a fan, get "Spirit Crossing" and put the phone on silent. You won't answer it anyhow; you'll be occupied.



COURTESY PHOTO

"Spirit Crossing" by William Kent Krueger, c.2024, Atria, \$28.99, 336 pages



# What to expect at your next eye exam

## Metro Creative Connection

Regular eye examinations are important components of a personal health regimen. Visiting an eye doctor can alert a person to potential vision impairments, and certain symptoms that show up in the eyes could be indicative of notable health problems. The American Academy of Ophthalmology says everything from brain tumors to aneurysms to high cholesterol can be detected in the eyes.

For those who do not have any apparent vision problems, most doctors recommend following a chart based on age. The insurance experts at Aetna suggest the following age-based intervals:

- Ages 20 to 39: Every five years
- Ages 40 to 54: Every two to four years
- Ages 55 to 64: Every one to three years
- Ages 65 and up: Every one to two years

Individuals who wear glasses or contact lenses, have a family history of eye disease, or have a chronic condition that puts them at risk for eye disease, like diabetes, should get vision exams more frequently.

Despite the significance of eye exams, many people do not visit an eye doctor until something is amiss with their vision or eyes. Perhaps individuals would be inclined to visit the eye doctor more frequently if they knew what to expect during

an exam. Here's what people can expect the next time they step into a private eye doctor's office or a vision center, courtesy of The Cleveland Clinic and Warby Parker.

### VISUAL ACUITY

The eye doctor will ask you to read an eye chart while looking through a device called a phoropter. This device has several lenses that can be adjusted to help you see better and find the right corrective lens prescription.

### VISUAL FIELD

The doctor will check peripheral vision by holding up a finger or an object and moving it gradually to the side of your face. Additional movements may include up

and down. Some offices use a computer program to conduct this test.

### AUTOMATIC REFRACTION

Visual acuity can be measured with this test, during which an autorefractor shines light into the eye and measures the eye's response. It's commonly used with children or adults who may struggle to communicate what they're seeing.

### PUPIL FUNCTION

The eye doctor will briefly shine a handheld light into each eye and then move the light away to watch how the pupils constrict and dilate.

### SLIT LAMP EXAM

This test involves a slit

lamp, which is a type of microscope that enables the eye doctor to see the eyes in close detail.

### TONOMETRY MEASUREMENT

Glaucoma occurs when intraocular pressure is high. Some eye doctors will conduct tests to determine the pressure. One way is with a noncontact tonometry test, which is a puff of air squirted at each eye. With applanation tonometry, the doctor first administers a mild numbing agent to the eye, and then uses a pressure-sensitive instrument to gently tap on the surface of the eye to get a pressure reading. A rebound tonometry test requires a handheld device that makes brief contact to

the eye and doesn't require local anesthesia.

### PUPIL DILATION

The eye doctor will administer eye drops that dilate the pupils, which enables a better view of the retina, optic nerve, cornea and surrounding blood vessels during an ophthalmoscopy.

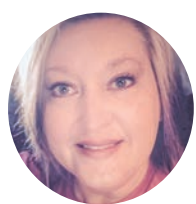
### SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The eye doctor may utilize specialized imaging equipment that will take digital images of the eyes to diagnose various retinal, optic nerve and corneal conditions.

These are some of the things people may experience during a comprehensive vision exam.

## HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

# Hood County Library celebrates summer success and unveils exciting fall programs



BY JENNIFER LOGSDON

Hood County Library Director Jennifer Logsdon is a former public school educator of 23 years, earning a master's degree in Library Science during that time. She enjoys spending time with her blended family of five children, baking and of course reading.

The library's summer reading challenge turned out to be an overwhelming success, thanks to the meticulous planning of Ms. Cookie and the enthusiastic participation of the community. A total of 823 patrons, ranging in age from infants to seniors, enrolled in the program, diligently tracking their daily reading and earning a variety of prizes. The library also hosted several events throughout the summer, attracting a total of 1,539 attendees. This year's program was a remarkable achievement for the library and the community.

As we transition from the heat of summer, many of us are eagerly anticipating cooler weather and the cozy comforts of fall — perfect for curling up with a good book and a warm drink. But for now, we continue to endure the lingering summer heat.

We are enjoying a cool respite inside the library this August. The staff is taking a break from programming to gear up for an exciting fall season, which includes some brand-new events we're thrilled to introduce. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for updates, and don't miss the September calendar pictured.

Here is a quick description of new programs we plan to add. See the calendar for

dates and times.

### NEW MONTHLY events for young patrons:

- **Dungeon and Dragons Club** (ages 12-18): Dungeons & Dragons is a tabletop role-playing game where players create and control characters in a fictional world, guided by a Dungeon Master who narrates the story. D & D can be a learning tool that fosters a wide range of social, emotional and creative benefits.

- **Anime Club** (ages 12-18): Meet other anime fans at Hood County Library. We'll watch two anime episodes and complete an anime-themed craft. No registration required and there will be snacks. Come ready for fun!
- **Juvenile Book Club**: Join a group of avid readers to read and discuss novels of different genres. Registration is required. First 10 registrants will receive a copy of the book (limit one per family).

### NEW MONTHLY events for adults:

- **Elevenses Book Club**: Join other readers to discuss your current read, get recommendations, and enjoy a cup of tea.

- **Writers Corner**: Meet up with other writers to spark creativity and overcome writer's block. We plan to engage in writing prompts and exercises. These activities are designed to inspire new ideas

CHILDREN & SEPTEMBER 2024 FAMILY EVENTS

library.hoodcounty.texas.gov

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Labor Day	3 NASA Trojan Asteroids 5:00-6:00	4 Story Time 10:30 (18 mo-5 yrs)	5 Code Club 4:30-5:30 (8-12yrs)	6	7 Lego Day
9 Music & Motion 10:30 (18 mo.- 5yrs)	10	11 Story Time 10:30 (18 mo-5 yrs)	12 Code Club 4:30-5:30 (8-12yrs)	13 Anime Club (12+ yrs) 5-6 pm	14 Lego Day
16 Music & Motion 10:30 (18 mo.- 5yrs)	17 NASA Missions to Mars 5:00-6:00	18 Story Time 10:30 Juvenile Book Club (8-12yrs) 5-6 pm	19 Code Club 4:30-5:30 (8-12yrs)	20	21 Lego Day
23 Music & Motion 10:30 (18 mo.- 5yrs)	24	25 Story Time 10:30 (18 mo-5 yrs)	26 Code Club 4:30-5:30 (8-12yrs)	27 Lego Day	28 Lego Day
30 Music & Motion 10:30 D&D Club (12+) 5-6:45 pm					

COURTESY PHOTO

Join us to discover all the benefits your library card offers beyond just borrowing books.

and approaches to writing.

- **The Cozy Loop** (Needlecraft Club): Got a project you haven't been able to finish? Now is the time to try. Open to knitting, crocheting, cross stitch. We've got the space if you have the time.
- **Game Night Getaway**:

Join us for Adult Game Night and possibly make some new friends! Bring your own game or choose one of ours!

The library offers a variety of regular programs, and we hope you find one that interests you!

In September, the library will celebrate Library Card

Sign-Up Month. The first 50 new cardholders will receive a special gift (one per family). If you already have a library card, stop by for a photo opportunity to help us highlight the importance of using and supporting your community library. Additionally, in honor of

Library Card Sign-Up Month, we're hosting a special event Monday, Sept. 23: Library 101 — All the Things! Join us to discover all the benefits your library card offers beyond just borrowing books.

# From GIs to grocery stores: The chocolate bar's journey to fame

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News micky@hcnews.com

Step into any grocery store today, and you'll find yourself faced with an overwhelming array of candy bars. These chocolaty delights have become a staple of modern snacking, available in every flavor and texture imaginable. But have you ever wondered how this sweet revolution began? The story of the modern chocolate bar is a fascinating journey that stretches back to the battlefields of World War I, where the humble candy bar was first introduced as a crucial source of sustenance for soldiers. What began as a military necessity soon sparked a nationwide obsession that would forever change how we enjoy chocolate.

### A WAR-TIME DELIGHT: CHOCOLATE ON THE FRONTLINES

The chocolate bar's rise to fame began during the tumultuous years of World War I. Soldiers on the front-

lines needed a portable, high-calorie food source that could sustain them during long and grueling battles. Chocolate, with its rich flavor and energy-boosting properties, quickly became a favorite among the troops. It was easy to transport, didn't spoil quickly, and provided a much-needed morale boost in the harsh conditions of war.

Recognizing the importance of chocolate in the war effort, the U.S. government began requesting donations of large 20-pound blocks of chocolate from American candy makers. These blocks were then cut into smaller portions, individually wrapped, and sent overseas to be distributed to soldiers. The sweet treat soon became a beloved staple among American GIs, many of whom had developed a taste for European chocolates while serving abroad.

### FROM THE BATTLEFIELD TO THE CANDY AISLE: POST-WAR POPULARITY

When the war ended,

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Candy makers across the United States eagerly responded to this growing demand by developing new and exciting chocolate bars. The market quickly became crowded with various offerings, each one trying to outshine the others with innovative ingredients and catchy names. Companies experimented with everything from nougat and caramel to more unconventional ingredients like dehydrated vegetables. The goal was to create a unique product that would stand out on store



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**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

A guide to Granbury-area churches.

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 1 John 4:12

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 7600 Fm 1189, Lipan 817-565-9027  
 Exalted Redeemer Baptist  
 1840 Acton Hwy. 817-247-7209  
 Fairview Baptist  
 5041 Weatherford Hwy. 817-573-8968  
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 First Baptist  
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 First Baptist  
 214 Kickapoo Ct., Lipan 254-646-2484  
 First Baptist Thorp Springs  
 2815 Lipan Hwy. 817-573-3339  
 Glen Rose First Baptist  
 201 West Gibbs Blvd., Glen Rose 254-897-2351  
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 1200 Weatherford Hwy. 817-573-4943  
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 1851 Weatherford Hwy. 817-573-7137  
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 315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd. 254-396-5773  
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 3300 Oak Trail Dr.  
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 Mambrino Baptist  
 1625 Mambrino Hwy. 817-573-4901  
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 4791 Fm 2803, Lipan 940-769-2968  
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 Old Granbury Church Of Christ  
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 Granbury First United Methodist  
 301 Loop 567, 817-573-5573  
 Solid Rock Global Methodist Church  
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 5601 Temple Hall Hwy., 682-317-9385
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**John 15:4**



**Friday, 30 August - Thursday, 5 September**

**Alien: Romulus - 119 min (R)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:35PM, 11:00PM.  
Sat: 11:05AM, 1:55PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:20PM.  
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:55PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.  
Mon: 10:00AM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:35PM.  
Thurs: 4:50PM

**Beetlejuice Beetlejuice - 105 min (PG13)**  
Thurs: 3:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:00PM

**Deadpool & Wolverine - 127 min (R)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM, 10:45PM.  
Sat: 10:15AM, 1:10PM, 4:05PM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM.  
Sun, Mon: 10:15AM, 1:10PM, 4:05PM, 7:00PM.  
Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM

**It Ends With Us - 130 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM, 10:55PM.  
Sat: 10:20AM, 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 7:20PM, 10:20PM.  
Sun, Mon: 10:20AM, 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 7:20PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 8:05PM

**Reagan - 135 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM, 10:20PM.  
Sat: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 10:00PM.  
Sun, Mon: 10:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:35PM

**The Crow - 111 min (R)**  
Fri: 7:20PM, 10:00PM.  
Sat: 5:35PM, 8:10PM, 10:45PM.  
Sun, Mon: 5:30PM, 8:05PM.  
Tues, Wed: 7:20PM.  
Thurs: 7:30PM

**Twisters - 122 min (PG13)**  
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM, 10:30PM.  
Sat: 10:20AM, 1:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM, 9:40PM.  
Sun, Mon: 10:20AM, 1:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM.  
Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 8:05PM

**You Gotta Believe - 104 min (PG)**  
Fri, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM.  
Sat: 10:05AM, 12:35PM, 3:05PM.  
Sun, Mon: 10:00AM, 12:30PM, 3:00PM.  
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM



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## GRANBURY CULTURE ARTS

## Granbury's music scene

BY STACEY WATKINS-MARTIN AND CORA WERLEY

Stacey Watkins-Martin and Cora Werley are local artists and members with several others of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission. Both work diligently with many other people and organizations to promote Granbury as the exciting arts destination it has become.

Did you know there is a rapidly growing music scene in our little town? You can fill a weekend visiting different venues and hear multiple different sounds, all on our own Historic Town Square and a few blocks beyond. As a matter of fact, Granbury has been designated as the 40th Music Friendly Texas Certified Community by the Governor's Texas Music Office (TMO). Why? Because Granbury supports and fosters music business-related economic development and job creation!

And why is music so important? It's not a coincidence that our lives are affected by our choice in what we listen to from moment to moment. It can lift your spirits, renew old memories and actually change your life. We have so many examples of the importance of singing, creating and enjoying music. The world began with angels singing their worship which will continue for all eternity, and we are blessed to be able to participate with them. Our bodies are created to enjoy the rhythms and melodies people create for us and we create for ourselves. It's not that all music is uplifting and healthy, but if you just google "importance of music" you'll see how many entries explain its significance. Music is proven to unite people, heal physically, increase learning ability and memory, and even to treat mental illness, lower anxiety and improve depression. Who wouldn't want to invest themselves in something

that heightens our ability to be the person we're created to be?

Whether you create your own music, listen to and appreciate offerings of others, or are just learning to identify which is which, Granbury is a great place to seek and explore. When you are in Granbury, you are offered multiple venues to choose what you like to listen to and who you want to listen with. Entering the Historic Square and just getting out of your vehicle, you may already be hearing music around you. Several places are within walking distance of anywhere you park, including these, all of which you should try to visit:

- 1886 Granbury Opera House (Broadway musicals)
- Baron's Creek
- Bob's Off the Square
- Brew Drinkery and Bistro
- D'Vine Wine
- Farina's Winery & Café
- Fisherman's Corner (authentic German)

- New Granbury Live
- Silver Saddle Saloon
- The Pub Shindy

These are just a few of those places farther afield; meet your friends at the square to carpool and enjoy the square when you return:

- Brock's Food & Drink
- Rockin S Bar and Grill
- Sledge Distillery
- Warren's Backyard's

And don't miss the larger festivals that come throughout the year and bring their own musical talent, including:

- Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts: Oct. 26-27
- Lost In Texas Music Fest: Nov. 2 at the Reunion Grounds
- Granbury JazzFest: February 2025

• Founders' Day: Spring 2025  
If you know of something that we left out, please write to us and let us know. There is so much to do here, it's easy to miss something great, so your help is much appreciated. And tell us your favorites, too. Thank you!

## GO PLAY

## SUNDAYS

**THE GRANBURY** Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St. Welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

## MONDAYS

**HEALTHY CONNECTIONS** exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga. 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

**GRANBURY BRIDGE** Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome, come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints. Information and reservations: 225-933-4074.

**SONS OF** the American Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night, 5-7 p.m. at American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

**GRANBURY CIVIC** Chorus — rehearsals, Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See www.granbury-civicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com. Come join us!

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

## TUESDAYS

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

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

**AMATEUR RADIO** Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 p.m., on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

## WEDNESDAYS

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

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

## THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

## FRIDAYS

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

## SATURDAYS

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

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

## FIRST MONDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY** Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m.

at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

**LOVE KNOTS** Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

## SECOND MONDAYS

**MEETING OF** the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions call 361-510-6820 or email simanek1@charter.net.

## THIRD MONDAYS

**GRANBURY QUILTERS** Guild meets the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

**LOVE KNOTS** Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

**WAMS (WESTERN** Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

## FIRST TUESDAYS

**GRANBURY DOLL** Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.

## SECOND TUESDAYS

**GRANBURY KNITTING** Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

## THIRD TUESDAYS

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

## FOURTH TUESDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY** Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday each month (except November and December) at

7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

**MONTHLY MEETING** of the Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 817-910-8174.

## FIRST THURSDAYS

**BRAZOS RIVER** Corvette Club meets the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

## SECOND THURSDAYS

**HOOD COUNTY** CERT meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive. HoodCoCert@gmail.com.

**THE GRANBURY** EWMA, Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is at 6 p.m., an informal meeting is at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2- and 3-wheelers, any and all riders are welcome.

## THIRD THURSDAYS

**THE HOOD** Somervell A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Highway 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

**THE HOOD** County Democratic Club meets each month at 1410 Pearl St., Annex #1 at 7 p.m. Questions? Call 817-233-5453.

## THIRD FRIDAYS

**LEGACY CHRISTIAN** Academy of Granbury sponsors skating dates year round at Granbury Skating Rink from 10 a.m. to noon. All Christian music. \$8 cash at the door. No outside food or drink.

## LAST THURSDAYS

**MARINE CORPS** League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

## SECOND SATURDAYS

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

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



# Sleep smarter: Why your nighttime routine matters more than you think

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

Getting a good night's sleep can often feel like an elusive goal in our fast-paced, technology-driven world. Many of us end our days glued to our screens, scrolling through social media or binge-watching our favorite shows, only to find ourselves tossing and turning when it's time to sleep. However, research increasingly suggests that how we spend the final hour before bed can significantly impact our sleep quality. Creating a consistent wind-down routine with calming activities can be the key to unlocking better sleep and, ultimately, better health.

## THE SCIENCE BEHIND SLEEP AND RELAXATION

Sleep is a crucial component of overall health, affecting everything from our mood and cognitive function to our immune system and heart health. While sleep is a natural biological process, falling and staying asleep can sometimes require more than just lying down and closing our eyes. The modern lifestyle, with its reliance on technology and constant connectivity, has introduced challenges to our sleep hy-

giene—especially when it comes to screen time.

Numerous studies have shown that exposure to blue light emitted by screens can interfere with our circadian rhythm, the body's natural sleep-wake cycle. Blue light inhibits the production of melatonin, the hormone responsible for inducing sleep. This disruption can delay the onset of sleep, reduce sleep quality and increase the likelihood of waking up during the night.

In contrast, engaging in relaxing activities before bed can help the brain and body transition into sleep mode. Activities such as reading a book, listening to soft music, or practicing light stretching or yoga help calm the mind and relax the muscles, preparing the body for a restful night's sleep.

## BUILDING A WIND-DOWN ROUTINE

The key to a successful wind-down routine is consistency. By establishing a set of calming activities you look forward to each night, you signal to your body that it's time to unwind and prepare for sleep. Here are some activities to consider incorporating into your bedtime routine:

1. Reading a book: Reading is a simple yet effective way to relax before bed. Choose a book that's interesting

but not too stimulating — something that will engage your mind without causing excitement or stress. Unlike screen-based activities, reading from a physical book or an e-reader with a blue light filter doesn't interfere with melatonin production, making it an ideal presleep activity.

2. Listening to soft music: Music has long been known to profoundly affect our emotions and physiological state. Listening to calming, slow-tempo music can lower your heart rate and reduce anxiety, setting the stage for sleep. Classical music, ambient soundscapes or even nature sounds are excellent choices for a presleep playlist.

3. Light stretching or yoga: Gentle stretching or yoga can help release physical tension accumulated throughout the day. Poses that focus on deep breathing and relaxation, such as child's pose or seated forward bend, can calm the nervous system and ease the body into a restful state. Incorporating a few minutes of light stretching or yoga into your routine can be particularly beneficial if you experience muscle tension or discomfort that interferes with sleep.

4. Meditation or deep breathing exercises: Incorporating mindfulness practices like meditation or

deep breathing exercises into your wind-down routine can further enhance relaxation. Techniques such as progressive muscle relaxation or guided imagery can help clear the mind of worries and reduce the stress that may otherwise keep you awake.

## WHY SCREEN TIME BEFORE BED IS A BAD IDEA

As tempting as it might be to catch up on emails, watch a late-night show, or scroll through social media, the evidence is clear: screen time before bed is detrimental to sleep quality. In addition to the disruptive effects of blue light, engaging with content on screens — whether it's news, social media or entertainment — can stimulate the brain in ways that hinder relaxation. The constant flow of information and the interactive nature of digital content can keep the mind active and alert, making it harder to wind down.

A 2017 study published in the journal "Sleep Health" found that individuals who spent more time on screens before bed had poorer sleep quality and were more likely to experience insomnia symptoms. The study emphasized the importance of creating a digital curfew — turning off screens at least 30 minutes before bed to give the brain time to transition into sleep mode.



COURTESY PHOTO

Research increasingly suggests that how we spend the final hour before bed can significantly impact our sleep quality.

## MAKING RELAXATION A HABIT

Consistency is critical to reaping the full benefits of a wind-down routine. Choose a relaxing activity that you genuinely enjoy and look forward to each night. This could be a combination of the abovementioned activities or something else you find soothing. The goal is to make these activities a regular part of your bedtime ritual, allowing your body to associate them with sleep.

It's also essential to create a sleep-friendly environment. Keep your bedroom cool, dark and quiet, and re-

serve your bed for sleep and relaxation only — this helps reinforce the mental association between your bed and rest.

Incorporating these practices into your daily life may require some adjustment, but the rewards are well worth it. By prioritizing a wind-down routine and reducing screen time before bed, you'll likely find it easier to fall asleep, stay asleep and wake up feeling refreshed. After all, good sleep is the foundation of good health — so why not give yourself the best chance at a restful night by winding down the right way?

## CHOCOLATE FROM PAGE C6

shelves and appeal to the increasingly discerning tastes of consumers.

## CATCHY NAMES AND ICONIC BARS: THE ROARING '20S CANDY CRAZE

In an effort to capture the public's imagination, candy companies began to give their products creative and

memorable names, often inspired by the pop culture and trends of the time. One of the most famous examples is the Charleston Chew, introduced in 1925 and named after the popular dance craze that was sweeping the nation. Another iconic bar, the Baby Ruth, hit the shelves in 1921 and benefited from the public's fascination with baseball superstar Babe Ruth. Interestingly, despite popular belief, the Baby Ruth bar was actually

named after Ruth Cleveland, the daughter of former President Grover Cleveland, rather than the legendary baseball player.

Other candy bars took inspiration from famous personalities and characters of the era. The Lindy Bar, for instance, was named after the celebrated aviator Charles Lindbergh, while the market also saw bars named after comic strip characters like Dick Tracy and Little Orphan

Annie. Betsy Ross, a figure from America's revolutionary past, even lent her name to a sweet treat. The marketing strategies behind these candy bars were as diverse as the ingredients inside them, and by the end of the 1920s, the United States was producing more than 40,000 different candy bars.

## A LASTING LEGACY: THE MODERN CANDY BAR

The candy bar boom of

the 1920s laid the foundation for the vast and varied chocolate offerings we enjoy today. Over the decades, many iconic bars introduced during this golden era have remained popular while new innovations continue to push the boundaries of what a candy bar can be. From the battlefield to the candy aisle, the history of the chocolate bar is a testament to its enduring appeal and its ability to bring joy to people of all

ages. So, the next time you unwrap a candy bar, take a moment to appreciate its rich history. What started as a practical food for soldiers has evolved into one of the most beloved treats in the world — a sweet reminder of how a simple idea can grow into something extraordinary.

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