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LABORDAY

FESTIVITIES IN HOOD COUNTY



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Among last weekend's Labor Day festivities was the street dance headlined by the Jason Cartmell Band. Please see more photos, A6.

Granbury Burger King flames out amid rebranding push



LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A handwritten note on the restaurant's front door announced, "We are permanently closed."

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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Granbury is bidding farewell to a familiar fast-food spot as the Burger King at 1105 S. Morgan St. ceases business. A handwritten note on the restaurant's front door announced, "We are permanently closed." The news emerged on social media Aug. 24, when a local user shared that a restaurant worker revealed the lease had not been renewed.

The S. Morgan Street Burger King has been a community fixture since 2001. It is known for its signature Whopper, a burger distinguished by its flame-grilling process. According to the Encyclopedia of Junk Food and Fast Food, this cooking method sets Burger King apart from its competitors.

The closure is part of a broader trend affecting Burger King. As of 2024, the chain operates approximately 6,706 locations across the United States.

Like a gardener pruning back branches to help a tree grow stronger and healthier, Burger King has been shuttering many of its restaurants in recent years. In 2023 alone, around 300 locations closed. Since January 2024, about 400 additional sites have shut down as part of a strategy to streamline operations and close underperforming outlets, as reported by Sean Cate, Aug. 2024.

Nation's Restaurant News says that despite these closures, Burger King has seen positive results from its \$400 million "Reclaim the Flame" comeback plan, which rolled out in October 2022. This initiative, launched to modernize the brand and boost customer traffic, has begun to pay off.

The chain reported a low-single-digit, relatively flat traffic growth in the fourth quarter of 2023, marking the first positive increase since the second quarter of 2021. U.S. same-store sales rose by 6.4%, building on 5% growth from the previous year.

QSR Magazine and Business Wire report that same-store sales increased by 7.5% for the year, up from 2.2% in 2022. Additionally, average profitability per restaurant surged nearly 50% in 2023, rising from \$140,000 to over \$205,000.

Initially, \$50 million was allocated for this program and \$200 million for restaurant remodels. However, due to strong early results, the chain decided to reallocate \$50 million from the remodeling budget to the refresh program, boosting it to \$100 million in 2023.

In 2023, Burger King's parent company, Restaurant Brands International, reported an 8.3% revenue increase to \$1.78 billion in the second quarter, exceeding expectations, according to Reuters. This growth was driven by Burger King's "Reclaim the Flame" turnaround strategy, including marketing, technology upgrades and restaurant remodels, which improved U.S. sales and traffic.

Burger King's investment and improvements project growth to occur between 2024 and 2028. This additional investment is expected to impact more than 6,000 U.S. restaurants or roughly 90 percent of its U.S. footprint.

The funds are mainly directed toward improving "A" and "B" franchisees, enhancing drive-thru and digital experiences (Business Wire; QSR Magazine).

In Burger King's franchise system, "A" franchisees are high-performing operators who consistently meet or exceed operational and financial benchmarks, often managing multiple locations. "B" franchisees, while solid, are targeted for growth and improvement to elevate their performance.

The recent investment focuses on upgrading both categories, particularly enhancing drive-thru and digital experiences.



determined the explosion was attributed to a propane tank. The fire was extinguished, and no injuries were reported.

The American Red Cross was contacted to aid the displaced family. The cause of the blaze remains under investigation by the Hood County Fire Marshal's Office.

COURTESY PHOTO BY MACK BENNETT

A residential structure fire in the Sandy Beach neighborhood on Aug. 29 was determined to be a propane tank explosion.

Structure fire in Sandy Beach neighborhood

From Staff Reports

A family was displaced from its home after it was ravaged by fire last week, but no injuries were reported, according to information obtained from the Hood County Fire Marshal's Office.

According to authorities, at about 3:40 p.m. Aug. 19, the Hood County Sheriff's Department dispatched DeCordova/Acton Volunteer Fire Department along with Granbury VFD, North Hood

County VFD, Cresson VFD, Pecan Plantation VFD, Hood County Fire Marshal's Office and Texas EMS to a report of a residential structure fire in the Sandy Beach neighborhood in Hood County.

The fire marshal's office reports an explosion occurred before responding fire departments arrived, which was heard and felt for several miles. Firefighters arrived to find the residence fully involved with flames, and it was

Celebrate September's quirky and offbeat holidays

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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From Wonderful Weirdos Day to International Talk Like a Pirate Day, September is packed with quirky, lesser-known, unique holidays that offer a chance to explore new traditions and create memorable moments with family and friends.

While Labor Day kicks off the month with widespread recognition, this list focuses on the more unusual, often overlooked holidays that add a bit of whimsy to the days ahead.

Here's a glimpse into some of the oddest, and perhaps most delightful, holidays September has to offer.

WONDERFUL WEIRDOS DAY — SEPT. 9

Wonderful Weirdos Day — Sept. 9 — is a celebration of all things unique and unconventional. NationalDayCalendar.

com encourages people to embrace their quirks by dressing in eccentric outfits, listening to unusual music, watching off-beat movies, and eating strange foods.

This day honors figures like Salvador Dali, known for his flamboyant style and surreal art, and Lady Gaga, celebrated for her bold fashion and artistic boundary-pushing.

As the saying goes, "Being weird is like being different, which means being interesting, and if you're interesting, you're never going to be bored or boring." Embrace your individuality and celebrate what makes you wonderfully weird!

NATIONAL VIDEO GAMES DAY — SEPT. 12

National Video Games Day, a time to celebrate the incredible evolution of gaming from its early beginnings to its modern-day triumphs. First noted in the publication, 'Chase's Calendar of Events' in 1991 and later

moved from July 8, this day honors milestones like Ralph Baer's 1967 "Brown Box," the iconic Atari 2600, and games like "Pac-Man" and "Super Mario Bros."

Today, video games are enjoyed on everything from consoles to tablets, as highlighted by TheIndianExpress.com. Players can dive into their favorite games, host a gaming party, or even try out new releases to join the celebration. Recognize the day by streaming on platforms like Twitch, participating in a gaming tournament, or visiting a local arcade.

The day also shines a light on gaming stars like Tyler "Ninja" Blevins, who became a millionaire through his success in Fortnite, and Johan "N0tail" Sundstein, whose Dota 2 victories have made him one of the highest-earning esports players ever. National Video Games Day is a perfect chance to enjoy gaming in all its forms and support gaming charities.

UNCLE SAM DAY — SEPT. 13

Sept. 13 marks Uncle Sam Day, a celebration officially recognized by Congress in 1989 to honor one of America's most iconic symbols. The date coincides with the birthday of Samuel Wilson, born Sept. 13, 1776. Wilson is believed to be the inspiration behind Uncle Sam.

According to HolidayInsights.com, during the War of 1812, soldiers near Troy, New York, received barrels of meat stamped with "U.S." from Wilson, leading them to humorously nickname him "Uncle Sam." This theory gained official recognition in 1961 when Congress authorized a monument in Troy to honor Wilson.

Another theory suggests that Irish immigrants contributed to the name, abbreviating "Stáit Aontaithe Mheiriceá" (United States of America) as "SAM."

The most famous depiction of Uncle Sam was created by

PLEASE SEE HOLIDAYS | A4



138TH YEAR, NO. 35

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 30 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 30 pages

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Ends Tuesday, Sept. 10

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Save up to \$900

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Small businesses in Granbury: Thriving with the support of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

Granbury Chamber of Congress

Starting a new business is no small feat — especially when so many fail in their first year. That's why helping business owners turn their ideas into reality requires skill, knowledge and expertise. Yet, finding experienced mentors who can guide budding entrepreneurs isn't always easy. Strong mentors don't simply appear out of thin air. Fortunately, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with chambers across the country, is here to help.

We've partnered with America's Small Business Development Center at Tarleton State University and Fort Worth SCORE to provide free in-person business consulting, training and mentoring to both emerging and established businesses. These services cover key topics like "Building a Budget," "Sales Forecasting" and "SWOT Analysis." Charles Wohl, our local

expert with America's SBDC, hosts free monthly training sessions at the Granbury chamber office, available to anyone interested in growing their business. In fact, several businesses in and around Granbury have successfully launched after benefiting from the SBDC's expert mentoring.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 9-10 a.m., when SBDC will host a free training workshop on "Building a Budget" at the Granbury Chamber of Commerce. Space is limited to 12 participants, and we encourage all those in the North Central Texas small business and entrepreneurial community to join us. To secure your spot, call 817-566-1066, email info@granburychamber.com, or visit us at 3408 E. U.S. Highway 377.

In addition to these invaluable training opportunities, the chamber provides a robust platform for networking. We understand that small businesses thrive on con-

nections. Chamber programs and events create opportunities for entrepreneurs to meet like-minded individuals, share ideas and forge valuable partnerships. The visibility our chamber offers is another significant advantage. Through our marketing efforts and participation in local events, small businesses gain exposure to a broader audience. We actively promote our members through our website, social media and local media outlets to ensure they shine.

In Granbury, small businesses are more than just enterprises — they are the lifeblood of our community. With the support of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Development Center at Tarleton State University, Fort Worth SCORE, and our monthly business development and networking events, we're not just helping businesses survive; we're equipping them with powerful tools to turn their dreams into reality.

COURTESY GRAPHICS

COURTESY GRAPHICS

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

COURTESY GRAPHICS

TOP: New Member Spotlight: Options Corp For Senior America an MKR Unlimited, Inc. Company. Since 1989 Options for Senior America has been a leading home care agency because they have never lost sight of what their clients want.

- "Our clients want an agency that:**
- Has the highest possible standards in screening their caregivers (Our Caregivers)
 - Maintains substantial rosters of caregivers
 - Maintains highly experienced, friendly and courteous office staff (Client Testimonials)
 - Comes up with the right Aide for every set of circumstances
 - Responds to emergencies quickly, day or night with Options' "Instant" Response
 - Provides convenience and practical solutions at every turn (Our Services)"

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

CENTER: Member Spotlight: Plains Capital Bank. "Our customers value our Texas roots, our strength and stability, and our straight-forward approach. We supply the momentum you need to move forward." Thank you for being a member of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

BOTTOM: Board Member Spotlight: Madison Northcutt. We are so thankful for our Board Member Madison Northcutt with Northcutt Farmers Insurance and Financial Services!! Madison has been on the Granbury Chamber Board for almost 1 year! When asked why she likes being a Board Member, she replied, "I love it because I have a tremendous amount of respect for my fellow board members, the chamber staff, ambassadors, and what we can work together to accomplish for our community." Fun Fact about Madison "I love all things outdoors! Bow hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, you name it. I won the first and only archery tournament I've ever competed in." Thank you for serving on our Board Madison!

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

BURGER

FROM PAGE A1

tal experiences. As of September 2024, the company's focus is on promoting its new line of "Flame-Grilled Gourmet Burgers." The campaign highlights the premium ingredients and the signature flame-grilling technique that distinguish these burgers from competitors.

The ads feature visually appealing shots

of the burgers being cooked over an open flame, accompanied by catchy jingles and a message about the quality and taste of the new offerings.

The closure of the Burger King in Granbury is like RBI tossing extra weight off a hot air balloon to keep it flying. By streamlining its operations and adapting to market shifts, Burger King is adapting to changing market conditions and striving to revitalize its brand amidst evolving consumer preferences and a tough economy.

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

Labor Day should not be taken for granted



BY SAM HOUSTON

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

This past Monday most of us had a day off from work as we celebrated the Labor Day holiday. To many, the day is just another holiday which for some marks the unofficial end of summer and the beginning of fall. It is usually the same weekend that college football kicks off and dove hunting season opens, and so it seems to be a natural bridge from the heat and strain of a long hot summer and the fun-filled activities of fall.

Being a child raised in a city with a strong organized labor presence, it saddens me a little when people do

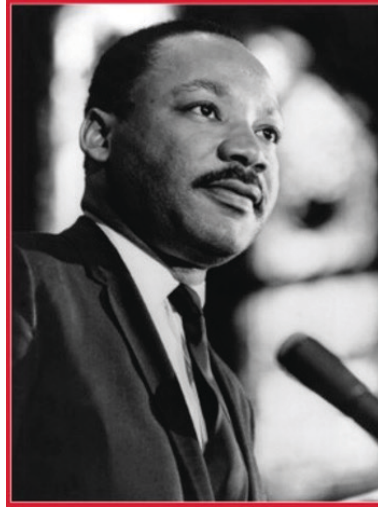
not note the profound historical and cultural significance of Labor Day and the contributions and achievements of the American labor movement. This holiday honors the relentless efforts of workers and the labor organizations that fought for improved working conditions, fair wages and basic rights in the workplace. Understanding Labor Day's importance requires delving into the rich history of the American labor movement and recognizing the strides made toward improving labor conditions in the United States.

The origins of Labor Day

trace back to the late 19th century, a time when the American industrial revolution was in full swing. The rapid industrialization of the country led to an increase in factory jobs, but these positions were often characterized by grueling hours, hazardous working conditions and minimal wages. Workers, including men, women and children, who labored long hours for meager pay, often in unsafe environments. This period was marked by significant labor unrest and the rise of various labor organizations seeking to address these inequities.

One of the pivotal events in the American labor movement was the Pullman Strike of 1894. Workers at the Pullman Company, which manufactured railroad cars, went on strike to protest wage cuts and high rents in company-owned housing. The strike escalated into a nationwide railway strike, disrupting transportation and drawing national attention to the plight of workers. The federal government's intervention, which involved deploying troops to break the strike, highlighted the tense relationship between labor and management and the need for organized labor advocacy.

Amidst these struggles, the labor movement made significant gains. Unions such as the American Federation of Labor played a crucial role in advocating for workers' rights. The AFL focused on securing better wages, working conditions and hours through collective bargaining. Another important labor organization



The labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress.

Martin Luther King, Jr., 1965

COURTESY GRAPHIC

was the Knights of Labor, which sought broader social reforms and inclusive labor practices. These organizations, through strikes, negotiations and public advocacy, laid the groundwork for labor reforms that would follow.

Labor Day itself emerged as a symbol of these efforts and achievements. The first Labor Day was celebrated Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, organized by the Central Labor Union. The idea quickly gained traction, and by 1894, Labor Day became a federal holiday. The establishment of Labor Day was a recognition of the contributions of workers and a nod to the importance of labor organizations in advocating for fair labor practices.

The significance of Labor Day extends beyond its historical roots; it is a celebration of ongoing labor struggles and victories. Over the years, labor unions have continued to advocate for workers' rights, leading to significant improvements in

workplace safety, fair wages and reasonable working hours. Legislation such as the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, which established a minimum wage and overtime pay, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, which aimed to ensure safe working conditions, were direct results of labor advocacy and demonstrate the lasting impact of the labor movement.

I am sure many young people cannot imagine a workplace with no overtime pay for mandatory overtime hours worked. Nor might they imagine children — some younger than 10 years old — working a full time job, or being hurt on the job with no recourse. I doubt they can imagine labor riots where men risked their lives for the right to earn a living wage. For the most part, these sort of conditions no longer exist, and that is because of the efforts and vigilance of the American labor movement.

Labor Day represents much more than a break

from work; it is a tribute to the struggles and successes of the American labor movement. It honors the contributions of workers and the pivotal role of labor organizations in shaping fair labor practices.

Monday may have been a great day for a cookout, or boating at the lake, or simply dozing in the hammock in the backyard. Hopefully, sometime during the holiday weekend there was a moment of pause to reflect on the progress made in labor relations and the challenges that remain. The American worker is the best in the world. Their role in producing the products and services we need plays a vital role in maintaining our freedom and independence. Thank you for all you have done!

Thought for the day: "The American labor movement was the principal force that transformed misery and despair into hope and progress". — Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Mickey Allen (right).

Say hello to our neighbor, Mickey Allen!

Mickey and her husband Jerry moved to Western Hills Harbor from Arlington March 1, 1998, when she transferred from the Department of Public Safety in Arlington to Granbury's DPS office. "I was 'The Driver License Lady' until November 2012. That offered me connections in Hood County. It feels so special when District Judge Brian Bufkin tells me, 'Ms. Mickey, you gave me my license.'" The Allens moved to Granbury because it was a small town with a laid-back attitude, but over the years local growth has widened their circle of friends, who they love to share time with. When Jerry worked at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center, the fact that Southern himself asked him to be the first IT/Media assistant manager meant the world to the Allen family. Much of Mickey's time is spent engaged in the community's wide array of nonprofits. For her, being on the Board of Friends of Memorial Lane and helping get it started has been a growth experience. Honoring the first responders within Hood County tugs at her heartstrings. Mickey has also donated her time to bring food for the First Responders lunch at church, did a short little board service with Christian Women's Job Corp which became Forward Training Center, and for one year was chair for the Christmas Market fundraiser. We can't forget her stint as an Elf at the Santa House! How she works in Zumba at the YMCA four days a week remains a mystery. "Work but fun!" Mickey says. Mickey is blessed with three sons and Jerry has one. Her son Marc moved here a few years ago and is a contractor who is busy developing relationships here in town. Her oldest son, Don, and his wonderful wife are now in San Angelo. In about a year, he's set to have earned his PhD in psychology. Her middle son Jeffery is doing great in finance at a car dealership. Jerry's son Jad is in Houston now with a great wife and an awesome career. Mickey has seven grandchildren — only one is a girl — and two great-grandsons! The HCN was just a few pages when Mickey and Jerry moved here. Mickey says: "And now look at it. It's a big deal! I love to read about history, current events, the lives in our community and what's on sale."

Hopkins returns to lead City's economic development

From Staff Reports

The City of Granbury has named Shea Hopkins its new director of economic development, bringing in a seasoned professional to spearhead the city's growth initiatives. Hopkins will collaborate closely with City Manager Chris Coffman to devise and implement strategies aimed at driving economic progress in the community.

Hopkins arrives in Granbury with extensive experience. She most recently served as the assistant director of economic development for the City of San Antonio. She led the global and industry divisions in that role, managing incentive programs and foreign direct investment efforts.

Before her tenure in San Antonio, Hopkins was the Clarksville-Montgomery County Industrial Development Board executive director in Tennessee. Under her leadership, the board secured more than \$5.2 billion in new capital investment projects, including Tennessee's largest foreign direct investment. One of her notable achievements



COURTESY PHOTO

Shea Hopkins returns to Granbury, drawn by the opportunity to raise her family in this wonderful community.

was the establishment of an industrial park childcare facility that serves 800 students at reduced rates, benefiting employees and military families alike.

Hopkins' career marks significant accomplishments in business recruitment, talent development, supply chain management, and public-

private partnerships. She has held leadership positions in chambers of commerce, economic councils, and various organizations dedicated to economic development, including a previous role with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce.

"What drew me back to Granbury was the oppor-

tunity to raise my family in this wonderful community," Hopkins said. "I am excited and proud to join a brilliant team working towards fostering economic growth in this city. Helping to create jobs and generate investments is at the heart of economic development. The best way to shape Granbury's future is through creative collaboration, focusing on existing businesses, infrastructure, workforce development and attracting new capital investments."

Coffman expressed his enthusiasm for Hopkins' return, stating, "We are excited to welcome Shea back to Granbury. Her expertise will be instrumental in fostering business development and retention, which ultimately strengthens our community by retaining and creating high-quality jobs."

Hopkins, a native of Abilene, holds a Bachelor of Applied Science from Texas Woman's University. In her new role, she is committed to shaping the future of Granbury by supporting local businesses, enhancing infrastructure and driving new investments.

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

Elderly cyclist killed in traffic crash

From Staff Reports

An 88-year-old Granbury man was killed Friday morning, Aug. 30, when he was struck by a vehicle while

riding a bicycle in the 200 block of Farm-to-Market Road 167. According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, Jeffery Jobin was pronounced dead at the

scene by Justice of the Peace Jeff Kelly.

Jobin was riding a bicycle southbound on FM 167 when he was struck by a 2012 Toyota Camry travel-

ing in the same direction. DPS stated the crash occurred at approximately 7:41 a.m. and was caused by the driver of the Camry failing to control its speed. The

investigation is ongoing and DPS was unable to provide further details.

Granbury mayor declares Patriot Day and Constitution Week

BY LAUREN DAVIS

Staff Writer
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During the Granbury City Council meeting Tuesday, Sept. 3, Mayor Jim Jarratt issued two significant proclamations, honoring key moments in American history.

Before making the first proclamation, Jarratt asked the gathered audience, "Does everybody know where they were?" He then solemnly de-

clared Sept. 11, 2024, "Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance" in Granbury. Jarratt reflected on the courage and heroism displayed by the American people during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and the spirit of patriotism and unity that followed.

"We remember those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in the field in southwest Pennsylvania," Jarratt said.

He paid tribute to the first responders and military personnel who served during and after the attacks, emphasizing the sacrifices made by those who risked and often gave their lives to aid innocent victims.

The proclamation urges the citizens of Granbury to unite, reflect and remember those who perished on that day 23 years ago. A remembrance service is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 11, at

the Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park, hosted by the Friends of Memorial Lane.

Jarratt issued a second proclamation, declaring Sept. 17-23 2024, "Constitution Week" in Granbury. He highlighted the importance of the U.S. Constitution as the "guardian of our liberties," noting that Sept. 17 marks the 237th anniversary of its framing by the Constitutional Convention.

Jarratt called on the citi-

zens of Granbury to reaffirm their commitment to the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, urging them to diligently protect the liberties guaranteed by this foundational document.

Both proclamations were signed by Jarratt and sealed by the City of Granbury, marking a solemn and patriotic moment for the community.

POLICE BLOTTER

City of Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Aug. 28-Sept 2. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

AUG. 28

5:34 a.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:52 a.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:09 a.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:13 a.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377
3:01 p.m.: minor in possession of tobacco on W. Pearl Street
3:32 p.m.: possession of drug paraphernalia on W. U.S. Highway 377
9:05 p.m.: assault on Chanel Drive

Twenty-one traffic stops occurred this day

AUG. 29

12:52 a.m.: minor in possession of tobacco on N. Park Drive
12:57 a.m.: suspicious activity on Spring Ridge Circle
7:20 a.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:55 a.m.: suspicious activity on E. Pearl Street
10:08 a.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:07 a.m.: criminal trespass on Farm-to-Market Road 4
11:27 a.m.: drug overdose on W. Pearl Street
1:53 p.m.: search warrant for possession of a controlled substance on N. Meadows Drive
2:14 p.m.: violation of protective order on Chanel Drive

2:57 p.m.: property damage on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:50 p.m.: assault on Reunion Court

A minor accident and nine traffic stops occurred this day

AUG. 30

5:07 p.m.: deadly conduct, assault with a knife on W. Pearl Street
8:49 p.m.: noise disturbance on Dean Court
10:42 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
A major accident, a warrant service and eight traffic stops occurred this day

AUG. 31

12:25 p.m.: mentally ill person on N. Plaza Drive
1:51 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
2:24 p.m.: criminal trespass

on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:27 p.m.: harassment on E. Pearl Street

A major accident, a warrant service and 31 traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 1

6:05 a.m.: loud music on W. Pearl Street
4:07 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:48 p.m.: disorderly conduct on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:29 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:14 p.m.: sexual assault on E. Moore Street
8:17 p.m.: theft of property under \$2,500 on E. U.S. Highway 377
9:01 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:12 p.m.: noise distur-

bance on White Cliff Road
10:35 p.m.: harassment on Autumn Ridge Drive

11:02 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street

One major accident, one minor accident and 21 traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 2

12:11 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
6:08 a.m.: noise disturbance on Walters Drive
11:00 a.m.: noise disturbance on Acton Highway
2:00 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:35 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:26 p.m.: noise disturbance on Waters Edge Drive
A warrant service and 21 traffic stops occurred this day

HOLIDAYS

FROM PAGE A1

artist James Montgomery Flagg. It features an older man in a red, white and blue top hat pointing directly at viewers with the message "I Want YOU for the U.S. Army," a powerful recruitment tool and symbol of patriotic pride.

Celebrating Uncle Sam Day is a chance to explore this rich history and reflect on the enduring impact of this emblematic figure.

COLLECT ROCKS DAY —

SEPT. 16

Collect Rocks Day celebrates the fascinating world of geology and rock collection. This day traces its origins back to 1788 when a Scottish geologist, often referred to as the "Father of Modern Geology" published his findings. James Hutton's groundbreaking publication "Theory of the Earth" first explored the formation of Earth through natural forces, sparking interest in rocks.

The significance of rocks was further amplified in 1969 when Apollo 11 astronauts returned with the first lunar rock samples.

Officially, celebrations began in 2015, but the day's origins remain a mystery. On Collect Rocks Day, teachers can blend education and fun by taking students on a rock-hunting adventure in parks, forests, or even the backyard and incorporating lessons on

different rock types and their formation. To add a musical twist, DaysOfTheYear.com suggests enjoying rock-themed tunes like "Rock You Like a Hurricane" by Scorpions, "We Will Rock You" by Queen, "Rock with You" by Michael Jackson, and "Crocodile Rock" by Elton John, while exploring.

TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY —

SEPT. 19

International Talk Like a Pirate Day is a whimsical celebration that started quite by accident. The holiday's origins trace back to June 6, 1995, when John Baur and Mark Summers were playing racquetball in Albany, Oregon.

During their game, they spontaneously began shouting pirate slang, which they found so amusing that they decided to create a holiday dedicated to it — Sept. 19 as the date, which coincided with Baur's ex-wife's birthday.

DaysOfTheYear.com details that for the next seven years, Baur and Summers celebrated quietly until their quirky holiday caught the attention of humorist Dave Barry. Barry's endorsement catapulted International Talk Like a Pirate Day into the national spotlight, making it a fun, widely recognized event.

To celebrate, enthusiasts can dive into classic pirate literature like Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island," J.M. Barrie's "Peter

Pan," Sir Walter Scott's "The Pirate" or Daniel Defoe's "The Life, Adventures, and Piracies of the Famous Captain Singleton."

For a quick fix of pirate fun, try using pirate lingo such as "Son of a biscuit eater" — meant to express annoyance toward someone who is refined or posh, the opposite of the rugged or unrefined typical behavior of a pirate.

Use "All hand hoy!" to call for help, "Bring a spring upon 'er" to change direction, or "Grog blossom" for a red-nosed drinker, as suggested by DaysOfTheYear.com.

NATIONAL PUNCTUATION DAY

— SEPT. 24

National Punctuation Day is a day cherished by readers, writers, and anyone who values the clarity of the English language.

This particular day, highlighted in Chase's Calendar of Events book, began in 2004 to honor the crucial role of punctuation marks such as commas, periods and semicolons.

David Hayward, also known as "NakedTheologian" on social media, is known for his insightful and often humorous illustrations about various topics, including education and language.

One Hayward cartoon depicts a teacher at the blackboard where she has drawn a semicolon. The teacher responds to a student, "Yes,

a winky face is correct ... But in ancient times the semicolon was actually used to separate archaic written devices known as complete sentences."

National Punctuation Day brings to light the importance of correct punctuation with a playful nod to its historical evolution — from ancient Greek texts to the mass-produced Bibles of the 400s to 800s that used punctuation to aid readers in pausing and emphasizing correctly.

Celebrations can include crafting witty or well-punctuated pieces of writing to appreciate how punctuation not only clarifies meaning but also "saves lives" — e.g. "Let's eat, Grandma!" versus "Let's eat Grandma!"

NATIONAL COMIC BOOK DAY —

SEPT. 25

Sept. 25 is National Comic Book Day, a time for enthusiasts to celebrate the vibrant world of comic books. This day honors the rich history of comic books, starting with the release of Famous Funnies in 1933, often credited as the first American comic book.

However, the roots of comics run deeper, with earlier examples like the 1842 hardcover The Adventures of Mr. Obadiah Oldbuck, according to NationalDayCalendar.com.

Fans are encouraged to dive into their favorite comic books, visit local comic book stores, or attend upcoming comic book conventions.

Other fun ways to celebrate National Comic Book Day include trading comics with friends or even creating and illustrating their own comic book adventures.

ASK A STUPID QUESTION DAY

— SEPT. 28

National Ask a Stupid Question Day, celebrated Sept. 28 — or the last school day in September if it falls on a weekend — encourages everyone to embrace curiosity, no matter how seemingly trivial the question might be.

This day originated in the 1980s and reveals the value of fostering open classroom discussions by allowing shy students to voice their questions without fear of judgment. According to TimeandDate.com, there are no stupid questions today, so don't hesitate to ask and answer freely.

To celebrate, respond to questions respectfully, infuse humor to ease any awkwardness, and use the opportunity to educate gently, as suggested by Psychology Today and Forbes. Harvard Business Review also highlights the importance of educating without condescension, ensuring that every query is addressed with understanding and support.

INTERNATIONAL PODCAST DAY

— SEPT. 30

International Podcast Day, celebrated Sept. 30, marks the evolution and impact of the podcasting world. The

CALENDAR

ONGOING

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

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.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 18

THE LOCAL Republican Roundup welcomes State Rep. Shelby Slawson to its September meeting at The Wiley Center. The meeting starts at 10 a.m. with coffee and fellowship available at 9:30 a.m. Rep. Slawson represents Hood County in the Texas Legislature and is completing her second term in office this year. Rep. Slawson serves on the powerful Calendars and State Affairs committees, as well as Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence. She has announced her plans to run for Speaker of the Texas House.

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

journey began in 2003 when software developer Dave Winer created the first audio RSS feed, followed by the iPodder — the world's first podcast listening device — developed by Christopher Lydon and Adam Curry in 2004, according to Descript.com writer Mina Son.

Initially recognized as National Podcast Day in 2014, the event was soon rebranded to reflect its global reach. Since then, it has featured over 200 hours of live-streamed content from nearly 100 countries, with 360 podcasters sharing their insights and stories.

Today, podcasting is a significant part of media consumption, with a 2024 Edison Research survey revealing that 34% of Americans aged 12 and older listen to podcasts weekly, averaging 8.3 episodes. Women lead with an average of 9.5 episodes per week compared to 7.2 for men.

To celebrate, consider playing the International Podcast Day promo on your show, updating your social media profile with the event's logo, introducing someone new to the world of podcasts, sharing your favorite shows, and sending feedback to podcasters to show your appreciation.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



THE HISTORY BEHIND YOUR WEEKEND

The birth of the five-day workweek

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News
Micky@hcnews.com

The five-day, 40-hour workweek is a standard that many workers take for granted today. However, this system resulted from decades of struggle, advocacy and change, driven by labor movements and pioneering employers. This article explores the history behind the establishment of the five-day workweek, the key figures and events that contributed to its adoption, and its lasting impact on work culture in the United States and beyond.

EARLY LABOR MOVEMENTS AND THE FIGHT FOR FAIR HOURS

As industrialization took hold in the early 19th century, workers often faced grueling hours, with six — or even seven — day workweeks being common. Laborers, including children, would sometimes work up to 12 or 16 hours a day in unsafe and harsh conditions. This oppressive work environment gave rise to labor movements advocating for shorter work hours and better conditions.

One of the first significant movements was the push for the eight-hour workday. The slogan “Eight hours for work, eight hours for rest, and eight hours for what we will” encapsulated the demand for a balanced work-life structure. This movement gained momentum in the mid-19th century with organized strikes and protests, such as the Haymarket affair in 1886,

which became a critical moment in labor history.

The Haymarket affair, which began as a peaceful rally in Chicago advocating for an eight-hour workday, ended in violence and the deaths of both police officers and civilians. Despite this tragic outcome, the incident drew national attention to the labor movement and the demand for fair working hours, fueling further advocacy.

HENRY FORD AND THE BIRTH OF THE FIVE-DAY WORKWEEK

While the eight-hour workday was slowly being adopted by some companies by the early 20th century, Henry Ford played a pivotal role in popularizing the five-day, 40-hour workweek. In 1914, Ford stunned the business world by doubling the wages of his workers and reducing their workday to eight hours. This move was not just altru-

istic; Ford believed that better-paid, well-rested workers would be more productive and would have more leisure time to spend money on consumer goods, including the cars his company produced.

In 1926, Ford took another bold step by implementing a five-day workweek without reducing pay. He recognized that workers needed time off to spend their wages and to recharge. Ford’s decision was initially met with skepticism by other industrialists, but the results were undeniable: productivity increased, and the company’s profits soared. Ford’s success set a precedent that many other companies eventually followed.

THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

The Great Depression of the 1930s further highlighted the need for job distribution and fair working hours. With unemployment at an all-time high, there was a strong argument for reducing the number of working

hours to spread jobs among more people. This period saw an increase in labor strikes and demands for shorter workweeks to combat the economic crisis.

In response to these pressures, the U.S. government took action. The culmination of decades of labor activism and economic necessity came with the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act in 1938. The FLSA established several critical labor standards, including the official adoption of the 40-hour workweek, with overtime pay required for any hours worked beyond that threshold. This legislation effectively enshrined the five-day workweek into law for many American workers, cementing it as the norm.

THE IMPACT AND LEGACY OF THE FIVE-DAY WORKWEEK

The establishment of the

five-day workweek had profound implications not only for workers but also for society as a whole. It redefined the work-life balance, allowing workers more time for leisure, family and personal pursuits. This extra time off contributed to the growth of new industries, such as entertainment, travel and consumer goods, as people now had both the time and money to engage in leisure activities.

Moreover, the five-day workweek became a symbol of progress and fair treatment, influencing labor practices worldwide. While not universally adopted immediately, it set a global standard many countries gradually embraced.

In recent years, discussions about work-life balance have resurfaced, with some companies and countries experimenting with even short-

er workweeks, such as the four-day workweek. These modern movements echo the same concerns that drove the original push for the five-day workweek: the need for a healthy balance between work and personal life, and the belief that rested, happy workers are more productive.

The five-day, 40-hour workweek is a relatively recent development in the long history of labor, born out of necessity, advocacy and a forward-thinking approach to productivity. It represents a hard-won victory for workers and has shaped the modern work culture we experience today. As society continues to evolve, the workweek may change again, but the legacy of those early labor movements will remain a cornerstone of the fight for all workers’ rights.



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF IDOPIXBOX, ADOBESTOCK.COM

County proclaims Sept. 24 Suicide Awareness Day

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer
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The Hood County Commissioners Court officially designated Tuesday, Sept. 24 Suicide Awareness Day during a regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 27.

According to the proclamation read by Chris Langer, coalition coordinator for the STAR Council on Substance Abuse, suicide is a serious public health crisis that affects individuals of all ages and backgrounds within our community.

Suicide is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S., affecting individuals across all demographics. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that more than 49,000 people died by suicide in 2022, highlighting the profound impact this issue has on families, friends and communities. Every life lost represents not just a statistic, but a deep personal tragedy that reverberates through the lives of those



The Hood County Commissioners Court officially designated Tuesday, Sept. 24, as Suicide Awareness Day, during a regularly scheduled meeting Aug. 27.

ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

left behind.

According to the CDC’s National Vital Statistics System, there were 49,476 suicides in the United States in 2022, translating to a rate of 14.8 deaths per 100,000 population. Of these, firearm suicides were the most common, accounting for 27,032 deaths. Suffocation

and poisoning also contributed to the suicide rate, with 12,247 and 6,150 deaths respectively.

While the statistics are staggering, the CDC also reveals that a significant number of people grapple with suicidal thoughts. In 2022, 13.2 million individuals seriously contemplated suicide,

with 3.8 million devising a plan and 1.6 million making an attempt to end their lives.

In 2022, people aged 85 and older experienced the highest rates of suicide. Additionally, the suicide rate among males was approximately four times higher than that of females, with men representing 50% of

the population but nearly 80% of suicides. The highest suicide rates were also observed among non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaska Native people, as well as nonHispanic white individuals.

The proclamation of Suicide Awareness Day is an effort by the Hood County

Commissioners Court to foster a supportive environment where individuals feel safe to seek help for mental health. According to the proclamation, the hope is that through education, outreach, understanding and collaboration, Hood County can create a community where hope is pervasive, as we honor and warmly remember those whose lives were lost to suicide.

In a unanimous decision, the Hood County Commissioners Court proclaimed Tuesday, Sept. 24 Suicide Awareness Day in Hood County. The day is to recognize those lost to suicide and those who survive.

“Mental health matters,” the proclamation reads. “You are not alone. There is hope, and help is available.”

For those in need of immediate assistance or who are concerned about someone else, reach out to local mental health services or call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 988 — a 24/7 crisis support service.

NEW ER

Full-Service ER Now Open in Fall Creek

When someone in your family needs emergency care, you want it fast. Now, with a **new ER at Fall Creek, Lake Granbury Medical Center** provides patients with:

- Quick, convenient access to 24-hour emergency care
- 8 private patient rooms
- Lab and imaging services, including digital X-ray and CT
- Access to Lake Granbury Medical Center’s spectrum of care

From treatment for broken bones to care for life-threatening conditions, our dedicated team is ready.

LakeGranburyER.com



5309 E. Hwy. 377, Granbury

In an emergency, call 911 or go to the closest ER.

Labor Day Weekend Festival

The Historic Granbury Merchants Association was happy to host another fun, free, and family-oriented Labor Day celebration over the long weekend in and around the Courthouse Square. Kid's Corner children's activities provided by the YMCA were a huge draw for the youngsters. Meanwhile, at the City Beach Park beachgoers enjoyed their favorite water activities such as kayaking and tubing, stand-up waterboarding, and more. On Labor Day with K-Hits Radio broadcasting live from the beach, every child earned a prize after participating in the wildly popular Bobber Drop for kids (12 & under) sponsored by Pug on a Pontoon! The Labor Day Weekend Festival and Sidewalk Sale. Vendors were set up to sell while shops around the square bristled with signs about great Labor Day Sidewalk Sales. Other Labor Day Weekend highlights included Sunday's lovely Lighted Boat Parade and the Jason Cartmell Band bringing music lovers to their feet at Saturday's Street Dance.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



OBITUARIES

David Max Sanderford

August 14, 1943 - August 20, 2024

David Max Sanderford of Granbury passed away unexpectedly on Aug. 20, 2024. His death left a hole in the hearts of many in the Pecan Plantation family and those with whom David came into contact across the county and state.

David was born Aug. 14, 1943 to Maxwell M. Sanderford, Jr. and Helen L. Woodward in Austin, Texas. His parents' families were long-time residents of the Bell County region; his mother's family owned a farm taken by the Army to create Fort Hood. She and his father were classmates at Killeen High School and were married on July 18, 1942. David as a youngster lived in Austin where his father was attending the University of Texas after serving in the Army during WW II. The family later moved to Houston where his father worked for Sears, Roebuck and Co. They moved to Shreveport where David attended high school. He then enrolled at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute (now Louisiana Tech University). After graduating with a BS, David attended St. Mary's School of Law in San Antonio where he received his JD degree. David worked in the financial sector as legal counsel to corporations and spent the last 20 years as an independent consultant and expert witness in securities litigation.

David met Chelia Rand Mixon at the university and they were married on Jan. 28 1966. They lived in several cities in Texas, and in California, Washington, and Connecticut, prior to retiring in Granbury, Texas 21 years ago. They were married for 58 years until her death in May 2024. David was involved in many activities and was socially active, and intellectually curious. He was especially drawn to liberal causes but had a wide range of interests. He founded the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table in Granbury; led the establishment of the Lone Star Progressives, a group that met for dinner programs in which they



shared rational, social dialogue regarding current events. He was a member of the Hood County Library Foundation and Friends of the Hood County Library, and was a key player on the Hood County Library Expansion Committee. David was active in Pecan Plantation social events including serving on the entertainment committee, and joining poker and bridge groups, book clubs, etc. He organized and led the local Adopt a Highway project on the Fall Creek Highway outside the gates of Pecan. David was an avid reader and had an extensive library mostly of books on the Civil War, which he had collected for decades. David was a lifelong baseball fan, but especially a Los Angeles Dodgers fan and played second base at a Dodgers Fantasy Camp. David was devoted to Chelia, refusing to assign her to a care facility when her health declined, but instead kept her at home, where he and her caregiver Holly Bell attended to her needs for almost two years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his brother Robert, his wife Chelia, and their son Stephen Monroe Sanderford.

He is survived by his brother William (Bill) Sanderford of Waco, and nephews and nieces Meri, Dylan, Jason, and Mollie. David was a solid rock of reason, intelligence, and comfort for our family during chaotic times. He will be terribly missed.

A memorial service will be held on October 7, 2024 at a Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Acton at a time to be announced.

Joy Elizabeth Buchanan

November 14, 1927 - August 22, 2024

Joy Elizabeth Buchanan was born in Dallas, Texas, on Nov. 14, 1927, and passed from this life at 96 years old in Granbury, Texas, on Aug. 22, 2024.

Joy was the youngest daughter of Anthony and Grace Rizzotto. The Rizzotto family lived in and around the greater Dallas/Fort Worth area throughout Joy's life. She graduated from Mesquite High School. Consistent with others of her generation, Joy's life reflected the values and work ethic learned in living through the Great Depression.

Joy met a young serviceman, Charlie (Chuck) Buchanan, in Albuquerque, New Mexico and the two married in 1952. Chuck and Joy were married for over 65 years, until his passing in 2017. After Chuck's military service, the couple moved to Garland, Texas, where they raised their family. Chuck and Joy were charter members of the Saturn Rd Church of Christ in Garland. They were very active members there for over 40 years. In addition, Joy served in numerous volunteer roles of service and benevolence.

After their children were grown, Joy went to work for the temp agency, Kelly Girls. As a "Kelly Girl" she did mostly clerical assignments. Her dependability and attention to detail led to a permanent position in the Trust Department at Bank of America (and before that its predecessors).

In 1996, after building a home in Pecan Plantation, Chuck and Joy both retired from their respective jobs and moved to Granbury. They worshipped and served God with the Granbury Church of Christ



the remainder of their lives.

Throughout her life, Joy loved to travel whether by plane, train, ship, bus, car, camel, donkey or elephant. She and Chuck toured the United States and countless other countries on visits to five of the seven continents. Joy was an avid gardener and her "Green Thumb" was evidenced by lovely flower beds at their home in Pecan. Joy was also a great cook. Her pecan pies and chocolate chip oatmeal cookies were second to none.

Preceding Joy are her parents, Anthony and Grace Rizzotto, half-sister, Gladys Gossett, and sister Flora Rizzotto. Joy is survived by her son, David (and wife Deborah) and her daughter, Kimberly (and husband, Michael Walker), two grandsons, two granddaughters and two great-granddaughters. Additionally, Joy is survived by her brother, Lawrence Rizzotto.

The family thanks Interim Hospice and the staff of The Cove at Waterview for their wonderful and gentle care.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, at Wiley Funeral Home, in Granbury.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A9

Safety first

Cook Children's safe sleep brochures to be included with birth certificates



COURTESY PHOTO BY ALEXANDR VASILYEV, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Brochures from the Cook Children's Safe Sleep Program will soon be distributed to parents in conjunction with newborn birth certificates, following approval from the Hood County Commissioners Court Aug. 27.

BY ASHLEY TERRY

Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Hood County parents can now rest easy knowing that they will soon be equipped with vital information to ensure the safety and security of their newborns while they sleep.

As approved by the Hood County Commissioners Court last week, the Cook Children's Safe Sleep Program brochure will soon be distributed with newborn birth certificates.

According to Hood County Clerk Christine C. Leftwich, the initiative was inspired by similar successful programs in both Tarrant County and Wise County.

"It's a community awareness campaign to make sure that newborn babies sleep alone in their cribs, that they're not sleeping with others, and that they're not surrounded by toys that can cause suffocation," Leftwich explained.

The brochure provides crucial guidelines, such as placing babies on their backs to sleep, using a firm mattress in a crib, and avoiding loose bedding or toys in the crib. The campaign also stresses the importance of keeping babies in their own sleep space and not on beds or couches where they could be at risk.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nine babies die each day in the U.S. from sleep-related issues — including unintentional suffocation in unsafe sleeping environments.

The brochure states that safe sleep in the first 12 months could save a baby's life, as exhausted caregivers may accidentally roll onto a sleeping baby, and extra items in the crib can cause accidental suffocation. Additionally, placing the baby on its back helps keep its airway open for breathing.

Leftwich explained during the meeting that a QR code is also available on the brochure for parents to scan and pull up additional resources through Cook Children's Health Care System, which offers further guidance on safe sleep practices.

"What I want to do is, just as we have the mother's newborns come in and give the birth certificate, we can give them this brochure," she explained. Leftwich added that brochures are already available on the counter at the Hood County Annex.

Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said he believes the initiative is a "good idea." He noted that new parents often let their babies sleep in their beds, which can pose significant safety risks.

"Sometimes the parents roll over and smother them (the babies) without even knowing," Massingill said. "I think this is a good deal."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson then made a motion to implement the distribution of the Cook Children's Safe Sleep Program to occur in conjunction with issuing newborn birth certificates.

Following a second from Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samelson, the motion passed unanimously.

For more information on how to keep your baby safe, visit cookchildrens.org/health-resources/safety/safe-infant-sleep.

Women in Business Summit coming to inspire and empower



COURTESY PHOTO BY GRINNY, ADOBESTOCK.COM

BY LAUREN DAVIS

Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

The third annual Women in Business Summit will take place Tuesday, Sept. 24, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center, located at 621 E Pearl St. This year's theme, "Inspiring the Champion in You: Shine Bright," promises a day of motivation and professional development tailored for women striving to excel in their careers and personal lives.

The summit, a hit in previous years, will feature focus sessions to address critical topics relevant to professional women. These sessions include "Star Polishing," "Overcoming Imposter Syndrome and Unlocking Your True Potential," "Maintain Your Frame," "Shining Bright" and "Gratitude Beats Burnout." Each session is crafted to provide actionable insights and strategies to help attendees shine in their respective fields.

The event will kick off with a keynote address by Leah M. King, president and CEO of United Way of Tarrant County.

King, a prominent community leader, will share her experiences and insights on leadership and community impact. Her tenure at United Way has seen significant contributions to Tarrant County, including substantial investments and support for the community during challenging times.

Madison Baker, vice president of business insurance at Marsh McLennan Agency, will lead a session on "Overcoming Imposter Syndrome and Unlocking Your True Potential." Baker's expertise in risk management and her role in mentoring emerging female leaders will provide valuable perspectives for attendees.

Stacie Brown, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment for Granbury Independent School District, will present "Star Polishing." With her extensive experience in education, Brown will offer personal and professional development strategies.

Amy McKay, assistant professor at Tarleton State University, will address "Maintain Your Frame," focusing on the importance of wellness and balance. McKay's extensive background in

fitness and wellness will offer practical tips for maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

Lacey MacLeod, CEO of Talent Uplifted, will present "Gratitude Beats Burnout," sharing her journey from burnout to a fulfilling career in executive coaching. Her session aims to provide tools and hope for overcoming professional burnout.

The summit is open to all interested individuals, with tickets priced at \$75 for Granbury chamber members and \$100 for nonmembers. Attendees will network with like-minded professionals, gain valuable insights from leading experts, and leave inspired to take their careers and lives to the next level.

For those interested in attending, the WIB Summit offers a unique chance to engage with prominent leaders, gain practical advice, and connect with a supportive community of women in business. Whether you're looking to enhance your professional skills or find new sources of inspiration, the WIB Summit promises to be a rewarding and empowering experience.

Lake Granbury Medical Center's Fall Creek ER opens

From Staff Reports

The Lake Granbury ER at Fall Creek opened its doors to receive patients Tuesday, Sept. 3.

The new freestanding ER is located at the corner of U.S. Highway 377 and Fall Creek Highway. The facility is staffed 24/7 by experienced, board-certified physicians. It provides convenient access to imaging services such as CT scans, digital X-rays and ultrasound, as well as lab services available around the clock.

"The Lake Granbury ER Fall Creek is just like a hospital emergency room except it is not attached to the hospital. As we designed this \$15-plus million investment, we focused on the comfort and convenience of patients, with eight private treatment rooms, a spacious waiting area and diagnostic equipment to provide quality emergency care," said Curt M. Junkins, CEO of Lake Granbury Medical Center.

The ER at Fall Creek will treat patients with life-threatening conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, head injuries, fractures, abdominal pain, respiratory issues and more. Patients who need to be admitted to the hospital or require services not available at the ER, such as surgery or cardiac cath lab procedures, can be transported to Lake Granbury Medical Center or the hospital of their choice, depending upon their condition.

Lake Granbury ER Fall Creek accepts the same insurance as Lake Granbury Medical Center, including Medicare and Medicaid, and is considered a hos-



COURTESY PHOTO

The new freestanding ER is located at the corner of U.S. Highway 377 and Fall Creek Highway.

pital department.

"We worked very closely with city and county officials, Texas EMS and other EMS services, along with our first responders, to plan and provide emergency care for our communities. We are grateful to all of them for their help and expertise in developing our freestanding ER facility," shared Junkins.

"Our focus is to provide quality healthcare to the residents of Hood County and the surrounding communities. Comments from residents and area businesses are always helpful to inform us on how we can better serve

our community. Adding essential medical services to this side of town has been on the radar for many years, and as new housing developments and utilities were put in motion, the timing was right to expand and provide these vital services."

According to Lake Granbury Medical Center's 2023 annual community benefit report, more than \$1.3 million was spent on capital improvements, \$69.2 million in uncompensated care was provided, \$70.9 million was spent on local payroll, and \$10.1 million was paid in taxes locally.

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

SU4S

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

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GO ONLINE OR CALL 817-573-7066 TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY

The most dangerous time of day to drive in Texas

In Texas, it's 9 to 9:59 p.m. based on number of fatal crashes

From Staff Reports

New research has revealed the most dangerous times to drive in each state, with 5 to 5:59 p.m. being the most dangerous in 12 states.

The study by personal injury lawyers at Scott Vicknair studied the latest data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality and Injury Reporting System Tool to see which times of the day saw the most fatal crashes in each state between 2017 and 2022.

In Texas, the study found that between 9 and 9:59 p.m. is the most dangerous time to drive in the state. This is because 1,409 of the 21,517 fatal crashes recorded in the state between 2017 and 2022 occurred during that time, which is 6.55% higher than any other time in the day.

From 6 to 6:59 p.m. saw the most fatalities overall when looking at the entire nation, but only holds a majority in 10 states, with 12,813, or 5.91% of the 216,907 fatal crashes nationally occurring.

"While rush hour is the most dangerous time to drive, and all states had the most fatalities during the afternoon and evening, not a single state had its highest numbers in the morning, which is surprising," a spokesperson for Scott Vicknair said. "With earlier times of the day usually having fewer cars on the road, this doesn't mean they aren't dangerous, as often the way you drive can make any environment you travel equally dangerous."

Time	States where Time is Most Dangerous
5:00pm - 5:59pm	12
6:00pm - 6:59pm	10
8:00pm - 8:59pm	7
9:00pm - 9:59pm	7
4:00pm - 4:59pm	5
3:00pm - 3:59pm	5
2:00pm - 2:59pm	3
7:00pm - 7:59pm	2

COURTESY GRAPHIC



COURTESY PHOTO BY DANIEL, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Hood County's traffic concerns: Growth fuels congestion, but are crashes following suit?

BY DARREN CLARK
Special to the Hood County News
Darren@hcnews.com

Traffic problems in Hood County are as ubiquitous as extreme heat in a Texas summer. As the county has experienced significant population growth over the past decade, the number of cars on Hood County roads has climbed with it. With the growth in population, Hood County has experienced an increase in traffic crashes. If one were to rely solely on social media commentary, one would believe we have a traffic crisis on our hands, but the crash data just doesn't support the perception.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation's Crash Records Information System (CRIS), Hood County has experienced an increase in crashes since 2014. Comparing year-to-date data from 2024 and the corresponding data from 2014, Hood County has seen an 18% rise in traffic crashes. From Jan. 1 to Aug. 20, crashes totaled 473 in 2014 and 557 in 2024. Using the most current population data, Hood County has seen an increase in population of 26%. So, the growth in crash numbers is actually smaller than the growth in population.

In 2014, there were six fatality crashes between Jan. 1 and Aug. 20. In 2024, there have been four crashes involving a fatality. Each year recorded 92 injury accidents in the same time period.

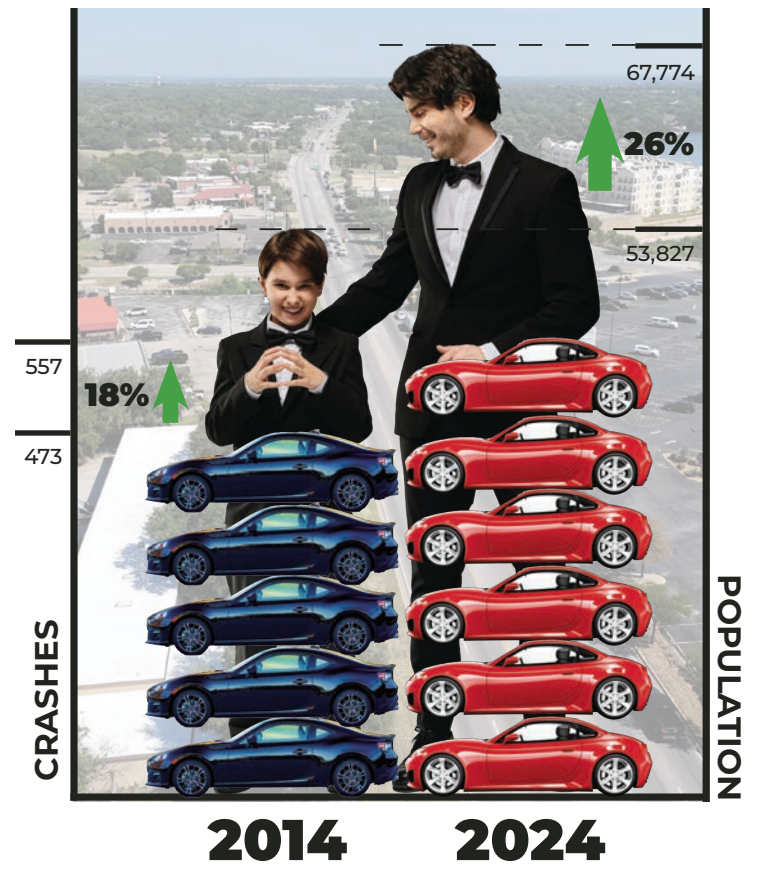
Crash data notwithstanding, all it takes is to drive U.S. Highway 377 at about 5 p.m. to see that Hood County does have a traffic

problem. The population growth along with the limited ways to travel through the county are certainly key factors.

Lake Granbury, winding its way through the county, is the most prominent cause of traffic issues facing Hood County drivers. The beautiful reservoir that provides water, recreation and scenic enjoyment also creates headaches for traffic planners. There are only four bridges in Hood County that allow drivers to cross from one side of the lake to the other — one on U.S. 377, one on Business 377, one on State Highway 144 and one on Farm-to-Market Road 51. The limited number of crossings create choke points in traffic flow.

Approximately 40,000 cars cross the bridge on U.S. 377 at Morgan Street (SH 144) every day. This number has remained quite constant over the last five years but is a 25% increase over 2014. More cars on the roadways leads to more opportunities for crashes. This bridge and intersection of highways is the primary through point for residents of southern Hood County to access the businesses in Granbury. Residents of Pecan Plantation, Indian Harbor, Canyon Creek and many other neighborhoods travel north on SH 144 to reach U.S. 377. So many cars travel this way that traffic from the light at the intersection can back up more than half a mile. The office of the Hood County News is on S. Morgan Street, and it is a common occurrence to see traffic backed up to the parking lot of the newspaper.

Plans are in place to help alleviate traffic issues around Granbury. TXDOT plans to widen



COURTESY GRAPHIC

Comparing year-to-date data from 2024 and the corresponding data from 2014, Hood County has seen an 18% rise in traffic crashes. From Jan. 1 to Aug. 20, crashes totaled 473 in 2014 and 557 in 2024.

U.S. 377 from four to six lanes. However, the first contract of the project is not scheduled to be awarded until 2026 with plans for the second phase of the project to be awarded in 2032.

In the interim, the Granbury City Council is looking to expand Old Granbury Road to be used as an alternate route during the upcoming construction on U.S. 377. While this will help on the eastern

side of Granbury, not many options exist for bypassing the area around SH 144.

While traffic will no doubt become worse before it gets better, there is hope on the horizon. Until then, Hood County drivers must pack some patience and share the road so we can all reach our destinations safely.

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OBITUARIES

Diann Lewis

September 30, 1962 - August 25, 2024

Diann Lewis, beloved wife, dedicated community member, and cherished friend, passed away on Aug. 25, 2024. Services were held at 10 a.m. on Sept. 3, 2024 at Willow Park Baptist Church located at 777 Crown Pointe Blvd., Willow Park, Texas, 76087. Reception followed the service.

Diann was born Sept. 30, 1962, in Fort Worth, Texas to James Dennis Martin and Linda Bonnell Simmons. She later married Roger D. Lewis on April 2, 1994, in Alvarado, Texas. Diann was a faithful member of Willow Park Baptist Church and served as the treasurer of the Women's Wednesday Club. Her commitment to the community was evident through her involvement with the Hood County United Way and the Rotary Club. Diann was known for her generosity, frequently helping and donating to multiple charities. She also had a long and fulfilling career, working for Kroger's store for 37 years. You will never meet a more generous person than Diann Lewis - generous with her time, with her money, with her energy, with her love and her spirit. She worked hard and played hard, loved bright nails and dark lipstick and sparkly jewelry. She spent her vacations taking her family and friends all over the world with her. And everywhere she went, she wanted to make sure everybody had a great time. She loved holidays more than anyone—all of them—Easter through New Year. She loved decorating for the holidays and hosting friends and family for a big meal. She did the same for birthdays and sports games, and for any reason at all to get everybody together. She was an extravagant gift giver and made every occasion memorable for her kids and her grandkids. Last year, the family celebrated Christmas late because she'd been so sick, but still she had her kids on the living room floor so that she could watch everyone open boxes that made money fly out when they lifted the lids. No matter what age her kids and grandkids were, she was still creating these fun moments for them—moments they will forever cherish. She just loved surprises, games, and competitions—she'd have adults hunting Easter eggs! She loved having a big family and spoiling her grandkids. She did everything she could with them—swimming, zoos, theme parks, shopping, nail salons, beaches, aquariums, museums, Buccies stops, and more big family meals in restaurants than we can count! She never said no to a request to stop by the gift shop. She loved her career and her colleagues and had many close friends. Diann could be counted on in tough times—she was a do-er and a powerhouse when something important needed to be taken care of, and you never wanted to get on her bad side. Diann was always known for saying, "We'll figure it out," or "We'll just make it work."



Diann is preceded in death by her parents: James and Linda Martin. Diann is survived by her devoted husband, Roger D. Lewis; children, Gloria Otto and husband Evan, Shane Benton and wife Casey, Shelly Lewis, Daniel Benton and wife Kate; grandchildren, Anna Jackson, Amy Jackson, Rowan Otto, Katelyn Benton, Wyatt Benton, Landon Benton, Bryce Shelby, Grayson Shelby; sisters, Marchell Nunnery and husband Robert; Renee Foot; brother, Jimmy Martin and wife Galy; chosen sister: Val Mosely; and numerous loving extended family and friends.

Diann's warmth, dedication, and selflessness will be deeply missed by all who knew her. What a tremendous blessing she has been for her family and friends, and what a beautiful legacy she's left for us.

Glenn L. Ward

November 16, 1945 - August 31, 2024

Glenn Lanier Ward, long-time Texas Baptist pastor and director of missions, died Aug. 31. He was 78. He was the first child born to J.P. and Jamie Ward in Abilene on Nov. 16, 1945. He grew up in Anson, Vega and Snyder, graduating from Snyder High School in 1964. As a youth, he was baptized by Pastor Jimmie Nelson, who became a lifelong mentor, and surrendered to the ministry at Colonial Hill Baptist Church in Snyder. After graduating from high school, Glenn worked at Circle 6 Baptist Camp between Stanton and Lenora, where he met Carolyn Springer of Lenora, who also was working at the camp that summer. They married in 1966. He started at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene in 1964, graduating in 1971. While a student at HSU, his first pastorate was at Fort Griffin, and his second was at Cherry Heights Baptist Church in Clyde. Glenn and Carolyn adopted their first of three daughters, Donna, while in Clyde. Their second daughter, Mindy, was born soon after they moved from Clyde, and their third daughter, Dalese, was born two years later. He became pastor of Acton Baptist Church outside Granbury in 1974. Glenn served Acton Baptist 37 years before retiring in 2011 to become the director of missions for Paluxy Baptist Association in Granbury, where he served 11 years.

In 2021, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and retired the following year due to the rigors of cancer treatment. Glenn was a fully committed pastor. He communicated the gospel every chance he had; preached numerous revivals; led Acton Baptist Church in the 1970s to start decades of mission work in Texas, Mexico, Minnesota and throughout New Mexico; started the "Triple L"—Live Long and Like It—senior adult ministry in the 1970s; and along with other pastors formed the Granbury Ministerial Alliance in the 1980s. He also served on the Baptist General Convention of Texas Executive Board; the Aten Ministries board, an international music evangelism and marriage enrichment ministry; and the board of Juventud con Visión-La Misión in Juarez. While pastor of Acton Baptist, he also led the church in planting three other churches in the Granbury area—Waples, Eastridge and, as a joint ef-



fort with other churches, Lakeside. After retiring from vocational ministry, Glenn and Carolyn moved to the Plano area and joined First Baptist Church of Plano, where he served on the missions committee. He also assisted his son-in-law, Baptist Standard Editor Eric Black, with the Standard's pastor prayer ministry. Glenn was known for his love of people, warm smile and welcome, kindness, encouragement and eternal optimism, Jesus, the Bible and missions. He also was known for his love of Westerns—books and movies—and Texas history, Bob Wills, Mexican food, and the Dallas Cowboys and Texas Rangers.

He was preceded in death by his parents, J.P. and Jamie Ward. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carolyn; daughter, Donna Richardson; daughter, Mindy Ward and husband Rick Logsdon of Sunnyvale, Calif.; daughter, Dalese and husband Eric of Plano; grandson, Allen of Dallas; granddaughter, Caroline of Plano; sister, Donna Headstream of Bradshaw; brother, Benny and wife Kathy of San Angelo; brother, Ron and wife Sybil of Austin; sister, Victoria and Jim Allen of Granbury; and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Sept. 21 at First Baptist Church in Plano, 3665 W. President George Bush Hwy, Plano, Texas. The service will be livestreamed on First Baptist Plano's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Juventud con Visión-La Misión by check to the Paluxy Baptist Association, 1844 Acton Hwy, Granbury, TX 76049, noting the purpose on the memo line; or to Bless Week, First Baptist Plano's annual local missions effort, by check to First Baptist Church in Plano, 3665 W. President George Bush Hwy, Plano, TX 75075, or via the church's website.

Elizabeth Drake

September 3, 1919 - August 27, 2024

Elizabeth Drake, 104, of Granbury, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.

Elizabeth was born on Sept. 3, 1919, in Bonham, Texas. She attended school in Fort Worth, where she married Robert T. Drake in 1941. Together, they owned North Texas Sample Log Service in Wichita Falls, where she lived for many years. Elizabeth was actively involved in the community, serving as Chairman of the North Side Girls Club, President of the Senior Juniors Forum, and holding leadership roles in several organizations, including the Geologist Wives Association, Good Earth Horticulture Group, Junior Standard Study Club, The Carousel Club, and the Woman's Auxiliary of All Saints' Episcopal Church. In 1971, Elizabeth and her husband moved to their ranch in Lipan, Texas. She became a successful real estate broker in Granbury, working alongside her dear friend Richard Bennett at Bennett Real Estate for 29 years. She was instrumental in organizing the Granbury Board of Realtors and served as its president for two years. Additionally, she chaired the Scholar-



ship Committee for the Hood County Arts Council for seven years. Elizabeth was a dedicated member of Acton United Methodist Church.

She was predeceased by her parents, her husband Robert T. Drake, and her daughter-in-law Deborah Ann Drake.

Elizabeth is survived by her three sons, Paul, Rob, and David; two daughters-in-law, Jeannie and Deborah Gail; eight grandchildren: Marisa, Jason, Devlin, Ryan, Gail, Jessica, Thomas, and Daniel; seven great-grandchildren; and Warren Morrison of Granbury, her best friend, companion, and travel partner for the last 20 years.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to The American Cancer Society.

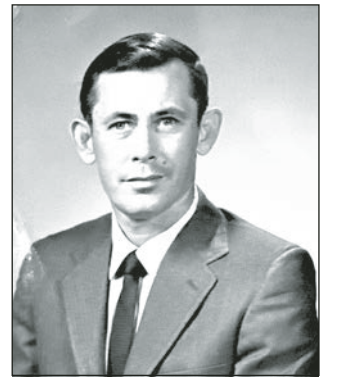
Doyse Wayne McReynolds

September 16, 1934 - August 29, 2024

Doyse Wayne McReynolds, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather peacefully left this world on Aug. 29, 2024, surrounded by his wife and three daughters. Doyse was born on September 16, 1934, in Granbury, Texas to Elzie H. McReynolds and Mary Catherine Linthicum. He grew up in Granbury, Texas, and graduated from Granbury High School in 1953.

Doyse enlisted in the United States Army after high school and was later honorably discharged on May 8, 1957. He married Sandra Erwin on Oct. 14, 1961, in Hurst, Texas at the First Methodist Church. Doyse and Sandra were blessed with three daughters: Andrea Lynn Damron, Kimberly Denise McReynolds, and Stacey Dean McReynolds.

Doyse and Sandra raised their three girls in Granbury, Texas, in a house full of love, laughter, and good food. Doyse had a career as an insurance adjuster for State Farm and retired after 40 years. Doyse spent most of his time as a craftsman building furniture and remodeling automobiles, but more importantly spending time with his wife, his girls, and their loving fam-



ily. Doyse was predeceased in death by his parents, his sisters Nell Durant and Mary Elzine Massengale, and his brother Derald McReynolds. He is survived by his wife, Sandra McReynolds, his sister Sandra Coker, and his children Andrea and Kevin Damron, Kim and Matt Tuuk, and Stacey McReynolds. He is also survived by his five grandchildren who loved him dearly: Brandon Cofield, Chelsey Moore, Katie Marty, Karlee Mansfield, and Hannah Goodenough, and one great-granddaughter, Scarlett Marty who he called his "Little Punkin".

A celebration of Doyse's life will be held on Sept. 7, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the Wiley Center, 400 Hwy 377 East, Granbury, Texas 76048. No burial will be held afterward.



Etta Jean Buchanan

January 28, 1930 - August 28, 2024

Etta Jean Buchanan of Granbury, Texas, a beautiful, talented, fun and loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother (known as Munner to her grandchildren) has gone to be amongst the angels in heaven on Aug. 28, 2024. EJ (as she was known to the multitude of friends) was born in Dallas, Texas on Jan. 28, 1930.

She is preceded in death by her loving and dedicated husband of 64 years, Charles Berle Buchanan, her father Samuel Crowson and mother Clydis Crowson.

She is survived by her three daughters, Debora Giddings and spouse Don Giddings, Deana Rose and Kelli Haley. Three granddaughters, Kendel Haley and spouse Troy Darnall, Elizabeth Boelter and spouse Hae Yong Min, and Landi Rose and spouse CJ Bausum. Four great-grandchildren, Conner Lamie, Cason Darnall, River



Bausum and Nash Darnall. EJ was dearly loved immediately by anyone who ever met her and all of the wonderful memories of EJ will live on.

Memorial service will be held at Good Sheperd Anglican Church located at 3601 Fall Creek Hwy., Acton, Texas on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024 at 2 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to St. Jude's Children Hospital or Second Chance Farm in Granbury.

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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ACROSS

- John of 1954 "Shield for Murder" with TX Carolyn Jones
- Texas-based jeweler "Corporation"
- in Parker and Tarrant Counties on highway 199
- salacious, smutty
- Love Field abbr.
- "Affordable Care ..." (Obamacare)
- "Texas Health and Services"
- Mavericks gave fans _____ of excitement by advancing to 2024 NBA finals
- TXism: "couldn't fight his way out of _____ bag" (weak)
- officially giving up land by a state
- in Palo Pinto County on highway 16
- framework or plan
- bronzes in the Texas sun
- TXism: "roosters crow, _____ deliver"
- Kermit has the last _____ oil derrick
- member of TX Don Henley's band
- grungy and dirty
- TXism: "_____ sunburn a horny toad" (hot)
- TXism: "brave enough to eat in _____ cafe"
- "don't split _____" (quibble)

DOWN

- "Wild _____" trail near Newton
- Burnet newspaper: "Citizen's _____"
- some fanny packs fit _____ sizes
- this TX Jim was married to Belle Starr
- TXism: for "against"
- TXism: "_____ sunburn a horny toad" (hot)
- XIT stretched thru _____ Texas counties
- TXism: "he _____ a grip like a snappin' turtle"
- Cowboys kicker in 1993 Super Bowl (2 wds.)
- TX Farrah Fawcett had a red swimsuit _____
- hosp. trauma areas
- non-Texas primate
- TXism: "_____ bien" (good)
- TXism: "haven't seen one in a coon's _____" (rare)
- _____gallon hat
- cowboy covers
- "New Deal" pres. (init.)
- Grand _____ Opry
- TX Strait's "Marina del _____"
- TXism: "gave _____" (died)
- female horse
- used on a stovetop (2 wds.)
- publication: "Pampa _____"
- U.S. intelligence agcy.
- hosp. nurse
- dir. from Pampa to Canyon
- gear tooth
- Jewish circle dance
- okay to eat
- TX Jessica Simpson _____: "Open Book"
- TXism: "bend _____ elbow (drink)"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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SUPPORT SYSTEMS

EVERY DAY

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

SUNDAY THROUGH Friday

ACTON 12 Step Group meets at 7 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

EVERY SATURDAY

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

EVERY SUNDAY

STARTING A New Life grief support group meets from 3-5 p.m. for those who have lost a loved one through death, including the loss of a spouse, child, parent, sibling or close friend. For the past 28 years, this group has helped people work through their grief process. Next session begins Oct. 20. Christian based, non-denominational and welcome all who are suffering. Parish Hall of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. For more information, call Phillis and Bill Brewer at 817-573 or Sherry Bingham at 817-657-0822.

EVERY MONDAY

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

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

EVERY TUESDAY

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

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

PEDALING FOR Parkinson's hosted by the Hood County YMCA will be from 1 to 2 p.m. at 1475 James Road. The program is led by a certified group

fitness instructor and consists of a pre- and post-fitness evaluation, and 45-minute spin/cycling session. Program will last 12 weeks. For more information call 817-624-9791 or e-mail communityhealth@ymcafw.org.

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

ACTON 12 - Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

RE|ENGAGE MARRIAGE En-

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

ACTON 12 - Step Women's Group meets at 5:30 p.m. at 3609 Acton Highway (behind Madison Park).

EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

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

FIRST MONDAY

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT

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

FIRST TUESDAY

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

SECOND MONDAY

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

SECOND SATURDAY

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

THIRD MONDAY

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

THIRD TUESDAY

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

FOURTH TUESDAY

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

FOURTH SATURDAY

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

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

Should you be a global investor?

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Investment opportunities don't stop at the U.S. border. But what should you know about investing internationally?

To begin with, what is an international investment? Essentially, it's an investment in companies based outside the United States. Investors can purchase individual foreign stocks, but many people choose international mutual funds or international exchange-traded funds (ETFs), which can be traded like stocks and track a specific market index. It's also possible to invest in bonds issued by foreign governments or entities. However, investors should typically focus on diversified funds and ETFs for international exposure in their portfolios.

When you invest internationally, you can receive at least two key benefits. First, international investments can help diversify your portfolio. When you spread your investment dollars among a variety of investments, you can help reduce the impact of market volatility that might affect one type of asset particularly hard. For example, if you only owned stocks and the market went through one of its inevitable downturns, your portfolio would likely take a bigger hit than if you also

owned bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit and other investments. And when you invest internationally, you're adding another layer of diversification — because in any given year, U.S. stocks may be down while those from other regions of the world could be up. Keep in mind, though, that while diversification can help protect you somewhat from market movements, it can't guarantee profits or prevent all losses.

Another advantage of international investing is that it can give you more opportunities for growth. You can benefit from taking part in emerging markets that may offer significant growth potential, fueled by rising consumer spending and rapid advances in technology. Of course, you can certainly find many growth-oriented investments in the U.S., but by broadening your outlook to include the whole world, you also widen the playing field for growth possibilities.

While international investing does offer some clear benefits, it also carries some risks, including the following:

CURRENCY RISK

The exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and foreign

currencies will change constantly. When you invest internationally, this shifting rate can sometimes work in your favor, but it might also reduce your investment returns.

POLITICAL RISK

Foreign countries may experience political turmoil that could negatively affect their financial markets and the industries and companies in which you're investing.

LIQUIDITY RISK

Some foreign markets have lower trading volumes than U.S. exchanges and may be open fewer hours. This can lead to lower liquidity, possibly making it somewhat more difficult for you to move in and out of international investments.

You'll want to weigh the benefits and risks of investing internationally before taking action. You'll also want to think carefully about the percentage of your portfolio that you might want to devote to international investments. There's no one "rule" regarding an appropriate amount because everyone's situation is different. And since it's more challenging to understand the global investment picture, you might want to consult with a financial professional. Still, it's a big world out there — and as an investor, you may want to explore it.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TAX INCREASE

A tax rate of \$0.460000 per \$100 valuation has been proposed by the governing body of City of Tolar.

PROPOSED TAX RATE	\$0.460000 per \$100
NO-NEW-REVENUE TAX RATE	\$0.430636 per \$100
VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE	\$0.841729 per \$100

The no-new-revenue tax rate is the tax rate for the 2024 tax year that will raise the same amount of property tax revenue for City of Tolar from the same properties in both the 2023 tax year and the 2024 tax year.

The voter-approval rate is the highest tax rate that City of Tolar may adopt without holding an election to seek voter approval of the rate.

The proposed tax rate is greater than the no-new-revenue tax rate. This means that City of Tolar is proposing to increase property taxes for the 2024 tax year.

A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TAX RATE WILL BE HELD ON September 16, 2024 AT 6:00 pm AT 8712 W HWY 377 TOLAR, TX.

The proposed tax rate is not greater than the voter-approval tax rate. As a result, City of Tolar is not required to hold an election at which voters may accept or reject the proposed tax rate. However, you may express your support for or opposition to the proposed tax rate by contacting the members of the CITY OF TOLAR of City of Tolar at their offices or by attending the public hearing mentioned above.

YOUR TAXES OWED UNDER ANY OF THE RATES MENTIONED ABOVE CAN BE CALCULATED AS FOLLOWS:

$$\text{Property tax amount} = (\text{tax rate}) \times (\text{taxable value of your property}) / 100$$

FOR the proposal: Sally Grimes Chip Eason
Chip Foster Kevin Fron

AGAINST the proposal:

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT: Craig Davis

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.

The following table compares the taxes imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Tolar last year to the taxes proposed to be imposed on the average residence homestead by City of Tolar this year.

	2023	2024	Change
Total tax rate (per \$100 of value)	\$0.460000	\$0.460000	increase of 0.000000 per \$100, or 0.00%
Average homestead taxable value	\$254,338	\$250,753	decrease of -1.41%
Tax on average homestead	\$1,169.95	\$1,153.46	decrease of -16.49, or -1.41%
Total tax levy on all properties	\$487,621	\$560,641	increase of 73,020, or 14.97%

For assistance with tax calculations, please contact the tax assessor for City of Tolar at 254-835-4390 or mburdettecityoftolar@windstream.net, or visit cityoftolar.com for more information.

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Nice home on two quiet lots. 3-2. Recently remodeled. New roof. New floorings. Move in ready. No owner finance. \$165,000 OBO. 682-202-5008. Chris.

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Hunt my 100 acres. Haskell, TX. \$50 a day a dove. Up to 10 guns. For scheduling and payment, call Tommy 817-243-4693. Alternate number, Daniel, 254-592-4934.

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DONATE YOUR OLD LAPTOP A Christian Mission in Jurez Mexico is in need of old but useable laptop computers; please consider donating yours to us! Two results: 1) you will have a great conscience for helping our God bless the mission, and 2) you may have less clutter in your home! Deliver to me at 3106 Walnut Creek Pkwy in Acton, or call for me to pick up, 817-894-1204 Free (817) 894-1204
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Hood County News



or, it must have been difficult Monday
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8510 General

Granbury Heights Apartments 1705 W. PEARL - GRANBURY, TX 76048 FAMILY & SINGLE UNITS NOW HIRING Full-Time Maintenance Technician \$11.50/hr

Valvoline ExpressCare Now Hiring Experienced Quick Lube Technicians. Duties consist of preventative maintenance, such as oil changes, top off vehicle fluids, replace filters, light bulbs, and wiper blades and service writer.

Granbury ISD is currently looking for a General Maintenance worker to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply.

- HVAC ASSISTANT Granbury ISD is currently looking for an HVAC Assistant to join our outstanding Maintenance team. Only responsible and qualified candidates need apply.

Nursery Assistant Attendant Needed First Presbyterian Church Granbury a Vital and Vibrant Church Do you love Jesus and have a love and passion for caring for children? First Presbyterian church Granbury is a vibrant and growing church.

8540 Medical/Dental

LAKESHORE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT is seeking RECEPTIONIST/BENEFIT COORDINATOR, competitive pay, great benefits, Mon-Fri 8am-5pm, no week ends.

8570 Sales

BUSINESS SERVICES - OTHER - OPPORTUNITY Opportunity in direct sales associate position flexible income earning position. No start-up fee you'll get the tools, training and experience-based knowledge to help you build a successful business.

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.

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9031 Public Notices

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@granburysid.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Stockton Bend, Texas (formerly Brazos Bend, Texas) will conduct a public hearing on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at 1901 Canaveral Ct., Stockton Bend, Texas for the purpose of receiving public input on the proposed 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget.

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

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LEGAL NOTICE: Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Malt Beverage Retailer's Off - Premise Permit (BQ) by Family Dollar Stores of Texas, LLC d/b/a Family Dollar 25991 to be located at 5429 Acton Highway, Granbury, Hood County, TX 76049.

ALPHA OMEGA HOSPICE IS HAVING ITS BI-ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WILEY'S COMMUNITY CENTER SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 AT 3PM. ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting a Competitive Sealed Bid 2024-16 for Bilingual Speech Language Pathologist.

The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Competitive Bids will be accepted until closing on September 23rd, 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@granburysid.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EDWARD CARSON DAY, SR., Deceased, were issued on August 26, 2024, in Cause No. P10458, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas.

JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK VS. THE HEIRS AND DEVEISEES 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:

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Ruth Patricia Zapata, Cause No.P10490, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Justus Ezekiel Vara in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Ruth Patricia Zapata, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

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

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on this the 30th day of August, 2024 Christine C. Leftwich Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Chief Deputy

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ALPHA OMEGA HOSPICE IS HAVING ITS BI-ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT WILEY'S COMMUNITY CENTER SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 AT 3PM. ALL FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE INVITED. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

Granbury Independent School District is soliciting a Competitive Sealed Bid 2024-16 for Bilingual Speech Language Pathologist.

The specifications are available online on https://granbury.ionwave.net. Competitive Bids will be accepted until closing on September 23rd, 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@granburysid.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EDWARD CARSON DAY, SR., Deceased, were issued on August 26, 2024, in Cause No. P10458, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas.

JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK VS. THE HEIRS AND DEVEISEES 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:

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Ruth Patricia Zapata, Cause No.P10490, County Court of Hood County, Texas.

Justus Ezekiel Vara in the above numbered and entitled estate filed an Application to Determine Heirship and declare who are the heirs and the only heirs of the said Estate of Ruth Patricia Zapata, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.

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

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on this the 30th day of August, 2024 Christine C. Leftwich Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Chief Deputy

9031 Public Notices

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@granburysid.org

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Stockton Bend, Texas (formerly Brazos Bend, Texas) will conduct a public hearing on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at 1901 Canaveral Ct., Stockton Bend, Texas for the purpose of receiving public input on the proposed 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget.

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@granburysid.org

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Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on this the 30th day of August, 2024 Christine C. Leftwich Hood County Clerk P.O. Box 339 Hood County, Texas 76048 By /s/ Alicia Miller, Chief Deputy

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS CITY OF TOLAR, TEXAS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS General Notice City of Tolar (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the Tolar City Hall located at 8712 W. Highway 377, Tolar, Texas 76476, until Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. local time.

PUBLIC SALES Auctions 9570 AUCTION: GRANBURY 3118 W US Hwy 377- Property of Pia Christian, Thomas Karr, Richard Wood consisting of misc household items, being sold to satisfy landlord's lien. Sale to highest cash bidder. Tuesday September 10

9590 Out of Town Sales ESTATE SALE: FORT WORTH 6717 MUSTANG CREEK, FT WORTH 76126- FURNITURE, CHINA, TOOLS, CHRISTMAS, TORO ZERO TURN, GRILL, CRYSTAL, SOFA, DESK, KING BED PLUS Friday, Sept. 6, 9-5 & Saturday, Sept. 7, 9-3

Granbury 76048 Garage Sales 76048 GARAGE SALE: GRANBURY 1114 Walters Drive- 4 kayaks, 2 small and 2 adult, futon couch, tall outdoor heater, girl's and boy's clothes, sizes 5-14/16, shoes, men's and women's clothes, shoes, books, toys, some Christmas, home decor, kitchen ware, pots and pans, and lots of misc. Friday September 06

FREE2BU is conducting an Estate Sale Friday & Saturday Sept. 6th & 7th from 8am-4pm at 2508 Pebble Dr. Furniture, along with items from 3 airbnb's.

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

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

Garage Sales 76049 SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Granbury, is hereby amended by amending Article 11 - Supplementary District Regulations, Section 11.2 - Off-Street Parking & Loading Requirements as shown on the attached Council agenda and incorporated Exhibit 'A', a copy of which is on file with the office of the City Secretary.

Garage Sales 76049 SECTION 5. Any person, firm or corporation, who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

DECORDOVA COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE! Saturday, September 21st everyone is invited to join us at DeCordova for our annual Community Garage Sale. The gates and bargains will open up at 8am. Additional sales will be held at our Clubhouse Lawn (5301 Country Club Drive) with food and beverages available for purchase. Street Maps of participating homes will be available upon request at the gates upon entry.

Inside sale at 4323 Waples Rd. At Waples United Methodist Church. Sept. 12th-14th at 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Multiple Vendors.

Subscribe Today! 817-573-7066 Hood County News

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Get personalized, accurate data to help you reach your real estate goals

BY JACQUE GORDON



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

Data is king when making big financial decisions. That is why it's essential to know recent prices, current market trends and related data when you are buying, selling or renting property.

Who has access to that type of information? Your REALTOR®. Just as important, your REALTOR® can help you understand what the numbers and trends mean for you.

RELEVANT DATA FOR YOUR TRANSACTION

REALTORS® can pull the most recent sales in a neighborhood to help buyers and sellers know market conditions. They can show you what prices and rents have been doing over time to inform your decisions. REALTORS® can show you the big picture — is it a buyer's market in your area? What are properties in Hood County selling for?

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An internet search will give you plenty of sites claiming to provide home prices in an area, the number of properties sold, days on market, housing inventory, etc. But how do you know if those numbers are accurate or recent? Thankfully, your REALTOR® has access to the most accurate, reliable data. Plus, your REALTOR® will filter out the noise, showing only what matters to you and your goal.

INTERPRETED FOR YOUR SITUATION

Not only can REALTORS® provide the data, but they can also explain how it affects your transaction. It does not do any good to know what a property sold for if you don't know if that should affect the price of your listing or your offer for that house. Factors such as precise location, home features and condition all affect what a home is worth.

Work with a REALTOR® so you understand your market and avoid big mistakes when you buy, sell or lease property.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WOLF HOLLOW II ASKING FOR AIR PERMITS TO EXPAND GAS PLANT

Hood County Court, Mayor Jarrett and Hood County Clean Air Coalition opposed

There is a very important public meeting Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center, 621 E. Pearl St. in Granbury. This meeting is the ONLY opportunity for the City of Granbury and all of Hood County residents to make public protests about the expansion of Wolf Hollow II. WHII is the gas generating plant on Mitchell Bend Highway in southwest Hood County. The Commissioners Court, with a 5-0 vote, and the Hood County Clean Air Coalition are opposed to this expansion due to the added contaminants to the Hood County air. Even low amounts of ozone can cause chest pain, coughing, shortness of breath, throat irritation and an exacerbation of chronic respiratory conditions such as asthma.

According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, "The proposed facility will emit the following air contaminants in a significant amount: carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter including particulate matter with diameters of 10 microns or less and 2.5 microns or less. In addition, the facility will emit the following air contaminants: hazardous air pollutants, organic compounds, sulfur dioxide, sulfur hexafluoride and sulfuric acid mist. The proposed facility will also emit greenhouse gases." This is alarming. Hood County is an attainment area. There are three nonattainment areas in Texas: Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio.

This means these areas do NOT meet the EPA's national standard for air quality.

Hood County residents value clean air. We do not want to have air quality like the big metropolitan areas in Texas. WHII is also in very close proximity to Lake Granbury, Squaw Creek and the Brazos River. Out of 72 applications, 17 companies were chosen to receive 3% loans from the State of Texas. WHII Expansion is one of them. If residents do not come out in significant numbers to this meeting, our concerns will not be considered. Even if you choose not to speak, your presence matters.

**Cindy Highsmith
Granbury**

PRaise FOR DR. PETER KRONE

This is a letter of praise for Dr. Peter Krone and team at Lake Granbury Medical Center.

As a physician myself — in the military and then trained in emergency medicine, then radiation oncology — I've a very good eye for quality care.

On March 25 this year Dr. Krone removed an area of recurrent diverticulitis then re-established gastrointestinal continuity without event.

His preoperative, peri and postoperative care was excellent. Such care takes countless hours a day and night over years of training and experience. The common man has little idea.

You are very fortunate to have Dr. Krone on your medical staff as a surgeon and doubtless as a leader.

Howard G. Morris, M.D.

OLD CHEROKEE LEGEND

An old Cherokee was trying to teach his grandson

about life. He told him, "Two wolves live inside us — one is anger, vengefulness and fear. The other is fairness, compassion and love."

The boy asked, "Grandfather, which wolf wins?"

The wise old Cherokee answered, "Whichever one you feed."

In the upcoming presidential election, we need to decide which of the two wolves the two candidates feed.

**Grady Smith
Granbury**

INSIDE-OUT OR MISMATCHED CLOTHING

I especially appreciated Sam Houston's column concerning inside-out or mismatched clothing. And I can definitely identify with 83-year-old Earlene.

While living in Kentucky before moving to Granbury five year ago, I taught professional training and development seminars to business, industry and the military.

On one particular winter day as I was teaching such a seminar to middle- and upper-class management in a nationally-known hotel industry, we took our morning break, and I stepped outside to catch a breath of fresh air.

Now, I have very narrow feet and find it difficult to find properly fitting and attractive shoes. When I find something that fits both categories, I buy several pairs in different colors. The particular pair I was wearing that morning was my favorite style — 2-inch heel and sling-back strap. To illustrate my liking for that particular shoe, I had bought four pairs — black, navy blue, white and off-white.

During our morning break, I was enjoying the sunshine and slightly blowing breeze. I was pleased with the man-

ner in which the seminar was progressing and felt I had it especially "together" that day.

That was — until I glanced at the ground and saw I was wearing one black and one navy blue shoe. It had been a hectic morning and I obviously was not paying attention to what I was grabbing from my closet.

Since I always try to look for the good in most situations, I sent an emergency SOS to Heaven for guidance. No one had mentioned my mix-up, so they had either not noticed or were too refined to say anything. Regardless, I had to be prepared. A plan immediately came to mind.

Part way through the afternoon session, I asked, "Has anyone noticed anything unusual about my attire today?" No response. If someone said something, I had decided to congratulate them on being observant and offering them a reward I always carried for unexpected emergencies.

As all the attendees began looking more intently to me, I stepped out where all could see and pointed out my situation. Then we discussed alternate solutions to such a problem they might experience. I believe, according to a lack of response to my question, my solution had worked its wonders.

Yes, Earlene, you are correct. As we age, we sometimes do silly things. It's just part of the process. Next spring, I will turn 80 and currently find myself doing an occasional "silly" thing. But I laugh about it and say, "Well, this brain just isn't quite as young as it used to be." Then I go on with my day.

**Carol G. Heizer
Granbury**

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7TH ANNUAL GHOST Run 1K & 5K

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 5 AT 6PM

HEWLETT PARK
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Pecan Plantation Breakfast Club were pleased to welcome Congressman Roger Williams (TX-25)

The members of the Pecan Plantation Breakfast Club were pleased to welcome Congressman Roger Williams (TX-25) as a special guest at their meeting on Wednesday, August 28, at the Pecan Plantation Clubhouse. Congressman Williams enjoyed visiting with his constituents over a delicious breakfast before delivering his remarks. He emphasized several key points about the economy and the challenges faced by parents who struggle to afford basic necessities like food and gas. As Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business, Congressman Williams discussed his efforts to advocate for Main Street by working to reduce regulations, lower taxes, and improve access to capital. When discussing our numerous immigration issues, Williams shared that he introduced the Make the Migrant Protection Protocols Mandatory Act to reinstate President Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy.

PHOTOS BY
MARY VINSON |
HOOD COUNTY NEWS



LakeFest

NOON - 10PM SEPT 28, 2024 FREE EVENT!

DRONE SHOW LIVE MUSIC FOOD TRUCKS SHOPPING FAMILY FUN!




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COURTESY PHOTOS

Sarah Folsom is pictured with her brother-in-law Isaiah Snodgrass, who always enabled her competitive spirit in the Marine Corps.

Remembering Sarah Folsom

Granbury's JROTC champion and Marine Corps rising star

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury community is in mourning following the unexpected loss of Cpl. Sarah Folsom — a fearless young leader whose vibrant spirit touched countless lives.

At just 20 years old, Folsom passed away Aug. 13 while stationed at Camp Pendleton, California with the United States Marine Corps. Although details surrounding her passing are not yet known, it is evident that her loss has left a profound void in the hearts of those who knew and admired her.

Folsom was well-known in the community for her success as a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadet at Granbury High School — proving from a young age that her heart was truly set on serving her country with unwavering dedication and integrity.

Tamara Snodgrass,

Folsom's older sister, told the Hood County News that Folsom's main reason for joining JROTC in high school was for the pair to engage in a friendly competition.

"I told her that if she could do better than me, and she could show me up, then I would've gifted her something in regards to that," Snodgrass said. "But she totally outdid me in everything."

As a high school cadet, Folsom was selected to represent Granbury High School nationally in her first year as a rifle team member. Her team won the 2021 Marine Corps Service Championships and the 2021 JROTC National Championship.

Folsom was also the national individual champion for 2021 JROTC precision shooters. She was a vital member of the rifle team that won the 2021 American Legion Precision National Championship and was se-

lected to shoot at the USA Junior Olympics that spring at the Olympic Training Center.

"She was very military oriented," said Isaiah Snodgrass, Folsom's brother-in-law. "If you knew Sarah, she pretty much already had this stature of what needed to be for the military ... She was dedicated and committed to pretty much anything she set her mind to — especially if someone told her that she couldn't do it. She was the type of person that if you doubted her, she would do everything in her power to show you up, in a way, to actually embarrass you. She didn't do it out of spite, but she was extremely competitive."

Folsom was the battalion commander for the GHS Battalion during the 2020-21 school year and also a founding member of the JROTC

PLEASE SEE **FOLSOM** | B2



After graduating from Granbury High School in 2022, Sarah Folsom attended the United States Military Academy. However, her strong passion for the Marine Corps pushed her to enlist the following year.

H-E-B launches 2025 search for Texas' top educators

Nominations for the 2025 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards open until Oct. 7

From Staff Reports

SAN ANTONIO — Nominations for the 2025 H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards are now open to all Texas public school professionals in Texas and close on Oct. 7. Teachers, counselors, principals, early childhood centers, school boards and districts can win cash prizes for their outstanding work. Since 2002, the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program, which recognizes educators who go the extra mile to serve their students and their communities, has awarded more than \$14 million in funding to finalists, winners and their schools.

All state-certified public school educators currently teaching in Texas are eligible for the awards program, as well as Texas early childhood education centers/schools.

"Educators are the backbone of our society, and they deserve recognition for going above and beyond to uplift our communities and shape the next generation of leaders," Jill Reynolds, H-E-B public affairs manager, said. "By nominating an educator, you are starting a journey that can lead to impactful benefits for not only the school but also your

community."

Anyone can nominate their favorite Texas educator at heblovesteachers.com/nominate/. Eligibility is not dependent on proximity to H-E-B store locations.

NOMINATION CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

- Teacher
- School counselor
- Principal
- Early childhood facility
- School board
- School district

Educators who are nominated will receive an invitation to apply before Dec. 2. While a nomination is not required to apply for an award, a nomination lets an educator know they are appreciated and encouraged to apply for the awards program.

Finalists and winners will be selected by a panel of judges composed of educators, administrators and community leaders throughout the state. Ten winners — six teachers, two counselors and two principals — along with an early childhood facility, public school board and two school districts, will be announced at an awards ceremony in May 2025. Each award recipient's school will also receive a matching grant.

The H-E-B Excellence in

Education Awards program distributed over \$780,000 in cash and grants to educators and schools in 2024. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to honor those educators who go the extra mile each day to serve their students and communities and who inspire others to do the same. To nominate an educator, visit heblovesteachers.com/nominate/.

About the H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards

H-E-B Excellence in Education Awards program awards cash prizes to honor outstanding public school professionals, and to thank them for their dedication and commitment. Through this program, H-E-B seeks to pay tribute to those educators who go the extra mile every day to serve their students and their communities and who inspire others to do the same.

Since the program's inception in 2002, H-E-B has awarded more than \$14 million in funding to outstanding Texas teachers, counselors, principals, public schools, early childhood centers, school boards and school districts.

To learn more, visit HEBLOVESTEACHERS.COM.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lipan ISD School board unanimously approved the 2024-2025 budget.

Lipan ISD school board approves budget amid special education concerns

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

LIPAN — During the Lipan Independent School District board meeting Aug. 29, the board approved the 2024-2025 budget, heard a pressing request from a special education teacher, approved a new tax rate, and grappled with the best location for tennis courts the district received as a gift.

Lipan special education teacher Tonye Grauman addressed the board, expressing concern over the lack of special education aides at the junior high and high

school levels. "This year alone, we have 24 students on life services, and 13 of those require inclusion support and about eight hours a week in content mastery support," Grauman said.

She explained that, despite requesting a special education aide every year of her six-year tenure, she had been repeatedly told there was no money in the budget. "It's not a complaint; it's just something I would like y'all to consider going forward," she added, noting she anticipates receiving six more students next year, not including transfers or evaluations.

Grauman urged the board to consider reinstating spe-

cial education aides to serve students better, stating, "Without the addition of a special education aide, piecing together support will be increasingly difficult." She emphasized prioritizing the assistance needed for special education programs in future budget discussions.

In response, Board President Phillip Tarpley acknowledged Grauman's concerns, reiterating that budget constraints are a significant factor in these decisions.

A FRESH START
Jennifer Phillips,

PLEASE SEE **LIPAN** | B7

FOLSOM

FROM PAGE B1

Robotics team, where she played a crucial role in its success at both the state and JROTC Nationals.

She was also the team captain and highly active in the JROTC Academic and Physical Fitness Teams. Among over 100 females, she was recognized as the top female "Iron Woman" at the JROTC National PT Competition and led her team to a third-place national finish.

Additionally, she completed the 2021 Daedalian Flight Training, where she completed flight ground school and eventually soloed.

"She was a go-getter," Tamara Snodgrass said. "She was bubbly, enthusiastic, adventurous and very outgoing."

After graduating from GHS in 2022, Folsom attended the United States Military Academy — also known as West Point or simply, Army — for a year, shooting for its NCAA rifle team. According to her brother-in-law Isaiah, Folsom had plans to become an Army officer.

"She called me about it, because I was a Marine as well," he shared. "We started building a relationship because I married her sister and she would ask me all sorts of questions, like 'What's the difference between enlisting and becoming an officer?' 'What do they do?' 'What do you think I should do?'"

"My answer to her was, 'You need to stay an officer. You got the smarts for it. You got the passion for it. Go

ahead, get your degree, get paid for it, make good money, and then go out there and do great things."

However, Folsom's strong passion for the Marine Corps pushed her to enlist the following year. She then completed boot camp and specialized in combat engineering at a Military Occupational Specialty school.

"She did not listen to anything I was trying to tell her to do, because I told her, 'Do not enlist.'" Isaiah Snodgrass said. "The Marine Corps is a whole different beast."

The bond that Folsom and Isaiah Snodgrass shared was marked by fierce competitiveness, with Folsom constantly striving to surpass her brother-in-law's achievements.

With Folsom's strong marksmanship background and with Isaiah Snodgrass' background as a marksmanship coach, the rivalry was intense — especially on the rifle range.

"I used to joke with her all the time like, 'Hey, all I know is, you shot pellets, I shot bullets, so we got to see who shoots better at this point,'" Isaiah Snodgrass said.

"Funny thing is, she did beat me on the rifle range. I shot sharp shooter, my first time shooting, and she shot expert. She gave me hell about that for a while."

"I'd like to state for the record though that I was one point away from expert," he added, chuckling. "But she was like 27 points past what she needed to be for expert, so she beat me by a long shot."

Isaiah Snodgrass noted

that the duo also frequently competed over their promotions, with Folsom striving to keep pace with his own timeline of achievements.

"I was highly successful in the Marine Corps as well," Isaiah Snodgrass said. "I won a meritorious corporal before my first-year mark in the Marine Corps, so I would try to tell her what I got, and say, 'This is your time. Can you beat me?' And what's funny is she did exactly that. We actually picked up corporal pretty much on the dot at the same exact point in time in our careers."

A Marine Corps Commander can meritoriously promote a Marine to the rank of corporal if he or she believes the Marine has shown exceptional leadership and performance — an accolade Folsom received just last month.

"It was a pretty big deal for Sarah to have won a meritorious corporal," Isaiah Snodgrass explained. "When she picked up corporal, she became an E-4. An E-4 in the rest of the military is not a leadership position, but the Marine Corps promotes the youngest leaders, so when you pick up corporal, you are now entrusted with other Marines. You have to sit there and be able to make decisions on their behalf, to move them and advance them in their career, whether it's on the battlefield or in Garrison. Normally, it takes about two to two-and-a-half years for the average Marine to pick up corporal — she picked up corporal in her first year."

He described his sister-in-law as having an exceptional drive and dedication, distinguishing her from others in the Marine Corps. He emphasized that she was deeply committed and always strived to outdo her previous accomplishments. Isaiah Snodgrass explained that Folsom's competitive spirit was not just about surpassing others but about constantly improving herself.

"She was second to none, and either had to be the best or there was no point doing it. If you're going to do something, you got to do it right — and she took that to a whole new level," he explained. "Had this tragic event not happened, I wholeheartedly believe that Sarah probably would have done 20 years in the Marine Corps, retired out, and made it to the top."

Isaiah Snodgrass explained that winning a meritorious promotion places a Marine in the top 10% globally, highlighting their exceptional achievements and dedication. He emphasized that such a recognition is a significant accomplishment that involves a competitive selection process.

"In the Marine Corps, they don't look at how long you've been out of high school; they look at your



COURTESY PHOTOS

Sarah Folsom was the Battalion Commander for the Granbury High School Battalion during the 2020-21 school year.

qualifications and how well you've done your job," he explained. "If they deem you fit to lead that way, you will lead that way because they will promote you — and that's exactly what Sarah was getting ready to do. She had proven herself already that way, and she would have done an excellent job. It wouldn't have surprised me, if this was the first of many meritorious promotions for her. She probably could have picked up sergeant in another year, and that's insane."

One of the coolest aspects of Folsom, Isaiah Snodgrass said, was her unique love for metal music — especially bands like I Prevail and P.O.D.

"I tell you what, she'd be head banging in the back of the car all the time when we were together," Isaiah Snodgrass said. "We'd be singing the same songs, listening to the same stuff, or heck even when she was still out in California, I'd send her a song, and be like 'Hey, check this out,' and she'd be like, 'Dude, that is so good.'"

Isaiah Snodgrass also reflected on how Folsom's dedication to her faith set her apart. He acknowledged that, unlike himself, who had strayed from his spiritual path after enlisting, Folsom embraced her faith deeply. He said she actively sought to strengthen her relationship with Jesus by attending church, participating in Bible studies, and prioritizing her spiritual growth alongside her military duties.

"If you want to talk about a great citizen of America, citizen of Texas, citizen of Granbury, that was her," he said. "She embodied everything that any human being should want to be, and she killed it. She killed it in every step that she took. She didn't lose. She always succeeded.

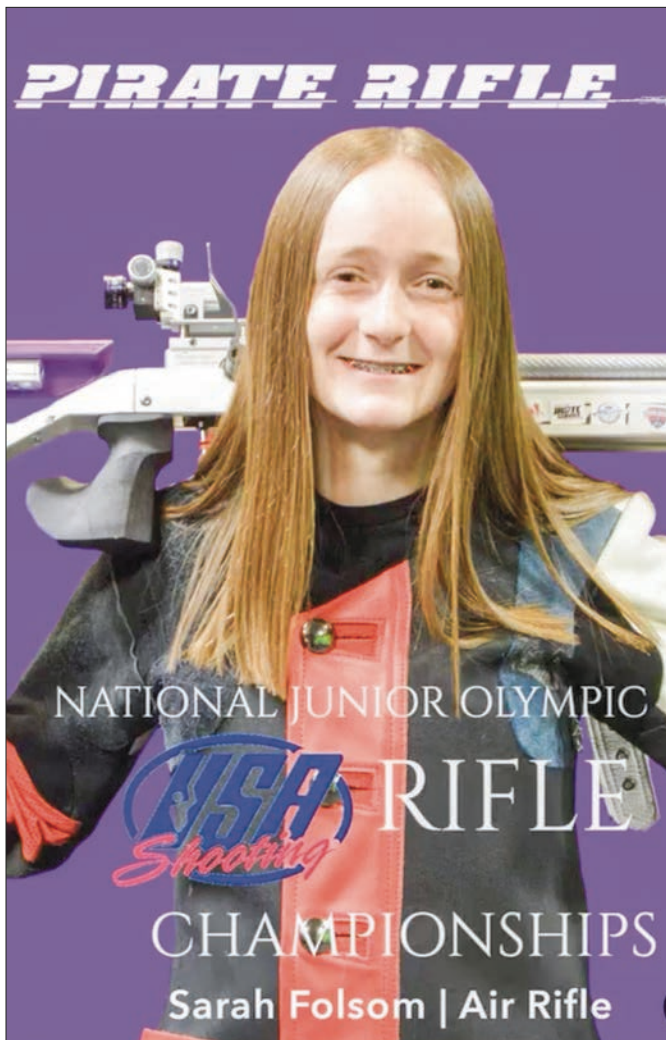
Failure wasn't an option for her."

Isaiah Snodgrass reflected on Folsom's remarkable trajectory, emphasizing that her journey was characterized by relentless growth and perseverance.

"She was only getting better," he said. "There was no wall that she hit. She broke through whatever wall there needed to be and just kept running. She understood that this wasn't a sprint; it was a marathon. But she was sprinting the marathon because she wanted to be the best that she could be. She

was always faithful to the end."

While Folsom will be deeply missed by so many former classmates, family members and Granbury residents, her drive to excel and her unyielding spirit will continue to inspire and motivate those she leaves behind. As she leaves her mark in Hood County, her legacy will be sure to encourage others to reach new heights, proving that for Sarah Folsom, the sky was never the limit.



As a high school cadet, Folsom was selected to represent Granbury High School nationally in her first year as a rifle team member.



United States Marine Corps Cpl. Sarah Folsom passed away Aug. 13, while stationed at Camp Pendleton, California.

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LETTER TO THE AMERICAN CHURCH

HOOD COUNTY PASTOR COUNCIL

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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

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Civil War Round Table to meet in September



BY BILL DYESS

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

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet Sept. 9, when Anne J. Bailey, professor emeritus, Georgia State University, will speak about the actions of the Texas cavalry in opposing Union Gen. William T. Sherman's "March to the Sea" in 1864. Bailey has authored numerous books and articles on Civil War subjects and will present the second half of a program she began at our April meeting.

SEPTEMBER IN THE CIVIL WAR

After defeating the Union

Army of Virginia at Second Manassas, the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia

continued northward, and Sept. 4 began crossing the Potomac River into Maryland. While there was only small hope that Maryland, being a slave state, would join the Confederacy, it was believed that many Maryland men would join the Confederate army. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee first concentrated his army around Frederick, Maryland, and then moved west, around the small village of Sharpsburg. The Union Army of the Potomac, into which the Army of Virginia had been absorbed, moved westward from Washington, D.C., in search of Lee's army. There were skirmishes and battles between the

two forces on a daily basis until Dec. 17, on which date occurred the Battle of Antietam (sometimes called the Battle of Sharpsburg), generally considered to be the bloodiest single day of the Civil War. Federal losses — killed, wounded and missing — were 12,469, while Confederate casualties totaled 13,724. While the battle was a tactical victory for the Confederacy, since they held the battlefield at the completion of the battle, Lee was forced to abandon his invasion of Maryland, and over the next two days re-crossed the Potomac into Virginia. The hoped-for Maryland recruits did not materialize.

In the Western Theater,

Confederate Gen. Braxton Bragg continued his invasion, begun in late August, of now Union-held Tennessee and Kentucky. On Aug. 17 — the same day as the Battle of Antietam — he captured a Union garrison of over 4,000 troops at Mundfordville, Kentucky. Smaller battles and skirmishes occurred daily throughout the nation.

DID YOU KNOW?

By the end of the Civil War, approximately 10% of the Union army were black soldiers, many being freed slaves from the Confederate states. They quickly proved themselves to be in all aspects the equal of the white soldiers.

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

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

HCN

Junior

National Hummingbird Day
Sep 7, 2024

Did You Know?

THESE SMART BIRDS CAN REMEMBER EVERY FLOWER AND FEEDER THEY'VE VISITED, AS WELL AS HOW LONG IT TAKES FOR A CERTAIN FLOWER TO REFILL

Prepare to be enchanted by the tiny wonders of the avian world as we celebrate National Hummingbird Day on September 7th! This special day is dedicated to honoring these remarkable birds and appreciating their unique beauty and significance in our ecosystems.

Hummingbirds are like living jewels, with their iridescent feathers and remarkable aerial maneuvers. Despite their small size, they are mighty flyers, capable of hovering in mid-air, darting from flower to flower with lightning speed, and even flying backward!

One of the most fascinating aspects of hummingbirds is their incredible metabolism. These tiny birds have to eat almost constantly to fuel their high-energy lifestyles, consuming nectar from flowers as well as insects to meet their nutritional needs.

So, how can you celebrate National Hummingbird Day on September 7th? There are plenty of fun and educational activities you can do to learn more about these amazing creatures.

SCIENCE FACT:

AVERAGING ABOUT 50 TIMES PER SECOND, HUMMERS REDEFINE THE LAWS OF FLIGHT. THEY HOVER OVER THEIR FOOD INSTEAD OF LANDING.

COLOR Time

doors, observing these remarkable birds in their natural habitat. Grab a pair of binoculars, head to a local park or nature reserve, and see if you can spot hummingbirds darting among the flowers.

So, let's come together on September 7th to celebrate National Hummingbird Day and give thanks for these incredible creatures that bring so much joy and wonder to our world. Whether you're attracting them to your backyard, learning more about them, or simply marveling at their beauty, there are countless ways to join in the celebration and show your appreciation for hummingbirds!

Remember, the most important thing is to enjoy the magic of nature and take time to appreciate the small wonders all around us. Happy National Hummingbird Day, everyone! Let's make it a day to remember and celebrate these magnificent birds in style!

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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Aug. 31

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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



Friday night Lights



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
The Granbury High School Pirates took on the Waco High Lions in the first home game of the season Aug. 30. The Pirates beat the Lions 3-0.
For the full Gallery go to hcnews.com





LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Crowds gathered at Johnny Perkins Field for the first home game of the 2024 Granbury High School football season.

Lady Rattlers win Rio Vista Tournament

BY RICK MAUCH

Special to the
Hood County News

The Lady Rattlers (14-8) won all five of their matches in the Rio Vista Tournament last weekend to capture the championship.

They also sandwiched a 3-0 home victory against Benbrook in between tournament days. After the tournament, they returned home to defeat Poolville 3-1 behind the play of Allyson Dobbs (5 kills, 6 blocks) Sept. 3, running their win streak to seven matches.

"We changed up our defense, got Kamryn Kolb back from injury and we've been playing great," Tolar coach Amber Terrell said.

The Lady Rattlers swept through the tournament without losing a game, winning 2-0 over Blooming Grove, Whitney, Hamilton, Fort Worth South Hills and Keene.

Abbie Soileau (133 assists, 35 digs, 14 aces, 20 kills), Senne Imel (58 kills, 37 digs, seven aces, 10 assists) and Sophia Walters (67 digs, 10 assists, nine aces) were named to the all-tournament team. Other standouts included Allie Terrell (45 kills, 10 digs), along with Kenzi McQuain (24 kills, seven blocks, four aces and eight digs).

Tolar travels to Hamilton Sept. 10 for a 6:30 p.m. match and will host Dublin Sept. 13 at 4:30 p.m.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Granbury Pirates are on the road for a second straight week as they begin play in District 3-5A Division I against the North Richland

Hills Birdville Hawks at the Birdville Fine Arts and Athletics Complex Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. This is the District 3-5A Division I opener for both teams.

The Pirates were playing at Waco University at press time, while the Hawks were playing at Grapevine.

Granbury won its season opener against Waco at home Aug. 30, 3-0 on a late 27-yard field goal by Reed Frey. Birdville fell 50-14 at home to Crowley.

It was the first game for the Pirates under new head coach Bobby Allison.

This will be the first meeting between the schools since Birdville opened in 1999.

Granbury offensive leaders vs. Waco: Hayden Meyer 11-of-17, 48 yards, interception, passing, 10-54 yards rushing; Anthony DeBello 18-67 rushing; Gage Archer 11-37 rushing, 1-18 receiving.

Granbury defensive leaders vs. Waco: Chase Cantrell nine tackles, three for loss, sack; Cooper Cumba five tackles, one for loss, sack.

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers will play at home for the first time this season when they host Millsap at 7 p.m.

The Rattlers fell 10-0 at Peaster Aug. 30 and were playing at Teague at press time. The Bulldogs were hosting Dublin at press time after opening with a 33-18 loss at Hamilton.

Tolar leads the all-time series dating to 1990 by a 7-4-1 margin. The last two times the teams met were exciting contests, with Tolar winning 14-13 in 2019 and Millsap winning 16-13 the previous year.

Tolar offensive leaders vs. Peaster: Briton Rice 12-of-20, 115 yards passing; Kelvin Murray 7-48 rushing; Peyton Brown 8-34 rushing; Drake Owens 5-81 receiving.

Tolar defensive leaders vs. Peaster: Cash Clark, Noah Yanish, Brylen Feist, Cayden Abrego.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pirates (15-16) once again played in the prestigious KSA Events Classic this past weekend, winning five of seven matches and placing second in the Blue Bracket. The tournament featured some of the top programs across America coming to play in Orlando.

"I think this was a great experience for our girls. We played some really tough teams from all over the U.S.," Lady Pirates coach Desiree Shahan said. "I think traveling like this as a team creates a bond that most teams don't get to experience and we are truly blessed to be able to travel to Orlando."

Defeated Crestview, Florida 2-0

Kills: Sienna Watts 6
Blocks: Masyn Noe 3, Jayla Hayes 3

Digs: Lily McCall 12, McCabe 6

Assists: McCabe 16
Receptions: McCall 8, Weaver 6

Lost 2-0 to Cuero
Aces: McCall 4

Digs: McCabe 9, Audrey Greinert 7

Assists: McCabe 14
Receptions: McCall 11, Weaver 11

Lost 2-0 to Riverside, Mo. Park Hill South

Kills: Watts 10, Blakely Bleeker 6

Digs: McCall 11, McCabe 11

Assists: McCabe 23
Receptions: McCall 13, Weaver 11

Defeated Palm Beach, Fla. Bayside 2-1

Kills: Watts 13, Bleeker 9
Digs: McCall 5

Assists: McCabe 26
Receptions: McCall 12, Greinert 10

Defeated Parkersburg, West Virginia 2-1

Kills: Bleeker 12, Noe 8
Aces: McCall 3, Kailynne Sermarini 3

Digs: McCall 18, Greinert 7
Assists: McCabe 29

Receptions: McCall 15, Sermarini 6

Defeated La Puente, California Bishop Amat

Kills: Sermarini 10, Bleeker 6

Aces: McCall 4
Digs: McCall 12

Assists: McCabe 20
Receptions: McCall 8

Defeated Cuero 2-1
Kills: Watts 10, Bleeker 6, Hayes 6

Aces: Mattie Weaver 3
Digs: McCall 19, McCabe 16

Assists: McCabe 27
Receptions: McCall 14, Weaver 13

The Lady Pirates returned home, but fell to Glen Rose 3-0 Sept. 3.

Kills: Bleeker 6
Blocks: Bleeker 3

Digs: Weaver 12, McCall 12
Assists: McCabe 18

Receptions: McCall 23, Greinert 13

The Lady Pirates travel to Abilene Sept. 10 for a tri-match against Abilene and San Angelo Central starting at 4 p.m. They host Saginaw Chisholm Trail Sept. 13 at 6 p.m.

Kills: Bleeker 6
Blocks: Bleeker 3

Digs: Weaver 12, McCall 12
Assists: McCabe 18

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Assists: McCabe 18

Receptions: McCall 23, Greinert 13

Granbury Lady Pirates volleyball team have been honored by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. Placed on the All-American watch list were Lily McCall, Sienna Watts, Ally McCabe and Blakely Bleeker.

GRANBURY CROSS COUNTRY

The Pirates and Lady Pirates competed in the Burlson Elk Run Aug. 30.

The Pirates competed in the varsity boys elite division, with Aiden Lemens placing 42nd with a time of 18 minutes over the 5K course. Jacob Wolfe was 59th in 18:21.

The Lady Pirates had three runners place in the top 100 in the 5K event, led by Kambry Zschiesche, 54th, 22:15. Josafina Berry was 81st in 23:08 and Adalyn Hollis placed 93rd with a time of 23:26.

"We had several girls out sick this week and a couple of injuries, so that hurt us team-wise and with numbers. Proud of how the girls ran and times are continuing to improve," Lady Pirates coach Amber Adams said.

The Lady Pirates were participating in the Keller Fossil Ridge Run of the Panther at press time and will compete in the Paschal Invitational at Athletic Performance Ranch in Fort Worth Sept. 13. The Pirates will compete at the Texas A&M High School Meet Sept. 13-14 in College Station.

LIPAN/TOLAR CROSS COUNTRY

Lipan's Court Gaylor finished fifth individually in the Boys Varsity 5K division at the Keene Invitational recently. He posted a time of 18:22.16.

Also in the top 15 was his

teammate, Wyatt Yates, who placed 13th in 18:52.31.

Annslee Tarpley paced the Lipan girls, placing ninth with a time of 12:49.35 over 3200 meters. Addiline Lawrence came in 29th with a clocking of 14:08.07.

Tolar's top boy was Ernesto Ramirez, 73rd with a time of 22:52.32. The Lady Rattlers' top finisher was Lucy Warner, who was 100th in 16:25.11.

Both teams were competing in the Hico Invitational at press time. Lipan travels to Port Aransas Sept. 7 before hosting its own meet, which will include Tolar Sept. 11.

GRANBURY TENNIS

The Pirates/Lady Pirates (5-5, 1-1 in District 5-5A) hosted Aledo in a league match recently. After a short lightning delay, Aledo came away with a 16-3 victory.

"Aledo was first place in the district last year and continues to have a great program. We are extremely proud of our kids and how they played," Granbury coach Athan Laskaris said. "The score may not seem like it, but there were several very close matches. We will learn from this match."

Roland Krause and Oakley Boyd rebounded for a 2-6, 6-0, 10-8 victory in boys doubles. In mixed doubles, Sullivan Williamson and Mandi Labelle also won in a third-set tiebreaker, 6-2, 5-7, 10-5.

Tyler St. Don posted straight sets 6-2, 6-2 win in boys singles.

The Pirates/Lady Pirates host Azle Sept. 10 at 4 p.m.

BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

Vera Parker: the legacy of a Hood County resident



BY ROGER ENLOW

Roger Enlow grew up in Granbury, graduated from Granbury High School in 1973, and worked at the Hood County News from 1976-2021. He is a member of the Bridge Street History Center Museum's Board of Directors.

The wise ones gave unofficial Granbury entrepreneur Vera Parker a wide berth. Even the police chief, a non-sense type of fellow, kept his distance.

Vera was a stout woman who ran a little grocery in the 1960s-70s. She was kindhearted to most, but took no bull from those she didn't trust.

Vera thought the police chief, Herschel Biggs, wore his badge a little too heavy. She made it plain to him one night.

It was after teenager David Cleveland got caught speeding just east of town. He saw flashing red lights in his mirror, thinking it was an ambulance. He pulled over and stopped. The flashing lights pulled over and stopped too. It was the police chief.

The chief told David he was speeding and gave him

a ticket. David argued he couldn't because he was out of the city limits. Didn't matter, the chief insisted, he still had jurisdiction. About that time a car approached from the opposite way and stopped. The driver recognized the boy and the chief. "Hey David," the driver hollered, "I got a gun if you want to shoot that SOB!" It was Vera Parker.

The chief quietly returned to his car and left. "She saved me a ticket," David smiled.

Vera's grocery/fruit stand was on East Pearl Street within a slingshot of the courthouse square. Her specialties included ice-cold watermelons and minnows.

She wore big blouses and smoked Parliament 100s. When she talked, her cigarette stuck to her bottom lip, ash growing by the second.

Cody Martin made milk

and ice cream deliveries to Vera's when he was a young teen. "You would call her a pretty tough-looking gal. You didn't want to mess with her, but now she was nice to me. I was a kid."

"Absolutely she was friendly," echoed Christina Cotten Smith who grew up on the same block as Vera's. "I'd run down there whatever Mama ran out of ... cigarettes, a can of green beans. I'd take my little wagon and Dr Pepper bottles and turn them in to buy more."

Vera would give customers a break. "Many had a tab. They paid weekly, monthly or whenever they could," Cathy Flint Wilterding wrote in the Stories from the Hood (County) Facebook page. Cathy frequented Vera's for cold drinks and her favorite ... Slim Jim beef jerky.

Bennie Boedeker also visited Vera's. He was fond of her chilly Dr Peppers. He'd scoop up a can from the counter and put money on the counter, only for Vera to gently slide it back.

Oftentimes Vera showed up at the door with sacks full of food for grieving families. "She was a kind

lady who helped without recognition ... always on the sly," Charla Hoyler said.

Sweet little Alice Vasquez was a young teen when she began waiting on customers at Vera's. Alice worked to closing time and didn't get home until late. She still had homework to do. Vera, who lived next door to the grocery, offered a solution. "Why don't you move in with me?" she said, free room and board. Alice accepted and the problem was solved. She lived with her until the day Vera died.

Vera was fond of the TV show Perry Mason. "She thought he was the smartest man in the world," Alice said. Vera once told Alice, "If anybody sues me I want Perry Mason as my attorney."

Longtime Hood Countians remember Vera's special space to store cash. Jake Caraway said he saw Vera at the gas station one Saturday afternoon. Vera walked over, reached inside her bra and pulled out a wad of money. "When you go back to the bank would you deposit this for me?" she asked the wide-eyed young

banker.

Vera bought a car once from Jerry Don Hodges at the Chevrolet house. When asked how she wanted to pay, she pulled out a wad of cash from her bra and paid for the whole thing, Caraway said.

Money wasn't all that Vera stashed in her brassiere. She was known to hide a derringer, just in case.

Hood County was a "dry" county back in the day (no legal alcohol sales), but Vera arranged rendezvous with thirsty residents. A drunken man with a shotgun staggered into the store one night. He wanted more whisky, demanding that Alice summon Vera. As Alice was leaving she heard a gunshot. The man had shot the refrigerator. Vera called police. They caught him not long after.

Vera also enjoyed hosting poker games. "There was a story about a Friday night when several cars were at Vera's home," Steve Monroe reported. "Herschel thought they were gambling, He kicked the front door in and they were only visiting. She had some choice words

for him along with some descriptive terms, and she informed him that he would be fixing her door."

Vera kept her records in a walk-in metal box behind the fruit stand. One summer the IRS arrived to audit her. The box was scorching hot. Vera opened the door and told the agents to have at it. "Needless to say they left shortly and called it good," Caraway chuckled.

Vera Parker died at home Feb. 27, 1982. She was 57.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vera was a stout woman who ran a little grocery in the 1960s-70s.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Texan Soccer notches second victory of the weekend against Texas A&M-Commerce

Tarleton State University

The match lasted over four hours, after a lengthy pair of weather delays. COMMERCE - Tarleton State Soccer notched its second-straight victory with a 1-0 victory against Texas A&M-Commerce Sunday, Sept. 1 at the Lions Soccer Field.

The Texans (3-1-3) earned their second victory in three days, handing the Lions (1-3-1) their first home loss of the season. A two-hour weather delay caused a four hour game from start to finish, the longest this season for either team.

Stevie Reynolds recorded her second goal in as many games to increase her Texan total to two as well. Adelaide Wyrzynski was active taking three shots with

a pair landing on goal.

Goalkeeper Mikayla Kendall had to earn all six of her saves for her second solo shutout and fourth total shutout of the season. Kendall thwarted many Lions' chances along with her defense keeping the Lions scoreless throughout the 90 minutes.

The game started at 7 p.m. and lasted 10 minutes and 12 seconds before play was halted due to lightning in the area. After a 42-minute delay, the weather cleared and teams started to warm up to resume play. Split seconds before the match was set to restart, lightning was in the area again and play was delayed for a second time. After a total delay of two hours, play resumed just past 9:15 p.m. local time.

Neither team was able to push anything across in the first half. The Lions out-shot the Texans, 10-2 with a 4-1 advantage on goal. Wyrzynski had the best Texan chance of the first half in the final five minutes. A diving Lions keeper kept the game deadlocked at zero.

The Texans struck first less than two minutes into the second half. Reynolds found a loose ball that sneaked away from the goalie out in front of the goal and deposited it in the back of the net for her second goal of the season.

Less than 15 minutes later, the Lions had their best scoring chance of the match at that point, when a Lion attacker fired a point-blank shot at Kendall at the corner of the post. Kendall



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Football's 2024 schedule has been altered, with four changes announced June 10 to the previously announced campaign.

deflected it out preserving the Texans 1-0 lead.

The Lions nearly tied the

game in the final minute. The Commerce attacker

hit the far-left post and it

bounced away, the final Lion attempt at breaking

the tie.

Tarleton State University Cross Country opens season with two 2nd place team finishes

Tarleton State University

FORT WORTH - Tarleton State Cross Country started off its 2024 campaign with a pair of second-place team finishes and nine runners in the top 20 at the John McKenzie Invitational at the TCU/ AP Ranch Championship Cross Country Course.

A year after both teams earned fifth place finish-

es at the John McKenzie Invitational, the Texans improved to place both teams in the top two. Tarleton notched the best finishes of both men and women among WAC teams participating.

"It was a great day for our program," said Tarleton State track and field and cross country head coach Bobby Carter. "Both the men's and women's teams taking second is a great step

improving from last year to this year. We want to be at the top of the conference, and we can build from here to reach our goal."

Standout performances led the Texan programs to its best finish at the John McKenzie Invitational. The duo of Morgan Lamberson and Sage Lancaster headlined the five Texan women who placed in the top 20. The duo finished fourth

and seventh, respectively. The men's pack, led by Jace Poole's 10th place finish, placed four men in the top 15.

"I really appreciate everyone's effort this summer and into the fall and it showed today," said distance coach Christopher Zent. "I liked that the guys ran as a pack and moved together and moved past conference competition. The women's team moved up after a good start and they were aggressive and competitive. They looked a lot stronger than previous years and I am very excited to see what they can do moving forward."

WOMEN'S

The women's 5K kicked off the competition with the starting gun at 7:45 a.m. After the first kilometer, the Texan duo of Lamberson and Lancaster found themselves in the front with Kailey Sykora and Georgina Balderas right behind them. In total, five Texans landed in the top 20, with a pair in the top 10. Last year Lancaster was the top finisher in 17th.

Lamberson fought hard for a fourth-place finish

followed behind closely by Lancaster who crossed seventh. Lamberson clocked in at 18:40.68 a year after missing the cross country regular season and missing last year's opener at TCU. Lancaster was just 10 seconds back finishing in 18:50.69. Sykora crossed in 11th at 19:05.09. Georgina Balderas and Ella Smart rounded out the Texan five scoring runners finishing in 18th and 19th place, respectively.

TCU earned the women's team title with four runners finishing in the top six overall. TCU's 24 points led the pack, with Tarleton's 55 earning the Texans second place. TCU's duo of Tabitha Ngao and McKenzie Bailey earned the top two individual finishes in 17:47.95 and 17:58.32, respectively.

MEN'S

The men's 5K started shortly after the conclusion of the women's top finishers. The Texans traveled in a pack with the group of seniors Angel Gomez and Angel Contreras and newcomers Poole and Toby Eaton taking the lead. The quad each recorded top 15

finishes.

Poole led the group of four that finished consecutively from 10th to 13th place. Poole led the pack finishing in 15:18.26. Gomez was not far behind finishing in 15:21.67 for 11th place. Freshman Toby Eaton was the third Texan to finish, trailing just behind Gomez at 15:22.99. Contreras rounded out the pack claiming 13th in 15:24.27. Diego Flores was the last Texan scoring runner notching 25th in 15:50.46.

Once again, TCU grabbed the team title boosting a perfect score of 15 with a first through fifth place sweep. The Texans registered as the second finishing team with 66 points. TCU's Graydon Morris took the individual crown with a time of 14:48.31. Three TCU runners eclipsed the 15-minute mark with a pair just a second over to round out the top five.

Tarleton will be back in action in two weeks, heading to the Texas A&M Invitational Friday, Sept. 13. The race will mark the first of three times this season the Texans will head to Bryan-College Station to compete at the Watts Cross Country Course.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Football's 2024 schedule has been altered, with four changes announced June 10 to the previously announced campaign.

Tarleton State Volleyball falls in final day of Lion Invitational

Tarleton State University

COMMERCE - The Tarleton State volleyball program dropped the finale of the Lion Invitational in four sets (23-25, 20-25, 25-15, 18-25) to the host, Texas A&M-Commerce Saturday, Aug. 31 at The Field House.

After their first tournament of the season, the Texans end the weekend 0-3. Texas A&M-Commerce finishes the weekend 2-1. Arkansas-Little Rock was the Lion Invitational champion with a perfect 3-0 slate.

Allison Bryant led or tied for the Texan lead in kills in each of the three games this weekend. Throughout the three games she combined for 41 kills, 15 digs, two blocks and an ace. On

Saturday against the Lions she tied for the team-lead in kills with Madison Frank each totaling 14.

Megan Hodges, a night after setting a new career high in assists, posted 35. Addison Goss led the way with 23 digs, followed by Emma Halcomb with 19. Stéphanie Sarmezan made her first start of the season and notched four blocks.

The first set was the definition of back-and-forth featuring 14 ties and eight lead changes. Neither team led by more than three at any time during the set and that was a rare occasion. Bryant led the attack for the Texans notching six kills during the first frame. The Texans forced ties on multiple

points, but were unable to break through for the lead until a block by Burke and Hodges gave the Texans a 6-5 advantage. Tarleton dropped behind but was able to regain the lead 16-15 on a kill by Tatum Busch. Ultimately the Lions used a 3-0 run to take a 23-20 lead, which the Texans were unable to surmount, falling 25-23 in the opening stanza.

The second frame started out the same with neither team taking more than a three-point advantage until Commerce took a 22-18 lead. The set featured nine ties and four lead changes. Tarleton used a 4-1 run to take its biggest lead of the match, 12-9. The Lions responded to tie the frame at

15 all. Back-to-back points gave the Texans their final lead of the stanza, 17-15. The Lions claimed seven of the final nine points of the frame to take the second set, 25-20.

The Texans broke through on the third stanza with a statement. After starting the frame even at four, Tarleton exploded with a 12-2 run to distance themselves with the Lions, 16-6. During the run, Busch tallied three aces in a mini 7-0 run. Tehana Mo'o added a pair of kills during the run as well. The Lions shortened the Texan lead to seven, but four consecutive points put the frame out of reach for A&M-Commerce. Tarleton notched its second set vic-

tory of the season, 25-15.

The Lions responded in the fourth set taking control with only two ties and one lead change. The two teams swapped points with the game tied at two. The Lions broke the game open with a 6-1 run to lead, 9-3. The Purple and White was unable to shrink the deficit as the Lions used 6-2 run to grow their lead to 16-8. Tarleton fought back late ending the game on a 5-2 run, but ultimately falling in the fourth and final set, 25-18.

The Texans led many statistical categories over the Lions. The Purple and White led in kills (55-50), assists (51-44) and service aces (7-6).

Tarleton will head to St. Paul, Minnesota next week for the Tommie Invitational Tournament. The Texans will take on host, St. Thomas, Northern Illinois and Valparaiso in the three-day tournament running from Thursday to Sunday at the Schoenecker Arena.



HOOD OUTDOORS

What is Fall Turnover? Fishing tips for fall fishing

**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.

Many folks associate the fall lake turnover with an awful smell and poor fishing and to some extent this is true. The fall turnover has the water and rotting debris on the bottom of the lake moving up and this is where the smell comes from. The poor fishing is attributed to not being able to locate fish since with the fall mixing of the water the fish can be at a variety of depths.

Lake turnover occur on our waters as long as the surface water temperature is cooler than the water below it. When

this occurs, the cooler and more oxygenated water at the surface is heavier (more dense) than the water below and it sinks. Conversely the warmer water below rises. This circulation can be enhanced by wind. This mixing of the water column essentially will eventually cause the entire water column on our relatively shallow lakes to have consistent temperatures and oxygen levels. With that the fish can be at most any depth.

In the summer, the fish hold at the thermocline and

above as this is where they can survive. The water below the thermocline is essentially uninhabitable. With the fall turnover, the entire water column can be used by the fish. Many folks say the fish scatter and to some extent this is true. You may have to look a little harder to locate fish.

This initial turnover process is a great time of year for the lake, though it may frustrate a few anglers. The initial turnover process can occur over a short period of time and an angler's hot spots may change overnight. As with any season change, patterns change, and the angler has to adapt. You will have to check several depths and maybe several spots. You may use presentations that can cover a lot of water to help locate active fish. Many folks will troll

to locate active fish.

Locating baitfish concentrations is always a good first choice. Checking your fishing log for locations where fish have been caught in previous years is a good idea. Keep your senses alert while on the water as there can be many clues on the surface of the water as well. Birds can at times point you right to active fish. An occasional surfacing baitfish may indicate activity below. Work predicted feeding times when you can. It is also a good idea to work a variety of depths until you can develop a pattern.

Turnover on most of our area lakes in North Texas will occur around the same time, however there will be some differences. Some of the shallower lakes may turn over first, larger deeper lakes may

turn over last, and some small impoundments may not turn at all because wind constantly keeps the water circulating throughout the year.

Turnover will probably occur in the next month or so. Be prepared to change your patterns if you see this occurring. The good news is that this is the precursor to the fall feeding frenzy, so you might as well figure those fish out for the good times that will come.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Granbury water temperatures continue to be in the middle to upper 80s and cooling some with the recent rains. Water levels are about 1.5 feet low. Striped bass are hit-and-miss and are best on

gizzard shad and trolled baits near Striper Alley. Sand bass action is good on slabs and spinners from the Shores in town to Indian Harbor. Sand bass are boiling on shad early and late. Crappie action continues to be good on small jigs and minnows fished near standing timber from in town to near Water's Edge to the timber close to the old hot water outlet. Catfish are good on cut and prepared baits fished near creek entrances on many areas of the lake. Largemouth bass are slow to fair to 7 pounds near deeper docks and main lake points. Look for schooling fish early and late near creek entrances. The river above Granbury is reporting some good catches working the laydowns.

LIPAN

FROM PAGE B1

principal of Lipan Elementary, reported a smooth start to the school year with no new staff and effective new safety measures.

Kay Cole, the new principal for the junior high and high school, was sporting a ballcap in recognition of fishing hat Friday that supports the school's fishing team. She spoke about enhancements in academic pathways and student opportunities.

Expanding on high school initiatives, Cole highlighted new pathways and endorsements added to provide more opportunities for students. She mentioned a positive start to the school year, including support for extracurricular activities and a strong sense of community among staff and students.

Five new staff members have been introduced, and efforts are underway to ensure smooth integration and collaboration among veteran and new teachers.

The school is preparing for upcoming events like class officer selections and the fall

festival while addressing minor challenges such as dress code compliance and staff changes due to retirement.

OPERATIONS AND TAX RATE

Interim Superintendent Jimmie Dobbs, who joined Lipan ISD several months ago, gave an update on recent operational issues, including humidity and HVAC problems in some areas. A 20-ton air conditioning unit was repaired, but other equipment, like a sound system head unit and a card reader, still needs replacing.

In addition to purchasing 80 radios for the staff, the district has also worked on safety improvements, such as adjusting doors and gates.

Dobbs explained that after running the buses for a few days, LISD transportation director Justin Bullock negotiated a third bus route and found a willing bus driver.

Dobbs provided specific updates on bus routes, highlighting efforts to improve safety and reduce bus ride times by adding a third route.

"Route 1 serves 33 students in the morning and 47 in the evening, covering about 31 miles each way in a little

over an hour," he explained. "Route 2 has 22 students in the morning and 38 in the evening, running around 37 miles in an hour. Route 3 carries 23 students in the morning and 20 in the evening, covering 28 miles in under an hour."

The superintendent emphasized the goal of balancing routes to reduce time on the bus and ensure students safely exit on the correct side of the road.

The board set the 2024 tax rate at \$0.7469 per \$100 valuation for maintenance and operations and \$0.306956 per \$100 value for interest and sinking, for a combined rate of \$1.053856.

The board approved a balanced budget for the 2024-2025 school year, totaling \$6,867,501 for maintenance and operations and \$962,052 for fund 599, which supports bond payments; food service was budgeted at \$1,845,500. Despite the tight financial situation, the board unanimously approved the budget.

The conversation then shifted to budget amendments, with Dobbs detailing the necessity of adjusting the 2023-2024 budget to accom-

modate discrepancies in expected and actual revenue.

Notable changes included a \$250,000 donation for the tennis courts and \$102,000 for an insurance claim for tools lost in a fire, leading to a revised fund balance of approximately \$3.2 million for the 2023-24 school year, including a proposed expenditure of \$375,000 for LISD property acquisition.

Place 1 board member Sheree Reynolds asked about monies related to the appraisal district. The 2023 report on value loss was corrected because of the school tax limitation on homesteads of the elderly and disabled. Reynolds asked if the district will receive the money.

Dobbs confirmed the correction but noted the specifics of when the funds will be distributed remain unclear.

To Grauman's point regarding the need for aides in her department, board secretary, place 3 Ellyn Grove inquired about the salary of an aid, which Cole estimated to be around \$20,000 to \$25,000 for entry-level positions.

Grove also raised concerns about the shipping containers in front of the agricultural

shop and the cost associated with leasing them, especially given the tight budget.

THE TENNIS COURTS

Lipan ISD is the recipient of funds for the construction of tennis courts. The gift is slated for four courts eventually, with the current focus on building two.

Place 4 board member John Cooper presented several potential locations for consideration. Cooper provided marked maps to help the members evaluate options, focusing on balancing current space constraints with future expansion possibilities.

Board members preferred placing the tennis courts in a location that would avoid the need for future relocation, preserve the donation's legacy and avoid extra costs.

Concerns were also raised about the construction schedule, with Place 7 member Tim Dowdy asking if the installation could align with the existing schedule, set to begin Sept. 15.

The financial implications of moving the discus and shot put areas were also discussed, with Place 2 member Todd Tuggle suggesting re-

location might be more cost-effective than other options.

However, placing the tennis courts west of the bus barn could require additional roadway, parking changes and new camera installations, adding complexity to the decision.

Board members also considered potential drainage issues and further adjustments to the configuration. As the conversation continued, they weighed logistical, financial and aesthetic factors, recognizing the importance of reaching a timely decision to avoid delays.

Reynolds emphasized the need for a special meeting to finalize the plans, warning that any delay in making a decision could push back the project.

Consideration was given to a cross country meet Sept. 11 and a district cross country meet Oct. 7 at Lipan. Ultimately, the board pushed back the tennis court construction start date, aiming to finalize the plans and ensure all considerations are addressed before proceeding.

Dobbs followed up with the revised construction start date after Oct. 7.

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SCAN ME



HOOD COUNTY VOLLEYBALL



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR AND JESSE RAMIREZ JR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Friday, Aug 30, 2024, the Tolar Varsity Girls Volleyball team won their match against Benbrook High School by a score of 3-0. On Tuesday, Sep 3, 2024, the Granbury Varsity Girls Volleyball team took on the Glen Rose High School Lady Tigers. For full galleries go to hcnews.com.



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Heroes with Handbags



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The wildly popular annual event supports the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center and the Rainbow Room of Hood and Somervell Counties. PLEASE SEE PHOTOS | C3

Stars shine bright: Taste of Granbury returns

BY EDEN DUNCAN GILBREATH
Special to the Hood County News

The popular Taste of Granbury Whiskey and Wine event takes place Thursday, Oct. 10 from 5-8 p.m. at La Bella Luna. This is the fifth year of this event sponsored by the Woman's Wednesday Club.

The Woman's Wednesday Club was established in Granbury in 1897. The focus of the club has been to play a major role in the civic and philanthropic life of the community with the primary goal of providing scholarships to deserving Hood County women and to serve community agencies through various projects.

In 1977, the Lois G. Cleveland Scholarship was established by the WWC. In the past three years

alone, WWC has awarded more than \$119,000 in scholarships to Hood County women in all stages of life. Women are eligible for funds to advance their educational degrees as well as obtain certifications at the junior college level.

Cathy Weeks, first vice president of the Granbury WWC shares, "As the cost of education rises, it's very important that we continue to support our leaders of tomorrow and care for our community."

Abigail Griffin is one such woman who benefited from the generosity of the WWC.

"Receiving the WWC scholarship has been a transformative experience for me as I pursue my master's in accounting. This scholarship not only provided me with financial support needed to focus on my studies but also serves as a recognition of my hard work and dedication. It has empowered me to delve deeper into

PLEASE SEE SHINE | C7



COURTESY PHOTO
Attendees of last year's Taste of Granbury enjoy time with friends as they sip refreshments.

Thom Mathews headlines this year's Spooky Spectacle David Ankrum, Preston Corbell, Mary Deese Hampton set to appear

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

Granbury's Spooky Spectacle returns Sept. 21-22 to the Lake Granbury Conference Center. The event is designed to usher in the Halloween season. Originally a paranormal conference that began more than a decade ago, the event was opened up five years ago to include horror, sci-fi, fantasy and cosplay.

"My mom and I run the Granbury Ghosts and Legends Tour here. It was actually Mom that came up with the idea," shared event coordinator Brandy Herr.

The two women brainstormed about an event that would include all these different topics, finding that often people who shared one of these interests might share another as well. They sent out email feelers to see what the response would be. The response was enthusiastic.



A man in costume enjoys last year's Spooky Spectacle.

"It started much more paranormal, more of a serious conference kind of thing — the Granbury Paranormal Expo. And then we just kind of started expanding from there, and that's why we started incorporating the cosplay and the Comic Con aspect of it, because all of it is so much like many different sides of the same coin. If you're into ghost hunting and aliens, you might be into horror. You might be into sci fi. If you're into this, you're probably into this, too, that kind of thing. It just kind

of evolved from there," explained Herr.

Event attendees of all ages are encouraged to attend the event in costume as they peruse the booths, hear the speakers, attend presentations and visit with celebrity guests. Entrance fee is \$5 with additional fees for celebrity photos or autographs.

The event is scheduled so that there is enough time to attend the events while also allowing for time to visit the vendors, Herr explained. "Throughout both days, we're going to have different



SOME OF THE MERCHANDISE FOUND AT A VENDOR BOOTH AT LAST YEAR'S SPOOKY SPECTACLE.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

speakers and presentations. We have the schedule spaced out enough that you can make a whole day of it. So there is plenty of time."

Herr is still accepting vendors which now number nearly 50.

This year's headliner is horror movie icon Thom Mathews, star of "Return of the Living Dead 1 and 2" and

the "Friday the 13th" franchise, notably "Friday the 13th Part VI: Jason Lives."

Other special guests include David Ankrum who will appear on Saturday only. Ankrum played Wedge Antilles in "Star Wars, A New Hope." Additionally, Ankrum was in "Tabitha," the spinoff of "Bewitched."

Preston Corbell will ap-

pear both days of the event. Corbell is a stuntman best known for his work on "Cabin Fever."

Actress Mary Deese Hampton is also a special guest. Hampton appeared in "Harold and Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay." Hampton will also repre-

PLEASE SEE SPOOKY | C2



A glowing skeleton beckons attendees to last year's Spooky Spectacle to come closer.

COURTESY PHOTOS

SPOOKY
FROM PAGE C1

sent her late husband, the celebrated Hollywood actor James Hampton known for his work in "Teen Wolf," "Teen Wolf Too," "Gunsmoke," "F Troop" and "Sling Blade." He was nominated for a Golden Globe for his role in ""

Herr shared that there will be additional features at the Spooky Spectacle.

"We will have the Plan Nine Replicas there with some Jurassic Park Jeep replicas parked outside. And then we have the North Texas Ghostbusters. They will be there with their proton packs. They will have a photo-op set up and possibly an Ecto-1 vehicle as well."

A portion of the proceeds from Spooky Spectacle benefit T.E.X.A.S. (Texas Equine Xperience And Sanctuary) Rescue, a nonprofit organization that serves to rescue, rehab and rehome donkeys, horses and mules. There will be donkeys from the program in attendance also sporting costumes.

The Hood County Bookmobile will also make



Illustrator James S. Cole stands by his vendor booth at last year's Spooky Spectacle.

an appearance, possibly in costume as well.

"It's a great event to get one more use out of your Halloween costume," said Herr.

Herr is particularly looking forward to seeing a young

fan and daughter of friends who will be making her professional cosplay debut at just 5 years old, known to the public as Li'l Scream Queen Cosplay.

Spooky Spectacle 2024 is open Saturday, Sept. 21

from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is paid at the door. For information about exhibiting at Spooky Spectacle, contact TheSpookySpectacle@gmail.com.

SHINE
FROM PAGE C1

my field, explore new opportunities, and strive for excellence without the burden of financial stress. The scholarship has truly been a cornerstone in my academic journey, fueling my ambition to excel and to make a significant impact on the world of accounting."

Daniela Olivares expressed how the scholarship made her education possible.

"I am very happy and appreciative knowing I was a chosen recipient. The financial assistance provided by the WWC was a great help to me and my family. The WWC scholarship has taken a large burden off my shoulders. I have three jobs currently; I won't be able to make the same earnings when the fall semester starts. This schol-

arship has eased my financial stress so I am able to focus more on my courses and will help me achieve higher grades, which has been my highest priority."

The Taste of Granbury event has become the major fundraiser for the WWC since 2020, whereas previously, funds were raised through style show luncheons.

"Stars Shine Bright" is the theme of this year's Taste of Granbury event. The event includes culinary samplings, whiskey, wine, beer and entertainment.

Entertainment will be provided by Liz White and the Mysterious Scoundrels. Gary Moates will be the live auctioneer.

This year's event will feature samplings from many participating restaurants such as Board and

Cork, Bob's Off the Square, Del Norte Tacos, Hoffbrau Steak and Grill House, Mesquite Pit, Randy's, The Local, Ketzler's Schnitzel Haus and Biergarten and El Chico. Wine will be provided by Barons Creek Vineyard, D'Vine Wine and Lost Oak Winery. Acre Distilling and Sledge Distillery will be providing the spirits and Brew Drinkery will provide the beer.

Silent auction items have been provided by: Wagon Yard, April Keller Training, Christina's, Class Act, Beyond Cuffs TCUY, Signature Beauty, Bluebonnet Meat, Hair by Naomi, Fort Worth Trap and Skeet Club, KIA Dealership, PINS Bowling Alley, Fossil Rim Wildlife Park, Your Private Collection Gallery, Marie Szczesny, Wiseman House Chocolates, Toddi

Vodka and Granbury Executive Transport. Silent auction items include a night at the new Nutt Hotel, Granbury Live Tickets and more.

Live auction donors include Built to Last Outdoor Furniture, Star Hollow Golf Club and Chef Rose Pebbles.

During a special portion of the live auction, there will be trips to Padre Island, Angel Fire, New Mexico and Ruidoso, New Mexico.

Sponsors of this year's Taste of Granbury include Kroger, Henson's Lumber, Steve Fortner, DT Roofing, the Hood County News, Plains Capital Bank, The Ranch Radio, MDM Landscapes, West Lake Dental, Dr. Alex Smith and H-E-B.

Bella Luna is located at 7700 Glen Rose Highway in Granbury. Tickets to



COURTESY PHOTO

"Stars shine bright" is the theme of this year's Taste of Granbury event. The event includes culinary samplings, whiskey, wine and entertainment.

the event are \$150 each or \$1,200 for a table of eight. Tickets may be purchased with a credit card by calling

817-573-0427 or by mailing a check to the Woman's Wednesday Club, P.O. Box 1852, Granbury, TX 76048.

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Heroes with Handbags annual Designer Purse Bingo

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Twenty-one designer purses were up for grabs at the Heroes with Handbags annual Designer Purse Bingo at the David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center on Thursday, Aug. 22. The wildly popular annual event supports the Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center and the Rainbow Room of Hood and Somervell Counties. The evening kicked off with a Hard Eight BBQ buffet and continued with raffles, 21 rousing Bingo games, and a hilarious Heads or Tails game. The crowd went wild as local heroes strutted down the runway showcasing the designer handbags with attitude and flair.



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Saturday, 1:00-3:00P.M. September 14, 2024

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing symbols! Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! ~ Psalms 150:4

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28	HANK FM Lake Fest
28	Rocks Alive! Acton Nature Center
OCTOBER	
3-27	The Sleepy Hollow Experience - Langdon Grounds
4-13	Here's to CLUE - Spooky Edition
4-6	Oktoberfest
5	Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival
5	Mission Granbury 5k/1k Ghost Run
12	Brazos River Corvette Club Annual Charity Car Show
12	Granbury Rock N Blues Bash
12	Pub Shindy

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

Senior Citizens Day

MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Hood County Senior Center showed its love and appreciation for our senior citizens by celebrating National Senior Citizens Day on Wednesday morning, Aug. 21. The staff went all out, treating local seniors to door prizes and a table full of snacks. Reps from U.S. Dermatology Partners of Granbury were present to provide samples of the latest skincare products for attendees to take home and try. They also conducted on-the-spot skin cancer checks, focusing on individual areas of concern.



PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan's New Member Orientation welcomes folks to the neighborhood

BY DIANE LONG



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

The next new member orientation is happening today, 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.

AUXILIARY MEETING

The next meeting of the Pecan Plantation Volunteer

Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary is 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. There are no membership dues. Planning

for upcoming events will happen, and volunteers are appreciated. In addition, the auxiliary is seeking a new slate of officers to serve in 2025. Interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting where details will be shared about this area of service in our community.

EVENT DATE

At Monday's auxiliary meeting, members will make plans for the auxiliary-sponsored arts and crafts fair scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 28, when from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the PAC will host an array of artisans, crafters and vendors offering various and lovely items for purchase. Furthermore, the Marina Trio will provide music for the

day, and the Fidget Chicks will be selling pulled pork sandwiches.

Cowtown Gold and Silver will be present to purchase precious scrap metals, sterling flatware, hollowware and coins, immediately turning them into cash for customers. Cowtown will in turn donate a part of its profits for the day to Pecan's emergency services.

Vendors desiring to rent a space or receive more details about the day may contact Joy Rice at 254-289-2224 or jdrauxiliary@gmail.com. Space availability is available on a first come, first served basis.

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.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Pecan's Breakfast Club will meet again Wednesday, Sept. 11 in anticipation of "Quannah Parker Day" happening three days later for Texans, and Breakfast Club attendees will hear from Lance Tahmakera, Quannah Parker's great-great-grandson, at its gathering. Breakfast service begins at 9 a.m. with the program following at 9:30 a.m. Reservations are due by noon Tuesday, Sept. 10: 817-573-2641.

MYSTERY EXCURSION

The next "mystery bus" excursion is on the calendar for Wednesday, Sept. 11. Folks sign up for this adventure

PLEASE SEE **PECAN** | C7



COURTESY PHOTO

A vacation “find,” Firewheel pincushion (*Leucospermum* “Firewheel”) thrives in hot, dry weather and is winter hardy to 25 degrees, making it a tender selection for local gardens.

GARDEN PATCH

Learn while traveling

BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



Phyllis Webster earned a degree in journalism before embarking on a long career in public relations and marketing. A Granbury resident since 1998, she has been deeply involved in the community. She is an award-winning writer and photographer, as well as a Master Gardener. She has authored Garden Patch since 2001.

Traveling presents opportunities to explore gardening beyond the familiar. Aside from discovering new plants, you will gain valuable insights, learn innovative techniques and draw inspiration from distant gardens and landscapes.

Once home, take a few minutes to reflect on your vacation observations. You likely learned more about choosing the right plants for specific environments. Landscapes in the American Southwest, for instance, must take advantage of drought-tolerant plants and efficient irrigation techniques to conserve water. On the other hand, coastal gardens, which receive plenty of moisture, have challenges due to wind, sandy soils and high salinity. Also, there is a big difference between the plant species that thrive in rocky, alkaline soils as opposed to sandy, acidic soils, such as those in West Texas versus East Texas. If you discover new plants that you love, explore whether they will be a good fit for your landscape.

Visiting new locales introduces you to varied landscape designs and styles — everything from the formal symmetry of French gardens to the casual charm of English cottage gardens. Each style offers unique advantages and disadvantages. While you may be inspired to redesign your home landscape, always consider functionality as well as visual appeal. Ideas to consider include native plant prairies, kitchen gardens and themed planting spaces, such as butterfly gardens.

Community gardens are found in many towns countrywide. These shared spaces bring people together to grow food and ornamentals, share knowledge and build a sense of community. Visiting these gardens might encourage you participate in or create such a garden in your own

neighborhood. When traveling, it’s fun to observe evolving gardening trends. For instance, many homeowners now fully embrace native plants, particularly perennials and ornamental grasses. They mix them into landscape beds in front yards as well as in private spaces. Many colorful Texas perennials such as salvias and coneflowers add a reliable color boost when sited adjacent to traditional evergreen plantings. Native grasses such as Lindheimer muhly and Mexican feather grass help to round out these native designs.

When on the move, take time to investigate sustainable gardening practices and how others implement them to minimize a landscape’s negative effects on the environment. You’ll want to use some of these methods in your home landscape. Explore rainwater collection systems, composting and mulching materials, raised bed construction, crop rotation, companion planting and pests/disease mitigation.

Wherever you travel, take note of plantings that support wildlife. Note how neighborhoods have adapted their homeowner’s rules to allow wildflower meadows and pollinator-friendly landscapes. Appreciate how diverse plantings, rather than lawns with shrubs, better support a wide range of wildlife including bees and butterflies. Learn how communities embrace the natural world, while still maintaining attractive and well-managed neighborhoods. Let vacations be journeys of discovery, not only of new places, but also of new gardening ideas and practices.

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

BOOK REVIEW

There’s a light at the end of the tunnel



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jace Kartye

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

All the work you’ve done has finally led to real results. You’ve paid your dues, followed the rules, did what you were told to do, and it’s been upward ever since. The light at the end of the tunnel is you, a shining star. Or, as in the new book “Cocaine & Rhinestones” by Tyler Mahan Coe, illustrations by Wayne White, it’s a train wreck.

Pinball, says Coe, is almost “directly responsible for some of the greatest country music ever made.” Pinball led to a spattering of small record labels like Starday Records out of Beaumont, which, on a regular day in January 1954, brought George Jones in to record a few tunes. Jones, who’d one day be considered the “Greatest Country Singer Ever,” didn’t become a star after that first session, and so he picked up some studio work for other musicians, and he honed his talent.

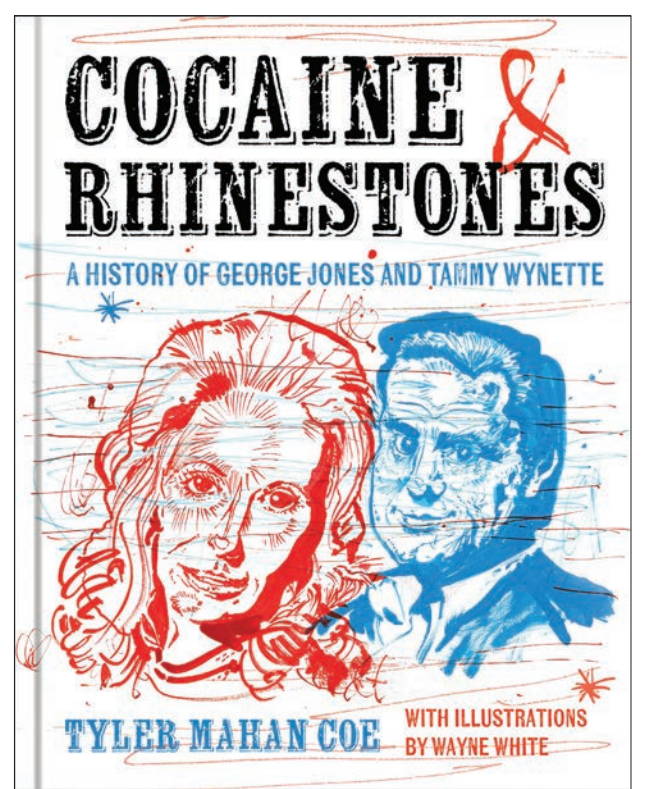
By July 1955, after influential star-maker Pappy Daily took a liking to Jones, after the singer started “to sound mostly like himself,” Jones started landing in the Billboard Top 10. He got married, settled down and started a family with his new wife while he con-

tinued to write and sing and make hits. But there were “red flags,” says Coe. Honky-tonking, recording and traveling to shows took their toll and Jones started drinking. He claimed he performed better with a “buzz” and some agreed with him — until he started fighting or had to be carried out or made a fool of himself. Jones was, Coe says, drunk a lot.

But the hits kept coming, though Jones didn’t seem very interested in his own personal image or in taking care of himself. He even kept the “flattop” haircut that he’d gotten in the Marines in 1950, which was quite outdated by the time he started sleeping with a pretty one-time beauty-parlor-worker-sometimesinger, a married mother of two named Tammy Wynette.

Imagine this: it’s Sunday afternoon. You’re sitting in a creaking old rocker on a front porch that needs painting, sweet tea in front of you, slow ceiling fan above you, and the warm voice of a storyteller in your ear. That’s what you get with “Cocaine & Rhinestones.”

Trouble is, the stories go a little “out there” some. Author Tyler Mahan Coe tells the long, sometimes-truthful, often-scandal-



“Cocaine & Rhinestones: A History of George Jones and Tammy Wynette” by Tyler Mahan Coe, with illustrations by Wayne White, c.2024, Simon & Schuster, \$35.00, 512 pages

ous love-hate tale of two of country music’s most iconic singers, but he also writes of pinball, bullfighting, NASCAR, Nudie suits this and that and a bunch of other singers and musicians. Most of it’s somehow linked to Jones and/or Wynette, but it’s not always clear how. The presence of these topics will make you wonder.

And yet, you won’t be able to imagine this book without those chapters, or without Coe’s blunt, sometimes profane writing style or his ability to zero in on the best parts of these performers’ tales. All together, they make “Cocaine & Rhinestones” a country music fan’s delight, and for lovers of a good story, it’s right on track.

<p>Read all about it!</p>	<p>IN-COUNTY</p> <p>\$65 FOR ONE YEAR</p> <p>INCLUDES PRINT & DIGITAL</p>	<p>REST OF TEXAS</p> <p>\$85 FOR ONE YEAR</p> <p>INCLUDES PRINT & DIGITAL</p>	<p>DIGITAL ONLY</p> <p>\$50 FOR ONE YEAR</p>
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COURTESY PHOTO

The "BER" months are packed with holidays and festivals, each more joyous than the last.

The 'BER' months: A time for family, food, and festivities

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

As the calendar flips to September, something magical begins to happen. The air feels a little crisper, the days get shorter, and there's a buzz of excitement that's hard to ignore. Welcome to the "BER" months — September, October, November, and December — a time of the year that holds a unique charm, filled with traditions, celebrations and the kind of warmth that only these months can bring.

Here are six reasons why the "BER" months are the most memorable time of the year.

1. The shift in seasons:

The beginning of cozy September marks the official start of the meteorological autumn, and with it comes the much-anticipated change in weather. Gone

(eventually) are the sweltering days of summer, replaced by the cool, crisp air of fall. There's something about the first day you need to wear a sweater that just feels comforting. The leaves begin their transformation into vibrant shades of orange, red and yellow, painting a picturesque landscape that begs for long walks and photo sessions. It's the season of pumpkin spice everything, warm drinks and the cozy embrace of a thick blanket. There's no denying it — autumn wraps you in a sense of calm and nostalgia that's simply irresistible.

2. A festival for every month:

Celebrations galore The "BER" months are packed with holidays and festivals, each more joyous than the last. September might be the quietest of the bunch, but it's just the calm

PLEASE SEE BER | C9

THE IDLE AMERICAN

Waterford dominoes?



BY DON NEWBURY

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

It was an absolute accident that likely couldn't be duplicated, even with the most fastidious planning.

My uncle Mort and three of his buddies playing dominoes at the general store in the thicket were caught up in the most bizarre circumstance that may forever alter the game. In the future, perhaps only wooden dominoes will be used. Or maybe cast iron.

One of the guys bragged

about a new set of dominoes birthday-gifted by his granddaughter. He proudly showed off his shiny crystal dominoes, then started shuffling them. Alas, one fell from the table. They realized simultaneously that the word "Waterford" embossed on each piece should have been fair warning that these dominoes were to be seen, but not shuffled ...

The game crashed quickly, not to be resumed on this

strange day.

They gazed as the lone domino descended, floating in slow motion. It hit squarely on the rim of a brass spittoon, halving what formerly had been the double six.

One end with six dots fell to the floor next to the oft-used spittoon, but the other, well let's just say it didn't fall outside the spittoon ...

They were stunned, particularly the duffer who faced explaining to his granddaughter what happened to her precious gift.

With no game to play, they shifted to spinning stories, all of which dealt serious blows to any semblance of truth.

For them, there were no rules. Truth was out the

window; everything was fair game ...

Soon, they were talking about prized possessions. My Uncle Mort blathered about what my old mother would call a "terminological inexactitude." (To most of us, the term is "lawyer talk" for lies.)

Mort said he had a memento found following a rainstorm when he visited Stratford-on-Avon in 1966. Standing at the grave of William Shakespeare 350 years after the Avon bard's death, he noticed something poking through the topsoil. It appeared to be the pointed end of two pencils.

"They were wrapped in

PLEASE SEE DOMINOES | C10

I'VE BEEN THINKING

'You're not the person I married'



BY CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER

Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who recently moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky. She has had short stories published in eight editions of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks.

I've been thinking about the institution called "marriage." I've been wondering how husbands and wives are expected to live together in peace and harmony, especially when the apparent basic principle of dating and marriage is that opposites fascinate and attract?

Several experts say that opposites attract due to the fact they are searching for the "shadow" of themselves, attempting to join with another person who exhibits those qualities or tendencies which are un-

der-developed or missing within themselves.

Initially, this explanation sounds reasonable and complete. But upon further explanation, one realizes the answer itself raises another question. For example, if one is attracted to a person of the opposite nature, why is it the tendency of the first person to try and change the second person after marriage? Secondly, since so many people are consciously unaware of many of their tendencies, what is it within individuals that realizes their

true nature and looks for an opposite nature which serves as a complement?

Is this mate-choosing a conscious choice, or is it a deeper subconscious choice?

Various opinions partially answer the first question concerning the attempt to change one's mate. The explanation is that it is the desire to "recast" oneself in an attempt to transform the raw material of the mate.

Yet that gives rise to the question that if we want to transform our mate's nature, was our appreciation of their opposite nature the only factor that initially fascinated us? If so, why are we attempting to change that which attracted us? Would not logical reason-

ing lead us to the conclusion that we would be eliminating what we wanted?

Pertaining to the second question — if we are often unaware of our own basic self, yet we are competent to choose an opposite, at what level are we humanly able to function in carrying out this task? Is it not possible for the human mind to be so complicatedly constructed that no amount of medical or psychological expertise can truly explain it?

It is my personal belief that many individuals attempt to change their mates for two different reasons. First, many individuals want to control things, people and circumstances around them. If one cannot

PLEASE SEE MARRIAGE | C10

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Sat: 10:55AM, 1:40PM, 4:25PM, 7:10PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 10:55AM, 1:40PM, 4:25PM, 7:10PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM

Deadpool & Wolverine (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM, 10:30PM.
Sat: 10:35AM, 1:30PM, 4:25PM, 7:20PM, 10:15PM.
Sun: 10:35AM, 1:30PM, 4:25PM, 7:20PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG)
Fri, Tues: 2:10PM, 4:30PM.
Sat: 12:40PM, 3:00PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 3:00PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:25PM

It Ends With Us (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM, 10:45PM.
Sat: 10:45AM, 1:40PM, 4:35PM, 7:30PM, 10:25PM.
Sun: 10:45AM, 1:40PM, 4:35PM, 7:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:55PM, 7:50PM


Reagan (PG13)
Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM

Sensory Friendly (PG)
Sat: 10:00AM

The Crow (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 10:00AM, 12:25PM, 3:00PM, 5:35PM, 8:10PM, 10:45PM.
Sun: 11:15AM, 1:50PM, 4:25PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:30PM, 5:05PM, 7:40PM

Trap (PG13)
Fri: 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sat: 5:20PM, 7:55PM, 10:30PM.
Sun: 5:15PM, 7:45PM.
Mon, Wed: 5:00PM, 7:35PM.
Tues: 7:00PM

Twisters (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM, 10:15PM.
Sat: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 9:50PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 1:20PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM.
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PECAN

FROM PAGE C4

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.

GOOD GROWING

The Pecan Plantation Community Gardens Club will host a workday at its site (on Plantation Boulevard) Saturday, Sept. 14. Folks interested in the group and its mission are invited to attend.

SING ALONG

Karaoke in the 19th Hole with DJ 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, and the registration deadline is Sunday, Sept. 8. For complete information about this "on-the-go" bunch, send email to rvclub@ppoarv.org.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will celebrate another year of collective meetings when the group reconvenes Thursday, Sept. 19. More details will come in next week's column, but for now, reservations are due by noon Thursday, Sept. 12. Ladies may send email to ppwrcres@gmail.com or call 361-215-4599 to secure a spot.

SWIM TIME

Although the clubhouse pool has closed for the season, the PAC pool will continue operating daily (except for Wednesdays) from 7:30 a.m. to sunset through October.

TENNIS TIME

Junior Tennis for the fall began last week 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.

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. Deadline for submission is Tuesday, Sept. 17.

GOLF GAME

A new month brings a

full slate of golf events to Pecan with the Men's Golf Association's "Tournament Royale" scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 14. In addition, the Ladies' Golf Association is looking forward to its member/guest tournament slated for Sept. 16-18 with the theme of "Celebrating 50 Years!" Folks desiring more information or to participate in upcoming happenings may contact the golf pro shop: 817-573-2645.

ROAD WORK

A reminder to folks living on streets where resurfacing is currently underway: Tuesday morning trash pickup continues, and the areas being worked on will be serviced first. Residents putting trash out before 6 a.m. is recommended.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of Michael Amos, who passed away Aug. 15.

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

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

TUESDAYS

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS classes: 8:30 a.m. Weight Watchers (join at 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.

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 John 15:4

DAYDREAM ACHIEVER

Magical holiday travel experiences



BY ZAC WILSON

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

Despite movies like "Home Alone," "Planes Trains and Automobiles" or "National Lampoon's Vacation" series, traveling for the holiday season can create the most magical experiences and memories together with your family. Whether you are sharing Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas or New Year's Eve together, there are many incredible destinations that bring the magic of the holidays to life!

My family loves taking a Thanksgiving cruise

together. Sometimes the Thanksgiving holiday can be a bit overwhelming with all the organizing, preparing, cooking, cleaning and finding a place to accommodate a large family gathering. A cruise makes everything easy and fun! Many cruise lines add special decorations, offer holiday favorites on the menu, and there is something for everyone in the family to enjoy. They even play the Thanksgiving Day NFL football game on the big screen on the top deck of the

ship. The crowd excitement level makes it feel like you're at the stadium!

Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations at Walt Disney World and Universal Orlando are spectacular. Theme Park destinations have extravagant decorations, parades, entertainment, themed events, unique gifts and nighttime celebrations. Walt Disney World has special events like Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party at Magic Kingdom, and the Christmas Processional at Epcot. Universal Orlando has unique celebrations like Grinchmas, and Christmas in the Wizarding World of Harry Potter. Hanukkah festivities are also celebrated with storytellers sharing the festival of lights and

carolers singing traditional Hanukkah songs too.

Christmas Market River Cruises in Europe are unique and only sail between late November, around Thanksgiving, through the Christmas holiday. The two most popular rivers to experience the best Christmas Markets in Germany, France, Austria, Hungary and more are the Rhine River and the Danube River. Many of our favorite holiday traditions trace their origins to Europe, and the Würzburg Christmas Market began in the early 1800s.

There are so many wonderful details that make a Christmas Market River Cruise magical. Here are a few of my favorite things:

- Exuberant decorations in

charming cities and towns

- Yuletide cookies, cakes and fresh baked treats
- Cobblestone streets illuminated with holiday lights
- Angelic songs by strolling carolers
- Storybook villages and snowcapped castles on the riverside
- Hand carved toys and ornaments from Christmas past
- Music performances, tree trimming and cooking demonstrations
- Glad tidings and cheer
- Hot chocolate, spicy glühwein and gingerbread
- Roasted chestnuts and sweet treats of every kind
- Exciting festivities and events
- Adding to the magic of the holiday, the weather is

oftentimes snowy, creating a beautiful winter wonderland!

New Year's Eve has many exciting cities to countdown to midnight. My favorite is Honolulu, Hawaii. Honolulu has the famous Rock a Hulu show with performances by celebrity impersonators of Elvis, Michael Jackson and more, luau, Hula dancers, Waikiki Fireworks Show, and the dazzling Honolulu City Lights! New Years Eve is also quite popular at All-Inclusive Beach Resorts throughout the Caribbean.

Contact your favorite travel advisor to help you find the best holiday travel options for your family and budget. I recommend booking far in advance to get the best pricing and availability.

BER FROM PAGE C6

before the storm. October brings Halloween, a night filled with costumes, candy and all things spooky. November is synonymous with Thanksgiving, a time for family, feasts and reflecting on what we're grateful for. And December? Well, December is the grand

finale with Christmas and New Year's Eve — a month-long celebration of love, giving and togetherness. Whether you're decorating your home, planning festive meals or counting down to midnight on Dec. 31, there's always something to look forward to during these months.

3. The return of comfort food: A feast for the senses As the temperatures drop,

our cravings for hearty, warming foods return. The "BER" months are a foodie's paradise, with each month offering its own culinary delights. September ushers in apple season, leading to pies, crisps and cider. October is all about pumpkins — think soups, pies and spiced lattes. In November, the star of the show is, of course, the Thanksgiving dinner, with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and cranberry sauce. December rounds things off with Christmas cookies, roasted meats, mulled wine and festive treats from all around the world. These months invite us to indulge, savor and share the flavors that define the season.

4. The spirit of giving: A time for generosity As the year winds down, the "BER" months bring

with them a heightened sense of charity and goodwill. This is the time of year when people come together to help those in need, whether through food drives, charitable donations or simple acts of kindness. The spirit of giving is especially strong in December, as Christmas encourages us to think of others and share our good fortune. But it's not just about material gifts — these months are also about giving time, love and attention to those who need it most. There's a special joy in the air that comes from knowing you've made someone else's day a little brighter.

5. The anticipation of a fresh start: New year on the horizon

The "BER" months culminate in the ultimate celebration of new begin-

nings — New Year's Eve. As December comes to a close, we all start to reflect on the past year and look forward to the one ahead. It's a time for setting resolutions, dreaming big and making plans for the future. The excitement of counting down to midnight, surrounded by loved ones, is unmatched. The turning of the calendar from Dec. 31 to Jan. 1 represents a fresh start, full of possibilities and hope. The "BER" months, with all their festivities and warmth, build up to this moment of renewal, making it even more special.

6. The "BER" months are a sports lover's paradise

For many, the "BER" months mean sports! NCAA and NFL football action returns, which means tailgate parties and watching the games with friends and family. Major League

Baseball is moving into its home stretch toward the playoffs and the World Series. In fact, for a short window of time, all three of the big three professional sports — football, baseball and basketball — are playing simultaneously.

The "BER" months are a time of transition, celebration and reflection. They bring with them the beauty of autumn, the warmth of family traditions, the comfort of seasonal foods, the joy of giving and the excitement of a new beginning. Whether you're snuggled up with a good book on a chilly day, gathering with family for a festive meal, or counting down to the New Year, these months offer something for everyone. So, embrace the magic of the "BER" months and make the most of this special time of year.

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“Waterford” embossed on each piece should have been fair warning that these dominoes were to be seen, but not shuffled ...

DOMINOES

FROM PAGE C6

parchment, on which Shakespeare had written: ‘I always chose to write in ink, because I couldn’t decide between pencils; 2b or not 2b was always the question.’ ...

When the laughter abated, one of the men told about an accident that occurred recently on the nearby state highway. He said an 18-wheeler — loaded with several tons of Roget’s thesauruses — went airborne when a tire blew out.

“It was sumthin’ to see,” the old geezer said. “Books flew everywhere. There must have been enough to pave 20 miles of dirt road.”

Had my mother heard him, she

would have called him a “24-carat windjammer.” His closing words would have strengthened her suspicion. “I was stunned, startled, aghast, taken aback, stupefied, confused, shocked, flabbergasted, astounded, amazed, confounded, astonished, overwhelmed, horrified, numbed, speechless and perplexed.” ...

A third member of the foursome told about a creative Wisconsin man who won the National Liars’ Contest several years ago.

“The winner must have had time on his hands, because a lie such as his isn’t simply ‘blurted out;’ it is carefully honed before it is shared.”

He described a hunter who invented a duck call so effective that it attracted decoys ...

Only the “birthday duffer” was

left to tell his tale. However, he chose to remain silent. One day, he hoped it might be possible for him to tearlessly describe the time one of his crystal dominoes escaped from the shuffle. He’d recount its descent, and how a spittoon got in the way. But on this sad day, he had no words.

Slowly bending over, he picked up the end of the double six that one would expect him to keep. Perhaps he could place it in a shadowbox. It was, after all, the thought that counts.

Soon, they left the general store, none aware that the crystal dominoes were a “close-out” special with replacements pieces available for pennies on the dollar — even for the domino with a dozen spots on it ...

MARRIAGE

FROM PAGE C6

control what a mate does, the next best thing is to attempt to change

the temperament which causes the undesired action — thereby ultimately achieving the desired goal.

Secondly, many people secretly feel inwardly superior to those

around them, believing their ways are best. Therefore, they want to change a mate so he or she may be comparable or like unto themselves. Also, they see it as a marvelous way of eliminating conflict.

Also, I believe the principle of “opposites attracting” is a deeply-noted phenomena placed within individuals as nature’s way of balancing the scale in interpersonal relationships. I believe that

mankind will never understand this principle and all its ramifications. Perhaps, it is simply further evidence of the Creator’s way and will that is beyond our ability to explain, define or categorize.

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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.

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