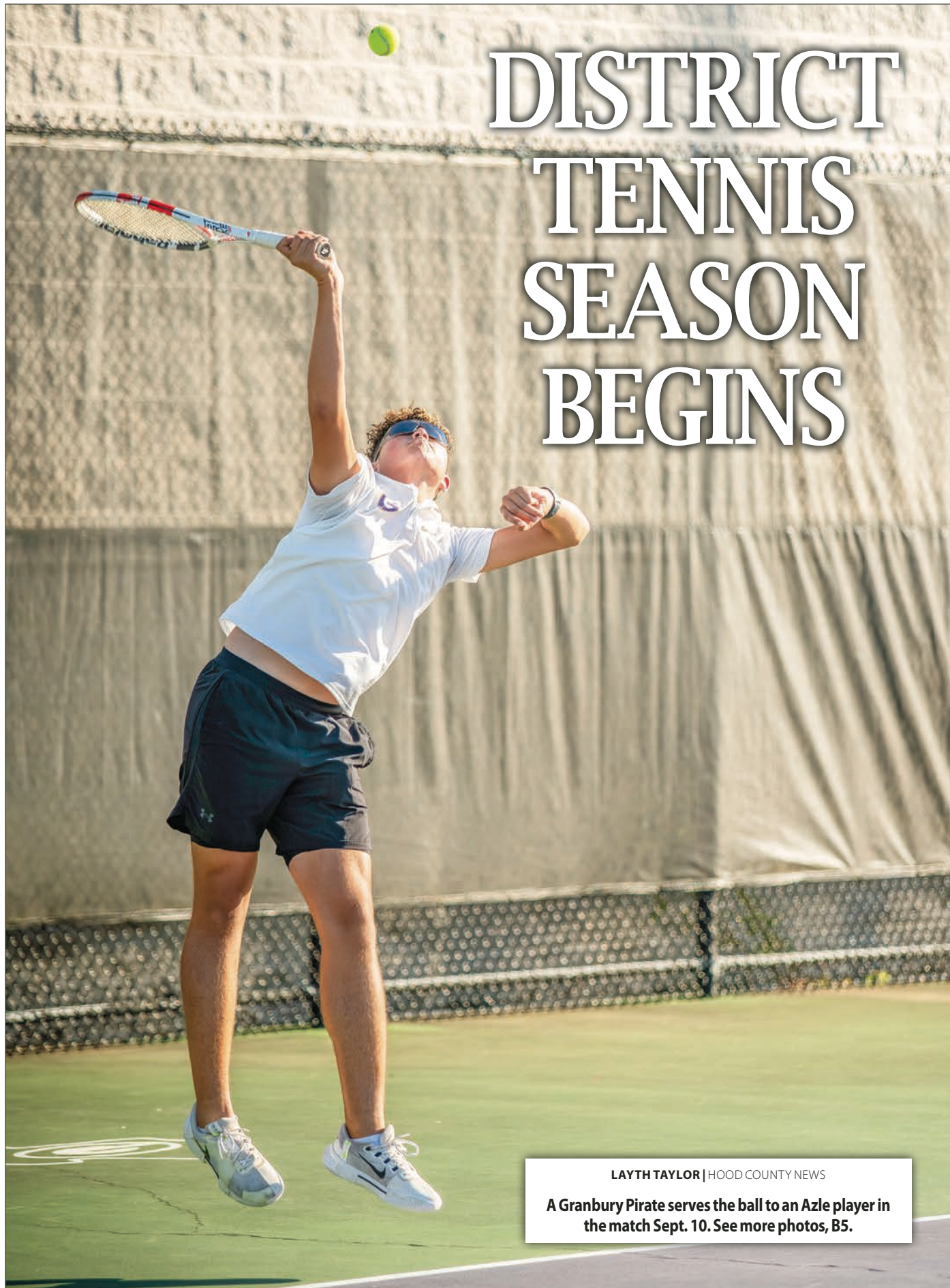




[SATURDAY, September 14, 2024]

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DISTRICT TENNIS SEASON BEGINS

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

A Granbury Pirate serves the ball to an Azle player in the match Sept. 10. See more photos, B5.

Citizens rally against Wolf Hollow III power plant

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

The Granbury Conference Center was abuzz Monday evening, Sept. 9, as residents gathered for a public hearing regarding the proposed expansion of the Wolf Hollow II power plant.

Senator Brian Birdwell was represented by staff members Shelley Verlander and Clinton Harnon, who were present to address concerns and provide support.

Additionally, numerous Hood County elected officials attended the event. The conference center room was packed with concerned citizens, signaling a high level of community engagement, which was evident throughout the tense and charged discussion.

The panel on stage was comprised of five TCEQ employees, including the moderator, Lori Garriss, and three Constellation employees.

TCEQ organized the meeting to gather public feedback on a permit application submitted to the TCEQ by Wolf Hollow II Power LLC.

THE APPLICATION

The applicant, Wolf Hollow II, is a 1,115-megawatt combined cycle gas and steam turbine power plant in Hood County. They are planning a significant expansion.

Constellation owns and operates the facility, which began operations in 2017. It has filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to add 300 megawatts of new gas-fired generation capacity.

This expansion, referred to as Wolf Hollow III, will include the installation of eight new natural gas-fired generators, three emergency diesel generators, and additional equipment to meet Texas' rising energy demands.

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF AIR QUALITY

Many complex pollutants were discussed at the meeting, and they can be further studied at the Environmental Protection Agency's and the American Lung Association's websites.

EPA.gov details the effects of nitrogen oxide and ozone formation, as well as sulfur dioxide and particulate matter, on the human body. The ALA site, www.lung.org, outlines the health hazards of volatile organic compounds and smog.

The new generators are expected to introduce potentially harmful pollutants into Hood County's air, as outlined in the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision for Air Quality Permits Proposed Air Quality Permit Numbers: 175173, PSDTX1636, and GHGPSDTX238 which can be viewed online at 2024-09-09-wolf-hollow-ii-power-llc-175173-psdtx1636-ghgpsdtx238-napd-pm.pdf (texas.gov) Some of the chemicals listed include nitrogen oxides (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM), and greenhouse gases (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO2).

These chemicals can have serious side effects. NOx contributes to ozone formation, triggering asthma attacks and respiratory issues. At the same time, particulate matter, especially the fine PM2.5 particles, poses long-term health risks by affecting lung and heart function.

Additionally, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and sulfur dioxide (SO2), though emitted in smaller quantities, can aggravate air quality problems, increasing the likelihood of smog and acid rain.

Currently, Hood County is classified as an "attainment" area, meaning air pollution levels meet national standards. It is alleged the expansion could push some pollutants above safe thresholds, mainly if the plant operates at higher capacities in the future.

While the current application assumes the new generators will operate at 40% capacity, there are concerns about what might happen if Wolf Hollow III increases its output to 50% or beyond to meet growing energy needs. Higher operation levels could lead to significantly increased emissions, potentially harming air quality and posing health risks to residents.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS

Some Hood County residents strongly opposed the expansion, raising numerous environmental and health concerns. Alana Brown and her daughter Christiana articulated fears about the potential negative impacts on children's health, including noise and air pollution issues. "We're worried about long-term effects like learning disabilities and cognitive problems," said Christiana Brown.

Daniel Lakey, a resident of Contrary Creek, criticized the expansion as excessive for the predominantly residential area, questioning the reliability of pollution monitoring and expressing frustration with local political representatives.

Dr. Andrew J. Wolford raised concerns about the adequacy of pollution dispersion modeling and environmental impact assessments, calling for a more thorough review and consideration of alternative sites.

Granbury City Council approves fiscal year 2024-25 budget and property tax rate



LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

In a video presentation, broadcast specialist Chuck Licata outlined various revenue streams, including sales tax, property tax, hotel occupancy tax and income from city-owned utilities.

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

The Granbury City Council approved the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 during its meeting Tuesday, Sept. 3. The budget, effective Oct. 1, was presented by city staff and includes details about revenue sources, expenditures and key investments.

In a video presentation, broadcast specialist Chuck Licata outlined various revenue streams, including sales tax, prop-

erty tax, hotel occupancy tax and income from city-owned utilities.

"The biggest source of money for the City of Granbury is not property tax," Licata explained. "It's sales tax." While sales tax leads as the largest revenue generator, property and hotel occupancy taxes also play significant roles in the city's finances.

The budget is designed to ensure that expenditures align with revenues, supporting essential services such as police, fire protection and street maintenance.

The budget also covers city-owned

utilities, which generate revenue through customer charges. The presentation addressed the costs associated with maintaining these utilities, including potential rate increases for customers.

Additional revenue sources include franchise fees from companies using city property for services such as cable TV and trash collection, as well as income from the Granbury Regional Airport, which contributes approximately \$17 million annually to the community.

PLEASE SEE **BUDGET** | A4PLEASE SEE **RALLY** | A5

138TH YEAR, NO. 37

Local, zone(s): 3 sections, 34 pages, plus supplements | State: 3 sections, 34 pages

INSIDE

From My Front Porch — A3 | Zed — A4 | Classifieds — A9-10 | Crossword Puzzle — A11-A12 | Obituaries — A11-A12

6 89076 25634 6

COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Leadercast SuperTeams II: Elevating leadership in our community

By the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce recognizes that leadership is the cornerstone of a thriving community. In today's interconnected world, collaboration and teamwork are more crucial than ever, and exceptional team leadership is key to driving progress and innovation, whether in business, sports or civic organizations.

To equip our community with the tools needed to build high-performing teams, the Granbury Chamber of Commerce is proud to host Leadercast SuperTeams II Wednesday, Sept. 18, 9-11 a.m. at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. This dynamic, two-hour simulcast event is designed to inspire, educate and empower individuals to excel as team leaders and enhance their leadership influence.

Leadercast SuperTeams II will feature a stellar lineup of globally recognized keynote speakers who are renowned for their leadership acumen across various industries. Kicking off the event, Julie Bauke, a career strategist with more than 25 years' experience in human resources, will deliver the opening keynote, "Lead Yourself." Julie will provide invaluable insights into the foundational principles of self-leadership, equipping attendees to



navigate both personal and professional challenges with confidence and resilience.

Next, Jon Sanchez, CEO of the Team Performance Institute and former Navy SEAL, will take the stage to share his powerful "R.E.A.L. Leadership" framework — Resilience, Evolving Leader, Attitude and Legacy — guiding participants on how to effectively lead others. His session, "Lead Others," promises to deliver actionable strategies for fostering trust, accountability and lasting impact in teams.

This event is more than just a leadership seminar; it's a transformative experience designed to elevate your leadership skills and help you maximize your potential in any team environment. Whether you're leading a business, a non-profit or a local community initiative, Leadercast SuperTeams II offers practical, actionable insights that will empower you to inspire,

engage and achieve greater success with your teams.

Attending with your entire team provides a unique opportunity to strengthen team cohesion, align on shared leadership goals, and foster a collective commitment to growth. By participating, you'll not only elevate your own leadership abilities but also amplify your organization's impact on the community.

Don't miss this chance to be part of an event that's more than just educational — it's a catalyst for both personal and organizational growth in leadership.

Registration Information: To register or learn more, visit www.granburychamber.com or call 817-573-1622. Tickets are \$10 for chamber members and \$20 for general admission. We look forward to welcoming you and your team Sept. 18 for this exceptional leadership event!



Building A Budget WORKSHOP

Owning a business and keeping it operating can be challenging. Learn insights and tools that can make a difference in continued success.



Speaker CHARLES WOHL

Regional Director SBDC at Tarleton State University

Presented by the SBDC at Tarleton State University, the Workshop Series consist of introductory one-hour workshops hosted at local facilities throughout the region. Registration is open to all interested in the small business and entrepreneurial community in North Central Texas.



Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. A member of the Northwest Texas SBDC Network

The Details

- Who: People who are seeking a path towards business success.
- When: September 17th, 2024 at 9AM-10AM
- Where: The Granbury Chamber of Commerce 3408 East US Hwy 377, Granbury, TX 76049
- Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested in advance. Contact SBDC@Tarleton.edu, 254-968-0558

COURTESY GRAPHIC

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

New Member Spotlight

Blazin' Saddle 75 Bicycle Rally

Get an unforgettable, beautiful, scenic ride with signature climbs at Skulls Crossing, Mongo's Mountain and The Peak

COURTESY GRAPHIC

New Member Spotlight: Blazin' Saddle 75 Bicycle Rally. Get an unforgettable, beautiful, scenic ride with signature climbs at Skulls Crossing, Mongo's Mountain and the Peak. The Blazin' Saddle 75 was back for its 16th year in August. Be on the lookout for next year's race! Blazin' Saddle 75 is a not-for-profit event and benefits Texas EMS. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

New Chamber Members & Renewals

Welcome to our New Chamber Members who joined in August!

- Lemongrass Spa Products
- Vito's Italian Kitchen
- Edward Jones - C.J. Prater, Financial Advisor
- Selden Solutions
- Marifer Myers Realty
- Codewise Construction Solutions, LLC
- ClearWater Express Car Wash
- Just Energy
- True Temp Heating & Air
- PNC Bank
- Roberta Zamarron

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

- KP Staffing
- State Farm - Cody Garrison
- National Service Research
- Stress Free Mobile RV Repair
- In The Patter Flight School
- BMV Wealth Management Group
- Southern Star Market
- Worked Solutions LLC
- The Workplace
- Best Electric

- Radiance Wellness MediSpa
- Rancho Brazos Community Center
- Papa John's Pizza
- Brazos Chamber Orchestra
- DSG Benefits Group
- Nin & Jan Hulett
- Oz Realty - Eliza Knapp
- Mysterious Scoundrels
- Restaurant Anise
- The Heights Church
- Your Private Collection Art Gallery
- Hood County Democratic Club
- Brazos Valley Grass Leadership Granbury
- Associated Well Services

- Aviva Granbury Senior Living
- Bowden & Tanner, LLC
- Tri-Chem Industries
- Constellation Energy
- Bridge Street History Center
- La Paloma Animal Hospital
- Paradise Bistro 7 Coffee
- Taco Casa
- Babes Chicken Dinner House
- Ann Whitcotton Homes
- Clark Real Estate Group
- Security Finance
- Frog Juice Co, LLC
- Lions Club of Granbury
- Granbury Place Apartments
- Freddy's Frozen Custard

GRANBURY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

Hood County Housing Report

August 2024

Median price: **\$345,000** (↓ 1.4% compared to August 2023)

Active listings: **↑ 34.1%** (673 in August 2024)

Closed sales: **↓ 15.6%** (130 in August 2024)

Days on market: 68 (14 days more than August 2023)

Months of inventory: **6.4** (Compared to 4.3 in August 2023)

August 2024 Market Statistics - Hood County

Local Association: Granbury Association of Realtors

Market Type: County

Market Name: Hood County

Frequency: Monthly

Date: August 2024

Property Type: All (SF, Condo, Townhouse)

Construction Type: All (Existing & New)

Median Price: **\$345,000** (↓ 1.4% YoY)

Closed Sales: **130** (↓ 15.6% YoY)

Active Listings: **673** (↑ 34.1% YoY)

Months Inventory: **6.4** (↑ 2.1 YoY)

TRANSACTION TIME STATS: Days on Market: 68 (16 days more than August 2023); Days to Close: 31 (2 days less than August 2023); Total Days: 99 (14 days more than August 2023)

PRICE DISTRIBUTION: < \$100k: 2.3%; \$100-199k: 9.4%; \$200-299k: 22.7%; \$300-399k: 25.8%; \$400-499k: 11.7%; \$500-749k: 21.9%; \$750-999k: 5.5%; \$1M+: 0.8%

HOME VALUATION STATS: Median Price/Sq Ft: **\$193.35** (↓ 3.2% YoY); Median Home Size: **1,802** sq ft; Median Year Built: **2016**; Close/Original List: **94.6%**

ABOVE: The graphic shows the Hood County market statistics for August 2024.

LEFT: The graphic shows the Hood County Housing Report for August 2024.

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF GAR

ribbon cutting CEREMONY

Blue Branch Historic Ranch- Anxiety Solutions of America

September 19 | 4:00 pm

2811 Clay Street

ribbon cutting CEREMONY

Impact Performance Physical Therapy PLLC

September 20 | 11:30 am

100 Gateway Hills Lane, Unit A

COURTESY GRAPHICS

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

And just like that ... it was fall again



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

As I arrived at the newspaper early Saturday morning and got out of my car, the first crisp breath of autumn swept across the landscape and was inhaled deep into my lungs. The sensation came out of nowhere and that single cool breath told me the world had begun a magical transformation. The sweltering hot days of summer were being pushed into winter hibernation. The summer sounds of boating on the lake, or the revelry heard from the neighborhood swimming pools, were being silenced. A change was underway.

While the process for summer to completely disappear will take weeks, it is inevi-

table. Of course, in Texas there will always be the late fall dose of "Indian Summer"

where the temperatures jump into the high 80s as summer fights to survive for just a few more days. But despite a last minute "hurrah," summer's end is as certain as death and taxes. It is part of the natural order of things.

The coming of fall brings a unique sensory experience. The air becomes cooler and carries a distinctive crispness. The smell of fallen leaves and wood smoke fills the atmosphere as people start using their fireplaces or outdoor fire pits. Meanwhile, the ground is often covered in a blanket of fallen leaves, creating a satisfying crunch underfoot. I appreciate the immediate and striking transformation of foliage as trees don their autumn coats of gold, crimson and amber, creating a breathtaking panorama and eliminating any doubt of the presence of a higher being in our lives.

Autumn's culinary offerings are a highlight of the season. Pumpkin spice, which has become a cultural phenomenon, makes its grand return in everything from

lattes to pastries. Apples are in their prime, leading to a resurgence of apple pies, cider and crisp, fresh apple slices. Sweet potatoes and root vegetables start appearing in hearty stews and roasts. These seasonal ingredients not only highlight the flavors of fall but also inspire cozy, comforting recipes. I will wager that 90% of stew and chili is consumed from October through February.

Fall is a time rich with festivals and traditions. Halloween kicks off the season with a celebration of all things spooky and fun. From carving pumpkins to dressing up in costumes and attending haunted houses, Halloween is a time for creativity and community. Shortly after, Thanksgiving offers a moment to gather with loved ones and reflect on gratitude, featuring traditional meals centered around turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce. These holidays are deeply woven into the fabric of autumn and bring people together in celebration and reflection. As the temperatures drop,

there is a noticeable shift in activities. Outdoor pursuits such as hiking are more popular, with cooler weather making it pleasant to explore trails and enjoy the changing scenery. Football season kicks off, bringing communities together to cheer on their favorite teams. The shorter days and longer nights also encourage indoor activities like reading, knitting or watching movies by the fireplace.

Fall fashion is characterized by layers and textures. The arrival of cooler weather means swapping out summer wardrobes for cozy sweaters, scarves, and boots. Earthy tones and rich fabrics like wool and flannel come into play. Home decor also undergoes a transformation as people embrace autumn-themed decorations. Wreaths made of leaves, pumpkins and warm-toned candles add a seasonal touch to homes.

Finally, fall serves as a poignant reminder of the passage of time. The shortening of days and lengthening shadows evoke a sense of reflection and transition. It's a pe-

riod that encourages people to slow down, appreciate the moment and prepare for the coming winter. It makes many of us stop and think about the "autumn" of our lives and savor the time before the bell tolls.

Fall is a season of transformation and transition. From the spectacular display of nature's colors to the shift in activities, food and fashion, autumn is a time rich with experiences that engage the senses and invite reflection. Whether you're reveling in the seasonal flavors or enjoying the crisp air, fall offers a unique and cherished chapter in the annual cycle of life. Enjoy it while it lasts because just as certain that it is coming, it will soon end.

Thought for the day: There are two types of people in the world: those who enjoy watching football while enjoying a bowl of chili and a cool libation, and those who are wrong and have no sense of taste. Until next time ... I will keep ridin' the storm out!

Folks around town



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Tommy Brisco

Say hello to our neighbor, Tommy Brisco!

Tommy Brisco is a well-known, longtime resident of Hood County. As Tommy and his wife Bettie raised their son and daughter, they witnessed their tiny farm and ranch community grow into what we enjoy today. It's so easy to imagine the look and feel of Granbury's past when conversing with Brisco. It would take an entire book to fully describe this 91-year-old dynamo and his beloved late wife Bettie, who passed away in January 2000 at the age of 65. They spent the majority of their lives volunteering and giving back to Hood County, particularly to the Hood County Senior Center, from its infancy. Hood County Senior Center Executive Director Trish Burwell credits Brisco for sharing with her the beautiful history of the center which she eloquently described in a piece she recently wrote entitled "Learning from History to Prepare for the Future."

Tommy and Bettie Brisco were married April 12, 1952. They were both 18 years old with birthdays 30 days apart. Soon after, Bettie moved in with her parents in Granbury while Tommy committed to defending his country by joining the U.S. Army; he was stationed in Korea for a year of his tour. Upon his return to Granbury in 1958, he went on to have a rewarding career with Bell Helicopter for 34 years.

After a few years of living in town, news came of the new lake coming to Hood County on the Brazos River. The Brisco family decided it was in their best interest to put some distance between them and the future Lake Granbury, so they bought 22 acres and built a house in Tolar. Tommy Brisco recently sold this precious home after 50 years.

Last year, those near and dear to Tommy Brisco could not let his 90th birthday go without showing their love with major widespread recognition. Hood County Judge Ron Massingill proclaimed April 6 as Tommy Brisco Day. Sen. Brian Birdwell delivered the gift of a Texas flag that was flown over the State Capitol of Texas. The thank you letter delivered by Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale ends with: "Enjoy your day. As you reflect upon so many precious memories, reminisce and laugh about the good old days, please continue to share with the young a lifetime of wisdom."

Granbury victorious in latest legal fight over Wastewater Treatment Plant

From Staff Reports

The city of Granbury secured another legal win in its effort to build the East Wastewater Treatment Plant. On Friday, Aug. 23, Judge Maria Cantu Hexasel ruled in favor of the city and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in a lawsuit filed by "Granbury Fresh," Victoria Calder, Stacy and James Rist and Bennett's Camping Center and RV Ranch.

Hexasel upheld TCEQ's decision to grant the permit for the East Wastewater

Treatment Plant, which will be located at 3121 Old Granbury Road.

"This is excellent news for the residents of Granbury and Hood County!" City Manager Chris Coffman said. "The ongoing delays in the construction of the new wastewater treatment plant have negatively impacted residents and increased costs by millions of dollars. The cost of the project soared from \$9.5 million to \$34.4 million due to the years of delay and construction inflation."

Planning for the new facility started in 2016 after the

existing treatment plants exceeded 75% of their capacity for three consecutive months. The city applied for a permit for the new wastewater treatment plant in 2020, and it was approved ultimately by the TCEQ. However, opposition from nearby property owners led to a contested case hearing, which the city ultimately won.

As legal challenges persisted pertaining to the TCEQ permit, the city was forced to impose a development moratorium Dec. 14, 2020, within its limits and parts of its extraterritorial jurisdic-

tion. While not stopping the progress of existing development, the moratorium aims to prevent additional strain on the overburdened wastewater system until the new wastewater treatment plant is operational.

"Construction on the plant has been underway for months, and it will feature advanced technology that won't harm the environment," Coffman added. "Once the new wastewater treatment plant is completed, the system capacity issues will be resolved, and the moratorium will be lifted."

County designates Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court signed a proclamation designating Sept. 17-23 Constitution Week during a regularly scheduled meeting earlier this week.

This Sept. 17 marks the 237th anniversary of a pivotal moment in American history — the framing of the Constitution of the United States by the Constitutional Convention. This foundational document embodies the principles of limited government within a Republic dedicated to rule of law.

According to the proclamation, it is both fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it.

In accordance with Public Law 915, the President of the United States must also issue a proclamation every year to honor Constitution Week.

Therefore, the Hood County Commissioners Court proclaimed the week of Sept. 17-23 Constitution Week in Hood County, a time for patriotic celebrations and reflec-



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Hood County Commissioners Court signed a proclamation designating Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week, during a regularly scheduled meeting earlier this week.

tions on the enduring legacy of the Constitution. The court also asks that citizens reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties — remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

Members of the Friends of Memorial Lane Peggy Purser Freeman and Margaret Cook were also present during the meeting to honor this momentous occasion.

"These are such fabulous ladies here," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill remarked. "These ladies do

so much for the Friends of Memorial Lane. You're always down here with everybody else — y'all just do a lot."

CONSTITUTION DAY CELEBRATION

Freeman and Cook were also present to promote the Constitution Day Celebration event hosted by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Elizabeth Crockett Chapter.

The event will be held Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 2-4 p.m. at the Gordon House, 307 E. Pearl St.

"We ring bells at exactly four o'clock which was when the Constitution was signed,"

Freeman explained. "Come to tea at 2 p.m. and for story time with the kids (at 2:30 p.m.), and then about three o'clock, we'll start the program and ring bells exactly at 4 p.m., so I hope y'all can come."

Bells Across America is an annual celebration of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Participants gather to ring bells, much as the church bells of Philadelphia rang out when the U.S. Constitution was first signed at 4 p.m. Sept. 17, 1787.

For more information or to RSVP for children's story time, email ConstitutionCamp@gmail.com.

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County secures sheriff's office grants for new shields, body armor

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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A recent decision by the Hood County Commissioners Court will significantly impact the safety and security of the Hood County Sheriff's Office.

During a regularly scheduled meeting Sept. 10, the court unanimously approved resolutions regarding two public safety grant applications. These grants

will provide vital equipment to support the community's first responders.

The commissioners first approved a resolution for the Public Safety Office Bullet-Resistant Shield Grant, allowing the purchase of nine new bullet-resistant shields. The total awarded amount is \$75,845.63, which will cover the full cost of these shields without requiring any additional matching funds from the county.

"That's a great deal," Hood County Sheriff Roger Deeds said. "That's nine more than we have right now, so that's a fantastic deal ... As soon as the resolutions are signed and sent in, they'll release the money."

The court also approved a resolution for the Public Safety Office Rifle-Resistant Body Armor Grant. According to Deeds, this grant will provide \$16,892.50, which is ex-

pected to cover the cost of seven to eight new rifle-resistant vests — depending on final costs.

"We had started working on this through the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) money," Deeds said. "So this total that we will be receiving is \$16,892.50 and so we'll have to get an update quote on the cost of those. For sure, we'll get seven more of those vests, maybe even eight — hopefully they didn't go up on

cost — but for those rifle-resistant body armors, same thing, we need to approve the resolution to get the funds."

In separate unanimous motions, the court approved the resolutions for both the bullet-resistant shield grant and the rifle-resistant body armor grant — ensuring that crucial protective equipment will soon be acquired and distributed to members of the Hood County Sheriff's Office.

Granbury man sentenced to 50 years for filming 9-year-old's molestation

Submitted Item

A Granbury man was sentenced Thursday to 50 years in federal prison for filming himself molesting a 9-year-old girl, announced U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas Leigha Simonton.

Stephen Wayne Ashley Jr., 35, was charged in March and pleaded guilty in May to sexual exploitation of a child and possession of child pornography. He was sentenced Thursday by U.S.

District Judge Mark Pittman to 600 months in prison — 360 months for the sexual exploitation charge and 240 months for the child pornography charge; the two sentences will run consecutively. Pittman also ordered the defendant to pay \$13,500 in restitution to several victims and to register as a sex offender.

"This defendant chose to repeatedly sexually exploit a child and then made a conscious decision to

film himself conducting these egregious offenses," said Homeland Security Investigations' Dallas Assistant Special Agent in Charge Jesse Woods. "HSI is grateful for the collaboration of all our law enforcement partners, for their role in this investigation, ensuring that this individual will never harm an innocent child again."

According to court documents, the investigation began when the New South

Wales Police in Australia began looking into an individual who shared links containing child pornography on Twitter (now known as X). One of the links, which contained more than 1,600 files of mostly child pornography, was traced to Ashley.

On March 11, agents executed a search warrant at Ashley's residence, where they found Ashley's phone. On the phone, they found a hidden folder containing

videos of Ashley sexually molesting a 9-year-old girl.

After being Mirandized, Ashley admitted to officers that he began filming the child when she was 7 and continued to do so for a period of years.

HSI's Dallas Field Office conducted the investigation with the assistance of the New South Wales Police and the Hood County District Attorney's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney Aisha Saleem prosecuted the case.

Granbury crime statistics reveal trends from 2019 to 2023

From Staff Reports

New data from the Granbury Police Department reveals crime statistics for the past five years, shedding light on the city's safety trends and areas of concern. Between 2019 and 2023, the data points to shifts in various criminal activities, from violent crimes to property-related offenses.

VIOLENT CRIMES

The number of homicides remained low, with only one in 2019 and three in 2022. There were no reported homicides in 2020, 2021 or 2023.

Sexual assaults fluctuated during this period, rising from three cases in 2019 to a peak of six in 2020. The year 2021 saw a drop to just one case, but the numbers rose again in the following years.

Robberies saw a dramatic

decline after a peak of 12 incidents in 2019, dropping to two in 2020 and 2023, with no reported robberies in 2021 or 2022.

Aggravated assaults also varied, with eight cases each in 2019 and 2021, dropping to just three in 2022 and none in 2023. Meanwhile, simple assaults, including minor offenses, rose steadily, from 103 cases in 2019 to a peak of 131 in 2022, before slightly decreasing to 124 in 2023.

PROPERTY CRIMES

Granbury faced significant challenges with theft and burglary. Theft at Walmart was particularly concerning, with incidents rising to 295 in 2020, before decreasing to 270 in 2023. Theft from all other sources followed a similar pattern, peaking in 2021 with 230 cases and slightly decreasing to 198 in 2023.

Burglaries of both build-

ings and vehicles fluctuated over the years. Burglary of buildings reached a high of 20 in 2022 but dropped to nine in 2023. Burglary of motor vehicles peaked at 71 in 2020 before decreasing to 35 in 2023.

Auto theft saw a spike in 2020 with 19 cases but fell to 10 in 2023. Forgery incidents also declined, from 100 cases in 2019 to just 41 in 2023.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL OFFENSES

Driving while intoxicated arrests peaked at 87 in 2021 but dropped to 51 in 2023. DWI with intoxication assault saw slight increases, with two cases reported in 2023, while no intoxication manslaughter cases were reported during the 5-year period.

Drug-related offenses saw a notable decline. Possession of controlled

substances dropped from 147 cases in 2021 to 54 in 2023, and possession of marijuana also saw a significant decrease, from 120 cases in 2021 to 48 in 2023.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Traffic accidents remained consistently high, with a total of 1,103 accidents in 2023, the highest number in the five-year span. Fatal accidents were relatively rare, with just one fatality reported in both 2022 and 2023.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY CALLS

The number of suicide threats and suicides remain concerning. In 2020, there were 59 suicide threats, but that number gradually declined to 37 in 2023. Suicides ranged from one case in 2019 to a high of seven in 2020, and there were five cases each in

2021 and 2023.

Emergency response calls surged, with calls for service peaking at 28,583 in 2021 before slightly decreasing to 27,086 in 2023. False alarms saw a significant decline, dropping from 1,029 in 2019 to just 391 in 2023. False 911 calls also decreased, from 307 in 2019 to 135 in 2023.

Overall, Granbury's crime statistics reveal fluctuations in violent crimes, property crimes and public safety concerns over the past five years. While certain offenses such as homicides and aggravated assaults remain low, theft and drug-related crimes continue to be areas of concern. The data suggests that while progress has been made in some areas, challenges remain for local law enforcement as they work to keep the community safe.

BUDGET

FROM PAGE A1

Significant expenditures in the budget include a \$1 million investment in street improvements, construction of a new TV studio, and enhancements to the Granbury Radio Network which broadcasts on 95.3 FM in Granbury. This station provides a range of local content, including news, weather and community events, tailored for the

Granbury area. Upgrades are slated for Fire Station 1 as well. Other allocations cover maintenance and equipment updates for City Hall, parks and utility departments.

During the public hearing, no residents came forward to provide input on the budget. Place 2 Council Member Eddie Rodriguez addressed the meeting, emphasizing that while the budget increases total property tax revenue by \$363,512, the tax rate remains unchanged at 38.5 cents per \$100 of

property valuation.

Rodriguez clarified that the revenue increase is due to new properties added to the tax roll, not an increase in the tax rate. "I just want to make sure that you all understand that," Rodriguez said. "The city itself is not raising their tax rate. We've kept the tax rate low for two years, and I think we're doing a good job."

An example property tax calculation looks like this:

Tax due = property value × tax rate

Tax due = \$300,000 × 0.00385

Tax due = \$1,155

The council unanimously approved two key motions: adopting the annual operating budget and ratifying the property tax revenue increase. Despite rising construction and material costs, the city maintained the same tax rate as the previous year, thanks to growth that supports financial stability.

Council members commended City Manager Chris

Coffman and the finance department for their effective budget management. They noted the team's success in maintaining the tax rate despite economic pressures and significant cost increases.

The final action of the council was to approve ordinance number 24-47, setting the property tax rate for fiscal year 2024-2025 at 38.5 cents per \$100 of property valuation. The vote passed unanimously 6 - 0.

CALENDAR

ONGOING

FORWARD TRAINING

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

TUESDAY, SEPT. 17

LAKE GRANBURY Ministerial Alliance meets at Hope Community Church, 1341 East U.S. Highway 377 (behind the Nail Spa) in Granbury. Speaker will be Tracy Miller of T.E.X.A.S. Rescue. T.E.X.A.S. Rescue was formed as a rescue and sanctuary location for donkeys, horses and mules by Tracy, Vicki and Austin Miller. Their mission expanded into a unique way of helping those in the community who may be struggling with anxiety, depression or PTSD, or expanding the horizons of those with autism, special needs, hospice and more.

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.

LAKE GRANBURY Master Gardeners of Hood County meeting at 1 p.m. at Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Court, Granbury. Program from 1-2 p.m.: Master Arborist Wes Culwell will speak about Indian Trail Marker Trees. For more information, contact the Hood County Extension Office, 817-579-3280.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20

HOOD COUNTY Hospital District board of directors regularly scheduled meeting at noon, second floor courtroom, 100 E. Pearl St. Questions, call 817-579-3200.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21

THORP SPRING Cemetery Association Annual Meeting from 10-11 a.m. at the Thorp Spring Church of Christ. If you have questions call 817-901-5568 or 817-905-5725.

PLEASE SEE
CALENDAR | A8

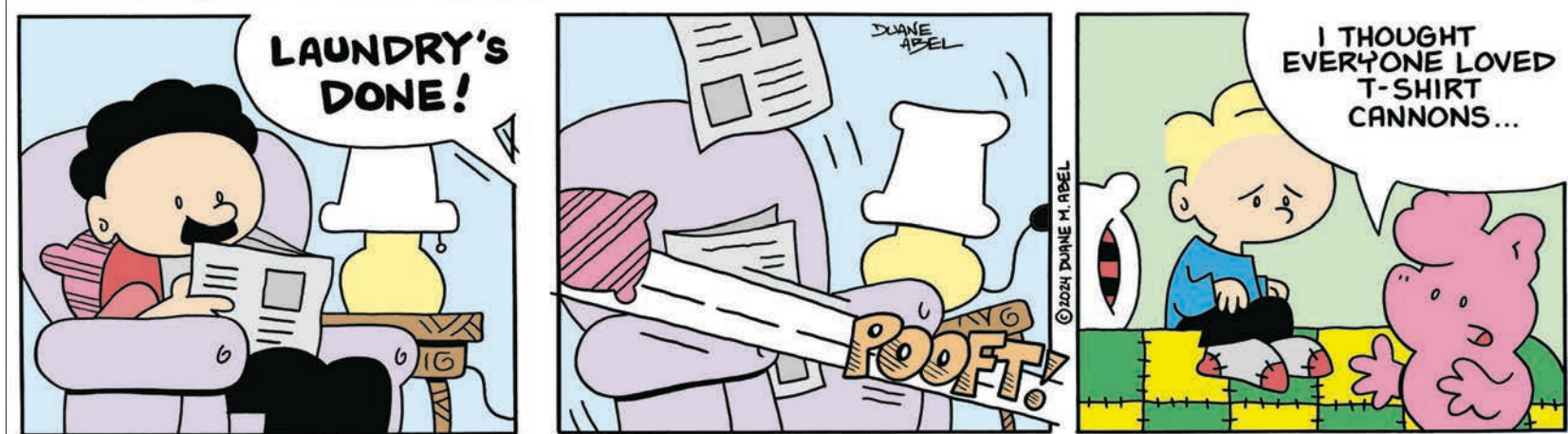
TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

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

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The invitation went out, and a huge crowd of friends, colleagues and well-wishers answered to celebrate three-and-a-half years of Brian Bondy's dedicated service to our community. Bondy, the president and CEO of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, is starting a new chapter in his career at another chamber. Wine flowed as stories were told of Bondy's contributions, leadership and commitment to making Granbury a better place at Barons Creek Vineyards on the Square Thursday, Sept. 5.



RALLY

FROM PAGE A1

Dave Eagle, Commissioner for Precinct 4, highlighted concerns about the plant's business relationship with MARA, formerly Marathon, pointing out potential legal and added health risks.

Shanice Copenhager, a parent with asthma, voiced opposition to the permit due to worries about particulate matter and volatile organic compounds that Wolf Hollow III will emit.

REGULATORY REVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Wolf Hollow II's permit application has triggered a series of environmental reviews. The TCEQ is assessing whether the proposed expansion will comply with state and federal air quality regulations, including the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

TCEQ's notice of application and preliminary decision for air quality permits — Example A — can be viewed online at www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/agency/decisions/hearings/notices/2024.

The document presents initial studies conducted by the company, which suggest that while emissions will increase, the project is not expected to violate NAAQS or significantly affect the surrounding



LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Cheryl Shadden, who lives across from Constellation Energy, describes severe disturbances from constant noise, smoke, and lights, leading to health issues and plummeting property value. She calls for the denial of Constellation's air permit.

environment.

However, certain pollutants, like PM2.5 and NOx, may require additional analysis due to their potential health impacts.

The facility's modeling data shows that some pollutants, such as nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide, will exceed regulatory thresholds, necessitating further review.

If the plant operates at higher than permitted levels in the future, emissions of these and other chemicals could rise, potentially triggering new regulatory hurdles.

RESPONSES FROM TCEQ AND WOLF HOLLOW II

Albert Hatton, Constellation's Director of Environmental Operations, defended the permit application, emphasizing that Wolf Hollow III would operate only about 40% of the time.

He assured attendees that the facility is designed to meet TCEQ's air quality standards, and that the expansion is intended to help stabilize the Texas power grid during peak demand periods.

Jason Law, an air permit specialist with TCEQ, outlined the

federal and state review processes, assuring that the expansion complies with both Texas and Federal Clean Air Acts.

Catherine Talley from TCEQ's Environmental Law Division explained the administrative process, noting that public comments would be considered before a final decision is made and that contested case hearings could be requested.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND TECHNICAL CLARIFICATIONS

Donna Adair, who lives on Contrary Creek Road about a mile from the Wolf Hollow

Power Plant, expressed her concerns about the facility's environmental impact.

She requested that the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality deny Permit 175-173, which Constellation Energy is seeking.

Adair noted that a significant plume of steam and air pollution is visible from her home with the current four turbines, and she fears that additional turbines would increase emissions of pollutants like carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, and sulfur dioxide.

She also mentioned that the

MARA Bitcoin Mining Plant, which Constellation Energy supplies with power, could be contributing to the need for this permit. Adair believes that power plants should be located in more industrialized areas with substantial buffers, not in rural residential zones.

During the Q&A session, Tom Dykes, a resident living approximately four miles from the proposed power-generating plant on Mitchell Bend Court, asked a general question about the recommended distance between such plants and the nearest residences. He inquired whether there are statutory or best practice guidelines for this separation.

In response, a TCEQ representative explained that their jurisdiction does not cover plant location choices unless mandated explicitly by statute. In this case, there are no statutory requirements for plant placement.

However, zoning and land use regulations still apply. Despite this, the response did not fully address Dykes' question, leaving him without a clear answer on the recommended distance.

Dr. Shannon Wolf, precinct 211 chair, addressed several technical issues as she inquired about the inclusion of carbon capture technology, which is

County grants \$25,000 for essential repairs to GVFD training facility

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The Hood County Commissioners Court is “igniting” new possibilities for firefighter training with a recently awarded \$25,000 grant to the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department’s burn house. The funds — which will be pulled out of excess proceeds from tax sales — will address crucial repairs at the GVFD training facility.

Richard Hoefs, a member of the GVFD board of directors, spoke during the citizens comment portion of the meeting Sept. 10. He explained that residents of Hood County are fortunate to have nine volunteer fire departments, all staffed by brave individuals who work tirelessly to protect the community.

“To keep everyone safe, they (the volunteer firefighters) need to be trained,” Hoefs explained. “The training facility that Granbury has is unique amongst volunteer fire departments in that it has great training facilities and simulators, where firefighters can be trained in a safe environment. One of the things on the training ground is a burn house — that’s what you’re looking at today. The burn house has been there more than 10 years, and it has had several hundred fires; it needs some repairs.”

Hoefs highlighted that this Saturday marks the beginning of hands-on training for the Hood County Fire Academy, which is available to all nine fire departments in the county. He explained that the training facility is essential for preparing new firefighters and ensuring their safety.

He also noted that investing in this facility has broader benefits, as it impacts the ISO insurance rating for the GVFD. An ISO rating, or Insurance Services Office rating, is a score that measures how well a community’s fire department protects the area from fire.



Granbury Volunteer Fire Department Chief Matt Hohan speaks to the Hood County Commissioners Court about repairing the GVFD training facility, during a regularly scheduled meeting Sept. 10.

“We are currently rated as a three, which is excellent for volunteer fire departments on a scale of one to 10,” he continued. “We are hopeful when the rating process is completed that we may see an improvement in that rating, which will lower the tax on the insurance rates for the citizens here at Hood County, so it does have a payback. I urge you to support this measure and appreciate your ongoing support of the fire departments here at Hood County.”

GVFD Chief Matt Hohan explained to the commissioners that there are a total of five burn houses in North Texas, including Cleburne and Wichita Falls. He said that GVFD’s training facility, a concrete and metal structure, requires several crucial repairs. The main tasks, he said, include replacing the roof and installing an armored ceiling with plate steel to protect the exposed support beams.

Hohan noted that the repairs are intended to provide a long-term

solution for the building. However, he said getting accurate bids for the work has been challenging due to the nature of the facility, which involves setting controlled fires for training.

“We light the building on fire,” he said. “So, it’s really hard to actually get someone to bid that ... but there’s work that we know that we can do to armor the building and give it the longevity that it needs.”

With training facilities rather expensive today, Hohan said there’s work members of the GVFD can do to help armor the building and contain the heat into the burn rooms. He said by reinforcing the building, he hopes it can continue to serve effectively for another 20 to 30 years.

Hohan said the current fire academy has 50 students, with 42 of them from Hood County alone. He explained that if students choose to, they can be fully certified through the State Firefighters’ and Fire Marshal’s Association.

partments are growing, and that’s a great thing.”

Hohan said he was able to get bids from local contractors for the necessary repairs to the GVFD’s training facility. However, he was unable to obtain a third bid, which was required by the county’s policies.

He ultimately recommended the second bid — totaling \$25,000 — which he said was the most affordable and came from a contractor who had personally inspected the facility. He said this bid was lower because the contractor accurately assessed the condition of the building, noting that the metal was in good shape despite the tar and soot covering it.

Andrews expressed concerns about proceeding without the third bid. However, Purchasing Agent Glenn Tilleman clarified that for grants and projects under \$50,000, the bidding process is more flexible compared to county contracts over that amount.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson asked Hohan if the project could be completed with \$25,000 as the agenda item specifically stated \$55,000. Hohan replied that the contractor assured him the repairs could indeed be done for \$25,000, based on a detailed assessment of the building’s current condition.

“If you feel that you can get it done for \$25,000 instead of the \$50,000, we’re alright by doing this (and going ahead without the third bid),” Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said.

Samuelson made a motion for the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department to receive a grant of \$25,000 from excess tax sale proceeds to repair the training facility of the GVFD, contingent on completing the interlocal agreement with the City of Granbury for the use of the facility.

Following a second from Andrews, the motion passed unanimously.



Bright View
Windows, Doors & Window Coverings






<p>WINDOWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Windows Replacement Windows <p>DOORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entry Doors Iron doors Interior Doors Hardware <p>WINDOW COVERINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plantation Shutters Wood Blinds Faux Wood Blinds Vertical Blinds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roller Shades Cellular Shades Natural Shades Pleated Shades Roman Shades Motorization <p>EXTERIOR APPLICATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aluminum Shutters Solar Shades Solar Screens Retractable Screens Motorization
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LAKE GRANBURY MEDICAL CENTER

Staying healthy while on vacation

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

"Summer is coming to a close, but many folks are planning a fall vacation," mentions Nancy Wagner, AGPCNP-BC, family nurse practitioner with Lakeside Physicians. "It's good to keep in mind ways to keep your "healthy self" on track while away and still have a great time."

No matter where you go or what you like to do on vacation, there are ways to have fun and be healthy. A good way to start is with these six tips.

BRING YOUR WORKOUT WITH YOU

If you forgot your walking shoes and gym clothes, no problem! A whole host of exercises don't re-

quire equipment, and you can do them barefoot in your hotel room. Some ideas for equipment-less exercise include yoga, squats, push-ups, crunches, lunges and planks. Next time, you may want to consider packing a resistance band since it doesn't take up much room.

CHECK OUT THE AMENITIES BEFORE YOU BOOK YOUR STAY

Maybe there's no place like your home gym, but according to Condé Nast Traveler, 85% of American hotels have fitness centers. If you stay somewhere where the gym is not an option, consider swimming instead. Studies show that a 154-pound person can burn 223 calories through 30 minutes of recreational

swimming.

EXPLORE THE LOCATION ON FOOT OR WHILE BIKING

You want to see the sights, so why not kill two birds with one stone by walking or biking around your vacation destination? Walking can help a person who is 185 pounds burn 318 calories per hour, while biking can burn 672 calories.

GET PLENTY OF SLEEP

Sleep experts say we should go to bed and wake up at the same time, even on weekends and vacations. That can be hard when trying to relax in a new place, but just follow the same sleep rules you would at

home. Keep your room dark and cool, don't use electronics for at least 30 minutes before bed and try to get some movement at least an hour before bed. If hotel noises often keep you up, look into sleep aids like noise machines, sleep masks and earplugs.

Make healthy choices

One of the best parts of vacation is exploring the local cuisine. However, don't go overboard — especially on a ship. You don't have to enjoy the buffet until you bust at the seams. You can pack healthy snacks, aim for small portions and choose grilled dishes over fried choices.

STAY HYDRATED

When we're on vacation, we're of-

ten more active than usual. That's why drinking plenty of water and other fluids throughout the day is crucial, especially outdoors. By staying hydrated, we can avoid the side effects of being overheated, such as headaches, fatigue, dizziness and heatstroke.

Staying healthy while on vacation doesn't have to be difficult. Following these six tips, you can still have fun and enjoy your trip while maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Nancy, please visit: <https://lakegranbury-medical.com/> NancyWagner or call (817) 326-3900.

POLICE BLOTTER

Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Sept. 3-9. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

SEPT. 3

12:02 a.m.: noise disturbance on N. Plaza Drive
10:35 a.m.: noise disturbance on N. Crockett Street
11:43 a.m.: property found on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:30 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:03 p.m.: assault family violence on Parkwood Lane
6:45 p.m.: noise disturbance on Heather Drive
11:59 p.m.: noise disturbance on Parkwood Lane
One major accident, one minor accident, a warrant service and four traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 4

8:25 a.m.: found property

on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:38 a.m.: theft of property under \$2,500, 2 or more convictions on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:26 p.m.: fraud on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:52 p.m.: forgery on E. U.S. Highway 377
4:21 p.m.: theft of property on Watermark Boulevard
7:01 p.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:54 p.m.: criminal mischief, juvenile on N. Baker Street
Two major accidents, two minor accidents and 18 traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 5

12:25 a.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
2:58 p.m.: noise disturbance on Capstone Circle
3:04 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:10 p.m.: disturbance on White Horse Court
5:11 p.m.: threat on E. U.S.

Highway 377
5:12 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
6:50 p.m.: harassment on W. Pearl Street
Five minor accidents and 16 traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 6

3:01 a.m.: suspicious activity on W. Pearl Street
8:52 a.m.: suspicious activity on Meander Road
12:12 p.m.: fraud on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:16 p.m.: fraud on N. Travis Street
12:38 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on James Road
5:09 p.m.: threat on Melynn Court
6:27 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:00 p.m.: mentally ill person on W. Pearl Street
9:29 p.m.: criminal mischief on N. Baker Street
10:00 p.m.: noise disturbance on Parkwood Lane

11:58 p.m.: suspicious activity on N. Hannaford Street
Three minor accidents, two warrant services and 26 traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 7

4:06 a.m.: noise disturbance on S. Morgan Street
10:50 a.m.: suspicious activity on E. Pearl Street
12:17 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
12:32 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Topaz Lane
12:55 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:17 p.m.: noise disturbance on Topaz Lane
2:20 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:19 p.m.: criminal trespass on Liberty Road
6:52 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377
7:48 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
8:37 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. U.S. Highway 377
10:23 p.m.: noise dis-

turbance on Weatherford Highway
10:30 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
11:46 p.m.: prowler on Walters Drive
Twenty-five traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 8

12:01 a.m.: intoxicated person on E. U.S. Highway 377
3:01 a.m.: intoxicated person E. U.S. Highway 377
3:10 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on N.E. Loop 567
7:43 a.m.: noise disturbance on E. Pearl Street
8:46 a.m.: driver without a license prior conviction on N. Houston Street
12:07 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:08 p.m.: suspicious activity on Glen Rose Highway
3:56 p.m.: property damage on W. Pearl Street
4:00 p.m.: threat on E. Pearl Street
7:10 p.m.: indecent exposure on E. U.S. Highway 377

10:51 p.m.: misdemeanor in possession of marijuana on E. U.S. Highway 377
A minor accident, two warrant services and 33 traffic stops occurred this day

SEPT. 9

1:36 a.m.: noise disturbance on Second Street
2:15 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
8:48 a.m.: assault on W. Pearl Street
9:02 a.m.: noise disturbance on Donna Circle
11:07 a.m.: noise disturbance on Donna Circle
1:08 p.m.: noise disturbance on E. Pearl Street
1:51 p.m.: theft on Anna Circle
4:18 p.m.: noise disturbance on Whitehead Drive
6:41 p.m.: theft under \$100 on W. Pearl Street
Three major accidents and 31 traffic stops occurred this day

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Lake Granbury Medical Center Wound Care Center receives prestigious dual awards for Center of Excellence

From Staff Reports

The Wound Center at Lake Granbury Medical Center has achieved an exceptional feat, earning dual Center of Excellence Awards. This recognition includes the prestigious Clinical Distinction Award and the Excellence in Patient Satisfaction Award, which highlight the center's exceptional performance in wound care.

The Clinical Distinction Award honors centers that consistently exceed national healing benchmarks, while the Excellence in Patient Satisfaction Award is given to those achieving a national patient satisfaction benchmark of 96%. These awards reflect the center's outstanding clinical outcomes, operational efficiency and patient satisfaction.

Brandy Montgomery, program director, expressed her pride: "Our team's unwavering dedi-

cation to providing top-notch wound care truly sets our center apart. Receiving these awards reaffirms our commitment to enhancing patient well-being and maintaining the highest standards of practice."

Adding to this remarkable achievement, the Wound Center was also named a "Wound Center of Excellence" earlier this year by RestorixHealth. This honor, awarded for the period of July-December 2023, is a distinction earned by fewer

than 10% of wound care centers nationwide. It underscores the center's success meeting rigorous clinical, operational and patient satisfaction benchmarks.

Specializing in the management of chronic, nonhealing wounds caused by conditions such as diabetes, poor circulation, burns and other injuries, the Wound Center employs a comprehensive and personalized approach to care. Commonly treated conditions include arterial wounds, burns, diabetic ulcers, edema, insect bites, pressure ulcers, surgical wounds, trauma wounds and venous ulcers.

If you have a wound that has not healed in 30 days or a sore with increasing pain, redness, swelling, change of color or foul odor, it is essential to seek specialized care. The center offers advanced treatments such as noninvasive studies, debride-

ment (removal of dead or damaged tissue), advanced wound dressings, bioengineered tissue (grafts), multi-layer compression wraps for swelling, total contact casting (special casts used for offloading) and vacuum-assisted closure (a procedure to drain a wound, prevent infection and speed healing).

The dedicated team at Lake Granbury Medical Center provides thorough evaluations and personalized treatment plans, ensuring that each patient receives comprehensive care and ongoing education throughout their healing journey. The Wound Center is located at: LGMC Medical Office Building #1

1308E Paluxy Road, Suite 204 Granbury, TX 76048 Phone: 817-579-9357

For more information, please call 817-579-9357 or visit lakegranburymedical.com/Wound.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE A4

OPEN PANTRY Drive-thru from 10 a.m. to noon. 910 Paluxy Road, behind Southside Baptist Church.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28

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

SUNDAY, OCT. 6

BRUSHY COMMUNITY Homecoming at the corner of Farm-to-Market Road 51 South (Paluxy Road) and Brushy Road at 12:30 p.m. Meet, eat and visit with neighbors old and new under the shade trees; bring lawn chairs and a side dish or dessert. Smoked brisket, chicken and sausage will be provided. For additional info call 817-573-3127 or 281-782-8880.

BLESSING OF the Animals will take place at 2 p.m. under the trees at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 4530 Acton Highway. Donations will be accepted for the Hood County Animal Shelter. Questions? Call 817-326-6074.

MONDAY, OCT. 14

GOLF TOURNAMENT. 34th annual fundraiser golf tournament supporting the DCBE-Acton Volunteer Fire Department. Tournament entry is \$100 per person, 4 person team. Shotgun start begins at 10:30 a.m. Silent auction with items published later. DCBE Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. Sponsorships and donations still needed. Questions, 817-326-2659.

FRIDAY, OCT. 25

CERT (COMMUNITY Emergency Response Team) Disaster Preparedness Basic Training Class. Allows citizens to be much better prepared to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in times of need or disaster. Class dates are Oct. 26-27, Nov. 1-2. Email Hood-CoCERT@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

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

RALLY

FROM PAGE A5

not required due to the plant's proposed limited operating hours.

Robert M. Taber, Jr., president of the Board of Directors of Pecan Plantation, a community with 8,000 residents that is expected to grow to 11,000 by 2028, asked about the tools used to measure pollution.

TECQ explained that the pollution model used is software-based and does not have actual sensors.

Taber argued that while software models can provide estimates, real sensors are needed to measure pollutants like particulates and gases accurately. Drawing from his 30 years of

experience in the semiconductor industry, he emphasized the importance of using real sensing devices to get precise data.

Other questions focused on the modeling of fine particulate matter emissions, compliance with future EPA regulations, and the distance between the plant and surrounding residential areas.

Community members expressed skepticism about the permit process, questioning the potential for increased emissions and the accuracy of air quality models since they are assumptive and theoretical.

The panel reassured attendees that the plant's emissions would be monitored and must remain within permitted limits.

FINAL REMARKS

The meeting concluded with a reminder that no final decisions would be made at the event. Lori Garris from TCEQ emphasized that all public comments, both oral and written, would be considered before a final decision is rendered.

If approved, construction for Wolf Hollow III is expected to begin by the end of this year or early next year, with the project potentially operational by 2026.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION

Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at www.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental

Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address, will become part of the agency's public record.

For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the Public Education Program toll-free at 1-800-687-4040. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may be obtained from Wolf Hollow II Power LLC at the above address or by calling Mr. Albert Hatton III, Director, Environmental Programs, at (844) 783-2885.

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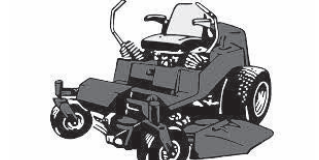
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LEGAL AD
Hood County Commissioners' Court has received an application to consider a revision of the plat for:

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

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

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS CITY OF GRANBURY

The City of Granbury is soliciting service providers to apply for the proposed Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the U.S. Department of Commerce Federal Funding Opportunity for The FY 2023 Disaster Supplemental (EDA-Disaster-2023) program(s). Accordingly, the City of Granbury seeks to contract with a qualified engineer/architect/environmental (individual/firm) to prepare all preliminary and final design plans and specifications, conduct all necessary interim and final inspections, carry out grant contract activities, environmental review, and construction management of EDA-Disaster-2023 eligible projects. Please electronically submit your Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in .pdf format via email to crussell@granbury.org OR submit your SOQ to the following address on a thumb drive: Attn: (Christy Russell), Purchasing Manager, 401 N. Park St., Granbury, Texas 76048. Statements of Qualifications must be received by the City of Granbury no later than 2:00 pm on October 7, 2024) to be considered. The City of Granbury reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit SOQs and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Granbury is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traduccion estan disponibles por peticion.

ADMINISTRATION SERVICES REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CITY OF GRANBURY

The City of Granbury is soliciting service providers to apply for the proposed Economic Development Administration (EDA) through the U.S. Department of Commerce Federal Funding Opportunity for The FY 2023 Disaster Supplemental (EDA-Disaster-2023) program(s) and is soliciting grant administration proposals to provide project delivery services for the EDA-Disaster-2023 eligible projects. Please electronically submit your proposal in .pdf format via email to crussell@granbury.org OR submit your proposal to the address below on a thumb drive: Attn: (Christy Russell), Purchasing Manager, 401 N. Park St., Granbury, Texas 76048. Statements of Qualifications must be received by the City of Granbury no later than 2:30 pm on October 7, 2024) to be considered. The City of Granbury reserves the right to negotiate with any and all individuals or firms that submit SOQs and may award one or more contracts to one or more service provider(s). Section 3 Residents and Business Concerns, Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area firms are encouraged to submit proposals. The City of Granbury is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Servicios de traduccion estan disponibles por peticion.

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Hood County News

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CAUSE NO. C2024183
JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK
VS.
THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES IN THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
TO: THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. You are hereby commanded to appear and defend such suit on the first Monday after the expiration of twenty (20) days from the date of the issuance hereof. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation, a judgement may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you will be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer. Find out more at [TexasLawHelp.org](https://www.texaslawhelp.org)." You are hereby notified that suit has been brought by JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK as Plaintiffs, against the above named person(s) as Defendant(s), by Plaintiffs Original Petition filed on the 19th day of July, 2024, in a certain suit styled: JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK VS. THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES. A suit is now pending in the 355th Judicial District Court of Hood County, Texas. The cause number is: C2024183. A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to wit: Plaintiff JIMMY R. MATLOCK AND PAMELA J. MATLOCK, by and through its attorney of record, IVAN ESCOBAR of PADFIELD & STOUT, LLP, 100 THROCKMORTON ST., STE. 700, FORT WORTH, TX 76102 brought suit under Cause No. C2024183 in the 355th District Court of Hood County, Texas, for PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION on the following described real property of which Defendants, THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS AND ALL PERSONS CLAIMING ANY TITLE OR INTEREST IN LAND UNDER DEED HERETOFORE GIVEN TO JIMMY MOSS AND WAYNE MOSS, AS GRANTEEES, are potential parties of interest: Lot 61, in Indian Harbor Subdivision, Phase V, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to Plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 81, Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. Lot 61 is located at the address commonly known as 4300 San Mateo Court, Granbury, Texas 76048. Lot 60, in Indian Harbor Subdivision, Phase V, a subdivision in Hood County, Texas, according to Plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 81 (A-44-B), Plat Records of Hood County, Texas. Lot 60 is directly adjacent to Lot 61, and is also located at the address commonly known as 4300 San Mateo Court, Granbury, Texas 76048. Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Granbury, Texas, this the 2ND day of AUGUST 2024.
WITNESS: ROBERTA ZAMARRON
CLERK OF THE 355TH DISTRICT COURT OF HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS
BY Sarah A. Roach
Deputy

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. Officers of said LLC are Peter Barnett (President), Todd Littler (Senior Vice President), John Mitchell, Jr. (Secretary), Jonathan Elder (Vice President - Tax), Harry Spencer (Assistant Secretary)

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Lancrow Self Storage located at 1409 N Plaza Dr - 1301 N Plaza Dr / 2721 Fall Creek Hwy - 4071 Acton Hwy Granbury TX 76048/76049 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.storageauctions.com. Unless stated otherwise, the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Auction 9/29/2024 at 10:30AM: Audrey F Rollins; Brandi Ann Martin; Leah Spencer. Auction 9/30/2024 at 10:30AM: Angel Gamon; Christine L. Fallas; Brooklyn K. Bennett; Jan Brock; Patricia Glover. Auction 10/1/2024 at 10:30AM: Kimberly R Jacobs; William Henault. All property is being stored at the above self-storage facility. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply. See manager for details.

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.
(817) 909-0770 Cindy.verroad@alphamegahospice.com

9031
Public Notices

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@granburysisd.org

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, September 20, noon, at Hood County Courthouse, 2nd floor courtroom, 100 E. Pearl St, Granbury, Texas.

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

ROYAL OAKS ADDITION,
Lots C-R1 & C-R2

The Hood County Commissioners' Court will meet to consider the application and to hear any protest to the revision on Tuesday, October 8th, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Central Jury Room of the Ralph H. Walton Jr. Justice Center, 1200 West Pearl Street, Granbury, Texas 76048.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, Guardbox Storage in Granbury, which is located at 1400 Weatherford Hwy., Granbury, TX 76048, will hold a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien online at www.storagetreasures.com. The auction will end on or around 5:00 P.M. on September 26, 2024. Property will be sold to the highest bidder. A \$100.00 cash deposit for removal and cleanup will be required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants: Richard McIntosh- household appliances, piano
Contact Guardbox Storage-Granbury
817-573-2416

Notice of Online Public Auction for Sale of Surplus Property
The City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas will conduct an online public auction sale of its surplus property through Rene Bates Auctioneer Inc. The auction will begin on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 and run until 12:00 pm on Thursday, October 3, 2024. Interested bidders can access the auction at www.renebates.com.
Questions concerning this online auction should be directed to the Purchasing Department of the City of Granbury at 817-573-7030 or purchasing@granbury.org.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Sandra K. Nicholson, Deceased, were issued on August 20, 2024 in Cause No. P10432, pending in the County Court of Hood County, Texas to Executor Trent M. Nicholson and the designation of Registered Agent, James R. Pratz was accepted by the Court.
The address of record for James R. Pratz is P.O. Box 6759, Granbury, Texas 76049.

All persons having claims against this Estate are required to present their claims within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED on this the 4th day of September 2024.
James R. Pratz, Attorney for Executor: Texas State Bar No. 24032967
P.O. Box 6759
Granbury, Texas 76049
Tel. (817) 573-7300

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Jose Cruz Tovar Hernandez, Cause No. P10479, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
Ramiro Hernandez Valle 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 Jose Cruz Tovar Hernandez, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.
Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.
Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 14th day of August 2024.
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Genevieve McIntosh, Cause No. P10496, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
Sean McIntosh 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 Genevieve McIntosh, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.
Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.
Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 10th day of September 2024
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Larry Leon Culp were issued on August 26, 2024, in Cause No. P10467, now pending in the Probate Court of Hood County, Texas, to: Bobbie Dean Culp.
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
c/o Bobbie Dean Culp
3051 Meandering Way
Granbury, TX 76049
DATED the 5th day of September, 2024.
/s/ Anthony Coggin
Anthony Coggin
State Bar No. 24044278
Coggin & Coggin, PLLC
Attorney for Bobbie Dean Culp, Independent Executor of the Estate of Larry Leon Culp, Deceased
250 NW Tarrant Avenue, Suite E
Burleson, Texas 76028
Tel. (817) 295-7161
Fax. (817) 295-8052
Email: dcoggin@dcoggin.com

APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH BANK BRANCH OFFICE SOUTHSIDE BANK, Tyler, Smith County, Texas intends to apply to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for authorization to establish a branch at 3701 FM 4, Granbury, Hood County, Texas, 76049.

Any person wishing to comment, protest, or request a hearing in connection with this application may file his or her observations in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Regional Office, 600 North Pearl Street, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201 before processing of the application has been completed. Processing will be completed no earlier than the 15th day following either the date of the required publication, or the date of receipt of the application by the FDIC, whichever is later. The period for comment may be extended by the Regional Director for good cause. The non-confidential portion of the application file is available for inspection within one day following the request for such file. It may be inspected in the Corporation's Regional Office during regular business hours. Photocopies of information in the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request. A schedule of charges for such copies can be obtained from the Regional Office.

9031
Public Notices

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APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH BANK BRANCH OFFICE Notification is hereby given that Southside Bank, 1201 S. Beckham, Tyler, Texas, 75701, filed an application with the Banking Commissioner of Texas on September 9, 2024 to establish a domestic de novo branch at 3701 FM 4, Granbury, Hood County, Texas, 76049.

Any person wishing to comment on this application, either for or against, may file written comments with The Texas Department of Banking, 2601 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78705-4294, within fourteen (14) days of the date of this publication. Such comments will be made a part of the record before and considered by The Banking Commissioner. No filing fee is associated with the filing of a comment letter. Any person wishing to formally protest and oppose the proposed branch and participate in the application process may do so by filing a written notice of protest with the Texas Department of Banking, 2601 North Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78705-4294, within fourteen (14) days of the date of this publication, together with a filing fee of \$2,500. The protest fee may be reduced or waived by The Banking Commissioner upon a showing of substantial hardship.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Chapter 59, Texas Property Code, ACI Shops & Storage, Ltd. located at 1650 South Meadow Drive Granbury, Texas 76048 will have a public auction of property being sold to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale will be Tuesday October 1, 2024 at 10:30 am. Sign-in at the office. Property will be sold by the unit to the highest bidder for cash. Seller reserves the right to not accept any bid and to withdraw property from sale. Property being sold includes contents in spaces of the following tenants, with a brief description of contents in each space. SUNNIE KAY WIGGINS, speakers, household furniture, camping cot & chairs, cooler; VINCENT ALLEN TORRES, stove, microwave, ceiling fan, truck bed box, air hose, file cabinet; TOMAS MARTINEZ GUTIERREZ, bicycle, shop vac, refrigerator, recliners, dolly, floor heater, air tank, patio heater, China hutch; LISA ANNE GLAZENER, safe, grandfather clock, China cabinet, rocking horse, piano, furniture; STEVEN IRWIN ROTH, shop tools & equipment, shelves, household furniture, mower & blower; LINDSEY R. MADDOX, corn hole boards, saddle, wood chest, antique sewing machine, household furniture; ROBERT CHRISTOPHER GRIFFITH, guitar case, shop tools & equipment, scaffolding, ladders, insect sprayer, chainsaw, grill, wood; GUADALUPE ANAHAI CABRAL, kids furniture & toys, tv cabinet, tent, changing table, incline bench, interlocking floor mats.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The following item will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.
1. ZBA-2024-06, Request of Sondra Wallace for a Special Exception to Zoning Ordinance, Section 11.10.B.3 and 11.10.B.5 Accessory Structures, to allow an increase in the total square footage permitted and an increase to the maximum number of accessory structures. The property is addressed as 1299 Porter Ct.
For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

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9031
Public Notices

ADVERTISMENT 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. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:
Improvements to the City of Tolar's Wastewater Treatment plant, including a new influent lift station, mechanical bar screening, sequencing batch reactor (SBR), disinfection system, solids handling, electrical, SCADA, and supporting systems.

Bids are requested for the following Contract: **Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements**

Obtaining the Bidding Documents
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:
www.civcastusa.com

Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

Pre-bid Conference
A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held at **Tolar City Hall**, located at **8712 W. Highway 377, Tolar, Texas 76476** on **Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 2:00 pm.**

Request for Information (RFI)
The deadline for submitting RFIs is **Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 5:00 pm.**

Instructions to Bidders.
For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: **City of Tolar**
By: **Matt Hutsell**
Title: **Mayor**
Date: **September 7, 2024**

The City of Granbury Public Works Department along with the Hood County Development Department, hereby gives notice of the City of Granbury and Hood County's intent to revise the flood hazard information, generally between Meander Road and North Fork Court. The flood hazard revisions are being proposed as part of Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) Case No. 24-06-1199R for a proposed project along Rucker Creek. Solomon Family Real Estate Holdings LLC. is proposing the Meander Subdivision development as part of a single-family development. Once the project has been completed, a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) request should be submitted that will, in part, revise the following flood hazards along Rucker Creek.

1. Base Flood Elevations (BFEs) will be established along Rucker Creek.
2. The SFHA will increase and decrease along Rucker Creek.

Maps and detailed analysis of the revision can be reviewed at Granbury City Hall at 116 West Bridge St, Granbury, TX 76048, and at the Hood County Acton Annex at 5417 Acton Highway, Suite 103, Granbury TX 76049. Interested persons may call JoAnne Kamman with the City of Granbury at 682-279-8246, or Clint Head with Hood County at 817-408-2515 for additional information from 8 am to 5 pm.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS: To all persons interested in the Estate of Genevieve McIntosh, Cause No.P10496, County Court of Hood County, Texas.
Sean McIntosh 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 Genevieve McIntosh, deceased, and their respective shares and interests in this Estate.
Said application will be heard and acted on by said court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Granbury, Texas.
All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.
Given under my hand and seal of said court at office in Granbury, Texas on the 10th day of September 2024
Christine C. Leftwich
Hood County Clerk
P.O. Box 339
Hood County, Texas 76048
By /s/ Jamie Barfield, Deputy

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9031
Public Notices

ADVERTISMENT FOR BIDS
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WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

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Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

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A pre-bid conference for the Project will be held at **Tolar City Hall**, located at **8712 W. Highway 377, Tolar, Texas 76476** on **Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 2:00 pm.**

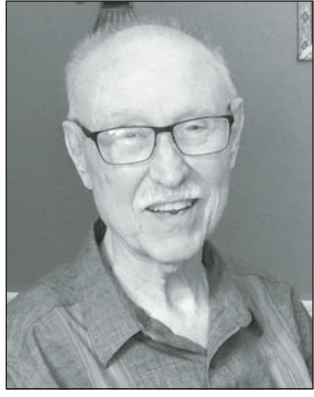
Request for Information (RFI)
The deadline for submitting RFIs is **Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 5:00 pm.**

OBITUARIES

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 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.

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.

Melba Marie Shewmake

October 9, 1937 - August 28, 2024

Melba Marie Shewmake, 86, went to her Heavenly home on Aug. 28, 2024, in Fort Worth, Texas. Melba was born Oct. 9, 1937, in Throckmorton, Texas to Willie and Lillie Mae Blair. Melba and Parkes Shewmake were married on Oct. 6, 1953, in Oklahoma.

Melba was always active in her community. She was in the Jaycees in Midland, Texas. She and her husband, Parkes, owned many businesses throughout their lives. She loved to cook, garden, tell stories about her childhood, read her Bible and loved to visit with family and friends.

Melba is preceded in death by her parents, husband, Parkes Shewmake; daughter-in-law, Catherine Janet Shewmake; granddaughter, Shannon Dayne Shewmake; brothers, W. E. (Evelyn) Blair, James S. (Vernell) Blair, Wilburt F. (Francis) Blair, William R. (Dianne) Blair; sisters, Ola Mae (James) Estes, Beatrice (Richard) Stanton; and brother-in-law, Harold Ward.

Visitation was held Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas. A graveside service was held on Sept. 4, 2024, starting at 2:30 p.m., located at the Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas, Texas. Arrangements under the care of Wiley Funeral Home.



Melba is survived by her children, Rick Shewmake, Jerry Don (Vicky) Shewmake, Sandra Selene (Lamont) Janz, Craig Channing (Teri) Shewmake; grandchildren, Scott (Sarah) Shewmake, Jeri Lynn Shewmake, Bradley David (Donnalee) Shewmake, Kellie Dawn (Jonathan) Littlepage, Brandon Parker (Amberlynn) Littlepage; great-grandchildren, Kaden Dale Kolath, Tyler Derrick Littlepage, Kacie Rae Whitlock, Dawson Parker Littlepage, Maci Faye Littlepage, Taylor

Mark Alan Luttrell

December 21, 1955 - September 5, 2024

Mark Alan Luttrell entered his Heavenly home on Sept. 5, 2024, at the age of 68. Mark was born on Dec. 21, 1955 in Fort Worth, Texas to Melton Lee Luttrell and Susia Luttrell.

Mark went to Western Hills High School in Fort Worth, Texas. He participated in wild horse races in the rodeo. He rode in the cattle drives in the stockyards in Fort Worth. He was the best storyteller; everybody loved listening to him tell the big tall stories from his past adventures/shenanigans.

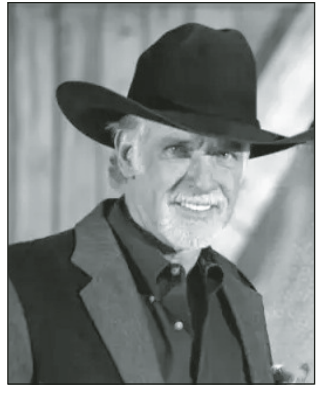
Mark had a big heart and he would give anybody anything if he knew they were struggling. He always donated to children's charities.

He loved his grandchildren very much (known to them as Pappy). The last two years he lived with his daughter, Lindsey and granddaughter Berkley. He was known for sneaking Berkley cake, cookies and sweets at night on school nights when he wasn't supposed to.

Mark was a big John Wayne fan, and his favorite movie of all time was True Grit.

For years, he had been owner of a couple very successful bars. He was always a contractor.

Mark never shied away from the spotlight. He liked entertaining his



friends and family. Mark was preceded in death by his mother, Susia Luttrell and brother, Johnny Joe Luttrell. Mark is survived by his father, Melton Luttrell; daughter, Lindsey Eisenmenger and her daughter Berkley Eisenmenger; daughter, Lindsay Dunn, her husband Matt Dunn, their daughter Addison Dunn; brother Mike Luttrell and his wife Barb Luttrell; sister-in-law, Julie Martin and her husband John Martin.

A visitation is scheduled for Sept. 17, 2024 from noon to 1 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas.

A Celebration of Life is scheduled for September 17, 2024 beginning at 1 p.m. at Wiley Funeral Home, Granbury, Texas.

Service arrangements under the care of Wiley Funeral Home.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A12

SUBMITTING AN OBITUARY

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

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TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 Texas grid inventory: ___ watts
- 5 TXism: "I'm all ___" (attentive)
- 6 9/11 perpetrators ___ terrorists
- 7 TXism: "___ hill for a stepper"
- 8 in the past ___ Crazy Guy"
- 9 prohibit ___ disease microbe
- 15 TX Hunter's "Since ___ You Baby"
- 16 appropriate TX Dan Blocker tree farm?"
- 19 TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ of it"
- 21 spinning toy: whir ___
- 22 TXism: "can't ___ old dog new tricks"
- 27 TXism: "hen fruit"
- 28 Castroville is "The Little ___ of Texas"
- 29 TXism: "eatin' hay is ___ good for" (poor horse)
- 30 in Henderson County on U.S.175
- 32 TX George Foreman victory (abbr.)
- 33 easily ignited
- 36 TX Willie's "On the ___ Again"
- 37 TXism: "___ over but the shouting"
- 38 Texas prisoners ___ voided a marriage
- 41 vision or graph beginning
- 42 Juan de ___ named El Paso
- 45 TXism: "two ___ in a pod" (alike)
- 46 ID card, e.g. (abbr.)
- 47 character Dobbs in Texas-based "Lonesome Dove"
- 48 in Anderson: Fanthorp ___ Historical Site
- 49 Texas-born Steve Martin album: "___ Crazy Guy"
- 52 disease microbe
- 53 "have a ___ it" (try)
- 54 lower back: ___ bar
- 55 airport abbr.

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "gave ___ song and dance"
- 2 TXism: "bend your ___" (talk)
- 3 U.S. Rep. Kay from Fort Worth
- 4 TXism: "loud ___ bare floor"
- 8 Fort Worth's "___ Carter Museum"
- 9 TXism: "___ of the box" (beginning)
- 10 TXism: "cash ___ the barrel head"
- 11 TX Tarzan Ely (init.)
- 12 TXism: "my stomach is ___ a knot" (nervous)
- 13 Texas perennial
- 14 "with a nicknack pattywack, give the ___ bone"
- 15 TXism: "big fish ___ pond" (important person)
- 16 TXism: "when ___ fly" (never)
- 17 weed whackers
- 18 of long standing (hyphenated word)
- 20 chills & fever
- 22 "___dah!" (fanfare)
- 23 Santa's helper
- 24 TX Collin Raye's "___ Can Be"
- 25 Mass music?
- 13 Texas perennial
- 14 "with a nicknack pattywack, give the ___ bone"
- 15 TXism: "big fish ___ pond" (important person)
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- 20 chills & fever
- 22 "___dah!" (fanfare)
- 23 Santa's helper
- 24 TX Collin Raye's "___ Can Be"
- 25 Mass music?
- 35 TXism: "let by-gones ___ by-gones"
- 37 Texas moonwalker, Bean
- 40 TXism: "___ a hand" (help)
- 43 ___ Braunfels, TX
- 44 TX "Big Bopper's" Chantilly Lace had "___ in her walk"
- 50 "Texas" is an outdoor ___ in Palo Duro Canyon
- 51 money dispenser (abbr.)

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Know the risks of investing — and not investing

CHAD CARROLL
Edward Jones
Financial Adviser

Investing involves risk — and so does *not* investing. You should know how both these types of risk can affect your ability to reach your financial goals.

Let's start with the risks associated with investing. There's not a single investment risk because different types of investments carry different types of risk. Here's a look at three investment categories and some of the risks connected with them:

STOCKS

When you invest in stocks or stock-based mutual

funds, you will incur the risk that the value of your investments may decline. Stock prices can fall for any number of reasons — lower-than-expected earnings, a change in management, change in consumer tastes, and so on. Although the historical trend for stocks has been positive, there will always be periods when prices are down. One way to help defend against this volatility is to hold stocks for the long term, rather than constantly buying and selling, and to own a mix of stocks from different

industries and even different countries.

BONDS

When market interest rates rise, the value of your bonds can decline because investors won't pay full price for them when they can get the newer ones that offer higher rates. Another type of risk associated with bonds is credit risk, which essentially describes the risk that the bond issuer may default, potentially disrupting your flow of interest payments. However, you can help mitigate this risk by purchasing investment-grade bonds that receive the highest credit ratings from independent rating agencies.

CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT (CDs)

Although CDs are generally considered safe because their principal is guaranteed, they do carry reinvestment risk — the risk that you won't be able to reinvest the proceeds of a maturing CD at the same interest rate. To help protect against this risk, you could own CDs of varying maturities. When market rates are low, you'll still have your longer-term CDs paying higher interest, and when market rates rise, you can reinvest the money from your maturing shorter-term CDs into the new, higher-paying ones.

Now, let's turn to a completely different type of risk

— the risk of not investing. And this risk is easy to understand: If you don't invest, or if you consistently invest only in the most conservative vehicles, your money may not grow enough to allow you to reach your important long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

Of course, this doesn't mean you should never own conservative investments, including CDs and some types of bonds. When you're saving for a short-term goal, such as a down payment on a house, a wedding or a long vacation, you want the money to be there when you need it, so an investment that offers protection of principal may be appropriate, even if

it doesn't provide much in the way of growth.

For those long-term goals, though, you may need to build an investment portfolio that contains growth potential and that reflects your personal risk tolerance and time horizon. Over time, your risk tolerance may change. As you get closer to retirement, you may want to take a somewhat more conservative approach — but you'll always need some elements of growth.

When you invest, risk can't be eliminated, but it can be managed. Keeping this in mind, consider a long-term investment strategy that allows for risk but also offers the possibility of reward.

KNIEPER REALTY

Have you heard about ‘moody rooms?’



BY PAM KNIEPER

Pam Knieper, broker/owner of Knieper Real Estate, is and has been the #1 top producer in Hood County for more than 15 years and running. She is known as the waterfront expert and the authority on real estate.

Idoubt anyone will argue with me when I say decorating trends change faster than the weather in Texas, and these newest looks are enough to give a person whiplash.

From Decorilla to Pinterest, everywhere you search for the newest looks in home décor the focus is on “personalizing your space.” One of the latest trends is dark interiors or “moody rooms.” A complete 180 from the white cabinets, grey walls and bright interiors we have enjoyed in recent years. In fact, according to the remodeling site Houzz, online searches for “moody living rooms” and “moody kitchens” have more than doubled compared to a year ago.

The new look consists primarily of dark color palettes, dark wood, aged leather and matte black finishes but with bright splashes of color. Another moody room trend that is taking root is the “Nerd space” or “Dark Academia.” Houzz reports that online searches for a library wall, reading corner and book nook have more than tripled over last year. Again, dark wood or metal bookshelves, a cozy

leather chair, and a heavy wooden desk, are curated to provide a cozy area for reading or quiet meditation.

The term “maximalist” is definitely trending. Maximalist interiors embrace bold use of color, pattern, and layering to create a space that honors and celebrates excess. Also, the terms “curate” and “bespoke” are being used to describe this latest change in interior design which is aimed at personalizing your space, by creating warm and inviting rooms that speak to your personality. No more cookie-cutter looks.

I find all of this exciting and a little bit worrisome. When showing homes, one of the most frequent objections I hear is that the home needs too much updating. When I started in real estate we always recommend what we called “REALTOR® white.” No color, no wallpaper, a clean white palette, and the color grey was the kiss of death for a house.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 2ROGAN, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The “moody room” look consists primarily of dark color palettes, dark wood, aged leather and matte black finishes but with bright splashes of color.

Then came wallpaper, wood floors were covered with carpet, then we pulled the carpet up, steamed off the wallpaper and dark wood and fixtures were all the rage. Then came Chip and JoJo, and overnight grey was the color of choice and now we are trending dark again. It is an expensive and

never-ending cycle. So, while I love the idea of no more cookie-cutter styles, just remember that if you are planning to sell in the not-too-distant future, too much personalization can be a bad thing. If you want to create a moody room, consider painting just one accent wall — not

the whole house — darker blinds or curtains. Of course, new furniture and décor is always fun and can go a long way toward creating that warm and cozy look without a total re-do that will need another re-do in just a few years when you are ready to sell and the latest interior craze is back

to light and bright or who knows what! As always, thank you for taking the time to read this article. If you have questions about this subject or any real estate questions, please give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com.

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Granbury Santa House to host Toys for Tots toy drive this Christmas

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Granbury's own Mr. and Mrs. Claus will soon be filling up sleighs with toys and spreading holiday cheer this December — even more than they already do.

During the Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Sept. 10, a motion was unanimously approved to allow the Granbury Santa House to host a Toys for Tots toy drive Dec. 4.

"In the past several years, people have been dropping toys off thinking that we distribute them, so we'd like to do that in conjunction with Toys for Tots, and just make it an official day so that everybody can do it," Mrs. Claus, aka Arlis Holland, said during the meeting.

Husband-and-wife duo Ken and Arlis Holland — otherwise known as Santa and Mrs. Claus — started the Santa House tradition in 2016 to provide a free place for the public to have a moment of magic with Santa.

"We're not asking anything from anybody except to come and just have a moment of joy. That's it," Mrs. Holland said in a previous interview with the HCN. "We just want to bring the magic. That's what we're all about."



MARY VINSON | HCN FILE PHOTO

Ken Holland, otherwise known as Santa Claus, is pictured spreading holiday cheer to the Rancho Brazos community last year.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive in Granbury during the annual Nights of Lights Parade in November and hop off their sleigh to go to Santa's House — eager to spread the Christmas joy to adults and children alike.

Last year alone, the festive duo spread holiday cheer to a total of 6,445 guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus also had visitors this past holiday season who were not only from out of town but were also from out of state — and

even some from out of the country.

"We had guests from Belgium, China, all over the place," Arlis Holland said during a previous meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court earlier

this year.

Arlis Holland explained during Tuesday's meeting that to date, the couple has seen roughly 35,000 visitors in Santa's House.

"Can you believe that? Out here in Granbury?" Hood

County Judge Ron Massingill remarked. "That is just fabulous. Y'all do such a marvelous job."

Massingill went on to explain that in watching Santa interact with the kids last year, he noticed a remarkable patience from Saint Nick himself.

"He's slow," Arlis Holland joked.

"He is up there, and he is involved in the conversation with those kids, and they are mesmerized by y'all both working together," Massingill said. "You do a fabulous job. Y'all really do."

Arlis Holland explained that their success is largely due to their group of volunteers, whom she calls "the village."

"There's so many people involved in this now ... and we're still in awe of the response, so I think that says a lot," she said.

"It takes that leadership," Massingill said. "I mean, Christmas is not Christmas without Mr. and Mrs. Claus."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Jack Wilson made a motion to allow Granbury Santa House to host a toy drive for Toys for Tots Dec. 4. Following a second from Precinct 2 Commissioner Nannette Samuelson, the motion passed unanimously.

Tolar star 'setting' in good spot

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

Growing up in a rodeo family, Abbie Soileau lived with a father who competed professionally. She understands being alone in a spotlight.

In that sport, when the chute is opened, athletes either perform or they don't get paid. It's that simple.

So, when new Tolar head volleyball coach Amber Terrell told her she would be the lone setter in the team's new 5-1 court formation, Soileau not only accepted the news — she did so with a smile and enthusiasm.

After all, it was something she's wanted for years.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity to showcase all the hours I've put into my position. Being a setter is so much more than putting up a good ball," Soileau said. "Being able to do that and lead my team has been a gift

itself."

A 5-1 formation features a single setter and five attackers. When utilized properly, having a single setter ensures a uniform setting style.

A setter could be compared to a quarterback in football. As indicated in the name of the position, she sets players up for key hits (kills) to score points.

"The setter position ideally touches the ball every play, so always being involved and running an efficient offense is what I love," Soileau said. "Also, seeing my teammates look to me as a leader and being able to live up to that role increases my drive."

ALWAYS NEEDED ON COURT

Now that the Lady Rattlers are competing in Class 3A, Terrell is calling upon her star to do so more than ever. Soileau is responding, as entering this week she was already approaching 500 assists.

The change to having Soileau has her on the court even more, something Terrell sees as a necessity.

"Abbie is a dynamic player that needs to be on the court all the time, and it helps us to have her as a vocal leader. So, a 5-1 made sense this year for us," Terrell said.

This is Soileau's third season on the Lady Rattlers varsity. She is a two-time all-district honoree. She played a key role in helping the team reach the Class 2A Region I final in 2023, the best season in program history.

RODEO AND MORE

Abbie's father, Charles Soileau, made a career in rodeo, competing in saddle bronc riding. She competed in barrel racing, pole bending and goat tying before volleyball captured her heart and she has never looked back.

Her mother, Kammie Buske, was a multi-sport ath-

lete, excelling in track. Her older brother, Dillon Soileau, ran track and cheered at Abilene Christian University before transferring to Texas State University, where he now cheers.

Abbie's second sport is track. This spring will be her fourth high school season.

Last season she advanced to area competition as part of the Lady Rattlers' 4x100 and 4x200 relays in 2023. In 2022 she was a part of three relays, adding the 4x400 into the mix.

But no sport grabbed her like volleyball. She started playing in the sixth grade.

"What got me so attached were the people. Every coach I've had since the start has influenced me greatly," she said. "Being surrounded by people that wanted to see me genuinely improve was refreshing."

"Some of my most real

PLEASE SEE TOLAR | B2



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBIE SOILEAU

Tolar's Abbie Soileau transitioned from rodeo to volleyball and is helping the Lady Rattlers enjoy success.

GISD approves HCAD's 2025 budget despite local pushback

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

In a special called meeting Sept. 9, the Granbury Independent School District board of trustees voted 3:2 to approve the 2025 Hood Central Appraisal District budget — despite disapproval from other taxing entities.

HCAD has faced scrutiny in recent months over its financial management and past expenditures, with many taxing entities considering a forensic audit for the district.

The Hood County Commissioners Court, Granbury City Council and Tolar City Council each passed resolutions urging HCAD to undergo a forensic audit of the prior five fiscal years. The GISD board voted to suspend the resolution for an audit indefinitely due to cost concerns, while Lipan ISD chose to refrain from taking any action.

In a similar move, Hood County and the cities of Granbury and

Tolar have also recently chosen to disapprove HCAD's 2025 budget, citing concerns over excessive spending, lack of transparency and over-budgeting.

During GISD's special meeting earlier this week, Mayor Jim Jarratt spoke during citizen comments and expressed concerns about the HCAD budget. He noted that while the district detailed 25% of its budget, it did not adequately itemize salaries, benefits and other expenses as required by the tax code. Jarratt compared HCAD's expenses to those of neighboring Erath County, which he said has managed its budget at one-third of HCAD's cost despite similar responsibilities.

"It's been said, 'This is personal. This is political.' I'm going to assure you it's not political. It is very personal," Jarratt said. "It's personal because I'm a taxpayer. It's personal because I took an oath to uphold the Texas Constitution, and it's personal because I took an oath to serve the citizens of the City of Granbury."

Resident Jim Brown expressed gratitude to the board for its efforts in scrutinizing the budget, emphasizing the importance of fiscal responsibility. He reminded board members that taxpayers elect them to manage finances wisely and urged them to carefully review all budgets, particularly those affecting Granbury ISD.

Brown stressed that, given the current financial demands from various taxing entities, it is crucial to thoroughly evaluate spending to ensure efficient use of funds. He suggested that more resources be allocated to the Maintenance and Operations budget and reiterated the need for careful consideration in managing HCAD's budget.

Resident Monica Brown told the GISD board that discussing HCAD's budget is a "step in the right direction." She applauded the board for listening to Jarratt and applauded the mayor himself for his research and his consistent effort to step up and to speak out. She encouraged the board to maintain its commitment to accountability, honesty

and integrity, urging the directors to adhere to their policies and avoid past issues of misconduct.

"Here I am today to applaud you," Brown said. "Hopefully you will disapprove that budget because it's the right thing to do. It doesn't mean you're being mean to anyone; it means you're doing what responsible people do. You've been called elected officials, and that's true, but you're also public servants, and that's hard. Being a servant is a hard thing. Being a professional is a hard thing. Stepping up and doing what is right here is really important, and it's going to benefit everybody. It will benefit the children, public school, private school, homeschool, all of them, so I appreciate you listening to what this good man says."

The board launched into discussion regarding the resolution, which states the board would be disapproving the budget, as it must include proposed positions, salaries, benefits, capital expenditures and an allocation estimate for each taxing unit.

The resolution also states that if a majority of the taxing units disapprove the budget and file resolutions within 30 days, the budget will not take effect, and a new budget must be adopted within 30 days of disapproval.

Board Vice President Courtney Gore, who presided over the meeting, explained that she met with HCAD Chief Appraiser Jeff Law, HCAD board of directors Chairman Eddie Rodriguez and Jarratt to go over the budget. She said after watching the two-hour meeting from Granbury City Council, she was left with several questions, which led to a need for further clarification and a special meeting.

In going over the data, Gore highlighted a significant spike in the 2022 budget, which was due to a return of funds related to a building project that had been shared between HCAD and TxDOT. She clarified that this return of funds was not an expense but a refund of

PLEASE SEE GISD | B2



COURTESY PHOTO

Bobbie Brownlee, seated, and her daughter, Patti Berberich, enjoy a reception in Brownlee's honor at Acton Methodist Church in August, when the church library was renamed for Brownlee.

Acton Methodist Church library named after Bobbie Brownlee

From Staff Reports

Acton Methodist Church hosted a dedication ceremony to rename its church library the Bobbie Brownlee Library last month. Brownlee was surrounded by friends and family for the special event.

Brownlee has spent a lifetime devoting her time to learning and library science. Brownlee received a bachelor's degree from Tarleton State University, a bachelor's and a master's degree from Texas Tech University, a master's degree from West Texas State and a Master in Library Science from the University of Texas.

Brownlee spent her career teaching English in the classroom and then devoting her talents to the library. In 1992 when Brownlee retired from John H. Reagan High School in Austin, she and husband Charles moved to Granbury to be closer to their granddaughter Jennifer.

After moving to Granbury, Brownlee

worked part time in the libraries of Mambrino and Nettie Baccus Elementary schools. Brownlee became involved at the Hood County Library and also assisted at the Pecan Plantation Library. She also established an inviting church library for adults, teens and children at Acton Methodist Church.

Brownlee has belonged to the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club, Wednesday Woman's Club and local book clubs and a member of Lambda Pi chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international honor society for women educators.

Former columnist of the "Friends of the Library" column for the Hood County News, Brownlee also wrote a column for her church titled "Off the Shelf."

Brownlee has served her adult Sunday School class as its beloved teacher for 26 years.

GHS students try out law enforcement technology

Submitted Item

Students in the Law and Public Safety program at Granbury High School participated in an exciting hands-on activity, exploring the latest technology used by law enforcement agencies to monitor and identify speed. This unique opportunity allowed students to gain practical experience with the Stalker LiDAR, the industry standard for speed detection tools.

The activity was made possible through a grant

from the Granbury Education Foundation, which aims to provide innovative and career-focused experiences for students. This hands-on learning opportunity is especially valuable for students interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement.

"We are grateful for the support of the Granbury Education Foundation," said Ryan Payne, Law and Public Safety teacher and Hood County reserve deputy sheriff. "Experiences like this help our students

gain a deeper understanding of the skills and tools required for a successful career in law enforcement."

Through this activity, students gained a comprehensive understanding of speed monitoring and identification techniques, preparing them for potential careers as law enforcement officers. The hands-on experience with the Stalker LiDAR provided a unique perspective on the technology used by law enforcement agencies

TOLAR

FROM PAGE B1

connections were made through playing volleyball because sharing the interest of a sport forms a bond like no other."

Soileau also plays club volleyball for the team 212 Degree in Fort Worth. She has also played for 16 Elite Diego, 15 Elite Diego and the Fort Worth Fire 14U team. Her club success includes helping 15 Elite Diego place fifth at the Sunshine Classic Q in Orlando, along with a ninth-place finish at the Northern Lights Q in Minnesota in 2023.

Soileau prides herself on her defense. She averages seven digs per match.

There have even been times when she has put the ball away herself for a point.

"I've always been a setter, but on occasion I've had to hit and/or play a dominant defensive position," she said.

She also delivers a mean serve, averaging around three aces per match.

ON-COURT COACH

Terrell said Soileau has been a big help to her as she goes through her first season as a head coach. A setter has to see every aspect

of play on the court and relay that to teammates.

"She is experienced, focused, pushes her teammates to be better every day," Terrell said. "She takes everything seriously and helps set the tone in a competitive way."

In fact, Soileau's goal is to someday be a coach herself. That is, following a playing career in college.

"I would do anything to continue my volleyball career collegiately," she said enthusiastically. "I plan on going into education to hopefully coach volleyball one day. I want to share my knowledge and love for the sport as long as possible."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ABBIE SOILEAU

Tolar's Abbie Soileau transitioned from rodeo to volleyball and is helping the Lady Rattlers enjoy success.

GISD

FROM PAGE B1

funds previously allocated.

Gore also addressed concerns about certain expenditures, specifically payments to architectural firms. She asserted the expenses had been approved in open sessions and were properly documented in public meeting minutes, although she said there appear to be disagreements among taxing entities regarding their approval.

"As far as the HCAD budget goes ... they were putting money aside for that building fund (for a home office), which we were all aware of," Gore said. "I think there may be some disagreement there between the mayor and the HCAD on how that had gone about, but it was all done in open session. All the meetings were posted. It was all taken in a public meeting — the vote was — and it's in

their minutes, so whether people agree with the way it was spent or not, is neither here nor there. It was all done legally, as far as the HCAD budget goes."

She acknowledged that the HCAD budget does not provide detailed line items for employee salaries and benefits, but includes overall totals. Gore also proposed implementing a regulation to ensure that excess revenue at the end of the fiscal year is credited back to taxing entities.

FUND BALANCE CONCERNS

Law addressed the board and acknowledged that the appraisal district has long been advised to maintain a fund balance. He explained that while auditors suggest maintaining a balance equivalent to one to two months of operational costs, some recommend up to three to four months. For

Hood County's district, he proposed that two months' worth of fund balance is appropriate.

He noted that, according to state law, any excess funds must either be refunded or credited to the taxing entities. Currently, he said, the appraisal district has \$426,000 in excess funds, with \$110,000 earmarked for obligations such as litigation and building maintenance. He said this leaves \$316,000 unassigned, which equates to about 1.2 months of reserve.

Gore clarified that the appraisal district currently has about \$316,000 in its fund balance. She asked if the plan is to retain those funds to help manage the budget.

Law confirmed the intention is to keep the funds as a reserve for emergencies, such as catastrophic events like a tornado that could damage the building. He

explained that the fund balance is crucial for immediate needs, like making repairs or covering payroll if a taxing entity fails to make a payment.

Law also explained that if the money were refunded to the taxing entities, there would be no reserve left, except for \$110,000 already allocated for specific expenditures. He confirmed that the \$316,000 represents the only uncommitted portion of the fund balance.

Interim Superintendent Ann Dixon expressed gratitude to everyone involved for addressing an important issue that has been neglected for years. She pointed out that the budget for the appraisal district includes several overlapping sources of funds for contingencies, which she said seems excessive. She noted the budget contains line items for technology, building

maintenance and litigation, but also includes a separate contingency fund, effectively creating multiple sources of money for emergencies.

Law explained that while the appraisal district does have specific line items for technology, building renovations and litigation, those funds are intended for different purposes. He said the technology funds were delayed from 2023 due to staff changes, and building maintenance and renovations are necessary for an outdated facility. He added that the litigation budget is stretched thin due to numerous ongoing lawsuits, necessitating additional funds.

Dixon questioned the purpose of the contingency line item, suggesting it might function like a reserve fund, which is not allowed in school districts. Law clarified that the contingency fund was reduced to \$40,000

in the 2025 budget, down from \$100,000 in 2023. He added that this fund acts as a "catch-all" for unexpected expenses.

HCAD BUDGET INCREASE

Gore also asked Law to explain why the HCAD budget increased by 7.4% when Granbury ISD's budget only went up by 0.85%.

Law attributed the budget increase to several factors. He pointed out that, like many other entities, HCAD has been affected by inflation. He said a significant portion of the budget — about 75% — is allocated to personnel expenses. He explained that the increase includes a proposed 4% merit raise for employees and the reinstatement of the deputy chief appraiser position, which had been eliminated

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County celebrates 90th anniversary of Camp El Tesoro

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

A beloved children's camp is gearing up to make a splash with its 90th anniversary celebration in Hood County.

During a regularly scheduled meeting of the Hood County Commissioners Court Sept. 10, the commissioners designated Sept. 27-29 as Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro 90th Anniversary Celebration Days in Hood County.

Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro has been a part of the community since its establishment in 1934, providing a nurturing and educational environment for generations of young people to connect with nature and develop essential life skills.

The 223-acre multi-use camp — located at 7710 Fall Creek Highway on the bend of the Brazos River at Fall Creek — is equipped with two swimming pools, a covered equestrian center and a challenge course with both high and low elements.

According to the Hood County Commissioners Court proclamation, Camp El Tesoro has offered a sanctuary where children and teens from diverse backgrounds engage in meaningful outdoor activities, build enduring friendships, and discover their true potential away from the distractions of modern technology.

Camp El Tesoro has grown



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
The Hood County Commissioners Court designated Sept. 27-29 as Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro 90th Anniversary Celebration Days in Hood County. Members of the Hood County Commissioners Court are pictured with Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro President and CEO Brian Miller, fourth from left, and Chief Advancement Officer Ryan Barrera, fifth from left.

over the years and now includes a variety of year-round opportunities such as family camping, spring break events, group retreats and outdoor education for students, according to the Camp Fire First Texas website. During the summer, El Tesoro also offers traditional overnight camp, day camp

and a camp for grieving children. The proclamation states that this notable nonprofit organization has enriched the lives of generations of campers through its commitment to comprehensive outdoor education, fostering self-reliance, building teamwork, and environmen-

tal stewardship through overnight camp programs, day camp programs and outdoor education programs for schools. Additionally, the camp's commitment to fostering a spirit of adventure, independence and respect for nature makes it a treasured institution within Hood County.

As the 90th anniversary of Camp El Tesoro marks a significant milestone in its history, the Hood County Commissioners Court unanimously proclaimed Sept. 27-29 as Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro 90th Anniversary Celebration Days in Hood County. The court also urges all residents to recognize

and participate in celebrating this venerable institution, which has made significant contributions in shaping the lives of young people and enhancing our community.

Constitution week begins with celebration at the Gordon House

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

Members of the Elizabeth Crockett Daughters of the American Revolution, joined by the Sons of the American Revolution and volunteers, invite the public to join them for Constitution Day, Sept. 17 falling this year on a Tuesday. The day is set aside

to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States. On Sept. 17, 1787, the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the document they had created. This year's celebration of that historic event takes place at the Gordon House at 307 E. Pearl St. in Granbury. Beginning at 2 p.m., patriotic revelers will enjoy a celebration tea hosted by Kim

Locus. This will be followed by children's story time, presented by "Women of the Revolution" DAR members and volunteers, at 2:30 p.m. Both events require an RSVP to constitutioncamp@gmail.com. Following the tea and story time, patriots will hear the proclamation, pledges and preamble at 3 p.m. Next is the ringing of the bells at precisely 4 p.m., where residents will ring hand-held bells to recognize the

historic moment as bells are rung across the nation to remember the signing of the Constitution. Residents who cannot attend the ceremony are encouraged to go outside and ring a bell wherever they are. Though the ceremony is brief, bringing a folding chair is recommended for someone for whom standing may be difficult as no seating is provided. "It's great to live where we can share history and the

story of our Constitution with the schools and community," Peggy Purser Freeman, chairperson of Constitution week for DAR, said. Constitution Day, which is a federal observance day, begins the start of Constitution Week. Local members of the DAR will be sharing about the constitution at Acton Elementary, John and Lyn Brawner Elementary, STEAM Academy at Mambrino and Oak Woods School during

the week of Sept. 17-23. The national DAR organization petitioned Congress to set aside this week and it was signed into law Aug. 2, 1956. The purpose of the week is to commemorate the history and importance of the constitution and to bring attention to how it still serves us today. More information about Constitution Day and week can be found at dar.org and constitutionday.com.



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Members of the Elizabeth Crockett Daughters of the American Revolution, joined by the Sons of the American Revolution and volunteers, invite the public to join them for Constitution Day, Sept. 17 falling this year on a Tuesday.

Customer Care awards presented to Granbury Middle School

Submitted Item
Granbury ISD's Customer Care Awards were presented at Granbury Middle School during Breakfast with the Board Wednesday, Aug. 28. Anne Huckaby and Caroline Kreusel were presented Customer Care Awards, a recognition award given to a deserving employee. At the presentation, GMS Principal Julie Rohleder praised Huckaby and Kreusel for their dedication to the district, the campus and to the students.

"Anne has a natural empathic nature that enables her to forge meaningful connections with our highest need students," Rohleder said. "Her ability to understand and relate to their experiences creates a safe and nurturing environment where these students feel seen and supported." "Caroline possesses a remarkable array of strong traits that make her an exceptional member of our GMS family," added Rohleder. "What truly stands out is her optimistic outlook on all the things as she communicates vital

information regarding our students to our staff." The district wished to thank EECU for the gifts presented to Customer Care winners.



Same Paper

AT YOUR

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HCNEWS.COM

Our Savior Lutheran Church to celebrate 50th anniversary

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Granbury's Our Savior Lutheran Church is gearing up to celebrate its 50th anniversary with a weekend full of events, including a golf tournament, special church services and a celebration dinner. The festivities will culminate Sunday, Sept. 22, with a 2 p.m. service featuring guest preacher the Rev. Michael Newman, president of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church Missouri

Synod. Diane Schumann, chairperson of the planning committee, outlined the event schedule, which kicks off Saturday, Sept. 21, with a golf tournament and dinner for past and current members. Sunday's events include morning church services, a lunch reserved for church members, and the much-anticipated anniversary service in the afternoon, which is open to the public. Schumann described the celebration as "a time of praise and fellowship, honoring

God for the church's 50-year history." Rachel Núñez, the church secretary, has played a key role in organizing the celebration. Núñez, whose family has deep roots in church leadership — her grandfather, father and husband were all LCMS pastors and missionaries — has been with Our Savior Lutheran Church since 2013. "Church work is in my blood," Núñez said. "I love the opportunity to show God's love to everyone who calls or walks through our door and to

serve the wonderful people in this congregation." Núñez also provided key contacts for the event, coordinating with congregants leading various parts of the celebration. She highlighted the importance of bringing together past and present members for this milestone. Pastor David Schatte, who has led the congregation since 2014, expressed his excitement for the anniversary celebration. "We're looking forward to reconnecting with past pastors and members," he said, noting

that one of the original charter members from 1974 is expected to attend. Schatte, a Texas native and graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, has seen the church grow steadily during his tenure despite setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The congregation, primarily of retirees, is now regaining momentum. Under Schatte's leadership, Our Savior Lutheran Church was well-prepared for the challenges of the pandemic, having introduced online services before

2018. This early technology adoption allowed the church to maintain its connection with members during the lockdown. The 50th anniversary promises to be a meaningful time of reflection and fellowship, celebrating the church's history, continuity and growth over the last half-century. For more information about the event, please get in touch with Our Savior Lutheran Church: 817-573-5011 or www.OurSaviourGranbury.com.

GISD FROM PAGE B2

in previous budgets. "I believe it is a necessary position for the district, just like you all have deputy superintendents, and the cities have deputy city managers and things of that nature," Law said. "I think the appraisal district needs a position like that as well, so I re-introduced that position, but I left the current staff as it was, with 20 employees, and I added a position to take us to 21, so that's the two main items." He said another item that was added straight to the budget is a \$65,000 line item for building renovations, as the board decided to improve the current facility rather than pursue a new building. Law explained that these factors collectively contributed to the substantial increase in the budget. Gore also expressed some concern about the 4% raise included in the HCAD bud-

get, noting it would be challenging for her to approve when Granbury ISD has not given raises this year. "It's given me a little bit of heartburn, but I understand also having to be competitive with surrounding appraisal districts. That was one of the reasons why we had to give raises, because we were not competitive enough," she explained. Law confirmed that the increase is partly due to the need to stay competitive. He noted the appraisal district recently lost an employee to Somervell County that offered a significant raise. Law explained that appraisal districts must prepare their budgets well in advance of other taxing entities, which can create timing issues when setting competitive salaries. He mentioned he had proposed a 4% raise based on early information about salary trends, which varied from 2% to 9% across other districts, with the average around 3% to 4%. He said this advance planning and vari-

ability in surrounding districts influenced his decision to include a 4% raise in their budget. **HCAD'S RESPONSE TO BUDGET DISAPPROVAL** "The reason we're concerned is our bill is \$1.9 million, and we can't buy a bus because we're buying something else with that," Dixon said. "Where does our money go? What does our people want us to do with that? I guess the bottom line is, and what all my colleagues up here are wondering, if we disapprove this budget, what are you going to do?" Law explained that if a majority of the taxing entities disapprove the budget, the board would need to revise it. He said he would likely reduce some budget items, such as lowering the proposed 4% raise to 3% and reassessing the need for the deputy chief appraiser position. Law also expressed frustration over the lack of prior discussions about the bud-

get, noting that such conversions could have occurred during the two months between the budget's submission and adoption. Gore agreed with Law and took responsibility for the oversight, admitting she only reviewed the budget recently. Law added that although state law requires him to send the budget to the presiding officer, he also tries to provide copies to key individuals like the superintendent to ensure thorough review. **BOARD DISCUSSION AND VOTE** Following more discussion, Gore summarized that the board needed to decide whether to pass the resolution regarding the HCAD budget. She explained that passing the resolution would mean disapproving the budget, while not passing it would automatically approve the budget. "Essentially, you're agreeing to the 4% raises, adding the deputy chief appraiser

and allowing them to keep that \$316,000 fund balance," Gore explained. "If you're OK with them keeping that for their fund balance, and you're OK with the 4% raises, and you're OK with adding the chief deputy appraiser, then there would be no reason to pass this resolution. If you want them to go back and redo their budget and look at those items more closely and see where they can make some cuts or possibly refund some of that money, that would be one of the reasons to disapprove this budget or approve the resolution." Gore also explained that if the board disapproves the budget, it would be reclaiming the excess fund balance mentioned by Law. She said this would mean HCAD would not retain any fund balance beyond what is already committed for contingency, technology and litigation. In this scenario, Gore explained, HCAD would have to return all the excess funds to the taxing entities and

would need to seek approval from the board for any additional funds required in the future for expenses such as building maintenance or salary adjustments. With 11 taxing entities in total, six would have to disapprove the budget for the action to take effect. Law confirmed that he has received resolutions from three already: Hood County, the city of Granbury and the city of Tolar. Place 3 Trustee Melanie Graft made a motion to approve the resolution created by the GISD board of trustees to disapprove the 2025 HCAD Budget. Place 2 Trustee Nancy Alana seconded the motion. The vote concluded 3:2, with Place 1 Trustee Mike Moore, Secretary Billy Wimberly and Gore voting against the resolution, meaning HCAD's budget was approved by a majority vote. President Barbara Townsend and Place 7 Trustee Karen Lowery were absent during the meeting.

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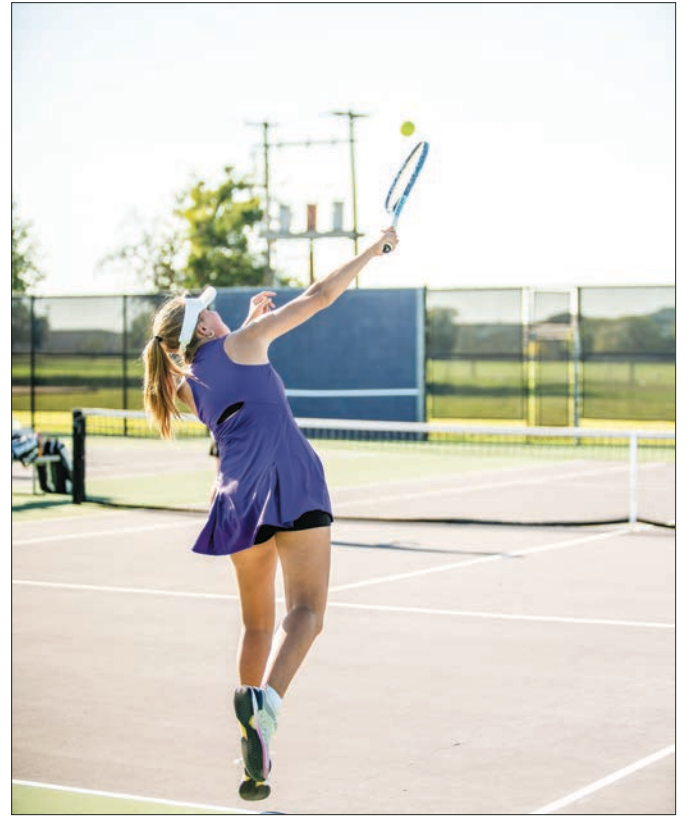


GHS Tennis VS Azle



PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury Pirates tennis team hosted the Azle Hornets in a district doubles tennis match Sept. 10 at the Granbury High School tennis courts. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.





LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

GHS Pirates hitting the ball back to the Azle side of the court during the game Tuesday Sept. 10.

Lady Pirates win Fossil Ridge CC meet

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The Granbury Lady Pirates topped the field in the Fossil Ridge Run of the Panther cross country meet at The Bluff in Haltom City Sept. 5. Four Lady Pirates finished in the top 20 runners and all five placed in the top 30. Josefina Berry paced Granbury over the 5K course, posting a time of 22 minutes, 23 seconds to finish sixth individually. Kambry Zschiesche was eighth, clocking a 22:44.

Addyn Hollis placed 17th in a time of 23:58 and Alexie Patrick was 18th in 24 minutes. Karolina Berry was 28th with a 25:06.

What's more, the Lady Pirates competed without one of their top runners; Ava Stein was out with an ankle injury.

The Lady Pirates were competing in the Paschal Invitational at Athletic Performance Ranch in Fort Worth at press time and are in the Castleberry Meet at Camp Carter Sept. 20.

The Pirates had the week off and were competing in the Texas A&M Invitational in College Station at press time. They are in the McNeil Invitational in Round Rock Sept. 20-21, held at Old Settlers Park, site of the state meet.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL
The Pirates (1-1 at press

time) return home after back-to-back road games to face Keller Fossil Ridge (0-2 at press time) at 7 p.m. Sept. 20 in a District 3-5A Division I game. They were playing at Birdville in the district opener at press time, while Fossil Ridge was hosting Denton Ryan, the No. 1 team in the state.

The game will be the first meeting ever between the Pirates and Fossil Ridge. Granbury fell 34-14 at Waco University Sept. 6 to wrap up predistrict play.

Offensive leaders vs. University: Hayden Meyer 12-of-26, 152 yards, ywo TD, interception passing; Anthony DeBello 21 carries, 64 yards rushing; Jackson Arnett five catches, 78 yards; Jonathan McCandless 5-39, TD (55 yards) receiving; Macaulay Skeens 1-35 (TD) receiving.

Defensive leaders vs. University: Tahj Clayton nine tackles; Elijah Johnston five tackles; Garrett Noah three tackles, sack, tackle for loss; Lawrence Mora two tackles for loss.

Granbury season offensive leaders: Meyer 200 yards, two TD, two interceptions passing; DeBello 131 yards rushing; Arnett 8-88 receiving.

Granbury season defensive leaders: Chase Cantrell 13 tackles, three for loss, sack, forced fumble; Clayton 12 tackles; Cooper Cumba nine tackles, sack, tackle for loss.

Fossil Ridge offensive players to watch: WR Logan

Taylor, QB Malaki Lockhart, OL Jaime Montiel. Fossil Ridge defensive players to watch: LB Javeis White, DB Cameron Smith, DE Jordan Cedillo.

Both teams are looking for their first winning season in years. Granbury last posted a winning campaign in 2019, going 6-5, though the Pirates were 5-5 in 2021. The Panthers' last winning season was 6-5 in 2018, though they were 5-5 in 2022.

Fossil Ridge is back in Class 5A after a decade in 6A. They were 49-54 in that span, including 0-5 in the playoffs.

TOLAR FOOTBALL

The Rattlers (1-1 at press time) are home for a second straight week as they host Comanche (0-2 at press time) in a nondistrict game at 7 p.m. Sept. 20. The Rattlers were hosting Millsap at press time and Comanche was at Eastland.

Tolar edged Teague on the road, 23-21, Sept. 6.

"I can't say enough about our team and their ability to put the Peaster game (a 10-0 season-opening upset loss) behind them and refocus on the little things to pull out the victory over a talented Teague team," Tolar coach Blake Mouser said. "Multiple times during the game we could have shut down, but we kept playing the next play and were able to make some amazing plays down the stretch."

Offensive leaders vs. Teague: Briton Rice 9-of-17, 188 yards, TD, interception passing; Peyton Brown 12 carries, 49 yards rushing; Dacen Watkins three catches, 82 yards receiving; Brylen Feist 2-52 receiving; Drake Owens 10-yard TD reception.

Defensive leaders vs. Teague: Owent 10 tackles, interception; Cayden Abrego nine tackles; Feist eight tackles.

Special teams leaders vs. Teague: Kelvin Murray 83-yard kickoff return for TD; Brooks Stone 40-yard field goal.

Tolar season offensive leaders (through two games): Rice 306 yards, TD, interception passing, rushing TD; Brown 20-183 yards rushing; Owens 6-91 yards, TD receiving; Watkins 5-96 yards receiving.

Tolar defensive leaders: Owens 22 tackles, sack, interception; Cash Clark 17 tackles, one for loss, sack; Abrego 16 tackles.

Comanche offensive players to watch: ATH Cayden Davis 308 yards, TD, interception passing, 242 yards, 2 TD rushing (through two games); OL Christian Anaya.

Comanche defensive players to watch: Badger Sanchez 19 tackles, two for loss; JJ Davis 15 tackles; Alex Terrell 14 tackles, one for loss (all through two games).

The series, dating to 2012, is tied 5-5. Tolar has won the past three meetings by an average score of 43-19.

Like the Rattlers, Comanche is a regular in the playoffs. With the exception of a 1-9 campaign in 2021, they have reached the post-season every season since 2013.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pirates (16-15) won 3-0 at Cleburne Sept. 6. Leaders vs. Cleburne Kills: Sienna Watts 12, Blakely Bleeker 10, Kailynne Sermarini 8

Aces: Lily McCall 4, Allyson McCabe 4, Audrey Greinert 3 Digs: McCall 20, McCabe 11 Assists: McCabe 32 Receptions: McCall 10 Granbury opens District 5-5A play at Aledo at 6 p.m. Sept. 17, followed by hosting Keller Fossil Ridge at 6 p.m. Sept. 20, Teacher Appreciation Night.

TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Rattlers won 3-0 at Trinity Valley Sept. 6 as Allie Terrell had a dozen kills and Kamryn Kolb had six digs.

Tolar plays at Breckenridge Sept. 17 at 5:30 p.m. and is at Millsap Sept. 20 at 4:30 p.m.

GRANBURY TENNIS

The Pirates/Lady Pirates dropped a 14-5 District 5-5A match at Saginaw Chisholm Trail last week.

"Chisholm Trail is a great program with some very talented young men and women. We were extremely proud of how we competed against them," Granbury coach

Athan Laskaris said. Big wins for Granbury (5-6, 1-2 in district) included: No. 1 mixed doubles: Sullivan Williamson and Mandi Labelle won 5-7, 6-4, 13-11 in third-set tiebreaker. "They continue to impress and win some big matches," Laskaris said.

No. 3 girls doubles: Atleigh Young and Allie Kazmier won 6-2, 7-5

No. 4 girls singles: Albane Combres won 4-6, 6-1, 10-3 in third-set tiebreaker

No. 5 girls singles: Freshman Atleigh Young won 6-2, 6-7, 10-7 in third-set tiebreaker

No. 6 girls singles: Freshman Lili Vaughn won 7-6, 6-3

In extra matches: No. 8 girls singles: Ellie Weeks won 8-0 No. 2 mixed doubles: Weeks and Kallen Graves won 6-3, 6-0

The JV hosted Chisholm Trail and won 12-7, improving to 3-0 in district. Highlights include McKenna Moreno, Joselin Briones, Kenia Jimenez, Rayleigh Langdon winning girls singles and doubles, with Kaydence Grumbine winning girls singles and mixed doubles.

Granbury hosts Brewer Sept. 17 at 4 p.m.

NCTA volleyball dominates

From Staff Reports

North Central Texas Academy volleyball is finding considerable success recently. In a competition Aug. 29 with Dallas Christian Home Educators (DasCHE) the team swept the three-game set with scores of 26-24, 25-23 and 25-19.

Djurджа Torbica had 17 kills. Angelina Popandopulo was NCTE's leading defensive player with 10 digs. Stasa Lakovic had 36 assists, while Marija Milic had eight kills and three blocks and Lea Lopicic had six kills and two blocks.

When the volleyball ladies took on Millsap, the results were similar with a three game sweep recorded as 25-13, 25-18 and 25-20.



COURTESY PHOTOS

NCTA Lady Pioneers celebrate after a victory.



Tessa Teta Jumping up for a big spike.



Djurджа Torbica Spiking the ball



Masa Cosovic spiking the ball.

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Five Texans score, defense holds HCU at bay as Tarleton State turns Husky Stadium purple

Tarleton State University

HOUSTON - On their third starting quarterback in their third game, the Texans needed a quarter to get going offensively. When things started to click in the second quarter, paired with a strong defense, there was no stopping No. 20/21 ranked Tarleton State Saturday, Sept. 7.

The Texans (2-1) had five different players score a touchdown, including three in the second quarter, to knock off Houston Christian (0-2) at Husky Stadium in Houston 35-18. This was the first time Tarleton State played at HCU, and the Texans left their purple imprint, improving to 2-0 in the series with a total 84-25 margin of victory.

Tarleton rushed for 267 yards on the night, led by the dynamic duo of Kayvon Britten and Derrel Kelley III. Britten raced for 152 yards on 26 carries (5.8 YPC) and his first touchdown of the season, while Kelley ran for 108 yards on 23 carries (4.7 YPC) and his second touchdown of the year. Tarleton last had two players rush for 100-plus yards in the same game by these same two players less than a year ago, when the two combined for 289 rushing yards at Eastern Kentucky Oct. 14. This year, Britten has 384 yards on 64 carries (6.0 YPC). Kelley,

who had 239 rushing yards and two touchdowns in Tarleton's 49-7 win over HCU in 2022, now has 347 yards rushing and three touchdowns in two games against the Huskies all-time.

Quarterback Daniel Greek got the nod under center, Tarleton's third starting QB through three games. Since at least 2008, this is the first time Tarleton has utilized three starting quarterbacks in the span of an entire season. Greek was efficient in his first Texan start, completing 15-of-22 for 179 yards, three touchdowns and one interception. He found three different receivers in the end zone, connecting with Cody Jackson from 24 yards out, Mikey Henderson from 22 yards away and Darius Cooper from nine yards away. Greek became the third QB in Tarleton's NCAA Division I era to throw three touchdowns in his first career start.

Tarleton's defense was firm all night, starting with a scoreless spot in the opening quarter. HCU drove 47 yards on the first drive of the game, but the Texans stood tall to force a turnover on downs. After Tarleton returned the favor, the Texans forced three more empty possessions, going punt-punt-interception, with defensive back Donta Stuart picking off his first ball as a member of the Purple and

White.

Stuart's interception immediately followed the first points of the game scored with 13:28 remaining in the second quarter. The Texans marched on an 11-play, 84-yard drive, capping it off with Kelley's 9-yard TD scamper. Two plays later, the Texans got the ball right back, and two plays after that, they made it 14-0 Tarleton State with the Greek-to-Jackson score over the middle.

HCU didn't fold though, and found its offensive footing with a 66-yard drive on eight plays to cut the deficit in half, 14-7. Champ Dozier had the score with a 3-yard rushing touchdown.

The Texans then made it three straight touchdown scoring drives as they chewed up over seven minutes of clock with a 13-play, 75-yard drive that ended in a Britten 2-yard score on the ground. Tarleton State led 21-7 at the break.

Tarleton had a rare turnover to open the second half, just its second of the season, as HCU's Xavier Toliver picked off Greek and returned it 41 yards to the Tarleton 15-yard line. The Texan defense didn't give in though, forcing a 23-yard field goal to make the score 21-10.

The Texans opened the floodgates with back-to-back touchdown scoring drives,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

The Texans (2-1) had five different players score a touchdown, including three in the second quarter, to knock off Houston Christian (0-2) at Husky Stadium in Houston 35-18.

the first being Henderson's 22-yard score to cap off a 15-play, 75-yard drive, followed by a seven-play, 70-yard drive that led to Cooper's 9-yard TD reception to make it 35-10 Tarleton State.

HCU added a late touchdown and two-point conversion with 3:17 to play (AJ Wilson 11 yard connection from Cutter Stewart), but the game was well in hand for Tarleton State. Texan DB Dabari Hawkins sealed the deal with an interception with 1:39 left to boost the Texans to a 2-1 start to the season.

This is the third straight year the Texans have start-

ed 2-1 on the season. The Texans have won six of their last seven games overall and have won five of their last six road games against FCS opponents.

Cooper finished with six catches for 71 yards and a TD, while Henderson tallied five receptions for 66 yards and a touchdown. Defensively, Stuart and Hawkins each had an interception, and Brandon Tolvert and AJ Owens each had a half-sack. Tolvert had a tied-team-high seven tackles, sharing the team-lead with Bam Smith.

The Texans had just two punts on the day. Adrian

Guzman pinned the Huskies at the 1-yard line on the last one with a nice save out of the end zone by Kasyus Kurns. However, an unsportsmanlike penalty on the Texans moved it from the 1-yard line to the 16-yard line.

Tarleton State outgained HCU 446-289 and led the time of possession 40:43 to 19:17. The Texans won the turnover battle for the third straight game to start the year, now plus-six overall.

Tarleton will play at fellow United Athletic Conference member North Alabama in Florence on Saturday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. CT.

TSU Soccer closes weekend with a victory

Tarleton State University

GRAMBLING, La. - Tarleton State Soccer notched its fifth shutout of the season with a 2-0 victory over Grambling State Sunday, Sept. 8 at the GSU Soccer Complex.

The Texans (4-2-3) handed the Tigers (2-4-2) their first home defeat of the season in their 2024 home opener.

Jaycie Bass and Adelaide Wyrzynski each notched their first goals of the season. Bass got the Texans on the board with the first goal of the game, her first this season and second in her career. Freshman Reegan Wagg earned the first assist of her career finding Bass. Wyrzynski found the back of the net in the 73rd minute for the Australian's first goal of her collegiate career.

Mikayla Kendall earned her third solo shutout and fifth total shutout of the season. Kendall earned her fourth win of the season in goal, and the 14th of her career. The junior notched five saves in the contest, increasing her season total to 45.

In the 38th minute, the Texans had their best scoring opportunity of the first half. With the ball in the middle of the attacking third, Wyrzynski cut toward the goal and fired off a pair of shots that the Tigers goal made a pair of diving saves. Nicole Fels was on the opposite side and nearly deposited in the deflection of the keeper, but the Grambling goalie was just able to get her hands on it to keep the game scoreless.

Just two minutes later, Jessica Baires found herself at the left corner of the goal but the keeper knocked it out to thwart the attack and give the Texans a corner. The ensuing corner kick landed in the box but was unsuccessful for Tarleton.

In the 60th minute, Una Hlynisdóttir knocked a low shot but the Tigers keeper was in the middle of the goal to make her first save of the second half.

The Texans broke through off the foot of Bass in the 63rd minute. Wagg brought the ball into the corner of the attacking third, then

placed a perfect ball in the center of the box where Bass swiftly placed it in the back of the net to give the Texans a 1-0 lead. Bass found open space above the Tigers keeper for her first goal of the season.

Less than 10 minutes later, the Australia native Wyrzynski broke away for her first collegiate goal. Wyrzynski found an outlet pass and midfield and dribbled down the sidelines with a pair of defenders. Once she neared the left corner of the goal, she passed her defenders and fired a strong shot past the keeper, to give the Texans a 2-0 advantage.

Tarleton accounted for seven shots, all on goal. Grambling also notched seven shots with five on goal. The Tigers registered six corner kicks to the Texans' three. The Tigers tallied 13 fouls, the Texans earned seven.

On Sunday, Sept 15, the Texans play at Houston Christian at 1 p.m.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

As Tarleton State University celebrates its 125th anniversary, preliminary numbers indicate record enrollment of approximately 18,000 students, including the largest freshman class ever.

Record enrollment announced as Tarleton State celebrates 125 years

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE — As Tarleton State University celebrates its 125th anniversary, preliminary numbers indicate record enrollment of approximately 18,000 students, including the largest freshman class ever.

The university's commitment to research, student success and infrastructure enhancement has sparked record enrollment in each of the past five years.

The Class of 2028 exceeds 3,000 students for the first time, up 11% from the previous high and a 45% spike dating back to 2019.

"By all accounts, Tarleton State University is thriving," said President James Hurley. "As we celebrate our 125th anniversary, our story is being told more loudly and

broadly."

At the start of the new academic year, more than 3,000 high school students, a 64% increase, are participating in Tarleton Today. The university's dual enrollment program that launched last fall allows students to earn university credit in agricultural and STEM areas while completing graduation requirements at Texas high schools.

In pursuit of earning recognition as a Hispanic-Serving Institution, fall enrollment for Hispanic students is around 24%. The U.S. Department of Education recognizes non-profit two- and four-year postsecondary schools with an undergraduate Hispanic student population of at least 25% (50% Pell Grant eligible).

Beyond enrollment successes, the university has exceeded its research expenditure record for the fifth consecutive year and has over \$550 million of construction projects underway across all campuses.

Tarleton State also continues to expand its Fort Worth footprint with the opening of an Interprofessional Education Building and 24 new undergraduate programs available for first- and second-year students.

"Our strategic plan is to ensure the next 125 years of excitement, growth and excellence," said Hurley. "With a keen focus on student success, teaching and research, our vision of becoming the premier comprehensive university in the nation remains unwavering."



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Soccer notched its fifth shutout of the season with a 2-0 victory over Grambling State Sunday, Sept. 8 at the GSU Soccer Complex.

HOOD OUTDOORS

What is Fall Turnover?



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 occurs 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 col-

umn 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.

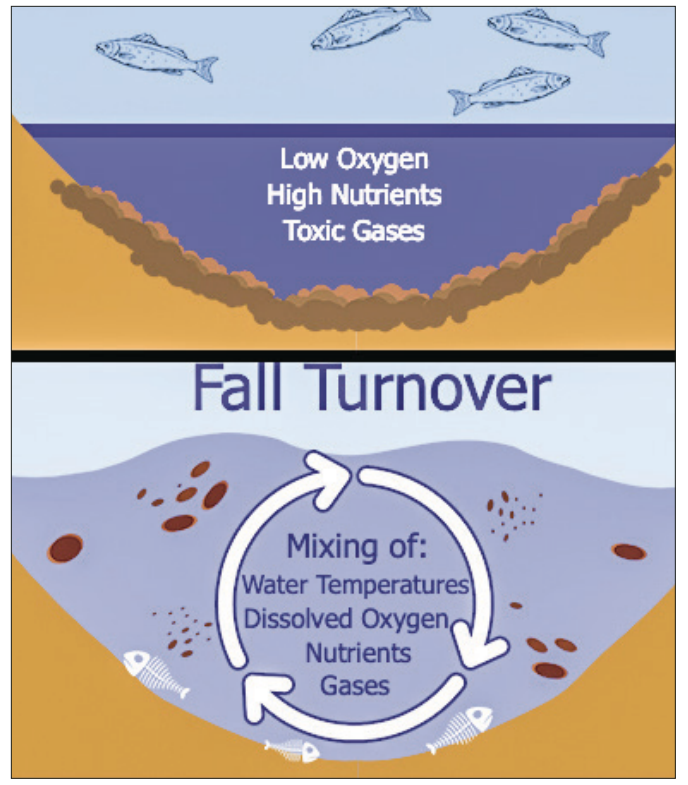
Turnover on most of our area lakes in North Texas will occur around the same time, however there will be some differences. Some of

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 are in the low 80s due to the recent cool weather but are sure to rise some. Water levels have risen and are close to normal pool. We appreciate the cool down in early September. Striped bass are on the move and are scattered from Bentwater to Striper Alley. Striped bass are good on trolled Alabama rigs and on gizzard shad. Sand bass action is good



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF NATURALWATERSCAPES.COM

on slabs and spinners from the Shores in town, Indian Harbor and near Blue Water shores. Look for surface feeding in all these areas. 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, and the river above Granbury is reporting some good catches working the laydowns.

BRAZOS RIVER AUTHORITY

What's going on with our lake water?



BY JUDI PIERCE

Judi Pierce has been the public information officer for the Brazos River Authority for 20 years. Her office is in Waco.

Hasn't the weather been bizarre this year? The heavy rains in the spring were replaced by a hot, dry Texas summer that ended with a Labor Day rain deluge. We've been able to literally watch the lake rise and fall before our eyes!

Though we're sure everyone is happy that the lake has risen again, the BRA has had many people questioning why the lake level dropped so quickly this summer. One question we've seen quite often was "Is the BRA drawing down the level on purpose?"

Good question! Water levels declined over the summer because locally, everyone was enjoying water flowing from their faucets, the four electric providers (including the nuclear power plant) were taking water for cooling, and the dam continued to release a small environmental flow downstream to maintain the health of the Brazos River and to provide water supply to downstream users.

But what most people don't think about is that during a typical year, about a third of the decline in lake level can be blamed on Mother Nature herself. It's

evaporation!

On normal Texas summer days, water at the surface of a lake turns into vapor and literally rises up into the sky.

Wind can also assist in stealing water. It's much like a giant fan has been placed across the water to blow it away. The greater the wind, the greater the rate at which water will evaporate. Imagine how much quicker a blow drier works when you crank it all the way up.

And, if enough rainfall doesn't arrive to compensate, the water levels continue to go down — poof! — slowly disappearing.

The Brazos River Authority keeps track of the decline, doing the math and measurements in an attempt to figure out exactly how much water is disappearing.

Lake Granbury spans about 8,200 acres of land, holding about 136,000 acre-feet of water when full. (One acre-foot is about 325,851 gallons of water or about the area of a football field covered one foot deep with water.)

In 2023, about 65,000 acre-feet of that water was used for water supply, such as providing water to the city and local subdivisions and cooling the nuclear power plant. Another 11,600 acre-feet were released through the dam to maintain the ecosystem of the Brazos River downstream. Additionally, around 600 acre-feet was released for downstream users.

But Lake Granbury also lost 30,210 acre-feet of water to evaporation. Poof! Luckily, more than 161,000 acre-



Bird's-eye view of Lake Granbury.

LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

feet of water flowed into the lake last year from rainfall and releases from Possum Kingdom Lake.

Because of the difference in wind and temperatures, daily evaporation rates vary. But, according to BRA Senior Hydrologist Chris Higgins, on very hot and dry days, evaporation can draw down the lake more than 1/2 inch per day.

Though it can be frustrating for those who live near the lake and those who turn to the lake for recreation,

fluctuating levels are a sign that reservoirs are successfully supplying water to thirsty Texans during times of need and that the water cycle is still turning its wheels.

Water conservation and smart usage are important year-round, as Texans never know when the next drought will start or when the skyrocketing temperatures of summer will last longer than usual.

There are some ways you can alleviate the effects of

evaporation during everyday chores.

- When not in use, place a cover over your pool to slow evaporation loss.

- When watering your plants during the summer, try watering when the sun is down, as it can greatly reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation. The same goes for watering your lawn.

- Always water before 10 a.m. to avoid heat evaporating the water before it has a chance to saturate your

lawn.

If you're interested in learning how much evaporation impacts our lakes, go to the Brazos River Authority's water accounting summary at www.Brazos.org/accounting. You may view stats on Lake Granbury and all 11 reservoirs within the BRA System of water supply reservoirs for the years 2014 through 2023. If you have questions, please feel free to give us a call at 888-922-6272 and ask for the public information office.



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SUDOKU
Solution for the puzzle on Sept. 7

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

The Creator Economy: Turning passions into paychecks

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

Technology is a powerful tool capable of shaping our world for better or worse. On the negative side, it can spread misinformation, fuel cyberbullying and invade our privacy. However, technology also opens doors to incredible opportunities, such as connecting people across the globe, advancing medical research and fostering creativity.

One of the most exciting positive outcomes is the rise of the Creator Economy. This term might sound like the latest buzzword, but it's more than just a trend. It's a revolution in how people make a living, driven by creativity, technology and the desire for independence. So, what exactly is the Creator Economy, and how are everyday people becoming part of it? Let's dive in.

THE BIRTH OF THE CREATOR ECONOMY

The Creator Economy refers to the growing community of independent content creators, artists, influencers and entrepreneurs who use digital platforms to monetize their skills, passions and audiences. Unlike the traditional job market, where employment often hinges on a fixed set of qualifications, the Creator Economy celebrates individuality and innovation. It's about turning what you love into a source of income — whether that's through videos, art, writing or even niche hobbies. And the best part is, it can all be done from the comfort of your home or just about anywhere you have an internet connection.

The rapid growth of the internet and social media platforms like YouTube, Instagram, TikTok and Patreon has fueled this phenomenon. These platforms give creators direct access to their audiences, allowing them to share their work, build communities and generate income in ways that were previously unimaginable.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES: WAYS TO BE PART OF THE CREATOR ECONOMY

The beauty of the Creator Economy is its diversity. There's no single path to success, and the ways people participate are as varied as their interests. Here are some key examples:

- **YouTube content creators:** YouTube has been a cornerstone of the Creator Economy for years. Creators on this platform produce a wide array of content, from educational videos and tutorials to vlogs, gaming streams and comedy sketches. Take Marques Brownlee (MKBHD), for example, who started reviewing tech gadgets in his bedroom and now runs a multi-million-dollar YouTube channel with over 16 million subscribers. Revenue comes from ads, sponsorships and direct viewer support through features like YouTube's Super Chat.
- **Instagram influencers:** Instagram is a visual playground where influencers — people with large followings — can collaborate with brands to promote products and services. Fashion, beauty, fitness and travel are just a few of the niches where influencers thrive. An example is fitness influencer Kayla Itsines, who turned her workout routines into a glob-

al fitness empire, earning income from app subscriptions, brand partnerships and merchandise.

- **TikTok stars:** TikTok has become a breeding ground for creativity, with short, engaging videos that can go viral overnight. Creators on TikTok often start by sharing dance routines, comedic skits or life hacks. Take Charli D'Amelio, who began posting dance videos and quickly became one of the platform's biggest stars. TikTok creators can earn money through brand deals, sponsored content and the platform's Creator Fund, which pays popular users based on their video performance.
- **Writers and bloggers:** Writing is another avenue in the Creator Economy. Bloggers and independent writers create content that caters to niche audiences, from travel and food to personal finance and parenting. Platforms like Medium allow writers to monetize their articles through reader subscriptions and partnerships. An example is Mark Manson, who started a personal blog on self-help and philosophy, eventually leading to book deals and a lucrative online business.
- **Patreon creators:** Patreon is a unique platform that allows creators to earn recurring income directly from their fans. Whether you're a musician, artist, podcaster or writer, Patreon provides a space where loyal followers can support your work in exchange for exclusive content or perks. Musicians like Amanda Palmer have used Patreon to maintain creative control while earning a steady income from their fanbase.
- **Artists and designers:** Visual artists and design-



COURTESY PHOTO

The Creator Economy refers to the growing community of independent content creators, artists, influencers and entrepreneurs who use digital platforms to monetize their skills, passions and audiences.

ers can tap into the Creator Economy by selling their work online. Platforms like Etsy and Redbubble allow creators to reach global audiences, selling everything from custom illustrations to handmade crafts. Digital artists can also offer their designs on stock image sites or create downloadable products like fonts and templates.

- **Podcasters:** Podcasts have exploded in popularity, offering creators another platform to share their voices. Whether discussing true crime, interviewing experts or telling fictional stories, podcasters can monetize through sponsorships, listener donations and premium subscriptions. Joe Rogan's podcast, which be-

gan as a casual conversation show, became so popular that Spotify signed an exclusive \$100 million licensing deal.

THE FUTURE OF THE CREATOR ECONOMY

The Creator Economy shows no signs of slowing down. As technology evolves and more platforms emerge, the opportunities for creators will only expand. Virtual reality, known as VR, augmented reality, known as AR, and other cutting-edge technologies will likely give rise to new forms of content creation and engagement.

However, it's important to note that the Creator Economy isn't without its challenges. The competition

can be fierce, and success often requires a combination of talent, perseverance and a bit of luck. But for those who find their niche and build a loyal audience, the rewards can be substantial — not just financially, but in terms of creative fulfillment and independence.

In essence, the Creator Economy is democratizing work. It's breaking down the barriers between passion and profession, allowing anyone with an internet connection and a creative spark to build a career on their own terms. So, whether you're an aspiring artist, a budding writer or just someone with a unique perspective, there's never been a better time to explore the possibilities of the Creator Economy.

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SAME PAPER

AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Lowe's Fall Car Show

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The weather Saturday, Sept. 7 couldn't have been better for the Lowe's Granbury Fall Car Show participants and spectators, an event organized by Curtis Dove. The low rumble of hot rods and classic cars drifted from Lowe's Home Improvement parking lot all day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., where a steady stream of car show enthusiasts feasted their eyes on dozens of entries. All vehicles were welcome, with no preregistration and free entry. See more photos at hcnews.com.



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Voice of Granbury Audition Night



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Strong vocals and showstopping performances dominated at Granbury Live Thursday, Sept. 5, as 12 talented contestants vied for the top three spots for next winter's Voice of Granbury showcase performance competition. please see photos, C4.

Granbury Theatre Company's 'Hunchback of Notre Dame' rings in a timeless classic

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

As autumn settles into Granbury, the Historic Granbury Opera House is gearing up to showcase one of the most powerful and enduring stories in musical theater: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame." This beloved production, based on Victor Hugo's 1831 novel, opens Friday, Sept. 20 and will run for four weekends, concluding Sunday, Oct. 13. With its iconic score, intricate characters and heart-wrenching story, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" has captivated audiences for decades — and now, the Granbury Theatre Company is bringing this classic tale to life

right here in Hood County.

THE LEGACY OF THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

From its literary origins to its many adaptations, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" has a rich and fascinating history. Hugo's novel was groundbreaking for its time, blending the personal dramas of its characters with broader themes of love, acceptance and social injustice. At its core, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" is a tale of an outcast — Quasimodo, the deformed bell ringer of Notre Dame — and his unrequited love for the beautiful Esmeralda. Surrounding them is a cast of equally complex characters, including the conflicted Archdeacon Frollo and the dashing Captain Phoebus.

The novel's themes of beauty, faith and sacrifice are timeless, which is why it has seen countless adaptations over the years. In 1996, Disney took Hugo's story to new heights by transforming it into an animated musical film, complete with songs by the acclaimed duo Alan Menken (composer) and Stephen Schwartz (lyricist). While Disney softened some of the darker elements of the novel, it retained the heart of the story, elevating it with memorable songs like "Out There," "God Help the Outcasts" and "The Bells of Notre Dame."

The stage adaptation of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" builds on this foundation, blending Disney's beloved musical elements with Hugo's original, more

somber tone. First premiering in Germany in 1999, the show was later adapted for American audiences, where it has since been praised for its emotional depth and musical grandeur.

WHY THE STORY ENDURES

At its heart, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" is about belonging and the search for acceptance. Audiences have long been drawn to its exploration of themes that resonate across time: the pain of isolation, the struggle between personal desires and duty, and the inherent worth of all individuals, regardless of appearance.

The character of Quasimodo, in particular, has been a symbol of resilience and inner beauty. Despite his outward deformities and the cruelty he

endures, he remains a figure of innocence and love, capable of great tenderness. It's this human element — alongside the sweeping music — that keeps audiences returning to "The Hunchback of Notre Dame."

THE MUSIC THAT MAKES IT MAGIC

Music plays a critical role in the storytelling of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," and the Granbury Theatre Company's production promises to highlight the grandeur of its score. The music, composed by Menken with lyrics by Schwartz, marries sweeping orchestration with choral grandeur, inspired by the Gothic setting of Notre Dame Cathedral. Songs like "The Bells of Notre Dame" and "Hellfire" bring both

majesty and menace to the stage, while quieter moments like "Out There" and "God Help the Outcasts" tug at the heartstrings, offering a window into the innermost desires of the characters.

Audiences can expect the Granbury production to fully embrace the drama of this score, with its haunting melodies and epic arrangements, ensuring an immersive and moving experience for all in attendance.

THE GRANBURY THEATRE COMPANY PRODUCTION

The Granbury Theatre Company's production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" is backed by an accomplished artistic team and a stellar cast. Under the direction of Matt Beutner,

PLEASE SEE THEATRE | C2

The Baker-Carmichael House's return to splendor

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

At 226 E. Pearl St. stands a beauty that has weathered the tests of time and transformation. The Baker-Carmichael House, a historic gem nestled just off Granbury's downtown square, is in the midst of a significant restoration as it prepares to embark on a new chapter. This architectural marvel, built in 1905, has witnessed a fascinating evolution, reflecting the growth of Granbury and the personal stories of its inhabitants.

Originally commissioned by Jess Baker, a prominent local merchant, banker and state representative, the house was built for an estimated cost of \$18,000. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation calculator, \$18,000 in

1905 is approximately equivalent to \$650,000 in 2024 dollars.

The house's design harmoniously combines Queen Anne charm with Classical Revival features. It includes a distinctive corner turret, a formal portico with two-story columns, and a wrap-around porch, making it one of Granbury's most notable examples of high style architecture.

Following Baker's passing in 1921, the residence found new life under the ownership of Dr. Archibald Carmichael, a respected local physician. Dr. Carmichael and his wife, Dora, were devoted to preserving the home's grandeur and original elegance while updating it with modern conveniences. The house's early innovations were electricity, indoor plumbing and telephone service, which set it

apart as a model of contemporary living.

David and Claudia Southern, drawn to Baker-Carmichael's rich history, bought the property in 1985. Claudia Southern remembers their deep affection for the house, noting they had fallen in love with it while it was still a restaurant. The previous owners, John and Janna Duty, were running the restaurant while raising their young children — a son and twins — and they were ready to sell.

In addition to running a restaurant, the Southern's also operated a business called Southern Concepts where they worked with individuals who were developmentally and intellectually disabled. Claudia Southern revealed that this was their primary focus. She explained she was

PLEASE SEE BAKER | C2



COURTESY PHOTO

The Baker-Carmichael House received Texas State Historical and National Historical markers in 1996, making it one of only three properties in Granbury listed on the National Register. (From left) Jack Southern, Claudia Southern, Laura Bush and (then Governor) George Bush, Alison Southern-Ullom, and David Southern.

Court shortage causes a pickle in Hood County

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Ever wondered how a game invented by three friends to amuse their families on a lazy day could become one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States and beyond?

That's the story of pickleball, created in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, Washington. Joel Pritchard — a congressman from Washington state — together with an engineer named Bill Bell and businessman and WWII Navy veteran Barney McCallum, combined a badminton court, a lowered net, ping-pong paddles, and a perforated plastic ball to craft a game anyone could enjoy.

WHAT ABOUT THE NAME?

Blending elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, pickleball is designed to be accessible for all ages and skill levels. And if you've ever wondered about its quirky name, you're not alone. Some say it's named after Pritchard's dog, Pickles, who loved chasing the ball.

Others believe, according to pickleballCabin.com, the game was named pickleball by Pritchard's wife, Joan Pritchard, who compared the sport to the "pickle boat" in rowing — a crew made up of leftover rowers — nonstarters who would race for fun.

Regardless of its odd name origin, pickleball is sweeping the nation, winning hearts and paddles everywhere — even right here in Granbury!

A LANGUAGE ALL ITS OWN

Pickleball has developed a unique jargon that adds to the sport's charm and strategy. Terms like "dink," a soft shot played close to the net, and "Erne," named after a player who perfected the move involving jumping over the corner of the kitchen (non-volley zone) to intercept a shot before it bounces, are standard terms bandied about.

Another popular term is the "ATP" or "Around the Post," a shot that players use to send the ball around the net post rather than over it, creating an unexpected angle.

The game uses comical lan-

guage, such as "bangers" for players who hit the ball hard and "third shot drop" for a soft shot intended to neutralize aggressive play, reflecting its blend of strategy, skill and fun.

"Pickleball is perfect for all ages," retired teacher and coach Miles Broughton said. "I was one of the early people that started pickleball here in the county." He has organized leagues, clinics and fundraising for the local pickleball association. He emphasized the sport's accessibility: "Pickleball is perfect for all ages. Grandparents can play with their grandchildren, and it's a game that brings people together, regardless of their age or skill level."

In pickleball, the "kitchen" refers to the non-volley zone, which is a 7-foot area on either side of the net. Players are not allowed to hit the ball while standing in this zone unless the ball has already bounced in the kitchen.

The kitchen rule in pickleball makes the game easier for more people by balancing things out. It prevents stronger players from dominating

with powerful shots at the net and encourages longer rallies and different types of shots, which is excellent for beginners and those still learning.

The rule also adds a strategic element, requiring players to think carefully about where they stand and how they hit the ball. It also reduces the risk of injuries from fast play near the net, which is essential for casual players.

One common misconception about pickleball is that it is easy for tennis players to master without adjustments.

CROSSING OVER FROM TENNIS

Mickey Daniel, a retired minister of music and a former avid tennis player, said, "It's a lot like tennis, but with a different strategy," he noted. "The ball doesn't bounce as high, and the smaller court requires more strategic play. But the game of pickleball is evolving, and each generation brings new tactics."

Broughton adds, "It's not hard, but it's not just an instant crossover. Tennis players often need to adapt their techniques."

Pickleball's scoring system is similar to table tennis, where the top score is 11; however, the winner must win by two points.

A WELCOMING SPORT

Damon Berry, a retired Delta Airlines pilot, recalls his first encounter with pickleball at a local gym. "As soon as they see someone come in, somebody hands you a paddle and says, 'Come on over here and try it out,'" Berry said. "You make friends the first time you step onto a court."

Berry, now a regular player and referee, attributes pickleball's notoriety to its inclusive nature. "The ball travels more slowly, and the paddle is short, so you don't have to chase it like in tennis," he explained. "It's very easy to become fairly good in a short time."

"But," Berry emphasized, "it's not just the ease of play that makes pickleball appealing: The social aspect is just as important. You spend a fair amount of downtime waiting for a court to open up, so you sit there and talk.

People you've never known before — you spend most of your time talking, laughing and giggling."

Daniel agrees. "Once you start playing pickleball, you get hooked," he said. Daniel has traveled across the country to participate in tournaments, finding joy in the game and the friendships he's made. "I've met so many new people," he shared. "Now that I'm retired, I play a lot in Dallas, and the people are super friendly."

Eva Myers, who turned to pickleball to regain strength after cancer treatments, also highlights the sport's camaraderie. "Most of our friends since we started playing pickleball are all pickleball friends," she said. "The people we socialize with all the time are from the game."

BECOMING YOUNGER

Initially seen as a pastime for retirees, the sport increasingly attracts younger players. "Now, anywhere you go, it's about 60/40, people over 50 versus people under 50,"

PLEASE SEE **COURT** | C9

BAKER

FROM PAGE C1

spending most of her time at the restaurant and neglecting their main business. Eventually, they decided to close the restaurant, allowing their family more privacy and space.

Southern's daughter, Alison Southern-Ullom recalled the house originally had a restaurant on the ground floor, with a living area upstairs divided into three rooms, including only one bathroom. There was also a half-bath downstairs with the restaurant. She noted that the hardwood floors and front stairs are original. Additionally, the house features a small wood-panel that, when opened, reveals the original fuse box.

The house was a bed-and-breakfast for a short time around 1996, called the Carmichael Inn. "Now, that's when Dad converted the carriage house rooms for additional rooms and when the bathroom was added," Ullom said.

Southern, a strong advocate for local historical preservation, sought to have the house recognized as both a Texas

and a national landmark. To achieve this, she needed to apply to the Texas Historical Commission and the National Historical Commission. Historian Mary Saltarelli assisted with the process, meticulously managing the application. Saltarelli gathered and prepared the necessary documentation for submission to the commissions.

"My dad and mom did a very smart thing," Ullom said. "They invited Laura Bush to dedicate the house with its National Marker and told her that she could bring her husband along if she wanted to."

Then Texas Gov. George Bush and his wife Laura paid a special visit for the Baker-Carmichael's dedication as it was honored with Texas State Historical and National Historical markers in 1996, making it one of only three properties in Granbury listed on the National Register.

David Southern served on the Granbury City Council and then as mayor until 2010. "Well, David and I were very committed to the City of Granbury. I still do things for the city as he did until he died

PLEASE SEE **BAKER** | C10



The Southern family in front of The Baker-Carmichael House in 2013: (from left): Alison, David, Claudia, and Jack Southern is holding Andrew. Alexis is in front.

THEATRE

FROM PAGE C1

the show is set to dazzle local audiences with its breathtaking scenery, compelling performances and faithful adaptation of this timeless musical.

"This is probably one of — if not the most — talented group of actors I've ever gotten to work with," said Beutner. "It is a really, really talented group of people. The music in Hunchback is some of the most difficult you'll find in the entire mu-

sical theater canon, and this group is already sounding superb!"

Leading the cast are Freddy Martinez Jr. and Ben Rongey, who will alternate in the role of Quasimodo, bringing both vulnerability and strength to this iconic character. Audrey Randall and Sofi Warren will likewise take turns portraying the spirited Esmeralda, while Opera House favorite Brian Lawson steps into the imposing role of Dom Claude Frolo, the conflicted archdeacon torn between his piety and forbidden

love for Esmeralda. Jake Hamilton will play the valiant Captain Phoebus, while John David Dvorak portrays the colorful Clopin Trouillefou, leader of the gypsies.

The supporting cast includes Gavin Clark as Jehan Frolo, Ryan Wagoner as Father Dupin, and Richard K. Wooten as Lt. Frederic Charlus. With a strong lineup of actors, the production promises both vocal and emotional depth.

Behind the scenes, a talented creative team brings the world of Notre Dame to

life. Eme Looney serves as both assistant director and costume designer. Music Director Ashley Green leads the cast through the show's demanding score, while choreographer Makenna Clark and fight choreographer Jonah Hardt ensure that every movement on stage reflects the show's tension and drama.

Hardt, who doubles as the show's scenic designer, and lighting designer David Broberg will transform the Granbury Opera House into a vision of medieval Paris. Costumes by Looney

and sound design by Kyle Hoffman will complete the experience. The show is stage managed by Whitney Shearon assisted by Kylie Cummins.

DON'T MISS THIS THEATRICAL EVENT

Whether you're a longtime fan of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" or experiencing this story for the first time, the Granbury Theatre Company's production is sure to leave a lasting impression. With its timeless message of love and accep-

tance, combined with the artistic talents of the cast and crew, this is a show you won't want to miss. The bells of Notre Dame are ringing — will you answer the call?

Make sure to catch "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at the Historic Granbury Opera House from Sept. 20 through Oct. 13. Tickets are available now online at www.granburytheatrecompany.org or by calling the Opera House box office at 817-579-0952.

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Lederhosen and Lone Stars: How Oktoberfest took root in Texas

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

Oktoberfest is one of the most famous cultural festivals in the world, celebrated for its lively atmosphere, traditional German customs and, of course, its beer. While the festival originated in Munich, Germany, it has found a special place in Texas, where communities across the state have embraced the event and infused it with a uniquely Texan flair. Today, Oktoberfest celebrations in Texas are as much a part of the fall calendar as football games and barbecue cook-offs.

In this article, we'll explore the history of Oktoberfest in Texas, its cultural significance and how it has evolved into one of the state's most beloved annual events.

GERMAN IMMIGRATION AND TEXAS' CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

To understand the origins of Oktoberfest in Texas, it's essential to look at the history of German immigration to the state. In the mid-19th century, Texas saw a significant influx of German settlers. Many were attracted to the promise of land and opportunity, settling in areas such as New Braunfels, Fredericksburg and other parts of the Texas Hill Country. These settlers brought with them their customs, language and, importantly, their love for beer and festivals.

New Braunfels, founded in 1845 by Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels, is one of the earliest and most significant German settlements in Texas. The town quickly became a cultural hub for German immigrants, maintaining traditions and fostering a close-knit community that valued its European roots. Fredericksburg, founded in 1846 by German settlers under the guidance of John O. Meusebach, similarly embraced its German heritage and continues to be a focal point for cultural celebrations today.

Given this deep German heritage, it's no surprise that the spirit of Oktoberfest found a home in Texas. Early German immigrants held festivals and events that echoed the traditions of their homeland, creating a foundation for what would later become large-scale Oktoberfest celebrations.

THE FIRST OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATIONS IN TEXAS

The first organized Oktoberfest events in Texas can be traced back

to the early 20th century. German-American communities, eager to preserve their culture and celebrate their heritage, began hosting fall festivals inspired by the famous Oktoberfest in Munich. These early celebrations were relatively small, but they included many of the key elements: music, dancing, food and, of course, beer.

One of the earliest and

THE GROWTH OF OKTOBERFEST ACROSS TEXAS

As Texas grew and developed, so did the popularity of Oktoberfest celebrations. Today, Oktoberfest is celebrated in cities and towns across the state, from small rural communities to bustling urban centers like Dallas, Houston and Austin. These modern events often blend traditional German elements with a distinctly

celebration is set for Oct. 4-6 and promises to be a fun event for the entire family.

So, grab your lederhosen and dirndls and celebrate in true German tradition in the Granbury Square Plaza and Pavilion, with vendors located on the Plaza, Bridge Street and Crockett. There will be shopping with vendors, beer hoisting contests, Hammerschlagen, Jenga, lumberjack contests, polka



Oktoberfest celebrations in Texas are as much a part of the fall calendar as football games and barbecue cook-offs. COURTESY PHOTO

most enduring Oktoberfests in Texas is the annual celebration in Fredericksburg. First held in 1981, the Fredericksburg Oktoberfest has grown into one of the largest and most popular in the state. The event features traditional German music, polka dancing and a variety of Bavarian foods, all set against the picturesque backdrop of the Texas Hill Country. Fredericksburg's Oktoberfest directly reflects the town's commitment to preserving its German heritage while offering visitors a taste of authentic Texas hospitality.

New Braunfels, too, has become famous for its annual German-inspired celebration, known as Wurstfest. Established in 1961, Wurstfest began as a modest sausage festival and has since transformed into a massive event that draws thousands of attendees annually. While not technically an Oktoberfest, Wurstfest carries many of the same traditions and cultural elements, including beer, sausage and music, making it an essential part of the broader Oktoberfest culture in Texas.

Texan vibe, creating a unique fusion of cultures.

In larger cities, Oktoberfest celebrations have expanded beyond just German food and beer to include craft beer tastings from local Texas breweries, live country music alongside traditional polka bands, and family-friendly activities like carnival rides and games. Austin's Oktoberfest, hosted by the German-Texan Heritage Society, offers a more authentic experience with traditional German beer, food and cultural exhibitions.

Houston, home to a large and diverse population, also hosts multiple Oktoberfest events, each reflecting the city's multicultural landscape. For example, the Tomball German Heritage Festival celebrates both Texas and German culture, blending authentic German traditions with a touch of Texas charm.

A UNIQUELY TEXAN OKTOBERFEST

While the roots of Oktoberfest in Texas are undeniably German, the festival has evolved to reflect the state's unique identity. Granbury's own Oktoberfest

dancing and so much more! This is a family fun event and includes a Kinderplatz to keep your children entertained.

OKTOBERFEST BREWS

In addition, Texas has its own brewing traditions, and many Oktoberfest events feature local craft beers alongside traditional German brews. The state's vibrant craft beer scene has embraced the fall season by producing Oktoberfest-style beers, with many breweries releasing seasonal Märzen and other German-inspired lagers. This blending of Texas and German brewing traditions creates a unique experience that draws beer lovers from around the region.

Whether you're sipping on a traditional German beer in Fredericksburg or enjoying a craft brew at an Oktoberfest in Austin, the festival offers a chance to celebrate Texas' diverse cultural heritage and enjoy the warm sense of community that defines the state. As Oktoberfest grows in Texas, one thing remains clear: it's an event that brings together the best of German and Texan traditions. Prost!

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Suicide Prevention Month: How you can help save a life

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

Suicide Prevention Month is observed every September to bring attention to an issue that touches so many lives. Suicide remains a leading cause of death in the United States, especially among young adults, and in North Central Texas, communities often feel the effects deeply. Yet, suicide is preventable, and one of the most effective ways to prevent it is by helping those who may be struggling.

If you know someone who is experiencing suicidal thoughts, it can be overwhelming to figure out how to help. However, your support can make a significant difference. This guide provides essential tips for recognizing warning signs, having compassionate conversations and connecting people with the resources they need to stay safe.

RECOGNIZING WARNING SIGNS

The first step in helping someone with suicidal thoughts is recognizing the

warning signs. People don't always directly say they're considering suicide, but they may display behavior changes or express feelings that indicate they are at risk. Here are some common signs:

- Talking about death or dying: Comments like "I wish I wasn't here" or "Life isn't worth living" should be taken seriously.
 - Withdrawal from friends, family and activities: People who are thinking about suicide may isolate themselves from social circles.
 - Increased substance use: Turning to drugs or alcohol as a way to cope with pain can be a red flag.
 - Mood swings: Sudden changes in mood, especially from depression to a sudden sense of calm, could indicate that someone has made the decision to attempt suicide.
 - Giving away possessions: If a person starts giving away things they care about or making arrangements for their personal belongings, it could be a sign they are preparing for the end.
 - Sleeping too little or too much: Disrupted sleep patterns are often linked to mental health struggles, including suicidal thoughts.
- The more of these signs a



If you know someone who is experiencing suicidal thoughts, it can be overwhelming to figure out how to help. COURTESY PHOTO

person exhibits, the higher the risk. It's essential to act quickly when these behaviors are noticed.

STARTING THE CONVERSATION

Once you've recognized the warning signs, starting a conversation is the next critical step. You might be afraid of saying the wrong thing or worried you'll make the situ-

ation worse. But the truth is, talking openly about suicide can actually reduce the risk.

Here's how to approach the conversation:

- Pick the right time and place: Find a private, quiet space where you won't be interrupted. Show them you're ready to listen.
- Be direct but gentle: It's important to ask the person out-

PLEASE SEE **SAVE** | C5

Voice of Granbury Audition Night

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Strong vocals and showstopping performances dominated at Granbury Live Thursday, Sept. 5, as 12 talented contestants vied for the top three spots for next winter's Voice of Granbury showcase performance competition. Winners were Santos Naranjo (right) in first place, Courtney Current (center) in second place and Bailey Roy (left) in third place. All three top finishers are invited to perform in the Main Event show in January. See more photos at www.hcnews.com/stories/voice-of-granbury-audition-night,48991.



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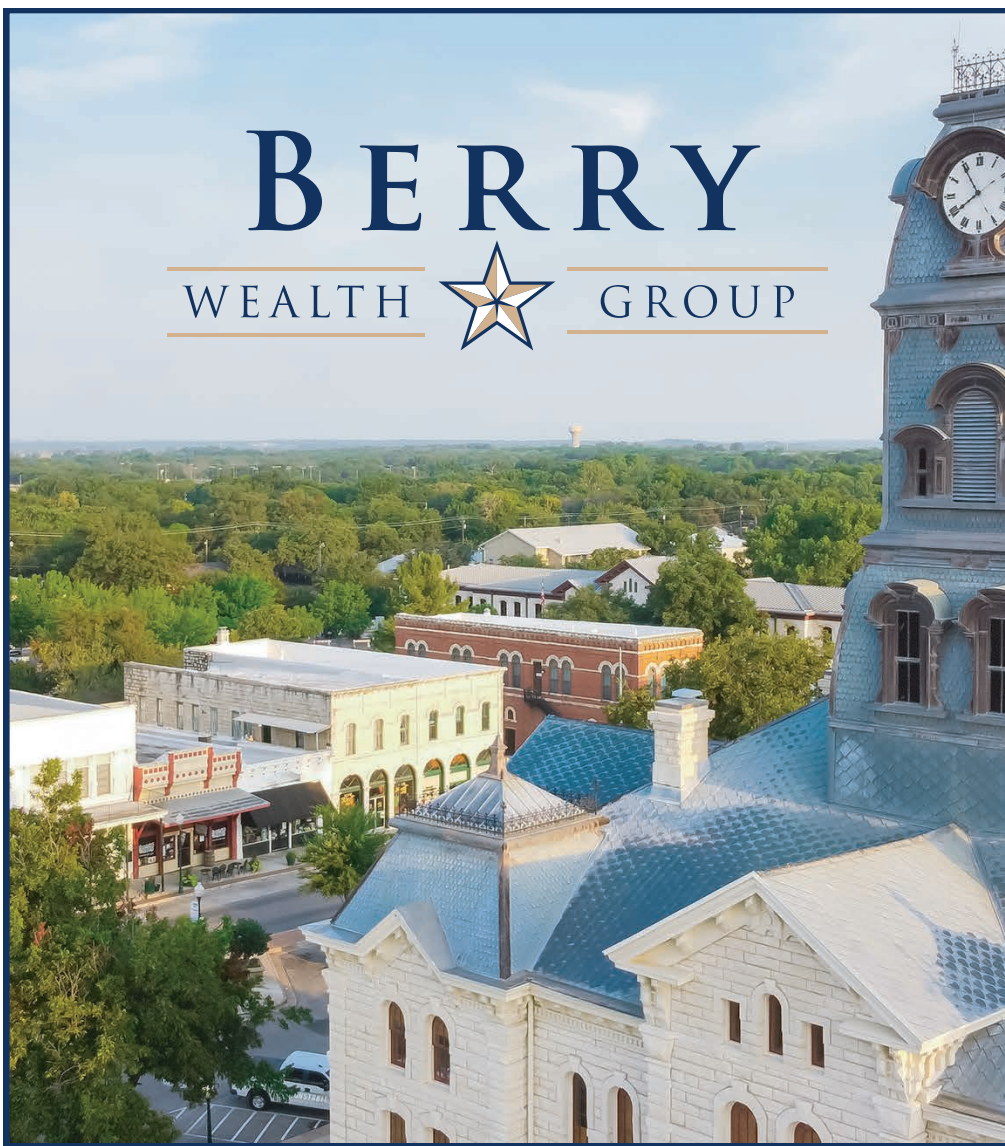
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THE IDLE AMERICAN

Someone call security



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.

Stephen Cox is not an imposing figure. Still, he has the countenance and features to be a Clark Kent look-alike, even if considerably smaller in stature.

You remember Clark, right? He's the guy who morphed quickly from his role as a reporter for a large metropolitan newspaper into Superman, the movie and comic book figure who flew around Gotham City beating the daylight out of the bad guys.

Cox, now 30-something, even has eyewear like Kent's. The distinguished San Antonio music educator appears to be much younger than his actual age, but he — like Kent — remains super cool in all circumstances, though never donning a cape, leaping over buildings in a single bound or putting the hurt on anybody ...

He's so genteel, always careful to give others the benefit of doubts.

Cox has long been known as the kind of mentor whom students remember fondly for the rest of their lives. Beloved by his wife, children and a host of others, he has been a "hit" wherever he has struck up the band. If Mr. Holland had not preceded him, there easily could have been a "Mr. Cox's Opus."

By all measures, he is simply the best ...

Such respect is heaped on him by acclamation; no vote is

needed. He's "Mr. Wonderful" — one of the last guys on the planet one would expect to run afoul of airport TSA personnel.

Obviously never having laid eyes on this simple musical instrument, the agent didn't initially believe Cox's explanation about the kazoo in his pocket detected by x-ray. To him, it looked lethal. To Cox, it was a joke, since everyone can play kazoos easily if they have breath and "sing" such syllables as doo, too, who or vrrr into the kazoo.

Unflappable, Cox told the agent about the music convention he'd attended, then details about the simple instrument. He remained calm and wasn't asked to play his kazoo. Isn't there a poem admonishing us to keep our heads about us, when others are losing theirs? Soon, he was allowed to board, his kazoo in hand ...

My, how things have changed, particularly airport security. I recall boarding a plane in Dallas, long before 9-11.

En route to Amarillo for a speaking engagement, I was unaware that pheasant hunting season began with the next sunrise. Dozens of boarders placed their shotguns in overhead bins, counting the hours until dawn.

"Those guns aren't loaded, are they?" flight attendants joked ...

I had a Stephen Cox ex-

perience shortly after 9/11. My wife and I were returning from a trip to Alaska, where she purchased ulu knives to gift our sons-in-law come Christmas. They were miniature versions of ulu knives that are used largely in Alaska.

One might guess them to be "pizza-slicers" if seen on kitchen counters in the US of A.

As we prepared to leave, suitcases filled quickly, so she stuffed the knives into her carry-on bag ...

At security check, a mean-spirited woman who looked capable of playing tackle on an NFL team lectured us sternly about dimensions, weights and what could NOT be included in our carry-ons. I yawned, thinking that no such items were in my pouch.

Wrong! My wife — weary as her carry-on bag became "too heavy" — innocently extracted the ulu knives and stuck them into my bag, unbeknownst to me. To this day, she swears she considered them to be Christmas gifts, not dangerous weapons.

"What do we have here?" the agent sneered. "They're going to stay with me." I tried to explain that Brenda thought they'd be nice Christmas gifts. I also failed to feign Cox's innocence, hopeful that the tears streaming down my cheeks would help. The agent, however, wasn't buying it. I could only hope the confiscated knives wound up under Christmas trees of young Eskimos who dreamed that Santa would somehow avoid security checks as his sleigh flew throughout the world on Christmas Eve ...

SAVE

FROM PAGE C3

right if they're thinking about suicide. You can say something like, "I've noticed you've been going through a tough time lately. Are you thinking about hurting yourself?"

• Validate their feelings: Don't dismiss or minimize them by saying things like, "It's not that bad" or "You have so much to live for." Instead, listen empathetically and let them know that their feelings are valid.

• Offer support, not solutions: Rather than trying to "fix" their situation, offer your presence and let them know you're there to help them get professional support.

ENCOURAGING PROFESSIONAL HELP

While your support is invaluable, professional help is crucial for someone struggling with suicidal thoughts. Many people feel ashamed or afraid to reach out for professional help, but you can play a key role in encouraging them to take that step. Here are some suggestions:

• Help them make a plan: Offer to sit with them as they call a therapist or mental health hotline. You might say, "I'm here with you and can help you find someone to

talk to."

• Accompany them to appointments: If possible, offer to accompany them to their first therapy appointment or drive them to a support group. Sometimes, just having someone physically there makes a huge difference.

• Provide contact information: Share resources that they can reach out to, such as:

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 or 988
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- Suicide Prevention Resource Center: www.sprc.org

It's important to remind the person that getting help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

SAFETY MEASURES

If someone is in immediate danger or has a suicide plan, it's critical to act quickly. Remove any means they might use to harm themselves, such as weapons, medications or sharp objects. In cases of immediate risk, don't hesitate to contact emergency services or take the person to the nearest emergency room. Your quick action can save a life.

SELF-CARE FOR HELPERS

Supporting someone with suicidal thoughts can take

a toll on your own mental health, so it's essential to care for yourself, too. Seek support from friends, family or even a therapist if you need to talk through your feelings. Suicide prevention is a collective effort, and maintaining your own well-being allows you to be there for others in the long run.

THE POWER OF COMMUNITY

In North Central Texas and beyond, community plays a powerful role in preventing suicide. Schools, churches and local organizations can foster environments where mental health is prioritized and resources are readily available. You can also take action by advocating for mental health awareness in your community and learning more about suicide prevention through local workshops and seminars.

Suicide is a complex issue, but by staying informed, being proactive and supporting those around us, we can help prevent it. During this Suicide Prevention Month, let's remember that asking for help is not a sign of failure; it's a step toward healing and hope.

For more information or to get involved in local suicide prevention efforts, visit the Texas Suicide Prevention Council at texasuicideprevention.org.

VETERANS DAY

HELP US HONOR OUR LOCAL VETERANS

We're running a special section in November to honor our local veterans.

HURRY! Deadline to submit is Monday, October 14th.

Submit your veteran's photo to our website:

www.hcnews.com

Include name of veteran, branch of service, years served, and a photo.

Hood County News

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PECAN PLANTATION BITS

Pecan Woman's Club set to embark on a shining new year



PHOTO CURTIS OF PPWC PUBLICITY

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will begin a new year of club meetings Thursday, Sept. 19. Leading the day will be club officers (L-R): Sandy Hoelting, Debbie Rickman, Kathie Schoepf, Kim McIntire, Terri McBay, Rhonda Humphreys and Gerta Howell.

BY DIANE LONG



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

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club will celebrate another year of collective meetings when the group reconvenes Thursday, Sept. 19. President Gerta Howell has announced this year's theme as "Let Your Light Shine," and that is exactly what this group does in our neighborhood. Operating under the tenets of friendship, fellowship, philanthropy and a love of the arts, the PPWC serves both the Pecan community

and beyond. Meeting day will begin with social time at 9:30 a.m. before Howell calls the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Following a business meeting, the ladies will enjoy a musical duet program presented by Rawlianne Rangel and Grace Lim before lunch is served by clubhouse staff. The tabletop charity of the day is Emma Roberson Early Learning Academy to which donations of school supplies, small children's

clothing and monetary donations will be accepted and appreciated. The PPWC welcomes all lady residents of Pecan.

GOOD GROWING

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

GOLF GAME

Pecan's Men's Golf Association's "Tournament Royale" is happening today, Saturday, Sept. 14, and 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.

SING ALONG

Karaoke at the 19th Hole with DeeJay Santos returns this evening, 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 next week, Sept. 15-18 at Pecan's Shady Campground. For complete information about this "on the go" bunch, send email to rvclub@ppoarv.org.

GENEALOGY CLUB

Pecan's Genealogy Group will gather Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m. in the EMS training room of the emergency services compound. Attendees should bring a family artifact to share with the group. Both Pecan residents and folks outside the community are invited to attend.

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 to the board. Pecan neighbors 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 ppvfdems.com. Deadline for submission is Tuesday, Sept. 17.

GAME TIME

Mahjonn lessons are coming to Pecan beginning Sept. 17 and running for six weeks to Oct. 22. Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m. is the time slot, and interested folks may send email to evalyn11@gmail.com for complete details.

WELCOME HOME

The next New Member Orientation for Pecan residents will take place Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m. in the

PLEASE SEE PECAN | C7



Friday, 13 September - Thursday, 19 September

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (PG13)
 Fri: 2:00PM, 3:45PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:10PM, 9:45PM.
 Sat: 11:30AM, 1:20PM, 2:05PM, 3:55PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM, 9:05PM, 9:50PM.
 Sun: 11:00AM, 11:30AM, 1:30PM, 2:05PM, 4:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 2:30PM, 4:35PM, 5:05PM, 7:40PM.
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 2:25PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 7:50PM

Deadpool & Wolverine (R)
 Fri: 3:45PM, 6:50PM, 9:50PM.
 Sat: 12:00PM, 2:05PM, 6:15PM, 9:20PM.
 Sun: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:30PM, 5:25PM, 8:20PM.
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:55PM

God's Not Dead: In God We Trust (NR)
 Fri, Sat, Sun: 6:30PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 7:10PM

Reagan (PG13)
 Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 8:10PM.
 Sat: 11:00AM, 3:05PM, 5:00PM, 8:05PM.
 Sun: 11:00AM, 2:05PM, 5:10PM.
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 5:05PM, 7:05PM

Speak No Evil (R)
 Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.
 Sat: 11:15AM, 1:55PM, 4:35PM, 7:15PM, 9:55PM.
 Sun: 11:15AM, 1:55PM, 4:35PM, 7:15PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:15PM, 4:55PM, 7:35PM

The Killer's Game (R)
 Fri: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
 Sat: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM, 9:00PM.
 Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM.
 Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
 Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 8:10PM

Transformers One (PG)
 Thurs: 5:00PM, 7:30PM



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PECAN

FROM PAGE C6

Terrace Room of the clubhouse. All newcomers to our community, as well as long-timers who would like a refresher on the amenities of our neighborhood, are invited. Reserve a spot by contacting Sarah Lord: sarahlord@ppoaweb.com.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

The Pecan Plantation Pickleball Association has a weekend of competitive play planned with a men's doubles tournament scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20 beginning at 8 a.m. on the outdoor courts behind the PAC and then a women's tournament the next day, Saturday, Sept. 21 on the indoor courts of the PAC gym. Tournament committee members David Burch, Jan Burch, Serge Comier, Tracy Davis, Norma Duncan and Kim Wallin are working faithfully to make the day both fun and successful. Sign up for play-

ers, including alternates, is happening at the PAC.

GOOD READ

The Hood County Bookmobile will be at the PAC Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. when patrons may both check out and return library materials. For more information about the bookmobile and its presence in our community, contact Robin Scanlon at 817-573-3569.

CRAFTS FAIR

The Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department/Emergency Medical Service Auxiliary-sponsored arts and crafts fair is coming up 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 sell 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.

FLYING HIGH

Pecan's Experimental Aircraft Association Chapter 983 looks forward to hosting its annual fly-in and car show Saturday, Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Planeview Park in Pecan. The day will include Young Eagle flights, aircraft simulation, radio control display, and gyrocopter and glider, in addition to Pecan's emergency vehicles being on hand and food available for purchase.

DELICIOUS DINING

Pecan's Executive Chef Jordan Ray never fails to disappoint diners with his weekly Wednesday Brazos Room Blue Plate Special meals from 4 to 9 p.m. Each week the special changes, and reservations are recommended for this very popular evening of dining; 817-573-2641.

NET NEWS

Pecan's tennis professional John Ingram III reminds residents that fall tennis leagues are forming; stop by the pro shop to sign up. All matches are held on Saturdays with some being in Pecan and others happening in neighboring clubs.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family of David Sanderford, who passed away Aug. 20; to the family of Yvonne Brunner, who passed away Aug. 26; and to the family of Jim Stewart, who passed away Aug. 29.

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.

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

AMATEUR RADIO Weekly Social Hour Net. All licensed amateur radio operators welcome. 7 p.m., on the 147.240 MHz Repeater, +600 offset, PL 162.2.

WEDNESDAYS

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

HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

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

FIRST MONDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m.

at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

LOVE KNOTS

Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

SECOND MONDAYS

MEETING OF the Lake Granbury Art Association at 224 N. Travis St. at 6 p.m. Meeting includes business and a monthly demonstration from local and visiting artists. For questions call 361-510-6820 or email simanek1@charter.net.

THIRD MONDAYS

GRANBURY QUILTERS Guild meets the third Monday each month at United Coop Electric, 320 Fall Creek Highway, 6 p.m. Details: 817-296-8186.

LOVE KNOTS Loving Hands Ministry. The ministry needs people to crochet, knit or use a knitting loom to make gifts to comfort the ill, bereaved, infants, etc. 1-3 p.m. Acton Baptist Church fellowship hall, 3500 Fall Creek Highway. Details: 817-326-4693.

WAMS (WESTERN Area Modeling Society) radio control club meets at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek BBQ, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. R/C aircraft, cars, boats, gliders, helicopters, etc. Details: 817-475-2194

FIRST TUESDAYS

GRANBURY DOLL Club meeting, 2 p.m. Hood County Library, 222 N. Travis St., Granbury. All doll appreciators are welcome.

SECOND TUESDAYS

GRANBURY KNITTING Guild meets to knit, learn and share knitting tips each month at First Presbyterian Church Annex, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee at 9:30 a.m. and meeting from 10-11:30 a.m.

THIRD TUESDAYS

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

FOURTH TUESDAYS

HOOD COUNTY Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday each month (except November and December) at

7 p.m. at the Historic Granbury Railroad Depot, 109 E. Ewell St. Contact Karen Nace 817-279-2995 for additional details.

MONTHLY MEETING of the Granbury branch of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Bentwater Activities Center, 1800 Emerald Bend Court at 7 p.m. Questions? 817-910-8174.

FIRST THURSDAYS

BRAZOS RIVER Corvette Club meets the first Thursday each month for fellowship, planning events and other business. Dinner, if desired, at 6 p.m., meeting from 7-8 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377. Details: bskaggs8@aol.com.

SECOND THURSDAYS

HOOD COUNTY CERT meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller 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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When I thought, "My foot slips," Your steadfast love, O LORD, helped me up.
When the cares of my heart are many, Your consolations cheer my soul.

Psalm 94:18-19

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

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1 John 4:12

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Crossing Place
1900 W. Hwy. 377
817-573-1581

Elm Grove Assembly Of God
3630 Hill City Hwy., Tolar
254-835-4755

Faith Assembly Of God
300 Granbury Court
817-326-2270

BAPTIST
Acton Baptist
3500 Fall Creek Hwy.
817-326-4693

Allison Baptist
9926 Allison Ct., Lipan
254-646-9926

Bible Baptist
4804 E. Hwy. 377
817-579-5424

Brazos River Baptist
2201 Mitchell Bend Hwy.
817-663-5384

Dennis First Baptist
7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
817-565-9027

Exalted Redeemer Baptist
1840 Acton Hwy.
817-247-7209

Fairview Baptist
5041 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-8968

Faith Baptist Of Hill City
Hwy. 56
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7600 Fm 1189, Lipan
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First Baptist
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Glen Rose First Baptist
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Glen Rose
254-897-2351

Granbury Baptist
1200 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-4943

Granbury First Baptist
1851 Weatherford Hwy.
817-573-7137

Iglesia Bautista Cristo Roca
Viva
315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
254-396-5773

Iglesia Bautista La Hermosa
3300 Oak Trail Dr.

Lakeside Baptist
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Mambrino Baptist
1625 Mambrino Hwy.
817-573-4901

Mission Bautista El Buen
315 Holly Hills Cemetery Rd.
817-573-4133

Oak Trail Baptist
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Sovereign Grace Baptist
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682-936-4988

Tolar Baptist
400 Tolar Hwy.
254-835-4375

Vineyard Baptist
320 W. Pearl St.
817-573-5318

Waples Baptist
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817-579-0509

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817-573-0107

First Christian
2109 W. U.S. Hwy. 377
817-573-5431

Iglesia Christiana Vino
Nuevo
4900 Sonterra Ct.
817-578-0626

Promise Point Church
5904 Walnut Creek Circle
817-910-8868

The Evangelical Christian
608 Shady Grove Dr.
817-736-3041

CHURCH OF CHRIST
Downtown Church Of
Christ
310 W. Pearl St.
817-573-9862

Granbury Church Of Christ
1905 W. Pearl
817-573-2613

Lipan Church Of Christ
112 N Caddo St., Lipan
254-646-2297

Old Granbury Church Of
Christ
4219 Old Granbury Rd.
817-573-6878

Thorp Spring Church Of
Christ
3006 Thorp St.
817-776-1547

Tolar Church Of Christ
8604 W. Hwy. 377, Tolar
254-835-4397

CHURCH OF GOD
Church Of God
1106 Weatherford Hwy.
817-279-6753

EPISCOPAL
Good Shepherd Episcopal
4530 Acton Hwy.
817-326-6074

JEHOVAH'S WITNESS
Granbury Jehovah's
Witnesses
3734 W. Hwy. 377
817-573-4259

LUTHERAN
Emmanuel Lutheran Elca
2301 Fall Creek Hwy.,
817-326-2201

Our Savior Lutheran
1400 N. Meadows Dr.
817-573-5011

METHODIST
Acton Methodist
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John 15:4

Lasagna: it's pasta-bly the best make-ahead meal ever

BY NANCY PRICER

Special to the Hood County News classads@hcnews.com

I'm always looking for recipes that I can make ahead of time when my family comes over. We usually only have a couple of hours on Sunday afternoon and I don't want to spend that time in the kitchen. I'd rather play games inside or outside, go to the pool, or go to the playground.

I came across a recipe for lasagna that you can make up to three days in advance and decided to try it. I made it on a Friday afternoon for a Sunday meal, giving me all day Saturday to do other chores. I had some frozen Texas garlic toast, washed and cut up some lettuce, cucumbers and tomatoes to

round out the meal. It was a hit with the whole family. I found this recipe at culinaryhill.com. Even though it has 4.99 stars out of five with 934 votes, I made four modifications. I added crushed red pepper to taste, increased the fennel, added half a cup of red wine and baked it at 350 for 1 1/2 hours. Also, I did not add the onion, because my daughter-in-law does not like them. The other modifications are included in this recipe.

THE BEST MAKE AHEAD LASAGNA

For the meat sauce:
1 pound ground beef
1 pound ground Italian sausage
1 medium onion chopped (about 1 cup)

4 cloves garlic minced
1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
1 6-ounce can tomato paste
1/2 cup Burgundy
2 tablespoons granulated sugar or to taste
1 1/2 teaspoons dried basil
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1 1/2 teaspoons fennel seeds
Red pepper flakes, to taste
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
For the cheese filling:
1 15-ounce container ricotta cheese
1 large egg
2 teaspoons dried parsley
1/2 teaspoon salt
For assembly:
1 16-ounce box lasagna

noodles, NOT no-boil
1 pound Mozzarella cheese shredded
1 cup Parmesan cheese grated
Fresh parsley minced, for garnish

TO MAKE THE MEAT SAUCE:

In a large saucepan or Dutch oven over medium-high heat, add beef, Italian sausage and onion, and cook until mostly browned, about five minutes. Drain if desired. Stir in garlic until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Stir in crushed tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, sugar, basil, Italian seasoning, Burgundy, fennel seeds and crushed red pepper. Simmer uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Season to taste with salt and pepper. You should have about two

quarts of sauce.

TO MAKE THE CHEESE FILLING:

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine ricotta cheese with egg, parsley and salt. Chill until the sauce is finished.

To assemble and bake the lasagna:

In the bottom of a 9-inch by 13-inch baking dish, spread two cups meat sauce. Arrange a single layer of uncooked noodles over the meat sauce (I sometimes do three full-size noodles lengthwise and then a partial noodle cross-wise). Spread with a heaping 2/3 cup of the ricotta mixture. Top with about 1 1/2 cups (5 ounces) of mozzarella. Sprinkle with 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese.

Spoon two cups meat sauce

over the cheese. Make another layer of noodles, ricotta mixture (heaping 2/3 cup), Mozzarella (1 1/2 cups) and Parmesan (1/3 cup). Repeat layers one more time, for a total of three layers.

Spray a large piece of foil with nonstick spray and cover baking dish. Refrigerate at least five hours or up to three days.

The original recipe says to preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake, covered with foil, for 25 minutes. Remove foil and bake until hot and bubbly, about 25 minutes longer. But I wanted us to have time to go to the pool so I baked it at 350 for 1 1/2 hours and uncovered it for about 15 minutes after that. Cool five minutes, then garnish with fresh parsley before serving if desired.

COURT FROM PAGE C2

Berry noted. Young players are joining professional ranks, some receiving coaching and training as they would in more traditional sports.

A standout moment in Broughton's pickleball journey was the national championship held in Dallas, where he volunteered. "It was a highlight for me," he said. "I've also had memorable experiences like hosting a professional player from Croatia. He was so nice and played with us at half speed, which was a great experience for everyone."

GROWING LIKE A WEED

Locally, the sport is making waves in Hood County, with churches and new facilities opening up courts. "We've been playing pickleball mainly at churches like First Methodist and Granbury Baptist," Daniel said. "It's still in its infancy here but growing fast."

Pickleball's growth isn't just limited to small communities; it's a sport on the rise globally, with more than

70 countries now playing the game — a significant step toward its goal of becoming an Olympic sport. "There's talk about the Olympics," Berry noted. "The professional ranks are evolving, with more tournaments, more sponsorships and more money involved."

Organizations like USA Pickleball and the International Federation of Pickleball are working to standardize rules and promote international competitions. Big-name sponsors like Skechers and healthcare companies are also backing the sport, further fueling its growth.

A SPORT FOR ALL

Unlike many sports, pickleball requires minimal investment to get started. Myers noted that pickleball is not an expensive hobby unless one opts for travel. "We do travel to tournaments and try to go to areas where we want to visit, so it becomes both a vacation and a pickleball tournament," she explained.

Broughton also emphasizes the sport's accessibility. "Pickleball attire is as varied as its players, with no specific dress code required.

Players can wear anything from long pants to shorts or tennis skirts."

BUILDING COMMUNITY AND CONNECTIONS

At its core, pickleball is about more than just the game. It's about community and connection. "You can't be alone in this sport," Berry said, smiling as he spoke about the friendships formed on the court.

Daniel echoed this sentiment. "It's accessible to everyone, and once you try it, you're hooked. I always tell people just to give it a try — it only takes once."

With its blend of strategy, skill and social interaction, pickleball thrives, bringing people of all ages together and creating lasting connections on and off the court. As Broughton observed, "It's an equal opportunity sport. When you show up with your paddle, you're embraced by the community."

Pickleball's renown is due to its low cost, easy entry and inclusive nature, and it shows no signs of slowing down. And as local players like Berry, Daniel, Myers and Broughton can attest, it's not just about the game itself but the people and the commu-

nity that keep them coming back.

The sport's rapid rise in popularity has led to a unique problem: a shortage of courts. In the famous baseball movie Field of Dreams, a voice tells Kevin Costner's character, "Build it, and they will come," referring to a baseball diamond in the middle of nowhere.

But with pickleball, it seems the opposite has happened — they have come and are coming in droves. PickleballCabin.com states, "It's the fastest-growing sport in the U.S., with over 36 million players in 2023." Cities and towns are scrambling to build enough courts to keep up with demand.

Pat Tammaro reported on PickleballDinks.com that the 2023 Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) Topline Participation Report announced that pickleball continued to be America's fastest-growing sport for the third year in a row out of 124 sports tracked.

In its Annual Growth Report, USAPickleball.org revealed that six out of every 10 pickleball players is male, and the 18-34 age bracket represents the largest age bracket of pickleball players, totaling

28.8% of all players.

All indications are that pickleball is getting younger every year.

WHERE TO PLAY

Looking ahead, Broughton sees the sport's continued growth and its potential inclusion in schools. "Granbury has already painted pickleball markings on their middle school courts," he noted. "I think it's coming to more schools soon."

PickleballDinks.com is just one of a wellspring of pickleball-related websites offering everything from statistics to history, rules and places to play.

It states that California has the highest number of places to play pickleball at 794, followed by Florida at 770 and Texas at 519.

Brandon Mackie reports on Pickleheads.com that as of 2024, there are 13,929 known places in the U.S. to play pickleball and that 130 new courts are constructed monthly.

Notable membership-only spots in Hood County include private clubs like DeCordova Bend Estates and Pecan Plantation. Granbury's YMCA offers public play through membership.

Still, some facilities may have limited access or require users to bring their own nets, according to Pickleballify.com, a handy site where visitors can access a map and details of pickleball court locations nearby.

For the industrious player with a sizeable driveway, instructions for taping off a pickleball court can be found at: www.nycpickleball.com/blog/how-to-tape-a-pickleball-court#:

From public parks to community centers, players of all ages and skill levels are clamoring for space to play. This surge in enthusiasm has left cities like Granbury racing to catch up as pickleball fever continues to spread across the nation with no signs of slowing down.

With its low cost, easy entry and inclusive nature, pickleball continues to thrive, reflecting its rapid popularity and positive impact on communities everywhere.

Pickleball's rich history and myriad benefits make it a sport that may well stand the test of time. From its humble beginnings in the 1960s to its rise as a beloved pastime for people of all ages, pickleball offers a unique blend of fun, fitness and community.



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BOOK REVIEW

Fall political history books by various authors

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

Well. It hasn't happened yet.

We're a handful of days from the election, and you're not tired of politics yet. You're still an avid news-watcher, you still thrill at the polls, and "debate" might just be your middle name. So why not reach back in history and learn about politics in years gone by, with these great books ...

How did we get to where we are, politically speaking? Historians and fans of 20th-century politics will love finding out in "Reagan: His Life and Legend" by Max Boot (Liveright, \$45), a book about our 40th president.

One look at this book will assure readers that not much has been missed in telling about Ronald Reagan's life.

Boot starts out with Reagan's youth, his early career as a sports announcer, and his days in Hollywood with yesterday's stars. Politics, of course, features very highly inside this biography, and it starts earlier than you might expect.

Fall is the perfect time to tackle a book this size, especially if politics is your thing right now. It's perfect for voters on both sides of the fence.

Readers who look askance at the partisanship that seems to have taken over politics these days will want to read "America's Deadliest Election: The Cautionary Tale of the Most Violent Election in American History" by Dana Bash with David Fisher (Hanover Square Press, \$32.99). It's a book about the 1872 election, including al-

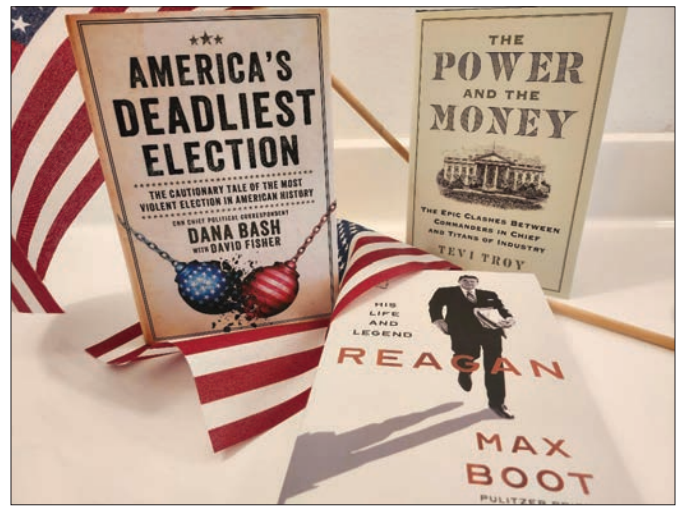
legations of corruption, dirt-flogging, violence and more mayhem. The media got involved with a war of words; white supremacists went on a killing spree, which led to the birth of the Ku Klux Klan; and it was general chaos all over America for longer than anyone wanted to see — except, perhaps, the perpetrators.

It all leads to a cautionary tale that resonates even today, and could give readers a sense of foreboding, urging you to act with your vote or your voice. This book is a great read for anyone who knows that history repeats itself and that's not always good.

And finally, for business-minded readers who know you can't totally separate business from politics, there's "The Power and the

Money: The Epic Clashes Between Commanders in Chief and Titans of Industry" by Tevi Troy (Regnery History, \$32.99), a book about how business leaders and presidents worked together — and didn't — and how the many relationships between the most powerful man in America and the most powerful man in any given boardroom ultimately shaped business, infrastructure, overseas relations, economic issues and policy over and over throughout history. It's a fascinating book, and a great mixture of subjects if you love business and politics, or both.

And if these books aren't enough to whet your political appetite, be sure to check with your favorite librarian or bookseller. They've got books on their shelves



Fall political history books by various authors, c.2024, various publishers, \$32.99 - \$45, various page counts

that will take you back, politically, in any direction, or forward with opinion, fact, thought or ideology. You'll see where we come from,

where we've been, and perhaps where we're headed. Look for these great books. They'll get your vote.

BAKER

FROM PAGE C2

in 2022. Alison's husband, Zeb Ullom, will be a councilman in November. He's taking over from Steven Vale," said Southern.

Southern shared that her husband would be "very, very proud" to see Zeb Ullom living in the city. She and her family continue to be active in local governance, volunteering on city boards and commissions. Claudia also contributes to other community organizations, such as Ruth's Place, and is involved with Kiwanis and the Historic Commission.

Although Southern retired about eight years ago, she and her daughter Alison Ullom, who works alongside her in real estate, are committed to honoring the house's legacy. "We're dedicated to preserving the historical essence of the house and contributing to our community,"

Southern said.

The Baker-Carmichael's restoration journey took a challenging turn in January 2023 when a pipe burst during a freeze, causing significant structural damage. "The rupture cracked the joists, and if we didn't address it, the ceiling would have caved in," Ullom explained.

The restoration, funded by insurance, involves extensive repairs to the joists, addressing wood rot on the exterior, and preserving the original hardwood floors and front stairs. "We had to repaint the house to prevent it from looking like a Dalmatian," Ullom joked, referring to the extensive touch-up work needed for the faded paint.

Restoration work continues with a focus on finalizing interior repairs and updating structural elements affected by the recent damage. "Old copper pipes leaked, which has happened over the years. You get up there, you fix it,

you do drywall, whatever you need to do.

"But this time, it cracked the joists. We had an issue whereby if we did not redo the whole thing, like the ceiling part — the floors didn't have to be redone — the ceiling was going to cave in and take the upstairs floors with it. That was not a good plan. These historic homes are built with wood and feature pier and beam construction."

Southern and Ullom addressed all the wood rot on the exterior and, to ensure a uniform appearance, stripped the house down before repainting it. Throughout the restoration, the home's historical integrity has been a priority, and efforts have been made to maintain its original paint colors and architectural features.

"The front parlor is my favorite room," Southern shared. "We have two fireplaces, one in the front parlor and one in the back parlor.

The front parlor has a bay window. It was originally the music room with a piano." She added, "It was a parlor where the ladies went after dinner when the gentlemen were going to smoke in the back parlor and have a drink."

Once a music room with a grand piano, the front parlor will retain its intricate woodwork adorned with treble clefs, while the charming porch and balcony remain cherished features. "Mom and Dad used it as a sitting room," said Ullom. "And I'm going to put my piano in there, so it will be a music room again. But I also really, really love — and you can't beat it — the porch and the balcony."

As the restoration nears completion, the house's historical integrity remains a top priority. When Zeb and Alison Ullom and their children, Alex and Andrew Southern, move in, the Baker-Carmichael House will once again be bustling with activity.



Texas Governor George W. Bush and David Southern (on left); the Baker-Carmichael receives Texas State and National Historical Markers.

The Baker-Carmichael House remains a testament to Granbury's rich history and its owners' dedication to preserving the past for future generations. With its graceful architecture and storied

history, it continues to be a symbol of both historical significance and community pride, ready to enchant future generations with its timeless charm.




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