

## FLY HIGH, CHARLES BALDWIN

*A final salute to a 102-year-old WWII fighter pilot*

COURTESY PHOTOS

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
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**F**orever the aviator, World War II Air Force fighter pilot Charles Baldwin is now navigating the celestial skies — soaring through the clouds of heaven as he embarks on his eternal journey among the stars.

Baldwin, a cherished community icon and AVIVA Granbury resident, passed away Aug. 27 — just five months shy of his 103rd birthday.

Though he will be deeply missed, Baldwin's extraordinary life was defined by courage, commitment and an unwavering zest for adventure.

### BORN TO FLY

Born Jan. 27, 1922, in Clarendon, Baldwin grew up in Artesia, New Mexico before spending around 20 years — both active and reserve — in the Army Air Corps (before it was called Air Force).

As a fighter pilot, Baldwin flew P-47 Thunderbolts during World War II in Europe,

serving in a total of 51 missions during his active duty.

In a previous interview with the HCN, Baldwin revealed that his best friend also desired to fly in the military, but ended up joining the National Guard instead, along with several of their high school classmates.

"It was kind of a thing to do back then, when you graduated high school," he previously explained. "A lot of guys would join the National Guard in order to get a little extra income."

Unfortunately, the

PLEASE SEE **BALDWIN** | A7

**ABOVE: World War II fighter pilot Charles Baldwin, pictured with his great-granddaughter Charley May, right before his birthday flight in February of this year.**

**RIGHT: Charles Baldwin gives a thumbs up and a grin during his flight of the AT-6 Texan at the Vintage Flying Museum in Fort Worth in February.**



## City extends moratorium through October 2025



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

**Director of Public Works Chester Nolen speaks to the council about a construction update for the East Wastewater Treatment Plant during a regularly scheduled meeting Sept. 17.**

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
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After three years of stringent building restrictions, the city of Granbury has officially declared the city-wide moratorium will continue for at least another year.

During a regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, the Granbury City Council voted unanimously to extend the city's current moratorium within the central, western and eastern corporate city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction through Oct. 4, 2025.

A moratorium — meaning a temporary ban — was first enacted for new development in the eastern part of the city in December 2020, when there was a delay in building the second wastewater treatment plant caused by protests of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality permit application.

In September 2022, TCEQ commissioners sent the dispute to the State Office of Administrative Hearings for a contested case hearing, according to a previous article in the Hood County News. TCEQ unanimously approved the city's wastewater permit request Oct. 5, 2022.

In October 2021, city officials made the moratorium city-wide due to growth in other parts of the city and because the current wastewater treatment plant was reaching capacity. Although upgrades were made to that facility, city officials say that its' capacity cannot be expanded.

The project includes upgrades to the existing treatment plant and various improvements to the wastewater collection system. While the south plant upgrades have been completed, the new East WWTP has now officially started

PLEASE SEE **CITY** | A4

## From lead to red City continues to address water quality issues

**BY ASHLEY TERRY**  
Staff Writer  
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Last month, the City of Granbury announced that 22 water samples collected in March showed elevated lead levels. Although the situation has since improved, a new concern has recently emerged in local neighborhoods.

The Granbury City Council unanimously approved a \$105,000 Water Main Replacement Project for residents who live on Elizabeth Street and Penrod Boulevard to address a water discoloration issue.

During the meeting, City Manager Chris Coffman explained that recent concerns prompted by high lead levels in the water supply have highlighted ongoing issues in certain neighborhoods. He noted that some residents have reported reddish water, which can be traced back to aging cast iron water pipes, likely connected with lead solder that dates back 70 to 90 years.

"Those pipes are old, and so we proposed to move forward to exchange those and put in new pipes," he explained. "In the meantime, we've been flushing the fire hydrants on those lines on a regular basis to keep the rust, or what's apparent to be rust, out of the pipes."

Coffman stated that while the pipe remains structurally intact, the treatment materials used in the water supply interact with the cast iron, resulting in a reddish tint to the water — which is not suitable for washing clothes. He said while the water is safe to drink, it does have an unsight-

PLEASE SEE **WATER** | A4



# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

## CHAMBER NEWS

# Ribbon Cuttings: Celebrating business success with the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

By The Granbury Chamber of Commerce

In Granbury, business milestones are celebrated as community achievements. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce proudly marks these moments through ribbon-cutting ceremonies, whether it's for grand openings, expansions, relocations or anniversaries. These events are designed to help businesses connect with the community and gain valuable exposure.

### MORE THAN A RIBBON SNIP

Ribbon cuttings in Granbury represent more than just the opening of a business. They symbolize the heartbeat of the town's thriving business environment. As part of the Chamber's ongoing efforts to support local entrepreneurs, ribbon cuttings foster community spirit and camaraderie among busi-



ness owners, residents, and local leaders.

### WHY HOST A RIBBON CUTTING?

Ribbon cuttings offer a unique chance to make a lasting impression and engage with the community. Whether launching a new business, relocating, rebranding or celebrating years of success, a ribbon cutting brings attention to your achievements. With the chamber's promotion across so-

cial media, weekly e-newsletters, and mentions in The Hood County News, your business gains broad visibility.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony provides an opportunity to:

- **Boost publicity:** The chamber promotes each event to a wide audience of members, media outlets and the local community, ensuring your business gains attention.
- **Build community connections:** Attended by chamber members, lo-

cal officials and residents, ribbon cuttings offer valuable networking opportunities.

- **Celebrate milestones:** Whether it's a grand opening or a significant anniversary, ribbon cuttings mark progress and success.

### HOW TO SCHEDULE A RIBBON CUTTING

Scheduling a ribbon cutting with the Granbury Chamber is easy:

1. **Submit your request:** Visit [www.granburychamber.com](http://www.granburychamber.com), email [info@granburychamber.com](mailto:info@granburychamber.com) or call 817-573-1622 to fill out the Ribbon Cutting Request Form.
2. **Confirm the date:** A chamber representative will help finalize the details, including the date, time and location.
3. **Promote the event:** The chamber will promote your ribbon cutting through its social media chan-

nels, newsletters and website. The chamber also provides a ribbon, scissors and chamber representatives to officiate.

### CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESS WITH US

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce uses ribbon cuttings to draw attention to new businesses, encourage economic growth and inspire residents to support local entrepreneurs. By attending these events, the community can show its support and contribute to Granbury's continued success.

In essence, ribbon cuttings in Granbury reflect progress, community spirit and the endless possibilities ahead for local businesses. They are a reminder of why Granbury is known as the "Celebration Capital of Texas" and represent the town's lively, welcoming atmosphere.

**ribbon cutting CEREMONY**

Grand Opening!  
Anchor Fellowship Church  
September 25 | 11:30 am  
3135 Fall Creek Highway

granbury CHAMBER

**ribbon cutting CEREMONY**

5th Anniversary!  
Mysterious Scoundrels  
September 25 | 5:30 pm  
@ Warren's Backyard, 2901 Weatherford Hwy

granbury CHAMBER

**ribbon cutting CEREMONY**

90th Anniversary!  
Camp El Tesoro  
September 29 | 12:45 pm  
7710 Fall Creek Hwy

granbury CHAMBER

**ribbon cutting CEREMONY**

Grand Opening and House Party!  
817 Print  
September 27 | 4:00 pm  
211 M & M Ranch Rd, Suite 110

granbury CHAMBER

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



TX HOP CLUB- Texas House of Pickleball Club.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Hood County Senior Center- 25th Birthday!

COURTESY GRAPHICS

granbury CHAMBER

**New Member Spotlight**

**Pinnacle Performance Care, LLC**

Pinnacle Performance Care was established to bring innovative, non-invasive and drug free therapies to you to help our community reach their pinnacle of performance.

granbury CHAMBER

**New Member Spotlight**

**Lonestar Roofing and Restoration LLC**

Lonestar Roofing and Restoration is more than a company; it's a promise of trust, reliability, and a lasting partnership for all your roofing needs.

### NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**FAR LEFT:** New Member Spotlight: Pinnacle Performance Care, LLC. Pinnacle Performance care was established to bring innovative, non-invasive and drug free therapies to you to help our community reach their pinnacle of performance. Our specialties are Pulsed Electro-Magnetic Field Therapy (PEMF), IV Vitamin Therapy, IV Ozone Therapy, Weight Loss Management, Ret Light Therapy, Brain Tap and Concierge mobile services. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

**LEFT:** New Member Spotlight: Lonestar Roofing and Restoration LLC. "Guided by integrity and dedication to transparency, we've assembled a team of skilled professionals who share our values and work tirelessly to exceed expectations as your choice for local roofing contractors." Lonestar Roofing and Restoration is more than a company; it's a promise of trust, reliability, and a lasting partnership for all your roofing needs. Thank you for joining the Granbury Chamber of Commerce!

COURTESY GRAPHICS

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

# Looking through the prism of another person's life



**BY SAM HOUSTON**

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

Over my 68-plus years of living, I have learned that people's perceptions about life are largely based on their own personal experiences. It is from those experiences their opinions and judgements are formed. Rare indeed is it to find a person who, prior to forming an opinion, can look beyond their own life and consider the knowledge or experience others might have.

It is somewhat humorous to picture a situation where someone who has never lived outside of a New York City zip code has a strong

opinion on farm or ranch policies in Texas, especially when they would not know the difference between a steer and a bull! It is just as true when someone from a small town in West Texas begins to express strong opinions about life in innerurban Detroit and the struggles experienced by those who live there. I have serious doubts that someone from Wellington, Texas has any real idea of what it is like to live in the inner city of a large metropolitan area, any more than the New York City dweller knows about steers and heifers. Without

knowledge, it is impossible to make informed decisions. Does this mean we need to forego creating an opinion about things beyond our immediate world? Of course not, but it should impose upon us a recognition to stop, gather information and consider what experiences and knowledge someone else might share before we become so opinionated and headstrong. People generally do not fail to address pressing problems because of indifference but rather, they find themselves in circumstances beyond their control where they do not possess the resources to effectively meet the situation.

Some years ago, during Hurricane Katrina, I was working with a man who had lived his whole life in Highland Park. He had grown up there, attended school there, went to college at Southern Methodist

University and stayed in Highland Park to work and live his life. Reports started coming out of New Orleans that the city was being evacuated due to Katrina's devastating effects and the problems associated with moving a large contingent of people, especially people from economically challenged areas.

My friend was very puzzled. This was a kind and caring man, a Christian man, but he looked at me square in the eye with his face full of bewilderment and said, "why don't those folks get in their cars and drive a couple a hundred miles to a hotel and stay there until this thing blows over?" I had to explain to my friend that many of the soon-to-be-disenfranchised did not have cars, nor did they have the resources to pay for a hotel or to eat out for what could be weeks or even months.

My friend was so unaware because in "his world," something like a history-making hurricane would not have been nearly as big an issue. He had options and solutions to many of the problems a hurricane might present and he assumed others had the same options and choices he had. He formed a judgement without understanding the facts or the circumstances. He had never lived in the 2nd Ward in New Orleans, and he had no idea what life there was like, or the daily obstacles residents had to overcome.

Wouldn't it be nice to stop the rush to judgment and instead of forming an immediate opinion about an issue, reflect and learn from others? Shutting our mouths and opening our ears to hear what others are saying and why they are saying it, might just help us to formulate a

stance that is measured and purposeful rather than judgmental and flippant.

The world is full of problems, some we all share, and some that are specific to a location or a group of people. The one thing we all have which is universal, is the ability to be compassionate, understanding and to ask questions and seek solutions instead of jumping to place blame.

Solve the problem and the credit can be painted across a broad canvas.

Blaming and criticizing has never solved anything, it only makes the solution harder to come by.

Remember that when you cast your vote.

Thought for the day: "The superior man blames himself, the inferior man blames others." —Coach Don Shula

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



## Folks around town



Mary Flores

COURTESY PHOTO

### Say hello to our neighbor, Mary Flores!

Mary and her husband, Aniceto, fell in love with our beautiful square and moved to Hood County in August 2000. The couple is blessed with three wonderful children, two grandchildren, and a great son-in-law. Our community felt alive and very active for the Flores family. Mary said "What I love most about Hood County is because of the love this community shares with each other. This community supports the needs of our citizens." Mary's heart and passion has been advocating for battered women (or men), abused children, and teens. She enjoys volunteering and is on The Salvation Army of Hood County Texas, Extension Unit board. She commends the Hood County News, her local newspaper, for the support and awareness they bring to our citizens about domestic violence. Always connecting the help and resources to our community is very important to Mary. She has been employed at the Hood County Sheriff's Office for almost nine years as the crime victim liaison and is also the director of the GAP Program, a mentoring program for foster teens. Balancing family, work, and community service is a lot and easily fills Mary's calendar, but this gal's hobby is working in her flower garden and building things with leftover lumber.

## Sons of the Republic of Texas to commemorate 2024 Texian Navy Day

From Staff Reports

The Sons of the Republic of Texas announced the celebration of the 2024 Texian Navy Day will be Saturday, Sept. 21, at the historic San Jacinto Battleground Monument.

The annual event, established by the Texas Legislature in 2005, honors the vital contributions of the Texas Navy during the fight for Texas independence. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. at One Monument Circle in La Porte, with a full program of activities paying tribute to those who served at sea to secure Texas' freedom.

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Gregg Dimmick, a retired pediatrician and

avocational archaeologist. Dr. Dimmick, a graduate of Texas A&M University and the University of Nebraska Medical School, has coauthored significant archaeological reports on the Mexican army's retreat after the Battle of San Jacinto. He is the author of "Sea of Mud: The Retreat of the Mexican Army After San Jacinto" and has contributed to the field of Texas history through his research and publications.

The event will commence at 9:30 a.m. with a musical prelude by the Deer Park High School Orchestra, followed by a formal program that includes the presentation of colors, special proclamations and a wreath-laying ceremony. Distinguished

guests, including representatives from the Texas Navy Association, the Texas Historical Commission and the Battleship Texas Foundation, will be in attendance to honor the legacy of the Texian Navy.

Program highlights include:

- **Musical prelude:** Deer Park High School Orchestra
- **Welcome address:** Robyn Davis, chairman, Texian Navy Day Committee
- **Keynote speaker:** Dr. Gregg Dimmick, author and archaeologist
- **Special proclamations:** Recognitions by the governor of Texas and local city mayors
- **Laying of the memorial wreath:** Led by Devin Lindsey, president general

of SRT

Sailor of the Year Awards include Bobby Miller, president of the SRT, San Jacinto Chapter; Antonio Cerda III, president of the Erastus Deaf Smith Chapter; Bart Dawson, past president of the Sam Houston Chapter.

The SRT is an organization composed of direct lineal descendants of individuals who settled in the Republic of Texas before Feb. 19, 1846. Founded in April 1893 and incorporated as a nonprofit in 1934, the SRT honors the heritage and contributions of early Texans.

For further information, contact The Sons of the Republic of Texas by phone at 979-245-6644 or by email at aa-srt@son-rep-texas.net.

## New city water tests reveal no elevated lead levels

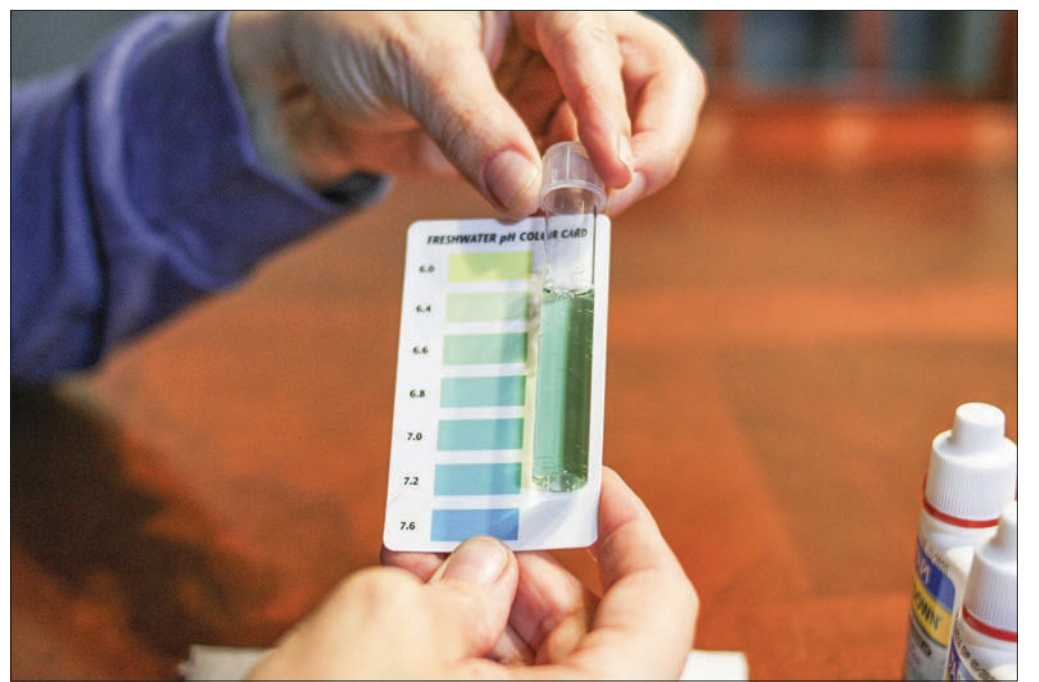
From Staff Reports

Recent drinking water tests conducted in Granbury now show no elevated lead levels, following previous concerns that some samples had contained higher lead concentrations.

Last month, the City of Granbury reported that while most of the 60 water samples collected in March were below the Environmental Protection Agency's action level for lead, 22 samples did show elevated lead levels.

The city previously explained that lead can enter drinking water primarily due to the corrosion or wearing away of materials containing lead in the water distribution system or household plumbing in older homes.

On Sept. 12, however, the city received updated results from tests conducted in early August at the same 60 locations, which now reveal that none of the



COURTESY PHOTO BY ALAN, ADOBESTOCK.COM

Recent drinking water tests conducted in Granbury now show no elevated lead levels, following previous concerns that some samples had contained higher lead concentrations.

samples exceeded the EPA's lead limits. The city states that it regularly tests its drinking water and will continue to do so.

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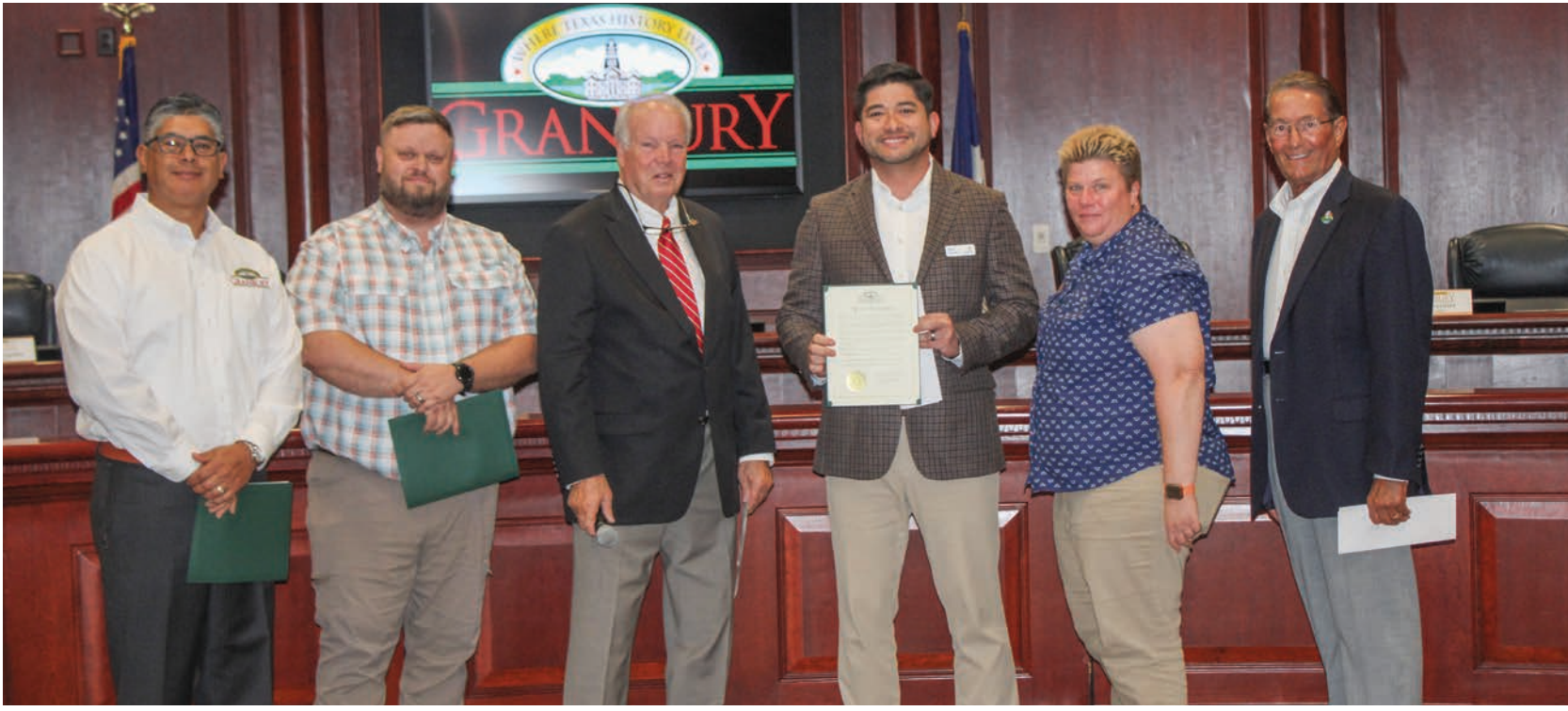
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# City Council issues proclamation declaring Sept. 27-29 as Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro 90th Anniversary Celebration Days



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury City Council issued a proclamation during its regular meeting Tuesday night, declaring Sept. 27-29 as Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro 90th Anniversary Celebration Days. Established in 1934, Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro has been an integral part of the Granbury community, providing a nurturing and educational environment where generations of young people have connected with nature and developed essential life skills.

# City proclaims Sept. 28 Granbury Woman's Club National Day of Service

BY ASHLEY TERRY  
Staff Writer  
ashley@hcnews.com

The Granbury City Council officially designated Sept. 28 as Granbury Woman's Club National Day of Service during a regularly scheduled meeting Sept. 17. This proclamation is in honor of the organization's commitment to fighting food insecurity within the community. According to the city's proclamation, read by Place 2 Councilman Eddie Rodriquez, this announcement coincides with the

General Federation of Women's Clubs' designation of the same day as a National Day of Service, in which all members come together to raise awareness about food insecurity and take action. The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a 133-year-old international organization with more than 60,000 members dedicated to community improvement through volunteer service. As an active member of the organization — and to honor the National Day of Service — the Granbury Woman's Club will support Mission



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury City Council officially designated Sept. 28 as Granbury Woman's Club National Day of Service during a regularly scheduled meeting Sept. 17. This proclamation is in honor of the organization's commitment to fighting food insecurity within the community.

Granbury, Neighbors Feeding Neighbors and other local groups Saturday, Sept. 28, to provide meals, nonperishable food and food kits for

those with food insecurities. To highlight this endeavor, Mayor Jim Jarratt and other members of the city council proclaimed Sept.

28 Granbury Woman's Club National Day of Service to battle food insecurity in Granbury.

# WATER

FROM PAGE A1

ly color and a minor taste change. "We've got red (water) coming out to this lady's house where she can't wash white clothes," Coffman said. "We've offered to provide bottled water; she did decline that, but we're trying to address the problem in the neighborhood." Coffman explained that while the problem on Elizabeth Street has been a pervasive issue for quite some time, the main concern currently lies with Penrod Boulevard. He added that crews are currently in the process of replacing about 400 feet of pipeline downtown using city labor. However, he acknowledged the project is too large to handle in-house, which is why they are seeking to hire an engineer and put the project out for bid to determine



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

City Manager Chris Coffman addresses a neighborhood concern regarding water discoloration, during a regularly scheduled Granbury City Council meeting Sept. 17.

the costs. He remarked that the project involves approximately 2,500 feet of piping, which will be costly. He said while the engineering costs will be about \$100,000, he explained that the total project could reach around a million dollars or more due to rising construction expenses. Additionally, Coffman noted that the city is preparing

for a new mandate regarding lead and copper testing, which is the reason for the recent lead assessments. He added that the same homes were retested for lead, and while the initial results indicated elevated levels, the follow-up testing revealed only minimal traces of lead. "There's something going on with the testing lab, or something was contaminated

in the bottles or something, because we've never had a lead test with those kind of results in the past," Coffman explained. "So, we will be testing those same properties again in the next quarter, and I'm expecting to see the same good results again." Place 6 Councilman Greg Corrigan made a motion to approve the Water Main Replacement Project totaling

\$105,000. A budget amendment utilizing surplus water revenues in the City's utility fund will cover the expense. Following a second from Place 4 Councilmember Skip Overdier, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale and Place 3 Councilmember Bruce Wadley were absent during the meeting.

# CITY

FROM PAGE A1

construction of the new plant is coming along, and they're doing a great job." According to the agenda report, even though the city is moving forward as quickly as possible to implement the project improvements, city officials believe it's necessary to extend the moratorium through next year in order to meet TCEQ requirements on maintaining plant capacities. Once the East WWTP is

struction of the new plant is coming along, and they're doing a great job." According to the agenda report, even though the city is moving forward as quickly as possible to implement the project improvements, city officials believe it's necessary to extend the moratorium through next year in order to meet TCEQ requirements on maintaining plant capacities. Once the East WWTP is

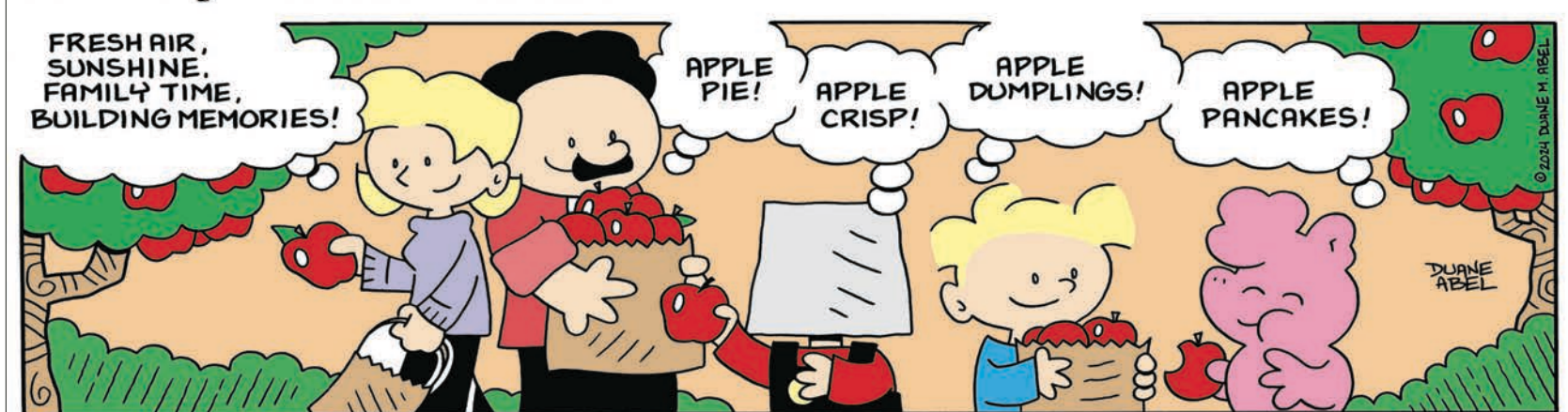
PLEASE SEE CITY | A12



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Granbury City Council unanimously voted Tuesday night to extend the city's current moratorium within the central, western and eastern corporate city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction through Oct. 4, 2025.

# ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

# CALENDAR

## ONGOING

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

**THE GRANBURY Doll Club** is looking for docents and volunteers on Fridays and Saturdays. Call 817-894-5194.

**GRANBURY QUILT** Guild Raffle for "Jane Austin" quilt, 80-inches x 100-inches. Tickets are \$1 each or \$5 for six. Tickets available from all Quilt Guild members. Drawing Oct. 21, need not be present to win.

## 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.

**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.

**ROCKS ALIVE!** at Acton Nature Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free, open to the public and family friendly. Educational and fun interactive exhibits and children's activities about the essential nonliving parts of ecosystems: rocks, soil, water (on and below the surface), weather, fossils and more. 6900 Smoky Hill Court, Granbury. Questions? Melody Holm mholm@riobrazosmn.org, 303-349-5531.

## MONDAY, SEPT. 30

**HOOD COUNTY** Master Thoroughfare Planning workshop 6-8 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury. For more information contact 817-408-2515.

## TUESDAY, OCT. 1

**OPERA GUILD** of Granbury monthly meeting/luncheon at DeCordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Drive. 10 a.m.: social/check-in; 11 a.m.: entertainment — Papa Yodelgoat (aka Jim Johnston) with the "Me, Myself and I" orchestra. Short business meeting: 11:30 a.m. Optional lunch (\$18) at noon: Reservations required by Friday, Sept. 27, contact granburyog@gmail.com or 817-776-2898. New members: general membership, single \$25, joint or business membership \$35.

## 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.

# WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER 9/11/01



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS  
 Friends of Memorial Lane honored those who lost their lives Sept. 11, 2001, when it hosted a moving ceremony Wednesday, Sept. 11 at The Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park. Retired Fort Worth police officer William "WINKY" Hix, a special guest, represented Fort Worth's branch of the Tunnel to Towers charity, known for providing mortgage-free homes to families of fallen first responders. Hix brought a relic from the fallen Twin Towers of the World Trade Center for everyone to reflect upon.



# STEP UP 4 SENIORS AND SO MUCH MORE!



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Saturday, Sept. 14, there was a big celebration at the Hood County Senior Center. Along with the annual Step Up 4 Seniors Walk, there was also a celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Senior Center building at 501 Moore St. The center has been serving local seniors since 1977. Supporters came together to fight against senior isolation and food insecurity, donate blood, and enjoy some treats and live music, followed by the building's 25th birthday ribbon cutting.



## BRIDGE STREET HISTORY CENTER

# Granbury Live



Ike and Trisha Thomas welcome hundreds of guests to hear live music at Granbury Live.

Whether you are a long-time resident of Granbury or a relative newcomer, three phenomena quickly become apparent: the emphasis on historical preservation, the ever-growing housing development largely due to Lake Granbury, and finally, the tremendous amount of tourism for a small Central Texas town.

Our city is graced with two vibrant and successful live entertainment venues right on the Granbury Square — the venerable Granbury Opera House and its younger sibling, the uniquely charming Granbury Live theater. Both serve as potent magnets to encourage tourists to come, dine, shop and stay. While the Opera House is now owned by the City of Granbury, Granbury Live has always been a private enterprise. It is now owned and operated by the Thomas family, led by Ike and Trisha Thomas, along with their sons Ryan and Justin.

A recent, excellent article by Lauren Davis in the Hood County News described the history of the historic buildings that house Granbury Live and the adjoining Celebration Hall. Tom McRae, a visionary promoter, opened the Great Race Museum and Granbury Live in 1999 and operated them until 2005. After Tom's sudden death in a motorcycle accident, the venue continued under various management until closing in 2011. The theater actually hosted the Granbury Opera productions for a year during the latest renovation of the Opera House before the Thomases stepped in to buy the two buildings in October 2013. Under their stewardship, the upstairs apartment Tom McRae had anointed as "UpTop Ranch" was converted to the Thomas Group corporate headquarters, and the downstairs music venue began a further evolution.

Under the McRaes, Granbury Live had operated as a family-oriented production with a house troupe of local talent. However, with the gradual loss of key members, the venue saw a decline in attendance. When the Thomases took over, they brought a fresh perspective and a new philosophy to the table, marking a significant turning point for Granbury Live. Their innovative approach and dedication have led to a successful new direction for the theater, bringing hope and optimism for its future.

Using the managerial talents of Sam Houston (now the esteemed editor of HCN) and Kishla Hackler, Granbury Live began to feature tribute bands from the DFW area. These acts covered hit songs from many types of popular music, from country to hard rock, with a few crooners thrown in. Hackler and the Thomases were ahead of the times, as the tribute band concept was still early, and the pool of choices was much smaller than is currently available. Therefore, they also reached out to some older country stars who were ready to slow down, cut their overhead and play smaller venues. Happily, these shows often sold out, and the performers enjoyed the crowds, the efficient, congenial management, and Granbury's charm so much that they have returned regularly.

In recent years, tribute bands have gained popularity across the country, and Granbury Live has been at the forefront of this trend. With a larger pool of talent to choose from, Hackler has successfully booked groups from all over the country, attracting popular acts that return repeatedly and continue to sell out. This success has not only enhanced the venue's reputation but also enticed more visitors to our historic town.

Billed as "the most intimate venue in Texas," the viewing experience for the audience at a Granbury Live performance is impressive since the back-row seats are less than 50 feet from the front of the stage! With the cozy seating, very reasonable ticket pricing, and a BYOB drink policy, the average age of the audience continues to grow younger.

As ticket prices to large venue concerts by famous singers and bands continue to skyrocket, more people have come to realize what a fantastic opportunity the quality tribute bands offer. These performers are not just talented; they are professional and highly skilled. Their performances copy subtle nuances of the real band so well that a listener with closed eyes would swear he (she) was hearing the original artists. Many of the tribute artists go a step further and actually look like their counterparts.

In short, Ike Thomas, Trisha Thomas and Kishla Hackler have created an excellent complement and alternative to the Opera House slate of popular plays and musicals. Granbury Live remains our city's premier destination for live music on three nights every weekend. If you haven't visited a performance there, save time, gas and money and check out a show. Get ready to be pleasantly surprised by the show's affordability and quality. Very likely, you will become a regular attendee, too.



Charles Baldwin celebrates a happy New Year with his darling Myrna in 2023.

## BALDWIN

FROM PAGE A1

National Guard unit from his town was sent to the Philippines, where they were captured and forced to participate in the Bataan Death March. The Bataan Death March forced between 60,000 and 80,000 Filipino and American prisoners of war to march through the Philippines along a 65-mile route.

"They sent them to the Philippines before the war ever started, so they were there when the shooting started," Baldwin had said. "Of course, they were all either killed or captured."

His best friend, Baldwin said, was "one of the lucky ones" who made it through the Japanese prison camp.

"After the war, he fortunately made it back and I was talking to him one day," Baldwin had said, reminiscing. "I said, 'Doug, you wanted to fly so bad. Did you ever wish you'd done that instead of joining the National Guard?' After going through the hell of Japanese prison camps and all he had to tolerate over there, he said no. He said, 'I'd do the same thing all over because this way, I made it back,' and I thought, 'What a wonderful philosophy for anything that comes up in our lives.'"

Following his time in active duty, Baldwin joined a clothing business with his father. They remained in business until the shop closed in 1964 and Baldwin moved to Lamesa with his high school sweetheart and wife, Peggy.

"My wife and I dated in high school," Baldwin had explained. "She was a freshman, and I was a senior, and after I went off to college, well, that kind of cooled off, but the spark was still there. When I came back from service, we just picked up right where we left off — and the rest is history."

They had three children together: Judy, Rick and Russ, and were married for almost 60 years until Peggy's death in 2005.

"She was a wife in every sense of the word," Baldwin previously told the HCN. "She was a wonderful woman. I give her credit for raising these kids, really."

He wasn't expecting to find a second chance at happiness, though.

### SECOND CHANCE AT LOVE

"I wasn't looking for a mate or anything," Baldwin had said. "We (Peggy and I) always talked about it, that if one of us passed away, we'd hope the other would find another mate. I wasn't looking. I was perfectly happy, but then I met this woman."

He was attending a school reunion at Lamesa and was talking with a group of classmates, when someone mistakenly called a woman, Myrna, by the wrong last name, as her husband had since passed away.

She responded that she would answer to any name, to which Baldwin spontaneously replied, "What about

Baldwin?"

"I didn't say it, but it came out of my mouth," he had said, chuckling. "God said it. But she said, 'That sounds like a pretty good name.'"

Baldwin's daughter, Judy Brooks said her dad had told her about seeing Myrna at the reunion and that he described her as being a "cute little thing."

"I said, 'Well, dad, maybe you ought to go up to Lubbock and call her,'" Brooks said, reminiscing. "And he goes, 'I'm afraid I might get something started if I do that.'"

Baldwin eventually listened to his daughter's words of wisdom and asked Myrna out on a dinner date where they split a rack of baby back ribs.

"It was just so nice and wonderful, and it just fit," Baldwin had said. "As much

spirit for adventure was far from finished.

In May 2023, Baldwin was able to attend a Texas Rangers baseball game, complete with a front row seat and a shout-out from the announcer.

"The announcer said, 'We want to acknowledge Charles Baldwin,' so dad stood up and waved to all these people," Brooks said. "I told dad then, I said, 'I kind of see this as how it's going to be, not that I want you to hurry to heaven, but how it's going to be, where they announce your name and you stand up to the applause and music,' and he said, 'Well, yeah, they'll be like, 'I can't believe he made it!'"

But that's not all.

In February, he received the birthday present of a lifetime when he got the

but rather getting into it.

"It was not easy for me to just hop up on the wing and climb up in the cockpit," he previously said. "We had a stepladder and guys helping me and I just thought, 'Holy cow, I used to just jump in this thing with a parachute on!'"

To make the situation even more thrilling, Baldwin also had the opportunity to fly an AT-6 Texan — the same type of airplane that he trained in about 80 years ago.

"I had probably about 60 hours in that type of airplane training," he had said. "This was the last plane that you fly with an instructor in with you. From there, you go to a single-seat aircraft. But this is what you call an advanced trainer. It's a good airplane. Very dependable aircraft."

While the pilot took control of the plane for the majority of the flight, Baldwin was excited to take the lead for a short while.

"I didn't get to fly as much as I would've liked to, but I did get to fly some, and I found out I can still fly pretty well considering," he previously said.

Baldwin called the entire experience "a thrill" and added that it was his "best birthday present."

"I told my daughter, 'I feel like I'm in a sideshow at a circus with people looking at me trying to get into the airplane. I think I ought to sell tickets,'" he had said, with a grin. "But we had a good time."

### JOURNEY TO THE PAST

Baldwin's thrill for adventure didn't stop there. It was only two months ago that he received the opportunity of a lifetime to travel to Normandy, France for the anniversary of D-Day.

Honoring the courage and sacrifice of countless soldiers, American Airlines offered nearly 70 World War II veterans the chance to participate in the 80th anniversary celebration — and Baldwin was one of the lucky few chosen for this extraordinary experience.

"I hadn't thought about it that much until this trip, but someone came up with a statement to the effect that this invasion, D-Day, was the incident, so to speak, that saved the civilized world — and that's big," Baldwin said. "Because had that failed, if we were alive, we'd be speaking German or Japanese. That was the turning point, and I never had really thought about it like that, but it surely was."

While the D-Day experience was memorable itself for Baldwin, he also got the opportunity to meet two prominent celebrities.

Since his granddaughter, Angie, works for the Amblin film company in Los Angeles, Baldwin had the pleasure of meeting legendary filmmaker Steven Spielberg — creator of films like "Jaws," "E.T." and "Schindler's List."

"We were at a luncheon at one of the events and a

PLEASE SEE  
**BALDWIN** | A11



With a childish grin, Charles Baldwin shows off his adorable pet rock that his oldest granddaughter, Becky Baldwin Hultberg, gave him as a paperweight more than 40 years ago.

as I love Peggy — which I did love her so dearly — I never dreamed I could ever really be in love with anybody else. But it happened. God had a hand in that."

Brooks said her dad lovingly cared for Myrna when her health started to decline until about a year ago, when she moved to Mineral Wells to be closer to her daughter.

"She needed a greater level of care, but my husband, Michael, continued to take dad to see Myrna," she said. "He loved her. It was really sweet. Our families were both really grateful that they found each other."

Brooks said Baldwin also loved to quote a poem that he felt described his relationship with Myrna perfectly:

"You can choose to dwell on loving memories lived  
Or you can cling to sorrow  
and live a broken life.

You can cling to sorrow  
or you can learn to dance  
again."

### ADVENTURES ABOUND

Even as a centenarian, Baldwin proved that his

opportunity to fly a plane again at the Vintage Flying Museum in Fort Worth.

"My first thought was, 'Wow, let's go!'" Baldwin previously told the HCN. "That (thought) was very appealing to me to say the least."

The idea originated from Nicole Wells, AVIVA Granbury's sales director, who made a post on social media asking for help in locating someone who could take Baldwin up in an airplane.

"His one bucket list item was to sky dive, so I am trying to meet him halfway," Wells' post had read.

Everything was quickly arranged, and the date was officially set, with Baldwin anxious to get up in the air again.

"The anticipation of it was exciting," he had said. "I flew in private for several years, but I guess the last time I actually flew was about 25 years. It's been quite a while."

He said when he first arrived at the Vintage Flying Museum, his thoughts weren't on flying the plane,

# Rucking gains popularity as a mental health booster amid national crisis

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
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In recent years, rucking has emerged as a popular fitness trend, gaining traction for its simplicity and significant mental and physical health benefits.

Rucking — walking and hiking with a weighted backpack — has become increasingly popular. A 2022 report from the American College of Sports Medicine notes this growing trend.

A 2021 survey by Strava found that entries for rucking activities surged by 40% from the previous year.

Strava is a popular app that uses GPS to help athletes and fitness enthusiasts track and share their workouts, such as running, cycling and rucking. It also includes social features for following friends, joining challenges and comparing performance.

Social media platforms like Instagram have reported a 150% growth in the hashtag #rucking, reflecting its expanding community in 2023.

## ORIGINS

Rucking's origins date back to military training, where soldiers carry heavy loads to build endurance and strength. This physical conditioning is crucial for various military scenarios, including carrying essential gear and evacuating or assisting injured comrades if necessary.

The exercise improves functional strength, leading to better performance in tasks requiring physical effort and stability, like lifting, carrying and balancing.

In civilian life, rucking has evolved to include lighter, more comfortable backpacks, making it accessible to a broader audience.

Rucking is indeed becoming more popular among civilians. According to National Geographic, this trend is partly due to the influence of figures like retired U.S. Navy SEAL David Goggins, who has promoted its benefits on social media.

## THE CRISIS IS REAL

The growing interest in rucking comes against the backdrop of a severe mental health crisis in the United States. Suicide rates remain alarmingly high, with more



Rucking improves functional strength, leading to better performance in tasks requiring physical effort and stability, like lifting, carrying, and balancing.

COURTESY PHOTO BY ANNA, ADOBESTOCK.COM

than 49,000 deaths reported in 2022. This translates to one death every 11 minutes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The military also faces this challenge, with suicide rates among service members increasing over the last decade, despite some fluctuations in recent years, as presented in the "Annual Report on Suicide in the Military, 2024."

According to Mental Health America's report, "The State of Mental Health in America 2023," there was only one mental health care provider for every 350 people in the U.S. This shortage is especially pronounced across different regions and states, leaving over 152 million people in areas with a critical lack of mental health professionals.

With mental health needs rising, the shortage of professionals worsens due to heavy workloads and complex certification processes. The National Council for Mental Well-being indicates that states are exploring solutions to boost the number of providers and address this growing problem. Burnout is a significant issue for mental health professionals, with 93% experiencing it and 62% facing severe

levels.

Rucking offers a promising solution amid the shortage of mental health counselors and the urgent need for self-care strategies.

## A HEALING REPETITIVE RHYTHM

Healthline 2024 notes that rucking has become a favorite among fitness enthusiasts because it combines cardiovascular and muscle-strengthening benefits.

Army veteran Todd Torrance owns and operates Zero Point Aerial and Zero Point Audio and has a website called Goruck.com. His blog shares his story about rucking and how it helps him stay motivated.

While rucking, Torrance often thinks about his family and how staying fit is essential for his health. He hopes to set an excellent example for his children. His time in the service and the influence of his fellow soldiers and leaders continue to impact him, and rucking gives him the mental space to process these experiences.

The repetitive rhythm of rucking, whether for 4 miles or 13.1 miles, provides him valuable time for introspection and healing.

## BRING YOUR FURRY FRIEND

If you are wondering about carrying your Pomeranian or Frenchie on your ruck, sites like Rover.com offer plenty of sage advice about specialty dog backpacks.

Larger dogs may enjoy rucking. Equipping your dog with a pack for hiking can be beneficial because it provides them with a purpose and a task, which many dogs instinctively seek. Rover.com states that veterinarians and dog training specialists generally advise that dogs should carry no more than 10% to 20% of their body weight.

## BENEFITS

According to Psychreg.org, rucking offers significant mental health benefits beyond physical health. The exercise helps alleviate symptoms of stress, anxiety and depression by triggering endorphin release and encouraging mindfulness.

Health.ClevelandClinic.org highlights rucking's benefits, including improved cardiovascular health, muscle strength and functional fitness. It is also a low-impact alternative to high-intensity workouts.

## BACKED BY SCIENCE

In a world constantly

bombarded with new fitness trends and miracle workouts, rucking stands out for its simplicity and science-backed benefits. EnduraLAB.com details areas of the body strengthened with rucking — your muscles, bones and cardiovascular system — while providing mental clarity and stress relief. Here are the specifics:

• **Enhanced bone density:** Rucking improves bone density as a weight-bearing exercise. Studies show that regular ruckers have stronger bones, lowering the fracture risk.

• **Muscle engagement:** Rucking works major muscle groups, including the legs, back and core. It acts like a low-intensity resistance workout, helping to tone and strengthen muscles.

• **Heart health:** Rucking boosts heart rate, improving cardiovascular fitness. It's an excellent way to build endurance without needing complex equipment or running long distances.

• **Stress reduction:** Regular rucking helps lower stress levels. The combination of increased heart rate and endorphin release makes life's challenges feel more manageable.

• **Enhanced cognitive function:** Physical activity like rucking increases blood

flow to the brain, improving mental clarity and reducing brain fog.

• **Stress relief:** The rhythmic, meditative nature of rucking helps alleviate stress and enhances mental well-being, offering a personal path to relaxation with each step.

Rucking is a beneficial fitness activity and a social one. Group rucking events, often organized by fitness clubs or military-inspired groups, foster community and camaraderie among participants.

## GETTING STARTED

For those interested in starting rucking, it is crucial to invest in proper footwear to prevent injury and ensure comfort. According to the American Podiatric Medical Association, well-fitted, supportive shoes are essential for prolonged walking or hiking.

Every sport has rules, and rucking is no exception. Coach, trainer, writer, podcaster and former Navy SEAL Stew Smith (StewSmithFitness.com) encourages beginners to start rucking safely and build a strong walking foundation by walking 30 minutes daily.

After about a month, you can add weight or increase your distance and speed as your walking becomes more effortless. If you don't have rucking gear, begin with a weight vest and transition to military rucking equipment as needed. Gradually increase the weight of your pack or vest by 5-10 pounds every few weeks.

Smith's advice is not just for the soldier preparing for training, but also for the rucking hobbyist. He emphasizes the need to be patient with your progress, as building up to rucking can take time. This gradual progression should make you feel patient and understanding of your own pace, knowing it's okay to start slow and build up gradually.

By following these guidelines, you can gradually build up your rucking capability and avoid injury.

As the nation grapples with a mental health crisis, integrating activities like rucking into daily routines may offer both physical and psychological relief. For more information about getting started with rucking, visit [fittessequipped.com](https://fittessequipped.com).

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## Raise awareness about financial exploitation this October

By Texas Health and Human Services' Office of Aging Services Coordination

Financial Exploitation Awareness Month is observed in October to help build awareness of financial fraud and scams and reduce the stigma of those affected by these types of exploitation.

Financial exploitation is when a caretaker, family member or other person with an ongoing relationship with an adult improperly use or attempts to improperly use their financial resources. Older adults and people with disabilities are at a higher risk of financial exploitation.

Texas ranks third in the U.S. in losses to elder fraud with over \$278 million in losses reported in 2023, according to the FBI.

Being aware of the signs of financial exploitation can help. The U.S. Department of Justice lists some examples: sudden changes made to a

person's bank account or legal documents, unexplained credit card charges or an unexplained disappearance of valuables.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website shares four important steps to intervene in a fraud or scam:

1. Prevent the abuse by raising awareness;
2. Recognize the exploitation;
3. Record your observations in detail;
4. Report to the appropriate authorities.

In early 2024, state and community partners formed

the Texas Elder Justice Coalition with the goal of ending financial exploitation of older Texans through education, accountability and collaboration. The coalition's campaign slogan, "Stop the Stigma," encourages supporting older adults in reporting financial exploitation.

The coalition website at <https://txelderjustice.org> offers steps you can take to report financial abuse and other resources to safeguard older Texans.

Texans can report financial exploitation by calling the Texas Abuse Hotline at 1-800-252-5400.

## Recognizing White Cane Awareness Day

By Texas Health and Human Services' Office of Aging Services Coordination

White Cane Awareness Day Oct. 15 is an opportunity to learn more about community resources available to people with vision loss and celebrate their achievements.

Also known as White Cane Safety Day, the annual observance highlights the white cane as a valuable tool used by people who are visually impaired. The National Federation of the Blind notes that the white cane is a symbol of how people with blindness or vision loss can move around independently and safely.

Numerous events are being held throughout the state in mid-October to celebrate White Cane Awareness Day. Visit [whitecaneawareness.org](https://whitecaneawareness.org) to see what community events are happening in your area.

## VISION LOSS INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

There are numerous resources for people to learn about the accomplishments of those who are blind or visually impaired and the tools that can help them:

• The Texas Health and Human Services Commission provides a resource sheet in English and Spanish that discusses general etiquette, safety and guidance to follow when working with an older adult with vision loss.

• The HHSC Blind and Visually Impaired page lists resources that help people who are blind and visually impaired reach their goals.

• The Texas Workforce Commission Older Individuals who are Blind Program helps people 55 and older who have vision loss. A tips and tools page has information on how the blind and visually impaired can complete everyday tasks like handling money, traveling, using the phone and more.







# BALDWIN

FROM PAGE A7

big mob of people were surrounding Steve — I call him, Steve — and I waited until it cleared out,” Baldwin had previously told the HCN. “I approached him, and I said ‘Steve, my granddaughter works for your outfit. You better get me a screen test. I hadn’t got it yet and I’m tired of waiting.’ He got a big laugh out of that and we chatted a while.”

Another unforgettable encounter came when Baldwin had the unique chance to meet President Joe Biden, being one of just eight out of 70 veterans selected for the honor.

“I got to meet the president and his wife,” he had said. “There were suits everywhere, Secret Service or whoever those guys are that travel with him. There were a bunch of them. They all look alike and dressed alike.”

As Baldwin recounted the week-long trip, he revealed that the highlight of his experience was the warm reception from the French. He said as veterans traveled by bus or in wheelchairs, they were greeted with gratitude and appreciation at every stop. Baldwin noted each veteran was accompanied by a member from the unit, including cadets from various military academies.

“Everywhere we’d go, there’d be people lined up and they were so glad to see us. They said, ‘Thank you. Thank you,’ and that impressed me more than anything about the whole trip,” he previously said. “The pictures and all that were great. The whole thing was just fabulous, but that was the one thing that impressed me more than anything is the sincere welcome and the sincere gratitude that was expressed.”

In just over a year, Baldwin enjoyed a front-row seat at a Texas Rangers game, took to the skies once more as a pilot, and got the opportunity to journey back to the shores of Normandy, France.

“It’s just amazing what he would push himself to do,” Brooks said. “My brother, Rick summed it up: ‘He went out like a Roman candle!’”

## A LIFE FULL OF LAUGHTER

Baldwin may have lived an exciting life, but he revealed in a previous interview with the HCN that exercise, luck and laughter are the three major secrets to living long — at least in his experience.

“You’ve got to laugh a lot,” he had said. “You can’t really live, in my



COURTESY PHOTO

Following a positive doctor checkup, Charles Baldwin shares a creamy, cold treat with his daughter, Judy Brooks, in May 2023.

opinion, unless you have a sense of humor. I think you have a lot of control over your longevity by the life you lead.”

His most important advice is for everyone not to take themselves too seriously, “because there’s a little clown in all of us,” — and that’s exactly how Baldwin lived.

Brooks recounted one particular instance when her dad was living at the Brookdale Senior Living Facility in Lubbock.

“One of the guys that I had contact with, his dad was also at Brookdale, and he went one day to see his dad, and they were having Hawaiian Day,” Brooks explained. “And he said, my dad, as they put it, sauntered in with zinc on his nose, Bermuda shorts, loafers and no shirt. That’s the card he was.”

Speaking of cards, Baldwin was known for his immense love of games — but only ones that he could win, of course.

“He loved playing the Mexican train, but he always complained. He said, ‘They don’t keep score. Why would you play a game if you don’t keep score?’” Brooks said. “He was

really competitive.”

## THE LAST LAUGH

Brooks said one of her fondest rituals with her father was their daily Wordle game, where they always began with the word “stare.” She said on the evening of his final day, while he was in hospice care, she reminded him to complete his Wordle.

“I went in there, and I’m like, ‘Dad, have you done your Wordle?’ He’s lying there and he said ‘I didn’t feel like it today,’ and I said, ‘Dad, you have got to do your Wordle today,’ because the word that day was ‘stake’ so I knew he needed to do his Wordle,” she said. “And that is the last conversation I had with him.”

Brooks said at first, she initially felt distressed, thinking that her final words to Baldwin were not a heartfelt tribute to his role as the best dad, but rather a casual reminder to complete his Wordle.

“But then I started thinking about it, and I thought, ‘You know, he would think that’s funny,’” she said, with a smile. “Like ‘My daughter, the slave driver. I am out of here. She cannot make me do the Wordle to-

morrow. I’m out.’”

## POSITIVE OUTLOOK

She explained that after his return from Normandy, Baldwin struggled to recover fully, as he had contracted COVID-19 following the trip. Brooks said despite being 102-and-a-half years old and dealing with significant kidney issues and COVID, her dad was initially resistant to further medical treatment.

The family began discussing hospice care, but felt they might be moving too soon, as Baldwin himself wasn’t ready to hand over his medical care. However, things took a turn when Baldwin started experiencing severe pain.

“I think he probably had a heart attack on Saturday, (Aug. 24), because he said he had the worst pain he had ever had,” Brooks explained. “On Sunday, we got pain meds for him and he’s like, ‘I feel better than I felt in a coon’s age, but I’m just so tired.’”

On Monday, Aug. 26, as the family prepared to take Baldwin to a doctor, he was rushed to the ER as representatives from AVIVA had said

that Baldwin couldn’t stay awake. Brooks said the doctors wanted to airlift him to a cardiologist in Fort Worth, but her father was adamant that he did not want to fly in a helicopter.

“They said he was dehydrated, and they did say he had a heart attack, but I’m still thinking, ‘It’s not going to keep him down, a little heart attack,’” Brooks said.

She recounted how, during his time in the ER, Baldwin remained remarkably positive and encouraging to everyone around him, even those who might have felt like they were just doing routine tasks.

“One of the guys came in and said, ‘Well, I’m just the (phlebotomist) and my dad’s like, ‘No, you’re not just that. You are doing good work,’” Brooks said. “I mean, he’s just so positive. He sees people genuinely. There’s nothing in it for him. He just sees people.”

Brooks said the ER doctor came in later and told her father that since he didn’t want surgery on his heart or kidneys, he wasn’t sure what else the medical team could do for him. As he was hard of hearing, Baldwin asked Brooks what the doctor had said. Given her father’s joking nature, Brooks decided to lighten the moment with a playful response.

“When my mom had a lot of health problems and the doctor had been in there, she was like, ‘What does this mean?’ He said, ‘Peg, you’ve got ticks and fleas,’ so when dad looked at me and said, ‘What did the doctor say?’ I said, ‘Dad, you’ve got ticks and fleas,’” Brooks said, with a chuckle.

She also recounted how when the doctors had started talking about administering morphine to lessen his pain, Baldwin joked, “Well, I want you to keep me comfortable. In fact, just give me something real strong and let me go.”

“They said, ‘Mr. Baldwin, this isn’t really the business we’re in, but we will pray for you,’” Brooks said, chuckling. “I mean, he was cracking jokes until the very end.”

## HIGH FLIGHT

Brooks shared that the final words Baldwin heard before he passed away were his beloved poem, “High Flight” by John Gillespie Magee Jr. The poem was read to him by his 9-year-old great-granddaughter, Charley May. Also present at his bedside was her mother, Abigail

PLEASE SEE **BALDWIN** | A12

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# BALDWIN

FROM PAGE A11

(Abby) Reynolds.

The poem reads:  
*"Oh! I have slipped the surly  
 bonds of Earth  
 And danced the skies on laugh-  
 ter-silvered wings;  
 Sunward I've climbed, and joined  
 the tumbling mirth  
 Of sun-split clouds, — and done a  
 hundred things  
 You have not dreamed of —  
 wheeled and soared and swung  
 High in the sunlit silence.  
 Hov'ring there,  
 I've chased the shouting wind  
 along, and flung  
 My eager craft through footless  
 halls of air ...  
 Up, up the long, delirious burn-  
 ing blue  
 I've topped the wind-swept  
 heights with easy grace  
 Where never lark, or even eagle  
 flew —  
 And, while with silent, lifting  
 mind I've trod  
 The high untrespassed sanctity  
 of space,  
 Put out my hand, and touched  
 the face of God."*

"He passed when they were reading that for him," Brooks said, with tears in her eyes. "I was standing there and Abby said, 'Mom, would you video this?' My video says 12:59 and the time of death was 1:05."

"Yesterday, I sat with my 102-year-old sweet Granddad as he passed on to what he referred to as 'his last big adventure,'" Baldwin's granddaughter Abby wrote in a tribute. "He is an absolute legend and is leaving a legacy



Charles Baldwin shows off a handmade quilt he received from friend Julie Norris to honor his trip to Normandy, France for the D-Day anniversary in June.

PHOTO COURTESY OF XXXXXXXXX

of love like no other."

Reynolds said her grandfather taught her several life lessons,

including:

- Faith and family are everything
- Don't take life so seriously
- Laughter is the best medicine
- Say "YES!" to ALL the adventures

- Freedom is worth fighting for
- Get your steps in
- Leave work at work
- Live EVERY MOMENT to the FULLEST

"This man had more adventures in his 102nd year than I did in the last decade," Reynolds said. "He will be greatly missed although his presence will always remain. Charley May (named after her great-granddad of course) sat by his bedside with me and read this poem as he 'put out his hand and touched the face of God.' The most beautiful life ... the most beautiful death."

Brooks said she asked her dad a couple of weeks before his passing if he was afraid of dying — but his response filled her with a profound sense of peace.

"He said, 'No, honey. I'm really excited and really curious about what it's going to be like,'" Brooks said. "He said over and over, 'I have had the most blessed life.'"

She said her father lived with simplicity, integrity and love for God, his family, friends and his country.

"He was an amazing man and he never could understand how people made a big deal about him," Brooks said. "When he passed, it was amazing how it happened. He is a man of just squeaky clean integrity, and I loved that about him."

As Baldwin takes to the skies above in his final, graceful ascent, his remarkable journey remains a testament to a life lived with courage, grace and a sense of humor that will always be remembered. Fly high, Charles Baldwin.

# CITY

FROM PAGE A4

constructed and operational, city officials state that system issues should be resolved.

During the meeting Tuesday, Sept. 18, Place 2 Councilman Eddie Rodriguez stated he hoped this is the last moratorium that the city will extend. He asked the city's Director of Public

Works Chester Nolen how the progress was going with the East WWTP.

"The east plant right now is approximately a month ahead of schedule," Nolen said.

"The project manager and the inspector that's on the job, I speak with them two to three times a week. Everything is on track, and they're projecting that we may finish as early as two months ahead of schedule, which will put it early

2026, late 2025, so everything out there right now is just going great."

Nolen explained that construction is moving forward, adding that construction crews have poured over 4,000 yards of concrete, completed most of the structures, and are currently installing the piping and electrical systems.

"Thank you for the update," Rodriguez said. "I was there when they first started, and

I couldn't believe how deep they went into the ground. It was just amazing how they've come along so far, so thank you ..."

Coffman explained that development projects are not "grandfathered" or vested under current legal conditions, meaning the city cannot accept new plats or proceed with new developments until the moratorium is lifted.

The moratorium is not a to-


tal halt to all development in the city, however. According to the city website, projects that meet certain timetables and/or conditions are allowed to proceed.

This is the fifth time Granbury's moratorium has been extended from its original enactment in December 2020. It was also extended April 6, 2021, Oct. 4, 2021, Sept. 20, 2022, and Oct. 3, 2023.

Both motions — to extend the city's moratorium within the central, western and eastern corporate city limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction through Oct. 4, 2025 — were approved unanimously, 4-0. Place 3 Councilman Bruce Wadley and Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale were both absent during Tuesday's meeting.

## Robert "Bob" Shea

March 6, 1968 - September 12, 2024





Local resident and long time business owner Robert "Bob" Shea of Texas Tree Care unexpectedly passed away Thursday September 12th in his Granbury home.

Most known for his love of family, pride in his work and vast knowledge of all things tree related. His absence at

home and in the tree industry will be felt by all.

Family would like any and all who knew him to please come see them and say goodbye to a truly wonderful man.

Services are being held locally at Wiley Funeral Home Monday September 23rd at 6 - 8 pm.



201 E. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048  
(817) 573-5548  
www.visitgranbury.com



*Celebrate with us in Granbury*

SEPTEMBER	
21-22	The Spooky Spectacle Convention
27-28	Texas Cowboy Symposium - Texas State Championship Chuckwagon Cook-off and Western Swing Festival
28	HANK FM Lake Fest
28	Rocks Alive! Acton Nature Center
OCTOBER	
3-27	The Sleepy Hollow Experience - Langdon Grounds
4-13	Here's to CLUE - Spooky Edition
4-6	Oktoberfest
5	Romancing the Monarch Butterfly Festival
5	Mission Granbury 5k/1k Ghost Run
12	Brazos River Corvette Club Annual Charity Car Show
12	Granbury Rock N Blues Bash
12	Pub Shindy
12	Monarch Fest at Acton Nature Center

Information subject to change | Go to [visitgranbury.com](http://visitgranbury.com) for more!

## OPEN STUDIO SALE

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# SUPPORT SYSTEMS

## EVERY DAY

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

## SUNDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

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

## EVERY SATURDAY

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

## EVERY SUNDAY

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

## EVERY MONDAY

**PROMISES AL-ANON** group

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

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

**ONGOING PEDALING** for Parkinson's classes at the Hood County YMCA. Stop by front desk for paperwork packet and info. Doctor's release required before your first class. Classes are on stationary bikes and assistance is provided by certified instructors. Mondays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. Pedaling a bike from 80-90 RPMs for 40 minutes has been proven to help with Parkinson's symptoms. Call for more information 817-408-0559.

## EVERY TUESDAY

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

**GRIEFSHARE 14-WEEK** seminar. Next session begins Sept. 10, 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by StoneWater Church, Granbury, this program is a support group designed to help rebuild lives. Book for course, \$20, "Finding

hope after the loss of a loved one." Register: GriefShare. StoneWaterChurch.com or call 817-579-9175. May call anytime for help.

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

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

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

**RE|ENGAGE MARRIAGE** Enrichment meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at StoneWater Church in Granbury. For more information email to paige.kitchens@stonewaterchurch.com.

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

**COME JOIN** our ongoing Pedaling for Parkinson's classes at the Hood County YMCA. Stop by the front desk for a paperwork packet and info. Doctor's release required before your first class. Classes are on the stationary bikes and assistance is provided by certified instructors. Join us on Mondays and Thursdays from 1pm-2pm. Pedaling a bike from 80-90 rpm's for 40 minutes has been proven to help with Parkinson's symptoms. Call for more information 817-408-0559.

**ONGOING PEDALING** for Parkinson's classes at the Hood County YMCA. Stop by front desk for paperwork packet and info. Doctor's release required before your first class. Classes are on stationary bikes and assistance is provided by certified instructors. Mondays and Thursdays from 1-2 p.m. Pedaling a bike from 80-90 RPMs for 40 minutes has been proven to help with Parkinson's symptoms. Call for more information 817-408-0559.

## EVERY FRIDAY

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

254-396-5918.

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

## FIRST MONDAY

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

## FIRST TUESDAY

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

## SECOND MONDAY

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

## SECOND SATURDAY

**GRIEF SUPPORT** group for anyone grieving a loss in their

life. This is an informal gathering over breakfast. Please join us for conversation and community, location varies. Call for info: Amy Dwight 817-894-2449 or Danny Dwight 817-219-9833.

## THIRD MONDAY

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

## THIRD TUESDAY

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

## FOURTH TUESDAY

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

## FOURTH SATURDAY

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

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

# WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

## Gomez-Palmer

With great love and along with Enyi Aurora, we announce our marriage. Although we decided to celebrate with a private ceremony, our family and friends were not far from our hearts. As we start this new chapter of our lives together, we look forward to sharing and making memories with family and friends that will last a lifetime. Vanessa Carolina Gomez and Joshua David Palmer July 5, 2024

COURTESY PHOTO



# OBITS FROM A13

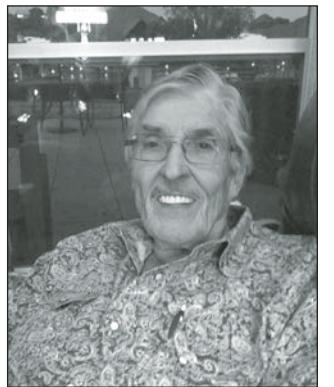
## Weldon Melvin Henson

November 8, 1935 - September 7, 2024

Weldon Melvin Henson, 88, passed away on Sept. 7, 2024. He was born in Winters, Texas on Nov. 8, 1935, to Troy and Tiney Henson.

Weldon proudly served in the United States Army. He owned and operated several automotive and body shops for a few decades. Later in life he returned to what he loved most - farming and ranching and antique restoration and sales. Working the land and tending to livestock were his favorite hobbies while fishing was a distant second.

Weldon is survived by his wife, Phyllis "Jan" Boggan; children, Weldon "Greg" Henson and his wife Susan, Melissa Shouse and husband Carl, and Mack "Tony" Henson; brother Dennis Henson and wife Monya; grandchildren, Gregory, Abby, Jack, Cody, Bucky, Jacob, Autumn,



James, Michael and Amber; other family members Kelly Merl, Kim George, Kendall Henson, Kevin Henson, Dylan Henson and Devin Henson; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas. Graveside services and burial will follow with military honors at 2 p.m. at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

## Dorothy Jean McGhee

December 26, 1929 - September 11, 2024

Dorothy Jean McGhee, 94, beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, of Granbury, passed away on Wednesday morning, Sept. 11, 2024, in Pilot Point, Texas.

Visitation was held from noon until 1 p.m., on Monday, Sept. 16, 2024, at the Wiley Funeral Home Chapel, 400 Highway 377 East in Granbury. Funeral services celebrating her life were held at 1 p.m., Monday, at the funeral home. Burial followed at Cresson Cemetery.

Dorothy was born on Dec. 26, 1929, in Fort Worth to the late W.R. and Ora York. She married Cecil McGhee on Jan. 19, 1949, and together had two daughters, Carolyn and Susie. Dorothy loved music! She taught piano and enjoyed listening to southern gospel music. Most of all, Dorothy cherished time spent with her family - particularly her grandchildren and great-



grandchildren. Dorothy is survived by her daughters, Carolyn Melugin and Susie and husband Steve Solomon; her grandchildren, Leah, Nicholas, Trevor, Ty, and Cory; and by her great-grandchildren, Airean, Avrie, and Evan.

In addition to her parents, Dorothy was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil McGhee; her niece, Sherry Mann, and by her two brothers Delroy and Snyder York, and sister Geraldine Robertson.

## POLICE BLOTTER

# City of Granbury Police Department Criminal Activity Report

The following is a breakdown of activity that occurred through the Granbury Police Department during the period of Sept. 10-16. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

**SEPT. 10**  
8:36 a.m.: fraud on

Crawford Court  
11:40 a.m.: threat on W. Pearl Street  
2:46 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street  
4:22 p.m.: theft of property on E. U.S. Highway 377  
7:56 p.m.: assault on Second Street  
\*\*A major accident, a minor accident and 32 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**SEPT. 11**  
7:45 a.m.: driver with invalid license on Acton Highway  
2:13 p.m.: mentally ill person on S. Park Drive  
2:46 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. Pearl Street  
5:54 p.m.: fraud on Yuma Street  
8:30 p.m.: mentally ill person on Park Drive  
9:21 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377  
\*\*A major accident, two minor accidents, a warrant service and 16 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**SEPT. 12**  
12:24 p.m.: harassment on Abe's Landing  
12:30 p.m.: fraud on E. U.S. Highway 377  
12:48 p.m.: possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377  
5:16 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377  
\*\*A major accident, a minor accident and 19 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**SEPT. 13**  
11:39 a.m.: suspicious activity on Pirate Drive  
2:02 p.m.: assault on E. U.S. Highway 377  
2:30 p.m.: criminal mischief on W. Pearl Street  
3:28 p.m.: criminal trespass on W. Pearl Street  
4:35 p.m.: fraud on NE Loop 567  
7:09 p.m.: assault on Sunflower Lane  
\*\*A major accident, two minor accidents and 11 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**SEPT. 14**  
10:15 a.m.: property found on Crossland Road  
10:56 a.m.: assault on N. Brazos Street  
3:58 p.m.: theft under \$100 on E. U.S. Highway 377  
10:14 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. Pearl Street  
10:48 p.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street  
10:57 p.m.: suspicious activity on E. U.S. Highway 377  
11:03 p.m.: noise distur-

### Last Puzzle Solution

S-1708

PLEASE SEE **BLOTTER** | A15

**KNIEPER REALTY**

# Buyers should keep closing costs in mind

Now that you've decided to buy a home and are ready to make it happen, it's a good idea to plan ahead for the costs that are a typical part of the home-buying process. And while your down payment is probably the number one expense on your mind, don't forget about closing costs. Here's what you need to know.

Simply put, your closing costs are the additional fees and payments you must make at closing. And while they'll vary based on the price of the home and how it's being financed, every buyer has these, so they shouldn't be a surprise. It's just that some people forget to budget for them. According to Freddie Mac, this part of the home-buying process typically includes:

- Application fees
- Credit report fees
- Loan origination fees
- Appraisal fees
- Home inspection fees
- Title insurance
- Homeowners Insurance
- Survey fees
- REALTOR® fees
- Attorney fees

The same Freddie Mac article goes on to say: "Closing costs vary greatly depending on your location and the price of your home. Typically, you should be prepared to pay between 2% and 5% of the home purchase price in closing fees."

With that in mind, here's how you can get an idea of



COURTESY PHOTO BY ALEXKICH, ADOBESTOCK.COM

**Simply put, your closing costs are the additional fees and payments you must make at closing. And while they'll vary based on the price of the home and how it's being financed, every buyer has these, so they shouldn't be a surprise. It's just that some people forget to budget for them.**

what you'll need to budget. Let's say you find a home you want to purchase at today's median price of \$422,600. Based on the 2-5% Freddie Mac estimate, your closing fees could be between roughly \$8,452 and \$21,130. But keep in mind, if you're

in the market for a home above or below this price range, your numbers will be higher or lower.

If you're wondering if there's any way to inch that down a little bit, NerdWallet lists a few things that could help:

**NEGOTIATE WITH THE SELLER**

Some sellers are willing to cover part or all these expenses — especially since homes are staying on the market a bit longer now. Sellers may be more motivated to compromise, and you'll find you have

a bit more negotiation power. So don't hesitate to ask them for concessions like paying for the home inspection or giving you a credit toward closing costs.

**SHOP AROUND FOR HOME INSURANCE**

Since rising home insurance is a challenge in many areas of the country right now, take the time to get a clear picture of all your options. Each insurance company offers its own policies and coverage, so get multiple quotes and see how they compare. Choosing a policy that provides reliable coverage at a competitive rate can make a difference.

**LOOK INTO CLOSING COST ASSISTANCE**

Just like there are programs to help with your down payment, options exist to get support with closing costs, too. While they'll vary by area, there are programs for various income levels, certain professions and specific towns or neighborhoods, too.

Planning for the fees and payments you'll need to cover when you're closing on your home is important — and it doesn't have to be a big surprise. Our buyer's agents at Knieper Realty can help you better plan and prepare so please don't hesitate to reach out to us. Give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at [www.WeSellGranbury.com](http://www.WeSellGranbury.com). Let's connect so you have someone you can go to for more tips and advice.

Portions of this article were sourced, with permission, from [www.KeepingCurrentMatters.com](http://www.KeepingCurrentMatters.com).

**BLOTTER**

FROM PAGE A14

bance on Paluxy Road  
11:15 p.m.: noise disturbance on Acton Highway

\*\*A major accident, a minor accident, two warrant services and 25 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**SEPT. 15**  
12:37 a.m.: burglary on

Spring Ridge Circle  
9:10 a.m.: threat on N. Jones Road  
1:32 p.m.: theft over \$100 and under \$750 on E. U.S. Highway 377

\*\*A minor accident and

33 traffic stops occurred this day\*\*

**SEPT. 16**  
9:15 a.m.: assault on W. Pearl Street  
11:52 a.m.: hit-and-run

accident on Waters Edge Drive  
3:01 p.m.: theft on E. U.S. Highway 377  
7:56 p.m.: threat on E. U.S. Highway 377  
\*\*A major accident, three

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

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# REP. ROGER WILLIAMS VISITS GRANBURY

On Monday, Sept. 16, a Great Lives Great Leaders Washington D.C. Report event featuring U.S. Rep. Roger Williams was hosted by Ike and Trisha Thomas. The event drew a packed house at Celebration Hall. Ticket holders enjoyed light hors d'oeuvres and wine from Barons Creek Vineyards. This was followed by great food catered by Randy's Bar & Grill and Hard Eight BBQ. A reception kicked off the event, offering attendees the opportunity to meet and hear Williams before he addressed the crowd. In late August, members of the Pecan Plantation Breakfast Club welcomed Williams as a special guest at its meeting at the Pecan Plantation Clubhouse. Williams enjoyed visiting with his constituents over a delicious breakfast before he delivered remarks.

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



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## Granbury's Colton Alford emerges as rising star in youth baseball

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

Colton Alford, an 11-year-old standout athlete from Granbury, has been making waves in youth baseball, achieving notable success with the Texas Edge baseball team. Colton, who has played select baseball since age 7, recently played a key role in helping his team secure the World Series championship at the 2024 Triple Crown Slumpbuster in Omaha, Nebraska.

The Texas Edge team, competing against 39 teams from across the country, went undefeated with a 6-0 record. Colton delivered an impressive performance, hitting .455 over the six-game tournament, which included five hits, one home run, and four RBIs. He also contributed as a pitcher and first baseman for the team.

"We played teams from California, Nebraska, Colorado, Virginia and more," said Colton's father, Jason Alford. "Out of all of them, we came out on top. Colton hit a home run in the World Series despite waking up sick at 4:30 in the morning before the game." Alford noted his son's perseverance and performance in tough situations have been a hallmark of his young career.

The young athlete's success continued during the USA Baseball tournament in early August. Out of 85 players, only 13 were selected for the USA team, and Colton was among them. Over the course of the tournament, Colton batted an astounding .875, with seven hits, one home run and three RBIs, earning him the Most Valuable Player (MVP) award. His home run in the championship game helped secure a 7-4 victory against Venezuela.

In addition to his recent tournament success, Alford highlighted his son's strong work ethic and dedication to improving his game. "Colton is very humble and works hard," he said, noting their weekly practice sessions and lessons. A Tennessee Volunteers baseball team fan, Colton had the opportunity to attend a College World Series game in Omaha to watch his favorite team. As both a first baseman and pitcher, Colton has earned four or five All-American selections at Perfect Game tournaments in Houston.

In just four seasons, Colton has hit over 30 home runs, a testament to his consistency and power at the plate. During his 10U season with Texas Edge, he batted .466, collecting 41 hits, five home runs and 44 RBIs across 10 tournaments.

Colton's mother, Janit Alford, expressed her pride in her son's character, both on and off the field. "Coaches from all over the country have personally spoken to us about what a well-rounded and kind kid Colton is, beyond his athletic abilities," she said. "People have even thanked us for how he treated their children, showing great sportsmanship. For us, his character comes before the home runs."

In addition to his athletic prowess, Colton excels academically, maintaining As and Bs while juggling his baseball practices and lessons. He works with his longtime coach, Matt Mitcham, the owner of Texas Edge, who has been training Colton in hitting and pitching since he was 5.

Colton's achievements on the field and his dedication to academics and sportsmanship have garnered attention from coaches and players alike. As he continues developing his skills, his performance and character suggest a promising future in the sport.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Right: Colton Alford pitches for the Texas Edge during the 2024 summer tournament.



Left: Colton Alford arrives ready to play in the USA tournament.

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Camp Fire  
Camp El Tesoro

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90TH CELEBRATION  
WEEKEND**

**YEARS**  
1934 2024

September 27-29, 2024  
Come for Just the Day or the Whole Weekend!

COURTESY GRAPHIC

## Celebrating 90 years around the campfire with El Tesoro

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

From Sept. 27-29, Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro will host its 90-year celebration event at its facility located at 7710 Fall Creek Highway in Granbury.

The campfire crackled as the sun dipped below the horizon, casting a warm glow on the faces of the children gathered around. For Elise Mayfield McConnell, Camp El Tesoro was not just a place to spend her summers; it was a cradle of childhood memories and life lessons she carried well into adulthood.

"When I first attended Camp El Tesoro, it was 1962, and I was out of second grade," McConnell reminisced. "But the first time

I actually visited the camp was when my older sister was in second grade.

"My mother was the co-leader of her Blue Bird group, and we went out on a day trip. I was 5 then, and I remember being captivated by the outdoors, the campfire and the camaraderie."

This initial visit sparked her desire to experience the camp for herself. "I think my expectation was I wanted to do what she did," McConnell said. "It was kind of fun to be outdoors and do something different and be away from home."

As Camp El Tesoro prepares to celebrate its 90th anniversary next month, McConnell reflects on her years there, recalling the friendships made, the skills learned and the confidence gained.

McConnell's first experience as a camper was filled with mixed emotions and memorable moments. "I remember going with my best friend from school and my cousin," she said. "We were in a cabin with six girls, and the counselor wanted us to be in three groups of two. My cousin didn't get to be my partner, and she was mad the whole time. It's funny; the little things you remember like that, you know. My cousin and I are still friends, and she still brings it up."

While her cousin decided not to return to camp, McConnell's love for Camp El Tesoro only grew. "I returned every year and eventually became a counselor in training (CIT) and then a

PLEASE SEE EL TESORO | B10

## GISD celebrates achievements of students

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

At Monday evening's Granbury ISD school board meeting, six students were recognized for their impressive accomplishments.

From serving breakfast to first responders to winning a national essay contest and engaging in hands-on scientific research, the evening showcased the diverse talents and dedication of the

district's young scholars.

Highlights included the Patriot Day Drive-Thru Breakfast, a Scholastic Essay Contest win, and participation in the prestigious Joint Science and Technology Institute.

The board meeting began with four Acton Elementary School students leading the Pledge of Allegiance. The students, Paxton Anderson, Logan Byrd, Rowan Pinksa and Colton Druzanovic were recognized for their par-

ticipation in the pledges and involvement in a Patriot Day event.

On Sept. 11, the students helped serve breakfast to first responders from Hood County, an initiative organized by Acton Elementary to honor local heroes.

"These students not only served breakfast to our first responders but have family members who are firefight-

PLEASE SEE GISD | B6



LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Students (left to right) Paxton Anderson, Logan Byrd (wearing a pink T-shirt and standing with a younger sibling), Colton Druzanovic, and Rowan Pinksa stand proudly with their first responder parents at the Granbury ISD school board meeting. The Acton Elementary students led the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were recognized for participating in a Patriot Day event, where they served breakfast to local heroes, including their firefighter and police officer family members.

# Fired up for success: Granbury High School's BBQ Team sizzles in competition

**BY MICKY SHEARON**  
Special to the Hood County News  
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At Granbury High School, where textbooks and tests typically take center stage, a group of students is finding success in a more unexpected arena — the smoky, flavorful world of competitive barbecue. Led by culinary arts instructor Brienne Langdon, the GHS BBQ team is teaching students not only how to master the grill but also how to grow as individuals, all while working together as a team.

The GHS BBQ team, which kicked off in the 2020-2021 school year, has quickly evolved into one of the school's most exciting and unique programs. "Our first BBQ trailer was funded by a (Granbury Education Foundation) grant and fabricated by our GHS welding department, led by Mr. Hinojosa," Langdon recalls, explaining how the team started with just four students: Aubrey Kirby, Nate Franzmathes, Alaina Woycenko and Maddy Hidalgo. Now entering its fifth year, the program has grown to include 30 to 35 students, and Langdon is more excited than ever for the upcoming season.

Langdon's path to leading the BBQ program wasn't a straightforward one. Originally from Big Lake, she graduated from Reagan County High School in 2002 and earned a degree in agricultural journalism from Texas A&M University in 2005. She later pursued a master's degree from Tarleton State University in agriculture and consumer science. Langdon joined Granbury ISD nine years ago as a teacher in the culinary

arts pathway after serving as a county extension agent with the 4-H program and working in the private sector.

"I had heard about high school BBQ through social media and teacher groups I belong to. I loved the idea of teaching BBQ because it is something anyone can learn to do and enjoy," she says. For Langdon, the appeal of teaching barbecue wasn't just about food — it was about providing a space for students to grow. "My true love is helping kids be the best version of themselves they can be. The BBQ program is another tool to help them discover who they are and what they are capable of. I love teaching leadership and teamwork, empowering people through kindness and tough love, and providing a safe place for kids to try, fail, learn, grow and succeed."

The growth of the GHS BBQ program has been nothing short of remarkable. Currently, the team has three competitive traveling teams, each comprised of up to five members. The dishes they prepare for competition include everything from deserts and beans to chicken, ribs and brisket. For those who don't compete, there are club members who come to practices to learn the art of barbecue without the pressure of competition. "Some kids don't have the desire to compete, but they want to learn," Langdon explains. "Others weren't ready for a place on a competitive team last year but learned a lot and are looking forward to trying out this year."

What makes the BBQ team truly special, however, is not just the food it cooks but the skills and lessons learned along the way. As Langdon points out, barbecue is much more than just grilling meat

— it's a science. "People don't often equate physics and chemistry to BBQ, but science plays a huge role in the entire process," she says. "Fire management, weather, equipment, flavor combinations, cooking methods, food safety, chemical and physical reactions ... those are the essence of the BBQ process."

Yet the benefits of the BBQ program go beyond science. Students develop time management skills, teamwork, critical thinking and creativity as they prepare for competitions. "They need to know their recipes, how to fix any issues that come up, how to adapt on the fly and adjust if things aren't going according to plan," Langdon explains. "There's also conflict resolution and owning mistakes ... Sometimes, they mess up, and it impacts the team. They must learn how to own that and how their actions impact others."

Competitions also offer valuable opportunities for students to grow emotionally and mentally. After each event, they receive feedback cards from judges, which help them stay grounded and constantly improve.

"It's always a balance of practicing, improving, tweaking, staying humble but gaining confidence, and most importantly, having fun while still taking care of business," Langdon said. "The only way to get better at BBQ is to do it, and it's not a short, slow process. These kids must put in a lot of hours to get better. When you pair that dedication with our expectations of high character and integrity, our program strives to embody 'Good People First, Good Food Second.'"

The hard work has paid off. In its second year of competition, the GHS BBQ team placed 10th at the state level, with a first place finish



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRIANNE LANGDON

Seriously Smokin' team and Chef Langdon at State in May.

in the Beans category. Last past season, the team placed 18th at state, with notable rankings of fourth place in brisket, 13th in chicken, and 26th in beans. As Langdon notes, "Every practice, competition and season, our BBQ is improving, and more importantly, we are creating a culture of integrity, respect, compassion and learning."

The program's rise to prominence even attracted the attention of the Magnolia Network's show "BBQ High," which showcased the GHS BBQ team's journey. "The 'BBQ High' experience has been so surreal," Langdon says. "It was a lot of work and took so much extra time and planning, but I am incredibly grateful to the pro-

duction team for choosing to share our story."

Despite its growing success, Langdon is quick to acknowledge the program wouldn't be where it is today without the support of the community. "We have learned so much the last four years, and a lot of that is because of amazing community support," she says. From local businesses like Hill City Chophouse in Tolar, which mentored the team in its first year, to individuals like Brad Boyd, who generously supplied the team with firewood, Langdon knows the importance of the help they've received. "BBQ is an expensive activity," she notes. "Without the support of our community, we

wouldn't be able to do what we do."

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 season, Langdon is optimistic about what's to come. With three competitive teams, a growing interest from middle school students, and a dedicated group of club members, the GHS BBQ team is poised for even greater success. As Langdon puts it, "We are loud and proud BBQ, and we can't wait to see what happens in the 2024-25 season!"

For more information about the GHS BBQ team, visit its website at <https://sites.google.com/granburyisd.org/ghs-bbq> or follow the team on Facebook at Granbury High School BBQ.



Casey Labelle takes his smoked chicken off the pit at the World Food Championships in November 2023.



Chef Langdon, Emery Kirby, Noe Puente and Maria Marez at the San Antonio Stock Show Junior Pitmaster contest, where they won 3rd place brisket and 10th place team overall.



Chef Langdon, Noe Puente, Maria Marez, Emery Kirby and Rayleigh Langdon earned 3rd overall, 1st place brisket, 10th place beans, 3rd place chicken at the Graham contest



Emery Kirby with her chicken at the State BBQ Contest in May.

## NEW ER



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# Granbury ISD Board approves major purchases, rejects property sale

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

The Granbury Independent School District board of trustees convened Monday evening, Sept. 16, to make several critical decisions regarding district purchases and a property sale.

The board approved the acquisition of new school buses, Chromebooks and fencing for school campuses while rejecting the sale of district property.

Five trustees were present at the meeting. Board President Barbara Townsend and Place 7 trustee Karen Lowery were absent.

## IXL LEARNING PROGRAM RENEWAL

The board renewed its contract with IXL, a teaching and learning platform aligned with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Teachers use IXL to supplement instruction, track student progress, and target specific skills for improvement. According to district staff, more than 7,500 students have benefited from



GISD trustees approved the purchase of 500 Chromebooks from Vivacity Tech Public Benefit Corporation at a total cost of \$131,400.

the program, which has shown significant growth in student achievement across multiple campuses. The board voted 5-0 in favor of renewing the program, with two members absent.

## PURCHASE OF SCHOOL BUSES

The board approved a \$990,000 purchase of seven school buses, including five 71-passenger buses and two special education buses from a Texas-based company that has been in business since 1965.

The change from 77-passenger to 71-passenger buses was made due to quicker delivery times and a \$57,000 savings. These buses are expected to be in service before Thanksgiving. Funding comes from the sale of a five-acre property in Acton, with additional funds from a recent state "settle-up" regarding frozen property levies.

Monica Brown, a community member, expressed excitement over the purchase, noting that acquiring new buses had been a topic in multiple bond proposals. Brown also

raised questions about the district's fund balance, asking if the extra funds, which exceed 20%, could be used for additional buses or cost-of-living increases for staff.

## CHROMEBOOKS FOR STUDENTS

The board also approved the purchase of 500 Chromebooks from Vivacity Tech Public Benefit Corporation at a total cost of \$131,400. The Chromebooks will be used primarily in K-2 classrooms and are intend-

ed to address a shortage of devices within the district. The district will distribute these devices to students as part of its initiative to ensure equal access to technology and digital learning tools.

The board discussed the importance of technology in modern education but acknowledged concerns over too much screen time for young students.

## FENCING PROJECT APPROVAL

A \$431,990 fencing project was approved for Nettie

Baccus Elementary, STEAM Academy at Mambrino and Granbury High School. The contract, awarded to Calvary Construction, will be funded by a safety and security grant. The project involves removing and replacing existing fencing to enhance campus security.

## PROPERTY SALE REJECTED

In other business, the board discussed a bid for the sale of approximately seven acres of unimproved property located at 2850 Acton School Road. After consideration, the board voted 5-0 to reject the bid, citing reasons not disclosed in the meeting.

## FUTURE DISCUSSIONS

The board closed the meeting by reminding the participants that future discussions will include HVAC system improvements, which will utilize funds from the state's recent settlement related to frozen property taxes.

To watch the board meeting, visit [https://www.youtube.com/live/YhYCLc-UMdo?si=Oheim2TVa\\_HA8Q\\_Z](https://www.youtube.com/live/YhYCLc-UMdo?si=Oheim2TVa_HA8Q_Z)

# GHS' Lilly Tyler is awarded \$25k scholarship

From Staff Reports

Lilly Tyler, a student at Granbury High School, has been awarded a prestigious national \$25,000 college scholarship from the Horatio Alger Association, a nonprofit educational or-

ganization that honors the achievements of outstanding leaders.

Tyler has been named a Horatio Alger National Scholar for 2025. The scholarship supports promising young people who pursue higher education and techni-

cal scholarships. This honor celebrates Tyler's exceptional perseverance and commitment to education despite facing significant personal challenges.

The Horatio Alger Association was established in 1947 to reinforce belief in

the American Dream and inspire young people to strive for their highest potential.

Since the establishment of its scholarship programs in 1984, it has become one of the largest privately funded, need-based scholarship providers in the United States.

These scholarships serve as a powerful symbol of recognition of the scholars' character and of the belief placed in their future.

This HAA scholarship will provide Tyler with financial resources and programming to support her academic ca-

reer, including financial aid counseling, college selection advising, access to dedicated mentors and free mental health counseling.

# 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**

SUBMIT YOUR VETERAN HERE

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THE Best of Hood County HCNews 2023

# Unique experience honors memory of late brother

BY RICK MAUCH  
Special to the Hood County News

To keep the memory of her late brother Blake Houghton alive, Shyann Edmunds found an escape.

Edmunds is the owner of Premier Escape Room, an activity that has become quite popular in recent years. What's more, hers is a mobile escape room, which means she can bring the adventure to you.

"I have always loved escape rooms. I was thinking 'what better way to allow me to bring this joy to others and not be isolated to one location?'" Edmunds said. "Three words — mobile escape room."

The company, which bills itself as Texas' only mobile escape room, was actually launched in 2018 by Blake's mother (her stepmother). Edmunds bought it from her this year.

"After my brother's unexpected passing in 2022, I wanted to find something that could keep his memory

alive," she said. "Whenever his mom ran the business, he attended the events and was the magician doing the magic tricks. This just continually reminds me of his playful personality."

## ABOUT THE ROOM

For those wondering what the difference is, Edmunds said the mobile escape room is the same as a stationary location. People still solve clues and brain games to escape.

"We are just able to drive it around," she said.

Edmunds said the mobile escape room can be driven anywhere it is needed. It can be used for birthday parties, corporate team building, fundraisers, school events and much more.

"If you can dream up a party, we can bring the fun

to you!" she exclaimed.

The theme for the room is "magic show."

"We can add and subtract clues to make it harder or easier, depending on the event," she said. "The escape room is for anyone willing to take on the challenge."

"We recommend (age) 10 and up if they aren't accompanied by an older player to help solve some of the clues. It can be a real brain thinker."

Her husband, Dakota, and sister, Ashlynn, help run the escape room. They took it to the Granbury Square over Labor Day weekend and Edmunds said the community response was awesome.

"There were many people intrigued by the idea. The design is definitely a head turner," she said.

"It is a really unique and thrilling experience. It was enjoyed by all ages," Ashlynn said. "Everyone left with a smile and it was very affordable."

On the outside it looks like a trailer, albeit colorful and eye-catching. Inside, however, is where the fun is as visitors navigate to their exit.

"I am thrilled to see my best friend's hard work pay off," said Kayla Hayworth. "This is a fantastic and affordable opportunity for kids and adults to enjoy locally, offering a unique and entertaining experience perfect for parties, festivals and other celebrations."

## FAMILY ADVENTURE

Family involvement is a regular part of their life. Edmunds works as a paramedic in Parker County and has a flight paramedic certification. Dakota works as an emergency medical technician in Hamilton County and is on track to graduate from paramedic school in December.

Dakota has been on the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department for eight years and Edmunds was recently voted to become a member, as well. She will be attending its fire academy and helping to serve the Hood County community.

This is Edmunds' first business venture, but she is already thinking of expansion. The next move, she said, is to open a brick-



PHOTOS COURTESY SHYANN EDMUNDS

The late Blake Houghton performs his magic act in front of Premier Escape Room. His sister, Shyann Edmunds, owns and operates the escape room in his memory and it is believed to be the only mobile escape room in the state.

and-mortar location in Stephenville.

"That is my hometown, and I want to bring more fun back into that community," she said.

Remember, this is a mobile

business, so wherever you reside, Premier can come to your town.

"I am excited for the community to hear about this one-of-a-kind experience," she said.



Shyann Edmunds is the owner of Premier Escape Room, which she operates in memory of her late brother, Blake Houghton. She believes it to be the only mobile escape room in the state.



Shyann Edmunds with her late brother, Blake Houghton. Shyann owns and operates Premier Escape Room in his memory. It is believed to be the only mobile escape room in Texas.

# Walkway access improved at Hood County Demo Garden

Submitted Item

Thanks to an anonymous donor, people who need a firm surface to walk steadily or use mobility aids can now enjoy a closer experience at the Demo Garden maintained by the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners of Hood County at 1410 W. Pearl St., Granbury.

The existing mulch was scraped from the walkways, weed barrier was applied, and then decomposed granite was poured and tamped down. The project was completed the last week of August.

The benefit of the new surface will be experienced by

visitors Oct. 5 from 1:30 to 4 p.m., when the LGMG hosts its Romancing the Monarch festival, celebrating the migration of monarch butterflies through Hood County on the way to Mexico.

"We are so pleased to remove the impediment of the uneven surfaces on the walkways," said Steven Rhodes, president of the LGMG of Hood County.

"This project has been discussed by our master gardeners for five years or more, but the expense was a barrier until the anonymous donor came to our treasurer, asking to help," Rhodes continued.

Rhodes said a few issues need to be addressed before it can be said that the Demo Garden is mobility accessible, but the decomposed granite alone makes a significant improvement.

Lake Granbury Master Gardeners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

To learn more about Lake Granbury Master Gardeners of Hood County, visit the Demonstration Garden located behind Hood County Annex I at 1410 W. Pearl St., or call the Hood County AgriLife Extension office at 817-579-3280, or visit lakegranburymastergardeners.org.



Thanks to an anonymous donor, the existing mulch was scraped from the walkways, weed barrier was applied and then decomposed granite was poured and tamped down just in time for the Romancing the Monarch event at the Demo Garden.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Jane Wilson enjoys the newly manicured paths at the Demo Garden maintained by the Lake Granbury Master Gardeners of Hood County at 1410 W. Pearl St.



# Tolar Sports Sept. 13



PHOTOS BY **JESSE RAMIREZ JR.** | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Friday, Sept. 13 the Tolar Rattler Volleyball team took on the Dublin Lions at home. The Lady Rattlers defeated the Lions 3 sets to 0. The Tolar Rattler Football team also played a home game on Sept. 13 against the Millsap Bulldogs. The Rattlers defeated the Bulldogs 36-20. For full galleries go to [hcnews.com](http://hcnews.com).





JESSE RAMIREZ JR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Wide receiver Dacen Watkins lines up with the ball before scoring the night's first touchdown.

# 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, two 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.

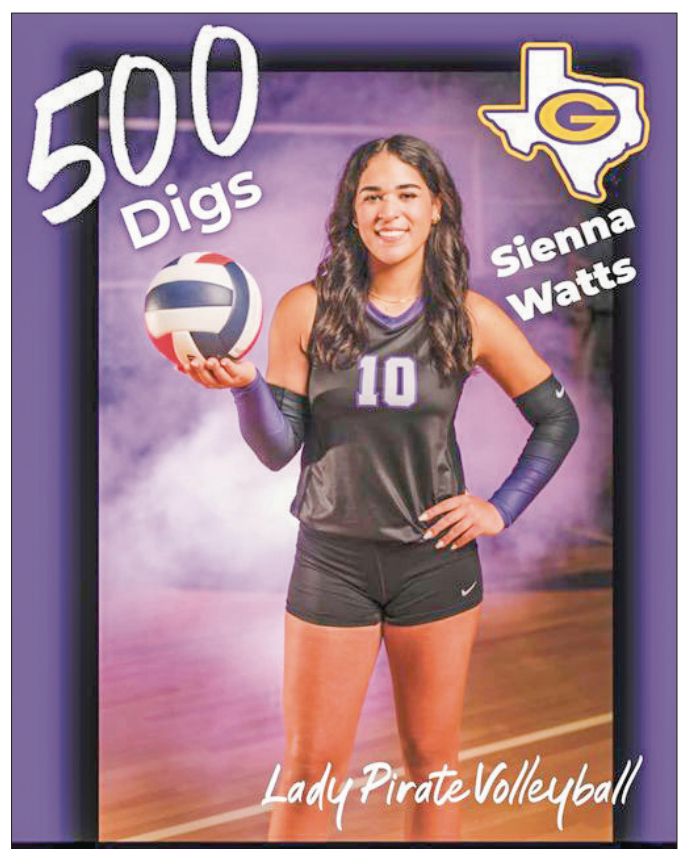
## TOLAR VOLLEYBALL

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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Granbury Lady Pirates Player Sienna Watts hit a record 500 Career digs.

"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.

## GISD

FROM PAGE B1

ers and police officers and EMS providers," said Acton Elementary Principal Maggie Walton. "It was a beautiful morning filled with appreciation, and we're truly thankful for the heroes who serve our community daily."

After the pledges, the board recognized fifth-grader Kinsley Lynch of Acton Elementary for her victory in the Scholastic Essay Contest. Kinsley's essay on a pioneering African American tennis player stood out among hundreds of submissions nationwide.

"Kinsley's entry demonstrated a firm understanding of the text and the ability to craft a well-organized and engaging response," said Walton, reading from a letter from the contest's editor-in-chief. "We are so proud of her accomplishment."

The board also celebrated eighth-grader Paola Lumbreras from Acton Middle School, who was invited to attend the Joint Science and Technology Institute this summer.

Paola was one of just 32 middle school students nationwide selected to participate in the week-long program in Maryland, where she conducted hands-on

research with peers in a lab setting.

"She collaborated with scientists and was mentored by Department of Defense experts," said Acton Middle School Principal Jennifer Pennington. "Her mom is one of our esteemed teachers at the high school, and she's a former Region XI Teacher of the Year, so Paola is among greatness, and we are excited to see where her STEM journey takes her."

Board Vice President Courtney Gore thanked the students for their hard work and applauded their accomplishments, noting the district's pride in all its achievers.



"Paola Lumbreras (holding award) collaborated with scientists and was mentored by the Department of Defense," said Acton Middle School Principal Jennifer Pennington (on the right).



PHOTOS BY LAUREN DAVIS | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Fifth-grader Kinsley Lynch of Acton Elementary receives an award for her victory in the Scholastic Essay Contest. Behind Kinsley are (L-R): Acton Elementary School Principal Maggie Walton and Kinsley's fourth-grade teacher Connie Oelschig.

# TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

## Men's Cross Country posts fourth place finish at Texas A&M Invitational

### Tarleton State University

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION – Tarleton State Cross Country made a statement at the Texas A&M Invitational finishing fourth in the men's 8K ahead of several of the top teams in the NCAA South Central Region.

Headlined by three top 20 finishes, the men's squad finished fourth overall. The team finished in front of four South Central Regional top 15 teams: Tulane (No. 3), Sam Houston (No. 8), UT Arlington (No. 10) and North Texas (No. 12).

"I really liked how our men performed today," said distance coach Christopher Zent. "They ran against several very good, regionally ranked programs and performed very well. They are starting to expect more out of themselves and are hungry for more success."

The women were led by a pair of top 40 finishers to lead the team to a 10th place overall finish.

Jace Poole was the top

finisher of the day for the Texans crossing 16th in 24:02.8.

Men's Poole led a trio of men to finish in the top 20 for the Texans. Poole paced the group finishing just ahead of Angel Gomez who earned 17th place in 24:03.7. Angel Contreras rounded out the trio posting a 19th overall finish crossing in 24:06.1.

Freshman Toby Eaton was the next to finish notching 23rd in 24:19.3. The fifth and final scoring Texan to finish was Kellen Frickel. He recorded a 47th place finish in 24:53.6.

Rounding out the squad for the Texans, Diego Flores finished in 53rd (24:58.5), Kebede Kerlin crossed in 86th (25:54.3) and AJ Alardo ended in 108th in 26:47.6.

TCU took home the team title registering 36 points. Texas A&M earned second place just three points behind. Houston rounded out the top three with 99 points. Tarleton's 118 points came in fourth.

Tulane freshman Bernard Cheruiyot won the individual title and set a new course record in 22:50.3.

### Women's

The duo of Sage Lancaster and Morgan Lamberson led the Texan pack for the second straight meet. Nearly the entire squad posted personal career bests in the event. Lancaster finished in 37th in a career-best 18:18.7, dropping her time by nearly 20 seconds from a season ago. Lamberson earned 39th place posting a personal best time of 18:23.8. She improved from her previous best by 15 seconds from last year at the Chili Pepper Festival.

"On the women's side, they improved on both their performance from the first meet of the season and from this event last year. By running many personal bests against a very competitive regionally ranked field, it will help the team begin to fire on all cylinders. This experience will be valuable in the upcoming meets and I think this team



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Cross Country made a statement at the Texas A&M Invitational finishing fourth in the men's 8K ahead of several of the top teams in the NCAA South Central Region.

will be a tough team to compete against going forward," concluded coach Zent.

Georgina Balderas was the next to finish crossing in 18:53.6 to earn 62nd place. She bested her previous low time by nearly 50 seconds. She posted a 19:43.1 at the

2023 Texas A&M Invitational.

The final two scoring Texans were Kaitlyn Gale (83rd — 19:18.0) and Kailey Sykora (97th — 19:39.2). Ella Smart and Jordan Jones rounded out the squad crossing in 20:01.7 and 21:45.4, respectively.

SMU earned the team title with 48 points followed by Texas A&M (53 points) and Oklahoma (71 points). SMU swept the top two individual spots with seniors Kaitlyn Gearin and Emily Little crossing in 17:05.6 and 17:11.1, respectively.

## Tarleton State University tallies sixth shutout in victory at Houston Christian



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Goalkeeper Mikayla Kendall earned her fourth solo shutout and sixth total shutout of the season.

### Tarleton State University

HOUSTON – Tarleton State Soccer notched its sixth shutout of the season with a 2-0 victory over Houston Christian Sunday, Sept. 15 at Sorrels Field.

The Texans (5-3-3) notched their fourth road win of the season. The Purple and White handed the Huskies (1-5-2) their first home loss of the year.

Lexi Gonzales netted the first collegiate goal of her career. The sophomore started the scoring for the Texans at the end of the first half. Sam Liaty was credited with the assist, the first of her freshman season.

Reegan Wagg scored less than three minutes of game-time later. The freshman fired a long shot from just outside the top of the box, lighting the lamp for the second time this season.

Goalkeeper Mikayla Kendall earned her fourth solo shutout and sixth total shutout of the season. Kendall claimed four saves bumping her total to 53 on the year.

Less than 15 minutes into the start of the game, Stevie Reynolds fired a low shot that was stopped by the Husky keeper.

In the 26th minute, Nicole Fels dribbled down the sideline. She sent a cross to the front middle of the box, but was unable to find the head of a teammate and the chance was knocked away.

With the ball rattling around in the box, a pass to Sammy Schulze in the middle looked promising. Schultz fired a quick shot but it was caught at chest-level by the keeper.

In the final five minutes of the first half, Liaty found Lauren Grissom who was

standing on the corner of the post but was unable to get a shot off.

In the final two minutes of the first half, Gonzales put the Texans on the board first. Liaty brought the ball down the sideline before finding Gonzales with the cross in the middle of the box where she found the back of the net for the first time.

Just over a minute into the second half, Wagg put the Texans ahead, 2-0. The freshman brought the ball from midfield to the top of the box, where she let a long shot rip right over the hands of the keeper.

In the 64th minute, both Kaitlyn Flanagan and Adriana Alonso-Gomez nearly pocketed a goal as the ball was being knocked around in front of the goal.

## Volleyball drops to Northern Arizona to end Lumberjack Classic 1-1

### Tarleton State University

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. – Tarleton State Volleyball fell to the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks, 3-0, in its final match of the Lumberjack Classic at the Rolle Activity Center Sept. 14.

The Texans (1-7) finished their weekend in Flagstaff 1-1. The Texans notched their first win of the season Sept. 13 against New Mexico. The Lumberjacks (4-4) finished the weekend a perfect 2-0 to be the champions of the event.

The Texans had two players with double-digit assists. Megan Hodges tallied 16, followed by Yuna Ansquer with 10. Hodges is currently the team leader in assists and sits in the top five of the WAC in total assists. Hodges has posted 10 or more assists in all eight contests this season. She tied her season-high with two service aces in the match.

Allison Bryant led the

team in kills with seven, followed by Emma Burke and Mya Cabrera each with six. Cabrera's six assists set a new season-best in her young collegiate career.

Burke led the Texans with four total blocks. The junior tied her season-high. Emma Halcomb led the team with 10 digs, adding to her dig total where she ranks among the top of the WAC.

The Texans charged out front in the first set with a 9-7 lead, until the Lumberjacks went on a 5-0 run. The Texans were unable to regain a share of the lead, ultimately dropping the first frame, 25-17.

In the second stanza, the Texans led a back-and-forth battle, 13-12. Northern Arizona broke out on an 8-0 run to distance the Texans. Trailing 21-15, the Texans battled back on a 10-4 run to force extra points. Tarleton was able to rally to 18-21, then found themselves at the wrong side of a set point

when the Lumberjacks led 21-24. Tarleton then went on a fantastic 4-point run, powered by three consecutive errors from the Lumberjacks. Holding a 25-24 lead, the Purple and White nearly won the set, but the 26th point was called back due to a center line infraction. The 'Jacks notched the next two points to carry a 27-25 victory.

Tied 23-23 in the third set after an ace from Burke, both teams battled back and forth until the score was 25-24 in favor of the Texans. Northern Arizona then went on a 3-point run to clinch the third set as well as the match.

The Texans notched four aces in the set, opposed to NAU's two. The Lumberjacks held the advantage in blocks (6-5), digs (53-50), kills (43-31) and assists (40-29).



COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

Tarleton State Volleyball fell to the Northern Arizona Lumberjacks, 3-0, in its final match of the Lumberjack Classic at the Rolle Activity Center Sept. 14.

HOOD OUTDOORS

# Fall is shallow water fishing Season



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.

The fall season is a great time to start looking for shallow feeding fish. Many folks prefer this time of the year, especially for the topwater action that can be had. Topwater action is already being reported all across North Texas and many anglers are taking advantage of it.

Topwater, to me, means

fishing probably in the top 10 feet of water. Sometimes the fish will be pushing bait to the surface out in deep water and other times fish will be pushing bait up on shallow flats near the bank.

Catching fish on topwater baits, swimbaits or lipless crankbaits fished just below the surface to me is all topwater action. Most folks consider topwater to be when the fish hits a surface presentation. My definition of fish on top includes fishing just below the surface.

Many times, those fish on the surface are typically the smaller fish and the bigger fish are usually waiting below for injured easy meals. Not always the case for sure, but I would work below the surface feeding fish which may put bigger fish in the boat.

The birds are in the process of returning to north Texas as they do every fall and they can point you to surface feeding fish in a hur-

ry. Keep your eyes open and your binoculars handy.

I talk all year about thrashing the water to call in the fish, but if you are fishing shallow this may not be a good choice. Shallow feeding fish will spook easily, and a little stealth is recommended. It is also recommended that you use long casts especially on calm days. Keeping the boat distant from the fish is a good choice in real shallow water.

Another method for catching big fish feeding in the shallows is the use of live bait fished under a balloon or float. Position your boat if possible such that your balloon presentation can float into the feeding area. A large shad fished under a balloon with a slip knot is effective this time of the year. When the fish takes the bait, the line will be pulled taut, the balloon releases and you can fight the fish back to the boat.

When a large predator

takes the bait under the balloon, reel the slack out of your line and set the hook. If you use a circle hook, don't set it, just keep it tight. I have caught some really big striped bass fishing this method in relatively shallow water. This is exciting stuff when you see your balloon being pulled under or being pulled off in a different direction.

You can also cover a big feeding flat with balloons being pulled behind the boat. Use your trolling motor with a couple of balloon rigs behind the boat to work an area.

Free-lining live bait is another option in shallow water. When I say free-lining, I am talking about tossing a live shad or perch without any weight into a shallow area where fish are holding. Again, long casts are preferred as shallow fish will spook with the boat too close. This natural presentation is typically used with a

fluorocarbon leader for best results.

Large topwater plugs are also a good choice. Long As, redfins and other similar baits worked through feeding fish can produce some major hits. Chug-bugs or any water popping baits can draw a strike as well.

This is an exciting time of the year. I know I look forward to it each year. Bring it on!

## HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water levels remain at full pool. Water temperatures have risen some with the warmer weather and are in the low 8's. Striped bass are slow to fair with some good fish to 12 pounds possible. Best bait for striped bass is live gizzard shad fished on points and ridges in 15 to 25 feet of water. Largemouth bass to 7 pounds are possible near laydowns and docks near major creek en-

trances. Some good reports on catches in the river above Granbury. Best baits continue to be crankbaits and soft plastics. Crappie action continues to be good on jigs and small minnows fished on submerged structure. Some good crappie action has been on timber north of the railroad bridge. Catfish are active all over the lake and are good on cut shad and prepared baits fished in 15 to 20 feet of water near creek channel ledges. Sand bass are chasing shad on the surface on many areas of the lake, small rattle traps and inline spinners are effective on these schooling fish. Best areas for sand bass include near DeCordova Bend Estates, Indian Harbor and near the U.S. Highway 377 bridge.

Comanche Creek (Squaw Creek) will reopen to the public in October. You will need to call to reserve your spot.



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Glen Rose: 4:15-5:00pm at BUTLER FEEDS

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### SUDOKU

Solution for the puzzle on September 14

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

Puzzle by websudoku.com

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

HCN

Junior



National Miniature GOLF Day

September 21, 2024




G

et ready to tee off on September 21st as we celebrate Miniature Golf Day! It's a day dedicated to fun, laughter, and friendly competition on the mini-golf course.

Miniature golf, also known as putt-putt or mini-golf, is a beloved pastime enjoyed by people of all ages. With its whimsical obstacles, challenging holes, and colorful courses, mini-golf offers endless entertainment for everyone.

Gather your friends, family, or even just yourself, and head to your nearest mini-golf course to celebrate this special day. Putt your way through winding pathways, navigate tricky obstacles like windmills and water features, and see who can score a hole-in-one!

Not only is miniature golf a blast to play, but it's also a great way to spend time outdoors, get some exercise, and enjoy quality time with loved ones.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or a first-time player, Miniature Golf Day is the perfect opportunity to test your skills and have a ball on the course.

So, mark your calendars for September 21st and get ready to swing into fun on Miniature Golf Day! Whether you're playing a round or two with friends, organizing a mini-golf tournament, or simply enjoying a leisurely game with family, there's no better way to celebrate the joy of mini-golf than on this special day. Let the games begin!

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MINI GOLF

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

Word Bank

1. mini	2. club	3. course	4. golf
5. bridge	6. score	7. swing	8. fun
9. ball	10. loop	11. putt	12. challenge



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# Hop on over; TX Hop Club opens to rave reviews

BY EDEN DUNCAN

GILBREATH

Special to the Hood County News eden@hcnews.com

Pickleball seems to be all the rage these days, with fans of every age. It's an approachable sport that is suitable for all ages.

Kim Copeland, partner with the new TX Hop Club, cites three reasons why the sport has become so popular:

"First, it's community! Pickleball helps people connect with other people. It is inclusive and welcoming to players of all levels from beginner to pro. Players naturally gravitate towards others of their level, but also build confidence to grow in the sport and, by extension, to grow their community.

"Second, it's fun and recreational! People of all ages, 2 to 100, can enjoy playing. Every day, every game, every opponent is a new and exciting social and recreational opportunity. And it is as relaxing or challenging as you choose to make it.

"Third, it's healthy! Pickleball is a great, easy

form of cardio. It improves heart health, lung function and overall emotional and physical fitness. It is less intensive than other racquet sports and can prevent cardiac events, improve cognitive and motor skills and balance."

The TX Hop Club aims to provide Hood County with the best in pickleball facilities, and the response from the community has been very positive. Groundbreaking for the facility was in November and the club just celebrated its ribbon cutting last week.

The custom built, 24,000 square-foot facility offers eight indoor pickleball courts, a comfortable lounge area, a huge patio with skills zones and a full Pro Shop.

"This is a unique facility designed to provide the highest quality playing conditions for the serious pickleball club members as well as the daily walk-ins in from Hood County and beyond looking for a fun weekend," Copeland said.

TX HOP business partner and Granbury resident Stacy Parker concurred.

"We have addressed every

element that is important to the serious player that also benefits the novice. We provide specialized, seven-layer Pro-Cushion courts, which are so good for the joints and provide excellent consistent play, specialized lighting for no shadows and great ball visibility, 30-foot ceiling height for an open and spacious play area with netting around each court and an amazing climate-controlled environment for year-round player comfort."

"We offer the very best playing conditions for players of all levels and a premier training facility for beginners as well as professional players," added business partner and Granbury resident Jodi Herzog.

And players do appreciate the quality of play. One top player wrote a poem about TX Hop Club describing the first match played there.

"Players love the court surface and the way it plays. They also comment on how great the lighting is and how they love the atmosphere and acoustics. That is music to our ears as we set out to design and build the perfect playing experience," shared



PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The custom built 24,000 square-foot TX Hop Club offers eight indoor pickleball courts, a comfortable lounge area, a huge patio with skills zones and a full Pro Shop.

Herzog.

"We have had exceptional reaction to our spacious patio area, which includes individual skill zones, and our large, comfortable lobby, which connects our two court buildings. This area provides a protected area for extended gatherings of Pickleball enthusiasts off the courts," Copeland said.

Founders of the club have been surprised by the regional draw the facility has experienced.

"We hoped to draw from surrounding communities for tournaments and special events but have been pleasantly surprised by the number of players driving from Fort Worth, Weatherford, Dallas, even as far as Frisco, for regular play days," shared Copeland.

Still, their favorite part of the new venture is seeing the delight on the faces of locals when they first come into the facility.

"Our mantra is 'VIP Pickleball for everyone!' And, while we welcome the attention from anywhere, we also

would like our base membership to consist mostly of local players to help build the sport and community of Hood County," said Copeland.

In fact, community is something the partners hope to build using their club as a catalyst.

"Pickleball helps people connect with other people.

It is inclusive and welcoming to players of all levels from beginner to pro. Players naturally gravitate towards others of their level, but also build confidence to grow in the sport and, by extension, to grow their community," explained Copeland.

The TX Hop Club hopes to be more than a place to play pickleball.

"TX Hop Club is not just for Pickleball players (and those who love them). Two of the three owners have lived in Granbury many years and have children and grandchildren here as well, so we are invested in this community.

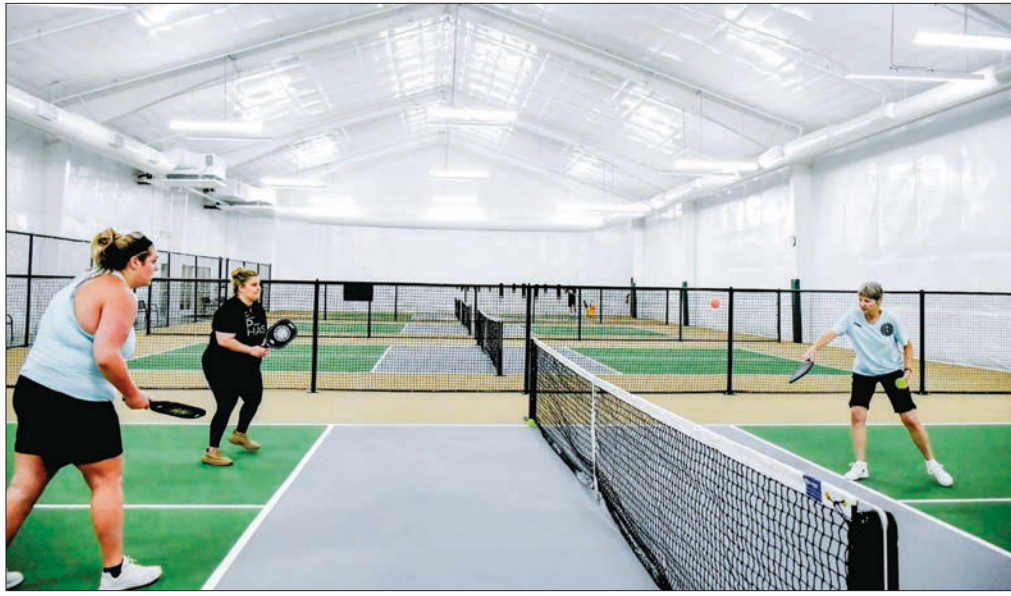
"We recently hosted a free concert on our patio that was very well received and

lots of fun. We will host our first Friday Night Social Oct. 4 (with) \$15 for two hours of play followed by pizza on the patio" Copeland shared.

"We are partnered with KHITS for three more Pickleball Palooza nights. We want to have lots of family and community events to bring people together around the sport of Pickleball," Copeland continued.

"With our new facility, we are committed to providing a new community outreach for the entire region through benefits, youth leagues, clinics, tournaments, Senior events, social hours, corporate events and many more activities. We're here for you. If you have ideas, reach out to us," Copeland said.

TX Hop Club is located at 920 Tucker Way across from Granbury Baptist Church on Farm-to-Market Road 51. For more information about hours, memberships and special events go to txhop-club.com.



Pickleball enthusiasts at Hood County's new TX Hop Club can enjoy the seven-layer Pro-Cushion courts that provide excellent, consistent play, specialized lighting and great ball visibility, not to mention climate-controlled space for year-round comfort.

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# EL TESORO

FROM PAGE B1

counselor," she said. "When I was a CIT in the summers of 1970 and 1971, they encouraged us to work at other camps to gain perspective. I worked at Blue Mountain Ranch in Colorado, which had just gone coed. It was a great experience, but I always came back to El Tesoro."

McConnell's journey at Camp El Tesoro wasn't just about the activities; it was about the life lessons she learned and the confidence she gained. "One of the stand-out moments for me was during a horseback overnight trip," she recalled. "A big rainstorm came, and they decided we needed to come in. They asked me to be the last person in the back like I was the counselor. It made me feel like a responsible person and gave me confidence."

Her role as a waterfront director at Camp El Tesoro also left a lasting impact. "I liked the waterfront activi-

ties," McConnell said. "I went through Red Cross swimming lessons, and eventually, I was teaching beginner classes. I remember one time when a girl sank because she was so tense. I had to pull her up, and it made me feel bad because I told her she would pop up. But it also taught me the importance of being patient and understanding."

Over the years, Camp El Tesoro has changed, but its spirit remains the same. "The camp has physically changed because now they have air conditioning," McConnell noted. "But I think the spirit of the camp has stayed the same. It's about being kind people, building relationships and giving back to the community."

McConnell earned a degree in psychology from the University of Texas and then volunteered for Volunteers in Service to America in Billings, Montana.

After receiving a master's degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, McConnell moved to Washington, D.C.,

where she worked for the General Accounting Office, now called the Government Accountability Office.

She relocated to Fort Worth and raised her three sons in Texas. Later, she worked for Camp Fire again for two years before resuming her government career. Eventually, she became the director of fair housing and later the director of the Housing and Urban Development office in New Mexico. McConnell remarried during this period and retired in 2015.

As Camp El Tesoro celebrates its 90th anniversary, McConnell is proud to be part of the celebration. "I'm the committee chair for the birthday party we're doing," she said. "It's been wonderful reconnecting with old friends and sharing our stories. My sons are coming to the celebration, and it's nice to see the camp's legacy continue with the next generation."

Camp Fire First Texas operates Camp El Tesoro, where children and youth engage in outdoor education and ex-

periential learning. Activities like hiking, campfire songs and zip lining are all designed to inspire and foster personal growth, friendships and fun.

"We honor the dignity and worth of every individual," the Camp Fire's Statement of Inclusion says, "welcoming and supporting people of all abilities, backgrounds and identities and striving to create safe, inclusive environments that celebrate diversity and foster positive relationships."

While Camp Fire and Camp El Tesoro are not religiously affiliated, they honor their traditions with some religiously inspired practices, such as saying grace before meals and attending a reflection service at the outdoor chapel to discuss personal growth and leadership.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Camp Fire's mission is to create a safe and inclusive environment where children and youth can build lasting relationships, develop a sense of belonging, and positively contribute to their communities.

Its core values focus on embracing diversity and welcoming all individuals — Inclusion. It uses data to enhance and inspire programming — data-informed practice, valuing the learning process and believing in the potential for improvement — growth mindset. El Tesoro also partners with communities for greater success through community collaboration. The camp emphasizes experiential learning in all programs — hands-on learning and recognizing the importance of social-emotional, physical, creative and academic development — the whole child approach.

Camp Fire programs focus on the critical periods of early



COURTESY PHOTOS

Elise Mayfield McConnell with her bedroll in the summer of 1964 at Camp El Tesoro.



Elise Mayfield McConnell, sitting on the guitarist's left, enjoys the campfire singalong with other El Tesoro campers in 1970.

childhood and early adolescence, utilizing the outdoor environment to enhance education and connection. Its commitment to continuous improvement through the Camp Fire Program Quality Assessment ensures a strong community impact.

For McConnell, Camp El Tesoro is more than just a summer camp; it's a hidden treasure that has touched the lives of countless campers. "I just hope it continues to exist for future generations," she said. "Camp El Tesoro has given me and so many others the confidence to be ourselves and the courage to face challenges."

She sums up her Camp Fire El Tesoro experience, "Camp El Tesoro provided the opportunity for me, as a child,

to feel independent, develop life-long friends, hone new skills in a supportive and encouraging environment while learning to experience and love nature and the outdoors. It continues to nurture my spirit as my sons and their children continue to explore all that El Tesoro has to offer."

As the campfire burns brightly, Camp El Tesoro continues to be a beacon of hope and inspiration for all who pass through its gates.

For information about attending the anniversary function, contact [campfirefw.org](http://campfirefw.org).

# LakeFest

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## AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

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## Sleepy Hollow

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

The Sleepy Hollow Experience returns to Granbury next month. Part of the Brian Clowdus Experience live shows, this much-anticipated event has a loyal following and is sure to capture new fans this go-round. Show dates for this unique theater event begin Oct. 3 and run through Oct. 27. "Sleepy Hollow is hands down the most popular ghost story of all time. The image of a headless horseman is synonymous with Halloween at this point," shared Clowdus.

"We have seen so many iterations from Johnny Depp to Disney. The original story by Washington Irving proves that classic literature and rich writing stands the test of time. Here we are over 200 years after its original publishing still seeing it alive and well," Clowdus continued.

The Brian Clowdus Experience is theater reimagined. It's a theater experience where audience members get an up close view and each performance is unique because with each

performance the audience changes.

"Guests connect so well because of the intimate and interactive nature. They feel as if they are literally in the story with the characters," explained Clowdus.

"They aren't sitting watching something, they are on their feet and in the action alongside all the players. They are going to the schoolhouse as students, they are going to the frolic as townspeople. They are active participants. I always say the stars of our experiences are the audiences!"

This type of out-of-the-box entertainment is created from the ground up in a nonconventional space. Clowdus loves the result of breaking down the barrier between the audience and the actors.

"I can't imagine doing theater any other way. Each night is different depending on the audience. The cast feeds off of the audience energy. They react when the audience reacts," said Clowdus.

He shared, "Although scripted, the actors have freedom to improv based off of what the audience is giving them. Our VIP pre-show is completely unscripted and you get to hang

PLEASE SEE **HOLLOW** | C4

The character of the Headless Horsemen looms over the audience in the Sleepy Hollow Experience, returning to Granbury in October.

## Lomax legacy: Preserving American folk music across five generations

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

For John Lomax III, music is more than a passion; it's a family tradition that has shaped the history of American folk music for over a century. Lomax III is the grandson of legendary folklorist John Avery Lomax Sr. and the son of Texas folk music icon John A. Lomax Jr.

Lomax III is carrying on the family's mission of preserving and sharing America's rich cultural heritage. He will perform at the Texas Cowboy Symposium in Granbury Sept. 27-28, bringing with him a legacy deeply rooted in the American folk tradition.

Growing up in Houston, Lomax III was surrounded by the songs and stories his father collected.

"My father started the Houston Folklore Society in our living room around 1951," Lomax III said. The society nurtured a young generation of Texas musicians, including luminaries like Townes Van Zandt, Steve Earle, K.T. Oslin, Lucinda Williams, Nancy Griffith and Shake Russell. "They all came through the folklore society and went on to greater fame and glory," he added.

Although his father was prominent in Texas' folk scene, Lomax III initially pursued different paths. It wasn't until 2022 when a friend invited him to perform at a house concert, he began sharing his own songs. "I'd been around it all my life, but I hadn't done it seriously until then," he reflected.

Since that turning point, Lomax III has crafted his performance into the "Lomax on Lomax" show, which blends storytelling, music and historical images to educate and entertain audiences.

Lomax III's show was named by Joe Nick Patoski, a renowned writer and Texas literary figure known for



COURTESY PHOTO

The Lomax on Lomax Show, which is happening at the Texas Cowboy Symposium, offers a rare opportunity to experience the history of American folk music through the eyes and voice of a man whose family has shaped it for generations.

his contributions to Texas Highways magazine and Texas Monthly magazine. Patoski has also authored notable books about the Dallas Cowboys and Willie Nelson.

The Lomax family's legacy in American music began in 1867 with John Avery Lomax Sr. "He moved to Texas — to Meridian, just down the road there, and started writing down the words to cowboy songs that he heard the cowboys singing because it turned out Chisholm Trail ran right through the backyard of the Lomax farm," said Lomax III.

In the late 1870s, Lomax Sr. began writing down the lyrics to the songs he heard. "He figured out a way to remember the melodies without having any training or teachers or books or anything," Lomax III explained. "He continued doing this for about 25 years, and eventually, he was able to make recordings, so he didn't have to remember the melodies."

As recording technology developed around the turn of the century, Lomax acquired equipment to capture the music. He initially

used wax cylinders, but they proved impractical in the hot Texas summers.

Over time, he upgraded to better equipment. All these efforts culminated in his first book, "Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads," published in 1910.

The book preserved iconic songs like "Home on the Range," ensuring they were not lost to history. This was just the beginning of the Lomax family's significant contributions to preserving American folk music.

Lomax Sr. and his son, Lomax Jr., later traveled the country, recording folk songs, spirituals and personal narratives for the Library of Congress.

Their fieldwork contributed 17,000 recordings to the national archive, helping preserve the cultural expressions of communities that might have been overlooked. They also played a pivotal role in discovering legendary artists like Lead Belly and Muddy Waters, among many others.

Lead Belly, born Huddie William Ledbetter Jan. 20, 1888, was a pivotal American folk and blues musician

renowned for his powerful voice and 12-string guitar skills. His music is rooted in African American folk traditions and encompasses blues, folk and spirituals.

"The achievements of my family are really monumental, and they haven't been generally known by the public," Lomax said. Lomax Jr. and his sister, Bess Lomax Hawes, were awarded the National Medal of Arts for their contributions.

Lomax Jr.'s recordings, including a historic 1938 interview with jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton, aka Ferdinand Joseph LaMothe, earned him two Grammys. Morton's compositions, including "King Porter Stomp," are foundational in jazz history.

Lomax III's performances pay tribute to his family's legacy while bringing the music to new audiences.

"The show takes listeners through 140 years of history and five generations of the Lomax family, all of which have been devoted to finding, preserving and presenting American music and cultural expression," Lomax said. His performances include folk classics like "The Old Chisholm Trail" and "Froggy Went A-Courtin,'" a 400-year-old Scottish ballad featured in his family's iconic collection, "American Ballads and Folk Songs."

Lomax III also continues his family's tradition of documenting and sharing American roots music through a blog, Of American Origin, on Substack and his work exporting hard-to-find country records to Europe.

At 80 years old, he shows no signs of slowing down. "I'm not retired," he said.

In fact, he will soon release his version of "Froggy Went A-Courtin'" across digital platforms, with a full CD album to follow later this year.

"The song itself is about 400 years old, originating in Scotland. It was pub-

PLEASE SEE **LOMAX** | C2



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Ruck Forward event is hosted by Riley Stevens Memorial Post 8735.

## Ruck Forward movement honors the fallen

BY LAUREN DAVIS  
Staff Writer  
lauren@hcnews.com

In the heart of Tolar, Sgt. 1st Class Riley Gene Stephens' legacy lives on through an annual event that has become a powerful symbol of unity and remembrance.

His brother, Kenneth Stephens, who served 20 years in the U.S. Army, including three tours in Iraq, and now commands VFW Post 7835, continues to honor Riley's memory.

While Riley Stephens' story is one of heroism, his family's dedication has sparked a meaningful movement. "Our son was KIA in 2012," said his mother, JoAnn Stephens. "We used to hold a Riley Run, but over time, we realized we needed to raise

more awareness about the 22 veterans who take their own lives every day."

Riley Stephens' distinguished career in the U.S. Army spanned numerous roles, from infantryman to Special Forces medical sergeant. His bravery in the face of danger earned him the Bronze Star Medal with Valor, the Purple Heart and multiple other commendations.

Following his death, his family sought to ensure his legacy continued through efforts to address a pressing issue affecting veterans — suicide.

The Ruck Forward event — formerly the Riley Run — started 12 years ago and is a key component of this effort. The walk features a 22K (13 miles) and a 5K (3

PLEASE SEE **RUCK** | C2

# MA supplemental benefits address gaps in traditional Medicare

**BY DAVID ASHMORE**  
*Medicare Market President for Wellpoint in Texas*

Medicare Advantage, also known as Medicare Part C, is a managed care alternative to traditional Medicare coverage offered by health plans. In recent years, MA membership has grown substantially, and MA plans have been permitted to add new benefits to better address members' needs.

In particular, changes in regulation and legislation have allowed MA health plans, like Wellpoint in Texas, more flexibility in designing specially tailored

benefits that support a person's overall health and well-being. These supplemental benefits are unique to MA and can help address gaps in traditional Medicare. Supplemental benefits historically included "primarily health related" benefits like dental, vision and hearing services and, more recently, include services that support health-related needs such as help purchasing nutritious food and transportation to access plan benefits.

According to the National Academy of Medicine, what's typically considered "medical care" only accounts for

10% to 20% of contributors to health outcomes. Other factors that have an impact on a person's health include their access to grocery stores, relationships with friends and family, and home and workplace environments. These are known as social drivers of health, and they account for the remaining 80% to 90%.

Thanks to the expansion of MA supplemental benefits, plan members are now better able to get the help they need to improve their whole health. For example, while medically tailored meals have been offered as a

conventional supplemental benefit for a while, some MA plans are now able to offer additional nutrition benefits such as grocery cards, which provide a monthly allowance that give members the ability to purchase produce and other food items at participating grocery stores.

A study published last year found that a vast majority of a MA health plan's members used at least one supplemental benefit in 2022, with many accessing more than one benefit. In addition, members who used at least one supplemental benefit were more likely to live in

areas with fewer resources, such as food deserts and areas with lower socioeconomic status, suggesting that these benefits are helping to address social drivers of health.

Another recent study suggested that use of supplemental benefits is associated with an increased likelihood of having a preventative screening or annual wellness visit and a decreased likelihood of having a hospitalization or emergency room visit for a nonemergent issue.

Today, more than 32 million people have chosen to enroll in a MA plan. That's

more than half of all eligible Medicare members, showcasing the critical value that MA plans, including supplemental benefits, provide for older adults and people with disabilities.

With the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period fast approaching, from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7, it's a crucial time for all Medicare-eligible individuals. Take this opportunity to review your options carefully to ensure that your MA plan is working for you. Don't overlook the supplemental benefits, as these can significantly contribute to overall health and well-being.

## RUCK

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miles) ruck march, symbolizing the 22 veterans who commit suicide each day.

Participants either carry weighted rucksacks or join in the walk, creating a visible and emotional demonstration of support and solidarity.

The "walk in unison" element of Ruck Forward holds deep significance, symbolizing the community's solidarity and shared commitment to honoring the sacrifices of service members. "It's a visual and emotional representation of the support network we want to create for our veterans," explained Navy veteran and event organizer Cathy Castro. "This is a time for the community to come together, to show they care and are ready to stand alongside those who have served."

Castro, whose son currently serves in the Air Force, emphasizes the importance of this collective show of support.

The event has grown significantly since its inception, with around 173 participants last year. The "walk in unison" aspect is central to the event, reflecting the collective commitment to honoring the sacrifices of service members.

Dr. John Taber, a veteran of two military branches, will lead the procession with bagpipes, adding a ceremonial touch to the event. The VFW Post will host the post-event activities, including a meal and speeches, where the community can reflect on the day's significance and the ongoing mission

to support veterans.

"The sight of hundreds of individuals marching together, flags waving, and the sound of bagpipes playing as the ruck returns to the VFW Post creates a moving and unforgettable experience.

"The community's participation and the patriotic atmosphere are what make this event truly special," Castro added. "It's a powerful reminder of the support we can offer each other."

Mick Stephens, Riley Stephens' father, emphasized the importance of the event beyond its immediate activities. "This is not just about us or Riley; it's about all veterans and their sacrifices," he said. "The event brings together Gold Star families and highlights the critical issue of veteran suicide."

In addition to the ruck march, the community is encouraged to participate in other ways. Those not walking can join in by attending the Memorial Lane event or cheering along the route. "We encourage everyone to come out, whether you're walking or just showing support from the sidelines," Castro said. "The more people involved, the stronger our message becomes."

As Ruck Forward continues to grow, it stands as a testament to Riley Stephens' enduring impact and the collective effort to address veteran suicide. The event embodies the spirit of unity and remembrance, ensuring that service members like Stephens' sacrifices are honored and those in need receive the support they deserve.

For information or to join the walk, visit [www.ruckforward.com](http://www.ruckforward.com).

## LOMAX

FROM PAGE C1

lished in the U.S. by Uncle Alan and Grandfather in 'American Ballads and Folk Songs,' with that version featuring 35 verses," Lomax III said. He decided to trim it down, saying "It takes a while to sing anyway with 18 verses."

Performing solo and often a cappella, Lomax III brought together a talented group of musicians for his CD. Shawn Camp, Richard Bennett, Jim Hoke, Vincent Farsetta and Ben "Jonesy" Jones all contributed to the project.

The album also features two special guests: Rattlesnake Annie, who performs her poignant song "Goodbye to a River," and James Tristan Redding, who plays guitar and collaborates with Lomax on their co-written track "They Came but Did Not See."

The Lomax family legacy lives on through Lomax III's performances and the next generation. His son, John Nova Lomax, was a well-known Texas journalist until his death. Now, his grandson, John Lomax V, is interning at the Houston Chronicle, continuing the family's deep connection to storytelling.

Lomax III lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife of 33 years, Melanie Wells. He is also the father of two adult children. Next weekend, he will travel to



COURTESY PHOTO

**Lomax on Lomax show at the Texas Cowboy Symposium - Texas State Championship Chuckwagon Cook-off and Western Swing Festival. Sept. 27 - Sept. 28 at Warren's Backyard.**

Hood County to perform.

"For the Granbury show," Lomax III said, "I'll focus more on cowboy songs, as this is where it all began." He explained that his grandfather attended college in Granbury for his first higher education before going on to Texas A&M, the University of Texas, and eventually Harvard.

"The 'Lomax on Lomax' show is meant to be both educational and entertaining," said Lomax III. And for those attending the Texas Cowboy Symposium, where Lomax III will perform, it offers a rare opportunity to experience the history of American folk music through the eyes and

voice of a man whose family has shaped it for generations.

### UPCOMING PERFORMANCE

· What: "Lomax on Lomax" show at the Texas Cowboy Symposium — Texas State Championship Chuckwagon Cook-off and Western Swing Festival

· When: Noon and 2 p.m. this weekend

· Presented by: Warren's Backyard

· Dates: Sept. 27-28

· For anyone interested in the roots of American folk music, it's an opportunity not to be missed.

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# Ruth's Place Casino Night: High stakes for a higher cause

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Ruth's Place Casino Night attendees enjoyed a fabulous evening of casino games, food, drinks and entertainment Thursday, Sept. 12 at The David Southern Lake Granbury Conference Center. Supporters provide 20% of Ruth's Place funds for the year. Ruth's Place offers a weekly food pantry, a literacy program, and various community outreach programs. If you couldn't attend the event, donations to support #KeepHoodCountyHealthy will be greatly appreciated. The organizers expressed their gratitude to Hood County residents for their generous support, emphasizing they couldn't continue their vital work without them.



# Gallery meets gallop

From Staff Reports

Get ready to mark your calendars and prepare for a splash of creativity and cuteness at Hood County's own T.E.X.A.S. Rescue.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Texas native and lifelong art instructor Barbara Gibson will host a Kids and Kritters art show at T.E.X.A.S. Rescue — complete with art pieces created by some of her talented students.

Using a wide variety of mediums, Gibson's students will have these pieces on display — and for sale — in the exhibit hall of Oasis Tranquilo, located at 950 Williamson Road. The sale of these pieces will not only enhance the confidence of the young artists but also ensure that the proceeds support the students directly. In turn, the funds will aid in supporting the rescue animals at T.E.X.A.S. Rescue.

T.E.X.A.S. (Texas Equine Xperience and Sanctuary) Rescue, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serves as Hood County's official equine and equid therapy program for veterans through a partnership with Veteran Services at Pecan Valley Centers for Behavioral and Developmental Healthcare. The organization extends its services to first responders, children, individuals with autism and those with special needs. Utilizing therapy donkeys, T.E.X.A.S. Rescue provides vital support to individuals dealing with PTSD, anxiety, depression and various other challenges in today's world.

During the art show, visitors can also look forward to interacting with the therapy donkeys, who will be available for petting and photo opportunities. Please note that personal pets are not permitted at the event.

For more information about T.E.X.A.S. Rescue, visit its website at [texasrescue.org](http://texasrescue.org).



Group photo: Leadership Granbury adult and junior classes of 2024-25.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TAYLOR HATFIELD

## LEADERSHIP GRANBURY

# Local leaders explore and enhance their leadership skills

BY TAYLOR HATFIELD  
AND CHESHE HAWKINS



Taylor and Cheshe are members of the leadership Granbury board and graduates of the class of 22-23. Cheshe owns Southern Star Market and Taylor owns The FIT Lounge. When they aren't working at their places of business, you can catch them out supporting their community. Usually in costume!

The picturesque location of Rest Yourself River Ranch served as the location for the adult and junior Leadership Granbury Classes of 2024-25 Retreat this past weekend. Local leaders came together to explore and enhance their leadership skills.

The retreat, which took place Sept. 12-13, was organized by class leaders and alumni in collabora-

tion with several community organizations.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions:

- Rest Yourself River Resort
- Granbury Chamber of Commerce
- Kroger Marketplace Granbury
- H-E-B Granbury
- FNB
- Taco Casa

### • Revolver Brewery

The retreat, led by Drew Meyers, offered dedicated sessions allowing participants to connect with peers, share ideas and explore potential collaborations.

As the retreat wrapped up, there was a palpable sense of enthusiasm and optimism among participants, who left with new tools and connections to drive their leadership journeys forward. Leadership Granbury meets one day per month to dive into leadership, community education and so much more.

For more information about how to present to this year's class or get on the list for next year's class, email [leadershipgranbury@gmail.com](mailto:leadershipgranbury@gmail.com)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TAYLOR HATFIELD

Granbury Councilman Skip Overdier and Jordan Speegle attempt to complete a challenge exercise at the Leadership Granbury Retreat.

# Granbury Quilt Guild to hold quilt raffle Oct. 21

From Staff Reports

The Granbury Quilt Guild will draw the name of the winner of the 2024 Raffle Quilt at its next regularly scheduled meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21. Currently the guild meets the third Monday of each month at the United Co-Op building located at 320 Fall Creek Highway in Granbury.

The quilt was created by guild member Kathy Cosand and was donated to the guild in fall 2023. Ticket sales began in early 2024 and there are only a few tickets remaining to be sold. If anyone is interested in purchasing tickets to support the guild, they could be the lucky winner of this 80-by-100-inch "Jane Austin" quilt.

Ticket prices are \$1 each or six for \$5 and can be purchased from guild member Gail Olney at 972-876-8304. Ticket holders do not need to be present to win.

The Granbury Quilt Guild is a nonprofit organization originally established in 1997 and currently has about 100 active members. Proceeds from the sale of the raffle tickets will be used by the guild to purchase fabric and related materials to continue participating in charitable projects related to the art of quilt making.

For more information, please contact Nancy Marstiller at 512-461-1461 or send an email to [nbmarstiller@gmail.com](mailto:nbmarstiller@gmail.com).



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of the Sleepy Hollow Experience when it was last performed in Granbury two years ago.

## HOLLOW

FROM PAGE C1

out inside the house in an intimate cocktail party with the characters. If you are looking for the most immersive, epic experience, you have to opt for the VIP tickets! Nothing like the preshow ... it is a hoot-and-a-half!"

It has been two years since Granbury has hosted "The Sleepy

Hollow Experience," and many fans look forward to another chance to enjoy the show and others are determined not to let the opportunity pass them by this time.

"You will see some familiar faces and some new faces this year. I will say we have assembled hands-down the most talented Sleepy Hollow Experience any venue has ever seen. The talent this year is what bring the experience to the next level," Clowdus expressed.

Though he has been writing, directing and planning these experiences for several years Clowdus is just as enthused as ever to bring The Sleepy Hollow Experience back to Granbury.

"This is hands-down the most incredible Halloween event of the year," Clowdus said. "We take the original story and turn it on its head with a new interactive, immersive spectacle. This is good, family-friendly fun and just spooky enough

to scare you but not so scary it's not good for all.

"National, world class talent marries with the most epic venue in Granbury: haunted mansion, outdoor courtyard and chapel ... the setting could not be more evocative. You feel as if you have traveled back in time and are in the town of Sleepy Hollow."

For more information and to buy tickets go to [brianclowdus.com](http://brianclowdus.com).

# JESUS REIGNS PARADE FOR GOD'S GREATER GLORY

PHOTOS BY MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Jesus Reigns parade took place on the Granbury Square on Saturday morning, Sept. 14. Floats and vehicles decorated with flags and banners honoring Jesus reflected this year's theme, "God's Greater Glory." The celebration continued with a Praise and Worship Celebration on Saturday afternoon at Hewlett Park.



BOOK REVIEW

# Uh-oh. You're in trouble

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

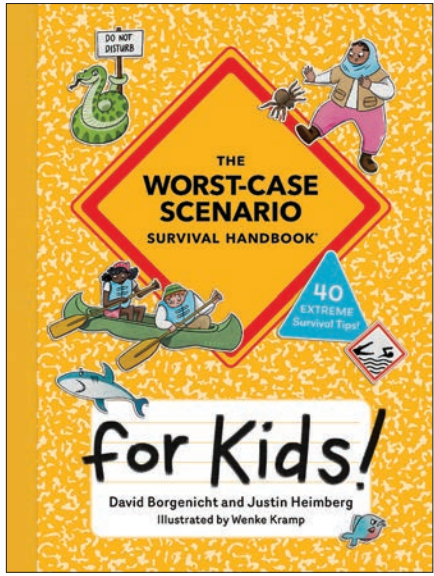
You were playing outside and something life-threatening occurred. Or you were on vacation and the worst possible thing you could imagine actually happened. So now what? How do you act to save your life and the lives of others? Ta-daa! "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook for Kids!" by David Borgenicht and Justin Heimberg, illustrations by Wenke Kramp to the rescue!

Under normal circumstances, you're a pretty chill kid. You do like a bit of adventure, though, and danger sometimes comes with it, so you want to be prepared for everything. That includes extreme — and "we mean EXTREME!" — events that could happen.

Say, for instance, that you somehow end up in the ocean and a shark spots you. Won't it be handy to know how to keep that monster away? Yep, and it'll be good to know how to build a lifesaving raft, soothe a jellyfish sting, and navigate by the stars if you're ever stranded on a remote island, too.

Or let's say you're mountain climbing and you learn that the mountain is actually a volcano. Do you know how to survive a lava flow? How 'bout an avalanche, or a bear or mountain lion attack? At the very least, you'll want to know how to go to the bathroom in the woods.

Learn to deal with tarantulas, rattle-



COURTESY PHOTO

**"The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook for Kids!" by David Borgenicht and Justin Heimberg, illustrations by Wenke Kramp, c.2024, Quirk Books, \$12.99, 128 pages.**

snakes and scorpions if you're ever stuck in the desert, and how to get along with and ride a camel. Know how to protect yourself in a sandstorm and where to find water. If you're in the jungle, learn how much danger there is in crossing a piranha-infested stream, and how to remove yourself from a not-

so-nice hug from a python or a gigantic (and very angry) gorilla. Know how to remove leeches, and how to create a shelter if you're lost anywhere outside. Learn how to cross the ice, how to build a snow-shelter, how to avoid alligators, and by the way ... just exactly how dangerous is quicksand, anyhow?

Can you ever be too prepared for the worst? Not if you're a kid, especially a kid who loves adventure. Your child, for example, will want to read "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook for Kids!"

That's because this book is pure fun, in a format that's lighthearted and easy-to-understand, complete with quizzes and trivia. The good surprise is that it's also helpful and can be serious, maybe even lifesaving. Won't you rest a little more assured knowing your child knows how to get himself safely out of broken ice, or how to make a shelter if she's lost in the wilderness? In such cases, authors Borgenicht and Heimberg empower kids with information that's timely and not silly at all — although there's a place for that in this book, too.

Like ... camel ride, anyone?

This is a great book for kids ages 8 to 12 but can also be enjoyed by young readers slightly older or younger. As for loving "The Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook for Kids!" your child will have no trouble.



COURTESY PHOTO

In a world dominated by screens, there's something incredibly satisfying about picking up a fresh notebook, a set of colored pens or a pack of stickers.

## Shop outside the box: Putting the fun back in the mundane

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News  
micky@hcnews.com

Okay, show of hands. How many of you reading this are like me and have this overwhelming sense of dread whenever you go to the supermarket? Sometimes, I would rather smash my finger with a hammer than go to the supermarket. It's just not one of my favorite things to do. And when I do go, I go in with the operational precision of a Navy Seal team. Make a quick strike and get out before anyone notices I'm there!

Let's face it—most of us shop on autopilot. We march into the store, list in hand (or on our phones), and beeline straight to the same aisles every time. But what if you broke out of your routine? What if you dared to venture into the uncharted territories of your local grocery store? You know, those aisles you usually zoom past without a second thought — the candy aisle, the magazine section, the stationery corner or even the notorious clearance aisle. Yes, those!

### THE CANDY AISLE: A SWEET NOSTALGIC TRIP

Remember when you were a kid and the candy aisle was the ultimate destination? Just stepping into it was like diving into a pool of vibrant colors and sugary possibilities. But as adults, we tend to skip it — whether out of a misguided sense of self-discipline or because we've convinced ourselves we've outgrown it. The truth is, the candy

aisle isn't just for kids. It's a portal to nostalgia, a reminder that a bit of sweetness can brighten any day. Plus, you might just find a new favorite treat — or an old one that you haven't had in years. So, go ahead and indulge your inner child.

### THE MAGAZINE SECTION: INSPIRATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Ah, the magazine aisle. Once the mainstay of checkout lines, it's now a bit of a hidden gem. Sure, we live in the age of smartphones and endless online content, but there's something charming about flipping through the glossy pages of a magazine. You might stumble upon a new hobby, find a recipe that changes your dinner game, or simply get lost in a world of celebrity gossip and breathtaking photography. Whether you're into fashion, cooking or cars, there's a magazine out there just waiting to inspire your next big idea.

### THE STATIONERY CORNER: A CREATIVE WONDERLAND

If you haven't visited the stationery aisle in a while, you're missing out on a world of potential. Think about it — how often do we really get the chance to create something tangible anymore? In a world dominated by screens, there's something incredibly satisfying about picking up a fresh notebook, a set of colored pens or a pack of stickers. Whether you're looking to add a bit of flair to your office supplies or

PLEASE SEE **MUNDANE** | C7

PECAN PLANTATION BITS

## Pecan Plantation art guild presents annual gallery night

BY DIANE LONG



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

A very much-anticipated event in our community is happening Friday, Sept. 27 when the Pecan Plantation Art Guild's gallery night takes place. This annual event began in 2012 and provides folks the opportunity to visit homes turned into art galleries for the evening, meet artists and view their work, partake in a festive time of fellowship and enjoy a "bite and a beverage" along the way. The five gallery homes will be revealed when attendees check in at the clubhouse (from 3:45 to 7:30 p.m.) on event day and receive a booklet, map, directory of artists and beverage tickets. The guild charges no admission, but a donation of \$5 per person is suggested. Carpooling is also recommended to help with traffic and increase the fun.

**MORE DATES**

In addition, the PPAG will host a Sue Jackson slab plate pottery workshop Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the EMS building, and the next pop-up art show and sale will happen at the clubhouse Tuesday, Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**GOLF WORK**

The Pecan Plantation Golf Committee and the golf grounds crew will be hosting a "bunker" party Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 5 p.m. on hole number 12. The day's agenda will consist of both food and fellowship (hot dogs and beer!) as well as working on the hole's bunkers by removing sand, replacing liners and refilling traps. Volunteers should bring a shovel and may contact the golf pro shop for more details on the day: 817-573-2645.

**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 on the bookmobile and its presence in our community, contact Robin Scanlon at 817-573-3569.

**GOLF GAME**

Pecan's Men's Golf Association has low gross/low net play set for Thursday, Sept. 26 and the much-anticipated club championship is on the calendar for Saturday and Sunday Sept. 28-29. Players

may sign up for these events in the golf pro shop: 817-573-2645.

**MUSIC EVENT**

The very popular Marina Trio will be at The Pit (marina patio) Friday, Sept. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. Diners will be able to enjoy good food, lively music and lovely lake views.

**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 be selling pulled pork sandwiches.

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

Vendors desiring to rent a space or receive more details about the day may contact Joy Rice at 254-289-2224 or jdtrauxiliary@gmail.com.

**PRIZE AVAILABLE**

In addition, the VFD/EMS Auxiliary is selling raffle tickets for a Bonds Arms Rowdy derringer. Tickets are

\$20 each or six for \$100, and folks wishing to make a purchase may text Julie Logan: 727-252-3702. Tickets will also be available on crafts fair day (Sept. 28) at the PAC from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**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.

**PARTY TIME**

The next "mystery bus" event is on the calendar for Wednesday, Oct. 9, and sign ups began last week. Pecaners received a reservation link via email. This most enjoyed outing (and the final one for 2024) will fill up quickly.

**SALE WEEKEND**

Pecan's fall garage sale weekend will happen Friday, Oct. 18 for members only from 3 to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 19 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Online sign-ups and listings of participating households will happen in early October.

**WORK PROJECTS**

Crews are currently replacing the steps and select sidewalk portions in front of the

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Psalm 94:18-19

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Romans 15:13

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John 15:4



COURTESY PHOTO BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER

Disc flowers, such as Shasta daisies, provide a stable platform for butterflies to land and sip nectar.

GARDEN PATCH

# Identify butterfly plants

BY PHYLLIS WEBSTER



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

In fall, as nighttime temperatures cool, many flowering plants burst into bloom, luring migrating butterflies with their abundant nectar. Many butterfly species, such as the monarch, migrate in fall to overwinter in warmer weather. To fuel their journey, they require energy-rich nectar, which sustains them over long distances. Nonmigratory butterflies also need nectar to survive winter food scarcities.

By planting a fall-blooming garden, not only will you support butterflies as they migrate, you will also help many of them to reproduce. The butterflies that breed in fall require nectar, which gives them the carbohydrates they need to have the energy to lay eggs.

When planning a butterfly garden, it's important to

understand the characteristics that make certain flowers more appealing to these pollinators. Butterflies are attracted to flowers with abundant nectar, vibrant colors and accessible structures. Nectar is the primary food source for adult butterflies, so flowers such as lantana that produce high quantities of nectar are more likely to attract a wider variety of butterfly species.

Butterflies are drawn to flower structures that make it easier for them to land, feed and access nectar. Some of these structures include flat-topped or clustered flower heads, tubular flowers, composite flowers, simple flowers and disc flowers.

Flowers with flat-topped flower heads provide large, stable landing areas, which allow butterflies to comfortably perch while feeding. Asters,

for example, have flat-topped flower heads. Often, these landing areas consist of multiple small flowers or florets that are easy for pollinators to access, such as those of yarrow and sedum 'Autumn Joy.'

Clusters of many small flowers (florets) that form a single, larger flower heads are referred to as composite flowers. Each floret can provide nectar making the entire flower an abundant food source. Coneflowers, zinnias and sunflowers, for example, have central cones made up of many tiny florets that are surrounded by large petals.

Tubular flowers are shaped like funnels with nectar located deep inside. Butterflies use their straw-like proboscises to reach the nectar. Examples of flowers with these structures include many salvias, crossvine and coral honeysuckle.

Small, simple flowers are favored because they are easily accessible and often grow in clusters. Milkweed and lantana both have small flowers arranged in clusters. Disc flowers are characterized by their round, central florets, often surrounded by larger

petals or bracts. The disc provides a stable platform, while the central florets offer nectar. Black-eyed Susan, daisies and blanket flowers are good examples.

While structure is key, color and scent also play a role in drawing butterflies. Brightly colored flowers in reds, oranges, yellows and purples combined with sweet fragrances help attract butterflies to your garden. Colorful fall-flowering plants for local butterfly gardens include Texas asters, goldenrod, sedum 'Autumn Joy,' lantana, Mexican sunflower, Turk's cap and salvias.

Learn more about butterfly gardening at Lake Granbury Master Gardener's FREE Romancing the Monarch event to be held 1:30 - 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5 (rain date Oct. 6), at the LGMG Demonstration, 1410 W. Pearl St., behind Hood County Annex I.

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

I'VE BEEN THINKING

## Crazy facts of life

BY CAROL GOODMAN HEIZER



Carol Goodman Heizer is an author who moved to Hood County from Louisville, Kentucky in 2019. She has had short stories and articles published in six editions of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books. Her column for the Hood County News will appear every two weeks. She was a public school teacher for 17 years, earlier in her professional career.

Life can be crazy at times. But the more we learn about it, the crazier it seems. Enjoy the following tidbits that you may not have known. Just sit

back and enjoy these aspects of life on planet Earth.

The giraffe has an exceptionally long tongue — 20 inches.

Vermont is the state with the smallest capital city (Montpelier) with a population of just over 8,000.

Many early Europeans died from eating tomatoes when they were first introduced to them because the acidity in the tomatoes brought out the lead in their pewter plates.

The employee of the American Appliance Company received only two

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COURTESY PHOTO BY TUPUNGATO, ADOBESTOCK.COM

An average horse can jump three feet, whereas a competitive jumping horse can jump seven feet.



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THE IDLE AMERICAN

# On becoming a year older



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.

I have probably made this claim previously, but most friends know that my respect for redundancy has never been more than trivial. So, here I go again, certain that there finally are but two groups of people — those who have egos and admit it and those who likewise have 'em and don't admit it.

I'm in the former group — giddy as a 5-year-old with a store-bought birthday cake — buoyed by warm memories of a 60-hour whirlwind of accolades marking my 87th birthday.

It all began with a Magnolia potluck luncheon thrown by church Primetimers on my birthday "eve-eve." It ended in Brownwood, where I handed officials the game ball to signal the beginning of the Howard Payne University vs. Hardin-Simmons University football game. (Side note: I made the handoff without fumbling, and in a flash, my "15 seconds of fame" was over. Longtime friend Jay Allison, CEO of Comstock Resources in Frisco, also was an honoree, serving as "honorary team captain" for the entirety of the game.) ...

First things first: Several months ago, Barbara Harris, a go-getter in Magnolia, invited me to speak to her church Primetimers. I agreed, mentioning the event would mark the beginning of my

65th year of public speaking, two days prior to my 87th birthday Sept. 7.

Eureka, thought she. Why not have a birthday party for me and all attendees? This thought led to Pandora's box opening, and her creative juices — flowing regularly in daylight hours and often in dawn's early light — overflowed.

There were birthday cakes everywhere, and enough additional table decorations to start a Mardi Gras, stopping just short of bead-throwing. There were 12 tables for persons born from January through December ...

Emcee Barbara — who never saw a detail to be overlooked — was in rare form. Someone said she can gab at 250 words a minute — with gusts to 300 — while threading the needle of an electric sewing machine with it a'runnin.' I can believe that.

She decided to reveal to the group of some 80 persons how many total birthdays were being observed. First Baptist Church staffer Milt Eichler calculated the cumulative figure to be well north of 5,000. (Yikes, it was sobering to realize my birthdays contributed nearly 2% of this figure.)

I came home with much, including a birthday cake, an encased 1937 Indian head "birth nickel," a touching tribute poem penned by her ownself, and a "pet rock" painted by her

hubby in school colors of Howard Payne University, where I served as president from 1986-1997 ...

The Harris are on track for squeezing the most from retirement years. They have children and grandchildren to enjoy, a church to serve, friends to value and a marriage of 53 years to savor.

These retired educators have a lovely home, where I spent the night prior to speaking. I even got to see their pet turtles — named, of course — muddle around the backyard.

Barbara crowds much into her schedule, including meetings of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) — a program that she claims hasn't worked for her — and a sewing group whose members "mostly keep each other in stitches." Walter, a high school and HPU track runner, seems to pace himself with home projects and rock painting ...

In Brownwood, my team lost. However, I remained on a "sugar high" from intake of birthday cake slabs. Still, I handled my football handoff duties acceptably, though not in a manner nearly as stately as Allison, who was stoic and dignified throughout the game.

Down deep, he was probably hurting for his Baylor Bears, who lost that weekend, too. Maybe I'll get Harris to paint him a pet rock, too. (Pet rocks, BTW, emerged in 1975.)

There is much to savor, including birthday wishes from several hundred alumni, among whom were two HPU graduates who bought my books. Such discriminating readers are particularly valued ...

## FACTS

FROM PAGE C9

dollars as a bonus for his invention of the microwave oven.

A sloth has 10 neck bones — the giraffe has only 7.

Bees (who can fly 30,000 feet) can fly higher than Mount Everest (29,035 feet).

Ancient Egyptians used dead mouse paste, burnt eggshells, oxen hoof powder and ashes with pumice stone to ease toothaches.

An average horse can jump three feet, whereas a competitive jumping horse can jump seven feet. As far as human high jumpers in the Olympics, the record is 7 feet, 10 inches for men and 6 feet, 9 inches for women.

"The Terminator" script sold for a mere \$1 by young James Cameron who was living out of his car and struggling to get by.

It was the zero-gravity espresso maker (ISSpresso) that was sent into space in 2015 by Italian astronaut Samantha Cristoforetti.

Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak (both college dropouts), and Ronald Wayne started Apple Computer Inc. April 1, 1976.

The everyday waffle iron was the kitchen appliance that inspired one of the first pairs of Nike shoes.

As dirty as boars may seem, they wash their food before eating it.

Penicillin, the modern-day medicine, was first called "mold juice" because it was the juice produced by the mold that killed the bacteria — not the mold itself.

The first stroller (large and bulky) was first engineered to be pulled by a goat, pony or dog.

The MGM lion's roar is trademarked.

Irish bars — known to most as pubs — always closed on St. Patrick's Day up until the 1970s.

When bananas are placed



COURTESY PHOTO BY ARTUR, ADOBESTOCK.COM

The Eiffel Tower is 15 cm (5.9 inches) taller during the summer because of the metal's thermal expansion.

under black light, they appear as blue because of the "insoluble phenolics from the apoplast."

Adult cats are lactose intolerant. When cats are born, they, like humans, have the necessary enzyme (lactase) to break down lactose. As cats age, many lose that enzyme. This means after they ingest milk, cheese or another dairy product, the lactose that isn't digested stays in their intestines and begins to ferment.

The Pope cannot be an organ donor because he must be buried intact — his body belongs to the Universal Catholic Church.

The Eiffel Tower is 15 cm (5.9 inches) taller during the summer because of the metal's thermal expansion.

The tooth is the only part of the human body that cannot heal itself. It is not alive due to the enamel surface.

Switzerland makes owning only one Guinea pig illegal because they are social animals and being alone can be stressful.

The Ancient Romans put toast in their wine, believing it would lead to good health.

A shrimp's heart is located in its head because it has an open circulatory system, which means it has no arteries; its organs float directly in blood.

People are more creative in the shower because the

warmth releases dopamine that makes us more creative.

Scotland chose the Unicorn as its national animal because of its connection with dominance and chivalry, as well as purity and innocence in Celtic mythology.

Venus is the only planet that spins clockwise. It travels around the sun once every 225 Earth days, but it rotates clockwise once every 243 days.

The 100 pleats in a chef's hat represents the number of ways you can cook an egg.

The Spanish National Anthem is one of only four national anthems that has no words.

The Japanese phrase "Kuchi zamishi" means eating when you are not truly hungry. The literal translation means "lonely mouth."

The Central American fruit called "black sapote" tastes like chocolate and sweet custard.

The two businessmen after which M&Ms were named are Forrest Mars and Bruce Murrie.

The common hashtag is officially known as an octothorpe. The "octo," of course, refers to the eight points, but the "thorpe" seems to remain a mystery.

Ultracrepidarians are those who speak beyond their knowledge.

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