

GRANBURY ★ TEXAS

Hood County News

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER | A HOOD COUNTY LEGEND SINCE 1886

[SATURDAY, November 9, 2024]

Published Saturday

hcnews.com \$1.00



Trump wins 2024 presidential election Gore, Bolton, Graft secure local victories

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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In the highly anticipated 2024 election, voters in Hood County and across the nation headed to the polls to vote for the next president:

former Republican president Donald Trump or vice president and Democratic candidate Kamala Harris.

As results started pouring in late Tuesday night, Trump ultimately triumphed in the presidential election — both nationally and in Hood

County.

According to the Associated Press, Donald Trump had earned 277 electoral votes nationally, while Kamala Harris secured 224. By press time, Trump also led

PLEASE SEE
ELECTION | A6



COURTESY GRAPHICS



Hercules legend Kevin Sorbo, middle, gives a thumbs up with "God's Here," director Bill McAdams Jr., as they pose with actor Brad Hunstable, during the movie premiere Saturday, Nov. 2.

Hercules in the house: Granbury hosts star-studded premiere of 'God's Here' with Kevin Sorbo

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
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Residents got a small taste of Hollywood magic when Granbury rolled out the red carpet for the "God's Here," movie premiere last weekend.

With Cinergy Cinemas and Brazos Drive-In both premiering the indie film Saturday, Nov. 2, Granbury itself transformed into its own Hollywood hotspot as community members flocked to get glimpses of the star-studded cast.

Featuring pop artist and songwriter Sarah Elizabeth Reeves and Hercules legend Kevin Sorbo, "God's Here," weaves together a compelling narrative that highlights themes of faith, redemption and the healing power of community.

Written and directed by Aledo filmmaker Bill McAdams Jr., "God's Here," follows Jack Gilmore — played by McAdams — who is a decorated firefighter and man of deep faith whose wife and son are killed in a texting-and-driving crash three weeks before Christmas. In the wake of his loss, Jack is charged with a DUI and required to complete community service, during which he meets a young girl

with whom he shares a conflicted and painful past. Meanwhile, as Detective Kent Powers — played by Sorbo — investigates the fatal accident, he uncovers a shocking revelation that personally ties him to the case.

McAdams told the Hood County News that the film is actually based on his own past experience, as he wanted to portray how love and forgiveness can bring hope and light to even the darkest of moments.

"It (the movie) was written probably eight or nine years ago," he explained. "My brother got killed in a motorcycle accident in 2012 and my mom forgave the teen driver, and then invited the parents and her to the funeral. To me, there's forgiveness, and then there's ultimate forgiveness, which is (when you forgive someone) for taking a life."

He explained that the young driver will carry the weight of the accident's consequences for the rest of her life, and empha-



Hood County Judge Ron Massingill and Stacey Watkins Martin are pictured with actor Kevin Sorbo, who plays Detective Kent Powers in "God's Here."

sized how deeply moving it was for his own mother to forgive the driver just 10 days after the tragedy.

"This is a story I've been wanting to tell for a while, and I'm so grateful not just to the cast, but to the city of Granbury for helping me bring it to life," McAdams said in the film's press release.

Shot entirely in Granbury, the film includes scenes from the courthouse and Granbury Live. Beyond showcasing some of the town's sights, the film

also features some familiar faces, including Mayor Jim Jarratt, various personnel from Granbury's police and fire departments, and other local residents.

"It was fabulous being in the movie," Hood County Judge Ron Massingill said. "I met some great people, and, you know, to lend your hand to something that's as meaningful as this movie is with God at the forefront, (it's amazing). No matter how long your life is, at

PLEASE SEE SORBO | A5

Flock cameras explained

Sheriff's office approach to balancing safety, privacy

BY ASHLEY TERRY
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Within the past few weeks, Flock Safety cameras have been a subject of concern among local residents and county officials due to privacy concerns.

The discussion first began during a Hood County Commissioners Court meeting Oct. 8, when the court voted to apply for the Senate Bill 224 Catalytic Converter Grant Program — a grant that will ultimately fund the installation of Flock Safety surveillance cameras along key highways and intersections.

While the agenda item initially passed 4:1 Oct. 8, it was brought back to court Oct. 22 by Precinct 4 Commissioner Dave Eagle as he wanted to revisit the discussion due to growing concerns over privacy.

After a lengthy discussion — and with several residents coming forward to voice their own concerns — Eagle made a motion Oct. 22 to nullify the last vote and to allow the court more time for research regarding the cameras. However, the motion failed for lack of a second, meaning the initial 4:1 approval from Oct. 8 still stands.

Although the discussion regarding the Flock Safety cameras is over for the time being, Shawn McGuire, emergency communications manager for the Hood County Sheriff's dispatch center, recently took the time to explain to the Hood County News all about the camera system and its purpose to the public.

According to the Hood County Flock Transparency Portal, the Hood County Sheriff's Office uses Flock Safety technology to capture objective evidence without compromising on individual privacy. The HCSO utilizes retroactive search to solve crimes after they've occurred and uses real time alerting of hotlist vehicles to capture wanted criminals, recover stolen property and find missing people.

McGuire explained that the Flock Safety system allows users to search for vehicles based on various identifiers, such as color, make and model. He shared an example from a few years ago, when a woman was killed in a hit-and-run incident near Oak Trail Shores, and all law enforcement knew was that the vehicle involved was a green pickup truck.

"If we had the camera there, we can search 'green pickup truck' and then put the time with it, which would have been great, because I think we searched for that car for like, a year, and finally found it," he said. "But if we had this stuff here at that time, we could have found it from the beginning."

With Flock Safety cameras located across the United States, McGuire pointed out the potential benefits in solving serious murder cases. By having the ability to track a vehicle across state lines in real time, he explained that many local cases could have been

PLEASE SEE FLOCK | A5



138TH YEAR, NO. 45

Local, zone(s): 4 sections, 44 pages, plus supplements | State: 4 sections, 44 pages

INSIDE

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COMMUNITY BUSINESS

CHAMBER NEWS

Save the date for the Annual Granbury Chamber Best of Business Awards Banquet

By the Granbury Chamber of Commerce

The Granbury Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the date for one of the most anticipated events of the year — the Annual Granbury Chamber Best of Business Awards Banquet. Mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Lake Granbury Conference Center. It promises to be a night filled with tropical wonders.

This year's event is all about celebration and relaxation. The atmosphere is relaxed yet elegant, blending the fun of a tropical getaway with the sophistication of a high-profile business event.

Guests can look forward to an unforgettable night featuring a delectable buffet, a variety of drinks to suit your taste, and even a thrilling hula show. There will be top-notch entertainment that will keep you on the edge of your seats, making it a night to remember.

But the real stars of the evening will be the awards, as we honor the best in our local business community. Categories include:

1. Small Business of the Year — Organization with 50 or fewer employees that exemplifies business excellence and is making significant



COURTESY GRAPHIC

contributions to the chamber community.

2. Large Business of the Year — Organization with more than 50 employees that exemplifies business excellence and is making significant contributions to the chamber and the community.

3. Rising Leader Award — Business owner or employee who exemplifies business excellence, commitment to empowering fellow RLGs and

collaboration with the business community.

4. Rising Star Award — Organization with less than three years in business serving the Hood County area and is making significant contributions to the chamber and the community.

5. Women In Business of the Year — Female business owner or employee who exemplifies business excellence and commitment to empowering fellow women

in business.

6. Howard Clemmons Person of the Year — Business or community member who best represents Clemmons' unselfish dedication and devotion to the business community of Hood County.

These prestigious awards celebrate the dedication, innovation and excellence of our local businesses and individuals who contribute to the success and vibrancy of

Granbury. You do not have to be a chamber member to nominate a business in these categories, so go to www.granburychamber.com and nominate your favorite businesses today! Please note that all nominations must be accompanied with a detailed explanation as to why they were nominated or the nomination will not be considered. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 2.

The Annual Granbury

Chamber Best of Business Awards Banquet is not only a celebration of our chamber members but also an opportunity for networking, forging new connections and strengthening existing ones. It's a night that embodies the spirit of Granbury, where entrepreneurs, professionals and community leaders come together to celebrate and inspire each other.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be part of an unforgettable evening. Sponsorship opportunities are open for businesses looking to gain valuable exposure and support the local business community — while showcasing your commitment to the growth and prosperity of Granbury. For more information about becoming a sponsor, email Tristand Stuart at tristand@granburychamber.com or call 817-573-1622. Individual tickets can also be purchased online at www.granburychamber.com.

This Tropical Paradise banquet isn't just a celebration of business achievements, but a vibrant, memorable evening that transports guests to a warm, inviting paradise. It's a perfect blend of professionalism, relaxation and celebration.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Daffan celebrates 25 years.



COURTESY PHOTOS

ribbon cutting CEREMONY

The Nutt House Historic Hotel Grand Reopening

November 14th
Ribbon Cutting at 5:00pm
119 E Bridge St

granbury CHAMBER

ribbon cutting CEREMONY

Edward Jones

Edward Jones Tony Mobly Relocation Grand Opening

November 12th
Ribbon Cutting at 11:30am
1830 N Plaza Dr. Suite B

granbury CHAMBER

COURTESY GRAPHICS

Fashion SHOW

NOV 19TH | 5:30-8PM
HOTEL LUCY

wib WOMEN IN BUSINESS

sponsors

Town Square Title, Pearl Ventures and Dental Care, Capital Title A Shredbox Company

COURTESY GRAPHIC

LETTER

SARS-COVID-19

The SARS-COVID-19 criticism of Dr. Blocker by the trio of commissioners is straight out of the saying "fact is stranger than fiction" regarding their view of the pandemic.

This was a worldwide, once-in-a-century event, with tragic consequences around the globe. Fortunately, the U.S. is resilient, and recovery started

much faster than in other countries. Over four years, lessons have been learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone has noted changes in all aspects of our lives including the economy, prices, workforce and education issues. Most familiar to me are the problems in healthcare, including workforce turnover, burn-out, shortages and overall staffing.

Commissioner Samuelson

appears to be an expert in Immunology. Maybe she could help with explaining viral mutations, cytokines and cytokine storms, all of which contributed to millions of deaths from COVID in healthy people, and not just people with underlying health issues. She can also explain the multiple variants that have developed since then, some more con-

PLEASE SEE **LETTER** | A3

FROM MY FRONT PORCH

It takes two wings for an eagle to soar



BY SAM HOUSTON

Sam Houston is the publisher of the Hood County News. He is also an actor, author, playwright, performer and entertainment producer/promoter.
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By the time this column hits the newsstands, the election will be over. The winning candidates will be busy working on how to fill their staff and take office, while the losers will be grumbling and complaining. It would seem the days of gracious concession speeches are gone, perhaps forever.

Like many others, I will be glad the process is over. Finally, there will be no more political ads or commercials running around the clock — most of them not telling the viewers anything of substance, only who to hate and blame for their plight in life. Recently, I watched a political ad, waiting for it to

tell me something meaningful about a candidate and their plans for governing, but unfortunately the goal of the message was to blame the opposition and strike fear in the electorate. It was not about why to vote “for” a candidate, it was all about why to vote “against” another candidate. The com-

munication did not have to be factual, nor inspirational, nor forward thinking; simply divisive and mean spirited. To be clear, both major parties are guilty of this same practice.

Many times, I have expressed my concerns about the election process and how election season starts too early, is too expensive, and lasts too long. Why on God’s green earth does a presidential election cycle take nearly two years before voters get a chance to choose? Surely the time and money would be better spent on feeding the poor, housing veterans or decreasing our national debt. How much money is spent on elections? Some recent estimates say as much as 16 billion was spent this election cycle on the totality of elections across the country. Does all this campaigning and all the time expended re-

ally make us more informed and educated voters, or simply more confused?

Then of course there are the donors. Some individuals and the companies they control individually donated as much as \$100 million to campaigns. I wonder what a donor receives for that sort of financial commitment. Common sense says it is more than a lunch with the candidate or a night in the Lincoln bedroom. Am I the only one who finds this concerning?

Looking at the last few national elections, the margin of difference between the two major parties was very small. My guess is that less than 5% of the people in America truly decide who is elected because everyone else is bound to one camp or the other, and no facts, evidence, campaign or information is going to get them

to reconsider their position. Maybe it is out of frustration, or simply a lust for power and control, that politicians demonize their opposition, resulting in voters speaking of the opposing party with complete disdain, hate and vitriol. Remember, the nation is pretty much split down the middle. No party has a clear ruling majority. But instead of forming a coalition to work together and act in the best interest of all of us, the minority side will stonewall, obstruct and undercut any action which might be positive, especially if the majority side stands to get any credit. The majority will disregard the slim margin by which they have power and act as if Americans overwhelmingly support their actions, and take advantage of their position at every turn. Bipartisanship is a relic of the past. What is best for the

American people, and I mean all the people — not just some special interest group — seems to be irrelevant.

It will take us all to right this ship. Our “eagle” cannot fly if one of its wings will not work in conjunction with the other to elevate and make it soar. We will only spin out of control and eventually crash on the shores of political ruin. Stop the hate. Stop the blame. Stop the vitriol. Solve the problems our nation faces and be so fearless and driven that you do not care who gets the credit. Time is running out.

Thought for the day: “People who work together will win, whether it be against complex football defenses, or the problems of a modern society.” — Vince Lombardi, Super Bowl winning coach

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

Folks around town



COURTESY PHOTO

Jacob and Cindy Mills

Say hello to our neighbors, Jacob and Cindy Mills!

Long-time residents Cindy and Jacob Mills are both lovers of the great outdoors and the lake life we enjoy here in Hood County. Jake is an avid fisherman and is a member of the local Bass Club. He also loves to participate in fishing tournaments. Cindy says “Even though we are growing like mad we still retain that small-town feel.” Cindy feels like the Hood County News helps us retain that small-town feel, and she loves how the community is spot-lighted with quick references to plan around. She plans to never move back to the metroplex. “It’s still close enough if we need to go. I prefer never to go to Dallas.” The Mills have horses, love to hike and tackle the never-ending yardwork. “We just try to enjoy what God has gifted us. Sometimes we get that beautiful sunset or a sign where God reminds us he is still here.” Cindy says “We get so amazing worked up over outside business, There comes a point where you take a deep breath and say to yourself Okay forget all that.” By day Cindy works as a banker at Pinnacle Bank. An avid member of the Hood County YMCA, she’s there at 5:30 am 4to6 days a week. She loves it. She freely admits she’s addicted to fitness. “It’s an addiction I’m grateful for. Better than alcohol and drugs. All the insanity stuff.”

Granbury Fire Training Center to receive \$25,000 in improvements

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

The city of Granbury and Hood County have entered into an interlocal agreement that will provide \$25,000 in improvements to the Granbury Fire Training Center.

During the Granbury City Council meeting Nov. 5, Deputy City Manager Michael Ross explained that as stated in the interlocal agreement, the county will provide \$25,000 in needed repairs to the fire training center in exchange for the county’s continued usage of the facility over the next three years.

“The proposed improvements are related to the roof, the ceiling and other structural improvements, along with power washing and painting,” Ross said. “The

city will handle the procurement under our policies and will oversee the work.”

Ross explained that through this partnership, eight other Hood County volunteer fire departments will also be able to utilize the city’s training center. He added that some of the departments have already been using the facility infrequently over time but that this agreement will formalize that process.

“A schedule will be developed, which sets specific times each month (that a department can utilize the facility),” Ross added. “Our fire department will supervise any training that goes on at the fire grounds.”

Place 6 council member Greg Corrigan, who is also a volunteer firefighter, explained that the GVFCD col-

laborates with other county fire departments to provide joint training for the entire county.

“Other departments, infrequently, as was said, have utilized the training facility, which just adds to how quickly things get to a point where they’re no longer useful — like the roof,” he said. “We’ve heard so many times before how it’s no longer functional, so the county providing the funds to fix these things for continued access to those training grounds is beneficial for everybody involved.”

“I would have to agree,” Mayor Jim Jarratt added. “When you talk about the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department, you talk about the entire group, because if something happens here on our square, you see every-

body showing up.”

Eddie Rodriguez, council member Place 2, explained that the interlocal agreement is a collaboration between the county and the city — both working together for a common goal of ensuring that every fireman is “developed and trained in the same aspect as everybody else.”

“This is awesome continuity with the same type of training across the board,” Rodriguez said. “And this is good on the county for participating and helping financially on this endeavor.”

Place 3 council member Bruce Wadley made the motion to approve the interlocal agreement between the city of Granbury and Hood County. With a second from Mayor Pro Tem Steven Vale, the motion passed unanimously.

LETTER

FROM PAGE A2

tagious than others. Herd immunity did not work out as well in the beginning.

Commissioner Samuelson refers to the Great Barrington Declaration in response to the pandemic and lockdowns, which was published in October 2020 before a single vaccine had been approved. The claim with lock downs could be avoided by the fringe notion of focus protection by which those most at risk of dying from an infection maybe could be kept safe, while society otherwise took no steps to prevent infection. The outcome envisioned was herd immunity within three months, as SARS-COVID-19 swept through the population. It was signed by three

scientists and sponsored by the American Institute of Economic Research, a libertarian free market think tank with a history of promoting climate change denial, benefits of sweatshops, and is a Koch funded network that invests in the fossil fuel industry. All this is fine but very biased. This group is considered a fringe minority with factual errors, and a host of shortcomings and undeclared conflicts of interest. The herd immunity idea is a dangerous fallacy with no evidence of lasting immunity to SARS-COVID-19 with its multiple mutations especially early on in the pandemic.

Folks, this is a complex issue that was made very political. To Commissioners Eagle, Samuelson and Andrews, most of us know about the Constitution and

our rights. We also, in serious situations, understand what to do for our own good and the common good. This goes for vaccinations as well, our choice. The medical community worked to help people, save lives, and not take away a person’s rights.

My apology for the length of this response, but the commissioners calling out Dr. Blocker for trampling on our constitutional rights, as one person has already said, is insane. Good luck in the future finding anyone as highly qualified as Dr. Blocker to be your “YES” person when a county health authority is needed. I certainly would not trust those three to be objective in representing my interests and well-being. Fortunately, Jack Wilson is my Commissioner.

Dr. David Kuban, D.O.

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submit letters to www.hcnews.com/forms/letters. Letters must include author’s first and last name, and home address. Specific address will not be published.

Writers are limited to one letter every 30 days.

Letters should be 500 words or less. All letters are subject to editing. All submissions to the Hood County News will become the property of the Hood County News. Letters to the Editor will appear in the Saturday edition of the Hood County News.

Questions: Call 817-573-7066 or contact Publisher Sam Houston.

CLARIFICATION

In a Nov. 2 article titled “Sip, Sip, Hooray! Granbury’s Wine Celebration pours itself anew,” the article incorrectly stated that the Granbury Wine Celebration was formerly known as the Granbury Wine Walk and the Granbury Winter Wine Walk. The Granbury Wine Celebration: A Texas Wine Showcase is not affiliated with past events and is operated by a different organization.

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138 YEARS IN HOOD COUNTY
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P.O. Box 879, Granbury, Texas 76048
Phone: (817) 573-7066

THE HOOD COUNTY NEWS is published at 1501 S. Morgan St., Granbury, TX 76048 weekly on Saturdays. Periodicals postage paid at Granbury, TX 76048.

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

NOTICE OF SALE
CRESSON CROSSROADS MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 2
 (A Political Subdivision of the State of Texas Located within Hood, Johnson and Parker Counties)

\$2,770,000
Defined Area #3 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Cresson Crossroads Municipal Utility District No. 2 (the "District") will publicly receive sealed bids on its \$2,770,000 Defined Area #3 Unlimited Tax Road Bonds, Series 2024 (the "Bonds"), on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 8:30 A.M., Central Time, at the District's Financial Advisor office, Hilltop Securities, Inc., 717 N. Harwood Street, Suite 3400, Dallas, Texas 75201, ATTN: Andre Ayala. The Board will take action to reject any and all bids or accept the bid resulting in the lowest net interest cost to the District, on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 11:00 A.M. Central Time at the District's regular meeting place located outside the boundaries of the District, 9843 E. Bankhead Parkway, Aledo, Texas 76008.

A bid for the Bonds may be delivered to the District electronically or delivered directly to the District in a sealed envelope addressed to the Financial Advisor of the District at the above address of the District's Financial Advisor. Bidders, other than bidders submitting an electronic bid, must submit signed Official Bid Forms on the date of and before the time of the sale. All bidders must submit a bank Cashier's Check in the amount of \$55,400.00 payable to the order of the District as a Good Faith Deposit. Additional terms and conditions related to the submission of a bid for the Bonds are included in the "Official Notice of Sale and Bidding Instructions."

The Bonds will mature serially on September 15, 2027 through 2054 (inclusive) and will be dated December 1, 2024. The "Notice of Sale and Bidding Instructions," the "Preliminary Official Statement" and the "Official Bid Form" may be obtained from the District's Financial Advisor, Hilltop Securities Inc., 717 N. Harwood Street, Suite 3400, Dallas, Texas 75201. This notice does not constitute an offer to sell the Bonds but is merely notice of sale of the Bonds as required by Texas law. The offer to sell the Bonds will be made by means of the "Notice of Sale and Bidding Instructions," the "Preliminary Official Statement," and the "Official Bid Form."

Mr. Bill Cherry
 President, Board of Directors
 Cresson Crossroads Municipal Utility District No. 2

LEGAL NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 24-63

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE GENERAL AND UTILITY FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-64

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 16-50 WHICH ADOPTED THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS; BY AMENDING THE MAP OF THE THOROUGHFARE PLAN, CONTAINED WITHIN THE 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR CERTAIN AREAS WITHIN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE MAP OF THE THOROUGHFARE PLAN IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-65

AN ORDINANCE, AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1.

Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by rezoning the hereinafter property and area; described as a 128.05-acre tract of the Milam County School Land Survey, Abstract No. 348, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and being more fully described by Exhibit 'A' attached hereto and incorporated herein:

From Light Commercial, and Planned Development - R-7 Single-Family Residential, R-8.4 Single-Family Residential, R-10 Single-Family Residential, and Townhome; To Planned Development R-7 Single-Family Residential District

Requirements for PD/R-7 District: Standards or Requirements that are not listed as follows must meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, R-7 Single Family Residential [R-7] District and what is presented below and on the plans listed below in Exhibit B.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS VARIANCES

- R-7 Zoning District – Development Standards Variance Table.

	City Base	Proposed
Zoning District	Zone R-7 Single-Family Residential	Zone PD R-7 Single-Family Residential
Maximum Height	35 ft.	35 ft.
Side Yard (Interior Lot)	5 ft. Min. one side & 15 ft. Min. Total Both Sides	5 ft. Min. Each Side (10 ft. Total)
Side Yard (Street Side)	15 ft. Min.	15 ft. Min.
Rear Yard	30 ft. Min.	20 ft. Min.
Front Yard	20 ft. Min.	20 ft. Min.
Lot Size	7,000 Sq. ft. Min.	7,000 Sq. ft. Min.
Lot Depth	100 ft. Min.	100 ft. Min.
Lot Width	60 ft. Min.	60 ft. Min.
Dwelling Area	1,100 Sq. ft. Min.	1,700 Sq. ft. Min.
Building Coverage	40% of lot area max	40% of lot area max
Impervious Coverage	60% of lot area max	60% of lot area max

DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAWINGS

- Elevations. Elevation samples are attached to this Ordinance and shall adhere to the following:
 - All elevations shall be the same or similar in appearance as those in the attached elevation exhibit.
 - Masonry:
 - Consist of a minimum 70% of the total outside wall areas to be masonry - brick, stone or brick-veneer or stone - veneer.
 - One elevation per each floor plan may have 20% stone on the front elevation.
 - Monotony:
 - The same elevation must not be used within any 6-lot grouping as defined by the one adjacent lot on either side of the subject property and the 3 lots immediately across the street from those same lots.
 - Roof pitch 90% of homes shall have a front elevation with a minimum 8:12 roof pitch.
- Site Plan.
 - The Site Plan is labeled Sheet 1 of 3 of the Exhibits.
 - The Site Plan depicts a Variance Table. Said Variance Table is void and not a part of this PD Ordinance. The Variance Table for this PD Ordinance consists of Conditions #1, and #2 above.
 - A plat and civil engineering concepts have not been submitted with this zoning. Therefore, the final site layout shall be generally consistent with the Development Plan as depicted in the Site Plan.
- Landscape Plan.
 - The Landscape Plan is shown on Sheet 3 of 3 of the Exhibits.
 - Landscaping shall be provided in the areas indicated for landscaping as shown on the Landscape Plan.
 - A minimum 6-foot high Decorative Fence shall be installed with the development as depicted on the Landscape Plan.
 - The park area shall be developed with improvements as stated and depicted on the Landscape Plan.
 - Site signage shall not be placed on individual residential lots; the sign plan shown on the Landscape Plan. The final lotting plan may require adjustments to accommodate signage such as revised lotting or moving the signage to an alternative location.

SECTION 6. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-66

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION INTO THE CITY OF GRANBURY OF TERRITORY MORE SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED BELOW AND GENERALLY COMPRISING A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 7.8 ACRE TRACT OF THE W.G. TERRELL SURVEY, ABSTRACT NO. 562 HOOD COUNTY, TEXAS; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR ENGROSSMENT AND ENROLLMENT; AND, PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

EFFECTIVE CLAUSE: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, and it is so ordained.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-67

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, AMENDING THE UTILITY FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

ORDINANCE NO. 24-68

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 01-819, THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANBURY, TEXAS, BY GRANTING A SPECIFIC USE PERMIT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY IN THE CITY OF GRANBURY; REVISING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP IN ACCORDANCE THEREWITH; PROVIDING THAT THIS ORDINANCE SHALL BE CUMULATIVE OF ALL ORDINANCES; PROVIDING A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS HEREOF; PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

SECTION 1. Ordinance No. 01-819, as amended, is hereby amended by granting a Specific Use Permit (SUP) to allow for the operation of "Construction Equipment, Rental and/or Sales" on the property located on a 1-acre tract of land described more fully as:

Lot 1, Block 1 Chick Addition, City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, addressed as 4640 US Hwy 377, located within the City of Granbury, Hood County, Texas, and located within the Light Commercial [LC] zoned district with the following conditions:

- The Specific Use Permit is limited to a one (1) year term from the date of this Ordinance.
- This Specific Use Permit is for the use: "Construction Equipment, Rental and/or Sales" as defined and regulated by the Zoning Ordinance.
- The Site Plan, as shown on "Exhibit A" is the governing site plan for the property.
- All parking, maneuvering, display, and storage must be on an improved hard surface.
- This SUP is subject to all other City Code requirements, permits, periodic inspections; and an inspection fee as established in the City's Master fee schedule.
- Any violation of the terms and conditions stipulated in the SUP may be deemed in violation of the zoning ordinance and the SUP may become null and void and/or the Certificate of Occupancy may be revoked.

SECTION 6. Any person, firm or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be fined not more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000.00). Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

These ordinances as adopted by the Granbury City Council on November 5, 2024, are on file in the office of the City Secretary, 116 W Bridge St. and can be seen in its entirety during normal business hours.

LEGAL PUBLIC NOTICES

Hood County Hospital District board of directors will hold its regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, November 15, noon, at Hood County Annex I meeting room, 200 Deputy Larry Miller Dr., Granbury. For more information, 817-579-3200.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The following item will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

- ZBA-2024-08, Request of APC Towers, Inc. on behalf of SJ Bryant Irvin Commercial for a Special Exception to Zoning Ordinance, Section 9.2.G to allow a wireless antenna facility with additional height. The property is addressed as 1300 W. Paluxy Road.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The following item will be considered at a Public Hearing conducted by the ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT of the City of Granbury on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., at Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street, Granbury, Texas.

Hearing regarding nuisance abatement of 320 Mustang Trail, Granbury, Texas 76049 owned by William Black. The city will conduct a public hearing pursuant to the Texas Local Government Code regarding the abatement of a dangerous structure located at said address.

For more information, contact the Community Development Department at (817) 573-1114, Granbury City Hall, 116 West Bridge Street.

Advertisement to Bid
City of Granbury

The City of Granbury is accepting sealed competitive proposals for qualified firms to serve as the airfield's aviation fuel supplier at the Granbury Regional Airport until November 26, 2024, at 2:00pm CST, at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to:

City of Granbury Municipal Service Center
 Attn: Purchasing Department
 "Aviation Fuel Supplier for Granbury Regional Airport RFP No. 24-25-02"
 401 N. Park Street
 Granbury, TX 76048

Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website <https://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing> starting November 12, 2024 at 2pm. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

Advertisement to Bid
City of Granbury

The City of Granbury is accepting sealed competitive proposals for the construction of a building to store fuel trucks at the Granbury Regional Airport until November 27, 2024, at 2:00pm CST, at which time they will be opened publicly at 401 N Park St. Granbury, TX 76048. Bids should be mailed, or hand delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to:

City of Granbury Municipal Service Center
 Attn: Purchasing Department
 "Fuel Truck Building at Granbury Regional Airport RFP No. 24-25-01"
 401 N. Park Street
 Granbury, TX 76048

Bid packet and documents will be available on the City of Granbury website <https://www.granbury.org/72/Purchasing> starting November 12, 2024 at 2pm. Specific information regarding this bid shall be requested from Purchasing Manager at 817-573-7030 or crussell@granbury.org. Any Bids received after the closing date and hour will not be accepted and will not be returned. The City reserves the right to reject any and/or bids and to waive any formality in connection therewith.

Granbury Independent School District is requesting quotes RFQ 2024-18 for Acton Elementary School Serving Lines.

The specifications are available online on <https://granbury.ionwave.net>. Quotes will be accepted until closing on November 22nd, at 10am.

All questions regarding the bid should be submitted online.

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



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THE GRANBURY

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

FRIDAY, NOV. 8

OPEN HOUSE at Grace Classical Christian Academy from 8:15-11 a.m. All school convocation opens the day, visiting students are welcome to go to the age appropriate classrooms after while parents hear about classical Christian education offered at GCCA. Free but registration required at graceclassical.com.

SATURDAY, NOV. 9

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

LORD'S ACRE fundraiser from 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Casserole, pie and bake sale, barbeque lunch at noon, live auction at 12:45 p.m. Special quilt for auction donated by Andy Rash. The quilt was begun by Rash's late wife Lee. Members of her quilt group finished the quilt.

BLAKE & The Moonlighters perform at Rock Sledge Distillery, 8210 Paluxy Highway, Tolar at 7 p.m. This group of musicians brings a high energy show that includes '90s favorites like Matchbox Twenty, Hootie and the Blowfish and the Wallflowers.

MONDAY, NOV. 11

VETERANS DAY program at Granbury High School auditorium at 9 a.m. All vets and their families are invited. Guest speaker Joshua L. Holm, combat veteran, author, minister and life coach.

VETERANS CEREMONY by Friends of Memorial Lane, 11 a.m. Jim Burks Memorial Park. Thirty minute ceremony, gift for all veterans.

THE NORTH Central Texas Civil War Roundtable will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 East U.S. Highway 377. Program will be presented by Dr. Richard Selcer, professor at Texas Christian University and author of Civil War books. Selcer will speak about the causes of the Confederate loss at the Battle of Gettysburg. Visitors are welcome, and there is no charge for first time attendees. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ncent-excwr.com>, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

TEXAS DEMOCRATIC Women of Hood County monthly meeting. Program: Election of new officers and political discussion. 11 a.m., Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 East U.S. Highway 377. Details: 254-716-5195.

TO SUBMIT CALENDAR ITEMS

Information should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event for consideration. The Community Calendar is a free listing in the Hood County News to inform readers of programs, special meetings and non-profit events. The event should be open to the public and free to attend. Email the who, what, when and where. Include the meeting location and a street address for the location. The topic for the meeting, program or guest speaker must be included.

EMAIL TO: calendar@hcnews.com.

Calendar information runs in chronological order as space is available.

HCNEWS.COM

SORBO

FROM PAGE A1

any certain stage in your life, there's always hope, and this is going to be a beautiful story."

Massingill and Jarratt weren't the only locals who made a special appearance in the movie. Radio personality Erin Wilde and Visit Granbury Director Tammy Dooley also made special appearances, with other area locals serving in small roles as well.

Acton resident Mo Moline took on the role of production designer, Granbury resident Jim Hardy worked as the stunt coordinator, and Aledo resident Thaddeus Keller portrayed the character known as the "cute boy." The film also provided a unique opportunity for several actors to make their debut in the world of acting, as it marked their very first roles on screen.

"This is my first film," said Lola Gianna, who portrays Krissy, one of the leads in the movie. "I've never done any type of acting, but due to being friends with Bill McAdams Jr., and his sister MJ, they scooped me up, trained me, and got me ready for the role, and it was just a blessing."

Shane, Sorbo's son — both on and off screen — said the experience allowed him to jump back into acting, as he had previously taken a break due to school.

"My first film, I was 12, so I was a lot younger," Shane Sorbo said. "I had a buzz cut in that, so that was pretty interesting, but I haven't really done it in a while."

While Granbury is noticeably different from Florida, where he lives, Shane Sorbo said he enjoyed walking around the park and the square.

"The big difference is this is a much smaller town," he said. "I live in an area called West Palm Beach, which has been more built up, and there's a lot of traffic, but Texas is nice. I got to spend three weeks here just under a year ago, which was really cool. I really enjoy it here."

Anna Richards, who serves as the wardrobe designer, stated that the film is "amazing," and the crew is "incredible."

"To get a message like this out to people, we could never do this all by ourselves," she said. "We're able to come together as a team and really get this message out about hope and positivity. Tragedy doesn't take a break even for the holidays, so we're just hoping that our message can help a lot of people who are struggling with loss for the holidays. It's just been amazing. I could never do this on my own."

FLOCK

FROM PAGE A1

solved quicker. "I don't think some people think about that, but that's what this tool is used for," he said.

While the cameras may detect license plates and vehicles, McGuire noted they will not detect facial featuring, gender or race.

"I get that people are worried about us using it for invading their privacy and stuff like that, but when you look at these vehicles, that doesn't mean you'll be able to see them necessarily," he said. "I think there's only been, like, maybe one time that it's been a possibility, but even the (vehicles) passing by, you can't see in."

Some residents have also raised concerns about potential misuse of data from the Flock cameras, but McGuire clarified that the information is strictly used for law enforcement purposes only. He also assured the public that the data is owned by Hood County and is never shared or sold to third parties.

"It's our data," he said, adding that data is only re-



Bill McAdams Jr., who also plays the lead role of Jack Gilmore in the film, poses with his on and off-screen wife Sarah Elizabeth Reeves, and actor Marcus Mauldin.



Mother-and-daughter duo Lindsay Wright and Allie Gwyn Wright dress in their Hollywood best for the "God's Here" movie premiere.

The film is executive produced by Sharon K. Campbell and Jim Doss. Don Wantz Jr., Mary Jean (MJ) Bentley and Therese Moncrief share producer credits.

Campbell — whose grandfather was George Granbury, the brother of General Hiram B. Granbury — facilitated the movie being shot in Granbury. Her mother was Merlee Granbury.

"To have the film come

with the family aspect behind it, it's just absolutely thrilling to me," she said in a press release. "I want Granbury to be known."

Campbell told the HCN that "God's Here," is about "saving lives," and "getting everybody off of their cell phone while they're driving."

"It's a very important movie, and I'm thrilled to be able to participate and make this happen with my wonderful husband (Jim

Doss) here. We just said 'We're going to do this,' and we did."

"It's been a culmination of a year-and-a-half of our work," said Campbell's son, Don Wantz Jr., producer of the movie. "We've devoted a lot of tears and a lot of sweat into this project. We're happy to bring it to Granbury, a film-friendly community."

"I must add, we would like to say thank you to many, many people: Visit

Granbury, the N on the Square, the Nutt House, Christina's (American Table) and an assortment of all the community who came together to help us with this."

McAdams said filming his project in Granbury was a unique and warm experience.

"From running into the mayor at breakfast to passing the judge on the street, the sense of community was special," he said in the press release. "When the community gets behind you and your film's message, magic happens. I was able to take the script and adapt it to the location, which made it more organic."

McAdams' connection to Granbury also runs deep, with the film marking more than just a professional milestone for him.

In a delightful twist, McAdams recently married his on-screen wife, Sarah Elizabeth Reeves, as their on-screen romance blossomed into a real-life love story.

"Sarah, she was cast in the movie (and that's how we met)," he told the HCN. "We got married 11 months later."

The couple now calls Granbury home, having recently made the move together after their whirlwind romance.

Reeves, who composed the film's score, is also a successful Christian pop artist. Her uplifting song, "More Than Enough," recently charted in the Top 10 on iHeart Radio's Adult Contemporary chart — placing her alongside major artists like Taylor Swift, Miley Cyrus and Sabrina Carpenter.

"I've been an artist for a long time — for 15 years professionally — and it's been a lot of fun, but I've obviously evolved into other things that I enjoy, like acting," Reeves said. "It kind of just came unexpected for me. It's something I've always wanted to do. I also composed this film as well, so I still have to put my music in it — that's like, first and foremost for me — so maybe, if not acting, maybe more composing, because that was one of my favorite parts of this whole awesome project."

For Reeves, "God's Here," carries a strong message of hope and unity, as it emphasizes the power of forgiveness and the healing that can come from community support.

"It serves as a reminder that even in the face of adversity and personal trials, the holiday season can still hold moments of beauty and magic," she said, in the

PLEASE SEE **SORBO** | A6

tained for 30 days before it is deleted. "It's weird because when we have investigators look for (a license plate) past the 30-days mark, they can't find it, and I'm like, 'Well, 30 days is 30 days.' It's not like it stores forever."

While Granbury Police Department operates 26 Flock cameras, there are only two cameras that the HCSO utilizes: one west-bound coming from Cresson off of the Loop and one on the Somervell and Hood County line coming into town.

In the past 30 days, those two cameras have detected 136,083 vehicles. However, law enforcement personnel have only completed 209 searches and 223 "holist" searches in that same amount of time — meaning not every vehicle in the county is being monitored in the system.

McGuire acknowledged that many concerns about the cameras stem from fears of privacy violations, but he explained that the system is only used to search for specific vehicles when there is a legitimate reason, such as in the case of a crime or a miss-

ing person. Without such a reason, the cameras do not monitor or track individuals indiscriminately.

"We don't have time to sit here and look at a camera the whole time," he explained. "I get their concerns, but our job in here and what these guys care about is finding the people who need to be found — and if we find stolen vehicles and guns, that's cool, too. When there's an accident, they will start searching for it, and then if someone messes up, they're held accountable or it's given to the appropriate authorities for them to handle."

To prevent misuse of the Flock Safety system, McGuire explained that there is a strict auditing process where he monitors access to ensure no one is abusing the system, such as by searching for an ex-partner. He added that there are regular audits, including spot-checking search reasons and reviewing logs to track who accessed data and when. McGuire also emphasized that access to sensitive information is restricted and only authorized personnel can view it, with differ-

ent levels of access for law enforcement, fire and EMS.

"I can see everything, and it's not pretty sometimes, but you can tell when people are abusing the system," he said. "When it comes to Flock, just because you have access to it doesn't mean you need to know. Don't be looking just because you can — look because you need to."

While license plate recognition (LPR) cameras have been the major focus of concern, McGuire also noted that his goal is to implement live stream cameras to track wrecks around Waters Edge Drive, Harbor Lakes Drive and the H-E-B intersection.

"The live stream cameras will be on all the major intersections, because I want them there for accidents," he said. "But the LPRs are to find people."

McGuire added that he also doesn't want anyone to be afraid of the livestream cameras — especially because the livestream cameras are already in place at various key locations throughout Hood County. Locations include the Law Enforcement Center, Hood County Animal Control, the

Hood County Courthouse, the Emergency Operations Center and the Justice Center.

For anyone who is still apprehensive about the Flock cameras, McGuire invites them to come out to the Emergency Operations Center at 400 Deputy Larry Miller Drive to see how the cameras operate in person.

"As long as they can pass the basic background check and have no warrants and no bad criminal histories, they can come up here, because I want more people to see how it actually works," he said.

McGuire added that the Hood County Commissioners Court will officially apply for the SB224 Catalytic Converter Grant Program Tuesday, Nov. 12, and a decision on the grant is expected in January.

"For us, we're not using it to invade people's privacy," he reiterated. "I get what they're saying, but there's a balance. I want to get people to understand that the only time these things are ever used is when something happens."

34TH ANNUAL RED STEGALL COWBOY GATHERING



COURTESY PHOTO

The weekend of Oct. 24-26 marked the 34th Annual Red Stegall Cowboy Gathering in the Stockyards of Fort Worth. Each year cowboys and western aficionados who love the "cowboy way"; gather for music, rodeo, cowboy poetry and cooking. In the Chuckwagon competition, 16 teams competed against one another in preparing food using trail drive era wagons and cooking supplies. The team of Granbury resident Homer Robertson, (third from left in photo) was proclaimed the overall winner of the competition. The winning teams were awarded cash prizes as well as the honor of winning the prestigious competition.

SORBO

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press release.

Kevin Sorbo — best known for his starring role in "Hercules: The Legendary Journeys" as well as Christian films such as "God's Not Dead" and "Soul Surfer," — told the HCN that when he saw McAdams' script for "God's Here," he immediately fell in love with the premise.

"It just hit me hard, so I said, 'I'm jumping on board of this thing right now,'" he said. "I love movies like this. I love movies that have redemption on the table, because God and Jesus also have redemption on the table."

Kevin Sorbo, who has been starring in faith-based films for the past 15 years, said he often jokes with people about the emotional power behind movies like "God's Here."

"I say, 'If you don't have one tear from a movie like this, that means you have no soul,'" he said, chuckling. "These are the movies I love to do, and that's what I'm going to keep doing. I have three movies in post-production right now, I have three documentaries coming out, and I've got two more lined up next year, and I'm directing both as well. I've been very blessed."

Since Kevin Sorbo grew up in a town similar to the size of Granbury back in Minnesota, he said he felt right at home and like he was a member of the community.

"This town is awesome," he said. "I can see why it's become such a favorite town for people to come to on vacation because of the big lake, and I can see why this place has grown because it's just the people who are awesome — and you got fantastic restaurants. It's just been wonderful to be part of this."

As for the future, Kevin Sorbo said his goal is to continue to make positive, uplifting and religious movies to "fight against the crap that Hollywood puts out."

"Seriously, it's very demonic what they're doing, and it's on purpose," he said. "Look at the movies, look at the agenda they got going. We got a battle on our hands, and I keep telling people, a sheep is going to be a sheep, but you've got to wake up the lions. You've got to wake them up."

He added that he hopes "God's Here" will allow viewers to find the definition of forgiveness, redemption and hope.

"This country needs it more than ever," he added.

"God's Here," will be playing at Cinergy Cinemas in Granbury for the matinee showings through Thursday, Nov. 14. Check the Cinergy Cinemas website for showtimes. The movie will officially be released worldwide Tuesday, Nov. 19. To view the trailer, visit <https://youtu.be/PVQK6OZjP4I> online.

ELECTION

FROM PAGE A1

in the popular vote, receiving 71.6 million votes compared to Harris' 66.8 million. However, the outcomes in Michigan, Arizona, Nevada and Alaska remained undetermined, leaving 35 electoral votes still up for grabs. While these states were leaning toward Trump, they were too close to call, so even if Harris were to win all 35 remaining votes, she would still fall short of surpassing Trump's total.

While the national results were somewhat close, Hood County's vote strongly favored Trump, with the former president securing 30,136 votes compared to Harris' 6,052.

According to ABC News, Trump will now return to the White House as the 47th president, becoming the second U.S. president to be elected to two nonconsecutive terms, following President Grover Cleveland. He will also make history as the first president to enter office while facing felony convictions, adding another unprecedented chapter to his political legacy.

In the race for one of Texas' two United States

Senate offices, incumbent Republican Ted Cruz was victorious, with 5.9 million votes (53.2%) to Democrat Colin Allred's 4.9 million (44.5%).

Meanwhile, in the local race in Hood County, Cruz received a commanding 29,072 votes, significantly outpacing Allred, who secured 6,587 votes in the county.

In the race for State Representative in District 59, incumbent Shelby Slawson emerged victorious with 29,662 votes, while her Democratic challenger, Hannah Bohm, received 5,454 votes.

HOOD COUNTY VOTER TURNOUT

The presidential election always draws significant attention, and this year was no exception, with millions of Americans heading to the polls to make their voices heard.

In Hood County, the enthusiasm was equally strong, with more than 28,859 of the 51,697 registered voters participating in early voting, reflecting a 55.2% turnout.

On Election Day, more than 7,500 additional voters headed to the polls, which

brought the overall voter turnout to an impressive 36,715 (71%), as residents cast their ballots in both the presidential race and a range of local elections.

KEY LOCAL RACES

The race for Hood County District Clerk saw Republican Melanie Graft triumph with 27,467 votes, defeating Democratic opponent Jon Back, who received 7,364 votes. In the race for Hood County Clerk, Republican Christine C. Leftwich ran unopposed. Incumbent Roger Deeds ran unopposed. Andrea Ferguson was similarly unchallenged in the race for County Tax Assessor-Collector, as were Kevin Andrews and Jack Wilson, who each ran uncontested for the County Commissioner seats in Precincts 1 and 3, respectively.

Other candidates who ran unopposed in their races include: District Attorney Ryan Sinclair, County Attorney Matt Mills, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1 Sissy Freeman, Justice of the Peace Precinct 4 Dub Gillum, and County Constables for Precincts 1-4: Chad Davis, John D. Shirley, Randy Ellis and Chad Jordan.

SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

Hood County residents also voted in the Granbury Independent School District race — a local race that generated significant buzz on social media in the weeks leading up to the election.

For GISD Place 3 — currently held by Melanie Graft — Tim Bolton secured his place with 17,251 votes compared to candidate Bret Deason's 10,129. For GISD Place 4, incumbent Courtney Gore triumphed with 16,186 votes while challenger Jaci Lopez garnered 11,470.

PROPOSITIONS

Hood County voters also weighed in on a pair of propositions affecting Bluff Dale ISD.

Proposition A included the issuance of \$1 million in bonds for the construction, acquisition and improvement of school infrastructure, while Proposition B called for a larger bond issue of \$1.5 million for the construction, renovation and expansion of school facilities. Both measures were rejected by voters, with more ballots cast against the propositions than in favor.

Similar to the Bluff Dale ISD propositions, Hood County's two propositions

also sparked strong debate among local residents.

Hood County Proposition A — calling for a bond issuance not to exceed \$50 million for the expansion and renovation of the county's law enforcement center and jail — was rejected by voters. The measure received 16,201 votes in favor and 17,245 votes against.

Also rejected by voters was the Hood County Hospital District Proposition A, which proposed approving an ad valorem tax rate of \$0.02 per \$100 valuation for the current year. This tax would have been used to fund indigent healthcare and emergency medical services within the district. The measure garnered 14,283 votes in favor and 19,150 votes against.

In contrast, the City of DeCordova's local option election passed, allowing the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages, including mixed drinks. The measure received strong support, with 1,844 votes in favor and 225 votes against.

For a full list of Hood County's election results, visit the county website or go to results.enr.clarityelections.com/TX/Hood/122858/web.345435/#/summary.



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- * South Pacific * Panama Canal
- * Cherry Blossoms
- * Cruising from Galveston

Free Admission • Door Prizes

- * Hilton Garden Inn

635 E. Pearl (on the lake-off 377)

GRANBURY

ALASKA FREE SHOW!

Sunday, Nov. 17 at 1pm

Don't book Alaska until you see this show! Meet 'Mr. & Mrs. Alaska' for travel tips on wildlife, routes, ships, weather, what to wear and how to get the most from your \$\$\$!

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Pocket change: A humorous look at fashion's most underrated feature

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the
Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

There's something inherently magical about pockets. After all, who doesn't love discovering they actually have a pocket when they didn't expect one? And yet, pockets — those simple, handy little storage solutions sewn into our clothes — have a surprisingly complex history, full of twists, turns and, yes, some fashion-related frustrations (we're looking at you, women's fashion).

ANCIENT POUCHES: WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Long before anyone thought to sew a pocket into a pair of pants, humans had a more straightforward approach to carrying their stuff: attach it to their belts. Yes, the ancient belt bag was the first iteration of the pocket, and it worked like a charm. These external pouches, worn by both men and women, date back thousands of years, serving as a catch-all for everything from tools to trinkets. Think of them as the fanny packs of ancient times, only way cooler because they were handmade by, well, actual ancient people.

In medieval Europe, both men and women continued this pouch trend, wearing them on belts under layers of clothing. Not exactly the sleekest of looks, but hey, you have to work with what you've got! At this point in fashion history, pockets weren't sewn into clothing. Instead, people used external bags to carry their daily essentials — coins, keys and whatever medieval folk carried around (perhaps a bit

of bread?).

THE 16TH CENTURY POCKET REVOLUTION FOR MEN

Enter the 16th century, when men's fashion started getting inventive. Men's clothing began to feature sewn-in pockets — a revelation! These were typically hidden between layers of fabric, offering a more convenient and discreet way to carry personal items. No more fiddling with clunky pouches tied to a belt — just slip a hand into a sleek jacket or pair of breeches, and voilà, your valuables were within easy reach.

It was a small innovation, but it revolutionized men's fashion. Not only was it practical, but it also allowed for a more refined and tailored look. Naturally, one might assume that women would be thrilled to adopt these handy pockets. But no, fashion history took a bit of a detour.

WOMEN AND THE TIE-ON POCKET ERA

While men were enjoying the glory of sewn-in pockets, women had to wait



COURTESY GRAPHIC

a little longer. Instead of having pockets sewn into their garments, women in the 17th and 18th centuries embraced tie-on pockets. These large, detachable pouches were worn under layers of skirts, accessed through hidden slits. And while these tie-on pockets were surprisingly roomy (think "stashing-a-bottle-of-wine" roomy), they weren't exactly easy to access. Picture it: You're walking down a cobblestone street, someone yells, "Watch out, runaway horse!" and you can't grab your pocket-knife in time because it's buried under 10 layers of petticoats.

That said, these tie-on pockets served their pur-

pose, allowing women to carry their essentials — money, sewing kits, handkerchiefs and other personal items — throughout the day. But as fashion shifted, these practical pouches faced a perilous fate.

THE VICTORIANS AND THE DISAPPEARING POCKETS

Ah, the Victorian era. A time when women's fashion was more about creating a specific silhouette than, you know, being practical. The slim, figure-hugging styles of the late 19th century didn't leave much room for bulky tie-on pockets. As a result, pockets for women began to vanish. Enter the rise of the handbag.

While men continued to enjoy their sewn-in pockets, women had to rely on handheld bags to carry their items. These bags varied in size and practicality, but for many women, the sudden lack of pockets felt like a downgrade. What once was hidden and functional had become an external, often inconvenient, accessory. The message from the fashion world seemed clear: women's pockets weren't a priority.

THE 20TH CENTURY POCKET COMEBACK (KIND OF)

It wasn't until the early 20th century that pockets started making their way back into women's cloth-

ing. The push for women's rights and their entry into the workforce led to more practical clothing and, yes, pockets! World War I saw women taking on roles traditionally held by men, which required functional, pocketed clothing.

Yet, despite this progress, there was still a catch — women's pockets remained significantly smaller than men's. While men could carry wallets, keys and even snacks in their generously sized pockets, women were left with barely enough space for lipstick or a couple of coins. Of course, this style trend continues to this very day, much to the chagrin of most women; at least, that is the opinion of my bride.

POCKETS TODAY: STILL A FASHION DILEMMA

In the modern world, pockets have become a symbol of both convenience and frustration. Men's pockets remain plentiful and practical, while women's pockets often feel like an afterthought. Designers argue that smaller pockets result from the desire for slimmer silhouettes in women's fashion, but let's be real: women deserve pockets that are both functional and fashionable.

So, the next time you find yourself delighted by the discovery of pockets in a dress or frustrated by the lack of room in your jeans, remember: pockets have a long, fascinating history, and their evolution isn't over yet. Hopefully, the future holds more room for improvement — literally.

Building empathy through active listening: A guide inspired by Fred Rogers

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the
Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

Fred Rogers, the beloved host of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, had an uncanny ability to distill complex truths into simple yet profound statements. One of his most impactful quotes speaks volumes about the nature of human connection: "Listening is where love begins: listening to ourselves and then to our neighbors." With this, Rogers touches on something deeply vital to our well-being and relationships — active listening.

At a time when many of us feel increasingly disconnected despite living in a highly interconnected world, the practice of listening is more important than ever. Let's explore what Fred Rogers meant by this statement and how we can incorporate authentic listening into our daily lives to foster empathy, understanding and love.

LISTENING TO OURSELVES: THE FIRST STEP TO CONNECTION

Before we can truly listen to others, we must first learn to listen to ourselves. This involves more than

just recognizing our needs or hearing our internal dialogue — it's about being attuned to our emotional landscape. Are we stressed? Tired? Happy? Anxious? When we become mindful of our own feelings and thoughts, we develop self-awareness, which is key to emotional regulation and better decision-making.

Self-listening doesn't mean being self-absorbed. It's the act of giving our inner experiences a voice without judgment, enabling us to be more present in the world. Fred Rogers believed that being in touch with our inner selves allows us to approach others with greater empathy. When we listen to our own needs, we create the space to be genuinely present for others.

One practical way to begin this practice is through moments of reflection, whether through journaling, meditation or simply taking a quiet walk. By paying attention to what's happening within, we develop a foundation for understanding the feelings and experiences of those around us.

LISTENING TO OUR NEIGHBORS: THE HEART OF CONNECTION

Once we are tuned into

ourselves, we can extend that same grace to others. Listening to our neighbors — the people we interact with daily — doesn't just mean hearing their words. It means actively paying attention to their emotions, body language and tone while suspending our need to respond or judge. Authentic listening is an act of love because it requires us to put someone else's experiences before our own immediate thoughts or assumptions.

Fred Rogers' neighborhood was a metaphor for community, where everyone is connected and everyone deserves to be heard. When we practice listening with intention, we build stronger, more authentic relationships. This not only deepens our connection with others but also creates a sense of belonging, reducing feelings of isolation that many people experience.

In our busy lives, it can be easy to offer only surface-level attention — nodding along to a conversation while our mind is elsewhere. But this type of distracted "listening" leaves both parties unsatisfied. On the other hand, when we listen with empathy and curiosity, we allow others to feel truly seen and understood. And as Rogers wisely point-

ed out, this is where love begins.

THE ART OF ACTIVE LISTENING

Active listening is a skill anyone can develop, and it's one of the most valuable tools in building strong relationships. Here are some steps to cultivate this practice in your daily interactions:

Be Present: The first step to active listening is being fully present in the moment. Put down your phone, turn away from distractions, and focus on the person speaking. Let them know, through your body language and eye contact, that they have your full attention.

Listen Without Interrupting: It's tempting to jump in with advice or your own thoughts but try to resist. Let the other person finish their thoughts completely before you respond. Often, the act of sharing is more important to the speaker than receiving advice.

Reflect Back: After the person has finished speaking, reflect back what you heard. This could be as simple as saying, "It sounds like you're feeling frustrated," or paraphrasing their words to show you've understood. This not only demonstrates

that you've been paying attention but also helps clarify any misunderstandings.

Ask Open-Ended Questions: Encourage the conversation to continue by asking questions that invite more than a yes or no response. Open-ended questions like "How did that make you feel?" or "What do you think will happen next?" help deepen the dialogue and show that you're genuinely interested in their perspective.

Avoid Judgments: When we listen with the intent to judge or critique, we close ourselves off from truly understanding the other person. Instead, try to listen with an open mind and heart, accepting their feelings as valid even if you disagree.

LISTENING AS A PATH TO EMPATHY

When we practice active listening, we foster empathy — the ability to understand and share the feelings of another. Empathy is one of the most powerful ways to build connection because it bridges the gap between different perspectives. When we listen deeply, we show that we care, and that simple act can have a profound effect on our relationships and our communities.

Fred Rogers knew this truth well. In a world that often feels divided, taking the time to listen — to ourselves and to each other — can be a radical act of kindness. By listening, we demonstrate love, not only for those we care about but for all our neighbors in this shared human experience.

CONCLUSION: WHERE LOVE BEGINS

Fred Rogers' wisdom reminds us that listening is not passive. It is an active, intentional practice that allows us to connect with others on a deeper level. Whether we're listening to a family member, a friend or a stranger, when we give them our full attention, we create a moment of understanding and compassion.

Incorporating active listening into our lives isn't difficult, but it does require mindfulness and practice. The benefits, however, are immeasurable: deeper relationships, stronger communities and a more compassionate world. Listening truly is where love begins.

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Understanding hernias

By Lake Granbury Medical Center

“A hernia occurs when an organ or tissue pushes through a weakened spot in the tissue that holds it in place,” states Todd Belott, MD, general surgeon at Lakeside Physicians in Granbury and Stephenville. “Most hernias involve the abdomen, but they can also occur in the upper thigh, groin and belly button.”

TYPES OF HERNIAS

Inguinal hernia: The most common type, inguinal hernias occur when the intestines push through a weak spot in the lower abdominal wall, often in the inguinal canal. They are more common in men due to the natural weakness in this area.

Hiatal hernia: In this type, part of the stomach pushes through the diaphragm into the chest cavity. Hiatal hernias are associated with symptoms of acid reflux and gastroesophageal reflux disease.

Umbilical hernia: Umbilical hernias occur near the belly button and are common in infants. However, they can also appear in adults, especially those who are overweight or after pregnancy.

Femoral hernia: Similar to inguinal hernias but less common, femoral hernias occur when part of the intestine protrudes into the femoral canal, located in the upper thigh. They are more common in women, particularly after pregnancy.

Incisional hernia: After surgery, the abdominal wall may weaken at the incision site, leading to an incisional

hernia. This type is more likely in individuals who are overweight or have undergone multiple surgeries in the same area.

CAUSES OF HERNIAS

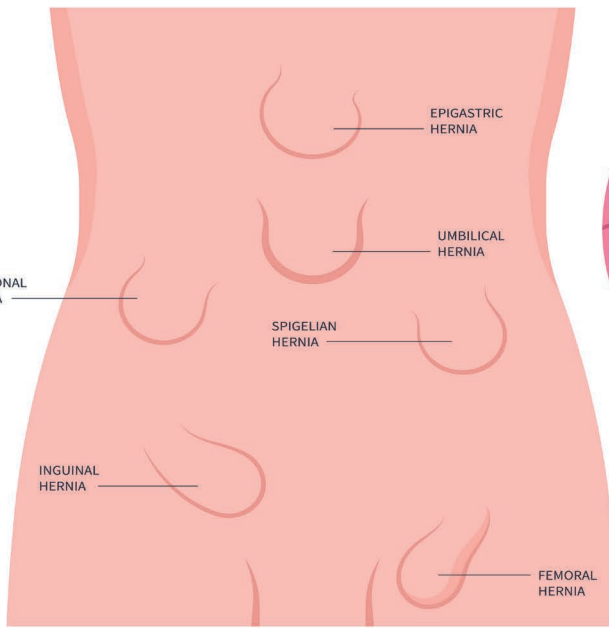
Hernias are often caused by a combination of pressure and a weak spot in the muscle or connective tissue. Some common factors that contribute to the development of hernias include:

- Heavy lifting
- Persistent coughing
- Straining during bowel movements or urination
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Chronic constipation
- Previous surgeries or injuries in the affected area

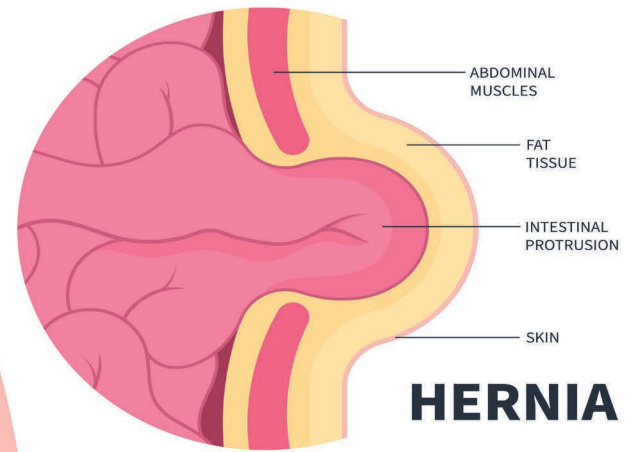
SYMPTOMS OF HERNIAS

The symptoms of a hernia depend on its location and size. In many cases, a bulge or lump can be seen in the affected area, especially when standing or straining. Other common symptoms include:

- Pain or discomfort, especially when bending over, coughing or lifting
- A burning or aching sensation at the site of the bulge
- Weakness or pressure in



TYPES OF HERNIA



HERNIA

COURTESY GRAPHIC BY PEPEMPRON, ADOBESTOCK.COM

A hernia occurs when an organ or tissue pushes through a weakened spot in the tissue that holds it in place. Most hernias involve the abdomen, but they can also occur in the upper thigh, groin and belly button.

the abdomen

• In severe cases, nausea, vomiting and difficulty passing gas or having a bowel movement, which may indicate a strangulated hernia (a medical emergency where the blood supply to the herniated tissue is cut off)

DIAGNOSIS OF HERNIAS

Hernias are typically diagnosed through a physical examination. The doctor may ask the patient to stand, cough or strain while they feel for a bulge in the abdomen or groin area. In some cases, imaging tests such as an ultrasound, CT scan or MRI may be necessary to confirm the diagnosis or evaluate the extent of the hernia.

TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR HERNIAS

While small, asymptomatic hernias may not require

immediate treatment, most hernias will eventually need to be repaired to avoid complications. The main treatments for hernias include:

Watchful waiting: For small hernias that are not causing significant symptoms, doctors may recommend a “wait-and-see” approach, monitoring the hernia for changes over time.

Hernia trusses or belts: These devices may provide temporary relief by applying pressure to the hernia and keeping it in place. However, they do not treat the hernia and are not a long-term solution.

Open hernia repair: A commonly performed procedure that involves making one line incision over the location of the hernia. In some cases, mesh is placed over the muscle in order to reinforce the weakened tissue.

Robotic hernia repair: This minimally invasive

procedure involves making several small incisions in the abdomen and using a robotic laparoscope — a thin tube with a camera — to guide the surgery. The hernia is repaired from the inside, typically with mesh reinforcement. Robotic surgery generally leads to quicker recovery times and less post-operative pain compared to open surgery.

PREVENTION OF HERNIAS

While not all hernias can be prevented, certain lifestyle changes can reduce the risk:

Maintain a healthy weight: Excess weight puts extra pressure on the abdominal muscles.

Exercise regularly: Strengthening the core muscles can help prevent weakness in the abdominal wall.

Lift properly: Use proper lifting techniques to avoid

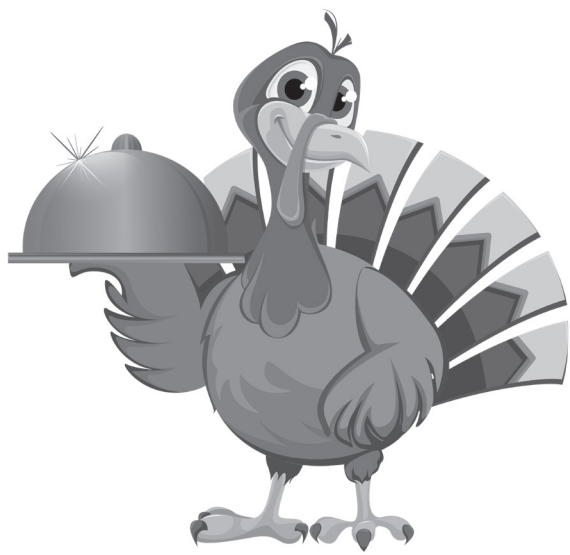
straining the muscles.

Avoid straining: Manage conditions like constipation or chronic coughing to reduce strain on the abdomen.

Hernias are a common medical condition that can cause discomfort and, if left untreated, can lead to serious complications. While surgery is the most effective treatment for hernias, lifestyle changes and preventive measures can help reduce the risk of recurrence. If you suspect you have a hernia, it’s essential to seek medical advice to determine the best course of action.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Belott, please call 817-579-7562 or visit <https://lakegranburymedical.com/ToddBelott>.

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PAWS-ITIVELY REFRESHING

Granbury Bark Park receives 'pup-grade' with new water access

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Regular attendees of the Granbury Bark Park and their furry friends are celebrating a “doggone” win with the recent addition of new water spigots in two of the four fenced-in areas.

The 1.5-acre park — which is divided into separate areas for large and small dogs — previously required pet owners to carry water across the parking lot in buckets, as there was no water access inside the park.

“We’ve always had to carry water in buckets to that area,” said Jessi Drum, a frequent visitor to the park. “I personally have purchased multitudes of Home Depot buckets, large and small, and we just leave them up there and they’ve been stolen.”

Larry Warner, a regular at the park since its opening in 2013, shared that

for as long as he’s been visiting, the dog park has lacked water access inside the fences.

“You had to get it over there (in the parking lot), which is not a bad deal, except you had to have something to haul it, and then you had to either take it with you each time, or it gets thrown away, or stolen,” he told the Hood County News.

Warner explained that in the early years, he made

several attempts to have water installed in the dog park but was met with little success.

“I didn’t go (talk with a city) official or anything, but I’d catch somebody (when they came out here), and let them know, but they basically had the attitude of, ‘We don’t really want to mess with you guys,’” he said. “And if you went to them with a complaint or a request or whatever, they’d tell you to go mind your own business. It got to the point where I was like, ‘It won’t do any good.’”

To remedy the situation, Drum decided to take matters into her own hands by creating a petition urging the city to install plumbing

PLEASE SEE **BARK** | A15



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
Many frequent attendees of the dog park appreciate the recent addition of the new water spigots in two of the four fenced-in areas at the Granbury Bark Park.



ASHLEY TERRY | HOOD COUNTY NEWS
The Granbury Bark Park is enjoyed by dogs and humans alike — just ask Max. The 1-year-old Australian Shepherd/Great Pyrenees mix belongs to Hood County News Staff Writer Ashley Terry, who took him on his first visit to the dog park Friday, Nov. 1.

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This will be Mission Granbury's third year holding Pantries of Plenty to help replenish our Food Pantry. In the last Fiscal Year (September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2024), we have seen a 142% increase in the number of individuals served through our Food Pantry. 40% of those are children under the age of 18. This staggering demand has depleted out pantry shelves. Last year, more than 66,000 pounds of items were donated by the community, and we hope to surpass that number this year.

Please consider making a donation this year.
Click on the QR Code to see the list of collection sites and ways to order items from our Amazon Wish Lists.
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LOST IN TEXAS MUSIC FEST

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

On Saturday, Nov. 2, the Hood County Reunion Grounds were filled with country music fans for the Lost in Texas Music Fest. Artists big and small took the stage, from the acoustic stage to the main stage in the arena, with performances by Hayden Hillard, Payton Howie, Jacob Stelly, Slade Coulter, Dylan Wheeler, headliner Wade Bowen and many more. In addition to the music, fans enjoyed vendors and great food. Lost in Texas Music Fest aims to become an annual event in Hood County — an experience not to miss next year. See more photos at hcnews.com.



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Nov.22-Dec. 23	Santa's House
6-8	Candlelight Tour of Homes
7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony
6-15	Away In a Manger (1,200 Nativity Displays)
31	Hank FM Party on the Boardwalk
JANUARY	
1	Winter Guest Kicks Off (ongoing through Feb.)
18	Goosebump Jump
FEBRUARY	
22	2nd Annual Jazz Fest

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

Belinda Sue Lane

1951 – 2024

Belinda Lane, 73, passed away Nov. 4, 2024, in Granbury. A memorial service will be held at 3pm Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Wiley Center.

Belinda was born Jan. 24, 1951, in Granbury, to Ernest Haynes and Betty Sue White. Belinda was a cherished member of the Hood County Sheriff's Posse, where she found joy in participating in its many events. A dedicated licensed vocational nurse throughout her life, she had a profound love for her animals and rarely missed an episode of her favorite show, "The Young and the Restless."

Belinda was known for her exceptional kindness and willingness to help others. She was a mother figure to many and never met a stranger. Her love for her family was evident in the way she delighted in taking her grandkids to rodeo play days. Belinda's warm heart and generous spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Belinda was preceded in death by her mother: Betty Davis; husband: Bob Lane;



father of her children: Johnny Keith Miller.

Belinda is survived by the love of her life: Randy Shelley; children: Carol Lentz and husband William, Kim Northcutt and husband Chip, Candis Miller, Carrie Smith and husband Ray, Cassie Mouser and husband Billy, Andrew Lane and wife Rowena; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; siblings: Sharon Mitchell and husband Nelson; Johnny Haynes and wife Suzanne, Rex Davis, Dewayne Davis; Father: Harold Glen Davis; and her dog: Lily.

Wilma Jean Bramlett Patterson

1937-2024

Wilma Jean Bramlett Patterson, 87, passed away Nov. 1, 2024, in Godley. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5 at Nubbin Ridge Cemetery in Granbury.

Wilma was born July 18, 1937, in Tolar, to John Benjamin Bramlett and Leota Faye Cadenhead. Later she married William "Smoky" Odell Patterson March 21, 1964, in Granbury.

Wilma was preceded in death by her husband: William "Smoky" Patterson; her parents: John and Leota Bramlett; sister: Gay Rhoades; stepdaughters: Charee Carey, Judy Kittrell; great grandson: Lane Reynolds; nephew: Harvey Patterson Jr.



Wilma is survived by her children: Stanley Ledbetter, Rosie Kalinowski, Harvey Patterson, Dennis Patterson and Brenda Mann; numerous loving grandchildren, great-grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Brady Dean Hamilton

1977 – 2024

Brady Dean Hamilton of Austin, 47, passed away Oct. 28, 2024, leaving a legacy of love, laughter and kindness that touched all who knew him. Born to Dr. Roger Dean Hamilton (deceased) and Cynthia Ann Hamilton Hadorn, Brady was a cherished son, brother, father and friend.

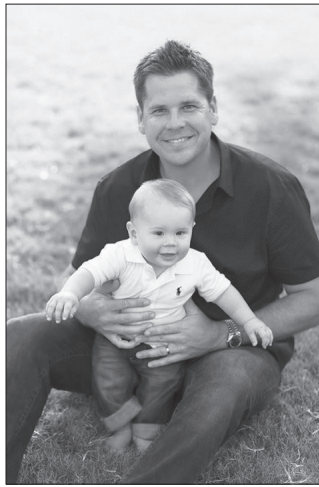
A Celebration of Life for Brady will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home (512-263-1511) at 5416 Parkcrest Drive, Austin, TX 78731. All are welcome.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations in honor of Brady Hamilton to: Mobile Loaves and Fishes/Community First Village, <https://give.mlf.org/give/138838/#/donation/checkout/donate@mlf.org> 512-328-7299.

Brady had an extraordinary gift for making people feel valued and welcomed. His friends and family knew him as someone authentic and genuine, who loved unconditionally and accepted everyone just as they were. His laughter, kindness and boundless energy created an atmosphere of joy for everyone he encountered.

A dedicated father, Brady's greatest love was his children, Abbey, Kenned, and Levi, with whom he shared countless adventures, surprises and joyful moments. Brady was also a devoted little league coach for many years, taking pride in guiding his kids and their friends, sharing both his love for sports and life's lessons on the field.

Professionally, Brady



worked for almost 20 years with FSTI Inc., where he helped build the company alongside his sister, Staci Barton, and her ex-husband, Stoney Barton. His dedication and contributions to FSTI were invaluable, and he took pride in the community they built together.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dr. Roger Dean Hamilton; his grandparents, Zack Warren McConnell and Elva Jo McConnell of Italy, Texas, and Dr. Robert L. Hamilton and Loretta M. Hamilton of Mabank.

Brady is survived by his mother, Cynthia Hamilton Hadorn, and stepfather, Steven Hadorn; his sister, Staci Barton and brother-in-law Stoney Barton; his children, Abbey, Kennedy and Levi Hamilton; his ex-wife, Erica Hamilton; his nephew, Stormy Barton, and niece, Saylor Barton; and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends who treasured him.

Brady's legacy is one of love, laughter and kindness—a reminder of the beauty of living with an open heart.

Wayne Dale Baker

1952-2024

Wayne Dale Baker, aged 72, of Granbury, went to be with the Lord Oct. 29, 2024, after enduring a long and courageous battle against illness. Wayne was not alone and was surrounded by his beloved wife Pam Baker and family.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3 at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury. Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4 at Calvary Church of Granbury.

Born Aug. 14, 1952, in Fort Worth, Wayne welcomed his first child, Mikki Baker, in 1969. Wayne met the love of his life, Pam, in 1981 and married the following year. Together they were blessed with two boys, Wayne Baker Jr. and Jeremy Baker. In 1988 they moved to Granbury and purchased the home where they built their life. Wayne was known for his unwavering dedication as a loving husband, father and grandfather. A devoted family man, Wayne's life was a testament to hard work and love.

Over the years, the home they shared became more than just a home, but a place of love, memories and get-togethers. Most weekends were filled with front yard football and baseball games, which included many family members, friends and more than 100 kids throughout the years. Somewhere around 1996, a baseball broke the front window of the house, and the family is still seeking information on this 28-year-old cold case. All anonymous tips are welcome; please reach out to Pam Baker with any information you may have regarding this incident. Please note, interest has been compounded annually.

Wayne spent more than 40 years as a respected on-the-road truck driver, a career that reflected his strong work ethic and commitment to providing for his family. He

was a "big ol' teddy bear," best known by those he loved for his hugs and kisses. His daughter-in-law, Sarah, remembers being nervous to meet her would-be father-in-law for the first time and was intimidated by his broad stature and large physique. However, she was quickly met with the most generous and warmest hug she had ever felt. From that moment forward, the definition of a bear hug became crystal clear to her. For those he loved, they knew it well. He offered instantaneous and unconditional love.

Wayne retired in 2015 and dedicated the remainder of his life to his wife and family. His kids and grandkids brought him so much joy, but Pam was truly the light of his life. When he was not spending time with his family you could find him watching a NASCAR race or attending his church of 17 years at Calvary Church of Granbury.

Wayne was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Edna and Clifford Green, and his father, Elbert Wayne Baker.

He is survived by his wife, Pam Baker; children, Mikki Kimberlin, Wayne Baker Jr. and wife Sarah, and Jeremy Baker and wife Shelby; grandchildren, Jessica Watts and husband Chris, Douglas Byers and wife Becca, Darian Byers and wife Shannon, Dawn Baker, Auran Baker, Samuel Baker, Jasper Baker and Landon Baker; and siblings, Connie Pyles and Richard Baker. With such a large family, he is survived by many loved ones and close friends.

Wayne Dale Baker will be remembered not only for his dedication and love but also for the strength and kindness he showed throughout his life. His legacy will continue to live on in the hearts of those he touched.

PLEASE SEE OBITS | A14

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ACROSS

- 1 in Lubbock: Texas University
- 5 "March Madness" is a tournament
- 6 TX Jim Reeves hit: "Welcome ___ World" (1964)
- 7 Harris of 2008 film "Appaloosa" with TX Renee Zellweger
- 8 ___ City, Texas
- 9 what hurricanes produce on the Texas coast
- 15 "it weighs ___" (heavy)
- 16 most fleecy
- 19 in Wood County on U.S. 69
- 21 Cowboys fly their ___ away games
- 22 Nicaraguan rebels (1979-90)
- 27 worst cattle drive position
- 28 Bellville's county
- 29 noisy sleeper
- 30 TX Jodey Arrington House committee: "___ Means"
- 32 gym class abbr.
- 33 excitable
- 36 TX Zellweger has been dressed by ___ Cassini
- 37 miles ___ hour
- 38 every state except Alaska is ___ than Texas by area
- 39 those who served in the military
- 41 heap of something
- 42 titled women in the UK
- 45 rip apart
- 46 Texas creek: "Yo ___ Digo"
- 47 TX JoBeth Williams 1980 film: "___ Crazy"
- 48 horse morsel
- 49 "humble" is this regarding Texans
- 52 high maintenance person
- 53 tree chopper
- 54 Texas singer Stuckey who sang "Sweet Thang"

DOWN

- 1 explosive material
- 2 ___-friendly (not harmful to the environment)
- 3 Milam County seat
- 4 this man led the "Fredonian Rebellion," first attempt by Texans at independence (2 wds.)
- 8 this Thorpe helped the Rockets win a NBA title in 1994
- 9 big amusement park: "Six ___"
- 10 Beaumont univer.
- 11 TXism: "out ___ kilter" (broken)
- 12 1972 film about a Texas magistrate: "The Life and Times ___ Bean"
- 13 TXism: "gives up the ghost"
- 14 badger's den
- 15 TX George Strait 1982 hit: "___ by Morning"
- 16 peel the skin off
- 17 payment for a graduate teaching assistant, e.g.
- 18 cartridges with a black powder for printing
- 19 not written
- 26 not wholesale
- 28 Gulf shrimp catcher (2 wds.)
- 31 bitter beers
- 34 Grand ___ Opry dir. from Mineola to Pittsburg, TX
- 37 breathe hard
- 40 500 sheets of paper
- 43 South Padre Island acquisition (2 wds.)
- 44 TX Dennis Quaid 2005 film: "Yours, ___ Ours"
- 50 TX-born Robby film "___ Billy Joe"
- 51 Yankee state (abbr.)

How can you plan for incapacity?

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Chad Carroll

We all hope to enjoy long, healthy lives, retaining the ability to think clearly and make our own decisions. But life doesn't always work out that way — which is why you need to prepare for a potential incapacity that could affect your independence and possibly create financial problems for your family.

So, in thinking about incapacity planning, you may want to consider the following arrangements:

HEALTH CARE POWER OF ATTORNEY

When you establish a

FINANCIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

With a financial power of attorney, you designate someone to assume a variety of duties for you in case you

health care power of attorney, you name someone, such as a spouse or adult child, to make medical decisions on your behalf,

should you become incapable of making them on your own due to disability or illness. These decisions include choosing doctors, treatments and care facilities.

become incapacitated. These tasks include investing, selling property, paying bills and debts, collecting Social Security benefits and adding or changing insurance policies.

When establishing a health care or financial power of attorney, you may need to decide whether it's "durable" or "springing." A durable power of attorney typically takes effect immediately after you sign it, have it notarized and witnessed. So, the person you've chosen to have power of attorney — sometimes called an "agent" — can act on your behalf whenever you choose. On the other hand, you could select a power of attorney that "springs" into

effect only when you become incapacitated — hence, the "springing" designation.

One issue affecting a springing power of attorney involves the speed with which it can be enacted. Generally, it won't go into effect until a licensed physician declares in writing that the person granting the power of attorney is indeed incapacitated. This could cause a problem if your chosen agent needs to act quickly on your behalf. It's because of this potential delay that a durable power of attorney is often favored over a springing power of attorney. However, everyone's circumstances are different, so if you have a choice be-

tween a durable or springing power of attorney, you may want to consult with an estate-planning professional for guidance.

Apart from the health care and financial powers of attorney, you may also want to consider one other incapacity-related legal document — a living will. When you establish a living will, you describe the steps you would or wouldn't want taken to keep you alive, along with other medical decisions, including pain management and organ donation. Obviously, the decision to create a living will is highly personal, involving your feelings about self-sufficiency and the circumstances that define the qual-

ity of life you wish to have. But the mere fact of having a living will can relieve your loved ones of having to make potentially agonizing decisions.

Planning for an incapacity may not be the most pleasant task — but it's an important one. Of course, you may never become incapacitated at all, but by making the proper arrangements, you can make things easier for yourself and your family — just in case.

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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 817-573-8915 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.

REJENGAGE 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).

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.

OBITS FROM A13

Patricia 'Patt' Garner 1944-2024

Our sweet wife, mother, sister, aunt, and Nana, Patricia "Patt" Garner, 80, of Granbury, passed away Oct. 16, 2024.

Join us as we share one last adventure with our loving Patt. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church on Fall Creek Highway in Acton. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Patt was born Aug. 19, 1944, to Kinley and Alice McBride in San Antonio. In 1967, Patt met William "Bill" Garner and became a military wife April 4, 1970. Together they had three children: Brian, Karly and Jeff. The next 54 years were filled with laughs, love and so many adventures. When Patt wasn't making matching Christmas sweatshirts for the family, coaching drill team, or breaking up fights between Karly and Jeff, Bill and Patt filled their time traveling with their family and friends. They have scaled Machu Picchu, ridden camels in Egypt, skied the Swiss Alps, camped in the South of France, swam in the waters of Mallorca, and cruised all over the world, just to name a few. Their adventures were legendary and



when Patt started moving a bit slower, they didn't let it stop them. Instead of letting time become a thief of their joy, they got a motor home and traveled the country with their fur baby, Maggie.

Patt was predeceased by her parents, Kinley and Alice McBride; her mother and father-in-law, Joe and Dorothy Garner; her son and daughter-in-law, Brian and Kie Garner; her sister, Barbara McKinley; and her brother, Randall McBride.

She is survived by her loving husband, Bill Garner; her daughter and son-in-law, Karly and John Stelzer; her son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Sarah Garner; four grandchildren and spouses, Kenly and Jake Foust, Tyler Gaynor, Layla Garner and Porter Garner; and two great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Alice Foust.

Harold Ray DuVall 1928-2024

Harold Ray DuVall, 96, of Granbury, went to be with his Savior Oct. 11, 2024.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift to "Texans On Mission," formerly called The Texas Baptist Men, at <https://www.texansonmission.org/who-we-are>, indicating your contribution in memory of Harold R. DuVall. Private services for the family will honor Dad's life. Condolences for the family will be sent to: Pamela DuVall Boubel, P.O. Box 773, Summerland, CA 93067.

Born April 27, 1928, in Hattiesville, Arkansas, to Elic Buchanan DuVall and Myrtle Ellen Norman DuVall, Harold was one of 13 children. Upon his eldest brother's enlistment into the Navy, Harold, as the second born child, assumed responsibility as the eldest, a role he lovingly carried throughout his life.

Harold and Peggy married in June 1954 in Abilene, and it was in Abilene where they raised their four children. Making Abilene their home for many years, the family was active in the community and members of Elmcrest Baptist Church. Harold worked for 32 years for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Harold and Peggy moved to Granbury after Harold retired, making it their home for 30 years, and were active members of Lakeside Baptist Church.

Harold and Peggy enjoyed working 14 summers in Yellowstone National



Park and nine fall seasons at Ridgecrest Christian Conference Center, nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina. They traveled and worked with the Texas Baptist Men around the state of Texas, as well as many other states, building churches and assisting with relief work.

Harold was preceded in death by his loving wife of 68 years, Peggy June Brown DuVall, in 2022; one grandson, Bryon DuVall; his parents, and nine siblings.

He is survived by their four children, Pamela Ellen (Gary) Boubel, David (Lynn) DuVall, Dan (Carol) DuVall, and June (Jesse) Lancarte; 10 precious grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren, all of whom were a great delight and comfort to him. Also surviving are his sisters Lorene DuVall Stroud and Iva Jean DuVall Burns, and brother, Donald (Buddy) DuVall.

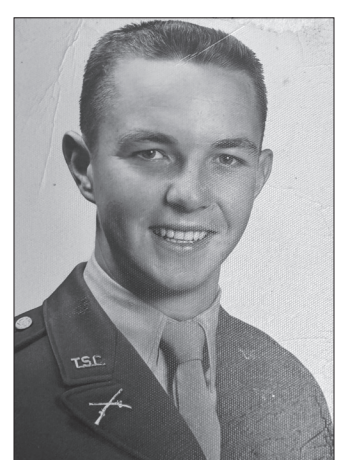
Thomas Dwain Nix 1936-2024

Thomas Dwain Nix, known to his friends as "T.D. Nix," age 88, passed away peacefully Oct. 28, 2024, at his home in Mineral Wells. He was born Aug. 4, 1936, and spent his childhood in Tolar. There, he met his future wife.

A graveside services will be held at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Tolar. Condolences may be left at www.bcbfuneralhome.com. Arrangements are under the direction of Baum-Carlock-Bumgardner Funeral Home.

T.D. proudly served in the Army before embarking on a successful career as the director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service in Canada. He later transferred to Mineral Wells to be closer to family and friends in Tolar, where he resided for the remainder of his life.

A humble man with a warm spirit, T.D. was loved by all who knew him. He instilled in his children a strong work ethic and the importance of independent thinking, rooted in his experiences on the farm. To him, family was everything, and he dedicated his life to nurturing those bonds. He cherished playing games and sharing laughter with friends and family, always making time for joy and connection. A passionate fisherman throughout his life and an avid golfer in



later years, he created countless wonderful memories.

T.D. was preceded in death by his father, Thomas Herschel Nix; his mother, Artie Nix; and his brother, Jackie Nix.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Kay Petree Nix, with whom he shared 67 years of marriage, always proclaiming her to be the love of his life. He is also survived by his sister Sue Cummings and husband Jack; brother, Lynn Nix; brother, Gary Nix and wife, Linda; daughter, Debra Price; son, Randy Nix and wife, Misty; son, Michael Nix; grandchildren, Brandon, Ashly, Lexis, Macy and Bodhi; great-grandchildren Lincoln, Lexington, Liberty, T.J. and Emma; along with many extended family and friends, all of whom he held dear.

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Hood County News

Carl Lee Ansley 1938-2024

Carl Lee Ansley got his wings Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, in Lipan, with his loving family surrounding him. He was born May 31, 1938, in Rhome, to Albert and Ophelia Ansley. He graduated from Tech High School in Fort Worth. Carl met the love of his life, Loretta Jean Smith, in August 1960 and they had a beautiful 63 years together. Carl and Loretta married April 22, 1961, and together they were blessed with two boys, Dale Anthony and Keith Scott Ansley.

Visitation will be 1 to 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8 at Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury. Funeral service will follow at 2 p.m., also at Wiley Funeral Home.

Interment will be at Evergreen Cemetery outside Lipan.

To send flowers to Carl's family, please visit the Wiley Funeral Home floral website.

He entered boot camp and aircraft school in Amarillo May 2, 1957, joined the Texas Air National Guard in 1958 and served in the Texas Air National Guard in all facets of propulsion maintenance including fixed and rotary wing aircraft. He was a flight engineer on the KC-97. Before retiring, he served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the '90s as a chief master sergeant. He retired from the Texas Air National Guard with 36 years of dedicated service. He was preceded in death by



his parents, two sisters, one brother and one son.

He is survived by his wife, Loretta Ansley; his child, Dale Ansley; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

FORWARD TRAINING CENTER

Building bridges to prosperity

BY MONICA HAYS



Monica Hays, the new executive director at Forward Training Center, brings five years of diverse experience, ranging from volunteering to operations director. Her passion for the organization's mission propels her with dedication, commitment, and a servant's heart.
monica@forwardtrainingcenter.org | 817-573-6677

This past week, Forward Training Center of Hood County celebrated the graduation of students from its Jobs for Life class, GISD STARS and Premier Powered for Life programs. These graduates have made a courageous commitment to change their lives through education, gaining skills that lead to meaningful employment. Each graduate is a step closer to economic stability and personal growth — a change that impacts not just them, but also their families and the entire community.

Forward Training Center's ability to provide these programs at no cost relies on its Bridge Builder program, a community of generous donors who are passionate about helping others move from poverty to prosperity. Bridge Builders know that crossing the gap from struggling to thriving can be challenging, and they stand with the center to make that journey possible.

Bridge Builders provide essential resources, including:

Workbooks and materials that equip students with the knowledge to succeed.

Technology — like computers and software, preparing them for a digital world.

Spiritual support — through Bibles and inspirational materials that encourage resilience.

Meals and snacks — during class, making students feel valued and supported.

Childcare services — for single parents, removing barriers to attendance.

Bridge Builders support more than just classes; they enable life-changing outcomes. When graduates secure jobs, they become positive forces in the community, contributing economically, inspiring others, and creating a ripple effect that strengthens Hood County. A formerly unemployed parent may now provide stability at home, inspiring their children to pursue education and growth. A young adult may become a role model for their peers,

showing that success is possible even in challenging circumstances.

Graduates who thrive contribute to a healthier community, where individuals help one another rise. This empowerment fosters hope, resilience and a renewed sense of possibility for all. Each graduate's success story speaks to the profound impact the Bridge Builder program has on Hood County, showing that lasting change is possible through collective effort.

By becoming a Bridge Builder, you're investing in the potential of individuals and the future of the community. Your support is more than a donation — it's a commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty and building a culture of opportunity and self-sufficiency. Every contribution brings us closer to a flourishing future for Hood County.

Forward Training Center invites you to join us in this mission. Whether through financial support, volunteering or advocacy, your involvement is vital.

Together, we can bridge the gap from survival to success, creating a community where every individual has the chance to thrive.

For more information on becoming a Bridge Builder with Forward Training Center of Hood County, please contact Bridge Builder Chairperson Julia Pannell at 817-308-7427 or jpannell70@gmail.com. Let's keep building bridges to prosperity — one life, one family, one community at a time.

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 Oct. 29-Nov. 4. While there were many incidents, this is a partial list of more significant activity.

- OCT. 29**
9:37 a.m.: found property on N. Park Drive
3:55 p.m.: reckless driver on U.S. Highway 377
5:29 p.m.: shots fired on Aviaara Court
8:17 p.m.: reckless driver on Weatherford Highway
10:31 p.m.: individual with no identification on S. Morgan Street
10:44 p.m.: person in possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377
Two minor accidents, a warrant service and 36 traffic stops occurred this day
- Oct. 30**
2:25 p.m.: fraud on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:00 p.m.: person in possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377
5:32 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Second Street
6:14 p.m.: loose livestock on

- E. Pearl Street
7:05 p.m.: harassment on N. Plaza Drive
7:15 p.m.: hit-and-run accident on Weatherford Highway
8:24 p.m.: sale/manufacture of a controlled substance on Shore Drive
A major accident, a minor accident and 24 traffic stops occurred this day

- OCT. 31**
2:27 a.m.: open door on E. U.S. Highway 377
3:03 a.m.: person in possession of a controlled substance on E. U.S. Highway 377
1:55 p.m.: theft on Parkwood Lane
7:25 p.m.: missing person on Jacinth Lane
9:57 p.m.: reckless driver on E. Rucker Street
8:28 p.m.: reckless driver on Waters Edge Drive
11:44 p.m.: intoxicated driver on S. Morgan Street
Two major accidents, three minor accidents, a warrant service and 29 traffic stops occurred this day

- NOV. 1**
12:03 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on E. U.S. Highway 377

- 3:09 a.m.: intoxicated person on S. Morgan Street
3:17 a.m.: intoxicated driver on N. Meadows Drive
8:17 a.m.: driver with invalid driver license on S. Pirate Drive
9:24 a.m.: hit-and-run accident on Medical Plaza Court
1:40 p.m.: child found on Laiken Drive
3:19 p.m.: robbery on Chanel Drive
6:13 p.m.: threat on W. Pearl Street
6:14 p.m.: intoxicated driver on Crawford Avenue
11:59 p.m.: noise disturbance on Pinoak Street
Two major accidents, two minor accidents, a warrant service and 12 traffic stops occurred this day

- NOV. 2**
2:30 a.m.: intoxicated driver on NE Loop 567
3:39 a.m.: person in possession of drug paraphernalia on Crawford Court
10:16 a.m.: driver with invalid driver license on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:52 a.m.: assault on W. Pearl Street
2:12 p.m.: person in possession of drug paraphernalia on Chanel Drive
Two minor accidents and 24 traffic stops occurred this day

1:17 a.m.: suspicious activity on Mallard Way
2:12 a.m.: intoxicated driver on S. Morgan Street
4:12 a.m.: noise disturbance on W. Pearl Street
8:14 a.m.: threat on Walters Drive
9:27 a.m.: noise disturbance on Second Street
9:06 p.m.: reckless driver on E. U.S. Highway 377
11:14 p.m.: assault on Meadows North Drive
One major accident, two minor accidents and 21 traffic stops occurred this day

- NOV. 3**
9:14 a.m.: fraud on Parkwood Lane
10:46 a.m.: abandoned vehicle on Reunion Court
3:58 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
On minor accident and 17 traffic stops occurred this day

- NOV. 4**
9:14 a.m.: fraud on Parkwood Lane
10:46 a.m.: abandoned vehicle on Reunion Court
3:58 p.m.: criminal trespass on E. U.S. Highway 377
On minor accident and 17 traffic stops occurred this day

BARK

FROM PAGE A11

for water access in the dog areas.

"I found out that they were going to be doing this upgrade, where they were adding a handicap ramp to one of the dog parks and I was like, 'Hey, this is the perfect opportunity. I'm going to write this up, I'm going to get everybody to sign it, and hopefully they'll hear us out,'" she said.

In the petition, Drum explained that having a reliable water source would "significantly enhance the experience for both dogs and their owners," and would also encourage more visitors to enjoy the park.

"We believe that this enhancement aligns with the community's commitment to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for all," the petition reads.

With approximately 40 signatures — including Warner's — Drum submitted the petition to the city of Granbury's Internal Services Director Aaron McLain Monday, Oct. 28.

McLain, who received the petition by email, said he agreed with Drum that it is a hassle having dog owners carry the water into the park — and it wasn't long before the city had a solution.

By tapping into a water line nearby, McLain explained that the city was able to run a pipe under the fence dividing two of the parks and install a

"hose bib" or water spigot on each side of the fence.

"Two of the dog parks now have access to water inside, so with a small, short hose we provided, they can fill up a bowl for the dog to drink out of at those two points," McLain said.

To "kill two birds with one stone," McLain explained that the city also addressed some areas that had eroded, as they were "high trafficked areas."

"You can tell where the dogs walk frequently; they create trails," he said. "So, we brought in some more dirt where we'd had some erosion and poured some more concrete to make the transition areas a little friendlier in those two areas. We were there working on the hose bibs and had to close the park anyway, so we (figured we) might as well just take advantage of that time."

In no time — about four days, according to McLain — the city had resolved a long-standing issue that had been a source of frustration for park visitors.

"I'm so excited that they put that (the hose bib) in," Drum said. "I hope they do the other two sides, too. They're not used as much, but they do get used and especially in the summer, when it's 100-plus degrees, it's just too hot for the dogs to be out there. But every other dog park in the free world always has water spigots that are easily accessible inside the dog park. They usually have dog water fountains, but I'm pretty sure

those are relatively expensive and have a tendency to freeze up and bust, so right now, I'm happy with the spigot."

Warner said while he is grateful for the new water access, he hopes the city will turn its attention to another long-standing concern: the number of stickers in the park.

"The only other thing that's not kosher out here is the stickers," he said. "For about six years at least they've been (a real problem), where they take over the whole area. Early on, they're soft, and then they get really bad, and you'll track them."

He explained that his dog, Lily, has sensitive feet and tracks the stickers into his house and carpet — leading him to accidentally step on them on several different occasions.

"It's been a problem for at least six years, and I complained the first two or three years, but it didn't do any good," he said. "Of course, maybe the petition is the way to go."

With the new improvements, the dog park now offers better access to water, and a more durable surface — meaning both pets and their owners can finally focus on what matters most: having fun.

"On the weekends in the large dog enclosure off of the parking lot, sometimes there will be up to 20 or more dogs in the one enclosure, and they all know each other," Drum said. "They're all friends, and

they all run around like crazy toddlers hyped up on sugar. They just have a good time."

Built "in house," the Granbury Bark Park provides several obstacles for dogs to run and play on — including creatively repurposed old fire hydrants that were no longer in use.

"They had been taken out of use because of old age, and they couldn't get parts for them, so we use those in the dog park," McLain said. "It's kind of a funny thing, but believe it or not, they're actually used just like you see them used in movies by the dogs."

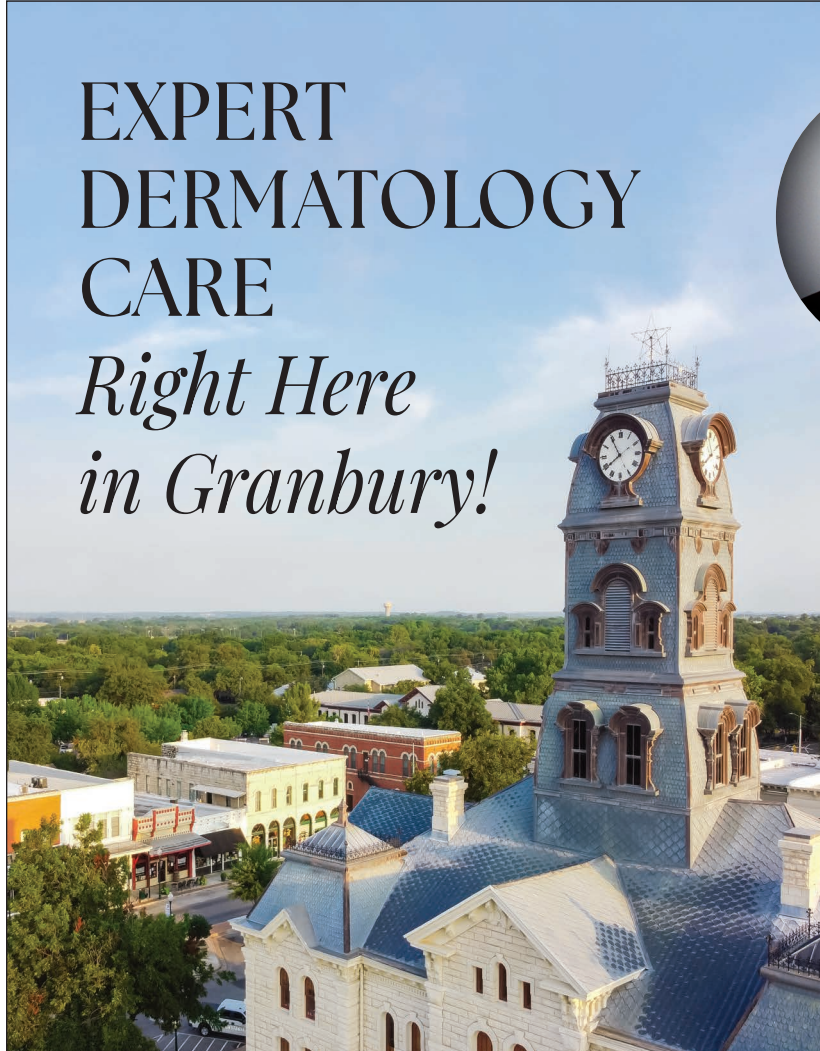
In addition to the play features, the park also includes benches and picnic tables, offering both sunny and shaded spots for owners to relax while their dogs have fun — and they definitely do, according to Drum.

"I go every morning," she said. "I have a husky, and if I do not either take her for a walk, take her for a swim in the mornings, or take her to the park, she sits next to my desk and howls at me."

With 11 years and counting, it's clear that the Granbury Bark Park will continue to be a community staple for several years to come.

"The city of Granbury loves its residents and loves their dogs," Communications Manager Jeff Newpher added.

The Granbury Bark Park is located at 600 W. Moore St. All dogs must be registered and properly vaccinated before being allowed into the off-leash park.



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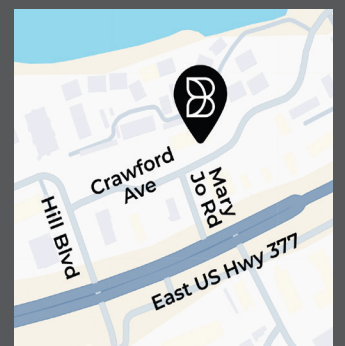
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KNIEPER REALTY

What is a CMA?



BY PAM KNIEPER

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

A comparative market analysis or CMA is a tool prepared by REALTORS® to determine the estimated value of a property. It is not an appraisal, but it is a data-driven report that can benefit buyers and sellers as they struggle to make sense of the constantly changing real estate market.

The data types used in a CMA include statistical information for the location or neighborhood: schools, community amenities, and detailed information for the home and/or improvements, lot size and location.

But the most critical components of a comparative market analysis are "the comps." When preparing a CMA, the first thing a REALTOR® does is search for sold properties similar (comps) to the subject property. Ideally, they should be in the same subdivision, or within a 2-mile radius, and they should have sold in the last 90-120 days. Properties should be similar in age and size, and the site must be comparable. For example, you cannot hope to get an accurate assessment of value if comparing an 800-square-foot home built in 1982 to a 4,000-square-foot home built in 2000, even if they are next door to each other. Nor can you use a home built

on an interior lot when trying to determine the value of a home on a lakefront lot. No matter how similar the houses are, the cost of the lot will be vastly different. It would be like comparing a home built on 2 acres to one on 200 acres.

Granite counters versus laminate, wood floors versus carpet, crown molding, fireplaces, updated versus needs work, pools, workshops, fences, mature landscaping versus weeds and grass burs, and LOCATION ... are all factors to be considered. Once all this data has been collected and the proper adjustments made, an approximate and appropriate price range can be determined with confidence.

If you watch any national news broadcast you will hear that inventories are low, bidding wars are still happening, and prices are rising. However, if you look only at Granbury and Hood County, you will find the facts for our

area do not align with those in the northeastern parts of the country, nor are we seeing the same conditions as Dallas or Austin. Every city and every subdivision are a little bit different, and home prices will reflect that. That's why a CMA is essential.

There are almost 800 homes for sale in Hood County, competing offers are not the norm, and prices, while not falling off the cliff, have seen some recent corrections. But this could all change tomorrow, which is why a CMA is important. Knowing the realistic market value for the specific property you are hoping to buy or sell is critical.

The Team and Knieper Realty will be happy to provide you with a FREE CMA. Buying or selling, we want to help you make an informed decision. Please give us a call at 817-219-0456 or visit us online at www.WeSellGranbury.com. We love talking about real estate and would love to chat with you.

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A comparative market analysis or CMA is a tool prepared by REALTORS® to determine the estimated value of a property. It is not an appraisal, but it is a data-driven report that can benefit buyers and sellers as they struggle to make sense of the constantly changing real estate market.



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Rattlers Named District Champs



With a 42-21 victory, the Rattlers secured the district championship title Nov. 1. Drew Cooper is pictured celebrating on the sideline. See more photos on B4

JESSE RAMIREZ JR. | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Area girls basketball previews

Lady Pirates return plenty, seeking next step

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the
Hood County News

Five years ago, Alan Thorpe took over a Granbury Lady Pirates basketball program that had gone through five consecutive losing seasons. He revived the once-renowned program with five straight seasons of 20 or more wins, including playoff appearances in each of the past four campaigns.

And they've enjoyed post-season success, advancing to the second round in each of those four years.

This season the Lady Pirates return plenty of talent from last season's 21-13 squad that finished third in district with an 8-4 record. In fact, they bring back nine players, including:

Senior post Kate Hamlin,

7 points per game, 4.9 rebounds per game, 1.6 assists per game, 1.3 steals per game and a block per game.

Senior guard Faith Fry, 5.1 ppg, 3 rpg, 1 spg

Senior wing Baylee Goodman, 3.5 ppg, 2.5 rpg, 1 sp

Senior post Sterling Dunagan, 2.1 ppg, 1.7 rpg, 1 apg, 1 sp

Junior guard Jolie Hayes, 5.8 ppg, 3.3 rpg, 1.5 apg, 1.3 spg

Junior forward Jayla Hayes, 2.6 ppg, 2.1 rpg, 1 spg

Junior guard Hannah Dafoe, 1.5 rpg, 1 spg

Junior guard Bentley Sherrill, 1 spg

Junior forward Jillian Willaims, 1.7 ppg, 1.8 rpg, 1 apg, 1.1 spg

Hamlin was named first-team all-district, while Fry and Jayla Hayes garnered second-team honors.

"I like our team. We will be a lot like last year, small but work hard. I feel like we will be fun to watch," Thorpe said. "We had great community support last year. I hope people will take time to come see these young ladies compete again this year."

The Lady Pirates are once again in District 5-5A.

However, following UIL realignment they have some new district opponents. The league now includes Aledo, Azle, Saginaw Chisholm Trail, Keller Fossil Ridge, Saginaw and White Settlement Brewer.

"District will be very tough this year. Aledo is picked to win it with Brewer right behind them," Thorpe said. "The rest of us are evenly matched. Should be a lot of fun."

LADY INDIANS LOOK FOR ANOTHER STATE RUN

The Lipan Lady Indians have been perennial contenders for a state championship for many years.

And guess what? They are once again as they en-



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Senior post Kate Hamlin is returning this season. Shot of Hamlin, shooting from a home game on Dec. 8, 2023.

PLEASE SEE BASKETBALL | B2

Learning more with each step FFA's Kynlee Greene

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

Kynlee Greene is a junior at Granbury High School. She is a part of the series of stories the Hood County News is providing readers concerning the journey of Future Farmers of America students during the course of the year.

When FFA student Kynlee Greene enters a room she smiles, makes eye contact and offers a warm handshake. Much more than an organization for showing animals, the FFA believes in the development of the whole person. For many of these students, like Greene, this reinforces the lessons they have learned at

home.

Greene's parents, Todd and Robyn Greene, were involved in FFA themselves while students in Mineral Wells. Todd showed lambs and was involved in chapter conducting. Robyn showed lambs, pigs, steers and heifers. Robyn was president of her local chapter, was involved in chapter conducting, land judging and competed in the Miss FFA competition. Despite her parents involvement, Kynlee — the youngest of the four Greene children — was the first to take an interest in FFA.

Besides FFA, Greene is a varsity cheerleader and participates in National Honor Society, Junior Leadership Granbury and is a Hood County Livestock Raisers



PLEASE SEE FFA | B2 The Greene family, from left: Jacob, Karlee, Todd, Robyn, Kynlee and Ryan.

PHOTO COURTESY ASHLYN RAE PHOTOGRAPHY

BOOSTER

FROM PAGE B2

Ambassador. In FFA, Greene shows animals and competes in other FFA events including speaking events, Career Development Events (CDEs) and Leadership Development Events (LDEs).

"I do LDEs and CDEs, and I do a speaking event. My LDE, I do Ag Advocacy, and then my CDE, I do wool judging, and then my speaking event is over right now. It's over natural resources and this current event that's coming up and could be affecting agriculture," Greene explained.

"I have always had a passion for animals, I've always wanted to be a vet, always wanted to get into it (FFA)," said Greene.

Greene explains that she would have joined Junior FFA but was not aware it existed until she got to high school. Greene keeps her animals at the Ag barn. Greene struggled to choose which animal she would compete with when she joined FFA. Some students show multiple animals.

"Over the summer before my freshman year, I messaged Ms. Wilson, and I was debating between a sheep and a goat. And I think it ultimately just came down to the pros and cons of both and which one I liked — which one I think looked better. So it came down to the sheep."

And financing her first animal? "Luckily, I have really kind parents who would help me with it. They helped me buy my first one. Okay, actually, my first one did not make it too long. The first one I bought passed away not even 24 hours after I got it. But my parents and the breeder were really kind about helping me get the next one," Greene said.

The funds from the sale of her first sheep were earmarked to purchase future animals and feed. Her parents also help pay for animal feed. Greene hopes to have a surplus at the end of her FFA journey to apply to college.

"A lot of my money that I have now is from my past sales, which I still try to manage. And now be-

ing able to drive, it's kind of complicated, but usually I will buy the feed and my parents will buy if I am completely broke or out of money. They'll help me, but I'll usually have to do, like, some chores or make it up to them another way."

Greene is showing four sheep this year; she keeps them on the GISD property in the ag (agriculture) barn. Some students keep their animals at their homes, but many — even those with property — keep their animals at the school for convenience.

Greene explains the breeds and their names. "I have three different breeds. There's this breed called medium wool, which is like a suffix, kind of mix Hampshire, which is a ewe, a female. Her name is Dory. And then I have my other medium wool and his name is, oh, sorry, there's so many ..."

Greene takes a breath and pauses and says, "I decided to go with like, a Disney theme."

"Since she was my first female, I was just like, Dory fits her. I love Dory."

"And then my other one named after the chicken of 'Moana,' because when I first got him, he had some wool on the top of his head, and when he looks at you, he tilts his head. He's a goofy looking lamb. It's perfect, but 'Hei Hei,' it fits him."

"And then I have this other breed. It's like a Dorper Dorset mix. And his name's Olaf, because he's all white, big and fluffy. He used to be super sweet."

"And then I have this other one named Reba," said Greene. Reba was named by her breeder. Some students show animals that are on loan from breeders. Those animals will return to the breeder at the end of the FFA show season.

Many of the animals are sold.

"Yes, my two wethers, my two males will be sold for me. One of my females (Reba), I'm just leasing, so she'll go back to her breeder. And the other female (Dory), hopefully I could give her to another breeder. If not, we're going to try to find another home for her," Greene states.



Kynlee Greene, a junior in GISD's FFA, in the ring at the Granbury Young Farmer's Fall "Shoot Out" showing "Hei Hei," a medium wool wether. "Hei Hei" is one of four lambs Greene shows.

PHOTO COURTESY JACOB GREENE

"I have always had a passion for animals, I've always wanted to be a vet, always wanted to get into it (FFA),"

KYNLEE GREENE

Greene's goals for the year will help her in all areas of life.

"I really just want to learn how to manage my time. Coming into my junior year knowing it's going to be a hard year as it already is, I just want to learn how to manage my time and just become a better person."

"And for my animals, I just kind of want to see their potential, grow their potential, grow a connec-

tion with them, and just like overall, learn with them."

Greene sums up her FFA experience by mentioning that even when she loses, she wins — because with each step she learns more.

PHOTO COURTESY ROBYN GREENE

Kynlee Greene in boots and denim, ready for this year's homecoming dance.



BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE B1

ter the season ranked fifth in the state in Class 2A by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.

Lipan returns five varsity players, including two starters, from a 34-4 squad that won its district for the umpteenth time and reached a regional final on the heels of a state championship in 2023.

"A little different look than we've had in the past. We have some key players and leaders back, but several new pieces we are trying to fit to-

gether," Lady Indians coach Amber Branson said.

Back as starters are seniors Hanna Gaylor at guard and Alisha Green at forward. Joining them as returners are junior forward Finley Shockley and sophomore guards Kynzi Callaway and Jacy Bolton.

Gaylor's list of accolades from last season are an arm's length, including district Co-MVP, TABC All-Region, TABC All-State, Texas Girls Coaches Association All-State, and Texas High School Coaches Association 2A Super Elite Team MVP.

Green was a first-team all-district selection; Callaway and Bolton were second-teamers and Shockley garnered honorable mention.

The Lady Indians will again play in District 11-2A. This time realignment has them with DeLeon, Graford, Hamilton, Hico, Poolville and Santo.

"Will be a little different adding in Graford and Hamilton. Graford has a rich basketball tradition, and Hamilton always has great athletes and a respected program," Branson said. "Hico will be tough and as always,

Santo, will be a very competitive district."

"As always, we are excited about the season, and look forward to a long playoff run, chasing a state championship."

LADY RATTTLERS OUT TO MAKE 3A IMPACT

The Tolar Lady Rattlers have moved up to Class 3A and are counting on the leadership of six returners from last season as they seek a return to the playoffs.

Starters back from a team that finished 22-10, second in district and advanced

to the second round of the playoffs are senior Senne Imel, junior Callan Nix and sophomore Jaycee Jones. Also back are senior Kenzi McQuain, junior Emma Jackson and sophomore Kamryn Kolb.

Imel was the district's Offensive Player of the Year, along with being named TABC All-Region. Jones was the league's Newcomer of the Year.

"Moving up to 3A will be exciting," coach Ericka Halfmann said. "Can't wait to get rolling. Our first game will depend on the volleyball

playoffs."

Several of the Lady Rattlers are also on the Tolar volleyball team that began the playoffs earlier this week. Joining Tolar in District 8-3A are Breckenridge, Comanche, Dublin, Early, Eastland, Millsap and Peaster. Comanche is pre-season ranked No. 17 in the state.

"Super excited to compete against some of the best in the region," Halfmann said. "We had a great season last year and look forward to this year."



Alisha Green will return this season as a senior forward for the Lipan Lady Indians. Green with a lay from a home game on Nov. 8, 2023.

PHOTOS BY LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS



Senne Imel will return this season as a senior for Tolar Lady Rattlers. Imel working the ball past a defender during a home game on Nov. 8, 2023.

CIVIL WAR ROUNDTABLE

Civil War Round Table plans November meeting



BY BILL DYESS

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

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table will meet Nov. 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377 in Granbury. The program will be brought by Dr. Richard Selcer, a professor at Texas Christian University, and a prolific author on Civil War matters. Selcer will speak about "The Gettysburg Phantom Court of Inquiry," a review of the Confederate loss at the Battle of Gettysburg. This has the promise of a fascinating program.

At the October meeting we heard from Dr. David K. Barnett, a local historian who has written several books on the history of the area. At an earlier meeting he had spoken about the influence Civil War veterans had on the organization and growth of our community. At this meeting he concentrated on the personal lives of several of the veterans, both their service during the war and their activities afterward.

In this month of Thanksgiving, the North Central Texas Civil War Round Table would like to express its appreciation to the Hood County News for publishing this column; to Lake View Inn for hosting our speaker receptions; and to Spring Creek Barbeque for providing us with a meeting place.

NOVEMBER IN THE CIVIL WAR

After a fairly quiet October, so far as large battles were concerned, November saw even less major combat. Throughout the nation, however, there were small battles and skirmishes almost daily, from Harrisonville, Missouri and Matagorda, Texas, in the Trans-Mississippi theater; Old Lamar, Mississippi and Nashville, Tennessee in the Western theater; and New Berne, North Carolina and Suffolk, Virginia in the Eastern theater.

The Union Army of the Potomac was rocked Nov. 5, when President Lincoln, his patience at an end, relieved from command Gen. George McClellan, who was extremely popular with his troops, and appointed a re-



Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside.

luctant Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside to lead the force. On Nov. 15, Burnside's army, then located at Warrenton, west of Washington, D.C., began moving south toward Richmond with its first goal being Fredericksburg, Virginia, on the west bank of the Rappahannock River. The Confederate Army of Northern Virginia marched to oppose the movement. Both armies arrived in some force Nov. 19, with the Union occupying the east bank of the river and the Confederate army the town itself and, more importantly, the heights above the town and the river, on the west bank. (These directions sound almost counter-

intuitive. However, at this point the Rappahannock, which runs primarily west to east, takes a turn to the south. Thus, the Union forces, which began on the north side of the river, are now facing west, while the Confederates, on the south side of the river, face east.) The Southern army was now between the Northern army and Richmond. Both armies continued to strengthen their forces during the remainder of the month.

DID YOU KNOW

While the fact of the Union blockade of the southern ports during the war is generally known, it is often thought — perhaps due to



Gen. George McClellan.

the character Rhett Butler in "Gone With the Wind" — that successful "blockade runners" were few and far between. This was not the case. In the two years before it was captured in February 1865, the ship Syren, built in 1863, made 33 successful entries into Wilmington, North Carolina and Charleston, South Carolina. The Denbigh made 26 entries into Mobile, Alabama and Galveston, Texas before it was sunk in May 1865, near the war's end. These were just two of almost 300 ships that made more than one thousand successful attempts to run the blockade.

The North Central Texas Civil War Round Table meets

the second Monday of each month, except June, July and August, at 6:30 p.m. at Spring Creek Barbeque, 317 E. U.S. Highway 377 in Granbury. Guests are always welcome. There is no charge for first time attendees. For more information, please refer to our website: www.ncentexcwrt.com, or call David Wells at 817-579-5769 or Bill Dyess at 817-326-8216.

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

HOOD OUTDOORS

Winterizing your boat: Getting your boat ready for cold weather



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.

I generally fish all winter as the fishing for striped bass is great during this season. This is mainly for those of you who put up your boats for the winter, although some of these tips may be used for those who keep their boats in service in the winter. Colder weather will eventually get here. For those of you with carburetors, it is advised to run the engine with the fuel line disconnected until the engine stalls. Spray a couple ounces of fogging oil into each carburetor. Remove the spark plugs as well and spray some in each cylinder. Make sure you turn the flywheel by hand while spraying in

each cylinder to coat the cylinders.

Change the lower-unit lube and remove prop, grease shaft and all other fitting and lube points. If some water entered the lower unit, now is the time to find out about the bad seals before it freezes. It is also a good idea to spray a little oil on the engine to prevent corrosion and be sure to leave your motor in a vertical or down position so water will not stand in the hub area.

For an inboard or stern drive you should start and run the engine as well to allow it to warm to normal operating temperature. As with any engine make sure

you run the engine with cooling water. If the engine is equipped with a closed or fresh-water cooling system, check the antifreeze. Add rust inhibitor if the antifreeze has been used for more than one season. If the solution is contaminated; flush and replace with a new mixture of 50/50 ethylene glycol and water.

Stop the engine after it's warm and change the oil and filter. Restart the engine and let the new oil circulate. Stop the engine once again and verify that the oil level is correct on the dipstick. Remove the carburetor covers and spray fogging spray into the carburetors and in the spark plug holes as you would for any engine. Turn the engine over a few times with the starter to allow the oil to coat the cylinders. And since we are into the oil work, don't forget to lube the steering,

throttle, shift control linkage and any grease fittings as necessary.

This is also a good time to clean the fuel filter and sediment bowl. Reinstall the bowl with a new gasket and don't forget to service the carburetor cover/filter as well before reinstalling.

If the engine is equipped with a raw water cooling system, open all the engine and manifold water jacket drains and allow the water to drain completely. Always have the stern drive in a horizontal position when draining the system to ensure all of the water is able to leave the system. Leave all the drains open. Disconnect the water hoses at the lowest end and allow them to drain as well.

It is also a good idea to fill the tank completely and add fuel stabilizer. Filling the tank helps to reduce condensation (water) in the tank.

Keep your batteries on a float charge preferably under cover. If your boat is stored outside, putting that cover on is the last step. A lot of these maintenance ideas are good as well even if you don't put your boat up for winter (except for the fogging of the cylinders). A little effort up front will keep your boat on the water when you need it.

HOOD COUNTY FISHING REPORT

Water temperatures on Lake Granbury have been slow to fall and remain in the low 70s. Water levels are still about a foot low. The birds are returning and will point you to active fish. The white bass (sand bass) are abundant and can be caught on many areas of the lake. Best lure is a tail spinner bait or jigging slab in white/chartreuse. Striped bass are

on the move and are being caught from the lower ends to near Mallard Pointe. Best baits for striped bass include live shad, trolling jigs and Alabama rigs. Largemouth bass are being caught in numbers on soft plastics and crankbaits. Lots of smaller bass but many fish in the 3 to 6 pound range. The big blue and yellow catfish season is upon us and some are being caught on cut shad on the upper ends.

Comanche Creek, formerly Squaw Creek continues to produce unbelievable numbers of largemouth bass on soft plastics and crank baits near channel ledges and submerged tanks on the north ends. Limits of small channel catfish continue to be caught on prepared baits. Tilapia are abundant and can be caught using cast nets or rod and reel with worms fished under a cork.

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SUDOKU

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Puzzle by websudoku.com

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SAME PAPER AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



TOLAR FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY JESSE RAMIREZ JR. | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

The Tolar Rattlers faced off against the Brady Bulldogs Nov. 1, 2024, in a conference match at Tolar Rattlers Stadium. With a 42-21 victory, the Rattlers secured the district championship title. The game also marked senior night, honoring football players, band members and student-trainers. Following the game, a heartfelt ceremony symbolized the seniors' departure from home as they walked to the 50-yard line with their parents before continuing alone to the end zone for a final team prayer. For full gallery go to hcnews.com.



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

With a 42-21 victory, the Rattlers secured the district championship title Friday Nov. 1.

Lady Rattlers advance in VB playoffs

BY RICK MAUCH
Special to the Hood County News

The Tolar Lady Rattlers (30-9) continued their torrid play with a 3-1 Class 3A Division II bidistrict victory against Henrietta (22-7) in Graham Tuesday, Nov. 5. It was their 23rd win in 24 matches and extended their team record for victories in a season.

Tolar first-year head coach Amber Terrell praised the leadership of her seniors in the victory, Lily DeWitt, Allyson Dobbs (six kills, five blocks), Senne Imel (16 kills, 12 digs, two aces), Kenzi McQuain (five kills, two blocks), Abbie Soileau (42 assists, six digs, five kills, two blocks, two aces) and Sophia Walters (10 digs, three aces).

This is the seventh straight season for the Lady Rattlers to reach the postseason and the third straight to advance. They were playing Comfort (22-15) at press time, with the winner moving on to face Childress (19-14) or Alpine (22-18) early next week.

GRANBURY FOOTBALL

The Pirates (1-8, 0-7 in District 3-5A Division I at press time) were ending their season at home against White Settlement Brewer (3-6, 3-4 at press time). They fell 37-21 at Denton (2-7, 1-6) Nov. 1.

Offensive leaders vs. Denton: Hayden Meyer 4-of-12, 120 yards, TD passing; Jackson Arnett three catches, 132 yards, 60-yard TD catch; Anthony DeBello 11 carries, 38 yards, TD.

Defensive leaders vs. Denton: Chase Cantrell 16 tackles, one for loss; Bryson Hager 12 tackles, one for loss; Cooper Sandness 10 tackles, two for loss, sack; Elijah Johnston nine tackles, one for loss; Aiden Ford nine tackles.

Special teams standout vs. Denton: E. Johnston 67-yard

kickoff return for TD.

TOLAR FOOTBALL

Led by the running of Peyton Brown, the Rattlers (8-1, 4-0 in District 5-3A Division II at press time) defeated Brady (7-2, 3-1) 42-21 at home Nov. 1, a game that gave the Rattlers sole possession of first place in the league and the top seed entering the postseason. It was also Tolar's 16th straight district victory dating to 2021.

Offensive leaders vs. Brady: Peyton Brown 20 carries, three TD, one catch, 30 yards; Briton Rice 7-of-15, 112 yards, three TD passing; Noah Yanish three catches, 22 yards, two TD; Drake Owens 34-yard TD catch.

Defensive leaders vs. Brady: Owens 16 tackles, one for loss, sack; Anson Laminick 10 tackles; Ty McClure 10 tackles; Cayden Abrego nine tackles; Brooks Stone eight tackles, sack; Kelvin Murray sack, tackles for loss; Yanish interception.

Brown has 938 yards and a dozen touchdowns this season.

Tolar was ending the regular season at Eastland (4-5, 1-3) at press time. The Rattlers will begin the postseason against the No. 4 seed from District 6-3A Division II late next week.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pirates (25-22) saw their season come to an end with a 3-0 loss to Colleyville Heritage (33-6), No. 4 in the state, in their Class 5A Division I playoff match at Arlington Athletics Complex Nov. 4.

Leaders
Kills: Blakely Bleeker 4
Digs: Allyson McCabe 9, Lillyan McCall 8, Audrey Greinert 7

Assists: McCabe 10
Receptions: Mattie Weaver 16, McCall 14, Greinert 12
The Lady Pirates posted the program's most victories since 2019. They also

reached the postseason for the 15th time in 16 seasons.

GRANBURY VOLLEYBALL HONORS

Seven members of the Lady Pirates/Pirates were named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association fourth annual Best and Brightest Award winners list.

To be eligible, an athlete must be a senior, have a grade point average of at least 3.5 unweighted/4.0 weighted, or the equivalent if using a different GPA scale during their year, and they must play in 50% of their varsity teams sets during their senior season.

Lady Pirates honored were:
First team — Sienna Watts, Lily McCall, Blakely Bleeker, Audrey Greinert, Addi Cowling and Allyson McCabe.

Third team — Megan James.

GRACE CLASSICAL FOOTBALL

The Gryphons (2-7) ended the regular season with a 32-28 victory at Temple Centex Home School Nov. 1. They were playing Round Rock Ignite in the opening round of the Texas Association of Independent Athletic Organizations playoffs at press time.

The Gryphons are the defending TAAIO Division III state champions. The winner of their game with Ignite will advance to face 2023 state runner-up Hill County or Mineral Wells Community Christian in Round 2 next week.

Offensive leaders vs. Centex: Jones Bryce 3-of-4, 50 yards, two TD, interception passing, nine carries, 100 yards rushing; Keith Wyatt 19 carries, 225 yards, two TD; Tyce Robshaw two catches, 20 yards, two TD.

Defensive leaders vs. Centex: Wyatt 16 tackles; Jones Bryce 13 tackles; Thomas Pierce 10 tackles, fumble recovery for TD; Ray

Drew interception; Thomas Henry interception.

GRANBURY TENNIS

Several members of the Lady Pirates/Pirates were named to the All-District 5-5A Team by the league's coaches:

Newcomer of the Year:

Albane Combres

Freshman of the Year:

Atleigh Young

First team mixed doubles: Sullivan Williamson/Mandi Labelle

Second team boys singles: Tyler St. Don

Second team girls singles: Combres, Young, Lili Vaughn

Honorable mention boys singles: Roland Krause, Colten Whitefield, Oakley Boyd, Braxton Bailey, Chase Bohney

Honorable mention boys doubles: Krause/Boyd, Whitefield/St. Don, Bailey/Bohney

Honorable mention girls doubles: Allie Kazmier/Young

Academic all-district: Girls — Labelle, Combres, Young, Vaughn, Kazmier, Ellie Weeks, Paloma Sandoval, Ava Hamrick. Boys — Krause, Whitefield, St. Don, Boyd, Bailey, Bohney, Williamson, Hayden Garcia, Kallen Graves.

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Crowley.

Granbury was playing at Joshua at press time and travels to Bureson Nov. 12 at 6:30 p.m. The Lady Pirates are in the Crandall Tournament next weekend.

GRANBURY BOYS GOLF

The Pirates junior varsity golf team finished fourth in the Buzzy Open at Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle recently, posting a team score of 363. They were led by Ashton Heimer and Maxx Litts, each shooting 89.

Also, Jeff Bowerman shot 92, Mason McPherson posted a 93 and Grayson Opperman finished with a 103.

The four lowest individual scores comprise the team score.

The Pirates JV was ending the fall season in the Bureson Classic at Hidden Creek Golf Course at press time.

GRANBURY CORNERSTONE CROSS COUNTRY

The Cornerstone boys placed fifth at the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools Class 1A State Meet Oct. 28 at Waco's Cottonwood Park.

They were led by Carson Jones, who placed 14th individually with a time of 19:41.18 over the 5K course. Carter Jones was 15th in 19:41.29.

Also, Cale Davis, 24th, 20:32.19; Noble Carter, 61st, 22:45.39; Wyatt Kirk, 73rd, 23:14.45; Abashai Peterson, 119th, 26:35.78; Parker Kirk, 123rd, 27:25.82.

Competing for the Cornerstone girls was Reese Porter, who was 48th over 2 miles with a clocking of 18:08.33.

GRANBURY SWIMMING

The Lady Pirates and Pirates hosted their fall meet at the Hood County YMCA recently. The Granbury boys won their division, scoring 63 points to runner-up Aledo

with 50. The Lady Pirates scored 70 to finish second to Aledo's 77.

Top Granbury swimmers were (distance in yards):

Girls
200 Freestyle: 2. Autum Stuart, Bailey Stone, 5. Kaitlynn Porter

200 IM: 2. Bailey McDermott, 3. Remi Chastain

50 Freestyle: 2. Avery Young, 3. Madison Ezezo

100 Butterfly: 1. Young, 4. Carmen Citzler, 5. Jina Kim

100 Freestyle: 2. Ma. Ezezo, 4. Stone

500 Freestyle: 1. McDermott

100 Backstroke: 4. Citzler, 5. Stuart

100 Breaststroke: 2. Kim, 4. Ella Redwine, 5. Valentina Castillo

200 Medley Relay: 2. Citzler, Kim, Young, Ma. Ezezo; 3. Stuart, Redwine, Stone, Castillo

200 Freestyle Relay: 1. Citzler, Kim, Ma. Ezezo, McDermott; 3. Chastain, Redwine, Porter, Witman

400 Freestyle Relay: 2. Young, Stuart, Chastain, McDermott; 3. Castillo, Porter, Stone, Witman

Boys
200 Freestyle: 1. Jett McFerrin

200 IM: 1. Cameron Ward 50 Freestyle: 3. Mason Ward, 4. Luke Jernigan

100 Fly: 1. McFerrin, 4. Finnegan Renard

100 Freestyle: 2. Michael Kracy, 4. Sean Kim

500 Freestyle: 1. McFerrin 100 Backstroke: 3. Michael Kracy, 4. M. Ward

100 Breaststroke: 3. Kim 200 Medley Relay: 1. Kracy, C. Ward, McFerrin, M. Ward

200 Freestyle Relay: 1. C. Ward, Kracy, McFerrin, Kim 400 Freestyle: 3. Kim, M. Ward, Jernigan, Renard

Granbury was swimming in Mansfield at press time and will compete in the North Texas TISCA (Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association) Meet in Frisco Nov. 15-16.

Just start: How taking action unlocks success

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

In life, we often face choices, uncertainties and questions about whether a particular path will lead to success or failure. A famous quote by American politician and civil rights activist Amelia Earhart encapsulates a timeless truth: "The best way to find out if it will work is to do it." This statement may seem simple, but it carries profound wisdom about the importance of action over hesitation, and it can transform how we approach challenges in our per-

sonal and professional lives.

EMBRACING ACTION OVER PERFECTION

One of the most significant barriers to achievement is the tendency to overthink, plan excessively, or wait until the "perfect" moment before acting. This perfectionist mindset often keeps people from taking the very first step toward their goals. While careful planning and preparation are valuable, there's a point where too much analysis leads to inaction. Earhart's quote encourages us to break free from this mental trap.

The truth is we can never fully predict the outcome of

any endeavor. You may spend months planning a business, studying a new career path, or contemplating a major life decision, but until you take the leap and do it, all your thoughts remain just that — ideas. It is through action that we gain the experience necessary to evaluate whether something will genuinely work. In many cases, we learn more from simply trying than from endlessly theorizing.

THE VALUE OF FAILURE IN THE LEARNING PROCESS

Implicit in the quote is an acknowledgment of failure as a possibility, but more importantly, as a part of the learning process. To truly understand whether something works, you must be willing to risk it not working. This fear of failure can keep people from pursuing their dreams or trying something new. However, every successful person has faced failures along the way. The difference is that they didn't let failure stop them — they used it as a learning tool.

Take Thomas Edison, for example. His journey to invent the lightbulb was filled with

experiments that failed, but each failure taught him something that brought him closer to success. As Edison himself put it, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." By actually doing — testing, refining and trying again — Edison eventually achieved his goal.

Failure, then, is not the enemy of progress; inaction is. By taking the first step and making an attempt, we engage with reality, gather data and adjust our approach, ultimately increasing our chances of success.

ACTION BUILDS MOMENTUM AND CONFIDENCE

Another reason why "doing" is so important is the momentum it creates. Once you begin, even with a small action, you often find that the next step becomes clearer. As you take one step after another, your understanding grows, and so does your confidence. Many people wait until they feel ready or until they're certain of a positive outcome before they start. But the reality is that confidence comes from doing, not from waiting.

Think about learning to ride a bicycle. No one masters it by reading instructions or watching videos alone. It's only by getting on the bike, wobbling and even falling that you gain the balance and skill needed to ride confidently. The same principle applies to any goal or project in life.

FROM IDEA TO ACTION: HOW TO APPLY THIS WISDOM

So, how can you apply the principle of "doing" to your own life? Here are a few practical steps:

• **Start small:** Begin with manageable, bite-sized actions. If you're starting a business, for instance, begin by researching the market or testing a product with a small group of people. Each small action builds upon the next.

• **Accept imperfection:** Recognize that no plan will ever be perfect and that no outcome is guaranteed. Be willing to start with what you have and refine it along the way.

• **Embrace feedback:** Pay attention to the results of your actions. Whether you succeed or fail, each step will provide feedback you can use to im-

prove your approach.

• **Stay flexible:** Sometimes, your initial plan won't work. That's OK. Be willing to pivot or adapt as needed based on what you learn.

• **Commit to consistency:** Once you've started, keep going. Consistent action builds experience, expertise and, ultimately, success.

CONCLUSION: THE COURAGE TO ACT

Ultimately, "The best way to find out if it will work is to do it" reminds us that success is built not on perfect plans or endless preparation but on action. It takes courage to step into the unknown and try something new, especially when failure is a possibility. However, by embracing action, we not only move closer to our goals but also open ourselves up to the lessons and growth that come from experience.

So, whether you're contemplating starting a new project, pursuing a dream, or making a significant life change, remember that the only way to truly know if it will work is to take the first step and do it. The rest will follow.

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TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY™

Tarleton State Cross Country sets program records with best men's and women's team finishes

Tarleton State University

OREM, Utah – Both the men's and the women's squads earned their highest team finish in program history at the 2024 WAC Championships hosted by Utah Valley at Lakeside Park Friday, Nov. 1.

This was a historic day for our program, said head coach Bobby Carter. "I am very proud of each and every one of our student-athletes that competed today. It's great to see freshman rise to the occasion and compete with the some of the best in the WAC. We are looking forward to our first appearance at the NCAA South Central Regional in two weeks."

The men's squad finished in fourth led by senior Angel Gomez. Gomez finished in the top 30 for the second consecutive season. On the women's side, Kaitlyn Gale set new program records with the fastest time and highest place by a Texan woman at the WAC Championships.

Men
Angel Gomez led the Texan men, placing 24th, and led the Texan pack to a fourth-place team finish. Gomez cracked the top 30 at the championships for the second-consecutive year and ran his best time at the conference championship, crossing in 24:31.48.

"The men reached new heights with their fourth-place finish, which is a strong accomplishment against a very competitive field," said distance coach Christopher Zent.

"They have been deter-

mined all season long and look to finish very strong at the South Central Region meet."

A pair of Texans earned top 30 finishes for the second consecutive season. Toby Eaton sneaked into the top 30 after suffering a fall while a part of the lead pack. He was the seventh freshman to finish, showing the successful future for the Texans. Eaton earned 29th place, finishing in 24:46.17.

The third Texan to cross was Jace Poole. Poole notched 33rd in 24:58.09 in his first WAC Championships. Diego Flores finished right behind Poole in 24th in 25:00.37. He was just two seconds off his personal best set at the Arturo Barrios Invitational in the Texans' last meet. The final scoring Texan was Angel Contreras finishing in 45th. He crossed in 25:37.01, closing the 1:04 span between the first and fifth Texan to finish.

Michael Lopez was the next Texan to finish, crossing in 26:00.68 in 54th place. Kellen Frickel recorded a 63rd place finish, finishing in 26:28.21. Kebede Kerlin was just three slots behind finishing 66th in 26:38.00.

California Baptist University took home the tightly-contested team title recording 29 points. Southern Utah finished second with 38 points, followed by Utah Valley in third with 67 points.

On the individual side, Utah Valley's Mohamed Guled won the individual title in 23:07.08. Southern Utah's Santiago Guitan fin-



Both the men's and the women's squads earned their highest team finish in program history at the 2024 WAC Championships hosted by Utah Valley at Lakeside Park Friday, Nov. 1.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

ished as runner-up just 9 seconds behind in 23:16.31. CBU's Zoiuhair Red Douane rounded out the podium finishers crossing in 23:20.77.

Women
Kaitlyn Gale notched the highest finish by a Texan at the WAC Championships in program history. The freshman finished in 24th, the best by a Texan woman since Imani Williams' 42nd-place finish in 2020. Gale crossed in 21:43.63, setting the Texans' new best time at the conference championship and breaking Jenna Brazeal's 2022 time of 22:38.2. Gale was the 8th fastest freshman in the conference.

"The ladies ran hard today and improved significantly this season," said Zent. "They'll continue to work hard and finish the season strong at the South Central Regional at Texas A&M where they've run huge PRs."

Sage Lancaster followed, finishing in 32nd. Lancaster crossed in 22:11.19, nearly 58 seconds faster than her time at the conference championships last season in Abilene. Freshman Ella Smart was the third Texan runner to cross, earning 56th in 23:15.13. Senior Georgina Balderas, competing in her final WAC Championship meet, finished three spots

behind in 23:31.33. She bested her time by 12 seconds for last season's conference race.

The final scoring Texan was Kyla Zalit, finishing 66th in 24:16.73. Allie Brown and Jordan Jones rounded out the Texan runners. Brown finished 69th in 24:33.84. Jones crossed in 71st in 25:09.85.

Utah Valley posted a perfect team score of 15 with six runners occupying the top six spots in the race. California Baptist claimed runner-up status posting 63 points. Southern Utah rounded out the podium with a third-place finish notching

97 points.

UVU's Anna Martin claimed the individual title as the only female to break 20 minutes, crossing in 19:51.49. Her teammates Ari Trimble and Caila Odekirk followed closely behind finishing in 20:00.1 and 20:07.09.

The Purple and White will race in its first NCAA Regional race in program history at the South Central Regional in Bryan-College Station. The race will be hosted by Texas A&M at the Watts Cross Country Course Friday, Nov. 15.

Texans' 6-game winning streak snapped by Colonels at home

Tarleton State University

STEPHENVILLE – Tarleton State dropped a tight contest at Memorial Stadium Saturday, Nov. 2, the Texans' first loss to an FCS program in over a year and their first loss in conference play this season.

The No. 7 Texans (7-2, 4-1 UAC) had their six-game winning streak snapped, their longest in their NCAA Division I era, at the hands of Eastern Kentucky (5-4, 3-2 UAC) 17-13 in Stephenville Saturday on Military Appreciation day.

Tarleton State held ECU to just 31 passing yards in the game and outgained the Colonels in total yardage 397-274, but the Texans' three interceptions plagued them.

EKU scored the go-ahead

and eventual game-winning touchdown with 2:26 remaining in the game. Tarleton had held off the Colonels' scoring threat at the 1-yard line at the start of the fourth quarter with a forced fumble and recovery but gave ECU too many chances.

Texan QB Victor Gabalis completed 17-of-41 for 234 yards, one touchdown and three interceptions. Kayvon Britten rushed for 154 yards on 25 carries, averaging 6.2 yards per rush. This marked Britten's seventh straight 100-yard game and his sixth 150-yard game of the season. Benjamin Omayebu logged 100 yards on nine receptions. Darius Cooper had 74 yards on four catches, and Cody Jackson caught a touchdown, finishing with 52 yards on three receptions.

Bam Smith finished with 10 tackles and a half-sack. Brandon Tolvert recorded 10 tackles and 2.5 tackles for loss. Tramaine Chism had a fumble recovery and eight total tackles. Donta Stuart finished with an interception and seven tackles. Caden Holt had seven tackles, Blake Smith had six, and AJ Owens tallied six with a half-sack.

EKU's Matt Morrissey threw for 31 yards on 6-of-11 passing, with an interception. The reigning UAC Offensive Player of the Week, Joshua Carter, scored two touchdowns to go with 149 yards on 23 carries (6.5 YPC). A trio of Colonels had an interception; Maddox Marcellus (nine tackles), Mike Smith Jr. (six tackles) and D.J. Galva (two tackles).

Tarleton State struck first in this one after Stuart

picked off Morrissey. Gabalis led the Texans on a nine-play, 89-yard drive, capping it off on a lob to Jackson in the left corner of the end zone for a 23-yard touchdown. The Texans led 7-0 after the first quarter.

Tarleton forced a three-and-out on the next series, then followed up with another solid drive, this time a seven-play, 62-yard march for a Corbin Poston 24-yard field goal. The Texan defense came up big on ECU's next series, as the Colonels got all the way to the 1-yard line before Tarleton forced a turnover on downs. But the Texans gave it right back on an interception, leading to a Carter 1-yard touchdown rush on the next play to make it a 10-7 game.

At the end of the first half, Poston nailed a 42-yard field

goal to make it a 13-7 Texan lead at the break.

Of the 10 combined drives in the second half, there were three punts, two interceptions, a fumble, a turnover on downs, a touchdown, a field goal and the end of regulation.

The Texans opened the third quarter with an interception thrown on their first drive, then ECU made a field goal to make it a 13-10 game. Tarleton turned it over on downs after that, but the Texan defense held strong once again, forcing a fumble on their own 1-yard line and recovering it. Eventually the dam broke however, and Carter scampered in from 23 yards out to give the Colonels the lead with 2:26 to play.

Tarleton made a dent on its potential game-winning

drive, going 12 plays and getting as far as the ECU 36-yard line before a 4th and 15 prayer was intercepted to end the game.

The Texans are now 0-3 against the Colonels, who also dealt them their last nonFBS loss over a year ago, breaking an 11-game winning streak. Tarleton was 8-1 at home over its last nine entering Saturday.

Tarleton has three regular season games remaining. The Texans will play their final road regular season contest Saturday, Nov. 9, at West Georgia at 1 p.m. CST. Then the Texans will host Abilene Christian at home Nov. 16 and Central Arkansas at home Nov. 23.

Texan Soccer historic season ends in WAC Quarterfinals

Tarleton State University

ABILENE – Tarleton State Soccer reached the WAC Tournament for the first time in program history and fell in the quarterfinals to fourth-seeded California Baptist University, 2-0 Sunday, Nov. 3 at Elmer Gray Stadium.

The Texans (9-8-3) record their first season with a greater than .500 winning percentage, in just their third year of existence. The Lancers (8-6-3) advance to play top-seeded Utah Valley Wednesday afternoon.

"First, want to thank the seniors for the contributions to our program on and off the field during their time here," said head coach

Pete Cuadrado. "They have helped this program not only get off the ground but achieve some great accomplishments. I am very proud of the effort tonight, unfortunately we didn't get the result we'd hoped for. We're going to learn from it and continue to look to grow in the offseason."

All-WAC Second Team selection Mikayla Kendall notched six saves to add to her 106-save season total.

Originally slated for first kick at 4 p.m., a lengthy two-hour-and-10-minute weather delay opened the Texans first taste of post-season play. Just 10 minutes into the second half, another lightning delay lasted nearly 40 minutes.

WAC All-Freshman selection Kimberley Hjálmsdóttir fired a shot in the first eight minutes of the match from the top of the offensive third, but it fell wide right.

Six minutes before the end of the first half, Zoë Lam nearly knocked in the first goal of the game for the Texans. She fired a shot just wide of the goal that seemed to be destined for the goal.

Kendall kept the Lancers scoreless in the first half notching four saves on seven shots faced.

The Lancers broke through first scoring in the first 30 seconds of the second half. Lauryn White entered the box and fired her shot top shelf to put the Lancers, 1-0.

CBU had a pair of would-be goals disallowed in the second half due to offside calls.

Lauryn White notched her second goal of the game to give California Baptist a 2-0 advantage in the 82nd minute.

Isa Bergeron-Prejean nearly scored the first Texan postseason goal in the 85th minute. Off a corner kick, Bergeron-Prejean found a loose ball and fired a shot that beat the CBU keeper but clinked off the crossbar.

The Texans end their historical season with their first appearance at the WAC Tournament in program history. Tarleton set new program records with nine total wins and three conference victories.



Tarleton State Soccer reached the WAC Tournament for the first time in program history and fell in the quarterfinals to fourth-seeded California Baptist University, 2-0 Sunday, Nov. 3 at Elmer Gray Stadium.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY

TARLETONSPORTS.COM



Stellar deer season expected this fall

By the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

AUSTIN — Drought-quenching spring rains and productive habitats have led biologists to predict another year of plentiful opportunities for hunters to fill their bellies and freezers with their harvests.

As hunters dust off their firearms and plan trips to their favorite hunting spots, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department asked hunters, in a recent press release, to be aware of new statewide carcass disposal regulations and to help biologists monitor the presences of Chronic Wasting Disease by having their harvest tested for free at a TPWD check station or by a local biologist.

“The expectation of another bountiful year of hunting opportunities is great news for the nearly one million white-tailed deer hunters gearing up to enter the field next month,” Blaise Korzekwa, TPWD white-tailed deer program leader, said. “The excitement of a new season brings the opportunity for hunters to also get involved in helping secure the health of Texas’ native deer herd. As hunters, we have a responsibility to care for our state’s natural resources and pass our strong hunting traditions to future generations.”

The general deer season kicked off Nov. 2 and will run through Jan. 5 in the North zone and Jan. 19 in the South zone, giving folks plenty of chances to go from field to table with their harvest.

Additional new white-tailed deer hunting regulations for this season include the expansion of doe days to a 23-day season for those 43 counties in the Post Oak Savannah and Pineywoods ecoregions that previously had a 16-day doe season. This extension of doe days now encompasses Thanksgiving weekend,

which is a time when many hunters already spend the weekend hunting. The early youth-only season will now include Friday for those hunters 16 years of age or younger at the date of license purchase.

HARVEST OPPORTUNITIES

Similar to last year’s hunting season, TPWD biologists expect deer hunters throughout most of the state to have ample opportunities to fill their freezers. Much of the state received drought-quenching rain in the spring, which allowed for excellent habitat growth during the initial part of the growing season. Spring forb (weeds and flowering plants) production, which is a critical component of a deer’s diet coming out of winter, was abundant and offered essential nutrients to growing bucks, nursing does and newborn fawns.

Additionally, the improved habitat conditions earlier this year helped keep fawns healthy enough to survive their first few months (also known as fawn recruitment). Although this spring provided lush vegetation, with current drought conditions impacting most of the state, hunters should have plenty of opportunities to encourage deer as they search for native and supplemental food sources.

The few areas of the state that missed the spring rainfall should expect average antler quality.

“Texas has one of the top deer herds in the nation, so be sure to pull the bow or rifle out and spend time hunting this season,” Korzekwa said. “Whether you’re looking to fill the freezer with venison or harvest the trophy of a lifetime, it will be time well spent.”

Hunters taking advantage of Texas Public Hunting Lands must have an Annual Public Hunting Permit. It’s also important for public land hunters to consult the

Public Hunting Lands Map Booklet to review regulations that may apply to specific areas. The My Texas Hunt Harvest app can be used to complete on-site registration electronically at a public hunting area.

Below is the white-tailed deer forecast by ecological region:

CROSS TIMBERS

The Cross Timbers ecoregion in North Texas has the second-highest deer population in the state, behind the Edwards Plateau region. With more than 750,000 deer estimated, harvest opportunities should be ample. The highest deer densities occur in the Northern portion of this region.

Recently, harvest rates have significantly increased in this ecoregion, but population growth has remained relatively stable due to fawn crops averaging 46% over the last five years. Because of the relatively consistent fawn production, buck age structure is generally well distributed across all age classes. However, hunters will likely see fewer 2-and-a-half-year-old bucks this year due to poor fawn recruitment in 2022.

Hunters focusing on mature bucks can look forward to an exciting upcoming season. Harvest trends from 2023 indicate that 41% of bucks harvested were 4-and-a-half years or older. Timely spring rainfall should yield similar harvest rates for this year and historical fawn recruitment should produce an above-average mature buck harvest.

EDWARDS PLATEAU/HILL COUNTRY

The Edwards Plateau, widely known as the Hill Country, has the highest deer population in the state, estimated at 1.5 million. Hunters looking for opportunities to see lots of deer this fall should put this area on their prior-



LAYTH TAYLOR | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

Whitetail Buck running in a field from Nov. 2020 in Erath county.

ity list.

The combined impact of severe drought and an already high deer population in this ecoregion over recent years has reduced the population by about 25%, yet it still maintains the highest deer density in the state.

The area around Llano and Mason counties has the highest deer density in the region, with an estimated 413,000 deer in this area alone. Doe harvest is especially important in this area to relieve browsing pressure on habitats by lowering deer densities and balancing an appropriate doe-to-buck ratio.

Hunters should expect an increase in the number of bucks in the 3-and-a-half to 5-and-a-half-year-old age classes due to improved fawn recruitment in 2019-2021.

Below-average fawn crops in 2017 and 2018 have kept the number of mature bucks lower than desired, but there should still be a solid population of 5-and-a-half-year-

old deer, providing ample opportunities to harvest a mature buck.

Hunters looking for older age class bucks should focus on the southern part of this region, in the area between Hondo to Del Rio and north of Highway 90. The three-year average indicates that 64.6% of the bucks harvested are 4-and-a-half-years old or older.

Despite the current drought conditions, the Edwards Plateau is a great deer hunting region, especially for hunters looking for a quantity of animals. It consistently produces one of the highest hunter success rates in the state.

PINEYWOODS

The latest survey data estimates the Pineywoods deer population at 331,522, which is right in line with the previous three years. Deer density estimates in this region range from a low of 4.6 deer per 1,000 acres in the area between Houston and Beaumont, to a high of 31.8

deer per 1,000 acres around the Tyler area.

Habitat management is critical in the Pineywoods to help sustain deer populations and TPWD biologists work with numerous landowners and timber companies to restore and maintain quality deer habitat in the region. Based on previous year’s fawn production, hunters should expect a decent cohort of 4-and-a-half to 5-and-a-half-year-old bucks, but below average 2-and-a-half to 3-and-a-half-year-old bucks.

Hunters should continue to practice quality deer management and allow bucks to reach at least 4-and-a-half years old, especially with the lower number of young bucks on the horizon. Data from the 2023 buck harvest shows that 51% of harvested bucks were 3-and-a-half years or older, with 24% reaching 4-and-a-half years or older — a positive outcome of antler restric-

PLEASE SEE **DEER** | B8



Go to an Art Museum Day
November 9, 2024



THE LARGEST ART MUSEUM IN THE WORLD – THE LOUVRE IN PARIS, FRANCE – HAS OVER 35,000 ART-WORKS.





COLOR Time

“Go to an Art Museum Day” is an annual celebration that encourages individuals to explore the world of art and immerse themselves in cultural experiences by visiting art museums. Held on the second Saturday of November, this day invites people of all ages to discover the beauty, diversity, and inspiration found within the walls of art institutions.

Art museums serve as repositories of human creativity, housing priceless masterpieces, thought-provoking contemporary works, and artifacts from diverse cultures and time periods. From paintings and sculptures to photography and multimedia installations, these institutions offer a rich tapestry of artistic expression waiting to be explored.

Participating in “Go to an Art Museum Day” provides an opportunity for individuals to expand their horizons, broaden their perspectives, and cultivate a deeper appreciation for the arts. Whether you’re a seasoned art enthusiast or a curious novice, there’s something for everyone to enjoy and discover at an art museum.

Visiting an art museum allows you to engage with works of art firsthand, experiencing their beauty, complexity, and emotional resonance up close. Whether you’re drawn to the vibrant colors of a painting, the intricate details of a sculpture, or the narrative power of a photograph, each encounter offers a chance for personal reflection and connection.

In addition to experiencing individual artworks, art museums often offer a variety of educational programs, guided tours, and special exhibitions that enrich the visitor experience. These opportunities allow visitors to delve deeper into specific themes, styles, or periods of art history, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of the works on display.

“Go to an Art Museum Day” is also a social experience, providing an opportunity to share the joy of art with friends, family, and fellow enthusiasts. Whether you’re discussing your favorite artworks, debating interpretations, or simply enjoying each other’s company in the presence of beauty, visiting an art museum is a memorable and enriching experience to be shared.

Beyond the pleasure of viewing art, “Go to an Art Museum Day” serves as a reminder of the importance of supporting cultural institutions in our communities. Art museums play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage, fostering creativity, and promoting dialogue and understanding across diverse perspectives.

So, mark your calendars for “Go to an Art Museum Day” and embark on a journey of discovery and inspiration. Whether you’re exploring a local museum or venturing to a renowned institution, let the world of art ignite your imagination, stimulate your senses, and enrich your life.

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Tick Tock: Why Latin controls the clock

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

Let's face it: you've probably been telling time your whole life without ever really thinking about what "a.m." or "p.m." actually mean. They're just those trusty abbreviations that tell you whether it's time for breakfast or bed, right? Well, prepare to be enlightened (and possibly amused), because there's more to these time-keeping terms than meets the eye.

A BRIEF HISTORY LESSON (DON'T WORRY, IT'S FUN!)

So, first things first — "a.m." and "p.m." are abbreviations derived from Latin, the ancient language that made everything sound

fancier. "A.M." stands for ante meridiem, which translates to "before midday," and "p.m." stands for post meridiem, meaning "after midday." That's right, people back in the day knew how to party in both the morning and the afternoon, and they made sure their Latin captured the vibe.

This whole concept is rooted in the 12-hour clock system, which divides our day into two neat halves. From 12 midnight (that's 00:00 for you military types) until 11:59 a.m., it's all "ante meridiem." The minute the clock hits noon, we switch to "post meridiem," kicking off the p.m. hours that run until, you guessed it, 11:59 P.M. before the cycle starts all over again.

BUT WHY 12 HOURS?

Now you might be wondering: why 12 hours? Why not just count straight up to 24, call it a day (literally), and save everyone the headache of remembering which one's which? Well, like most things in life, you can blame the ancient Egyptians. They came up with the idea of dividing the day into chunks, which we've been stuck with ever since. They were obsessed with the number 12—probably because it divides nicely into so many parts. I mean, who wouldn't want a number that plays well with 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and itself? Math nerds rejoice!

Of course, the Egyptians weren't exactly using the modern wristwatch, but they did develop sundials, which allowed them to tell time based on the position of the sun. It wasn't until centu-

ries later, when the Romans added the bells and whistles (well, mostly bells) of mechanical clocks, that a.m. and p.m. became official.

MIDNIGHT CONFUSION: WHY 12:00 ISN'T WHAT YOU THINK IT IS

Here's where things get fun. You might think 12 a.m. means "midnight," and you'd be right — but not because of what it sounds like. In fact, midnight is the start of the new day, so 12 a.m. is technically the very first minute of the next morning. Mind blown yet?

It gets weirder. Noon is 12 p.m., but wait — how can 12:00 after midday also be midday? Shouldn't it be 12 M for meridiem? Well, yes, it probably should. But, alas, no one asked us. Timekeeping rules are as

mysterious as time itself. Just trust that when the clock strikes noon, you've entered p.m. territory, and no, you're not late for your afternoon meeting yet.

A.M. AND P.M.: THE PRACTICAL USE

In case you're wondering why we even need a.m. and p.m., consider the alternatives. The 24-hour clock (a.k.a. "military time") is popular in some parts of the world, but let's be honest: seeing "19:30" on your dinner reservation feels like math homework. Is that 7:30 or 8:30? Who has time to count?

For most of us, a.m. and p.m. are just easier. Plus, they give us that all-important sense of when it's appropriate to have coffee and when it's time to switch to

wine. You wouldn't want to confuse those two, trust me.

TIME TO WRAP IT UP (NO PUN INTENDED)

So, next time you glance at the clock, you can smile knowing that a.m. and p.m. aren't just meaningless letters — they're ancient terms that have survived centuries of sundials, mechanical clocks and digital watches. Sure, they may be a little confusing at first (midnight, we're looking at you), but they help us divide our day into manageable chunks of morning, afternoon and evening.

And if anyone ever asks, "What does the 'p' in p.m. stand for?" you can confidently reply, "Post meridiem." Just try not to sound too pretentious when you do it.

DEER

FROM PAGE B7

tion regulation and hunters' growing awareness of the antler potential in older bucks.

POST OAK SAVANNAH

In the Post Oak Savannah region, the highest deer populations can be found in the southern part of the region, generally anywhere along the Interstate 10 corridor from San Antonio to Houston.

Deer densities gradually decline moving northward, with the lowest densities found in areas facing significant habitat fragmentation challenges. Similar to many areas of the state, the Post Oak Savannah ecoregion has enjoyed a good spring which should contribute to average or above average fawn production this year.

Age and antler surveys in-

dicating that 39% of bucks harvested in 2023 were represented by bucks 4-and-a-half years old or older.

Hunters experienced a good harvest last season, with success at around 70%. With adequate rainfall this spring, hunters should have opportunities to harvest a quality buck that is at least 4-and-a-half years old based on previous fawn crops.

ROLLING PLAINS

The Eastern and Western Rolling Plains ecoregions generally have lower deer populations compared to other ecoregions, with deer densities ranging from 30 to 48 deer per 1,000 acres in the Eastern Rolling Plains and 18 to 25 deer per 1,000 acres in the Western Rolling Plains. Long-term population trends indicate a stable white-tailed deer population, however sporadic fawn production the last several

years may create age gaps in some of the middle and mature age classes.

Five-and-a-half-year-old buck numbers are predicted to remain steady. In 2023, 61% of the buck harvest in the Western Rolling Plains was represented by bucks 4-and-a-half years or older, the second highest in the state.

In the Eastern Rolling Plains, bucks 4-and-a-half years old or older represented 53% of the harvests in 2023, which is the highest on record for this ecoregion.

Due to larger property sizes and relatively light hunting pressure in both Rolling Plains ecoregions, as well as more interest in deer management, harvest trends of older age class bucks are expected to continue in 2024.

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

The South Texas Plains ecoregion is known for ma-

ture bucks and above average antler quality relative to most other areas of the state. For hunters seeking a once-in-a-lifetime trophy, south Texas is often regarded as the premier big buck destination.

Three deer management units are represented in south Texas, with deer densities ranging from 24 to 52 deer per 1,000 acres. Estimates show a population of nearly 605,000 white-tailed deer and that number has been slowly growing over the last several years.

Periodic drought conditions in South Texas have led to erratic fawn crops that slow population growth and require good habitat and population management practices to produce the quality of deer South Texas is known for.

The 3-and-a-half to 4-and-a-half-year-old age classes will be abundant and offer plenty of mature bucks in

the coming years.

Many ranches in the region manage specifically for mature bucks and the 5-and-a-half to 6-and-a-half age class should be well represented this year. Properties "stacking" bucks into the mature age classes over the last several years should see a good pool of mature bucks available for harvest.

Bucks 4-and-a-half years or older represented 64% of the buck harvest in 2023 and was the greatest percentage of mature buck harvest in the state last season. This trend of harvesting older age class bucks is expected to continue this season.

The Eastern region of south Texas has received quality springtime rainfall and should expect an above-average season, while the western region of South Texas has experienced severe drought conditions and will likely be average or slightly below average.

CWD

Landowners and hunters play a critical role in managing CWD and reducing its impact by harvesting deer to manage populations, properly disposing of inedible carcass parts, reporting sick deer, and supporting testing efforts.

"The data collected from hunter harvested samples is essential to helping us track CWD across the state," said Ryan Schoeneberg, big game program specialist. "This helps us know where CWD is and isn't found. Both are useful in helping us understand how to better manage this insidious disease."

More information about zone boundaries and requirements, carcass disposal regulations, and check station dates and hours of operations can be found on TPWD's CWD webpage.



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7 STRAIGHT YEARS



Homes, food, fun await at Pecan Plantation's Christmas Tour of Homes

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club invites the community to its beloved annual Christmas Tour of Homes Dec. 12. This full day of holiday cheer will showcase seven uniquely decorated homes, each offering an inspiring array of festive styles and warm traditions.

But there's more! The day's events begin at 8 a.m. and promise a lineup of activities, including Santa's Workshop and Bakery, a hearty brunch, a festive home tour, and an elegant dinner with dancing at the Pecan Plantation Club.

This year, tickets are sold separately for each event to accommodate a range of preferences and budgets. The tour ticket is \$25, and brunch and dinner tickets are \$25 and \$80, respectively. Funds raised benefit scholarships for local students and community projects.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Attendees can browse Santa's Workshop and bakery at the Pecan Plantation Country Club from 8 a.m. to noon, featuring handmade wreaths, artwork, stocking stuffers and unique holiday gifts donated by Woman's Club members. "Santa's Workshop is amazing,"

marketing manager Kathie Schoepf added, "and you don't need to buy a ticket for the tour to enjoy the workshop."

This year, the tour includes a special shopping treat organized by Vicki Winder, chair of the Santa's Workshop and Bakery. She describes it as "a fairyland" filled with handcrafted and donated items. Starting at 8 a.m., Santa's Workshop and Bakery will offer a curated selection of handmade wreaths, holiday gifts and baked goods made by Woman's Club members.

Planning for this holiday event began in the summer, with Winder coordinating every detail to create a unique

shopping experience. "All of our items are donated by the members of the Woman's Club," she said. To prepare, Winder has held workshops in her garage, affectionately dubbed "Santa's Workshop," to make bows and beaded wine glass stems. Once complete, the items are transported to the Pecan Plantation Country Club ballroom, where volunteers create a dazzling holiday scene.

BRUNCH!

Following Santa's Workshop, visitors can enjoy brunch with seating times available between 8:30 a.m. and noon. Pecan Plantation Executive Chef Jordan Ray's brunch menu includes three

options:

- Sam's Big Breakfast with buttermilk biscuits, soft cheese, scrambled eggs, crispy potato cubes, sausage and bacon.

- Decadent chicken and waffles with paprika- and pepper-seasoned chicken atop fluffy waffles drizzled in maple syrup.

- Cajun shrimp and grits with jalapeño cheddar grits. Tickets are required and are \$25 per person.

TOUR OF HOMES

The tour will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to the general public. It will bring together locals and visitors from Hood County and beyond for a memorable

holiday experience.

"Every homeowner brings their own personality to the decorations," said event director Debbie Kill. "We tell every homeowner, 'You do you,' and that's what makes each home special." From cozy spaces to homes adorned in full Christmas splendor, each home on the tour reflects its owners' individuality, including one with restored doors from a childhood home in Dallas and another boasting a nostalgic collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia.

As the new Tour Decorating Director Chair Allison, Gilmore is blending tradition with fresh ideas

PLEASE SEE HOMES | C2

Get ready to rock

El Loco Fandango brings ZZ Top magic to Granbury Opera House

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
Hood County News
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It's time to put on your "Tube Snake Boogie" shoes and get ready for a weekend of pure Texas rock! Granbury will El Loco Fandango, America's top ZZ Top tribute band, for three explosive shows at the Granbury Opera House Nov. 15-16. With their legendary beards, blinged-out Western wear, and scorching renditions of ZZ Top's greatest hits, El Loco Fandango promises an unforgettable experience that ZZ Top fans won't want to miss.

This incredible band might still be in its early years, but El Loco Fandango has taken the tribute scene by storm. Officially formed in 2021, the idea for the band came long before that. The trio's founders — Don DiMasi, Mike Learn and Tim Elliott — started hearing ZZ Top comparisons at local bars and shows, with people saying things like, "Hey, it's ZZ Top!" That spark turned into a blaze when drummer Tim Elliott overheard the comment and threw out the idea: "Why don't we make it official?" And just like that, El Loco Fandango was born!



Don DiMasi is "The Reverend Donny D" and plays guitar.

For months, Don, Mike and Tim dedicated themselves to capturing ZZ Top's unique sound and style. Tribute bands aren't just about playing music; they're about creating a full experience where every detail — from the beards to the basslines — matters. To emulate ZZ Top's unforgettable tone, El Loco Fandango worked meticulously on each song, studying not only the original recordings but also ZZ Top's electrifying live performances. When the three musicians



Tim Elliott is "Frank Beardless" and plays drums.

PLEASE SEE ROCK | C4

GranburyArts takes aim at big goals: Insights from Rockport's Luis Purón

BY MICKY SHEARON
Special to the
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Luis Purón, executive director of the Rockport Center for the Arts in Rockport, captivated an audience of arts advocates and community leaders at the Dora Lee

Langdon Center Concert Hall in Granbury on the morning of Nov. 4. Hosted by GranburyArts, this event, titled "Blueprint for Success," was designed to inspire and inform Granbury's cultural leaders on strategic fundraising and organizational growth.

Purón, a respected arts

administrator known for his transformative leadership in Rockport, shared his expertise in fundraising and strategic planning. His insights aimed to provide Granbury's arts community with practical tools for achieving significant milestones, even in the face of challenges posed by smaller communities.

Stacey Watkins Martin, vice chair of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission, who organized the event, noted the value of Purón's perspective for Granbury's evolving arts scene. "We gathered invaluable insights from Luis Purón, who provided us with a clear roadmap for maximizing our fundraising potential, addressing both our current objectives and future aspirations," Martin said.

A key theme in Purón's presentation was the importance of envisioning Granbury as a cultural force within Texas. He discussed the strategies that helped Rockport flourish as an arts destination even after Hurricane Harvey devastated the area in 2017. Purón suggested that Granbury could leverage its historic charm and scenic surroundings in a similar way. "I attended a performance at your beautifully restored Opera House yesterday afternoon, and it was packed," said Purón. "I've walked on your beautiful Hike and Bike Trail, and I've visited some of your wonderful art galleries. Granbury has so much going for it already."

Purón emphasized the need for both a clear vision and a structured fundrais-

ing approach, which includes cultivating donor relationships, building partnerships and aligning with community needs. "It all comes down to cultivation and stewardship," Purón noted.

Martin expressed her enthusiasm for Granbury's arts potential, highlighting the city's cultural scene. "Our vibrant city boasts a rich cultural landscape in the arts, attracting many who wish to contribute to its growth. It's evident that all the organizations are currently operating at full capacity," she said. Watkins acknowledged that Purón's insights came at an ideal time, as local arts organizations seek new ways to expand and deepen their impact within the community.

Purón's presentation also underscored the need for arts organizations to create accessible, engaging experiences that resonate with diverse audiences. By focusing on community-centered programming, he suggested that arts centers can inspire greater financial and volunteer support. Martin echoed this sentiment, pointing to the significance of timing and preparation. "This was an ideal moment to learn from Luis' experiences and successes

in securing significant funding to achieve our goals. I am truly excited about the future of the cultural arts district," she shared.

The presentation featured visuals of Granbury's iconic courthouse square, Opera House, and lakefront, reinforcing the city's potential as a cultural destination. Purón's successful model in Rockport resonated with the audience, inspiring a collective vision for Granbury's future. The event was more than just a discussion on fundraising — it was a call to action, sparking renewed energy among Granbury's cultural leaders.

As Granbury's arts community moves forward, Purón's "Blueprint for Success" provides a foundation for a thriving cultural arts district. With a clear vision and strategies inspired by Rockport's success, Granbury appears well-positioned to attract patrons, funding and statewide recognition. Through events like these, Granbury's arts advocates are equipped to turn their aspirations into reality, guided by the inspiration and expertise shared by Luis Purón.



Stacey Watkins Martin, Vice Chair of the Granbury Cultural Arts Commission, introduces Luis Purón, Executive Director of the Rockport Center for the Arts in Rockport, Texas.

COURTESY PHOTO

Pass the sweet potatoes — or yams?

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
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In a few weeks, many tables will be set with sweet dishes referred to as “yams,” but they won’t feature true yams at all. While true yams are exotic, large, and have a starchy, neutral flavor, they’re far from what most Americans picture.

Few root vegetables are as widely misunderstood as yams and sweet potatoes. Despite their modest similarities in appearance and culinary uses, these two tubers are different plant species with distinct characteristics and origins.

Lex Pryor’s article, *The Deep and Twisted Roots of the American Yam*, explores how “yam” is often misapplied in the U.S., where sweet potatoes are often called yams, though they are entirely different plants.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture agrees with Pryor and says the yam should not be confused with the sweet potato, as they belong to a different family.

WHERE DID THE CONFUSION BEGIN

“True yams, or *Dioscorea rotundata*, are large, fibrous tubers from West Africa, white inside and nothing like the orange sweet potatoes, which are *Ipomoea batatas*,” states Pryor.

In the United States, yam season is typically associated with sweet potatoes’ harvest period, often labeled as “yams.”

This labeling confusion began in the 20th century when U.S. growers marketed orange-fleshed sweet potatoes as “yams” to differentiate them from the white-fleshed varieties, even though the two are botanically distinct.

Sweet potatoes are generally harvested in early autumn, with the peak season from September through November, just in time for the fall holidays.

THE ‘YAM BELT’

Pryor suggests the name “yam” may come from several West African languages, like Wolof’s “nyam” or Fulani’s “nyami,” both meaning “to eat.”

Yams typically grow in subtropical regions, in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and South America — in equatorial areas known as the “yam belt.”

Distinct varieties of yams are grown in each place. They are a staple in these regions due to their adaptability to warm, humid climates and ability to thrive in poorer soils.

“West African yam cultivation accounts for 94% of the world’s yam production,” Mayowa Oyewale states in her *ModernFarmer.com* article. Nigeria alone produces about 50 million tons annually, more than two-thirds of the global yam crop.

The most popular yam dish is considered to be yam porridge or pottage — or “Asaro” — in West African cuisine, particularly in Nigeria. This dish features yams boiled and mashed with palm oil, peppers, onions and spices, creating a creamy, flavorful porridge that is hearty and comforting.

Yams play a critical role in food security and are culturally significant across the region. They are celebrated in traditional festivals and have deep-rooted importance in local customs and ceremonies.

GREAT YAMS

It’s not unusual to see yams the size of an arm or a leg. *Healthline.com* states they can be small or large — sometimes 5 or 6 feet long and weighing up to 132 pounds.

They are cylindrical, like logs, and generally have rounded ends. The brown, rough, bark-like skin is difficult to peel, but it softens after heating. The flesh color varies from white or yellow to purple or pink in mature yams.

Although it hardly seems like a compliment, the word “yams” was slang for an attractive woman’s legs, according to *SweetishHill.com*. The term was predominantly used in the 1940s-1960s.

SWEET DEAL

Yams, referred to as tubers, may be found in specialty grocery stores, eBay and Amazon. The local grocery store may carry canned yams, but it is unlikely they will have true yams for sale. Overall, sweet potatoes are available at your local grocery store. As far as size, they are similar to russet potatoes.

Don’t let the abundance of different kinds of sweet potatoes cause you to think some of them are yams because they’re not.

Sweet potatoes are smaller than their yam counterparts and look similar to russet potatoes; however, they may have ends that taper to a point.

They are grown in both tropical and temperate climates, and large-scale production is found in the United States (especially in North Carolina, California and Louisiana), China and other Asian countries. China leads globally in sweet potato production.

The Louisiana State University Ag Center reports that Louisiana’s sweet potatoes contribute over 100 million dollars annually to the Louisiana economy.

There are many types of sweet potatoes — 17 to be exact — and they range from yellow, purple, red or brown skin on the outside to white, yellow, orange or reddish flesh on the inside.

To make matters even more confusing, there are two categories of sweet potatoes. Insider Tech notes there are sweet potatoes that get soft when baking and those that stay firm.

SOFT OR FIRM — WHICH IS WHICH

LiveEatLearn.com’s Sarah Bond explains that softer sweet potatoes tend to have orange skin with orange flesh or red/copper skin with orange flesh. These are great for baking and mashing. A good example of a popular soft sweet potato is Louisiana’s Beauregard. “This is the most common sweet potato variety grown in the U.S.,” states Bill Dugan, executive editor of *FoodGardening.Mequoda.com*. “Beauregard sweet potatoes are typically uniform in shape, and the flesh is buttery sweet and fluffy.”

The firmer sweet potatoes tend to have one of three color patterns, notes Bond: yellow skin with white flesh, purple skin with white flesh, or purple skin with purple flesh.

Dugan explains, “These firm types hold their shape well, making them great for soups or fries. Some varieties of these are Hannah, Japanese, Purple and O’Henry.”

A POTATO BY ANY OTHER NAME

When the softer flesh sweet potatoes first hit the U.S. markets, farmers needed a way to differentiate between the softer and the harder ones.

Because these sweet potatoes had flesh similar in color to African yams, they began calling them yams — this is where the name confusion began.

True yams are not commonly grown in the United States because they are native to Africa and need tropical climates to thrive.

When they are available, they are usually imported and can be found in inter-

national markets throughout the year. “You’d need to go to an international grocery store to find them,” according to Insider Tech.

NUTRITIONAL DIFFERENCES

When comparing the nutritional profiles of yams and sweet potatoes, notable differences emerge:

Calories and carbohydrates: Sweet potatoes tend to be slightly higher in calories and carbohydrates than yams.

A medium sweet potato contains about 115 calories and 27 grams of carbohydrates, while a medium yam has around 112 calories and 26 grams of carbohydrates (USDA, 2021).

Vitamins and minerals: Sweet potatoes are particularly rich in beta-carotene, a precursor to vitamin A, giving them their vibrant orange color.

They also provide good amounts of vitamin C and potassium. Yams, on the other hand, are a great source of fiber and contain significant amounts of vitamin C, potassium and manganese, but they lack the high levels of beta-carotene found in sweet potatoes (USDA, 2021).

Antioxidants: Sweet potatoes, especially the orange-fleshed varieties, are packed with antioxidants, making them a great choice for immune health and overall wellness (González-Montelongo et al., 2010).

WAYS TO PREPARE

Yams have a starchy, dry texture and can be prepared in various ways:

· **Boiling or steaming:** This method preserves their natural flavor and texture. Simply peel, cut into chunks, and boil until tender.

· **Baking:** Yams can also be roasted or baked, enhancing their flavor. Coat with a bit of oil and season before placing them in the oven.

· **In stews and soups:** Their starchy nature makes them perfect for thickening soups and stews.

Sweet potatoes are incredibly versatile and can be prepared in numerous delicious ways:

· **Baking:** Roasting sweet potatoes brings out their natural sweetness. Simply wash, pierce with a fork, and bake until soft.

· **Mashed:** Boil or steam sweet potatoes, then mash them with butter, cream and seasonings for a creamy side dish.

· **Fries:** Slice them into wedges or sticks, toss with olive oil and seasonings, and bake for a healthier alternative to traditional fries.

PRICE DIFFERENCES

In terms of cost, sweet potatoes are generally more affordable and widely available in supermarkets, often ranging from \$0.50 to \$1.50 per pound.

Yams, especially true yams, can be more expensive, sometimes costing up to \$3 or more per pound (USDA, 2021). The higher price can be attributed to their less frequent cultivation in the U.S. and the fact that they are often imported from tropical regions (Nava, 2018).

ENOUGH! JUST PASS THE SWEET POTATOES!

In a few weeks, many tables will be set with sweet dishes labeled as “yams,” but they won’t feature true yams.

When we say, “Pass the sweet potatoes,” at the Thanksgiving table, we’ll reach for the soft, orange variety that was once misnamed “yams” by early marketers. These are the ones baked with brown sugar and marshmallows, a seasonal favorite entirely different from the authentic African yam.

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The Best of Hood County Review 2024

Sue Jefferies Zac Kitching

HOMES

FROM PAGE C1

this year. “Mary (Scott) knew my love for Christmas and decorating and had kept asking me for three years to take it over once she retired,” Gilmore shared.

Her focus is on decorating Pecan Plantation’s facilities, and she appreciates the chance to view others’ unique styles on the tour. Gilmore’s team is introducing a new patriotic-themed tree in the Brazos Room to honor service members and first responders. “We are truly grateful for their service to this country and its citizens,” she added.

They also revamped the Children’s Christmas tree and refreshed the Memory Tree, honoring past members of the Woman’s Club.

For creating a festive Christmas atmosphere, Gilmore has decorating recommendations, “Your taste and your family’s traditions ... And my funny answer is glitter. If you aren’t sweeping up glitter, you may not be doing it right!”

Tickets for the home tour are required and are \$25 per person.

DINNER PAR EXCELLENCE

Ray aims to balance “festive flair with accessibility” using “simple flavor profiles” to suit all palates while still exciting guests. His goal is straightforward: “Good meal = Happy People.”

The dinner and dancing opens with a cocktail bar at 6 p.m., followed by an elegant dining experience starting with roasted red pepper bisque topped with garlic, bacon and red pepper crisps.

Next is Ray’s award-winning crab cakes over corn succotash and remoulade sauce, a bacon-wrapped, whiskey-molasses-glazed chicken breast served with garlic potatoes and sautéed green beans and finishes with a dessert of orange and cream shortcake paired with a mini beer shot of Licor 43 and heavy cream. Dinner attendees will enjoy cocktails, dancing and raffle entries.

Dinner tickets are required and are \$80 per person.

MERRY MILESTONES

Founded in 1974, the Pecan Plantation Woman’s Club has long been a pillar of the community. Around 2009, the club began welcoming not just members

but all residents of Pecan Plantation and eventually all of Hood County and North Texas to join in the festivities. “We thought, what if we opened it up to more people, and we took over the decorating from the club? The Woman’s Club came up with Santa’s Workshop,” Schoepf recalled. This tradition, which offers donated holiday gifts and unique items, continues to expand, drawing attendees from near and far.

Tickets for the Pecan Plantation Christmas Tour of Homes are available to everyone, not just residents of Pecan Plantation. Individuals from Hood County, Dallas and the DFW area are encouraged to attend. The event has gained popularity beyond the local community, with more people becoming aware of it. Attendees often bring family and friends, contributing to the growing excitement and attendance each year.

Each year proceeds support Hood County charities and fund scholarships, focusing recently on students pursuing two-year or technical degrees.

This year, thoughtful tributes include a Patriotic Tree honoring veterans and first responders, a Children’s Tree for donations to local children, and a Memory Tree to remember Woman’s Club members who have passed on.

“Yes, the sparkles and glitter are fun, but we shouldn’t overshadow the true meaning of this time of year,” said Gilmore, noting that simple touches of holiday decor can bring magic to any home.

Tickets for the Tour of Homes, brunch and dinner can be purchased separately through the Woman’s Club website. All proceeds provide scholarships for local students and other community projects.

“Pecan is a Christmas wonderland. We decorate everything, all of our common areas,” said Schoepf, capturing the holiday spirit that permeates Pecan Plantation each December. As Kill said, “If you’re not in the Christmas spirit yet, Santa’s Workshop will get you there.”

For more details on ticketing and event schedules, visit myppwc.com.

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Friday, 08 November - Thursday, 14 November

God's Here (PG13)
Sat, Sun: 11:00AM.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: 2:00PM

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 (PG13)
Thurs: 6:30PM, 7:10PM

Here (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sat: 11:15AM, 1:45PM, 4:15PM, 6:45PM, 9:15PM.
Sun: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:30PM

Heretic (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sat: 11:20AM, 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 11:05AM, 1:45PM, 4:25PM, 7:05PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Thurs: 3:00PM, 4:30PM

Red One (PG13)
Thurs: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM

Smile 2 (R)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:50PM, 7:40PM, 10:30PM.
Sat: 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:05PM, 10:00PM.
Sun: 4:00PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:15PM, 7:10PM.
Thurs: 7:10PM

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (PG)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sat: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:25PM, 6:50PM.
Thurs: 2:50PM, 4:50PM

The Wild Robot (PG)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sat: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 9:30PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:25PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.
Tues: 2:00PM, 4:35PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM

Venom: The Last Dance (PG13)
Fri: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM, 9:45PM.
Sat: 11:15AM, 1:50PM, 4:25PM, 7:00PM, 9:35PM.
Sun: 11:15AM, 1:50PM, 4:25PM, 7:00PM.
Mon, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:35PM, 7:10PM.
Tues: 3:15PM, 7:05PM.
Thurs: 7:00PM

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SUNDAYS
THE GRANBURY Disc Golf Club has mini tournaments every Sunday at 2 p.m. at 600 W. Moore St., welcoming all levels of disc golfers. Show up at least 15 minutes early to pay the \$12 entry fee and warm up.

MONDAYS
HEALTHY CONNECTIONS exercise classes: 9 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 10 a.m. Tai Chi; 10:30 a.m. exercise (strength and balance); 11 a.m. Tai Chi/Pilates; 5 p.m. yoga. Location is at 1321 Waters Edge Drive, Suite 1001. Details: 817-579-2979.

GRANBURY BRIDGE Club will hold an ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge game at noon each week at the Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway, Granbury, 76049. Entry \$8/person. All are welcome; come with a partner and compete for ACBL masterpoints. Information and reservations: 225-933-4074.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN Legion Post 491 of Granbury Burger Night, 5-7 p.m. at American Legion Post, 3409 Davis Road. Funds raised are used to support veteran and community youth programs. Open to members and guests. Details: 515-554-6498.

GRANBURY CIVIC Chorus — rehearsals, Mondays 7-9 p.m. at Acton Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Highway. Concerts in May and December. See www.granburycivicchorus.org for schedule and activities. Questions: granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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

WEDNESDAYS
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Hood County building on the 4000 block of Sundown

GO PLAY

Trail every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. No experience or tools needed. Join them anytime.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAYS
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Hood County building on the 4000 block of Sundown Trail every Wednesday and Saturday from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. No experience or tools needed. Join them anytime.

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

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

FIRST MONDAYS
HOOD COUNTY Amateur Radio Club meets on the first Monday each month at 7 p.m. at the Hood County Emergency Operations Center, 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THIRD TUESDAYS
THE PECAN Plantation Genealogy Group meets at the EMS Training Room, 9518 Monticello Drive behind the fire station. Everyone is welcome. You do not need to be a resident to attend. Tell gate security you are attending the genealogy meeting in the EMS Training Room. Questions? Email kcal3219@gmail.com.

FOURTH TUESDAYS
HOOD COUNTY Historical Society meets the fourth Tuesday each month (except

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

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

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

SECOND THURSDAYS
HOOD COUNTY CERT meets the second Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive. HoodCoCert@gmail.com.

THE GRANBURY EWMA, Chapter P motorcycle group meets at Spring Creek Barbecue, 317 W. U.S. Highway 377. Dinner and fellowship is at 6 p.m., an informal meeting is at 7 p.m. Group of pleasure riders who love to ride in Texas and beyond. Many Goldwing riders, also 2- and 3-wheelers, any and all riders are welcome.

THIRD THURSDAYS
THE HOOD Somervell A&M Club meets the third Thursday (except June, July and August) at Spring Creek BBQ located at 317 W. U.S. Highway 377 Granbury at 6 p.m., dining/social, 6:30 p.m. meeting. Other activities, fundraisers and meeting changes can be found at hscaggies.org.

THE HOOD County Democratic Club meets each month at 1410 Pearl St., Annex #1 at 7 p.m. Questions? Call 817-233-5453.


THIRD FRIDAYS
LEGACY CHRISTIAN Academy of Granbury sponsors skating dates year round at Granbury Skating Rink from 10 a.m. to noon. All Christian music. \$8 cash at the door. No outside food or drink.

LAST THURSDAYS
MARINE CORPS League Detachment 1297 meeting at the American Legion Hall, 3409 Davis Road, Granbury. Chow is at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

SECOND SATURDAYS
SECOND SATURDAY Showoff at Fuzzy's Taco Shop, 115 W. Pearl St. Car show, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

GO PLAY calendar will feature recurring activities that are open to the public. These items will run each week along with other activities across the area. Submit Go Play listings to calendar@hcnews.com and include the day, date, time and location - including street address.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Unlucky number 13: How a simple digit got such a bad rap

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

In a world brimming with smartphones, space travel and self-driving cars, you'd think the old superstitions would have fallen by the wayside. But one superstition still holds a curious power over millions: the ominous number 13. Even though we're supposedly past the point of knocking on wood or tossing spilled salt over our shoulders, a surprising amount of people feel an unsettling chill when they encounter this particular number. From skyscrapers that skip the 13th floor to airlines that skip row 13, this small numeral has an impressive history of sending shivers down our spines.

So, what exactly happened to 13? Why did it go from being "just a number" to the embodiment of misfortune? Let's take a look at the strange, occasionally spooky, and sometimes downright funny reasons why we're so

scared of a two-digit integer.

Historical superstition: Ancient beginnings?

The number 13's "bad luck" status isn't exactly new. Many theories suggest that 13 earned its unlucky title long ago, tracing its reputation back to some ancient societies where people associated it with imbalance. The number 12, you see, was a pretty big deal in many ancient cultures. Think about it: there are 12 months in a year, 12 zodiac signs, 12 gods of Olympus, 12 hours on the clock face ... 12 just feels complete. So, when you tack on a 13, it seems to throw things off-kilter, disrupting this nice, orderly structure. Thirteen simply doesn't "fit" — and in ancient times, anything that didn't fit was seen as ... well, ominous.

Religion and mythology: Thirteen's place in history's darker stories

Several theories link the number 13 to religious events and mythology. In Christianity, for instance, it's said that Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, was the 13th guest at the

Last Supper. This one association alone might explain why many Western cultures consider 13 unlucky. Meanwhile, in Norse mythology, an infamous dinner party for the gods went south when Loki, the trickster god, crashed the event as the 13th guest, leading to all kinds of chaos.

It's easy to see how these stories might stick in the cultural memory, casting a shadow over 13 for centuries. After all, if 13 spells betrayal and chaos for the gods, what's to stop it from wreaking havoc on us mere mortals?

The Friday factor: Paraskevidekatriaphobia and its economic impact

We can't talk about Unlucky 13 without mentioning Friday the 13th. This day represents a supercharged version of our 13 fears. It even has its own phobia: paraskevidekatriaphobia. The fear of Friday the 13th costs businesses an estimated \$800 million annually in the U.S. alone, as people cancel travel plans, avoid getting married and even skip work. Just think of the toll

that a single day of superstition takes on the economy! Who knew that one day (and one number) could send people into such a frenzy?

Why Friday, though? Many believe this stems from Christian tradition, which holds that Jesus was crucified on a Friday. When you pair an already "unlucky" day with the famously "unlucky" number 13, it's no wonder people feel an extra jolt of unease.

The modern consequences: Skipping floors and airline rows

Even today, our collective triskaidekaphobia (yes, that's the official term for fear of 13) is strong enough to shape architecture and travel practices. According to Otis Elevators, about 85% of elevator panels they install omit a 13th floor. Hotels, too, tend to skip room 13 and sometimes even floor 13 altogether, opting instead for the more neutral "14" or "12A." Airlines also play into this superstition, frequently omitting row 13 on flights, as if the mere presence of a number could impact a safe

takeoff and landing.

Logically, of course, this makes little sense — but then again, superstition rarely does. Maybe it's just easier to go along with the flow than risk upsetting guests or passengers, especially if it keeps everyone a bit more at ease.

Fun facts about fear: Triskaidekaphobia's odd quirks

Fear in numbers: The fear of 13 is surprisingly widespread. Even Henry Ford and Franklin D. Roosevelt were said to avoid making major decisions or taking trips on the 13th.

Celebrity caution: Some Hollywood celebrities, including Taylor Swift, consider 13 lucky. Swift, in fact, embraces it, often adding 13 to her concert stage setups and even marking her hand with the number during performances.

Baker's dozen: The term "baker's dozen" comes from a time when bakers would add an extra item to a batch of 12, making it 13, to avoid accusations of shortchanging. So in this case, 13 was actually a

sign of generosity!

"Lucky" 13?: Not everyone thinks 13 is bad. In some cultures, such as Italy, 13 is considered a lucky number. In Chinese numerology, too, 13 can be seen as lucky. It all depends on your perspective!

So, should we fear 13?

At the end of the day, the question isn't so much why we fear 13 but why we fear anything as arbitrary as a number at all. Superstitions have a way of sticking with us, even when we know better. Maybe it's just human nature to add a little spice to our lives with some well-placed quirks and rituals, even if they don't always make sense.

So, the next time you find yourself facing the dreaded 13th floor, take a moment to appreciate just how far this quirky little superstition has come. You might even embrace it. After all, in a world that's constantly changing, perhaps there's something strangely comforting about the fact that some things — like our fear of the number 13 — are here to stay.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the American Legion Riders present toys and money to Hood County Christmas for Children in November 2023

Veterans Toy Run benefits Hood County Christmas for Children

From Staff Reports

On Saturday, Nov. 16, the American Legion Riders presents the 26th Annual Veterans Toy Run. The American Legion has been in charge of the local event for the past three years.

The event will benefit Hood County children specifically with all pro-

ceeds and toys going to Hood County Christmas for Children and other Hood County charities for children.

A well-received local event, last year's run included 55 bikes. In 2023 the toy run provided multiple boxes of toys and a check for \$9k.

Organizers hope to beat last year's numbers

to provide even more for Hood County children. The American Legion released this statement about the event:

"We look forward to helping Hood County children with their needs. This is such a worthy cause."

A poker run is the highlight of this seasonal run. The cost of entry for the pok-

er run is \$20 per rider/\$5 per passenger and a new unwrapped toy.

The fundraising period for the group also includes a silent auction. The silent auction began this week and will be open every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after 5 p.m.

Money raised from the silent auction will provide

beds, bedding and additional items to children in need. The winners of the silent auction need not be present to win, and winners will be announced Nov. 16.

After the run, the American Legion is offering a steak dinner from 5-7 p.m. for a \$25 minimum donation for those who want to participate. Dinner includes

a steak, baked potato, salad and dessert.

B-Ray & the Humans will provide live music from 7:30-10:30 p.m.

The location is 3409 Davis Road in Granbury. Registration is at 10 a.m. For details contact Babs Goin at 214-213-1476 or Sylvia Hollingshead at 817-247-2010.

ROCK

FROM PAGE C1

hit the stage, they don't just play ZZ Top — they embody it.

Don DiMasi, affectionately known as "The Reverend Donny D," holds down the

lead guitar and vocals. He's a seasoned rock 'n' roller, with a history that goes all the way back to high school in Wyoming, where he discovered his love for bands like Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, and, of course, ZZ Top. After years of touring and playing with notable acts like

REO Speedwagon and Cheap Trick, DiMasi is more than ready to channel his inner Billy Gibbons. With his wild beard, signature Texas swagger, and sheer guitar power, he's an essential part of bringing ZZ Top to life on stage.

Then there's Mike Learn, El Loco Fandango's bassist, who's been shredding the guitar for more than 40 years and only recently switched to bass to fill in that "bottom end" of the ZZ Top sound. Learn is a renaissance man of rock, with an impressive career as an artist, luthier and painter. In the custom motorcycle boom of the late '90s and early 2000s, he was a top painter in the industry, earning the prestigious "Easyriders Painter of the Year Award" in 2004.

After the custom bike market cooled off, Learn pivoted into the music world, becoming a sought-after designer for top guitar brands like Jackson, Charvel and Dean. His artwork has been seen in the hands of rock icons like Def Leppard, Queensrÿche and Judas Priest. Today, with El Loco Fandango, he prides all

that artistic fire into capturing the powerful basslines and legendary look of ZZ Top.

And let's not forget Tim Elliott, the band's "Frank Beardless" drummer and vocalist. A Colorado native, Elliott has spent his life behind the drums, lending his talent to multiple tribute bands while also dedicating his time to charitable causes through his organization, Drumming Up Hope. A strong community supporter and rock lover, Elliott's passion shines through as he keeps the beat pounding for El Loco Fandango. With a few decades of drumming expertise, he's a cornerstone of this tribute, staying true to Frank Beard's timeless rhythms.

The trio's journey to ZZ Top stardom isn't just about the music — it's about authenticity. From tracking down the perfect pieces of Western wear to ensuring every guitar and bass is decked out with that iconic ZZ Top bling, no detail has been spared. It turns out that being ZZ Top isn't just about wearing a hat and some sun-

glasses; it's about perfecting the vibe. Whether it's the fine art of beard care or choosing the right rhinestone-studded jacket, the boys in El Loco Fandango have put in the work to deliver a ZZ Top experience like no other.

Since its first shows, El Loco Fandango has built a loyal fan base, solidifying its reputation as one of the top tribute acts in Colorado. This year, the band is venturing out to new states, bringing its rocking show to audiences far and wide. And now, it's heading to Granbury, in ZZ Top's home state, where the Texas spirit runs as deep as a double bassline. For ZZ Top fans, seeing this tribute act in action is the next best thing to the real deal.

El Loco Fandango's upcoming shows in Granbury promise two nights of pure rock nostalgia, with crowd favorites like "La Grange," "Sharp Dressed Man," "Gimme All Your Lovin'," and "Legs" sure to get everyone out of their seats. The Granbury Opera House will be transformed into a Texas roadhouse as these three ZZ Top fans turned rockers put

their own spin on the band's 50-year legacy. It's a show that's bound to have fans dancing in the aisles, singing along, and remembering why ZZ Top remains one of the most beloved rock bands of all time.

So, mark your calendars for Nov. 15-16, because you won't want to miss this show! El Loco Fandango's three performances at the Granbury Opera House will be packed with high-energy solos, booming basslines and all the blues-rock grit you could hope for. Whether you're a lifelong ZZ Top fan or new to their music, El Loco Fandango's tribute is the perfect way to celebrate the Texas legends. Bring a friend, dress your best (ZZ Top would approve!), and get ready for a night of beards, bass and beyond.

Tickets for El Loco Fandango are available now at www.granburytheatrecompany.org or by calling 817-579-0952. Grab yours before they sell out — this is one concert event that'll have Granbury talking for a long time!



COURTESY GRAPHIC

El Loco Fandango will be live on stage at the Historic Granbury Opera House, Nov. 15-16!

BOOK REVIEW

We are not alone

By Terri schlichenmeyer

In this galaxy, it's possible that there are other beings on other planets that may someday show themselves to us. In the meantime, we watch the night skies. We dream and wonder what's up there — although, in the new novel "Identity Unknown" by Patricia Cornwell, what's down here may be the bigger concern.

It had been a long time since Kay Scarpetta had more than a close friendship with Nobel Laureate and "ET Whisperer" Salvatore Giordano. It'd been decades, in fact, since she took a temporary job in Rome, met Sal and fell in love with him. Their romance didn't last, but they remained friends.

She'd just seen him. She remembered thinking something was bothering him, but she didn't ask and she regretted that because now Sal was dead, obviously murdered, his battered nude body dropped on the bricks of an all-but-abandoned amusement park. The Secret Service found him while they were searching for a report-

ed UAP in the area.

As a scientist, Scarpetta was more skeptic than believer but the link between an Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon and Sal's work with NASA looked to be more than coincidence. She then recalled that local billionaire Ryder Briley owned the derelict theme park.

Briley, father of 7-year-old Luna, was also a bully and a loudmouth and Scarpetta was sure he was a killer, too. He and his wife swore that their daughter accidentally shot herself, but the bullet trajectory was all wrong and Luna's body was riddled with bruises and old injuries that pointed to abuse. Briley had friends in high places and she sensed, when he filed a lawsuit against her and others, that further tests would probably prove her hunch.

She was also sure that Sal wasn't killed by space aliens or monsters, although circumstances surrounding his whereabouts and his wrecked pickup didn't make any sense. And then there was the distinct feeling that an old nemesis was around, causing deadly trouble.



Patricia Cornwell

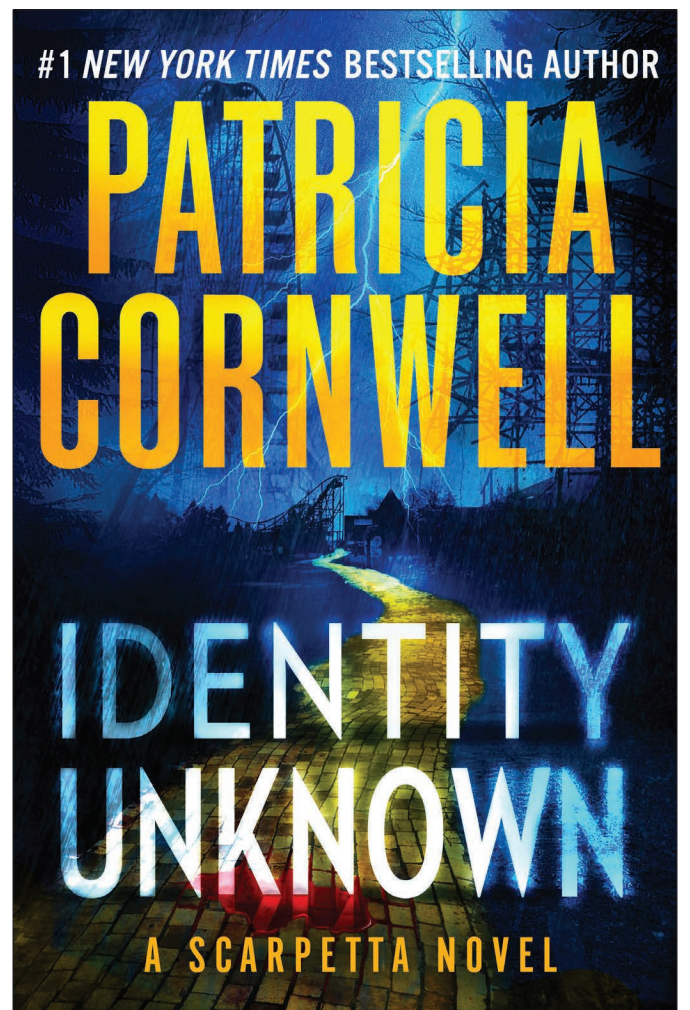
Could Carrie Grethen be a link between the two complicated cases?

Are you prepared to have the hairs on the back of your neck raised? You'd better be, because "Identity Unknown" isn't just a little bit creepy.

Maybe it's that you're prepared by the season to feel the edginess author Patricia Cornwell sharpens like a razor blade. Or maybe you just can't put down a darn good thriller. Either way, reading this book is like knowing

there's a boogeyman around, and knowing he's going to scare you, but not knowing when. And so you wait. And you wait. And you wait ...

In the meantime, Cornwell's insistence on authenticity raises the tension even more by making each of her characters, from minor pathologists to NASA scientists, detectives and high-tech pilots, seem like interesting people. Like you might want to know them. The best way to do that is



COURTESY PHOTOS

"Identity Unknown: A Scarpetta Novel" by Patricia Cornwell, c.2024, \$30, 400 pages

with this book, which can be read as a stand-alone novel if you're unfamiliar with

the series. So grab "Identity Unknown" and settle in. Just make sure you're not alone.

Shopping 101: Top tips for a safe holiday buying experience

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

With the holiday season quickly approaching, shoppers are already scouring the web for deals on gifts, decorations and festive items. According to data from recent years, a significant portion of holiday shopping now happens online. In 2022, for example, about 57% of holiday purchases were made online, a trend that shows no signs of slowing down. The convenience and variety of e-commerce are hard to beat, but online shopping comes with risks. Cybercriminals are especially active during the holidays, taking advantage of increased online transactions to attempt identity theft, fraud and other scams.

To keep your personal and financial information safe, it's essential to be aware of best practices for secure online shopping. Here are the top ten ways to protect yourself this holiday season.

1. Shop on secure websites only. A simple but effective tip is to verify the security of any website before making a purchase. Look for "https://" at the beginning of the URL and a padlock icon in the address bar — this indicates the site uses SSL encryption to protect your information. Avoid making purchases on sites that start with "http://" as these lack the encryption necessary to keep your data secure.

2. Use strong, unique passwords. Your passwords are often the first line of

defense against cyberattacks. Using weak or reused passwords increases the risk of someone accessing your account information. Create strong passwords by combining uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers and special characters. Avoid using obvious words, dates or easy-to-guess information. For added security, use a password manager to generate and store unique passwords for each online account.

3. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA). Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security by requiring not just a password but also a second form of identification, like a text code or app verification, to access your accounts. Many major retailers and financial institutions offer 2FA. Enable it wherever possible to make it harder for unauthorized users to access your accounts, even if they manage to steal your password.

4. Avoid public Wi-Fi for financial transactions. Public Wi-Fi networks are often not secure, making it easy for cybercriminals to intercept data. Avoid shopping online or accessing sensitive accounts when connected to public Wi-Fi. If you must shop on the go, use a personal hotspot or a virtual private network (VPN) to encrypt your internet connection, keeping your data secure even when you're not on a private network.

5. Be cautious of phishing scams. Phishing attacks typically increase around the holidays, with scammers sending fake emails and texts that look like they're

from legitimate retailers, delivery services, or banks. These messages often contain links that, if clicked, lead to malicious websites designed to steal your personal information. To protect yourself, avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails or texts. Instead, visit the retailer's official website directly by typing the URL into your browser.

6. Check your bank and credit card statements regularly. Keeping a close eye on your bank and credit card statements can help you catch unauthorized charges early. Many financial institutions now offer mobile apps with real-time alerts for transactions, making it easier than ever to monitor your account activity. If you notice anything suspicious, report it to your bank or credit card company immediately.

7. Use credit cards instead of debit cards. When shopping online, it's generally safer to use a credit card rather than a debit card. Credit cards often offer better fraud protection, and in most cases, you're not liable for unauthorized purchases. Additionally, with a credit card, the money is not taken directly from your bank account, reducing the immediate impact if your information is compromised.

8. Update software and enable security features. Keeping your devices updated is a crucial yet often overlooked part of online security. Software updates frequently contain patches for vulnerabilities that could be exploited by hackers. Make sure to keep your operating system, browser, antivirus



COURTESY GRAPHIC

If you notice anything suspicious, report it to your bank or credit card company immediately.

and any shopping apps up to date. Enable automatic updates when possible, to ensure you're always protected with the latest security features.

9. Research new retailers before buying. While the holiday season brings about exciting new retailers and limited-time sales, be cautious when shopping with unfamiliar companies. Do some research to check for reviews, BBB accreditation, or complaints from other customers. Look for clear contact information, including a phone number and physical address. If you can't verify the retailer's credibility, it's best to shop

elsewhere to reduce the risk of falling victim to fraud.

10. Limit the personal information you share. Legitimate retailers generally don't ask for excessive personal information beyond what's necessary for a purchase. If a website asks for your Social Security number or other sensitive data, consider it a red flag. Only provide the required details to complete your order, and if possible, check out as a guest to avoid creating new accounts with your data. Some retailers even offer anonymous checkouts, allowing you to shop with greater privacy.

Wrapping up: Stay vigilant

for a safer shopping season of falling victim to fraud.

As more people embrace online shopping for holiday purchases, the need for cybersecurity awareness becomes even more pressing. By taking these precautions, you can shop with confidence, knowing your personal and financial information is well-protected. Just remember that while technology offers tools to enhance security, vigilance and caution are crucial to staying safe from cyber threats. With these 10 tips, you'll be prepared to navigate the holiday shopping season safely and securely.

Embracing your inner night owl: How to thrive after sunset

BY MICKY SHEARON

Special to the Hood County News
micky@hcnews.com

If you've ever been wide awake at 3 a.m., crafting your next great idea, then you're probably a night owl — a proud member of a nocturnal club society tends to judge. But guess what? We're not just out here binge-watching shows in our pajamas; we're thriving in our creative zone while everyone else is snuggled in bed.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A NIGHT OWL?

Night owls aren't lazy, contrary to what many assume. In fact, around 8.2% of the population is naturally programmed to function this way. It's all due to something called chronotypes. A chronotype is essentially your body's internal clock, guiding you

when to wake, sleep and be productive.

For night owls, this clock runs a little differently — meaning we prefer to stay up late and catch our Zs into the afternoon. While society champions the "early bird gets the worm" mentality, it's time to reframe the narrative: Night owls get the best late-night pizza deals and are often the most productive when the rest of the world goes quiet.

WHY NIGHT OWLS RULE THE NIGHT

Many night owls explain that they simply feel their best during nighttime hours. Whether it's because the world is quieter or distractions are at a minimum, night owls often find their creativity soars when the sun goes down. From working late on passion projects to having a full-on energy boost at 11 p.m., night owls are perfectly

in sync with their own natural rhythm — even if it means missing brunch.

For night owls, the most frustrating part isn't just being awake late; it's the stigma attached to it. After all, early risers are praised as disciplined and successful, while night owls are sometimes labeled lazy or unmotivated. News flash: We're just getting started while you're dozing off.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND BEING A NIGHT OWL

If you've ever felt out of sync with the rest of society, it's not just in your head — it's in your genes! According to chronobiologists, being a night owl is often a matter of biology. In fact, there's an evolutionary theory that suggests chronotypes exist as a survival mechanism. Imagine a primitive tribe — while some members slept, others stayed awake to keep watch.

Night owls were essentially the OG security system.

And for those who think you can train yourself to become a morning person, it's not that simple. While it's possible to shift your sleep schedule through gradual changes like light exposure or timed meals, the reality is that most night owls will always feel a little out of place in a world designed for early birds.

NIGHT OWLS ARE PRODUCTIVITY NINJAS (AT NIGHT, OBVIOUSLY)

Not only do night owls feel their best at night, but they also tend to excel in productivity. Whether it's finishing work projects or finding creative breakthroughs, night owls often find themselves in a flow state after hours. In my work as a theater director, I see this firsthand. So many creatives fit into this night

owl category. Many creative brains just function better and more efficiently the later it gets. Their mental acuity and focus are at their highest after midnight.

Let's face it: Quiet, uninterrupted late-night hours offer the perfect conditions for deep work. Without distractions like emails, calls or pesky daylight, night owls can work on their own terms and create amazing things. So the next time you hear someone bragging about their 5 a.m. workout, just smile. You crushed it last night while they were dreaming.

WHY IT'S TIME TO RETHINK 9-TO-5

Here's the thing: Not everyone is built for a 9-to-5 world. The pandemic has already shown us that remote and flexible work is not only possible but often more efficient. Sleep experts believe companies should move toward

flexible schedules that cater to different chronotypes. If you're a night owl, imagine a world where you could start your workday at noon and clock out at 8 p.m. — a schedule that matches your body's natural rhythm. Sign us up!

When employees are allowed to work during their peak productivity hours, the quality of work improves, and burnout decreases. Now that's something everyone can get behind.

So, whether you're a moonlit genius or just someone who prefers to sleep through the mornings, know this: Being a night owl is not only normal, it's pretty awesome. The world might not always cater to us, but we're out here thriving in the glow of midnight inspiration. So go ahead, grab that late-night snack — the best ideas are just getting started.

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John 15:4

PECAN BITS

Trunk or treat and holiday party a howling success in pecan

BY DIANE LONG



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

Pecan Plantation's annual Halloween party and trunk or treat grows grander on each occasion, and this year was no exception. The day held balloon animal making, 60 cupcakes given away to cake walker participants, games, prizes, crafts, and buckets of fun. Many thanks go to the PAC staff, party volunteers, pickleball ladies (for decorating and running games), and of course young people (and their families) who attended the event.

GOLF GAME

Pecan's MGA is holding its annual breakfast and meeting today, Saturday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 a.m. in the clubhouse ballroom. All MGA members are invited to attend as voting on future officers and making golf-related decisions are on the agenda. Following the meeting, the MGA will host its monthly Saturday tournament at 9 a.m., and the competition's format is a two-man scramble/shamble, choose your own partner.

GROWING GREEN

Pecan Plantation's Community Gardens is holding a workday today, Saturday, Nov. 9, when harvesting crops and cleaning beds will happen. Folks interested in the garden and its presence in Pecan are invited to stop by.

ART SCENE

The Pecan Plantation Art Guild has a busy month with its first engagement happening this evening, Saturday, Nov. 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Shanley House when the "Three Jims" opens. The exhibit honors the work of Jim

Stewart and Jim Spurlock and features Jim McDonald demonstrating his own artistic talent.

Next, Tuesday, Nov. 12 brings the PPAG's monthly meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the PAC. Guests and new members are welcome to join, and Thursday, Nov. 14 at 1 p.m. will find Pam Carriker at the PAC demonstrating block carving to make art prints.

Finally, a pop-up art show will happen Saturday, Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pecan clubhouse with a special feature of the day including the raffle drawing of a nine square painting with work contributed by Kathy Yoders, Jimmie Borum, Barbara Brown, Connie Gilmore, Gwen Hutson, Cheryl Moore, Judy Tarbinger and Pamela Vannoy. Raffle tickets are currently on sale from PPAG members, and proceeds from the raffle will benefit Pecan's Emergency Medical Service.

DRAWING TIME

A class titled "Learn to Draw — The Basics" for budding artists ages 10 and older comes tomorrow, Sunday, Nov. 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. with instructor Kathy Yoders at the PAC. Call to sign up: 817-573-7952.

WELCOME HOME

Pecan's next new member orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 10 a.m. in the Terrace Room of the Pecan clubhouse. New residents are welcome and may secure a spot by contacting Sarah Lord at sarahlord@ppoweb.com or 817-573-2641, extension 335.

PICKLEBALL PLAY

Two pickleball clinics for beginners are slated for Tuesday, Nov. 12 with the first being an indoor event from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the second being outdoors from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The event is free, but registration is a must as space is limited. Call the PAC to secure a spot: 817-573-7952.

TOURNAMENT HAPPENING

A veteran-exclusive nine-hole golf tournament is coming to Pecan's course Tuesday, Nov. 12 in honor of our neighbors who have served in our country's military. The tournament is a four-person scramble with an entry fee of \$10. Folks may assemble their own teams or be placed in a group by the golf pro shop, and both scoring and a social gathering will happen in the pavilion following the tournament. Pecaners are invited to attend and cheer on our veterans playing in the competition.

CLUB FITTING

A Titleist club fitting event is coming to the Pecan driving range Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Attendees must have an appointment. Residents received email with both a link and a QR code for securing a spot during the day.

GOOD READ

The Hood County Bookmobile will be in the PAC parking lot Wednesday, Nov. 13 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Patrons may both check out and return library materials to the bookmobile.

GAME NIGHT

"Santa's Thanksgiving Day Spectacular Bingo" is the mantra for Thursday, Nov. 14 when a buffet dinner begins the evening at 5:30 p.m. followed by bingo at 6:30 p.m. Reservations requested: 817-573-2641.

FALL EVENT

With the arrival of fall and



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAC PUBLICITY

Pecan's annual Halloween party and trunk or treat brought folks dressed in costume to facilitate games, award prizes, and distribute candy to attendees. Pecan's tennis professional John Ingram, III donned his pirate costume and joined in the festivities.

winter close on its way, a new season of golf is upon us. Folks are invited to attend a "changing of the seasons" ceremony Friday, Nov. 15 at 5 p.m. at the number one tee, when bagpiper Don Shannon will lead a procession up number nine and to the clubhouse where toasts will be made, tunes will be played, and friends will be remembered. Participants are encouraged to don a kilt or vintage golf attire for the evening, which will culminate in a time of fellowship and reflection on the game of golf.

GENEALOGY GROUP

Pecan's Genealogy Group has its next meeting on the calendar for Tuesday, Nov. 19 beginning at 10 a.m. at the EMS training room located on Monticello Drive. Everyone is welcome, and being a Pecan resident is not required for participation. The topic of the day will focus on organizing family history, and folks attending will have the opportunity to share their strategies in com-

pleting the task. For more information on the Genealogy Group and its presence in our community, call or text 682-459-5718. Ideas for future meetings and presentation topics are welcome.

HELPING HAND

The PAC is participating in Mission Granbury's annual food drive, "Pantries of Plenty." A collection bin will remain by the front entrance through mid November.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Work on the back gate's expansion lane has resumed, and the initial stages are nearing completion. When this phase of improvement is concluded, asphalt installation on Wedgefield Road will follow. During this same time, removal and replacement of Airpark Drive's surface will occur, and weather permitting, the road through the campground will be rebuilt in the next week. After all new surfaces have been laid, crews will stripe the new roads.

GIVE THANKS

For Pecaners who would like to dine at the clubhouse Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 28, the reservations line is open for seatings at 10 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m.: 817-573-2641.

In addition, Chef Jordan Ray and the clubhouse staff boast a bountiful offering of food to be ordered and picked up for dining at home for the holiday. Members received a menu via email, and orders are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22 and will be available for pick up Wednesday, Nov. 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

WOMAN'S CLUB

The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club has a spectacular day planned for its next meeting Thursday, Nov. 21 when "fun and funky meet fashion and friendship" in a "Boogie Wonderland." More details are coming, but for now, reservations are due by noon Thursday, Nov. 14: ppwres@gmail.com or 361-215-4599.

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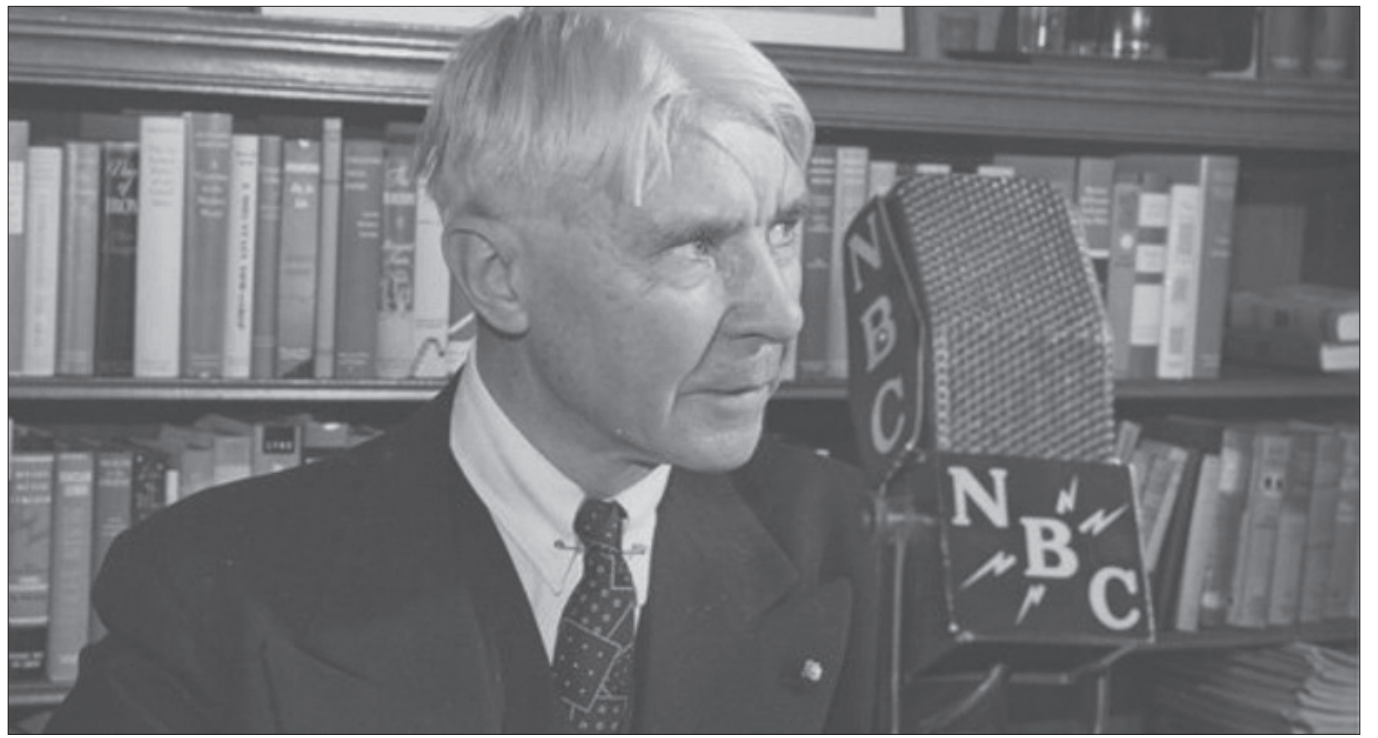
THE IDLE AMERICAN

Our annual popcorn rush



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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Carl Sandburg — his poetry collections winning three Pulitzer Prizes — warmed the hearts of Americans with his beautiful description of how tides roll in.

Carl Sandburg — his poetry collections winning three Pulitzer Prizes — warmed the hearts of Americans with his beautiful description of how tides roll in “on little cat feet.”

He would be hard-pressed to similarly describe crowds’ arrivals at our house each year Oct. 31. They’re in all shapes, sizes, ages and all manner of dress — but, unlike fog — they arrive as if on tidal waves, eager to gather their popcorn. Only a handful say “thank you.”

Before you think ill of today’s youth, let me quickly add that mere “thank yous” don’t seem to be enough; most add two words: “Thank you very much,” or something akin thereto ...

This marked the 23rd annual popcorn giveaway at our home in Burleson and our 50th year to use popcorn as calling cards or welcome mats. We love these evenings of smiles in an at-

mosphere of goodwill, when ugly politics and an atmosphere of general negativity are tossed aside for a few hours.

Involved in it all are parents and grandparents, smiling as they watch their youngsters respond with gracious expressions of thanks, even though more treats beckon down the street. They seem highly organized — perhaps utilizing GPS thingies, maps and records — of specific addresses where abundant “loot” is found annually. These kids act as if they fear that Santa Claus might be hovering nearby, making a list of who was naughty and nice ...

We don’t “keep score” on numbers of visitors. We’ll admit, though, that our inventory of small bags (we called them “nickel bags” in days of yore) was reduced by 600 and our stash of popcorn now is 75 pounds lighter. This event is invariably “good medicine” for us.

Seeing families arrive with youngsters — their attention to courtesy in play — does a body good. This year, a half-dozen friends helped fill bags and marvel with us at the creativity. We’ll use the age-old description used long ago in small “personals” printed in newspapers across the land: “A good time was had by all.”

Some said they’ve dropped by for Halloween snacks since “day one;” others said they were attracted by the aroma wafting throughout the neighborhood. This counters my wife’s description used across the years; she insists on calling it an “odor.”

There were “oohs and ah-

hhs” aplenty, particularly for toddlers barely able to walk alone. Some said nothing but knew to extend their bags for popcorn deposits. (One kid, perhaps a first grader, asked if he could “borrow” a bigger bag. It was a request easily granted.)

Many costumes were lit by batteries; some were inflated. A heart-warmer was a four-year-old lad. He wasn’t costumed, but carried a sign made from cardboard, attached to a sawed-off yardstick. On it were these words, scrawled with a magic marker: “Will Work for Candy.”

Have we ever seen seasons so “rushed” by store

holiday displays? One seen recently promoted Halloween, Thanksgiving AND Christmas.

One pharmacy, however, was unadorned. Pictured, though, was a photo of a handsome dog, perhaps a pharmacy mascot. I asked if the dog had a name. “Rex” was the answer.

I should have known. It was clearly shown on his nametag. Spelling, though, was unexpected. “RX.”

I’ll close out this week remembering Sandburg, who was to poetry what Norman Rockwell was to artistry in his scenes of Americana on the covers of The Saturday Evening Post magazine.

Sandburg was never

thought of as an academician. In fact, he lasted just two weeks at West Point, posting bad marks in both mathematics and grammar.

I suffered similarly in mathematics but made acceptable grades in grammar. Before suggesting that Carl may have spent too much time in the fog, who is to say that he didn’t gain knowledge that isn’t reflected on college transcripts? Obviously, many people thought so. President Lyndon B. Johnson called him “America” when Sandburg died in 1967 at age 89 ...

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VETERANS DAY

HONORING
those who
SERVED

THE ORIGINS OF VETERANS DAY

By The U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on Nov. 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., Nov. 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day."

Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later

by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars," Nov. 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

ARMISTICE DAY CHANGED TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran,

organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on Nov. 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming Nov. 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in November 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American War dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed

alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that Nov. 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.

NATIONAL CEREMONIES HELD AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphithe-

ater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on Nov. 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater. Veterans Day ceremonies at Arlington and elsewhere are coordinated by the President's Veterans Day National Committee. Chaired by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the committee represents national veterans organizations. Governors of many states and U.S. territories appoint Veterans Day chairpersons who, in cooperation with the National Committee and the Department of Defense, arrange and promote local ceremonies.

'Engraving' a new life

George Northup: Air Force veteran to small business owner

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

From a two-decade career in the Air Force to a thriving laser engraving business, Hood County resident George Northup is living proof the sky actually isn't the limit when it comes to pursuing one's passions.

Growing up in Ollie, a small town in Iowa, Northup developed a desire for adventure that would later shape his remarkable journey. At the young age of 18, he decided to enlist in the Air Force on the buddy system, which guaranteed him and his best friend, Mickey Dean Ruggles, the opportunity to train and serve together. However, just two weeks after enlisting, Northup's best friend passed away in a car accident.

"They said, 'You're out. Your contract doesn't mean anything now, because it's not the buddy system,'" Northup said. "I thought, 'Well, what else am I gonna do?'"

Despite his tragic loss, Northup persevered, choosing to enlist anyway to embark on what would become a 20-year journey in the Air Force. He was initially assigned to the aerial port, where he was responsible for cargo preparation on the ground — though it wasn't long before he found himself in more dynamic roles.

"I was lucky," he said. "I never had to go to work eight hours a day and build pallets of cargo. I was always a combat mobility element team leader or a parachute rigger or an aerial port mobility flight team member, I was always TDY (temporary duty) on the go. I never had to go to work for a shift, so to speak."

Halfway through Northup's career, he cross-

trained to become a C-17 loadmaster, where he was responsible for the safe loading, securing and unloading of cargo and passengers. Northup explained that transitioning from being the ground support for cargo to being the sole enlisted crew member on the aircraft brought a new kind of excitement.

"That's where the real fun started," he said. "Every day it was a damn adventure. It was a different lifestyle and a different way of going about things, but still awesome. I was gone 300 days a year on a jet, seeing the world for 10 years — that wasn't too bad of a deal."

Northup visited so many locations during his service that he joked it was simpler to list the places he hadn't been than those he had. He explained that, while it might sound nerdy, his work on a cargo plane was vital to the war effort, as it involved delivering essential supplies to various locations.

"We were all over the world all the time. You never knew where you were going to be the next week. It was insane," he said. "Awesome, but insane."

Northup served in the Air Force from 1992 to 2012, when he retired in Charleston, South Carolina. At that time, he was still married to his wife — who was also active duty — and the couple remained in Charleston for a couple of years before his wife re-

ceived orders to relocate to Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina. A few years later, his wife received orders again to relocate to McChord Air Force Base in Washington State, where they stayed for several more years, before moving to Granbury in 2020.

Northup also reflected on his diverse assignments at bases such as Dover, Delaware and Okinawa, Japan, as well as the contrasts between places like Little Rock, Arkansas — which he humorously noted was far from paradise — and the charm of Charleston, which he considered a "different kind" of paradise.

After retiring from the Air Force, Northup sought a new direction for his career — one that took him from cargo planes to custom creations with laser engraving. Having started his first engraving business in 2014, he quickly discovered the versatility of the craft. Though he sold that business upon moving, he reignited his entrepreneurial spirit in the fall of 2020 when he established Laser Junky in Granbury, located at 316 S. Morgan St, near Wild Roots Salon.

He describes laser engraving as a process that allows for the personalization of a wide array of items, ranging from paper wedding invitations to bricks and "everything in between."

"It's never ending," Northup said. "What that business does, it's hard to put in a nutshell."

He explains that Laser Junky has a wide-ranging scope, as it includes commercial projects for aircraft and specialized engravings for firearms, while also offering personalized engravings for everyday items such as mugs and keychains.

"It started out as a hobby,

PLEASE SEE **NORTHUP** | D4



MARY VINSON | HOOD COUNTY NEWS

George Northup, owner of Laser Junky in Granbury, spent 20 years in the Air Force in several different capacities — everything from a parachute rigger to a C-17 loadmaster.

"I got lucky in the Air Force. I had a great time. I was a kid. I was seeing the world. You were gone 300 days a year. I mean, I'm from Iowa, and before I knew it, I was in Somalia. And then from there, we went to France for six months, and then it's all the time everywhere, with never knowing where you're going next, or who you're helping."

GEORGE NORTHUP
Air Force Veteran

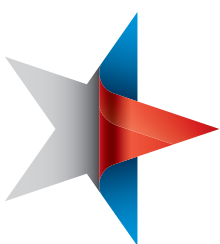


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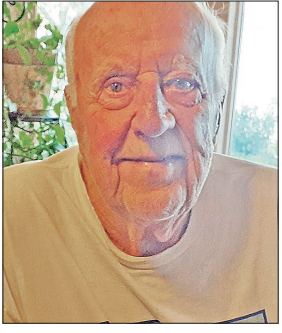
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Colton Andersen
Unknown
United States Army
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Duane J. Barnes
Unknown
United States Navy
Unknown



Sheila Bartley
Major
United States Army
1979-1996



Trivor Beardsley
Specialist
United States Army
2016-2020



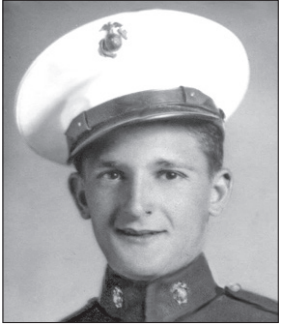
Joe Berger
E7
United States Air Force
1954-1977



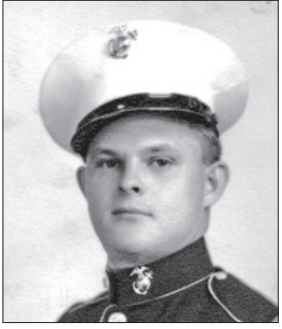
Wade Blake Sr.
Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
1948-1952



Ron Bonneau
Petty Officer 3rd Class
United States Navy
1968-1974



Columbus "Lump" Boulanger
Private First Class
United States Marine Corps
1943-1945



Sidney Boulanger
Master Gunnery Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1941-1968



John Bowen
Lt. Colonel
United States Air Force
29 years



Brandon Bryce
Staff Sergeant
United States Army
2003-2014



Rich Burns
Sergeant
United States Army
1954-1975



Jack Camp
Captain
United States Army
1967-1969



Paul Carrell
Unknown
United States Army
2 years



Scott Casey
Lt. Colonel
United States Marine Corps
1991-2012



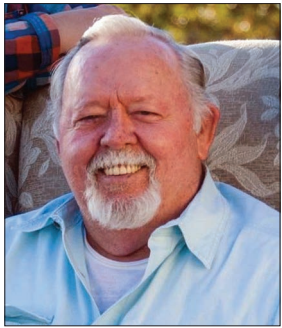
Bryan Chambers
Sergeant First Class
United States Army
1985-1990



Lawrence E. Charlesworth
PVT-2
United States Army
1953-1955



Brian Clark
Unknown
United States Marine Corps
6 years



Bill Clark
Boatswain's Mate
United States Coast Guard
1966-1970



Kenneth Cobler
Specialist
United States Army
1966-1969



Chris Cohenour
E-4
United States Navy
1964-1968



Lowell Conder
Major
United States Air Force
1961-1981



James Mike Conine
E5
United States Army
1970-1972



John B. Cox
Major
United States Army



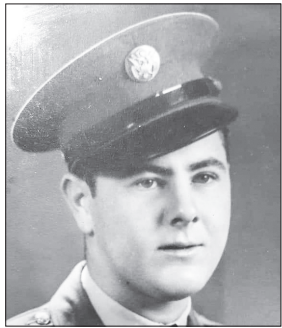
Nancy Cox
Tec 4
United States Army
1942-1943



Samuel J. Cox
Lt. Colonel
United States Air Force
1940-1970



Laurence DeYoung
Captain
United States Air Force
1964-1969



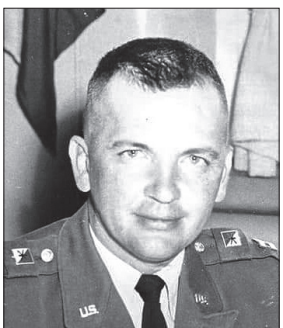
Jerald Dixon
Sergeant
United States Army
1937-1945



Stewart Drake
AE1
United States Navy
1955-1969



Aubrey Dutschmann
SN4
United States Navy
1972-1977



Dunavon Eads
Lt. Colonel
United States Army
1953-1976



Eric Edmunds
Tsgt
United States Air Force
1966-2008



William Edwards
Colonel
United States Air Force
1967-1995



Claude Everette
Staff Sergeant
United States Army
1942-1944



Carmond "Fitz" Fitzgerald
Captain
United States Coast Guard
34 years

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Randy Turner: Hanging out with giants



COURTESY PHOTOS

Turner (First man standing on left) and his combat search and rescue crew in front of an HC-130 in Saudi Arabia, 1994. The men with rifles are Pararescue (PJs).

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Randy Turner's military journey began with a lifelong dream. "I wanted to be in the Army since I was 6 years old," he recalls, unable to pinpoint precisely why. With his mother's consent, Turner, age 17, enlisted and was sent to Fort Benning, Georgia, for basic training just days after graduating high school in 1980.

His father had been a pararescue serviceman, commonly known as a PJ, during the Korean War, but didn't talk much about his experiences, so it wasn't something that stood out in their conversations.

Turner admits he didn't fully realize what his father had done until many years later and isn't quite sure how he overlooked it for so long.

He explained that there's a distinct difference between those who've attended Ranger school and those who've served in the Ranger battalion. Ranger school, he said, is like jump school — tough, but it's not the same. "You earn your parachute wings at jump school, but that doesn't automatically make you a paratrooper. Similarly, Ranger school is grueling, but it's not the same as being in the Ranger battalion," Turner said.

The battalion is a way of life. The standard is everything. Turner recalled how they used to say, "You're not assigned to the Ranger battalion; you survive in the Ranger battalion." If you didn't meet the standard, you were out. There was no room for mistakes — any misstep, even something like writing a hot check, could get you kicked out. The pressure was constant and relentless, with no slack to be found.

It set an impressive standard for a young man fresh out of high school. The Ranger Creed, which Turner has memorized to this day,



Randy Turner (center with light brown T-shirt) with his Texas Air National Guard crew in Afghanistan in 2004.

became a guiding principle.

He began his journey in the Army's First Ranger Battalion, an elite unit in Savannah, Georgia, describing it as a fascinating environment. The constant physical and mental challenges fostered camaraderie and discipline. "They PT'd the snot out of you," noting that it was essential for developing the unique skills needed for high-risk operations.

Reflecting on his Ranger experience, he shares, "It was a lot of fun — I learned a whole lot — I got to experience everything from the jungle to the Arctic Circle," he recalls.

Despite facing dangerous situations, including a fall that broke his leg during training, he maintains his sense of humor, saying, "It's never the fall; it's always that last half inch that gets people."

"One of the most valuable skills taught to Rangers early on is the operations order process, or 'op order,' which includes everything from assessing a situation to execution," Turner explains, still clearly remembering them to this day. "What's the situ-

ation? What's the mission? How will the mission be executed? Who's in charge? (Command and Control) and what support is available?"

He notes these core questions form the foundation of any plan — whether military or civilian. "They are a solid roadmap for accomplishing whatever you're setting out to do, whether it's a business plan or any other goal," Turner said.

His interactions with Air Force Special Operations pilots inspired him to take to the sky. After four years in the Army, Turner thought, "How about if I fly?" With his experience and understanding of events on the ground, he figured he could be very effective up in the air. "Plus, if I die, at least I'll die cleaner."

He loved the Army, but after completing his enlistment, he attended the University of Texas at Arlington and participated in Air Force ROTC at Texas Christian University, which had a cross-town agreement. In 1987, he was fortunate enough to secure a pilot slot. In February 1988, he began pilot training at Williams Air

Force Base in Arizona.

Turner has a deep appreciation for the AC-130 gunship, often called Spectre, which he describes as a "very, very cool airplane." He was captivated by its impressive design, built for ground support and armed with two main cannons: a powerful 105-millimeter howitzer and a 40-millimeter cannon, similar to those used on ships for targeting enemy aircraft.

The smaller cannon fires rapidly, producing a distinctive "boom, boom, boom" sound. Additionally, the AC-130 features various machine guns and smaller cannons mounted on its side, enhancing its formidable presence in the sky.

"The aircraft has the ability to 'waste what they need to waste,'" Turner states. His Air Force career was just as eventful as his Army years. Despite his admiration for this remarkable aircraft, Turner never had the opportunity to fly the AC-130.

He began flying the rugged but versatile C-130. "Everybody wants to fly a fighter," Turner notes, "but I

PLEASE SEE TURNER | D7

NORTHUP

FROM PAGE D2

and it's no longer a hobby, I can tell you that. It's insane," Northup said. "It's a five-day wait now to get something back from me."

Even though Northup's days aren't as adventurous as they used to be, he reflects on the thrill of his Air Force career, where he spent 300 days a year traveling the globe, experiencing new cultures and challenges.

"I got lucky in the Air Force," he said. "I had a great time. I was a kid. I was seeing the world. You were gone 300 days a year. I mean, I'm from Iowa, and before I knew it, I was in Somalia. And then from there, we went to France for six months, and then it's all the time everywhere, with never knowing where you're going next, or who you're helping."

He explained that when he

cross-trained to become a C-17 loadmaster and began flying on the jet, it elevated the chaos of his lifestyle to a whole new level. Northup stated that he was still gone 300 days a year, but that he was sometimes in a different country four times a day, engaging in operations that many people were unaware even took place.

Now at 51, he said he feels a stark contrast to the chaotic lifestyle of constantly being on the move, as he navigates the quieter routine of civilian life. While he cherishes the friendships and experiences from his time in the military, he admits that adjusting to a more mundane existence has brought its own challenges, filled with boredom and anxiety.

"In both of my jobs, I was job is not to wake up every day at six and be there at eight for an eight-hour shift

of processing passengers or building cargo pallets or whatever they want. We would get back from a trip on a Tuesday, and it might be the following Thursday by the time we left again, and you weren't expected to be at work during that time, because you're always gone."

He explained that many of his friends in the Air Force held regular positions, working set shifts and processing passengers like they were at a civilian job. Northup noted the stark difference between their experiences and his own chaotic lifestyle, which made adjusting to civilian life even more challenging.

"It shouldn't even be the same job, but it is, if that makes sense, so it was pretty cool," Northup said. "It was a shock to the system (when I retired) not being around the world every week doing different stuff with different people."

While the experience was definitely unique, Northup said he sadly regrets his decision to enlist in the Air Force, as it meant spending two decades away from his father, who he described as his "best friend."

"I regret the whole thing really," he said. "I left for 20 years, and then three years after I retired, my dad died, so I missed all that time with him, which makes me regret it."

Ultimately, Northup's transition from the Air Force to civilian life weaves together a compelling narrative of adventure, sacrifice and reflection, showcasing his ability to embrace change and discover new passions.

His journey also highlights the importance of adaptability and the pursuit of fulfillment — reminding us that new beginnings can emerge from even the most challenging experiences.

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Opportunities and friendships: Ray Rodriguez's military perspective

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Ray Rodriguez was enjoying life as a student at the University of Texas — joining the military was not part of his plan.

Rodriguez graduated college with an accounting degree in December 1970. Like many young men of his generation, Uncle Sam called the following month as part of the military's lottery system.

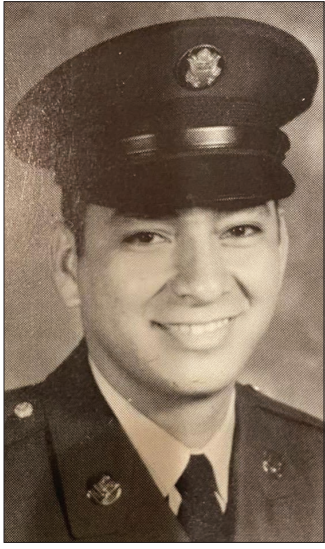
"My number was 36, I was drafted into the U.S. Army," he explained, referring to the system that randomly selected birthdates for conscription. "The lower the number you had, the more likely you were going to get drafted."

"When I reported for duty, they put about 50 of us on a bus in San Antonio and drove us to Fort Polk, Louisiana."

During his first days there, Rodriguez noted the isolation he felt. "I knew no one ... you're going to a place you've never been before, so I was a little nervous."

However, he quickly adapted to the routine of basic training, which lasted about eight weeks. During this time, he participated in the physical demands of Army training, such as marching and learning to handle weapons.

He qualified with the M16 rifle, the standard firearm used at the time. His train-



COURTESY PHOTOS

In December 1970, Ray Rodriguez graduated college with a degree in accounting. Like many young men of his generation, Uncle Sam came calling the following month as part of the military's lottery system.

ing also included "bivouac," an exercise where soldiers camped overnight in the woods for two or three days to practice survival skills with minimal equipment.

"There at Fort Polk, when they discovered I had a degree, they asked me — many times — to go into the officer program," Rodriguez said, explaining that becoming an officer would have required a longer commitment. He preferred to fulfill his two-year draftee obligation and then find a civilian career. "Two years was enough for

me." Unlike many of his peers, Rodriguez did not receive orders to serve in Vietnam. Instead, after basic training, during a brief stint in a "holdover unit" at Fort Dix, New Jersey, which he refers to as "a mixed bag of nuts," Rodriguez and some fellow soldiers were tasked with park sanitation for several weeks.

Lifelong friendships can begin in the oddest of circumstances, such as doing laundry. Rodriguez met another soldier while folding bed sheets. "I noticed he wore a University of Texas Longhorn ring. And I said, 'Are you a Longhorn?' He said, 'Yes, I am.' I said, 'Well, I am too!'"

That chance meeting sparked a lifelong friendship that has lasted over 50 years. The two became roommates in Heidelberg, Germany, and shared many experiences, including traveling and working together. "He moved to New York City, to Manhattan. We speak once or twice a month."

In Heidelberg, Germany, Pvt. Rodriguez worked in a postal unit, where the soldiers were given bunks in old German barracks. His job involved traveling to smaller postal units around Heidelberg, about 30 to 40 miles away, to help sort and distribute mail and packages.

He also made regular trips to Frankfurt Airport with a

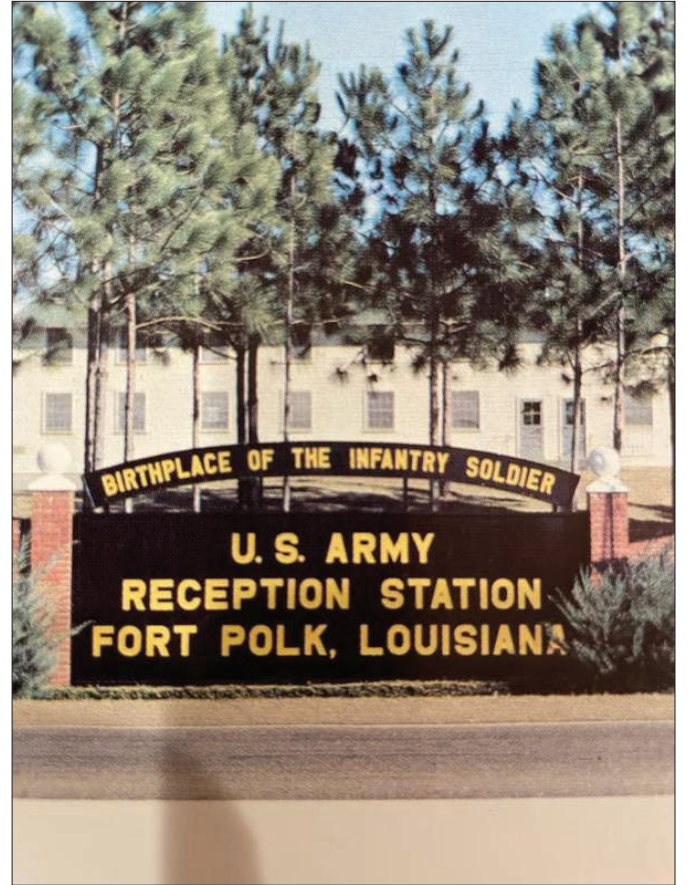
small team to pick up mail from the United States. They brought the mail back to the main post office in Heidelberg, where it was sorted and distributed to different military units across Europe.

Reflecting on his time in the military, Rodriguez appreciated the opportunities it provided. "I got to travel ... I went to England, France and Italy," where he discovered a love for Italian food. In Germany, he attended Oktoberfest in Munich. "They had good food and good beer, too," he laughs. He also traveled to Tunisia, in Northern Africa. "For a young 21-year-old guy, I learned a lot."

"I remember going to Paris for Christmas and attending midnight mass at Notre Dame, which was special. Then I went to St. Peter's in Rome for Easter midnight mass, which was also a memorable experience."

Upon returning to the U.S., Rodriguez smoothly transitioned to civilian life. He secured a job with the IRS in the metroplex. "I put all my possessions in my MGB and drove to Dallas," he says, crediting his military experience with teaching him valuable life skills. "I learned independence, how to adapt, and how to treat people in life."

Though his time in the military was brief, Rodriguez remains grateful for the experience. Today, he cel-



During his first days at Camp Polk, Ray Rodriguez noted the isolation he felt. "I knew no one ... you're going to a place you've never been before, so I was a little nervous."

brates Veterans Day with quiet recognition from his family. "I get phone calls or texts from my daughters saying, 'Thanks, Dad, for being in the military.' So, that's kind of nice."

Rodriguez's service can be summed up in three words: pride, opportunity and experience. While he may not have chosen his path, he

made the best of it. Rodriguez knows the military may have changed, but he encourages young people to consider it as an option. "There's going to be some discipline involved, but take advantage of the opportunities," he says. "If you've got time, give it a try. You never know what interests you might discover."

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1951-1953



Joel Friske
Unknown
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10 years



Howard Goodman
Spec 2
United States Army
1971



Robert Greathouse
Staff Sergeant
United States Army
1965-1973



Jeffrey Guerrero
TSGT
United States Air Force
1951-1953



Steve Haga
E-6/Tech Sgt.
United States Air Force
1981-2001



Larry Hamilton
Staff Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1965-1976



James Hanlon
Staff Sergeant
United States Air Force
1968-1971



Raymond Hansen
Corporal
United States Army
1970-1972



Tanya Hatch
PFC E3
United States Army
2004-2006



Richard Hattox
Sergeant E-5
United States Army
1975-1979



Joseph Hollingsworth
Unknown
Texas Air National Guard
15 years



Gary Hubbard Sr.
Private First Class
United States Army
1956-1964



Richard John Huchel
Lt. Colonel
United States Marine Corps
1958-1962, 1966-1989



John Huddleston
Bkr 3rd Class
United States Navy
1945-1947



Commodore (CH) Huddleston
Petty Officer 3rd Class
United States Navy
1943-1946



Vergil Humphrey
Unknown
United States Army
1944



James "Jim" Humphrey
Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1965-1971



John Ingram Jr.
1st Lieutenant
United States Army Air Corps
1942-1945



Lyle Ivie
Specialist E4
United States Army
2005-2008



Gary Keel
CW3
United States Army
1966-1987

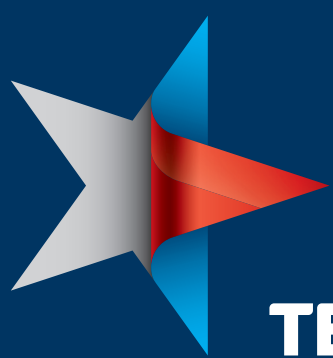
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Walter (Ken) Keener
Specialist 4
United States Army
1956-1958



Kim Keith
MSGT
United States Air Force
1977-2000



Richard Klinetob
Sergeant
United States Army Air Corps
1943-1945



Joseph Krieg
AW2
United States Navy
1975-1995



Jerome Kunkel
QM3
United States Navy
1959-1963



Douglas Letz
Unknown
U.S. Army Texas National Guard
22 years



Travis Lowrance
E7
United States Navy
1960-1987



Tim Lundy
Master Sergeant E8
United States Army
1983-2007



Johnathan Martin
Corporal
United States Marine Corps
2012-2016



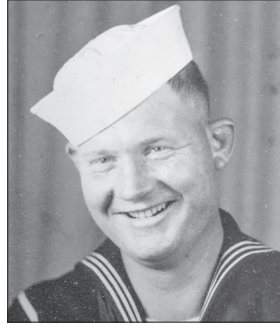
Julian Massey
Private
United States Army
WWII



Lowell Massey
Private
United States Army
WWII (KIA 1944)



Jeremy McCollum
Unknown
United States Marine Corps
2002-2008



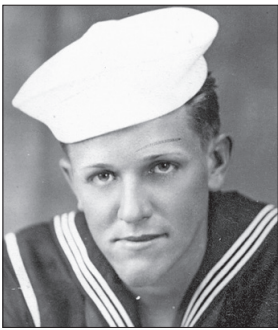
Dan McInroe
S2C
United States Navy
1943-1945



Pamela McRoy
E-4
United States Army
2009-2016



Ray Menefee
Captain
United States Air Force
WWII & Korea



V.F. Tommy Meyer Jr.
Unknown
United States Navy
1946-1947



Darrell Morrison
Specialist 5
United States Army
1968-1970



Andrew Nace
Sergeant 1st Class
United States Army
1996-2013



Larry Nace
Commander
United States Navy
1953-1977



Winston Newman
Master Sergeant
United States Army
1950-1987



Don O'Brien
E5
United States Army
1972

TURNER
FROM PAGE D4

wanted to fly a C-130.”
The Ranger battalion mantras Turner learned served him well in the Air Force: quitting simply isn't an option. “While technically you can quit,” Turner says, “doing so means you're finished. There's no room for hesitation or surrender. If you say, 'I can't,' or anything resembling that, the response is clear — 'See you later. Goodbye.'”
His first missions took him to the Middle East, Germany and Africa, where he witnessed the fall of the Berlin Wall and participated in the invasion of Panama. He speaks with pride about the C-130's capabilities, which included dropping troops, tanks and supplies. Turner's squadron operated those C-130's globally, often in high-risk situations.
Turner's service continued through Desert Storm, Bosnia and Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. His tone is matter-of-fact as he recalls the long hours, grueling deployments and dangerous missions. “There's a war on,”

he says simply. “You handle business.”
When asked about humorous moments, Turner responds with a grin, “Humor is what you use to get by. There's so much of that.” However, his tone shifted when he spoke about the media's portrayal of military conflicts.
Turner's experience as an information warfare officer sharpened his critical thinking and made him keenly aware of how information is shaped and shared with the public.
He lost trust in national media during his service, watching reporters post stories that felt utterly disconnected from the reality he witnessed. “I would see my airplane on a news story and wonder, 'Were we on the same continent? Because that is absolutely not what is happening,’” he recalls.
Throughout his career, Turner never lost his admiration for the military. “I mean, you get to hang out with some giants ... you can accomplish just about anything if you decide you're going to do it,” he concludes.
Turner shared a vivid

memory from his time in the military, recounting an experience at a small airfield called Rafha, located on the Saudi-Iraqi border. “There was a C-130 taking off and landing there every 10 minutes for two weeks, around the clock.”
Without air traffic control to assist, Turner and his fellow pilots had to navigate the airspace on their own. “It was a very challenging deal,” he explained; flying conditions were made more difficult by oil well fires, night-time operations, and the sheer number of planes in the air.
Turner recalled a mission where they were transporting about 130 soldiers from the 101st Airborne late one night. “Having been a grunt myself, I have a soft spot for grunts,” he said. “These soldiers, who had been in the desert for months, were seated on the floor of the plane, with only a tie-down strap for support.”
He and his crew had what they called “box nasties” — simple sandwiches packed for long missions. But when the loadmaster informed Turner that these soldiers hadn't seen fresh white

bread in months, he and the rest of the crew knew what to do.
They passed their sandwiches back to the soldiers, who were grateful for something as simple as a fresh loaf of bread. “Nobody wanted to be the guy that took the last piece,” Turner said, describing how the soldiers were tearing off little bitty pieces of the sandwich and then passing it to the next guy. The same happened with the hot coffee they offered — another luxury the soldiers hadn't experienced in months.
Turner was struck by the humility and camaraderie of the soldiers, who shared everything equally, making sure no one took more than their share. “It's almost like the last supper,” he said, reflecting on the moment. “What's too much to take care of a guy like that?”
“When you see the movie 'Band of Brothers,' that's it,” Turner added, emphasizing soldiers' deep care for one another.
Despite seeing combat on multiple continents, Turner downplays his own experiences in making a comparison. “I've been shot

at on four continents,” he said with a shrug. “Big deal. Those guys, though. Those grunts. They were living in misery.”
Turner offers sobering thoughts on the repetitive nature of warfare. “We still make the same mistakes we made in Vietnam, the same ones from the First World War,” he said, his voice tinged with frustration. Yet, his advice to young people considering a military career is grounded and practical. “Go talk to someone doing the job you think you want,” he advises. “The recruiter has one job, but the person actually doing it will give you the real story.”
When asked to sum up his military experience in three words, Turner paused before saying, “Foundational ... rewarding ... and privileged.”
He discovered a love for Greek food during his travels. “Real Greek food — man, it's fantastic,” Turner said enthusiastically, noting his plans for the upcoming Greek Food Festival in Fort Worth.
Turner's military service still influences his life today, especially around holi-

days like Memorial Day and Veterans Day. He refuses to say, ‘Happy Memorial Day’ and sees it as a somber time to remember those who have fallen. “It's like Patton said, don't grieve their loss, celebrate that they existed,” he paraphrased.
One of the more difficult transitions Turner faced was returning to civilian life after deployments. He described the sensory overload he experienced after coming home from war zones where everything was “a shade of brown” and nothing worked. “It took me two or three days to get back into it,” he admitted.
His nephew, who also served in Iraq, struggled similarly, having to consciously stop himself from reacting to everyday objects that might have been threats in a war zone.
Throughout his journey, Turner remains grounded, finding value in the relationships he built, and the lessons learned through adversity. His experiences reflect the resilience of those who serve, and his humility illustrates the profound effects of military service on individuals and the nation.

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Dennis McIntire's remarkable military journey

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

"So, son, you graduate in a couple of weeks. What are your plans?"

18-year-old Dennis McIntire recalled the moment his father confronted him in his room in San Antonio just weeks before his high school graduation in 1976.

McIntire pushed his long hair away from his eyes, and uncertainty edged his voice as he answered, "I thought I'd just kind of hang out, kind of figure it out."

His father, a former Army soldier, was having none of it. "Not here, you won't," he insisted.

McIntire initially aspired to become a diesel mechanic but lacked the means to fund his education. "The Army that you don't love, like I do, would pay for your training," his father said.

Inspired, McIntire spoke with a recruiter and discovered he could train as a helicopter mechanic.

He didn't plan to join the military at all. He had always said he would never do it, but he joined the Army.

His first promotion was uneventful. "I guess I'm an E-2," McIntire said, pinning on his "mosquito wing," which was just a one-bar rank — the start of an incredible military career.

STATIONED ON THE 'ROCK'

His journey took him to the "Rock," the affectionate name for Hawaii, where he worked as a helicopter mechanic at Schofield Barracks. He bought a motorcycle and often rode to the beach after work to surf and have "a blast."

Young McIntire thought Army life was great, but he quickly noticed the duplicity of many people in the all-volunteer Army. He noted, "So many people had just a horrible attitude. I mean, you'd have thought they were drafted."

McIntire explains that despite their berating of the Army, "Most of these folks were hypocrites because after they ended their four years, they re-enlisted."

"I hung out with the wrong people and had a bad attitude, like many kids do." Then he realized, "Why do I feel so horrible?" At 19, McIntire learned a valuable lesson: "Attitudes are contagious, and I'm going to eject myself from this group of people."

He decided to straighten up, follow the rules, cut his hair, polish his boots, and focus on his job. His hard work paid off. "I did very well as a mechanic," McIntire recalls and consequently was selected to become a crew chief.

Soon, he was in charge of the VIP aircraft for the commanding general of the 25th Infantry Division. Watching new pilots take to the skies sparked his desire to fly.

SKYWARD

At 21, McIntire's dream came true when he started flight school on Valentine's Day in 1980. He showed a natural talent for flying and graduated with honors that December; shortly afterward,



Camp Page, Chuncheon, Korea: McIntire serves as a Black Hawk medevac instructor pilot.

COURTESY PHOTO

he was flying Hueys.

He was a young pilot eager to learn. "Helicopter pilots have to be addicted to adrenaline," McIntire said, and he was. He loved flying.

He recalled, "Sometimes they say flying is hours and hours of boredom punctuated by moments of sheer terror." This comment would soon prove prophetic as McIntire faced challenges that would test his skills and courage.

TREE LESSONS WITH JOE

His time in the cockpit taught him important lessons, especially from veteran pilots with tough attitudes. "Post-Vietnam was not good to them," he noted.

McIntire was a warrant officer, or WO1, with only a few hundred hours in a helicopter, flying with Joe, a Vietnam-era pilot known for his bad attitude. They were on a training mission in Florida when Joe said, "Take-off check."

"I did the take-off check, and Joe pulled up on the collective, lurching the helicopter up and then straight toward the pine trees."

"Joe, we're going to hit these trees!" I said.

"He says, 'Ah, shut up.' And we lopped off the top seven feet of the pine trees on each side of us. The treetops just vaporized."

McIntire anticipated significant damage to the Huey. He thought Joe was acting recklessly and was concerned they would return to find gouges under the blades, which he had seen before from hitting trees.

Joe got out and told McIntire to shut the aircraft down. During the shutdown, McIntire waited as the blades came to a stop — expecting to see significant damage.

He was stunned — there was no damage to the rotor blades. It was clear where the trees had knocked dust and dirt off the blades, but the blades were unharmed. McIntire wanted to ask questions, but a WO1 wasn't supposed to, and Joe's terrible attitude didn't help.



Dennis McIntire weeks before basic training in 1976.

"A few days later, we were off duty," McIntire revealed. "Joe was at the bar. He was getting drunk. You know, a lot of Vietnam War guys had a lot of stuff, a lot of baggage. 'I said, 'Hey, Joe, let me ask you. That day that we hit those trees, how did you do that without damaging the blades?'"

"He says, 'It all has to do with the angle you hit them with. You've got to hit them straight on or from the top of the blades and never underneath; otherwise, you'll damage the blades.'"

"I was like, 'Oh,' so I cataloged that," McIntire said.

DEAD. DEAD. DEAD.

A couple of years later, McIntire was a chief warrant officer, or CW2, pilot-in-command of his own aircraft in the medevac unit, flying with a young WO1 co-pilot.

They arrived at a site in Fort Benning where a heat casualty was in critical condition in 100-degree heat. The situation was dire, and they needed to act quickly.

The landing zone was too small to accommodate McIntire's helicopter because a long pine branch was hanging over it. McIntire knew he

couldn't land directly on top of the branch without damaging the rotor system.

Recalling his training from Joe, he hovered at the edge of the landing zone, dove under the branch, and then pulled up on the collective to chop it off.

"So, I landed, picked up the guy, flew him to Fort Benning Army Hospital, and the guy lived. And guess what? No damage to the rotor system!"

He recounts numerous close calls that could have ended in tragedy. "In 28 years as a pilot, I can tell you, no kidding — five times that I should have been dead," he states candidly. "I mean dead, dead, dead — inches or seconds made the difference."

"How I survived is by the grace of God."

BLACK HAWK ON THE MOUNTAIN

Despite the risks inherent in his job, McIntire's passion for flying and serving his country never waned. His tales of near disasters and successful missions attest to his skill as a pilot and his unwavering commitment to the Army and the people he served alongside. "It's all about the mission," he

says.

He recounted a near disaster on a mountain in Alaska when he lost both engines due to a phenomenon called rotor droop, a flaw in the early Black Hawk helicopters. "... causing me to auto-rotate from 125 feet. It all happened in a matter of seconds while landing," he explained.

"We were falling out of the sky," he explains, "when I saw the treetops ..."

He pulled up on the collective, managing to execute what he called the "luckiest hovering auto" onto the mountaintop. His passengers, five pathfinders exiting his helicopter, were probably thinking, "That was the coolest landing ever."

"The truth was we just basically crashed on top of this mountain," McIntire admits.

HYPOTHERMIA AND WIND SHEER

While flying medevac for the Rangers in Dahlonega, Georgia, CW2 McIntire and his crew encountered an unprecedented cold front, unlike anything he had seen before. Oak trees were being blown 10 to 15 degrees — it was horrendous. He knew they couldn't even start the helicopter.

"We had 60, 70 mph winds," McIntire recalls. He informed the Ranger camp commander that his crew was grounded and unable to fly.

However, at 2 a.m., they received a call about a Ranger student with hypothermia who was in critical condition. It was a life-or-death situation, so McIntire and his crew made their way to the helicopter. Despite the raging winds, they knew they had to try at least.

Recalling another lesson learned from a Vietnam-era pilot while a crew chief in Hawaii trapped at the top of a windy mountain in Mauna Loa with 45 mph winds, he prepared to start the helicopter despite the storm.

Knowing the Huey has a 30-knot wind limitation for starting with a 15-knot gust spread, McIntire had his short medic stand on sandbags

to hold one of the blades. "I cranked the engine up to 40%, had him release the blade, and we were good to go."

He had to battle a 70-mph headwind to reach the patient, struggling to maintain speed and control. "It took forever with a 20-knot groundspeed," he said. But on the way back, flying at 90 knots with a tailwind, he had a ground speed of 160 knots. "I remember thinking, 'Wow! We are moving!'"

Suddenly, he hit a wind shear and lost his tailwind, causing his airspeed to rocket up to 160 knots. "The max speed on a Huey is 124 knots on a good day," McIntire explains. "And the last number on the airspeed indicator is 140, with two marks after that, probably indicating 150. But on this flight, the indicator was pegged at the twelve o'clock position past the 150 mark."

A "retreating blade stall" — a rare occurrence — caused the nose of the helicopter to pitch up violently. McIntire saw stars through his night vision goggles. His co-pilot, Don Law, cursed in frustration as he watched the medics perform CPR on the patient in the back.

McIntire held his cyclic position, waiting for something worse to happen when the aircraft shook forcefully. Finally, the nose returned to level flight with no catastrophic control system failure.

"I dropped the Ranger off at the hospital. He's alive, and hopefully still today. I don't know."

POWELL AND CHENEY

McIntire's career as a pilot took him to many places and involved various missions. From 1984 to 1988, he was an instructor pilot at Fort Rucker, Alabama. "My students performed better because I worked so hard to produce a great Army product," he said proudly.

Despite his success as a flight instructor, he was still happily surprised to find his name on the CW3 promotion list. "I love the Army, so in everything I did, I wanted to make sure it was better," he noted.

He understood that reaching CW4 was tough. "That's where the rubber meets the road, and as a CW4, you were about equivalent to a major. But a CW5 — with the respect of a colonel — was as rare as a unicorn; you never saw many of them."


Then he was stationed in Alaska with the 6th Infantry Division, flying Hueys and then Black Hawks as an instructor pilot for four years.

In Alaska, McIntire was the go-to person for VIP demonstrations. "I was directing every flight — the Hueys, the Chinooks — working with the Air Force, the A-10s, and the F-16s," he explained. He coordinated Army operations with the Air Force and managed the timing of all the aircraft — air assaults and the Chinook artillery sling loads.


"Whenever there was a mission like that, they always called on me to plan it. I had a great reputation,"

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E5
United States Army
1967-1969



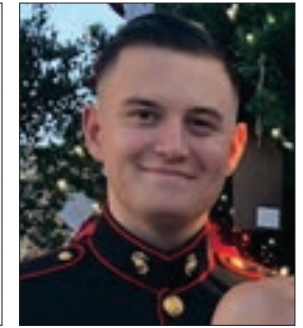
Robert Paige
MSGT
United States Air Force
1957-1977



Juan Pedroza
Unknown
United States Air Force
4 years



Michael Rebarchik
E4
United States Air Force
1960-1964



Cody Reynolds
Lance Corporal
United States Marine Corps
2018-Present



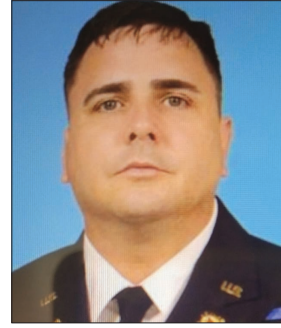
Warren Glenn (Rick) Rickabaugh
Petty Officer 3rd Class Aviator
United States Navy
1943-1946



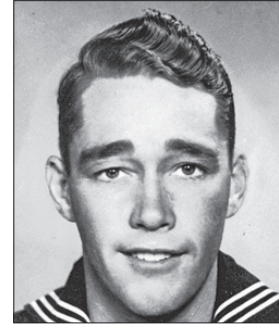
Charles Rickgauer
LCDR
United States Navy
1963-1984



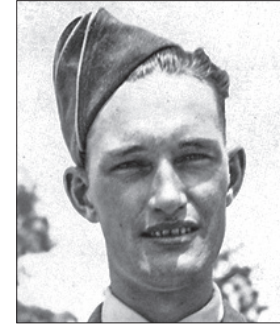
Nelson Roberts
Sergeant
United States Marine Corps
1951-1953



Fredrick Santiago
Major
United States Army
1990-2015



Billy John Sargent
Boatswain's Mate 1st Class
United States Navy
1951-1954



Roger Algene Sargent
Private First Class
United States Army
1943-1949



Norman Lee Schlittler
Major
United States Army
1954 (Career)



Kevin Sklark
TSgt
United States Air Force
1999-2015



Ronald J. Stevens
SSG
United States Army
27 years



Dick Stultz
Lt. Colonel
United States Air Force
1964-1989



Mike Sympson
E4
United States Air Force
1965




Woodrow Thompson
Unknown
United States Navy
1944



Dennis Thompson
Unknown
United States Army
1968-1971



Gary Towers
E4
United States Air Force
1963-1965


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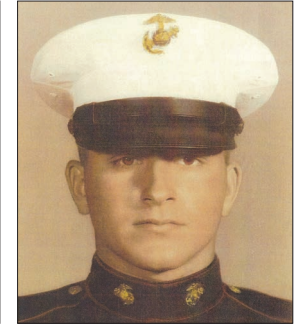
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John Turnbow
Petty Officer 2nd Class
United States Navy
1974-1978



Shores (Sam) Turner
E5
United States Army
1968-1970



Gary Werley
Sgt
United States Marine Corps
1967-1971

MCINTIRE
FROM PAGE D8

McIntire said with pride. He remembered flying Colin Powell and Dick Cheney during two separate VIP missions.

INSTRUCTING WITH EXCELLENCE

After Alaska, he was stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, with the 1st Infantry Division. He was promoted to CW4, which was a shock to him as he didn't have a college degree yet.

Then he was stationed in Savannah, Georgia, with the 3rd infantry Division, still flying Black Hawks.

CHASING BAD GUYS

During this time, he participated in drug interdiction missions in the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos, known as OPBAT.

He worked with the DEA and Bahamian drug enforcement to intercept boats smuggling drugs from Jamaica. "We would take these Black Hawks and fly 100 miles out to sea with the latest night vision goggles," he explained. They would intercept fast boats called GO-FASTS, which could go 60 knots.

"That's fast for a boat, but practically hovering in a Black Hawk," McIntire said. "You're behind them doing 60 knots and throw your lights on them. And the strike force team has got their guns, and they're ready to shoot the engines out as the drug smugglers throw their arms up. I had such a blast doing that mission."

He was tasked with reconnaissance on another operation but discovered the target was already on the island. As they approached, the smugglers jumped into their

boats to escape. McIntire maneuvered the Black Hawk beside them, creating intense waves that pushed the boat back to shore. "They all threw their hands up," he recalled. "I landed on the beach, and the Bahamian authorities arrested them."

UNICORN SIGHTING

After Savannah, McIntire was stationed at Camp Humphreys in Korea for a year and found a new favorite food; "I love Korean food. I love Bulgogi, which is beef," he said. "You have to be careful because there's Pagogi, which is chicken. Then there's Kagogi, which is a dog, so you have to be careful. But Bulgogi — I love that."

Upon returning to the States, he was a CW4 and thought he had no chance of making CW5. "It's a very tight cut, with only about 200 CW5s in the whole Army," he noted. So, when he checked the promotion list, he was shocked to see his name on it. "I couldn't believe it!"

Following Korea, McIntire was stationed back to Fort Rucker; this time, he was responsible for 400 instructor pilots and 1,500 flight students each year. "Here's a guy with no college credit," he said, reflecting on his unexpected achievement of CW5. "I'm still waiting for the Army to say they made a mistake!"

McIntire's love for the Army resonates through every story. His journey, one that began reluctantly, blossomed into a fulfilling and impactful career lasting nearly three decades.

THE ESSENTIAL STRONG MILITARY

Despite his extensive experience, McIntire remains humble. "And even though I

know I'm the least traveled, least decorated helicopter pilot you'll ever meet, I had a blessed career."

Reflecting on his time in the service and the values he still holds, "... there's what makes you a man, what makes you a man of integrity. I'm old school — a handshake, a man of my word. And I will always have your six if you are a fellow warrior."

He emphasized the importance of military service, saying, "It's absolutely essential that we have a strong military because without that, evil will try to take advantage."

REMEMBERING THE LOST

McIntire sums up his military experience in three words: "Blessed, exciting, and the third, you know, it would be at times unbelievable," adding, "I did love it."

Veterans Day is tough for him because he has lost many friends. "If you've watched 'Black Hawk Down,' it was my stick buddy, Cliff Wolcott, who was killed in the first helicopter that was shot down. I helped him through instruments in flight school, and we were lifelong friends."

"I have a deep love for other military service members," he states. "We joke around. There's always that, but you know what? Those jabs about other services are all fake. We love each other. We absolutely love each other. We are all brothers and sisters in arms."

McIntire continued, "I'm not the guy who wears a hat that says 'retired Army' or anything like that. I don't mind if someone else does, but I feel like many people do it just to get that 'thank you for your service' comment ... I don't want that. I want to — in my own way — be."

From the battlefield to the drill field

Veteran Steve McCoy reflects on 22 years of military service, leadership

BY ASHLEY TERRY
Staff Writer
ashley@hcnews.com

Once a soldier facing the harsh realities of war, Granbury resident Steve McCoy now finds purpose in leading the next generation — proving that the heart of a warrior never truly fades. McCoy's journey began in Tennessee, but it was in the bustling halls of L.D. Bell High School in Bedford where he met his future wife and took his first steps toward his future. With a young family to support and aspirations for a better life, McCoy enlisted in the military right after graduation in 1992, at the age of 19. "When you get married before you get out of high school and you have some children to take care of, you kind of need insurance and, you know, Jiffy Lube wasn't cutting it," McCoy said, with a chuckle. "You got to have your priorities because the decisions you make in life kind of sets the path on where you need to go." McCoy noted that he chose to enlist as an 11 Bravo infantryman because he wanted to fully engage in a meaningful role. "Joining the military, you kind of want to be all you can be," he explained. "You kind

of just want to jump in with both feet and do something that's worthwhile." With this particular military occupational specialty known for its frequent deployments, McCoy was soon thrust into the rigors of basic training and subsequently deployed to Germany. After three years there, he was deployed on missions that would take him to the heart of conflict in both Bosnia and Macedonia. "On deployments, you get put in situations of things that you question, 'Why am I doing this?'" McCoy said, adding that one particular experience he had in Bosnia was pretty harrowing. "It's minus 55 degrees, the ground's frozen, there's snow past your knees, and you're having to sleep on the ground," he recounted. "And then when spring comes and things start melting and thawing out, you realize that you've been laying on anti-personnel mines that have been planted all over the field." While luckily none of the mines detonated, McCoy explained that he was acutely aware of the malevolence surrounding him, noting how some individuals would plant anti-personnel mines in their neighbors' yards. "There was one time a guy was cutting his yard with a

sickle because they don't have lawn mowers, and his two daughters were watching him cut the grass, and he stands on this personnel mine and blows himself up in front of his daughters," McCoy said. "So, you have to sit there, and then you have to try to somehow console the daughters, while trying to get to the guy, but you can't just run over there, because you don't know if you're going to stand on the land mine, so you have to probe in the ground to see if there's any other land mines, just to get to this guy ... It's just crazy things." McCoy explained that another eye-opening experience was when his team crossed the Sava River, as they were tasked with monitoring the zone of separation that divided Serbia from its neighbors. During missions in local towns, they often found signs of life — televisions still on, food left on tables — but no people. "It looked like there was life here just moments ago, but no one's there. The whole town is a ghost town," McCoy explained. "At this point, you realize, 'OK, we're actually late, and everybody's been rounded up.' Over there, there was tons of mass grave sites, so that's where they were or they

were murdered and dumped in caves." McCoy described the situation as a modern echo of historical atrocities, likening it to the actions of Nazi Germany dictator, Adolf Hitler, where people were targeted and rounded up due to their religion or ethnicity. "It's crazy," he said. "You think, 'How is this possible? How is this happening?' But it happens. It still happens to this day — you just don't know about it." While the military definitely had its challenges, McCoy notes that there were some good times as well — particularly the strong camaraderie among service members. "Everybody has a job, right? Everybody knows their position, not like on the civilian side, where it's just kind of how everybody's out for themselves," he said. "You have a reason when you're in the military to cover your battle buddies' back to make sure that they stay alive. I'm responsible for this person, he's responsible for me, and we're responsible for a team. It's all a team effort, and that's going to be something I'm going to miss — the camaraderie and the bond that we have as a group of guys that essentially become a family."



Army Veteran Steve McCoy has spent 22 years serving in the military, with 14 of them serving as a drill sergeant. McCoy is pictured with his wife of 31 years, Leigh Ann McCoy, who currently serves as Hood County's treasurer.

McCoy has served a total of 22 years in the military, beginning with the delayed entry program in 1992. After an active-duty stint that ended in 2000, he took a break from service but returned in 2009 to join the reserves. Since graduating from drill sergeant academy in 2010, he has dedicated himself to training soldiers — marking 14 years as a drill instructor. "It is something that you

sign up to do," McCoy said, regarding the military. "We all have our own demons. I had gotten out because it was weighing on me, and so you let yourself get out to work on your issues, and you fix them. But then you find yourself sitting around thinking, 'I didn't finish what I started.'" McCoy said he was inspired

PLEASE SEE
McCOY | D12



Harry Whisler
Private First Class
United States Army
1942-1945



William (Dub) Wiggins
Private
United States Army
WWII



Robert Williams
Chief Warrant Officer 4
United States Army
1966-1986



Daniel Wilterding
Radioman 3rd Class
United States Navy
1968-1972



Robert Lewis Wood
Sonar Technician
United States Navy
Vietnam

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From fields to the frontlines

The journey of Diana Vasquez

BY LAUREN DAVIS
Staff Writer
lauren@hcnews.com

Diana Vasquez's life began in the fields of Texas, where she was part of a migrant family of farm workers. Growing up, her family traveled from Texas to Wisconsin and Washington State for work.

"I was born in Texas, but my family did a lot of migrating when I was growing up ... harvesting whatever was in season like asparagus, sugar beets and cucumbers. That was our main source of income," Vasquez recalls. As the youngest of five sisters, her upbringing was steeped in hard work, resilience and challenges.

Schooling was often interrupted by their nomadic lifestyle. "I never stayed in the same school for more than five months," she says.

Vasquez attended school in Wisconsin for half the year and returned to Texas for the other half.

This instability strengthened her desire for a consistent education. "I wanted to stay and finish school with my other friends," she explains. After high school, Vasquez graduated from De Leon High School in Texas, determined to carve out a different path for herself.

Following graduation, Vasquez moved to Georgia, where she felt a calling for

something greater than the traditional life her older sisters were pursuing.

DESIRE TO SERVE

Vasquez always had an innate desire to help others, a quality that set her apart from a young age. "If somebody was struggling, I knew I had to help them," she said. Her mother often shared stories of Vasquez's selflessness, like when she would literally give her shoes to children in need while visiting family in Mexico. "I knew you weren't like the other girls," her mother would say.

From an early age, Vasquez knew she wanted to be more, and it came as no surprise when she later enlisted to serve in the United States military, driven by a calling to make a greater impact.

THE ARMY CALLED

Many of her friends were getting married and starting families, but Vasquez wanted more. "I wanted to assist others and see the world," she reflects. The military offered her that opportunity, promising adventure and the chance to serve.

In 1998, Vasquez made the decision to join the Army. "I wasn't really scared. I've never been the scared type," she states confidently. Her fearless, adventurous spirit was evident; she embraced challenges and sought new experiences like jumping out of planes and bungee jumping.

Once in the Army, Vasquez traveled for deployments to Afghanistan,



COURTESY PHOTOS

Diana Vasquez before deployment to Iraq in 2004.

Iraq and Kuwait. "I actually did get to see the world," she says. Greenland and Iceland were just two places on a long manifest of countries she visited, but her favorite place was Dubai.

She fondly recalls a time in Dubai during her R&R when she enjoyed sand surfing, parasailing and going to the mall. "Despite the uniform, you still want to feel pretty sometimes," Vasquez shares, "So I went to the mall and got myself a makeover."

"Then they asked if I wanted to buy the product." Admiring her reflection in the mirror, she responded, "Yeah, I'll buy everything that y'all put on my face."

"I didn't know the currency translation, and I spent \$800 on makeup!" she laughs, recalling the surprise she had to share with her husband. "I still have all that Mac makeup."

FROM MECHANIC TO CRYPTO LINGUIST

Vasquez served in two military occupational specialties. Initially trained as an aviation mechanic, her path shifted dramatically after 9/11. She transitioned to military intelligence, becoming a crypto linguist.

"I had a top-secret clearance," she explains, reflecting on the gravity of her responsibilities. "We did a lot of collection and jamming of types of communications

they had — like push-to-talk radio communication. My job was to collect and jam whatever was being said."

Working with an interpreter who would translate communication, Vasquez and her team deciphered whether a situation was urgent and required dispersing or if it was nonthreatening.

Throughout her 10 years of service, Vasquez faced the realities of combat, albeit indirectly. While she never shot directly at anyone, her role in intelligence was crucial in identifying threats and guiding operations.

"We worked closely with special forces, providing

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Diana Vasquez, 2022.



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VASQUEZ

FROM PAGE D11

them with the information they needed to carry out missions," she said. Witnessing these operations from a distance was both thrilling and devastating. "It was really tough for me," Vasquez admits, grappling with the death she saw.

Vasquez's experiences in the military were not without their emotional toll. "I know that in spite of the bad guys being as bad as they were, they still had someone out there — a mother, a father, a family," she reflects thoughtfully.

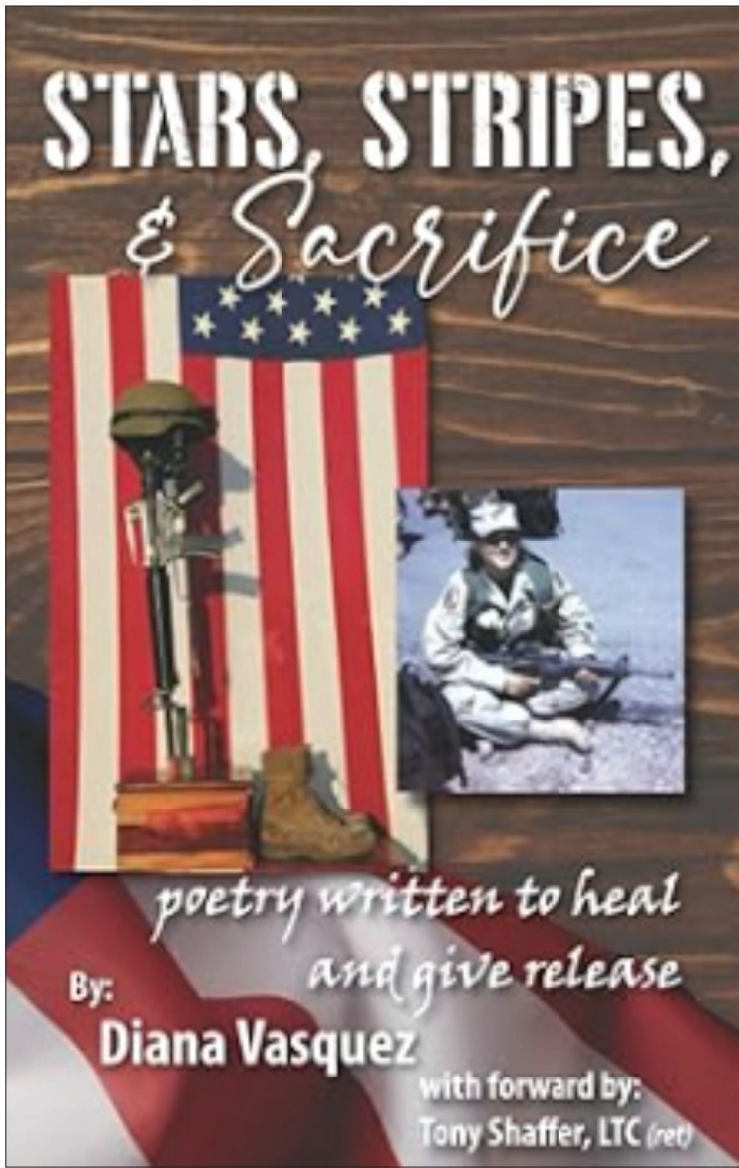
The burden of making life-and-death decisions weighed heavily on her. Yet, for all the challenges she faced, Vasquez looks back on her military career with pride. "I have no regrets — no remorse," she states firmly. Her adventurous spirit and desire to help others defined her journey from the fields of Texas to the frontlines of military service. "Despite all my injuries," she says, "I've had 51 surgeries from head to toe... it's all worth it."

Today, as she reflects on her path, Vasquez embodies the strength and resilience of a woman who has not only served her country but has also inspired those around her, particularly her nieces and nephews, showing them that there is more to life than what meets the eye.

Vasquez revealed the challenges she faced as a female soldier and the trauma she endured. "As a female, it's almost like double trouble." She explained that the dangers didn't just come from the enemy but also from within her own unit.

She discussed the issue of military sexual abuse, stating, "There is a lot of military sexual trauma that happens to females that goes unspoken." Vasquez courageously spoke up about her experience with a Marine non-commissioned officer who tried to undermine her.

"He was a higher rank," she shared, "I spoke up, and he tried to get me in so much trouble... I wasn't going to be a victim." Thankfully, she had a supportive chain of command that believed in her and recognized her char-



Diana Vasquez's book *Stars, Stripes, and Sacrifice*, published in 2022, is a collection of her thoughts that tell the story of her military experience.

COURTESY PHOTO

acter and integrity.

"They knew that I was married and wasn't one of those that would mess around or lie," she said. The support she received from her superiors during that tough time was validating.

However, Vasquez pointed out that the abuse challenges were not limited to interactions with male soldiers. "You have to look out for your male counterparts. But try being sexually harassed by a female." This added complexity made it hard for her to determine whom she could trust. "You're danged if you do and danged if you don't," she said.

Vasquez's story is one of resilience in the face of adversity. Her

commitment to raising awareness about sexual trauma in the military is a crucial part of her narrative. Through her advocacy, she aims to bring about positive change for future generations of service members.

BE THE CHANGE

Vasquez also reflected on how her military experience changed her. She mentioned, "You kind of lose a part of yourself in the service," and acknowledged that while she may never return to the person she was before, she aims to be a better version of herself. Vasquez stressed the importance of personal growth, stating, "If you want to see a change, you've got to be the

change."

Vasquez has been proactive in creating support systems for veterans, particularly women. She initiated a nonprofit 501(c)(3) called Stars, Stripes, and Sacrifice, which includes an annual backpack drive for homeless veterans.

Each backpack is filled with essential items and serves as a reminder of kindness and support. Vasquez explained, "Everybody deserves a blessing. Whether you served or not, you're still an American, and you shouldn't be going without," she says.

Reflecting on the broader community of veterans, Vasquez spoke about the friendships she built during her service, noting, "I am still friends with 80% of the people that I served with." These relationships formed a strong bond of camaraderie and loyalty, which she holds dear.

"The ones who deserve the recognition are the ones who didn't make it home," Vasquez says. The pride in her service shines through as she shares, "It was an honor for me to serve. I think the American people are worth it."

The Stars, Stripes, and Sacrifice Fundraiser dinner is Nov. 9 at Tacote Mexican restaurant in Glen Rose from 4-10 p.m. There will be food, games, prizes and a silent auction benefiting the organization. Items being raffled off are a 2024 Polaris 4-wheeler, for which 200 tickets will be sold for \$50 each, and a Kott 125 Dirtbike, with 100 tickets for sale at \$25 each.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 254-979-6359, visit Stars Stripes and Sacrifice on Facebook at <https://m.facebook.com/SgtDianaVasquez>, or the website: Stars, Stripes & Sacrifice or scan the QR code below to purchase on Amazon.



McCOY

FROM PAGE D10

to return to the military service because he recognized a lack of discipline among some younger service members, both active and veteran.

"Instead of just complaining about it, I decided the only way I could try to make a difference is to go and become a drill sergeant," he said. "I have been training troops for the last 14 years to try to instill the old-school method of discipline and train them the proper way."

McCoy explained that his job as a drill sergeant isn't just about yelling; it's often a strategy to capture attention. He explained that while his earlier approach as a drill sergeant relied on traditional methods of discipline, he learned over time that this particular age group of kids nowadays, once you start yelling at them, they get this glazed look over their face, and now, they're not hearing anything. You have to get their attention other ways, because they'll just tune you out."

While one common misconception about the military is that soldiers are always engaged in combat, McCoy emphasized that many people are also unaware of the vast array of jobs within the military. While some may think all military personnel are combat-focused, he pointed out that only certain roles, like infantry or special forces, are directly involved in fighting.

"They don't understand the supporting MOS's like cooks, the supply sergeants, or the mechanics," he explained. "Those job titles have certain skills that the government has spent thousands and thousands of dollars on these guys teaching them how to do these skills to know how to keep the military working; it's not all fighting, and I think that's where people get misunderstood about the military."

Now, after two decades of dedicated service and leadership, McCoy feels it's the right time to embrace the next chapter of his life. At 51, with 22 years of service — and experience leading fellow soldiers — McCoy is ready to retire, as he is currently waiting on orders for when his last day will be.

"It's been a long time coming," he said. "I think under different circumstances I would love to stay in until I'm 60, but I think 22 years is plenty of time."

McCoy is currently employed full time as a project manager for James Kate Roofing & Solar in Granbury — a position he described as being "the best job" he's ever held. He has been married to his wife, Leigh Ann, who serves as Hood County's treasurer, for 31 years. Together, they have three children — Tiffany, Destine, and Chase — and eight grandchildren.

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