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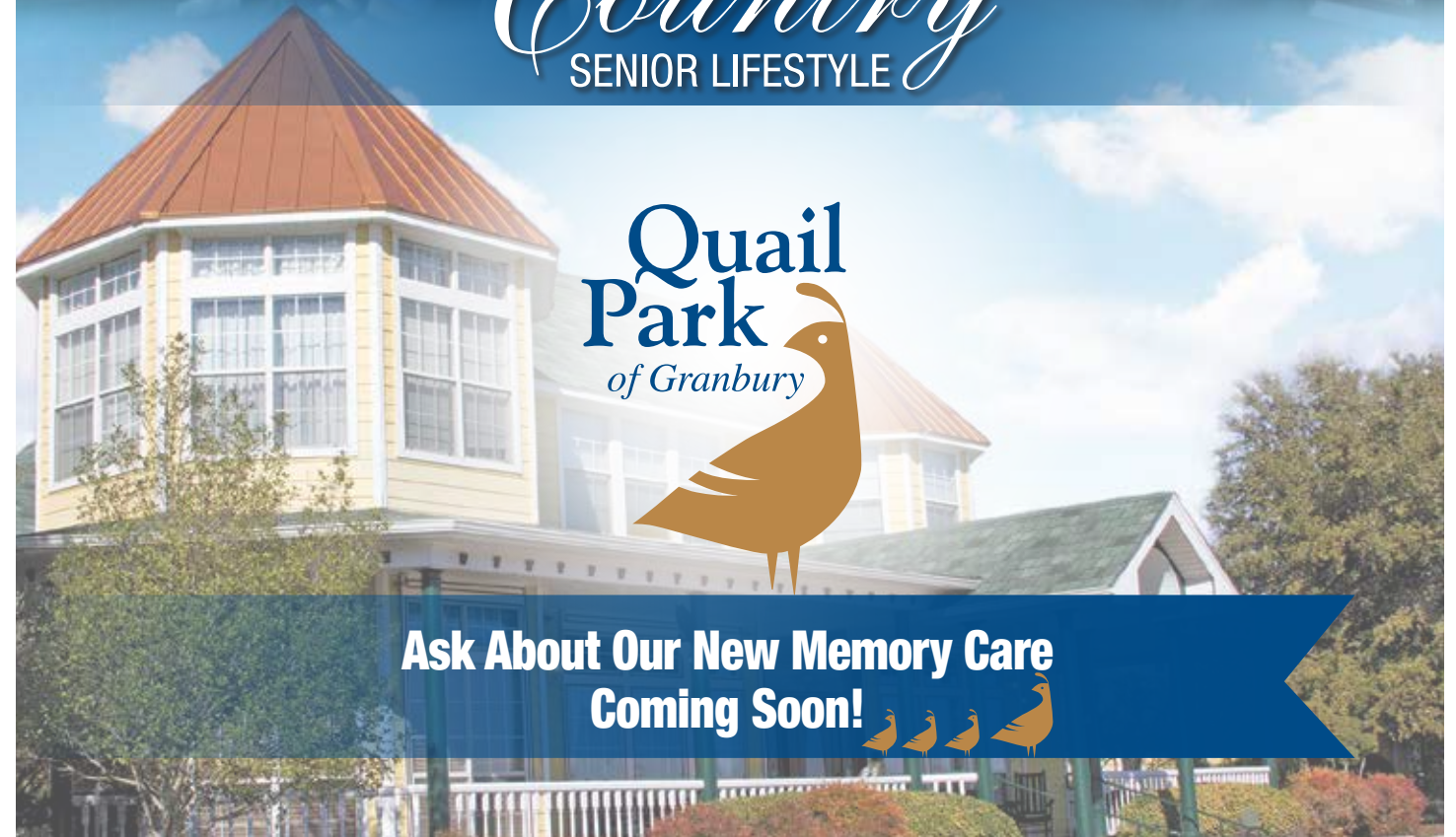
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FROM THE PUBLISHER



THE SMALL STUFF.

I was excited to get started on this issue upon finalizing article ideas. I hold a special interest in each article and found them to be a reflection of a community that is diverse and unique. The subjects and the people that fill this magazine tend to fly under the radar and as a result, get little recognition for greatness. It is exciting to have the opportunity to shine a light on them.

From recycled bicycles to hard working honeybees, these are the small things that make a big difference in our community. By ourselves, our contribution may be small, but by teaming together we can make an impact much greater than we could ever imagine.

With this summer issue, I am once again inspired. I hope that the words and photos from this magazine will be greater than the seemingly small contribution of these pages and the knowledge will find it's way into your lives in a positive way.

Thank you so much to our writers, photographers, designers, and enVision team for having a passion for the things you do. This is a beautiful production and all your combined efforts are appreciated down to the tiniest detail. It makes you great!

Wishing you many blessings,

Amy Wade Winters

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THE KEEPER OF BEES

By Martha Helton | Photography by Stevo Torres

“There is no other field of animal husbandry like beekeeping. It has the appeal to the scientist, the nature lover, and even (or especially) the philosopher”

— *unknown*

It’s a rare human, crazy enough to overlook stinging pain to derive pleasure in being a keeper of God’s more “prickly,” yet essential and truly fascinating creatures. Chip Hough and Lee Borough, hobbyist beekeepers and core members of Glen Rose’s Dino-Bee Club, are two of the rare ones who willingly walk into the mysterious life of bees.

While researching bees, I discovered that beekeeping has evolved over time. Ancient cave drawings depict the use of smoke to chase away bees so people could retrieve their precious honey. Fairly recent archaeological evidence uncovered thirty intact straw and clay beehives traced to the mid 10th century in Israel. Pilgrims brought the first honeybees to America in the 1600s and by the 1850s, honeybees had spread to California.



“Honey is the flower transmuted, its scent and beauty transformed into aroma and taste.”

- Stephanie Rosenbaum

My curiosity piqued, I drove to Chip Hough’s home for an up-close introduction to local beekeepers and their bees. A text from Chip directed me to wear long pants, thick socks and closed toe shoes--and to avoid wearing black because bees don’t like black.

I certainly didn’t wear black! Lee Borough joined us. Chip, an upbeat, retired pilot greeted me at the front door and led me to the kitchen where he and Lee eagerly talked to me about bees. “Why beekeeping?” I asked.

“It’s hard to put into words,” Lee, a retired military pilot, began. “Years ago, my brother bought some beehives and said, ‘Lee, you ought to do this.’ So in the ‘70s I bought two hives. To have this super organism in front of my eyes and watch how it’s progressing is a thrilling challenge to me.” His face brightened as he shared.

Chip elaborated on his thoughts. “My initial thoughts were that it would be a fun thing to do as well as vitally important to the world,” he explained.

“I talked to Lee and my interest was definitely sparked. He let me buy some of his bees, splitting a mature hive.”

Soon the two beekeepers ushered me to the garage, where we suited up in white bee jackets with attached veils and gloves. We walked to the

back of Chip’s spacious backyard toward several pastel-colored boxes. Bees buzzed in and out of small openings.

Then Chip pumped the hand held smoker toward the beehive to calm them. He carefully pulled a hive frame out of a box, teeming with bees. I watched, mesmerized.

“There’s the queen bee,” Chip said, pointing to the bigger bee. “I painted her back blue so I could observe her easily. When I started beekeeping, Lee told me whatever your queen is genetically, that’s going to drive what you have in the hive. Gentle bees produce gentle bees and aggressive bees produce aggressive bees. I chose a queen that was bred more disease resistant than the gentle, Italian bees. They are a bit testier, but I’m willing to put up with that.” He continued, “I have to monitor to see if my neighbors will put up with it. After all, neighbors are the first people you want to give honey to,” said Chip, smiling through his bee veil.

“In some cases an aggressive queen needs to be killed and replaced by a gentle bee. I keep an extra queen bee just in case that happens. You can also buy bees online--yes, the U.S. postal service will transport bees.”

Chip briefly left and asked Lee to hold the bee-filled frame. Lee gently took it from Chip’s gloved hand into

“When bees thrive, we all thrive.”

his BARE hands. The bees crawled over his fingers. Astonished, I watched this intermingling between man and insect. Unnerved a bit, I asked, “I heard bee venom diminishes arthritis pain. Is that true for you?”

“It helps,” he said. “There’s no question about it.” He went on to explain that honeybees are crucial to the human diet. “A third of what we eat is cross-pollinated by bees,” Chip shared. He continued to share the business of beekeeping, “You have hobbyists and commercial beekeepers. The commercial beekeepers get contracts and might take a couple of thousand bee hives on flatbed trucks out to farmers. Then, they pack up and go to other places. Those are the bees that are really getting hurt. As hobbyists we don’t stress the bees and we don’t expose them to pesticides. Although, we’re not immune to bad things happening, it’s much more manageable.”

The bee’s delicious honey is harvested two times a year. Chip explained the honey-making process: “Nectar goes into the bee’s gut, a storage area that has enzymes that turns it into honey. Inside the hive they’ll lick each other’s tongues and work it and dehydrate it, then deposit it into a honeycomb. Isn’t that cool?” Chip flashed me a boyish, enthusiastic grin.

Cool? Made in an insect’s gut and passed from tongue to tongue? I nodded yes anyway, as Lee explained the different tastes and wonderful aromas the honey can have. It depends on the nectar gathered within the three mile radius a honeybee travels.

“I have experienced unbelievable fragrances on the day of honey extraction,” said Lee, closing his eyes. “It’s heaven. With raw, unfiltered honey, you keep as much of the original flavor as possible.”

“Lee got 11 gallons of honey from one mature hive,”

said Chip. “Last year was my first year, so I didn’t expect much honey from my bees. They have to be able to get their numbers up. It’s a growing process. After you’ve wintered a hive, there’s a great opportunity to have more honey. I got eight-and-a-half gallons last year—out of five hives.”

Back at Chip’s breakfast table, he pulled out a jar of his honey. He gave me a taste test: a store brand verses his. Chip’s honey, although thinner than the store brand, tasted sweeter. The store bought honey was thick like corn syrup, but tasted, just okay.

A helpful investment for Lee and Chip is the Dino-Bee Club. It helps “to get smarter about bees,” Lee said. Mentoring, education and problem-solving occur at each monthly meeting. The club offers bee extractions to surrounding residents at reasonable rates. “None of us are getting rich doing this,” observed Lee. “Bee removal is a particularly nasty business. You get stung.”

About 60-80 percent of wild swarms fail, so the beekeeper/bee relationship is usually a win/win situation. “However, beekeeping is a big commitment dollar-wise (approximately \$1,000 start up) and time-wise,” Lee said. “You need an hour or so, minimum each week to oversee the bees, checking for mites or viruses, monitoring honey levels for their winter feeding, or other problems.”

“I’ll tell my wife that I’m just going to check on the bees. Later I look at my phone and I’ve been out here 45 minutes,” added Chip.

“Some people meditate,” Lee added in his gentle voice that could soothe any bee—or human for that matter. “Well, we go into bee time,” he chuckled. “Can you believe two grown men are so excited about these silly animals?”

www.dino-bee.com



WINE WALK SIP & SAVOR VIP EVENT

This year was the 6th annual Granbury Wine Walk Sip + Savor event. Due to inclement weather, the Granbury Resort Conference Center graciously hosted celebrity chefs sampling savory hors d'oeuvres paired with regional wines. Cheers!

Photography courtesy of Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography



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CAMP EL TESORO



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CAMP OUT

by Melissa Wren Tipton
photography by Dawn Skinner

Camp El Tesoro is a breath of fresh air for adults and kids alike. It's a beautiful and safe place to step away from the hustle and bustle of our busy lives and get back to the roots of nature. Located in Granbury, Texas where Fall Creek empties into the Brazos River, this breath-taking 223-acre facility is a destination like no other. Since it opened in 1934, it's been a multi-use and multi-generational place where families and kids return, year after year. Some first attended Camp El Tesoro in grade school and are now on the professional and passionate staff. This speaks volumes to the integrity the staff maintains.



EVERYTHING THAT CAMP EL TESORO OFFERS, SUPPORTS OUR MISSION TO HAVE A CONNECTION WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AND PROVIDE A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN GET INVOLVED ON SOME LEVEL, SHAPE OR FORM.



“It’s really important for us to be part of our community at large,” said Lisa Cook, the Vice President of Outdoor Programs. “Everything that Camp El Tesoro offers, supports our mission to have a connection with our neighbors and provide a place where they can get involved on some level, shape or form.”

For the first time this fall, Camp El Tesoro is joining forces with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff to host the “Becoming An Outdoors-Woman Workshop” (BOW). These courses are offered throughout Texas during the year, but the weekend of October 16-18th, it will be in Granbury’s own backyard. Women ages 18 and older will gain confidence and skill in outdoor activities and will have an opportunity to bond with new friends who have similar interests.

The goal of BOW is to “provide an atmosphere where women feel comfortable learning new skills associated with hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities, in a supportive and non-threatening environment.” The weekend will have about 13 classes offered, including: shooting sports, fishing, boating, kayaking, bird watching, astronomy, camping, backpacking, survival and identifying different plants.

Long gone are the days, it seems, where children spent their free time discovering the value of being outdoors



and playing with things other than technology. How did people ever survive without the use and distraction of games, texting, and social media on cell phones, tablets and laptops? B.T. (Before Technology), people actually spent time together face-to-face and enjoyed the earth’s resources. What ever happened to making mud pies, collecting fossils, exploring the woods, finding trails that lead to magnificent views, exercise or the pure joy of discovery? Now there is an opportunity to recapture those youthful luxuries by hitting the happy trail of togetherness at Camp El Tesoro.

“One of the things that makes us unique is our goal to give kids and families the alternative to have a good time not using electronics and connecting people to nature,” Lisa said.

The grounds are versatile with modern day cabins to rustic, or open-air bungalows to event facilities. It’s an adventurous escape that accommodates single families or large organizations. Some of the fun consists of: creek-walking, team building initiative games, a high and low ropes challenge course, nature and hiking trails, canoeing, archery, fossil hunts, swimming, archery, horseback riding, basketball, volleyball, softball, and

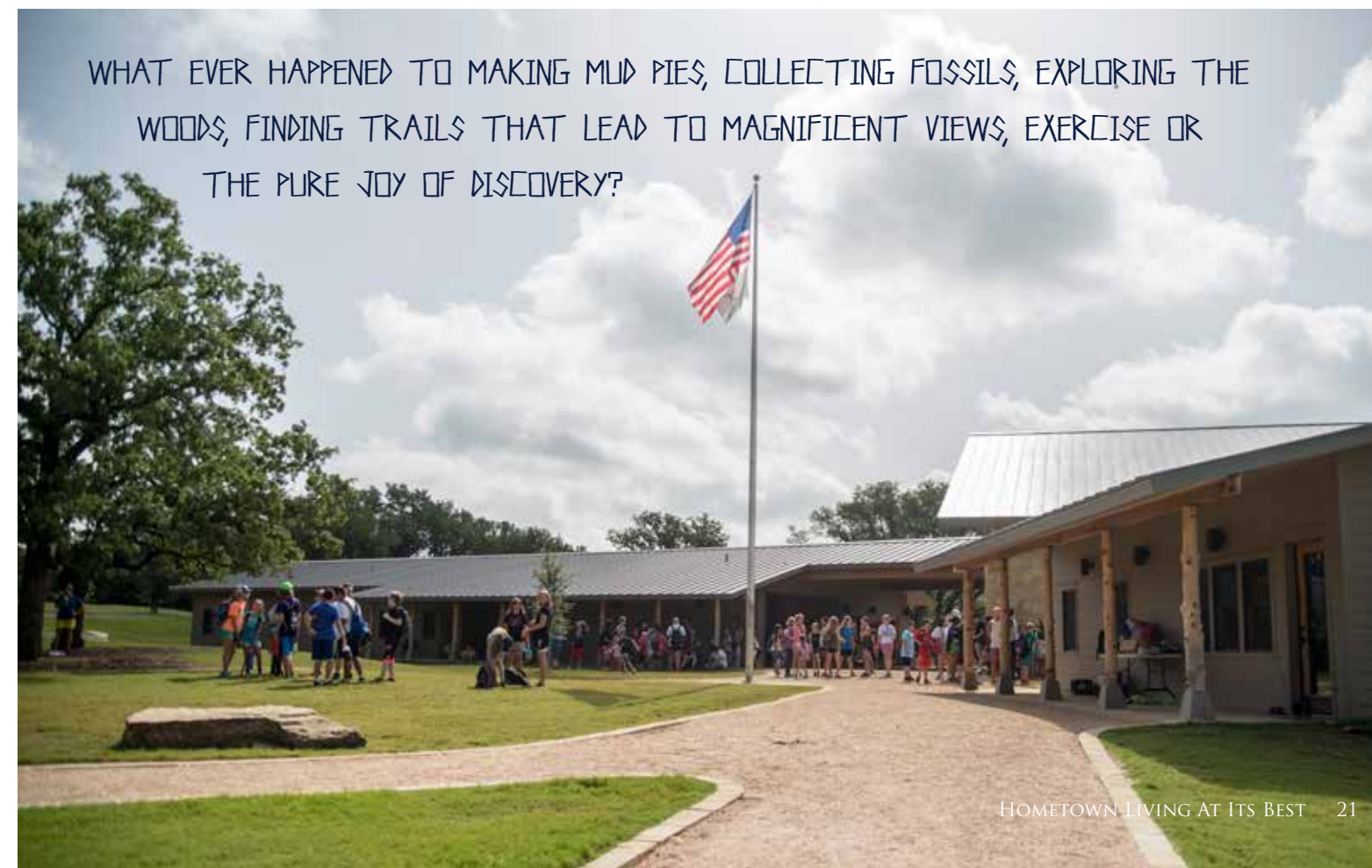
more, depending on the type of program chosen. Many of the visitors come from Hood County, as well as all over North Texas, and some come from out of state.

“Any program that works to support outdoor education and bring students closer to understanding the natural world is a benefit to the community,” said Adam Flores, the principal of the Manara Academy of Irving. “The majority of our students do not frequent the outdoors, and so the memorable times they had at Camp El Tesoro were something they carry with them forever. Students and staff who attend, return feeling more connected with one another. The teambuilding activities incorporate all elements of our school’s character traits: perseverance, compassion, collaboration, responsibility, and gratitude.”

Adam complimented the staff at Camp El Tesoro, confirming that they are dedicated to their work, love children, respond well to the needs of the community, and never quit.

Another fall camping event that only happens one time a year is October 23-25th for families of all ages. Children under the age of five are free. Then, on December 5th, 2015, the camp hosts a free event called Breakfast

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO MAKING MUD PIES, COLLECTING FOSSILS, EXPLORING THE WOODS, FINDING TRAILS THAT LEAD TO MAGNIFICENT VIEWS, EXERCISE OR THE PURE JOY OF DISCOVERY?





With Santa. Kids can meet Santa and his helpers, get a free photo with him, do holiday crafts, a hayride and caroling. Breakfast can be purchased.

One of the great benefits for young students through high school is the outdoor education that's available. In 2010, Camp Fire First, who owns the campgrounds, embarked on a Capital Campaign to rejuvenate the facilities so that generations to come can experience school readiness and outdoor education, in addition to traditional camping.

"There is a tremendous number of learning opportunities for students in the Outdoor Education programs," said Jimmy Dawson, the principal at Acton Middle School. "Our students experienced a fun and interactive way to learn science with hands-on activities and professional leaders guiding the way. The learning ties in very well with our state requirements, which benefits our teachers, students, and aligns with our scope and sequence."

This program is offered throughout the school year to public and private schools in North Texas for youth starting in pre-kindergarten through high school. Granbury ISD, as well as groups of students from Saginaw, Keller, and Fort Worth have attended in the past. What makes Camp El Tesoro stand out, is the meaningful and stimulating outdoor laboratory for real-life encounters with the environment that reinforces scientific classroom concepts, as well as lessons aligned with TEKS and STARR requirements. This helps to initiate environmental awareness so kids can grow up and be responsible for the future of the planet, as well as see relevant examples of what teachers are educating youth currently. To assist, the curriculum can be tailored for specific test objectives.

"Over the past decade, there has been growing concern regarding children's disconnect with nature," Adam said. "Children and youth are spending significantly less time outdoors due to their changing social environment, which is impacting their cognitive, emotional and psychological development, resulting in nature-deficit disorder. Any school hoping to develop life-long learners has to make a concerted effort to incorporate hands-on learning into its philosophy of how students learn best."

Some of the concepts demonstrated are about birds, trees and wildflower identification, fossils studies, astronomy, erosion, insects, animal habitats, aquatic and conservation studies, nature scavenger hunts, night sensory hikes, compass, geocaching and more.

Summer day camps run for eight weeks and sell out quickly when registration opens in September the year prior.

"We are giving kids a safe place to be outside in the summer, get unplugged for the day, have fun with peers, and gain a new set of skills," Lisa said.

For horse lovers in the 4th through 10th grade, there is an equestrian overnight camp. Children, ages 6-17, can attend a grief camp that helps them learn how to deal with loss. Certified professional counselors provide support, but 90 percent of the time consists of traditional camping activities.

The campground offers a wide range of well-rounded explorations coupled with never-forgettable experiences and new skills. Each personal journey at Camp El Tesoro is guaranteed to last a lifetime.



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COMANCHE PEAK & COVELLE

Legend & Legacy

BY PEGGY PURSER FREEMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KRISTI WOODS

The winds over Comanche Peak swirled with Native American ceremonial pipe smoke. Echoes of the warrior's cry drifted 600 feet above the lush green valley of the Brazos River. Covelle Jones, Hood County's renown western sculptor, lifted the ashes of his long time friend, Blackstar Whitewolf, Comanche Spirit Woman. Here on this "Place of the Spirits" smoke once again rose, as it did in the past when the caves along the face of the mountain were a place for healing ceremonies. Covelle lifted his hands and released Blackstar into the arms of the Great Spirit. Her ashes floated above the Peak and settled along with her hope that this place remains set apart, undisturbed.

Today, Covelle the artist works tirelessly, not for his own glory, but for that of Blackstar and the spiritual oasis known as Comanche Peak—"Que-Tah-To-Yah." He remains determined to carve out the story, so the Comanche will not be forgotten. Covelle's journey—from his birth place of Freemont, Texas has indeed, been blessed by the Great Grandfather of us all. In the shadow of Chalk Mountain where Covelle spent his formative years, his art was born in self reliance.



He recalls that life when there were no baby sitters and an abundance of hard times:

“I stayed by myself while they worked. I drew stuff, horses and airplanes and then more horses and planes shooting each other in grand dogfights. As I grew up and attended Stephenville Public Schools, I took up basketball and got a scholarship to Tarleton State. In hopes of keeping me eligible to play, a coach signed me up for every Physical Education class and then asked what else I could do. I said, ‘I can draw.’ He added art classes.”

Covelle finished his studies at Tarleton (a two year school at the time) and earned his degree at North Texas State. To avoid losing credit, he achieved a dual degree in Secondary Education and Art. This is when Covelle found his true passions.

“I was offered a position in Hobbs, New Mexico teaching PE, Health, Driver’s Education and coaching. The day before I arrived, the art teacher up and took off. They only had three sections of students signed up for art, but someone had to teach those classes and I was the only one certified. Looking back I know that was the part of my life I loved the most. I built the art department up so much, they took me out of PE. I taught there 15 years and had a lot of students who won scholarships. You never forget teaching. It’s a real ride. I still get so many calls from my students from back in the 60s. They tell me about the bets they make with their classmates on whether I’m alive or dead of old age. I loved teaching, but even with a Master Degree, I could only make \$10,000 a year.”

In the 60s and 70s, Western Art rode onto the art scene and tickled Covelle’s creative itch. “I didn’t like painting. I tried it, but when I finished a piece I wanted to see the other side. Sculpting filled my three-dimensional need. Learning how was the problem. There were few sculptors and even fewer willing to

share their knowledge. I went to the libraries and found anything I could on sculpting. Because of friends, I had my first show,” Covelle explained. “I made more money on that show than I did in an entire year of teaching.”

Along with a spectacular career, Covelle has created a legacy. He has earned numerous awards and honors including a lifetime membership in the NFL Hall of Fame, Official Artist of the state of Texas, Official Artist of the Texas Law Enforcement Association, West Texas Chamber of Commerce Cultural Achievement Award,

as well as commissions, which include works for the University of Texas at Austin, Tarleton State University, the Texas Rangers Law Enforcement Association and a number of others. His sculptures are part of the collections at the Alamo, The White House, and more. His art has made it to Japan as well as the USSR and is owned by public figures such as actor, George Kennedy, Quarterback, Danny White, Speaker of the House Gib Lewis, and Governor Bill Clements.

Recently Covelle completed the awe-inspiring monument titled “Comanche Land,” depicting Chief Horse Back, or “Tirhayaquahip.” Chief Horse Back signed the 1867 Medicine Lodge Treaty and was arguably the last “elected or appointed Chief of the Comanche people.” Covelle’s magnificent sculpture

captures the nobility and spirit of the people, and the famous Comanche diplomat as the guardian of the sacred mountain. Covelle recalls this as the project that began with friendships.

“Blackstar and I hit it off the first time we met. She would come to the Peak for the annual spiritual journey,” Covelle said. He and a few of his friends shared Blackstar’s anxiety about the Peak being sold for apartment development. Fort Worth businessman, Ken



He remains determined to carve out the story, so the Comanche will not be forgotten.



Hill, heard about the possibility and was determined to save the Comanche's sacred mount. Hill succeeded and commissioned a bronze from Covelle for his property on the Peak.

For both accuracy and inspiration, Covelle met with Blackstar on details of Chief Horse Back and describes it as this: "Blackstar related her vision to me. She said, 'I see him on a horse—beautiful and strong—coming down the Peak.' Horse Back in full battle dress, riding out in front of the other braves, holding his spear over his head and screaming at the enemy, protecting the mountain. Blackstar also insisted I stay true to historic facts. This warrior would be only in loin cloth. I wanted his hair moving, motion to get the viewer's eye to follow the flow back into the sculpture. Blackstar explained that in combat the Comanche warrior's hair would be tied in a braid where nothing would interfere with his fighting." Blackstar worked with Covelle for hours perfecting each detail of the monument.

"I was glad she got to see the clay sculpture before she passed away," Covelle added. Ken Hill's commissioned bronze was placed at the Peak. "I saw a second one, a place where the public can see and know the history of

our signature landmark, Comanche Peak, an important historical footprint of our past. Buffalo hunters, travelers, early settlers, and Native Americans spent their life in its shadow."

As Covelle spoke of the second guarding warrior, determination accented his words and soon his passion for the work became evident. "Hoping to fulfill my promise to Blackstar, I paid for the second pouring. It's ready to move." Covelle explained.

Granbury Patrons of Public Art headed by Barbara Boozer is raising funds to place the second bronze monument on the southeast corner of the Hood County Courthouse. People may donate to this endeavor. Donors will have their name on the bronze plaque by the monument in order of donation value.

Chief Horse Back's legend has become Covelle's legacy. And Covelle's dream for a park in Granbury with beautiful monuments, where people can experience their own spiritual journey, is one step closer.

To help with this historic monument contact Granbury Patrons of Public Art, located at 311 N. Blanche Street, Granbury, Texas 76048. The contact email for the project is: covelleproject@gmail.com.





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Lace Up

GRANBURY

BY MARIE VALDEN

PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY ACTON NATURE CENTER, LAKE POINTE ACADEMY AND PALUXY RIVER CAC

As a kid, I played a lot of sports, namely basketball, tennis and softball. They all involved running to one degree or another. I ran track at school for one semester. The moment I slipped on my sneakers my body went into a prime mode, ready to hit the pavement. After the first few laps, I reached a mental zone where nothing that had happened at school mattered. There were no teachers, no bullies and certainly no tests. The scenery went past like a green blur while noises lulled and fell into the rhythm of my breathing and the timing of my shoes hitting the track. Running was my personal time to release tension and refocus my thoughts on what was important. Writing this article has introduced me to a whole new world of people, events and a new language. Phrases like, 5K, 10K, fun run, Ragnar (a team course run) have filled my head with visions of running again myself, someday.



There is a physiological experience that takes place while running. If we are in danger, our brain and body work together to create something called a fight or flight response. This is the process that keeps us alive during moments of imminent danger. The heart races in times of anxiousness or physical activity causing a rush of blood and oxygen that create a need for adrenaline, which in turn enables our bodies to react quickly and to sustain action for however long we need it to. Therefore, while we run, our bodies are acting instinctually. As much of a thrill running can be for our mind and body, it's also natural and safe to do, when done correctly.

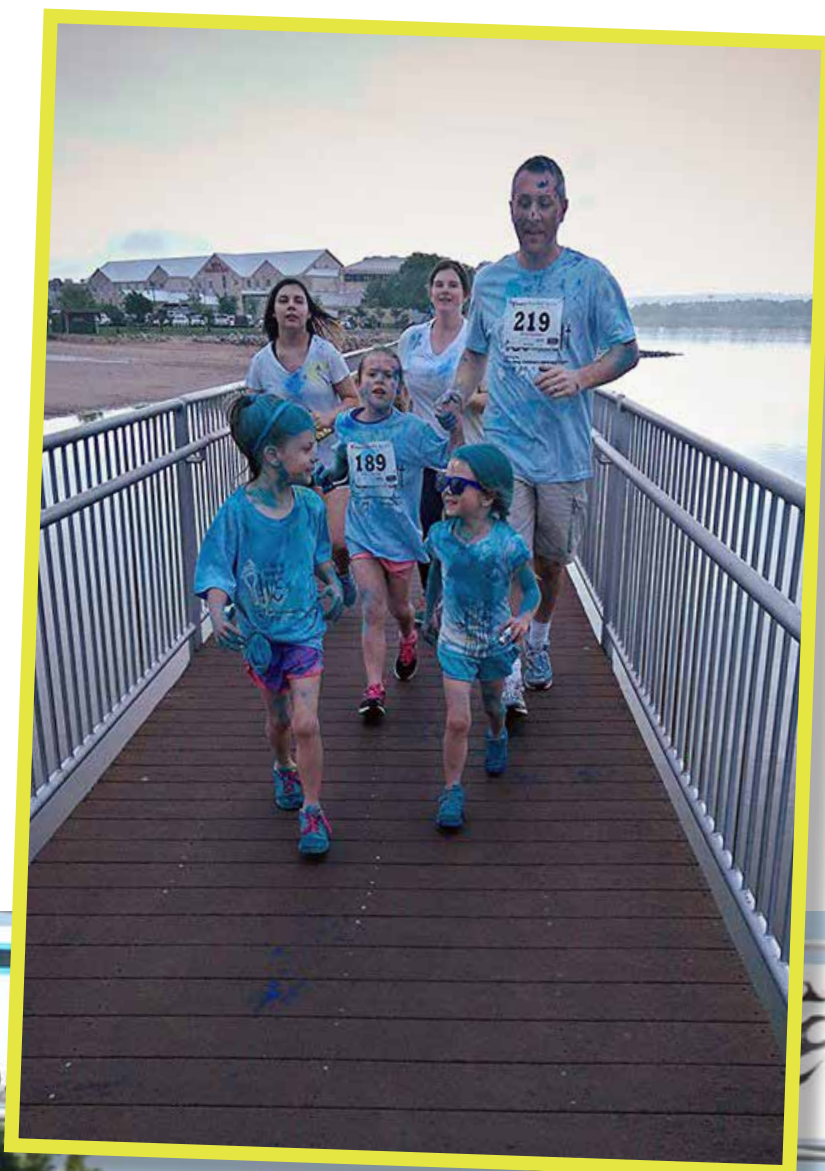
It's not just about tackling the marathon alone anymore. Fun runs are hugely popular because they can include the entire family. In Granbury, running is a family sport. It's a

great way for the family to stay fit, healthy and socially active together. Starting kids early with an aerobic activity, like running, creates life-long healthy benefits that include weight control, improved self-esteem and stress relief to protect against depression. A fun run can incorporate different things like mud, obstacles and the nationally popular color run. The color is made of cornstarch and food coloring, so it is safe. Good to know, because you will inevitably be wearing a ton of it before you reach the finish. Trust me, kids love this stuff!

A few important things I've learned: warm up and stretch thoroughly before you start to run. Cool your body down with light stretches when you are done. Drink plenty of water before,

during and after any activity. Take a water bottle with you so you are sure to stay hydrated. Allow at least two complete rest days per week to avoid over training, which is a common cause of injury. Wear loose and comfortable, cotton clothing. Dress your upper body in layers so you can take off layers as required. And most importantly, buy an appropriate pair of shoes. Properly fitting shoes can prevent injury and make your runs more effective.

Besides the obvious health benefits, companionship is also a good reason to run. Loading one of the many free running apps allows you to plan routes, track your runs and share your progress with a community of runners. Granbury has numerous and varied running paths from paved to trail. When you join a local running club you will find camaraderie and a support system to help with accountability. Theresa Benegalia, owner of



Running Bear Athletics, recently started the Running Bear Running Club. She told me to get started running you need to, "...start slow, wear good shoes and join the run club to learn breathing and pacing techniques to make running more enjoyable." The running club offers store discounts to runners, a shared pace and creates a unified presence at races when everyone shows up in matching t-shirts. Theresa sums it up simply, "...move with purpose."

Planning to take it more seriously? Several online sites recommend that if you are just starting out to start with brisk walking, aim for about 30 minutes per walk then gradually progress to jogging. Increase your jogging time each week, alternating between walking and jogging, as you work your way up to running. This should take at least few months - which gives me time to train for my first 5k in October. I've already started my regimen and it feels amazing.

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by Julie Lyssy | photography by Stevo Torres & provided by Tarleton State University

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Education

Affordable and excellent higher education opportunities exist right here, close to our Lake Granbury home.

My Grandpa freely shared his belief about education, “It used to be that a high school education was enough. You could go far and earn a good living. Not now. Now you need more. You need to invest in your education. It is an investment in yourself and your future.” As it turns out, he was right.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed, for 2014, the unemployment rate averaged 5 percent. For high school graduates, it was 6 percent. When one obtained an associate or bachelor degree, the percentage dropped to 4.5 and 3.5 respectively.

Obtaining “more” in many cases comes down to one’s desire to pursue big dreams, having the determination and perseverance to do what it takes to attain them and, very practically, the affordability in time and finances which make it within reach. Fortunately, affordable,

excellent higher education opportunities exist right here, close to our Lake Granbury home. This delivers on time convenience and relative affordability. Whereas, the big dreams, determination and perseverance comes from within.

If your passion leads you toward the beauty industry, Fort Worth Beauty School on Highway 144 has an education solution available. They offer the full cosmetology curriculum spectrum including hair, nail and skin education.

“Education beyond high school is a must these days,” says Vickie Foster, Director/Floor Instructor of the School. “Cosmetology offers a fairly quick path to a career which is very flexible. If you are dedicated, you can finish in about nine months.”



One recent graduate, Rainna Smiley, shared, “I worked as a caregiver for a while after high school. I just couldn’t see myself doing that when I was 50. It was a job, not a career. I am in my twenties and needed to start a career.” She added, “Hair design always came naturally to me and I enjoy it. I decided if I am going to do something every day for the rest of my life, I want it to be something I enjoy doing and am good at.”

Smiley is now looking forward to building a career with her new skills. Someday, she hopes to open her own salon.

Not everyone’s “ah-ha” moment happens in their twenties. This is the case with another recent local graduate. She however, attended Weatherford College’s Granbury Educational Center (WC-ECG). Currently, they offer a variety of associate degree and certification programs primarily focused on allied health sciences and teaching professions.

A career in healthcare is where Julia Johnson’s dream was destined to take her. Getting there professionally proved to take a bit longer than originally planned, but her fierce determination and perseverance compelled her to meet her goal.

Julia, as a newly minted high school graduate in the 1980s, followed her pre-med dream to the University of

Texas in Arlington. While there, another dream became reality. She married and they, over time, expanded their family to include two children. When dreams began to collide, meeting the needs of her young family meant putting her dream of working in healthcare on hold.

Life ensued as it does, but Julia never abandoned her dream. For many years, she gladly took one job after another to help balance family and work needs. One day she looked around and realized her children were now adults, her husband had his own career, there are no extended family caregiver obligations and she was in a customer service role watching others do the work she had always dreamt would be her career. Finding WC-ECG offers a two-year nursing program, she, at 50 years old and with some trepidation, enrolled.

“I remember going to my first class and thinking someone would say ‘Hey, grandma, you’re in the wrong class,” Johnson shared. “I was pleasantly surprised age wasn’t a factor. We all melded together to learn.”

After two years, and countless hours of studying, Julia’s dream became reality. On May 9, 2015, Valedictorian Julia Johnson accepted her conferred Associate Degree in Nursing.

“If it wasn’t for Weatherford College being so convenient this wouldn’t have been feasible for me. Their

excellent reputation for having a high passing rate on the licensing exam helped me know I was making a wise investment of time and money,” added Johnson. “The other students seeing me as a peer and the wonderful and knowledgeable faculty made this a great experience I would recommend to anyone.”

In Johnson’s case, she had an employment offer from a large hospital before she graduated. Her investment paid off quickly.

An associate degree is enough for some, while only a beginning for others. Even then WC-ECG remains a viable option.

“Many students start here out of high school because Weatherford College offers a great bargain for a student’s educational dollars and has teachers committed to teaching. Their commitment is to student career and academic success, then they transfer to a four-year bachelor program,” explained Dr. David Russell, Associate Dean WC-ECG. “We are aware of the requirements of these programs and are able to help students along their personal path to success.”

Some dreams include a more traditional, live on-campus four-year experience. Not to worry. Tarleton State University (TSU) in nearby Stephenville, may be the answer. To their nearly 12,000 students, they offer more



than 90 degree programs and rank in the bottom 25 percent for tuition and fees among Texas four-year universities.

“What sets us apart from other schools is our culture,” according to Dr. David Weissenburger, Chief of Staff for the President. “We employ a student-focused approach.” Encapsulated in their core values — civility, integrity, traditions, leadership, excellence and service — students manifest academic and character mastery. Like many colleges, they are rich in traditions. The anonymous “Purple Poo” spirit squad makes random appearances at campus activities in their identity hiding garb. Other traditions include a midnight breakfast of purple pancakes, as well as the annual Silver Taps Memorial service to honor those who have passed. TSU provides an academically challenging environment to pursue your dreams. They also offer evening bachelor and master degree programs at their Fort Worth campus.

Mariah Rendiero, a 2013 Granbury High School graduate, chose TSU initially for the reason many students pick one school over another – a scholarship. “They offered me the largest scholarship which will allow me to complete my bachelor degree with no debt,” explained Rendeiro. “Despite it not being my first choice, now that I am here, I love it!” According to Rendeiro, TSU offers her the best of both worlds. She can enjoy a typical college experience, yet still be close enough to home to have lunch with her family. In only two more short years, she is slated to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in petroleum geology.

My Grandpa, a vegetable farmer with no college education challenged each of his six grandchildren to strive to reach our dreams and realize the value education plays in that equation. Personally, I took his sage advice and it has made all the difference. In turn, I challenge you to do the same. With high quality advanced programs so close, convenient and inviting, you owe it to yourself to find out how they can help you turn your dream into reality.

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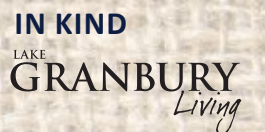
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“ All I want now is a line run between our countries which I want to commence on the Brazos River passing over the **Comanche Peak**—from there . . . in a direct line to the Rio Grande; all above that line is Comanche Country as ever has been—I myself have never left it nor never intend to. ”

—Comanche Chief Old Owl
1844



A MAN OF POSSIBLE DREAMS

by Jan Brand

photography by Shad Ramsey
of Red Door Photography

The citizens of Granbury don't have to look far to find a hero. Tim Trail is an ordinary man, doing extraordinary things.

People often give away what they need most. As a child, Tim sorely needed someone to help him find his way. He quickly learned to be self-reliant, being the son of a work-weary mother trying to give what she had left at the end of a hard day to her seven children. His father was emotionally detached.

By the time Tim was ten, he mowed grass to make money and by the age of 14, he bought old cars to repair and sell; resurrected junkers, a practice that would serve him well in later years.

When Tim graduated from high school at 17, his no-nonsense father gave him a choice to join the military, Tim's choice was which branch. He chose the Marines and went to Vietnam.

After witnessing the senselessness of war and young men being sent home in body bags, Tim questioned whether the country was going in the right direction. He wanted a life that had purpose and meaning, but caring for his young family was a practical necessity. He sidelined his search for answers and bought a full-service gas station. That lasted until people started pumping their own gas.

He went to work for the Tennessee Valley Authority as a licensing engineer, and later for Perry Nuclear Power Plant as a construction engineer. Even though he liked his jobs, he was always searching, feeling there had to be more to life than a paycheck.

By the time Katrina, his eldest daughter and Christy, his youngest, were grown and doing well, he was dismayed to see an army of latchkey kids without anyone to help them. Remembering his painful childhood, he hurt deeply for those who struggled with the same challenges he had as a child.

His endeavor didn't begin as a life goal. One kid asked him to help fix a flat bicycle tire. A short time later, another kid showed up and asked if Tim could fix his lawnmower. One by one, the kids trickled in—all of them in need of something: support, direction, or sometimes just a friend. They would bring their deflated basketballs, or a skateboard with a missing a wheel for Tim to replace. They needed someone who could fill the gap when the parent had no choice but to work and support the family. They certainly didn't want to leave their children alone before and after school, but paying the bills and buying groceries were an absolute necessity.

If compassion is passed down through DNA, Tim must have received a hefty portion from his ancestor William Brewster, a passenger on the Mayflower and religious leader of Plymouth Plantation. Brewster was the confidant and friend of William Bradford, governor of Plymouth from 1621 to 1657.

At Brewster's death, Bradford described him this way: "He was tenderhearted and compassionate of such as were in misery, but especially of such as had been of good estate and rank, and fallen unto want and poverty." I tell you now, Bradford could have been writing about Tim Trail.

Over the years Tim has watched many successes in the kids he's helped. He wasn't striving to be a father figure. He aspired to be a mentor—a life coach—someone who cheered the kids on to be all they could be.

When he realized how many of them skipped breakfast because they were home alone before school, he started providing biscuits and jelly, eggs and milk, sometimes bacon or cereal. Each morning several children came by his house for a meal before school. He reasoned they needed nutrients to focus and learn.



A scrapbook of pictures in his home proudly displays the hundreds of bikes he's restored and given away to kids over the years.





“He aspired to be a mentor—a life coach—someone who cheered the kids on to be all they could be.”

As kids learned how much he cared about them, they started coming by after school to use the computer or do a chore to earn a little spending money. That prompted Tim to keep the cabinets full of snacks and the freezer stocked with pizza and ice cream. The kitchen table was stacked with single-serving packages of treats that a hand could grab on the way to use the computer or settle down on the couch to watch TV.

Tim kept his eye out for bikes left on the trash pile and grabbed those he could repair and give a child who didn't have one. Soon, other people called to tell him where they had seen a throw-away bike. He would drive by and throw the bike in his SUV, which soon transformed his garage into a repair shop. A scrapbook of pictures in his home proudly displays the hundreds of bikes he's restored and

given away to kids over the years. In the hallway hangs his trophies: big frames with countless children's school pictures. Some of the frames have sticky notes thanking him for all he's done for them.

Zane Bishop, 24, has known Tim most of his life. He said, "Tim always encouraged us to reach, to do something no one has done before or to improve on something that has been done." He said it was impossible to know how many bikes Tim has repaired and given away, but it was in the hundreds. When Zane started college he asked Tim if he had a bike he could use to get around Tarleton State University in Stephenville. In no time, Tim came up with a bike he had given away four times and it came back, used a little more, to be given away again. He fixed it like new for Zane. He calls it his

"fifth generation" bike. Fast forward a few years, Zane now holds a degree in Engineering Physics.

Chris Crowder has known Tim since he was ten years old. Tim got a Huffy chopper motorcycle look-alike bicycle and ordered the motor and sprocket to teach Chris how to put it together. Tim looked forward to teaching Chris the mechanics. Chris is currently a successful plumber.

Alexandrea Dickens (she prefers Alex) remembers the time when she found a 1973 Beach Cruiser bike on her front porch on Christmas morning. Tim knew she didn't have one and made sure she did. Like he did with others, he encouraged her dreams to have a music career. He went beyond words, as always. At different times, he gave her a banjo, ukulele, violin and a keyboard. Alex said, "I don't

know anyone as compassionate about helping people. He always says, 'It's all about the little ones.'" Alex is getting ready to cut her first CD.

You might say the kids helped Tim Trail find his purpose—what he's been looking for all along—a life of significance that didn't just mean making money. He gives latchkey kids a safe haven and is there for those who need someone to care; someone to help them believe their dreams were attainable with hard work and a never-give-up attitude. This year, for the fifth summer in a row, none of "his kids" are required do summer school. That's extraordinary success.



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★ ★ ★
THE GREAT
AMERICAN BURGER:

WELL DONE



by Andra Mayberry
photography by Oh Snap! Photography

Most locals know about Grumps - great burgers, great atmosphere and even better parking - and don't forget the witty quips on the marquee. The Grumps formula has simply been to perfect and serve up an American staple, the burger, and present it in a fun and laid-back atmosphere -- period. There are no frills at Grumps; no complications. The only thing that has really changed since the first store was established in 2002 is the addition of three other locations in Stephenville, Cleburne and Burleson. When you walk into the Granbury location, you may notice the t-shirts on the wall and also the ceiling. You may notice the autographed 8" by 10" on the wall of actors or singers or stunt pilots. But the license plate-lined walls, rustic back patio, old warehouse-looking concrete floors and the wood paneling are only aesthetics. Look beyond all that to the faces who oversee, prepare and deliver all those red trays and baskets.





LEADERSHIP

What some folks don't know about this burger mecca, this culinary wonder, this American institution, is the philosophy of its leadership. From the top of the corporate chain, all the way down to the entry-level service employee, you'll find a surprising structure. Co-conspirator, Collier Allbright explains, "The guys who do the day-to-day operation stuff are the heroes, the day-to-day cooks and guest service ladies, those are the people who keep y'all coming back. All we do up here, (at corporate HQ) is help and support them. We are like an inverted org chart where our employees sit at the top and then we are there (at the bottom) to support the employees." With a leadership philosophy like that, it's no wonder the same faces greet us year after year. "Once we get them (employees), we tend to not lose them for a while. We have a very simple company culture. It's to find the right people and plug them in," Collier explains. Some Grumps employees are so good, they are plucked away by other businesses. While this might aggravate some, it's actually a compliment to the Grumps business model.

So what exactly is going on behind those walls? What kind of people make up the Grumps family? "Grumps is a collective thought process and we as a leadership team try to impress that upon our people," Collier says. "We've been fortunate to have a group of long-term people we've promoted from within who understand our culture which is based around a real simple concept -- food, service and atmosphere. We try to be good in those categories every time a person shows up." While the average customer might see a whirlwind of activity, behind the scenes it's a well-oiled machine. Most Grumps employees are under age 30. They vary from local kid-next-door to college graduate. But Grumps management knows it's more than cook a burger and ship it out. In terms of leadership,



"It's kind of what we're charged with, especially with younger people. We tell them what the expectations are and hold them accountable. And young people these days crave discipline and structure. We've found that most respond very well to that. They want the challenge and the responsibility and they just haven't been given it. If we find the right young people in those positions we afford them the opportunity to move up within our company. That's how we built our culture," Collier explains.

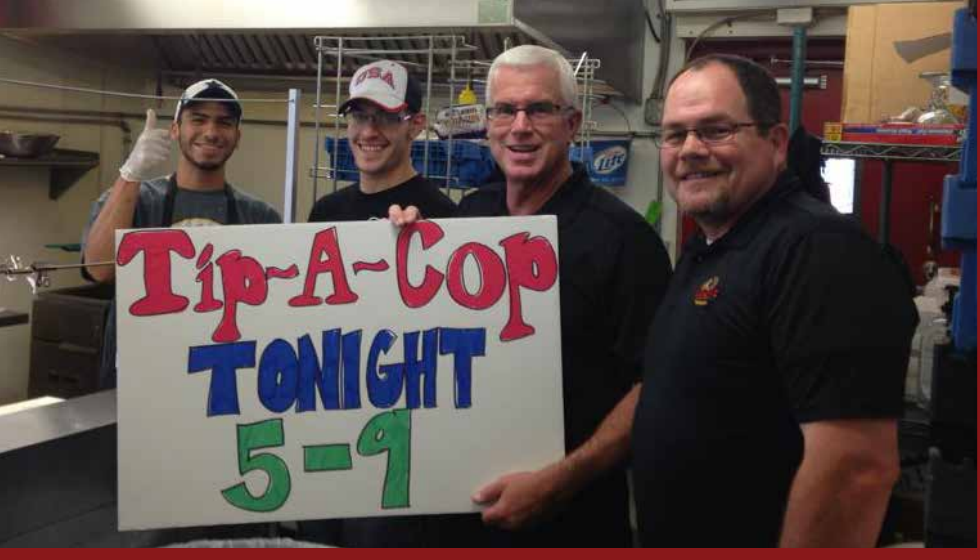
THE EARLY YEARS

When asked how Grumps was born, Collier always gives his standard answer and subsequent laugh. "Grumps was born at a very early age," he quips. Loosely named after his grandad, Gramps, the name seemed fitting for a burger joint. It was the brainchild of a man who suffered through a long-enough stint in corporate America. So why a burger joint for a guy who had zero experience in the restaurant business? "I worked for two Fortune 500 companies, back to back -- consumer electronics and

consumer finance -- and hated it. Hated it!" Collier says. Call it what you will, but we all have it in us to either succumb to the stress or make a change and that's just what happened. Life is better spent chasing your dreams.

Collier spent years going to his choice hangouts in and around his hometown of Fort Worth and observed what seemed to work and what didn't work. Today he uses his iPhone, but years ago he would jot down notes on restaurant napkins when he was out and about and then collect them all at home in a wastebasket. He used these notes to build his big Grumps scheme. "I would add in these pieces of what I liked and what I thought would translate well. So I borrowed concepts from some of my favorite spots and came up with an idea," he explains. "I'd never been in the restaurant business before but my thought was, 'I work all the time anyway. I don't have any hobbies so where would that strength best translate?' And I thought, 'Let's open a restaurant!' I didn't even know what we were gonna cook. I just thought, let's come up with a name." Enter, Grumps Burgers.





But this story isn't about how everything just fell into place. This is about the American Dream which always requires a little bit of struggle. Initially, Collier and his crew had a plan and a contract on a building in Weatherford. But at the last minute, they decided to switch gears and come to Granbury, where the first restaurant still is today on East Highway 377. After several years of note taking, soul searching and head scratching, the plan was ready to execute. So Collier explains, "When we went to the banker he said, 'You have no experience. This is a horrible spot because there's no left exit (onto 377). We're not going to loan you any money.' So I put a second mortgage on my home, cashed in everything I had and just went for it. There was no safety net."

Ask anyone who was involved in that first half year of business and they will tell you it was a harrowing experience. "The first six or seven months were horrible. We didn't know what we were doing," Collier says. There were a few trial runs with close family and friends and even they told him he was crazy. In fact, the now-famous peanut bucket was added at this time because it took the inexperienced crew so long to get tickets turned over. Collier knew he had to get something for people to be occupied with or there would be a revolt.

What we now see is the formation of a team effort. It takes a lot of heads and hearts committed to the success of this place. What Grumps customers can expect is attention to food presentation, price point and a hot and tasty burger. You can also expect a friendly wait staff who greets you when you come in and takes care of you after you're seated but they won't be overbearing. When it comes to the atmosphere, Collier says there is an

expectation for the restaurant to be "clean enough to be healthy and dirty enough to be happy."

GRUMPS AND TIP-A-COP

Grumps has hosted the Tip-A-Cop event in Granbury since 2009. Grumps proudly supports veterans and law enforcement and is honored to give back to those brave men and women who put their lives on the line every day. "I certainly have a deep level of respect for those who serve.

Anyone who's got the guts to walk up to a car and knock on a window at 10:30 at night and not know what's on the other side of that window, has my respect," Collier says. There also have been several other fundraisers to support local law enforcement, including one for the family of slain Hood County Sheriff's Deputy, Sgt. Lance McLean, who was killed in the line of duty on June 29, 2013. During that fundraiser a cowboy hat belonging to Sheriff Roger Deeds was auctioned off for \$1,500.

Collier feels fortunate to operate Grumps in Granbury where he says, "The level of courtesy afforded to law enforcement is better than it is in towns like Fort Worth. We just try to do our part here. It's important to me to show those folks who go out there and put it on the line every day how much we appreciate them. We do it because those men and women do something the average person can't. We depend on them for our safety and I appreciate it. Our military does the same thing. Their job is so immensely difficult -- emotionally, spiritually -- I could not do it. I just respect the heck out of those folks who do it and I am very appreciative, because we need people like that."

COMMITMENT

Loyalty means a great deal to the Grumps family. There are employees working at Grumps who have been there since Day One. Collier says, "Cowboy John, who's our cook in Granbury has been with me since the beginning. I've got people with multiple years. My managers are all five-plus." He does realize having long-standing employees is an anomaly in this industry

-- especially in Granbury where there seems to be a wait staff revolving door. Collier smiles and says, "You know what's cool and what I'm really proud of? We've had people who have left and then come back. Yeah, they move on to greener pastures but then they've missed what we have. That speaks volumes for the in-store management, not us (the corporate administration.)"

The last 13 years have been a testament to the formula his team put in place back in 2002. "It's been quite a challenge. I've been fortunate enough that my business partner (Todd) worked in the manufacturing field and was actually one of my (corporate America) customers. I loved the way he ran operations so I went to him and said, 'I've got a crazy idea. I'm gonna open a hamburger joint and I want you to partner with me on it.' And he said, 'Okay!' I was expecting laughter and hysteria, but he still committed," Collier adds.

Good leaders have vision, ask Collier and he will tell you, "There's a lot of having it in your head. Translating it to actual execution is tough. When we came up with what we were gonna cook, I said 'we are gonna do hamburgers.' Keep it simple. I thought, 'Anyone can make a hamburger.' I was very wrong on that assumption. The first year was very bumpy and we still have challenges we face every day but with Todd handling the operational piece from the get go, he has been instrumental with its success," Collier says. He refuses to take credit for any good fortune at Grumps. Collier consistently praises who he has brought to the table and shifts the focus to them. "Anything we can do to support the people that make it work is what we're all about. I think that translates. I think our employees know we care. I think that's a big deal," he adds.

So the next time you go to a chain restaurant, see if you can feel the same mojo you'd feel at Grumps.

FUN FACTS ABOUT GRUMPS

- In 2013, Grumps sold its 1 millionth burger.
- Grumps goes through a metric ton of peanuts PER MONTH which translates to 3 percent of total food costs. 500 lbs. per week X 4 weeks = 2,000 pounds!
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Photography courtesy of Stevo Torres and Dawn Skinner



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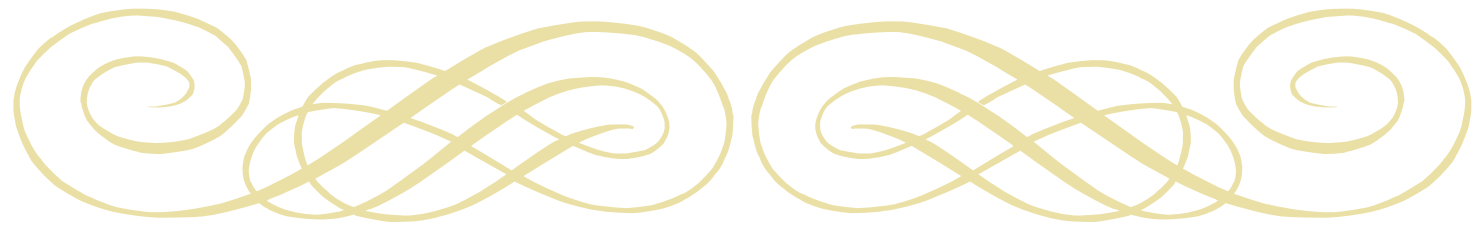
THE OLD SHERIFF'S HOUSE



*If the walls of a house
could tell a story, this
house would have stories
to last a lifetime.*

by Andra Mayberry | photography by Landi Whitefield Photography





The now monolithic Wright-Henderson-Duncan House still stands in its original location on Spring Street here in Granbury, Texas. Originally built on 50-plus acres sometime around or before 1873, it remains as one of Hood County's oldest structures. While the first house built here paled in comparison to the house we see today, the existing home stands as a testament to the resilience of our early settlers.

You've likely driven by this home hundreds of times, picking up the dry cleaning, dropping off kids or heading out of town. What you likely don't realize about this home, one of our many celebrated historic structures, is that it housed three different Hood County Sheriffs at three different times. It was also home to Davy Crockett's great-grandson, D.C. Parks. If the walls of a house could tell a story, this house would have stories to last a lifetime.

The Wright-Henderson-Duncan House is locally landmarked by the City of Granbury. It also carries a Texas state landmark by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and is one of only two homes in the county listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The home was originally built by A.J. Wright as a two-pen dogtrot dwelling, which was typical for that time period and embodied the characteristics of a home from that era. A dogtrot style incorporates an open breezeway or pass-through between two areas of a dwelling that shares a common roof. The dogtrot style was the most sensible style for this area of Texas because its nature allowed the evening breeze to drift through. Traditionally, the dogtrot is situated in the center of the home.

According to historical Hood County records, in 1871 Wright commissioned William Trawick, a locally known stone mason from Missouri, for the construction

of a one-story limestone dogtrot house. Wright was elected the first sheriff of Hood County in 1866, but was not allowed by law to serve as an elected official due to his enlistment and participation with the Confederate Army. He ran again and successfully won the Sheriff's Office in 1873 and served until 1876.

Just five years later in 1881, James F. Henderson purchased the property after Sheriff Wright retired and moved to Coleman County, Texas. Henderson worked his way up from a jailer to a deputy and was finally elected Sheriff of Hood County in 1898. The Henderson family is credited with the most significant additions to the house by essentially doubling the size of the original 1,089 square feet. With five children, the extra space was necessary. So the family constructed a second limestone level, added two rear rooms and two wooden Victorian verandas to the front. According to records obtained by the THC, three of the five Henderson children were born in the house. In short, the Hendersons were a busy family.

In 1910, the Hendersons sold the house and surrounding acreage to P.H. Kennon. This began a long succession of several other owners and renters who, by all accounts, had no interest in properly maintaining the structure. In 1928, Charles M. and Emma Duncan bought the property and made some alterations by adding a windmill and indoor plumbing, wiring the house for electricity and adding stone to the front entrance. The Duncans made great efforts to improve the home, but were only there for a few years before selling it in 1931. The house was again sold and bought by a few more families before the Duncans bought the entire property again in 1940.

While the first house built here paled in comparison to the house we see today, the existing home stands as a testament to the resilience of our early settlers.



However, one subsequent owner had a notable family crest. D.C. Parks, who owned the property from 1938 to 1940, was the great grandson of THE Davy Crockett. Crockett's widow, Elizabeth relocated to Hood County after the State of Texas deeded her a large portion of land here in gratitude of Davy's ultimate sacrifice at the Alamo.

The Duncans re-purchased the property from Parks in 1940 after he served as Hood County Sheriff from 1936 to 1940. The Duncans lived in the home from 1940 until Emma's death in 1969. The Duncan's daughter, Martha Duncan Ingerson, inherited the property and made great efforts to restore the home to its early 1900s appearance. In 1977, the Ingersons acquired the Texas State Landmark status and the National Register listing in 1978. The Ingerson family owned the property until 2013 when local architect Brian Gaffin bought the house and its now much smaller acreage for his architecture business.

Picture, if you will, the structure we see today. We see a large, two-story limestone structure that stands out among the smaller homes and commercial properties and it is notably bordered by two state highways. You could hit a seven iron to the nearest dry cleaner from the front yard. Let's just say, this house has seen a great deal of change. Less than 150 years ago, this home was just a simple, one-story prairie home on a vast expanse of land, primarily used for farming and cattle grazing, with the Brazos River and the Hood County Courthouse clearly visible from the back porch. The sunrises and sunsets must have been unbelievable.

Now that you are caught up on the history of the house, you are likely wondering what the future of the house holds. When Gaffin acquired the property, it had again been in a bad state of disrepair. There were several issues with the house: rotted floors and woodwork, internal structural deterioration, outdated plumbing and electrical systems and externally, the intricate woodwork of the Victorian verandas previously restored by the Duncans had been severely damaged in a storm. In short, there was a great deal of work to be done to bring the house back to its former glory.

Fortunately, Gaffin has experience in historic preservation and was able to properly shore up the



damage and begin the extensive repairs. His main objective at the outset was to clean up the property, inside and out and get the home in living and working condition again. By the looks of it, the old Sheriff's House (the name the house has become known as) is back in the saddle again. Gaffin hopes to make the property available for local civic groups to meet and mingle. There is also a possibility of the home being available for small weddings and other family functions. For now, Gaffin's family primarily uses the property for get togethers and his architectural business.

One thing is for certain, the Sheriff's House has seen its share of change. Hopefully the residents of Hood County and all those who visit this iconic structure will appreciate the efforts of everyone who had a hand in its preservation.



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The Camel OF THE Clouds

by Jonathan Hooper | photography by Landi Whitefield Photography

A typical husband might purchase flowers for his wife on her birthday. The more thoughtful husband will splurge a bit more for nice jewelry. The exceptional male spouse who may or may not be in some sort of a marital dilemma may even spring for a romantic getaway to a faraway place.

For his wife, Joni, Steve Berry bought a llama.

Seriously. A llama. For her birthday.

Why a llama?

“Hey, she wanted one! She liked the way they looked and thought they were sort of pretty. I thought they were, sort of unique, I suppose.”

The Berry’s first llama, “Blitz,” came from Bolivia by way of California. The father of “Blitz” was “The Raider,” which is appropriate since he was purchased from Oakland Raider star Jim Otto.

Llamas were domesticated thousands of years ago and were originally used throughout history as pack animals in the harsh environment of the Andean highlands in South America. A few were brought to North America in the 1940s by William Randolph Hearst as exotic pets for his California ranch and the herds have become more popular every year.

While they have notably been used as pack animals for centuries, the Talamore Golf Resort near Pinehurst, North Carolina opened in 1991 and instantly became famous; not for its Rees Jones design, but rather for instituting the first and very unique llama caddy program. These noble llama caddies are still available to carry clubs around the course for the occasional round in cooler weather. While not at all widespread, other courses around the country have followed suit, including the local Nutcracker Golf Club in Pecan Plantation, who used llama caddies in 1996 for the “Nairobi Open” before the

course was completely finished!

Like many llama owners, the Berrys used that first birthday llama as a guard animal for their thriving boer goat herd and for range management. In this part of the world, animal predators like coyotes, are responsible for as much as 60 percent of all losses to sheep and goat ranchers. Some statistics show even higher losses.

Enter the llama.

Many ranchers report a zero percent loss of livestock since they began to use llamas as sheep guards. Llamas require no special training, they are easy to load and transport, and a single llama can effectively protect an entire flock of up to 1,000 sheep. Additionally, many ranchers have been successful using llamas to guard cattle as well as exotic animals.

Llamas eat the same food as goats and sheep, have few medical issues, and many live for more than 20 years, making them extremely efficient guards. With exceptional hearing and a keen sense of their surroundings, the llama is an almost ideal guard animal.

Additionally, llamas are well-equipped to remove brush from range property, including unwanted grasses, poison oak and poison ivy, cedar, bois d’arc and just about anything else the rancher doesn’t want on his land.

Show time.

But what else are they good for? As Steve and Joni quickly learned at the Berry-Patch Farm, llamas also may be used as show animals and have found great popularity among youth projects in 4-H, Scouts, and FFA.

“We used to show sheep and goats all over. But, we have also shown llamas in State Fairs in Oklahoma and Texas, and stock shows in Abilene, San Angelo, Austin, Houston, Fort Worth, San Antonio, and many smaller shows for years. These days, we only have about 15 llamas, and I like to call them yard art, because we don’t show them as much as we used to due to our boys growing up and moving off. We may start again as the grandkids get closer to show age.”

Shear delight.

Shearing day is a big deal for those who raise llamas. The Berrys are no exception shearing 250-300 animals a year—sometimes as many as 1,000.

The Berrys explain, “People bring their llamas to us and we shear them. We even do their toenails and worm them, and whatever else they need to get ready for the hot summers in Texas. That wool fiber has to come off—it gets hot under there!”

Skills gained from years of experience showing lambs with 4-H and FFA provided Steve with the ability to shear for those who own just one or two llamas, or who don’t have the resources to shear their own llamas. There are various special days each year at the Berry-Patch Farm for Granbury area kids and their families, as well, to come visit the llamas, take photographs and explore the farm.

“Most of the llama wool fiber is pretty dirty. The fibers vary a lot in length and fineness from one animal to the next... it is not all that pretty to weave into clothing, but it has a lot of uses most of us wouldn’t think about.”

There are limited commercial uses for the wool as of yet, but it can be processed like roving wool in smaller quantities to be used in rugs, furniture fabric, blankets, toys, dolls, and some clothing. Recently, due to its exceptional absorption qualities, llama wool was used following the BP oil spill to clean up gulf beaches.



Their hides may be tanned for leather, and yes, they are edible. “But let’s not talk about that,” says Steve.

Service to others.

“We have taken llamas to senior citizen centers, nursing homes... just about everywhere. We even took them to church with us, walking them right down the aisle at First Methodist Church Granbury for children’s worship when we discussed Noah and the ark. The kids loved it, and so did the adults!

This type of community service has been a trademark of the Berrys. Steve was with the Arlington Fire Department for 23 years and is currently serving his third term as Hood County Commissioner for Precinct 7. Steve’s father was also a County Commissioner from 1986-1990.

Joni recently retired from 27 years as a school secretary: 10 years in Granbury and 17 years in Tolar. She enjoys attending estate sales, appreciated vintage items, and is becoming more active in turning that into a “retirement job.”

Steve received his Texas Auctioneer license three years ago, and has been active in the community serving as auctioneer for the Jewel Ball hosted by the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council and other fundraiser benefits.

Steve exclaims, “I can talk! I have sold cakes, emceed golf tournaments, sold animals at auction barns and done



just about every kind of public speaking there is. I may come off as a little gruff at times, but my bark is way worse than my bite. I just like to be around people and I am trying to be ready for whatever God tells me next.”

Joni believes they would do it all over again, from goats and sheep to llamas and whatever comes next.

“Absolutely! Owning this farm helped raise our boys and provided so many avenues to teach life skills. Life begins and life ends on a farm nearly every day. That’s a good thing to learn growing up. All those days and nights with 4-H and FFA taught our boys responsibility. And yes, I would do it all over again,” says Joni.

As it turns out, while it may not be for everyone, Steve made a great decision with that seemingly eccentric birthday present.



“There are various special days each year at the Berry-Patch Farm for Granbury area kids and their families, as well, to come visit the llamas, take photographs, and explore the farm.”





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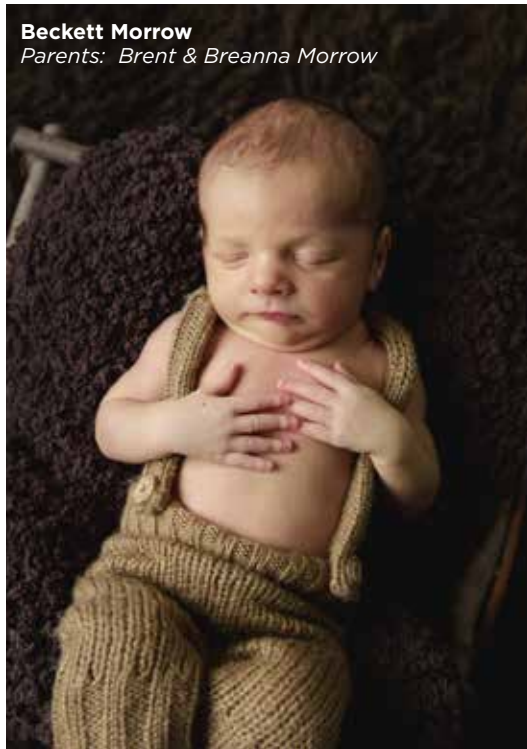
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DINERS DRIVE BYS — and a Dive —

BY JKR HAMILTON

PHOTOS BY DAWN SKINNER
& STEPHEN TORRES

You drive by them every day, gas stations that claim to offer gourmet food and hole-in-the-wall places with no descriptions, yet full parking lots. We all see these strange looking restaurants too quirky to miss, but they don't yell, "Stop here! We take food seriously!"

And you wonder, "Can it really be good?"

But, you don't slow down long enough to find out.

This summer, we slowed down.

A sixth generation Texan, an East-Coaster and a tween (sounds like the start of a bad joke) set out to find the local places most folks drive by without stopping. We have three distinct personalities and we rarely agree on what to eat.

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We pass Irby's on E. Pearl St. almost daily and see a packed parking lot and lines out the door.

The day we went, we realized that people were stacked in line and out the door because there isn't much room when you walk inside. There were two gals taking orders and two more people cooking just a few feet from the entrance. Most customers in line were there for either the catfish or the hamburgers, though the menu is more extensive.

It struck us how the row of lunch order tickets passed

along to the cooks completely and continually filled the kitchen window.

We waited for twenty minutes to get our hamburgers and catfish. Prices are quite reasonable: A dozen jalapeno hush puppies were \$1.80. They were crunchy, spicy and they tasted great. The burgers and catfish were fine, but the French fries – soft and "grocery store freezer section" variety – were disappointing.

At each table the napkin holder has the owner's name, email and phone number. The card read, "If you don't like your experience, call me personally." It may not be the best meal we've eaten, but that sign left us sated.



Willie and Dick's

On Fall Creek Highway, just off 377, Willie and Dick's Restaurant's sign proclaims: "Even the Food Inspector Eats Here."

That was good enough for us.

Willie and Dick's looks like a tropical dive bar. The Texan in our group was disappointed that Jimmy Buffet wasn't playing over the speakers as we walked in. The restaurant has an eclectic décor including tabletop jukeboxes that don't work and a life size cardboard cut-out of former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin. The wait staff is friendly and welcoming. Food takes a long time to get to your table and ours came without a couple things we asked for, but all in all, it was delish!

The "Hater" hamburger with chicken fried bacon and grilled jalapenos was terrific. No additional seasoning was required. The catfish tasted fresh, the batter was crunchy. Prices are almost double what Irby's charges, but the atmosphere and quality of food justify that.



Barnard Street Bakery

It takes courage to go into a gas station and order a wedding cake, but you can – right up the road in Glen Rose at the Barnard Street Bakery in the Exxon Station on Big Bend Trail. Walk just past the fishing gear and there, you'll find the bakery.

The cranberry orange scones are easily as good as any you'd find at Central Market. The apple Danish, our favorite, has a buttery pastry. Our tween loved the chocolate chip muffin. Of all we ate, none of the pastries tasted like they came from a commercial bakery. These baked goods taste homemade. However, it's a total-package bakery (in a gas station) and prices are reasonable.

Max's Kitchen

Max's Kitchen in Cresson may be the best known secret in Hood County, but you won't find it unless someone tells you where to look. It's between a liquor store and a gas station, right behind the guy who sells the flags and rugs. Now, see the red food trailer? That's Max's.

Or, you could just look for a line of people that head there for breakfast as early as 4:30 am. They come from all over and owner, Max Mengel, and his family don't disappoint.

The 3+ pound customizable breakfast burritos are incredible. Max makes his own chorizo (our personal favorite) and it is sublime, also, everything is made from scratch. They are open from 5 am until 2 pm and closed on Sunday. The breakfast menu changes to lunch at 11 am, so if you miss breakfast, order one of the best sliced brisket sandwiches we've ever tasted. Or, try the terrific carnitas street tacos with avocado salsa. Finally, the hand-cut French fries were perfectly cooked and seasoned. This was cheap eats at their finest.

We fell in love with the food and with Max and his family, Mom Tanya, Dad Elliott and Brother Casey all work together for about 14 hours a day and are beyond lovely.

These locally-owned eateries are worth a stop, they work hard to feed you and care what you think. And when you head back to Max's again, tell him Lake Granbury Living says hello!



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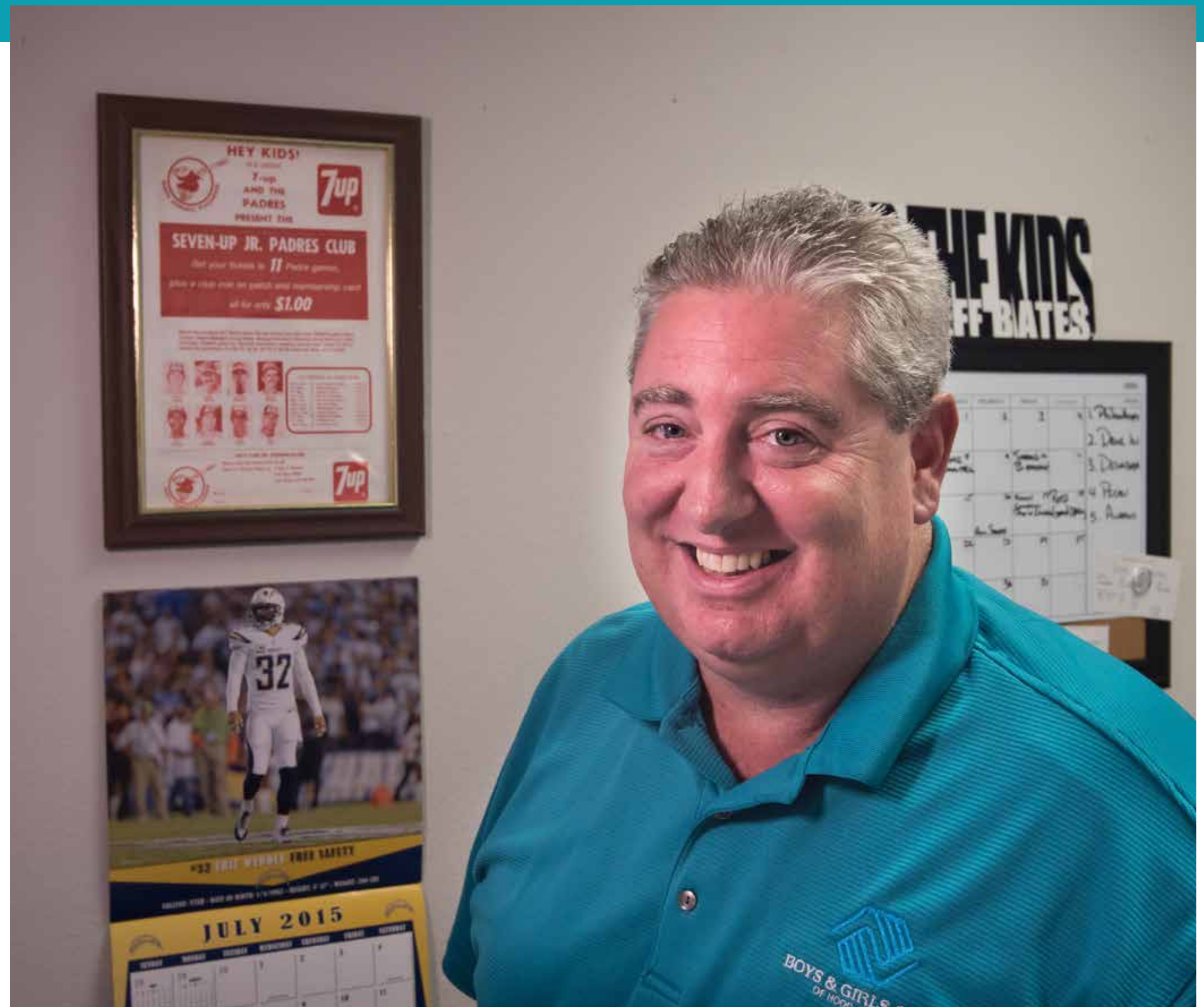
by Marie Valden and enVision Staff

Photography by Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography

We've all heard of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA). Whether it be from Hollywood celebrities like Denzel Washington and Jennifer Lopez or professional athletes like Jackie Joyner-Kersey and Shaquille O'Neal, you've likely heard of this American establishment. According to the organization's website, the BGCA was originally founded in 1860 in Connecticut as the Boys Club Federation of America by three women who believed that "boys who roamed the streets should have a positive alternative." In 1931, as the growing movement took hold across the country, the group's name was changed to the Boys Clubs of America. By 1990, the name was changed again to the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to recognize the inclusion of girls.

Today, there are more than 4,100 club facilities in the United States including, 1,500 in schools, 400 BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide, 300 in public housing and 200 on Native lands. Hood County is fortunate to have our very own Boys and Girls Club in not just one, but two locations. Decker Gym on West Bridge Street houses the BGC in Granbury and the Stars Branch on Acton School Road accommodates youth in Acton. Both locations serve children ages six to 18 and in grades one through 12 and both programs are available year round.

The BGC of Hood County is a safe haven and a blessing to many otherwise latch-key kids. Nowhere was this more evident than in a little girl named Hope, who is proud to say she is eight and three quarters. She is a well-spoken, precocious child who loves art, music and playing basketball. Hope asked her



grandmother, who works a full time job, to allow her to go to the BGC Stars Branch during the summer. Eleven-year-old attendee, Reagan, is the curly headed, all heart, daughter of Jeff Bates, the Executive Director of BGC of Hood County. Reagan is proud to be the official first member of the center. She gave me a detailed tour of the facility right down to the wall of distinction, where her sister's trophy is kept alongside an autographed photo of three-time gold medalist and former Granbury resident, Dana Vollmer.

The BGC of Hood County is more than a place, it's people; people who are the staff of Decker Gym in Granbury, manage the Stars Branch in Acton and run the Resale Shop. More important to this organization, are the children. What is known as the BGC of Hood County was founded by the Hood County Youth Foundation (HCYF). Community members Dixie Lee Hedcock and Debbie Roberts founded the HCYF in 1999. The mission was to provide various extracurriculars such as athletics, educational opportunities, social activities and entertainment. The idea was in place, but the funding was not. Fortunately, the Coca-Cola Company approached the group with a simple plan: collect 1 million caps/tabs in six-month's time and receive \$50,000 toward a youth center. The entire community pitched in and on January 25, 2000, HCYF accepted the check from Coca Cola. In their search to find a program and a location to house the HCYF, they chanced upon BGCA along with Decker Gym as a Hood County location. It was a perfect fit. Dixie Lee notes, "It's a beautiful thing to see our community come together for the kids. They'll be leading our future. We need to invest in them."

During my guided tour from Reagan of the new Stars Branch, I was surprised to see not one child in the TV room watching cartoons or zoning out playing video games. Instead, there were noises coming from one of the rooms down the hall. I investigated to find a flurry of activity. About 20 kids were in the process of lining up to go to the STEM Lab. STEM being an acronym for: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The instructor spoke firmly, but pleasantly to the group and gained their attention quickly. Full of smiles and a few sleepy eyes, everyone exited the room in single file and headed down the hallway.



Reagan says that she hopes to experience a successful career in social services. Her desire is for every child to grow healthy. She has a special place in her heart for orphans and wants to ensure they receive good care. It's evident the club means a great deal to Reagan and the other youth who attend. She explains how children at the center learn a lot of new things during the brain games sessions with activities like "Bop It". Other activities are designed to stave off the more than two months of learning loss associated with summer time. Reagan is aware of this phenomenon and is thankful to have a place where she can continue to grow and learn. Of course, getting to see her daddy daily is a huge plus for this little girl.

Jeff Bates has served as Executive Director of BGC of Hood County since March of 2011. This married father

The BGC of Hood County is more than a place, it's people.



of four, lover of baseball and Dr. Seuss believes, "youth can be great when we give them a safe place to learn and grow." So, it is no surprise he was recently honored for his 20 years of dedicated service to the BGC organization. Jeff was born and raised in California by his mom Ilene Esbar, an author, who instilled in him an understanding that "we teach kids their worth."

The goals of the BGC are to create an atmosphere of acceptance, teamwork, self-esteem, individual accountability and community/self-awareness. Back at the Star Branch, Hope enjoys the activities and socialization she gets at the center. Hope says she someday wants to be a specialized zookeeper of a wolf sanctuary. The wolf is her favorite animal because as she told me, "...like the wolf, I'm protective of my personal space." Trust is important to Hope. She has a lot of trust in the staff at the BGC Star Branch. Without them, she told me, she would



be bored, less social and would not have the opportunity to discover so many new things.

For children like Hope and Reagan the center offers things to do, but at the Stars Branch and Decker Gym there is much more going on behind the scenes. Club 105 is one of the ways the BGC keeps things interesting and challenging for kids. Club 105 was created to recognize students who have attended at least 105 days in a six-month period. The students are rewarded with a t-shirt and other incentives. What's more, the results of being a 105 Club member may have more far-reaching effects. BGC Hood County's website cites that administrative officials supported a study by observing that regular attendees "who reached this mark were more than twice as likely as their peers to have graduated from high school." At its core, the club offers diverse program activities in five key areas: Character and Leadership Development, Education and Career Development, Health and Life Skills, The Arts and Sports Fitness/Recreation; all of



which meet the original criteria for the organization that put this whole idea in the works, the Hood County Youth Foundation.

The core beliefs of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America are based on maintaining "a safe place to learn and grow, ongoing relationships with caring adult professionals, life enhancing programs and character development experiences, hope and opportunity." Reagan and Hope are good examples of this community's children growing and learning to be exemplary citizens and future leaders. It's apparent that Granbury is in good hands.

Fundraisers

October BGC Golf Tournament at Squaw Valley Golf Course in Glen Rose

August 14, 2015 Oilman's Golf Tournament sponsored by Total Equipment and Service

Boys & Girls Resale Shop

4322 Hwy 377

Mon - Sun 10 am - 6 pm

Donation drop-off

9 am - 5 pm

Decker Gym

600 West Bridge Street

Stars Branch

3000 Acton School Road

Summer Hours

Mon - Fri 7 am - 6 pm

Cost \$100.00

School Hours

Mon - Fri 3 pm - 6 pm

Cost \$20/week + \$20 Annual

The club accepts Age 6 and enrolled in the first grade through 18 years old.

Recently the club hit a goal of twenty additional scholarships for summer with \$39,000.00 going to 50 different members.

THE PALUXY RIVER CAC PLAYHOUSE PROJECT

During the annual Granbury Showcase of Homes (May 29 - June 14), eight custom built playhouses constructed by local homebuilders were displayed in our historic square. Tickets toward the raffle were made available online and on the square during the weekend of the drawing. This year's event proved to be exciting and a great success as all proceeds benefit local non-profit Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center. We can't wait to see what they come up with next year!

Photography courtesy of Megan Thomas and Andra Mayberry



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PHOTO BY *Torres Photography*



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PHOTO BY *Fat Cow Studio - Cindy Cook*

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AFTERNOON; TO ME THOSE
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE TWO
MOST BEAUTIFUL WORDS IN
THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.”

-Henry James



*fat cow studio
cindy cook*

PHOTO BY *Fat Cow Studio - Cindy Cook*

HOT ROD ASSOCIATION

The Lone Star Street Rod Association brought their 42nd Annual State Run to Granbury's Hewlett Park, with some 450 rods in show. This free event was fun for spectators complete with a raffle and awards show, as well as food trucks for easy eats.

Photography courtesy of Melissa McGavock



Brothers, Jack and Gayle Godfrey of Comanche, Texas in attendance. Jack is the proud owner of the 1932 5-Window Deuce Coupe and Gayle of the 1970 Chevelle SS 454.



The Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center's mission is to promote the healing of child abuse victims - one child at a time.
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DUCK BREAST

INGREDIENTS

4 - 8oz Maple Leaf Duck Breast (sold at Eighteen Ninety Marketplace)

Pinch of salt

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Score the skin of the duck in a diamond shape pattern.
- Sprinkle salt on the skin side of the duck.
- Using a stainless steel pan, allow the pan to reach 575 degrees. Do not place anything in the pan.
- Once the pan is starting to smoke add the duck skin side down, once the skin is crispy, about 3 minutes, transfer the duck to a sheet pan and place it in the oven for 10 minutes.
- Slice the duck in ¼ inch thickness.
- Cooks to a medium.

CHIPOTLE RASPBERRY GASTRIQUE

INGREDIENTS

½ C of red wine vinegar

½ C sugar

½ C of water

1 Tbl adobo sauce

¼ C raspberry preserves

DIRECTIONS

- Heat a pan on medium high heat.
- Place sugar in pan and stir around, add water to dissolve the sugar.
- Once the sugar is dissolved add the preserves, adobo sauce, and wine vinegar.
- Continue to cook on medium heat until the sauces reduces by 1/3.

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