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–Carol Foster



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letter from the editor

MELISSA MCGAVOCK

Each one of us has unique abilities that make us stand apart from our peers, our family, and co-workers.

Sometimes it can be difficult to identify what makes us different. Moreover, sometimes we know exactly what makes us different and we're uncomfortable showing it. This is particularly unfortunate, when we hide what makes us special, we lose what makes us great. Our unique talents, abilities, likes and dislikes are what gives us the upper hand in anything we really want in life.

With the onset of COVID-19, most of the time quarantined for safety, I quickly fell out of my daily social habits. I no longer tried to "run with the herd" or "keep up with the Jones'." It's funny how your "work" self and your real self can get intertwined so much, eventually losing sight of your real preferences, your real quirks, and your real personality. It's easier to identify with the person in yourself that makes all your daily responsibilities get done, even if it's a far away version of who you actually are. It's easier still and probably natural, to compromise ourselves in the name of survival... and sometimes that's just getting through the day unscathed.

During the pandemic, all of these habits I'd formed and my daily experience, like so many others, was now a giant void. It didn't seem to matter anymore. Talk about an identity crisis.

This is what the pandemic taught me. The pandemic cut the noise. It allowed me to really observe and absorb life. As much as we talk about "mindfulness", I would have never been more mindful of my surroundings if I wasn't forced to do so.

I learned that at my core, I'm a writer and an art historian. I love communication, I love to study art, patterns, and trends in all the ways they present themselves, whether that be an article, an art piece, an advertisement, or my friend's Instagram grid. I feel a calling to celebrate and positively influence the people around me.

The pandemic has taken so much from us, but like they say, it's more important how you react to life's obstacles. If anything, this last year has given us a chance to clearly identify who we are, what we really need, and what we have to give.



MELISSA@LGLMAG.COM

Moving forward this new year, we'll surely feel the adverse, long term effects of 2020. However, my hope is that we advance a stronger and more equipped society, from a national level all the way down to a local level.

Here's to new perspectives, a better sense of who we are and what we need, but most importantly, what kind of positive impact we can make.

As Always,

Melissa McGavock

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letter from the publisher

KEVIN KNAPP

Publisher & CEO, LGL Magazine

kevin@lglmag.com

Wow, I'm a publisher of a magazine. Didn't see that one coming. Well, I guess it's true, Eliza and I bought this very cool magazine and we are going to work very hard to make sure it surpasses our readers and our advertising partners expectations. We pledge to keep a small town feel and at the same time, bring some new experiences to this publication.

We love Granbury as much as we ever loved Amarillo and you would be hard pressed to find anyone who promoted Amarillo over the years more than me. This is what we want to do for Granbury. People deserve to know about the many things to do in our wonderful community and about the amazing people who make up our town. They will be able to find it all in our magazine.

If you ever have an idea for a story, I am a phone call away. This is your magazine Granbury and we want our articles and our ads to represent the people of this community. Come in and have a cup of coffee, a beer or a glass of wine with me and Eliza at Oz Coffee Bar. We would love to get to know you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Knapp

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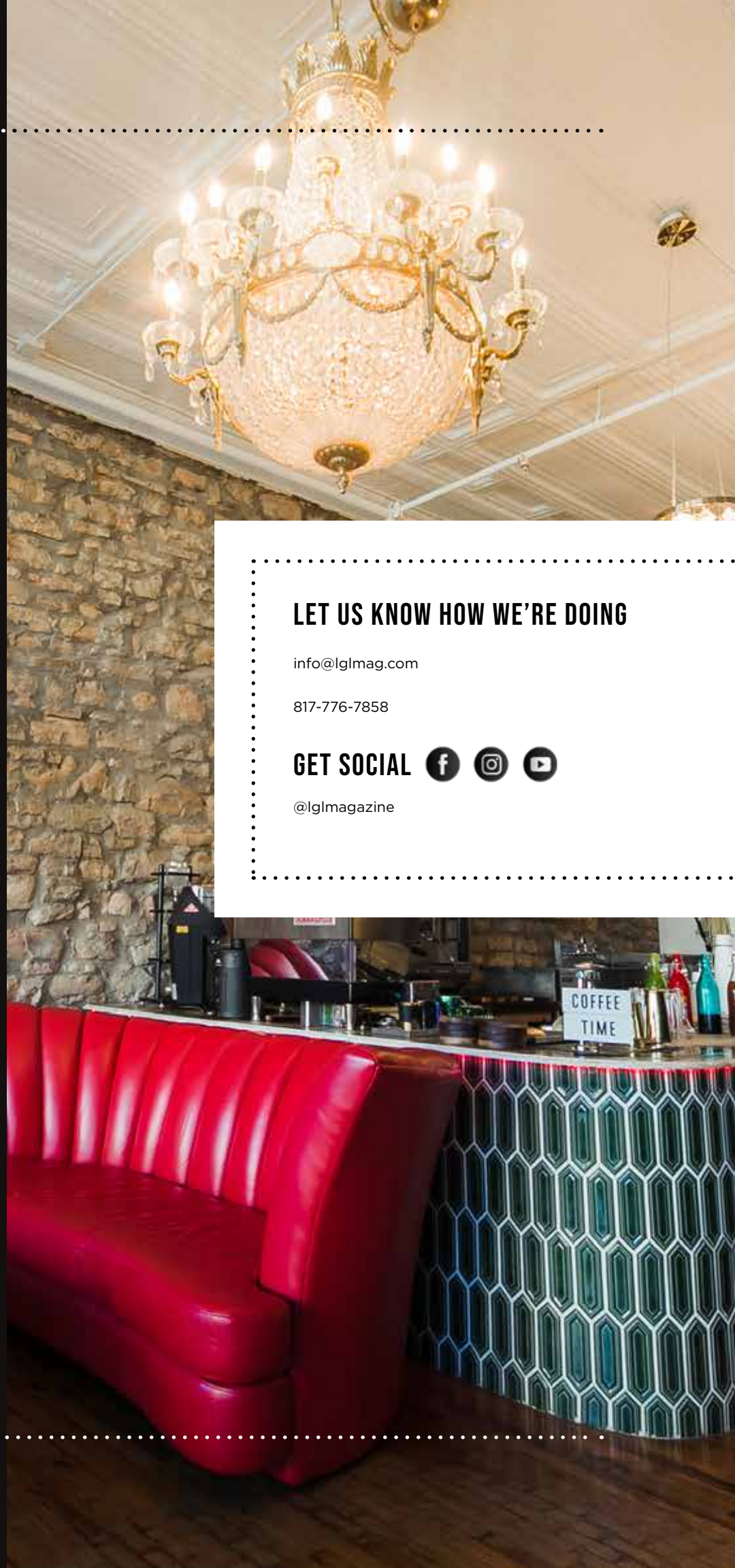
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LADY OZ

story by **CHELSEA ROE HOOPER**

photography by **ERIC KILLINGSWORTH**

Eliza Knapp and her husband, Kevin, moved to Granbury in 2017 and instantly fell in love with the community's small-town charm, but what really drew them in was the people.

However, before we dive into Eliza and her relationship to Granbury, it's important to note that at the center of her life is her family. She and Kevin have been married for seventeen years and have a blended family, two girls and two boys. They are also blessed to have seven grandchildren under the age of nine, five boys and two girls. The grandchildren love to come over to swim and play and hangout with "Big" and "Mia".

She also loves to spend time on the lake with friends, sometimes smoking cigars, but always drinking a little wine. And in passing, one would never know just how much of a go-getter this woman truly is.

Eliza is what one might call a jack of all trades. She's an owner of Oz Realty Team, LLC and also an owner of the brokerage firm Horton Neely Realtors®. As well, she and Kevin own and operate Oz Coffee Bar, Oz on the Square, a few bed and breakfasts, a local magazine, some rental properties and three online learning companies. Another fun fact, in a past life, Eliza gained the honor of becoming a third-degree black belt in American Kenpo.

The newest of the couple's business efforts is the acquisition of the local magazine Lake Granbury Living. The couple purchased the publication a few months ago and they are extremely excited to bring a new boost to an already popular Granbury magazine.

When asked what drove them to buy the magazine, Eliza explained that when they were presented with the opportunity, she knew instantly that it was a match for their talents and interests. Though she never dreamed of owning a magazine, all the pieces lined up and made perfect sense. So, they now own a magazine!

With a masters degree in web design, and having experience as a graphic artist, creative outlets are still very exciting to her. Having not had the chance to work in that realm in a while, saying yes to Lake Granbury Living was a no brainer for Eliza. The magazine sat unpublished for several months as things shifted during 2020, but now that the dust has settled and people are ready to live a full life again, the couple is ready to move steadily ahead.

When asked how she balances it all, Eliza said



"...ever since she was a little girl, Eliza has been fascinated with The Wizard of Oz... As time went on, and Eliza got older, her fondness for the movie as a whole grew. The entire story became very meaningful. She explains, 'There are so many lessons within it all. Courage, love, wisdom, there's no place like home. It's caused me to pause many times in my life and evaluate things.'"





You have plenty of courage, I am sure. All you need is confidence in yourself. There is no living thing that is not afraid when it faces danger. The true courage is in facing danger when you are afraid, and that kind of courage you have in plenty.

– The Wizard of Oz





that to do what she does, one must be okay with imbalance. Her experience with American Kenpo taught her an immense amount of discipline.

You have to be able to shift on a dime, especially with her position in real estate, always keep it together and stay organized. Though she admits that she thrives, a bit, in the imbalance and unexpectedness of it all, a normal day in her life is anything but normal. She travels all over Granbury and meets several people daily, and has to be ready to answer phone calls pertaining to all of her endeavors at just about any given moment. However, she is fully invested in the people she meets. Becoming best friends with everyone she meets is something that comes completely natural to her.

Eliza loves meeting new people and getting to know them. Therefore, each of her current ventures allow for plenty of talking with and meeting new people.

When a good real estate deal surfaces, the investor in Eliza immediately recognizes the potential. She passes on this knowledge to her clients. Once you get

to know Eliza, it's easy to see that she is an empath, as most creative individuals are.

The Oz brand inspired in various ways with many of her companies is rooted in empathy. A great example of this is why Eliza is so drawn to Oz. She is asked multiple times a day, "Why Oz?" As previously mentioned, she owns Oz Coffee Bar, which is located on the Granbury Square and serves wine, beer, coffee, and food. And of course there is OZ Realty Team. And one of her bed and breakfasts is called Auntie Em's, the other, Oz Landing. In addition to all that, Eliza has several nods to The Wizard of Oz in her home, some subtle and some obvious, and she always had an Oz room when she was little.

Ever since she was a little girl, Eliza has been fascinated with The Wizard of Oz. No, not because of Dorothy and Toto, but because of the Wicked Witch of the West. You read that right. Something about the Wicked Witch of the West called to her. The first time she watched the movie, she felt sorry for her. "They killed her sister and then took her



family shoes and yet she was the villain. It felt like she was picked on a little bit. I felt she was very misunderstood. And every time I watched it, I didn't want her to die." As time went on, and Eliza got older, her fondness for the movie as a whole, grew. The entire story became very meaningful, she explains, "There are so many lessons within it all. Courage, love, wisdom, there's no place like home. It's caused me to pause many times in my life and evaluate things."

It's not every day you meet somebody who sides with the Wicked Witch of the West, but listening to Eliza speak about people, and how she truly becomes best friends with different people for a day, shines light on how someone can see the good in everyone. She roots for the underdog in life. One of her many passions is research and education for those that suffer from substance abuse, a subject that seems tremendously misunderstood. It's a taboo subject, and she wishes it was spoken about more often. She says there isn't a clear awareness of how it affects families. Oftentimes mental health is involved, and there isn't enough information or proper tools given to families dealing with such issues.

As Eliza and I chit chatted back and forth, one word was spoken over and over, and that word was "kindness." It is so clear that she spreads kindness wherever she goes. She said that you never know what somebody else is going through, and there is never a reason to not be kind. When asked about her goals for 2021, her answer was quite simple: "Enjoy the lake more. Last year was so strange, so I'd like to find a space to relax more and enjoy my family and little ones."

Something tells me that Eliza is going to achieve many goals this year, but relaxation might not be one of them! However, "there's no place like home," so perhaps she'll find the balance she desires within all of the imbalance in which she thrives.





Pictured is inside Oz Coffee Bar (the front of the house of Oz Realty Office), a new favorite spot for locals to spend their mornings where the talented staff brews fine coffees and pours up gourmet espresso drinks in retro champagne glasses.



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HISTORIC GRANBURY SQUARE

FACTS & LEGENDS.

story by PEGGY PURSER FREEMAN

From bars to B&Bs, the lavish restorations of Granbury's historic square adds to the charm of days gone by.



Hood County lured cowboys straight from the trail, gussied up their hotels, created eating establishments, rustled up entertainment, and added libation. The good news is—history repeats itself.



Granbury’s historic square grew out of the need for places for cowboys to get good grub, a place to relax and forget the trail. Hood County lured cowboys straight from the trail, gussied up their hotels, created eating establishments, rustled up entertainment, and added libation. The good news is—history repeats itself.

Today, as they did then, Texans stampede toward Granbury to stroll the historic buildings, walk on the beach, eat, drink, and relax. Why Granbury? Many towns offer legends and quaint historic buildings, however, few provide historic establishments renovated with the opulence found in Hood County.

Legend says the best barometers for economic development in the late 1800s were determined by the number of saloons a town could handle. Granbury sported one or two on every street. As you stroll from shop to shop and read the historical plaques, you’ll discover many buildings once housed a saloon. Early examples of the saloons in this thriving oasis include the Aston Landers Saloon. Now, Oz On The Square offers coffee that’s over the rainbow good, gifts, real estate, and a lavish B&B. Originally the Cowboy Saloon has transformed into many businesses—perhaps the favorite being Rinky Tinks Ice Cream Parlor with rock-n-roll star Bobby Skel of the Red Ryders fame. The store, St. Helen’s, was once the A. P. Gordon Saloon.

Martha Washington (Garrison) Stringfellow opened a boarding house in 1871 named “The Granbury House.” Later, this structure housed hotels, saloons, cafes, and clothing stores. Today the sign reads Ketzler’s Schnitzel Haus. Back in the day, Mrs. Stringfellow



could walk next door to mail a letter at what was the original post office. Later it housed Thomas Ewell's newspaper and now Central Texas Title.

The Nutt Hotel stands majestically on the northeast corner of Granbury Square. In 1874, brothers Jesse and Jacob Nutt, both blind from late childhood, began operating their general store in a tent. Then a 16-by-12 log cabin accommodated the mercantile store, and finally the Historic Nutt Hotel was built out of hand-hewn Texas limestone for brothers Jacob, Jesse and David Lee Nutt. From the time he was twelve, David Lee, the much younger brother of Jacob and Jesse, served as their "eyes" in the mercantile store. Three generations of the Nutt Family saw it become a legend in historic restaurants.

In 1886, gas lights flickered on in the new Opera House. A saloon and saddle shop were located on the lower floor with an upstairs theater called Kerr's Hall. The theater consisted of a large space with a raised stage at one end. The building has worn many different labels since then, like South Side Saloon, a grocery store, a feed store, and more. In 1974, after extensive renovation, it became a working theater once more, but in 1913 it had already reached the grandeur which sets it at the top of everyone's must-see list. The city extended the back wall, redesigned the entry, and created a luxurious interior design, and the Opera House became a historic treasure.

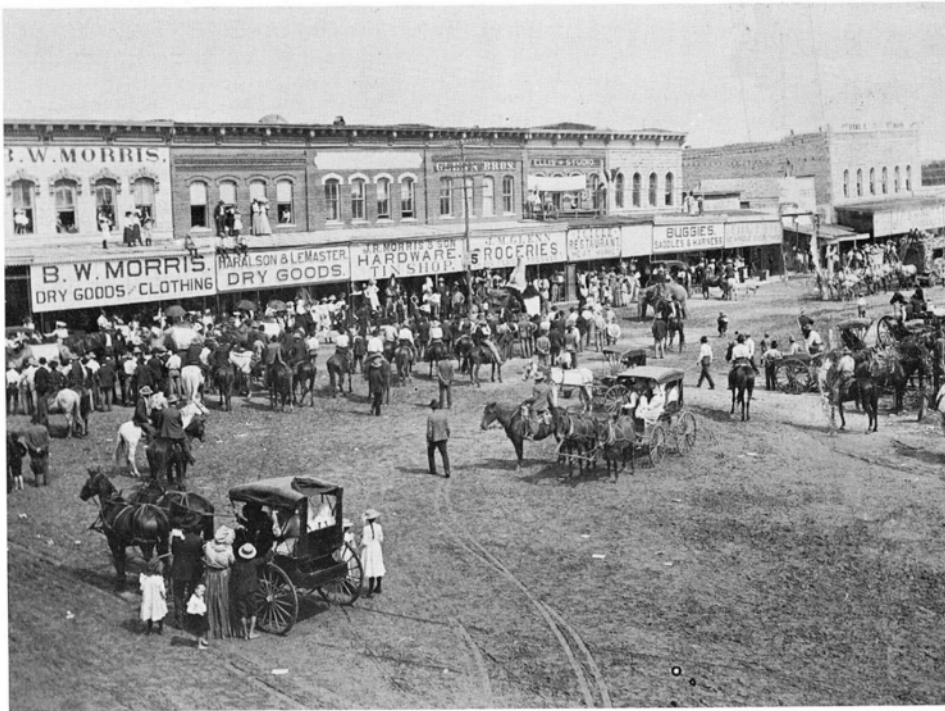
The ghost of a bit actor, John St. Helen, surely finds the Opera House an opulent haunt. The mystery of John St. Helen has been featured on two popular television series: "20/20" and "Unsolved Mysteries." A secretive man, St. Helen worked as a bartender at A. P. Gordon's saloon, but his true identity has been hotly debated. When he fell seriously ill and believed himself to be at death's door he confessed that he was none other than John Wilkes Booth and revealed where the pistol used to assassinate Lincoln could be found. After recovering from the supposedly fatal illness he

disappeared from Granbury forever. His story seems to have finally ended in 1903 in Enid, Oklahoma, where a man named David George died, after saying that he had previously gone by the name John St. Helen.

Another local legend suggests the notorious outlaw Jesse James is buried in Granbury Cemetery. Most historians believe that Jesse James was mortally wounded when shot by a member of his gang in 1882. But Texas legend tells the story of another member of that notorious gang who was shot to deceive the law. Local lore says James fell in love with a young woman here, and then returned to the area with his grandson for the last days of his life. James' family descendants dedicated a headstone and continue to visit his grave. findagrave.com/memorial/68360556

In 1905 temperance leader Carrie Nation came to town. A large group of Granbury's population turned up at the depot to meet her. Having endured her first husband's alcoholism, Mrs. Nation believed it her divinely ordained duty to fight the sale of liquor. Alone or with a group, she marched into a saloon and proceeded to sing, pray, shout, and smash the bar and stock with her famous hatchet. She had all the Granbury saloons shut down in a few days. Little was known about alcoholism in the years after reconstruction and women had few rights. It's easy to understand the link of the movement for women's right to vote growing strong in the aftermath of Carrie Nation's visit. Shortly thereafter, in 1907, Jess A. Baker of Granbury introduced a joint resolution in the Texas House of Representatives for women's enfranchisement. It failed. However, in 1917, during the Thirty-fifth Legislature, Baker co-sponsored two suffrage bills which finally gave women the right to vote in 1919.

From bars to B&Bs, the lavish restorations of Historic Granbury Square add to the charm of days gone by. Ride in, relax and be entertained.



CIRCUS PARADE just entering the square, elephants in the lead, (long time ago) Photo Weldon Campbell.

In 1886, gas lights flickered on in the new Opera House. A saloon and saddle shop were located on the lower floor with an upstairs theater called Kerr's Hall. The theater consisted of a large space with a raised stage at one end. The building has worn many different labels since then, like South Side Saloon, a grocery store, a feed store, and more.

TAKE THE QUIZ

1. What was a major factor in Granbury's economic power in the late 1800s?
2. Who served as the "eyes" for the Nutt brothers?
3. Which local theater was predominantly a saloon originally?
4. Who was hung in what is now the Hood County Jail Museum?
5. Where can you shop in a store where John Wilkes Booth supposedly once lived and in what local theater did he perform?
6. Who is allegedly buried in J. Dalton's grave?
7. What famous lady shut down the saloons in Granbury in 1905?
8. Who was Jess A. Baker?

Answers:
lglmag.com/historic-granbury-square

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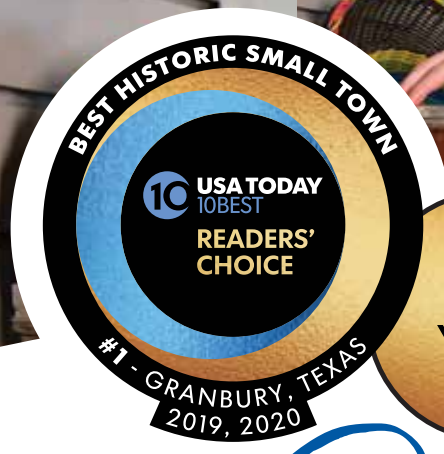


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A Sweet and Savory Conversation

YES, CHEF

Meet Chef Rose Pebbles and get to know her take on cooking and dining as an experience for everyone.

interview by **MELISSA MCGAVOCK**

recipes by **ROSE PEBBLES**

photography by **ERIC KILLINGSWORTH**

food styling by **SAVANNAH GATES**





CHEF ROSE PEBBLES

Chef Rose Recipes pg 30-31

"Growing up, we only had a few channels, so I watched chefs like Emeril Lagasse and Julia Child almost daily."

Let's talk about your experience with cooking. How did it begin?

"I was born in Tokyo, Japan, my dad was military. At an early age I was exposed to Asian cuisine. Even when we moved back to the states (Amarillo, Texas), my mother continued to cook Japanese inspired food."

Did your mother teach you a lot about cooking?

"She inspired me, I guess. I also have an older brother and younger brother and my parents worked a lot. Often, I took over the role of home and house chores and that included cooking. ...I watched a lot of the cooking shows on public television. Growing up, we only had a few channels, so I watched chefs like Emeril (Lagasse) and Julia Child almost daily."

"YES, CHEF":

Pro kitchen staff etiquette for "heard you, chef."

As a teen, were you inspired by these celebrity chefs?

Sure, but I grew up modestly. I had to work with what we had in the pantry. I believe it's those kinds of challenges that make me better, that, and the awesome support from my family. ...It's actually how I came up with the Wicked BLT at Oz Coffee Bar. I needed a signature sandwich on the fly, so I worked with what we had in the kitchen, and that day, it was some amazing bacon, so I made it the star ingredient.

Did you attend culinary school?

I was a student at the Art Institute of Dallas and completed my French basics, however, I prefer hands on learning and moved back home to Amarillo to dive straight into the restaurant industry. I was trained professionally by 3 Michelin Star Chinese Chef Richard Chen who I really admire. Today, I continue my growth by challenging myself to new international dishes weekly. Other chefs I'm inspired by are Dominique Crenn and Gordon Ramsay.

What brought you to Granbury?

Well... Our friends, Kevin and Eliza Knapp, invited my partner, Savannah Gates, and I to cater their Christmas party with our farm-to-table food truck back in 2019. The guests were blown away by the food, and we fell in love with the little "Hallmark town." A few months later, we returned to perform our first "Experience Dinner" for a group of couples on Valentine's Day. It was fireworks, and we ultimately decided to relocate our family, to open Oz Coffee Bar with the Knapps and continue hosting private dinners.

What is your signature style?

After becoming a mom, my focus shifted dramatically to working with nutrition-rich ingredients. I enjoy criss-crossing traditional boundaries within the culinary world... and spotlighting ingredients that are usually lost in the background. Many of my dishes are layers of different cultures. For example, using a French technique, such as "sous vide", to prepare a traditional South American dish, finished with Asian spices. I try to challenge myself daily, stepping farther outside the box. My absolute favorite... is working with ingredients fresh from the source, such as local farmers.

SOUS VIDE: literally translates to "under vacuum" in French, refers to the process of vacuum-sealing food in a bag, then cooking it to a very precise temperature in a water bath.

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*Vanilla Panna Cotta with Strawberry Champagne Foam
recipe pg 31*



*Salmon Rilletes
recipe pg 31*



Chef Rose's famous BLT served daily at Oz Coffee House



*Mahi Mahi Ceviche with Plantain Chips
recipe pg 31*



*"Tokyo Bliss"
Dragon Fruit-Cured Cod on Forbidden Black Rice topped with
torched jalapeños*



SALMON RILLETTES

- 1 lb. wild caught salmon (skinned and cut into 1" pieces)
- 2 T minced shallots
- 3 C dry white wine
- 5 oz cold smoked Salmon (cut into 1/4" pieces)
- 1/2 C Mayonnaise
- 2 T freshly chopped chives
- 2 T lemon juice
- 2 T lemon zest
- 1 Baguette sliced or crackers of your choice
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Place large saucepan over medium heat and sauté minced shallots for one minute and add the white wine. Bring to a boil and add raw salmon and lower heat the heat. Let salmon poach for 5 to 6 minutes until barely opaque in the center. Remove salmon

and place on paper towel lined plate to dry. Strain the poaching liquid into the drain, add shallots to poached salmon in place in fridge until cool completely.

2. Once salmon and shallots have cooled, add chopped cold smoked salmon, mayonnaise, lemon juice, half of the lemon zest, half of the chives and salt/pepper to taste. Mix softly, until all salmon breaks. Adjust seasonings to your liking. Careful not to overmix.

3. Slice the baguette in 1/2 inch slices and toast. Spread the rillette mix on top, garnish with remaining chives and lemon zest.

Serves 6-8

MAHI MAHI CEVICHE WITH PLANTAIN CHIPS

- 2 lbs Mahi Mahi (chopped into 1 inch pieces)
- 15 limes (juiced)
- 1 red onion (thinly shaved)
- 1 bunch of cilantro (roughly chopped)
- 1 tsp. sea salt
- 1 tsp. fresh cracked pepper
- 1 C of sweet corn
- 1 T garlic powder
- 1 T smoked paprika
- 1 lb of Plantain Chips
- 1 large jalapeno (deseeded and small diced)

1. Juice all 15 limes into large bowl, add chopped Mahi Mahi and cover, place in fridge for at least 45 minutes until fish starts to become opaque.
2. Add thinly shaved red onion,

sweet corn, garlic powder, paprika, chopped jalapeno and salt and pepper to taste to the mahi mahi. Return to fridge for an hour and then serve with plantain chips.

Serves 6-8

VANILLA PANNA COTTA WITH STRAWBERRY CHAMPAGNE FOAM

PANNA COTTA

- 1/3 C Milk
- 1 (.25 ounce) envelope unflavored gelatin
- 2 1/2 C heavy cream
- 1/2 C honey
- 1 1/2 tsp Mexican Molina Vanilla extract

STRAWBERRY AND CHAMPAGNE FOAM

- 2 C hulled strawberries (stems removed)
- 1/3 C honey
- 1/2 C Champagne

PANNA COTTA

1. Pour milk into small bowl and thoroughly stir in gelatin. Set aside.

2. In medium saucepan, stir together heavy cream and honey over medium heat. Be sure to pay attention, the cream can and will boil over.

3. Pour the gelatin and milk mixture into your cream and whisk until well blended. Add vanilla extract and cook for one minute. Pour into ramekins.

4. When cool, place ramekins into fridge to set for at least 4 hours or overnight.

FOAM

1. Place strawberries and honey in a small saucepan to cook down for 5 to 6 minutes.

2. Pour champagne in with cooked down strawberries and bring to soft boil. Allow to boil for 2 to 3 minutes.

3. Once the sauce has cooled, emulsify until sauce becomes light and airy.

4. When panna cottas have set, top with the foam and serve.

Crowd pleaser!

HOMETOWN HAPPENING

PHOTOS BY ERIN FELTMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

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The Japanese writer, Haruki Murakami, once wrote that “Death is not the opposite of life, but part of it.” However, in our society, death is a taboo topic that most people do not discuss or care to think about. Should people envision the end of life, most imagine being surrounded by multiple loved ones while lying peacefully in bed. For some, that scenario becomes reality, but statistics show that although 80% of people would prefer to die at home, 60% die in acute care hospitals, 20% in nursing homes, and only 20% are able to pass at home. In order to qualify for home hospice, one must have a caregiver who is willing and able to assist with end of life palliative care plans designed by Hospice professionals. Many people do not have the support network that is needed at the end of life and since there is a great need, a new non-profit organization in Granbury called Monarch Ranch is looking to provide an alternative option for end of life care by working to open a compassionate care home in our community. Founded by Brent and Kim Holdridge, Monarch Ranch will be a private-residence that will welcome up to two terminally ill residents at a time who are deemed to be in their last three months of life. The concept will be funded entirely by private and corporate donations as well as grants and will welcome future residents at no cost. Brent Holdridge explains “We will have a paid Executive Director and an Assistant Director, both who will have end of life care experience, and who will choose our guests based upon need. We also plan to build a team of volunteers from our community to help maintain our home and assist our guests’ transition in a dignified and peaceful manner, allowing any family and loved ones to cherish their final moments together, rather than being focused on caregiving.” The small staff and the volunteers will follow the care plan that is set by the terminally ill guest’s hospice company, just as family and loved ones would do on traditional home hospice. Family and loved ones will be able to stay in the home along with their loved one and assist in the care, as little or as much as they would like. “We will not be a medical facility with patients...” Holdridge explains, “instead, we are opening our doors to neighbors in their time of need.”

Although Monarch Ranch is a new concept to this region, it is not the first of its kind. In fact, Brent was inspired to create a compassionate care home after staying in one during the final days of his father’s battle with bladder and liver cancer. The home was called The House of John and located in the neighboring community of Newark, NY, Brent’s childhood home. When Brent and his wife, Kim, received the call that his father, Richard Holdridge, only had weeks to live, it came as a shock. “You never plan to receive a call like that”, Holdridge said. “He had been doing well, but tests had shown that the cancer had returned at a very aggressive pace and that treatment options had been exhausted. I had lost my mother, Carol, only four years prior, to cancer so I thought I

knew what to expect. She was on home hospice and my father, my brother, myself, and Kim were by her side.” Brent was on a flight to New York the next day and Kim followed a few days later. Within about two weeks of their arrival, Richard started losing strength and became wheelchair bound. Once that occurred, Brent and Kim found it very difficult to give Richard the proper care he needed within his home. “Not only was it difficult to physically care for him, but his transition and journey looked much different than my mother’s and it took a large emotional toll on Kim and I,” Brent said. A few people within the community had suggested that Brent reach out to The House of John and within a couple of days, they found themselves in the place that they will be forever thankful for. “As soon as my dad arrived at The House of John, the director and volunteers recognized symptoms that Kim and I were not familiar with, and were able to give him the palliative care he needed. Since the volunteers handled the majority of the hands-on care, it allowed Kim and I to simply be with him at his bedside at the end. My dad was a social person and I loved how the volunteers would sit at his bedside and chat about politics, the weather, or whatever was on his mind that day.” Richard was only at The House of John for three short days before passing away peacefully the morning of March 30, 2014. As Kim and Brent were leaving, Brent asked the Executive Director why there were not any concepts like House of John in Texas and she simply said “Because nobody has started one.” And, so began Monarch Ranch, named to represent the symbolic association between the metamorphosis of a butterfly and human lives. The breaking of the cocoon is often represented as the death of the body, with the butterfly being an expression of the image of freedom after death.

Once the couple returned to their home in Coppell, Texas following Richard’s passing, the mission remained on Brent’s heart for the following years, but a career move and the arrival of their baby boy took precedence. The Holdridges moved to Granbury in 2015 and immediately fell in love with the small town. They started putting plans in motion in 2019 by filing their formation documents, consulting with a number of other compassionate care homes (including one in San Antonio called The Abode Contemplative Home for the Dying), and working on their 501c3 application, which was approved February 2020. “Our small Board of Directors was ready to hit the ground running once we got our 501c3, but then Covid hit the following month and obviously had a big impact on our community and our other local non-profits. Because of that, we decided to hold back and work on some behind the scenes work.” They are currently working with local builder, BJ Oliver of All Over Solutions, to design a floor plan and draw renderings for the home and have an ambitious goal of breaking ground before the end of 2021. Holdridge states “Granbury lives up to it’s reputation of being the best small town in America and we are excited to help rally the community to come together to help others during a time of need.



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GISD Athletic Trainers

story by **RICK MAUCH**

photography by **ERIC KILLINGSWORTH**



From broken bones to broken emotions, **Andy Rankin and Connie Rhodes have seen their share as** athletic trainers in the Granbury School District. "I was graduating high school and I was the basketball manager, when coach said I should look into athletic training. I said, 'What's that?'" Andy recalled. "So I did look into it, and realized it was something I did indeed want to go after." Being in sports in a helping career, it was attractive to me, and it's been very rewarding."

And here they are, both having spent more than two decades doing that same thing - helping athletes return to good health and get back to the sports they love. Andy has spent 28 years in the business, the past 12 in Granbury, while Connie has spent 20 of her 22 years at Granbury. Andy has also worked at Big Spring (14 years)

and Troup (2 years), while Connie spent her first two years at Robert E. Lee in Tyler.

The rewards have been both ways. While there is satisfaction in being there to help youngsters at the time of an injury, the athletes themselves are thankful they are onsite, always ready to help.

"As an athlete (track, cross country), I had injuries different times, and my high school didn't have a trainer, so I had to go to ACU (Abilene Christian University)," Connie said. "It looked interesting just to watch them help athletes return to sports. So that's how I got involved."

While neither are doctors, they are the first on the scene when an injury occurs to an athlete. Were it not for them, well, as Andy said, "When bad things happen,



PIRATE

Athlete Jaden Rogers & Trainer Connie Rhodes



we're there to make sure they don't get worse."

Their day typically starts around 6 a.m. On days without a game, they're usually headed home around 6 p.m. But on game days, they can be working until around midnight.

They cover all high school home events, Andy the boys sports and Connie the girls. They travel with the football team and with any team in any sport that is in the playoffs. They also cover a variety of junior high home sporting events.

"We're very fortunate in Granbury to have two trainers of the caliber they are," GISD Athletic Director Dwight Butler said. "I've been in this





business a long time, and they're two of the best I've ever seen. What sets them apart is their work ethic, their tireless, countless hours. I don't have to worry about the medical end of our program at all."

In fact, when Butler was the A.D. in Big Spring, he hired Andy. He still considers it one of his greatest decisions.

Andy and Connie have won a plethora of awards at both the state and national level. Their reputation is so good that even Tarleton State University sends their athletic trainer interns to work with the duo.

"That says a lot when you have a university send their interns to work with high school trainers," Butler said. "But they aren't just any high school trainers. They have a great rapport with doctors, with parents, with the community."

Asked about the most common injuries, and they will say it largely depends on the sport. Volleyball and

basketball, for example, might have more ankle injuries with all the jumping. Of course, football is filled with bumps and bruises, along with some of the nastier aches and pains - including concussions.

"People are becoming a lot more educated about concussions," Andy said, adding that more is being done to ensure an athlete does not return to the game or practice too early.

To which Connie added, "I think the research that's being done has made a big difference, and we have Natasha's Law as a guideline."

In 2011, Texas House Bill 2038 was signed into legislation to focus on dealing with concussions, including a state log. It was named after Natasha Helmick, a very strong advocate for the legislation, who was a young soccer star who suffered repeated concussions and gave up her dream of playing in the Olympics.

Sometimes their jobs require them to deal with emotional injuries. They're not psychologists, but they always listen with an open mind and heart.

"Sometimes they have to work on the psyche of the kid," Butler said. "That's huge when you have trainers who are interested in the whole kid."

They also take the parents into consideration. It's hard to hear your kid is going to be out for a while, or perhaps the rest of the season, with an injury.

"Injuries never happen at the right time," Andy said. "But anybody that helps your child out, a parent appreciates that."

And there are times when they have to help an athlete emotionally after he/she has been told by a doctor they won't play again. Though not welcome news, Butler said parents know they are getting it straight from the two.

"That comes from keeping parents, grandparents informed from the very start," he said. "Good news or bad, parents appreciate the honesty, and they both have a good bedside manner."

They have seen some interesting injuries over the years. They've also heard a lot of interesting excuses, Connie said.

"There's been a lot of 'It seemed like a good idea at the time,'" Connie said with a laugh.

Along with all of their work at school, Andy and Connie manage strong family lives. Andy and his wife, Amanda, the GISD athletic secretary have two sons, Kaleb and Jakob. Connie is married to to Jeremy Rhodes, the asst. superintendent at Squaw Valley Golf Course and they have a daughter, Rachel.



Selena Burger-Fennell (Tarleton U. MSAT student), Trainer Connie Rhodes & Student Morgan King



"You utilize what free time you get as best you can, enjoy the family time you do get as much as possible," Connie said.

"It's nice here, too, that there are two of us, so sometimes one of us can cover for the other one," Andy said.

Like the athletes they help, Andy and Connie must also stay on top of their game. This requires maintaining at least 50 hours of continuing education each two years

for their national license and at least 30 hours every two years for their state license. They accomplish this in a variety of ways, some online, some by traveling for courses, and they can even teach a college course for credit, Andy said.

Though their lives are busy, they do find time for hobbies. Andy likes anything airplanes, including air shows, and car shows. Connie likes fishing, and basically anything outside.

S MEDICINE



Athletic Trainer Andy Rankin & Athletic Trainer Connie Rhodes

Both have been asked about working at the college level. That, however, is something neither is considering as they like things just fine where they are. "We never work on Sundays and rarely on Wednesday evenings," Andy said.

Connie chimed in immediately with, "Sundays and Wednesday evenings are nice for family time."

But they also realize their job will never be considered

ordinary - and they are quite happy with that. They're making a difference in the lives of young athletes.

Besides, Andy said, "If we worked a 9-5 job, I don't know what I'd do with myself."



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Puteet Hill:

Cresson Home Development to Include Luxury Homes Zoned to GISD Schools



The little town of Cresson, Texas has sat quietly for the past several decades. The town that had various businesses from a blacksmith to a wagon maker to cattle ranching has gone through many years of changes. The historic Cresson School which now houses a museum provides a walk back in time. On the horizon, there are plans for a school in Cresson to be a part of the Granbury Independent School District. The once two lanes down Highway 377 are now in full capacity with four lanes and a much talked about railroad switching station. Commuters driving to and from jobs into the DFW area can experience delays that are not popular to say the least. However, the relief route bypass is under construction and will now ease some of the pains of waiting at the railroad crossing.

Cresson was known as a rancher's town where community felt the impact of a good year in cattle raising. There were several family names that carry the history of cattle raising to include the Miles, Slocums, Teichs, Glascocks, and Putteets to name a few.

All the way back to the 1900's whenever C.S. (Charley) Lanham moved to Hood County and attended schools at Cresson. He was on the farm with his father where he learned how to be a farmer and a stock raiser. Mr. Lanham became the owner of 1,850 acres of land in Hood County and ran averages of two hundred head of cattle.

After an unexpected bout with appendicitis, Mr. Lanham died and his son in law, Roy Putteet, walked away from his job at Sinclair Oil Company in Fort Worth to take over the family ranch. Times were tough and there was debt that he inherited, but Mr. Putteet kept working day and night to save the beloved ranch.

He married and raised three children, two sons and a daughter, who later inherited the land. Now, we are here in 2021st year and the only remaining original landowner is Rose Putteet, wife to Billy Joe Putteet for 52 years. While Mrs. Putteet is now sporting the gorgeous silver hair and the wisdom that goes with age, she is still a progressive thinker and business minded woman. She originally pondered what to do with the land since she could no longer farm nor ranch the land. She knew this was a wonderful location which allowed for an easy commute to jobs, the DFW airport, and colleges in the DFW Metroplex. The metroplex was once limited to just the

Fort Worth Dallas area, but now with the corridors of highways, we consider the metroplex to include Cresson and stretch into Granbury.

Once classmates at Granbury High School, they put their heads together and decided a project to include luxurious homes on ranch land that offers a centralized location made sense. At the same time, classmates Morris Duree and Tom Mercer had formed Granbury Realty and were looking for property to develop. Even better, Teena Putteet Conway, had just moved back to Cresson was just stepping into the role of Mayor of her hometown and welcomed the growth for Cresson.

Little towns just like Cresson are challenged with accepting growth opportunities while balancing the need for more sophisticated infrastructure for both water and sewer. Cresson is no different. The classmates, now developers, were offering solutions with over two acres lots which would allow for private wells and sewer. Not to mention the beautiful views from the hilltops that allows you to enjoy seeing all the way into Granbury and even Comanche Peak. Bluebonnets, each Spring, will line the entrance and even be found in the pastureland.

The first phase will involve about 100 homes on 2-acres lots. Individuals and home builders are already reserving lots. In one of the first homes, the plans are slated for a 3,700 square foot, three car garage dwelling.

Phase 2 and 3 will offer another 500 homes on smaller lots and there may be water and sewer offered. Another plus for Putteet Hill homeowners is that Cresson does not levy a property tax. The relief route, which is under construction and has a targeted completion of 2022, will fit perfectly for the homeowners that have jobs which require a commute to the DFW area with I-20 being only 17 miles away.

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F

ossil Rim was founded on the conviction that all creatures have a right to exist; that the natural world has intrinsic value apart from human perceptions and needs; and that this right and this value deserve our deep respect. Modern culture, with its emphasis on economic and technological values, tends to threaten the quality and integrity of nature. Fossil Rim strives to provide a model and stimulus for alternative ways of experiencing and relating to animals and nature as a whole.

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For more information about Fossil Rim and how you can become a member or donate. Please visit fossilrim.org.

Please enjoy the following pages of our exquisite photos our staff photographer achieved on a trip to Fossil Rim with his family.

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(pictured pg 65) Second-largest land mammal native to Southern and Eastern Africa.

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6. Blackbuck

An antelope of the same tribe (Antilopini) that includes gazelles, the springbok, and the gerenuk.

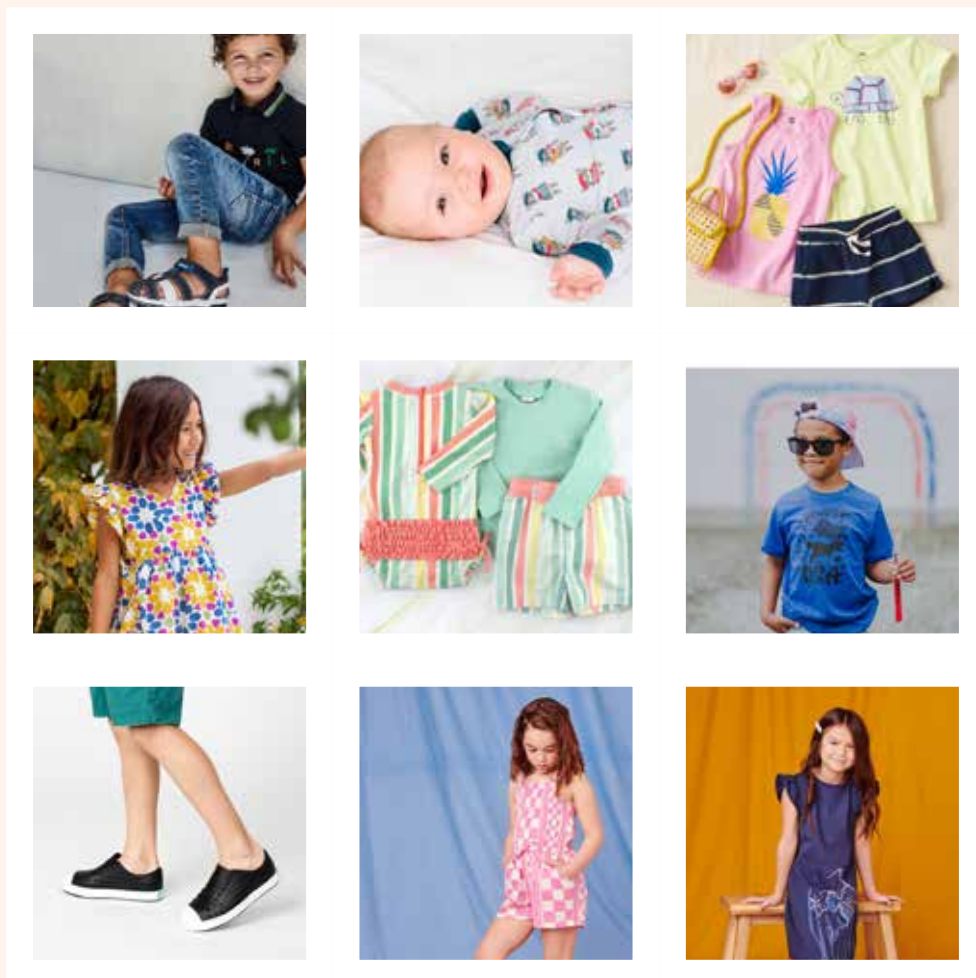
7. Emu

A prehistoric bird thought to have roamed the outback of Australia some 80 million years ago.

These are only a few of the amazing animals cared for at Fossil Rim. Please go to fossilrim.org to learn more and plan a visit!

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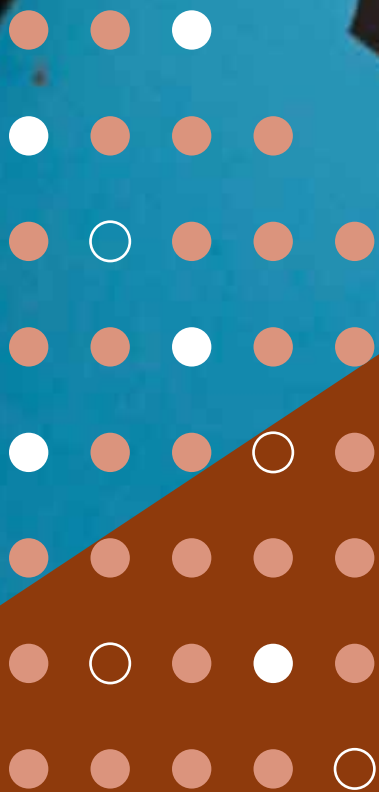
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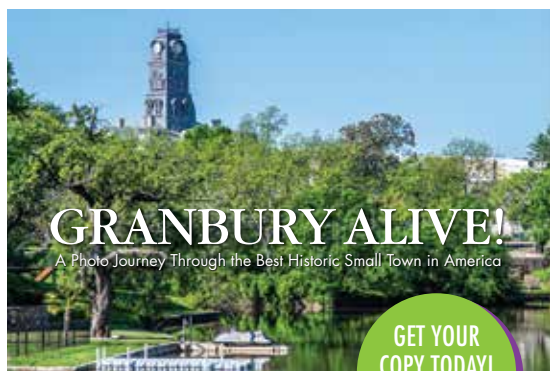
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Malpass Brothers
MAY 14 7:30pm

Chicago Tribute
MAY 15 7:00pm

The Ultimate Boyband Tribute
MAY 21 7:30pm

Elvis
MAY 22 3:00 and 7:00pm

Josh Weathers: Dad Rock
MAY 28 7:30 and 9:30pm

Country Legends Tribute!
MAY 29 7:00 pm

Def Legend
JUNE 4 7:30pm

Briefcase Blues
JUNE 5 7:00pm

Michael Hix
JUNE 11 7:30 pm

GBL Original
JUNE 12 3:00 & 7:00 pm

Gary Morris
JUNE 18 7:30 pm

Jim Stafford
JUNE 19 3:00 and 7:00pm

Sonny Morgan
JUNE 25 7:30pm

Lost Shaker of Salt
JUNE 26 7:00pm

American Soldier
JULY 1 7:00pm

American Soldier
JULY 2 7:00pm

Josh Weathers
JULY 9 7:30pm

Stevie Ray Vaughan Tribute
JULY 10 7:00pm

**Seeger System
Bob Seeger Tribute**
JULY 16 7:30pm

**Back In Time
The Huey Lewis Experience**
JULY 17 7:00 pm

**Texas Clearwater Revival
Creedence Clearwater Tribute**
JULY 23 7:30 pm

**Oh What a Night
A Musical Tribute To Frankie
Valli & The Four Seasons**
JULY 24 3:00 and 7:00pm

Jamie Richards
JULY 30 7:30pm

John Berry
JULY 31 7:00pm

Prophets & Outlaws
AUG 6 7:30pm

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

JULY 4
47th Annual Hood County
Hometown July 4

Parade, fireworks and vendors
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Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap
MAY 21 - JUNE 2

**The Beach Boys Tribute
"Surf's Up"**
JUNE 11 - JUNE 12

Greater Tuna
JUNE 18 - JULY 4

**Walk Like a Man: A Tribute
to The Music of Franki Valli
& The Four Seasons**
JULY 9 - JULY 10

**Fortunate Son: A Tribute to
Creedence Clearwater Revival**
AUG 7 - AUG 8

**Big River: The Adventures
of Huckleberry Finn**
AUG 13 - SEPT 8

**Infinite Journey: The
Music of Journey**
SEPT 10 - SEPT 11

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