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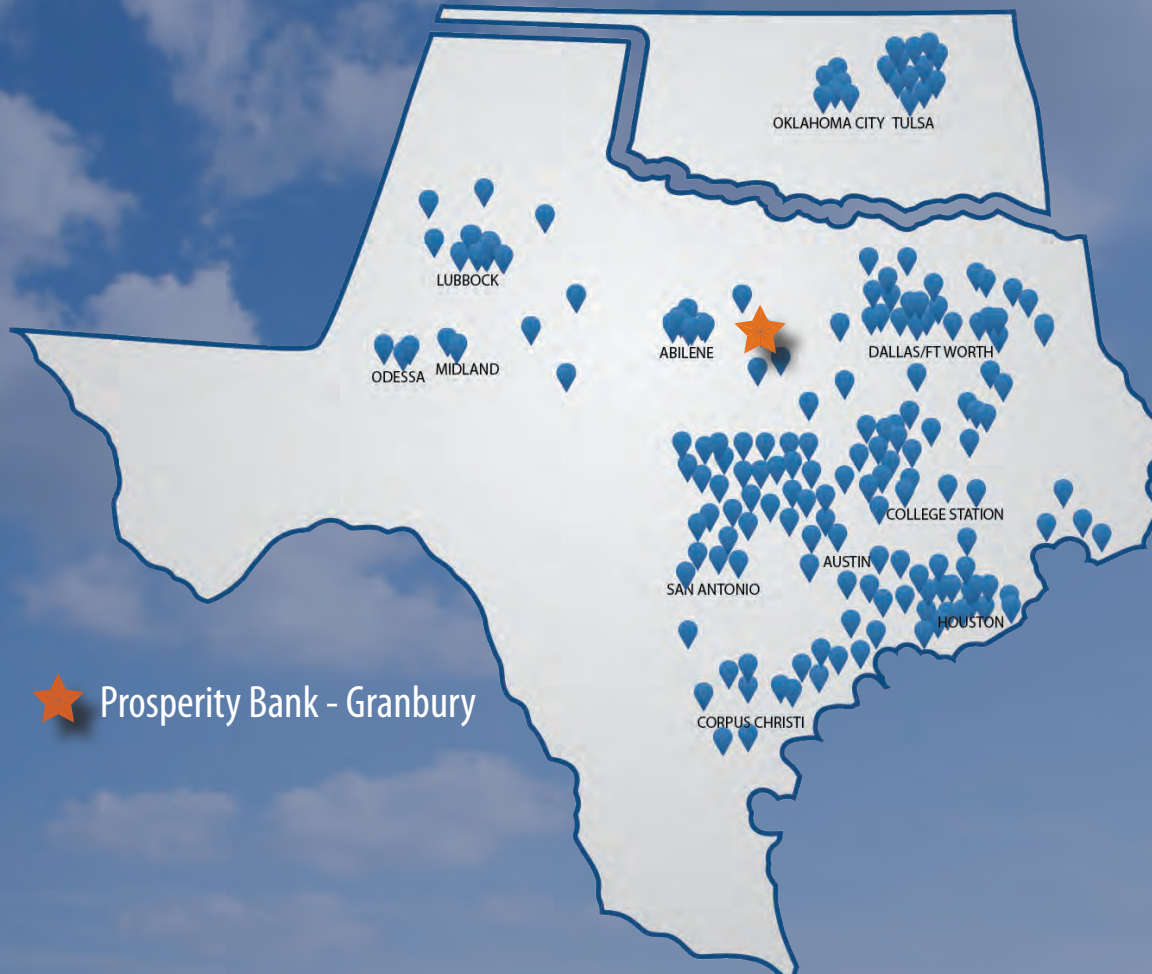
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FROM THE PUBLISHER



DREAM BIG.

This publication has been nicknamed the dream issue since we first started receiving our stories back from our writers. One story after the next was about seeing your dreams come true or making someone else's dreams possible. What an awesome community we live in, where we can see each other grow into our dreams and thrive together in this great place we call Granbury. Once again, I feel like the LGL team gathered stories that affect our community in a positive way, and highlighted a few stories you may already know a little about.

I hope that you will enjoy this magazine, all its beautiful photography, and heartfelt stories. I hope you feel encouraged and empowered to go out and achieve your dreams as well.

It truly does take the efforts of many people to put this publication together. As it has grown and flourished, I am humbled by the support of our hometown. I want to say thank you again for that, and a huge thank you to our team that goes above and beyond editing stories, snapping photos, and pushing pixels. Publishing a magazine is so much more than that, but it truly is my dream.

Thank you all for your continued support, and please patron our advertisers who make this possible.

Wishing you many blessings,

Amy Wade Winters

Sales: (817) 330-9015
Email: info@lglmagazine.com

A special thank you to Julie Lyssy for covering for us during maternity leave. Your help is more valuable than you will ever know.

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PUBLISHER enVision Publishing
EXECUTIVE EDITOR |
ART DIRECTOR Amy Wade Winters
BUSINESS MANAGER Megan Thomas
MANAGING EDITOR Melissa McGavock
DIRECTOR OF
ADS + MARKETING Kelly A. Lindner
JUNIOR DESIGNER Dawn Skinner

COPY EDITORS enVision Publishing
Julie Lyssy

CREATIVE | DESIGN enVision Creative Services

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Andra Mayberry
Brad McGavock
Carol Cook
James Hamilton
J.A. Gauvreau
Julie Lyssy
Kim Fancher
Melissa McGavock
Peggy Freeman

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Dawn Skinner
Fat Cow Studio
Heath Ramsey
Landi Whitefield
Misti White Photography
Molly Magee Photography
Oh Snap! Photography
Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography

COVER PHOTO

Ridge Roberts
Photography by Shad Ramsey of
Red Door Photography

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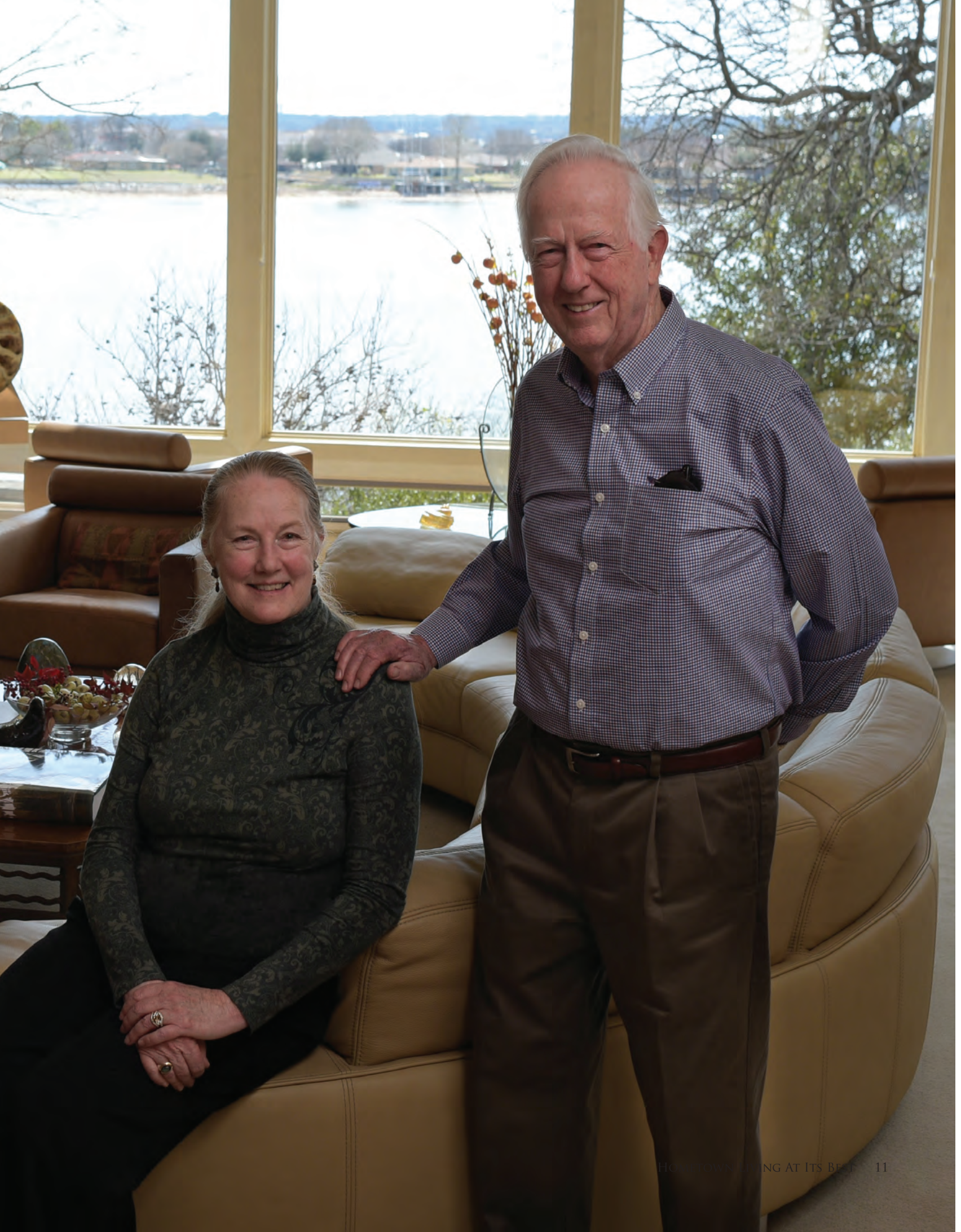
Getting to know community members, Charles and Dominique Inge

by Melissa McGavock | Photography by Shad Ramsey

Charles and Dominique Inge have happily called themselves permanent residents of Granbury for 15 years. Their commitment to one another and to this community is apparent and put simply, inspirational to those that meet them.

Dominique's mother was French, her father was from Atlanta, Georgia. Their courtship started during the second World War, where her father was stationed with Dominique's maternal grandfather, a ranking officer in the French Army. Following the war, their courtship turned to marriage and they made the trip back to the states to start a family. Dominique, raised in Atlanta, spent much of her childhood traveling back to Nice, France to visit family.

Perhaps it was this early introduction to French culture and art that spurred Dominique's interest in fine art and art history. Before moving to Dallas to attend Southern Methodist University where she had been offered an academic scholarship, Dominique worked for ten years at the renowned High Museum in Atlanta, Georgia. The High Museum houses an extensive Classic and Contemporary art collection, one of our nation's most notable. It was her extensive experience in the arts there, which decided Dominique's move to Texas to complete her degree in Art History.



One of the first sculptures that Charles purchased on a trip to New Orleans, LA.



Charles, raised in Dallas, and also an alum of SMU with a degree in business, was working in real estate development and land assemblage in the Dallas area. He officed in Snyder Plaza very near the university and also next door to the art gallery where Dominique worked. “I was the girl next door,” Dominique smiles.

One of the couple’s favorite artists is Austrian born painter, Fritz Hundertwasser (1928-2000). His work is particularly special because pieces inspired by his life work were made available in the art gallery where Dominique worked and gave Charles a way to connect with her. The couple brought out the small book that Charles purchased that day and proceeded to share the story.

Charles wanted to meet the girl next door. He had contacted the gallery owner and purchased the small book on condition that Dominique would be the one to deliver it. His plan nearly went awry because when Dominique arrived, Charles was on the phone, but spotted Dominique through his window. With haste and before the secretary accepted the book and sent Dominique on her way, Charles buzzed through and instructed his secretary to not let her leave, just yet. This little handoff sparked a love that still carries a 33 year marriage. Of which they noted, they’d do again should they have the chance.



The “little book” about Fritz Hundertwasser’s life’s work and purchased by Charles when the couple met.

They began to travel more in the early 1980s, and took a trip through the inter-coastal water way. This ignited such a passion for life on the water, they dreamed of living on a boat, and did. Charles, the captain, complete with his large nautical charts took delivery of their troller boat in Sarasota, FL to begin their two and half year naval journey ending in Annapolis, Maryland.

In 1990, a visit to the hill country to seek out a weekend home brought the couple through Granbury on their way back home to Dallas. They had never visited Granbury, but were touched by its charm and beautiful lake. And there, just as fate would have it, they spotted a perfect waterfront home with a spiral staircase leading down to the water, much like the one on their troller. They purchased the home the following day. As their weekends spent in Granbury began to get longer and longer, in 2000, they made Granbury their permanent home.

Charles and Dominique share a keen appreciation of how things influence one another and the effect that has on our daily life. For example, Dominique's thesis considered both literary and visual art analysis working hand in hand. Also, she has always been interested in how humans interact with plants, "I think I might be a closet ethno-botanist," Dominique says. In all honesty,



Charles showing one of the walking sticks he crafted from driftwood. He made his first walking stick at the age of 11 out of mesquite, for his father.



Charles pictured, holding a bust of himself that Dominique sculpted years ago.

Dominique learned much of what she knows about gardening from Charles. Charles' family has a farm outside Dallas where the couple would spend weekends tending to the vegetation and learning about all the trees and plants. Charles is also passionate about writing and traveling. His great interest in poetry took him to the Breadloaf Writers' Conference in Vermont a couple of times, one of the most prestigious of its kind. He returned to SMU to complete a Masters degree in Liberal Arts, allowing Charles to freely design his focus and really hone his writing.

As active philanthropists, they've drawn inspiration from poets and artists they've met. One of their most cherished accomplishments is their involvement in the Dora Lee Langdon Cultural and Educational Center. The annual Review of the Arts in Texas has taken place at the Langdon in September for the last 11 years. Each year they compile an anthology that contains artists, prose, poetry, and photography. Both Charles and Dominique have contributed to the anthology and both are published authors.

Their drive to support their fellow man motivated the couple to begin the Inge Foundation 15 years ago. The Foundation broadens their scope of beneficiaries as it funds pre-selected grantees in the following categories: cultural, educational, environmental, medical and social services.

Most recently, they were very proud to receive the Distinguished Friends Award from the Tarleton Alumni Association. It was especially significant as it was a shared honor. Also, Dominique was very surprised to receive the annual Howard Clemmons award for community service awarded by our local Chamber of Commerce. She is proud to share such a special honor with community members such as former city councilman and fire chief, J.C. Campbell.

It is obvious after only sharing one afternoon with Charles and Dominique that they not only better this community and the lives shared with them, but they also encourage one another. They respect and support one another's interests. They read to one another every single day. The search for this kind of commitment should be at the center of all we do, whether it is an achievement sought after in agriculture, economics, public policy, fine art, music, writing, and even on a smaller scale -- our



relationships with one another and to our immediate community. And the ability to sustain the test of time, to build a better future for our generation and generations in front of us, is a noble goal no matter how great or small the objective may be.

Their passion for everything they involve themselves with is profound and has been since day one. The little book from the gallery, formerly mentioned, comes to mind as Dominique explains her inspiration. Hundertwasser, whose work could be described as playful, organic, and distinctive, does not directly reflect his early life experience. He and his family suffered great violence and oppression during the Nazi invasion of Austria in 1938.

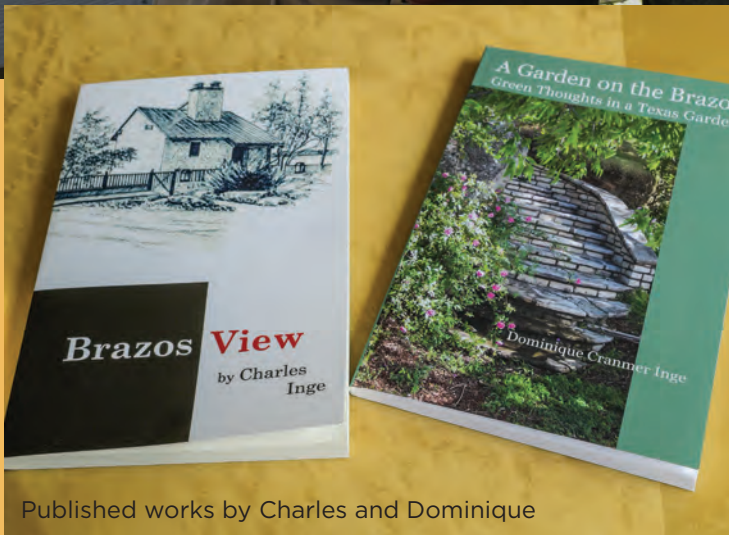
Dominique read to me a quote by the artist, speaking of his life philosophy. "We should all live as if we were at war."

She explains, "At first, I was a bit put off by this statement, but really as I began thinking about it and in the context of his life, understanding the experiences in war, it was a very, very intense time... he was a person of passion and encourages us to bring that same intensity and appreciation of life into our everyday experience."

Upon meeting the Inges, I instantly felt at ease. Perhaps it's their life experience, their beautiful home, or their love for one another, whatever it is, they carry themselves in such a way that it renders one feeling immediately relaxed and inspired when in front of them.

Charles and Dominique, along with their beloved Labrador, Brindle, make the most of life here in Granbury, as should we all, with great passion, *live* where we are.

■LGL



Published works by Charles and Dominique

*“Live at home”
-George Washington Carver*

HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BANQUET

The Chamber Best of Business Awards took place this year at the Pecan Plantation Country Club on January 28th. It was an evening full of merriment, recognition, and successful fundraising.

Photography courtesy of Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography



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Lettuce Help

By Peggy Freeman | Photography by Heath Ramsey

TO THE HUNDRED-PLUS VOLUNTEERS AND RECIPIENTS AT THE PROJECT, THE FRUITS FOR THIS LABOR ARE PRECIOUS.

Ben and Margret Fields grew up in Fort Worth, both filled with a love for others that goes beyond the church doors. Their faith is planted deep, rooted in reality and produces a tremendous amount of fruit—literally—growing produce at Project-44. Like the farm they manage, their faith has survived severe storms and droughts.

Project-44's name comes from the 44th book of the Christian Bible - The Book of Acts. However, not long ago, Ben became discouraged with religion and felt there had to be more to being Christ-like.

“I was attending church and getting involved weekly, but began to question my faith. I didn't feel I was helping the people the church had set out to help. Instead, I was getting more tied up in church politics.”

Ben owns an auto repair garage in Fort Worth. During this time of personal questioning, a car was dropped off at his shop and the owner decided it was too much trouble to keep it. He offered it to Ben, suggesting that he give it to someone in need. Thus Project-44 ministry roared into life. Ben and Margret quickly became the church in action.

According to Margret, Ben Fields is not a patient man when it comes to getting things done. She explains it this way. “We basically left the church shortly after Christmas 2007, met with some friends in January 2008, gave our first car away on June 8, 2008 and had our formal 501(c)(3) status by November 2008. The farm came to be in 2010.”





The mission of Project-44 is to go beyond the four walls of a church and help those in need—where they need it. In just six years, they have given more than 235 cars to families in need. The gift of a car provides the means of support for a person in need—transportation to work, school, health care appointments, etc.

Later, the charity was given the use of a piece of land; thus began the garden ministry. The Project-44 farm is located just northeast of Granbury.

“Now we’re producing about 1,000 pounds of produce a week,” Ben said. “Our 50 chickens are laying about 40 eggs a day. Our hydroponic systems, basically grow plants in water without soil. Nutrients are added and it is oxygenated. It’s all enclosed. It’s never too cold or too hot, we maintain the water temperature at 69 degrees. We should be able to match our 40,000 pounds/year of crop production with this hydroponic system. And with this system the lettuce matures to a head in four weeks time, yielding about 30,000 pounds a week,” Ben explains.

Those involved in the Project-44 ministry declare, “We strive to live the acts of the disciples on a daily basis, to the best of our abilities. We will imitate Christ and do

this by seeking to be as faithful to the human vocation as he was.”

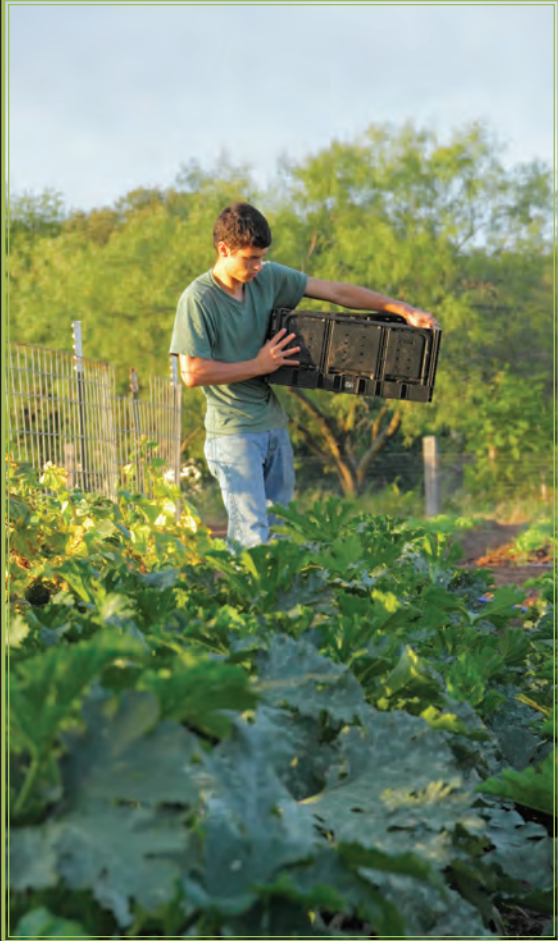
Ben’s gifts—hard work and out of the box thinking—are perfect for the ministries of automobiles and food banks. And while he can take a broken-down, battered automobile and bring it back to life, Margret helps people do the same with their emotional and spiritual life. Her gift comes to others in the form of counseling. Project-44’s counseling stabilizes the spiritual and emotional needs of families experiencing difficult times. It seems this union of talent, known as Ben and Margret, were planted in this community to grow not only produce, but a ministry.

“I got into ministry after we started Project-44.” Margret said. “I knew as a youth that I would be a counselor when I grew up. So I pursued degrees in counseling, but it never felt right to me.” Margret holds a Masters from Texas Wesleyan University, is registered as a Licensed Professional Counselor and has a Supervisory License issued by the State of Texas. “After we started Project-44 and I had an opportunity to talk to people about God’s amazing love and grace... I really enjoyed that. We would do car presentations and I would stand



Treehouse located at Project-44

Project-44 donates 90 percent of everything they grow to feed hungry people.



before a congregation, read scripture and give a short message. People began to say crazy things to me like 'I bet you can preach.' I pursued this track and am in the process of ordination as Pastor of Outreach for the United Methodist Church. In 2011, I was appointed to Acton UMC, which is the closest Methodist church to the farm.”

Margret's infectious smile and honest love for others, paired with a grant of office space from a local church began the counseling ministry, the organization's newest addition. Project-44's Sanctuary Counseling Ministry seeks to provide affordable counseling to those in need that cannot typically pay for the counseling themselves. “We titled this ministry, Sanctuary, after we acquired space from a local church to house it.”

“Pray for those in need and pray that we are able to continue to show God's love in real and tangible ways. Everyone has been gifted in some way to be the face of Christ in this world... each person has something to offer that shares God's great message of love, hope, grace and salvation with others. It takes courage and strength to follow God's calling. It also involves humility. We have all been gifted, but the gift comes from God and is for God's glory, not our own.” ■LGL

If you have a car to donate, please contact Ben@Project-44.org or by phone at (817)727-2229.

Donors are able to claim full NADA value of their car on taxes. Project-44 requires a clear title on the car and they will help you with a small amount of paperwork. If you don't have a car, but want to donate funds, an average of \$1,000 is spent on every car the project gives away. This includes necessary repairs, registration, inspection, title transfer fees and insurance. The Project-44 car ministry is sponsored by Red Carpet Car Wash and Red Carpet provides a show-room detail on each car.

If you or anyone you know would benefit from personal counseling, please contact Margret Fields at (817)313-6916.

Volunteers are always needed! Please call Dana at (817)559-1717 for more information. You can also help by purchasing the produce or by making a donation.

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IF YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY IN *Texas*

by Carol Cook

*Photography by Shad Ramsey and
Provided by Roberts' Family*

*He has an
ordinary life and
appears just like
other kids, until he
picks up a fiddle.*

Granbury has claims to fame that are honorable, historical, and astounding. Home to legendary champions in sports, including an Olympian swimmer and the winningest basketball coach in the US, rodeo stars, music greats, and more, each have made the town proud. Today, we are looking at a young musician named Ridge Roberts, who will undoubtedly join this group of champions.

At the age of seven, Ridge picked up a fiddle and began playing around with a few tunes while listening to the radio. His dad, John, played the fiddle, as did an uncle and a family friend, so it wasn't surprising when young Ridge showed an interest in the storied instrument.



Over the next three years he took instructions in fiddle playing with his father and family friend, surprising them and many in the community with his ability to play an instrument with ease that most struggle to learn. What his family soon discovered, Ridge had more than just an interest in the fiddle, there was born talent. In 2013, his parents placed Ridge under the guidance of renowned, Grammy winning world champion fiddle player and teacher, Joey McKenzie.

So who is Ridge Roberts besides a young, gifted fiddle player? He's an ordinary boy with two brothers, a mom, dad, and grandparents, as well as friends he enjoys goofing off with. He enjoys typical boy's games,

he also collects old coins, old Bibles, toy cars, musical instruments, cowboy hats, and John Deere items.

His performances, competitions, and practices are scheduled around his home schooling studies and family time. However, Ridge quickly revealed that he spends a good bit of time Lego building, watching TV cooking shows, and cooking! He loves to cook and does often. Sounds as if he is enjoying a little of everything since he also loves to draw pictures.

One difference in Ridge and other boys his age, he spends two or more hours a day in practice after school work is finished. Many younger musicians might balk at his level of practice intruding into their play time, but

not Ridge. He believes practice and determination will bring him to the goals he has set for himself. Still, he has an ordinary life and appears just like other kids, until he picks up a fiddle.

His approach may sound simple, but not everyone who plays a musical instrument, especially the fiddle, discovers the gift, the art of playing with such ease. But it does take practice, perseverance, energy, and an eagerness to learn, which is huge when you consider other boys his age are usually spending a lot of time playing games, athletics or otherwise.

By the end of his first year of lessons Ridge entered and won first place in the Johnson County Pioneers and Old Settlers Reunion Fiddle contest for the fifteen year olds and under division. The following year he won first place in the twelve and under division. In January 2014, he won first place at the 13th Annual Colorado Fiddle Championships in Denver. Given his dedication and competitiveness, this comes as no surprise.

His ability defies an easy explanation when he plays a variety of styles; western swing, vintage country, old time Texas style fiddle tunes, a little bluegrass, even a few Irish tunes. He performs with a comfortable confidence of someone much older taking control of the music, simply

dazzling the audience with his effortless notes.

To listen to him play, or speak about playing the fiddle and the music, and what he wants to become, you see and hear his passion, which makes it easy to forget his age. Speaking with an optimistic outlook of national fiddle competitions he plans to win, listing names of past winners, facts spilling from Ridge to where you know you are in the presence of a champion in the making.

With a casual manner of discussing a kid's baseball game, he points out details about the fiddle's construction, how it is different than a violin, what woods are used, and the difference of playing high notes versus low tones in fiddle music. He can recount famous fiddle musicians and the history of contests across the nation as if he is naming capital cities of each state in a history class.

Ridge's devotion to practice will certainly bring his goals within reach; but where does his determination come from? Certainly not the fear of not reaching those goals, but from the joy he knows he will experience when they are met. A love for his music exudes from him when he plays or speaks, and he will clearly, and with the knowledge of an older person, inform you of the fiddle's history and how Texas fiddle music came into its own by the 1950's and '60's, spreading across the land by long ago





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[www.lglmagazine.com/if-youre-going-to-play-in-texas.](http://www.lglmagazine.com/if-youre-going-to-play-in-texas)

champion fiddlers, Benny Thomasson, Lewis Franklin, and more who paved the way.

Ridge has also composed around sixty fiddle tunes, confirming his gift for music. “A tune just comes to me, usually when I’m just messin’ around,” he states. His true aspirations are to compose more of his favorite style, old time Texas fiddle music, he says. He may be a young amateur on the edge of greatness, but composing tunes at his age only confirms what so many believe about his talents.

When asked who he has met, performed with, or idolizes, his face lights up to name them as if he is speaking of his closest friends. His fiddle teacher, Joey Mckenzie is spoken of with great respect, as well as country music star Vince Gill, another idol he played with

and who is a huge influence to Ridge. Other well-known performer’s names, sounding like a who’s who in the industry, roll from him as if meeting with them it is an everyday occurrence.

To date, Ridge has surpassed or achieved every goal he has set, moving on to the next one with undiminished passion that will definitely take him to championships. When asked if he had ever wanted to do anything besides play the fiddle, he confessed at one time, probably when he was about six; he wanted to become a Texas Ranger. What a loss to the Texas Rangers, but then look at what the music world has gained.

Ridge has voiced his desire to play simply and to entertain instead of entering contests. He would like to devote time to playing at nursing or retirement homes,

and to hospice patients. Happiness he said is making others happy, and Ridge enjoys using music to accomplish this.

His music teacher, Joey McKenzie, speaks of his young protégé with great pride, stating he is one of the most talented, bright, and incredibly promising young fiddle players he has ever taught. This says a lot about Ridge's future since Joey has seen eight of his students go on to become national fiddle playing champions.

"I speak with eminent pride when I say he is a throwback to some of the great fiddle players from a long ago past, their style and love of the music... Ridge's interest in the fiddle's history, his love of the music, hard work, and his humble, well-mannered personality will take him far in this industry, he is simply refreshing," Joey states.

Ridge's parents are beyond proud, audiences love him, and his friends think he's cool. So does everyone who hears him play the fiddle. ■LGL

*At the age of seven,
Ridge picked up
a fiddle and began
playing around with
a few tunes while
listening to the radio.*





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Did you know

is **AUTISM** **APRIL** awareness month

Every child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) has unique abilities, symptoms and challenges. Autism is characterized by marked difficulties in behavior social integration, communication and sensory sensitivity.

Autism is the fastest growing disability in the U.S. and is a life long neuro-developmental disability now affecting 1 in 68 children. This represents a 30% increase since 2012.

More children will be diagnosed with Autism than all other childhood diseases combined, costing EACH FAMILY an average of \$60,000 per year for recommended education and therapeutic treatments.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Research Counsel recommend early intervention, comprehensive education and therapies that include A.B.A., structure, direction and organization for the child and family participation. www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/treatment.html

awareness in *Action*

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History Hidden in Plain Site

By James M. Hamilton | Photography by Dawn Skinner

There's more than meets the eye at the Yeats-Duke Cabin, the second oldest existing structure in Granbury still standing in its original location.



There's more than meets the eye at the Yeats-Duke Cabin, the second oldest existing structure in Granbury still standing in its original location. The friendly women who spend their days giving tours, weaving, and crafting teddy bears at 214 N. Crockett are the caretakers of a mystery: Along the way, the old log cabin that stood on this site disappeared. Step inside, though, and they will gladly share the entire story.

“In the 1850s, the Brazos River was the last line between civilization and Comanche Country,” curator Julie Pitts said. “The people who crossed were usually taking their lives into their own hands.”

Austin Yeats and his family were just such people. Natives of the mountains of east Tennessee, the Yeats family left their home in 1854 to raise cattle on the gently rolling prairies of Texas – in what later became Hood County. They were part of a mass movement of Tennessee settlers who left entire communities empty when they came to this area. By profession, Austin Yeats was a joiner. His strong hands and sharp tools shaped wood of all sizes into pieces that fit beautifully together. The Yeats stayed with relatives and others for a few years before deciding to build a cabin of their own in 1858.

A Yeats descendant, Matie Huffstutler, recalled in 1974 that her grandfather built the cabin from oak trees cut from where the Courthouse now stands. More recent scholarship indicates Yeats found oak and pecan trees in abundance along Lambert Branch which still flows a few steps behind the building. Whatever the source, cutting and shaping the logs could not have been an easy task.

Dona Sorensen, a docent and artist at the cabin explains:

“This is a sixteen foot by sixteen foot cabin, there are only a few places where the long logs don’t run the entire length of the cabin walls. Yeats was a craftsman.”

After the Yeats lived in the cabin for almost twenty years, Austin left his family for a time when he joined the Confederate Army and, later, became a prisoner of war. Wife, Frances, and six children fended for themselves in his absence, perhaps taking aim at passing Comanches through the neatly fashioned “shooting hole” on the east wall.



In Austin’s absence, Frances took in lodgers. The cabin was called “Yeats House” and served as a kind of early hotel for travelers. Eyeing the logs today, it’s hard not to notice the original bark scattered between cuts from Yeats’ ax and saw. This handiwork (combined with restorations by the City of Granbury between 2004 and 2012 and period artifacts provided by Preserve Granbury) makes it seem the Yeats family may only have stepped out for a time and will be back any moment.

That’s not likely, of course, Granbury was becoming a thriving community by 1877 when Austin and Frances Yeats decided to move to Lipan in the northwest corner of Hood County. They and their descendants operated the Yeats Hotel there until the 1930s. The Yeats sold their cabin to the Nutt Brothers who, in turn, sold it to a local attorney, Major William Duke, and his family. With a growing family and a tidy income from his law practice, Duke built a sixteen by sixteen foot room, just a few feet south of the original cabin and connected the two structures with a covered breezeway or dog run. As his financial success continued, Duke decided to completely enclose the old cabin with clapboard, sheetrock, and plaster and place a roof over it all. By 1900, the house appeared much as it does today.

The Duke family continued to own the home for decades after Duke’s death in 1905. Over time, they added a back room and indoor plumbing facilities. The home passed through many owners after the Duke family sold it. And the bones of the old cabin inside the walls were mostly forgotten.







Mabel Aiken Bayer owned the home in 1974 when local historians Isabell Walker and John Gilmartin — acting on memories from old-timers and a little bit of folklore — used crowbars and hammers to rediscover the old cabin. After some cleaning and light restoration, the Hood County Historical Commission leased the old home from Bayer as a museum and arts studio.

By the early 1980s, local librarian and businesswoman Mary Downs owned and lived at the property. For a time, she used it as a base for her business, Log Cabin Books, but by 1988 a small computer company used the downstairs area for offices. Downs continued living in the home until her retirement in 2002. When she moved, the home entered a period of structural and legal limbo.

Current curator, Julie Pitts, recalls portions of the story:

“The building was in very bad repair. The foundation needed work and the improvements made by owners over the years needed to be reworked and updated. There was even talk of moving the building off the lot. Mary Downs hoped to sell the property, but there was no buyer for a long time.”



After years of discussion, the City of Granbury purchased the home in 2004. Professional restorations directed by the city and Preserve Granbury allowed Pitts’ nonprofit organization, Granbury Fiber Artisans, to begin staffing the property in 2012. Pitts owned a yarn business on the Square for several years. A few years ago, she decided to give up the business, but it wasn’t long after that when Preserve Granbury approached her about occupying the Crockett Street property. “It was a perfect fit for us,” Pitts says. “The City wanted to preserve and share the history of this important property. We wanted to show off our craft and share it with others.”

As if to demonstrate, Pitts often dons period dress and sits near the fireplace spinning wool.

The City of Granbury and Preserve Granbury like that and over the years, the Yeats-Duke Cabin has been featured on the Granbury - A Candlelight Tour of homes. Several years ago, woodcarvers Ray North, Gina Sprowl, and Fred Rauschuber demonstrated their craft to those visiting the cabin.

“It’s a link to the city’s early years that visitors can still see today,” said Pitts. Austin and Francis Yeats would easily recognize these crafts. This is a way to keep local history alive.”

One thing the Yeats Family might not recognize is the proliferation of teddy bears in the entryway, the Dukes parlor, and in the back room. Why teddy bears, exactly? There are countless crafts the Granbury Fiber Artisans could choose to make. “With the doll museum nearby, we decided teddy bears would be a great addition,” Pitts said. Dolls are for girls, but teddy bears are for everybody.

We use all sorts of fabrics in our weaving, including wool from County Commissioner Steve Berry’s llamas,” she said. We sell the bears, of course, but we also teach our craft to others. Weaving, sewing, and crafting are timeless skills.”

There’s a satisfying symmetry about that: As Austin Yeats carefully fashioned the wood for his family’s cabin, he must have had no thought of the structure still standing more than 150 years later. Today, local artisans use local products to make beautiful and lasting creations inside the shelter of his cabin. Recently, a family from Dallas walked through the front door and declared they had been making family outings to all the Texas courthouses since 1999 and that Hood County was the last on their list. As Dona Sorensen led them through the home, one of the younger family members asked, “What’s a shooting hole?” “You don’t know what a shooting hole is?” Sorensen replied. “Well, let me tell you about a time long ago...” ■LGL





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Texas Edge:

Sharpening Skills and Making Miracles Happen

The Granbury-based Select Baseball League Program offers many levels of opportunity to area athletes looking to make their place on the diamond, as well as to those that might have thought playing America's Pastime was nothing but a field of dreams.

by Brad McGavock

Photography by Oh Snap!

also provided by the Mitcham family and the Miracle League

Everyone knows that football is king in Texas, but what few realize is that Texas ranks fourth nationally in the total number of collegiate baseball programs (91) across all levels. On average, these teams are allotted 11 full scholarships, which can be broken down into partial scholarships to allow coaches to field their best team. This is far fewer than football's average of 60 scholarship slots. Many young baseball players want to become part of a collegiate program to both grow athletically and supplement education costs. Select Baseball Leagues offer coaching that gets these players to a level where scholarships are made a reality. With competition higher as far fewer scholarships are made available in baseball, it's all about having that added edge.

Local entrepreneur and owner of Texas Edge, Steve Mitcham, and his family have created a select baseball program that is in high-demand for those rural athletes who would otherwise have to venture to the DFW metroplex to participate in select baseball leagues and receive this level of training. Steve founded Chicken Express in 1988 and after selling several franchises, he was able to fund and create Texas Edge in 2011.







Texas Edge staffs seven coaches that utilize their combined 50 plus years of experience to help young athletes hone their “basic athletic skills needed for performance consistency, leading to success.” This includes trainers Justin Tennery, Cody Strait, Nick Papasan, Matt Mitcham, Mark Taylor, Dennis Shrum, Jonathan Morris, and Clint Warren. Most of these trainers were raised in and played ball in Granbury and/or surrounding areas. It is apparent that they are dedicated to this community and the success of our youth.

“Our goal is to *try* to get every kid that comes through here, when they are ready to play college ball, a place to play.” They aren’t there yet, as the oldest team is made up of 14 year-olds, but with the connections that the staff has, their idea is to have some sort of support for each player to reach their potential at the next level. “College scouts want footage on these kids,” Steve explains. This is one area where Texas Edge helps these athletes and steps in to supplement what the athlete receives from the high school programs. High school teams are great for development, but Texas Edge wants to help build on that and give the one-on-one attention needed to improve visibility of these players to collegiate programs.

Many players who have the potential, but are not at the Select Baseball level yet, are selected to participate on the developmental teams to prepare them for the next step. About one-half of the players involved with Texas Edge also take personal lessons. Personal lessons are not a requirement to be in the league, but about half of these players do take advantage of them. These personal lessons allow the players to really hone in on their specific skill set.

“Select Baseball Leagues offer coaching that gets these players to a level where scholarships are made a reality.”



Although this program has become very successful and continues to grow, there is a new project that the Mitcham family has become very passionate about. Beginning this year, Texas Edge will join a larger organization called the Miracle League. The Miracle League provides opportunities to children with disabilities and special needs to play ball. The Miracle League has built its program on the philosophy that “Every child deserves a chance to play baseball.” Texas Edge is bringing that philosophy to our area by establishing themselves as members and creating a program that will spread the spirit of the organization to those in our community. A brand new, state-of-the-art baseball field is currently under construction. This field is entirely dedicated to the Miracle League players and features a rubberized, custom designed turf field made easier for wheelchair access and to help prevent injury.

The Miracle League launched in 1999 with 35 players on four teams. Currently, there are 275 Organizations throughout the United States (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and most recently, Australia. These organizations help more than 200,000 special needs children and adults play our national pastime. There are no age restrictions, so anyone who wants to participate, is invited to do so.

A buddy system pairs these players with local children and other volunteers to act as helpers. These “buddies” help the players bat, round the bases and cheer them on. Texas Edge will help supply these “buddies” from their select league teams. This helps develop the select league players in a personal, emotional way that no amount of instruction or lessons could ever accomplish.

Texas Edge’s philosophy (and namesake) is built around their Christian values. “If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.” King Solomon (Eccles 10:10). This verse and meaning can be applied to the athletic “edge” that their baseball training provides, but even more so, it relates to the moral and professional cultivation of young adults that become a part of this developing local program. These strengths that Texas Edge help sharpen will *truly* bring success-in baseball and also in life. ■LGL

If you would like to donate to the Miracle League of Hood County or find out more information about Texas Edge, please contact Steve Mitcham and his staff: Call Texas Edge at 817-573-2121 or visit their website at www.texasedgesports.com

1. Coach Justin Tenny

8 yr. olds and 14 yr. olds
Joshua High School
All District Catcher his Junior and Senior year

2. Coach Cody Strait

7 yr. olds and 10 yr. olds
Cincinnati Reds, Kansas City Royals and Tampa Bay Rays

3. Coach Nick Papasan

6 yr. olds and 12 yr. olds
All District, Granbury High School MVP and 1st Team All State Minnesota Twins

4. Coach Matt Mitcham

11 yr. olds and 12 yr. olds
Granbury High School, All District and MVP
Tarleton State University

5. Coach Mark Taylor

13 yr. olds, Individual Lessons
Granbury High School

6. Coach Dennis Shrum

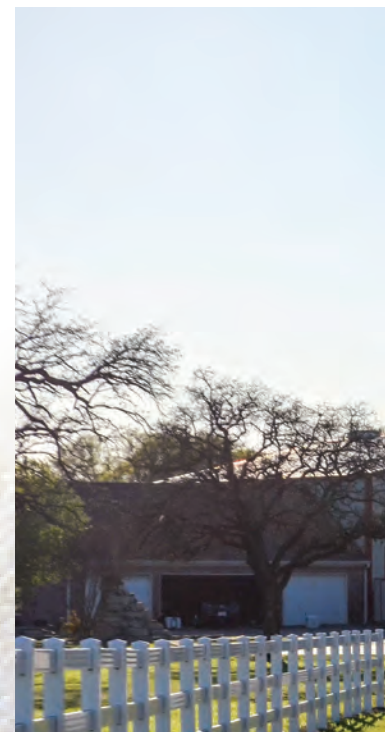
9 yr. olds and 14 yr. olds
Kansas City, Seattle Mariners, voted #1 Men’s Softball player in the world in 2003

7. Coach Jonathan Morris

9 yr. olds
Granbury High School
Howard Payne University

8. Coach Clint Warren

12 yr. olds
Stephenville High School







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BRINGING *Health & Hope* TO HOOD COUNTY

by J.A. Gauvreau | Photography By Landi Whitfield Photography

At lightning speed, they have grown into a 360 degree medical care provider poised for expansion.



Surveys. Some people thrive on answering the myriad of questions posed, while others are naturally irritated by them. One such survey was the catalyst for the life-changing birth of an organization that serves more than 2,000 annually in free healthcare services across Hood County. That organization is Ruth's Place.

In 2008, a survey's results were published highlighting a startling fact. A large number of children in Hood County lacked access to essential health care.

Further, according to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, when children receive proper preventative and other needed health care before age six, their success rate in reaching their long-term potential grows dramatically. This is due, in part, to the extensive biological, psychological, and social growth which occurs during the preschool years. Additionally, having access to vaccines, medications and early diagnosis of some illnesses puts them in a far better position to thrive.



Many children in Hood County lived in households where seeking health care was not high enough on the “needs” list to make it a reality, despite their parents understanding the value. It was simply out of their reach.

Armed with this knowledge, Toni Brown-Belew and Norma Wright set out to find a way to help these children. After securing a multi-year grant through the March of Dimes, a building in Oak Trail Shores (OTS) and the commitment of Drs. Wendy and Ric Bonnell, local pediatricians, to see the clients, Ruth’s Place opened its doors to serve these deserving children and the community in 2009.

It did not take long for two clear facts to come to light. First, it was not just the children who were in need of care – the caregivers needed access to healthcare. Second, the supply of free health care was not near enough to meet the demand.

In less than one year, Ruth’s Place outgrew the OTS location. Through the generous donation of a brick building in Granbury by Mary Jo and John Hill, Ruth’s Place opened a second location.

Today, Ruth’s Place is in its sixth year serving Hood County. Ironically, its growth is very consistent with the children’s growth model to age six. The organization has gone from just one building in OTS serving the under eighteen population to two locations providing child and adult general, dental and, coming soon, eye care. Their volunteer physician roster has grown from two pediatricians to a medical team including internists, general practitioners, dentists, ophthalmologists, nurses and medical assistants. Programs have been added to address diabetes prevention and, through a partnership with the Moncrief Cancer Center and Texas Health



Resources, women’s health screenings for mammography and well woman exams are available as well.

They have found their six year old non-profit also needs attention to reach its potential. They are in the process of completing a build out on their new spectacular 3,200 square foot metal building donated by Mueller Corporation, which will house four examination rooms, new eye care clinic, on-site laboratory, pharmacy for donated medicines and other much needed space for meetings and storage. If all goes as planned, it will be ready for use by early summer.

When asked to reflect on their first six years, Toni Brown-Belew’s eyes sparkled and her face communicated sheer delight and admiration before saying, “Ruth’s Place is very near and dear to my heart. The doctors who volunteer their time and talents deserve every bit of

credit imaginable,” said Brown-Belew. “The community recognized the need for their essential contributions and has rallied around them to support their efforts for growth.”

While the volunteer medical staff is the key to providing the principle services of the organization, it is through the efforts and direction of their Community Outreach Coordinator, Helen Best, that they have expanded their reach beyond traditional medical care. It began with a food pantry at the OTS location. After all, you cannot get healthy if you are not eating properly. As time passed, another clear need surfaced, which contributed to their clients overall ability to live healthy lives — being able to attain and maintain gainful employment. Being a group of solution providers, they began to offer educational programs to expand job and improve language skills through job skills training and



literacy classes including English as Second Language. Then, a monthly car care diagnostic clinic was added to help keep transportation available and affordable. Suddenly, it became clear the children needed a safe haven, thus, the introduction of a playground and children's activity programs. Oh, and what about food for the children during the summer? If you haven't heard of the Healthy Kids Summer Lunch program or seen signs around town, you will probably notice them now. Though it is through Helen's leadership this myriad of programs exists, she is very quick to defer credit to others. "It is really the volunteers who deserve all the praise. The partnerships with other groups and the loyal, dedicated volunteers who come in good or bad weather are the real stars," said Best. "Helping people is just what I have always done. I am so blessed to be able to work at something I love."

Having accomplished such great feats in a relatively short period of time, it does beg the question, "What is your vision for the future?" Naturally, they are already hard at work figuring out what the organization needs to look like six years from now.

Their first step into the future has already been taken. They are enhancing their infrastructure to absorb the new clinic, more appointments and offering eye care. With new Executive Director, Craig Gossard, and Clinical Manager, Lisa Hall, now on board, they are well on their way to plotting the course to achieve that goal.

Their second step is rooted in their own Field of Dreams. Having built it, they know they will come. The pieces they are hoping to realize now (and for future growth) are medical professionals to help this clinic thrive. They dream of easily staffing two doctors per day, four days per week for general medicine. They dream of volunteer dental and eye care professionals so abundant that one full-day equivalent per week is effortless. "For example, if we had 20 dentists willing and able to give one day's worth of time and talent, then each dentist would only be needed twice per year," said Dr. Elizabeth Berry. They dream of supply actually being able to keep up with demand in volunteerism, as well as supplies and financial resources.





The third step is finding ways to not only provide for physical needs, but also the growth of whole person care by expanding the community programs already begun at their OTS location and new partnerships which may open doors for their clients to become what they have always dreamed of. Dr. Elizabeth Berry summed it well, “Our long-term goal is actually quite simple. We want to provide more services to those in need.”

The next time you wonder about the value of participating in a survey and if your contribution will make a difference, remember those who were willing to provide great knowledge to a few. Remember that they brought to reality a place where journeys toward “better” are able to begin and thrive.

If you are interested in learning more about Ruth’s Place, you may visit their website at www.ruthsplace.org. ■LGL





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BEAUTY QUEEN WITH A *Dream*



by Andra Mayberry | Photography By Molly Magee

When you meet Jenna Vrla, you can't help but feel her joy and zeal for life. I mean, REALLY feel it. She has all the poise of a woman who has been through a lifetime of experiences, but she's just getting started. In fact, you'd think Jenna has already been to the top of the mountain, but just at 23 years of age, she's still climbing.

On April 18th, 2015, Jenna will join a host of other Texas women to compete in the 38th annual Mrs. Texas Pageant in Corsicana. On the surface, it seems like something you can easily picture this beautiful, energetic young woman doing, but if you dig a little deeper, this is the last thing Jenna Vrla could ever see herself doing. Why, you ask? Let's get to know our Mrs. Granbury a little better. There is much more to Jenna than meets the eye.

Jenna married Chad Vrla, the love of her life, and they settled near his job in Houston. She graduated from the University of North Texas in May and the two were married in August. Jenna is a school teacher and her first job in Houston was as an eighth-grade English teacher at an inner-city school. She knew it would be a challenge, and expected that she would encounter some skeptical students who assumed they had nothing in common with her. Jenna had to find a way to relate to them and teach them something as well.



Good teachers manage their students. Great teachers inspire their students. One fine Friday, a group of students seemed to be collectively struggling to come up with something to write about for their 20 minute creative writing exercise. Jenna had to dig a little deeper and come up with a way to inspire these kids. She told them to write an acceptance speech and to imagine they were accepting an award for something great they had done. Would it be a Grammy? A Nobel Prize? The NBA All-Star Award? Who would you thank? What steps did you take to get to this stage of your life? Jenna asked her students not to limit themselves, but to imagine the possibilities.

For a 13-year-old responsible for getting themselves out of bed, getting themselves to school and finding their own way through each day, imagining greatness is almost incomprehensible. It was Jenna Vrla's job to do just that. She told her students to dream their dreams, no matter what their internal voice was telling them. She encouraged them to ignore the negative thoughts and allow themselves to really see the possibilities. She knows how to dream. She had experienced success and wanted nothing more than to enable her students to feel they could, too.



These students, on this day, needed this woman to pull them into a reality of dreaming big. The 20-minute writing exercise intended to engage their young minds was now transforming into an entire class discussion about dreams that carried on for weeks. Eventually, one student turned the tables and said, “Mrs. Vrla, what is your dream?” Jenna knew that if she was going to gain these students’ trust, she had to allow herself to be vulnerable to the process and say something she had never told anyone.

Jenna told her students that day that she had always dreamed of competing in a beauty pageant. It took a lot of guts to admit that to a group of students who could have just laughed and dismissed her confession as being silly. But they didn’t. They believed in her and asked her why she hadn’t tried. She then found herself making excuses. “I’m not young enough. I’m not tall enough. I have no idea what to do. I don’t have a talent,” she said. There she

was - the teacher who had just explained to her students that you can’t make excuses to not chase your dreams – making excuses. And then the bell rang for the next class.

It bothered Jenna that she had just wasted an opportunity to really influence her students in a profound way. It ate at her. After much contemplation, she began to research pageants. It was then that she found the Mrs. Texas Pageant and realized that she could, despite all the excuses, still chase her dream. She could use this chance to really show her students how much she cared about

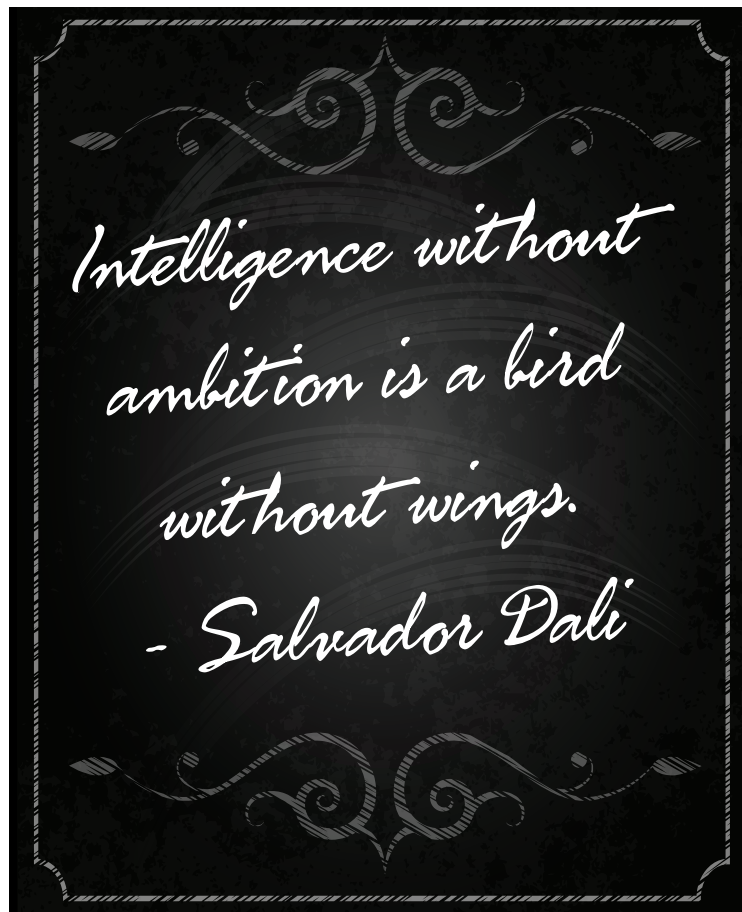
them by allowing herself to step out of her comfort zone. They had challenged her and she answered the call. She connected with these kids on a very real and profound level and saw immediate results in their classroom efforts and their grades. As Jenna puts it, “when kids see that you care they’re able to work a little bit harder for you.”

Jenna’s application to the Mrs. Texas Pageant was quickly approved and she was on the pageant wagon.

When she told her husband what she was planning, he was, of course, supportive and told her he believed in her. When breaking the news to her friends and family, she says they were all surprised and also supportive. Along the way, her husband’s job transferred him to Granbury and that meant saying goodbye to her students. She was going to miss them, but she knew she had planted a seed in their hearts and knew she had made a difference. That first classroom she taught had also made a profound impact on her. She was exposed

to something she had never seen so close and personal – hunger.

During college, Jenna had been on mission trips in Guatemala and had seen the effects hunger had on children, but it all seemed a world away. When she was teaching at this school, she was also coaching the girls soccer team and discovered one of her players was continually without food. To avoid embarrassment, she told the entire team she knew they needed extra nourishment for practice and that if they were ever



hungry, she kept a loaf of bread and a jar of peanut butter in her desk. They were given access to her food drawer, no questions asked. Instances like these forever changed how she approached her students. She now thinks of the student, not just during their time in her classroom, but the days and nights when they're not under the school's roof.

The shock of the discovery of hungry children right under her nose gave her a platform as Mrs. Granbury. "I just want to bring recognition to the students who need love and need food to survive. I had no idea that was an issue until I was exposed to it. No one functions well without food." She is aware that here in Granbury, there is a backpack program with GISD and in the summer, there is Healthy Kids, but what about those extended holidays like Spring Break, Thanksgiving and Christmas when children can be without access to food for up to four weeks? Jenna has been working with community leaders who have their pulse on this very issue. She wants to make a difference here in her newly adopted community and raise awareness across the nation as a whole. But to make that change, she knows she needs to start small and close to home.

Speaking of home, Jenna loves her new home in Granbury. She has truly adopted this town and appreciates the almost Rockwellian atmosphere in our historic district. Our Mrs. Granbury has also learned that dreams come in all shapes and sizes. Some are adventurous and scary and some dreams are just simply about everyday love and appreciation. She recently struck up a conversation with a gentleman while getting her oil changed. She told him a little bit about what she is doing and asked him what his dream was. His answer put her mission in a whole new perspective. He simply stated he wanted to beat cancer.



As the school year begins again, I'm reminded of some of the greatest teachers I have had (thanks Mrs. Rankin and Mrs. Finch!) and the reason they stay with me, is that I knew I was loved and cared for the second I stepped into their class. They both had such genuine feelings for their kids that was obvious to all and I think that's what makes the best teachers. Not the cute little classroom decor, not the artsy lesson plans, but the true, genuine love."

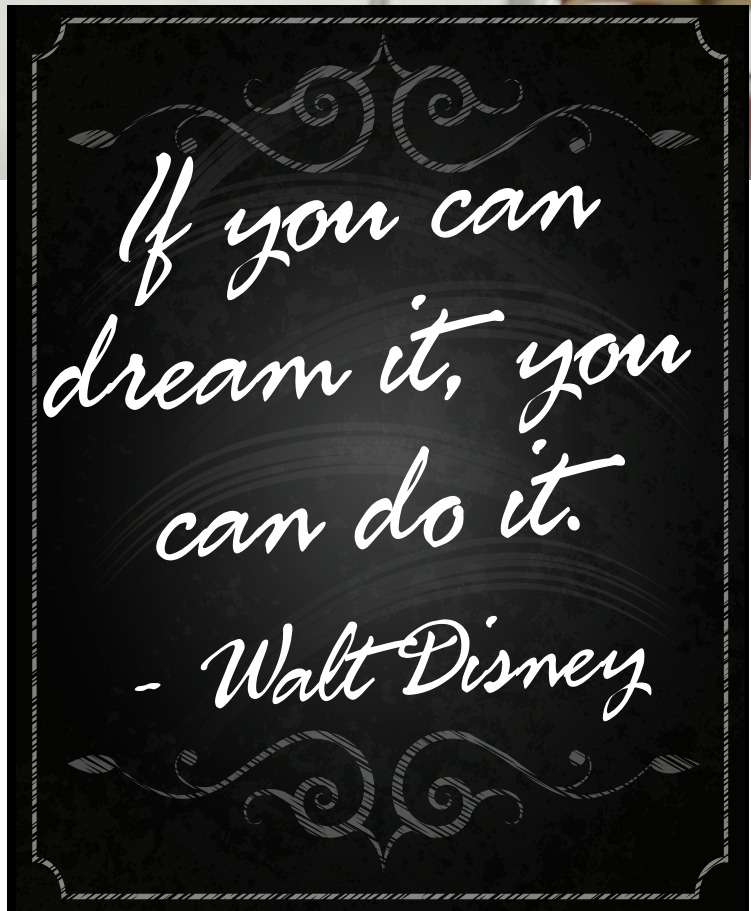
JENNA'S BLOG
WWW.JENNAVRLA.BLOG.COM



That conversation has now allowed Jenna the insight she needed to get through the rough days of pageant preparation. While she is still working with a pageant coach on her speech and poise, she's also working hard on her physique for the fitness portion of the pageant. It's not easy to be pageant ready, but she is determined to bring her best to the pageant stage on April 18th and leave nothing behind.

Proving to herself she can at least take a leap of faith and chase her dreams is enough for Jenna - for now. When asked what her next dream is, with a glimmer in her eye and a smile on her face, she says, "My next dream is to start a family soon. We have an empty house and I want to fill it with babies." After getting to know Jenna Vrla, Mrs. Granbury 2015, and having her share her thoughts, dreams and her love for children, this judge thinks she has already won the crown.

Good luck, Mrs. Granbury! ■LGL



Special thanks to Hico High School for use of their facility. Thanks to Deborah McGavock, Trina Barnette and Janet Smith for use of the library and math classroom.

HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

MISSION GRANBURY GALA

A Goat named Legacy was the main attraction at the fundraiser for the annual event in Granbury. Chet Garner, KERA's The DayTripper provided the evening's entertainment, while 200+ people bid and bought items donated by dozens of Granbury's wonderful businesses at Pecan Plantation Country Club.

Photography courtesy of Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography



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THE KING
OF THE

WAGON YARD



by Peggy Purser Freeman

Photography by Landi Whitefield and provided by The Wagon Yard

I Imagine the 1800s, as you lean on a hitching post tucked between the Nutt Brothers' General Store and other small town establishments. Imagine horse-drawn wagons and carriages pulling into and out of the wagon yard in a cloud of dust. A driver calls, "Gee!" and "Haw!" Families, with kids in tow, jump down, ready to explore the delights of town, as the sights and sounds of country folks coming into town paint a picture of yesteryear. Through the years the building has also been a feed store, a restaurant and a photography studio.

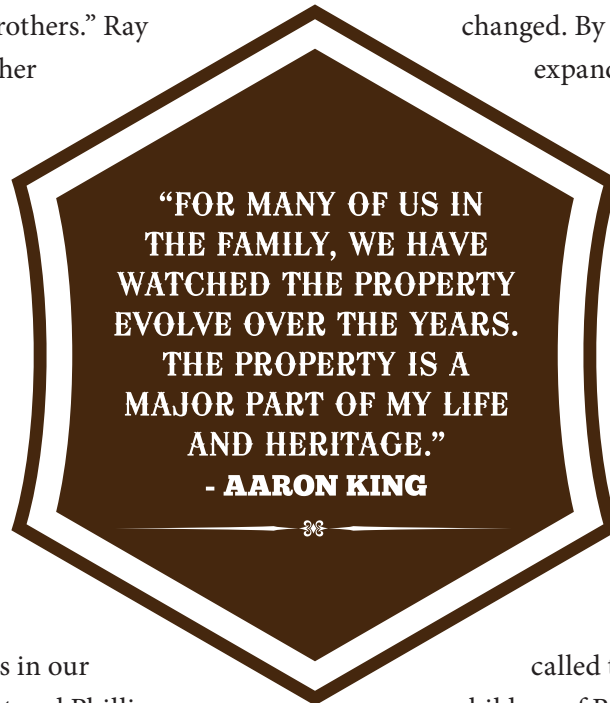
In the 1930s Ray King was growing up in Aledo. His mom had died when he was six, but over the years Ray's family became friends with a family at church. They lived in Millsap and had a cute young daughter, Modena. At the age of 12, Modena lost her father. When Ray and Modena were grown, his dad and her mom married. A year later Ray and Modena married.

“He’s my husband and my step-brother.” Modena explained. “I was from a big, close family and Ray worked in a business with his brothers.” Ray and Modena King, bound together by faith, hope and love, created a family—five boys and three girls. She shared her memories with us, “Ray always loved antiques. He’s always been a salesman, selling Jewel T products, furniture and antiques. When we moved to Iowa in 1969, Ray began collecting them. He had barns full and finally opened an antique store in Aplington, Iowa. Our kids have always worked with us in our businesses. Dianne King Amyett and Phillip King, our two oldest, began helping in high school. We’re a close family.” Modena spent her days as a stay-at-home mom.

Over the years the King family changed just as the Granbury old wagon yard structure and landscape changed. By the 1950s the original structure had expanded to nearly 9,000 square feet. In 1976, when Modena and Ray moved back to Texas, Ray secured the wagon yard building to house the antiques and collectibles he had transported from Aplington. Since that time, Ray and family developed the business from an antique store to a conglomeration of merchandise to delight shoppers and meet the needs of businesses and individuals throughout the country.

Today the historic site is a business called the Wagon Yard, owned by all eight children of Ray and Modena King. It’s operated by three of Ray’s sons, and several family members are on staff. Sam King remembers:

“I was in my last year of high school when dad opened



**“FOR MANY OF US IN
THE FAMILY, WE HAVE
WATCHED THE PROPERTY
EVOLVE OVER THE YEARS.
THE PROPERTY IS A
MAJOR PART OF MY LIFE
AND HERITAGE.”
- AARON KING**

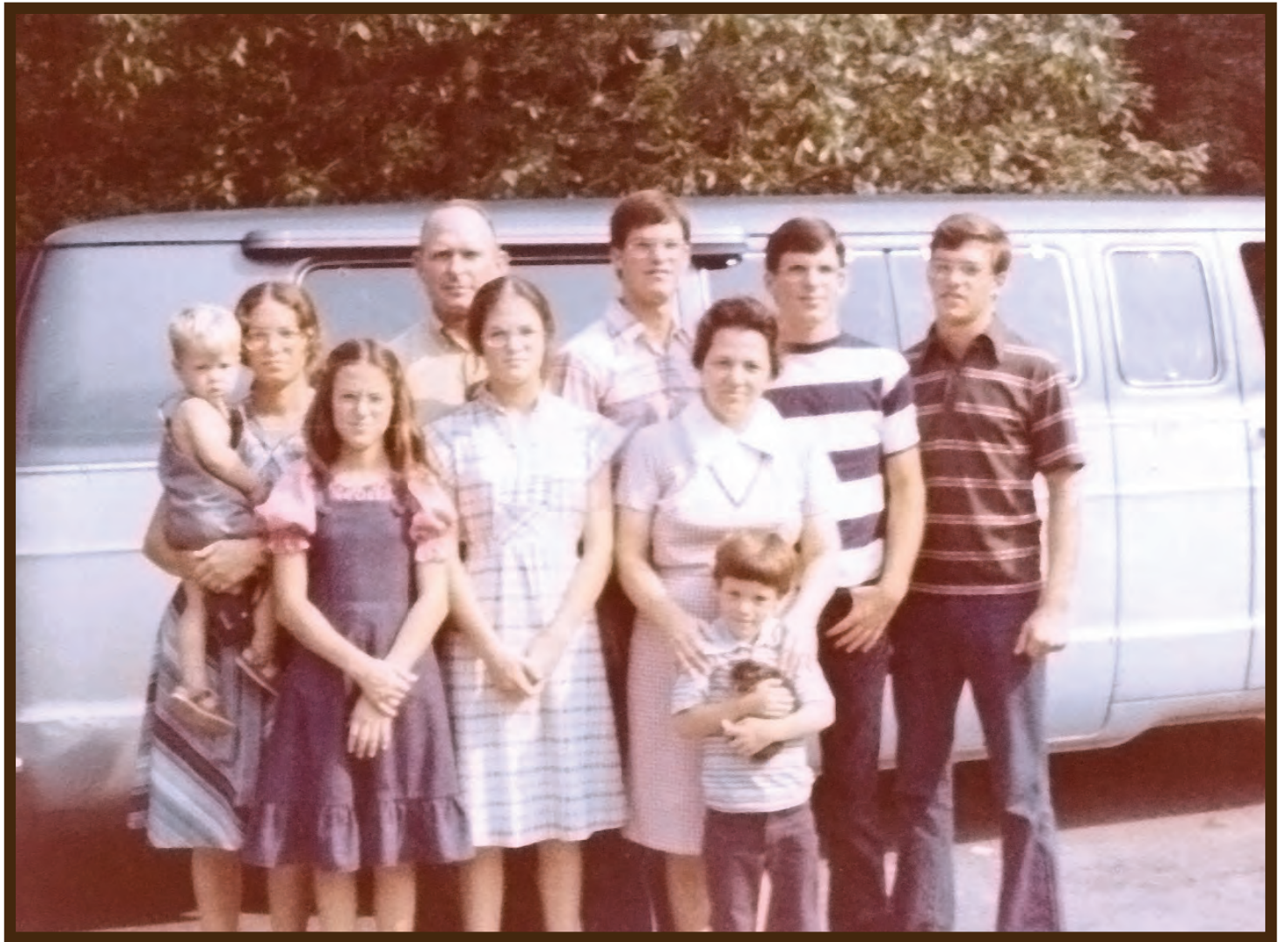




**“THE THING THAT NEVER CHANGES - HOMETOWN
FRIENDLINES THAT PEOPLE FEEL WHEN THEY WALK
THROUGH THE WAGON YARD.”**

- AARON KING





the store, so I mostly helped by picking up merchandise and hanging things,” Sam shared. “Then I worked building apartments, and could only help out part-time.” Now Sam is general manager at the Wagon Yard. “It’s a special, unique place,” Sam added. “Jon manages the lighting department and Aaron manages the financial part of the business.”

Over the years Elisabeth King Clem, Sarah King Stewart and Stephen King all shared in the work, love and imagination that has created the store most people call their favorite.

“I remember running the halls as a toddler and growing up with the many different employees over the years.” Aaron, the baby of the family recalls. “For many of us in the family, we have watched the property evolve over the years. The property is a major part of my life and heritage.”

Ray loved the downtown events. “The Fourth of July was his favorite,” Aaron recalled. “He would arrange for music bands to perform on the parking lot of the Wagon Yard. He enjoyed all the planning and preparations, whether it was hooking up the horse and buggy and riding it in the parade or driving his restored 1931 Ford Model A. Many times he would be seen around the Square wearing his black suspenders and black bow-tie, and often he shared his music at different venues.” Even after suffering a severe health setback, Ray shared his music with many patients in his healthcare facility, reviving their memories.

In the late 1970s, Ray’s love for music took form in a music room. Big Band era music filled the room and spilled out into the other nooks and crannies, earning a reputation for the music room as a place to find recordings and sheet music for specific artists and different eras. For



most customers, and those who just can't resist looking around, Ray's music room is most memorable.

"Having the opportunity to work with family and friends and being a part of history-rich downtown Granbury community is rewarding." Aaron explained. "I have the flexibility to be part of our children's everyday life and special events."

The Wagon Yard store is continually changing, just as the site did in the last two centuries. For Ray, Modena and their children, the Wagon Yard is part of the family. A new King generation is on the horizon. Corbin appreciates the merchandise updates already, and he's only 11 years old. "I like going through the rooms and seeing what is

new," he said.

The youngest member of the King family, 2-year old Cashion says, "I like to play with the cowboy guns."

"Family is important..." Ray King shared, searching for more words before he continued in a slower, softer voice, "...and Christ."

The Wagon Yard continues to thrive into another century. The original stone building and wood floors never looked so good. Unique, historic and yet it provides an ambiance of gracious living. The King family offers memories of yesterday, while providing the style of today on a historic plot of land called the "wagon yard". ■LGL

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EAGLE MOUNTAIN FARMHOUSE CHEESE



CHEESE RENAISSANCE

BY JULIE A. LYSSY
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAWN SKINNER

During the last decade a groundswell effort has emerged to revive a simple concept - eat locally, seasonally and naturally. Sometimes called “farm to table” or “farm to fork,” this food philosophy focuses on providing our bodies pure foods which are natural, more nutritionally packed, non-genetically modified (GMO), non-pesticide availed and are known for better flavor.

Eagle Mountain Farmhouse Cheese, crafted by Dave Eagle and his family of artisanal cheesemakers in Lipan, TX, are among the food revivalists propelling this philosophy forward and making award-winning, great tasting cheese in the process.

“Give me a good sharp knife and a good sharp cheese and I’m a happy man.” — George R.R. Martin

After years of successfully practicing law, Dave awoke with an epiphany that it was time to reshape his future. That decision launched him on a journey toward what he now knows was transforming himself into a cheese maker. He sought inspiration to find his next passion while also ensuring this path made good business sense.

Having traveled extensively and embracing the European food system where locally grown, made and produced foods are the norm and offered in both markets and specialty shops, he already possessed an understanding and affinity toward the burgeoning farm to table food movement.



With he and his family firmly rooted in Texas, he researched to see where these elements intersected to help him turn his passion for pure food into a viable business. His research revealed Texas is the ninth largest dairy producing state, yet it boasts only 20 to 30 artisanal cheesemakers. Cheese is a high demand food among consumers and as such is a viable business. Being a cheese aficionado from his experiences across Europe, it did not take long for him to see the math was well in his favor to become a successful artisanal cheese maker in Texas.

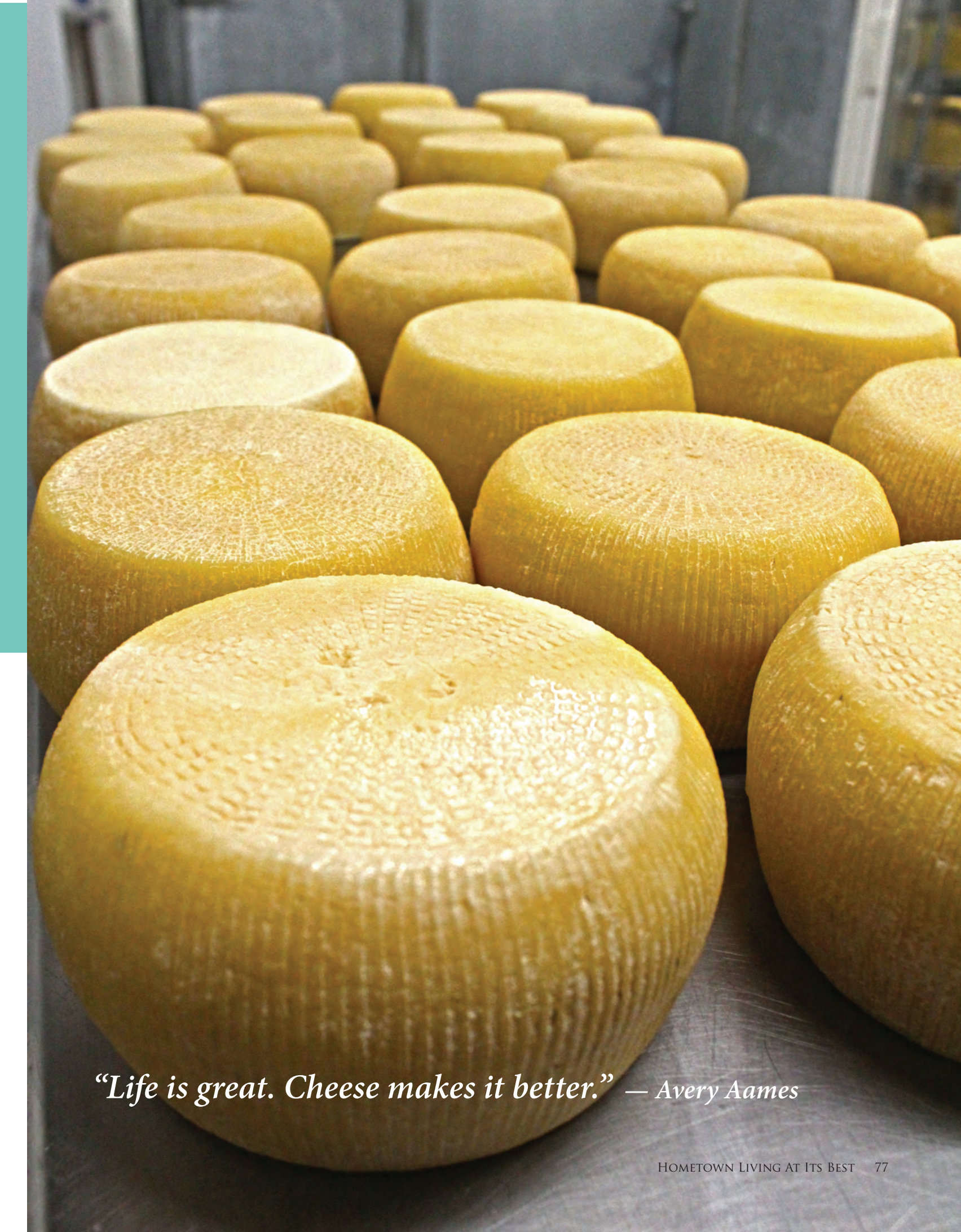
To many this may appear a big leap of faith from lawyer to cheese maker. If he ever had a doubt, it was squelched after the reaction he received when sharing the story about his business, his passion for the farm to table philosophy and the raw milk cheeses he produces. “This guy told me how cool that was,” said Eagle. “No one ever told me that as a lawyer.”

“How can anyone govern a nation that has two hundred and forty-six different kinds of cheese?”

— Charles de Gaulle

For Dave, cheese is the perfect food with limitless possibilities for taste, texture and flavor. How one crafts thousands of different tasting cheeses is simple yet complex all at the same time.

The simple piece is that all cheese is comprised of two ingredients — milk and salt — and two processes — starter culture which acts as a catalyst and a coagulant phase. How they are processed and to what PH level is what makes the significant difference for various types of cheese. Once the process has begun to separate the curds from the whey and encourage coagulation of the curds in the vat, one plays a game of beat the clock measured against the PH level. For the gouda and Trappist style cheeses made at Eagle Mountain, when the desired PH level is reached for the specific type of cheese being made, the curds are put in molds, pressed, taken to the brining room to add salt which aids in the binding process then the rounds are placed in aging rooms for the appropriate amount of time to achieve the desired taste and texture. It is a true mix of science and art form.



“Life is great. Cheese makes it better.” — Avery Aames



Then, there is the complex piece which results in so many variations on a theme. It begins with the concept of terroir; a French word which means taking into account environmental factors that affects the final product. In the case of source milk, one needs to consider the weather, the land where the animal was raised, vegetation eaten, type of animal — cow, goat, or sheep — milk used, and naturally present molds, among other elements. All of these environmental factors contribute to the taste of the final product.

“The terroir plays a large role in cheese variation. To bring this point to life, a group of cheesemakers followed the same ‘recipe’ and process to make theoretical identical cheese in vastly different locations. When the tasting took place, as expected, the taste variations were obvious and attributable to terroir where the cheeses were crafted,” explained Eagle. “The possibilities are truly endless.”

“Cheese is milk’s leap toward immortality.”

— Clifton Fadiman

As with most culinary exercises, the quality of

the ingredients plays a large role in the quality of the results. At Eagle Mountain, they start with raw milk from purebred Brown Swiss dairy cows living nearby at Sandy Creek Farm in Bridgeport, Texas which are raised naturally on grazing land.

The second major factor in a quality culinary exercise is the skill of the person entrusted with the ingredients. Dave Eagle studied the art of handcrafting cheese under the tutelage of renowned cheese makers Dr. Larry and Linda Faillace of Three Shepherds Cheese in Warren, Vt. Considered by some to be “the cheese whisperers,” they have taught more than 3,000 students the art and science of crafting artisanal cheese using sustainable methods.

This combination of quality ingredients in the trained hands of Eagle Mountain’s team achieves cheese perfection. From the second their cheese touches your tongue, your entire mouth rapidly comprehends terroir and its impact to developing flavors that delight your senses. It is not just rank amateurs who believe this. Their Birdville Reserve, in its first showing at the event, won a



first place blue ribbon at the prestigious American Cheese Society Annual Competition in 2011. This international competition is the pinnacle of cheese competitions.

“The poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese.” — Gilbert Chesterton

While the poets have been quiet about the subject of cheese, Dave Eagle certainly is not. In fact, not only will he talk to you about cheese and cheese making at the shop, he also offers workshops for you to learn artisanal cheese making. Offered bi-annually, the next cheese making workshops are being held in June. Under the guidance of Dr. Larry and Laura Faillace, participants will learn the craft of artisanal cheese making as well as enjoy cheese tasting, ways to include cheese in cooking and how to pair cheese with wine. Being well rounded food revivalists, they will also offer workshops on pickling and fermented beverages. You may certainly delve into conversations about the many other ways to become an avid farm to table enthusiast.

*“Life is great. Cheese makes it better.”
— Avery Aames*

Being honest, vegetables and fruits freshly picked at their peak straight from the source taste better than the convenient ones from the grocery store. Being more honest, there is not a vegetable, fruit or wine around, even those fresh tasty ones, which does not taste better with cheese — on the side, as sauce, crumbled or melted on top.

Cheese’s quality, like any other product, is a direct reflection of the ingredients and techniques used to craft it. At Eagle Mountain Farmhouse Cheese, their commitment to “farm to table” quality ingredients and the finest hand-crafting techniques yields cheese which is first a feast for your eyes and nose, then delights your palette with a depth of cheesy goodness that you know came from tender, loving care.

To enjoy some Eagle Mountain Farmhouse cheese, head to Lipan to visit the shop or stop in at C.J.’s Butcher Shop on Morgan St. ■LGL

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BY LOCAL INTERIOR DESIGNER KIM FANCHER OF COMFORTS OF HOME
PHOTOGRAPHY BY OLD MILL CROSSING

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These homes are inspired by a time when people gathered on their front porches and visited with neighbors on a balmy summer evening. Arts and Crafts, bungalows, Victorians, mission and farmhouse styles of homes are currently in place with plans to keep building in this unique neighborhood.

Special attention is given to each detail with concentration on creating special features of the time

period for each home. Colors are kept updated and current, while the details embrace nostalgia. Treat yourself to a look.

Find more information on Old Mill Crossing on their Facebook page and on their website, oldmillcrossing.com.



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How do varicose veins develop? Compared with other veins in the body, leg veins endure the most pressure and have the toughest job of carrying blood back to the heart. To counteract the forces of gravity, veins have valves that prevent blood from flowing backwards as it is pumped back toward the heart. Over time, these valves can weaken, allowing the blood to pool inside the vein. This can cause the vein to distend, resulting in the "rope-like" appearance commonly associated with varicose veins. This condition can lead to a range of serious circulatory problems, including blood clots, leg ulcers and poor circulation. Many individuals exhibit symptoms of venous insufficiency that includes swelling, throbbing, cramping and restless legs.

Until now, the only effective treatment for large varicose veins was vein stripping, a painful and invasive surgical procedure with a lengthy recovery period. Now patients have the option of several new non-surgical therapies that can be performed in a doctor's office.

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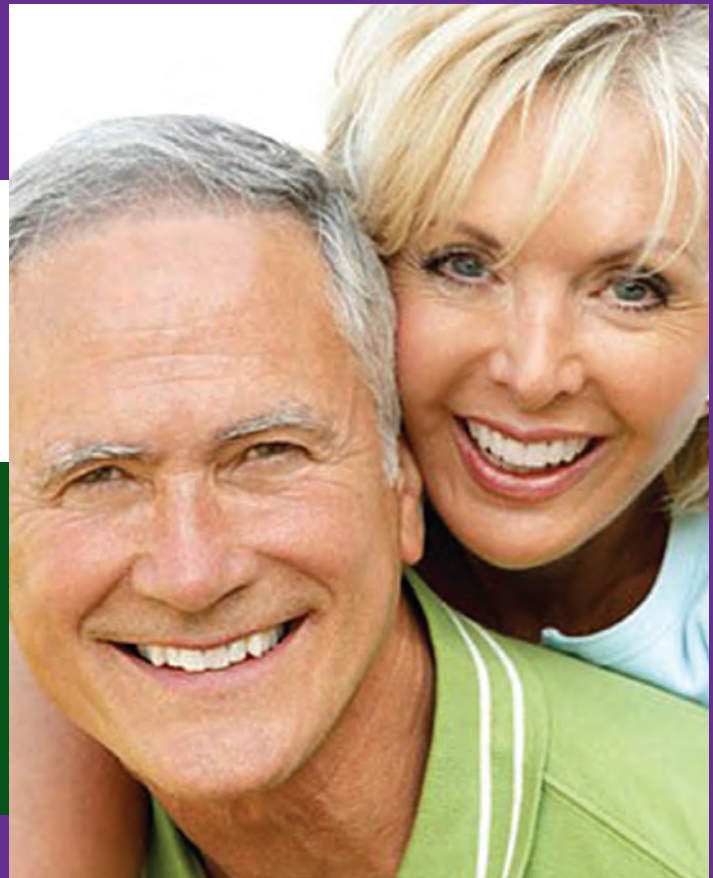


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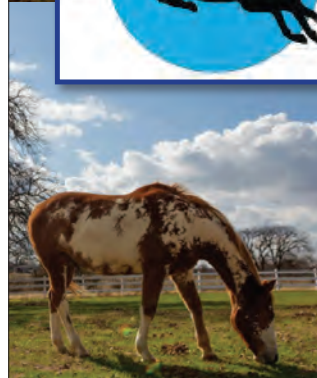
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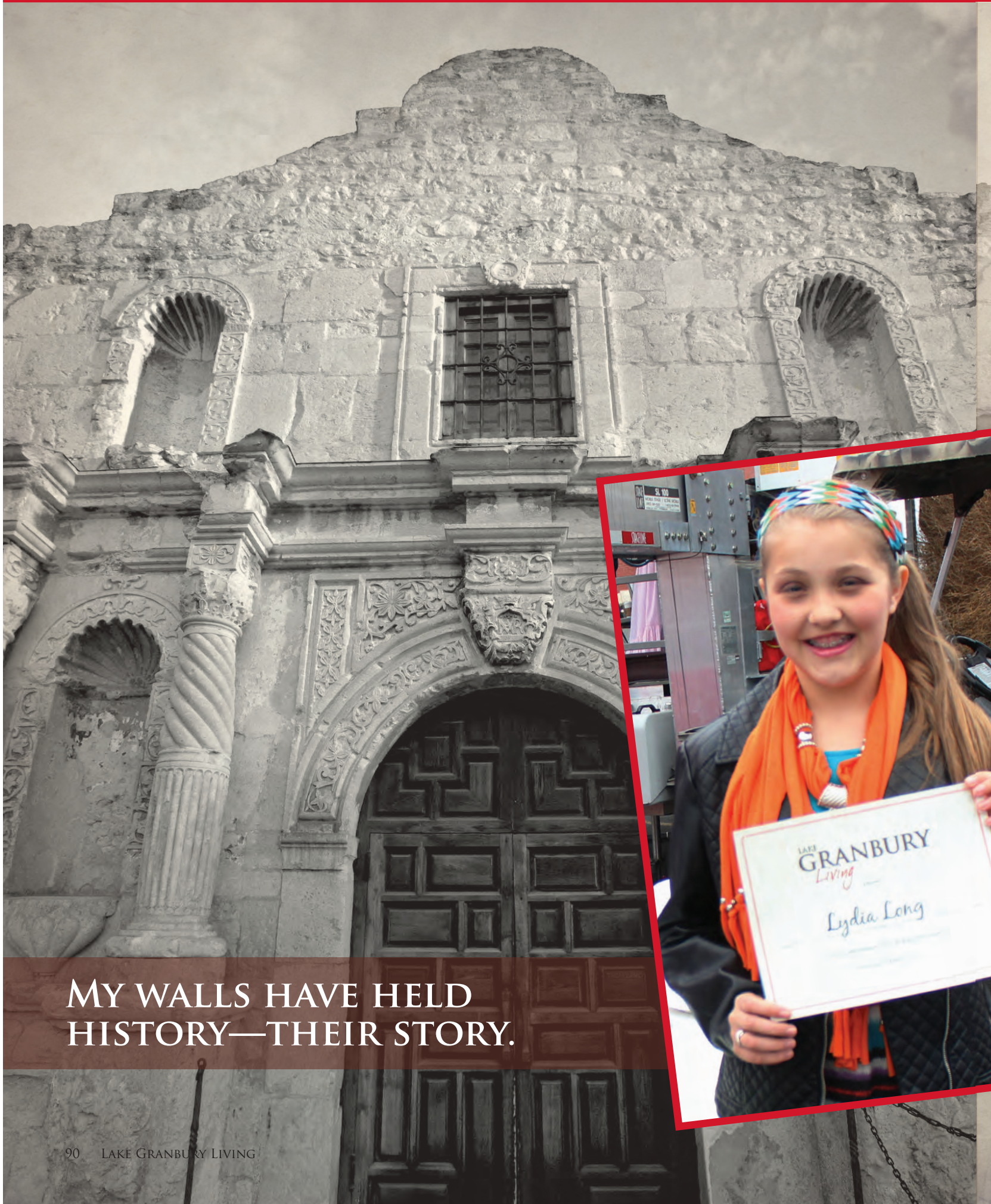
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THE ALAMO By Lydia Long

My walls have held history—their story.
Monks whisper their evening prayers,
and brick on brick build my stairs.
They kneel in humility to our dear Lord;
I'm proud to be their housing ward.
I want to mark their passionate heart;
I admire the leadership excised from morn till dark.
But alas, instead of just sharing Christianity,
they show disrespect to the Native humanity.
They hurt the Native who settled my land,
and the Natives alike send many a warrior man.
The Monks leave a harsh legacy but do they know it?
Neigh, they fail to admit, they have dug themselves into a horrible pit.
My walls have held history—their story.
A mother Native creeps about;
her young papoose begins to shout.
Before long he too will run about
with his Native friends; they will leap and shout!
But meaningful monks hush the child
and remind them how they ought to be mild.
The boy grows up, no longer a child.
He is big and wild with muscles piled.
He wants to run away from the monks
but at this thought his mother's heart thumps.
If her son runs away, only to be found,
the monks will make him in misery drown.
I remember the monks and the Indian lad;
how the monks brought him from his escape in chains—iron clad.

I feel ashamed as I remember the stick;
the once brave young boy, his back covered with many a lick.
My walls have held history—their story.
Though many a legacy I have seen,
yet nothing to make my heritage gleam.
My walls have held history—their story.
My life is over as the Natives leave along with the Monk...
or so it seems . . .until William Travis and his men within me bunk.
My life takes a turn, what an unexpected twist;
to this adventure I cannot resist!
Once home to the Spanish, I am only slightly dismayed
to learn they are now my enemies made.
Oh what a fright!
They fire their cannons every single night.
I'm bombarded but my walls stand in place;
I am a leader, never turning about face.
My walls have held history—their story.
I stand up high, completely tall
as Crocket himself climbs up my walls.
What a wild cat he is, manly and strong!
The hymn of victory is his song.
He plays to the Mexicans, "We are not the least bit afraid!"
Even great legends like Davy can make truth unswayed.
The men shiver, huddle, not knowing if they will survive the night.
I feel my proud walls shrinking to depths of unknown fright.
I remembered the monks' reading of the Holy Book.
Their faith sustained though their lives unhooked.
I remembered them murmuring about joy coming in the morning.
A new perspective of life within me began warming.
Through twelve nights I held out strong;
I mourned the next evening because all my men were gone.
Only faithful Juan Seguin
returned to make their burying place clean.
My head turns
My soul spurns
My walls have held history—their story.





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HOMETOWN
BUNDLES OF JOY

WELCOMING GRANBURY'S NEWEST RESIDENTS

Photography courtesy of *Misti White Photography*



Grant Smith
Parents: *Dustin & Lindy Smith*



Avery Jae McGavock
Parents: *Brad & Melissa McGavock*



Scarlett Marciniak
Parents: *Michael & Meren Marciniak*



Turner Kirby
Parents: *Patrick & Ashley Turner*



Kimalee Payne
Parents: *Kanyon & Meredith Payne*



Emily Castaneda

Parent: Andrew Castaneda & Michelle Rodriguez



Aisley Hord

Parents: Travis Hord & Sara Henry



Mason & Miles Epps

Parents: Bobby & Jill Epps



Kohl Hayes

Parents: Paul & Leaann Hayes



Sarah Coti

Parents: Jonathan & Tori Coti



Lakyn Thames

Parents: Miguel Thames & Alayna Robertson

SCENES

of Granbury

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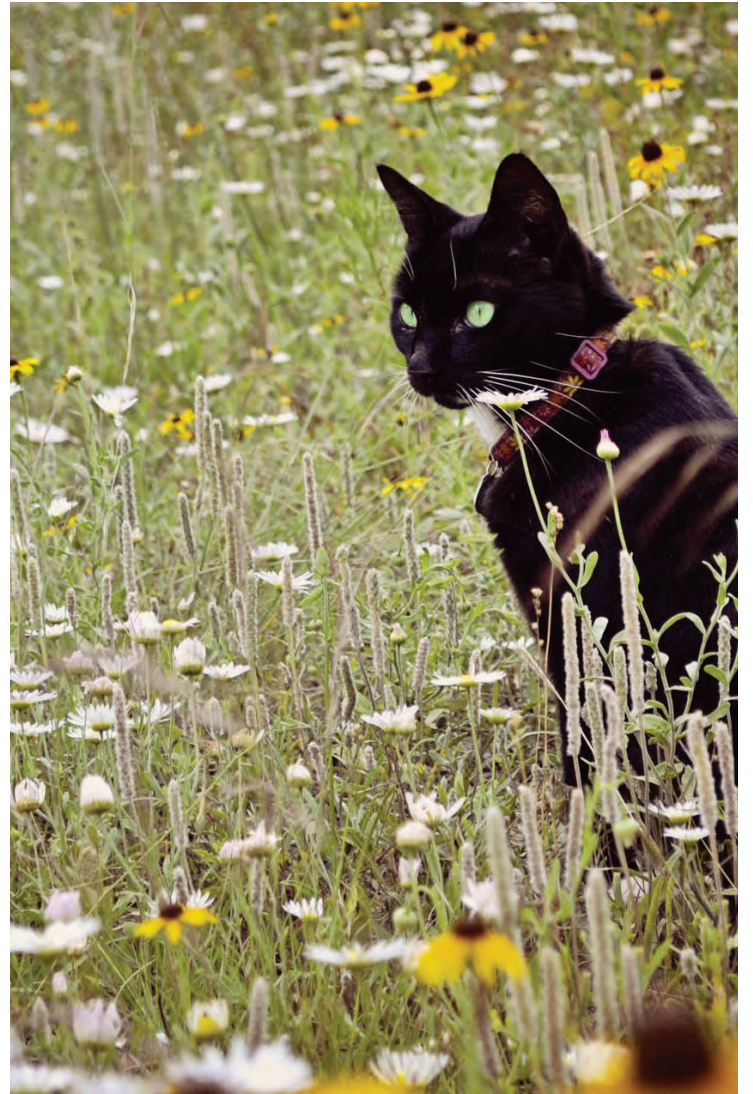
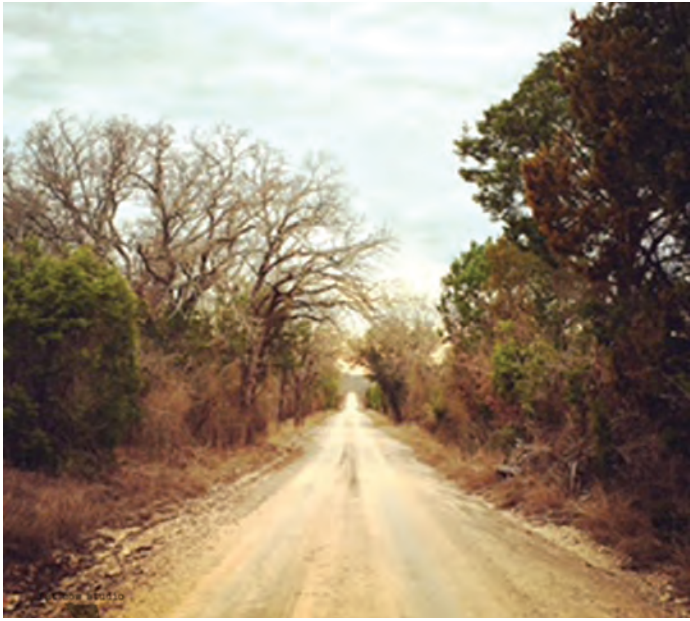


ADVENTURE IS NOT OUTSIDE MAN; IT IS WITHIN.

-George Eliot







“THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING CAME;
AND WHEN NATURE RESUMES
HER LOVELINESS, THE HUMAN
SOUL IS APT TO REVIVE ALSO.”

-Harriet Ann Jacobs



HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

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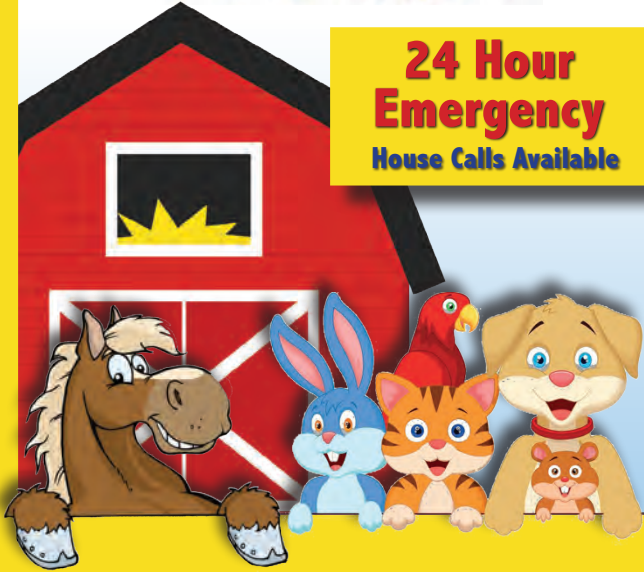
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Eighteen Ninety Signature Crab Cake

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 LB jumbo lump crab meat | 3 tsp whole grain mustard |
| ¼ orange bell pepper | ¼ C chopped Italian parsley |
| ½ red onion | 1 tsp cape cod seasoning |
| 1 ½ eggs | Pinch of kosher salt |
| ½ C panko bread crumbs | Pinch of pepper |



DIRECTIONS

- Whisk eggs with a fork and place to the side
- Mince both the bell pepper and the red onion, place in medium size mixing bowl
- Finely chop the parsley and place into the mixing bowl
- Place all remaining ingredients into the mixing bowl and gently mix by hand
- Place the whipped eggs into the mixture and continue to incorporate the eggs by hand, making sure not to break the lumps
- Separate into 15 - 2oz balls
- Gently flatten the 2oz balls into ¾ inch cakes
- Place in a greased sheet pan
- Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat, April 4

Fossil Dig and Hike

Fri, April 10

Discovery After Dark

Sat, April 11

Murder Mystery
Dinner and Tour

Sat, April 18

Junior Girl
Scout Badgifest

Fri, May 1

Discovery After Dark

Sat & Sun, May 2-3

2-Day Photo Workshop

Sat, May 9

Mother's Day Sunset
Safari Dinner and Tour

Fri, June 5

Discovery After Dark

Sat, June 6

Animal Keeper
Dinner and Tour

Sat, June 20

Father's Day Sunset
Safari Dinner and Tour

Fri, July 31

Discovery After Dark

Fri, Aug 28

Discovery After Dark

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