

LAKE
GRANBURY

COMPLIMENTARY | WINTER 2014 - 2015

Living

Love, Laugh, Serve

Jean Cate has made a career out of serving many in Hood County for more than 40 years. For her, it is just another day of love and laughter.

Affinity F1 Formula One

When you talk about the International Formula One in Schools competition, the name clearly says it all: Affinity F1.

the Lucy Fund

The Lucy Fund's mission is to help keep seriously ill pets in need from facing hardships due to a lack of immediate finances.

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contents

10

Raising the Beam

Take an ever changing healthcare system, scientifically significant advancements, and the addition of the human factor, one may realize that the role of a hospital administrator is quite challenging.

18

Affinity F1 Formula One

When you talk about the International Formula One in Schools competition, the name clearly says it all: Affinity F1.

26

The Lucy Fund

The Lucy Fund's mission is to help keep seriously ill pets in need from facing hardships due to a lack of immediate finances.

34

Devotion Has Never Wavered

Sometimes, we find the real thing—a hero, tried and true, with extraordinary gifts and great courage.

42

Taking Up Residence

It is this responsibility to protect and preserve, that these citizens, these caretakers of Granbury's history, take on with great pride and a true love for what they do.

52

Awe of Art

Artist Jeff Cocanour takes his art to Fort Worth, and keeps his ties to Granbury strong. His dream to unlock wonder starts with oil paintings, but goes much deeper.

LAKE GRANBURY *Living*



18

About The Cover

The cover photo is of Katie Phillips founder of the Lucy Fund. Photo by Landi Whitefield Photography.



42



52

60

Romance, Twilight and Granbury

"I wrote about Granbury because I truly love it and hope to capture the hearty 'can-do' spirit of the old West still evident today in this vibrant town..."

70

Love, Laugh, Serve

Jean Cate has made a career out of serving many in Hood County for more than 40 years. For her, it is just another day of love and laughter.

80

Beautification Council

The purpose of this non-profit organization is altogether the preservation, creation of parkland and the beautification of the Lake Granbury area.

88

Not Your Mother's Library

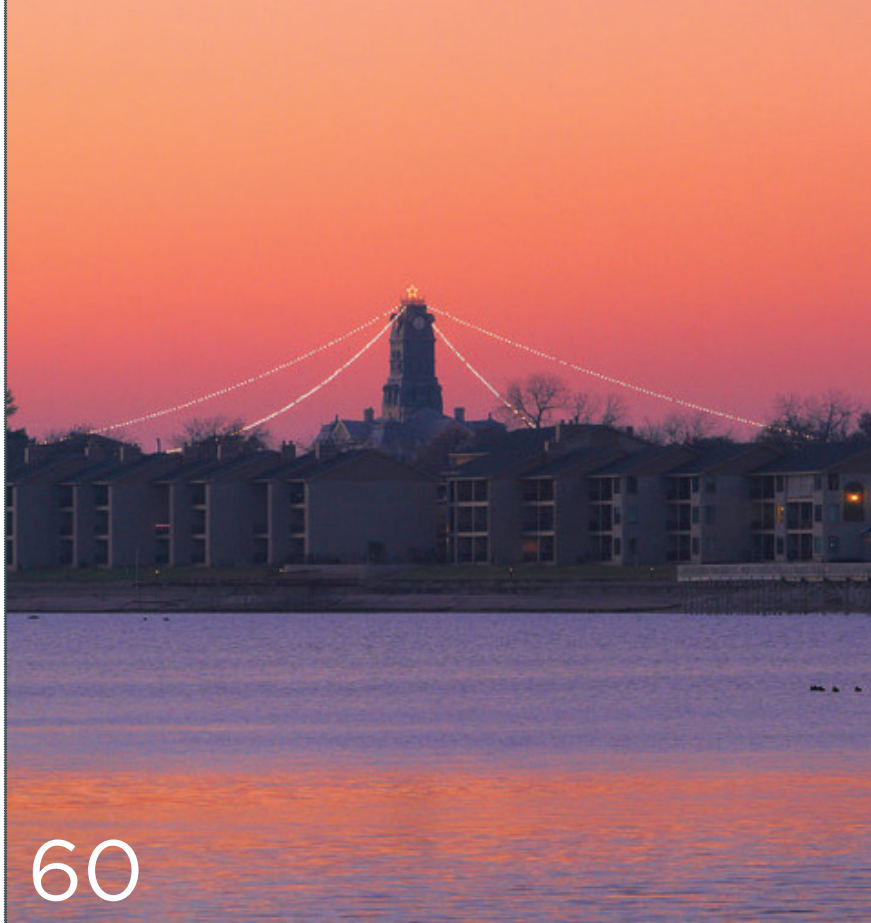
The Hood County Library is "a bit outside-of-the-box," and more than a building to house old, dusty books.

94

Comforts of Home

Once you move past the chatter and trust your own judgment on what looks good in your home; you will create a home that speaks to who you are.

34



60

in every issue

Hometown Happenings

Throughout this issue take a glimpse inside a few of the exciting events recently held in and around Granbury.

78

Hometown Bundles of Joy

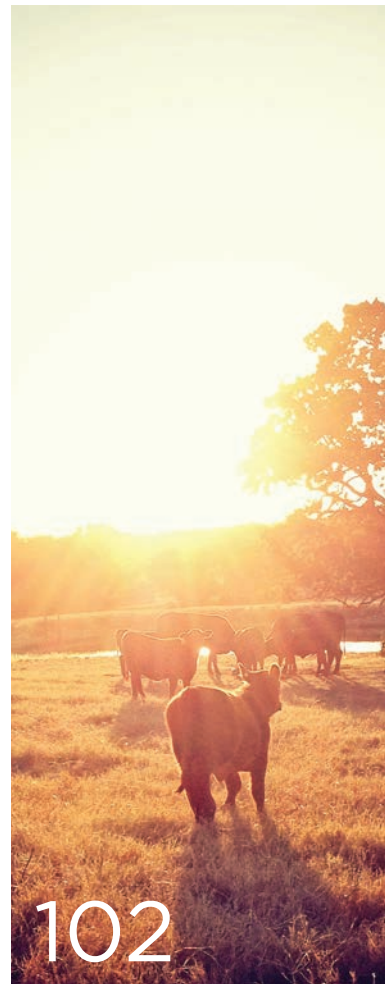
Welcoming Hood County's newest residents.

102

Scenes of Granbury

Take a look at a few more of the reasons why we think Granbury is a beautiful place to live.

102





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FROM THE PUBLISHER



ALL IN THE FAMILY.

As the office started to prepare for our second issue of Lake Granbury Living, I started thinking about how much has changed since our summer issue and how we have grown and evolved, both personally and professionally.

At times, it seems surreal to have made such deep roots in this community and to have been blessed to find a community so wonderful. My heart is full because of the team I have the pleasure of working with every day, and because of the love and support from my new family that I get to go home to every night.

I promise you all- I have never met a more dedicated group of ladies; to their work, to their families and to the community they love to call home.

We love the stories in this issue and have carefully chosen the thoughts on the pages that follow. Some touched our hearts and we had to share them, some just struck our curiosity, but all of them make us proud to publish this magazine.

With these busy times, I don't find enough moments to reflect how far we have come and all the changes that occurred along the way. When I paused to write this, I felt so happy about the way family looks today, and excitement for how our family will look tomorrow.

Wishing you many blessings,

Amy Wade Winters

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RAISING THE BEAM

by Melissa McGavock
Photography by Shad Ramsey

“...being a part of the difference in a community that he cares a great deal about- makes it all worthwhile.”

For what started as a small county hospital in 1973, Lake Granbury Medical Center has come a very long way. Only a few years ago, County Commissioners put to vote a proposal to enter LGMC into a long-term lease with a larger, private hospital organization. It was decided to move forward with the lease, and today, the hospital is part of a national health network called Community Health Systems; an organization with hospitals spanning 29 states. This move to private industry allows for greater opportunities as investment back into the community becomes top priority.

It was part of this move to improve that brought Derrick Cuenca, the current LGMC CEO, to bat for the second time in Granbury. Under the previous CEO, David Orcutt, Cuenca worked as the Chief Operations Officer. Following two years, Cuenca was promoted to a larger sister hospital in Tomball, near Houston. Though he expected to be there for a while, after some time had passed with notable achievements on Cuenca's part, CHS urged him to return to Granbury as LGMC's new CEO. This slingshot move seemed to be an easy decision for Cuenca; not only for professional development, but also for the opportunity to return to Granbury. As for our town, he says, "I really enjoyed my time here and looked forward to re-engaging a community that I really enjoyed being a





part of.” There is one thing he misses about south Texas he said, and that’s the fishing. As it turns out, the CEO is an avid saltwater fisherman. He recently returned from a well-known fishing tournament at the coast called Shark-a-thon, a trip he’d been planning for five years. Inclement weather put a hindrance on this year’s trip, but he is already looking forward to next year.

Included in Cuenca’s experience are several years as a surgical tech in the U.S. Navy, where he moved from hospital to hospital quite frequently, 18 in all. In addition, he believes his 10 years of clinical experience benefit him as an administrator today. With regard to his vision for Lake Granbury Medical Center, Cuenca adds, “My greatest focus is how I can make the organization better or improve, you never know when you’re going to come back to a place, so my focus is always on the now...”

In the 18 months he’s been back, there has already been a significant amount of change in the hospital for the better. The most notable being the implementation of electronic charting as the hospital industry carefully catches up with the technology of the times. Of this Cuenca notes, “No system is perfect, but we continue to be successful in moving our organization in the [right] direction, as we have met all of our EMR requirements.”

In addition, the hospital has significantly reduced fall rates, particularly of patients categorized as high-risk. When he first arrived as active CEO, the fall rate at LGMC was within the industry average. However, he knew there was room for improvement and began strategizing ways to progress. As a result, last year, they implemented a Fall Prevention Program. This standardized the way staff was now required to handle patients who were considered high risk, upon admittance to the hospital to their discharge. Understand when he says staff, Cuenca means all staff, from nurses and doctors, to culinary and housekeeping, to respiratory and physical therapists. One key element of the plan was quite simple- with charts and colors representing levels of the patient’s risk. To patients of most high risk, a yellow “falling star” magnet is placed on their room door, they wear a yellow wristband, and yellow non-slip socks. This is a yellow flag of caution for the staff, and it’s working. In the short time that the Fall Prevention Program has been applied, LGMC has cut their fall rates in half and well under the national average.





“It is clear that his vision for LGMC is to ultimately meet as many of the healthcare needs of this community as possible.”

“Take an ever-changing healthcare system, scientifically significant advancements, plus the addition of the human factor, and one may realize that the role of a hospital administrator is quite challenging.”

This is a fine example of the latitude of improvement that Derrick Cuenca is working toward.

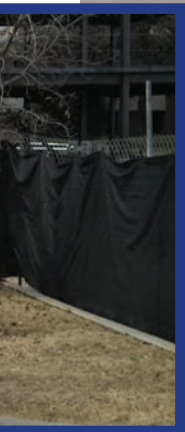
An important goal for Lake Granbury Medical Center is to keep Granbury residents in Granbury by offering quality healthcare close to home. In this vein, the last beam placed during construction of the new LGMC 40,000 sq ft office building was a ceremonious event. Members of the community were invited to sign the beam as a badge of their support and participation to make our local medical center better. This gesture acted as a symbol of support in the expansion of medical services in our hometown.

It is LGMC’s mission to provide the means and expertise with technology and advanced service lines to keep patients here in Granbury. This year, they added inpatient dialysis to their list of services. Before, for dialysis patients needing surgery, their inpatient medical needs could not be met, preventing them from receiving medical care locally. The implementation of inpatient dialysis was a big move in the right direction to keep Granbury residents receiving their general health care locally, instead of commuting elsewhere. To this Cuenca adds, “When you transfer a patient to Fort Worth, you’re not just transferring them, you’re transferring the family and friends along with them.”

It is clear that his vision for LGMC is to meet as many of the healthcare needs of this community as possible. Their breadth of specialties is noteworthy, “There are over 200 physicians on medical staff, representing 26 specialties... 95% of whom are board certified.” It is unusual that one would see a facility only licensed for 83 beds have so many specialized departments including intensive care, cardiology, orthopedic surgery, nephrology, women’s health, cardiac/pulmonary rehabilitation and more. And better care means better physicians, many recruited by the hospital now made the decision to leave the metroplex and relocate to Granbury.

Take an ever-changing healthcare system, scientifically significant advancements, plus the addition of the human factor, and one may realize that the role of a hospital administrator is quite challenging. As for advice to those thinking about a career in healthcare, Cuenca says, “...healthcare is both a rewarding and intimate business, even on the administrative side.” It is his belief that the best way to better understand this dynamic is to spend a significant amount of time volunteering and interning in a healthcare setting. He adds, “When you... care for someone who is ill, who needs your help... you are taking on a great deal of responsibility and when things don’t go the way you planned you must answer for that, especially in a small community.” It is apparent that he accepts this responsibility and that the reward is having the opportunity to make a positive difference in someone’s life. For Derrick Cuenca, it is why he chose management in healthcare as opposed to management in another business arena. And being a part of the difference in a community that he cares a great deal about- makes it all worthwhile. ■LGL





HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

MUELLER BUILDING DEDICATION

Ruth's Place won the steel building through the 2014 Mueller Helping Hand project. A celebration was held after the building was erected with local politicians, doctors and Tarleton State nursing students among the huge crowd. A total of \$172,000 has been raised to date to finish out the interior of the new building.

Photography courtesy of Dawn Skinner



Executive Director of Ruth's Place Becky Mauldin



Gabriella Gamez, Ruth's Place Clinic Manager, with Tarleton State University nursing students

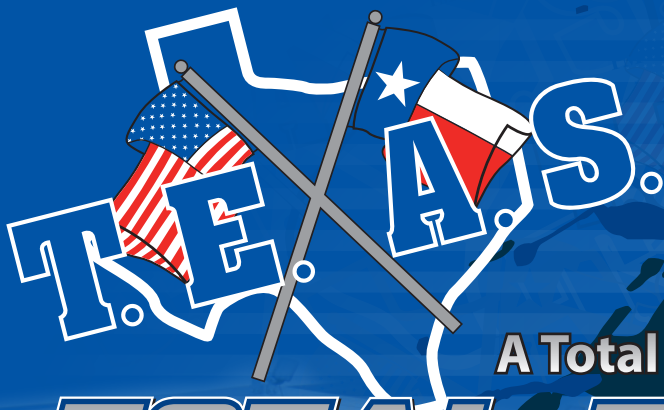


Dr. Elizabeth Berry, President of Ruth's Place Board of Directors



Granbury Mayor Nin Hulett presents plaque to Texas Reporter Bob Phillips





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by Jonathan Hooper
Photography by Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography and
provided by Affinity F1 Formula One Team



Affinity F1

FORMULA ONE

at Granbury High School

Working far beyond the rigors of the typical Physics classroom, these six students are responsible for designing and planning everything from media skills to transportation.

What's In a Name?

When you talk about the International Formula One in Schools competition, the name clearly says it all: Affinity F1.

Mr. Webster's dictionary defines "affinity" as a feeling of closeness and understanding because of their similar interests or an attraction to something. As usual, Mr. Webster accurately describes the coach and team of Affinity F1.

Affinity F1 is the name for the world-class Granbury High School competitive team. Using the phrase "world-class" is no exaggeration for these dedicated local scholars: they competed with more than 40 countries at the world finals that were held this year from November 16-19 at Ferrari World in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates as one of only two teams from the United States. This year, they won Best Social Media Award and placed 14th overall.

Stepping into the classroom during the last period of the day, these students go directly to their specific



and individual task without prodding from Technology teacher and Coach Todd Gibson. “They know what they are supposed to do, so they do it. They work as a team, and no one wants to let the other members down. As a teacher, this is so rewarding.”

The Race Car of The Future

The goal of the competition is to build a better, faster and cooler Formula One car of the future. Each team must plan, design, build, and deliver a Formula One racecar to the international competition—then it actually has to work in the most critically competitive environment.

Working independently as an integrated part of the team, the students use the latest technology in 3D CAD (Computer-Assisted Design). These designs are tested and analyzed in a Virtual Reality Wind Tunnel using software for CFD (Computer Fluid Dynamics). Finally, the team utilizes 3D CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacture) software to evaluate the success, and sometimes failure, of their designs. All of this planning takes place for weeks before they move on to the manufacturing process, constantly testing and fine-tuning designs. Prototype



designs are then tested with wind and smoke tunnel equipment. These prototypes undergo more changes, more testing, and then undergo even more testing. Eventually, a miniature CO2 powered balsa wood racecar is manufactured in the classroom, only to undergo additional testing.

“We test our prototypes right out here in the high school hallway,” says Mr. Gibson. “Well, we used to run it on the floor in the hallway, until now. This week we have a new track with a timer that will simulate our competition track in Abu Dhabi, but the new track will still be set up out here in the hallway.”

How fast are these miniature racers? The team from Northern Ireland holds the current world record. Their F1 racer traveled 24 meters on a raised track in 1.020 seconds. Affinity F1 is out to beat that record, if only by 1/1,000th of a second. A tiny shave here, a lighter wheel there, or a slightly more aerodynamic and wind resistant shape—all perfectly synchronized with the help of calculators and computers, followed by lots of testing.

If they need to build a new part, they cannot run down to the local hobby shop or make a quick trip to Fort Worth. The wide variety of materials used in the production and design of this type are not readily available. When it comes to international competition, every gram of weight could mean a win or a loss. They must either search the Internet for the most practical and weight-saving option available worldwide, or they design and build it right in the classroom with updated computer assisted design software and an ultramodern 3D printer. Then they test some more.

These Kids Are Good!

This is the sixth straight year Affinity F1 has qualified for international competition. Here is an abridged list of their most recent awards in 2014:

At the F1 In Schools Texas Regionals – Austin, TX

- Grand Champions
- Fastest Car – 1.084
- Best Verbal Presentation
- Best Portfolio
- Best Pit Display

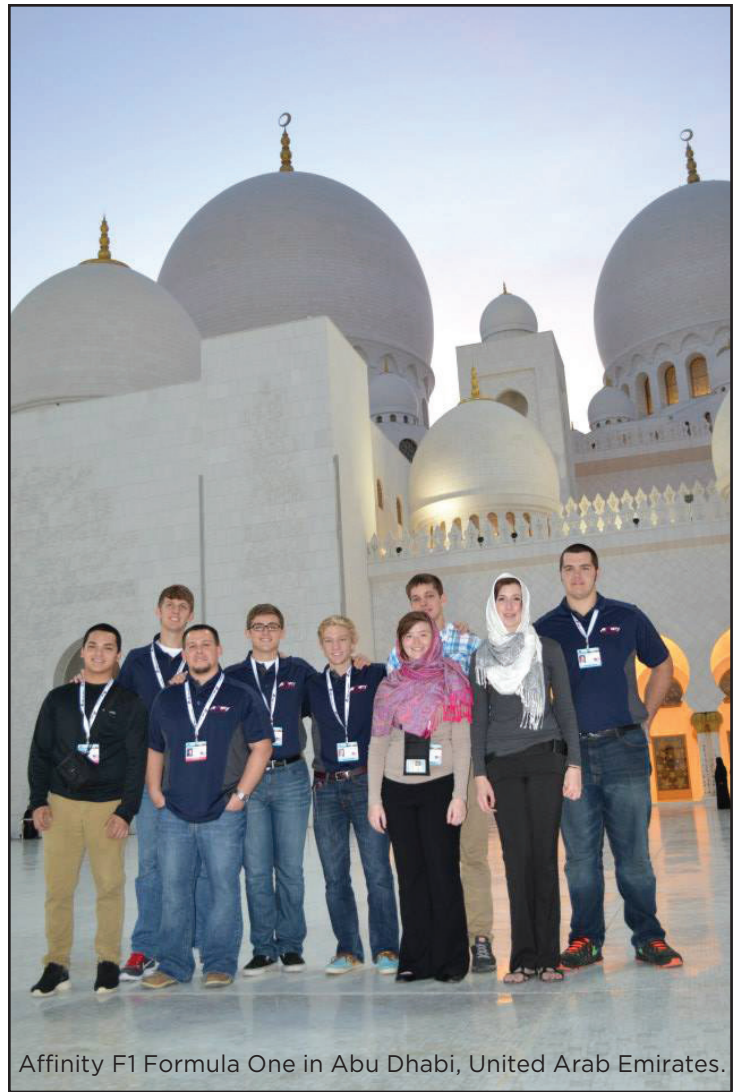
At the F1 In Schools USA National Competition – Michigan International Speedway

- 2nd Place Overall
- Best Team Identity

At the F1 In Schools World Finals – Abu Dhabi

- Best Social Media
- 14th Place Overall

Working far beyond the rigors of the typical Physics classroom, these six students are responsible for designing and planning everything from media skills to transportation. Nothing is left for random “fix it later” plans. The coach, Todd Gibson, functions like any exceptional coach: he coaches, oversees, guides, and



Affinity F1 Formula One in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



World's Fastest Rollercoaster in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

assists—but he does not actually design or build or race or promote the car. He organizes the team and their activities, selects the students for their individual roles, and keeps a critical eye on every facet of the project.

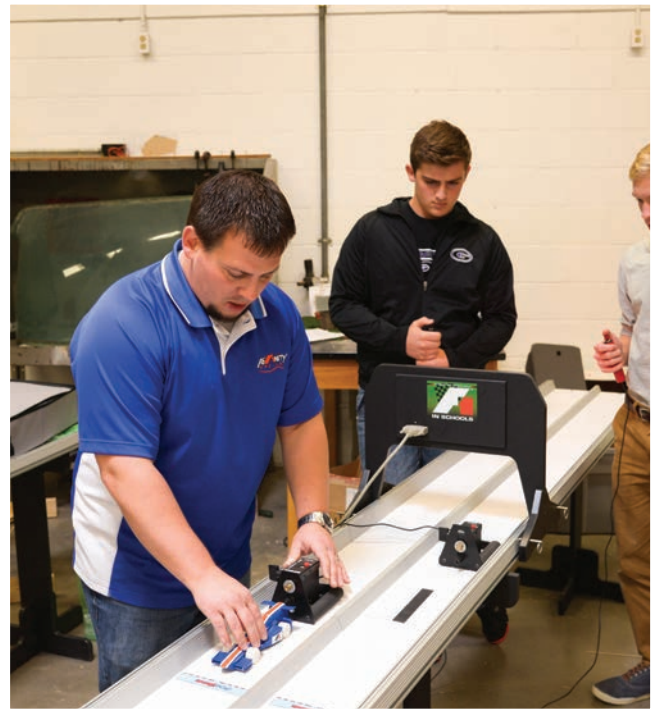
Each of the six members of the team is a student in the career and technical education class. Or rather, at one time they were. Since the competition is international, and not confined to the traditional age classifications of American education norms, team members may range in age from seven to nineteen. One of the team members has already graduated from Granbury High School.

As a freshman at Texas A&M University in College Station, Project Manager, Chloe Scroggins, oversees the big picture, serving as a Junior Coach. Ian McMasters is the Manufacturing Engineer, in charge of assembling the car, however everyone is in charge of smaller parts: one will design the wheels, another will handle the aerodynamics, and so on. Christina Hagar is the Resource Manager lining up and acquiring resources for every facet of the project. Tyler Johnson is the Graphic Designer covering everything from the official logo to the award-winning 20-page portfolio design. Hayden Coppenbarger and Tommy Wallace are both Design Engineers responsible for design. What kind of designs? They design anything and everything on the car, from bumper to bumper.

This makes the second year in a row that Affinity F1 has made it to the international competition. However last year, it was a bit closer to home in Austin, Texas. A good-sized van was sufficient for transporting boxes of

equipment, six students, two roadies, and a coach. Just getting the equipment to the international competition in Abu Dhabi presents a new host of problems, which the students solve in addition to designing and constructing the Formula One model.

“We did not know how much it would cost to ship the models, along with the supporting equipment, and our tools to Abu Dhabi. Now we know, and it is ridiculously expensive. So, we had to redesign everything to fit into the smallest possible shipping containers. I didn’t do that—the students on the team are in charge of solving those problems,” says Todd Gibson, the Granbury High School Physics teacher who coaches the team with assistance from Career and Technical Education Director, Judy Gentry.





According to the students, the real challenge is taking the hard facts of science and bringing them together to create an actual three-dimensional product that functions outside of computers and design software. In the process, they learn real-world applications of physics, aerodynamic design, manufacturing, branding, graphics, sponsorship, marketing, leadership, teamwork, financial strategy, and competition.

We want to be America's future engineers.

The students buy into the teamwork strategy as well. They know that developments in engineering are rarely made by solitary individuals, but by teams of individuals working together toward a final goal. This is the best pre-on the job training available for high school students. Asked both individually and collectively, they all responded that the primary benefit to this program was exploring physics and engineering as a team, followed by the actual knowledge learned, and finally developing the skills necessary to eventually become engineers. Aerospace engineering is the preferred field, followed by mechanical engineering.

It is clear that 10 years from now, we will be riding, flying, sailing, or playing with an innovative design or some indispensable gadget that comes from the minds of these Affinity F1 team members. And that says it all. ■ LGL





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the Lucy Fund

for the care of animals.

by Melissa Wren Williams | Photography by Landi Whitefield Photography

The people we help are deeply in love with their pets. It's usually not their fault that the pet is injured or sick.

Imagine what it would feel like if your beloved family pet came down with an illness or had a horrible accident, and you were faced with the gut-wrenching decision of taking care of your family versus spending money to save your pet's life. This is a reality for many pet owners, and The Lucy Fund makes it possible to do both. It takes a certain type of person to be able to overcome tragedy and heartbreak and turn it into something positive that will help others. That's exactly what Katie Phillips did in June 2012, when she founded The Lucy Fund, a non-profit organization.

In February 2011, her Yellow Lab Lucy, was diagnosed with cancer and a poor prognosis. Lucy only lived four more months.

"I was in my forties when I got Lucy, and I bonded with her like a mother bonds with her first child," Katie said.

Katie fortunately had the money for special diets and medicines to take care of Lucy. But, when it was over, the question she asked herself was, "How do people do it? My husband and I were shocked over the cost to treat a seriously ill animal at a vet," Katie said. "We had no idea what a struggle it could be."

In her grief, she found that it helped to make donations to her nearby vet clinic for others who needed financial help.

"My husband could see that I wanted to do more," Katie said. "He suggested I start a charity that would help people everywhere to take care of their pets in need."

To date, there are participating vets throughout Texas, the majority in Granbury, and in other states. Her husband, Joseph Phillips, is a Certified Public Accountant in Granbury and offered to support her efforts through his company, which in turn helped her walk through the devastating loss. Unfortunately, within a year their other family dog died of a broken heart.

However, "The Lucy Fund was a turning point in my life," says Katie. "The people we help are deeply in love with their pets. It's usually not their fault that the pet is injured or sick. The thing they want most is for their pets to come home to their families. That's why I do this work and will continue."

The Mission: "To help keep seriously ill pets in need from facing hardships due to a lack of immediate finances."





It's up to the veterinarian's discretion to share information about The Lucy Fund with their clients. There is no cost to the vet to participate. After the vet discusses the cost with the pet owner, they may contact The Lucy Fund to see what they can contribute. The fund is always first come, first served, and relies solely on donations. When donations come in, they go back out to beneficiaries. No one at The Lucy Fund receives any compensation. Since the inception, the fund has helped more than 100 small pets and has never had to turn anyone away.

"The fund is one of the best things to happen for some of these vets," Katie said. "We are there to help them save the lives of the pets without incurring financial loss for their services. The vets can't do it all. Many will tell you they were able to save a pet's life because The Lucy Fund stepped in."

Dr. Mary Marczak from All Creatures Animal Hospital in Granbury said that euthanasia, or the absence of care, are not the only options to a loving owner thanks to The Lucy Fund.

"We are there to help them save the lives of the pets without incurring financial loss for their services. The vets can't do it all. Many will tell you they were able to save a pet's life because The Lucy Fund stepped in."

-Katie Phillips



“It’s a vital bridge for those owners who very much wish to provide the necessary veterinary care to their pet but may not have the financial ability to do so,” Dr. Marczak said. “As a veterinarian and a veterinary hospital owner, I am very appreciative of how The Lucy Fund operates. It allows for our professional discretion in selecting the most proper care an owner agrees to and authorizes.”

Katie said they’ve not had anyone take advantage of the fund, and some people actually give back when they are able. This happens regularly.

Jennifer Keaffaber was a grateful beneficiary of the fund in the spring of 2013 when her dog, Pokey, was bitten by a snake and had to stay in the hospital for several days.

“I was not in the best of places financially, and The Lucy Fund was right there to give my dog and I a much needed boost that will never be forgotten,” Jennifer said. “I believe The Lucy Fund performs a loving and valuable service and am always quick to inform other pet lovers of what they did for me. It makes me feel good to give back to them so that they can continue helping others. I’m now in a better place financially and love paying it forward.”



The one thing Katie never stops doing is fundraising. They raise money through their food items. Whether it’s their wonderful pecans and almonds, or their sassy salsas, everyone loves their food! These items can be found at vet offices, or on their website. They also hold events throughout the year at various locations, but donations are always in need.

Katie has spent the majority of her life giving back to others and many times putting them first. She is dedicated to devoting her time to improving and enriching the lives of women and children. She is a past member of the Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, is a long time mentor to children with Big Brothers Big Sisters, and spends a great deal of her time supporting women’s needs. Katie’s long-term focus is building character and confidence in young people so they can realize and achieve their dreams.

This is motivated by the way she grew up. Her father supported her and her four siblings. Times were hard, and she took notice of how people reached out and helped her family, so giving back is always her top priority.

“It’s the little things you do that make a big difference in someone’s life, whether it’s children or a woman in crisis, or saving an animal from being euthanized prematurely,” Katie said. “Every time you do that one little thing, you realize why you’re here.”

Today, Katie and her husband have two dogs named Lulu and Zoe.

After years of being the Chief Executive Officer of a leading mobile software company, Katie founded and runs KP Consultants. This organization works with business owners to turn their companies around. She’s enjoyed her career but said if push came to shove, she’d dedicate 100 percent of herself to The Lucy Fund for which she has many ambitious goals in 2015.

Please visit www.TheLucyFund.org for more information on how to donate. You’ll find stories of other pets that have been helped, common things to look for relating to the health of your pet, a list of the vets who participate, as well as sponsors and supporters. You can also connect via their Facebook. ■LGL



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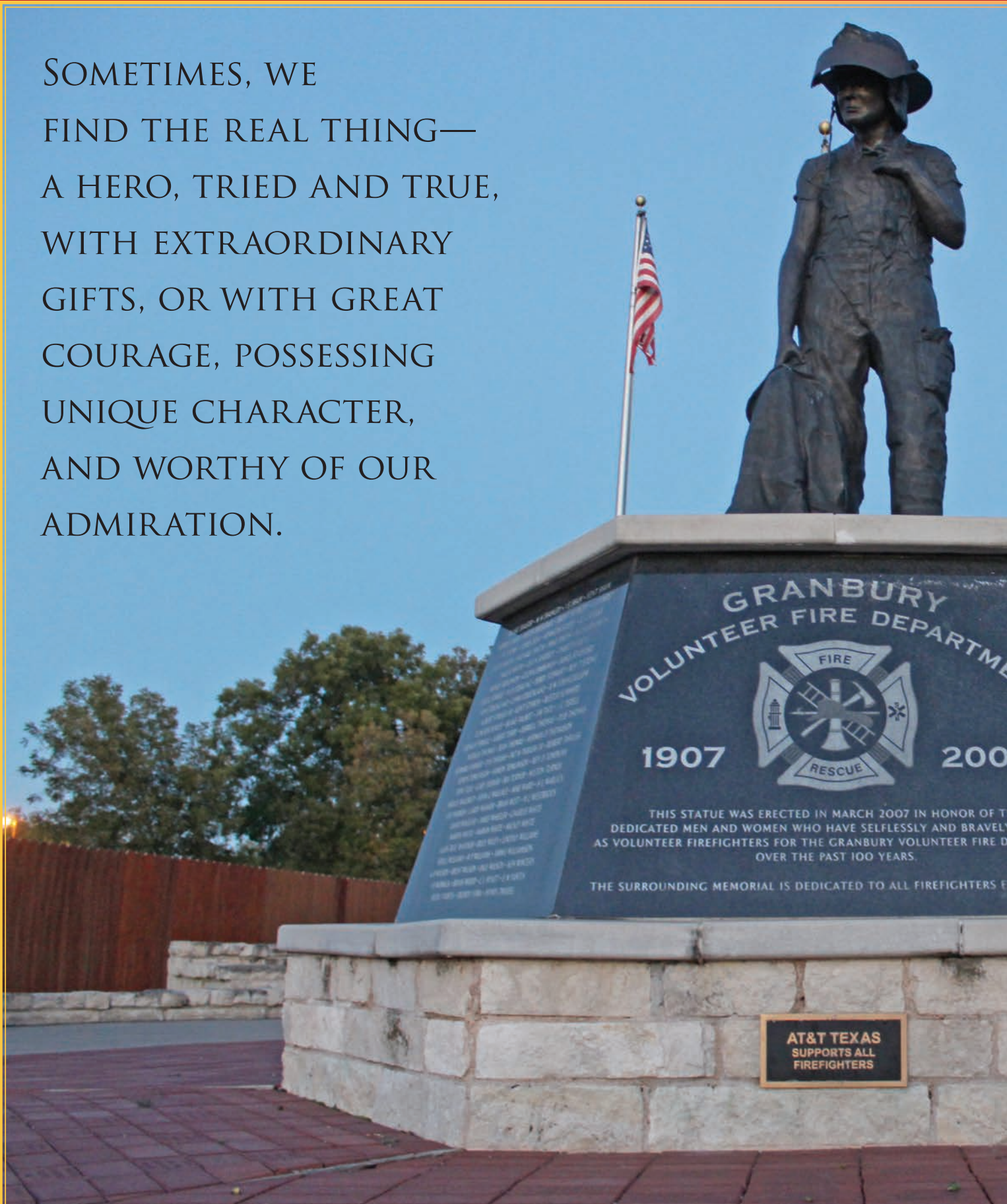
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DEVOTION HAS NEVER *Wavered*

by Jonathan Hooper | Photography by Dawn Skinner

A lot of words are spewed forth these days about heroes. Most of the time, the objects of our admiration are nothing of the sort. Rather, they are fakes, charlatans, and imposters at best. But sometimes, we get the words right, and find the real thing—a hero, tried and true, with extraordinary gifts, or with great courage, possessing unique character, and worthy of our admiration. In short: the firefighter.

Whether one is rescuing the floundering feline stuck up in a tree or putting out a small backyard fire or being the first responder to a catastrophe, the firefighter is a hero. We have some notable heroes in parents, teachers, policemen, and sometimes artists, often athletes—including all the regular suspects from Mickey Mantle to George Strait— but only the firefighter has ignited the romantic admiration of the American imagination since the days of the bucket brigades.

It is not all hook and ladder trucks and dalmatians and shiny poles for these brave men and women. There is often a lot of boredom, waiting for the call to action. There is fatigue from hours of backbreaking work. There is the possibility of grave danger lurking behind every call to service. And for the volunteer firefighter, there is also a full-time job elsewhere.



Since 1907, the Granbury Volunteer Fire Department has protected Granbury. There was a rather informal fire department in the 19th century that predated the GVFD, but since the city was not incorporated until 1907, the GVFD officially began that same year.

As the first responder to fires of all sizes as well as medical emergencies, the GVFD is a tight-knit group of 60 volunteer men and women led by Chief Darrell Grober whose dedication to protecting the community is just as strong today as it was in 1907. “Members do it strictly for the love of this community,” said member, Matt Hohon. “Our devotion to maintaining the safety of citizens in Granbury has never wavered.”

It is in this spirit of commitment that The Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park was established in 2007, marking both the Centennial of the GVFD and the dedication of one of its long time members, James Burton Burks. Jim Burks was a descendent of an early Granbury

Suitable for ages of small children to age 12, the bright red fire truck has dozens of activities including several play panels, slides, climbing poles, large tires for crawling, and steering wheels.



Firemen of the 2014 GVFD



pioneer, Abe Nutt, who owned and operated a ferry toward the northern end of the Brazos River on what is now known as Abe's Landing. "Jim Burks was a volunteer with the Fire Department for more than 20 years, and even served as fire chief for a while. He died from a sudden heart attack in 1999, so the park was named in honor of Jim and his service."

Jim Burks' service to the community did not end with his volunteer fire department activities. He was a member of the Lions Club, and also worked tirelessly with other various civic groups. He was particularly involved with youth activities, both through 4-H clubs and his church youth group.

The poignant firefighter statue was unveiled on March 3, 2007, and dedicated by Jim Burks' father, Mr. Burton Burks. The adjacent Children's Area was opened later with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 11, 2012. Positioned on North Travis Street next to the U.S. Veterans Museum, the park is a picturesque setting with trees, manicured lawns, and plenty of parking. The entire park is ADA accessible. But the best way to reach the park is by the Moments in Time Hike and Bike Trail. At one end of the park is a small array of fitness equipment, and nearby is a picnic table with benches, but you might overlook these altogether when you see the large playground with a fire truck motif—especially if you are with young children. Suitable for ages of small children to age 12, the bright red fire truck has dozens of activities including several play panels, slides, climbing poles, large tires for crawling, and steering wheels.

A second picnic area is seen on the way to the memorial itself. With three flags from the USA,

Texas, and Fire Department, the circular memorial is surrounded by several benches, perfect for reflecting on the work and service given by the members of the GVFD. At the base of the raised statue are the inscribed names of every single former member of the GVFD. When you visit the memorial, take a few moments to read the names. You will discover something of a secret: many of the last names over the last century are the same.

Multiple generations have provided decades of firefighter service to the Granbury community. "There are generations of family involved with nearly every fire department across America. It is a big tradition, this family firefighter business, especially back east in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and so on. But it is rather rare in small towns out west like Granbury, especially with generation after generation of service," added Hohon. "Grandfathers, fathers, uncles, sons, brothers, cousins, nephews—you name it, and they have served the community. And they are all written here on this statue."

Take a short walk, or ride your bike down the Hike and Bike Trail to the Jim Burks Firefighters Park. Sit in the shade of a towering oak tree, or enjoy the sunshine sitting on a bench surrounding the statue. Pack a picnic lunch to

share with others. Show your children and grandchildren the names on the statue. Point out the names of the community members who donated funds for the park that are found engraved in the red bricks surrounding the statue of the firefighter. Read the bronze plaque attached to the rock walls honoring and remembering the heroes and victims of September 11, 2001. Consider what the volunteer firefighter has done for this community, and communities like this all over the country. But mostly, just take a moment in time, and remember our heroes.



■LGL



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Taking up Residence

by Melissa McGavock

Photography by Landi Whitefield Photography

& Dawn Skinner

Granbury, Texas has a group of special residents who take great care to keep their historically significant homes up to the rigorous standard of the Texas Historical Commission.

Granbury, Texas has a group of special residents who take great care to keep their historically significant homes up to the rigorous standard of the Texas Historical Commission. Some of these homes have been cared for generation by generation, some saved following years of vacancy and in some cases vandalism, and yet some acquired by families ready to accept the responsibility of owning such a home. And for us contemporary homeowners, there may be some perplexities left as to what exactly that means.

According to the guidelines of Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL) initiated in 1962 and managed by the Texas Historical Commission, properties are considered for landmark status according to historical and architectural significance, as well as “historic persons or events associated with a structure.” Once marked as a Texas Historic Landmark, the structure should “maintain



Hanna Ford House



Baker - Carmichael House



TEXAS
TEXAS
A.D. AND GEORGIA BROWN HOUSE
THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1872 BY
J. D. BROWN, A TEXAN FRONTIER
AND WESTERN FRONTIER MAN OF
THE 19TH CENTURY. BORN IN 1812,
HE ARRIVED IN TEXAS IN 1840 AND
SETTLED IN THE AREA OF BROWN
COUNTY. HE WAS A FARMER AND
A BUSINESSMAN. HE WAS A MEMBER
OF THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE AND
A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS BAR.
HE DIED IN 1880. HIS HOUSE WAS
BUILT BY HIS SON, J. D. BROWN, JR.
IN 1880. HIS HOUSE WAS BUILT
IN THE 1870s. HIS HOUSE WAS
BUILT IN THE 1870s.

Diane Lock at her home, the J.D. Brown House

Architectural Detail in the J. D. Brown House



its appearance from its period of historical significance and should be an exemplary model of preservation.” In the case of alterations to historic homes, no structure can be considered for the RTHL designation if it has been moved in the past 50 years or if artificial/modern materials such as aluminum, vinyl, asbestos, etc. have been applied to the structure’s exterior.

This trend of historical preservation spawns an interest in home tours such as the annual Granbury-A Candlelight Tour. The tour caters to both residents and visitors interested in seeing a more personal side of these great pillars of both western civilization and Texas history. Featured in this article are just a handful of Granbury’s historic homes and homeowners. We’ve included J.D. Brown House, the Baker-Carmichael House, and the Cogdell House, also known as The Iron Horse Inn. Each of these home’s architectural style designates an important place in time where style met function and represented the spirit of the era.



Iron Horse Inn



Baker - Carmichael House

The first is the J.D. Brown House, owned by Diane Lock, antiques enthusiast and community philanthropist. This 1907 home was commissioned by J.D. Brown in the Queen Anne style toward the end of this revival trend. All of J.D. Brown's carefully planned details have been kept true with conservation techniques including proper historical restoration when necessary. A retirement plan for the Locks, the purchase of the home in the late 70s proved to be a project with great expectations and the payoff has been both rewarding and life-changing. An invitation to be a home on the Granbury-A Candlelight Tour in the mid 80s got the couple excited to take on the great deal of restoration the home required. Although, constantly under the microscope by the state historical commission, their peers and goers of

the tour proved to be challenging at times, she notes that most of the reactions are very positive, and that people seem to be inspired by the decor and design decisions made throughout. While not indicative of a Queen Anne, the two-story wrap-around porch was a popular addition to many southern homes and remains to be a favorite spot for friends and family to mingle. In fact, Diane's granddaughter was married on that porch. Diane's home has been on the tour more than 20 years, collectively, and she has served as the Candlelight Tour Chair of both residential and public buildings. .

Claudia Southern, also an avid preservationist and community philanthropist accepts this social responsibility with great pleasure. She and her husband, David Southern, take up residence in the great Baker-Carmichael home located on E. Pearl Street nestled between the historic square and the Langdon Cultural and Educational Center. This magnificent blue, red, and white structure is hard to miss for locals and tourists of Granbury. This impressive home, also a Queen Anne revival, is marked for state historical significance, as well as registered with the National Register of Historic Places. The original owner, Jess Baker, served several terms in the Texas House of Representatives beginning in 1906. Claudia feels that the "house has a healing feeling... it's a place where life has thrived." It seems in homes like these that as the occupants and the furniture take up residence, at some level, they surrender to the home's past. They cohabitate in a meaningful existence as they occupy the halls of this area's days-of-old. In keeping with the home's past, the Southernns are very active in the community. They participate most years in the Granbury- A Candlelight Tour, David has served as Mayor of our community, and Claudia is President of Preserve Granbury. As a family, the Southernns run Southern Concepts, Inc., a company dedicated to counseling developmentally disabled adults since 1980.

Named for its position near the Granbury railroad, the Iron Horse Inn underwent an extensive renovation, just re-opening its doors in the Spring of 2013. The original home was built in the popular Victorian style, of which there are many in the Granbury area. Unfortunately, this three story, 22-room structure

burnt to the ground. Soon after, in 1905, the current home was built on the very same footprint in the Arts and Crafts style made popular by American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. While this is a bit early for the Arts and Crafts movement, the homeowner, D.C. Cogdell was as affluent as he was forward thinking. The straight lined, mission style home wrapped in windows is all indicative of Arts and Crafts as it brings more attention to nature and less to structure. This was evident as I walked through this home filled with the original dark wood floors, paneling and doors and still the home was very bright and welcoming. Diana and her husband, Don McBride are professional B&B operators, having more than 20 years of experience in the business. The Cogdell House was in need of restoration, which was no small feat. This is nothing like your run of the mill remodel. Specialty carpenters, cabinetmakers, ironworkers, etc. come from all over to work on homes such as these. Many are employed for months and begin to care for the home as their own as they take great pride in their craft. Of this, Diana remarks, “As the saying goes, the only thing that consistently works in an old house is the owner.”

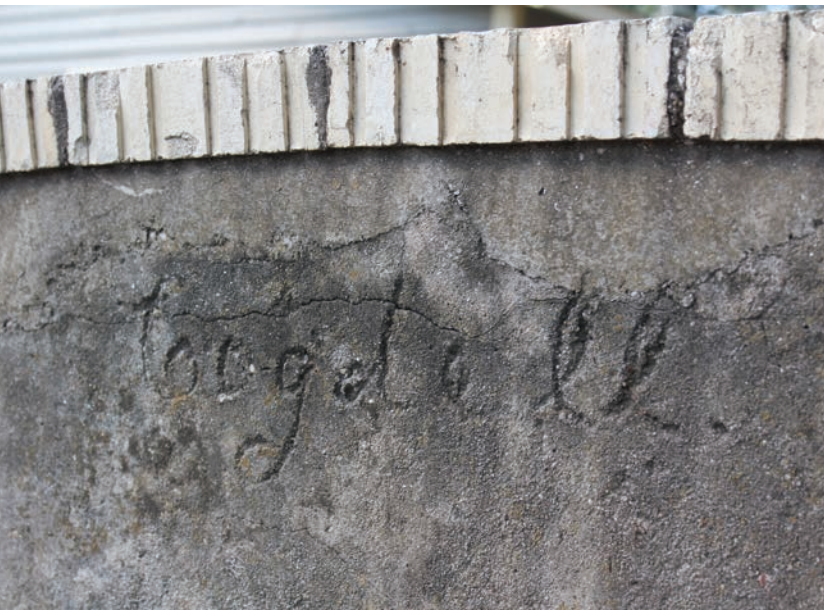


The home has been featured on the tour for many years; also Diana serves as the President of the Granbury Area Bed and Breakfast Association. She continues to educate guests and the public of the home’s history and the value in preservation. She feels this landmark is not hers alone, but hers to share as she says, “it’s not ours [the house], it’s the community’s.”

As human beings, we naturally categorize things around us to make sense of the world and who we are. And without realizing it, these historic surroundings help us know where we’re going by giving reference to where we’ve come from. As such, these great strides to actively preserve our hometown relics simultaneously protects ourselves. These structures provide a center for us. Who we are affects where we stand and the future decisions we make that will directly affect our future generations. And it is this responsibility to protect and preserve, that these citizens (many more than the three in this brief article), these caretakers of Granbury’s history, take on with great pride and a true love for what they do. ■LGL

Reference:

The Texas Historical Commission www.thc.state.tx.us



Iron Horse Inn



Iron Horse Inn



Hannaford House

HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

50 FELLAS FOODFEST

The second annual 50 Fellas FoodFest was held October 20th at the Hood County Reunion Grounds. This event is put on by the Granbury ISD Education Foundation. 50 Fellas Foodfest is an annual event featuring 50 teams of 2 men who prepare and serve an appetizer, entrée, or dessert of their choice in small one-bite samples. The cooks range from GISD superintendent Dr. James Largent and men from each school campus to elected officials and businessmen in the community. The foods are judged by those who attend. This year between 600-700 people attended, and a little over \$60,000 was raised for the Granbury ISD Education Foundation to fund innovative teaching grants and other programs to support GISD teachers and students.

Photography courtesy of A & C Photography



Stacy Mitchell - President of Granbury ISD Education Foundation, Patrick Steenberge - the Emcee, and Kelly Garner - 50 Fellas Foodfest Coordinator



Randy Harvey & Mark Jackson (best dessert)



Chris Elrod & Scott Carpenter (best entrée) - representing Acton Middle School



Aaron Moreno & Joe Paul Thompson (best appetizer/side) - representing Mabrino Elementary



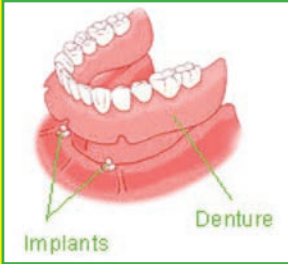
Ronnie Hansen and Chase Johnson (best of show) - representing South-west Securities FSB

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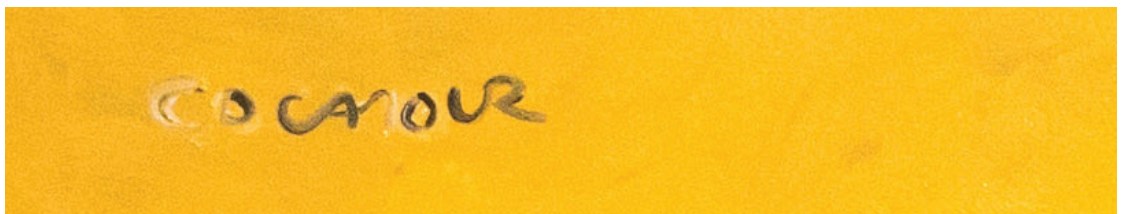
Artist Jeff Cocanour takes his art to Fort Worth, and keeps his ties to Granbury strong. His dream to unlock wonder starts with oil paintings, but goes much deeper.

by Lisa Bell | Photography by Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography

Standing at the window in a Fort Worth condo located in the T&P building, Jeff dreamed of owning a gallery—a special place to show his artwork. He stared out across the city, thinking, dreaming and talking to his wife, Carrie, about what it would look like. They began driving around, and eventually located a building to lease. The 103-year-old structure required some remodeling. They tore up floors and poured concrete, put up sheetrock and painted. One brick wall remains, adding character to the building. After the remodeling began, Jeff was in the condo one night. As he lay in bed, he could actually see the building. It was then he realized, he had been looking at it the whole time.

Jeff can't remember exactly when he started painting. He admits being a rambunctious kid, but his mother could keep him composed by simply giving him blank paper and a writing utensil of any kind. With paper and crayons, pencil or pen, he'd go off into his own little world for hours.

At a young age, probably 8 or 9, he attended his first oil painting class. In a small house on Morgan Street, with an older woman and several other kids, Jeff experienced the smell of oil paints for the first time. He doesn't remember all of the details, but he remembers the scent and his mom taking him for the lesson.



During high-school he wasn't a model student in all of his classes, but he loved art. Often in core classes he spent more time drawing than paying attention to concepts. In his junior and senior years, he attended a zero hour art class taught by Mike Tabor. The students built portfolios to have judged by The Art Institute of Chicago. He wanted to go there, mostly because many well-known artists came out of the school. He didn't do the legwork. "I didn't intend to go to school, but I was encouraged," Jeff said. "Didn't know what I would do. I thought I might go to Europe or something." He chuckled at the thought.

By the time he was in college, he put his love for drawing to good use, figuring out a way to create maps of facts and information he needed to understand and retain. "Before that I was just doodling and not paying attention," he said. Visualizing his lessons helped him learn better, and eventually he finished college with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. He had over 100 hours of art classes.

Jeff's sisters are teachers. With all of the art knowledge, he didn't know how else to apply it other than teach what he knew. One of his sisters encouraged him to look at Southlake and helped him navigate through the online application process. He taught in Southlake for two years before doing

a short stint of teaching in Granbury. But teaching wasn't the career for the talented artist.

The ways oils mix make them the perfect medium for Jeff. Texturizing paints on canvas gives his work a unique look, with more depth, as if they are sculptures. While many artists paint in thin layers, Jeff takes a different approach. Instead of mixing in linseed oil, painting a layer, waiting days or even weeks to dry and then going back layer after layer, he paints the *alla prima* (wet on wet) method. Emptying tubes of paint on glass, he begins a piece and continues without waiting for the paint to dry. In this way, every stroke blends with what's already there. If he chooses to dig, the process reveals what's beneath the current color. Several strokes begin to change the color as it blends with other layers. The piece becomes living—breathing, airing out, and achieving his goal of bring life into his artwork.

The pieces in Jeff's gallery vary in subject matter and sometimes in style. But none of them lack personality or a sense of fun. As an artist, he starts with an idea, but is never quite sure where it will go or end.

Some of his work comes from old photographs. After commissioned to create paintings for a local businessman, Jeff began researching and found thousands of pictures by Charles Swartz. "He was the original hipster," said Jeff, referring to the 1900's





In a small house on Morgan Street, with an older woman and several other kids, Jeff experienced the smell of oil paints for the first time. He doesn't remember all of the details, but he remembers the scent and his mom taking him for the lesson.



photographer. Charles took his photography to the streets, slinging a cumbersome camera on his back and riding through the streets of Fort Worth on a bicycle to capture unique photos. Fort Worth historian, Quentin McGown, also contributed an amazing number of stories to the mix. After completing so much research, Jeff couldn't stop with only the two paintings for his customer. He completed an entire series where he started with an historic photo, then added his own personality. Jeff has a wonderful ability to imagine being in the picture and bringing what he visualizes to the canvas. A story lies behind every painting.

Sometimes, Jeff looks at classic paintings. Starting at that point, he revamps and makes it his own work. Other times, his artwork comes from personal experiences using several photos merged together to capture scenes from the ground at his feet to the uttermost tip of the sky. In some cases, his work may be pure emotional abstracts.

The chemicals found in oil paints wear on a body. The day may come when Jeff no longer produces oil paintings. For now, he still enjoys the process and looks forward to continuing showings at the gallery. But as an artist, he is much more than a painter.

During retirement, Jeff's grandfather began carving busts of the youngest of each family thread and subsequently got Jeff interested. Since he happens to be the youngest of his family, he flew to Arizona to visit his grandfather. While there, Jeff carved an alabaster bear hugging a teddy bear. He also sculpted his grandfather sculpting him. Onyx from the Andes and the Bentley of marble from the same quarry used to build Acropolis wait for Jeff's master touch. When carving rock, an artist often starts with a clay sculpture and then goes to work on the rock.

Of all his work, Jeff is most passionate about what he calls his masterwork. In development for several years, he hopes to release his first children's book within a year. He plans for two more books in the series to follow. He envisions not only the books, but also an animated film which he and a friend have already been recording. In addition to all of his other talents, Jeff sings.

In the future, he wants to produce public art filled with action. Mixing bronze and marble, or thick glass with silver and wood he envisions creative art displayed to benefit and inspire people.

These projects make up Jeff's dream—a means to unlock art for kids, and for adults alike. "Because





they are childlike, you can admire them from any age in the same language. When you're trying to express something meaningful—connecting back to roots, spirituality—a lot of people need reminding to remember,” Jeff said. “When you get centered in that way with the awe of a child, the innocence almost backtracks us to childhood.”

Jeff contributes his success to his wife, Carrie. “She was there the whole way, not pushing or pulling, but facilitating,” he said. “How awesome is it to say ‘I’d like to do this’ and hear the response ‘You can. We can.’” South of downtown Fort Worth in a neighborhood looking at revitalization, Jeff remembers his roots in Granbury and often returns with the awe of a dream and genuine hope of it coming true. ■LGL





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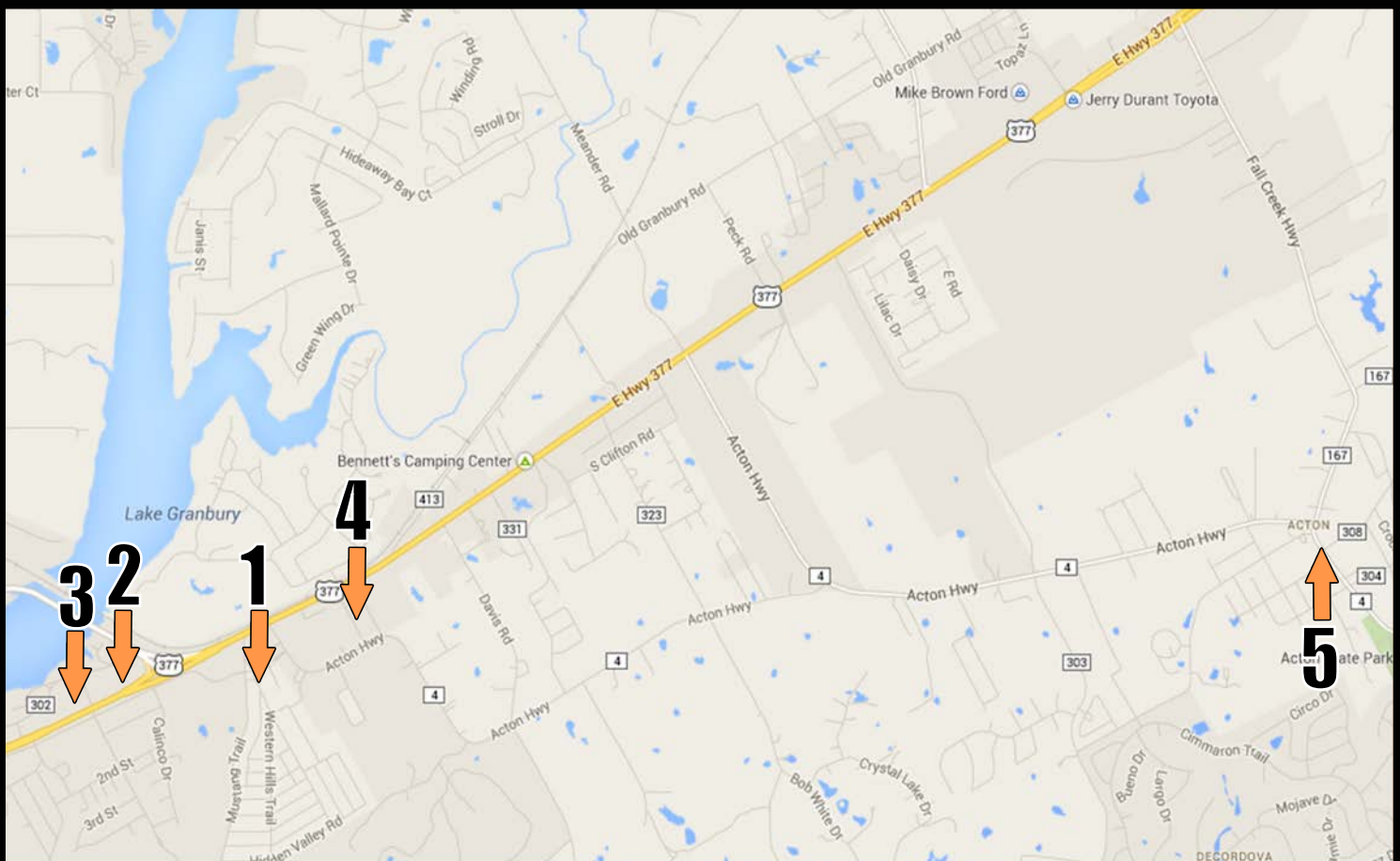
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Romance, Twilight & Granbury

by Peggy Purser Freeman | Photography by Heath Ramsey and Provided by Lori Wilde

Twilight, Texas is a quaint tourist town on the banks of the Brazos River that feeds into Lake Twilight... Twilightites loved their celebrations. They never passed up an excuse for a festival or carnival or party. Part of it was due to the nature of the town's commerce, which was, first and foremost, tourism... But an element that couldn't be ignored was the community's genetic propensity for romance... The combination of the pristine blue lake and the intriguing history... lend a magical air to this quirky but close-knit community filled with warmth and small-town camaraderie... For all the fun and frivolity, make no mistake, while the events and legends and traditions are great fun, the heart and soul of this town lie in the generous people who live there..." from Lori Wilde's novel The Christmas Cookie Chronicles.

So begins *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author, Lori Wilde's books in her Twilight Texas romance novel series. It doesn't take much imagination to recognize the Granbury community in the opening author's notes or as the intricate plots twist and turn through the sights and sounds of the fictionalized Twilight, Texas. When you know the author lives near Granbury and spent many years on the Brazos, the pictures she paints with words take shape before your eyes and you know you are in Granbury, Texas.

In the November issue of *Romantic Times Magazine 2014*, Lori Wilde shared with her world-wide fan base about falling in love with Granbury and writing her *New York Times* bestselling novel set in Hood County, Texas.

"As a newbie writer, I would sit on the dock, scribbling in my notebook, wishing on falling stars and fantasizing about hitting the *New York Times* bestseller list—never once dreaming my greatest success would come from writing a series of books modeled on the very town near where I lived."



In those days when Lori was a “newbie”, she notes, “I was a wanna be”, that attended the same Romance Writers of America meetings in Fort Worth. At one event we were encouraged to have critique partners. The shy, young nurse sitting near me said she didn’t have a group and I (never shy and not so young) suggested she join my group. There were three or four of us who journeyed over county roads to share our heart through our writing.

My career took a turn toward writing for children and freelance writing for magazines. Many years later, I received a message on Facebook from a very successful author, Lori Wilde. Delighted to discover this was actually the shy, young nurse and she had written a series set in the community I now call home, I introduced Lori to my friends. Our friendship picked up where it had left off, wrapped in happy-ever-after and stuffed with hope.

Lori Wilde has sold seventy-eight works of fiction to four major New York Publishing houses. She holds a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Texas Christian University and a certificate in forensic nursing from Kaplan University.

A popular writing instructor, Lori is a two time RITA finalist and has four times been nominated for Romantic Times Reviewer’s Choice Award. She’s won the Colorado Award of Excellence, the Wisconsin Write Touch Award, The Golden Quill, the Lories, and The More than Magic. Her books have been translated into 26 languages and excerpted in *Cosmopolitan*, *Redbook*, *Complete Woman*, and



★ ★ ★ Reading the
Twilight, Texas
series is like
strolling through
Granbury. ★ ★ ★

Quick and Simple magazines. Her plots remind me of Nicholas Sparks, with characters that hop off the page and come to life for the reader—real people with joys and sorrows. Lori often creates a veteran hero as the main character in her novels, especially her Twilight, Texas series. Even the legends have Granbury type characters. Lori explained this one day over coffee on the Granbury Square:

“The legend I created for Twilight was of two young lovers from Missouri who were torn apart by the Civil War. Then believing the other is dead, they accidentally meet fifteen years later on the banks of the Brazos River at twilight—the same spot where my fictionalized town of Twilight stands now.” Lori explained. “I took the name Twilight from the Oliver Wendell Holmes quote: ‘Love prefers twilight to daylight’, and the series began.”

Reading the Twilight, Texas series is like strolling through Granbury. The reader quickly recognizes the Teal Peacock as Stuff ‘N Nonsense, Poppa Pasta’s as Farina’s, the Nutt House as the Funny Farm, and Jesse’s Motorcycle Shop as the Fillin’ Station. Early in the series the reader was introduced to the real Rinky-Tinks. The Iron Horse Inn served as a model for The Merry Cherub Inn. Most of these places and many more come to life in the book, *The First Love Cookie Club* (Avon Nov ‘10). This book has been optioned for a television movie and the option has been extended.

“I borrow many settings from Granbury,” Lori recently told a group at the Hood County Library (known in Twilight as the Hood County Library where children gather for a pajama party at Christmas time when the city of Twilight also enjoys a cookie swap and a cherub tree). “But all of the people in my books are completely fictional.”

The characters may be only fictional, however on December 5, 6 and 7, a few of



those characters will come to life, against the backdrop of Granbury, as Mayor Nin Hulett proclaims Granbury to officially be Twilight, Texas for the weekend. The events portrayed in Lori's books are a natural fit for the Granbury ~ A Candlelight Tour. Lori's Avon Harper Collins Editor, Lucia Marco, will travel from New York to visit Granbury and enjoy the Twilight, Texas Weekend.

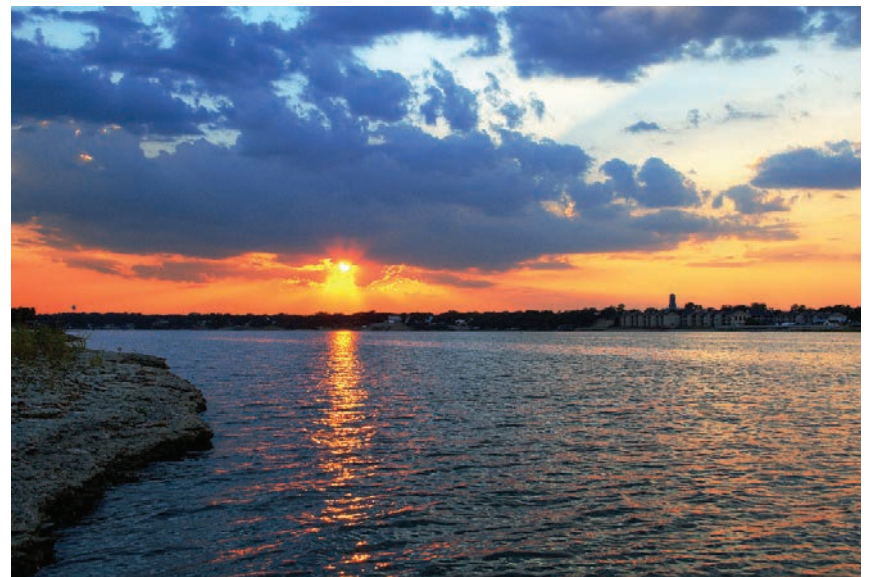
It didn't take long for me to realize that one of my friends, Caroline Brooks, was already a Lori Wilde fan and had also discovered that Twilight, Texas was Granbury, Texas.

Caroline started as a fan, but now serves as co-chairman of Christmas at Twilight, Texas Weekend. She explained, "I found Twilight, Texas through Lori's book, *The Sweetheart's Knitting Club*. I knew right away it had to be Granbury. I wrote Lori and told her I lived in Granbury and thought it might be the real-life Twilight. She answered me and said yes, Twilight was indeed set in Granbury."

With around 100 books, Lori Wilde spends most of her time at the computer or on a book tour. She and her husband, Bill, are often in Granbury. Lori's written works reflect her hopeful heart that is captured in her imagined community.

"I wrote about Granbury because I truly love it and hope to capture the hearty 'can-do' spirit of the old West still evident today in this vibrant town. My first book to hit the New York Times list was *The First Love Cookie Club* (Avon, Nov. '10). Never once in all those days, as I wrote my stories on the river, did I ever suspect I'd have a movie deal in the offing, or that Granbury would honor me with the key to the city. I am touched and humbled to the point of tears." ■LGL

*For more information, please visit
LoriWilde.com and TwilightTexas.com*



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Medicaid Misconceptions

Medicaid has long been viewed by the general public as government healthcare for poor and underprivileged families and their children. Few people are familiar with Medicaid's very important role as the only safety net for millions of middle-class people whose needs for long-term care, at home, or in a skilled nursing facility, outlast their resources.

Our elderly population is currently higher in numbers than it has ever been, with medical advances allowing the baby boomers and their parents to live longer than ever before. Because of this, few families can count on their savings and financial planning to provide for 100% of their long term care needs. Studies show that 70% of people over age of 65 will need long term care at some point in their lives, and over the last 40 years, Medicaid has become the most common source of funding for long term care in Texas.

To qualify for Medicaid for long term care, an applicant must meet the seven eligibility requirements. They must be age 65 or older or disabled. They must have a medical necessity for long term care, be a resident of Texas and be admitted into a certified Medicaid care facility. It must be that the applicant is going to stay in the Medicaid care facility for a minimum of thirty days. The final two points of eligibility that we primarily assist applicants with at the Hyde Law Firm, are the asset test and the income test.

Under the current Texas Medicaid program, an applicant is not allowed more than \$2000.00 in countable assets. Countable assets include cash or anything that can be converted to cash with certain exemptions. Exempt assets include a home, one automobile, cemetery plots, pre-need burial plans that are made irrevocable, and several other exemptions.

Likewise, a Medicaid applicant for long-term care cannot have more than \$2163.00 per month in income. Currently the average cost for nursing home care in Texas is \$4,755.34. Obviously, a problem exists due to the disparity in income eligibility versus the actual cost of care. If an applicant earns \$2,200.00 per month, they make too much money to qualify for Medicaid, yet that is less than half the cost of long term care. It is crucial for families to understand eligibility requirements for

Medicaid assistance. Hyde Law Firm, PLLC strives to educate clients and prepare applications which satisfy all eligibility roadblocks.

Medicare v. Medicaid

Medicare is an entitlement program and is available to anyone who has paid into the system, regardless of a person's assets or income. Medicare will only pay for Nursing Home care if you have been hospitalized for at least three overnight stays and then only if a doctor recommends skilled nursing care for rehabilitation. Additionally, Medicare will only pay for rehabilitation for up to 100 days.

Medicaid Planning

The Medicaid handbook and federal law offer opportunities to legally preserve assets. A careful assessment of the financial situation reveals which eligibility requirement poses problems for a successful application. Once problems are identified, we offer solutions to each obstacle. Like most situations in life, being prepared can make all the difference.

Wrong Information Can Be Costly

Part of what makes Medicaid confusing is the amount of misinformation conveyed. Taking time to consult with a professional can help avoid some of the common mistakes many applicants make.

Common Mistakes and Myths

Myth: Medicaid will take your home.

Fact: Medicaid will not sell your home and take the proceeds. The Medicaid Estate Recovery Program or MERP enables the State to seek recovery of monies paid on behalf of the Medicaid recipient as a claim in probate. However, there are various exemptions to MERP.

Myth: I must spend down all of my assets before qualifying for Medicaid.

Fact: Medicaid rules do not mandate the disposal of assets. While proper spend down can be a part of good planning, an applicant may also (1) transfer assets and accept a penalty, or (2) buy exempt assets.

Myth: An applicant is not eligible for 5 years if any asset

is transferred.

Fact: Medicaid policy requires disclosure of assets transferred within 5 years from the date of application. However, the period of the penalty for the transfer varies based on the total value of the transfer.

Spousal Protections

Federal rules provide special allowance for the spouse of a Medicaid applicant. These allowances are specifically intended to prevent the spouse from becoming impoverished when their husband or wife needs long term care. The community spouse may be eligible to keep all or part of the applicant's income. Additionally, there are protections that enable the community spouse to retain assets. Finally, there is no penalty for transfers of assets between spouses.

In conclusion, it has never been more important to consult with a qualified Medicaid attorney any time a nursing home becomes a genuine possibility for yourself, a family member, or loved one. Your loved one does not have to become destitute to receive Medicaid benefits for themselves or their spouse. Protections are available to preserve assets. Additionally, navigating the Medicaid application process can be confusing and frightening. Having a qualified Medicaid attorney handling the entire process for you, is invaluable.

The Hyde Law Firm is a full service law firm offering family law, criminal defense, estate planning, probate, wills and municipal law services. We take pride in our ability to turn our clients' complexities into solutions of simplicity.



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Love Laugh Serve

Service for the Fun of It

by Julie Lyssy

Photography by Landi Whitefield Photography and provided by Jean Cate

Jean Cate has made a career out of serving many in Hood County for more than 40 years. For her, it is just another day of love and laughter.

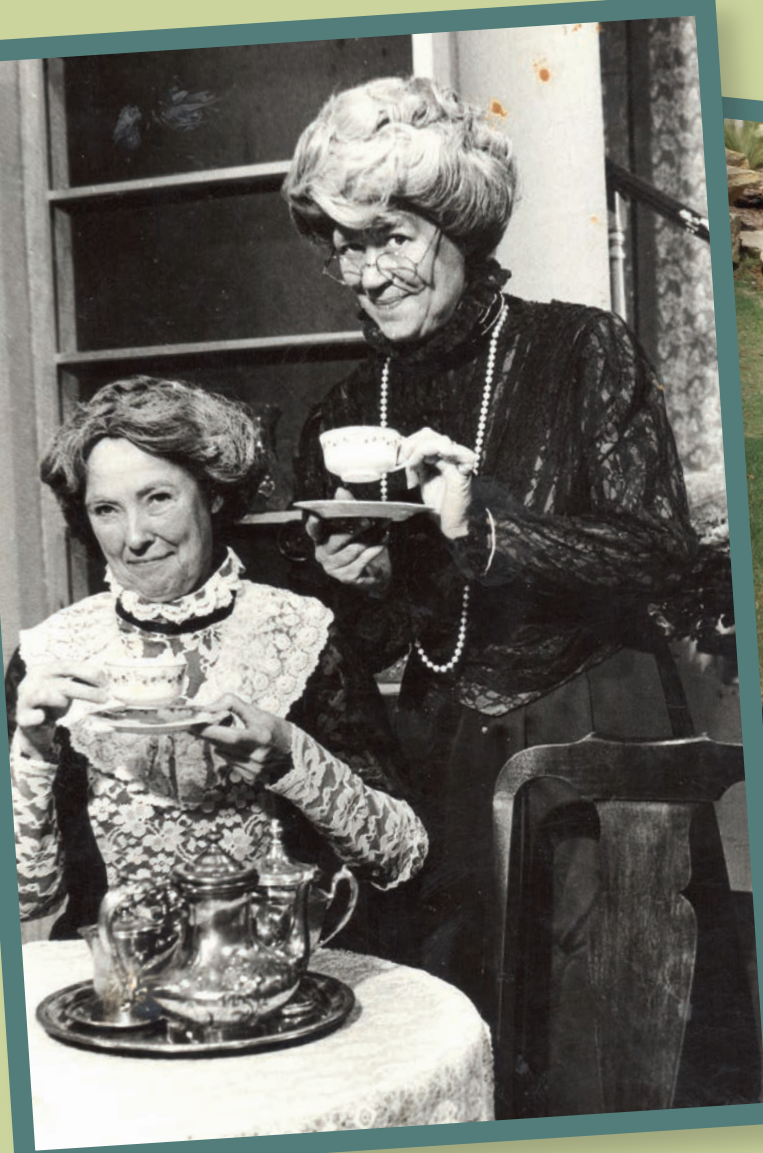
Have you ever noticed that people who serve from the heart are the last to realize the impact they make? Jean Cate, a 40-plus year resident of Hood County, is one of those people. In her surprise at the long list of foundational accomplishments for the community she quipped, “That was just to have fun.” When you understand the Cate family motto for living, “Love, Laugh and Serve”, it all begins to make sense.

When you see Jean, her infectious smile immediately captivates you. Though you may have just met, there is an ease to being in her presence and feeling you have been part of the family for years. It matters not your age or station in life, Jean will always greet you with a smile. While part of her charm, often it is just the beginning of the impact she will have in your life.

Not long after you have met, you may suddenly find yourself in the middle of a service project that changes your life forever. It may mean volunteering at one of our area schools, becoming involved in scouting, or coaching youth sports. If you have or have had children in the Granbury youth soccer program, it is a result of a project Jean was involved in — the founding of the Granbury Youth Soccer Association.



JEAN GATE
DIRECTOR
CASA WOOD SUMMERVELLE
MISSION GRANBURY, INC.



Jean in "Arsenic and Old Lace" at the Granbury Opera House. From left Joan Akers and Jean Cate.



Jean gives skate boarding a whirl with a lesson from Chase Monson.

Or, it could be as a catalyst for positive community reaction to a tragic event. After a two-vehicle crash in April 1976 claimed the lives of seven teenagers, Jean became involved in a group to bring the national program, Every Fifteen Minutes, to Granbury High School. This car crash re-enactment provides an impactful view into the life changing consequences resulting from distracted driving.

Then again, it could be as simple as raising 150 dollars for charity just so you can join the fun on the Jell-O® slide, acting in a play at the Granbury Opera House or sharing your artistic talents in the Lake Granbury Arts Association. In 2014, you will need to find your inner adventure sports persona, then take on Granbury's new skateboard park with your short board. You have time to

hone your longboard skills as the second, larger section of the park is yet to be completed. With confidence, Jean is working toward making it a reality soon.

When you are the recipient of the Howard Clemmons Distinguished Service award from the Granbury Chamber of Commerce (2004), have a proclamation from Mayor David Southern that April 5, 2005 is declared Jean Cate Day in the city of Granbury, took the top spot as Woman of the Year from the Hood County News (2008) and awardee of the Patsy Hewlett Award for Outstanding Service to abused children (2013), it should be crystal clear that your presence and contributions are great, impactful, positive and legacy building. It leads one to wonder what the ingredients are for such modest greatness.



Enjoying some of her family.



Recovering from her Jell-O slide run while raising funds for Muscular Dystrophy.

The people who have the privilege to serve with Jean in her many outreach activities over many years consistently share three things about their experience: her trademark smile, generosity of time and talents, and the inability for people to say no when she requests their assistance.

“I have never seen her without a smile on her face,” said Lee Overstreet, Chair, Board of Directors for Lake Granbury Chamber of Commerce. “I also know that when Jean calls in need of something, the project will get completed and done well.”

“Jean is a role model for young people to be involved in charity work. Her life of generosity is one the rest of us can just aspire to,” said Darlene Mitcham, Board President, Paluxy River Children’s Advocacy Center.

“Jean is always thinking of others. She is sensitive to the needs of children,” said Monsignor Juan Rivero, Pastor, St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church. “She never says no when asked to help.”

Even in the simplest of interactions, Jean brings her special brand of genuine honesty, dry wit and joy to situations.

“Jean took a phone call from a potential new resident inquiring about when the last time there was a drive by [shooting] in the area,” recounts Overstreet, “her reply was ‘Well, let me think, I am not exactly sure on the year, but it was around 1892 and it was more of a ride by than a drive by. The caller replied, ‘Are you serious?’”

There has never been a child Jean did not extend a loving heart toward. It started with her own children –



Working hard for CASA of Hood and Somervell Counties, a program of Mission Granbury, Inc.



Jean presenting a gift to a CASA child.

Jim, Eileen and Matt — as well as, exchange students and all the children in the school system. As her children graduated and began their own lives, Jean found other special ways to impact the lives of children.

Two especially close to Jean's heart — Court Appointed Special Advocates of Hood and Somervell County (CASA), a program of Mission Granbury, Inc., and Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center (PRCAC) — allow her to show love, compassion and trust to children who, by no fault of their own, have not experienced it in fullness.

For the last 11 years and counting, Jean has served as the CASA Director. This program serves children by providing trained volunteers to be guardian ad litem for children in Child Protective Services (CPS) care. CASAs serve to regularly be a presence in the child's life and advocate in court proceedings for the child's best interest.

A mere three years into her service with CASA, Jean

found another way to serve the children of Hood County. She became a founding board member for Paluxy River CAC. This organization serves to reduce trauma to child abuse victims and their non-offending family members as well as be an integral partner within the justice system.

There is more than one way to help a child. One is to help craft a community with events which bring families together in positive ways.

As Jean recounts, "It was the summer of '75. We [Jean and Charley] were just sitting with our friends and talking about nothing being planned in town for the July 4th holiday. We thought it would fun to have a parade and traditional games like watermelon seed spitting, sack race, and bicycle decorating on the Square." Not being a group to let dust settle around them, in 30 days Granbury celebrated its first July 4th parade with 51 floats, Shriners and an estimated 10,000 spectators.

This spurred more parade occasions; a favorite



Playing her part in the Civil War re-enactment.



Cates welcome a refugee family into their home. From left Charley Cate, Subra, Uma and Jean Cate.

being the Halloween parade. After the parade, the fun and laughter continued by going to some of the senior residences to pass out goodie bags because, “Children of all ages enjoy the loot from trick or treating,” according to Jean.

After 50-plus years of marriage to Charley, raising three children, taking a leadership role in more than a dozen community and church projects, it is fair to conclude the life of Jean, and the entire Cate family, can be described as an epic and legendary adventure of service in love wrapped in laughter and joy.

Jean summarized it best herself, “As long as you have faith, you have hope.” And, “If it isn’t fun, it usually isn’t worth doing.”

Her unique combination in executing these philosophies has been and continues to be to the benefit of all who have the privilege of crossing paths with Jean Cate. ■LGL

“As long as you have faith, you have hope.” and, “If it isn’t fun, it usually isn’t worth doing.”

HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL/B.I.G. BALLOONS IN GRANBURY

Sponsored by the Historic Granbury Merchants Association and the Granbury Arts Alliance, this long running festival showcases contemporary crafts and fine arts. In addition to food vendors, local entertainment and seasonal activities, the first time Hot Air Balloon event was held.

Photography courtesy of Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography



Elise Techentine (festival chairperson), Phil Groeschel (President of the Granbury Arts Alliance board) and Jeanette Alexander (local artist and LGAA board member)



Festival artist, Robert Berry



Festival artist, Keith Grissom and his wife, Kristen



Council members, (in balloon) Rose Myers, and Gary Couch holding rope



Balloons from the Balloon Festival Network based in Branson, MO



Local artist, Cynthia James, and owner of Artefactz



Ladies from The Good Shepard Anglican Church



Carrie Duval and festival artist, Jeff Cocanour



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Beautifying Our Community for 30 Years

the BEAUTIFICATION COUNCIL

by Martha Helton

Photography by Shad Ramsey of Red Door Photography *and*
Provided by the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council

The purpose of the non-profit organization is altogether the preservation, creation of parkland and the beautification of the Lake Granbury area.

Take a stroll just northwest of the historic Granbury square, behind City Hall, and you'll find yourself in Houston Street Park. Cross over the bridge, turn right, and continue down the path to where the soothing sound of rushing water fills the air. The sound comes from the exquisite flagstone Jewel Ball Fountain, built in 2011, courtesy of the Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council. The fountain offers a calming experience and is an ideal spot for taking photos, reading, or enjoying nature. The Jewel Ball Fountain lights extend enjoyment on into the night.

The Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council (LGABC) was founded in 1981 and established as a non-profit organization in 1982. The purpose of the non-profit organization is altogether the preservation, creation of parkland and the beautification of the Lake Granbury area.

Brenda Hyde, president of the LGABC, enjoys being part of enhancing the Lake Granbury community and is

gratified to see the beautiful end product. "I like the fact that you can see the immediate results of our work. We pick a project and get it done fast."

The LGABC has been involved in different projects over the years. Projects are presented each year, either from board members, community members or organizations that contact the council. After much discussion, the presented projects are taken to a vote by the board. "We are always looking for additional projects, large or small, and welcome the requests/proposals from the community," says 14-year council member, Mark Graves.

The LGABC board of directors hosts the annual Jewel Ball, which is their only major fundraiser. The first Jewel Ball was held in 1984, making this year the 30th Annual Jewel Ball. The event is traditionally held on the second Saturday in November. "It is considered by some as the kickoff of the holiday season," says Mark.

The Jewel Ball is a formal affair complete with entertainment such as, dancing, live and silent auctions— all doused with a lot of glitz and glamour. It is a premier event with all members working hard to make the Jewel Ball a rousing success.

This year, a collection of precious gems provided by local jeweler, Troy Vinson, were auctioned throughout the evening. The grand prize that went to the winning bidder was a one-week stay in a beautiful home located in Guanacaste, Costa Rica.





Over the years, the board has funded in excess of \$400,000 to community endeavors. Here are some of LGABC's projects:

- The board worked with the City of Granbury to obtain the land that is now Houston Street Park.
- Assisted in the development of the Houston Street Park with footbridges over Lambert Branch Creek, construction of the archway leading into the park, construction of rock walls, erosion control of Lambert Branch Creek and the installation of a waterfall.
- The development of La Roe Park with renovation of the interior and exterior of the building that remains there.
- Additional landscaping at the "Old Jail", Granbury Opera House Dorms, Granbury Art Association and the Granbury Chamber of Commerce with grass, trees and additional parking areas.
- Landscaping for The Moments In Time Hike and Bike Trail.
- Landscaping at the Jim Burks Firefighters Memorial Park.
- The planting of Crepe Myrtles along Hwy 377.
- Purchase of period lighting for La Roe and Houston Street parks.
- Assisted a young man with his Eagle Scout project, the council supplied the funding and he coordinated and supplied the labor to put in concrete slabs, as well as new picnic tables at La Roe Park.
- In cooperation with the City of Granbury, LGABC created the fantastic Christmas lighting displays that are seen on the historic square, Granbury City Hall, La Roe Park, Houston Street Park and all along Pearl Street. The lighting displays have been added to several times over the past 15 years.





- In 2010 the board purchased four 16' Christmas trees for the Historic Granbury Merchants Association, which they place on each corner of the square during the holiday season and various merchants decorate.
- The Brady Fountain, located in Houston Street Park, which was originally designed by former longtime board member Bob Brady. The fountain was rebuilt after a storm damaged it and following the completion of the fountain, it was dedicated and named in honor of Bob and Nancy Brady. And for good reason, the Brady's both have spent more time on the board than any other member.
- Large planters were purchased for the square. Lake Granbury Master Gardeners plant seasonal color.

The newest project is to paint the concrete underpass at Pearl St. and Hwy 377. Also on the to do list; adding a series of flags from the existing flag poles

that start on Hwy 377 west of Hwy 144 and go past Kroger. Each flag will advertise a different event happening in Granbury as the flags wave festively all year long.

The LGABC board consists of 15 members from across the community, from various backgrounds. As they receive interest from individuals, the board looks for and nominates people that will be willing to serve and guide the organization in the future. New members are voted on each December and the terms are three years. For those interested in serving on the board, Mark Graves remarks, "Come to the Jewel Ball, contact board members and express your interest to be involved and be willing to work. A working board is a productive board," adds Mark, with a smile. ■LGL

For more information, please look up Lake Granbury Area Beautification Council on Facebook.



HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS

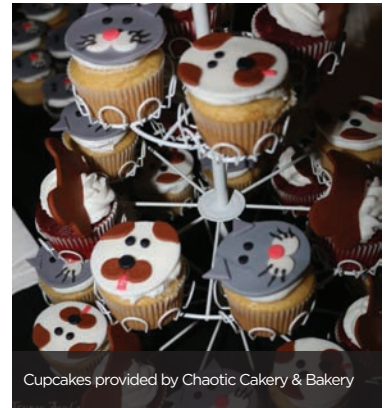
FUR BALL

The Fur Ball at Celebration Hall was held by the Hood County Animal Adoption/Rescue Trailer. The event raised \$36,000 in donations. A red carpet event included dogs available for adoption. At the end of the evening the dog with the most collected donations was crowned "2014 Red Carpet Winner." The event was catered by Pearl Street Station.

Photography courtesy of Gypsy Soul's Photography



Steve Berry



Cupcakes provided by Chaotic Cakery & Bakery



Stacy Trice, Penny Snyder, Rose Myers, Sandi Dawkins, Kelly McNab



Granbury Cuisine

by Chef Jason Emerson

Airline Chicken with White Wine Mushroom Sauce

Ingredients:

4 - 10oz airline chicken breast
1/4 Lb of butter
2 C of white table wine
1 C of sliced mushrooms
2 Tbl of Herbes De Provence
1/2 small shallot
Salt and Pepper

- Preheat the oven to 375 Degrees Fahrenheit.
- Prep the chicken by removing the skin and meat around the bone.
- Using your hand sprinkle salt and pepper over the chicken breast on both sides and set to the side.

- Place 1/4 pound of butter in a large stainless steel sauté pan on medium high heat.
- Once the butter is melted and starts to turn a golden color place the chicken skin side down in the pan. When the skin is golden brown, flip the chicken over and add 2 cups of white table wine and 2 Tablespoons of Herbes De Provence and let this cook for about 2 minutes.
- Add the mushrooms to the sauce, making sure to spread out around the chicken.
- Place a lid over the sauté pan and place it in the oven for 10 minutes.



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HOOD COUNTY LIBRARY

Not Your Mother's Library

by Peggy Purser Freeman | Photography by Landi Whitefield Photography

When you enter the Hood County Library, no one hushes you and it's not floor to ceiling shelves, filled with ancient books. Unlike your mother's library when the Hood County Library opened its doors in 1965, it housed a collection of more than 50,000 items. Today, the programs at the library resemble a country club schedule. Bright, roomy, well-organized, and humming with energy, Hood County Library offers knowledge in ways your mother's librarian would have never dreamed. The library director since April 2011, Courtney Kincaid, is definitely not your mother's librarian. Beautiful, smiling and energetic, this young professional describes the library like this:

"Our programs are a bit outside-of-the-box for most libraries, which is only one aspect I love about working here. We are not just a building to house old, dusty books."

Before she was hired as Director, Courtney was the Children's and Young Adult Librarian and Assistant Director here at Hood County Library. With a Master's degree in Library Science from Texas Woman's University and a Bachelor's degree in English from Tarleton State University, she talks about her work with enthusiasm. Not only does she give so much of her energy to the community at the library, but also works with most Friends of the Library events. After hours, she takes that vim and vigor home to her twelve-year-old daughter, Emma, and her two, rescued boxer-dogs. Her supportive husband, David, is an EMT and an Adult Probation officer in Parker County.

"Our library offers so much more to the community," Courtney continues. "When I visit other libraries, I'm always so thankful to come back to Hood County Library. Our staff is friendly, greeting patrons upon entering





and helping find items on the shelves. We have a great genealogy collection, with our local history and the Judge Davis papers. Our library's materials are consistently updated.”

In a world where on-line services have taken the place of a full set of leather-bound encyclopedias, the Hood County Library provides excellent access to information, services, activities, materials and other resources to meet the community's needs. It's a fun, family place, meeting the needs of all generations and it offers versatile forms of media from books to music—reaching the mind, body and soul.

“The library's collection contains genealogy materials, popular fiction and non-fiction titles, over 8,000 DVDs, an excellent children's collection, diverse library programs, the Great Courses lecture series, TexShare databases and other resources,” Courtney explains. “The library now offers Gale-Cengage's Chilton databases. These are simple-to-use, online resources that are available 24/7, wherever there's an available internet connection. Users can log-in at the library or from



home using their library card information. Unlike the printed editions, the content available on the database is updated on a monthly basis. Chilton database users will be able to: find parts and repair vehicle models from 1940 onward with detailed step-by-step instructions. You can watch videos and view photographs/diagrams to help explain system operations.”

The library also provides the Ancestry® Library Edition, powered by Ancestry.com, a genealogy tool. The staff and Courtney will help patrons learn how to search this website that contains census data, vital records, directories, military records, photos and more. “Ancestry Library Edition is an unprecedented online collection of individuals from North America, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia and more,” Courtney adds. “This website is only accessible from the library’s computers.”

TEEN ALERT! “Fregeal” is now available online at the Hood County Library. One of the biggest changes since your mom’s days of long ago is FREE MUSIC. Patrons get five free song downloads per week and three hours of streaming per day. Just use your library card. Download the app on your tablet or smart phone and boogie.

Books? Yes, there are still books in the library and Hood County offers over 500 books in digital volumes (both e-books and e-audio). “You must have a library card to use this service,” Courtney says. “Patrons are allowed three e-books/e-audio checkouts at one time. Please note that OverDrive carries books from the top six publishers in the US. Some publishers are not contracted with OverDrive. If the publisher doesn’t work with OverDrive, the books are not available to us.”

Perhaps the most transformed part of the library program in today’s Hood County Library is the schedule of events. They offer a way to get your groove on at any age. Staying active is stressed in the library’s programming. Sliced into the various reading programs, the Library staff offers children’s music, story time and crafts. It provides adults with reading programs, meeting space, workout and yoga classes and more.



“Our programs are a bit outside-of-the-box for most libraries, which is only one aspect I love about working here. We are not just a building to house old, dusty books.”

A few of those are:

MUSIC-N-MOTION

Mondays 10:30 a.m. - All ages are welcome to the fun-filled activity.

STORY TIME

Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. - Three year olds and up will love Story Time.

BABYGARTEN

Tuesdays 2:00 p.m. - This is a six-week session for babies 0 to 18 months.

SUMMER READING CLUB

In June and July, Story Time takes on the crafts, programs and movies for all ages.

MOVIES

Tuesdays 6:30 p.m. - In the summertime, movie time spotlights family movies. Then when children get back in the swing of school and related activities the library features movies that relate more to adults and young adults.

BEACHBODY WORKOUTS

These workouts for adults may vary, but the benefits and fun don't. These programs are available throughout the year. Some are even offered during lunchtime.

ADULT SUMMER READING

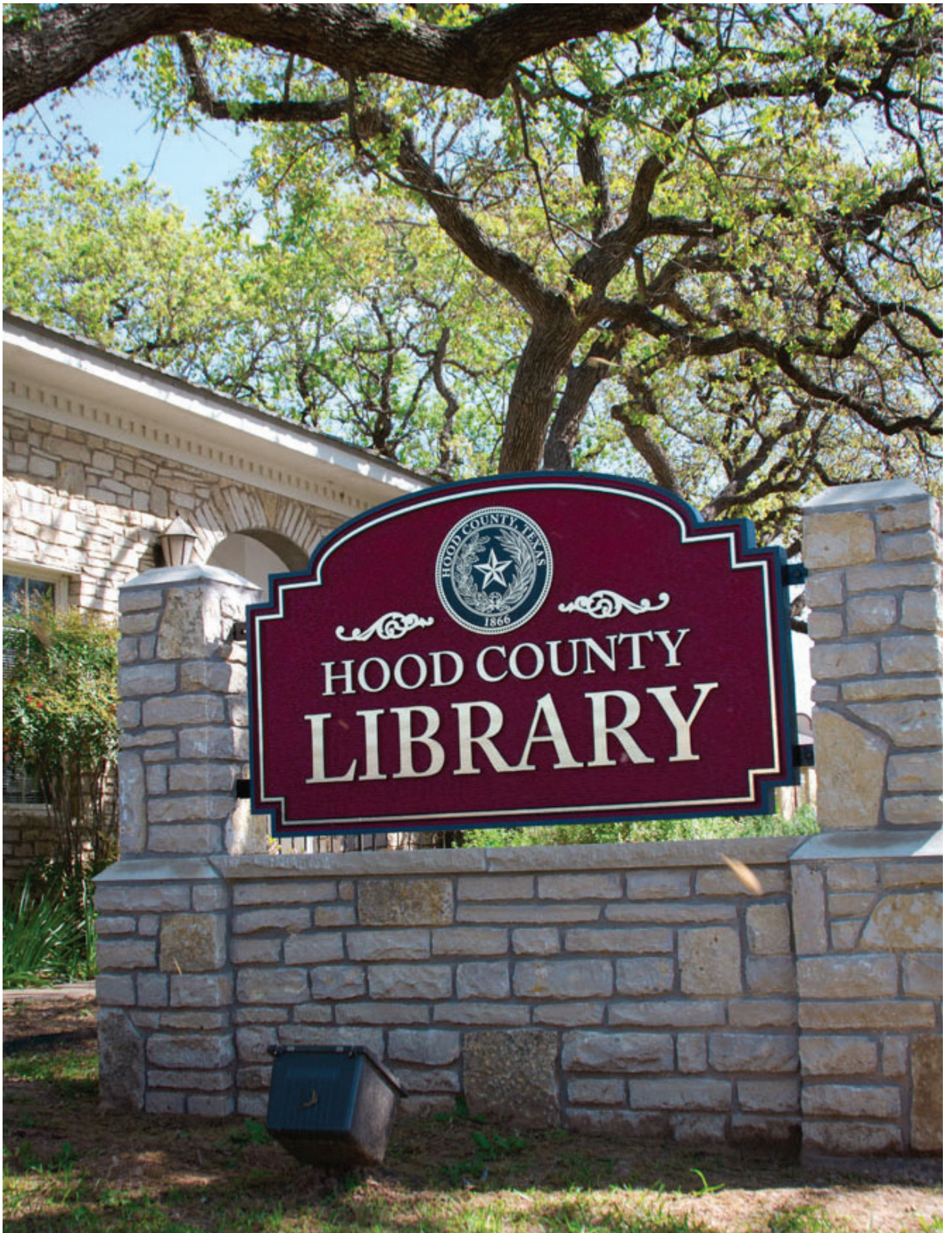
August (programs/movies/reading reviews with prizes)

CRAFT WORKSHOPS

These crafty events are planned sporadically throughout the year and offer adults various options to express their creativity. ■LGL

Hood County Library and Courtney Kincaid have created a knowledge oasis at 222 N. Travis Street in Granbury, Texas. Visit www.youseemore.com/hood for more information.





There is no wrong path to designing your home.

by Local Interior Designer Kim Fancher of Comforts of Home

Photography by Landi Whitefield Photography

As a designer I often get asked about “my” style or different style and trends. I like my response similar to what I would say to someone who asks about what kind of wine should they have with dinner. If you like it, then it is right. If you are comfortable in your home, if the colors make you smile, if great grandmother’s roll top desk looks good with the clear acrylic desk chair that you love then it is design and décor that works for you and that is successful design!

Decorating and design over the years has become as trendy and stylish as changing your wardrobe. The average homeowner starts to feel the need to re-feather the nest about every five years. The number used to be every seven years. We now have a color of the year, a color of the season, the in-style fabric, pattern and style. However, I cannot stress that buying a new couch is much more of an investment than buying a new coat. So, it is not financially practical to buy your major pieces or “anchor” pieces every five years. Therefore, invest in colors or patterns that speak to you and make you smile. Create a feeling and look in the room that makes your company want to sit and have a glass of wine or a cup of coffee and more importantly create that feeling for you and your family. Do not worry so much about what is correct, do what feels good! Paint your front door turquoise blue, combine purple and orange with lime green for spring and summer. Mix patterns, not too many or maybe just a stripe and a check or a floral. Mix in blue with yellow and orange for the fall, maybe a shot of coral.

In my own home, I have pieces from four generations of my Scandinavian ancestors. My artwork is a mix of rustic, southwest and coastal. My personal style tends to be more “coastal” since I am originally from Long Island. The key is that I mixed all of this personal taste and family history into a comfortable style that works for me. My house will never be on the cover of Architectural Digest but, it is a home for my family and guests and for me, which is most important.

Spend some time looking at your furnishings and create your own style. If you like to change with the seasons then invest in pillows, throws, picture frames, and vases in the colors of the season that you like. Add pretty sparkly lamps in winter and fresh simple shades in summer. Paint a wall, change out throw rugs and move things around. Sometimes just changing up arrangements of mercury glass or other collectibles will make a huge difference.

Remember, there is no wrong style, once you move past the chatter and trust your own judgment on what looks good, you will create a home that speaks to who you are.





furniture and accessories provided by

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HISTORY *Lesson*

GOOD OR BAD, REAL OR MYSTERIOUS, LEGENDS AND CHARACTERS OF A TIME PASSED ARE WITH US. AND THEY'RE AS APPEALING AS THEY ARE BELIEVABLE.

by Carol Cook | Photography by Heath Ramsey



What is it that makes us hesitate about historical facts? Do we really know the true, fact checked recordings of our town, or are we relying on long ago stories, here-say, or vague, even arguably invented versions of occurrences?

Good or bad, real or mysterious, legends and characters of a time passed are with us. And they're as appealing as they are believable.

Granbury's soul is like most places and unlike anywhere else. Old west legends, fine people, building booms, railroading, and questionable citizens make for accounts of a lawless way of life in the 1800's. Famous events, unique people and semi-documented tales of wonder are sprinkled through the years, proof of their existence found in library archives, museums, and books. Dinosaurs once roamed the area, native Indians lived here, pioneers came to settle, and outlaws bullied the town until lawmen chased them away making for a much more peaceful existence.

Like many towns across the country, Granbury history is fascinating, intriguing, and also questionable. While it evolved from documented facts, recollections of those with their own idea of what transpired, newspaper reporters and historians added their own versions, sometimes disagreeing on exactly what took place, creating doubt as to their accuracy. And so we are left with opposing opinions and often lively discussions on who and what to believe.

And yet, our town proudly celebrates its history, outlaw and Civil War facts, brave frontiersman and women, pioneer ranchers, lawmen and native Indian tribes. Legends both factual and debatable, including stories circulating John Wilkes Booth, assassin of President Lincoln. We are led to believe he wasn't killed in Virginia, escaping instead, making his way to Granbury where he allegedly lived as a private citizen known as John St. Helen. According to many, his spirit is still here, hanging out at the Opera House. Although, it may be

a concern he has sought out a quieter place during the recent renovation of the building.

Perhaps Mr. Booth has joined other spirits, ghosts who inhabit the old jail, all sharing adventure stories. One such spirit is said to go by the name of Lonely Joe, thought to be a lost Native Indian aimlessly wandering, or it could be a former inmate, even the ghost of a sheriff. Trust me they are there, who they are we aren't exactly sure, but we do hear them coming and going and feel their presence from time to time.

And so we ask, which are true and which are false, about this plot of earth. Could something have been misunderstood, heard incorrectly, embellished a little? We do know General Hiram Granbury, Jesse James, Davy Crockett's grandson, and a fair number of American Indians once lived here and are buried here. But,



**LEGEND HAS IT...
AMERICAN OUTLAW,
JESSE JAMES, STAGED
HIS OWN DEATH IN
GRANBURY, TEXAS.**

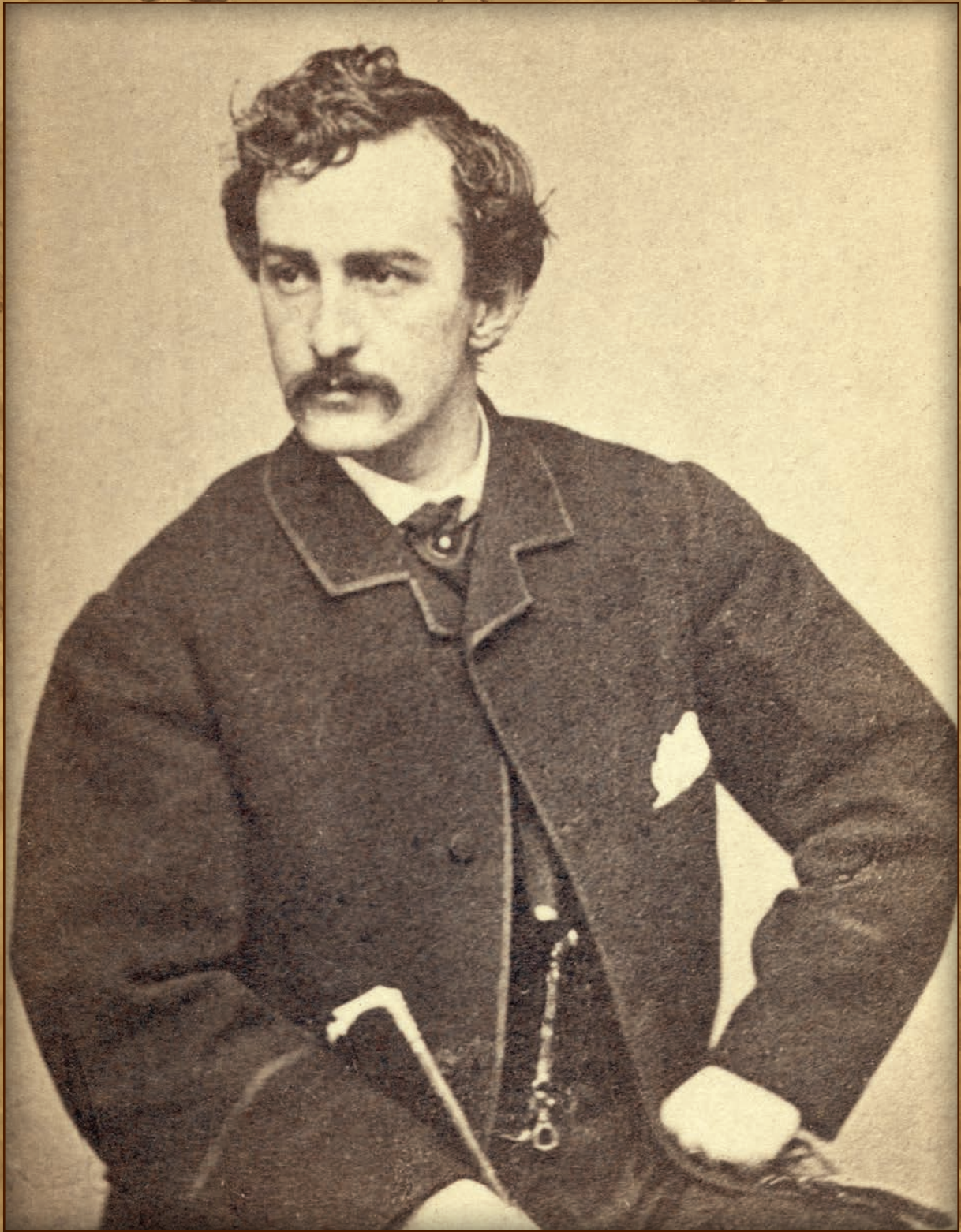
we are curious about the sightings of spirits and ghosts still cavorting about the streets, buildings, and cemetery.

Some folks are surprised, some not, to learn a number of characters linger, cliché ridden stories, some arguably invented. We listen in awe as incidents are remembered, the telling and retelling by witnesses claiming to have seen, heard, and felt the presence of the long passed. Legends, notorious and intriguing, speculated uncertainty, and a rich spellbinding history we believe to be true.

But times of rowdy fighting and drinking in saloons on the square, incarcerations, and escapes at the old jail, trials and mayhem in the courthouse, are all gone to history. Thankfully, documents can be viewed and what was once news can be seen in the courthouse that stands guard over the town square. A treasure trove stored inside a hundred-year old vault, with stories of its own to



LEGEND HAS IT...
BETWEEN ROBBERIES IN NEIGHBORING TOWNS, BONNIE AND CLYDE TOOK LUNCH BREAKS ON THE HOOD COUNTY COURTHOUSE LAWN.



LEGEND HAS IT...
**ASSASSIN OF OUR 16TH PRESIDENT, JOHN WILKES BOOTH, ESCAPED HIS
OUTLAW PAST IN GRANBURY WITH THE PSEUDONYM, JOHN ST. HELEN.**

tell. Or we can speculate who was sentenced to hang for murder, cattle rustling, and horse thieving during those disreputable, untamed times. Perhaps a few questionable trials were held here, some not so fair; for its possible documents may have been recklessly and hastily signed by an over worked judge, anxious to call it a day.

There is speculation and doubt the ghost of a bank robber might roam the premises of the City National Bank building on the corner of Pearl and Houston Streets, which is now a ladies dress store. Or perhaps the cavorting about we hear in the newly renovated building is made by a restless female ghost who has taken up residence. It would seem the perfect place with all the showy trimmings there, certainly not a place where a rowdy robber would set up his haunting.

Perhaps the spirit of Mary Lou Watkins, although she seems quite happy roaming the Nutt House Hotel, might be curious about the collection of ladies frills and trinkets and stroll over for a spell. Or perhaps Audrey who resides at the Gordon House would be curious too; even an apparition of a painted woman or a member of the Women's Temperance Movement might be prancing about the fine clothes. Females, even ghostly ones are usually drawn to such finery. Which brings us to wonder; just who is strolling along side when we walk about the town?

Tall tales can be troublesome when it comes to verifying how they began, but there are rumors aged with decades that come with no proof other than the story told again and again with not a bit of documentation; still we want to believe. Did a meteorite really hit Comanche Peak sometime around the 1890's? Is the story true or a made up yarn woven by speculation on what caused the large ravine on the peak? Seems there was a witness to this tale living in a cabin on the east side of the cliff.

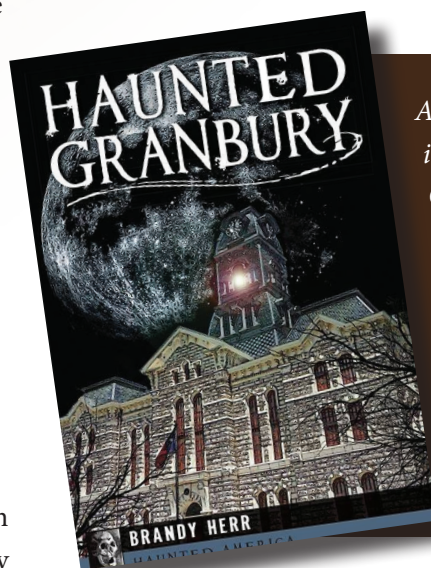
Sound asleep on a summer night he awoke to an unusually loud crash, as if something very large had hit the ground, tumbling rocks rolling downhill, gathering speed as trees were crushed. As he leapt from his bed, dashed outside, to his horror, he saw large boulders barreling toward his cabin; minutes before it was destroyed, he scurried aside. Would the Meteorite Men of TV fame find fragments of out of this world stones on Comanche Peak if they came in search, or will this story

forever be nothing more than a tall tale?

Given the storytelling over the course of decades, there seems a tendency for a number of citizens to invent that which takes their fancy, giving us pause that some tales are true and others created, or solid, trustworthy and believable. Yet, such descriptions have an uncanny consistency; and so we ask. Are the ghosts or apparitions of dubious characters, or unpredictable long ago citizens, some not so law abiding, several quite worthy, hanging around to make for a number of unusual occurrences in today's modern world? Are there other worldly stones on Comanche Peak?

If one is interested in doing a bit of homework, or take time to ask merchants on the square, it's possible there will be varied, peculiar, and true answers, doubts laid to rest. Visit the square just before dawn and it's possible you may catch a glimpse of Jesse, John, General Granbury, Tonkawa, Kiowa, or some Comanche Indians, surely Indian Joe. Walk over to the Gordon House for a glimpse of little Audrey, the young spirit of Miss Gordon, playing there. Spend time in the Nutt House to catch a movement that could be Mary Lou, the lady in red, or an unknown.

In our small community, size is not the most meaningful measure of a place, when combining history and people. All in all, we feel quite pleased with our town, confident the celebrated citizens and history is ours to treasure. Legends, ghosts, accomplishments, and the beautiful lake running along the town's edge make for a most interesting place to settle in, a place to preserve what we want to remember, stories worth telling and hearing, even the ghostly ones. ■LGL



Another great resource for legends in Granbury is "Haunted Granbury", a book by Brandy Herr, co-founder of the Granbury Ghosts and Legends Tour located in Granbury, Texas. "Haunted Granbury" is published by Haunted America, a division of The History Press.

SCENES *of Granbury*

WHAT MAKES GRANBURY A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE? A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BROUGHT BY COHESIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR PARTS, BRINGS FUTURE GENERATIONS COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN CREATE A BEAUTIFUL PLACE. THAT IS **why we love Granbury.**



PHOTOS BY *Fat Cow Studio - Cindy Cook*



“ANIMALS ARE SUCH AGREEABLE FRIENDS - THEY ASK NO QUESTIONS, THEY PASS NO CRITICISMS.” -*George Eliot*



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Gymnastics? _____

Martial Arts? _____

FOR FAMILY FUN DO YOU:

Go to movies? _____

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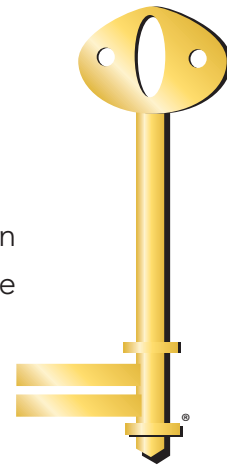
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