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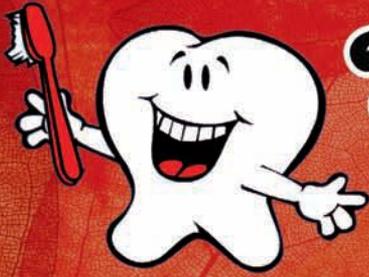
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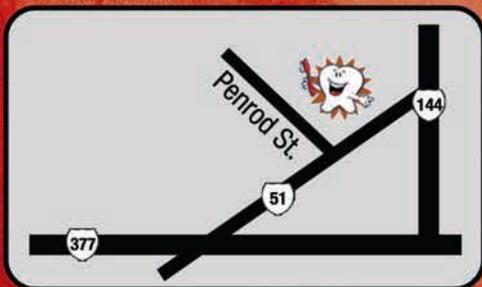
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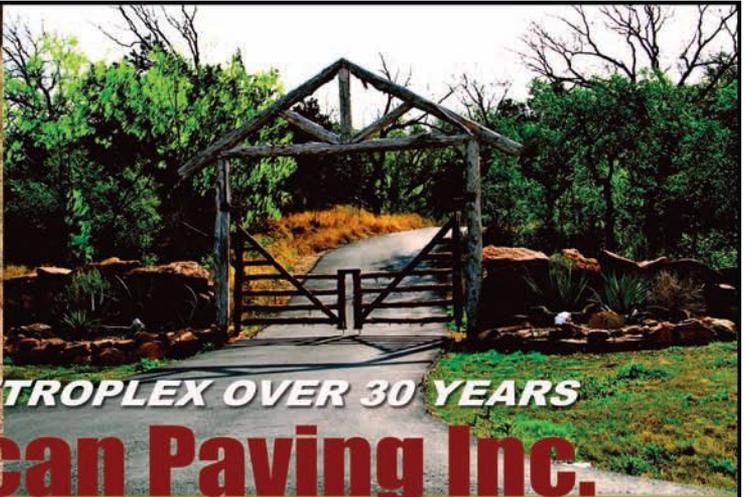
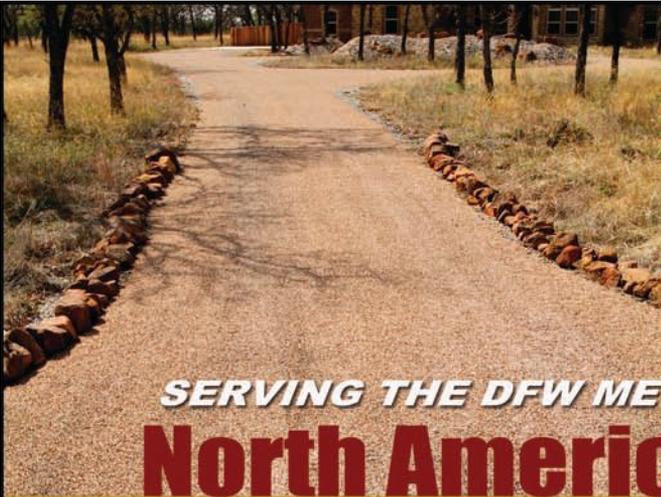
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ON THE COVER



Julia Pannell loves the community of Granbury.

Photo by Michelle Winters.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

My devotional is full of statements prompting both a faithful "Hallelujah" and a cynical "Really?" They remind me that my tendency upon awakening (to assess difficulties ahead of me) is an exercise in unreality, that this is a time of abundance in my life and, most importantly, that I am being recreated. It's true. Yet my daily transformation is one I sometimes forget I'm participating in!

This month, however, who could forget the facts? We live in the greatest country on earth. We have a lot to deal with, a lot to let go of and a lot to accept. We have access to more of everything here, and our blessings are so numerous we often take them for granted. With much to be grateful for, Granbury is a beautiful place for enjoying our peace.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Melissa

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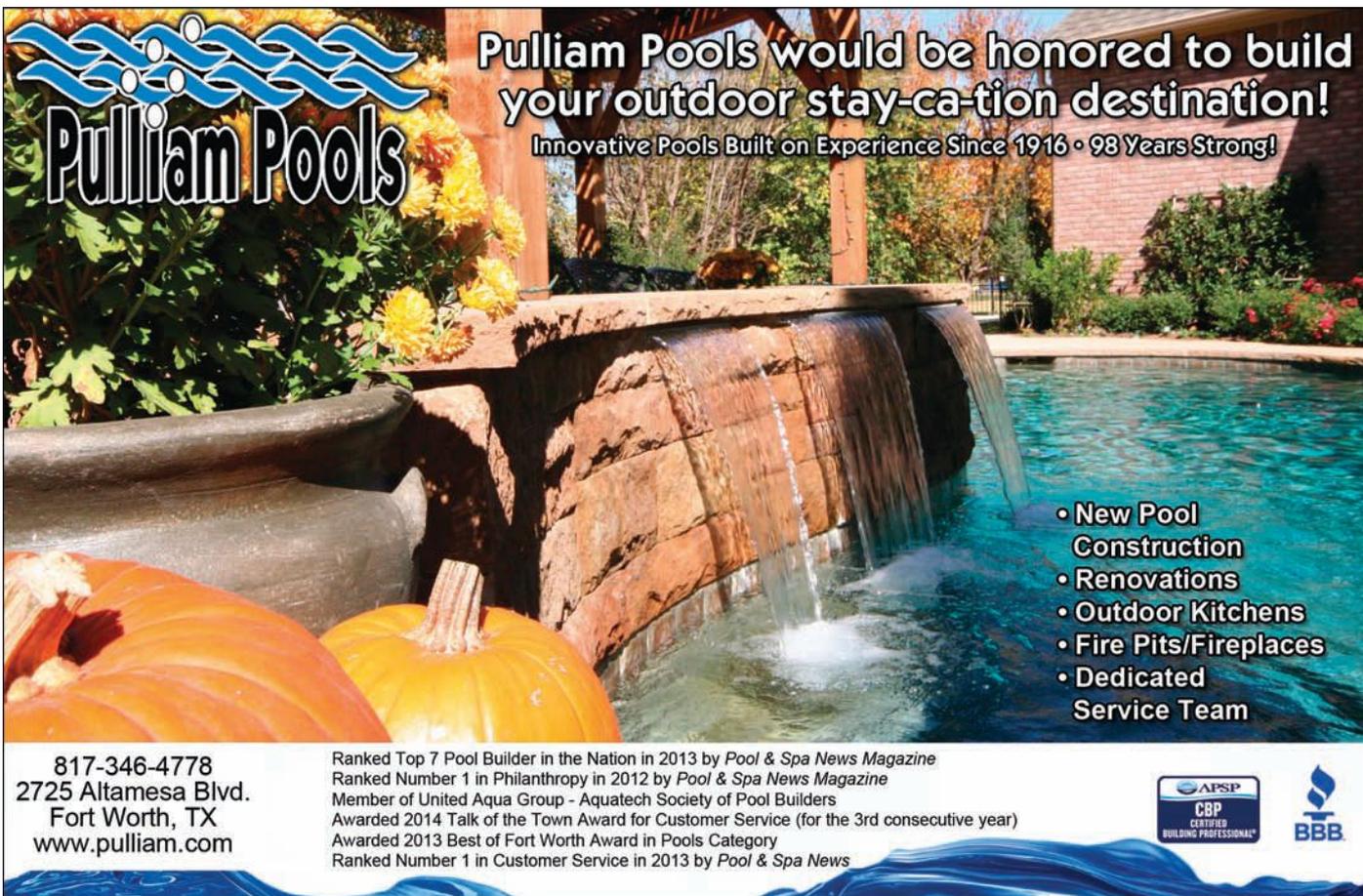
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BUILDING BRIDGES

— By Erin McEndree



“It is not about *me*.
It’s about
we.”



The community of Granbury is very important to Julia Pannell. As a person who is passionate about helping both people and businesses succeed, she works with different facets of the community. Over the past 20 years, Julia has volunteered as a community liaison to help strengthen bonds between people, professionals and organizations, helping many organizations spread their stories to neighborhoods. She believes this information can help citizens achieve a better life situation and attain their dreams as they move forward in life. Julia hopes this coming together of all the community elements will be a positive influence for the future.

Julia and her husband, Bobby, moved to Granbury from Dallas in 1994 and remodeled an old Victorian home into a bed-and-breakfast called The Captain’s House. Julia immediately got involved with the community through her church and volunteering with the Candle Light Tour of Homes. She also hosted a TV show called *Traveling Town*, where she promoted Granbury by interviewing community members about upcoming events. Bob and Julia’s eventual goal was to retire and relax in their home, but with the arrival of four grandchildren and frequent bed-and-breakfast visitors, they learned after 12 years it might be best to create another adventure.

After selling the bed-and-breakfast, they moved to De Cordova and remodeled another home. However, the heart of downtown Granbury beckoned, so they bought a house two blocks from The Square. “We love walking to the shops and restaurants of The Square,” Julia said. “Long ago, we would sit along The Square while music played in the background. With few cars, it was peaceful and beautiful. It is still beautiful, but now it is busy, busy. But, that is good for the community and business.”

Julia has seen multiple changes in Granbury’s community. “Lots of towns have shops and industry,” Julia said. “But Granbury has kept its integrity by maintaining and restoring the historic element of the town.” Julia is proud of the mayor and city council’s hard work to revive the historic buildings in town and promote tourism.

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“Granbury has shops, the lake and the opera house. Those things are its foundation,” Julia explained. “However, Granbury’s difference is the people. They are like the icing on top of a cake.”

One facet of Julia’s passion is her concern for women who come to the Brazos Pregnancy Center. “The late Tom McRae asked me if I wanted to help him,” Julia explained. “I volunteered, and I’ve stayed involved because it’s important.” Having had a similar experience herself, Julia can empathize with her clients. The center also provides parenting classes, and now, with the help of the men from Acton United Methodist Church and their Stephen’s Ministry training, there is a new program for men. “Loving on women and extending grace and mercy are the keys to helping them achieve a better future. We treat everyone with dignity, respect and love,” Julia said. “The center has seen a steady increase in clients over the years. At the same time, Hood County’s stats show a decrease in known abortions. I believe the center is the core of that difference.” Julia is also an advocate for CAP, Community Abstinence Program, which the center offers to schools.

Another aspect of Julia’s passion for women is helping with the Christian Women’s Job Corps. This organization trains women to get their GED and gives them a chance to get back on track after a difficult situation in their life. Many volunteers help at the CWJC. “I try to help with new visions and ideas regarding fundraising,” Julia said. “It is not about me. It’s about we. This is a cause I believe in.” Julia was awarded the Opal Durant Award in 2011 at a CWJC luncheon for “touching countless lives, working tirelessly to promote Granbury and for furthering the mission of many good causes in Granbury,” according to the CWJC newsletter. Somewhere in all her volunteering, Julia managed to

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perform in two plays at the old Granbury Opera House.

Julia does work tirelessly to extend love and grace in every segment of life. She attends Acton United Methodist Church, where she is this year's prayer team chairman. She cherishes the prayer requests received and sends them to the team with care. She also hopes to develop a hotline for communicating prayer requests over the phone. Julia envisions a



prayer program that reaches out to local businesses in the community. She agrees with the statement: When businesses do well, people do well. When people do well, the community does well. When the community does well, the church does well. "It's all connected," she remarked. "When we work together everyone does well."

One of Julia's talents is painting, but she admits she hasn't been able to engage in it much lately. She is known for her larger-than-life murals at the Bottling Works in Dublin, the First United Methodist Church, Acton United Methodist Church

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and the Paluxy Children's Advocacy Center, not to mention the paintings scattered on the walls of her home. This past May, she unveiled a mural detailing Granbury's history in the hallway at Mambrino School.

Julia also volunteers with the Chamber of Commerce frequently, and her husband is an ambassador. "Having had a small business, Bobby and I know what it takes for a business to succeed," Julia said. "I volunteer by going to ribbon cuttings and helping organize the Best of Business Banquet." The number of businesses joining the Chamber has tripled from 300 to over 900 over the



past 10 years. Julia strives to make other volunteers feel appreciated, letting them know they are making a difference.

The future is bright for Granbury. "The schools are expanding. The dropout rate is down. A recreation center is coming. The bypass around town alleviates traffic in the heart of the city, and the kids have gotten a skate park," Julia said. "The people and the city seem to accept growth in a controlled way that protects the historic flavor of the town. This endears Granbury to my heart."

For that reason, Julia uses her talents and personality to guide others around the community, so it will continue to move forward. Twenty years since her initial involvement, she chairs this year's Christmas Parade of Lights for HGMA. She and Bobby will drive their Ford Model A, lit up with their smiles. Having seen where Granbury came from, Julia is excited to see where Granbury is going. She will continue to bridge a connection between volunteers and their neighborhoods. "I believe in being involved," Julia said. She touches so many lives and will no doubt live on in the thoughts of the people she has influenced along the way. **NOW**

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Miracle After Miracle

— By Melissa Rawlins



Thanksgiving is always a happy time in Cindy Sprague's family. As a single lady, Cindy's yearning for a family was answered before she moved to Granbury in 2004. Twelve years ago, she bought a very old brick-and-stone house on Lake Granbury in preparation for her future family. "When I walked out to the dock, I fell in love with it immediately. As the bells from the senior living

AT HOME WITH Cindy Sprague



community began to chime a favorite hymn, several ducks swam up the canal to welcome me,” Cindy said. “It was like it was staged.” Two years later, she adopted sibling infants from Russia, and this lovely one-story house became a home. Cindy’s two children, Caitlyn (Alla) and Caleb (Igor), added love, joy, security, friendship and peace to the gold-paneled framework.

Filled with her family and many friends, the Sprague home has gone through an extremely unexpected makeover. Its updated walls, cream-colored stone outside and a subtly textured latte indoors, reach to new vaulted ceilings that have increased the home’s openness. This year, the family welcomed Lika Metreveli, a foreign exchange student from the Republic of Georgia.

Caitlyn opened her room to Lika. Often they just talk and giggle, and sometimes the whole family joins the fun. Lika shares about her culture and

hometown, which is only about 300 miles away from the city of Astrakhan where Caitlyn and Caleb were born. Other times Caitlyn draws, while Lika listens to music. Cream-and-gold painted dressers, fit for princesses, hold their personal belongings, and each has her own desk. Above Caitlyn’s stand is her beloved collection of horses, representing hard work Caitlyn intends to invest in order to achieve her goals. “After doing my life plan with my mom,” she said, “I realize I’ll have to finish school, go to college and get a job, so I can afford a ranch complete with horses.”

Lika is glad to spend a year with such far-sighted people. “When I came, I felt the warmth and energy to try new things,” Lika said. Every member of the Sprague family helps her experience Texas to the fullest. Caleb has been teaching her to ride a bicycle, and Lika has helped them mow the lawn, pull weeds and clean the house. Of course, they have been happy to accompany her to a Cats game, a tour of The Stockyards and a day at Six Flags Over Texas. More than anything, they all enjoy hanging out at home.

When Cindy is in her office working, having quiet time or doing crafts, the whole family joins her. They sometimes get lessons on sewing, and other times they just talk and laugh. “We stay together as a little pack, even Callie the Sheltie joins us,” Cindy said. They especially enjoy the adjoining game room, since it contains a pool table, ping pong table and Wii setup. In a different corner of the house, a niche opposite the kitchen, Cindy set up a tall card table where the family keeps a favorite puzzle going or plays cards or board games. The glass wall overlooks the lake, giving them a view of Hood County Courthouse while they play.

The mahogany card table is in the corner of the much larger family room, where dark, wood floors support a lot



of traffic. Modern versions of Victorian lamps stand near overstuffed Tuscan recliners. Three heavy bar stools line up at the kitchen bar. Heavy, cushy brown leather couches are situated comfortably around a rust-and-olive-and-gold-colored rug, facing the television built into deep, dark wood shelves surrounding the gas fireplace.

“I love the feel of all the stonework,” said Cindy, who asked for a big fireplace that was not wood-burning, because the

treasures a couple of pictures of her March 2004 trip to Russia. She displays them in a vestibule not far from the beautiful pecan mantel, which holds the plaque Cindy bought when redecorating her home: *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

Cindy’s decor throughout the home was inspired by the plaque’s colors and Old World style. They complement the kitchen’s green and black granite counters, amazingly undamaged, when the ceiling

Filled with her *family* and many friends, the Sprague home has gone through an extremely unexpected makeover.



former house caught fire in 2011. During the disaster, which started electrically in the attic, Caleb got the family together to hold hands and stand in faith. “I remember standing in the front yard saying, ‘God, let Your will be done. You gave me this house, and it is Yours to do as you will.’ Later, the firemen walked me through the rubble, and about six of them came up to me and said, ‘Y’all must have been praying hard!’” Nothing below the attic burned, but because the fire was in the attic the ceiling fell through — ruining almost all the stuff in the house, except Cindy’s photographs.

In a couple days, she decided how her rebuilt home would look. “I pictured a big fireplace, where we could sit around and read, wood floors and shelves to display all the kids’ pictures when they were little — good memories.” Cindy

fell. Likewise, the cabinets survived and simply needed a fresh coat of mahogany paint. Cindy’s understated creativity is on display here. Resin plaques above the kitchen sink remind the family of their favorite fruits: love, peace and joy.

Caleb finally got his dream: a house with a staircase. When Cindy’s renovator told her there was enough space to have an extra room above his bedroom, she decided to surprise Caleb with a staircase built inside his room. The new loft stores many past and present treasures: Russian books and toys, a karaoke machine, a TV and lots of board games. Downstairs, Caleb’s room is decorated with multiple sports trophies and his fishing gear. “I walk behind the house to the dock, get in my Johnny boat and use hot dogs to catch carp, sand bass, minnows and perch, mostly with a net,” he said. “Then I let



them go, because they're God's creatures."

This month, Caleb won't have time for fishing. He'll help Cindy, Caitlyn and Lika prepare the pecan pie and cherry delight desserts they'll take with them for Thanksgiving in Cindy's sister's home. Beyond their extended family's happiness, the Spragues are giving thanks for the ways they have been blessed to help others. Since returning from their second

summer mission to the Costa Rican village of 300 people called Domicinalita, Caitlyn is ready to go a third time. She and Cindy helped teach about 25 women how to produce bracelets and purses that can be sold in the United States. "That could completely change the economics of that village," Cindy said. "God had a plan in using our family there, and He continues to provide miracles in our lives." **NOW**

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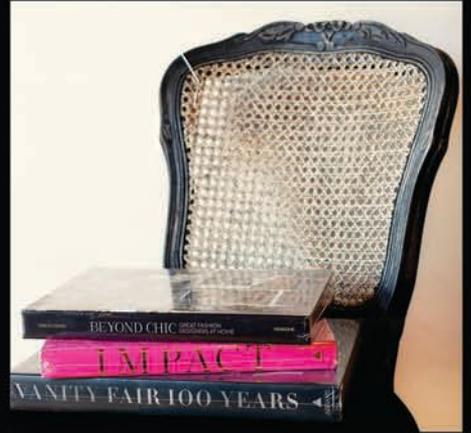


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Planning the Perfect Party

— By Amber D. Browne

The hustle and bustle of preparing for the holiday season can be quite all-consuming. Adding a dinner party or overnight guests to the equation can increase the stress. Whether you're taking on the challenge of hosting friends for dinner or family in the guest room, having a plan in place is the key to a fun-filled occasion.

When planning a holiday get-together, first decide who is on the guest list. You could choose to invite a few of your closest friends or a group of 20 or more. Or family

could stay for the extended holiday. In either scenario, plan the date and set a time for the holiday dinner.

Incorporating a theme is a key component to any event. The holiday itself can be used in planning for decorations, music and games, but if it's a dinner for friends, choosing a fun theme may be a good choice. Pinterest or event-planning blogs feature a variety of theme options.

Keep the following in mind if you choose to host a holiday dinner:

1. What is your budget?
2. Will it be a sit-down or buffet-style dinner?
3. What type of decor will you use?
4. Is the dinner adults-only or will children also attend?
5. What type of music and entertainment will be incorporated?



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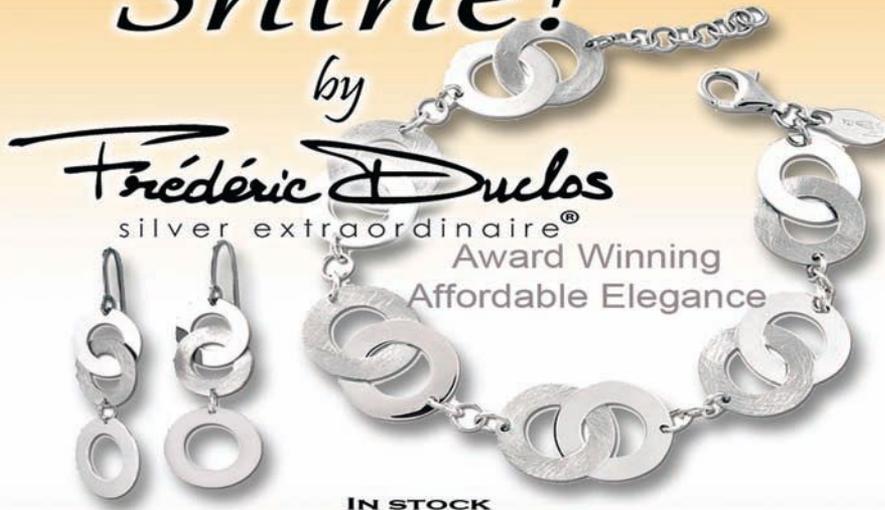
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Budget:

The budget should include funds for food, beverages, decor and entertainment. If you plan to hire a caterer, a printer for invitations or even a cleaning crew, include those costs in the budget as well. If you don't want to host the event at your home, a local restaurant or rental facility may be the perfect place to gather. Include any rental fees in the budget. Setting aside additional funds for last-minute costs is also a good idea.



Food & Beverage:

Planning the menu ahead of time is a priority. Cookbooks, the Internet or cherished family recipes offer delicious choices for holiday meals. If you are planning a themed meal, stick with recipes that fit the motif.

If you don't want to spend time prepping and cooking the food, hiring a caterer is an option. Many caterers provide dinnerware, serving dishes and utensils, flatware and related items. On-site caterers can help with cleanup, too. For easier cleanup or a more casual event, purchase disposable dinnerware and flatware, and make trash cans readily available to guests.

When hosting a party, you may decide to serve alcoholic beverages. You can stock the bar yourself or advise guests to bring their own alcoholic beverages. Hiring a licensed bartender to serve

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drinks during the event is another option. Don't forget to provide nonalcoholic beverages and have extra ice on hand. For guests who may overindulge, have a taxi service phone number available.

Venue, Decor & Entertainment:

Preparing your home for guests can be an undertaking, but a clean home creates a relaxed atmosphere. Stock the bathrooms with toilet paper, soap and clean or disposable hand towels. Offer guests a safe place to leave coats and purses. Lighting the fireplace or candles throughout the home creates a cozy ambience, but don't forget to extinguish the flames after the party!

Fresh flowers can brighten any table. You may choose to purchase arrangements from a local flower shop or buy seasonal flowers to create your own arrangement. Cranberries are popular this time of year and can be incorporated into the arrangement. Add one to two bags of fresh cranberries to a clear vase. Fill the vase about three-quarters full with water. "Using a sharp knife, carefully cut the ends off the fresh flowers at a 45-degree angle. Add cut flowers to vase, arranging as needed," explains a how-to page at OceanSpray.com.



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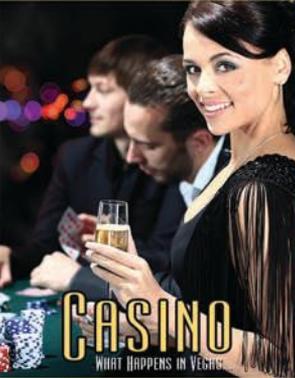
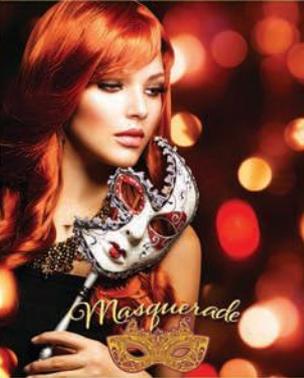
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If children and teenagers are invited, set a separate table for them. Using real dinnerware will create a more formal atmosphere and adding amusing trinkets to the table will keep the younger crowd entertained. Place holiday crackers, which hold small toys, at each table setting as a fun addition.

For entertainment, themed music can play during the event. You can incorporate games, too. For a guessing game, you can purchase a nice container and add individually wrapped candies. Make sure to count the candies first! Display the candy container alongside a jar, paper and pens for guests. Guests can write down how many candies they think are in the container and place their guesses in the jar. The one closest to the actual number wins the candy-filled container!

Overnight Holiday Guests:

Find out beforehand what types of snacks and drinks your guests prefer, and stock the cupboard and refrigerator. When planning the meals, get your guests' input. Be sure to find out if they have any food allergies. Many overnight guests may want to help out in the kitchen and chip in on food.

An inviting guest room is a necessity. You want your guests to feel at home when they visit. Provide clean, comfortable bedding, a night light and a couple of bottles of water on the night stand. The guest bathroom should include everyday grooming items, including soap, shampoo, conditioner and cotton swabs. Include plenty of fresh towels, extra toilet paper and air freshener.

Keeping your guests entertained during their stay can be a challenge. Why not plan a shopping trip with your female guests and send the men off to play golf? Whatever you choose, don't stress! Your guests will be happy to spend quality time with you.

Hosting parties and overnight guests can take a lot of time before, during and after, so ask for help. Many hosts and hostesses often find themselves too busy to enjoy their hard work. Don't let that happen to you. Take time to sit back, chat with your guests and enjoy yourself! **NOW**

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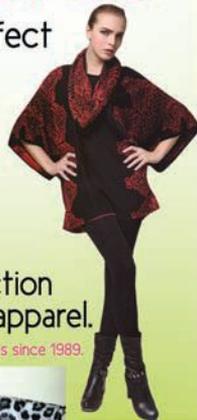


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Family Smiles

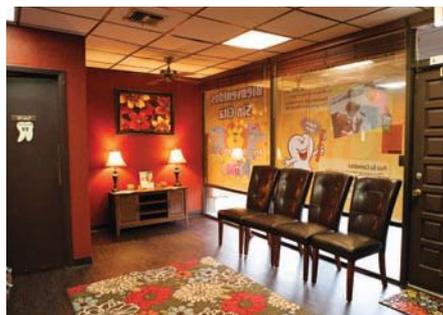
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Kenna Krichick helps Dr. Kevin Bhuva care for a patient, who will always be the first and foremost concern of the team carefully chosen by Dr. Gunjan Dhir.



A Great Gift

Family Smiles celebrates four years of providing high-tech dentistry with down-to-earth care.

— By Melissa Rawlins

The best present you can give yourself is one of good health. Why not start with your mouth? Preventing gum disease, resolving tooth decay and restoring mouths to good health is the mission of the dentists who founded Family Smiles in Granbury four years ago. “Our eyes and our smile are the first thing people look at,” said Gunjan Dhir, BDS, MS. “When people have a toothache, they smile less. For me, nothing is more gratifying than making someone smile!”

Her smile-making team includes bilingual office manager Sherry Garcia; bubbly Viridiana Ortiz at the front desk; and three dental assistants, Olivia Garcia, Kenna Krichick and Kaitlin Blackwell, to help Kevin Bhuva, DDS. A graduate of New York University, Dr. Bhuva has provided general dentistry to Family

Smiles’ patients for about a year. He is very funny, often joking with staff and patients while remaining soft spoken and gentle.

“We see everyone, children and adults. We also try to do all the procedures we can safely do in-house,” said Dr. Dhir, a prosthodontist specializing in crowns, dentures and implants. She also has a diploma in geriatrics and enjoys treating geriatric and pediatric patients.

When Dr. Dhir looked for space in Granbury to open a dental office, she found a dentist here was retiring after 35 years. Some of his patients who have been driving to the office on Paluxy their whole life continue to seek care from Family Smiles, and they are bringing their grandchildren. The vintage office space has been revamped with new wood floors and calming,

earth-toned walls, providing a warm and hospitable experience.

Patients enjoy the personalized touch at Family Smiles, where clients meet with the same dentist every time for quality dentistry at affordable prices. “Yes, you can have a \$2,000 crown. But do you really need that,” Dr. Dhir asked, “when you can have a \$600 crown and enough money left over to eat meals?”

“For me, nothing is more gratifying than making someone smile!”

Dr. Dhir encourages people to be proactive about their teeth. “The more often you go for exams and cleanings, the fewer problems you’ll have,” she said. Family Smiles has invested in technology to make your appointments pleasant, safe and efficient. They offer nitrous — laughing gas — for patients who want to feel relaxed. “Our all-digital X-rays’ radiation exposure is about 95-percent less than the graphic exposures of the past. It’s like standing in the sun for 20 minutes. And with no chemical developing, there is no wait time for us to see an image.”

The doctors at Family Smiles want to answer your questions, and help you understand their recommendations. They are the first to remind you dental work does not need to be completed in only one visit. When you pay Family Smiles a visit, they’ll make their schedule work with yours. Just as importantly, they are happy to work with you financially and to stretch payments across time.

Treating others as they’d like to be treated, Family Smiles’ dentists focus on keeping everyone happy. “We treat our staff well,” Dr. Dhir said, “and for every patient seated in our chair we think, *What if this was my family member? What is the best I can do for this person?*” This month, they’re celebrating their four-year anniversary by offering discounts to patients, both old and new. Give yourself a great gift — call and find out how you can join the celebration. **NOW**



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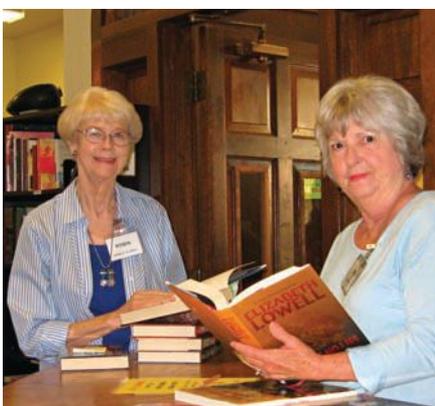
Art lovers and friends unite: BB French, Jeanie Stump, Kathy Johnson, Barbara Gibson and Elaine Mayes.



George Watkins and his friend, Johnny Hollie, fish at DeCordova Park on Lake Granbury.



Kandi and Lori from Baylor Surgicare shop for coffee at The Pan Handle.



Robin Echols and Gwen Jaques double-check condition of books offered during Friends of the Library's half-price sale.



Marty Vahlenkamp, Hood County ag agent, gives a talk on Square Foot Gardening to locals interested in trying something new.



Janice Burrows gets a great surprise when presented with a greenhouse by Sherrill Czarnecki, representing Hood County Master Gardeners.



Vicki Winder (standing, second to right) with her group of friends, all retirees from Crowley ISD who took the first day of school as their opportunity for a day-long shopping excursion to historic downtown Granbury.



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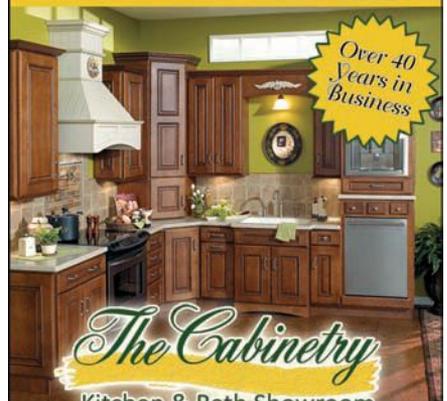
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November 3

Granbury Weight Loss Support Group: 7:00 p.m., First Christian Church of Granbury, 2109 W. Hwy 377. Free. Call Dietitian Suzanne, (409) 363-3899.

November 5

19th Annual Fr. Costigan Charity Golf Tournament: 7:30 a.m., Harbor Lakes Country Club. \$80 per golfer supports local charities and seminarians. Call Knights of Columbus Council No. 9748, (817) 819-4892.

November 8

Hood County Animal Control facility grand opening: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 1550 Weatherford Hwy. (817) 573-4277.

Healthy Woman 8th Anniversary: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Acton Middle School. Health and wellness expo followed by lunch and encouragements from author, speaker & musician Dena Dyer. \$15 for Lunch & Speaker; \$10 for speaker only. Call (817) 579-2979.

Acton Animal Hospital Open House: Noon-3:00 p.m., 2900 Fall Creek Hwy. Drs. Kristina and Richard Gesell invite you to enjoy food, prizes, freebies and teddy bear "surgery." Call (817) 326-3400 for more information.

52nd Lord's Acre Festival: 4:00-9:00 p.m., Acton United Methodist Church, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy. Join us for fun and fellowship for the entire family. For info, please call (817) 573-2036.

A Jewel of a Party: 6:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center. Support the Lake Granbury Beautification Council. Extraordinary evening features live music, champagne reception, a live and silent auction, seated dinner and casino games. A collection of precious gems will be auctioned throughout the evening. Call Jan Caldwell Hulett, (254) 967.5674.

November 14, 15

Christmas Market: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center. Crafts, jewelry, decorator items galore. \$5 entrance fee benefits Christian Women's Job Corps, a nonprofit organization with a mission to educate, motivate and encourage success in women. For more information, call CWJC at (817) 573-6677.

November 15

An Artists' Christmas Gala and Art Auction: 6:00-11:00 p.m., The Worthington Renaissance Hotel, Fort Worth. Benefiting

Camp Fire U.S.A. Granbury artists represented are Sheri Jones, Claudia Davis, Kathleen Bales and Maryann Brummer. Visit www.AnArtistsChristmas.org.

November 28

Night of Lights Parade: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Square. Celebrate a Country Christmas. Bring lawn chairs and warm coats, enjoy Christmas songs followed by a parade of floats themed about Christ. For float application, call Julia Pannell, (817) 308-7427.

November 29

2nd Reindeer Run and Jingle Jog: 7:00 a.m., Hewlett Park, on East Pearl St., across from the Granbury Resort Conference Center. 5K and 10K races are hosted by the GHS Pirate Band. Register online by Nov. 15 for fees of \$25 for the 5K, \$35 for the 10K. Contact race organizer Micky Shearon, (817) 408-5273, or visit granburyisd.org/ghsband.

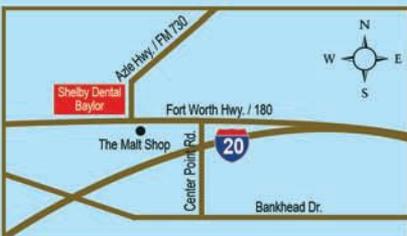
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In the Kitchen With Peggi Tebben

— By Melissa Rawlins

Watching Cat Cora on *Iron Chef America* reminds Peggi Tebben of herself. “Cat works fast and quick, like I used to when I cooked in restaurants,” Peggi said. She met Cat last year, while competing in Macy’s Grilling Guru. The year before, Peggi won \$2,000 after submitting her original Caramel Apple Pecan Coffee Cake recipe to an Internet contest.

Peggi has been cooking generously since the age of 8. Her mother and father kept a garden, and Peggi cooked for the family. She helped her mother make and give away nearly 50 dozen doughnuts weekly in their Greenwood, Arkansas, neighborhood. Now, Peggi grows and cans most of her foods and cooks wild game, fish, barbecue, cookies, pies, cakes, breads and candies for friends and family. **NOW**

Caramel Apple Pecan Coffee Cake

Cake:

- 1/2 cup Crisco shortening
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 3/4 cups buttermilk
- 2 large Granny Smith apples, peeled and thinly sliced

Topping:

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. cinnamon, ground
- 5 Tbsp. butter
- 3/4 cup pecans, finely chopped

Drizzle:

- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 1 10-oz. jar caramel ice cream topping

1. For cake: Cream shortening and butter. Gradually add sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
2. Mix all dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk, beginning and ending with flour mixture.
3. Spoon half of batter into a greased and floured 13x9-inch baking pan. Arrange apple slices over batter. Spread remaining cake batter evenly over top.
4. For topping: Combine flour, sugar and cinnamon, mixing well. Cut in butter with a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal, then stir in chopped pecans. Sprinkle mixture evenly over batter. Bake at

350 F for 55 minutes. The cake should be a darker brown around edges when done. Cool completely.

5. For drizzle: Mix first three ingredients and drizzle over top of cake. When ready to serve, drizzle caramel topping over each piece so it runs over the sides.

Cranberry Conserve

Makes about 4 half-pints.

- 1 medium orange
- 2 cups water
- 1 quart cranberries, stemmed
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 3 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped

1. Deseed the orange; chop it into fairly small pieces. Combine with water in a large pot. Cook rapidly until the peel is tender, about 20 minutes.
2. Add cranberries, raisins and sugar. Bring slowly to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Cook rapidly, almost to the jellying point, about 8 minutes (or longer), stirring frequently to prevent sticking. Add nuts in the last few minutes of cooking.
3. Can be kept in the refrigerator or frozen. To save for several years, pour hot conserve into hot sterile jars, leaving about 1/4-inch head space. Seal and process in a hot water bath for 15 minutes.

Fried Green Beans

- 6-8 slices thick bacon, cut in 3/4-inch pieces
- 1/2 onion, slivered
- 10 mushrooms, sliced
- 1 lb. fresh green beans
- Salt, to taste

1. Cook bacon with onions in a skillet until about halfway browned.
2. Add mushrooms; continue cooking until about 2/3 of the way brown.
3. Add green beans and turn heat to low. Leave it alone for about 5 minutes; then stir. Turn heat up slightly; continue cooking until all is slightly browned, stirring occasionally. Season with salt when green beans are almost finished (any earlier, and they will become watery).
4. Note: You may use 1 can of sliced mushrooms and 1 qt. of canned green beans, instead of fresh. This decreases cooking time and removes need for salt. But if you use fresh green beans, you can salt them during the last few minutes.

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