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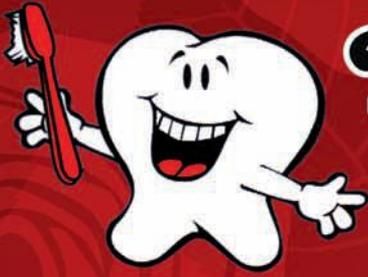
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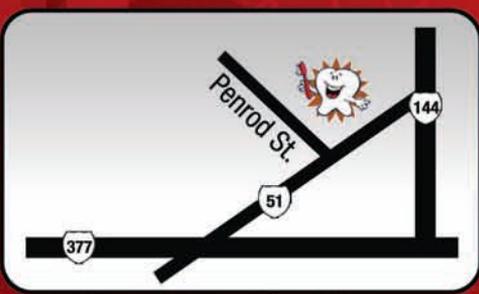
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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

The other day, I met a charming gentleman named Johnnie Rollins. He and his wife, Billye, dined at Don Melquia's too, and we all walked out together. He said he'd ranched here most of his life. As I drove away, I wondered about the changes he's seen. I also pondered possible connections between his name and mine. Most of my Rawlins relatives came from Kansas and Missouri through

Oklahoma to Texas. Land grant research shows my family's leagues and labors at the heart of what is now Lancaster.

Maybe in the history of my generations in America, the Rawlins and Rollins have been brothers, their names once recorded with different symbols for the same phonetic sounds? Even if not, I'm glad to have met Mr. Rollins, who has lived through many Hood County winters and still keeps a twinkle in his eyes.

Here's to *your* long and happy life!

Melissa

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Dots, Bams

— By Lisa Bell

Early in 1963, Betty Smallin found herself in California, a young mother and housewife who didn't know anyone in the area. Fortunately, the family next door moved in about the same time. The two young mothers shared a common malady — neither had local friends. The neighbor told Betty about a new game she learned to play. The two women decided Mah Jongg gave them a perfect vehicle to meet other women. Betty headed to the store and purchased her first set, spending \$28. They played that evening. "It was so exciting we just couldn't wait for the next Monday," Betty said.

As they played hands to make the right combinations with the tiles, Betty didn't want to lose her place on the directional card. She put her index finger on the line and kept it there. Intent on the game, she didn't realize until they finished how hard she had pressed down. She trudged home happy, but with a numb finger. "It still felt weird late into the evening," she said.

She played with the neighbors for years, members changing as some moved



and Cracks



away or life forced others to stop playing. Later, Betty became part of a group that included two sisters from New York. Their mother had taught them to play at 7 and 8 years old, so if her group couldn't get together for any reason she could still play.

Far away in Ohio, in the late '60s lived a young housewife named Marion Yeagler. Some of her neighbors invited her to play the exciting game of Mah Jongg, willingly teaching her the rules and moves. She quickly grew to love playing, which she did until moving from Ohio. When she came to Texas, her Mah Jongg tile set took a place on the closet shelf, remaining there for 20 years.

After her husband passed away, Marion decided she should get the set out. In the same way she had learned, Marion invited some friends to come over and she taught them the art of her beloved game. The small group grew, eventually becoming an activity for the Senior Circle.

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Dots, bars and cracks form the suits of the tiles, much like card suits. With many rules and annually changing hand requirements, avid fans stay interested, often playing for decades, while teaching friends and family members the game as well.

Why do these women still play the same game after more than 50 years? “We love it. It’s challenging,” Betty said.

“The more I play, the more I want to play the challenging hands,” Marion remarked.

The game provides a fun way to socialize, but also keeps minds active. “Most people only play Mah Jongg on days that end in Y,” said Doris Moore, chair of The Tiles That Bind Committee. Although she moved to Fort Worth and found groups of players there, she returns to Granbury and maintains friendships forged over small tiles with interesting symbols.

The game includes benefits far greater than a mere social outlet. Because the game requires a great deal of thought, focus and attention, it can increase cognitive abilities. In some cases, people with traumatic brain injuries who have played the game on a regular basis saw improvement. The constant thinking involved in the game also helps stave off Alzheimer’s. Because of its complex nature, new players don’t learn to play in a single sitting. According to Betty, Marion and Doris, new players should anticipate about a month of playing once or twice each week before fully understanding the game.

The exact beginnings of Mah Jongg aren’t known. However, most believe it originated in China — perhaps

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around the time of Confucius. Joseph P. Babcock, an American resident of Shanghai, brought the game to America in 1920. He coined and copyrighted the term *mah-jongg* and produced a simplified set of rules. Using English translations for the tiles and adding index letters and numbers familiar to card players, Joseph successfully promoted the game. The popularity grew exponentially while he imported the first sets. Within a decade, demand for new sets dwindled, but the Great Depression prompted a renewed interest. Over the years, players continued to teach others.

In the '50s and '60s, the game became popular with housewives looking for social outlets and ways to make new friends. Today, Mah Jongg is again gaining new fans. Players seek out local groups and clubs, but also participate in tournaments, Mah Jongg Madness days and even special Mah Jongg cruises.

In Granbury, the last Tuesday in February marks the date of a local Mah Jongg Madness event celebrating the Chinese New Year. Doris Moore, Wanda Strain, Carolyn Neill and Donna Thorstenson form The Tiles That Bind Committee. They join forces to plan and implement the one-day event. Starting at 9:00 a.m., Mah Jongg players will descend on the clubhouse at Pecan Plantation. At 10:00 a.m., they will begin the first of two rounds, each lasting one hour. After a break for lunch and the drawing of door prizes, two more rounds of play will ensue, continuing until the day ends around 4:00 p.m.

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prizes. Surprisingly, the players get most excited over winning the return of their \$25 entry fee. In addition to many local players, people from Fort Worth, the mid-cities, Weatherford, Tolar and other locales come for the annual event. While the players take the games seriously, they approach it with less solemnity than tournament attendees do.

The event in Granbury launched in 2011. Having 44 people the first year thrilled the organizers. In 2014, the committee allowed 100 spots, which filled and left others on a waiting list, hoping for a spot to open. The committee keeps attendance at 100 maximum.

Although not required, oriental attire dots the tables. From kimonos and silk tops to hats or chopsticks as hair accessories, players get in the mood for a festive day. Each year, the committee tries to match the symbol of the Chinese New Year. This year, the committee will creatively incorporate sheep as part of the decor.

Meanwhile, Betty and Marion continue playing and teaching others. "If you want to play, you have to teach someone to play," Marion said. "That's the situation I found myself in. When you move, you lose contact with fellow players." Groups change as members move or quit playing for different reasons. Both ladies are more than willing to teach anyone interested in learning.

The groups at Pecan Plantation and the Senior Circle are two of many groups playing in Granbury. In some cases, fans of the game carry on the tradition of inviting neighbors to learn. As faithful players teach about dots, bams, cracks and all that goes with them, Mah Jongg lives on. **NOW**

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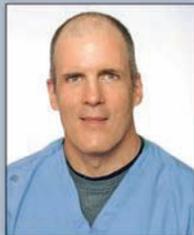


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— By Melissa Rawlins





At Home With *Duane and Claudia Davis*

If you like it and buy it, it will all work. Such has been the experience of Duane and Claudia Davis. As they've improved their cozy, cottage-style home, holding a mixture of colors, objects and memories, they've celebrated togetherness every day.

"This house is quite tailored to us," Claudia mused. A facilitator by nature and artist by choice, Claudia has offered great ideas, which Duane implemented and uses every day. For instance, her effective creativity repurposed bedroom coat racks to hold tea towels in the kitchen and stacked wine racks on the bathroom wall to hold freshly rolled towels.

Duane, an engineer by nature, has provided Claudia with things she uses every day. For instance, he installed both a tall, deep and wide entertainment cabinet in her studio for all her art books and an extra-wide chair rail as a 15-foot long easel for storing and organizing works in progress. "Each day, I wake up and choose something from my major book collection. I study for a couple hours about artists and technique," said Claudia, who devoted herself to full-time painting after retiring from AT&T and while working at the Granbury Chamber of

Commerce in the '90s. She studied oil painting from Paula Carlton for six years. Now, Claudia's plein air oils are requested as donations to art shows benefiting organizations like Campfire USA and Fort Worth Nature Center.

Duane encourages her passion. Best friends since they met in Missouri over 45 years ago, this couple often travels in their 42-foot motor home on extraordinary trips to find beautiful American landscapes for Claudia to paint on an easel set up outdoors. He loves it, since driving is one of his favorite things. In fact, after retiring from marketing with AT&T, Duane followed his dream, signed up for truck-driving school and traded in his suit for a pair of blue jeans.

Their mutually supportive companionship makes their Granbury home so special. Every room of their home, even the master bathroom, contains sizeable landscapes of the places they've traveled. "I can look at a painting and remember where we were when I painted it," Claudia said. "I want other people to want to be able to be where we were." When painting from photographs in her home studio, she'll frequently invite Duane in to express his response to her work, helping her judge its quality and tweak the details.

Every day she benefits from the quality of his off-road work. Not only did he do the majority of the renovations they began





seven years ago, but he also does 90 percent of their cooking. Claudia cooked all their married life while both worked their first career for Southwestern Bell Telephone/AT&T. When he retired, Duane started watching cooking shows on PBS. "For all wives who want to get out of the kitchen," Claudia advised, "let your husband start cooking. Compliment everything, and it will get better and better. Duane is almost gourmet now, and he can't imagine how anyone could have



cooked with such poor utensils as I used all those 35 years. So now we have great equipment and granite countertops!"

Sporting ocher tile, cream cabinets and brick-red walls, their kitchen is designed for maximum convenience. "A humongous kitchen is impractical! One of the first things I learned when studying cooking is ideally, a cook needs the stove, refrigerator and sink no more than three steps from each other," Duane said. After rewiring the kitchen, he installed two ovens, including a convection oven for holidays. He hung the pot rack, light fixtures and vent hood,

while Claudia hung art around the nearby farm table.

"I like having friends' art in our home," Claudia said. "I have a painting in the kitchen by Doug Clark, and I smile when I see it." It depicts a Waxahachie classic, Oma's Jiffy Burger, and graces the wall opposite a still life of fruit, Claudia's first painting, which is hung near the big pantry that had once been a half bath before Duane renovated.

Duane also rebuilt the entire backyard. What had been spots of grass on shady dirt that washed away during rains became cottage-style gardens punctuated

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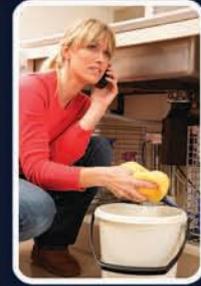
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by a patio shaped like the state of Texas. Here on their smoker, the neighbor's cat sometimes sits enjoying the view of Duane's rock path with a bridge through four different beds planted in Liriope, sedum and various shade-loving ground cover.

Claudia and Duane love sitting on the deck, watching the breeze ruffle the greenery until the chill air sends them to



the back porch Duane built when they moved here. After investing the better part of a summer enclosing the porch, friends and neighbors contributed much of the decor. "It's a sanctuary for me. I can see through its windows into the house, while also watching squirrels, birds, deer, skunks, porcupines, coons, possum and armadillo outside.

"The porch is also the place people want to be when they come over," he said with a chuckle. His boss' wife gave him a hand-painted plaque proclaiming: *Duane Davis' Bar, proudly serving whatever you bring.* Black bar stools rest on a brick-red concrete floor at the bar he built of barn wood. A painting by Claudia of a



guitar player in Luckenbach, Texas, hangs behind the bar, next to the Lone Star flag and neon Michelob sign.

When they host dinner for four or six, guests actually dine in their library. Instead of a traditional dining cabinet, they bought a 9x9-foot bank of lawyers' cabinets from the Wagon Yard and filled them with books they each love — from cookbooks to an entire collection by Louis L'Amour. Paula Carlton's painting of a woman at a Mexican market hangs above one of the two reading chairs, upholstered in red with green and blue medallions. Above the opposite chair is a George Hallmark he painted while Claudia observed. They also love their Jan Bateman oil of a hospitable country cottage.

In the Davis' front entry are two treasured paintings by Janice Weaver and Maryann Brummer. Everything about their home invites relaxation within peaceful relationship. The 11-foot sage walls are calming. "Artwork really pops on sage," said Claudia, a self-proclaimed colorist, who sometimes hangs paintings in unexpected places, like below the bottom of lampshades.

In the living room, a comfortable leather couch and chairs recline on floors of Italian porcelain tile in adobe colors. From this vantage point, near the virgin marble fireplace, Duane and Claudia indulge themselves in memories. Atop art books stacked on the mahogany side table, Claudia displays a Covelle Jones sculpture of a longhorn given to Duane for his birthday. On the nearby wall, she's hung four scenes from their plain air escapades in Montana, reminding them that as long as they're together, they're always at home. **NOW**

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Before You Tie *the* Knot

— By Shannon Pfaff

From the dress to the favors, the cake to the invitations, a wedding has many components that need to come together. There are countless options to choose from. You may find yourself overwhelmed trying to narrow down the scope of your choices in order to help you decide on the individual pieces of your big day. A great way to do that is by choosing a theme for your wedding.

A theme ties all of your ideas together, so your ceremony and reception flow with each other. You can choose a song, season, pattern, color, etc. around which to build your wedding. What type of wedding do you want to have? Would you prefer a more modern wedding or something rustic? Maybe your dream-come-true wedding is a fairy-tale style affair. Perhaps you would like to create your special day around your favorite color. Maybe you have already found the perfect dress, and you'd like to design the wedding around its style. The theme of your wedding can be anything you desire it to be.

Choosing a theme can also be a creative way to

illustrate who you and your husband-to-be are as a couple. Are you an adventurous pair? Did you meet in an unusual way? Do you have a mutual passion, such as music or food? The things you enjoy together can create a unique theme. Your individual family heritage can also be a beautiful backdrop for your wedding.

Once you have decided on your theme, you can have the wedding professionals you employ help you incorporate that theme into each aspect of your wedding. When you are choosing your wedding gown, a bridal consultant can help you with dress options that coordinate with your theme. They can also help you with



attire options for the wedding party that will complement your dress. The consultant can also advise you on hairstyles and accessory choices for your gown. Your hairstylist can offer hair options, as well as showing you how to pair those options with any desired accessories.

If your theme is related to color, a florist can help you incorporate that shade into flower arrangements, bouquets and table settings. Even if your theme is not based on color, the florist can advise on color choices to complement your theme. They will also help with seasonal floral options and can offer advice on low-cost options for your decor.

You will want to be sure the theme you choose will fit the time of year you desire for your big day. If you have an idea about the season for your nuptials, you will want to be certain the venue is appropriate. If you don't have a wedding

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planner, you can contact the person who coordinates events at your chosen venue. They can inform you of the ideal seasonal conditions for their location.

After your theme has been selected, there will still be several decisions to make about the wedding. You will,



however, have a better understanding of what your selections should look like. Here are a few theme examples to get you started:

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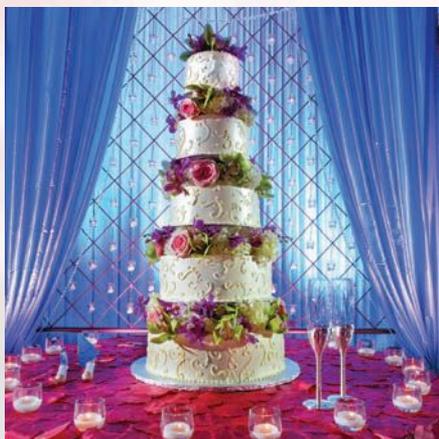
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and invitations, engraved, black ink on white paper is the most classic selection. You will want to choose a simple, A-line dress or a ball gown to complement your theme. Consider dramatic lighting for your venue, such as candlelight or tiny lights strung across the ceiling or around potted trees. Formal wedding cakes are generally elegant with multiple layers to create a focal point for your reception.

Vintage-style

If you love the style of eras gone by, then a vintage wedding could be perfect for you. Selecting a genuinely vintage wedding dress allows you the opportunity to have a unique design versus a modern mass-produced dress. Family members may be a good source for vintage items to use for your decor. They may also be a valuable source for vintage jewelry. Lace can add a vintage touch to your decor and your attire. Keep the colors and decor simple to stay true to simpler times.

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Rustic Chic

If you are looking for country elegance, a rustic wedding is a great option. Think barns, burlap and boots! For your venue, you could select a farm house, ranch, barn or a country pavilion.



You could have the entire event outdoors, but make sure you make provisions for inclement weather. Mason jars, hand-painted signs and simple flowers can create lovely centerpieces for your reception. You will have several options for your dress, because you can add rustic touches to any gown you choose.

However you decide to define your special day, there will be no shortage of wonderful options to create your perfect wedding. The wedding professionals you choose will provide options and show you examples to help you along the way. Selecting a theme is an important step to making the planning process more manageable and can be the best way for you to tie your ideas together before you tie the knot! **NOW**

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★ **BBQ HEAVEN on 377** ★

The pros at Swanny's BBQ & Steakhouse serve you good times and great food.

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

What's the difference between a kid in a candy store and a Texan in a barbecue joint? You'll figure it out at Swanny's BBQ & Steakhouse. Owner Rick Swann and his friendly staff make everyone's experience positively memorable, starting with the mouthwatering menu. An entire page devoted to barbecue, a whole page for takeout, a complete menu from chicken fried steak and chili rellenos to grilled steaks and salmon — and all made fresh — the promise is plenty to go around.

Try their yummy Squeeny Fries, deep-fried zucchini and yellow squash dipped in the batter Swanny's developed for his unique chicken fried steak. That Texan standby is served generously with pepper gravy topped by freshly-fried bacon bits. For health-conscious guests, Tilapia tempts people looking for light meals or Swanny's Veggie Plate is sure to please. One vegetable choice is a fresh, quartered tomato seasoned with

Rick's secret barbecue rub and grilled about four minutes. Crisp side salads are hand-cut and blended by the chef.

"Most of what we serve here is prepared from scratch," Rick said. Swanny's coleslaw, potato salad and baked beans taste different than most, because Rick has created his own seasonings — mostly inspired by his early years eating barbecue and smoking food in Kansas City, Kansas. "The baked pork beans are actually smoked, because I want that hickory flavor in them."

Friends and family had been telling Rick for years that his barbecue is better than anyone else's. He loves to cook, both for his wife, Kim, a third-grade teacher at Mambrino, and for family gatherings. He has been barbecuing and smoking for over 30 years and dreamed of opening a small BBQ joint. He invested hours researching best practices for serving extraordinary barbecue with all the trimmings. After 35 years as a top-sales

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vice president for his former employer, Rick left the company and within three months opened Swanny's.

Operating a huge commercial smoker designed to hold over 200 slabs of ribs at one time, Rick remains in the people-pleasing business. Swanny's meats rotate overnight in this rotisserie smoker at about 210 F. He serves beef brisket, pulled pork, chicken quarters, turkeys, big pork spare ribs and sausage. The pulled pork marinades in the sweet sauce he developed from his many travels to the Carolinas. Swanny's beef barbecue is made from recipes he developed while living in Texas. His delectable sausage is a mixture of turkey, pork and beef smoked first with red oak, then with hickory. His smoked salmon is grilled before serving and

“MOST OF WHAT WE SERVE HERE IS PREPARED FROM SCRATCH.”

enhanced with a sweet and spicy sauce.

Rick selects all meat, whether Angus, select or prime, and cooks them superbly. “My recipes for sauces and seasonings absolutely change the overall taste of all our dishes,” Rick said. He uses secret, unexpected flavorings and liquids to keep meats lively and moist.

Customers receive the best value every time they enjoy Swanny's, whether at a catered event or on-site in the well-appointed dining room, banquet room, bar or patio, accompanied by live music. During the week, community groups often reserve the banquet room. But on Sundays, it's the site of a great big Sunday brunch, complete with mimosas, carving station and salad bar. When you're ready for a fabulous meal served by caring professionals, head to Swanny's. As Rick is fond of saying, it is “BBQ heaven on 377.” **NOW**



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<p>Two Homemade Chili, Cheese, Onion Coney Hotdogs \$5⁰⁰ <small>w/ coupon. Good through 2/28/15</small></p>	<p>Smoked Turkey Steakhouse Club with Fries \$6⁵⁰ <small>w/ coupon. Good through 2/28/15</small></p>	

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Granbury Regional Airport attendants Chris Varlaro, right, and Toby Blair, left, help Timothy Jensen tie down his grandfather's Cub.



Lindsey Watson picks up fancy cupcakes from Heather Gunn at the Bake Shop to take as a treat for one of the staff at Farina's.



Josh Jensen, the manager at Granbury's bowling center, invites the community to come see the changes they've made at Pins.



Dorothy Douglas works the front desk at Brazos Pregnancy Center.



Darlene Greene ends a great Swanny's meal celebrating 47 years of life by serving a piece of Death By Chocolate pie to Melissa Rawlins and her family.



Jimmy Garza and Brad Hamm work with Joe Perkins, owner of Perkins Concrete, laying sidewalks for the Texas Edge baseball fields.



Casey Smith rolls silverware at Ketzler's with Nicole Holtby and Carrie Wiggins.



Carol Cotton chats with Bev Franzen during a Pecan Plantation Women's Club gathering.

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HI HO! HI HO!.....It's off to work we go!

And in today's work world — busting with all the latest in technology and our country's rage for telecommuting — that means "off to work you go" might actually be right in your own home! What does all this mean for you and the rooms you use in your home? Why, it means that finding a quiet, productive workplace will be critical to your "working from home" success.

For some, your work place might actually be your kitchen table. Certainly not the most ideal location for your home office — but often times the first place many telecommuters find themselves. I believe that with a little careful planning and ingenuity you might possibly have some better home office alternatives right in front of you! When my clients find themselves working from home, I suggest that they first begin by taking stock of the rooms in their home that are the least used. Perhaps a spare bedroom or even a seldom-used formal dining room could become the new location for your home office.

If a spare bedroom is available, it could easily and stylishly be converted to a home office. Because it's important that your home office space be functional as well as decorative, utilizing the services of a professional interior decorator will be the key to your success in helping you maximize your productivity and concentration. If you think there is no room in your home for an office, look again. With a little creative space planning, you can come up with a beautifully and creatively designed workspace solution that puts working at your kitchen table to shame!

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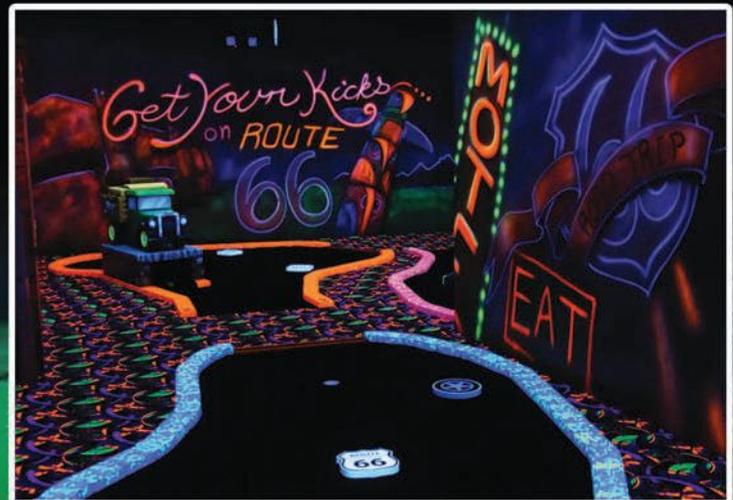


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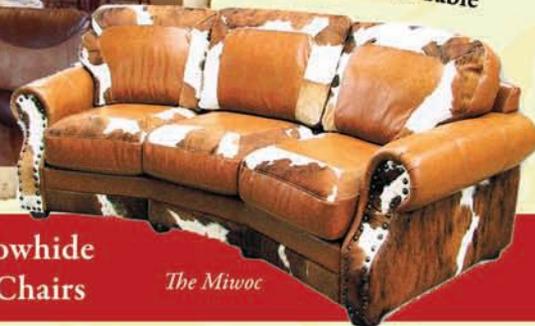
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More Sugar Necessary

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

You don't have to be a diabetic to have hypoglycemia. Although it is commonly associated with the disease, there are other conditions that can cause it. Hypoglycemia is the medical term for low blood sugar. Glucose, or blood sugar, is necessary for the body to have enough fuel or energy to carry out its normal functions. So when levels fall below normal, it is an issue that must be addressed.

Some symptoms associated with hypoglycemia are trouble thinking clearly, headaches, visual disturbances, heart palpitations, sweating, shakiness, weakness, anxiety and fatigue. Your body needs glucose to function as it has been designed to. If deprived of it, your body will experience consequences. For example, if the brain is not receiving glucose, it cannot function properly and leaves the person susceptible to seizures and even coma. Many conditions can cause these symptoms, so it is important to be diagnosed by a physician rather than guessing at what might be wrong.

If you have been diagnosed with hypoglycemia and think you may be having symptoms, it is crucial to take immediate action. Because it's possible to lose consciousness with hypoglycemia, your first step should be to make sure you are in a safe place when you begin to counteract the effects of low blood sugar. If you pass out you certainly don't want to be behind the wheel of a car or injure

yourself falling. Follow instructions given by your physician. Some of the things that might be a part of your management plan are to test your glucose level if possible, and if your blood sugar is low, start taking some form of carbohydrates. Some food items suggested for this are hard candy, raisins, sugar, juice or milk. The amount should be determined with the help of your health care provider. Glucose tablets and glucose gel are available prepackaged. Eat or take the prescribed or recommended amount and test your blood sugar again. Some people may require an injection of glucagon. Glucagon is a hormone that quickly raises blood sugar levels. Based on the severity of your reaction and/or if your glucose level does not rise, you may have to call 911 or your doctor.

If you have hypoglycemia because of diabetes, it is important to follow the diabetic management plan set up with your physician and monitor your food intake and medication. If your hypoglycemia is from another condition, then the underlying problem needs to be corrected or managed. Careful planning can help avoid a catastrophe with hypoglycemia. **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.



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Through March 1

The Odd Couple: **Friday and Saturday**, 7:30 p.m.; **Saturday**, 3:30 p.m.; **Sunday**, 2:00 p.m., Granbury Opera House, Historic Square. Presented by Granbury Theatre Company. \$20 adults; \$17 seniors; \$15 children. Box Office: (817) 579-0952. www.granburytheatrecompany.org

February 2, 9, 16, 23

Music-n-Motion: 10:30-11:00 a.m., Hood County Library, 222 N Travis St. All ages welcome to syncopate books, instruments and vocals — all vital to a child's development. Call (817) 573-3569 or email cwood@co.hood.tx.us.

February 3

Opera Guild of Granbury meeting: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club, 5301 Country Club Dr., Acton. Lunch, \$13, is not mandatory but RSVP is required if dining with group. RSVP (682) 936-9572.

February 6

Best of Business Awards Banquet: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Pecan Plantation Country Club. The Granbury Chamber of Commerce recognizes distinguished businesses and individuals from 2014. The theme is *Chateau sur la Rue*. RSVP to (817) 573-1622.

February 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28

Ghost & Legends Tour: **Friday and Saturday**, 7:00 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., Historic Square. Hear about the Lady in Red, The Faceless Girl, John Wilkes Booth, outlaw Jesse James and many others. Call (817) 559-0849 for reservations and meeting location.

Last Mile Cemetery Tour: **Friday and Saturday**, 10:45 p.m., Historic Cemetery. Bring flashlights and comfortable walking shoes for this fun tour of the resting place for several of Granbury's famous residents. Call (817) 559-0849 for reservations and meeting location.

February 10

Salvation Army Women's Service League fundraiser: 10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., DeCordova. Style show, luncheon and silent auction. All money goes to support projects that include new shoes, new clothing, hygiene kits, summer camp programs for children and assistance for those in most need in Hood County. \$30 per person. RSVP through Joyce Brock, (817) 279-0855.

February 11

Hood County Day — Austin: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., State Capitol. Attend Senate Session with Senator Brian Birdwell and House Session with Representative Jim Keffer. Enjoy lunch at the Austin Club. Hear

from the following speakers: Dale Craymer, TTARA, State Budget; Dr. Wayne Pierce, Equity Center, School Finance; Carlos Rubenstein, TWDB, State Water Plan. \$75 for Granbury Chamber of Commerce members; \$100 for non-members. RSVP: (817) 573-1622 or sondra@granburychamber.com.

February 13, 27

Music, Massage and Merlot: 6:30 p.m., D'Vine Wine, Historic Square. Enjoy \$1/minute massage plus great music. (817) 573-7200.

February 14, 28

Texas Legends: The Stories of Home: 3:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Granbury Live Theatre, Historic Square. Songs of Texas presented by talented vocalists in Big City Music Revue. \$25 adults; \$22 seniors; \$15 children. Box Office: (855) 823-5550. www.bigcitymusicrevue.com.

February 15

Enrollment Deadline for 2015 Insurance Coverage: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Lake Granbury Medical Center, 1310 Paluxy Rd. If you need help reviewing the health insurance options on the Health Insurance Marketplace, the application coordinators at Lake Granbury Medical Center can help. Feel free to call today and schedule an appointment: (817) 408-3237.

February 17

"Go Red" Healthy Woman luncheon: Noon-1:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center. Join your neighbors for lunch and learning about the American Heart Association campaign, "Go Red for Women." Cardiologist Tyrus Frerking, M.D., hosts discussion vein care. \$2 members; \$5 non-members. RSVP (817) 579-2979 by February 13.

February 21

Sweethearts & Orphans Car Show: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Historic Square, Granbury. Classic and antique automobiles, with their passengers and drivers, who invite you to feast your eyes. John Clements, (817) 907-9834.

February 27

Citizens Police Academy deadline for application: 5:00 p.m., City Hall, 116 West Bridge. Beginning in March, this free class will meet every **Thursday**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., for 10 weeks. Applications should be turned in to the police department by **February 27**. For more information, contact Sgt. Cris Brichetto, (817) 573 2648 or cbrichetto@granbury.org

February 28

Last Saturday Gallery Night Art Walk:

6:00-9:00 p.m., 106 N. Houston St. Walk around the Square visiting The Galleries of Granbury — Artefactz, Langdon Center Art Gallery, Shanley House Art Gallery and Your Private Collection Art Gallery. Finish your evening at Uptown Art, 401 Cleveland Rd., just off Hwy. 377. Artists will be on hand, some giving demonstrations, while you enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and music. Contact (817) 579-7733.

February 28 — March 1

Texas Independence Day Celebration: **Friday and Saturday**, Historic Square in Granbury. Remember the Alamo while enjoying bull riding on The Beach, vendors on the Beach and the downtown square, a parade, reenactors, Indians, music, petting zoo at Langdon Center and the Student History Fair and children's activities at the Hilton Garden Inn. Full schedule at www.march2Texas.com, or contact Teresa Sims, (817) 578-0234.

March 3

Opera Guild of Granbury meeting: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club, 5301 Country Club Dr., Acton. Lunch, \$13, is not mandatory but RSVP is required if dining with group. Call (682) 936-9572 to RSVP.

Ongoing:

Second Mondays

Lake Granbury Art Association meeting: 7:00 p.m., Shanley House. Free for citizens seeking to support art and artists. Jeanette Alexander at (817) 578-3090.

Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays

Yeats-Duke 1858 Working Museum: **Thursday, Saturday and Sunday** if the flag is flying, 1:00-5:00 p.m., 214 N. Crockett St. Demonstrations on **Thursdays and Saturdays** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on 19th century homemade items such as spinning, weaving, teddy bear making, etc. (817) 907-4946.

Weekends

Hood County Museum: 1:00-4:00 p.m., Old Hood County Jail, 208 N. Crockett. \$2 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12. (817) 573-5135.

Third Weekends

Romance Weekend: **Friday-Sunday**, Noon-9:00 p.m., Historic Granbury. Bed n Breakfasts around town cater to couples. For more information, contact City of Granbury Visitor's Bureau, (817) 573-1114.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com.



In the Kitchen With Esther Umphress

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

A chocolate chip cookie hand-mixed by Esther Pearl Gray Umphress is one of life's simple blessings. For 35 years, Esther has given cookies to people participating in community organizations like Texas AgriLife Extension Clubs, Rural Cemetery Association, Mission Granbury, Joseph's Locker and Hood County Senior Center. She moved here with Kenneth Umphress, the business partner of Jack Bunch, her first husband and father of her five children. After Jack passed away from a long illness, Kenneth asked for her hand and brought her to the country. Together, they have 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Most of what she cooks for her family is similar to items she ate during childhood. And the recipes she shares here are ones her family requests the most. **NOW**

Almond Tea

Delicious for large gatherings.

- 3 Tbsp. instant tea**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 cups hot water**
- 1 12-oz. can frozen lemonade**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. almond extract**
- 8 1/2 cups cold water**

1. Dissolve tea and sugar in hot water.
2. Add next 4 ingredients.
3. Serve from a punch bowl over ice.

Almond Pound Cake

- 1 cup shortening**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 6 large eggs**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**

- 1 tsp. almond extract**
- 2 cups flour**
- 1/2 stick butter**

1. Using an electric mixer, cream shortening and sugar.
2. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each.
3. Add extracts and flour. Mix on slow speed.
4. Bake in a tube pan at 325 F for 1 hour.
5. Melt butter on top while cooling; then remove from pan.
6. Put on cake plate to finish cooling.

Chocolate Chip Cookies

Makes about 5 dozen cookies.

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 tsp. salt**

- 1 cup Crisco shortening**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 3/4 cup brown sugar, packed**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 2 large eggs**
- 1 12-oz. pkg. Nestlé Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels**
- 1 cup chopped pecans, or to taste**

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. Combine flour, baking soda and salt in a small bowl.
3. In a large bowl, beat shortening, sugars and vanilla extract until creamy by hand or with a mixer. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Gradually beat in flour mixture.
4. Stir in morsels and nuts until dispersed evenly throughout dough.
5. Drop by rounded tablespoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets.
6. Bake until golden brown, 9-11 minutes. Cool on baking sheets for 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Pressure Cooker Pot Roast

Wonderful with salad and hot bread.

- 3-4 lb. chuck roast**
- 1 cup flour**
- 1 Tbsp. salt**
- 1 Tbsp. black pepper**
- 1 Tbsp. oregano flakes**
- 1 cup oil**
- 1 cup water**
- 4 large russet potatoes, chopped into bite-sized chunks**
- 1 small pkg. baby carrots**

1. Dredge roast in flour and seasonings. Heat oil and brown roast on all sides.
2. Cut roast to fit in pressure cooker. Add about 2 inches of water. Cook for 1 hour at medium pressure (see cooker's directions if needed).
3. After the roast has cooked, take the pressure off under running cold water and add potatoes and carrots.
4. Bring the pressure back up and cook for 5 minutes at medium pressure.
5. Again, take pressure off under cold running water. Open cooker and present a delicious meal to your family.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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