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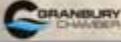
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Pay close attention because I'm going to destroy some important myths and give you the facts.

MYTH: Bulging DISC problems will just "go away" with some rest.

FACT: If you are dealing with back pain, buttocks pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a Bulging DISC specialist immediately. Left untreated, the problem can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

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MYTH: Pain is the only problem associated with Bulging DISC problems.

FACT: In severe cases, this problem can lead to the inability to control your bowels, bladder and sexual potency - leading to embarrassing situations.

MYTH: You must take pain medications to deal with Bulging DISCs.

FACT: Drugs like muscle relaxants, pain killers, narcotics, antidepressants, and anti-seizure medications have serious potential side-effects and do not cure Bulging DISCs.

MYTH: "I must have done something wrong to damage my DISC."

FACT: Physical work or simply sitting at a desk for long periods can lead to Bulging DISCs. Accidents and trauma can also be the culprits. Pregnancy can cause damage. DISC Bulges can happen to anyone - including super-fit celebrities like Tiger Woods, Sylvester Stallone, and British Olympic medalist Ian Wynne.

MYTH: Stop exercising and get several weeks of bed rest to let the Bulging DISC recover...

FACT: Staying active can help to relieve the pain and prevent the pain getting worse. Staying inactive in bed could be the worst advice - based on a recent study in the Netherlands.

MYTH: DISC Bulges or herniations require surgery.

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MYTH: "There's nothing anyone can really do. I'm just stuck with this for the rest of my life."

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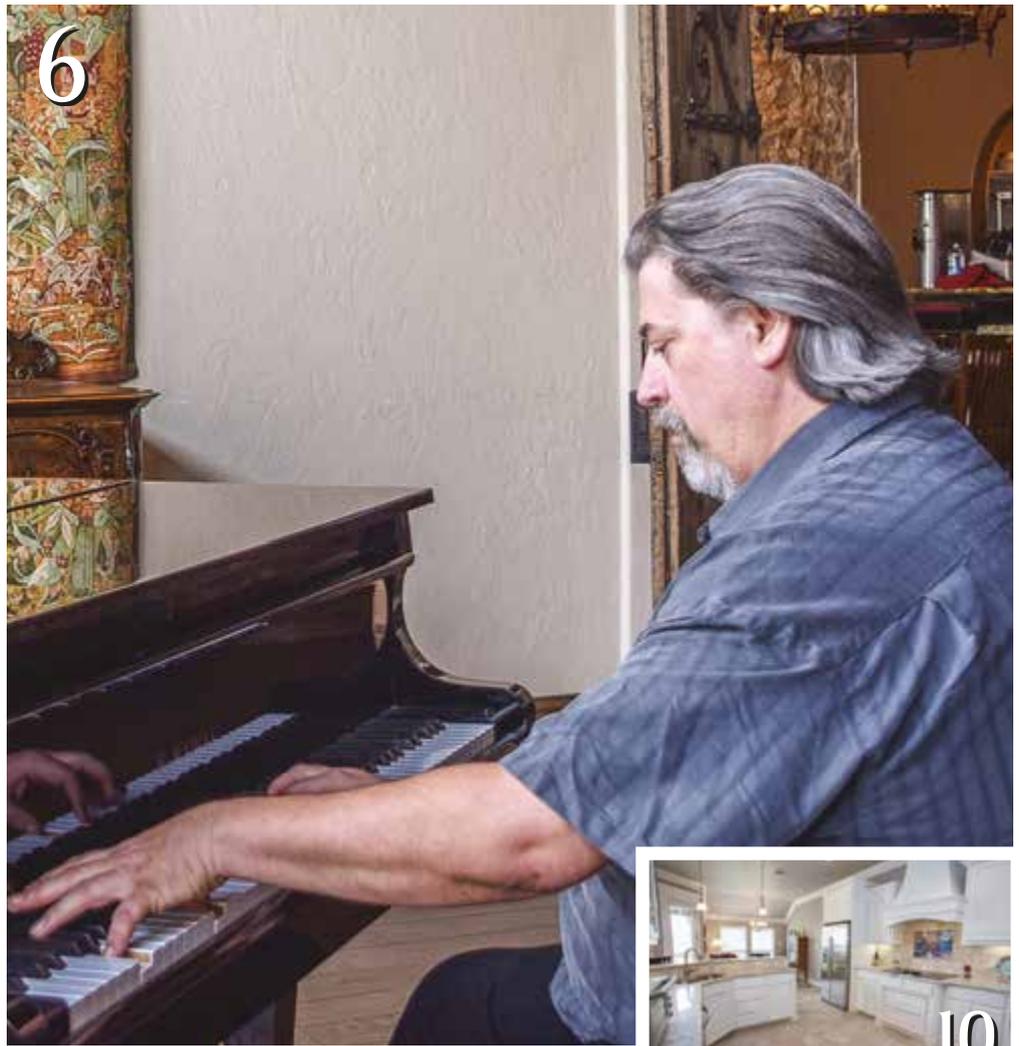
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Photo by Bill Goldsborough.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Granbury Family and Friends!

The beginning of summer isn't quite as thrilling as it used to be. With grown children, I can choose my vacation time. School calendars no longer control when I take a week off work. Nevertheless, summer remains a special time of the year. Swimming, cookouts, late nights playing outdoors and drinking in the beauty of a starry night — so many things are possible you can't do at other times of the year.

We didn't take many trips when I was a child, but every single memory remains etched in my brain. When I had my own kids, we used summer months for camping and several annual trips to Glorietta, New Mexico. Although I wish we took more trips back then, some of the sweetest times in the summer were when we simply stayed home, enjoying each other. I still like the idea of a staycation, enjoying Granbury and spending time with those I love most. If I could go anywhere, what fun would it be without my family?

Enjoy your summer!

Lisa

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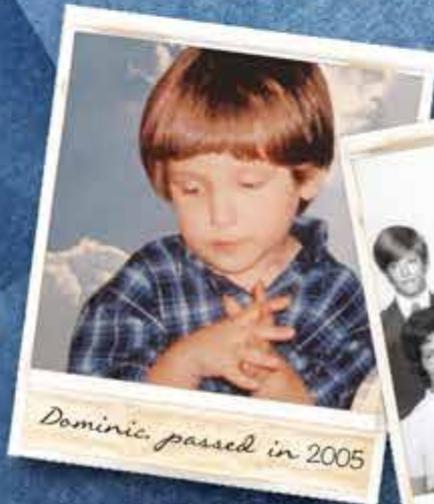
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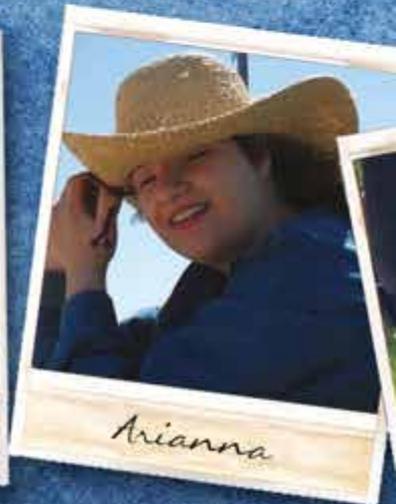
Dominic passed in 2005



Overton Family 1970



Kriel with her son Svein



Arianna

Legendary songwriter and performer Harry Chapin once wrote, "You can travel on for 10,000 miles and still stay where you are." For Jesse Overton, also a songwriter/performer, this applies to his life. Jesse and his family left Granbury when he was 5 years old and moved to Corpus Christi for his father's Christian missionary work, where he was raised. However, his heart never left Granbury, and though it took him four decades to get back as a resident, he's here to stay. "I feel like I've lived more life since coming back than I did the 40 years I was away," Jesse said. "Though I loved my friends there, Corpus began to get that concrete jungle feel."

Jesse, 56, is a professional musician, but he's also an actor and a minister in his spare time. Granbury allows the best of all those qualities to rise up in him. In 2004, Jesse returned to Granbury to live on the family farm owned by generations of Overtons. The move came after growing up in Corpus, living in Abilene for college, moving to Colorado and Arizona for a

short time, and then back to Corpus. His grandmother lived on the farm until the late 1980s. His mother and father moved back to take care of her and stayed. His father, a beloved preacher and counselor, has since passed away.

Since his return, Jesse started his own company, Overton's Overtones Music and Entertainment. He regularly plays guitar and piano at local and area restaurants, public venues and special events, as well as private parties and weddings/receptions.

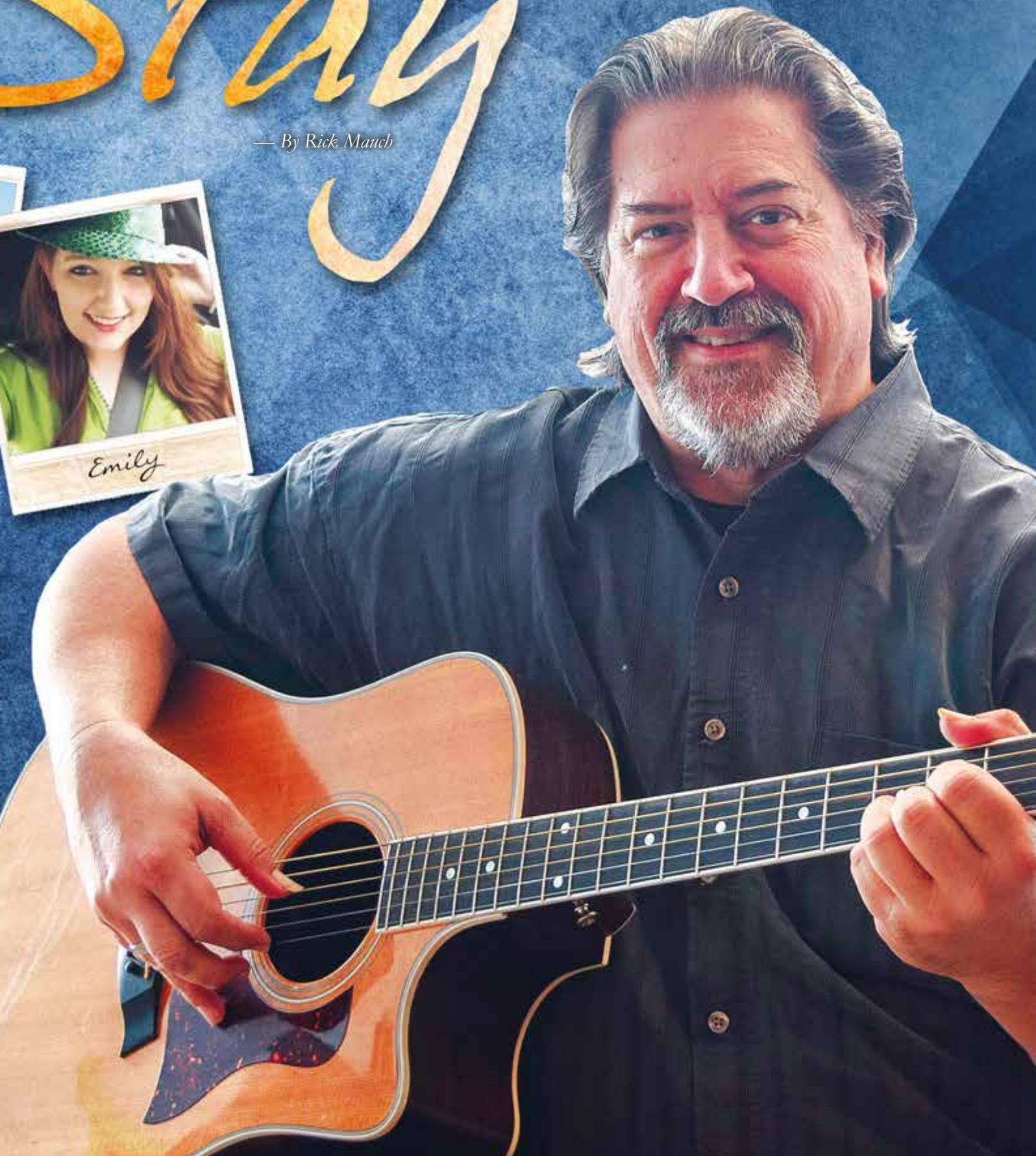
His repertoire features an interesting variety of music from his upbringing. "My mom and dad watched *The Lawrence Welk Show* and *Hee Haw* and played '40s and '50s music on the family's record player. My older brothers, David and Larry, introduced their 'kid brother' to the rock 'n' roll and soul sounds of the '50s, '60s and early '70s," Jesse said. "My favorite was the '60s and '70s, singer/songwriter era."

Jesse learned to play guitar after watching his father and Larry play regularly. Jesse would borrow their guitars every chance he got, so when he was 13, his dad, Harlan, bought him his own guitar. "My dad played guitar, banjo, mandolin — just about anything with strings," Jesse said. "He had the most gorgeous tenor voice. My mother, Veda, has a beautiful alto voice and sang in a traveling chorale group years ago."

His mother and his younger sister, Kathy, live in Granbury. He is thankful for their help with his second of three daughters,

Stay

— By Rick Mauch



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Arianna, who is autistic. "I couldn't do what I do without them," he said. "Being a single father has not been near as hard, thanks to their help." His older daughter, Ariel, has an incredible voice. His youngest daughter, Emily, is a sweetheart who lives and works in home health and goes to college in Weatherford.

Jesse's good friend, Stacy Cameron, described him as a "God-fearing man you can trust and believe in." Jesse plays in Stacy's band called Anything Goes. "He's a guy who cares about people, family and music," Stacy said. "I'm proud to have him as a friend."

"I like the '70s' phrase, 'I'm not religious. I just love the Lord,'" Jesse said. Whether in the church or on the street, he is ready to share God's love or simply listen to anyone who needs an ear.

In Corpus, at a convenience store, he spoke to a man who said he could not go to church because he was always working during meeting times. Jesse replied, "What if the church could come to you?" So, Jesse came back with his Bible and had "30-minute church." The man started telling other people. "I ended up with about 11 people who were in the same situation," Jesse remembered.

Jesse lost his 4-year-old autistic son, Dominic, to a drowning accident in 2005. When Dominic passed, he wrote a song entitled "The Smile of My Heart." That was his favorite description of his son. "My girls were grieving with his death," Jesse said, "so I wrote a song called 'How Do You Like Heaven?'"

He even plays at funerals. It's not common for an entertainer, but he understands the need for comforting music. "I didn't know if I was going to be able to handle it when I was asked to play after a young boy passed away," he said, fighting back a tear. "But sometimes you feel God flowing through you."



Jesse as The Ghost of Christmas Present in A Christmas Carol.

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Jesse is working to start an outreach and support group for parents and families who have lost a child. "The absolute rock bottom of life is losing a child," he said. "I want to tell people you can not only survive, but you can thrive. Look at me — I'm still going."

He has written over 300 songs, all with a message of hope. He longs to encourage and comfort with music that's uplifting. "Too often we forget that we all face struggles, and at one time or another we all need a little help," he said.



Jesse also loves the stage. Among the eight performances he acted in with the Granbury Theatre Company are *Fiddler on the Roof, 1776* and *A Christmas Carol*. "Aside from being a fine actor and musician, Jesse is just one of those types of guys who you just love to have around you, no matter what you're doing," said GTC President Micky Shearon. "He's always got a kind or encouraging word to say, and you always know he's ready to help in any way he can."

For Jesse, *1776* was special. Not only was he in it twice, but his first run was in the historic Hood County Courthouse — in the summer without air-conditioning. "Man, it was hot in there, but you had the reality in the old courtroom, and that was awesome," he said.

Jesse's children are the sixth generation of Overtons in the area. Several of his ancestors were instructors in Granbury and Lipan and at the old Thorp Springs Christian College, which is now TCU.

He plans to continue adding to that history. He believes there are many more songs remaining in his life. "I want to sing in churches more often. I'd like to start small vignette acting groups," he said. "That's the beauty of music, there's always something new you can do with it." **NOW**

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AT HOME WITH GWEN

FAMILY M

A tour of Gwen Sonnenburg's home is like traveling the globe.

Family, however, is just a few steps away. Gwen, 78, lives next door to her younger sister and brother-in-law, Charles and Diana Smith. She moved in after having the home built in 2014. The sisters sometimes travel together, and they recently took in an adventure that included Paris, Switzerland and Germany.

the

From each journey, Gwen brings home memorabilia. Her favorite form is art, mostly items she can hang on the walls throughout her home. "It's a beautiful reminder of places I've been," Gwen said. "It's such a wonderful world, and I'm blessed to have my share of it."

Immediately upon entrance to her home, visitors are greeted with a miniature sailboat on a shelf. On one side is a small statue of a sailor holding an anchor, and on the other is a pelican. "That's my pelican from Corpus," Gwen said. "I've lived by the ocean and in the mountains and loved both. I grew up in Levelland, Texas, where there were no beaches and no mountains. I loved the view we had in the mountains. It was panoramic. And I loved walking along the beach. It just cleanses you."

After living in Colorado for nearly 30 years, she and her husband, Ted, both retired in 2005 and began spending half the year in their mountain home and the other half in a condominium in Corpus Christi. Then, Ted became ill, and they moved to Arlington to be closer to family before his passing in 2009.

An assortment of Oriental vases is found in the dining room. They are from Gwen's two-week trip to China in 2008. This room includes the only piece of



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MEANS World

— By Rick Mauch



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furniture she has from childhood — a China cabinet filled with some of her grandmother’s crystal and a variety of cups with her grandchildren’s photos on them. And there’s a special piece of art she received from a third-grade girl while visiting China — a drawing of trees and flowers. “This little girl comes running out of the classroom and hands it to me. It’s one of my most precious memories,” Gwen said. The dining room also features a photo of tiny downtown Westcliffe, Colorado. The family mountain home is just outside of town, where her daughter, author Shana Abé, now lives.

Above the stove in the kitchen is a



painting of Italy, constructed of tiles that match the rest of the wall. Diana and Charles had it made especially for the house as it was being built.

Each of the guest bedrooms has small containers filled with sand dollars. Gwen would find them while walking along the beach. In one of the guest bedrooms are two beautiful paintings from Monet’s garden, just outside of Paris. There are more in the living room.

A shelf in one of the guest bedrooms has 16 of Shana’s novels proudly displayed. “She started out writing romance novels. She moved back home, after she stopped modeling,” said Gwen, a former drama teacher. “She didn’t want to do acting.” Shana has also written some science fiction novels.

On a guest bedroom wall is a painting by Shana of the view from their Colorado property. Another wall has a photo of a lighthouse from

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Nantucket, Massachusetts, where she and Diana visited. Another has a picture of the Empress Hotel in Vancouver, and above a table is an antique print from Venice. A tiny cabin made from a variety of materials is the handiwork of Charles. The entire model is about 9-by-9 inches. There's an entire tiny village he constructed in his and Diana's garage. "Everything is handmade," Gwen said. "I keep telling him he should display it for lots of people to see."

In the hallway is a picture of one of Ted's favorite places — La Jolla, California. "My husband used to love to go down and watch the seals, while I was out there recruiting," Gwen said with a laugh. "I was working, while he was out there playing."

Gwen's career included being a counselor, assistant principal, principal, director of human resources and executive director of mid-level education. Ted worked in computers, in their early stages, before later becoming a tax accountant. They had three children. Stacey is a Department of Agriculture contractor, Shana is an author and Ted III is an engineer.

The hallway to Gwen's office features a towered shelf filled with seashells, and next to it is a soothing painting of ocean waves. "Having it there by the shells just makes me happy when I walk by," she said.

A montage of four paintings comprises a picture of a small French cafe. Next to it is a print from Amsterdam, which she, ironically, did not get in that country. "I had just gotten back from Amsterdam and found it in Corpus," Gwen said. "How's that for irony?"

The desk in her office overlooks the nearby lake. Enjoying the view is a great way for her to start her mornings.

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A small table on the other side of the living room is filled with Japanese teapots and cups.

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Next to the desk are some photographs of Paris, taken by her sister on a previous trip, forming a collage. On the desk is a photo of Ted III, from whom she has seven of her nine grandchildren.

Above the fireplace in the living room is a piece of modern art painted by Gwen herself. It features colors slowly drifting from white to black. "Life has shades," she said. "I painted this for my kids just as a lesson to them." A small table on the other side of the living room is filled with Japanese teapots and cups. It sits a few inches above the floor. Above the table is an Oriental art painting Stacey gave to her.

On the shelf in the large closet in Gwen's bedroom are a dozen plates from China. Each one represents a heroine from the *Beauties of the Red Mansion* series. "It's the equivalent of our *Gone With the Wind*," Gwen said. "That one was the first piece of artwork allowed to leave Communist China."

On the wall is a poem written especially for her. It is entitled "For Our Sister," and was given to her by some former co-workers. "I never thought a closet would be one of my favorite rooms," Gwen said.

In the yard is a large live oak tree she and her sister share. They do not, however, share decorating ideas, Gwen divulged with a chuckle. "When she wants warm and cozy, she stays at her place," she said. "When she wants light and airy, she comes to my place. Either way, I'm just glad she's close by, so we can share so much."

They even share the daily newspaper. Diana reads it first and then takes it to Gwen. "I love being next to my sister," Diana said. "It makes each day nicer. I wouldn't have it any other way." **NOW**

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Stones and Storms

— By Lisa Bell

Born in Granbury, Hadlee Holt Jackson remembers living above Holt's Jewelry on the square, which her dad owned at the time. Like many teenagers, she moved away after finishing high school and lived in Galveston and Santa Fe, Texas.

Hadlee's dad had a stroke in 1998, so she and her husband, Allen, moved home. Her dad survived until October 2009, 12 years after her mom passed. With both parents gone, Hadlee grew closer to her aunt, thinking she'd live forever. But her aunt also passed in April 2016. Grief stuck to Hadlee. During the summer floods, she saw friends living in Brazoria County hiding painted rocks of encouragement, having fun in spite of sorrowful circumstances around them.

In an effort to work through grief, Hadlee decided to paint and hide rocks as a memorial to her parents and beloved aunt. "I painted rocks with my dad when I was little. He saved them. My mom also collected rocks," she shared. Planning to start on her birthday in 2016, Hadlee's family was rear-ended while coming back from a trip to Oklahoma. A sufferer of Meniere's disease, which manifests as severe vertigo, the accident undid all the healing she accomplished since 2013. While she delayed the beginning of Hood County Rocks, her best friends stayed on her to start the group.

Finally, October 1, 2016, Hadlee created the Facebook page, inviting all of her friends. Then she painted and hid her first rocks — simple rocks with encouraging messages. She didn't know if anyone found them for a while. Then people started responding. The group gradually grew to more than 800. Suddenly, the number of members exploded to 2,000. By mid-April, the group reached 3,226 members.



Not long after starting, Hadlee found out about a worldwide group who does what she implemented in Hood County. The original group, The Kindness Project, began with a grieving woman. "I just bawled when I found out why the original group started," Hadlee confessed. The connection deepened and made her want to keep painting rocks for people to find. "I never expected it to get so big in such a short time." She supports her rock project by using Wal-Mart savings catcher to buy them. She personally uses paint pens and writes directions on the back of the rocks.

People find rocks, and many times the message speaks to their hearts. One lady

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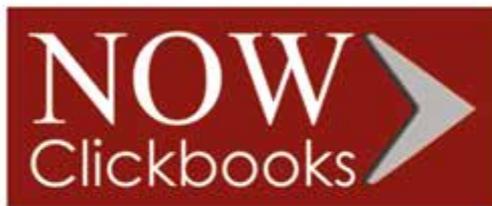
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found a rock while headed to a funeral. The rock happened to have a cat on it, and the deceased loved cats. The rocks range from simple words, like *smile* or *spread kindness*, all the way to elaborate drawings. Hadlee said, "Amber Morrison, an amazing artist, along with many young and old, make up the core of Hood County Rocks." The "artist" hides the rock with instructions to take a picture. Post it on the Facebook page, and then keep or re-hide it for someone else to find. The largest rock lives between the beach and square. Easy to find, not so easy to relocate.

Kids especially enjoy finding the rocks. Quite often, they find another hiding place, but they want to make more and hide them. Hadlee loves seeing the kids get outside to hunt, and learn to show kindness. Often the entire family gets involved, which also makes her happy.

On the group page, stories appear from visitors who take a rock home. So the kindness spreads. "I'm amazed at how it's grown," she said. "Maybe it's the kindness. People need kindness." One person came from Georgia, running from a hurricane and found a rock that said, *Healing*. She took it home, not knowing what she might encounter when she got there.

What Hadlee needed to help her through deep grief quickly grew to help countless people. She sees the group as a mission. With Meniere's disease, she can't work at a regular job, which gives her time for stones and storms.

Long before Hadlee started painting rocks, she spent time chasing storms. "It's just my mission. Kind of like this rock thing. It seems like a divine intervention." She always loved weather, watching skies and spotting funnels. Even as a teen, she wanted to chase them. "I did some in Houston with friends, but nothing serious," she said.

After moving back to Granbury, Hadlee heard about National Weather Service



Skywarn Storm Spotters. In 2000, she took the class and jumped in, pregnant and all. Her 16-year-old son now helps hide rocks. Being a woman, the local chasers weren't welcoming at first. They insisted she had to get a ham radio operator's license before she could join them. Although she knew it wasn't a requirement, with the help of Hood County Amateur Radio Club she got the license. She became friends

with Jerry Mayo, NWS Gary Woodall and NWS Alan Moller, who kept an eye on her while mentoring storm-chasing skills.

When the tornado hit in 2013, they saw the funnel. But it went up, and as the rain wrapped the tornado, they lost sight of it. As the first storm Hadlee tracked with fatalities, it affected her. Then two weeks later, three veteran chasers died while chasing a tornado in El Reno, Oklahoma. "It changed me," she said. "It was a grim reminder to always be safe while we do what we do."

Hadlee prefers to chase alone and not be responsible for any other person, but because of Meniere's, she doesn't go out alone much, and seldom at night. Her husband, Allen, accompanies her, hooked out of self-defense. "My daddy warned him," she said, chuckling. "I love it — weather, excitement, beauty of the clouds and getting the word out." On a personal level, she likes the structure and seeing the whole storm. Positioned high on a hill, she views the entirety of thunder, lightning and even the formation of funnel clouds. "There's no need to get close," she said.

Hadlee also posts weather reports every day on the Hood County Breaking News Facebook page. The invitation to create the post every morning and update as needed thrilled her. The ability to help others fulfills a need within her.

Whether painting stones or watching storms, Hadlee loves life. She can't imagine living anywhere other than Granbury. With Hood County Rocks, she witnesses the caring hearts of the community. And she's seen that care in action because of storms. She may not mix the two hobbies, but she's serious about both. Still, she might take a minute from hiding rocks to check the skies, if necessary. And should a storm arise, she'll drop the rocks and head to the hills, literally, where she'll make every effort to keep the community informed. It's her mission. **NOW**



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Unordinary Agency

With savings in the business name, TexasRealEstateSavings.com has to be different. — By Lisa Bell

Greg Willis started life in Granbury in 1962, born just off the square. He and his wife, Dawn, moved back from the mountains of Colorado in 2005. With family still in the area, he wanted to be closer and make sure the kids knew their grandparents.

During a 20-year period, Greg worked as a youth minister and pastored three churches. To supplement his income, he earned his real estate license in 1997. Now, 20 years later, Greg has over 800 sales to his credit. Dawn, also licensed, works with him as the client transaction specialist. He handles listings and showings, while she walks their clients through the contract period. With her detail and organization skills, they complement each other and make the full-service experience the best for their clients.

They opened their business under Granbury Real Estate Group in 2013, but changed the name to

TexasRealEstateSavings.com in 2014. But Dawn and Greg are not just another agency. “I love helping people accomplish their goals and still save,” he said. “I like meeting people and helping them walk through challenges.” Their focus is on providing full service, while saving their clients significant money.

The business services many areas. In addition to Hood County, Greg also spends time with clients in Parker, Johnson and Tarrant counties on a regular basis. They are a full-service broker, but they don’t charge the normal 6-percent commission. Greg strives to provide the best service in town in spite of charging lower commissions. “It’s not 1980. You don’t have to pay 6-percent to get full service,” he said. His concept is simple — charge less and help people save money. He also gives rebates to buyers as an incentive.

Greg stated that his sellers save on average \$2,000-\$8,000 on commissions. The cash rebate helps buyers get into their new home. With the years of experience, they know about real estate. Experience isn't learned at real estate school. "That's just to pass the test," Greg divulged. "Good real estate service is learned through practice."

TexasRealEstateSavings.com supports Compassion International. For many years, Greg and Dawn served as active advocates, encouraging others to back the organization. Today, their involvement includes sponsoring children through the program.

"I like meeting people and helping them walk through challenges."

In the future, they want to expand their footprint in Texas by licensing or franchising. Currently, they employ one assistant. They are also part of the National Association of Realtors.

Greg shared a few tips for potential buyers and sellers. First, always remember commissions are negotiable. Whether you use TexasRealEstateSavings.com or another agency, you don't have to pay 6-percent in the state of Texas. Second, ask questions when deciding what agent you use. Check experience. How long have they practiced, and how many sales can they claim? Finally, be sure a Realtor has lots of satisfied customers. Many sites include reviews. Greg invites anyone to check his reviews at www.WillisReviews.com, where he has many reviews on Zillow.

Especially for first-time homebuyers, Greg said, "Be comfortable with your Realtor." Honesty on both sides goes a long way in making sure you love your new home and the experience of buying it. He knows they must be doing something right. The National Association of Realtors states the average Realtor has 11 transactions per year. Last year, Greg had 101. **NOW**

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GMS Science Fair winner, Averie Coffman, enjoys honor at a society dinner.



Legendary Hall of Famer Roger Staubach headlines Granbury leadership event.



As part of a buddies initiative, Brawner student Jesus joins his friend, Phyllis Gutherie, for lunch at Waterview.



Margie Kirby, three-time cancer survivor, still loves geraniums that are a perfect addition for two milk cans she's painting.



Cousins, Dannab Procter and Sharon Ward, had car problems, but they don't mind staying in Granbury.



The Pirate golf team is headed to state tournament.



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June 2

Curtain Call a Musical Journey: 7:30-10:00 p.m., Granbury Opera House. Opera Guild annual fundraiser. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.granburytheatrecompany.org or call (817) 579-0952.

June 3

Glen Rose Summer Concert Series: 8:00-10:00 p.m., Oakdale Park, 1019 N.E. Barnard St., Glen Rose. Shane Watson Band opens the weekly concert series in nearby Glen Rose. Details through Eventbrite or visit Oakdale Park free Summer Concert Series on Facebook.

June 4 — July 14

El Tesoro Overnight Camp: six-day, 13-day and four-day sessions, 7710 Fall Creek Hwy. Register or learn more about El Tesoro camp at www.campfirefw.org/youth/camps/.

June 5 — July 28

El Tesoro Day Camp: one-week sessions, 7710 Fall Creek Hwy. Register or learn more about El Tesoro camp at www.campfirefw.org/youth/camps/.

June 5 — August 4

GTC Summer Classes: Various times and dates, Granbury Opera House. Classes, camps, master classes and private lessons available. Visit www.granburytheatrecompany.org for schedule and details.

June 6

Family Night-Build It: 6:30 p.m., Granbury Public Library, 222 N. Travis. Visit www.youseemore.com/hood/ for details and other programs available, or for more information call (817) 573-3569.

June 8

Acting Workshop: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Granbury Public Library, 222 N. Travis. Workshop for ages 6-10 with Megan Hildebrand of Granbury Theatre Academy. Visit www.youseemore.com/hood/ for details and other programs available, or for more information call (817) 573-3569.

June 13

Kids Knitting Camp: 1:30-2:30 p.m., Granbury Public Library, 222 N. Travis. Children ages 9 and up will learn the basics of knitting and make a fun project. Registration required. Call the library at (817) 573-3569.

June 22

Acting Workshop: 2:30-3:30 p.m., Granbury Public Library, 222 N. Travis. Workshop for ages 11-18 with Megan Hildebrand of

Granbury Theatre Academy. Visit www.youseemore.com/hood/ for details and other programs available, or for more information call (817) 573-3569.

June 29

LEGO Club: 3:00-4:00 p.m., Granbury Public Library, 222 N. Travis. Visit www.youseemore.com/hood/ for details and other programs available, or for more information call (817) 573-3569.

July 1

Acton Celebrates America Concert: 6:30 p.m., doors open; 7:00 p.m., concert, Acton FUMC, 3433 Fall Creek Hwy. Featuring AUMC and guest musicians. Seating and parking limited. Information available at www.actonumc.org or call the church office (817) 326-4242.

July 16 — 28

Equestrian Overnight Camp: 7710 Fall Creek Hwy. Register or learn more about El Tesoro camp at www.campfirefw.org/youth/camps/.

Ongoing:

Second Mondays

Lake Granbury Art Association meeting: 7:00 p.m., Shanley House. Program followed by Q&A time. Refreshments served. Free for citizens supporting art and artists. Jeanette Alexander at (817) 578-3090.

Second Tuesdays

Granbury Knitting Guild: 9:30 a.m.-noon, Presbyterian Church fellowship hall, 303 W. Bridge St. Coffee, 9:30; meeting starts, 10:00. For more information, contact Cosette Falter, humhound@yahoo.com.

Third Tuesdays

Greater Granbury Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America meeting: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Pecan Plantation Country Club. Contact Colonel Mike Brake, USAF (Ret), (702) 612-9317, or speedbrake@gmail.com.

Fourth Tuesdays

Texas Patriots Tea Party meeting: 7:00 p.m., Cleburne Conference Center, 1501 W. Henderson, Cleburne. www.texaspatriotsteaparty.org.

Wednesdays

Fresh Starts, Divorce Recovery Group: 6:30 p.m., Granbury FUMC Room #119, 301 Loop 567. Covers all stages of separation or divorce. All ages, faiths, denominations, beliefs and ages welcome. There is no cost or pre-registration required. Childcare provided. For details, call (817) 573-5573.

Third Wednesdays

Master Gardeners meeting: 1:00-2:00 p.m., Hood County Annex 1 Meeting Room, 1410 W. Pearl St. For information, contact (817) 579-3280.

First Thursdays

Hood County Clean Air Coalition meeting: 8:30 a.m., Neely House, 304 E. Rucker St. This proactive organization exists to promote clean air in Hood County. Visit www.hoodcountycleanair.com. Contact Michelle McKenzie, (682) 936-4049 or mmckenzie@hoodcountycleanair.com.

Granbury Extension Education Club luncheon: 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Hood County Annex 1 Meeting Room, 1410 W. Pearl St. Monthly programs cover family and consumer science topics and community service projects are planned. For information, contact Brianne Langdon, (817) 408-0746.

Second Thursdays

Special Needs Parent Support and Networking Group: 6:15-8:00 p.m., Lake Pointe Resource Center, 1921 Acton Hwy. Parents and professionals learn, connect and share in a caring, responsive and socially supportive setting. Free. Visit www.lakepointegrnburry.com or call (817) 937-4332.

Third Thursdays

Diabetes Support Group: 6:00-7:00 p.m., third floor bingo room, Lakestone Terrace Retirement Community, 916 E. Hwy 377. Free, facilitated meetings for those seeking information, inspiration and support for successfully living with diabetes. Call (817) 736-0668.

Second Saturdays

Girls Night Out: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Granbury Town Square. Collect pink tickets for a \$100 Downtown Dollar Shopping Spree. Visit the Girls Night Out Facebook Page for details, special sales and promotions.

Last Saturdays

Last Saturday Gallery Night: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Granbury Town Square. Supporting galleries open late. "Meet the artists," receptions, demonstrations, hors d'oeuvres, wine and music. A tram runs between galleries. Visit Galleries of Granbury on Facebook Page for details.

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



In the Kitchen With Melinda Gunnells

— *By Lisa Bell*

“I enjoy cooking because my husband and I love eating delicious food,” Melinda Gunnells said. “Home-cooked food tastes so wonderful. I love making some of the recipes my mom used to cook when I was growing up.” She grew up in Covington, Texas, with great cooks at church. But her first cooking experience came around 6 years old when she helped her grandmother make fried sugar pies. Her mom also loved cooking and had a collection of cookbooks. She still uses those cookbooks, along with recipes from her mom and grandmother.

Melinda enjoys down-home cooking for her husband, family and friends. “My inspiration for cooking is probably my appetite,” she shared. She likes looking through old cookbooks and making crafts in her spare time. **NOW**

Fried Sugar Pies

1 can refrigerated buttermilk biscuits
1 Tbsp. sugar (per biscuit)
1 tsp. vanilla (per biscuit)
2 tsp. butter (per biscuit)
Oil for frying

1. Roll out and flatten each biscuit.
2. Add sugar, vanilla and butter to each flattened biscuit.
3. Crimp edges of biscuits together and fry in oil until golden brown.

Sittin’ on a Ritz

Base:
8 oz. dates, chopped
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 1/2 cups pecans, chopped
1 box Ritz Crackers

Topping:
1 stick butter, softened

4 oz. cream cheese, softened to room temperature
1 3/4 cups powdered sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

1. *For base:* In a saucepan, bring dates and sweetened condensed milk to a slow simmer for 1 minute.
 2. Remove from heat and stir in pecans; mix well.
 3. Top each cracker with one tsp. of the mixture. Place crackers on a cookie sheet. Bake in preheated oven at 350 F for 6 minutes.
 4. *For topping:* Cream butter and cream cheese with a mixer until well-blended. Add powdered sugar and vanilla; mix well.
 5. Top each cracker with 1/2 tsp. of icing.
- Note:* Do not refrigerate or crackers will be soft.

Sausage and Kraut Turnovers

2 Tbsp. onion, chopped

2 Tbsp. butter
1/2 lb. smoked sausage, chopped
1 cup sauerkraut, rinsed and well-drained
2 Tbsp. grated cheddar cheese
1/4 tsp. caraway seeds
1 10-oz. can buttermilk biscuits
3 tsp. melted butter

1. In a skillet, cook onion in butter until tender.
2. Add sausage and sauerkraut. Cook over low heat for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Stir in cheese and caraway seeds. Allow to cool while you prepare the dough.
4. Separate dough into 10 biscuits. Roll each biscuit into a five-inch circle.
5. Spoon two Tbsp. of meat mixture onto the center of each circle. Fold in half over meat and press edges to seal.
6. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Brush tops with melted butter. Bake at 375 F for 10 to 15 minutes until golden brown.

Double Lemon Cheesecake

Cheesecake:

1 8-oz. pkg. softened cream cheese
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 6-oz. can frozen lemonade, thawed
1 1/2 tsp. lemon extract
1 3.4-oz. pkg. instant lemon pudding mix
1 8-oz. carton nondairy whipped topping
2 shortbread piecrusts (or Graham cracker piecrusts)

Topping:

1 pkg. large Jell-O Cook & Serve Lemon Pudding and Pie Filling mix
1 1/2 tsp. lemon extract

1. *For cheesecake:* Beat cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk until fluffy.
2. Add lemonade, lemon extract and powdered lemon pudding mix. Beat well.
3. Fold in nondairy whipped topping. Pour half of mixture into each piecrust.
4. *For topping:* Make pudding according to the directions on the pkg. and add lemon extract.
5. Allow to cool until only slightly warm. Spread half over the top of each pie.

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