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JUNE 2018

## Beautiful Twists

Tommy Parker creates wonders from wire, rocks and old wood

2018 Dads and Grads Shopping Guide

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## ON THE COVER

*In the hands of Tommy Parker, wire and scraps become beautiful artwork.*

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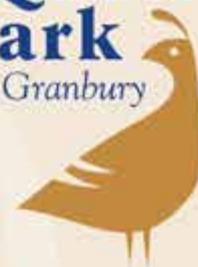
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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Lisa*

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*Hello, Granbury Family and Friends!*

This month, I could write about greeting summer or the little remembered Flag Day, but June is synonymous with Father's Day. And, perhaps that is only right and good. Why is it fathers don't receive as many gifts, cards and calls as mothers welcome in May? Are they any less important? I think not. In fact, I believe daddies are one of the most important people in our lives. If they are absent during childhood, it affects us more than we may realize.

Dads teach us the crucial things of life — how to fish, hunt and garden perhaps. But they also model respect for others and ourselves. They teach us work ethics by example. They fix things, because ... well, that's just what dads do. And if they can't fix it, they try to make everything better anyway. A daddy can soothe a hurting heart and convince us life will go on, and it will be OK.

For those who didn't have a father like that, I'm sorry. I hope God put other men in your life to teach you all you needed to know and to be that father figure you longed to have. Be sure to thank the "dad" in your life this month — whether biological or by choice.

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# BEAUTIFUL TWIST

— By Rick Mauch



*Give Tommy Parker some wire, a rock and/ or a piece of old wood, and step back. What comes next is a treescape creation — a combination of the materials into a unique work of art.*

“I get me an audiobook, sit down, start listening and just go,” Tommy said, explaining his work process. “When it all started, I was going to make dogs or animals or such, but then I made some trees and it just kind of stuck. Trees are unique. They’re beautiful. I’ve always been fascinated by them.”

Tommy typically works with silver- and gold-colored wire. He twists it into designs to resemble various trees, some more intricate than others. Sometimes the result is simply a tree on an old rock he found while walking. Other times, the creation is more involved, such as the inclusion of an old longhorn skull made of wire. Yet, another features a tree, a smaller tree, a deer skull and a bird nest on petrified wood.

“We both tend to collect rocks and petrified wood,” said Dale Parker, Tommy’s wife. “Whatever he creates, I get to decide first if I want it.”

Most of the creations are small, some no bigger than a couple inches, such as one he made for his granddaughter. The largest he’s ever made is about 3 feet long with eight trees, a half-dozen bushes, a longhorn skull and some arrowheads. He made it for a friend. “That one took about a week-and-a-half, but usually they



don't take that long at all," Tommy said. "Lots of times, it's just a few hours. It depends on the rock or piece of wood — how big they are and what I do with them. I've put them in champagne glasses and fish bowls. Each one has its own personality. It fits the person for some reason. Also, the trees complement what they're attached to."

One of the very first pieces Tommy created was when they were on a vacation in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. It's on a piece of quartz. "This is gorgeous. It's one of my favorites," Dale said.

She then held up a tiny piece of art in which Tommy created a tree inside a small, hollowed-out object. She speculated what it could be. "It could be a nut or a seed pod, but whatever it is, it's beautiful."

"It's just something that's unique," said the ever-humble Tommy. "I have a half a ton [of rocks and old wood]. I just go through them and pick out whatever suits me at the moment."

Tommy, 71, and Dale, 68, have been married 51 years. They were in the horse-breeding business for 35 years before retiring seven years ago. It was about three years ago that Tommy stumbled upon this new passion when they still lived in



Cleburne. “We had a cold spell and a freeze a few years ago. Dale was going to Hobby Lobby, and I decided to go with her,” he recalled. “That’s how it got started. I was actually going to get something to paint.”

Dale and their daughter, Amy Skinner, have their own crocheting business named Family Tyes. They travel to various festivals and markets, and now take some of Tommy’s creations with them as his side business, Treescapes. The flyer describing Tommy’s work defines it as “representing hope for a new beginning. Made with collections from my travels across North America with the hopes that each of my trees speaks to you in some way.”

His artwork has been a big hit. “People enjoy trees,” he said. “They like how trees speak to them.”

Tommy’s work can be painstaking, literally. “Your fingers get a little cut up,” he said. “I’ll experiment with different types of wire, and some of it can get brittle. You have to cut the wire at the right length. It comes on little spools, like thread. You have to prefigure how you’re going to shape all the branches, and that involves a lot of twisting.”

Treescapes isn’t Tommy’s first creative venture. He was featured in a Neil Sperry landscaping magazine for a 3-acre garden he created at their ranch in Cleburne. He has also created artwork with tiles, such as a mural on the side of Dale’s studio, at that same ranch. “The people who bought the ranch renamed it Southern Sun Farm,” Dale said, noting the influence of the mural. It had been named Winridge Farm.

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And Tommy is also quite the birdhouse builder. Though he doesn't do that much anymore (only getting the urge now and then), his collection is quite creative and colorful, such as a set of attached houses they call Birdville, or a bird resort in their front yard that is brightly colored green. "That one across the creek reminds me of Alice in Wonderland," Dale said, pointing to a bright orange birdhouse.



But Tommy does not consider himself an artist. "I'm not artistic. Never have been," he said.

Others, however, would argue that point. Tommy has had offers to display his work, but he's yet to accept. "I just love making them," he said. "I'm not really into being in the spotlight."

Tommy doesn't follow any schedule with his artwork. When he feels like creating, he does. He and Dale are also taking all the time they can to enjoy their three children and six grandchildren, along with three dogs and two parrots, including 28-year-old Alex. "You can have a conversation with him," Dale said. "The other mimics words, but Alex will actually start a conversation. He's been around so long he knows everything about everybody."

They also hope to do more traveling. And as they do, Tommy will continue to look for more inspiration. "I like landscapes," he said. "I'll always find beauty in them." **NOW**

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AT HOME WITH DAVID AND CLAUDIA

# Through the Years

— By Lisa Bell

*On June 14, David and Claudia Southern celebrate their 43rd wedding anniversary. Granbury has been their home for most of those years. The couple, both Abilene Christian University alumni, visited Granbury with friends and found it charming. In 1980, they chose the community because of its cocooned small-town feeling, which they considered perfect for raising a family. They moved and started their business, Southern Concepts, to assist intellectual and developmentally challenged adults. Although they sold the business two years ago, they still claim Granbury as their town.*

Both quickly became involved in the community. Claudia was the second woman on the Granbury school board and the first woman president. David went into city government, serving 25 years on the City Council and then was elected mayor, serving in that capacity from 1995 until 2010.

Their home, built in 1905, has a long history, although they are actually only the fifth owners. In 1986, when they bought the home, a restaurant filled the bottom floor. They lived in the upper story and ran the restaurant for several years. Eventually, they transformed it into a bed-and-breakfast. However, when Claudia discovered their young son riding his tricycle along the busy



## SOUTHERN

street in front of the house, she insisted on moving to a quieter neighborhood.

In 2005, they closed the bed-and-breakfast and moved back into the beloved Victorian near downtown. She especially likes the front room. “I love them all,” she said, “but the front room is very peaceful.”

This room is where women came for conversation after dinner, while the men retired to another room. Claudia also used the front room for counseling. Antiques fill the room, including silk brocade drapes specially made for the house by the former owner, Mrs. Harris. She crafted the drapes after saving the house from being demolished in 1974. They thought about replacing them, but after seeing the exact same fabric during a White House tour, David decided they were pretty special. The drapes hang in the front windows, a perfect accent to the carved mantel with the Chinese dragon and lotus flower influences of 1905.

David’s favorite room is the large

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framed piece of carpet reminds them of what covered the floor for a time. The wooden floors are original. The plaster in the ceiling incorporated the latest in fire control.

The house has the original transoms, and with its design, opening a few windows creates a wonderful, cool draft throughout the home. In the den, they extended the fireplace mantel and now use it to hold a television. The fireplaces in the den and living room used coal, the fuel of choice during the early 1900s.

As with many older homes, two staircases provide easy access to the second story. Beneath one of them, a bathroom added in the '70s remains for convenience. In the foyer against the carved staircase, a courting bench brings back memories of days when young men came to visit the young ladies of the home. A piano owned by David's aunt sits in the foyer outside of the dining room. Updated to a



a corner drop-leaf adds extra seating when needed. The wallpaper replicates the original style in rich navy and burgundy, with a double plate rail all the way around the room. The rail holds a collection of Hummel plates and those given to the couple for several years of participation during the annual tour of homes.

dining room. "It's the most ornate and elegant," he shared. "That's also where we have big family dinners." The long table seats 12 people, and

They use china that came from David's parents. "Claudia is great at finding matching or complementing pieces," he said. A covered window seat adds charm to the room, and a



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player piano, it offers wonderful music when needed. "It's a grand house for entertaining," they both said.

When built, the kitchen apparently included running water, the most modern convenience of the time. It may have been one of the first built with indoor plumbing. A remaining fireplace vent, hidden in a cabinet, allows for ventilation even with modern appliances. At one time, the coal stove served as a modern way of cooking. The large butler pantry has

the original glass, but at one point, they believe it was a bathroom. A lovely light fixture doubles as a pot rack, holding pots and pans used less frequently, but adding a bit of antique charm.

Although the kitchen features some beautiful cabinets, an old-fashioned bakery pantry stands alone, still used by the couple. Eventually, they will replace it with built-in cabinetry. It currently has pentagon-shaped tiles on the floor and a large island. They plan to update with granite, completing a modernization of the kitchen.

Upstairs, the bedrooms maintain much of their original feel, although they added closets and remodeled an attic space into a bathroom. David designed the master bathroom, modeling one he saw at the Stephen F. Austin Renaissance Hotel that used marble. The original fuse box no longer functions, as the wiring was redone long ago. However, David

insisted they leave it as a reminder of a time when the home needed only six fuses to operate all of the electricity for the large two-story house.

The balcony room is a favorite area upstairs. Now a library and kid's play area, the door still has an etched hunting scene window. It opens onto a wraparound balcony, perfect for sitting outside and enjoying morning coffee. They can still see the lake from the balcony, and the winds, along with ceiling fans, make it a great evening retreat, as well.

Out back, the couple has an oasis that surrounds the carriage house, where David's aunt and uncle now live. Although the house sits on a busy street, the private courtyard seems miles from anyone.

The house has seen many occupants and even businesses. But now, David and Claudia live comfortably in the historic house they've loved almost since moving to Granbury. **NOW**

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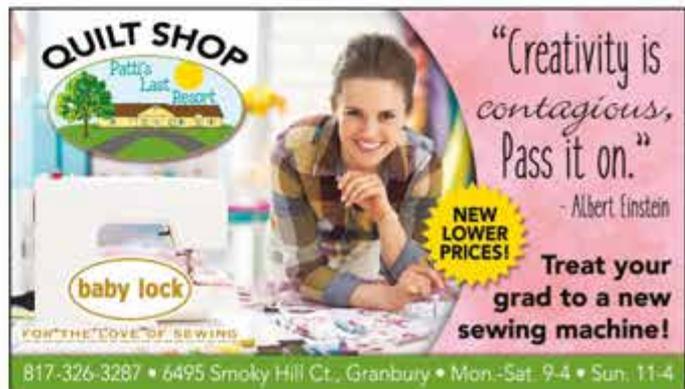
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## Intentional Purpose

— By Lisa Bell

“Character is the forefront,” stated Anna Roe, principal at Acton Elementary School. Although she fully understands state requirements and the need for quality education, Mrs. Roe also realizes that education without character building doesn’t take a student far in life. One of her favorite quotes came from Martin Luther King Jr. “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.”

Anna believes in that quote and strives to make sure it shows at Acton Elementary every day. This year, she took things a step further and implemented a new program, Pirates with Purpose. After Anna applied for and received a grant, Karla Willmeth, Jill Jernigan and Maggie Walton helped begin the program, targeting boys in third to fifth grade. The goal is an intentional, purposeful club for young

boys on campus. Staff and volunteers work with students to discuss respect, community service, social etiquette, leadership, integrity and character. Through weekly meetings and outside activities, they hope to build strong young leaders.

Teachers and counselors nominate young men for the club. After meeting with each boy, he must decide whether or not to make the commitment required. Participation may mean he misses recess or a fun classroom activity, but not core curriculum. For the first year, they capped the club at 40 students. Going forward they hope to expand to more boys and create a separate club for girls.

“The boys drive what we talk about,” Anna said. Each meeting contains life lessons. But the subjects aren’t trivial. One lesson around Martin Luther King Jr. prompted videos of the boys sharing their own dreams. Normally they take 45 minutes for the club, but that day they spent two hours expressing deep thoughts about how they wanted to make the world better.

And that is the goal of this club — becoming the best version of themselves and then imparting that to the world

around them. Even as children, they learn to make a difference where they are. Because of the program, the boys learn innovation. They tend to progress faster and are problem solvers. "This generation believes they can change the world," Anna shared. "We want to make sure they do it with integrity and purpose. We empower them to embrace who they are and become leaders. Achievement will come."

For Anna, relationships are important. Needs always come first, and she strives to model a positive environment, even in hard times — a practice that encompasses the entire school, not just Pirates with Purpose. "We have the power to choose the direction we take," she said. "Knowing you're loved makes a big difference."

Fridays at Acton Elementary include E-time clusters. During a seven-week period, the kids get to choose areas of interest. From sculpting and other visual arts, drama, cooking, choir and ukuleles, to soccer, sports management, Google academy and newscasting, the students experience project work. At the end of the period, they must have a product or service. Examples of their work include cards for a children's hospital, visiting a nursing home, a musical concert and performing sign language during the Christmas program.

In her sixth year as principal at Acton Elementary, Anna loves all her kids — even the ones long gone on to upper grades. A mother of six, Anna has three biological daughters and three more children through adoption and fostering. "They're all my babies," she said. "They're always asking, 'Are we gonna get another brother or sister?'"

At home and school, Anna focuses on love, character and the individuality of each child. In the process, she moves with the intentional purpose of growing kids into productive adults with great character. Pirates with Purpose is simply one more way of achieving that goal. **NOW**

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CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*

NICOLE GWIN

— By Lindsay L. Allen



When Nicole Gwin became a stay-at-home mom with twins, she began to teach herself the art of cooking to help fill her days. Now a working mom of three little ones, she says cooking is her form of relaxation. “When I was young, my mother would say I could burn water, but when I later figured out how to cook and the different techniques, I really started enjoying it. I’m lucky that my husband is such a ‘willing taste tester,’” she said.

Nicole prefers to hand-mix everything, rarely ever using her electric mixer. She prefers to cook from scratch and also enjoys using a Crock-Pot. Her biggest cooking accomplishment is creating a diabetic-safe apple pie. **NOW**

## Diabetic Friendly Apple Pie

- 2 piecrusts of your choice
- 7 cups apples, peeled and cored (I prefer Honeycrisp apples.)
- 1 cup Splenda (may substitute other sweeteners, but Splenda seems to work best)
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 3/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg
- 1/8 tsp. salt

1. Heat oven to 425 F. Place bottom crust into a pie plate; slice apples in a bowl.
2. In a separate small bowl, mix Splenda, cornstarch and spices.
3. Sprinkle mixture over apples; toss. Pour

apples into crust.

4. Top with a second crust; bake for 40-50 minutes.

## Goulash

- 1/2 lb. macaroni noodles
- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef
- 1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 28 oz. spaghetti sauce
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 cup shredded cheese

1. Cook the macaroni until tender.
2. In a skillet, brown the meat, bell pepper

and onion until the meat is cooked; drain the grease.

3. Add the macaroni, sauce and spices to the beef mixture. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium-low; simmer for 5-7 minutes.
4. Sprinkle with cheese; serve.

## Salsa Chicken Tacos

- 3-4 lbs. chicken breast
- 16 oz. salsa
- 1 pkt. taco seasoning
- 2 Tbsp. cilantro
- 2 limes

1. Trim the chicken; put it into the Crock-Pot with salsa, seasoning and cilantro.
2. Cut the limes; squeeze the juice over everything.
3. Cook on high for 4 hours. Shred chicken; serve on tortillas with any topping desired.

## Beef Soup

- 1 lb. beef stew meat
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil (divided use)
- 3-4 celery ribs
- 1 onion
- 2-3 red potatoes

- 10-12 baby carrots
- 4 cups water
- 3 1/2 cups beef broth
- 2 14.5-oz. cans diced tomatoes
- 1 15.25-oz. can corn
- 2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 15-oz. can peas
- 2 tsp. TABASCO sauce

1. Sauté meat in 1 Tbsp. oil until browned; set aside.
2. Chop celery, onion, potatoes and carrots.
3. In a large pot, sauté the celery and onion in the remaining oil.
4. Add the browned beef, water, broth, tomatoes (with juice), potatoes, carrots, corn and garlic salt. Bring to a boil; simmer for 1 hour.
5. Add the peas and TABASCO sauce; simmer 30 more minutes. Let cool; serve.

### Crock-Pot Apple Butter

- 6 Granny Smith apples
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- Squeeze of lemon juice

1. Core and chop apples. Place the apples, along with the cinnamon, water and sugars in a Crock-Pot.
2. Cook on low for 4 1/2 hours. Add water if the mixture dries out.
3. Transfer to a blender; add lemon juice. Puree until smooth.
4. If it is not brown with a texture like applesauce, cook for an additional hour on high.

### Rump Roast

- 1 3- to 4-lb. rump roast
- 3/4 cup water
- 3-4 Wyler's beef bouillon cubes  
(1 per pound of beef)
- Desired sides and gravy

1. Place the rump roast in the Crock-Pot. Add water and beef bouillon cubes.
2. Cook on low for seven to eight hours.
3. Serve with desired sides and gravy.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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# BusinessNOW

## Streeter Electric

— By Lisa Bell

### Streeter Electric

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**Hours:** Office: Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Field hours vary. Call to schedule appointment.

After opening in July 2010, Streeter Electric was voted runner up for the Best of Hood County each year until 2017, when they finally won the top position. That is an impressive record for Steve and Krista Streeter, owners of the electric company.

The Streeters pride themselves on friendly service, while looking out for customers. “Cheap isn’t always the best. Electrical work is not where you should cut corners,” Krista said. Fully insured and licensed, they do the work right, protecting their license and integrity. Although a handyman may do some electrical work, if they aren’t

licensed they can receive fines. Codes change, and at Streeter, they keep up with local, state and federal codes.

With 16 electricians on their payroll, Streeter Electric is looking to hire more licensed electricians. Their long-term employees stay busy. Waiting for an appointment is worth it because they do great work and stand behind their service. With Granbury’s growth, they are limited only by a lack of staff. Although they may go outside of the area, in most instances they stay close to home.

About 50 percent of their work involves new construction. However, they also offer repairs and services for remodeling. “We schedule our appointments,” Krista said. “But we can squeeze anyone in within 24 hours if it is a true emergency.” They check voice mail after hours. When talking with a customer, they ask the right questions. Often, a problem may require a simple fix the homeowner

may be able to do, saving them the cost of a service call. At other times, they really need a technician who may recommend additional service while there to avoid another fee. But they never push a customer to purchase unnecessary repairs. And they offer free estimates in Hood County.

After 19 years of experience, Steve still likes being in the field and interacting with customers. "I just like what I do," he said. "I like to see the finished product."

Streeter Electric recommends having the panel checked on homes built prior to 1990. Additionally, two-prong receptacles may need replacing. If GFI-protected outlets are not in place, homeowners may want to schedule an update for that, as well.

To save money, Steve and Krista recommend switching to LED light bulbs throughout the house and outdoors, as well. They last longer and use less electricity without giving up lighting. In addition, the Streeters strongly recommend a whole-house surge protector. During severe weather, these protectors may prevent damage to electronics. And if the protector fails, the warranty helps replace valuable electronics in one's home. Customers may call to request a free estimate.

Steve and Krista love living in Granbury with their family. As a family business, they sponsor school athletic groups, Leadership Granbury, Ruth's Place Clinic and Paluxy River Children's Advocacy Center. They are also members of Granbury Chamber of Commerce and the Hood County YMCA, where Krista is an instructor.

For dependable electrical work, call Streeter Electric. Their service calls consist of 75 percent return customers or referrals, which says a lot about them as a company. They work hard to maintain their reputation and status as best in Hood County and live up to their motto, "We do it without shorts!" **NOW**

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## TravelNOW Cultural Attraction

— By Andrea Panozzo

For a slice of Americana, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, beckons Texans with family fun, outdoor adventure, live music, shopping, museums and history. Enriched culture, ever-growing culinary and brewery scenes, beautiful art and a variety of sports entertainment are all within visitors' reach. Driving northeast from Fort Worth will take almost 16 hours and about \$150 in fuel. Or, the Eastern Iowa Airport is 9 miles from Cedar Rapids, where cultural immersion is easy, thanks to a community proud of its heritage.

For many years, Czech was commonly spoken in Cedar Rapids, and today, more people of Czech ancestry live in Cedar Rapids than in any other city in the world, except for the Czech capital of Prague. It is a proud aspect of Cedar Rapids culture, and the history is expressed through extraordinary

exhibitions and experiences at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The museum isn't the only representation of the Czech culture. Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District was voted Best Cultural Attraction by the *Corridor Business Journal* in 2017 and was a 2016 Great American Main Street Award semi-finalist. It is home not only to incredible artists and world-class museums, but also some of the best dining, shopping and entertainment in the area.

One fantastic shopping area in the district is NewBo City Market, a year-round indoor farmers market. Visitors can taste local cuisine and brews and support local artistry, all while experiencing a unique and fun atmosphere.

One of Cedar Rapids' most famous local artists, Grant

Wood, got his start here. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art holds the largest collection of his works. The classic art piece, *American Gothic*, was painted in his studio home in 1930. His studio is located near downtown Cedar Rapids and is available to visitors on weekends from April through December.

Another historic landmark is the Brucemore Estate, former home to several history makers who played a large role in Cedar Rapids' factory industries, including Quaker Oats. The estate was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1981, and today 43,000 people are drawn to the site every year. Brucemore Estate hosts signature events for the public, like the poolside Tahitian Party, Balloon Glow in the summer, Bruceorchestra in the fall and A Modern Salon in the winter. The house and incredible gardens are open for tours throughout the year.

Hundreds of other parks allow for escape into nature. Indian Creek Nature Center's grounds and trails are explorable at no charge. Families can hike scenic trails, see a concert in the amphitheater, participate in a yoga class or let their children play in the outdoor classroom.

Throughout spring and summer, visitors can join residents cheering on their Cedar Rapids Kernels baseball team, the Minor League affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, playing at the single A level. Fans get to experience firsthand future MLB talent, as top prospects from all over the world play for and against the Kernels. There are also hockey, indoor football and soccer teams competing in the winter.

At the end of full days, calm and cozy lodgings abound. People who need the comfort of a hotel will find every national chain has a key just for them. And those towing an RV will rest securely at campsites nestled close to the Cedar River. **NOW**

*For more information or to plan a trip to Cedar Rapids, visit [gocedarrapids.com](http://gocedarrapids.com).*

*Photos by Liz Zabel, GO Cedar Rapids.*



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## RV There Yet?

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*You may be thinking about getting a new ride before your family heads on its ultimate adventure. Whether you just need a vehicle to get to your destination, or you are thinking of having the RV experience this year, here are some tips to keep in mind before you head to the dealership.*

### The Best Type for You

- *Compact vs. Roomy* — If you are just looking at getting a simple sedan, the main decision is two-door or four-door. If you have kids, a compact car with limited legroom in the back may not be the best choice. But, if you just need something to get to work and back, a compact car is often cheaper and offers better fuel efficiency.

- *Minivan vs. SUV* — If you have a big family or tend

to drive a lot of people around town, you probably need something that seats seven or eight people. While minivans are sometimes thought of as uncool, their sliding doors and lower access make them more convenient than bulkier sports-utility vehicles. If you need the space but not necessarily the seating, an SUV or even a pickup truck may be the ideal choice for you.

### If the Car is More Than a Car

While alternative accommodation options like Airbnb have given travelers more choices than ever, many people still love the freedom of having a vehicle that doubles as lodging. If you are looking for the perfect RV, here are the questions you should ask:

- *Pull vs. Drive* — While there are many specific choices, the first decision to make is whether you want something

that attaches to a vehicle, or if you want to buy a larger unit that is a vehicle in and of itself. Motor homes vary in size, but they are self-contained houses that sleep any number of people, while fifth wheels and bumper pulls attach to trucks, and even small cars, in some cases, and tend to be less expensive on average.

• *Fifth Wheel vs. Bumper Tow* — Fifth wheel RVs are a specific type of trailer that use a sophisticated system to hitch to the entire bed of a pickup truck. Because of their attachment method, they tend to be bigger than other towable RVs. But there are varied sizes available for those who want to tow from a bumper hitch. Some of the smallest pop-up campers can actually trail a sedan, though most RVs will still require a decent-sized truck for the towing power they afford.

• *A vs. B vs. C* — If you decide to go the route of a true motor home, there are three classes, A, B and C. Type A is the largest and, understandably, the most expensive, but it offers more sleeping accommodations. Type B is essentially a larger version of a minivan, with sleeping enough for a small family. Type C is smaller than type A but, typically, offers sleeping space over the driver's area, similar to the way type B does.

While there are no special license requirements for operating an RV, you will want to practice driving such a large vehicle before heading out on the open road for the first time. If you opted against a motor home, be sure you have all the necessary hitches, light hookups and the registration needed to tow from your vehicle. This summer could be the perfect time to take your family on the road trip of a lifetime, so be prepared and get the perfect vehicle to meet your family's needs. **NOW**

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## Zoomed In: Cris Brichetto

By Lisa Bell

Since the beginning of his career, Sgt. Cris Brichetto trained for active shooter response and spent time in patrol, bike patrol, administration, community services, SWAT, evidence and training. Now as the training coordinator for the Granbury Police Department, Cris teaches throughout Hood County. “We always hope to avoid violence,” he said, “but sometimes that doesn’t work.”

Using the ADD — Avoid, Deny, Defend — plan, Cris trains on how to keep ourselves and others safe. “What you do in an emergency situation matters.” He encourages people in general to remain aware of surroundings at all times. In a crises, the best option is keeping yourself safe. “Every person has a right to defend themselves.” He strives to teach the safest ways to do so.



*The Amos Moses band celebrates spring with Porter Title at their annual event.*



*Polly Parmer shares humor and gardening tips at the Newcomers Club in May.*



*Square Plaza hosts the Kyle Redd Band for an evening of winding down.*



*Maurice Walton, Jake Carraway and Tony Mobley welcome visitors to the Bridge Street Museum.*



Angie and Keith Tipton hold their seasonal plant sale in the yard of their historic home built in 1876. Keith not pictured.



The Tordiglione family debuts their new winery, Bull Lion, during the Granbury Wine Walk.



Mary Pike enjoys an afternoon out on the patio at Blushes Salon and Spa.



Jed Corey stands guard while his cousin, Aubrey, and sister, Lilly, show their style.

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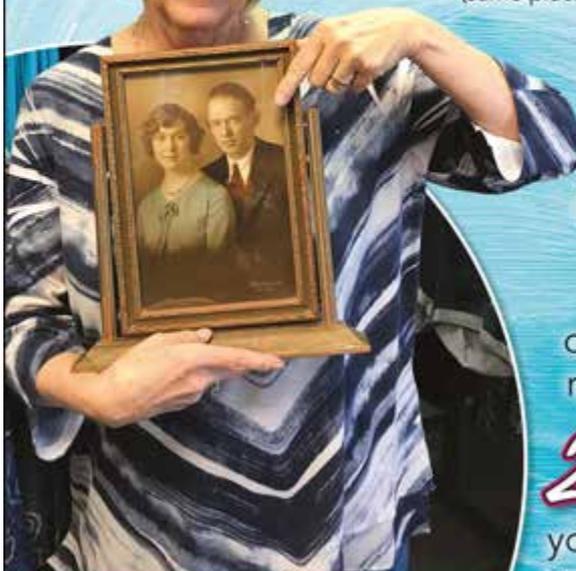
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June

2

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Wildlife on the Move: 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Hood County Library. Ticketed event. Join Mr. B to learn about creepy creatures like tarantulas, snakes, and hissing cockroaches. Free tickets available from the library.



Hood County Stampede: 6:30 p.m., gates open; 7:30, event start, Reunion Grounds, 641 Reunion Ct. (off loop 567). Event details and tickets available at [www.hoodcountystampede.com](http://www.hoodcountystampede.com).

4

Granbury Theatre Academy Summer 2018 Classes: Various dates, times, classes and ages, Granbury Opera House. For details and to register for all classes, visit [www.granburytheatrecompany.org](http://www.granburytheatrecompany.org). Through **July 27**.

9, 10

44th Annual State Run: **Sat.**, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **Sun.**, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.,

Hewlett Park. Lone Star Street Rod Association brings 450 hot rods to Granbury. Free and open to the public. Details at [www.GranburyChamber.com](http://www.GranburyChamber.com).



23

Wiffle Ball Tournament: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Grumps Burger Park, 3503 E. Hwy. 377. Benefits Opportunity House. For details or to register a team, call Lorri Heckler (432) 599-2763 or Beth Champion (817) 819-2945.

July

3, 4

44th Annual 4th of July Celebration: **Tuesday**, 7:00 p.m. kickoff to events, various locations and events. Visit [www.GranburyChamber.com](http://www.GranburyChamber.com) for details.

Ongoing:

Second Mondays  
Granbury Writers' Bloc read & critique session: 6:00 p.m., Waterview Apts., 2nd floor activity room. All welcome, free. For more info, contact Brian at [bjcondike@icloud.com](mailto:bjcondike@icloud.com).

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.

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 [speedobrake@gmail.com](mailto:speedobrake@gmail.com).

First Thursdays

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 Saturdays

Living Waters Writers: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Hood County Public Library. Christian writing group for encouragement and feedback. Open group and no charge. Contact Lisa, (817) 269-9066 or [LisaBell@bylisabell.com](mailto:LisaBell@bylisabell.com).



*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com](mailto:lisa.bell@nowmagazines.com).*

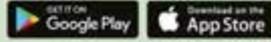


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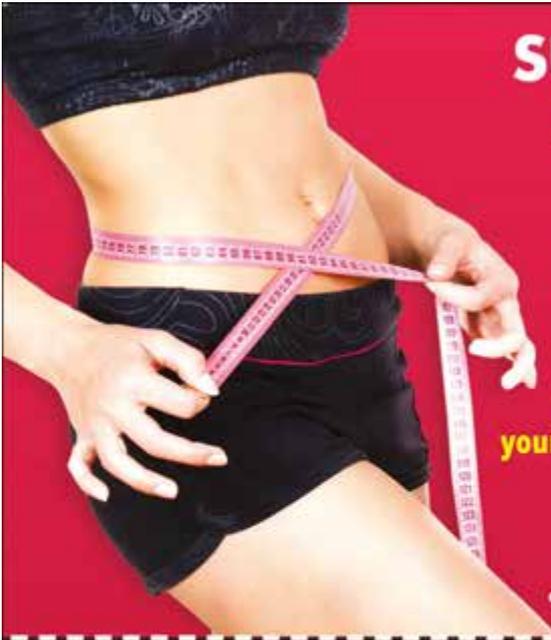
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Services: Spay and neuter, vaccinations, dental cleaning, microchipping, heartworm testing, flea/tick control



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Walk-in vaccine hours: Thursdays & Fridays 9 am - 12 pm