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## ON THE COVER

*Catherine Magga has fun with creativity and teaching.*

**Photo by**  
SRC Photography.

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# FINALLY a way to fix the PAIN of a BULGING DISC



Are you suffering from back pain, arm or leg pain, numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs? Then it's likely you're suffering from a Bulging DISC. That's when one of your spinal discs are bulging and causing these, sometimes severe, symptoms because of the effect it's having on your nerve system.

You may have already had this diagnosed on an MRI and thought that there is little that can be done about it. That's a major problem: bad information, because in the right hands, a lot can be done for you.

To end the misery caused by Bulging DISCS, you must have the right information. 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, buttock pain or leg pain, then you must seek help from a Bulging DISC specialist immediately. If left untreated, the problem can lead to permanent nerve damage - and lifelong pain.

**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 from 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.

**FACT:** NO! There's been a huge breakthrough in the treatment of Bulging DISCs.

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

**FACT:** With the correct treatment from a healthcare professional who specializes in Bulging DISCs, you can find relief from the core cause - and the symptoms.

**MYTH:** Getting a Bulging DISC properly diagnosed is expensive.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Lisa*

Lisa Bell  
GranburyNOW Editor  
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*Abb ... the beauty of September!*

This month, life returns to normalcy, with kids back in school and enough days passed to re-establish routine. Why do schedules somehow lower my stress level? Perhaps at the core, I need external help with self-discipline. Having my days planned often helps me accomplish more. Am I alone in this craziness? I hope not. But as September rolls around, I find a need to assess how my year is progressing.

The best part of September? I still have time to pull out the stops and fulfill goals this year. Granted, July might have been a better time to look at things I wanted to accomplish, yet hadn't started. But vacations, extra time in water or basking in the coolness of air conditioning — those things seemed much more critical in July. Now, with hopes of at least cool evenings, my thoughts drift back to dedicated work and away from playtime.

So, let me encourage you, my dear and faithful readers. You still have time for those gifts for Christmas, plans for big Thanksgiving celebrations, or if you're like me, unfinished writing projects before we kiss 2018 goodbye. Take a minute today and determine what you want to get finished. Then, set some goals for yourself. A few months from now, you'll be glad you did.

Happy fall, y'all!

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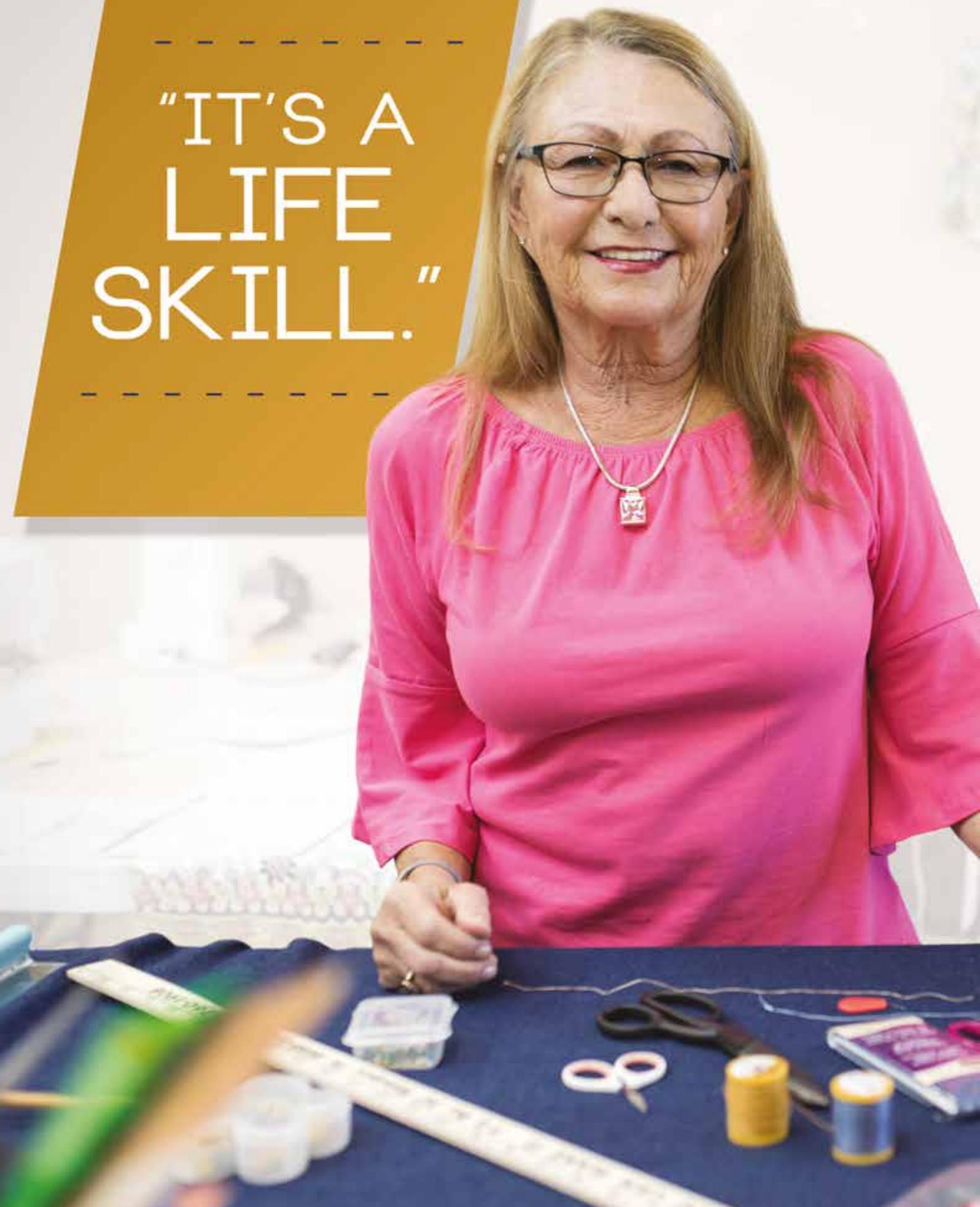
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# THE ART OF SEWING

— By Lisa Bell

*Although Isaac Singer was not the first sewing machine inventor, his name remained the best known for many generations. Even one or two generations ago, most homes considered a quality sewing machine among necessities — an appliance they absolutely required. Catherine Magga grew up in such a world, where making clothes, home decor and other items seemed less like an art and more like a way of life. Yet the very act of sewing requires a degree of artistic ability, not to mention utilizing math skills.*

Catherine's grandmother sewed, so she learned mostly from watching and asking questions. Her first sewing projects included making clothes for her Barbie dolls when she was only 8 or 9 years old. By the time she reached high school, Catherine made all of her own clothing.

During high school, she wanted to take a tailoring class. That was her most difficult project ever. They had to produce lined garments that included a complete outfit with slacks, a skirt, vest, suit coat and overcoat. Living in Michigan, she and a friend, who also planned to take the class, took a trip to Ontario and visited the Windsor fabric house to purchase the material and notions needed for the project. They returned with entire bolts of fabric. Although it was a difficult project, Catherine

learned so much more about sewing through it. They had to monogram and model the outfits, after sewing together the garment, which also included buttonholes and zippers. She wore it for many years, proud of the accomplishment.

"I like the artsy part of it," Catherine said. Sewing incorporates visualization of putting together different types and colors of fabrics. When viewing a pattern, she can mentally picture her finished product. She often varies the design, adding decorative touches that make her sewing a unique piece of art, even though it is functional. Her favorite things to sew are aprons and doll clothes. She also likes producing handcrafts, which may or may not involve an electric sewing machine. However, almost all newer model sewing machines include decorative stitching, which make originality even easier.

"I'll be sleeping, and from something I saw that day, I'll make it in my head," Catherine shared. She admits never having visited Pinterest, but prefers going to local shops and seeing what other people make. She also likes getting ideas from kids. Although these things give her ideas, she toys with what she sees, changing it up to make unique items.

For many years, sewing became somewhat of a lost art as mass-produced clothing became less expensive and the cost of fabric and patterns rose. The end of home economics in public schools also affected students learning the basics of putting together a garment. While shows like *Project Runway* created a desire to learn design, they also revived a need to tackle the craft of sewing. Even before sewing became



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popular again, Catherine had a love for teaching others to sew. While living in Arlington, she opened a school to teach the art.

They moved to Granbury about 14 years ago, where her husband, John, owns a body shop. Five years ago, she started teaching sewing classes here. Then, four years ago, John had an accident, making him a paraplegic, and she had to take some time off from teaching as he recovered. Earlier this year, she opened a small studio. In a room filled with sewing machines and supplies, she teaches students from children all the way to adults, sharing her knowledge from more than half a century. "It's a life skill," Catherine said. She hopes to someday turn her studio into a full home economics class, much like those that schools provided in the past. Currently, she offers two-hour classes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. But she also opens up the studio for free sewing to kids who don't have a machine at home.

Creativity brings new life to old items when Catherine sews. She may take a broken necklace and sew it on an old pair of jeans. Old clothing in her hands may transform into a decorative item for a home. She loves making aprons for brides, grooms and as gifts for attendants — a novel idea for weddings. It was, in fact, doing that for a niece that gave her the idea to teach the skills. She enjoys passing on her knowledge. "I've given you something that will last for life," she said.

Like any art, sewing incurs some costs. "Good tools are a must," she said. Quality scissors used only for

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cutting fabric and patterns is top of the list, and they are worth spending extra money. She suggests reserving cheaper versions for craft and paper cutting. Any seamstress or tailor knows when someone uses their scissors for any other purpose, and most get very annoyed if that happens.

A decent sewing machine doesn't have to be expensive, but needs to be used frequently and kept in good working order. Good pins may need replacing at regular intervals. However, Catherine shares an easy trick for sharpening them. Wrap foam in foil and poke the pins through several times. You can also use this remedy to sharpen dull scissors. And, of course, a sturdy ruler and seam guide ruler make sewing easier.



To save money, Catherine uses regular chalk and colored pencils for marking fabric when required. She uses chopsticks to turn seams, although there are commercial tools available. When buying a pattern, they are designed to create custom fits. Paying attention to the measurements listed instead of using the size you normally wear in ready-made clothing prevents wasting material on a garment that is too small. "Measure twice, cut once" is Catherine's motto.

The love of creation inspires Catherine, but the process relaxes her. "With sewing, you create a miracle and own designer clothing when finished," she shared. "Everything you make is one of a kind." **NOW**

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*You can pack a lot of nostalgia into a modicum of space. Just ask Ty and Tracie Harper, whose 2,050-square-foot home harkens back to the days when words like groovy and hip were commonplace. “When we got married, everything we had was a hand-me-down,” Tracie said. “And we liked it that way.”*

The home, originally built in 1946, was added onto in 1955. When the Harpers bought it in 1995 and made a few changes of their own, they made a concerted effort to keep the nostalgic look and feel intact. “We’ve done a lot of painting and replaced the windows, but still wanted it to look old,” Tracie said. “It helped that Ty’s such a great artist.”



# VINTAGE HAPPINESS

— By Rick Mauch

At Home With Ty and Tracie Harper



Ty's handiwork can be seen throughout the house. One example is the fireplace in the living room. It wasn't there when they moved in — because it's not real. It's made of fiberglass, but has a very realistic appearance. "It was hideous when we bought it, but Ty painted the brick, and we hang our stockings on it at Christmas," Tracie said.

"I always wanted a fireplace," Ty explained. "And this one is just fine. Plus, we don't have to clean it out."

Ty's paintings can be seen throughout the home, along with those of their sons, 27-year-old Dillon and 30-year-old Nic, both of whom live in Austin. Hanging in the guest bedroom is one of Ty's



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favorites. It features a cowboy about to pick up a little girl. “I like the way he’s encircling the child, as if to protect her,” Ty said.

Just off the hallway is the original bathroom, to which not much has been done. The dresser built into the wall was added in 1955. The entrance door to the bathroom has three panels of fogged glass, like one would find in old-timey restrooms.

Ty’s guitar room reveals his other great passion. He owns about 50

guitars, with 17 hanging on display on one of the walls. “I get them at pawn shops broken, and I love to fix them,” he said.

Ty is left-handed, but usually plays a right-handed guitar. “I didn’t want to only be able to play a left-handed guitar, so I taught myself this way,” he shared. However, when he plays in a band, he plays a left-handed guitar that he restrung. “Or, you can take a left-handed body and put a right-handed neck on it,” he added.

The original home ended where the 10-foot peninsula (it’s not an island, because one side is connected to the wall) in the kitchen is now. The kitchen also still has many of its first features, including the original tile. During the 1955 expansion, a den and master bedroom were added.

The den is the only room in the house without a wooden floor. Instead, it features carpet over concrete. The room resembles a scene from the original *Ocean’s Eleven* movie. One wall is filled with vintage posters featuring artists such as Muddy Waters and Buddy Guy, but the highlight is an original Woodstock poster given to Tracie by a friend who was at the event. “She said, ‘I don’t know anyone who would rather have it than you,’” Tracie said, smiling. “And she was right.”

Next to the classic bar is some more artwork. One by Dillon is an accordion in vibrant red and green with big black music chords. The





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other, entitled *Walking Man*, is by Nic and is a caricature of a lonely man walking down the street.

Ty and Tracie are excited about an upcoming art show on the last Saturday of December at D’Vine Wine on the square. Ty will show his paintings alongside those of Dillon.

Next door in the dining room is perhaps Ty’s favorite painting. It’s a large picture of Big Tex, the legendary giant greeter at the State Fair of Texas. “I absolutely love that painting,” Tracie said.

The backyard takes visitors to yet another world and is built for entertaining — which they love to do. The patio resembles a cantina, lined with craft beer cans (Ty and the boys have tried them all) and complete with classic cafe tables; vintage plastic table cloths; and high-back, plastic-covered chairs. A pool and hot tub beckon, as does “Little Luckenbach,” their own outdoor beverage shack, complete with a walk-up order window.

The landscape features a variety of plants and interesting rock. And

they did it all themselves. “We saved so much money, and it’s such a great feeling,” Ty said.

“Every day after work, we would bring wheelbarrows of rock in here, and we worked and worked,” Tracie said. “We were so tired at the end of every day, but it’s so worth it.”

And when they do leave their home for a night on the town, it only makes sense that they do so in their 1973 Cadillac Eldorado convertible. “It’s our date night car,” Tracie said. “We gave it to each other for our 50th birthday. It goes great with everything else in our home.” **NOW**



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# Lights on the Square

— By Lisa Bell

Few people know this lady by her given name. Carol McRae's late brother, Tom, simply called her "Sister" — and it stuck. Many people in Granbury know Sister. After all, she's lived here since 1995, and her big heart makes her seem like a favorite sibling around town. "I never meet a stranger," she said. "Of course, you don't in Granbury. It's a unique town."

In the 1980s, Sister was a partner in a Dallas insurance agency. Tom partnered with Norman Miller (Interstate Batteries) in 1983, founding The Great Race. Owners of old cars followed intriguing routes during the cross-country speed and distance rally adventure with hopes of winning cash and bragging rights. When Sister joined Tom in the race for the first time in 1989, she was hooked, and he vowed to never leave without her again. The trip created a strong bond between them.

She sold her partnership in 1993 and went to work for Tom. John Helsley (from Granbury Chamber of Commerce) approached Tom to move The Great Race headquarters from Dallas to Granbury — a move completed in 1995. Anticipating his relocation, Sister found her house and moved first.

What people know now as Celebration Hall housed a museum displaying antique cars, which competed in The Great Race — a perfect fit. Although he had no idea what to do with the adjoining building, Dub's Place, Tom eventually bought it and constructed his home in the 5,000-square-foot upstairs loft. The apartment also served as welcoming space for weekly Bible studies and prayer.

Tom met Russ Hearne, and that relationship forged the beginnings of Granbury Live. The transformation from a restaurant and antique mall to a live music theater miraculously took only eight weeks.

Tom's love of music sparked an outdoor ceiling of bright lights and quality musical entertainment. Tom insisted on a patriotic ending to every show. He was a big supporter of the Brazos Pregnancy Center, too. Sister was right by his

side, helping with group ticket sales and always backing her brother.

In the beginning, they started out with chairs and church benches from a Catholic Church in Monterey, California. They eventually acquired row seats from an opera house in Wilmington, Delaware. Sister made a stop there during The Great Race one year and stood in front of that opera house. So, the connection ran deep for her whenever she went inside Granbury Live for a show.

After Tom passed away in a motorcycle accident in May 2005, Sister continued working for Granbury Live. When it closed in August 2011, she mourned alongside much of the community, while the building sat dark and empty.

After Granbury Live struggled with several years of housing live plays and occasional music events while the city rebuilt the Opera House, the venue was reborn. Purchased by the Thomas Group, it came back strong, remodeled and featuring well-known artists and other special events. It now presents different performances every weekend in addition to fundraisers and other shows under the direction of General Manager Sam Houston. The “more music” Tom wanted in Granbury is a reality today.

Sister continues helping with PR for the theater. Although Tom sold The Great Race before his demise, Sister got involved again in 2012. She won the coveted Spirit of the Event award in 2013 — a large eagle commending diehard enthusiasts for their dedication and contribution to the hobby. She proudly displays it in her living room. “It means so much to me,” she said.

Tom McRae once said, “For the second time in my life, I found myself in an impossible dream, but invited God into the driver’s seat.” The result was a beautiful theater filled with talent. Sister enjoys knowing her brother’s legacy lives on in so many ways. In her own way, she remains a big part of what he left behind. **NOW**

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CookingNOW

*In the Kitchen With*

DONNA LASKOSKIE

— By Lindsay L. Allen

As a young girl with nine siblings, a dad who was a farmer and friends who were always welcome at the dinner table, Donna Laskoskie was taught at a young age how to cook and bake for all those who gathered at the kitchen table. “My mom always said, ‘If your friends can eat what we eat, they are always welcome,’” she recalled.

Donna enjoyed baking homemade desserts for her own daughters, seldom purchasing store-bought sweets. Chocolate has always played a vital role in her family, with everyone agreeing that if it’s not chocolate, it’s not really dessert. At family reunions, it’s normal for the dessert area to be two to three times larger than the main course options. **NOW**

## Chocolate Chip Cookies

**3 sticks butter, softened**  
**1 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. sugar**  
**1 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. brown sugar**  
**3 large eggs**  
**1 1/2 tsp. vanilla**  
**3 1/2 cups flour**  
**1 1/2 tsp. baking soda**  
**2 vanilla beans, split lengthwise**  
**3 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips**  
**1 1/2 cups pecans or walnuts**

1. Mix butter and sugars, beating until light and fluffy. Add eggs 1 at a time, beating well. Add vanilla; beat. Add flour and baking soda.
2. Scrape vanilla bean seeds from pods into mixture. Beat until dough comes together. Stir in chocolate chips and nuts.
3. Form into 1 1/2-inch balls; place on a cookie sheet.
4. Bake at 350 F for 12-15 minutes, or until golden brown.

## Best Banana Bread

**2 cups all-purpose flour**  
**1 1/2 tsp. baking soda**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**4 overripe bananas**  
**1 cup sugar**  
**3/4 cup unsalted butter, melted and cooled**  
**2 large eggs**  
**1 tsp. pure vanilla extract**  
**1/2 cup pecans or walnuts, finely chopped**  
**1 cup dark chocolate chips**

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan.
2. In a large bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt; set aside.
3. Mash 2 of the bananas with a fork in a small bowl. (They should still have a bit of texture.) With an electric mixer fitted with a wire whisk, mix the remaining bananas and

sugar together for 3 minutes. You want a light and fluffy banana cream.

4. Add melted butter, eggs and vanilla; beat well and scrape down the sides of the bowl.

5. Mix in the dry ingredients just until incorporated; don’t overly blend. Fold in the nuts, chocolate chips and mashed bananas with a rubber spatula.

6. Pour batter into prepared loaf pan. Give the pan a good rap on the counter to get any air bubbles out. Bake for about 75 minutes, until golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center of the loaf comes out clean. Cool in the pan for approximately 10 minutes; turn out onto a wire rack to cool completely before slicing.

## Easy Chili Soup

**1 1/2 lbs. mixture of sausage and ground beef (Hot sausage is optional.)**  
**3 cups water**  
**2 Tbsp. dry onion**  
**1/2 fresh onion**  
**1 large potato, chopped**  
**1 14.5-oz. can diced chili-style tomatoes**  
**1 14.5-oz. can Ranch Style Beans with sliced jalapeños**  
**1/4 tsp. sugar**  
**1/2 tsp. garlic powder**  
**1/4 tsp. paprika**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**Black pepper, to taste**  
**Jalapeños, to taste (optional)**  
**Green chilies, to taste (optional)**

1. In a large pot, mix the meat, water and dry onion; cook until the meat is done.
2. Add the remaining ingredients; cook slowly until the potato is done.

## Vegetable and Tortellini Soup

Favorite oil, enough for sautéing

- 1 1/2 cups yellow onion, diced
- 1 cup carrots, diced
- 1 cup celery, diced
- 1 cup fresh green beans, 1-inch cut
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 14-oz. cans low-sodium chicken broth or vegetable broth
- 2 14.5-oz. cans diced tomatoes
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 1 1/4 cups zucchini, halved and sliced
- 2 tsp. dried basil
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 9-oz. pkg. refrigerated three-cheese tortellini
- 1 14.5-oz. can dark red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 2 cups chopped fresh spinach
- 1 1/4 cups half-and-half
- Parmesan cheese, finely shredded (for serving)

1. Heat oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add onions, carrots and celery; sauté for 5 minutes.
2. Add green beans and garlic; sauté 2 minutes longer.
3. Add next 7 ingredients; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bring mixture to a boil; cover and simmer 12-15 minutes, or until vegetables are almost tender.
4. Add tortellini; cook for 7 minutes or until cooked through. Add kidney beans, spinach and half-and-half. Cook until warmed through and spinach is wilted, about 2 minutes longer.
5. Stir in more broth (up to 1 cup), if you'd like a more brothy soup. Serve warm with Parmesan cheese.

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BusinessNOW

# Elegante Diva

— By Lisa Bell

## Elegante Diva

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**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
(Fort Worth location open until 6:00 p.m.)  
Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Relaxing music floats through the air as a shopper browses the selection of quality clothing, then moves on to find perfect accessories. She lingers among racks, drinking in the gentle atmosphere. “It’s not shopping. It’s retail therapy,” Suzi Naccarato said.

For 10 years, Suzi, together with her daughter, Danielle Williams, owned and operated an upscale consignment boutique in Fort Worth. About a year-and-a-half ago, she and her husband, Danny, moved to Granbury. Before long, she said, “We either have to move back or open a second store.”



Opening a second location won, and they opened their doors approximately a year ago. As new Chamber members, they will have a grand opening in October.

Years ago, when Suzi moved to Fort Worth, she wanted her daughter to move, too. Danielle worked in a consignment store as a teenager and loved it. Now Danielle runs the Fort Worth location. Suzi floats between the stores but spends about 80 percent of her time at the Granbury location. “It’s a fun place to be,” said Christina Sonego, who recently started working at the Granbury store.

The store operates on a consignment basis, selling high-quality women’s clothing and accessories. They accept two- or three-year-old clothes with the quality level of Dillard’s, Macy’s and higher-end, such as Chico’s, St. John, Louis Vuitton, etc., while maintaining a boutique feel. Any of them can assist in helping a woman pull together the right style and colors from top to bottom.

The store also carries a small selection of home decor, but focuses on women's clothing, shoes, purses and jewelry. Danielle is a professional wardrobe consultant, and they can arrange an in-home appointment. In addition, a man left with a closet full of women's clothing when a loved one passes can get help with cleaning out a closet. Elegante Diva can help determine whether to offer the items for consignment or simply donate them to a local organization.

Suzi enjoys providing quality clothing at a fraction of the original retail price. She often sees clothing come in with tags still attached. Especially for women who need dress clothes for work but live on a tight budget, she likes being able to give them the possibility to dress well and feel good about the way they look.

Different from normal retail shopping, Suzi admitted their customers become friends. Because the inventory changes frequently, they often see repeat business. And the atmosphere encourages spending time getting to know each other.

Several times a year, Suzi likes to have parties in the store. For example, they held a Kentucky Derby Party with lunch. If a woman wore a hat, she got 25 percent off her purchase. At Easter, they hid eggs with various discounts tucked inside. Sometimes, she'll do a "go fish" sale, where a large crystal fish holds extra discounts for a customer to use.

Danny runs the business side of the company, including IT. With their computer system, they can track inventory at both stores. If the smaller Granbury location doesn't have an item, but it's available in Fort Worth, Suzi presents the customer with a card for 20 percent off if they want to make the 30-minute drive.

Elegante Diva is an alternate way to build a wardrobe without over-spending. Even more valuable, Suzi and the staff look forward to building new friendships in Granbury — and friendships are priceless. **NOW**



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# TravelNOW A Canadian Adventure

— By Alf Blanchard

From the stunning red cliffs, the miles of red and champagne beaches and the vibrant small-city scenes, there is only one way to describe Prince Edward Island — magical. If driving, you will be pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the highway. It takes you through towns and villages, scenic landscapes and coastal views. Every journey on the island is as special as the destination. Driving along the highway or one of the designated coastal drives, you will see a small glimpse of life on Prince Edward Island, and it will make you feel the need to explore.

Prince Edward Island is also known as Canada's Food Island. Once you take a bite of what the island has to offer, you will undoubtedly understand why. Not

only is the island abundant with fresh ingredients such as mussels, oysters and potatoes, artisanal cheeses, breweries, wineries and distilleries, its views will also take your breath away. Every September, you can attend Fall Flavours Festival, which includes the International Shellfish Festival. Visitors from all over the world come to enjoy these festivals.

The size of Prince Edward Island is one of its greatest assets. You can taste fresh seafood in a small fishing town and still only be a short drive to the capital city of Charlottetown for experiencing live music, theater and bars.

Visitors can spend their time basking in the sun on one of the 90 beaches, listening to the waves crash and

digging their toes in the sand. Prince Edward Island isn't just for relaxation though. Get your heart racing with paddleboarding, kiteboarding, hiking or cycling. The Confederation Trail is built on an abandoned railway that goes across the entire Island. It's 269 miles of rolled stone-dust surface — an incredibly unique way to experience Prince Edward Island.

If all that adventure isn't enough, Tourism Prince Edward Island offers hands-on activities led by local community leaders. Jigs & Reels, where you join Captain and multi-instrumentalist J.J. Chaisson onboard his boat, *Chaisson A Dream*, is one such activity. Learn about traditional music, step dancing and how to play a musical instrument.

At the Table Culinary Studio in New London, one can take classes or have an experiential meal. For instance, Marilla's Table — A Taste of the Past, begins with a visit to the birthplace of L.M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, to see what life was like in Anne and Marilla's time, and ends with an authentic meal made from locally grown organic vegetables, while listening to stories from a historian who specializes in Montgomery history.

Speaking of Anne, if the book holds a special place in your heart, you will enjoy visiting the island. Head over to Green Gables Heritage Place and feel like you are part of the story, or visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum (operated by relatives of Lucy Maud Montgomery and part of the inspiration for the world-famous novel). In Charlottetown, see Anne on stage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in *Anne of Green Gables — The Musical™*, or watch love bloom at the Guild in *Anne & Gilbert*.

Love and magic await you in Canada. Come find your adventure on Prince Edward Island. For more details, visit [www.tourismpei.com](http://www.tourismpei.com). **NOW**



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# A New Way to Landscape

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*Landscaping can be one of the most time-consuming tasks for homeowners. Pulling weeds and trimming bushes are jobs that are seemingly never really finished. Instead of planting flowers, consider adding hardscapes, decorative structures or materials that add a different kind of beauty to your yard.*

## **Patios and Walkways**

• *Create a Walkway.* One of the simplest ways to enhance part of your property is with a patio or walkway. The most permanent route is to pour concrete, possibly even covering your new space with an awning or gazebo. For a simpler DIY project, you can lay stones to make your new walkway or patio.

• *Do It Yourself the Right Way.* If you decide to lay your own stone, there are some important choices to make.

You can buy square or rectangle stones and lay them end to end, leaving no space between. Or, you might want a more irregular stone, which necessitates putting a material like pebbles or crushed granite in the gaps. Whatever your finished product is, your first step should be laying down weed blocker. And the key to a solid, level walking surface is getting a good foundation of sand before you put your stones down.

## **Build What You Need**

• *Add Form to Function.* Sometimes, hardscapes can be as much about necessity as beauty. If you need to build a retaining wall, you will want to carefully plan your project. Including pipe for drainage is essential, as is tamping down the soil while you backfill to cut down on the land's settling making your wall uneven. And to improve the aesthetic value, spread out any stones that are slightly discolored to give the wall a more artistic look.

• *Check for Codes and Cables.* If you decided to build stairs, retaining walls over a few feet or are pouring a new driveway, do not start the work on a whim. For some larger projects, city codes may dictate size restrictions and what materials you can use. For projects that require significant digging or trenching, you should always call 8-1-1 first, so you can ensure there are no pipes or cables underneath your project area.

### Accent Pieces

• *Create Some Counterspace.* If you admire your friend's outdoor kitchen, but building something that large is not an option, consider building an outdoor island. Find a space, get your measurements and use simple right angles to design a counter for food prep. Large hardware stores and lumber suppliers will generally make cuts for you, so you will only have to put the wood together yourself. And if you want to add a small refrigerator underneath, it is easy enough to install an exterior outlet by tapping into an existing outlet inside.

• *Create a Buzz With a Blaze.* If you want to add something fun that can be a conversation piece, fire pits are a great and relatively simple project idea. Unless your pit is going on top of existing hardscape, you should dig about a foot into the ground, then add sand as a foundation for the stones. Be sure your stones are at least 12 inches above ground level to ensure a safe barrier between your fire and your yard.

If you need design help for whatever hardscape ideas you have, sites like Pinterest are flush with pictures and plans perfect for builders of all levels. With all the options available, hardscaping your lawn is a great way to put your personality into your property. **NOW**

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## Zoomed In: Jacque Gordon

By Lisa Bell

Jacquie Gordon volunteers with Hood County Christmas for Children, serving as president of the organization for the last five years. “When parents are struggling, it’s the children who suffer,” she said. The majority of donations come from the community. Jacquie sees a lot of former recipients come back as volunteers or donating when they can.

She supports organizations like the Forward Training Center. “It’s a perfect place to start changes,” she said, “but it’s important for these kids to know someone cares now.” Jacquie is one of those people who really cares about all of the children and their families. They work all year to raise the \$100,000 annual budget.



*Bruce Connor, Dale Parker and Keith Anderson join forces at a luncheon supporting Christian Friends of Israeli Communities.*



*The Optimists help get the school year started with a donation for supplies.*



*Brightworks carwash in Granbury welcomes Granbury Chamber members to its ribbon cutting.*



*The GHS Band attends summer camp to prepare for the new school year.*



*A staff member from Mambrino Elementary welcomes students and parents transferring from homeschools to the new STEAM Academy.*



Baby Zoey helps her mom, Elizabeth Woolverton, have a great bowling game.



Evelyn helps her aunt, Nichole Irick, prepare for the first day of school at the Elite Christian Academy.



Santa's Crew has fun at the Family Feud Fundraiser.



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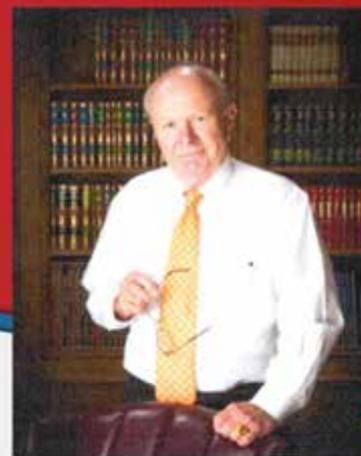
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## 1 — 3

Labor Day Lake Fest: **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; **Monday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Granbury Historic Town Square. For details, visit [www.granburysquare.com](http://www.granburysquare.com).



## 6

Granbury Newcomer's Club: 9:30 a.m., Pecan Plantation Country Club. Julia Donovan to share about "GROW?" Reservations required by noon, **September 3**. For more information, call (817) 243-9831 or email [granburynewcomers@gmail.com](mailto:granburynewcomers@gmail.com).

## 10

North TX Civil War Roundtable: 5:30-8:00 p.m., Spring Creek BBQ, 317 E. Hwy. 377. Author and historian Larry Tagg presenting "The Generals of Shiloh." Visitors welcome. For more info, visit [www.ncentexcwrt.com](http://www.ncentexcwrt.com).

Granbury Civic Chorus Fall Rehearsals begin: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Granbury First United Church, 301 Loop 567. Interested in singing with the chorus? Call Ken McDonald (817) 326-4242, visit [www.GranburyCivicChorus.org](http://www.GranburyCivicChorus.org) or email [granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com](mailto:granburycivicchorus2001@gmail.com).

## 14

Pointe Fore-ward Golf Tournament: 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Harbor Lakes, 2100 Clubhouse Dr. For details, visit [www.lakepointegrnburury.org](http://www.lakepointegrnburury.org).



## 15

Rio Brazos Star Party: 8:30-11:00 p.m., Acton Nature Center, 6900 Smoky Hill Ct. Twilight program at the pavilion. Bring a blanket or chairs and enjoy the evening. Water and cold drinks available to purchase, and restrooms on site. Visit [www.actonnaturecenter.org](http://www.actonnaturecenter.org) for details.

## 18

Genealogy Group meeting – The Skeletons in Your Closet: 10:00 a.m., Pecan Plantation EMS Training Room (behind fire station). For questions, contact [generationsbefore@gmail.com](mailto:generationsbefore@gmail.com) or call Carol at (701) 640-6168.

## 21

Santa Claus Open: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Squaw Valley Golf Course, Glen Rose. Benefitting Hood County Christmas for Children. For details and registration, visit [www.christmasforchildren.org](http://www.christmasforchildren.org).

## 24

Writer's Bloc: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Waterview Apts., second floor

activities room. Noted Author Charlaine Harris, presents "The Diversity of a Writer's Life." Free. For more info contact Brian at [bjcondike@icloud.com](mailto:bjcondike@icloud.com).

## 25

Granbury Christian Women's Connection: 10:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeCordova Clubhouse. Optional lunch (\$13) For reservations, call Karen Stahlman, (409) 457-7569 or e-mail [granburywc@yahoo.com](mailto:granburywc@yahoo.com). For questions about GCWC, call Darla Morris, (817) 579-5751 or Jan Waites, (817) 243-9886.

## 29 — 30

Seventh Annual Granbury Paranormal Expo: **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; **Sunday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Granbury Square. Free admission. For details, visit [www.GranburyParanormalExpo.com](http://www.GranburyParanormalExpo.com).

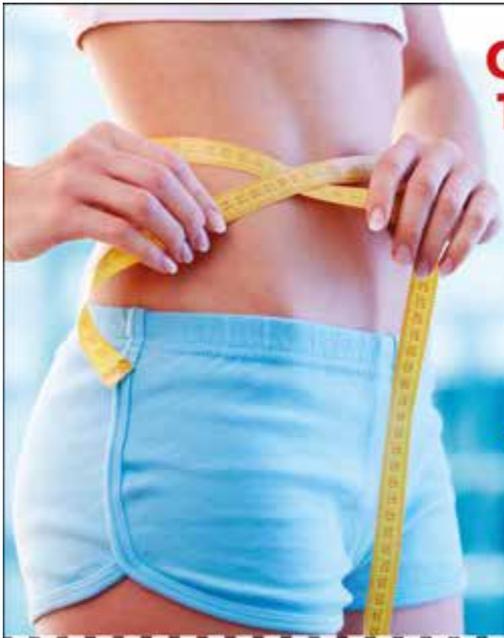


Ongoing:

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. Contact Brianne Langdon, (817) 408-0746.

*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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