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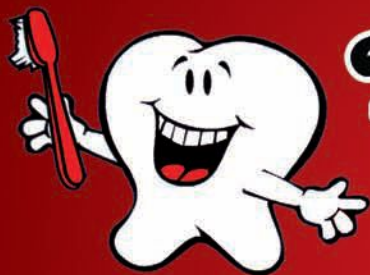
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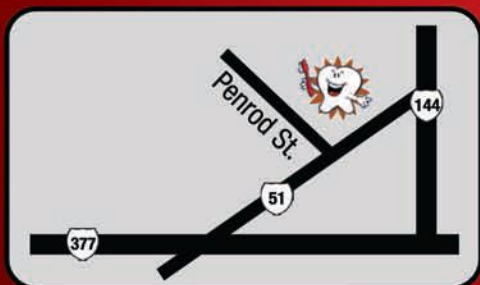
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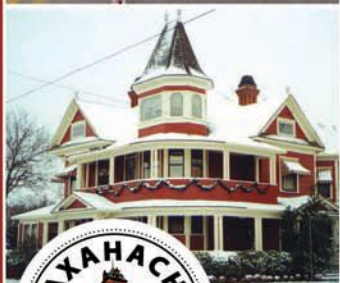
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A grinning clown joins
1,999 ornaments on
LaLa Cooper's glittering tree.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

Ava Gardner, Lemmy Kilmister, Howard Hughes and Kit Carson all share my birthday. Perhaps memories of them will bring a smile to you.

In this, my celebratory month, here's a toast to you all! Without you, I could not have learned precious bits of wisdom nor gained glorious gifts of grace. I'm strengthened as I observe the cheerfulness all around. Your restaurants are filled with talkative, smiling people listening attentively to what's on others' hearts. Your churches and businesses are listening to each other, too, and then spreading love as they tune in to your families. I'm honored to be part of your growth and your blessings, and I just want you to know you're part of mine.

Have a joyful December!

Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
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P.S. The publisher and staff at NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.



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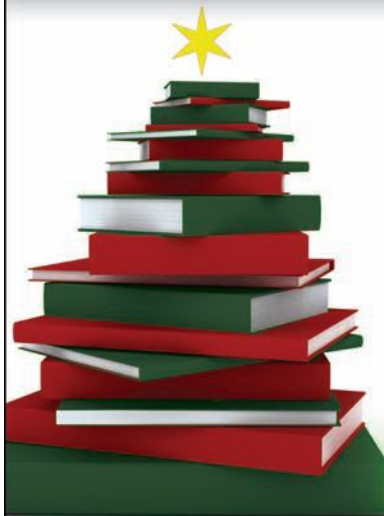
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Caroling for the Community

— By Erin McEndree

During the Christmas season, churches are filled with seasonal carols and beloved hymns including Silent Night and Joy to the World. Some churches prepare artistic performances enacted by talented members of the congregation. Worship is dedicated to the birth of a Savior. Thearon Landrum is the associate pastor of worship arts at the First Baptist Church in Granbury, and he uses his talents to orchestrate seasonal carols and family fun as an outreach.

He possesses musical knowledge and abilities that range from playing instruments and singing to writing and directing. Thearon puts his gifts to work year-round to help his congregants find,

develop and share their God-given talents. "My desire is to use my gifts to glorify God," Thearon said. "Life is about serving God wherever He calls."

As a young child growing up in Boerne, Texas, Thearon remembered his grandfather's church. "He was a Pentecostal preacher," Thearon laughed. "Church services were very charismatic with guitars and a piano when we attended. I just remember Grandpa would do anything for anyone." His mom played piano a little, and there was a piano in his home. Thearon started piano lessons when he was 8, and his love for music began to grow. "I told people I wanted to be a concert pianist when I grew up," Thearon said.

He took lessons until he was 15 from Lucille Martin. She inspired Thearon to practice in a unique way.

"Mrs. Martin had scoliosis, and it was hard for her to move, so she carried a long pointer stick. She would point to the music with the stick, and if you still did not get it right, she would pop the music a little harder," Thearon reminisced. "I did not want my music to get popped, so I played and practiced!" Mrs. Martin's pointer stick is displayed in Thearon's office in a long, wooden shadow box with a red velvet

"We choose to use our talents to glorify God and tell how wonderful and amazing He really is."





backing. When she passed, he retrieved it from a garage sale because it meant so much to him and inspired him to do his best.

In high school, Thearon joined the band and started on the French horn. He admits he got tired of playing, *Um-pa, Um-pa, Um-pa-pa*, and began to play the flute because he loved the parts and their sound. "In high school, I decided I wanted to become a band director like my band director, Joe Blatchford," Thearon said. "I hung out in the band hall asking him questions and looking through the music library. I was probably annoying, but he never let on. He encouraged me."

As a senior, Thearon played the piano in choir class. The choir teacher asked Thearon if he would play the piano at the First Baptist Church in Boerne. "Except for my experience with my grandfather's church as a child, this was my first real introduction to church and music I understood, played by trained musicians," Thearon explained. "I loved it and got paid for doing it!"

Thearon continued to excel playing the flute and received a scholarship to Southwest Texas University (now called Texas State University San Marcos). Little did he know that circumstances were about to change the direction of his life. During Thearon's sophomore year, he found a large lump under his

arm. The doctor suspected it was leukemia, which shocked Thearon and visibly shook him. "A student across the hall from me, whom we called Tall Paul, saw me and immediately started praying for me," Thearon said. Tall Paul was a committed, outgoing Christian, who repeatedly asked Thearon to go to church. "I don't remember what he said, but he prayed for me and cried. That touched me, and I began feeling God poking at my heart." The lump was the symptom of a virus and went away, but because of this situation, Thearon became involved in on-campus ministries and church again.

"It is unique how God changed me during my college years to prepare me [for my future]," Thearon explained. "The



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university did not have a performance curriculum for flute majors, so I designed my classes. I created an intensive study and met with professors one-on-one." Thearon attended graduate school at Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. When he graduated, he was versed in many types of studies,



including areas of ministry, theology, voice and performance. He has had many roles over the past 20 years — singer, music minister, worship pastor, pianist, organist, choir director and producer. Ten years were spent in Florida and 10 where he currently serves at the First Baptist Church. Thearon uses all his knowledge to create a cohesive balance in worship and seasonal performances.

This year on December 21, Thearon will put all his gifts to use to create the third annual First Baptist family Christmas party and a Christmas service about the birth of Jesus. "The party is full of seasonal fun. Kids and adults perform fun, silly music. Kids enjoy the petting zoo, pony rides, crafts and popular snow machine," Thearon explained. "The congregation also provides photographs



with Rudolph, Frosty and, of course, Santa." After the Christmas party, people will be encouraged to stay for a kid-friendly service celebrating the birth of Jesus. "This is really what it is all about," Thearon said. The musical gifts of his congregation and his large family make this event special.



While in Florida, Thearon met and married Maura. They have six children, ages 16 to 6, who are developing skills in fine arts. Maura homeschools, and both encourage each child in their area of interest. Tessa, the oldest daughter, is following in Thearon's

footsteps and plays flute and piano. Thearon enjoys playing in a flute quartet made up of Maura, Tessa and Robyn Wilk, a missionary who visits once a year.

The younger children exhibit other talents. "Molly enjoys drawing and painting. She and her sister, Madalyn, love to dance. Caleb enjoys drama and



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photography. Daniel is a creative designer who enjoys LEGOs. Eli, our adopted son from Ukraine, can be seen helping others with a servant's heart," Thearon said, with the look of a proud father. "We like to be creative together. They love church and being involved in worship."

Although Thearon does not play as much as he used to, and he has not created a song for publication in years, he focuses on sharing his talents with people around



him and encourages them to evolve and grow. "There is a lot more opportunity here than just music. There are visual and dramatic aspects, as well as instrumental aspects of worship," Thearon said. "God is an amazing God, and we have so many ways to use our talents. We choose to use our talents to glorify God and tell how wonderful and amazing He really is." Thearon's future plans are to always go where God leads. **NOW**



Happy Holidays!



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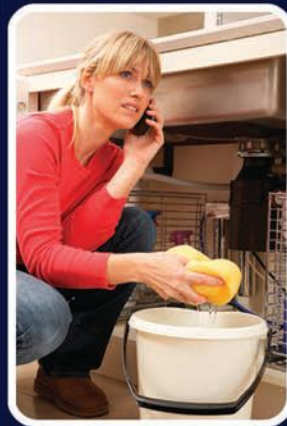


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Kaleidoscopic **Dynamo**

— By Melissa Rawlins

AT HOME WITH

LaLa Cooper

Everyone who meets Louise “LaLa” Cooper thinks she smells like a rose. Call it the LaLa mystique. The warmth and openness of the house she calls home perfectly represents LaLa, a dynamo who glitters like a kaleidoscope.





In one week's time, this precious lady retired tropicals, trimmed natives and erected seasonals. "I hated to take my bougainvilleas and hibiscus down for the winter, but they're safer in the dark garage," said LaLa, whose heart broke as she watched her gardener cut back the bougainvillea grown thick and tall as a tree on her pretty pink patio. Knowing the drastic procedure will make the plant healthier when she puts it out next spring, LaLa said goodbye to the patio plant while her handyman, Jack Hasty, went to the yard to trim back hardy oaks. LaLa's focus became the 10-foot Christmas tree rising out of the sunroom's pink tile floor.

Two thousand ornaments might seem like a lot. But LaLa wouldn't dream of a Christmas without decorating. She has good help from Alicia Martinez, a woman who's become like part of her family. Keeping all of LaLa's seasonal decorations organized, Alicia enjoys days with LaLa setting out reindeer, Santas and angels throughout the pink mansion.

The kitchen counter displays three frosted-glass snowmen, a Santa playing "*Feliz Navidad*" and a toy dog that looks very much like LaLa's canine friends, Chico and Holly Noel. In front of their hot-pink velvet divan dividing the kitchen from the living room is a marbled coffee table. Here, Alicia set two European Santas. Between the two, she placed a nativity scene atop a neon pink serving plate. "When I watch television at night, I like looking at this nativity to remember the reason for the season," LaLa said.

Under the TV, Alicia arranged another nativity scene in the midst of a chorus of pink angels twirling like Ginger Rogers.



"Those angels by Thomas Kinkade are really special, and they're where nobody can knock them over," LaLa said, adding, "I got every one he made for a while, and will give each one to my grandchildren."

LaLa hosts the family for Christmas Eve in her home. Afterwards, many of them go home to Sherman and to Dallas, but the group from Oklahoma stays in LaLa's guest room. LaLa's daughter, Donna Carnall, has contributed quite a few memories here, from several Southwestern prints in the living room that her part-Indian, part-French, mother just loves, to a few treasured icons she brought from Russia. She joins her mom and the eldest daughter of LaLa's husband, Jim, for after-Christmas shopping sprees at Dillard's.

LaLa's collection of dancing, waving Santas includes two she named Stacy and Toby, after two of her grandchildren. Toby has grown up to be a petroleum engineer, and even when traveling overseas he remembered his grandmother. The Santas he brought her from Egypt and Africa still hang on her towering tree. There is also one pale pink Claus, a gift from Jim when they first married and still lived in the French Quarter Apartments in Fort Worth.

"My husband and I were second-time-arounders, and married in 1968," LaLa said, gazing at a vintage photo of herself at 50, dressed in pumps and a starched sundress, standing next to the 1967 gold Ford Mustang GT she had purchased right before meeting Jim, who retired



"My home's not elegant, just fun!"

from the U.S. Navy before joining the Federal Aviation Administration.

Before he passed away in 2013 at the age of 97, the couple loved to celebrate at the DeCordova Bend Club with

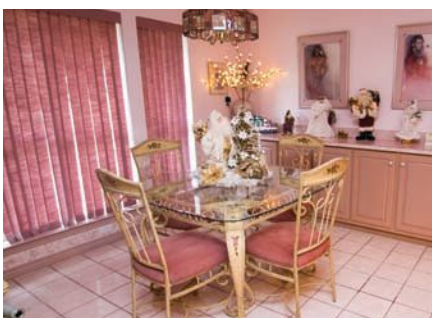
dance parties featuring The Smoke Rise Band. "They are one of the greatest bands! So very versatile, playing big band and western, they played at Jim's 90th, my 90th and my 95th," LaLa said. "It was a blessing for Jim and me to move from Hideaway Bay to the fifth tee of DeCordova 20 years ago. We always enjoyed happy hour in our sunroom, watching the golfers. We were at the Club every time they hosted a dance." LaLa has reservations for this year's Christmas dance and New Year's Eve ball.

LaLa thrives for many reasons, not the least of which is the good care she gives herself. She exercises half an hour every day, a habit she began 45 years ago. She drinks one Boost per day, plus takes calcium, potassium, vitamin D and E. She still makes candies and cakes for Christmas, always using fresh pecans.

That habit started when she and Jim first came to Granbury in 1969. Jim went hunting fresh blueberries. In the process, the couple met Grace and Dude Myers, an older couple with no children. "They had pecan, peach, apple and all kinds of trees. They plowed up a little addition there for Jim and me to plant our garden," LaLa recalled. "We had a blast tending the rows and living on vegetables. And besides that, they had a pecan tree on a vacant lot we mowed for them, and that tree did not know when to quit." A fifth-generation Fort Worthian, born to Melvin and Alma Cluck, LaLa took fresh vegetables and nuts to her mother during Alma's later years.

Lavishly loving and constantly socializing have also added to LaLa's longevity. Early on she joined clubs like Newcomers and the Opera Guild. And she's supported the beautification of Granbury by dressing up for fun at The Jewel Ball. She's been to 29 of the 31 fundraisers, and this year wore a black velvet gown trimmed in pink.

LaLa never outgrew her little-girl passion for pink, which was even the color of the dock she and Jim built when they first moved here. Jim preferred her precious pinks to the oranges and browns





so fashionable in the '70s. When they built this home in DeCordova Bend, he helped LaLa pick out the pink leather seats for the kitchen bar.

Early this month, LaLa hosts her annual open house for members of the Good Shepherd Anglican Church in Acton. When the Christmas party is over, she'll walk past the wall holding crosses given to her over the years, including a

burgundy cross blessed by her priest, Father Huff.

When she retires, her king-sized bed faces beautiful memories. Above a sweet, pink antique chair she displays four framed stencils that were in the homes of Jim's mother and LaLa's aunt. Atop her recently refurbished antique dresser, pure white angels remind her it's her favorite holiday. "My home's not elegant, just fun!"



That's what Christmas is all about for LaLa. Frolicking through flocked trees, 20 reindeers share the front yard with LaLa's pink pig and pink poodle. Perfectly at home, as a kaleidoscopic dynamo, LaLa intends to keep getting ideas, making them happen and pouring love into life. **NOW**



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2014 Holiday Shopping Guide

Do not miss these FREE events!

Dec. 5, 6, & 7: Away In A Manger

A Gift to the Community: 12:30-6:30 p.m., Langdon Art Center, 308 E. Bridge St. A free display of over 800 nativity sets from 82 different locations around the world. (817) 279-1164.

Dec. 6: Granbury Gunslingers

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Square. Meet reenactors, entertainers and living educators dedicated to presenting the American Old West, circa 1860-1885. Call Doc Moore, (817) 371-4979.

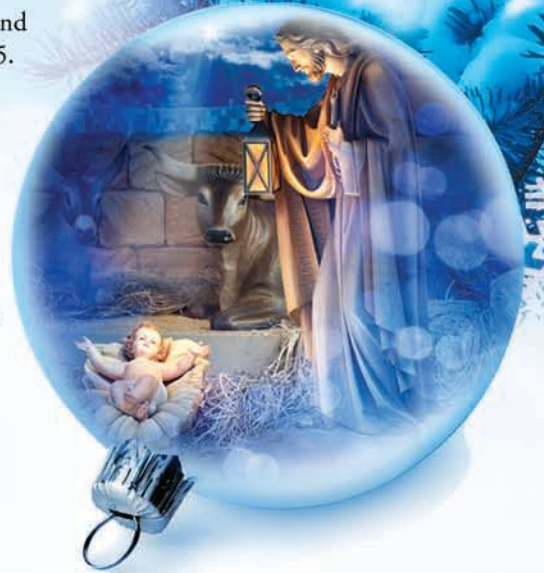
Dec. 12 & 13: Living Christmas Cards

Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

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Dec. 15: All is Well Christmas Concert

All is Well Christmas Concert: 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church. Free! Healing Heart Chorus and Brazos Chamber Orchestra perform Christmas Cantata and other favorites. (817) 645-8067.



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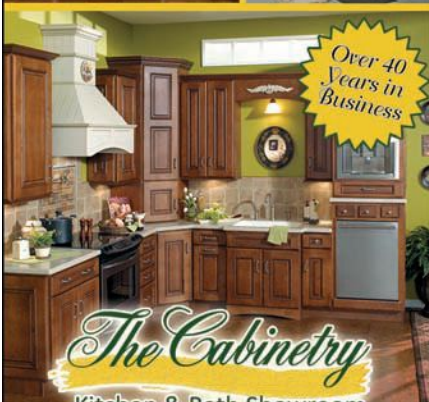
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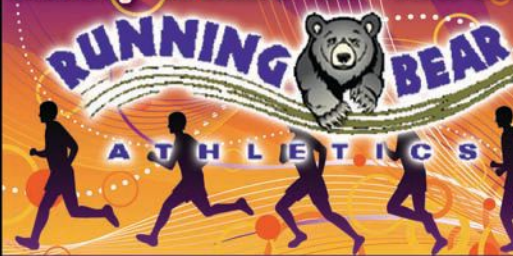
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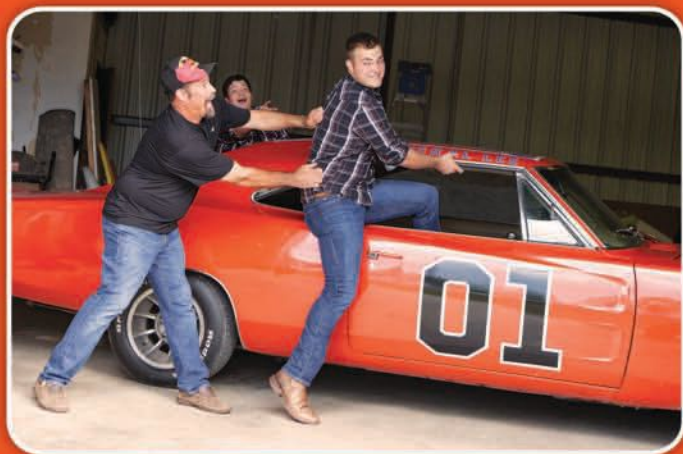
The Dukes of Hazzard television show aired from 1979 to 1985. The movie release in 2005 and airing of reruns have a new generation loving the good ole boys. But the General Lee might very well be the most beloved cast member of both the show and movie. Who doesn't love that car?

When Chase Quillin started watching the show, he dreamed of owning a car like the General. His father, Brett, helped make the dream come true, but not just to have an extraordinary car. He used the General to help Chase get to college.

Family time is important for Brett who grew up in Fort Worth. His father was a motorcycle policeman and often picked Brett up from school on his Harley. Other kids considered him the coolest kid. At 11, Brett's world changed when his parents divorced. In the two years following, Brett saw his father less than he wanted to.

Eventually, they re-established communication, and Brett lived with him during his junior and senior years of high school. Their relationship wasn't bad, but different from Brett's early years. Even today, Brett and his dad love each other and talk, but they don't have the relationship that might have developed because of the years of separation.

When Brett met Shelena, he started going to church with her and began a relationship with Jesus. Although he never did anything horrible, Brett admits he made some poor choices as a teenager. "I think I did those things because my dad was not around to keep me focused on doing the right thing," he said. When he married Shelena, he said, "I'm in this for the long haul." He shared with her the kind of father and husband he wanted to be. He planned for



“The greatest thing about having the car is the smiles when people see it.”



his children not to experience divorce, to know right from wrong and have a relationship with Jesus, too.

His experiences created a longing for a close relationship with his children. He tries to be a friend, yet knows when to step in as dad. Brett spends time with both of his sons. Although he has more in common with the older one, Chase, they always include Trey. Once, Chase persuaded Brett to do re-enactments. They all drove to Shiloh for the 150-year battle re-enactment.

“I’d rather stay home with my parents than hang out with my friends,” Trey said. “We’ve always had a strong relationship.” His friends prefer spending time at his house, many of them adopting the Quillins as their second family.

“Dad is definitely my best friend,” Chase said. “He really is.” They love history, sports, cars and collecting



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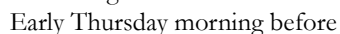
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things together. While Trey enjoys these things, his passion is for muscle cars, drawing and music. Shelena takes care of her family and spends a lot of time volunteering at the Granbury Church of God where Brett serves as associate pastor and she is the minister of music. Trey gets his love of music naturally from his mom.

Brett has always liked classic cars. He bought a 1971 Mustang when Chase approached driving age. While Shelena thought he might be having a mid-life crisis, he said, "Better a car than a woman." She agreed. In Brett's mind, the Mustang might be Chase's first vehicle. He actually wanted to work on the car with his sons. Thus began a love affair with owning classic cars.

A car without air conditioning in Texas summers didn't serve a young man well — especially when dating. A Camaro replaced the Mustang until a GMC truck took the Camaro's place. After graduating from high school, Chase joined the National Guard and got a job at the Hood County Jail. He missed having a



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Memorial Day, the family headed to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. They arrived late that night, looked at the car, drove, bought and loaded it on a trailer. They traveled all day Friday, arriving in Granbury late that night. As a mailman, Brett had to work that Saturday. Their debut of the classic car took place Monday during the Memorial Day Parade, complete with the sound of "Dixie" from under the hood and autographs inside the trunk lid.



"Everywhere we went in the thing, people just flocked to it," Brett said. Trey admits working on the car wasn't quite as fun as he imagined. "But the looks are fun," he said, grinning. The brothers, in their classic car, definitely drew attention.

For Chase, the car opened conversations. He has always enjoyed meeting people and hearing their stories and memories. "The greatest thing about having the car," Brett said, "was the smiles when people saw it."

Chase likes working at the jail, where deputies joked about being the first to pull him over when he was driving it. But this young man is on the right side of the law and being extra careful to stay out of trouble.

Shelena got in on the excitement, making a promotional video. On private property, Chase drove the car. Going around a corner, he couldn't help but drift. It just seemed right.

Now, Brett has sold the car to a man from Kansas and funded Chase's first year of college with the proceeds. The General has already given the family and others in their town memories. The real tribute goes to a dad working to keep relationships intact. The Quillins were a great fit for a car featured on a show about family sticking together. **NOW**



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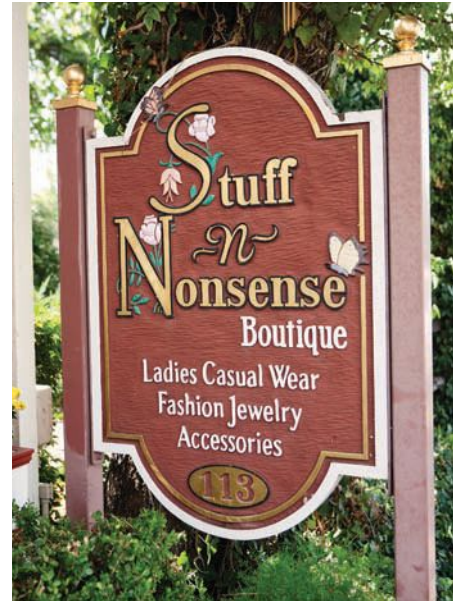


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Sunday: 12:00-5:00 p.m.



Stuff 'N Nonsense manager, Sam Winters, and owner, Rebecca Barton, care for their customers' hearts as much as their style.



Your Sister's Closet

Stuff 'N Nonsense Boutique is Granbury's choice for ladies apparel and accessories.

— By Melissa Rawlins

For 25 years, Stuff 'N Nonsense Boutique has beckoned fashionistas to historic downtown. Women come from miles around for missy through plus-sized clothing, as well as accessories, from woven resort shoes to handbags to one of the boutique's hottest items: fashion jewelry. Owner Rebecca Barton plays oldies on the radio, sends up a lot of prayers and smiles constantly.

Her store manager, Sam Winters, has a theory about the boutique's success. "We offer a selection for the casual yet elegant lady," Sam said, "a variety of clothes that do not hug the body and allow you to be classy, up-to-date and ready for whatever your day brings." The staff helps people feel comfortable, engaging customers in conversation. Sam tells jokes.

Shoppers feel like old friends, tending to stay awhile. It's easy to have fun trying on this, that or the other. The store's arrangement is logical. Rebecca tries to hang tops with flattering pants or skirts and matching jewelry. "We study body shapes, fabrics and patterns," she said. "We would never put petite ladies in long tunic tops or big, bold prints. They'd look like they had been in their great-grandmother's closet, playing dress up."

No, a visit to Stuff 'N Nonsense feels more like dress-up day in your *sister's* closet. "Fashion has always been my passion," Rebecca said. When she was single, many years ago in Houston, Texas, she was on a tight budget while working and attending modeling school. She learned to shop smartly and be thrifty so she could afford the fashions she loved. Now, when she goes to market, she finds quality merchandise at affordable prices.

Business **NOW**

Stuff 'N Nonsense carries on-trend fashions that can be worn for many seasons and even years to come. "Trends we like this season include tunic tops, lace insets, jeggings, palazzo pants and layering several necklaces and bracelets," Rebecca said. This winter, colors tend to be aurora red, misted yellow, radiant orchid, royal blue, aluminum, silver or grey.

"We offer a selection for the casual yet elegant lady."

Most importantly, textures are soft and comfortable. Rebecca spends many hours at market in Las Vegas and Dallas looking for fabrics that feel good and items that allow a woman on the go to be comfortable while looking stylish. With fresh items coming in almost every day, just finding room for everything is a challenge. "We seem to manage," Rebecca said, "by reducing slower selling items, making room for new things."

Stuff 'N Nonsense is housed in what looks like a small Victorian house with a delightful garden area. When Rebecca found it in 1989, it was being used for storage. The building had been a beauty shop in the '40s and '50s, owned by Florence Mobley. After 17 years, Rebecca added on to the pier-and-beam structure, doubling the size yet maintaining the cozy, inviting feeling.

Rebecca and her staff continue making people beautiful, in more ways than one. A lot of their customers, friends and family have been stricken with cancer. It was important to Rebecca to give back to her supporters. So, they started a Relay For Life team. They produce the Pink Ribbon Fashion Show, where models are survivors and proceeds are donated to Cancer Care Services. Last year, they added Bras For A Cause. The most touching and fun part of Stuff 'N Nonsense Boutique is meeting people, hearing their stories and caring for their hearts. **NOW**

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Mike Eubank and Hanna Wallace prepare the menu at Farina's, enjoyed by Sunny Snyder, Ralph Jaggars and Laura Bradford.



Granbury Regional Airport hosts a highly successful balloon festival.



Rachel and Ervie Baldwin have fun getting their front porch decorated for the holidays.



Jesse and Melissa Schoesson, with their grandson Tyler, get ready to build doghouses.



Alexis Smith and Tye Foster join other FFA students for fun and games before the ice cream social.



The Doss family heads home from Hood County Library after checking out their books and movies for the week.



The turnout for the ribbon cutting at Kim's Blackbelt Academy was great.



Haunted Granbury author Brandy Herr, left, enjoys friendly support from Granbury Newcomers Club officers Donna Bryant, Sharon Harris and Polly Parmer.



Lady Pirate golfers (all except Mia Jo Munoz) celebrate winning silver medals with Coach Samantha Barker, left, and Coach Becky Addison, right.



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December 2

Opera Guild of Granbury meeting: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club, 5301 Country Club Dr, Acton. Selections from *It's A Wonderful Life* performed by Granbury Theater Company. (682) 936-9572.

December 5

Celebrity Cutting: 7:00 p.m., Will Rogers Coliseum, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. (817) 882-4100.

December 5, 6

A Candlelight Tour: 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., 101 E. Pearl St. 31st tour of historic Granbury homes brings the community together in an assemblage of lights, carriage rides, Christmas carols and treats. \$25. (817) 882-4100.

December 5, 6, 7

A Twilight Texas Christmas: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 621 E. Pearl St. Book signing extravaganza for Lori Wilde's *Twilight, Texas*. (214) 675-5752.

December 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Away in a Manger — A Gift to the Community: 12:30-6:30 p.m., Langdon Art

Center, 308 E. Bridge St. A free display of over 800 nativity sets from 82 different locations around the world. (817) 279-1164.

December 6

Tidings of Joy: 3:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 303 W. Bridge St. Free to the public. Donations welcome. Contact Wendy Davis, (817) 326-2687.

December 11

Christmas Tour of Homes: 9:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Pecan Plantation. Enjoy seven beautiful homes. Lunch package \$28. RSVP (817) 219-7089.

Chamber Christmas Luncheon:

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center. Lake Granbury Medical Center sponsors a festive holiday meal and State Representative Jim Keffer. \$22. (817) 573-1622.

December 12

Melody Belles Singers of Granbury Christmas Concert: 11:00 a.m., DeCordova Bend Estates Country Club, Granbury. The public is welcome to enjoy Tidings of Joy, followed by \$15 lunch. RSVP (817) 326-2381.

December 12, 13

Living Christmas Cards on the Square:

Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Historic Granbury Square. Christmas cards come to life with actors, dancers, and singers who seem to step right out of the card as they interact with the audience. (817) 573-2094.

December 15

All is Well Christmas Concert: 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church. Free! Healing Heart Chorus and Brazos Chamber Orchestra perform Christmas Cantata and other favorites. (817) 645-8067.

December 27

Last Saturday Gallery Night Art Walk: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 106 N. Houston St. Artists will be on hand, some giving demonstrations, while you enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and music. Contact (817) 579-7733.

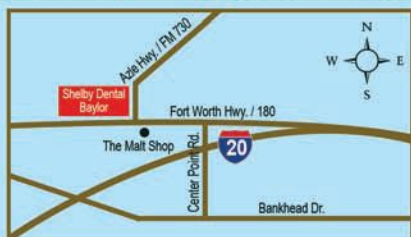
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In the Kitchen With Stephanie Rosenfeld

— By Melissa Rawlins

Inspired by family and her innate creativity, Stephanie Rosenfeld became such a good cook that by the late '80s she sidelined as a caterer in Panama, where she and her husband lived until 1994. She still cooks Latin American foods, but enjoys preparing other cuisine. From her grandmother and stepfather, who was Hungarian and owned a restaurant in New York City, she learned the value of seasonings. From *Good Housekeeping*, she gained foundational recipes. She modified multiple chicken soup recipes until settling on her own. When celebrating her favorite holidays — Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas and Passover — Stephanie's kitchen stays warm. Potato Latkes are traditional for Hanukkah. Her all-time favorite, Potato Kugel, can be a great side dish for all kinds of meat and poultry. **NOW**

Potato Latkes

Makes about 24 pancakes.

4 medium baking potatoes
(about 2 lbs.)

1 medium onion, coarsely grated

1/2 cup green onions, chopped

1 large egg, beaten

Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1. Wash and coarsely shred potatoes. In large bowl, mix potatoes with onion. Wrap mixture in clean tea towel and squeeze out liquid over a large bowl. Slowly pour off and discard liquid in bowl, reserving potato starch.
2. In large bowl, combine potato mixture, onions, egg, salt, pepper and reserved potato starch.
3. Coat a nonstick, 12-inch skillet or griddle with a thin layer of oil. Heat pan over medium-high heat. With hands, press together 2 Tbsp. potato mixture. Place in

pan and flatten with metal spatula. Repeat to make 5 more pancakes.

4. Cook pancakes about 8 minutes, turning once, until browned on both sides. Reduce heat if pancakes are browning too quickly. Transfer pancakes to platter lined with paper towels to drain. Cover loosely with foil; keep warm. Repeat with remaining mixture. Serve with applesauce or sour cream. These freeze nicely.

Chicken Soup

1 3 1/2-lb. chicken

2 parsnips, peeled and cut in half lengthwise

4 carrots peeled and cut into large pieces

2 ribs celery, cut into large pieces

8 sprigs of dill (divided use)

8 sprigs of parsley (divided use)

4 sprigs celery leaves

1 large onion, halved

4 whole cloves

1 tsp. peppercorns

3 strips lemon peel

1 2-inch piece fresh ginger

3 cloves garlic

2 tsp. Herbes de Provence

1/2 stick cinnamon

1 cup fine egg noodles, cooked or Matzoh balls (optional)

Salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste

1. Skin chicken, remove all fat and cut into quarters.
2. Put 3 quarts of water into a large pot; add chicken, parsnips, carrots and celery leaves.
3. Prepare a bouquet garni using 4 sprigs dill, 4 sprigs parsley and celery leaves. Add onion, studded with the cloves, lemon peel, ginger and garlic. Cut a small square of cheesecloth. Put peppercorns, Herbes de Provence and cinnamon on the cloth and tie it up. Add to pot.
4. Bring to boil and skim off the foam. Lower heat to a simmer, cover pot and cook for 90 minutes.
5. Remove chicken from pot and let cool.
6. Strain broth, reserving carrots. Discard everything else.
7. Put broth back into pot. Cut carrots into thin slices; add to soup.
8. Shred chicken; add to soup with noodles or Matzoh balls.
9. Season to taste with salt, freshly ground black pepper, and 4 sprigs each parsley and dill, finely chopped.

Potato Kugel

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

2 Tbsp. vegetable oil

6 medium potatoes, peeled or unpeeled

3 large eggs

1/2 cup Matzoh meal

1/2 tsp. potato starch

1 1/2 tsp. salt

Freshly ground pepper, to taste

1 onion, grated

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 1 1/2-quart casserole with vegetable oil.
2. Grate potatoes until you have 3 cups.
3. In a large bowl, beat the eggs until thick. Stir in potatoes and remaining ingredients.
4. Put mixture into greased casserole and bake uncovered, about 1 hour.

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