

# The World at Bethlehem

Faye Landham shares her massive Nativity collection

# Historical Sheriff House At Home With Brian Gaffin

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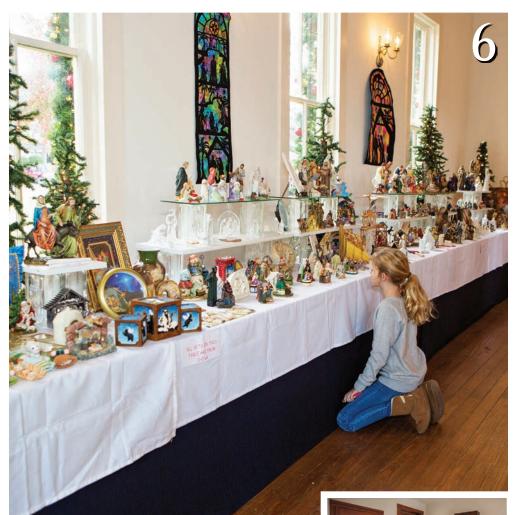
# ON THE COVER



Faye Landham gives back to the community and visitors by sharing her private Nativities collection.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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# Editor's Note

Hello, Granbury Family and Friends!

Do you remember Christmas gifts? I have trouble with last year. From my childhood? One. That's it. One year I asked for Timey Tell, and Mom sacrificed, paying a high price knowing that would be my last doll.

But the memories, aah! Precious memories thrive, tucked away safely throughout my mind. Celebrating Jesus, Mother Goose Land and seeing Santa at Mrs. Baird's Bakery touring the town to see lights. I shared that tradition with

my children and grandchildren, adding hot chocolate. Now we make sure the route includes Bridge Street. Cooking with Mom, while Christmas tunes floated from the record player, and always lots of family. That hasn't changed. We added the Parade of Lights, Shanley Park and Faye's Nativities to the mix.

Admittedly, I overload myself, and when December 26 arrives, I feel let down — as if I missed something special. In the busyness of shopping, creating, decorating, parties and everything else, I forget simply to enjoy the season. Not this year.

Cherish your holiday!

[isa

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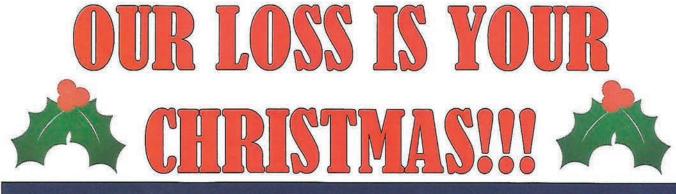


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A missionary is sent to a foreign country to share Jesus with the people they visit. Faye Landham is a local missionary who uses foreign Nativity scenes to share Jesus with those who visit her in Granbury. 'Jesus' birthday is a very important time to our family," Faye said. "Growing up, we always had a cake on Jesus' birthday." Faye began collecting Nativity scenes more than 60 years ago when she received one from Italy as a wedding gift from her parents. "I had five. The one from Italy, plus four more, each from a different country — Nigeria, Norway, the United States and Mexico," Faye explained. "I began to look for other countries, and people began to give me Nativities." For Faye, the Nativity represents the true meaning of Christmas.

Faye has collected more than 1,000 Nativities from 89 locations. "I have a budget of about \$200 a year for Nativity scenes," she said. "I add several to my collection each year." As she traveled to different parts of the world, she personally collected a large number. Many cultures and traditions are depicted, different

<u>By Erin McEndree</u>

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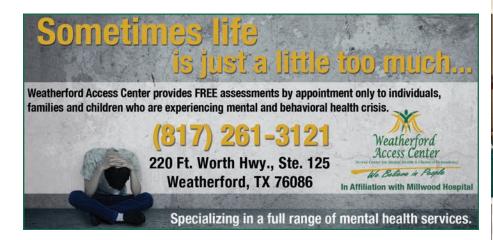
aspects of the season and days for celebrations are represented. However, the reason for the season is always the same — Jesus.

Many of Faye's favorite Nativity scenes are crafted from materials unique to the region. For example, the Nativity from Liberia is constructed from bullet casings that were picked up on the street. The Nativity from Kenya is fashioned from recycled soda cans. "I love the ones that are made from items specific to that part of the country," Faye said. "They tell a story and represent the culture we may not know anything about."

thl

A dozen Nativities represent Africa in Faye's collection. Africans are very spiritual people, and their main focus at Christmastime is worship, celebrating the birth of Christ. Live Nativity scenes are performed in colorful traditional dress with carols and dancing. Parades are held with fake snow, homemade instruments, bells and lanterns called *fanals*.

"One Nativity from Africa depicts baskets of fruits and vegetables being held out to the baby Jesus," Faye said.



# **TRACTOR SALE!**





Mary Anne Vallejo; Linda Grimmett; Faye Landham; and daughter, Candis Culver, love displaying the Nativities each year.

"Wise men are riding elephants, donkeys and other animals." The characters of another scene from Africa are made from huge thorns from a tree.

Another country largely represented with 16 sets is the Philippines. A 12-inch-tall driftwood piece depicts Mary and Joseph and sits atop a shelf in a prominent place. In the Philippines, Nativities are reenacted during the world's longest Christmas season. From September to mid-January, lavish lights and carols are seen and heard in theatrical productions and games. Lanterns made of bamboo and paper are as important to the Filipino people as Christmas trees are to Americans. For midnight mass, the lanterns light the way to worship. Fireworks at the Christmas dawn service heighten the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Nine nights of mass are conducted leading up to Christmas. Tradition says that if a person attends all nine nights, the wish he or she wishes will come true.

Volunteers who help Faye have become good friends. "For 17 years, I set up my display at the Arlington Stake Center owned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints," Faye said. "Linda Grimmett helped me, and when I moved to Granbury, she continued to come each year. Mary Anne Vallejo, my good friend, and Candis Culver, my daughter, are a big help as we unload the 60 tubs, trees and shelves. It takes three days to complete." This is the sixth year the Away in a Manger display has been at the Langdon Center Concert Hall in Granbury and part of the Tour of Homes.

The displays are organized and labeled in several different ways. Most sets are grouped in their corresponding countries. All the hanging Nativities are tied to tree branches on Christmas trees. One table is labeled *Vintage* and



displays anything made before 1970. The Nativities represented by animals are grouped together. They include cardinals and moose that are new this year, as well as deer, dogs, cats, bears and penguins. "The penguin scene is unique because it is the only Nativity I have that Joseph is holding baby Jesus," Faye said.

A children's section has Nativities with Charlie Brown characters and Veggie Tales. Children can sit on the floor next to the fireplace and rug Faye sets up to explore the characters, while their parents roam around and take in the exhibit. The children also enjoy the musical snow globes and other musical scenes. "I enjoy talking to the children about God's love and pointing out that people are worshiping Jesus. I show them the Santa who is praying by Jesus and say that even Santa worships Jesus," Faye explained. "I like to point out the unusual things to the adults." Some unique things include two Nativity scenes that have Mary still with child, a Nativity made using seashells and the fact that the glue gun is always "hot" because something always gets broken.

"Family and friends, and even strangers, give me Nativities to add to my collection," Faye said. "After a news story aired, a feeble old lady on oxygen with a walker called. She explained she wanted me to have hers because her children would not love it like I would. It is a small plaster Nativity, but it is one of my favorites." A table is set up to protect the fragile and most special scenes. On it rests Faye's favorite from her grandmother, and that one brings







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back fond memories every year when she sees it. Faye is proud to display Nativities made by her grandkids and children she taught in Sunday school.

People pick their favorite scenes when they visit. One of the most popular is the Nativity from Mexico made from straw. Fave has 63 sets from Mexico. In Mexico, celebrations begin December 16 and commemorate Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The Nativity is reenacted with fireworks, bells and whistles. After mass at midnight, a traditional feast is complete with tamales, rice, beans, menudo - a traditional Mexican soup and strong coffee.

During the off-season, Faye is passionate about helping others. She volunteers with many organizations. One close to her heart is Cancer Care Services. Being a two-time cancer survivor herself, she enjoys passing out literature and teaching about early detection and recovery.

For almost two decades, Faye has been ministering to adults and children through her life experiences and her collection of Nativity scenes. She shares her faith with so many throughout the year and does not have to leave the country. She is a local missionary who is passionate about sharing the real reason for the season and God's love. NOW

Editor's Note: The Away in a Manger display begins December 2 and runs every day until December 11 at the Langdon Center.



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# HISTORICAL SHERRICAL SHERRICAL SHOUSE -BLia Bell





# AT HOME WITH Brian Gaffin

Long before highways paved the way for travel on Highway 377 and Morgan Street in Granbury, a large limestone structure stood on top of a bluff, overlooking the Brazos River. Hood County Sheriff A.J. Wright originally built the house as a one-story dogtrot dwelling. Later, in 1881, James F. Henderson, also a sheriff of Hood County, acquired the home and added the second story and Victorian galleries. The third sheriff to own the house, Charles M. Duncan, helped preserve it. Hence the abbreviated name, "Sheriff's House."

Brian Gaffin moved to Granbury in 1972. Like many people, he drove past the interesting structure, complete with outer buildings, water tank and windmill. "Had my eye on it for a long time," he said. The exterior German Vernacular architectural style caught his eye. From his architect's perspective, the perfect positioning back in 1873 still amazes him, since they didn't have the tools available today. Somehow, they knew the best location and direction on the then large land parcel.

Brian always told himself if he found the property for sale at an affordable price, he would purchase it. Late in 2011 or early 2012, the house went up for sale. He closed on April 16, 2012, with a blessing from his wife, Kami. Since that time, he put a great deal of effort into refurbishing areas where necessary and doing his best to restore the old Sheriff's House to its former beauty.

While previous owners added and updated parts of the house, the current state of disrepair left the house lifeless. As part of negotiations for the house, he requested they leave fixtures and furnishings, many of which are beautiful antique pieces. With the exception of a few items holding sentimental value, the previous owner — a descendent of the Duncan family — agreed to leave the rest.

Although he got dirty, Brian wanted to be part of the cleaning up and repair work, never knowing what he might find. He wanted to touch every item in the home. In the process, he found all types of treasures. "It was always so much fun to see what I could find," he said. When Brian bought the property, he detected some nice antiques hiding beneath debris in the dining room, where the ceiling had collapsed.

As soon as Brian made repairs, then restored and returned antique pieces to the appropriate rooms, the house came alive, breathing and inviting visitors, which is exactly what Brian longed to accomplish. In 2015, Preserve Granbury presented the couple with an award for preservationist of the year.

Although Brian and Kami don't live in the house, they use it for extended family events, board meetings and such. What





used to be a garage now serves as Brian's office for his architectural business.

A Texas Historical Landmark Marker hangs to the left of the front porch. Also, as one of only two homes in Hood County listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the charm and intrigue of this beautiful home draws guests wanting a tour. Sometimes people drop by unannounced and can't get a tour. Although Brian loves sharing the home and history, his schedule requires an appointment, so he can spend adequate time showing the house.

The front porch, one of the few areas not yet finished, continues beckoning people to stop and sit awhile in old-fashioned metal chairs, their feet gently brushing the wooden planks. Inside, the entryway features the staircase. Rich, dark wood from the floor, stairs and banister and even on the walls exudes quality and care.

Brian's favorite place, the poolroom, holds one of the two original fireplaces, a pool table and many antiques he found in the house. He also added some of his western art to the mix. This room also



has antique wooden board games, many awards, including the one from Preserve Granbury, Boys & Girls Club and the Rotary. Brian has plaques revealing his leadership in holding offices with Rotarians and other service organizations.

The parlor has the other original fireplace and numerous antiques left in the home, including a small working pump organ and various Texas artists' original work. A traditional long table with woven-bottom chairs sits in the formal dining room. An antique Russian Samovar and Turkish teapot, staged in the room, likely came to the home from a wealthy traveler among Duncan family members. An old, wooden high chair waits in a corner, still sturdy and capable of holding a small child. Brian found numerous prints of artwork created by Porfirio Salinas - the favorite artist of LBJ and Lady Bird Johnson - protected behind a door.

While working one day, Brian pulled out three pieces of artwork from behind the cabinet, among which were the "Serenity Prayer" and an old needlepoint piece stating, *God will provide*, which gave



him confidence he'd done the right thing. Both remain displayed in the home today.

The top of the stairs curve to the left, opening to a small sitting area, artfully decorated with still more antiques. One section holds old toys — a wooden horse, antique Chutes and Ladders game, a drum and more. On one wall, a framed \$10 check made out to Mrs. Ingersen for winning an essay contest shares space with a personal letter from Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, thanking her for contributions to the education of children in Texas.

The two rooms upstairs are somewhat mirrored images. One has a full bathroom with a carved bed. The other has a half-bath, but also a small sitting







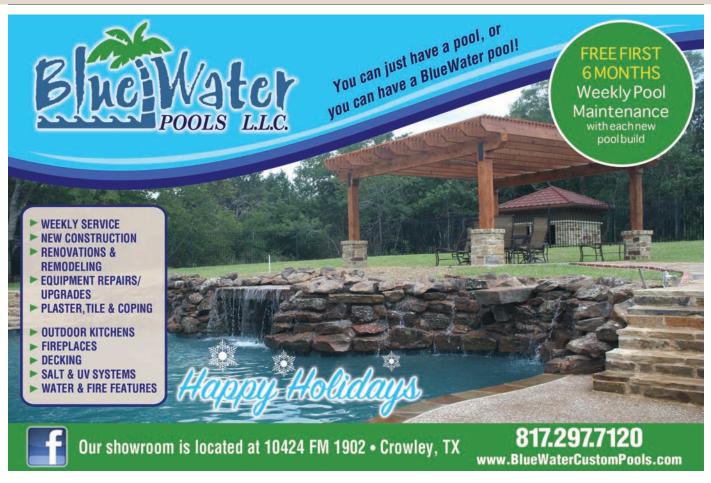
ALTHOUGH BRIAN AND KAMI DON'T LIVE IN THE HOUSE,THEY USE IT FOR EXTENDED FAMILY EVENTS, BOARD MEETINGS AND SUCH. area beside one window. Both rooms have amazing views.

On the bottom floor at the back of the home, Brian and his staff use an updated kitchen that opens to a large room. Although still decorated with antiques, the room provides more than enough space for family gatherings. Even in this room, Brian respects the home and belongings of previous owners.

In searching through all of the items left over generations, he discovered an old radio. He turned it on, and to his surprise, it still worked. "It's been on ever since," he said, grinning. "People sometimes joke about spirits in the house. If there are any ghosts, at least they're happy." If any appear, they may very well be in this room two-steppin' across the floor to the country tunes on the radio.

Brian has no intentions of charging admission, subletting the house or opening a B&B. He simply wants to make sure the house and belongings remain well respected and to share the history of the intriguing Sheriff's House.

Editor's Note: Call (817) 360-6228 to request a tour.





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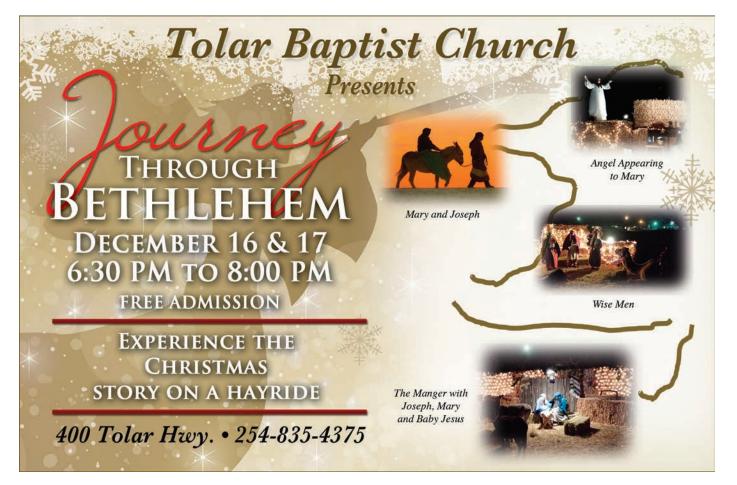
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# CREATING A

Christmastime is near, and you may already see adornment and trimming on your neighbors' houses.' Many people have family heirlooms or other sentimental pieces inside their homes, but they are typically more open to trying something new on the outside of the house. Be creative, and let your house front be your pallet. If you are ready to change up how you dress your house for the holidays, here are some ideas to win your neighborhood decorating contest!

### Lights, Decor, Action!

• *Know your options.* There are dozens of styles of light strings, with slight variations along the way. While regular indoor lighting has been moving away from traditional incandescent bulbs in



WINTER



<u>- By Zachary R. Urquhart</u>

favor of more eco-friendly models, Christmas lights are still offered in any number of styles. You can buy strands relatively cheap that will have the same yellow "soft-white" you have seen for decades, or you may opt for new light-emitting diode styles that will cost more up front but save money on electricity for years to come.

• *Bulbs are not created equal.* The other side of having plenty of options is that you have to be careful when buying new strands. When it comes to LED's, especially, every company will have slightly different hues, so buy enough strands. Lights are categorized by size, but even sizes can fluctuate between brands. When you find the color and



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style you want, consider buying several extra strands. Spending a little now will outweigh having to start over in a few years just because a few strands are dead.

• *Plan before you hang.* When decorating, it is a major source of frustration to reach the end of your last strand just before you get to the edge of your house. Measure your edge, and factor in losing a few inches per strand for the slack you will inevitably have and the inches you lose at each strand connection spot. If you end up with extra lights, you can either hide them in the gutter, or you can take out a bulb to cut the power to the excess lights. A professional Christmas light installation company can assist you in creating the look you are dreaming of.

# Use the Yard

• Less is more, sometimes. Somewhere between an empty front yard and a Griswold-style Christmas, there is a happy medium, displaying just the right amount of holiday cheer. You want to avoid crowding too much outside, but think about adding lights to your trees or bushes. Companies even make light nets that make it easier than ever to cover your shrubs and small trees.

• *Include a statement piece*. There is much more than lights available for



decorating your yard. There is an evergrowing list of variety in inflatable decorations, so you can be the first on your block with the latest trends. Reindeer made of wire or cut out of wood are a great addition, and you can even use hunting decoys with a few accessories for a truly unique look. A Nativity scene is a popular choice with lots of options. You can display something as simple as Jesus, Mary and Joseph, or opt for the entire scene, complete with wise men, animals and a lit up Star of Bethlehem.

• "Spruce" it up. Most people put either an artificial tree or a cut-down real tree in their house for the season. One fun option is to plant a Christmas tree in your front yard. There are many varieties of pine trees, especially, that will grow well, and their increasing size lets each year be a new decorating experience. This is especially great if you have young children who grow older as the tree gets bigger each year.

• *Plan your power*. If you are adding lights to your trees, make sure to start the chord at the bottom, otherwise, you will have to run power up into your branches. Also, have an idea of where you will plug each chord running into your yard. You want to avoid too many possible tripping hazards, and if you can, try to hide the cords so as not to detract from the yard's beauty in the daylight hours.



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# Themes Bring Everything Together

• *Take it "light-ly.*" There is no specific right combination of lights, especially when decorating the outside. You can go all white, colored or settle on a blend of the two. But, symmetry is usually more visually appealing, so try to have a pattern to your light and ornament setup. The key is to avoid one strand or section that looks out of place among the rest.

• Your lawn needs focus. If you have a hunting Santa next to a newborn Jesus, all behind a skeleton from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, your display may be sending mixed signals. Pick a genre and fit your decorations within that theme. Some great options include: gingerbread men, toy soldiers, Santa and his elves or religious themes. You can also get creative and add lights, red hats and jingle bells to any lawn motif to make a theme of your own.

• *Plan with the neighbors.* If you can get people on your block to agree, consider having an entire neighborhood theme. One option is to do something simple like coordinating your light color and placement. For something really special, work together to put on the 12 Days of Christmas, or you can even create an entire Dickens' Christmas village.

Whether you want a simple yard with well-placed, coordinated lights, or you want to transform your entire neighborhood into a white winter wonderland, use these tips and start with a solid plan to ensure your yard is full of holiday cheer!

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Christina Todd strives to care for pets as if they are her own.

# 

Christina Todd cares for client dogs like her own and makes them look good, too. — By Lisa Bell

As a teenager, Christina Todd groomed dogs in her mother's shop. Although she walked away from dog grooming for a while, she went back to it because she loves it so much. "I like to make the doggies comfortable," she said.

In 2008, Hurricane Ike flooded Christina's home. Her dad left her a house in Granbury where her grandmother still lived. She left for Granbury, not knowing her grandmother passed away the previous day.

She continued grooming dogs and worked at a veterinarian clinic. Then one day, someone asked why she didn't open her own shop. She responded, "Why not?" With more than 20 years of experience in the industry and having run her mother's shop at a young age, Christina believed she could succeed. With a little bit of money and a great deal of help from friends, she opened Doggy Do's in September 2014.

"I didn't realize how much work there was in this [running a business] until I got into it," she confessed. But she is thriving and loving her work. "I got the best job in the world. On a bad day, I sit on the floor and love on the dogs."

At Doggy Do's, they work hard to make sure their furry friends don't shiver with fear as they enter. Christina has six Schnauzers. One of them, Tessa, comes to work with her, a perfect test case for the atmosphere. "She's the boss," Christina shared. She and her employees strive to make the shop comfortable for dogs and their owners. A small sofa allows owners to watch as the groomers work on the pets.

### Business NOW

Offering all normal care services haircuts, nail clips, deep conditioning, deshedding and more — she doesn't mind teaching basic grooming. According to Christina, when a dog's nails get too long, walking hurts his or her feet. Unclean ears can cause infections. She'd rather teach someone than have the babies hurt

# AT DOGGY DO'S, THEY WORK HARD TO MAKE SURE THEIR FURRY FRIENDS DON'T SHIVER WITH FEAR AS THEY ENTER.

because the owner can't afford frequent visits. She is considering offering group classes in the future.

Besides caring for basic needs in grooming, Christina also loves doing haircuts, especially for people who desire something unique. She dyes hair and performs unusual cuts, such as Mohawk styles. "I like to do the haircuts. I'm very picky," Christina revealed. "People say I'm OCD [about dog haircuts.] But that's why they come back."

Her pickiness also comes out when she hires groomers. "They have to love the dogs. It can't be just about the money," she said. She also does her best to maintain safety while dogs remain in her care. Although she likes the dogs' freedom to run and play in a designated area, she will confine them for their own safety or that of the other animals.

Doggy Do's supports St. Jude's, and Christina likes to help when asked for donations. She also gives away a free groom to repeat customers by entering them in a drawing. Seniors over 55 receive \$5 off a groom. In the future, she may expand the discount to first responders. During December, they will offer framed, Christmas pet photos for an extra \$10.

To best care for dogs, Christina recommends keeping tabs with a good veterinarian and making sure to meet grooming needs. Calling for an appointment is best, but clients can make a request through the website. **NOW** 



Hours: Mon-Sat 9-4 • Sunday 11-4 Now Offering Sewing Machine Cleaning.



# Around Town NOW



The Lady Pirates win district championship honors and are bound for the playoffs.



Linda Dooly celebrates her 79th birthday.



Brandon Flowers and Spencer Albritton guard the candy at Crossing Place Church.



Jennifer Layland takes her 6-week-old son, Elijah, trunk or treating with cousin, Megan, at FUMC.



Curt Farley has some fun at D'Vine Wine karaoke night.



Jerry Allen shares his talent with Granbury.



Catherine West celebrates Hood County's 150th birthday.



Wes Maynard celebrates the ribbon cutting for Mesquite Pit BBQ with son, Jake and Mike Scott, Chamber CEO.



Two-year residents of Granbury, the Bell family, visit the town square for Halloween fun



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#### December 1

Toys for Tots Spaghetti Luncheon: 12:30-2:00 p.m., Courtyards at Lake Granbury, 801 Calinco Dr. Bring a new, unwrapped toy. Be our guest to eat in or dine out. (Limit of one lunch/toy.) For details, call (817) 736-4300.

#### December 2

Melody Belles "Christmas Joy" Concert: 6:00 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 303 Bridge St. Part of candlelight tour. Free to the public. Donations welcome. Call (817) 326-2687 for info.

#### December 2, 3

33rd Annual Candlelight Tour: Friday, 5:00-9:00 p.m.; Saturday Noon-9:00 p.m., Granbury's Historic Square. Supports the square. \$20 (advance tickets). For details and to purchase tickets, visit www.granburycandlelighttour.com.

#### December 2 — 11

Away in a Manger: Various times based on day, Dora Lee Langdon Cultural Center, Concert Hall, 300 E. Bridge St. Display of more than 1,000 Nativity sets. For details and times, visit www.visitgranbury.com.

#### December 3

Breakfast with Santa. 8:00-11:00 a.m., Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro, 7710 Fall Creek Hwy. Free for children 2 and under; \$5, ages 3-12; \$10, ages 13 and up. Details at www.campfirefw.org.

#### December 8

S'mores with Santa: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Acton Nature Center. Free event. For more information, visit www.actonnaturecenter.org.

#### December 9

Melody Belles "Christmas Joy" Luncheon Concert: 11:00 a.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club. Concert followed by lunch. Public invited. Lunch \$15. Call DCBE Club at (817) 326-2381 for reservations.

#### December 9, 10

Granbury Living Christmas Cards: **Friday**, 6:30-8:45 p.m.; **Saturday**, 2:00-5:00 p.m., Historic Granbury Square. Larger-than-life thematic hand-painted Christmas cards. Crafts, Nativity Petting Zoo, visit with Santa. For more information, visit www.GRANBURYCHRISTMAS.COM.

# DECEMBER 2016

#### December 10

Christmas Holiday Spectacular Concert: 7:00 p.m., Acton United Methodist Church. Free community event to fill you with Christmas spirit and hope. For more information, visit www.acton.church or call (817) 326-4242.

#### December 12

BCO Christmas Concert: 7:30-9:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 301 S. Loop 567. Free. Visit www.brazoschamberorchestra.org.

#### December 16

Link Union free concert: 7:00 p.m., Lakeside Baptist Church, 500 W. Bluebonnet. High energy, young sound to old-time music.

#### January 5

Granbury Newcomer's Club luncheon/thirdannual Birthday Bash: 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Pecan Plantation Country Club. Bring a \$5 wrapped gift. Lunch \$14. Make reservations at (817) 243-9831 by **noon Monday, Jan 1**.

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

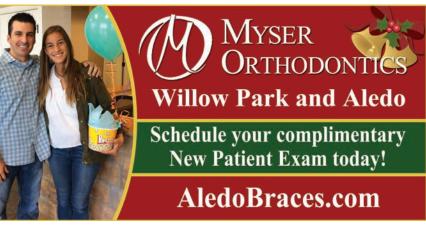




www.nowmagazines.com 34 GranburyNOW December 2016









# Cooking **NOW**



# In the Kitchen With Sara Miskovic

### — By Lisa Bell

Sara Miskovic comes from a long line of excellent cooks. "Mom was a chef's apprentice at The Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas. Both my grandmothers are amazing cooks as well," she said. "I consider myself incredibly blessed to have learned the art of cooking from such talented women." Sara cooked her first egg at age 5 — sunny side up.

She grew up and still lives on her family farm, which explains her love of fresh veggies, eggs and grass-fed meats. "I truly enjoy making art in everyday activities, cooking included. Cooking can be as artistic as you choose, no matter what meal of the day you are preparing," Sara shared. When not cooking or working in her store, The Pan Handle, on the Historic Granbury Square, she enjoys gardening, furniture-making, painting, sewing, knitting and crochet.

### Rustic Iron Skillet Tamale Pie

Makes 8 servings.

I lb. ground chuck I white onion, chopped I red bell pepper, chopped 1 10-oz. can enchilada sauce 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce I tsp. ground cumin 2 tsp. chili powder (divided use) 1/2 tsp. salt  $1 \frac{1}{2}$  cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese 2 cups self-rising cornmeal mix I cup cream-style corn 3/4 cup whole milk 1/2 cup vegetable oil 2 large eggs 1 tsp. sugar

I. In a large cast-iron skillet, combine ground chuck, onion and bell pepper. **2.** Cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally until beef is browned and crumbly. Drain well. 3. Stir in enchilada sauce, tomato sauce, cumin, 1 tsp. chili powder and salt. 4. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce and simmer 20 minutes, stirring often. Stir in cheese, and then set aside. 5. Preheat oven to 350 F and lightly grease a 10-inch, cast-iron skillet. 6. In a medium bowl, combine commeal mix, cream-style corn, milk, oil and eggs. Stir in sugar and the remaining 1 tsp. of chili powder. **7** Pour 1/3 of this mix into the 10-inch skillet. Bake for 10 minutes. 8. Spoon the meat mixture evenly over the bottom layer of cornbread.

**9.** Spoon the remaining cornmeal batter evenly over the meat mixture; bake 35 to 40 minutes or until a wooden toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center of the skillet. **10.** Cut into wedges and serve.

### **Texas Ranch Biscuits**

- 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 cup sugar
- l tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 pkg. dry yeast, dissolved in 1/2 cup warm water
- 2 cups buttermilk

Mix dry ingredients first, and then mix in the yeast and buttermilk. Keep in the refrigerator until you are ready to cut the dough.
 Work dough, cut into biscuits and let stand and rise for about 20 minutes.
 Bake at 400 F until lightly golden brown or until done.

### **Chocolate Snickerdoodles**

Cookies:

1 1/2 cups sugar
1/2 cup shortening
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 eggs
2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 cup cocoa
1 tsp. cream of tartar
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda

Sugar Rolling Mixture: 2 Tbsp. sugar 2 tsp. cinnamon

**I.** *For cookies:* Beat sugar and shortening together until light and fluffy.

 Add vanilla extract and eggs; beat well.
 Add flour, cocoa, cream of tartar, salt and soda; mix well. Shape the dough into 1-inch balls.

**4.** For sugar rolling mixture: In a small bowl, thoroughly combine sugar and cinnamon. Roll dough balls in the mixture.

**5.** Place onto a cookie sheet. Bake at 400 F for 6 to 9 minutes.

**6.** Remove from the cookie sheet immediately and cool. Enjoy!

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



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- \* For cats, male dogs, and small female dogs only
- \* Additional restrictions may apply

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