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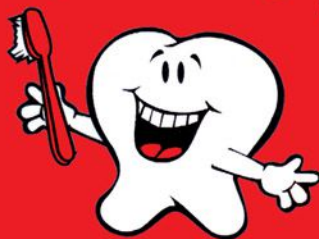
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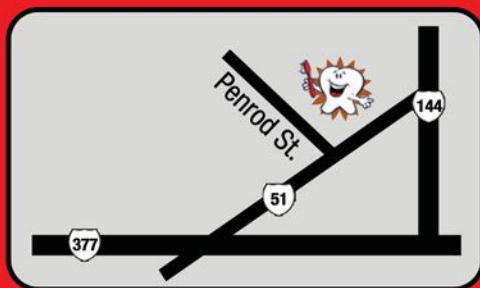
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## ON THE COVER



Teresa Sims recounts true stories from the 1836 Battle of the Alamo.

Photo by Michelle Winters.

# CONTENTS

February 2014 • Volume 3, Issue 2



## 6 Talking About Texas

Texas Heroes Foundation encourages children to become passionate about Texas.

## 12 A Pair of R's

At Home With Ronnie and Roberta Rone.

## 18 You're Engaged ... Now What?

Prepare for your wedding with our easy-to-use bridal checklist.



22 BusinessNOW

26 Around TownNOW

28 CookingNOW

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## Editor's Note

*Hello Friends,*

Relieving stress, one meltingly gorgeous mouthful at a time, I have found that a few bites of rich, semi-sweet chocolate become a momentary celebration. Not only does it taste like nothing we usually eat — green, leafy vegetables, fruit, meat, grains — but also its immediate effect transports us beyond simply normal. We receive a literal boost in our mood, while our body is enjoying lower levels of the stress hormones cortisol and catecholamines. We also get anti-oxidants from the dark chocolate, purifying our cells.

For all these reasons, and more, I am no longer *indulging* in chocolate. I am *feeding myself* with small portions every now and then. Especially in the cooler months, I make time for pleasure from a cup of homemade cocoa spiced with a pinch of cayenne. Why not? This is Chocolate Lover's Month!

Enjoy your hot cocoa!

*Melissa*

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# TALKIN

# THE

— By Melissa Rawlins

*Even if you were not one of the 52 graduates from Granbury High School's class of 1970, chances are you have met Teresa Sims. She grew up in a house on 50 acres, across from today's KIA dealership. A competitive horsewoman, she used the pasture between Cowboy Marketplace and Limo Valet as her practice arena. Her daddy was a farmer, from a long line of frontiersmen. A member of United Daughters of the Confederacy, Teresa's maiden name is Lee, and her brother's full name is Robert E. Lee. "We are related to the General," Teresa said. Coming through Tennessee and Virginia, East Texas and West, it took her family a few generations to settle in Granbury. Once here, they raised cows and registered Welsh ponies, as well as chickens and vegetables. Life was good, and so were her friends.*

She met her husband, Greg, at church, and their first date was riding horses. Over the years, Teresa's done less riding and much more community service. After retirement



# NG ABOUT XAS

from a marketing career in foodservice, Teresa is a consummate volunteer and continues making friends who are worker bees just like her. She is now busy producing next month's third annual Texas Independence Day Celebration of North Texas at Granbury with several just-as-passionate local citizens, hardworking members of the Texas Heroes Foundation. "Through the celebration and the foundation, I have met more people who have a passion for Texas! It's an amazing thing," Teresa said. "When you start talking to people about Texas, they always care. They want to tell you stories about their life and their relatives."

Some look at the festival, scheduled for March 1-2, as political or even economical, since records from last year's event show that nearly 8,000 people visited the Square and boosted tourism income. But Sims' and her partners' intent is purely educational. "Our goal is to preserve the rich heritage we have in Texas, and we want the truth of Texas history to remain," Sims explained. "If we don't help our kids get involved in learning and remembering, it's going to be lost."

Texas Heroes Foundation encourages deeper research among students in Granbury and surrounding schools, sponsoring art and essay contests judged by community volunteers. A lot of time goes into recreating something like the Come and Take It





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Cannon, fired during the Battle for the Alamo in 1836. For this reason, almost \$5,000 has been set aside to reward students who excel in promoting the cause. Exhibits displayed at Granbury Square Plaza during the festival enhance the excitement surrounding the courthouse. Community members and vendors dress in period costumes, giving demonstrations of real-life skills for survival on Texas' frontier.

Teresa's costume mimics the homespun dress of Susanna Dickinson, whose character she will play in skits presented both days of the celebration. Though Teresa has no background in performing arts, she presented sales seminars in front of up to 200 people when she worked for Cargill. "I've always been a chatty Cathy and not shy," Teresa said. "Today you can give me a microphone and an audience, and I'm tickled pink."

She tells the story of Susanna Dickinson for those unaware there was a woman with her infant daughter inside the Alamo during the battle. "She was 22 — never did learn to read or write. So that's what I do," Teresa said. "I put on that character and say, 'Hi, I'm Susanna,' and I tell her story. People are always surprised."

Her very personal rendition of the real-life heroism of a woman most people have never heard of is full of passion, fueled by the deep respect Teresa feels for the patriots who died for what became the Republic of Texas. "During last year's celebration, each of the 186 flags posted around the courthouse had



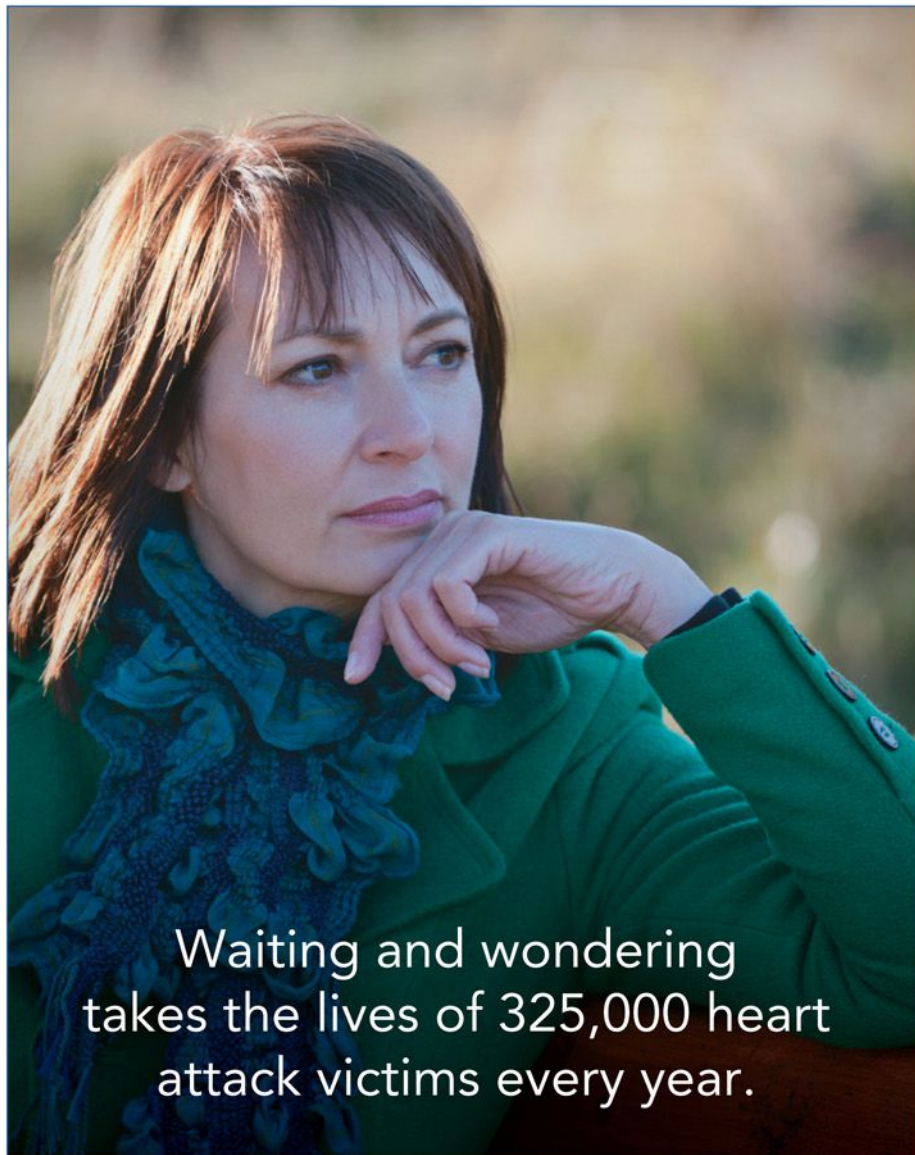


a laminated index card about a soldier who died in the Alamo,” she said. “It was real impactful to me to know every flag represented somebody who chose to fight for independence against all odds. They knew the chances of living through this encounter were not really great, yet they were willing to sacrifice for freedom. That encourages me today to speak up for what is right and not expect somebody else to do it.” For inspiration, Teresa keeps her nose in the Bible, as well as history books.

Celebrating women and men who did not turn tail and run, participants in the Texas Heroes Foundation pour their energies into preserving our heritage through educating today’s generation on facts from Texas history. Their goal is to spark interest in the past and bring true Texas history to light, through reenactments and presentations at schools, libraries and events throughout North Texas. Members dress in historically accurate costumes: Teresa portrays Susanna Dickinson, Cullen Crisp portrays Lt. Col. William B. Travis, Boots Hubbard portrays Gen. Sam Houston and Rich Merrill portrays David Crockett.

David Crockett’s wife lived out her later life in Acton and was buried there, so during the Sunday half of the Texas Independence Day Celebration, the Foundation will host a memorial service for Elizabeth Crockett. Young fiddler Ridge Roberts will play “Amazing Grace” at the graveside before heading back to Granbury’s square to perform on the big stage.

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perform western songs at both the City Sound Stage at Pearl and Houston Streets, on the stage at Granbury Square Plaza and at the Langdon Center Concert Hall (308 East Pearl St.). Simultaneously, the four friends in the Texas Heroes Foundation will dress up and portray their heroes in skits from the stage at Granbury Square Plaza — sparking imagination in Texans young and old.

The strategy of the Texas Heroes Foundation seems to be working. They gave a presentation last year to the Sons of the Republic of Texas at Spring Creek Barbecue. As William B. Travis got out of his Suburban and put on his hat and sword, he heard “Psst!” Two children, one in the fifth grade and one in the seventh, stood watching him. The eldest had written a paper about the hero and, duly impressed, recognized both his uniform and his spirit.

On March 1, William B. Travis will lead the parade to kick off Texas Independence Day Celebration of North Texas. The rest of the year, he and Susanna and their compadres, David and Sam, will travel throughout North Texas, introducing people to heroes from the past. Preserving history, making it real and engraving it upon the minds of the next generation, these Texas heroes can't stop talking about what really happened. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For details on the Texas Independence Day Celebration, the student competition and senior scholarship, visit [www.March2Texas.com](http://www.March2Texas.com).*



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# A Pair of R's

— By Melissa Rawlins





## At Home With Ronnie and Roberta Rone

*The man who taught Roberta Rone handwriting analysis also taught her to use what she has to get what she wants but does not yet have. When Roberta and her husband, Ronnie, are trying to achieve something decorative in their home, they repurpose objects or space. "How can we get this space and the screened-in porch to act in a different way to make it more user friendly?" Ronnie wondered about the former breakfast room off the kitchen. The change resulted in the Brazos River Room, a brilliantly*

*cantilevered extension from the original back wall that is floored with highly polished Jerusalem Limestone and provides a 180-degree view of the river outlining Pecan Plantation. Roberta decided to add a cushion to the seat of the hardwood meditation chair from India and place it in the Brazos River Room as a cat bed for their rescued Munchkin, April.*

Another cat, Apricot, prefers sidling up to the pillow collection on the plush living room couch. Surrounded by a hundred different memories, captured in big or small decorative





items, Ronnie and Roberta entertain guests here with genuine warmth. This couple's people skills helped them build an engineering company, which they sold in 1998. Almost 30 years earlier, Ronnie had been one of the first engineers to consult with other engineers on DFW Airport. He later became a consultant to the developer of Pecan Plantation. Understanding people, as much as expertise in civil engineering, was Rone Engineers' secret to success.



The Rones' surprising art collection spices up their fabulous home's formality while memorializing their journey. For instance, the living room hearth displays a stubby little stuffed, long-haired goat that reminds Ronnie of the scapegoat described in Leviticus 16, and the habit some of his employees had of trying to put their problems off on him. An excellent mentor, Ronnie always encouraged them before sending them

back to their office to solve their own problems.

Ronnie and Roberta are both very visual. For instance, when the couple wanted to get into the railroad business Roberta bought him a railroad model and set it on his desk to encourage him that it could be reality. Now, a vintage Fisher-Price model train sits on the desk in his painting studio to inspire his conception of his next painting, which

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will evoke memories for the Rone's son, Rob. Other objects on Ronnie's desk remind him of milestones that have made him who he is. A deflating football, signed by the 1972 Dallas Cowboys team, was a thank you gift for his series of motivational speeches that helped them win that Superbowl. The silver sculpture of a race car driver tumbling through his windshield is a reminder of the life-changing wreck Ronnie and Roberta endured within months of his graduation from college.

Their daughter, Rhonda, was 6 months old when Ronnie's Alfa Romeo hit the wall of a California racetrack. A courteous rebel before the Korean War, and a thrill-seeker afterwards, Ronnie was clinically dead for 23 minutes before sleeping for seven days and eventually awakening to the prognosis that he would never walk again. "But you don't have to believe that. So I did not. I decided to learn to walk," Ronnie said. "Pain is what stops you from doing anything. I learned how to totally stop pain with hypnosis. The experience changed my direction in life."

His wife's experience during that time is partly memorialized in an Ansel E. Nunn painting of a child on the beach. The painting hangs on the landing between the upper and lower levels of the Rone home. Nunn was Ronnie's cousin, and his mentor during the '90s as Ronnie transitioned from entrepreneurial civil engineering to painting. Nunn painted messages into each of his canvases, and when he gave the beach painting to Ronnie, he pointed out the seagull hovering overhead as the protection that has always been covering Roberta.

At least five other paintings by Nunn punctuate the Rones' home. Most of the remaining paintings are Ronnie's, who picked up his paintbrushes in earnest about 15 years ago. His sweet watercolor of a Siamese cat adorns the wall of the powder room near the kitchen, nicely complementing Roberta's collection of Jess Lord pitchers. His bright murals fascinate the Rones' grandchildren, who keep their toys in the playroom under the stairwell. Ronnie made the master bath feel larger by simply changing the frosted glass window to clear glass so it showcases a fountain-filled courtyard where birds gather. One of his paintings



of a youthful Roberta overlooks the lavatory. Fifteen of his oil paintings are displayed side by side in the garage gallery, which Roberta envisioned as a gathering place. The couple hosts their annual New Year's Eve party here on the diamond-painted floor, right next to the brilliant white 1969 Jaguar XKE convertible.

Roberta tends to be interested in objects much smaller than cars. Her collection of Danish porcelain figurines by Bing & Grøndahl and Royal Copenhagen are on display in the master bedroom. These hard-to-find pieces were first collected by Roberta's mother, who reared her family in Ohio and moved to Midland, Texas, in 1956. Shortly after, Roberta met Ronnie, who was born in Sweetwater and reared in Midland.

Each of them grew up with very little materially, and when they married they endeavored to live more comfortably. "I came from that background where the programming was that the rich are not happy. I decided that was not true," Ronnie said. "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, he can achieve." After moving into this house 13 years ago, he wanted to fill an empty space between the bookshelves in the master bedroom. He went to his collection of building materials and found an old mantel, exactly the right size. Now he and Roberta lay reading in their bed, under the huge, deeply carved oak headboard they found in Mexico, and enjoy the gas fire flickering under their mantel. In the mornings, through plantation shutters, Roberta watches birds against the backdrop of the Brazos.

"I've never gotten over how peaceful the views of this river are. It gives you a sense of settling down and being happy you're here," Roberta said. She stays busy designing and making jewelry, playing bridge, reviewing books, researching genealogy and knitting. Her favorite daytime spot is near the windows in the Brazos River Room, where Ronnie likes to join her for coffee and conversation.

Ronnie is her one and only. Playing with the double R's in their names, Roberta commissioned a model of a 1934 Rolls Royce for Ronnie to commemorate the year he was born. No longer racing through life, this pair of R's dwells peacefully, in a home completed by their essential R. **NOW**

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# You're ENGAGED... Now What?

— By Shannon Pfaff



*He finally popped the question, and you said, “Yes!” Now it is time to plan your wedding. When you sit down to plan, you may be overwhelmed trying to figure out where to begin. Several things should be considered: the date, the location, the cost, etc. But one of the major tasks to think about is finding the dress. No matter how long the engagement, it is never too early to start shopping for your wedding attire.*

One of the first things to decide regarding the perfect dress is budget. A good rule is to budget 10 percent of the overall wedding fund for the dress, accessories and alterations. Wedding dresses can cost anywhere from \$400-\$4,000 depending on the store and brand. Larger bridal stores will have less expensive dresses, whereas the bridal salons will have pricier designer dresses with handmade details. If your wish is to have a custom-made dress, expect to pay more. When you decide what your dress budget will be, factor in the cost of alterations. Alterations for your dress can cost \$100 or more. Remember, most dresses don't come with a bustle, so you will have to pay an alteration fee.





Another thing to consider when shopping for a wedding dress, is your body type. Some brides make the mistake of planning to shop for a dress when they have lost weight or ordering a dress in the size they plan to be for the wedding. It is best to shop early and purchase a dress based on your current size. You can always have the dress altered later if you lose weight. Body type is more than just dress size, you need to think about your body shape as well. Are you shaped more like an hourglass? A triangle-or pear-shape? An apple-shape? Or a rectangle-shape? Knowing your shape can help you determine which dresses will accentuate your best features and mask the ones you like least.

Shopping for your dress may be stressful, but it should be fun and exciting as well. Consider bringing a close friend or family member with you while you shop. Second opinions can help when you are trying to narrow down your



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choices. Then there is the added bonus of having someone who isn't working on commission tell you how beautiful you are. Of course, you can bring more than one person with you while you browse, but don't feel obligated to bring everyone who expresses a desire to go with you.

Whatever dress you decide to wear, make sure you love it. Begin shopping early to allow time to look at multiple stores with plenty of time for shipping your dress. With many bridal store options available, you are sure to find the dress that fits your budget and your body type perfectly. Don't be afraid to go back and try a dress on two or three times. After all, you will be gracing the aisle, and you'll want to feel good about how you look.

For more help with planning your wedding, here is a timeline to keep you on track:

## 12 Months Before:

- Select a date.
- Think about the wedding type — formal or informal.
- Set a budget.
- Hire a wedding planner, if desired.
- Reserve ceremony and reception sites.
- Select attendants.
- Select and book caterers, photographers, videographers, florists, musicians, etc.
- Begin compiling guest list.
- Shop for wedding dress and accessories.
- Start planning honeymoon.

## Nine Months Before:

- Order your dress and accessories.
- Create a wedding website.

## Six Months Before:

- Send save-the-date cards.
- Sign contracts and place deposits for wedding services.
- Reserve rental equipment — tables, chairs, tents, etc.
- Meet with officiant to go over ceremony details.
- Choose attendants' attire.
- Order wedding cake.
- Book honeymoon.
- Begin planning rehearsal.

## Four Months Before:

- Schedule fitting.
- Schedule appointments for hair and makeup.
- Register for gifts.
- Purchase or reserve groom's attire.
- Book accommodations for wedding night.
- Choose and order favors.
- Choose gifts for wedding party.
- Order invitations, announcements and stationary.
- Arrange transportation for the wedding day.
- Compile a music list for your ceremony/reception.

## Two Months Before:

- Go over final details with service providers — menu, flowers, etc.
- Address invitations and announcements.
- Make a list of readings for the ceremony.
- Complete the order of the ceremony and reception.
- Print programs.
- Purchase wedding rings.
- Send event schedule to the vendors.
- Shop for ceremony/reception accessories, such as a cake knife and the guest book.
- Schedule rehearsal and rehearsal dinner.





## Six Weeks Before:

- Mail invitations.
- Discuss wedding photo ideas with photographer and videographer.
- Send announcement to newspaper.
- Prepare all of the necessary name change documents.

## Four Weeks Before:

- Obtain marriage license.
- Make final payments to vendors.
- Arrange for final dress fitting.
- Confirm times with all vendors, including hair and makeup.
- Assign seating for reception.

## Two Weeks Before:

- Notify caterer or reception venue of the guest count.
- Address announcements.

## One Week Before:

- Pick up wedding rings.
- Confirm details with all service providers, including arrival times.
- Verify that all attendants have picked up their formalwear.
- Delegate wedding day tasks — transporting gifts, bustling dress etc.
- Make sure attendants know when to arrive for the rehearsal, rehearsal dinner and wedding.
- Pick up your dress.
- Set aside final payments for vendors.
- Pack for honeymoon.
- Advise caterer of changes to guest count.

## The Day Before:

- Review seating arrangements with the ushers.
- Make sure groom's attire is picked up.
- Rehearse ceremony.
- Rehearsal dinner.

## The Wedding Day:

- Eat something!
- Relax and enjoy your special day! **NOW**



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Creativity flows from Jamae Redman into all her delicious homemade soups, casseroles and desserts available for busy people at Casserollies, convenient location on the east side of town.

# Casseroles Can Roll

*Drive through Casserollies for dinners, soups and desserts — made fresh for you.*

— By Melissa Rawlins

Jamae Redman's creative streak flavors every one of her homemade goodies, and every other aspect of her take-n-bake store. Casserollies' website, business cards and parking lot flags are red and purple — as are the strategically placed curtains and storage bins.

The bakery's vibrant atmosphere includes Jamae's daughter, Xyaina, who is just learning to walk. She plays in the office, where customers stop in to pick up their goodies. Jamae creates each casserole, soup or dessert while little Xyaina takes her naps in the break room, which was once the cake decorating room for the former tenant. The type of baking Jamae does, however, requires no fancy trappings.

Every made-from-scratch addition to your family's dinner table is frozen after Jamae prepares it. Out of one of the three freezers in her bakery's front room, Jamae will pull your requested casseroles, desserts or soups. For big orders, she recommends preordering.

Every day, Casserollies offers a free addition to your take-home menu when you purchase six small casseroles. Scanning the website, [www.casserollies.com](http://www.casserollies.com), is a great way to discover what casseroles are on sale, what desserts are currently offered and also what Jamae's holiday menus look like. Ordering online gives you one more convenient way to feed your family.

Specializing in flexibility, Jamae maintains a set menu while



## Business **NOW**

creating custom meals for people with special requests. "I want my customers happy," Jamae said. For example, if you have a dislike for onions, she will make your casserole onion-free. "If something you want is not on my menu, I will make what you desire."

Casserollies uses all-natural food whenever possible. "I use real butter," Jamae said. Still, she prefers lite dairy. "I don't like to use the lite versions of Cool Whip, though, because I don't think they taste as good." Always open to substitutions, Jamae happily takes feedback from customers, whether walk-ins or not. She uses cheese in her broccoli and rice casserole because results from her Facebook survey said: Use cheese. Check Casserollies' menu for the gluten-free or lactose-free symbols. She will eventually have a menu that is also friendly to diabetics, vegetarians and those seeking to lose weight.

When Jamae opened Casserollies one year ago, her inspiration was a similar store with a 12-year track record in Jamae's hometown of Plainview, in the Texas Panhandle. After working four-and-a-half years at AgroLabs as their in-house graphic designer, layoffs began. "I was six-months pregnant and did not know what to do," Jamae recalled. Her mother, Toni Roberts, had lived in Granbury three years and encouraged Jamae to move in with her and launch Casserollies. "She thought it would take off. So I moved down here and did it!"

The brand new Casserollies was a major contributor last spring to "A Cowboy Gathering," through which Granbury Women's Club raised funds for charities throughout Hood County and three \$1,000 scholarships for senior girls. Jamae made Blueberry Bread Pudding and Colada Cakes. She learned to cook from her grandmother and from Toni, as well as through 4-H. Now, her customer base includes the elderly and busy mothers.

In fact, she recently sold a small King Ranch Casserole to a woman who had to travel for work on her 15th wedding anniversary. She bought her husband's favorite meal and gave it to him as she left for her business trip. Yes, casseroles can roll — right out Jamae's drive-thru window, straight into your oven. **NOW**

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Return of Premium life insurance is a term policy with a level premium period of either 20 or 30 years. At the end of the term, if the death benefit has not been paid and you've made regular premium payments, you'll be refunded the money you've paid over the level premium period less any loan and accrued loan interest on the policy. The return of premiums typically amount to tens of thousands of dollars — and you can use that money however you wish.

## What are the benefits?

In addition to the protection that the policy affords your loved ones:

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- You can use the refund any way you choose — to help pay off a mortgage, fund college tuition, boost your retirement savings or something else.
- Over the level premium period, your policy will build cash value, and you can borrow against that during the initial term period.<sup>1</sup>

- The death benefit of your policy is generally income tax-free.
- If you have one or more other policies with your insurer, adding this coverage may make you eligible for discounts.

## What else should you consider?

To keep the policy from lapsing, you'll need to make regular premium payments for 20 to 30 years. Learn more about the Return of Premium policy from State Farm®, or contact your agent for details. **NOW**

<sup>1</sup> Unpaid loans and withdrawals will reduce the guaranteed death benefit, policy cash value and any Return of Premium benefits. Loans also accrue interest.

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Jace Foreman is a State Farm agent based in Granbury.



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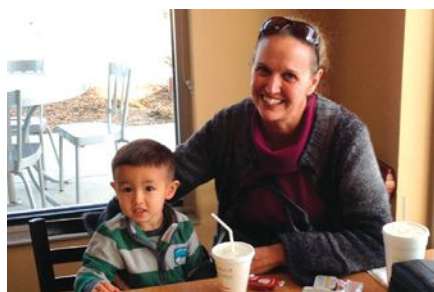
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*Jaime takes care of one the the many pets at Town & Country Animal Clinic.*



*Marsha and her grandson, Nathan, dine at Chick-Fil-A.*



*The Upward Flag Football squad and cheerleading squad have fun during practice at First Family Baptist Church.*



*Theater arts students at Granbury Middle School enjoy presenting the musical comedy Dearly Departed.*



*Bernie Wills, left, chats with Anna Langley, team leader for Pecan Plantation Tour of Homes.*



*The Granbury Square is packed for the Lakeside Baptist Church Production.*



*Carole Fowler wins a beautiful gift basket from Bootlegger to start her new year off with joy.*



*Fifteen Granbury High School Band members are selected for the All-Region Band at competition between schools from Fort Worth to Brownwood and Brady.*



*Sissy Andrews pours a glass of wine at Barking Rocks Winery.*



### Through February 28

Parent Cafés: A time and location convenient to you. The Hood County for Healthy Children coalition offers free sessions for parents and educators to discuss parenting challenges, learn proven parenting techniques and build healthy families. Contact Nancy Alana, (817) 578-1254.

### February 4

Opera Guild of Granbury meeting: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeCordova Bend Country Club, 5301 Country Club Dr, Acton. Lunch, \$13, not mandatory. If dining, RSVP to (682) 936-9572.

### February 11

Salvation Army Women's Service League meeting: 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., DeCordova Country Club, 5301 Country Club Dr. Interested in working to support projects that include new shoes, new clothing, hygiene kits, summer camp programs for children, assistance for those in most need in Hood County? You are welcome. RSVP to (817) 326-8345.

### February 13

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten: 2:00

p.m., Hood County Library, 222. N. Travis St. Participation is limited to the first 100 preschoolers who enroll. Contact (817) 573-3569, Ext. 6405.

### February 14

Annual "BOB" Awards Banquet: 5:30-9:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center, 621 E. Pearl St. To RSVP, call the Chamber, (817) 573-1622, or email [tammie@granburychamber.com](mailto:tammie@granburychamber.com).

### February 15, 16

Great American Bird Count: **Saturday and Sunday**, 7:00-11:00 a.m., Acton Nature Center. Rio Brazos Master Naturalist Bill Teels leads docent-led bird walks and assists with bird identification. **Saturday only**, 10:00 a.m., Opal Durant Acton Community Center, 6430 Smokey Hill Ct. Dr. Teels gives a presentation on Birds of the Texas Gulf Coast and their identifying characteristics and songs. Contact (817) 326-6005.

### February 18

Healthy Woman Luncheon: Noon-1:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center. \$2 or \$5 for non-members. Reservation required. RSVP to [www.granburyhealthywoman.com](http://www.granburyhealthywoman.com) or (817) 579-2979.

### February 22 — March 26

Haunted Granbury Opening Night Reception and Book Release Party: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Dora Lee Langdon Cultural & Educational Center, 308 E. Pearl St. Brandy Herr, with Granbury Ghosts and Legends Tour, will sign her book, *Haunted Granbury*. Contact (817) 964-6524.

### March 1, 2

Texas Independence Day Celebration: **Saturday and Sunday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Hewlett Park, Granbury City Beach, Dora Lee Langdon Cultural & Educational Center, Granbury Square Plaza and Historic Downtown Granbury. Student History Fair deadlines: for research papers, **Feb. 15**; for exhibits, artwork and videos: **Feb. 25**. Call (214) 675-5752.

### March 6

Granbury Newcomers Ladies Luncheon: 9:30 a.m., DeCordova Country Club. RSVP by **March 3** at [www.granburynewcomers.org](http://www.granburynewcomers.org).

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

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## In The Kitchen With Courtney Coates-Blackman

— *By Randy Bigham*

Although her mother taught her to bake red velvet cake when she was a girl, it wasn't until the former Courtney Coates married Greg Blackman that cooking became a passion for her. With five kids, it's a good thing she likes to cook. But it isn't only family members who love Courtney's dishes. Friends are fans of her culinary skills, too. "I guess I realized I was a good cook when people started making requests for certain dishes they felt only I could make," she said.

Courtney is conscious of calories, however, preparing healthy meals and snacks for Greg and the kids. "That is until the weather turns cold," she clarified. "Then all bets are off, and we go into comfort-food mode!" **NOW**

### Grilled Powdered Sugar-crusted Beef Tenderloin

- 1 5-lb. whole beef tenderloin**
- 1 1-lb. bag powdered sugar**

**1.** Trim excess fat from beef with a sharp knife. Fold thin end under to approximate thickness of the rest of the roast. Tie with butcher's twine every 1 1/2 to 2 inches. Snip silver skin with scissors to keep roast from bowing.

**2.** Place powdered sugar in large brown paper grocery sack; add tenderloin and shake to coat.

**3.** Either build a charcoal fire in half the grill or turn all gas burners on high for 10 minutes. Using tongs, lubricate grill rack with oil-soaked rag. Place beef on hot rack

and close lid; grill until well-seared, about 5 minutes. Turn meat and close lid; grill until well-seared on second side, about 5 minutes.

**4.** Move meat to cool side of grill, or turn off burner directly underneath meat; turn remaining 1 or 2 burners to medium. Continue to cook until meat thermometer inserted in thickest section registers 130 F for rosy pink, about 45-60 minutes.

**5.** Let meat rest 15 minutes before carving.

### Red Velvet Cake

**Cake:**

- 1 cup butter**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**

- 2 tsp. cocoa**
- 2 oz. red food coloring**
- 2 1/2 cups flour**
- 1 cup buttermilk**
- 1 tsp. soda**
- 1 tsp. vinegar**

**Frosting:**

- 1 cup milk**
- 3 Tbsp. flour**
- 1 cup butter**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 tsp. butter flavoring**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**

**1.** For cake: Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time; beat well. Add vanilla, cocoa and food coloring. Mix in flour and buttermilk, alternating a little at a time. Mix soda and vinegar together; add to mixture.

**2.** Pour into 2 greased and floured 8-inch cake pans. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 F.

**3.** For frosting: Cook milk and flour in saucepan until thick. Cover and cool in refrigerator. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add butter flavoring, vanilla and milk-flour mixture. Whip together. Add a few drops of red food coloring for pink color. Frost cooled cake.

### Caesar Salad

**Salad:**

- 2 heads Romaine lettuce**
- 2 cups homemade croutons**

**Dressing:**

- 2 lemons, juiced**
- 1 egg**
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 2 garlic cloves, pressed**
- 3/4 cup oil**
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese**
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 Tbsp. anchovy paste**

**1.** Wash, dry and tear lettuce into bite-size pieces.

**2.** Butter both sides of day-old bread, cut into crouton-size pieces and place in the oven at 350 F until dry.

**3.** Mix together all dressing ingredients; toss gently with salad. Add croutons and serve.

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