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Letter From the Editor

Dear **INSITE** Readers,

We've almost made it to the end of 2020! It's been a crazy year, but our community has really rallied to support one another. Nothing brings out that giving spirit quite like the holiday season, so I look forward to seeing the Brazos Valley at its best in the months to come.

Christmas is my favorite holiday, and even if our traditions look a little different this year, I'm still very excited for some holiday cheer. For me, that means baking way too many cookies and making more paper snowflakes than I have room to hang up. I can't wait, but if you are not in the holiday spirit yet, let **INSITE** inspire you.

Ring in the most wonderful time of the year by learning about fun events around the area and reading festive features. Did you know the largest gingerbread village in Texas will be here in College Station? Read all about it in our GingerBread Lane feature. There's something for everyone in these pages! I'm especially excited to share with you our editorially selected holiday gift round-up, featuring unique items from local shops all over the Brazos Valley for everyone on your list.

In the midst of all the festivity, we didn't want to forget that Veteran's Day is in November. Don't miss our special feature on a Brazos Valley local who is giving a voice to veterans to raise awareness about veteran suicide in the United States.

As always, thanks for reading **INSITE**. Have a joyful Thanksgiving, a very merry Christmas, and a happy new year.

— Katie James

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This program made possible in part through Hotel Tax Revenue funded from the City of College Station and the City of Bryan through The Arts Council.

Southern C



The Garden Company offers a sophisticated country feel

Story and photos by **MADI TELSCHOW**



When Debbie Frank moved to Round Top in 2008, her only plan was to care for her ailing parents. After they passed away, she was left with no job and little family. However, store owner Stevie Smith-Thompson welcomed Frank with open arms, offering a job at her nearby business in Schulenberg: The Garden Company. This garden center, gift shop, and landscape design business allowed Frank to find community, and she soon fell in love with the company's relaxed feel and unique designs.

The company grew, adding a cafe, and the eclectic marketplace began to

garner attention. Demand prompted a satellite location in downtown Round Top, and Frank split her time between the two locations. Smith-Thompson added a second restaurant, The Garden Company - Feed & Firewater; a second nursery; and a home goods store, Gar Co. Goods. She says, "You can come as you are, or you can dress up. However you feel, it covers every mood."

Frank, who manages the store, extends the same welcoming spirit she felt when she arrived, she says.

"I've always liked talking with people and finding out where they're from,"

OMIFORT



Frank says. "I'm able to give them suggestions about things to do and see. In that way, I consider myself a tour guide."

Smith-Thompson says they've put soul into it. "There's an energy that says, 'I want to bring my friends here,' because the atmosphere, the food, and the employees are all really good."

Smith-Thompson says she wanted it to have more of an Austin feel ... "a sophisticated simplicity with a nod to Texas," she explains. "I like to come up with something different that people wouldn't expect but will remember, with natural elements but also a little bit of drama."

The lighting installations at both restaurants are her favorites, crafted from petrified branches and tree roots, Smith-Thompson says. A close second is Feed & Firewater's shou sugi ban wall, which incorporates the Japanese art of burning wood into its charred surface.

The Garden Company offers a lengthy wine list, a lunch menu with lighter fare, and a dinner menu that includes a variety of fresh salads, gourmet burgers, and a choice of entrees, including wild-caught salmon and sliced beef tenderloin, plus off-menu specials on the weekends.

Frank says she takes full advantage of the proximity of the adjacent restaurant, enjoying a cocktail after her shifts.



You can come as you are, or you can dress up. However you feel, it covers every mood.

~ Stevie Smith-Thompson

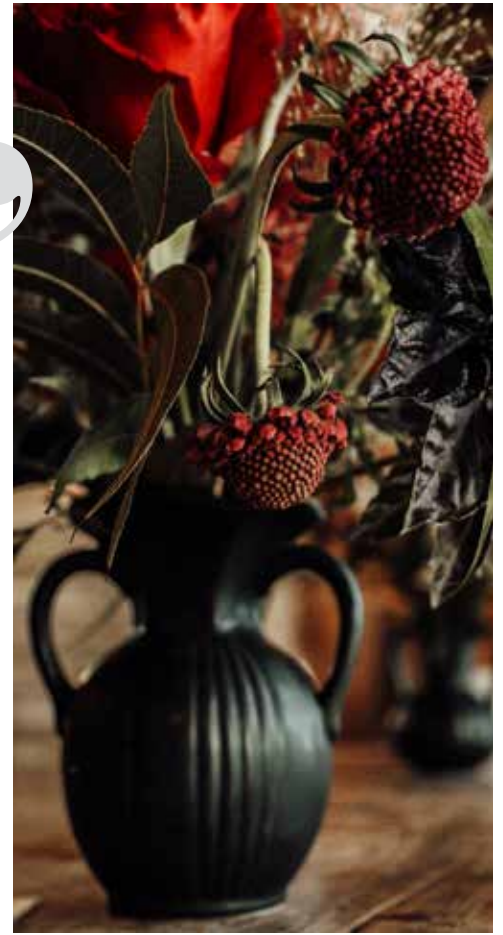
“That’s when I get to see everyone getting off work,” she says. “Other shop owners come over, and we have our regular customers.”

This explains the additional element of The Garden Company’s successful trifecta: exceptional service.

“I just have great people who interact really well with the customers,” says Smith-Thompson. “People come back to see them, and our bartenders remember what they want. That’s just what we love: food and fellowship.”

“We’ve been doing this for 21 years,” she continues. “We’re passionate about what we do, we love these communities, and we’re so fortunate to be able to do all of this in a place where everyone helps everyone. I could have done something fancier ... but this is me.”

To find out more, visit thegardencoandcafe.com. [i](#)



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A VOICE *for* VETERANS

Author and documentarian Stephen O'Shea raises awareness for veteran suicide

By **KATIE JAMES**

When Stephen O'Shea started researching the Iraq and Afghanistan wars at Texas A&M University eight years ago, he had no idea the journey it would take him on. A Ph.D., a book, and a documentary later, O'Shea has become a voice for veterans, telling their stories to bridge the gap between civilian assumptions about veterans and their lived, human experiences.

A civilian himself, O'Shea does not have any strong ties to the military on a personal level. But he became deeply invested in the challenges veterans face when he helped Texas A&M professor Marian Eide as an undergraduate with research that eventually resulted in her book *After Combat: True War Stories from Iraq and Afghanistan*. After graduating with an English degree, he spent a year working odd jobs to support his trip around the country interviewing U.S. veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan



AUTHOR STEPHEN O'SHEA

wars. Those interviews became the basis for his book *From the Land of Genesis*, a collection of short stories, available Nov. 17 from Unsolicited Press.

"A lot of authors tackle the sensationalist aspects; it makes you think vets are dangerous," says O'Shea. "But a lot of my stories focus on the day-to-day issues. This could be a guy you went to high school with or a guy you work with: normal people. As a civilian, my role is to meet veterans halfway

and tell their story, humanize vets, and address the issue of PTSD, which is just a physiological response to being under immense stress for a long time and isn't unique to the military."

The characters and places in the stories are fiction, but all references to war are taken directly from the more than 25 interviews O'Shea conducted before going to Scotland to get his doctorate degree in creative writing. While working on his research and writing, O'Shea posted snippets and stories to his blog, which caught the attention of former classmate and veteran Taylor Grieger.

Grieger was a Navy rescue swimmer in the military. Though he had never seen combat, he struggled with the thought of returning to civilian life. The content he read on O'Shea's blog surprised him with

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its relatability, so he reached out to his high school friend.

"Taylor would have 12-hour days of rescuing people — it required constant adrenaline to keep going," says O'Shea. "He jumped out of helicopters to rescue people lost at sea and went on disaster relief missions. It was incredibly traumatizing even though he'd never been in combat, so he was nervous about transitioning out of the military."

After reconnecting, O'Shea went to visit Grieger in Guam and conducted more interviews with military personnel. There, they hatched a plan to sail the world together.

Setting Sail

"Taylor had always dreamed of going on a sailing expedition, and I thought it sounded cool," says O'Shea. "The book was the catalyst for the sailing trip. My research inspired the ambition to document Taylor's experience. It was meant to be a case study on Taylor's out-processing as his odyssey."

The two-man team refurbished a 50-year-old boat and set off from Pensacola, Florida, in September 2017. They took turns filming one another and uploading the footage to their Skeleton Crew Sailing YouTube channel, but the goal was always to turn the material into a documentary.

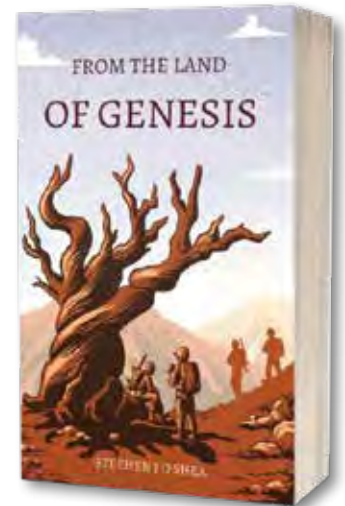
"We filmed to show Taylor's journey, and it gave him a purpose and a drive," says O'Shea. "The boat was constantly breaking down, so as the journey progressed, it worked as an exercise for his body and gave him an opportunity to release adrenaline and cortisone."

Raising Awareness

As their plans grew, the trip morphed from a personal journey to an awareness-raising campaign about the epidemic of veteran suicide. According to a study on the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs' website, non-combat veterans commit suicide at a higher rate than combat veterans. Even though this study was published in 2014, it hasn't received enough public attention. O'Shea and Grieger wanted to change that.

"Hearing about other people going through the same thing is huge," says O'Shea. "We chose to sail around Cape Horn because it's the Mount Everest of sailing. If you're going to do something to draw attention to an issue, you don't want to just sail around the world. There are trade winds that make that pretty easy. But this route is called the sailor's graveyard. We battled currents, headwinds, pirates — it was an uphill battle the entire time."

Non-combat veterans are not screened for mental health issues like combat veterans are when they are discharged from the military, explains O'Shea. In either case, veterans don't have a lot of support finding their footing in civilian life, as Grieger discovered.



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[continued from page 12]

“There needs to be a program for veterans leaving the military,” says O’Shea. “We have boot camp for entering but no equivalent for leaving, just bureaucratic nonsense. They’re starting over from scratch. That wears on a lot of guys.”

Like so many others, Grieger found the lack of structure, triviality, and isolation of leaving the military crushing. The day-to-day troubles of life — paying taxes, figuring out housing, and deciding what to do with his time — seemed purposeless compared to honor that was promised to him upon entering the military. Sailing provided a way to focus his energy in a healthy way.

Hell or High Seas

It took Skeleton Crew Sailing until January 2019 to complete the voyage, including a three-month stay in Chile when winter storms made it impossible to sail. About halfway through the trip, they gained a producer — Fresh Fly — and another crew member: John Rose, a Navy rescue swimmer who lived in Guam with Grieger and had been following the trip on YouTube. He had nothing else lined up after being discharged from the military, so he decided to join the cause. At the outset of the trip, both Rose and Grieger experienced suicidal thoughts and struggled with PTSD, but they bonded over the journey and their shared experiences.

The documentary, *Hell or High Seas*, was recently completed, and now the team is shopping it to film festivals and distributors for public viewing. Robert Irvine, a celebrity chef who was in the Royal Navy, recently came on as the executive producer to help fund the project.

“Hopefully this film is unique and different enough to spark people’s interest,” says O’Shea. He says that veteran suicide is an issue that isn’t just going to go away on its own. “Because we live in a democracy,” he says, “it’s our responsibility as civilians, as the general public, to approach and to address this issue.” *i*



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Fancy & Festive

The Woman's Club hosts first-ever Tablescapes: Christmas on Carter Creek

By **KHADEEJA UMANA**

This year the Bryan College Station community can learn the art of tablescaping from local experts to create a memorable and festive table for the holidays.

Tablescapes: Christmas on Carter Creek is an event hosted by The Woman's Club, a local organization that has served

the B/CS community for more than 125 years. Molly Watson, a member of The Woman's Club, is excited to introduce the community to this new event.

"The community can come view inspirational tables and designs by local community members throughout the Brazos Valley," Watson says. "These

designers will be florists, interior designers, and local furniture and boutique store owners," she says. "Some Woman's Club members will be hosting a table as well."

This is the first tablescapes event hosted by The Woman's Club, and it replaces the House & Garden Tour



the club has organized in past years, says Watson. Proceeds from the event will support scholarships for local high school girls, the Boys & Girls Club of the Brazos Valley, and other organizations in the B/CS community.

Businesses and vendors at the event include Post Oak Florist, Nita's Flowers, Heartworks, Old Bryan Marketplace, and other local individual designers, says Watson.



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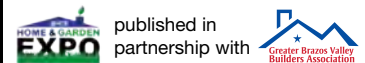
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3 BARS MILK CHOCOLATE (OR CHOCOLATE CHIPS)
½ CUPS BLANCHED ALMONDS, TOASTED, COARSELY CHOPPED

- Combine butter and sugar in a heavy 2-quart pan. Place over low heat and stir constantly until the mixture comes to a boil.
- Continue cooking, stirring occasionally, until a small amount dropped in cold water is brittle (290 degrees on a candy thermometer).
- Add 2/3 cup of almonds (avoid over stirring as this will cause mixture to sugar). Immediately pour into a 13 x 9 greased pan. Let stand until mixture is set but still warm.
- Arrange candy bars on top of the warm toffee (broken into squares for easy spreading). Spread with a spatula as it melts. Sprinkle with the remaining almonds, which should be chopped smaller than the others. Press in lightly and let sit until completely cool. Break into irregularly shaped pieces.



Holiday raffle items include a hot chocolate cart from Brenham's Hermann Furniture and two front door wreaths and a garland from local florist Tricia Barksdale.

Designers and local vendors will have contact information for any items that will be on display so visitors can purchase the unique and exclusive items they want to bring home for the holidays, says Watson.

The Woman's Club started with 20 members and now has more than 230 members, according to Watson. The mission of the organization has remained the same, she says; its members are committed to civic, cultural, and educational responsibility.

"The past few months have offered us a different way of life, and that will soon be in the past," Watson says. "We feel like this is the perfect time for the community to have a vibrant spirit of renewal, and we hope this event will offer welcomed feelings of change and excitement for the holidays. I know the spirit of anyone who enters the clubhouse will be lifted on those two days." **i**



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says Evans. "I was excited by the results I got because I saw improvement. I haven't even had a full year of the other things like [calcium] supplements and walking, so I expect I'll be getting better results next time, even though they should be getting worse every year."

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Round Top is well known for its twice a year antique shows. Now, the all new Round Top Antiques & Design Center located in vibrant Henkel Square Market will be open year round. So, get ready! The Center will be filled with loveliness and variety. Soon, you will be able to resource fine European antiques and stunning decor non-stop! Plan on



morning and day; wine and savory nibbles mid-afternoon.

Periodic design focused seminars will be held by resident and visiting designers alike, and private luncheons can always be arranged.

As 2021 draws near, plan to gather friends for your first 2021 discovery visit. Stay tuned!

INTERESTED IN EXHIBITING?

A few spaces are available in the new design center. To apply, call Kathy Johnston 832/671-7821 or property manager Gerald Tobola at 979/249-5840.

enjoying beautiful “idea vignettes” along with our warm hospitality graciously served from the Center’s custom crafted long bar...coffee, teas and sweet treats throughout the

INVITATION

If you want to be included in the festive Grand Opening event, Text YES to 832/671-7821 and your phone number will be added to our “Invite by Text” list.



RTAD IN HENKEL SQUARE MARKET | ROUND TOP, TEXAS | henkelsquarroundtop.com

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COLLEGE STATION

BRAZOS VALLEY

MAGAZINE

INSITE

HOLIDAY



GIFT GUIDE

Happy Holidays from the **INSITE Magazine** staff

OH, WHAT FUN!

2020 Holiday Events Planner

Compiled by **MADI TELSCHOW**

BRENHAM

CHRISTMAS MAGIC – HERMANN FURNITURE

Nov. 6 | 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Nov. 7 | 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Nov. 8 | 1 to 4 p.m.

hermannfurniture.com/hermann-happenings

This fundraising event features Hermann Furniture and Emporium decked out from wall to wall in holiday cheer. Ten percent of the weekend's sales will benefit the Heritage Society of Washington County. Visit for wine and hors d'oeuvres, mini-seminars, door prizes, and designers on-hand.



PREMIERE MARKET FOR THE HOLIDAYS – BRAZOS COUNTY EXPO
Dec. 4 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



**Strawberry
Laser Lipo**

Guaranteed inch loss in 10 minutes!

Premier Day Spa And Wellness Center



White Elm Day Spa focuses on complete wellness, for both body and mind, helping our clients achieve balance, quiet the mind, heal the body, and renew the spirit. We have a range of services that include:

- Facial & Skin Therapies • Massage Therapies • Body Treatments
- Vichy Water Therapy • Body Wraps & Scrubs • Nail Services
- Hair Removal • Cryo T-Shock • Strawberry Laser Lipo

White Elm Day Spa features a secluded retreat ideal for couples & special occasions. Our private spa room is perfect for special events, birthdays, and/or bridal events or for personal use during our full spa day services.

**COME AND CHECK OUT OUR NEW
Saltwater Alfresco Pool, Hydrotherapy,
Couples & Party Rooms**



Monday - Saturday 10am - 7pm | 15971 FM 2154, College Station, TX 77845
979.446.0308 | info@WhiteElmDaySpa.com | WhiteElmDaySpa.com

HOLIDAY HOUSE CRAFT AND BAKE SALE – WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Nov. 6 | 3 to 8 p.m.

Nov. 7 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

co.washington.tx.us/page/washington.Fairgrounds
Holiday House Craft and Bake Sale features handcrafted decor, art, and food crafted by local and regional artisans, benefitting the Brenham Pet Adoption Center. "Wine down" Friday night with a glass of wine, then come back the next morning and adopt a pet.



SEVENTH ANNUAL SUGAR PLUM MARKET – WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Nov. 21 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

tinyurl.com/y4x5hft2

Visit for holiday shopping in a beautiful atmosphere with an array of quality items to purchase, great food to eat, and holiday music to listen to. Admission and parking are free. There's something for practically everyone, so bring the entire family!



[continued on page 26]



Messina Hof

WINERY

JOIN THE FAMILY
EST. 1977

Spread
Holiday Cheer With
Texas Wine!

SIP, SHOP, AND SUPPORT LOCAL!

VISIT ALL MESSINA HOF LOCATIONS

BRYAN
FREDERICKSBURG
GRAPEVINE
RICHMOND (OPENING THIS WINTER)



WWW.MESSINAHOF.COM

f t i p y | #TXWINE #MESSINAHOF

[continued from page 24]

Your holiday SOLUTION
to meal planning and gift giving

979.822.1594
2701 S. Texas Ave.
Bryan
readfieldmeats.com

Readfield Smoked Turkeys • Honey Glazed Spiral Sliced Hams
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Sat 8am-4pm

Readfield Meats & Deli is a **Readers' Choice AWARD 2020** winner.

THE GAME'S AFOOT: HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS – UNITY THEATRE

Dec. 3 – Dec. 20
Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.
Sundays at 4 p.m.
unitybrenham.org/main-stage/#GamesAfoot
It is December 1936, and Broadway star William Gillette has invited his fellow cast members to his Connecticut castle for a weekend of revelry. But when one of the guests is killed, the festivities turn dangerous. Set during the Christmas holidays, enjoy both thrills and laughs in this murder mystery at Unity Theater.

jingle.cityofbrenham.org
While tentative, the city of Brenham is making plans to host a healthy and safe Christmas parade through the heart of the city. Typically, this event occurs as part of an entire weekend of holiday events, including Breakfast with Santa, the Jingle Bell Market at Ant Street Inn, live music and dance performances, and a community Christmas Tree lighting. More details to come, so be on the lookout!

GARY MORRIS CHRISTMAS – THE BARNHILL CENTER

Dec. 12 | 7 to 9 p.m.
thebarnhillcenter.com
Listen to the musical stylings of Texas-bred, country music and Broadway star Gary Morris. This seasonal performance will help fundraise for wounded and PTSD-affected veterans.

CHRISTMAS STROLL AND LIGHTED PARADE – DOWNTOWN BRENHAM

Dec. 5 | 6 p.m.

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AN OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS CONCERT – AMPHITHEATER AT HOHLT PARK

Dec. 13 | 2 p.m.

facebook.com/
BrenhamChildrensChorus

An outdoor Christmas concert of old Christmas songs for all ages will be held by the Brenham Children’s Choir on Dec. 13. Further details will be posted on their Facebook page.



BRYAN COLLEGE STATION

SANTA’S WONDERLAND

Nov. 13 – Dec. 30

santas-wonderland.com

Have an unforgettable Christmas experience at Santa’s Wonderland, the biggest Christmas attraction in the state of Texas! Celebrate with food, fun, shops, and live music – in addition to hayrides, horse-drawn

carriages, and the popular Trail of Lights. For more information on early admission dates, visit their website above.



LIGHTS ON! – DOWNTOWN BRYAN

Nov. 20 | 6 p.m.

downtownbryan.com

Destination Bryan will kick off the holiday season in Bryan with the annual Lights On! While this event might look different this year, the thousands of lights along Main St. and Bryan Ave will still turn on to illuminate the picturesque historic downtown. This free, family-friendly event will include holiday photo backdrop stations, live music at the Palace Theater, and more.



[continued on page 28]



The Piano Place

Hear the difference!

The Piano Place provides a full range of services from piano tuning, moving, and repairs throughout the Brazos Valley and surrounding areas.



We are happy to provide rental pianos for your special events, including weddings, anniversaries, and award ceremonies.

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Piano Technician**

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TheBoathouseAtMillicanReserve.splashthat.com



COLLEGE STATION NOON LIONS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE

Starting Nov. 27 at 9 a.m.

csnoonlions.org/events

Get in the festive spirit and support a good cause by getting your Christmas tree at 2605 S. Texas Avenue on King Cole Drive across from the former College Station police station. The lot is open weekdays from 4 to 9 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. until all trees are sold. Prices range from \$50 to \$195 for 5-foot to 10-foot trees. Net proceeds from the event fund the many Lion charities and projects, such as Fun for All Playground, Texas Lions Camp, Leader Dog program, the purchase of eyeglasses and hearing devices locally, and many other programs.

DRIVE THRU: CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK – STEPHEN C. BEACHY CENTRAL PARK

Dec. 4 | 6 to 10 p.m.

Dec. 5 | 6 to 10 p.m.

cstx.gov/christmas

Enjoy more than one million lights as you drive through the park, which offers light displays in all

shapes and sizes. Visitors can wave to Santa, drop off a wish list in the North Pole mailbox, grab an arts and crafts bag, get cookies and hot cocoa to-go, adopt a Holiday Parks Pal, and observe a traditional living nativity scene. Parking will not be allowed in the park.



PREMIERE MARKET FOR THE HOLIDAYS – BRAZOS COUNTY EXPO

Dec. 4 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Dec. 5 | 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

bvso.org/event/premiere-market-for-the-holidays/

The Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra presents its highly anticipated eighth annual Premiere Market, the only upscale, juried market in the Brazos Valley area. The market features unique specialty items, home accessories, clothing, gourmet foods, jewelry, and much more from a variety of merchants.



A DRUMMER BOY DRIVE-IN: THE CHRISTMAS TOUR – REED ARENA

Dec. 4 | 7:30 p.m. (gates open at 5:30 p.m.)

[insitebrazosvalley.com/brazos-valley-](http://insitebrazosvalley.com/brazos-valley-events/reed-arena-welcomes-for-king-country)

[events/reed-arena-welcomes-for-king-country](http://insitebrazosvalley.com/brazos-valley-events/reed-arena-welcomes-for-king-country)
Join brother duo for KING & COUNTRY for a drive-in Christmas concert outside Reed Arena. Portions of the proceeds will be donated to the Salvation Army BCS.



HOLIDAY POPS – BRAZOS VALLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dec. 13 | 5 to 7 p.m.

[continued on page 34]



NETTLES COUNTRY
One-Stop Christmas Shopping

Looking for that distinctive piece of home décor? Perhaps an unusual bowl or picture frame to accent a special corner? Then Nettles Country Store, a destination shopping experience, is the place to go. Located on Hwy 21, three miles on the Bryan side of Madisonville, the store has developed a reputation for unique and unusual items that change an ordinary room into an exceptional one.

Now in its 13th year, an eclectic style sprinkled with a little bit of “western” flows throughout the store. You might find elegant

antique chairs sitting on a cowhide rug or exquisite candles cozily arranged with tine and wood. Even a classy boutique of casual tees, purses and caps sit in the midst of lamps and lanterns.

Check out the deer horn chandeliers and framed prints, the candelabra centerpieces, and the collectibles. Laugh or reminisce at the signs scattered along the walls and sit a spell in the “real wood” rocking chairs along the front porch. The staff at Nettles Country Store is looking forward to meeting you!

Call (936) 348-6541 or visit www.nettlescountry.com



**Exceptional
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MADISONVILLE, TX

**800-729-2234 / 10-5 M-F & 10-3 Sat / 3 miles west of Madisonville on Hwy 21
www.nettlescountry.com**

ALL THAT GLIMMER

On the first day of Christmas ...

Forget a partridge in a pear tree! Instead, give your true love — or favorite birdwatcher — the Wren Casita, an edible bird cottage covered with millet, sunflower, and juniper seeds. Get ready for some backyard aviary action while the birds feast, and once the seeds are all gone, the frame can serve as a nesting box. Hang it outside near a window to bring comfort and joy to that friend who is convalescing or loved one confined indoors. Made in New Braunfels by Mr. Bird.



SELAH ANTIQUES, GIFTS AND COLLECTIBLES

500 S. Main St., Calvert
(281) 772-8160
selahgift.com

\$24 large **\$12** small



Farm to Coffee Pot

These freshly roasted coffee beans with cupping notes of vanilla, hazelnut, cinnamon and graham cracker were so popular beyond the holidays that owner Brenda Van De Walle decided to keep bags of them in stock all year long. Originally called Nutcracker, she changed the coffee's name to Calvert Crack "because it's so addicting," she says. The small-batch, high-quality 100% Arabica beans are roasted in Houston and can be custom ground before shipping, so gifting this to out-of-town friends or relatives is a cinch.



\$13⁸⁵

CALVERT COFFEE COMPANY

704 S Main St., Calvert
(979) 364-2323

farmers-to-market.com

RS

Need a smart stocking stuffer or a sensational surprise? Look no further. The **INSITE** staff has curated this list of gift ideas from retailers around the Brazos Valley. If money is no object – or even if it is – we’ve got you covered this holiday season.

Compiled by INSITE staff

Oh Century Tree

DAVID GARDNER'S JEWELERS & GEMOLOGISTS
911 University Drive East, College Station
(979) 268-0800 | davidgardnersjewelers.com

This pendant's design is deeply rooted in Texas A&M University spirit with its elegant rendering of the school's beloved tree that's well over 100 years old. It embraces a time-honored Aggie tradition that promises lasting love to couples who walk under the oak's iconic branches. Houston designer and former A&M student Katie Decker created this piece, which was commissioned by David and Julia Gardner and is sold exclusively at their store. The pendant is available in sterling silver in small (24mm), and 18K yellow gold with or without diamonds in small (24mm), medium (35mm), or large (45mm). Colored gemstones or diamonds can be added; chains are sold separately and may include A&M lettering.

\$200-\$6,000

The Weather Outside is Frightful...

... but this toy is so delightful! Keep your little one entertained with a one-of-a-kind fluffy friend. This sweet critter doesn't just look like an alpaca — it's made from alpaca fleece, one of the softest and finest natural fibers in the world. The toy is part of the collection from Bluebonnet Hills Alpaca Ranch in Navasota that includes scarves, ponchos, gloves, and cardigans as well as a number of other stuffed animals and yarn.

They work with artisans in Peru to add to their collection and create new designs. You can find their products online or at Today and Yesterday in downtown Brenham.

In three sizes:

12 inch **\$45**

8 inch **\$35**

6 inch **\$24⁵⁰**

TODAY AND YESTERDAY

101 W. Alamo St., Brenham
(979) 830-0707

todayandyesterdayantiques.com

Shining Light

Gift your favorite Aggie a glowing, hand-blown glass ornament in maroon and white, made for and exclusively available for purchase at Brazos Glassworks. To create maroon-colored glass is a rarity, according to store owner Debbie Jasek, achieved by fuming deep ruby red with gold. The ornament's design features the silhouette of the state of Texas, backlit from the inside with a string of tiny LED lights. Not an Aggie? No worries. The Texas-themed balls come in several other colors, including camouflage; red, white, and blue; bluebonnet blue, and orange. Made by Appalachian Glass Products in West Virginia.



\$35

BRAZOS GLASSWORKS

202b W. 26th St., Bryan
(979) 823-0325

brazosglassworks.com

Honey Butter, I'm Home!

Treat your foodie friend with the seasonal taste of pecan honey butter that's available all year 'round. Try this gourmet spread on bagels for a breakfast treat, or add it to sweet potatoes for a twist on an old classic. However, if nuts are a no-no, Hermann Emporium has a large selection of unique goodies — including jams, sauces, and salsas — to satisfy every culinary craving. Pick up a few extra for a unique teacher gift, a fun stocking stuffer, or just to have on hand to satisfy your sweet tooth. \$10 for a 12-ounce jar.



HERMANN EMPORIUM

\$10 for a **12** oz. jar

213 W. Alamo St., Brenham
(979) 836-7231 | hermannfurniture.com

Bag of All Trades

The Modernist convertible bag was made for the fashion enthusiast — no matter which gender. This versatile piece, made from a combination of genuine leathers, pelts, and antique brass hardware can be worn as a wristlet, shoulder bag, crossbody, or hip pack. Designed by female-owned business Curate by Stash, it exists as part of a larger collection of bags and totes, each carefully crafted by a team of artisans. Made in Round Top.



CURATE BY STASH

111 Bauer Rummel Rd.
Round Top
(281) 212-3929
stash-co.com

\$149-\$169 large

\$129-\$149 small



\$220

Dreaming of a Tropical Christmas

Vacations might look a bit different this season, but Monstera Hoops from Wild & Honey Co. keep sandy beaches close to mind. These delicately crafted, polymer clay earrings take their inspiration from the monstera plant, whose vibrant, exotic leaves have become a popular decor design trend in recent years. Though only available online, all shipping is free, and each order comes with a pair of free stud earrings. This purchase supports the education of Texas A&M University student and designer, Ale. Handmade in College Station.

Leather Weather

This will be the last notebook the practical person in your life will ever need. Beautiful and useful, this floral carved leather tally book features a 5-by-7-inch writing pad, a pen holder with pen, and two pockets. The pad is replaceable and the leather is durable, so it will last a lifetime. You can snag this and other Big Bend Saddlery products like notebooks, belts, and wallets — all made in Alpine, Texas — in historic downtown Brenham. \$220.

BALLAD OF THE BIRD DOG

212 West Alamo St., Brenham
(979) 347-0522
balladofthebirddog.com

Luxe Largesse

Perfumes and lotions are timeless indulgences that have been wrapped and gifted endlessly — and for good reasons: they're always appreciated and one size fits all. Skip the bustling department stores or online shopping, and support a local purveyor with small southern charm that carries fragrance collections by Shelley Kyle. Choose from bath and body products, such as body wash, bar soap, and talcum powder, in addition to perfume and lotion. Items can be purchased individually or as gift sets and are available in an assortment of scents, such as Sorella, with notes of fresh tuberose, red roses, gardenia, and violet leaves.



Prices start at
\$10⁹⁵

STONECROFT MARKETPLACE

203 E Washington Ave.,
Navasota
(936) 825-2090
stonecroftmarketplace.com

etsy.com/shop/
DESIGNSBYALEEE



COLLEGE STATION NOON LIONS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE
Starting Nov. 27 at 9 a.m.

[continued from page 28]

HOWDY HOLLY-DAYS – NORTHGATE DISTRICT

Dec. 12 | 5 to 9 p.m.
experiencebcs.com/event/howdy-holly-days-at-northgate/21451
Local retail stores in College Station will be set up along the Promenade on Patricia Street while Northgate bars and eateries will be offering holiday themed drinks and specials. Whether you go for the photo opportunities or the live music, this free event is fun for the entire family.



HOLIDAY POPS – BRAZOS VALLEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Dec. 13 | 5 to 7 p.m.
bvso.org/event/holiday-pops-a-brazos-valley-classic
Director Marcelo Bussiki invites the entire family to hear all the classic holiday favorites, plus some musical surprises. This Brazos Valley tradition will be held at Christ United Methodist Church. Find ticket information and pricing at the link above.



CHRISTMAS CELLAR TOUR – MESSINA HOF WINERY

Dec. 18 | 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Dec. 19 | 6:30 to 8 p.m.
messinahof.com/events/post/christmas-cellar-tour5
Celebrate the holiday season at Messina Hof with a Christmas Cellar Tour – and a glass of warm, mulled wine. Stroll around the estate while listening to the history of the winery and its process of growing, fermenting, and producing its award-winning wines. Santa hats and tacky sweaters are encouraged.



CHRISTMAS MOVIES – OLSEN FIELD AND BLUE BELL PARK

Dec. 19 | 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.
christmasincs.com
5:30 p.m. - *The Grinch* (2018) 30-minute intermission featuring friends from Texas A&M and giveaways.
7:30 p.m. - *Elf* Tickets are \$5 per person and can be purchased at the gate. Ages 2 and under are free. Concessions will also be open, so you can enjoy your favorite movie snacks! Social distancing and masks are required.

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HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET – CENTURY SQUARE
Dec. 20 | noon to 4 p.m.



HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET – CENTURY SQUARE

Dec. 20 | noon to 4 p.m.
experiencebcs.com/event/holiday-artisan-market-at-century-square/21450/
Head over to Century Square for a local artisan market on The Green! From handmade soaps to holiday decor, this event has everything you need for a last-minute gift. The event is free to the public, but purchases will help to support vendors from across the Brazos Valley.



NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY – MESSINA HOF WINERY

Dec. 31 | 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
messinahof.com/events/post/new-years-eve-party
Ring in 2021 with a New Year's Eve celebration – the winery way! Enjoy exclusive appetizers and decadent desserts, in addition to Messina Hof's award-winning wines. Drop by for a midnight toast (featuring Texas Sparkling Wine), a selfie booth, and more.

BURTON

BURTON CHRISTMAS MARKET – TEXAS COTTON GIN MUSEUM

Dec. 12 | noon to 4 p.m.
burtontexas.org/farmersmarket
Get into the holiday spirit with a holiday spin on the traditional Burton Farmers and Artisans Market. More details to come very soon, but for now, save the date!

CALDWELL

CHRISTMAS ON THE SQUARE – DOWNTOWN CALDWELL

Dec. 12 | TBA

caldwelltx.gov/events/christmas-on-the-square/
Join Main Street Caldwell on the second Saturday in December for an old-fashioned Christmas on the Square!

CHAPPELL HILL

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR – CHAPPELL HILL GARDEN CLUB

Dec. 12 | 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
chappellhillgardenclub.com

[continued on page 36]







Friday & Saturday

DEC. 4-5

THE BRAZOS COUNTY EXPO CENTER
5827 LEONARD RD • BRYAN, TX 77807



Our 8th Annual Premiere Market features exquisite merchants selling unique specialty items, home accessories, clothing, gourmet foods, jewelry, and much more!

10% of all purchases go to the Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra!

Friday Shopping **DEC. 4 | 9am-5pm**

Including Mistleoe, Muffins & Mimosas | 9am-11am | \$20

Saturday Shopping **DEC. 5 | 9am-5pm**

\$5
for a 2-Day
Shopping Pass










WWW.PREMIEREMARKET.ORG | 979.696.6100



*Special events may include additional admission cost or à la carte costs, visit website for details.

Visit five wonderful homes in Chappell Hill, shop, sip, eat, and don't miss the Teddy Bear Parade at 3:30 p.m.! Buy tickets online, and pick them up at The Bluebonnet House and Garden Center on the day of the event. Tickets available at the link above.

ROUND TOP

LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE AND STREET DANCE

Dec. 5 | TBA
exploreroundtop.com/events
Kick off the Christmas season with a parade around Town Square, featuring lighted floats, food, drinks, live music, and street dances. This event is the perfect chance for residents and visitors to come together and enjoy one another's company while experiencing small-town Christmas charm.

WASHINGTON

VIRTUAL: CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS DEMONSTRATION – BARRINGTON PLANTATION

Dec. 11 | 4:30 to 8 p.m.
Dec. 12 | 4:30 to 8 p.m.
thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/barrington-plantation-state-historic-site

Walk the candlelit paths at Barrington Plantation and experience a Texas Christmas right before the Civil War. Discover the origins of holiday traditions as interpreters bring to life the festivities of the season with musket-fire, music, dancing, and more. Sip a hot cup of cider, cozy up to the fire, and begin your holiday season with Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site!



HOLIDAY FOODS AT HOME DEMONSTRATION AT BARRINGTON PLANTATION

Dec. 19 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Dec. 20 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
thc.texas.gov/historic-sites/barrington-plantation-state-historic-site
Visit the Barrington Plantation

for historic, holiday food specials this winter season! Discussions and kitchen activities are ongoing throughout the weekend. [i](#)



Scan the events planner directly to your phone.



LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE AND STREET DANCE
Dec. 5 | TBA



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- Milk Chocolate | Margarita | Mango | Lemon
- Key Lime | Honey | Grand Marnier | Espresso
- Dark Chocolate | Cupcake | Crème Brûlée
- Coffee | Coconut | Cinnamon | Cherry
- Champagne | Chambord | Blackberry
- Banana | Apple | Amaretto



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www.trumanchocolates.com



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Celebrations & Special Events

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www.MarthasBloomers.com

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Celebrating Our 20th Anniversary

Cafe M. Bloomers

Garden Cafe
Open Tues - Sun
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936-870-3277

Catering – Delivery – Event Space
979.822.6073

A Texas Tradition of Great Taste

SINCE **C & J** 1981
Barbeque



Thank you Brazos Valley for voting us **"Best BBQ"** for 20 years straight! We are proud to have served you for over 39 years and truly appreciate your business. Our three locations are open daily.

Holiday Meal Package

Feeds 10-12 People - \$149.99

- 12-14 lb. Turkey
- Quart of Gravy
- Cornbread dressing*
- Green Bean Casserole*
- Sweet Potato Casserole*
- Dinner Rolls (18)
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***Sides can be substituted for any sides we normally carry**



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*All 3 Locations Will Serve Full Holiday Menu On Our Normal Line the week of Thanksgiving.
We will be closed Thanksgiving Day and the day after.

www.cjbbq.com

SuperSlow Zone Healthy Slimming Program



For Jerry Ludwig, being a financial advisor gave him very few opportunities to exercise. When a doctor recommended he lose weight, Ludwig struggled to shed pounds, managing to only lose 10 pounds after more than a year.

"I kinda hit a wall and I couldn't seem to get anything past that," says Ludwig. "I kind of maintained it at that level." Looking for answers, Ludwig turned his attention to the healthy slimming program from SuperSlow Zone. After conducting his own research, Ludwig says he was impressed with the science behind the program.

"I'm a science guy by nature, so I like to know how things work before I decide I want to do something," Ludwig says. "When I read the science and looked at how it works online, I saw that there were some basis to this and thought, 'I'll try it.'"

Signing up for an eight-week program, Ludwig was so satisfied by the results that he continued with the program again.

"In the first eight weeks, I lost 15 inches and about eight pounds, so I decided to do another eight sessions," says Ludwig. "Between the two sessions, I have lost about 15 pounds. The amount of effort that I had to expend to lose that 15 pounds is very modest compared to what it takes to lose that 10 to 12 pounds over a year."

With his busy schedule, Ludwig says he appreciates how the program allows him to eat how he previously did.

"I don't change a whole lot about what I eat," says Ludwig. "I still have a burger and fries once a week, or a steak and maybe a bag of potatoes on the weekend. It's not like I'm depriving myself of a lot of food or anything."

The noticeable side effects from the healthy slimming program are the type that will be happy to deal with, says Ludwig.

"I had to go buy pants that were smaller because I'm now a 36-inch waist," says Ludwig. "I was about 40 when I started, so those are the good kinds of side effects."

For more information about SuperSlow Zone Healthy Slimming Program, visit www.superslowzone.com/collegestation or call (979) 693-6100

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BIGGER IN TEXAS

GingerBread Lane aims for new mark in Guinness Book of World Records with this year's village at Santa's Wonderland

By **KHADEEJA UMANA**

Last year Santa's Wonderland introduced GingerBread Lane, the largest gingerbread village in Texas. The creator of GingerBread Lane, however, hails from Queens, New York. Jon Lovitch is returning for the second time to Santa's Wonderland. This year, he will build a 750-square-foot gingerbread village featured on a platform located in Santa's Station.

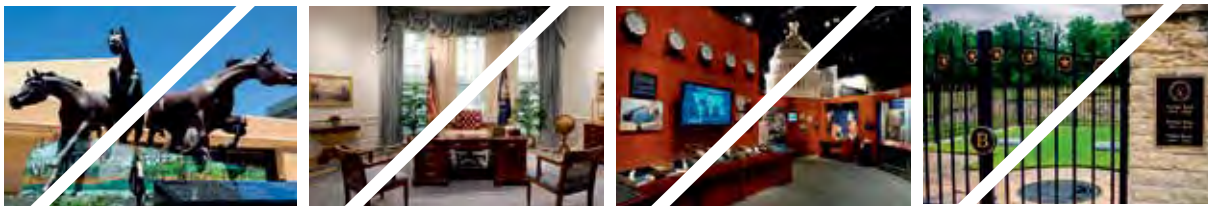
Lovitch was a chef for 25 years, but five years ago he says he made the decision to make gingerbread villages full time.

"It takes a tremendous amount of time, and the one in Santa's Wonderland is about 800 hours' worth," Lovitch says. "This year there's going to be around 600 houses — because everything is bigger in Texas."



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Due to the coronavirus public health emergency, the George Bush Presidential Library & Museum will be closed to the public until further notice. Please check our website at bush41.org for event/program updates and our operating hours and status.



Lovitch says he fell in love with the idea of GingerBread Lane in Santa's Wonderland after one visit.

"I thought it was so cool and authentic," Lovitch says. "The employees all looked Texan; they all had big belt buckles, big hats, and said 'y'all' with thick Texan accents."

His appreciation for a Texas Christmas led him to make some new additions to this year's gingerbread village in Santa's Wonderland.

"There's going to be a pickup truck with toys in the back and Santa driving it — Santa's Texas Christmas Delivery Service," Lovitch says. In addition, there will be a horse-drawn carriage and a giant armadillo. "And then we have the 12 days of Texas Christmas with five golden belt buckles and a possum in a walnut tree," he says.

The Texas village will be the largest in the world by square footage, says Lovitch, who already holds the Guinness World Book of Records five-time title for the world's most gingerbread houses.

"It's built in New York City and driven to Texas over a 28-hour drive," he says. "It takes four to five days to build, and

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We invite you to consider this award-winning intercultural communication training program, designed for people who want to become more culturally competent in how they engage with others and for those seeking professional development skills that can be applied in the workplace.

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<https://ppo.tamu.edu/Menu/Leadership/Community-Leadership-Programs/Community-of-Respect>

"The key to community is the acceptance, in fact the celebration of our individual and cultural differences." – M. Scott Peck





This year there's going to be around 600 houses — because everything is bigger in Texas.

~ Jon Lovitch, Creator of GingerBread Lane

while it's big, it's also intricate, detailed, and fragile."

In addition to College Station, GingerBread Lane will display other villages this year in Long Island, New York, and Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Lovitch says.

"I traditionally start for the next year on the week of Christmas," he says. "It's a year-round process; it doesn't really end. A lot of it is drawing time and waiting for icing to get hard. The village in Santa's Wonderland, when it's all said and done in November, will be almost an 11-month project. That village will end up having 400 pounds of gingerbread, 1200 pounds of icing, and 300 pounds of candy."

The key to building your own gingerbread house or village, Lovitch says, is to avoid the DIY kits. And while you may not need several hundred pounds, buying an extra tub of icing is his No. 1 tip.

"If you feel you have the skill to execute this from scratch at home,



you should do that and avoid the kits," Lovitch says. "The kits don't have enough icing, and it's really not that hard to make one from scratch. It's more fun and tasty, but don't try to do it all in one day because you want to get it right."

Santa's Wonderland is open from Nov. 13 to Dec. 30, with hours of operation and ticket prices listed on santas-wonderland.com.

"Santa's Wonderland is a wonderful place to come for any reason, but GingerBread Lane is just one more reason to go," says Lovitch. [i](#)

SuperSlow Zone Strength and Conditioning Training



Janie Bason has been going to SuperSlow Zone for a year and a half because she loves the environment, the personal attention, and the results she has seen from their strength training program.

“It’s the easiest way to get in shape and have muscle definition without it being time consuming and not having to change into gym clothes,” says Bason.

At SuperSlow Zone, you’re paired with a personal trainer who sets up and leads you through each exercise. You just have to show up, usually twice a week for 20 minutes.

“My personal trainer knows all my weights and what I do – she knows everything – and it’s a way better deal than a gym,” says Bason. “I’ve tried every other thing there is, and this is

by far the best thing for me. ... It’s a fantastic workout and you don’t even realize you’re working out. You want to keep going for the long-term because it’s in the consistency and their technique of doing things super slowly that you see results.”

Bason has received compliments from strangers about her arm definition and credits her time at SuperSlow Zone for the results.

“My favorite part of strength training is feeling stronger, seeing muscle definition, and being able to lift things up,” says Bason. “I don’t feel like a 64-year-old person at all. I did before I started going, but I just wish people wouldn’t wait until their 80s to go. Start early so you can maintain your strength. I feel great. I like feeling strong.”

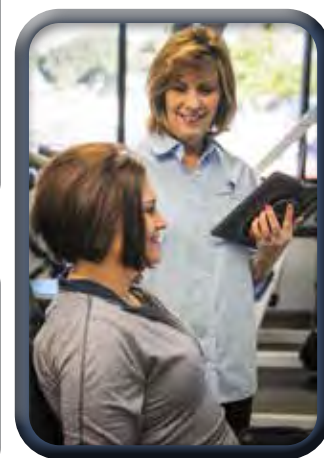
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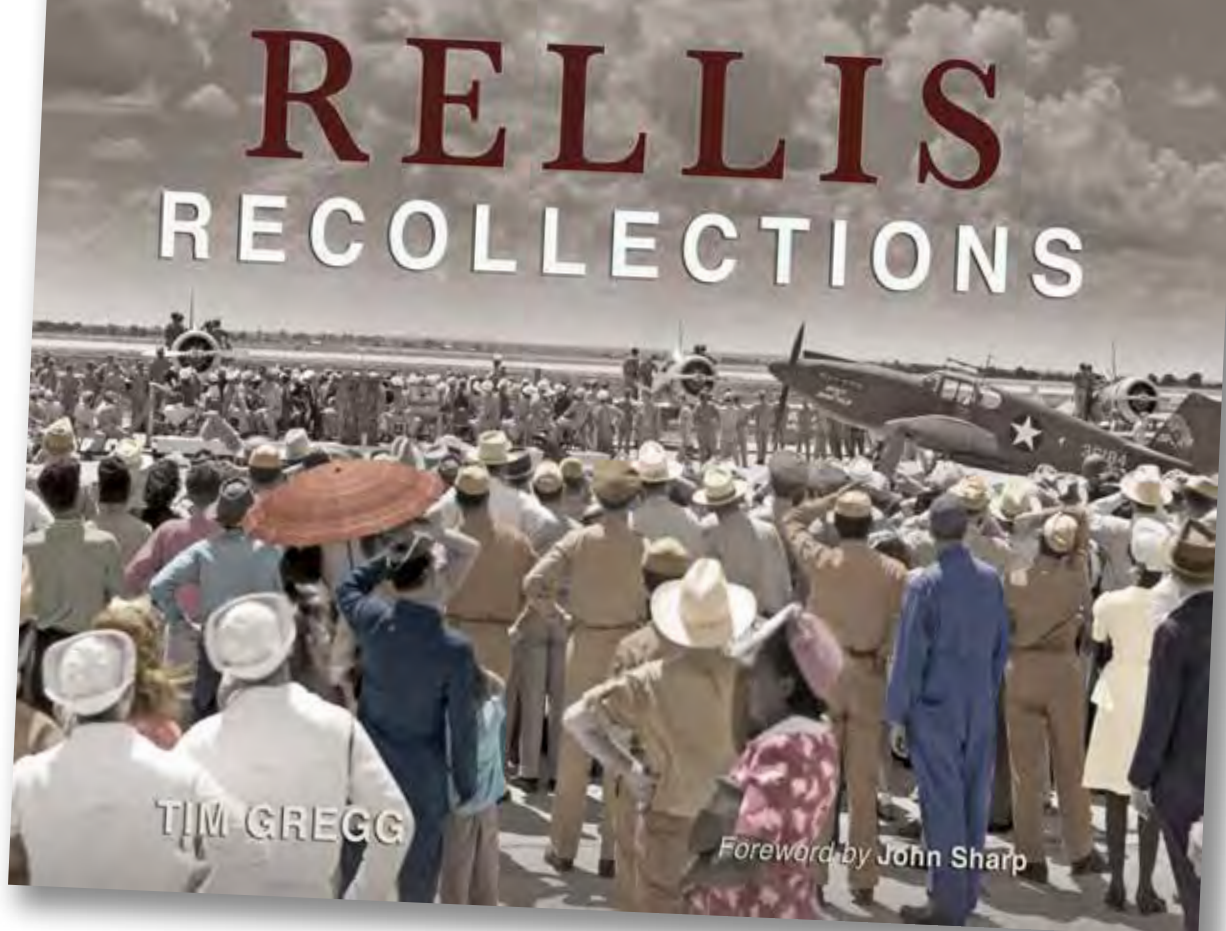
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RELLIS RECOLLECTIONS:

75 Years of Learning, Leadership, and Discovery

By Tim Gregg

By ELLEN RITSCHER SACKETT

John Sharp had an idea. The chancellor for the Texas A&M University System envisioned the creation of a new campus that would be a research magnet to attract corporate and government partners and offer an academic alternative to Texas A&M for area students. It would be called RELLIS — the acronym for Texas A&M’s core values: respect, excellence, leadership, loyalty, integrity, and selfless-service. The campus would make good use of the 2,000-acre tract on the outskirts of Bryan, giving new life to what had served multiple purposes over the years, including the home to Bryan Army Air Field, an important domestic military installation during World War II, and Bryan Air Force Base during the Korean War.

“Sometimes in our rush to embrace the future, we pave over our past,” Sharp, a self-proclaimed history buff, says in the book’s foreword. So even before the initial \$350 million construction plan broke ground, he reached out to award-winning journalist Tim Gregg to research the site’s history and preserve its legacy.

The result is *RELLIS Recollections: 75 Years of Learning, Leadership, and Discovery*, published by Texas A&M University Press last November. Within its 172 pages

are more than 100 historical photographs and dozens of accounts from many whose lives were impacted and intersected with the locale. Among them are Travis B. Bryan, the godfather of Bryan Field; Colonel Joseph Duckworth, the first to fly into the eye of a hurricane; and astronaut Buzz Aldrin, famously known for joining Neil Armstrong on the first moonwalk. Aldrin’s memories include how he survived a near-fatal crash while training as a fighter pilot at Bryan Air Force Base.

Other chapters pay tributes to the Tuskegee Airmen and Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) stationed at Bryan Field and share remembrances from the time during WWII when first-year A&M cadets lived and schooled off-campus at what was then called The Annex.

The book ends with a forward-thinking chapter about the future of RELLIS and an epilogue that acknowledges the dreamers who contributed to its legacy. Those who would like to contribute their own stories can do so through the book’s companion website: rellisrecollections.org. But even if you’ve never set foot on what is now called RELLIS and don’t know a soul who had, by the time you finish reading *RELLIS Recollections*, you’ll feel like you’ve been there and knew them all. *i*



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help from local experts!



GREENS PRAIRIE RESERVE

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Discover Greens Prairie Reserve, College Station's premier master-planned community, where exceptional residences are being created in a landscape of heritage oak trees and miles of winding trails.

Whether you are looking for a move-in-ready home or want to design your dream home, it all starts here.

With quality outdoor amenities rooted in 370 acres of stunning Texas ranch land, they have something for all ages. Enjoy everything from privacy buffers between homes and natural playscapes to hike and bike trails and ponds stocked for fishing. Their on-site lifestyle coordinator will even ensure that you get to know your neighbors with year-round events like block parties and holiday celebrations. And for those who work, play, or learn from home, they offer reliable high-speed fiber internet through Net Fast Fiber.

The exclusive builders in the community have been selected based on a track record of trust and quality craftsmanship ensuring that they offer the very best in home design. Tour one of their move-in-ready homes or connect with one of their builders to create the home you've always wanted. Homesites are available in a variety of sizes to best suit your needs and lifestyle.

Located near the intersection of Highway 6 and TX-40/William D Fitch Pkwy in south College Station, Greens Prairie Reserve offers convenient access to shopping, dining, and medical services and is zoned to schools in the award-winning College Station Independent School District.

If you are in the market for a new home, now is the perfect time to make your move to Greens Prairie Reserve. Mortgage rates continue to stay low, and they have a variety of new homes nearing completion.

Visit greensprairiereserve.com or call (979) 243-2000 to speak with a sales representative about how they can welcome you to the land of home.

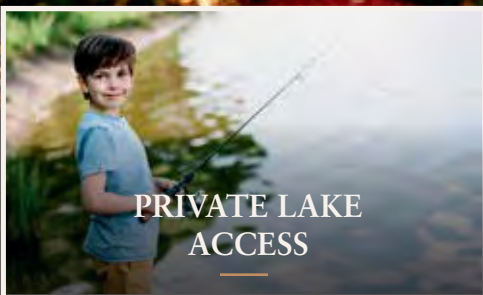




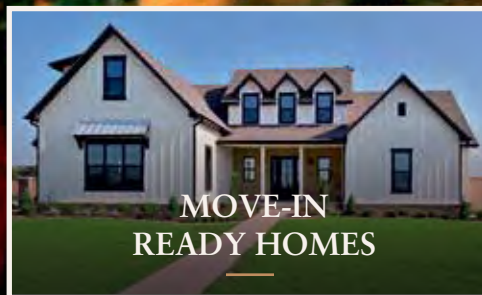
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Your front door may need to be cleaned or refreshed with a fresh coat of paint.

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When someone steps through the front door, what do they experience?

The foyer of the home sets a mood and should be well-lit and reflect the owners' interests and personality.

Don't forget the sense of smell is very important. A nice, light fragrance of spice or pine reminds one of special holidays.

Take note of the kitchen. Do your countertops look a bit cluttered?

Remove extra items that are not decorative or are not in use. Small items such as coffee creamer (in a nice container) and sugar look nice on a tray.

A pretty fruit bowl can be both decorative and serve as ready snacks.

These few tips may help you get started as you make your home ready for holiday entertaining.

For more information, visit

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Independent Living at The Langford offers upsized, elegant condo-style flats arranged in cozy clusters. Residents rave over a convenient location near nature paths, Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, The Med, Pebble Creek Country Club and a wide arrange of places. Additionally, residents enjoy daily activities with friends, services and amenities, “Howdy Hours” and maintenance free healthy living.

Assisted Living at The Langford exceeds expectations with stunning interiors, large apartments and competent and compassionate staff who are ready to lend a helping hand when needed. They provide assistance with medications, transportation, and other daily living activities. Chef-prepared dining and engaging activities and outings are also a sweet perk.

Memory Support at The Langford feels like home. A warm, safe, secure and serene environment make living in the Memory Support community ideal. Residents enjoy spacious bedrooms, large closets, a sitting area for morning coffee and a private ensuite bath. Additionally, families rediscover the joy of time spent together.

The Langford is part of MRC (Methodist Retirement Communities) and has deep roots in the Bryan/College Station area. Their sister community, Crestview in Bryan, has been serving seniors for 56 years. The Langford is dedicated to a tradition of excellence by serving seniors with ICARE values (Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence) in a faith-based environment.



Visit mrcthelangford.org or call (979) 704-6600 for more information.



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 AN MRC HEALTHY LIVING COMMUNITY



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Add-On Concert

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Christ United Methodist Church

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Jan 24, 2021 at 5 PM
Brazos County Expo

Join the BVSO as we begin this special season with spicy Latin numbers, heart-pumping tangos, and an always thrilling live music experience!

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Apr 25, 2021 at 5 PM
Brazos County Expo

The BVSO performs with jazz virtuoso Itamar Borochoy on trumpet and the Itamar Borochoy Jazz Quartet featuring Rob Clearfield on piano for an evening of musical innovation!

This concert sponsored by:
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ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

June 20, 2021 at 5 PM
Brazos County Expo

TEN-time GRAMMY® Winner, Asleep at the Wheel joins the BVSO on stage to celebrate their recent 50th anniversary!

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The Eagle



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