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ON THE COVER



The Chase family finds Bountiful Baskets to be a nourishing choice.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Happy Thanksgiving!

You, the readers, are my extended family. You have welcomed me into your homes. You have shared your life experiences with me, and you've also allowed me to share some of my own with you. I thank you for helping me get through this year — a year of so many ups and downs.

The mountaintop experience was the birth of my grandson. Twelve months ago, we were all anxiously counting the days until Easton, "Granny's chunky little monkey," would finally arrive. During this time of

Thanksgiving, I'm finding myself also able to remember the valley experience, the day my daddy passed away, with a peaceful heart.

And the future for NOW Magazines looks bright with the recent launch of *GranburyNOW*, our 10th market. NOW Magazines, in existence since 2004, distributes over 240,000 magazines each month, which means a readership of over 600,000 across our markets. As you have welcomed me, we at NOW, welcome Granbury to our family.

Sandra

Sandra Strong
WaxahachieNOW Editor
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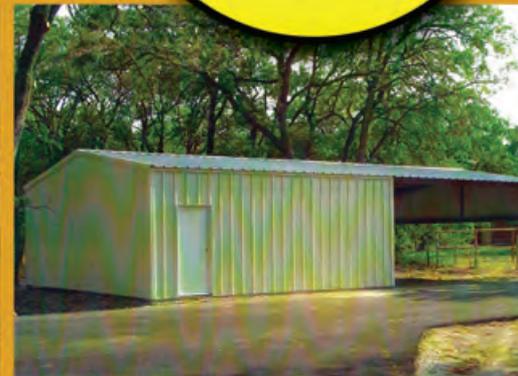


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Bountiful Payoff

— By Dianne Reaux

In February 2011, Alice Chase was like a lot of other mothers trying to find ways to make healthy choices for her family. When her good friend, Courtney Solstad, a resident of McKinney, told Alice about the fruits and vegetables she got from Bountiful Baskets, it barely registered on her radar. But, her friend was pretty persistent about her good deals on produce.

“Courtney kept going on and on about how great Bountiful Baskets co-op was,” Alice remembered, “and how she got so many fruits and vegetables for her family for only \$15.” Courtney had been so excited she posted pictures of the produce bounty on her Facebook page to share with her friends.



Alice and her husband, Randall, are residents of Waxahachie, where he works as the membership director of the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, and they are the owners of Lifesaver TX CPR and Safety Training. They are also the proud parents of four children: Jonathan, 14; Sydney, 13; Kaitlyn, 8; and Sebastian, 6. "I admit it's a challenge to plan meals that are both nutritious and affordable," Alice said. "My family goes through a lot of fruits and vegetables!"

Alice continued planning meals for her family and shopping at local stores for dinner items as she always had, but she couldn't stop thinking of her friend's enthusiasm for the co-op. Surely, Alice thought to herself, Bountiful Baskets couldn't be that big of a deal. However, by this point, she was really curious. But the pilgrimage versus the payoff of driving to Lewisville for produce had become a mental debate for her.

Eventually, Alice decided to give Bountiful Baskets a try. Her sister, Baileigh Robertson, lived in Lewisville, and although she was still skeptical, Alice rationalized the long drive. "I'm going to visit my sister anyway, and the basket is only 15



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dollars,” she smiled. “How bad could this turn out?”

After her first experience with Bountiful Baskets, Alice was sold. “It was fantastic! I could not believe how much produce I got for such a small amount of money,” she stated. Alice found herself sharing her experience with others, just as her friend had done with her. She told her friends who lived in Waxahachie, and soon she and her friends were carpooling on bi-weekly road trips. “Initially, we started picking up our produce in Lewisville, but we were getting such a great deal that it was worth the drive.”

Alice was fortunate to have stumbled onto such an affordable option for her



family. Research supports what Alice and many families already know. Eating healthy can be expensive. Nutritionists urge consumers to incorporate more fruits, vegetables and whole grains into their diets. But this advice often conflicts with a harsh economic household reality — healthy, fresh foods are typically more expensive than processed foods and less budget-friendly.

Bountiful Baskets, an agricultural cooperative, started in 2006 by Sally Stevens and Tanya Jolly, was the solution for many families who wanted to save money on their grocery bills, but still have access to healthy, nutritious foods. The



co-op is contribution-based, and each site

functions solely by volunteers who arrive early on Saturday mornings to help unload produce trucks and distribute baskets to members. Participants sign up online and contribute \$15 to the co-op for their basket — new participants pay a one-time \$3 fee for their initial basket. The baskets offer a mix of half fruit and

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half vegetables, and they are typically worth \$50 retail. An organic option is available for only \$25.

Alice and her friends immediately saw the economic and nutritional value of the co-op, so they continued to make the bi-weekly trek to Lewisville. But they wondered why there were no Bountiful Basket co-ops in regions south of the Metroplex. “So we began volunteering for the co-op just to learn how the operation worked, and then we asked how we could organize one in Ellis County,” she admitted. “We volunteered for several months just to show there would be enough manpower to manage a site in our area,” Alice explained. “We gathered about 40 e-mails to show that there would be enough interest.” Alice

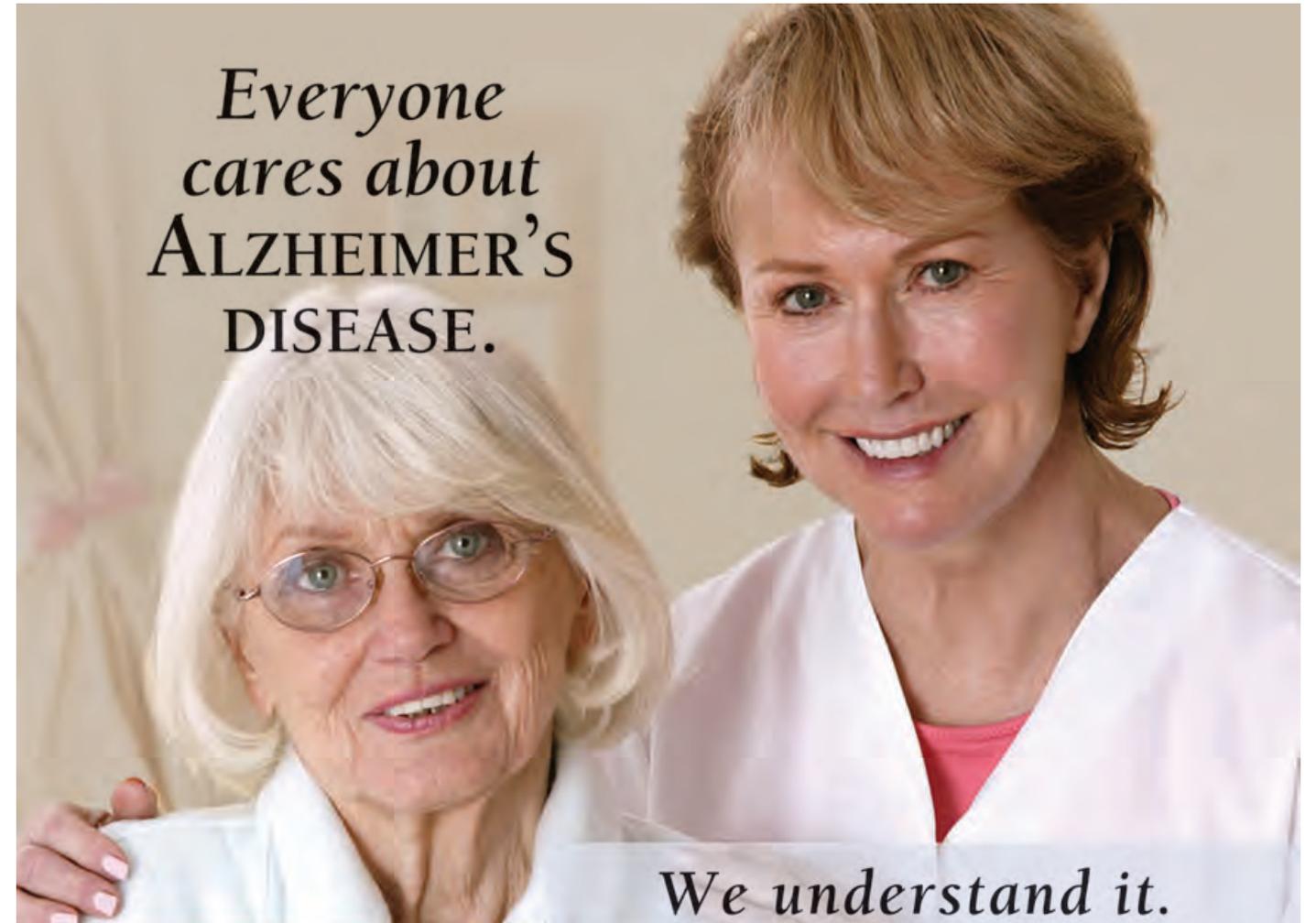
“It is such a *great opportunity*, people just naturally want to talk about it.”

and her friends, Shannon Adams and Amy Fulfer, all learned the basics of becoming volunteer site coordinators and in September 2011, the Bountiful Basket site in Waxahachie was up and running.

For anyone looking for an affordable alternative to expensive chain-based grocers, finding Bountiful Baskets is like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack. “I know a lot of our participants find out about us through word of mouth,” Alice smiled. “It is such a great opportunity, people just naturally want to talk about it.”

When asked what motivates her to spend her Saturday mornings unloading a produce truck at the crack of dawn, Alice noted without hesitation the benefit to her family’s bottom line and the healthy

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meals and snacks that they enjoy. "When our children want snacks, they don't have to reach for sugar-filled cookies and candy and sodium-laden bagged chips. They have healthier choices because of Bountiful Baskets," she confessed. "When we eat better, we feel better!"

The aspect of volunteerism is very important to Alice, too. "It's incredible to see what great attitudes people can have at 6:00 in the morning, unloading a truck full of produce," she laughed. "I have built and maintained wonderful relationships by working as a volunteer."

Cheryl Lowe, Tonia Swalberg and Shawnalin Mawhinney also participate as volunteer site coordinators. They alternate weekends managing the site with Alice and her team. "We have all gone through the same volunteer training and



because of the thorough training, we are all qualified to step in and fill the role of site coordinator. This arrangement prevents our volunteer duties from conflicting with responsibilities to our families," Alice said. "Just in case one of us has a commitment like a weekend soccer game, or if a family member is under the weather, the site is still able to carry out its mission."

To see there are still people like Alice who are willing to sacrifice their time to help others is refreshing. "I love Waxahachie," she stated with pride. "Waxahachie is a great community for families. The schools are great. It's easy to meet people, and there are so many opportunities to get involved." Bountiful Baskets has offered the opportunity for Alice to accomplish both. **NOW**

Editor's Note: To find out more about Bountiful Baskets or to sign up, visit www.bountifulbaskets.org.

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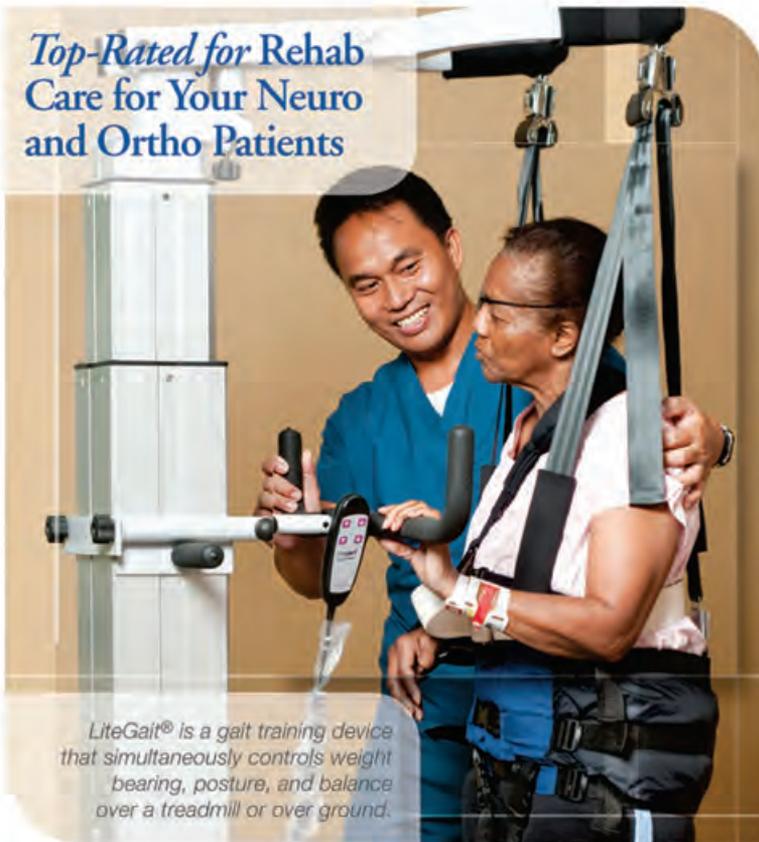
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FOREVER Families



— By Sandra Strong

To be 100 years old means something amazing, especially when your main priority has been and still is children. The Texas Baptist Home has come a long way in the past century. What began as an orphanage now serves children throughout Texas as a place to find a forever home with a forever family. “Every child gives us the opportunity to get it right,” said Jami Hogan, Texas Baptist Home adoption director. “The facility has grown over the years to accommodate the rising needs in adoptive homes.”

Over the years, the Texas Baptist Home (TBH) has evolved into a foster care/adoption agency continually working to prove there is no such thing as an unadoptable child. “Adoption has changed significantly over the past 30 years,” Jami explained. “You no longer have to be married, childless, rich or own a home to adopt. You *do* have to provide a stable, loving home and

be able to help your adopted child work through issues that may arise from his or her past.” Children waiting on their forever family come from a variety of backgrounds. Some have physical and mental disabilities. Others come from



a sibling group. And so many more are older children. “Our goal is to see them all adopted,” Jami added.

Locally, adoptions are a year-round celebration. On a national level, the month of November is used to promote adoption because of individuals who saw the need and decided to do something about it. Promoting awareness for children in foster care began in Massachusetts in 1976. Michael Dukakis, governor at that time, announced an Adoption Week. His idea quickly spread, causing President Ronald Reagan to proclaim the first National Adoption Week in 1984. Eleven years later, President Bill Clinton, seeing the need to

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further promote awareness, extended the week to encompass the entire month.

Jami, and those who diligently work alongside her as a team, is happy for the extra exposure the month lends to the cause. They believe education is the key to further knowledge. The TBH offers two separate programs — foster to adopt and private infant adoption. Rachel Maldonado is a case manager for the foster to adopt program, while



Nikki Nanguata oversees private infant adoptions. And Dana Holt is the facility's post-adoptive service coordinator. Jami quickly affirmed volunteers are also very



important to the TBH team. “Dorothy Rogers retired three years ago after 42 faithful years of service,” Jami said. “Her husband, Roland, had also worked here for 35 years.”

The celebrations marking the creation of a “new family” begin once the adoption process is complete. The tree of life, which is now lovingly referred to as the forest of life, because of its growth from one tree to three, is a symbolic



ceremony that oftentimes will include all those who have helped complete the family. “The children’s names are engraved on a leaf,” Rachel explained. “During these ceremonies, they get to place their leaf on the tree. The big family party is significant to the family and all those who had an emotional stake in the adoption.”

Other memorable events that follow the final adoption hearing may include a candle ceremony or a water ceremony.

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A celebration typically features a program with a listing that includes the welcome, opening remarks, a reading from Scripture, a slideshow, a candle lighting ceremony or water ceremony, the meaning of the family covenant, presentation of gifts, closing prayer and what every child entrusted to adoptive parents can't wait to do — “ring the bell.”

The bell tower and its bell date back to when the orphanage first opened its doors. Back then, the bell would ring to call the orphans to meal times. It brought them together as a family, and it is still serving a remarkable purpose today. “When a child rings the bell today, it lets those in hearing distance know that their adoption is complete. Another child has been



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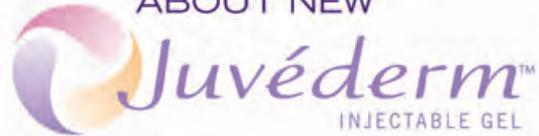
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called to their forever home,” Jami said. “It’s a very emotional time for them.”

The only real thing left from the original building, the Old Main, is the sidewalk that once led to the front entrance of the facility. Today, this sidewalk serves as the walkway to the TBH’s Historical Plaza. The plaza is a place of honor for those who served the facility with love, care and concern — those who held a strong belief in the meaning of family and the process of adoption. In fact, a plaque was recently added to commemorate Dorothy’s years of service she gladly gave to her home away from home for so many years.

Each year, an annual event is planned to honor the adoptions which took place during that year. A group shot of the families in attendance is taken and hung on the wall in the Daniel Center, along with several family portraits. These portraits tell the story of adoption so much better than words ever could. Babies and younger children are sitting in the laps of their parents, while adolescents and teens put a loving hand on the shoulder of their adoptive mother or father. “Adoption for us is a commonality,” Jami said. “For these families, it’s forever.”

Currently, there are over 16,000 children living in some type of foster care setting. More than 6,000 children are legally ready to be adopted in Texas. “These are very real children who so desperately want a family to call their own,” Jami said. “They are the children you see in the grocery store, at church or in the classroom. Our goal for National Adoption Awareness Month is to draw special attention to these children who are waiting. Hopefully we can unite many of these young people with permanent, adoptive parents.”

The TBH was founded on Christian principles. The children they place are the same children referenced in Psalm 127:30, “Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from Him.” The TBH creed titled, “Gift of Life,” takes the magnitude of adoption one step further as it reads, “I did not give you the gift of life; life gave me the gift of you!” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: To learn more about the adoption process, contact the TBH family developer at (972) 937-1321 or visit www.tbhc.org.

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Character, Comfort and Charm



By Carolyn Wills

Destiny, or so it would seem, determined that Bethany Brodeur should live in the home that had long held meaning for her. “When I was in junior high school, I spent a lot of time in this house, because one of my best friends lived here,” she shared. “At the time, I never dreamed it would someday be mine.”

The house was built in the 1940s, a small, single-story structure located on one of Waxahachie’s oldest and prettiest tree lined streets. With similarly-sized neighbors, the little house reflected charm and character, and through the ’40s and ’50s, its whole street must have portrayed a glorious picture of a simpler America.

Fast forward to the 1970s, and the house welcomed new owners and a dramatic renovation. “This is when the second story and back room were added,” Bethany said. The top floor featured three big square bedrooms

with tall ceilings, a small connecting hallway and a bathroom. The back room on the main floor added a place for the family to relax. Meanwhile, through the years, neighbors also made changes. Yet, thankfully, the street remained true to its character.

Time passed. Bethany grew up, married and had three children, and just as she and her husband started to look for a family home, the house with her great memories appeared on the market. “That was 14 years ago,” she said. “We knew it needed a lot of work.”

First, they changed the exterior by



replacing the old barn wood siding with stucco. Slanted roof lines, imposing size and light tannish/gray stucco transformed the house into almost a Mediterranean look, albeit as charming as ever. On the right of the lead-glass front door is a small plaque presented by the Gingerbread Trail Tour of Homes establishing the home as one of Waxahachie's Most Distinctive.

On the inside, Bethany has applied her style, which is a wonderful mix of oversized, down-stuffed comfort, whimsical surprises and antique collectibles. "I love leather and anything really soft like chenille. Except for Spanish



At Home With Bethany Brodeur



tile in the sunken sunroom, we replaced the parquet floors on the main story with Hickory wood floors. The family room at the back is decorated Western style, and the formal living room in the front is more Victorian, so I think the overall style is eclectic,” Bethany explained. “I’ve always liked rustic and muted colors and things that are cozy and homey.”

The kitchen opens to a cheerful sunroom for eating and/or relaxing while enjoying a view of the lush backyard. “When we moved in, the kitchen cabinets had been painted 1970s orange,” Bethany shared. “We replaced them with ash cabinets, added granite counters and enclosed the pantry with custom-made



glass French doors.” The kitchen also accesses a formal dining room.

Bethany’s passion for antiques, especially old Bibles and books from as far back as the 1500s, is balanced by a love for art. A huge component of what makes their home so special is the massive collection of pottery-artist Carl Block’s colorful head jugs, also known as jug heads or face jugs, displayed in groups throughout the house. “Carl lives in the neighborhood, and I’m such a fan of the head jugs that there is little room to add more,” she grinned.

What began as a little, single-story structure is now a 4,200-square-foot, six-bedroom, five-bath beauty. “With an

older home, you’re never done,” Bethany smiled. “The most recent project, still in progress, is the addition of a master suite off the back of the house.” The suite alone is the size of many homes, when finished, will surely rival the most exquisite resort. The space, divided into three parts, features tall ceilings and



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wonderful architectural detail. The en suite is complete with a garden tub, and the walk-in closet is larger than most bedrooms.

Adding to the luxury of the house-sized master suite is a recent project



completed last June. “We added a 20x35-foot swimming pool, the biggest that could fit in the backyard,” Bethany said. “The kids enjoy having parties on the flagstone patio, and I swim almost every day. The sounds of the pool’s spillover and fountain are very calming. When I’m out there, it feels like being on an island.”

Through the years, the house has been the place for the Brodeur children to grow and enjoy. “Brittany, 25, was married to her high school sweetheart last June and is now living in Dallas,” Bethany said. “Matthew, 22, is a musician. He lives in Waxahachie and has a 9-month-old daughter named Emberlyn, Emmy for short. The youngest is Jacob. He’s 15 and in his first year at Global High School.”



Bethany, too, has started a new era in her life with the ending of her 22-year marriage. “From the time that I was a little girl, I’ve loved John Wayne,” she smiled. “These days, I like to remember his quote: ‘Courage is being scared to

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death, but saddling up anyway.” She is certainly no stranger to courage. At 30 years old, she competed with 1,800 girls at a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader try-out and won a coveted place at the training camp. “I ended up pulling a hamstring and didn’t go on to cheerlead, but I was happy to have accomplished the dream.”

Bethany worked as a legal secretary for years and has also been an aerobics instructor and a certified personal trainer and, most importantly, a mother. Her son, Jacob, lives at home, and her mother often stays over. In addition to her interests in books, art and antiques, she continues to work on her home, volunteers in the recovery room at Baylor Hospital and cares for two family cats, Orange Kitty and Momma Kitty. Her mornings are spent tending to the stunning array of plants she has arranged in giant pots around the pool and on the patio and planted in beds bordering the backyard. “My favorite room is probably my bedroom,” she shared. “It’s centrally located and very cozy and, I also love the pool and patio.”

Living on one of the prettiest streets in town bears the additional responsibility of publicly celebrating the holidays. “Christmas and Halloween are big on our street,” Bethany grinned. “Hundreds of people drive by to see the decorations.” It’s easy to imagine this street coming to



life in the '40s, taking interesting turns in the '70s and being restored at the hands and heart of people like Bethany. It’s also easy to believe this street will long remain one of Waxahachie’s oldest and prettiest. **NOW**

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Canine CRUSADER

By Mikaela Mathews



Deb Engel, office manager (L), and Amy Fincher, SPCA director (R), are grateful volunteers like Clint Morton.



The Ellis County SPCA relies on a strong volunteer foundation. One of these volunteers is Clint Morton. Clint spends several days a week at the SPCA walking dogs, training them and assisting in any miscellaneous jobs, including mowing the lawn. Although Clint owns his own collision repair business, he still makes time to work with the dogs, ensuring that they are ready for adoption.

His love for dogs started when he picked up a stray heeler mix on the side of the road. It didn't have a home, so he adopted it. As the dog continued to grow, Clint wanted him trained, so he searched for the right trainer and later joined their working dog club. This sparked Clint's desire to learn about



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“The most satisfying part of volunteering is seeing the dogs getting adopted out.”

dogs and later, to become an animal control officer. “I started working with my dog and my dog trainer here in town,” Clint explained. “I just wanted to see if I could use some of those aspects with the SPCA and help them with their dog adoptions. My future is in animal control.”

Clint’s training with the local dog club includes both basic and advanced training. “We also do protection work and agility,” Clint explained. Members of the club can choose to sign their dogs up for basic obedience training. Once the dogs

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have graduated, they move into advanced training, which varies depending on the dog owner. For protection work, Clint, a Certified Level II Decoy, puts on heavy pads and gear and allows dogs to attack him. "It's good for me," he laughed. "It relieves stress, and I get some exercise, too."

He is grateful for his training. "It's made my dog a better dog," he said. "He listens to me better." Clint's dog is not the only dog that has benefited. The dogs Clint works with as a decoy are better protectors of families. Clint and the other trainers mainly use a prong collar and treats to correct and reward dogs. "The prong collar doesn't hurt them," Clint explained. "It just pinches them a little bit to resemble [how a mother dog] corrects them." Depending on the dog, however, Clint will seek advice to use different methods to correct behavior issues.

After working with the local dog club, Clint received his animal tech, euthanasia and spaying certifications. With these certifications, he is able to assist the SPCA in a much larger capacity. He works mainly with large dogs to assess if they are ready to be put into a home and if so, what type of a family they would best fit. "He's busy like everybody else is, but he still manages to find time to come out here," said Amy Fincher, director of the Ellis County SPCA (ECSPCA). "Whether it be working with the dogs or helping us out at our events, it's good for



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the dogs to have someone like Clint come in here and spend some time with them, even if it's only for 10 or 15 minutes or for an hour visit. At least they get some kind of human affection because that's just what most of them want."

Another aspect of Clint's role at the SPCA is volunteering at their events throughout the year. He transports dogs that are up for adoption to different places. One of the events where he helps out the most, which brings the most adoptions to the ECSPCA, is the Bob Phillips' Texas Country Reporter Festival held in downtown Waxahachie in October. Two years ago was the first time the ECSPCA participated in the downtown festival. Amy remembered it being a great Saturday for dog adoptions. Clint not only helped transport the dogs, but also trained dogs to be ready for their new homes. Since the ECSPCA has received a larger than normal influx of animals this summer, they looked forward to the Bob Phillips Festival this year, as it once again brought in more adoptive families for the increase in dogs that needed homes.

Because of this increase, the SPCA has started a foster program to increase space and encourage dog adoption. If a sick dog comes into the shelter, the staff often does not have the resources or time to nurse it back to health. "We had one mom who was malnourished. The pups were draining her," Amy recalled. Dogs like this go to foster families to encourage their health. "So far, we've had good results."

Clint recalled a time when a young pit bull was surrendered to the shelter. The longer she was at the shelter, the more the staff recognized her aggressive behavior. She was consequently not ready to go to a home, nor was it safe for her to be at the shelter. The SPCA found a foster home that worked with her to eliminate her negative behavior, while helping ready her for adoption.

Families interested in adopting from the ECSPCA must first fill out an application and undergo a preadoption interview. Questions include whether or not the owner has ever surrendered a dog before and if they have the commitment to keep their pet long-term. These eliminate the possibility of a future abandonment or owner surrender.

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In addition to the Bob Phillips Festival, Clint also volunteered to assist at the Wish Upon a Paw event held in August. This silent auction and dinner event honored Bob Phillips and featured the PitPops, a '60s and '70s rock and roll band. Silent auction prizes included two autographed hockey pucks from the Dallas Stars and a ride in a Top Gun Fighter plane. The proceeds benefitted the ECSPCA to build more kennels to hold more animals.

Clint also remembered another fun event for the ECSPCA: the BowWow Halloween Fun Run. Each October, dog owners meet at Getzendaner Park in Waxahachie for a fun run and costume contest. "The dog owners dress their dogs up in costumes," Clint explained. "They have winners that get gift cards for best costumes. We don't do adoptions [during this event]. It's more to raise awareness."

Although many aspects of working with dogs are satisfying, Clint's happiest moments have been when dogs are adopted. "The most satisfying part of volunteering is seeing the dogs getting adopted out," Clint smiled. "It's tempting not to take some of them home."

The ECSPCA remains grateful for Clint's volunteer work. "He's been great," Amy confessed. "I mean, if it weren't for Clint, and so many others like him, some of these dogs wouldn't have found their forever homes." **NOW**

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The Past Makes a Wonderful Present

— By Chelsie Sanders

In a culture where many feel “out with the old, in with the new” is a way of life, it is rare to find someone’s treasure in the past. For Elsie Walker and her daughter, Lisa Tarver, it is the past treasures that make for even greater memories today. Elsie has kept up with many items from the past that mean a lot to her and her family, but even more important than that, she has kept the memories alive for years to come. “It’s amazing to me how many people do not keep memorable things from their past,” Elsie stated.

Throughout her home are items that are precious to her, so it is no surprise she kept so many things for her children to have from their past as well. Elsie received a baby keepsake box, a gift from her mother, for her son, Johnny, at a baby shower in 1960, and she filled it with memories that would last forever. From baby teeth to his birth certificate, it’s all in there. Her daughter, Lisa, always made jokes about her brother being the chosen one, because they had kept so many things from his childhood in his special box, and she didn’t have one. “He had a box, and I gave them a hard time about it throughout the years,” Lisa remarked.

Little did she know her mother was planning something special for her, too. “She’d go a year or so, and on special





Lisa shows some of her memories with her brother, Johnny.

occasions she would mention jokingly that she did not have a box," Elsie remembered with a smile. In 2008, Elsie began her search for a special box for Lisa and was having trouble finding one like her son's. "I called gift shops and all kinds of places trying to find a box like Johnny's, but they just don't seem to make them like that anymore." So Elsie

"I will never forget her face!"

took a break from looking for a box until 2011. "Knowing that Lisa would be 50 in 2012, I got serious about finding a box again. I finally found a pretty wooden box at a craft store and began my search for an artist to decorate it." Elsie's search for an artist took about six months, because she couldn't find one with available time. It was looking like she might not be able to have Lisa's box ready for her birthday.

One day a friend of Elsie's referred her to an article in the *WaxahachieNOW* Magazine about Kitty Parrish, a local artist. Elsie had finally found an artist who was willing to take on the project. She didn't give the artist very many instructions when it came to decorating the box because she wasn't really sure how it should be decorated. She just wanted it to be something beautiful and

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special for Lisa to have. Kitty loved the idea, so Elsie knew the box was in good hands. "Lisa was a beautiful girl, she's a beautiful woman, and I wanted her to have a beautiful box," Elsie shared. "And that's exactly what she got." Once Elsie had the box decorated she filled it with



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items she had been keeping since Lisa was a baby that Lisa didn't even know she had kept.

Finally, Lisa's birthday was coming up in July. Elsie was becoming anxious to give her the special box she had lovingly prepared, so she enlisted the help of her granddaughters, Lauren and Mallory,

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to find the right time to give Lisa her present. Knowing their grandmother had something special planned for their mother, the girls insisted Lisa wait until after her birthday to go on an annual birthday vacation, so they could have a party for her.



Needless to say, the girls were able to persuade her to stay in town long enough for the special party. "They insisted I have a party, so I waited to go on my trip until after we had the party," Lisa remarked. One of the last presents Lisa opened was the box of memories. The moment she opened it, Elsie quickly

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realized all her planning and preparation had definitely paid off. "When she started going through it she about lost it," Elsie said, with emotion in her voice. "I will never forget her face!"

Everyone at the party got to see the beautiful box Elsie had prepared for Lisa and all of the little treasures it held. One

*"I wanted
her to have a
beautiful box."*

of the items Elsie had saved was Lisa's favorite toy, a little plastic cat, which Lisa herself did not even remember until receiving her box. She had included many things from Lisa's birth as well, like her hospital bracelet, birth certificate and even the hospital bill which showed that her hospital stay cost \$162 for Lisa's birth and five days in the hospital. Another item they enjoyed looking through was a book Elsie had kept much like a baby's first book today. "It reads, 'How did she look when you first saw her?' Mom said I was red and fat, but pretty," Lisa said, reading the notation aloud. Inside the box were also baby teeth, a lock of hair and pictures from the hospital the day Lisa

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was born. Not only was the box itself a wonderful surprise for Lisa, but all the things Elsie had kept were a surprise to her as well. Lisa finally had a box of her own, and Elsie was glad she had waited. “It made her 50th birthday even more special,” Elise said with a smile.



Not only were there so many wonderful things from Lisa’s past, but the present itself had been wrapped in baby paper, with a special card attached to it, which Lisa blames for getting her so emotional when she read it. “She didn’t give me a card for a 50-year-old woman — she gave me a baby card like she was talking to her baby girl.” Lisa spent the next few minutes going through the box and finding all the things her mother had kept for her throughout the years. “We had a good time looking at the things in my box,” Lisa admitted. “It was very special, but she’s done this my whole life. My parents make me feel special every day.” **NOW**



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— By Sandra Strong

As a fourth-generation horseman, Rohn Hendricks always knew what he wanted to do as an adult. “Even as a young boy, I knew I wanted to be a veterinarian,” Rohn shared. “I broke my first horse at the age of 6. Growing up around horses gave me a leg up. I specialized in equine veterinarian medicine from the beginning. I’m the only equine veterinarian I know of in Ellis County.”

Rohn was born and reared on a farm in the nearby community of Cedar Hill. After enrolling in Texas A&M University and earning a bachelor’s degree in agricultural education and a master’s degree in reproductive physiology, Rohn gained years of background experience in the world of breeding and sales at some of the top thoroughbred and quarter horse farms in Texas.

He then decided to enroll at Texas A&M Veterinary College where he received his doctorate in veterinary medicine. After spending several years in the Austin area practicing veterinary medicine, Rohn moved back to Ellis County in 1999. “The family farm brought me home,” Rohn added. “Coming home, I saw the need the area had for a mobile equine veterinarian.”

Rohn still takes great pride in bringing the necessary skills to the horse and its owner, instead of trying to conduct business the other way around. “I’ve built my practice on being mobile,” he explained. “Hendricks Equine Veterinary Services is geared toward the comfort of the whole horse and the convenience of its owner. Being mobile allows Rohn to focus his expertise on equine patients instead of office paperwork.”

Business **NOW**

Rohn can advise on almost any problem that may arise with a horse and its owner. The more popular areas where he finds his education and experience come into play include nutrition, herd health, long-term management, dental health and podiatry issues. "I handle pretty much everything outside of major surgery," Rohn said. "All major surgeries are referred out." Minor surgeries, like castrations and traumatic injuries, are those that Rohn can do onsite using the tools he carries in his rolling office.

The staff includes the office managerial skills and secretarial expertise of Cassie Behrends and the shared passion for the health of the horse of vet tech, Robyn Hendrix. Rohn is quick to say there is no relation between Robyn and himself, except the passion they share for their equine patients. "Robyn is my right hand," Rohn confessed. "She is also my mobile secretary. She is a vital part of my practice."

Robyn also grew up around horses. "For me, horses are like potato chips," she laughed. "You can't be around just one." Her educational background is in animal science, but she is learning about equine medicine, correcting problems

"I handle pretty much EVERYTHING outside of major surgery."

and then celebrating the results via the hands-on method. Together, Rohn and Robyn are building personable relationships with their regular clients. "It's one thing to have the knowledge, but it's another thing when you know how to apply the knowledge," Rohn said, referring to Robyn. "Our goal is to educate our clients on the knowledge we've acquired through school, as well as through experience."

The hallmark to the continued success of Hendricks Equine Veterinary Services is still topnotch, quality customer service. Accommodating the schedules of his ever-growing client list is very important to Rohn. "I look at our clients as friends with valuable information," Rohn said. "I really have a heart for the horses." **NOW**

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Colton Osborn, 4, and his sister, Ashtyn, 2, collect pecans for a pecan pie.



Dr. Natasba Maza-Marcial, of Hometown Chiropractic, gives a 60-second chair massage during St. Joseph Catholic Church's annual Octoberfest event.



Irene Lucky and Pappy Kite are crowned the queen and king of the Country Lane Seniors Community Prom.



The Best Looking Couple award at the Country Lane Seniors Community Prom goes to Raymond and Lillie Gay.



Matt "Mutt Dog" Dawson and his sister, Lydia, enjoy making balloon animals for the children during Octoberfest.



Randy Bigham watches as Amy Ramirez takes photos of the NOW Magazine community editors.



Ralph and Renda Hewitt share a smile with Carolyn Mixon, WaxahachieNOW ad rep, during the chamber auction.



The Waxahachie Chamber holds a ribbon cutting for BowWow Barbers at their new location at 507 N Hwy 77 Suite 916.



Sisters Brianna Cox and Sarah Farmer enjoy the sweets at the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce Auction candy bar.

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Making Saving Fun

— By Aaron Penny

Plan ... Track ... Budget

These words can make the average person cringe when thinking about saving money. What about words like prizes, games, rewards and holiday cheer? Here are some helpful tips on how to make saving money less of a chore and more fun:

Prize-Linked Savings Accounts

Although many people dream about winning the lottery, it's highly unlikely you ever will. But imagine depositing \$25 into your savings account, and then getting a call from your bank stating you've won \$25,000 just for saving. It sounds too good to be true, right? It's not! It's entirely possible with a prize-linked savings plan. Prize-linked savings products offer prizes through sweepstakes entries and often earn interest as well. In the United States, these accounts were first introduced in 2006 by credit unions. The concept is simple — you deposit money into a prize-linked savings account and earn chances to win based on how much you save. It's a fun way to save, and you have the potential to earn a return well beyond today's interest rates. Perform a search on Google or other search engines for prize savings to find financial institutions offering this innovative product.

Savings Challenges

Participating in a savings challenge is another way to make saving money fun, exciting and competitive. You can enlist your family and friends to start a savings challenge or join a sponsoring organization. Savings challenges involve establishing a monetary goal for a specific period of time and then working competitively or collaboratively (depending on the group) with others to achieve the goal. The beauty of a savings challenge is the built-in accountability, which instills a desire to

win. Successfully completing a savings challenge provides a huge sense of accomplishment in addition to the obvious benefit of more cash.

Online Savings Games That Reward

Games and rewards are a fun way to spruce up your saving habits. There are various free financial reward programs that not only encourage you to save money, but also help get you out of debt. With Save Up, you earn the opportunity to win great prizes while getting motivated to improve your financial situation. The prizes range from small things — like gift cards and electronics to life changing things — including cars, vacations and a \$2 million jackpot. And who says saving money can't be fun?

Saving for the Holidays

The holidays are right around the corner, and it's the perfect time to think about Christmas — for next year. Start a Christmas savings plan now for next year's expenses while the holiday is at the top of your mind. The good cheer and fun of the season will give you the extra motivation to kick start your gift fund for Christmas 2013.

Try one of the savings tips above to make saving less of a chore and more fun. Remember, not only is saving money fun, it can be pain-free as well. Automatic deposits or transfers can be established by your financial institution for as much or as little as you desire. Saving a modest amount of \$25 every other week at an annual percentage rate of 0.20 percent will result in a nice sum of \$651 at the end of one year. Who can't have some fun with an extra \$651 on hand? **NOW**

Aaron Penny is the branch manager at the Neighborhood Credit Union in Waxahachie.

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Taking the Bite Out of Pain

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Relaxing with a cup of hot tea or just chilling with friends enjoying an ice cream cone are simple pleasures you may have to enjoy at your own risk. Sensitive teeth can definitely take the pleasure out of eating. The symptoms are easy to recognize. Stimulation or irritation of teeth by hot or cold substances, or sometimes even by flossing or brushing, can cause pain and discomfort in the affected tooth. Sensitive teeth in and of themselves are not a medical crisis. However, they could be the indicator of worse things to come.

Many reasons might cause a tooth to suddenly become difficult to live with. Damage to the tooth would be an obvious cause. Fractured or cracked teeth can lead to great sensitivity and pain. Frequently, the damaged tooth is discovered after pain has driven the person to the dentist's office. Teeth grinding or biting on a hard surface, such as ice or popcorn kernels, can lead to tooth trauma. Having a tooth restored after such an ordeal is extremely important in order to avoid having bacteria seep into the exposed surface and cause tooth decay. Erosion of the tooth's enamel can occur with abuse of illicit drugs, such as methamphetamine, which has earned the nickname of "meth mouth," because of the prolific amount of damage to teeth from the highly acidic drug. Some over-the-counter medications can cause damage to the enamel if not taken properly. An example is aspirin with its acidic nature or the sugar in cough syrup that's allowed to remain in the mouth and not rinsed or brushed away. Saliva helps protect teeth, but some medications, such as antihistamines, can cause dry mouth. Gastroesophageal reflux, as well as eating disorders, such as bulimia, cause stomach acid to bathe the teeth, which then breaks down enamel. Teeth whitening products are one of the major causes of sensitive teeth.

Preventing tooth sensitivity can be accomplished various ways. If you grind your teeth, have yourself fitted with a proper mouth



guard. If your teeth have been damaged, seek the help of a dentist for remedy. Good oral hygiene is vital. Proper brushing, flossing and regular dental checkups go a long way toward keeping your teeth in good condition. Avoid hard bristled toothbrushes, because they can wear down your tooth enamel and cause irritation to the gums. Use fluoride toothpaste, and check with your dentist about which mouth rinse you should use. When brushing, do so gently. In today's world, modern dentistry can perform miracles. If you need dental services, call your dentist. **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.



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Fall is a Good Time for Planting Trees

— By Nancy Fenton

Was the long hot summer as hard on your trees as it was on mine? If you have to replace or just add a bit of color, fall is really one of the very best times for planting trees or shrubs of any size. The cooler weather gives the tree a much better chance to develop strong roots. Container-grown plants, including trees, can be planted any time of year, but the fall is still a much better time since they won't require as much watering. Trees, like most plants, shock easily when moved around. The roots start to dry out the minute the soil is pulled away. This makes careful planting a must.

For careful planting, the tree guys at Texas A&M University tell us the width of the planting hole is vitally important. Three times the width of the pot is essential, as is digging the hole no deeper than the container in which the tree is planted. If you are looking at a tree that is bare-rooted (no soil), just make sure that the hole is good and wide. Lots of room is needed for the roots to spread out. Good looking trees in containers often have lots of roots in a very small space. A good soaking will often loosen the container and the soil

around the roots. If that doesn't work, try a good, sharp knife to cut through and loosen the roots.

The depth issue is one that has changed over the years. The crown of the tree should be just above the level of the surrounding soil with the roots spread around it. The main issues in North Central Texas are our alkaline soils, plus the uneven moisture levels. Refilling the hole with the same soil that came out and topping with two to three inches of course mulch is recommended. Less air exposure to the roots means less of a chance the tree will be shocked. Regular watering after the fact (even after the temperature drops) will also help.

For more information and a list of great trees for North Central Texas, call the Master Gardeners at the Texas AgriLife Extension officer, (972) 825-5175. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

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Calendar

NOVEMBER 2012

Through November

"Strike Out Hunger" Thanksgiving Food Drive: Gear Up Baseball Academy, 524 Ovilla Rd., Waxahachie. Bring non-perishable food items throughout the month.

Through November and December

Ellis County College Showcase: For baseball players 16 to 18 years old. For more information, call (972) 845-7053.

Through December 10

Lighthouse for Learning Community Education: 6:00-8:00 p.m. Catalog and registration at the WISD Administration Building, 411 North Gibson Street. Call (972) 923-4631 for more information.

November 2

Old Fashioned Singing Project: 7:00 p.m., concert begins, Chautauqua Auditorium at Getzendaner Park.

November 8

The Baggy Bottom Boys: 6:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ennis. For more information, contact Vicki Bell at (469) 285-4845 or Myra Morrissey at (972) 998-5868.

November 10

Free Pie at Pettigrew Academy: 9:00 a.m.-noon,

806 E. Marvin Ave. The children's free event will include a nature and science center that will be open for exchanges, free pie exhibits and more. For more information, call (972) 923-1633.

November 15

FirstLook, formerly WRC Pregnancy Center Grand Re-opening: 10:00 a.m., 1204 Ferris Ave., Suite E.

November 16

Texas Country Music Show: 6:30-9:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr., Midlothian. Advance tickets are \$12. Tickets at the door are \$15. For more information, call (972) 775-7125 or e-mail cyndi.golden@midlothian.tx.us.

November 17

Holidays at the Dojo: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Buie's Superkicks, 800 Silken Crossing, Suite 107, Midlothian. For more information, call (972) 775-8286.

FirstLook Thrifty Boutique Holiday Open House and Fashion Show: 10:00 a.m.-noon, 210 W. Brown St., Ennis. Be the first to shop the Christmas collection while enjoying Christmas treats.

November 26

Indian Trail Chapter, Texas Master Naturalist

meeting: 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church banquet hall, 505 W. Marvin Ave. Free and open to the public. For more information, call (972) 415-4596 or e-mail joe@mundoandassociates.com.

November 27

Girl Scout Volunteer Meeting: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Brown Street Church of Christ, 2471 Brown St. Come join the Girl Scouts if you are interested in being an adult volunteer, or visit joinus@gssu251.org for more details.

November 30

Waxahachie Junior Service League Annual Christmas Market Preview Party: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. The service league serves all of Ellis County. For more information, visit www.waxahachiejls.org.

December 1

Waxahachie Junior Service League Annual Christmas Market and Gift Show: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. For more information, visit www.waxahachiejls.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com.

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In The Kitchen With Terri Siebert

— By Sandra Strong

As a young girl, Terri Siebert learned to cook by keeping a close watch on her mother. “She loved to cook,” Terri admitted. “I just absorbed her love for it.” Terri took advantage of many cooking and nutrition classes while studying home economics in college. “Forty years later, I still use many of the techniques I was taught at East Texas State University,” she said.

As a retired teacher of family and consumer sciences, Terri had the pleasure of teaching junior high students the art of cooking. “There was no greater joy than seeing a young person create something that turned out well,” she shared. “And we really had fun when what they created turned out to be a disaster. You really can learn a lot from mistakes.” **NOW**

Aunt Frances’ White Chocolate Cake

Cake:

- 1/4 lb. white chocolate
- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. soda
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup buttermilk

Frosting:

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 3 Tbsp. milk
- 1 box powdered sugar
- 1 stick butter

1. For cake: melt chocolate over hot water (double boiler). Let cool.

- 2. Cream butter and sugar until light; add melted chocolate. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each.
- 3. Sift dry ingredients and then add to egg mixture, alternating with buttermilk.
- 4. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour in angel food cake pan or 40 minutes for three 9-inch pans. Cool before frosting.
- 5. For frosting: combine all ingredients; mixing well. Frost the cake.

Sausage Spirals by Myra

- 2 lbs. sausage
- 8 oz. cream cheese, cubed
- 3 cans crescent rolls

- 1. Brown sausage; drain. Put cream cheese in skillet with cooked sausage; stirring until melted and mixed well.
- 2. Open rolls and remove half from each can. Return other half to refrigerator. Pat 2 triangles into 1 rectangle. Spread with

- sausage filling. Roll up from short end.
- 3. Cover with plastic wrap. Chill in refrigerator about 1 hour.
- 4. Slice each roll into 5 slices. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake according to directions on roll package.

Snickerdoodles

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 1/2 cups plus 2 Tbsp. sugar (divided use)
- 2 eggs
- 2 3/4 cups flour
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. cinnamon

- 1. Heat oven to 400 F. Mix butter, shortening, 1 1/2 cups sugar and eggs. Blend in flour, cream of tartar, soda and salt. Shape rounded tsp. of dough into balls.
- 2. Mix remaining sugar with cinnamon in a small bowl. Roll balls in mixture. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes.

Aunt Nell’s Corn Light Bread

- 2 cups cornmeal
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 egg
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 1/2 tsp. soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 stick butter, melted

- 1. Mix all ingredients except butter. Pour into greased loaf pan.
- 2. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour. Before removing from pan, pour butter over bread. Let stand until absorbed.
- 3. Serve hot or reheated.

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

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