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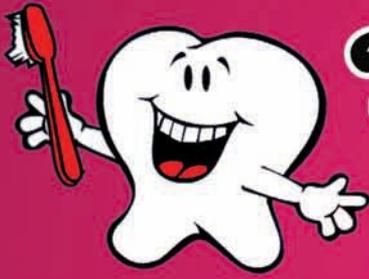


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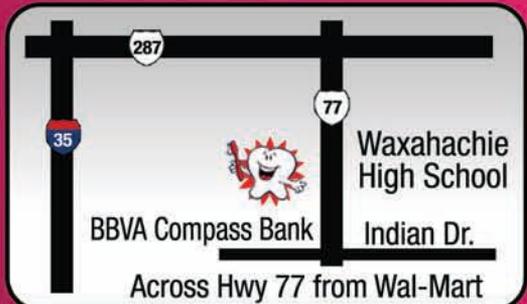
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ON THE COVER



Samaria Missionary Baptist Church celebrates longevity in the community.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Happy Spring!

April brings the promise of new growth, as trees bud out and the grass begins to turn green once again. This hope of new growth has caused me to look inwardly and see where I need to grow. I want to gossip less and love more. I want to get up off the couch and do constructive projects that will help my endorphin level rise. I want to learn the difference between caring for and enabling when it comes to my

loved ones.

Sometimes new growth hurts, as limbs get hacked off and layers, much like an onion, are peeled back to reveal the new, sweeter me — the me who is kinder and gentler. Yes, it's quite painful, but I'm welcoming each rip, tear and pull, because I know the hard-fought changes are going to make me a better wife, daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, co-worker and friend. Being better *is* a good thing!

Sandra

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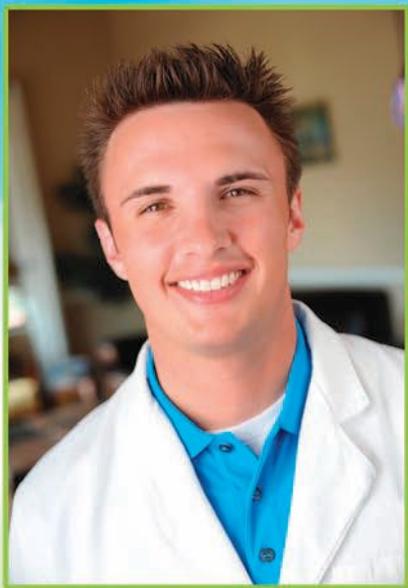


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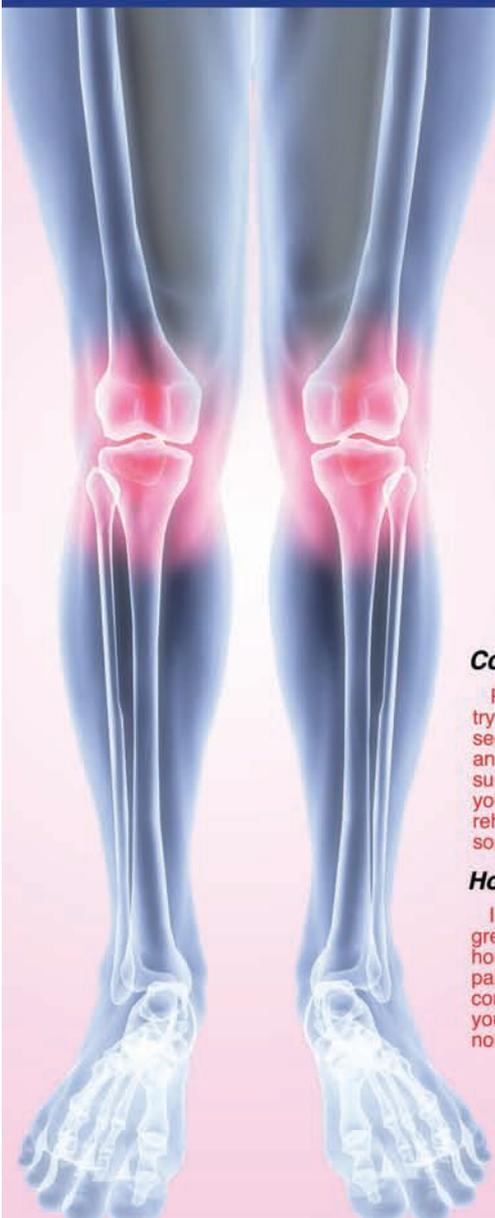
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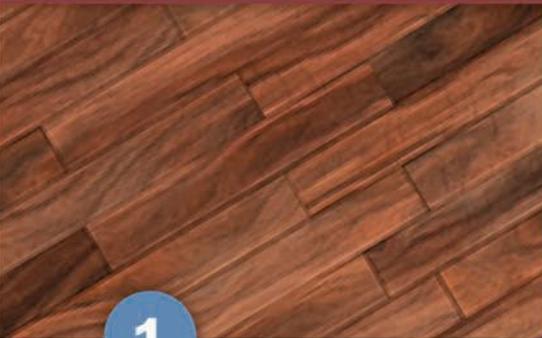
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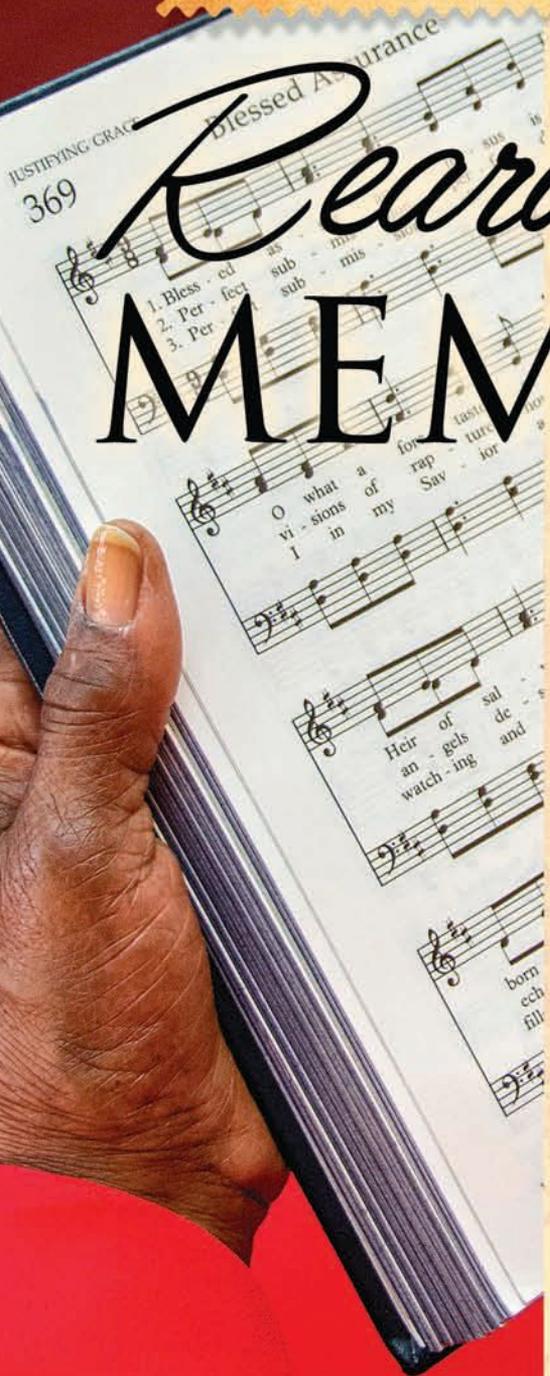
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Rearview Mirror MEMORIES

— By Carolyn Wills

A small group of slaves gathered under an oak tree on Waxahachie's East Main Street. The year was 1864. The occasion was a prayer meeting, the first of many to be held by the Rev. Biggind, a Baptist preacher. Later in the same year, around the 9th of November, the small congregation under the oak tree officially became Samaria Missionary Baptist Church. As quickly as they could, the congregation obtained the lot across the street from the oak tree and built a sanctuary. That same building, reconstructed as the result of a fire in 1915 and then

remodeled many times since, stands in the same spot today on what is now Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Richly historic, Samaria Church may not be the oldest in town nor is it the biggest but, after 150 years of immeasurable faith and service, this amazing church with its devoted congregation clearly ranks among the great and beautiful churches of Waxahachie. Mattie Borders joined Samaria in 1927. At age 102, she is its oldest living member. "We continue to be blessed with wonderful teachers, preachers, doctors and just great Christian members," she smiled.

Throughout 88 years of membership, Mattie has made many contributions. She has served as Sunday school teacher, first usher, secretary, president of both junior and senior missions and building fund treasurer. Presently, she serves as church



“ Last year, the church celebrated 150 years of service, and I believe God has a bright future for us. ”

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clerk. She personally recalls at least 26 pastors, each of whom brought their own impact. She's seen the church interior redesigned, the first organ purchased, the choir stand lowered, installation of folding chairs, the entrance remodeled and carpeted and the addition of a church bus. "Today, we are blessed with the leadership of the Rev. Henry and Lady Velma Wyatt," she added. "Last year, the church celebrated 150 years of service, and I believe God has a bright future for us."

Rose Mary Pitts is a fourth-generation member. Her great-grandmother was church musician, her grandmother taught Sunday school, her mother served numerous roles and her sister, while a child, was the Sunday school musician. "I joined the church during a revival," Rose Mary said. "Those not yet baptized were seated in the front pews, and our Sunday school teacher, Aunt Mattie Hill, asked each of us if we wanted to go to the devil. That night, every youth surrendered, and we were all baptized," she smiled.

Another happy memory for Rose Mary was the night of the Christmas program when brown bags with fruit, candy and nuts were given to everyone. "They called my name and then my sister's," she said. "That's when we discovered our mother had surprised us with roller skates!"

At age 16, Rose Mary moved to Galveston, where she lived and worked



for 32 years until her job brought her back to the Metroplex. “I returned to Samaria and coordinated the first Black History Program,” she said. That program, featuring exceptionally talented individuals, is now a highly anticipated annual event. Currently, Rose Mary is also the senior mission president and Sunday school teacher and choir member.

Herbert Quaites story began with parents who were members of Samaria. “So my brother, James, and I were sure to be members,” he smiled. “My sister was special, and my parents took turns staying home with her, but we were always a family with faithful attendance. My father did minor repairs around the church, and my mother served in the choir and the junior and senior missions.” Herbert and his brother sang in the choir, one on each end because Herbert sang bass, and his brother sang tenor. “Samaria’s youth choir was second to none,” he said.

Church elders were expected to advise and lead younger members. “I knew at an early age I wanted to become a deacon,” Herbert explained. “Deacon Seth Williams took me under his wing to teach me the rules and expectations of a deacon.” After military service, Herbert moved to Dallas where he attended a church led by the former pastor of Samaria who had baptized him as a child. Ultimately, he moved back to Waxahachie. “I returned to my home church, Samaria, where I now serve as a

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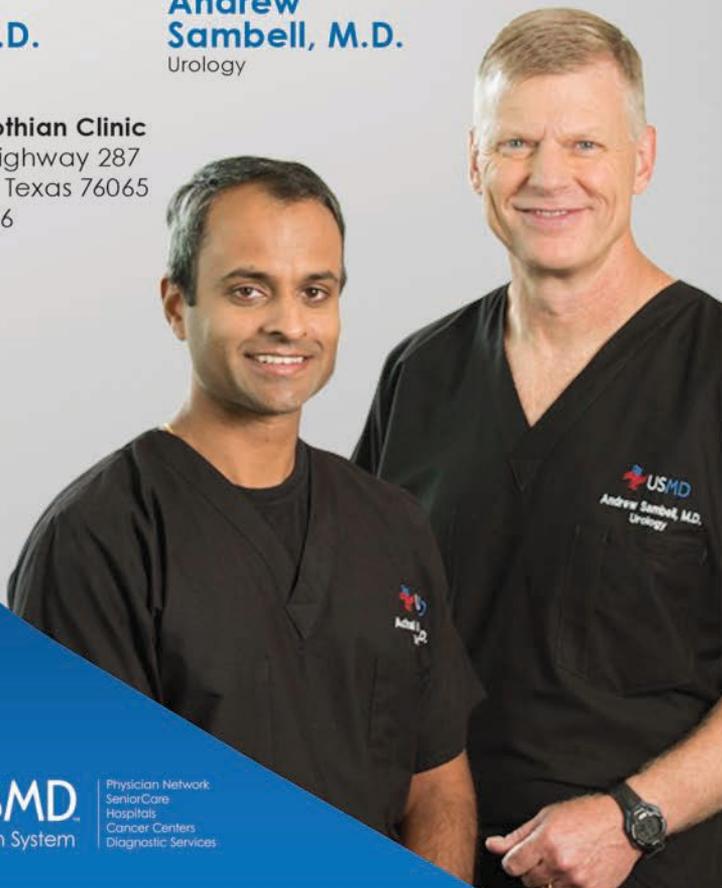
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The Rev. Henry and First Lady Velma Wyatt look forward to the future.

deacon," he smiled. "My wife, Dorothy, is a youth sponsor, choir member and deaconess, and we both willingly serve wherever needed."

In July 2012, Samaria members elected the Rev. Henry Wyatt as their new pastor. "This is a humbling assignment," the Rev. Wyatt said. "Samaria is now 150 years old, and that is a long and important history. As we continue this journey, we always want to be mindful to check the rearview mirror — for without our past there is no present or future."

On the weekend of November 15, 2014, Samaria celebrated its 150th anniversary. "Our First Lady Velma Wyatt envisioned a grand celebration," Mattie shared. "Samaria may be few in numbers, but we know where there is unity there is strength, and with God all things are possible."

"We planned for the whole year," First Lady Velma smiled. Through determination, and hard work, the sesquicentennial event was indeed remarkable. "This celebration was an opportunity to reach out to current,



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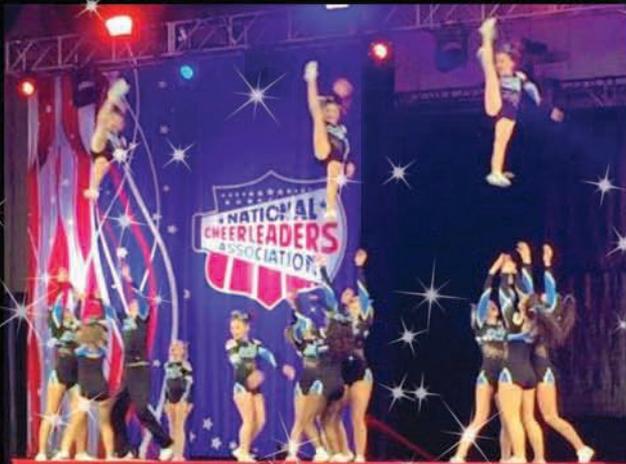
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previous and potential members,” she added. “Samaria Missionary Baptist Church remains constant in devotion to our faith, and it was our pleasure to invite others to join in this special occasion.”

A stunning, photo-filled and historic 36-page booklet was produced in honor of the anniversary. “*A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words* is dedicated to current and former pastors, members and friends who have walked in faith during this 150-year journey,” First Lady Velma smiled. On November 15, the festivities began with a banquet for approximately 80 attendees at the La Quinta Inn. The evening included a musical program, door prizes and special recognitions. On Sunday, the celebration culminated at the church with the Rev. S.M. Harnsberry and the Friendship Baptist Church as special guests. “Samaria Missionary Baptist Church is sustained through common purpose, fellowship and inspired teaching,” Pastor Henry said. “Our goals are to be faithful, to have a sincere heart, to preach and teach God’s word and live by example, to personally connect with our roots and community and to sustain and build membership with special attention to youth.”

What began 150 years ago as a small gathering of slaves under an oak tree, a congregation led in prayer by the Rev. Biggind, is today’s Samaria Missionary Baptist Church. It may not be the oldest or the biggest, but in heart, faith and family, it is clearly great. “We are a work in progress, and God is not yet finished with us,” Pastor Henry smiled. “We move forward with great expectation, thankful for all that God is going to do.” **NOW**

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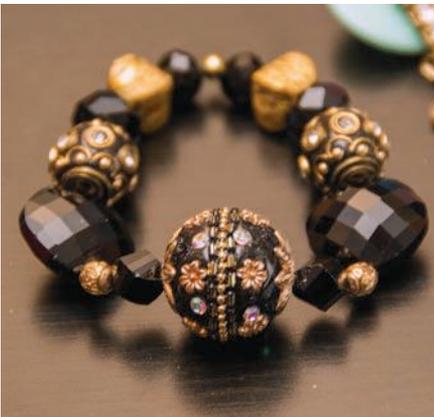
— By Dianne Reaux

Most people wouldn't have any reason to keep old, broken and unwanted pieces of jewelry. When the clasp on the bracelet is broken or semi-precious pearls are rolling on the floor instead of lying around your neck, who in the world would want it? Well, that someone would be Doris Ladd — and Doris has a special talent for turning old and discarded baubles, beads and broaches into new and beautiful pieces of jewelry.



Doris is from Tennessee, and she knows a lot about being busy. "My daughter, Dianna, was 2 1/2 years old when I had a set of twins, Donna and Dana. I had three under 3!" Doris shared laughing. Later, Doris moved to Texas to be a nanny for her grandson, Kendall Drew. As he became more independent, she worked at Beall's department store for 13 years as a cosmetic consultant. "When I retired, I had a friend offer to teach me to make jewelry, and that's how I started," Doris explained. "I like keeping myself busy, and making jewelry is something I enjoy doing."

Once Doris picked up the basics, she began to experiment by designing and



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THESE PIECES
ARE LIKE
A PART OF OUR
history —
A PART OF
OUR *past*."**

creating her own unique custom pieces. Soon her love for making jewelry became a small business called Designs by Doris. Doris enjoys showing her jewelry at craft shows, but there is one set of individuals she is particularly fond of. "I enjoy showing my pieces at retirement homes," Doris shared proudly. Doris finds a lot of satisfaction in creating an array of vintage-inspired jewelry, which appeals to those

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who appreciate her love of antique and vintage jewelry.

“A lot of people purchase stones and beads in bulk from online retailers, but I don’t. I prefer walking through shops so I can touch and feel everything,” she admitted. “I like to hold pieces and see how light or heavy they are.”

Because Doris is retired, time isn’t an issue for her. And that’s a good thing because thrift stores and antique shops are where she spends time looking at old and unwanted pieces of jewelry that will become her redesigned creations. “I love spending time in antique stores,” she shared. “I may spend two or three hours in one shop, and I might find only one or two beads, or perhaps an old brooch with a broken clasp. But I know I can take pieces no one else wants and remake them into brand new pieces.”

Making wearable art can be a very tedious craft, but Doris uses an assortment of tools, along with a large magnifying



glass with a light, to create her jewelry. But surprisingly, the most challenging part of her craft isn't handling the typically small and hard-to-see baubles and beads, nor is it seeing the really tiny holes in the pieces that she strings together. "Actually, the most challenging part is finding a way to use odd pieces, like earrings that aren't part of a set," Doris said. "I know that if I can find enough pieces from a particular era, I can use spare earrings to create an entirely brand new necklace or bracelet. Or, maybe discarded broaches will become accent pieces in a new statement necklace or bracelet."

Doris has a special place in her heart

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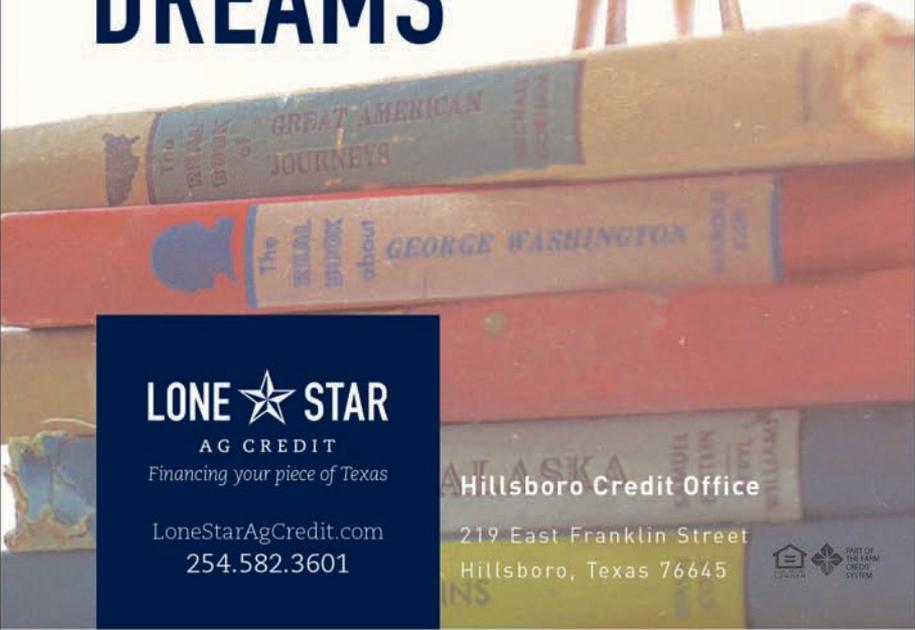
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for the discarded and unwanted pieces of jewelry she finds. “Working with antique and vintage pieces of jewelry is important to me,” Doris explained. “For me, these pieces are like a part of our history — a part of our past. Sometimes, I will see a



piece of jewelry in an antique shop, and it will remind me of the fashionable pieces my relatives used to wear.”

Old photographs also inspire Doris' creativity. “One of my relatives may be wearing an old brooch or a pair of earrings in a picture, and that will spark an idea for me,” Doris shared. “Just seeing photographs of jewelry people used to wear gives me ideas, and that's why old jewelry shouldn't be thrown away. I can give it a brand new life.”

A favorite item Doris currently creates uses alphabet beads. “I had small children who were looking for Mother's Day gifts, so I decided to string together small beads with letters that spelled *I Love Mom*,” Doris shared. “And then I had parents and grandparents who started requesting custom pieces. So I would get the child's name and age so I would know how short

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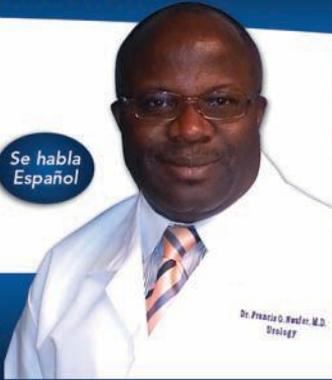
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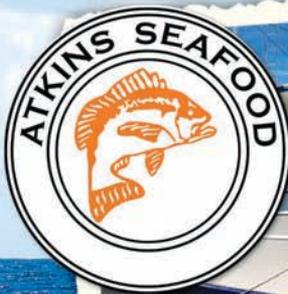
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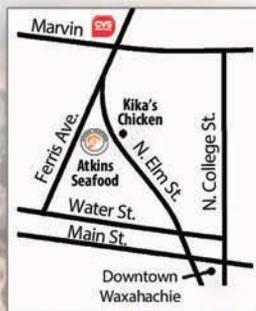
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or long the necklace should be. They would also tell me the colors they wanted.”

Another popular piece Doris creates can also be credited to her unique ability to repurpose and reuse old pieces. “I had a bunch of old rosary beads with lots of really little beads and tiny crosses,” Doris explained. “So I took them apart, used elastic and strung the little beads together and made little baby anklets. To finish each one, I added a tiny little cross. Grandparents love these for the newborn babies in their families.”

Doris has a small, neatly organized room dedicated to her craft, and she and Mr. Snuffy manage to get a lot done. Mr.



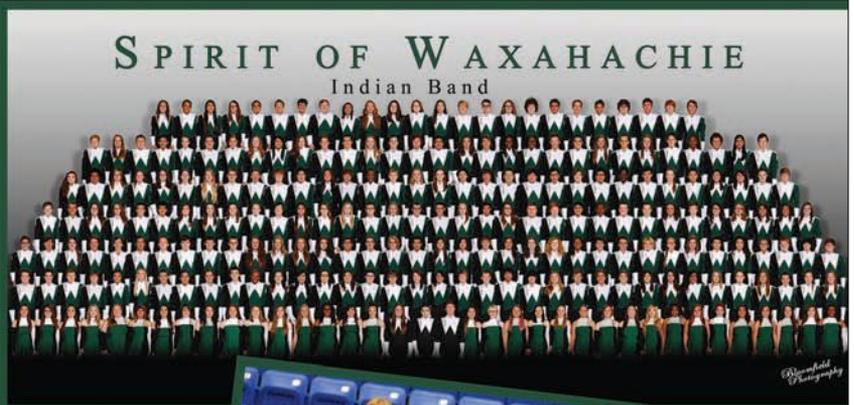
Snuffy is Doris’ daughter’s 11-year-old Yorkie Terrier who enjoys snoozing on his blanket and playing with his toys while Doris creates her jewelry.

A glance into her workspace might give the impression that organization is another one of her talents, but she is quick to dispel that notion. “Oh no,” she said laughing, “that’s Dianna’s doing. Dianna will say, ‘Mom, how do you find what you’re looking for?’ But for me, the bigger the mess, the better! Dianna doesn’t understand I can always find what I’m looking for, because I know exactly where I put it!”

Jewelry making is just one part of Doris’ passion. What she loves just as much as making jewelry is sharing it with others. “I am currently picking out some of my pieces to send to my daughter, Dana, to give to her older, assisted-living patients,” Doris shared. “I’m gifting the pieces to her because creating vintage jewelry is what I love doing.” **NOW**

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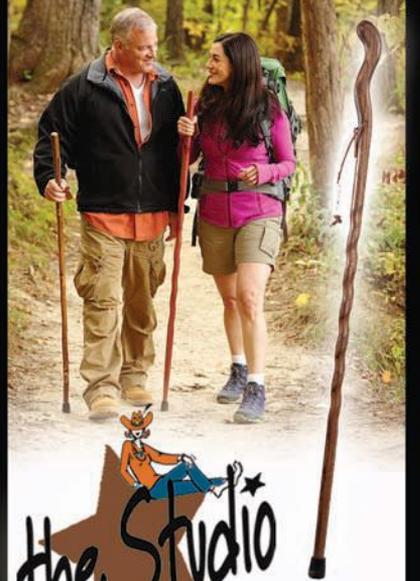
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Charm, History — and — The Jack Cave

— By Carolyn Wills

At Home With
Terri Barton

Last October, Terri Barton and her 9-year-old son, Jack, were moving into a lovely 1,800-square-foot home in a charming Waxahachie neighborhood when a neighbor came to welcome them. Luckily, the neighbor mentioned the Halloween tradition that would soon bring hundreds of trick-or-treaters to their door. “She wasn’t exaggerating,” Terri laughed. Halloween night, the streets teemed with couples and families, some pushing



strollers, others walking their dogs and everyone dressed up. People sat outside on their front lawns and, even though Terri had stocked up, she ran out of candy in the first hour. "Jack went trick-or-treating with the boy from next door," she smiled. "It was a great evening, and I'll always be grateful for the warning!"

As quickly as ghosts and goblins vanished, the unusual house-warming was yet another sign Terri had made the right choice for this time in her life. "I feel very fortunate to be here," she shared. "I've always enjoyed looking at real estate, and this neighborhood is one I've often perused for fun. When I began looking for a rental home, I would never have guessed we would find something so perfect."

The exquisitely refurbished home, owned by long-time Waxahachie resident Shelby Hosiner, was built in the 1930s. "It was Shelby's family home," Terri said. "His family didn't build it, but they knew the original owners, so Shelby even has the original blueprints."

Pristine and picturesque, the home features peaked rooflines, a tan exterior with crisp white trim, slightly up-sloped front yard with a gorgeous tree encircled



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taupe and green are used throughout the house, with lots of crisp white moldings, trims, wainscoting and cabinetry. “The wall colors, fireplace, draperies, windows, wood floors, crown moldings, ceiling-to-floor bookshelves and wide

by flowers. To the right is a driveway leading to a double-gated iron fence. “On my way to see it for the first time, I got more and more excited as I realized it was located in one of my favorite areas,” Terri said. “Shelby has put so much heart and soul into this home. Over the years, he’s carefully renovated every inch while staying true to its history, and that’s something I really appreciate.”

The front door is side-paneled and inset with intricate leaded glass, and through it is a tiny foyer banked by built-in cabinetry and a small coat closet. The elegant foyer with its vintage light fixture sets the stage for the breathtaking living room. Varying shades of tan,

window seat could not be more perfect,” Terri shared. “It looks like my furniture was made for this house, which is another reason this connection feels so right.”

Terri’s camel-back sofa, inherited from her grandmother and re-covered twice now, is upholstered in golds and tans and accents of deep red. Two over-stuffed chairs, rich wood furnishings, family photos and a cherished painting of George Washington’s home at Mt. Vernon complete the look.

French doors separate the living room and home office, while another set stands

between the living and formal dining rooms. “At first, I was concerned that my dining table would be too large, but it just fits,” she said. The dining room is painted a rich brown, framed in white wainscoting and centered by a lovely large chandelier.

Through the dining room is a stunningly upgraded kitchen. Dark espresso, soft-closing custom cabinets, commercial-grade stainless steel Bosch appliances, stone counters, decorative moldings, special halogen lighting and a row of glass-paned cabinets over a functional peninsula are a chef’s dream. “I love to bake, and Jack likes to help,”



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Terri explained. “We have a great time, and the peninsula is ideal for decorating cookies.”

Parallel to the dining room and kitchen and across a small hallway are two bedrooms and a bathroom. “One of my sisters lives in Arlington, and she calls the guest room her bed-and-breakfast room,” Terri smiled. The maple suite in the guest room, a gift from Terri’s grandfather to her grandmother in 1936, was also Terri’s childhood furniture. The chest and vanity are etched with a pastoral scene and accented with wagon wheel knobs and the bed’s headboard is in the shape of half a wagon wheel. “I love the sweet story of this furniture,” she said.

Off the hallway, the main bathroom features large tiles and a lovely antique vanity. Just beyond the bathroom is the large master bedroom. “It’s one of my favorite rooms,” Terri said. “I love that it has a sitting area with built-in cabinets and a view of the backyard. I think the built-ins may be original.”

The house was listed as a two-bedroom with bonus room, and Terri decided the bonus belonged to Jack. “It’s a huge room, and I thought it would make a great bedroom and entertainment center,” Terri said. “We call it The Jack Cave.”

Ask Jack and, without a blink, he’ll say The Jack Cave is his favorite part of the house. Featuring knotty pine paneling, retro cowboy bunk beds and big screen TV, it has everything needed to keep a 9-year-old boy entertained. “His friends usually say, ‘Wow, you have a big room!’”




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Terri smiled. “Jack is in the third grade, and his passion is baseball and, lately, basketball, too. He loves to watch ESPN, and it’s amazing what he knows.”

Another must on Terri’s list was a backyard. “I wanted a place for Jack to play.” Not only is the backyard substantial with lots of room for a fire pit and for throwing baseballs, but there’s a deck bordered with fig and tall shade



trees. “I intend to be outside a lot,” Terri smiled. “I love to putter and have always wanted to plant herbs and flowers.”

An old cistern on the property was, at one point, turned into a koi pond. “I’m thinking of bringing it back,” she added. “The area is very meditative, and it would be wonderful to watch those beautiful fish.” With many of Terri’s “must haves” accommodated, there was one more. “The house is too small for all of my furniture,” she said. “I thought I would have to rent a storage unit. Amazingly, the air-conditioned, self-contained workshop in the backyard is large enough to hold everything.”

For four years now, Terri has served as director of business development and marketing for Ennis Regional Medical Center. “I love my job and the people I work with,” she said. “I feel blessed to live in Waxahachie, to work in Ennis and to be Jack’s mother, as well as the owner of Oscar (our terrier mix.) What a joy to also have found this historically charming home,” she smiled. “I do believe it’s a God thing.” **NOW**



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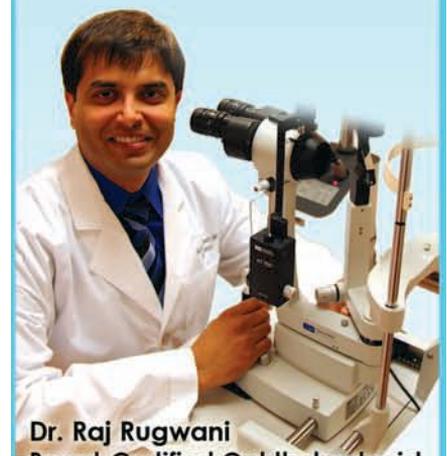
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POWER

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— By Melissa Swedoski



Back row left to right: Steve Thomas, Louis Luera, Russell Williams and Billy Edwards.
Front row left to right: Denise Wright, Amanda Womack and Marie Quevedo.



Windy or still, cold or hot, rain or sunshine, the pavement unfurls and the road opens for limitless miles on the horizon, into the future. Running can be a solitary journey, but for Waxabachie Running Club members, it's a team effort, a hardy support group and a firm belief in no runner left behind.

Whether starting the day with an early morning run or taking to neighborhood streets for a Couch to 5K training session, the WRC has something to offer everyone. From beginners, who only run two minutes at a time, to the ultra-marathoners, who run 30 or more miles in a handful of hours, the club is where they all come together. "A mile is still a mile, whether you do a 6-minute mile or a 16-minute mile," said club founder Russell Williams. "We all start together, but as you progress, you find people who suit your pace. Then, you start holding each other accountable, which



is huge. If I know you'll be there waiting for me, it's hard to miss."

Russell officially began the Waxahachie Running Club in June 2011, after several years of driving to Dallas every weekend to train for marathon-level events. As a lifelong runner, he had friends he knew would join the club, and he had seen others running in Waxahachie. He created a Facebook group with a few friends, who added their friends and so on. "They were runners who wanted to meet new people and take on new challenges," Russell explained. "We would meet for weekend runs, and over time, people just kept adding others to the club. It was crazy. By the end of the first year, we had 179 members. I was shocked. I never thought we'd hit 100."

Although Russell believes the group has profited from great timing and an interest among community members to

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“IT’S AMAZING HOW MANY PEOPLE WANTED TO JOIN AND NOW SAW A PATH TO A HEALTHIER LIFESTYLE.”

get healthy, it was also “a bit of good luck.” As members reached out to other runners and received their support, they found they enjoyed the chance to collaborate with them.

Thus, the key to the WRC’s success really unfolded before Russell’s eyes: the social aspect of being part of a club with like-minded members. Russell noted that in addition to the encouragement

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members provide, having someone to talk with while running makes the time go by quickly. "We don't just talk about running and training," Russell explained. "We're talking about personal issues and work stuff. Sometimes, nonrunning friends and family get tired of hearing about running, so it's good to be around others with a similar interest."

During the first year, the club decided to initiate a Couch to 5K program, adding to the community outreach portion of their nonprofit club. In an effort to assist Waxahachie residents to get healthier, stronger and better, the club wanted to take the lead in setting a good example. WRC especially hoped to entice those who had been runners in the past but had stopped for various reasons and were searching for a way to get back into it.

The nine-week program is based on the Couch to 5K running app, which provides great motivation for those ready to take the challenge. In addition,

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their website provides an overview, along with tips and tricks on how to proceed through the program. The Couch to 5K training group meets three times a week. "If someone misses, they can still do it on their own," Russell pointed out. "It's amazing how many people wanted to join and now saw a path to a healthier lifestyle."

Once several members had conquered the challenge, the running club started a 10K training group and a half-marathon



group. Then the club began training groups for marathons, ultramarathons and triathlons. "It's been neat to watch people progress," Russell said. "I've seen several who started in the Couch to 5K program and moved all the way to the 31-mile Cowtown's Ultra Marathon."

As membership grew to 400 by the end of the second year, the club began adding to its community service events, first with the Turkey Trot, which included an entry fee of a new, unwrapped toy for donation to a service organization in Waxahachie for needy families. The event was hosted in conjunction with Camp Gladiator, as the group works with other boot camps in town, as well as cross-fit groups. They have also participated in the YMCA's Santa Run, Waxahachie ISD Legacy Run and Ennis Polka Fest 5K/10K.

The group's largest fundraiser to date was the Run4West event held in April 2014. Following the devastating fertilizer plant explosion in West in 2013, the club decided to host a 10K, 5K and 1-mile run to raise money for the special education department at West ISD. With the combination of community support, donations, raffle items and runners, WRC was able to present a \$10,000 check to the school district. "We're giving back and paying forward, because we want to be helpful to those around us," Russell explained. "Someone is always in need, so

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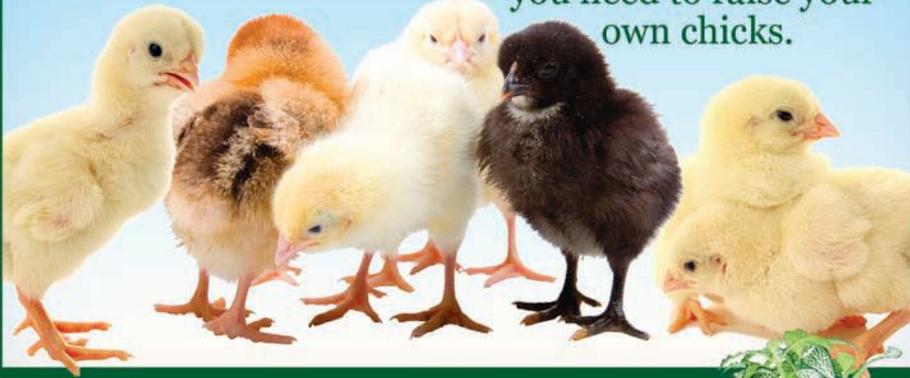
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if you get a group together that can help, you should.”

With running, jogging and walking opportunities offered through WRC, membership went from 800 at the beginning of 2014 to 1,200 this January. Members come from Corsicana, Fort Worth, Dallas and Cedar Hill, with other running clubs starting in neighboring towns based on the same model as this one in Waxahachie. Russell noted that the community service, as well as the social aspect of the club, has been the key to its success, as members “watch out for each other, in running and in life. There are personal issues and life issues, and we do what we can to help out and make them feel loved,” Russell explained. “It’s not



just about the physical feel good, it’s the group talking, interacting and mingling.”

Russell has joined WRC members in 200-mile group running relays around the state, watched beginners transform into ultramarathoners doing 100 mile races, and supported members as they progressed to the marathon-qualifying level in New York, Chicago and Boston. Russell explained he doesn’t set goals for the club, but rather allows it to grow organically and meet the members’ needs.

“There are races all year long, every weekend,” Russell said. “We use the Facebook group and website to reach more people, build awareness and gain new members. Tons of people are involved in promoting and leading this group. It’s a lot of fun, with lifelong friendships.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Visit www.RunWRC.com for more information on the Waxahachie Running Club.



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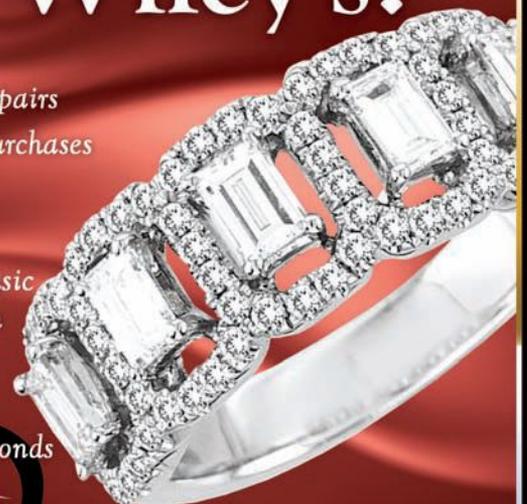
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Outdoor Living *Texas Style*

— By Carolyn Wills

Understandably it's no surprise Texans have long loved the joys of cooking and eating "out." Where else (OK, besides California) is the climate so conducive to outdoor living and the people so inclined to share great weather and food with family and friends? Texas is where perfectly prepared barbecue reigns as the undisputed goal for bragging rights, the governor's inaugural celebration fare and clearly the all-time favorite at holidays, family gatherings and Western-style weddings.



Even our original and beloved TV show, *Dallas*, is credited with affecting America's outdoor cooking. According to www.lagrillislands.com, when the Ducane Company, a grill manufacturer, was asked to create a special island grill for the wealthy oil-drilling and cattle-ranching Ewings, their prefab design, consisting of dual grills surrounded by spacious counters, not only fulfilled the Ewings' needs but resulted in a huge demand from homeowners, which in turn, led to a whole new product line for the grilling industry.¹ The original *Dallas* series aired from 1978 to 1991, and today, that special prefab grill remains a backyard standard for many outdoor cooks.



Dallas, though, is not alone in its influence. Today, broadcast channels like HGTV and DIY Network have introduced homeowners to the bigger, brighter, fancier world of fully functioning outdoor kitchens. Outdoor kitchens, aka patio or summer kitchens, have been around for decades, but according to www.outdoorkitchenfranchise.com, it took a collapsing housing market to spark their super surge in popularity. In

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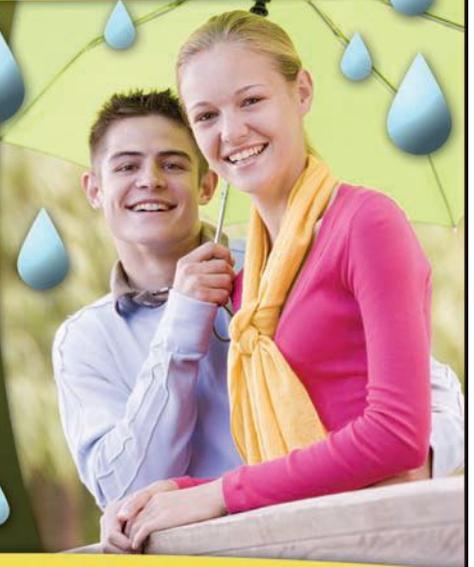
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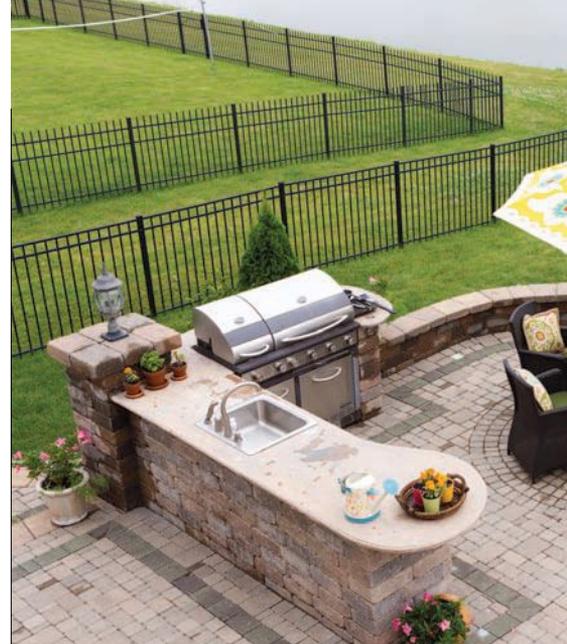
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the mid-2000s, the housing market plummeted and many homeowners saw the wisdom in and even necessity of staying home, remodeling. In the process, they realized the advantages of outdoor living, especially in climates like Texas.²

In a 2012 Residential Trend Survey, the American Society of Landscape Architects found America's infatuation with outdoor kitchens is continuing. So, what's it all about, then, this interest in cooking, dining and entertaining in the wide (or not-so-wide) expanses of the backyard?

First, the Downsides:

- An outdoor kitchen is forever linked to weather conditions.
- Kitchenware and appliances can suffer from exposure and, potentially, are also vulnerable to theft.
- Noise, smoke and odors might challenge neighbors.
- Depending on layout, materials and features, an outdoor kitchen can be costly to build, and without careful consideration of standards, values and market conditions, their end return could prove negligible.
- Costs are not declining. From a few simple features to a chef's dream, outdoor kitchens range in cost from \$3,000 to upwards of \$100,000. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, high-end outdoor equipment manufacturer, Kalamazoo Outdoor Gourmet, says their average outdoor kitchen built in 2012 cost \$40,000, up from \$30,000 in 2010.³



Now, the Upsides:

- Outdoor kitchens are fun, which is the No. 1 reason to have one. They encourage time outside, cooking, relaxing with family and friends, swimming (if there's a pool), watching TV, having parties or intimate dinners and enjoying food that can only taste so good because it's cooked outside. Let's face it, nothing compares to the flavor of a grill or an outdoor pizza oven.
- They add to a home's livable space and entertainment options.
- They help equalize cooking duties and encourage group participation with meal preparation and cleanup.
- They engender a certain pride of ownership. With luck, when it's time to sell they become a hot selling point with potential profit on investment, or at the very least, an extra drawing card for potential buyers.
- They keep heat, smells and mess outside for lower utility bills and a cleaner house.
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What You Need to Know:

- Outdoor kitchens designed with homeowners' needs and budgets in mind offer the greatest return on enjoyment, investment and peace of mind.
 - The grill must be the star attraction.
 - Hiring a contractor is a good idea. (Some projects may allow for do-it-yourself skills, but professionals are needed when plumbing, electrical and gas are involved.)
 - Use wisdom: Be aware of neighborhood home values, stay close to that standard and beware of overbuilding.
 - Permits, codes and standards vary by city. In Texas, permits are generally required for any home improvement beyond painting or simple cosmetics. Be aware and adhere to codes and standards (another advantage in hiring a contractor).
 - When designing an outdoor kitchen, it's smart to complement the home's exterior, decorate for the comfort of the indoors and resilience for the outdoors and to pay attention to flooring, walls and ceilings.
 - Within budget, it's advisable to buy top-of-the-line appliances starting with the best barbecue grill.



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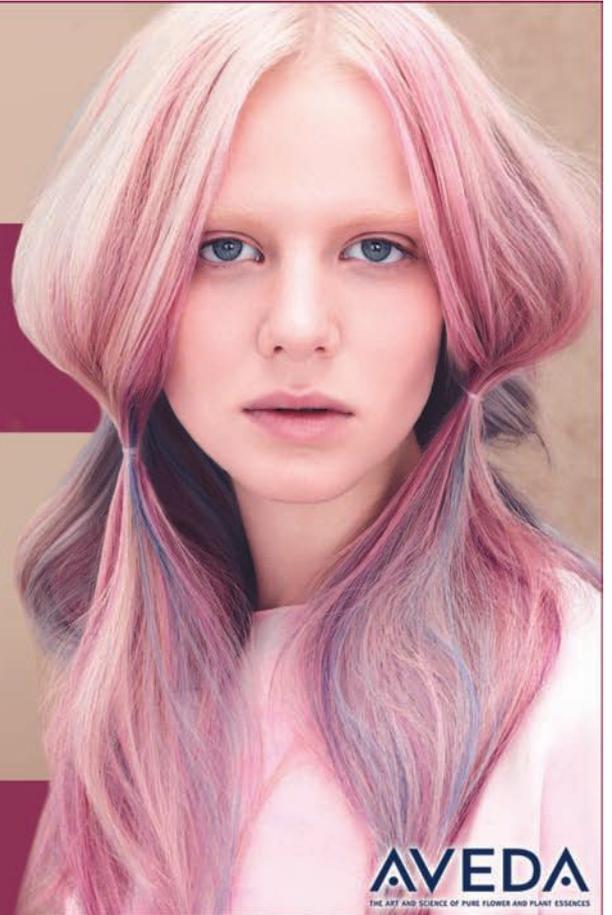
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Today, outdoor kitchens can be accessorized to the hilt with the likes of Sub-Zero refrigerators, stoves, pizza ovens, bread warmers, custom cabinetry, stone work, soaker sinks, trash compactors, barbecues, espresso makers, wine coolers and kegerators. They can be shaded by a pergola, canopy or finished ceiling and accompanied by sound systems, ceiling fans, flat screen televisions, sofas, outdoor rugs, cocktail tables, fire pits, water features and fancy landscaping.

For homeowners who love cooking, entertaining and the outdoor lifestyle, the upsides of having a personal outdoor kitchen greatly outweigh the downsides. Options are endless. Building can involve do-it-yourself, budget-conscious work and the whole process can be done in stages. Texans, other than the Ewings, can also afford the joys of an outdoor kitchen, since Texas is the perfect place to have one! **NOW**

Sources:

1. "Grill Islands; Your Customizable Outdoor Kitchen." LA Grill Islands. www.lagrillislands.com.
2. "Outdoor Kitchen Market Grows as the Housing Market Shrinks." Soleic Outdoor Kitchens. Outdoor Kitchen News, Outdoor Living Industry. Posted November 29, 2012. www.outdoorkitchenfranchise.com.
3. Jackson, Candace. "Take it Outside." *Wall Street Journal*, June 21, 2013. www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887324188604578543622976022866.

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Kim Butler follows in her father's footsteps as she continues to pay close attention to every detail.

An *I Care* Attitude

Come see why Tire Town has been in business for 35 years.

— By Sandra Strong

A long family history can be found at Tire Town. Kim Butler, current owner and operator, remembers how the family business first started. “My dad, Raymond Crouch, went to work here for someone else in 1978,” Kim shared. “Dad asked me to come to work for him in the late ’70s, and by 1981, Dad had purchased the business.” In 1991, Kim and her brother, John Crouch, took a great leap of faith, purchasing the business so their dad could retire. “I remember working for another local business for five years before coming to work for my dad,” Kim explained. “The experience I learned working in the office

at that job made coming to work for my dad so much easier.”

Easier, that is, until the day she had to go out from the office into the shop in her dress clothes and learn how the shop operated. “I went home that day and discarded my clothes,” she laughed. “They were dirty and greasy.” The next day began her wardrobe change to jeans, a work shirt and comfortable shoes. The new attire was more conducive to working in the shop on those days she was needed there.

In early 2000, Kim bought John’s half of the business. “He needed benefits,” she admitted. “He came back on board as the

shop manager in 2010. He oversees the employees that come to work for us at Tire Town.”

Summer — June, July and August — is the busiest season of the year for Kim and the staff at Tire Town. The roads start heating up, thus causing tires to pop. Customers are getting their vehicles ready for family vacations. Students are readying their cars for the trip back to college. “We carry the largest supply of Interstate Batteries stock and merchandise in the area, but we offer so many other services than just new tires and tire repair and maintenance,” Kim stated. “We fix, repair and replace tires on lawn mowers, go-carts, bicycles, ATVs and all types and sizes of farm equipment. We also enjoy working on the antique Model A and Model T cars. As a mom-and-pop tire sales and repair business, we welcome the smaller jobs.”

Tire Town also makes service calls for cars and trucks, as long as the vehicle needing assistance is located within the Waxahachie city limits. After 35 years, the success of the company can be found in the details. “My dad taught me to treat others the way I want to be treated,” Kim confessed, “so that’s what I do. I pay attention to every detail.” Each customer, new or repeat, is treated with the same respect. Kim and her staff believe in the personal touch, so they always take the time out, no matter how busy they might be, to converse with each customer as they come and go. Customers have come to expect the *I care* attitude found at Tire Town.

Days at Tire Town are never repetitive. Each day comes with new challenges, but Kim is up for whatever comes her way. Inventory and choices in the tire business have also changed over the years. “In the ’80s, we probably carried eight differently sized tires that fit pretty much anything and everything,” she reminisced. “Now, I order what I need when I need it. Today, there are just so many choices, prices and suppliers.”

Kim thoroughly enjoys what she’s doing. Her life career as a small business owner suits her nicely. “I like steady days,” she admitted, “but every day is a good day at the office.” **NOW**

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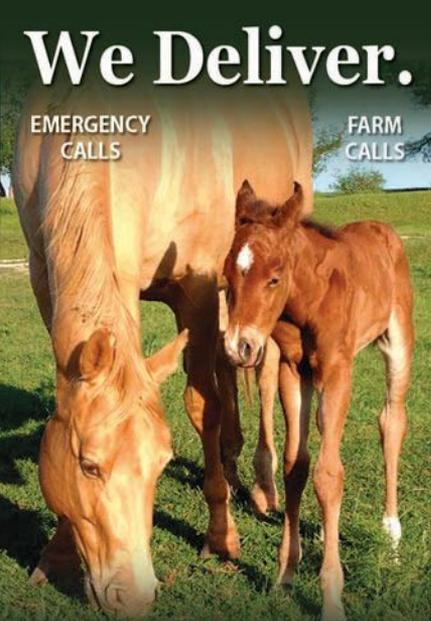
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Ambassadors from the Waxahachie Chamber celebrate Crickett Wireless' one-year anniversary!



Tami Lu Muller serves up raspberry birthday wishes at Olive Garden.



The Prospect Baseball Organization coaches show their appreciation to Jessica Santos for keeping things organized and running smoothly.



Classmates from Waxahachie Class of 1960, Wanda Wilson Miers and Judy Wickliffe Borders, pose with Barbara Baltz O'Neil (center). Many other classmates attended the luncheon for Barbara, who now resides in Oregon.



The Rev. David Shabeen shops with Inu Yasba, the insulin cat he's had since he was just a small kitten.



Two of Waxahachie Police Department's finest, Officer Brian Fuller and Cpl. Derek McKie, take a break for supper at Whataburger.



The Christian Motorcycle Association conducts bike blessings at The Shop.



The Waxahachie Chamber welcomes new member, Lucretia Wolverton, Independent Designer for Origami Owl.



Edee Allen and Ryann Newsom prepare to dance for class at Danceworks Dance Studio.

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Convert to a Roth IRA or Not?

This is the Question. Only You Can Provide the Answer.

Even if you qualify to convert your traditional individual retirement account to a Roth account, it doesn't mean you should. The right answer is probably tied up in concerns about personal income tax rates, your plan for your estate, the current state of your finances and, in a sense, your best guess about your future tax circumstances.

Here are the principal differences between the two IRA plans:

Traditional IRA

Created in 1974, the traditional IRA allows qualified income earners to invest a pretax amount each year into an account that grows free of taxes until the funds are paid out in distributions that are taxed as regular income. After you turn 70 1/2, you must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMDs).

Roth IRA

The Roth IRA, in effect since 1998, turned the original idea on its head. Retirement savings contributions come from after-tax money, but your investments grow tax-free and distributions taken after attaining age 59 1/2 are tax-free if you've owned the account for at least five years. You are not required to take RMDs from Roth accounts, so switching traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs appeals to many investors.

Conversion Factors

Before you decide to convert, however, here are some important considerations:

- Do you have the money to pay the taxes due on conversion? In the year you convert, you'll have to pay the taxes due on the pretax contributions and earnings,

preferably without tapping into your IRA money. If you are under age 59 1/2, you may also have to pay a 10-percent penalty.

- Your traditional IRA withdrawal counts as regular income and may throw you into a higher tax bracket. One solution may be to convert small amounts over time.

- Is time on your side? Do you have enough years between the time you convert and when you retire to allow your new Roth to regenerate the income lost to taxes?

- Will you need to take distributions in retirement and will your post-retirement tax bracket drop (say from 25 percent to 15 percent)? If so, converting to a Roth may not make sense, because you'll be paying a lesser rate on your post-retirement traditional IRA distributions than you paid to convert.

- Do you plan to leave all your IRA money to heirs? If so, converting probably makes sense, because the Roth IRA doesn't require you or your surviving spouse to deplete the funds during your lifetimes by taking RMDs.

As is the case with so many financial decisions, converting to a Roth IRA makes eminent sense for some and little sense for others. If you would like to discuss the right course for you, please don't hesitate to call your financial advisor. **NOW**

Material prepared by Raymond James for use by its financial advisors. Investors should consult a tax advisor before deciding to do a conversion.

Jonathan Pope is a Raymond James Financial Advisor based in Duncanville.

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Calendar

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April 3

Garrett Rural Volunteer Fire Department's 13th Annual Good Friday Fish Fry: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Knights of Columbus Hall, 850 S. I-45. Live and silent auctions. Cost is \$10 for an adult to-go plate; \$6 for kids.

April 4

Children's Easter Puzzle: 9:00 a.m., First Baptist Church, 315 N. Rogers St. For more information, call (972) 938-1940.

8th Annual Waxahachie Easter Egg Hunt: 11:00 a.m.-noon, Getzendaner Park. The hunt is for children ages 0-12.

April 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26

Scarborough Renaissance Festival: For more information, call (972) 938-3247 or visit www.srfestival.com.

April 6 — 11

Ellis County Youth Expo: Ellis County Expo Center.

April 9

Waxahachie Symphony Orchestra presents SAGU Jazz Band: 7:00-9:00 p.m., SAGU Performance Hall. Visit www.waxahachiesymphony.com for more information.

April 11

Lifestyle Business, Health & Wellness Expo: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln. For more information, call (972) 937-2392 or visit www.waxahachiechamber.com.

Children's Craft Program: 10:00-11:00 a.m., Sims Library. Children, ages 5-12.

April 11 — October 31

Waxahachie Downtown Farmers Market: 7:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **Saturdays**.

April 14

Don Juan and Miguel, Expert Swordsmen: 6:00 p.m., Sims Library.

All ages are welcome. Don Juan and Miguel will provide an exciting show of swordplay and whip action.

April 18

Adult Computer Class – Basic Word: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Reference Department of Sims Library. This is a beginner class. Introduction to and creating documents in MS Word. Space is limited, so register at the main desk beginning **April 1**, or call (972) 937-2671.

April 28

Girl Scout Monthly Volunteer meeting: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Brown Street Church of Christ, 2471 Brown St. For more information, visit www.joinus@gssu251.org.

May 2

Cinco de Mayo Celebration: downtown Waxahachie. For more information, call (972) 937-2392 or visit www.waxahachiechamber.com.

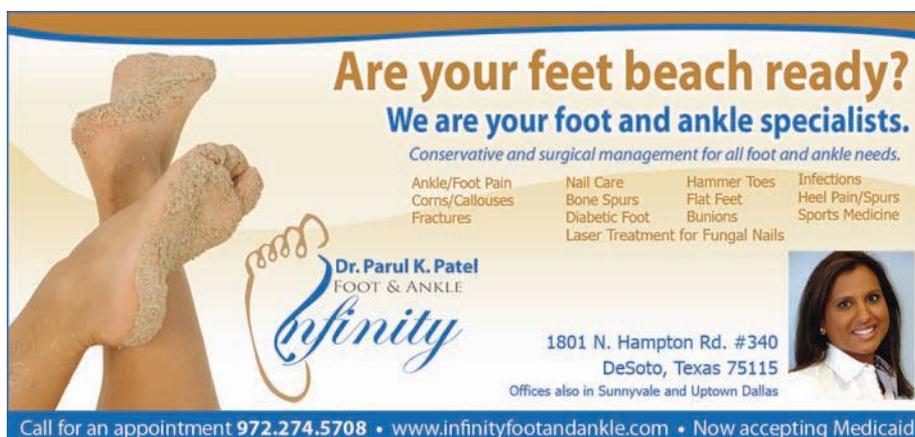
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Measles Again

— By Betty Tryon, BSN



What is going on with measles? The United States was well on its way to eliminating this viral infection from this country. But today, measles (*rubeola*) is making a distressing comeback in big numbers. Recently, a visitor to Disneyland ended up bringing more than expectations for a fun-filled day. This person brought measles, which set off a reaction of contagion across multiple states and involving over 100 people. Many of those who were diagnosed with measles were directly connected to the case at Disneyland.

Over the years, there has been a steady decline in immunization rates. More and more citizens are traveling to countries that are still battling the disease. Reason dictates if you haven't been vaccinated, travel to a country with measles and come in contact with someone with the infection, you are more than likely to contract the infection and bring it home with you. Those who come in contact with you who have not been immunized will more than likely get measles, too. And, so the cycle will repeat itself until the immunization rates start to rise again.

Measles is highly contagious, which makes it so easy to catch from another person. Adding to the difficulty of contagion, measles is transmissible about four days prior to the rash's appearance. The symptoms of coughing, runny nose,

sore throat, fever and conjunctivitis are symptomatic of many respiratory illnesses. Unless someone knows they have been exposed to measles, the diagnosis of measles probably will not be made until a rash known as Koplik spots appear.

Measles is not a benign illness. Thirty percent of people who get measles also develop secondary infections such as pneumonia, bronchitis, inflammation of the brain, diarrhea and ear infections. Measles in pregnant individuals can lead to premature birth or even pregnancy loss.

If you do contract measles, rest as much as possible. Take palliative measures to ease your symptoms, such as fever reducers and drink lots of liquids. Fever can be dehydrating. A humidifier can be helpful for your cough and sore throat. Check with your doctor before taking herbal supplements or vitamins for your symptoms.

If you want to eliminate your chances of contracting measles, then immunization is the most recommended course of action. If you choose not to take advantage of immunization, then please follow your doctor's instructions on what to do in case of a local outbreak. The only way to avoid the illness is to get your shots. **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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In the Kitchen With Irby McNight

— *By Sandra Strong*

During his first 50 years of life, Irby McNight was never particularly interested in cooking. But when his wife passed away 10 years ago, cooking became a necessity. “I was left to raise a son who was a college freshman and a daughter who was a high school freshman,” Irby shared. “I didn’t want them eating fast-food, so I started watching TV cooking shows and reading recipes wherever I could find them.”

His passion for cooking grew within the first few months. Cooking is now Irby’s favorite pastime. “I have a demanding position at SAGU that can be stressful at times. When I get home from work,” he admitted, “I head straight to the kitchen and cook. Cooking relaxes me!” **NOW**

Roasted Prime Sirloin

5 lbs. prime sirloin, boneless
1 Tbsp. olive oil
Fine sea salt, to taste
Ground peppercorn, to taste
1 cup red wine
6 slivers garlic

1. Rinse sirloin in warm water. Pat dry. Coat meat with oil, salt and pepper before placing in a marinating pan. Pour wine over the meat. Let meat marinate for 24 hours in the refrigerator.
2. One hour prior to cooking, set the meat out allowing it to come to room temperature.
3. Cut 6 small slits in the meat about 2 1/2-inches deep. Insert the garlic.
4. Cook for 15 minutes at 500 F. Without opening the door, reduce temperature to 325

F and cook for an additional 1 1/2 hours.
5. Let stand for 30 minutes. Slice and serve.

Slow-cooked Pot Roast

4-5 lb. pot roast
3 Tbsp. olive oil
2 Tbsp. salt
1 Tbsp. pepper
1/2 cup white wine
1 cup onion, sliced horizontally
1 cup flour
1 Tbsp. basil
1 Tbsp. oregano
1 Tbsp. parsley
Egg noodles (optional)

1. Rinse roast and pat dry. Rub with oil and then salt and pepper. Brown the roast in a separate pan, and then place it in slow

- cooker. Pour in wine.
2. In a sauté pan, sauté onions until translucent. Add to slow cooker. Add next 3 ingredients. Cook for 6 hours on low.
3. Add parsley 30 minutes before done. Serve over egg noodles.

Baked Eggplant

2 eggplants
Salt and pepper, to taste
Cooking spray or olive oil
1 15-oz. jar spaghetti sauce
8 oz. Mozzarella cheese, shredded
4 oz. Parmesan cheese, shredded

1. Peel eggplant. Slice vertically, about 1/3-inch wide. Grill eggplant on indoor grill using nonstick cooking spray or olive oil. While grilling, season with salt and pepper, to taste.
2. Coat a baking dish with cooking spray or olive oil. Layer dish with eggplant, sauce and Mozzarella cheese. Make 2 layers.
3. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes.

Low Fat Chicken Étouffée

1/2 cup flour
Salt and pepper, to taste
Cooking spray, as needed
1 cup onion, chopped
1 cup red bell pepper, chopped
1 cup celery, chopped
4 cups fat-free chicken broth
1 1/2 lbs. chicken thighs, boneless and skinless
15 oz. can diced tomatoes
1 Tbsp. Tony Chachere’s Cajun Spice
Rice (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 400 F. Add dry flour, salt and pepper in a cast-iron skillet. Brown for approximately 15 minutes, until light brown. Set aside.
2. Coat a large sauté pan or skillet with cooking spray. Sauté onion, bell pepper and celery together.
3. Heat broth separately; add 2 cups of broth to vegetables, one at a time, cooking until vegetables are tender. Add chicken and remaining broth.
4. When chicken is almost cooked through, add tomatoes. Sift browned flour over the broth, stirring constantly until flour dissolves. Add Cajun spice.
5. Season with additional salt and pepper, to taste, throughout cooking. Serve over rice.

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