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M A G A Z I N E

May 2010



**Garden Variety
EDUCATION**

**HEALTHY
ADDICTION**

**A Man And
HIS BUG**

**AT HOME WITH
Terry and
Glenna Reisner**



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Managing Editor, *Becky Walker*
Waxahachie Editor, *Sandra Strong*
Contributing Writers,
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Janice C. Johnson . Adam Rope
Betty Tryon
Contributing Editors/Proofreaders,
Pat Anthony . Teresa Maddison
Melissa Rawlins . Beverly Shay

Advertising Art

Art Director, *Chris McCalla*
Ad Artists, *Julie Carpenter*
Allee Brand . Cherie Chapman
Marshall Hinsley . Arlene Honza

Editorial Art

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Production Artists, *Brande Morgan*
Pamela Parisi . Jennifer Wylie

Photography

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Photographers, *Maria Monreal*
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Advertising

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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On the Cover

Spring flowers are in bloom at the Reisner home.

Photo by Shana Woods.

Editor's Note



Happy Spring!

Spring may have arrived like a fierce lion — bitterly cold, windy and rainy, but the warmth of the season has taken hold just in time for Mother's Day on May 9, Armed Forces Day on May 15 and Memorial Day on May 31. Now is the time to trade the boots for sandals and the sweatpants for a pair of comfy shorts. Relax and enjoy the gorgeous weather!

As we celebrate our mothers, let us remember all the good times that helped shape us into the adults we are today. As we contemplate life in general, let us spend some time thanking all those that have bravely served, or are still actively serving, our country. Their willingness to "fight the brave fight" allows us the opportunity to openly honor our mothers, fly the American flag in all its glory and share a Memorial Day picnic in the park with family and friends.

Sandra Strong
WaxahachieNOW Editor

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Her children rise up, and call her blessed; She opens her mouth in skillful and Godly wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

Proverbs 31:28, 26

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972-921-8215



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972-523-4664



Dale Horon
972-965-8856



Rita LaRue
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Jim Ensinia
469-585-6012



Jamey Barron
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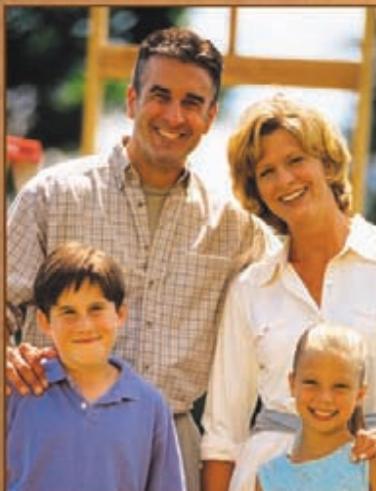


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A Man and His Bug

— By Sandra Strong

Life was “happening” for Walter Buchanan and his wife, Billie, and their three children — Joe, Jill and Jan. The family was living in Arkansas when Walter came upon what many would consider “the deal of a lifetime.” “The 1969 VW Beetle became available in March of 1972,” he explained. “It was in pristine condition and only had 12,000 miles on the odometer. I bought it from its sole owner, an elementary school principal.” At the time of purchase, the car was only 3 years old, and it cost a whopping \$1,250.



Reminiscing, Walter cannot recall what the need was when buying the vehicle. “I’m not even sure there was a need,” he added. The car was bought to be used. All three children drove it while they were in high school. One child, who will remain anonymous, even has a fender named after her. Walter and Billie used it extensively in the ministry, too. “We drove it to revival meetings in Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas,” he stated. In 38 years, the car boasts of 238,000 miles and several new paint jobs.

The family moved to the Waxahachie area in 1979. The Beetle was no stranger to downtown Waxahachie. The most notorious thing Walter did behind the wheel of the VW was something his family hopes he never does again. “I had gotten two Longhorns and two calves in the corral. When I went to get the pickup truck, it wouldn’t start,” he said. “There was a trailer hitch on the Beetle, so I hooked the trailer up to the car and pulled the trailer to Reagor Springs, by way of downtown Waxahachie.” As he laughed at his antics, he pointed out a model his friends “lovingly” made for him to commemorate that particular trip. The car has been garaged and

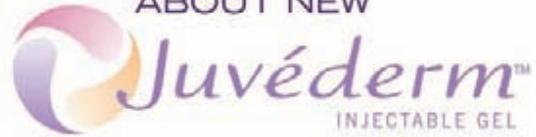




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Two years ago, Walter and Billie took a trip to Alabama. It was on this particular jaunt that Walter got an idea. "We were visiting my nephew, Sam Buchanan," he said. "Sam had restored a '74 Beetle. When I saw his, I knew I had to have my Beetle refurbished, too."

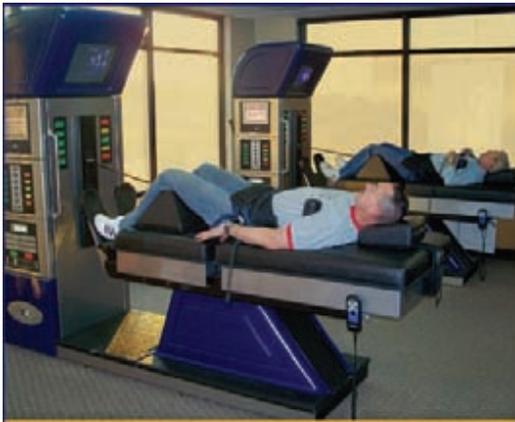
The process of taking the car back to its original state began with an overnight trip. "I started out at 5:00 p.m. on June 29 of last year," Walter said, "and I arrived in Alabama the following morning around 9:00." At this point in the story, Walter felt it was time to give a comparison on gas prices. "In 1972, I

Reminiscing, Walter cannot recall what the need was when buying the vehicle.

filled up for \$1.85. It took 7.4 gallons," he said. "On the trip to Alabama, I filled up for \$12.30, and this time it only took 5 gallons." Needless to say, the numbers proved his point when he made the decision to drive the car to Alabama instead of having it shipped via trailer to its destination. "I drove it because it was economical," he explained. "In this case, gas was cheaper than shipping costs."

The car performed perfectly, even though it had no working dash lights. The Beetle was driven at 60 miles per hour, or so Walter thinks, because the only way he was able to monitor his speed was by the illumination of a very small flashlight. His records also show he averaged 33 miles per gallon. Not bad for a 40-year-old car.

Once the motor cooled, Sam wasted no time in getting started. He kept a detailed time line on his Web site, which made it easy for Walter to follow the progress on his beloved car once he arrived back in Waxahachie. The first items removed on the last day of June were the front bumper, hood, lights, fenders and the rear deck lid. On July 1, the motor was extracted, along



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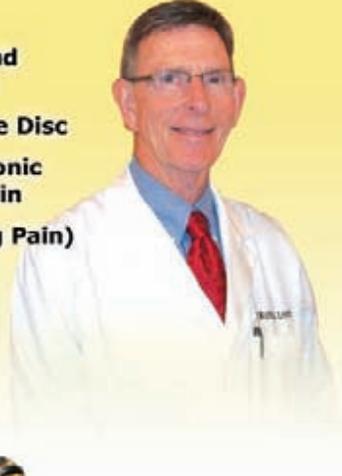
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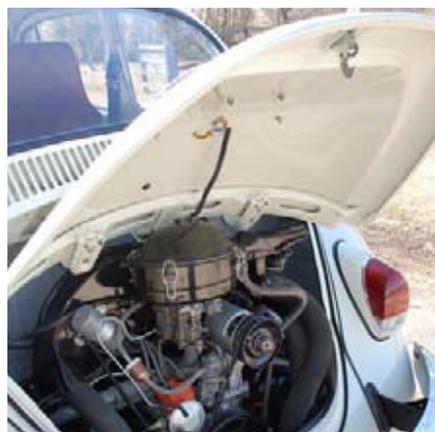
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with a good portion of the dirt dauber population of Waxahachie. The engine only had to be partially dismantled. "It was in excellent condition," Sam said. By July 4, the engine was pretty much ready to hit the road, but the work on the Beetle had just begun.

By July 16, new brakes for the VW were ordered. On July 20, after Sam had put the engine back in the car [complete



"I drove it because it was economical."



with new engine mounts], he ran into a problem that took a lot of thought. "The engine was sitting too high in the car," he remembered. "It had been in the car for 40 years. Why was it not fitting now?" Walter quickly reminded him that the car had been rear-ended, thus causing the right rear quarter panel

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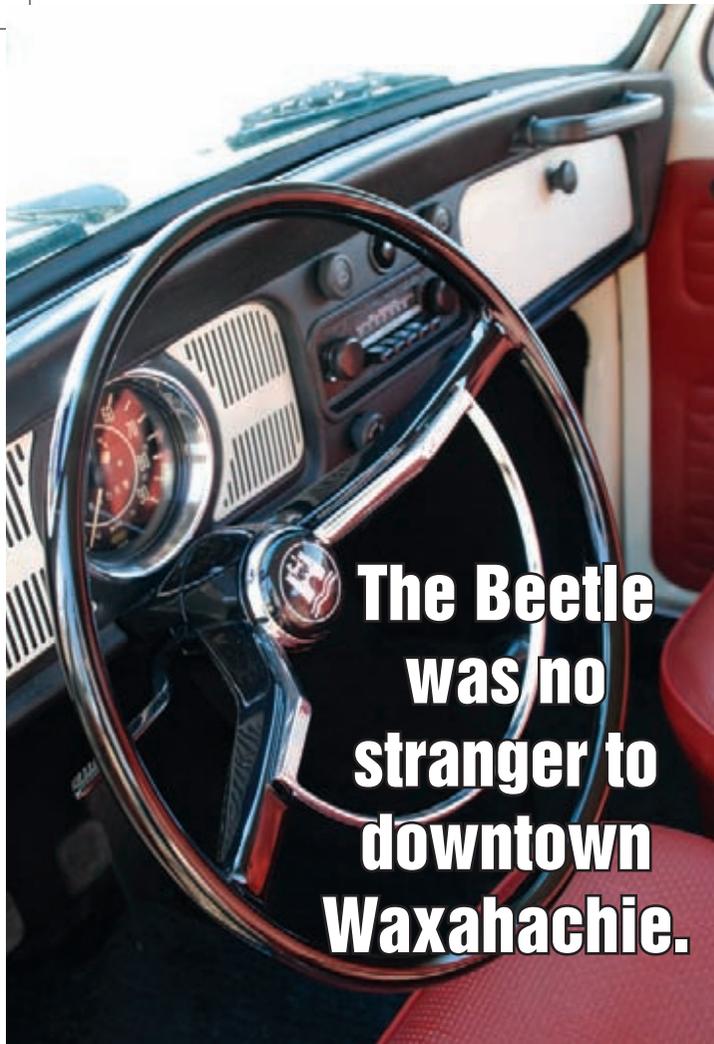
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to be out of alignment. The idea of a major body repair was more than either Walter or Sam had planned for, so modifications were made in order to get the motor to fit with the new mounts.

A month into the project, Sam and Walter were finally able to see the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. "On August 6, I wrote that I was 75 percent done and only had 75 percent to go," Sam laughed. While waiting on the body shop to allocate the time necessary to do the new paint job, Sam painted the wheels. Two-tone wheels were painted on August 12. Sam learned two-tone takes lots of patience and some detailed craftsmanship in order for them to look good. "But it was worth it," he added. Finally on August 31, Sam was able to take a photo of an empty garage. This let Walter know his car had made it to the body shop.

In just a little over two months, the car was complete. Sam encouraged Walter to have it transported back to Waxahachie. "It was the only car on the carrier that day. The transport driver stopped on Main Street, just west of the square," Walter said, recalling the day when he was finally reunited with his "bug." "Sam had driven the car onto the carrier and the driver wanted me to drive it off." Walter was nervous, but he backed the car off the truck successfully.

Walter could not be more proud of the transformation. He never doubted the outcome. "Sam is a very talented guy. He's built three airplanes and a racy sports car," Walter said. "He's meticulous and detail-oriented." The only thing Walter cannot figure out is why Sam failed to reinstall the trailer hitch. **WOW**

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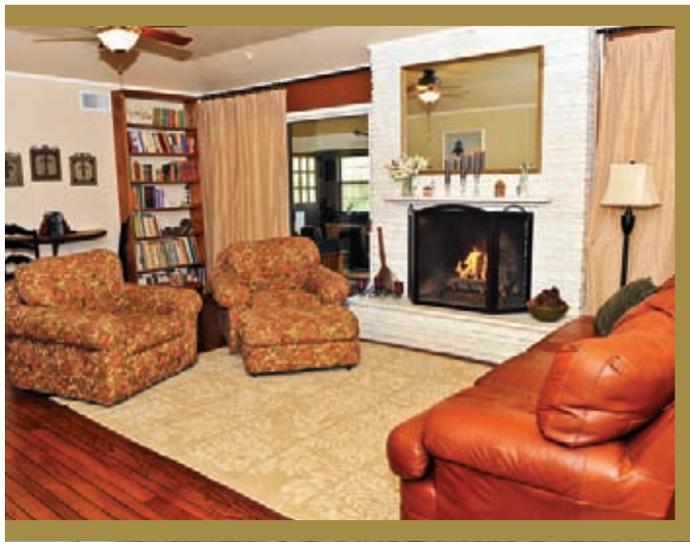
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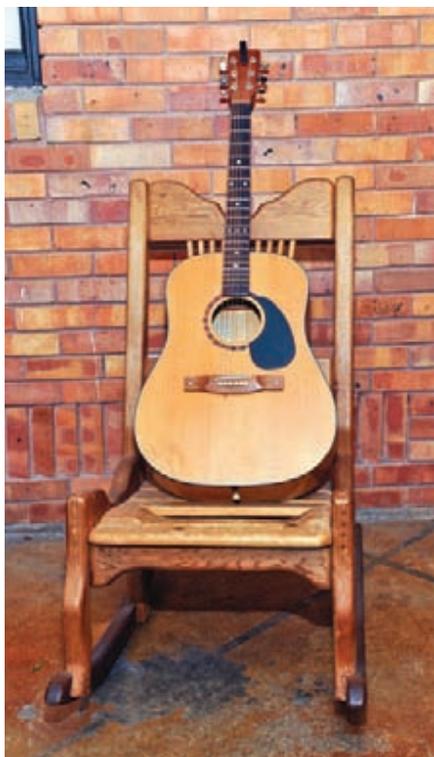
— By Janice C. Johnson

At Home With Terry and Glenna Reisner



Few families can say they live in a custom home, each feature exactly suited to their needs and personality — especially if their home was built before any of them were born. Yet Terry and Glenna Reisner, with their children, Alex, Ahysa and Kyle, have very nearly reached that point. Their 1955 brick home, designated a Waxahachie Historic Resource, easily accommodates the busy 21st century lifestyle of this family with three active teenagers.

The Reisners have a globetrotting background. Terry was born in Canada; Glenna in Arizona. The two met at Arizona State University and, since their marriage, have lived and worked in Florida, Texas, Chicago, the Ukraine and British Columbia. They had their three children in three different states: Alex, 17, was born in Texas; Alyssa, 15, was born in Arizona; and Kyle, 13, was born in Florida. In 2007, Terry was appointed vicar of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Waxahachie, Texas. Though ordained as a priest just a few years ago, he has plenty



of lay ministry experience, including a two-year term in Kiev assisting the public school system. "We went at a time of economic, political and social upheaval," Terry said. "Kiev is near Chernobyl, and there had just been a coup in Moscow. People said we were crazy to go there, but we made a difference." Glenna agreed adding, "As someone told me, the safest place to be is in the center of God's will."

Has Waxahachie been too quiet or slow-paced for these world travelers? Not at all, according to Terry. They have learned that they do not have to travel outside the country, or even out of town, to serve others. Their work with various ministries in Waxahachie, he said, "has



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opened our eyes. You just have to ask, 'How can I help right here?'" The whole family loves the small-town atmosphere and rich history of the community.

The family's home offered them one advantage from the beginning: the large rooms common in 1950's homes. The spacious layout enabled the Reisners to move from a newer four-bedroom home and fit into their current three-bedroom. The boys, Kyle and Alex, now share a room. Yet each one still has space and privacy to pursue his interests, thanks to shelving units between their beds. The home has three living areas, counting an enclosed back porch, offering great flexibility for large or small groups. The family has named each



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The Reisners have played up their home's '50s details, while adapting some of its features to function better for them.

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room, as Kyle explained. “The study” at the front of the house includes the formal dining, while “the lounge” just behind it boasts a fireplace and deep, comfortable chairs. The one-time porch, now home to recreation and video gaming equipment, is dubbed “the haven” and is a popular hangout for friends.

The Reisers have played up their home’s ’50s details, while adapting some of its features to function better for them. They furnished their breakfast nook with retro “diner” booth seating and created a coffee bar around a small sink in the laundry room. They equipped the living areas with clusters of furniture that left plenty of space open. In fact, each room has ample space to keep prized belongings, such as the handmade guitar they have on display that Alex inherited from a friend. Facing the front windows is a “wall of crosses,” each a memento with its own story.

Where the home’s design fails to meet a need, Terry builds something to fill

the gap. Glenna smiled. “As a pastor, Terry is off on Mondays. I like to say that Monday is the one day of the week he works for me.” He designed, planned and built shelving to customize the old, inflexible pantry. Now everything has its own storage place. As Glenna pointed out, “Not many people want to show off their pantry, but I just love mine!” In Kyle and Alex’s bedroom, Terry built sturdy bamboo wall shelves. The bamboo



gives an Asian effect, which reminds the boys of their many Asian friends and is perfect for displaying Kyle’s panda collection. Alyssa’s bedroom received a spare loft bed the year they were to host an Austrian exchange student. “I loved having a sister,” she said. For quiet morning coffee and devotional times, Terry created a built-in table on



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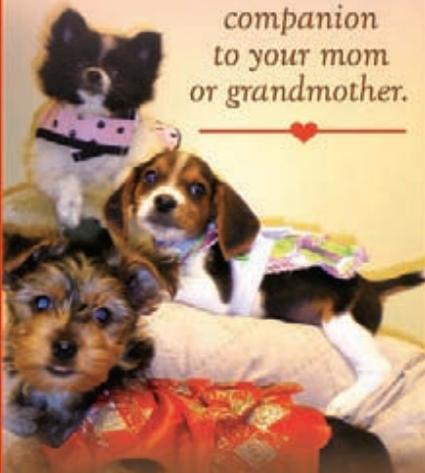
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the lounge wall adjacent to the kitchen, adding bar stools for two.

The home is still a work in progress, though. Alex, who sings and plays a wide selection of stringed instruments, has a music studio in the garage. Terry is planning some climate-control upgrades so Alex can work there comfortably.

Kyle, who plays brass, will benefit as well.

As the house has grown, so have the children's horizons for ministry. Their experiences have made them aware of others' needs and keep them busy serving their city, their church and the world.

For the Reisner teens, going to church is not just the "same old, same old"



each Sunday. Alyssa and Alex, who both attend Waxahachie Global High School, have participated in their youth group's poverty simulation in Waco. Both now do volunteer respite care at Hidden Miracles for special-needs children and their families through Rotary's InterAct Club each month.

Viewing each day as a gift, Terry and Glenna are content to "live in the now,"

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neither longing for the past nor worried for the future. While enjoying each city where they have lived, they are always open to new places and opportunities. This mobile lifestyle might have left the children feeling as if they had no roots, if it had not been for one phase of their growing-up years. That was when Terry felt called to attend seminary, and chose Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. Since their three-year residence there, all three children view Vancouver as their home town. Alyssa explained that they enjoyed multinational school friends, and that they lived there longer than they have anywhere else, so far.

“Waxahachie” was once just an oddly spelled name on a highway sign. “We



wondered, ‘How do you pronounce that?’ — but now it’s home,” Terry said. “One of the best things about living here is being part of our church history, as well as Waxahachie’s history; [the church] celebrated our 133rd anniversary last year.”

“We like to live and work in one community,” Glenna added. “That’s why I gave up my job with Midlothian ISD. I’m now a dyslexia teacher in Waxahachie.”

The Reisners love to share their home; the spacious floor plan makes it easy. Terry recalled, “When we came here, we started out having an open house. We had at least 100 people here, but it never seemed crowded. This is a place we look at as a community house.” With that attitude, it is no wonder that the Reisner family fits in everywhere. **WOW**



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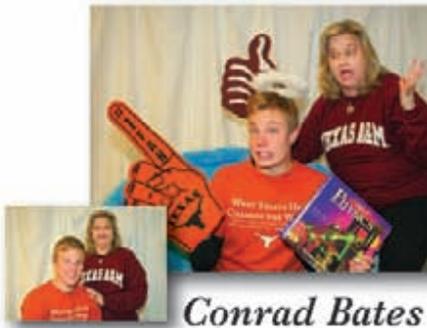


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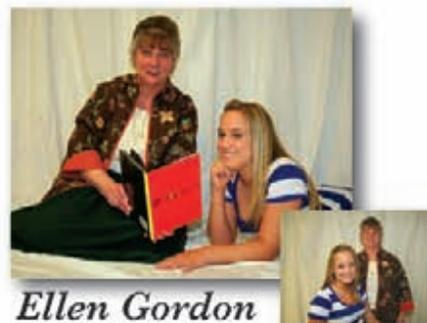
Gable Brady

Future Plans: Undecided
Her Shining Star: Mrs. Kathryn Aday - Pre-AP Chemistry I & AP Chemistry II



Julia Bunch

Future Plans: The University of Texas at Austin
Her Shining Star: Ms. Chrisanna Melick - Journalism, Yearbook, UIL



Ellen Gordon

Future Plans: Texas State University
Her Shining Star: Ms. Linda Spencer - 4th Grade GT Teacher



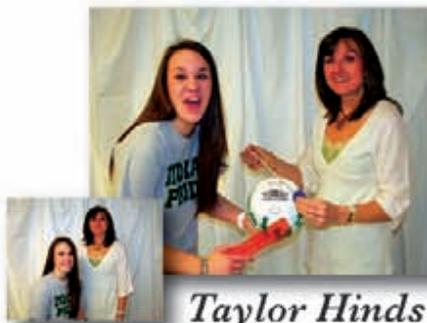
Rachel (Lizi) Hain

Future Plans: Texas Tech or UT at Austin
Her Shining Star: Mr. Mark Coulson - U.S. History



Jory Hamilton

Future Plans: Texas A&M University
Her Shining Star: Ms. Amy Elliott - 5th & 6th Grade Class room Teacher



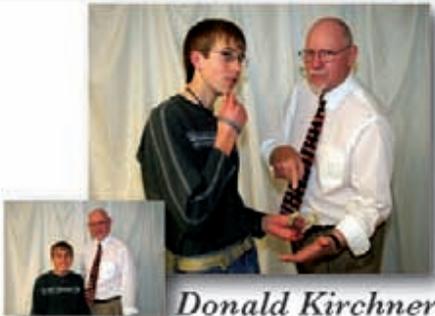
Taylor Hinds

Future Plans: Texas A&M at Galveston
Her Shining Star: Coach Bobbie Knowles - Pre-AP Geometry



Chelsea Kimberlin

Future Plans: Pre-Med Major
Her Shining Star: Coach David Cox - Pre-AP Chemistry, Pre-AP Anatomy, and Community Service



Donald Kirchner

Future Plans: Azusa Pacific University
 His Shining Star: Mr. Kent Garry -
 Pre-AP World Geography and Pre-AP
 Macroeconomics



Meagan Klansek

Future Plans: Texas A&M University
 Her Shining Star: Mrs. Kristina
 Lackey - HSTE



Katherine Martin

Future Plans: Texas A&M University
 Her Shining Star: Mrs. Chrissy
 Colwell, 1st Grade Teacher



Samantha Martin

Future Plans: Texas A&M University
 Her Shining Star: Coach Joni
 Vaughan - Teen Leadership and
 Softball Coach



Josh McMurray

Future Plans: The University of Texas
 at Arlington
 His Shining Star: Mr. Rich Armstrong
 - Band



Shelby Molengraaf

Future Plans: The University of Texas
 at Austin
 Her Shining Star: Mrs. Amy Blanton -
 Spanish III



Tiffany Neal

Future Plans: Texas Tech University
 Her Shining Star: Mr. Rich
 Armstrong - Band



Elizabeth Perez

Future Plans: The University of Texas
 at Austin
 Her Shining Star: Ms. Melissa
 Huskisson - AP English Literature and
 AP Language and Composition



Camille Spooner

Future Plans: Southern Methodist
 University or the University of Texas
 at Austin
 Her Shining Star: Ms. Gail Harrell -
 Choir Director



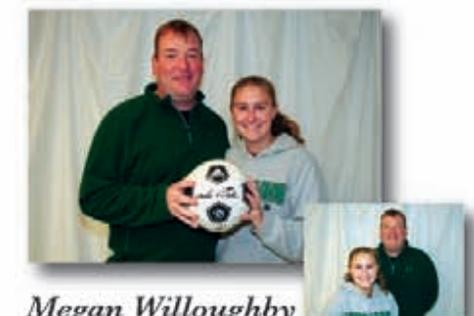
Scott Tipton

Future Plans: The University of Texas
 at Austin
 His Shining Star: Mrs. Judy Howard -
 English



Christina Unarut

Future Plans: The University of Texas
 at Austin
 Her Shining Star: Jim Brown - Advanced
 Computer Application, Architecture &
 Graphics, and Engineering & Graphics



Megan Willoughby

Future Plans: Texas A&M University
 Her Shining Star: Coach Jason
 Venable - Varsity Soccer Coach

Around Town **NOW**



Cori Morgan shows off her loot at the Life School Easter egg hunt.



Madelyn De Los Santos discovers the Easter Bunny during a photo shoot.



Shirley McLeroy speaks during the Chamber Lunch Bunch gathering at The College Street Pub.



Waxahachie Family Denistry holds an open house for the community. From left: Dr. Scott Clinton and some of his staff welcome visitors at the open house; an attendee has his face painted.



Sandra Hartman, Wedgeworth Elementary library assistant, reads to a class of attentive students.



Madelynn James (bottom middle) enjoying her 9th birthday with friends.



Adorable Jariny Jefferson is caught in the frozen food aisle at H-E-B acting silly.



Andy Sanchez (middle) and friends jam at Kufflynx.



Terri Ozymy and Dugan Taylor enjoy "Alice in Wonderland" in 3D.



The Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce holds a ribbon cutting for ECHO (Ellis County Hispanic Organization).



Debra Wakeland, president of the Waxahachie Chamber, gives a historical tour of downtown Waxahachie to Chamber members after a networking event.



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Leone's Legacy of LOVE

— By Sandra Strong



As we age, we start thinking about the legacy we can leave our children and grandchildren. In most cases, we yearn to leave something behind that will serve as a gentle reminder of happy days gone by. For Leone Reese, her legacy is found within the quilts she has handcrafted over the years. Her legacy is one of love. “Anybody and everybody in the family has one,” she said. “The family will fight over them, in a loving way, because they are so wanted.”

Leone remembers quilting as a child alongside both her grandmothers. “I remember playing under the quilting frame,” she said, smiling at her own fond memories. “My stitches were too long, but Grandma Hobbs just picked them out and re-stitched them. That’s how I learned.”

After Leone grew into adulthood and got married, quilting was something she no longer had time to do. She had reared her family and was working at Southwestern Bell Telephone when she got the call that her husband had just suffered a massive stroke. “That was 1976,” she explained. “I quit my job that same day to take care of my husband.” For the next six years, Leone rarely left her husband’s side. During this time, she needed something to keep her busy while caring for the man she loved. “I started earnestly quilting again,” she said. “I couldn’t just sit. I had to have something in my hands all the time — still do.”

The legacy began during her husband's illness and has continued on at a relentless pace. Leone's goal is for every member of the family to have at least one quilt, and in most cases, two, three and four. "I have the first quilt she ever made," Laurice Calhoun, one of Leone's 16 grandchildren, said. "I think every dress anyone in the family wore is found in that quilt."

Leone saves all her material scraps. "I match the old with the new," she said. And she always has the recipient in mind



during this process of elimination. "I pick the pattern and then I decide on the predominant color," Leone said, explaining the process she goes through with each quilt. "The pattern and the colors I choose remind me of the family member I'm making the quilt for, and it has to match their personality." As Leone quilts, she prays for the family member who will be receiving it and also prays over the quilt itself. "It's very personal to me," she shared. "The quilt doesn't go to anyone but the person I had in mind when I started it." Her hope is that the quilts will be given down the line, from one generation to the next.

A favorite quilt that Leone remembers is one made from feed sacks dating back to the late 1930s to early 1940s. At one time, the sacks held chicken feed. During the Depression, the country went from using basic beige feed sacks to those with color, just like the ones used in the feed sack quilt. "This country used them for clothes, cup towels and underwear," Leone said. "Neighbors would trade with one another so they would have several that matched." No two feed sacks on the quilt are alike. That is what makes it so unique

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to Leone, as well as her family and friends.

Leone's oldest daughter and Laurice's mother, the late Barbara Norris, took the family's artwork and had it duplicated. "They remind us of our days in school," Laurice said. "We all got one with our own artwork as adults." The quilts not only evoke a great deal of emotion, they also offer family members a wonderful trip down memory lane. "They keep us warm at night," Laurice added, "and offer such comfort. They were made to be used and everyone uses their quilts. If any of us were to ever end up homeless, we would at least have a quilt or two to keep us warm."

All the quilting is done by hand. Some of the piecing is done on an electric



sewing machine. Leone admits that she may not be able to walk very well, "but I can sit and do lots of things with my hands. I don't even need a pattern for some things." She is a grandma on a mission.

Leone is also a member of the Ferris Heights Methodist Church's quilting group. She has been attending on Mondays and Wednesdays for the past 20 years, rarely missing a morning gathering. "The group has changed constantly over the years," she explained. "We went from making two quilts at a time for the public to just a handful of members. Elizabeth Medlock is another member that's 90. We're like sisters. I worked with her first and our friendship was renewed when I started quilting at the church."

Everyone wants to leave something behind so they will not be soon forgotten. Leone leaves her quilts. "I've always said, 'When I die, just pitch me out in the garden, but remember to cover me with a quilt — just not a brand new one.'" **NOW**

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HealthyAddiction

— By Sandra Strong

Front row, left to right: E. Lin Griffin, Laura Dempsey, Linda Viar, Ann Sillavan

Friends inspire us to do things we never thought we could do. Sometimes the “thing” could be as simple as going to a movie, while other times the “thing” could change a life forever. Such was the case with Laura Dempsey. “I was introduced to Zumba® Fitness in May of 2008 by a very close friend,” Laura remembered. “I was her practice student. After a time, she wanted me to get certified with her.” That is exactly what Laura did — and she has been going strong now for two years.

Laura, her own worst critic, will tell you that the road from there to here was not an easy one; at least not in the beginning. “I was overweight. I had been suffering with reactive arthritis, which affects the entire body, and I also struggled with a connective tissue disorder,” she explained. “I couldn’t get up and down from a sitting position without a lot of pain. My fingers were so swollen I was unable to hold a small pot.”

Without delving further into her medical history, it is easy to see that Laura was not “living the life of Riley.” She was in a great deal of pain. So when her friend prompted her to be

her practice student, it gave Laura the confidence she needed to make some drastic changes in her life. She is forever grateful to her friend and Zumba. “Zumba enabled me to do things again,” she said. Laura began doing the small things first, and has since graduated to what she considers a normal, productive life; a life that she now thoroughly enjoys.

Once Laura regained some strength and mobility, she began to make her presence known in the community. She began teaching what has made such an

impact in her own life; quickly becoming the example her students of all ages now yearn to follow. “I lost 40 pounds and have been able to maintain the weight loss,” she said with pride in her voice. “I can make fists. My hips no longer hurt when I go from sitting to standing. I attribute it all to Zumba. It changed my life for the better.”

Zumba, an aerobic fitness program, was created by Beto Perez, a Miami-based dancer and choreographer, and two entrepreneurs, Alberto Perlman



Sports **NOW**

and Alberto Aghion. The exercise style originated in Columbia in the early 1990s, but has since grown to include the expertise of over 20,000 instructors in 35 countries, as stated on the official Zumba Web site. Zumba classes use all types of upbeat music — salsa, merengue, cumbia, reggaeton, calypso, soca, samba, African, cha cha and hip-hop, to name the most popular.

There are several different levels of Zumba. Level 1 teaches the foundation of the invigorating exercise program. It introduces the basic steps to fitness. Level 2 takes it up a notch as additional rhythms are incorporated into the basic class. Zumba Gold focuses on the active older adult, while Zumba toning blends body-sculpting techniques with specific

“I attribute it all to Zumba. It changed my life for the better.”



Zumba moves to create a strength-training class that burns lots and lots of calories. This class uses exercise sticks as rhythm-enhancing, strength-building tools. Aqua Zumba is a big “pool party” with lasting results and Zumbatomic is specifically designed for children ages 4-12. “There really is a program for everyone,” Laura said. “Modifications make the programs successful for

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everyone, regardless of their age or fitness level.”

Laura has watched as the Zumba fitness craze exploded locally. Granted, she may have started slow, but over time being a Zumba instructor has become a large part of her life. “It’s about the joy I gain when I see lives being changed.” Laura started classes at the Senior



Citizens Center when it opened its doors at their new location, averaging seven students per class. The Zumba Gold classes Laura instructs at the center focus on the overall health and well-being of those in attendance and her reputation precedes her. Today, each class boasts an attendance of over 50 students. “Their enthusiasm is infectious,” she said, smiling. “They make me look forward to coming on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They are always eager to get started because they are seeing and feeling the benefits.”

Belly scarves are a common accessory in the SSC classes, colorful to look at, yet beneficial in burning extra calories. “They can burn 50-100 more calories per class,” Laura explained. “They have to move their hips more to make the coins on the belly scarves jingle.” She grins as she pictures the lady with five scarves. “She has one to match each of her workout outfits.”

Not only will students burn calories in class, they will notice, in most cases, a loss in inches before they see a marked change in overall weight loss. “It [Zumba] is addictive,” Laura honestly admitted. “Once you start, you don’t want to stop. It’s one of those OK addictions. It’s healthy and it’s fun. What more could you ask for in an exercise program?” **NOW**

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Not Your Average FEED STORE

Boyce Feed & Grain Corp. has it all — from fencing, feed and slip-flops to foods that offer comfort. — By Sandra Strong

Many of you may remember it as The Feed Store, but today the company, family owned and operated by Dennis and Beverly Horak, has taken on a new name and a new look. Boyce Feed & Grain Corp. is no longer your average feed store. “We had a strong desire to offer something more. We were tired of working out of a small building and seven trailers filled with feed,” Beverly said. “The business warranted a growth in space, and we didn’t realize what we were going to have until it was totally complete.”

They ended up with a brand new building, which they are quite proud of and customers have really enjoyed. The building’s design blends well with the downtown historic area. Sources of wood

and tin for the exterior evolved, mainly through conversations and knowing exactly where to look. “The biggest challenge or quest was to find items that all worked together,” said Store Manager Ginger Mulkey. “We recycled the wood from the old store, adding it to the new wood underneath.” “We wanted it to be new,” Beverly added, “we just didn’t want it to look new.”

Both Beverly and Ginger are proud to say that 85-90 percent of the building was constructed with recycled materials — old tin, bead board and barn wood top the list of items used. What they now have is so much more than the feed store of old. It is a designer shop, mini

From left:

Mixing old with the new; Beverly and Dennis Horak, Ginger Mulkey, Cherylle Ashton, Katie Christopher and Bekah Roebuck; the “connector” bridges both buildings; everything your animals need.

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market and feed store all rolled into one. “The area we like to call ‘the connector’ is where all the food items are displayed,” Ginger said. “We like to say it’s where you can find all your ‘comfort’ foods.” The connector is the area that bridges the old building with the new one. Offerings found within the connector include: homemade jams, jellies, soups in a box, pies in a jar and candies with a hint of liquor added for taste. The candies come in flavors, such as coffee, wine, bourbon and tequila. Customers will also find a selection of hot sauces and many items made locally within the great state of Texas. Custom signs, decorative wrought-iron easels, rustic picture frames and country collectibles are located in the connector as well.

“THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE OR QUEST WAS TO FIND ITEMS THAT ALL WORKED TOGETHER”

Added offerings, made possible due to the additional space, are the fencing and wire items that Boyce Feed & Grain Corp. now keeps in stock. “We have everything you need,” Ginger explained. “We carry the cement, the wire and the fence posts.”

Customers are encouraged to come and visit, because “you never know what you’ll find.” There are the customary cowboy boots in all styles, but the new item for summer that has become popular are the GypsySoule flip-flops. A full line of Breyer Horses are available for those who collect. Candles from the Milkhouse Creamery, with their mixture of soy and beeswax in an array of scents, have also become popular gift items.

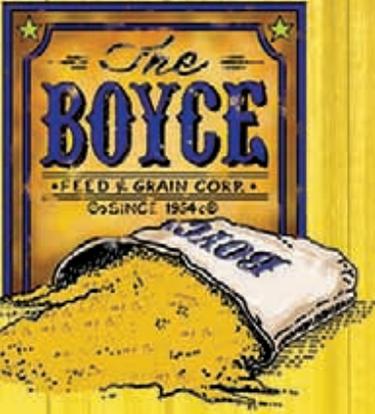
Other great gift ideas include: crosses handcrafted in Red Oak and jalapeño pepper grillers for those who enjoy outdoor summer grilling. And, of course, there are the customary feed store items for your livestock, such as feed, grain and hay. “You don’t have to be a rancher to visit and shop at the feed store,” Beverly said, as Ginger just grinned and nodded her head in agreement. “We’re not your average feed store anymore.” **NOW**

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Garden Variety Education

— By Betty Tryon



Pettigrew Academy gives a completely new meaning to “hands-on” education. To the delight of the students, they get to spend a part of their day outside with their hands in the dirt. Part of the student’s curriculum includes gardening. Walt Friis, a volunteer teacher at the school, currently directs this program.



He explained, “As a Master Gardener, I started teaching the Junior Master Gardener Program at Pettigrew Academy three years ago. It is not a program to teach them to be little gardeners, but a program to use the garden as the educational classroom. In the garden, you can learn math, science and culture.

Virtually every subject is teachable in the garden. The children have the opportunity to do some hands-on things working with adult mentors or with each other.”

After Walt started volunteering in the one-room schoolhouse with grades kindergarten through eighth, Kim Bauman, director of the school, discovered his background in math and science and asked him to teach some classes. “She needed a teacher for the algebra and science program,” Walt stated. Since the students are in a range of different grades, Walt needed to use his considerable expertise and experience to keep classes interesting for all of the students. With a master’s degree in physiology and 37 years in the pharmaceutical industry, as well as his knowledge in gardening, Walt is a perfect fit for the school. He responded, “When I teach science, I have to gear it to two separate audiences. The little kids like to be impressed with a lot of magic things, but we try to get everyone to do the hands-on. We go into it a little deeper with the older kids and do more studying and delving behind the obvious experiments we do in class.”

Working on the principle that children learn a small percentage of what they hear and see, and a larger percentage of what they do and what they teach others to do, Walt continued: “A great benefit of the Montessori program is individualized education where every child works at his own pace. We have a mixture of ages and maturity in the classroom, and the kids get to help each other. So getting the kids involved in helping the teacher in educating the younger kids provides a great benefit for the kids and gives them a great learning environment.”

Guided by that philosophy, learning science and math with the hands-on approach in the garden provides the students with interesting and valuable teaching activities. The school has a butterfly garden and a wildlife garden. Walt explained, “We have plants that provide nectar for the adult butterfly and plants that caterpillars will feed on. Most butterflies are fussy about where they lay their eggs and what their caterpillars eat. For example, the monarch butterfly feeds almost exclusively on milkweed. So,

Education **NOW**

you have to have things in the milkweed family for attracting the monarch butterfly to lay their eggs. But, you also need flowers with the nectar so the butterflies can eat.” Another aspect of learning science in the garden is learning biodiversity, participating in leaf, rock and bug collection.

“Our wildflower garden has native Texan wildflowers. It is a small, contained area with little walkways and paths through it. As part of that, we built in things to attract wildlife. Now we don’t get a lot of wildlife here in the city,” Walt laughed. “It’s not the bobcats, but we have the squirrels, rabbits and geckos. We encourage things like that to share our environment with us.”

Walt promotes an emphasis on the green aspect in his program. One of the ways the school focused on that was to become certified as a wildlife habitat. That area is now called the Betty Reuscher Wildlife Center. Betty, along with Linda Moxley, are both Master Gardeners who work with the school in addition to Walt. Walt added, “The great thing about the wildlife garden is that the children did the work. The adults provide the direction and help when necessary. The children are out there planting flowers, pruning and cleaning up. They get more satisfaction doing it rather than standing around watching a bunch of adults do it for them.”

Another way the school contributes to a greener environment is rainwater harvesting. The one-room school building was set up for that purpose. “There are gutters that dump all the rainwater off the roof into four 55 gallon drums that we use for watering the garden.”

Math lessons taught in the garden are practical and straightforward. Walt gives the students word problems to consider. He explained, “In teaching math, you have a 10-foot row and you want to plant a tomato plant every 18 inches. Do the math to find out how many plants you need for that row. They also learn about area and perimeter.”

Working as a volunteer teacher at this stage of his life is a challenge for Walt. He explained, “I do it primarily because of the challenge. It keeps me young.” **NOW**

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In The Kitchen With Kelsie Bruce

— By Faith Browning

Since she was 2 years old, Kelsie Bruce has loved to cook. “My cousins and I would make mud pies in my grandma’s backyard,” she recalled. “Not long after, she had us in the kitchen experimenting along with her.” Lately, Kelsie has discovered the joy of Crock-pot meals, but preparing desserts is her favorite form of cooking. “I like to fix any kind of dessert!” she expressed. “No matter

what the outcome, somebody is going to like it just because it’s a dessert.”

Kelsie enjoys looking for old cookbooks at garage sales and spending time with her husband, Grant, and their two sons, Garret and Kade. “In the spring, the kids and I enjoy making strings of food for the birds,” she said. “The kids enjoy making them, and the birds just love it!” **NOW**



RUNNY ICING

- 1 stick butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup evaporated milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla

1. Melt butter completely over stovetop. Add in sugar and evaporated milk; bring to a boil.
2. Add vanilla. Stir for 1 minute as the icing thickens a little then take off burner; pour directly onto already baked cake. *We prefer chocolate cake!*

EASY BEAN DIP

- 1 10-oz. can refried beans
- 1 4-oz. can green chilies
- 1/2 cup salsa
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 stick butter

1. In large saucepan, combine all ingredients; heat thoroughly.
2. Transfer to a slow cooker to keep warm. Serve with tortilla or corn chips.

CRISPY BURRITOS

- 4 flour tortillas
- 1 15-oz. can refried beans
- 1 cup shredded Colby-Jack cheese
- 1/2 cup light sour cream
- 1/2 cup salsa

1. Preheat oven to 400 F.
2. Spray cookie sheet with non-stick oil.

3. Lay tortillas on cookie sheet.
4. Spread even amount of refried beans on each tortilla.
5. Layer the remaining ingredients on top.
6. Fold one edge of tortilla over filling, fold in both ends of tortilla and roll over seam side down. Bake 15 minutes.

CLOSING TIME CHIMICHANGAS

- 4 cups cooked chicken or beef
- 1 egg
- 1 Tbsp. water
- 5 12-inch tortillas
- 2 cups shredded cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese

1. Cook your choice of meat; shred the meat.
2. Preheat the oven to 425 F.
3. In a bowl, mix the egg and water.
4. Coat both sides of a tortilla with the egg mixture.
5. Place about 6 oz. of meat and 3 oz. of cheese in a tortilla. Roll the tortilla like a burrito.
6. Place the chimichanga folded side down on a greased baking sheet. Repeat the procedure for the remaining tortillas.
7. Spray the tortillas lightly with cooking spray. Bake for 8 minutes; turn the chimichangas over with a spatula and bake for 5 minutes more. Serve with your choice of toppings: salsa, guacamole, sour cream, lettuce and tomatoes.

SMASHED BISCUITS

- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 can biscuits

1. Put the oil or grease in a skillet.
2. Put three biscuits in the pan; let brown on one side. Turn over, smash down and let the biscuits brown on other side. Repeat with the remainder of the biscuits. Butter and enjoy! *Note: Makes for a quick breakfast!*

ALL SHOOK UP VANILLA ICE-CREAM (Child Friendly)

- Pint-size freezer bag
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- Gallon-size freezer bag
- Ice
- 6 Tbsp. salt

1. In a pint-size bag, mix milk, sugar and vanilla; seal the bag.
2. Halfway fill a gallon-size bag with ice and the salt.
3. Put sealed small bag in the ice; seal large bag.
4. Shake the bag about 5 minutes until it becomes ice cream. Wipe the small bag off. Open and dig in!

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our Web site at www.nowmagazines.com.



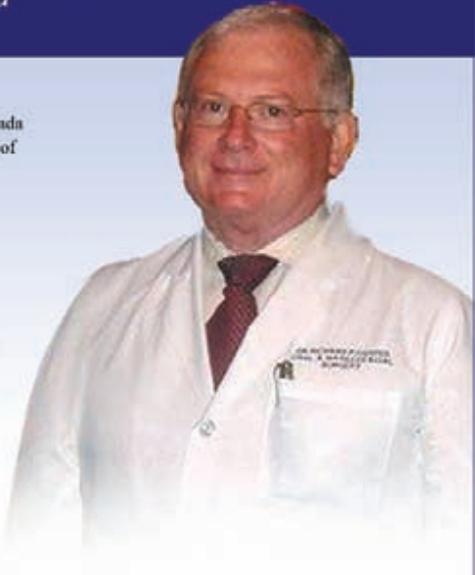
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CAUTION: HERE COMES THE SUN

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

Oh, that glorious sun! It can make things grow. It is necessary for healthy bone growth, and it can make your skin glow and look good. However, too much sun can cause skin cancer. Melanoma is the most serious and deadly type of skin cancer. Because of that, it is the leading cause of death from skin diseases, and it is on the rise.

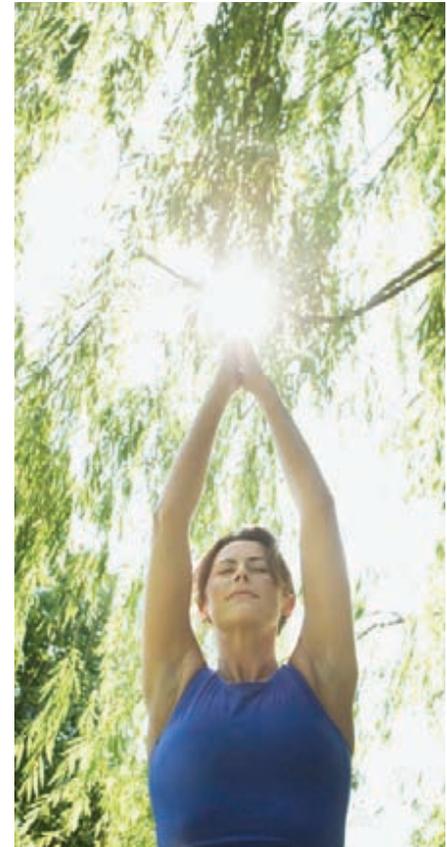
Melanoma develops in the melanocytes, cells located in the epidermis layer of the skin. Melanocytes produce melanin, which gives the skin its color or pigmentation. When you tan in the sun and become darker, it is the melanocytes increasing the production of melanin that gives you the darkening or tanning of your skin. Clusters of these melanocytes form moles. Often, the first sign of melanoma can be found in moles.

Moles in their normal state can be in any color that is closest to the person's natural skin color. Moles may be raised or flat with a round and smooth shape. Any change in the mole is worth noting. The National Cancer Institute suggests using the acronym ABCD for remembering what to look for when a mole changes. A is for asymmetry. Is one-half of the mole different from the other half? B is for border. Is the border of the mole smooth and regular or is it irregular and ragged? C is for color. Changes in the color of a mole, including a mixture of colors within a mole may be dangerous. D is for diameter. Has the mole grown larger? There are other changes in moles that can give cause for concern such as bleeding, scaling, itchiness or a change in the texture of the mole. Any sore that does not heal, lumps or growths on the skin may be warning signs. Change is the key word. If you have a problem or concern about your skin, do not try to diagnose yourself. See your doctor.

Most of the risk factors for melanoma have to do with the sun and/or ultraviolet light such as living in a sunny climate, a job or other activities that lead to long term exposure in the sunlight, excessive tanning and receiving serious sunburns as a child. There are ways you can protect yourself. Wear a sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher. Try to lessen your contact with the sun between the hours of 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Wear sunglasses,

protective clothing and a hat. None of this is a guarantee that you will not get skin cancer, but you may be bringing down the odds. **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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Life Lessons

— By *Adam Rope*

Mike Thompson died in a car accident leaving behind his wife, Amanda, their two boys and stiff financial challenges. “After that,” Amanda recalls, “I put the house up for sale and we moved in with my mother.” About six months later, she purchased life insurance on herself telling her agent, “I don’t want this to happen to my children.”

Amanda’s story illustrates how being without life insurance can leave families vulnerable to financial hardship. However, the need for life insurance is not limited to families.

When you’re single with no dependents, you may not need much life insurance. But you should at least have enough to cover final expenses, so your parents or siblings aren’t burdened with these costs. Once you’re married, you share a life and a home with someone else. Now if the worst happens, your spouse may be left with a rent or mortgage payment they can’t afford. At this point, it’s time for both spouses to get individual life policies.

When you have children, you have their future to think about. Life insurance can help your spouse keep up with child care and other expenses, as well as save for education and retirement. In retirement, life insurance becomes an important part of your estate plan allowing you to pass wealth to future generations or a charity.

There are two basic categories of life insurance — term and permanent. Term insurance can be purchased in large amounts for a small initial premium. It is well suited for short-term goals. Coverage lasts for a specified term. After this term has ended, it expires unless renewed by paying higher premiums.



Permanent life insurance provides a death benefit while the policy is in force. The premiums are initially higher than those of term insurance, but in many cases they can be cheaper over the life of the insured. Permanent life insurance usually builds up a tax deferred cash value and is well suited for long-term goals.

Whichever option you choose, make sure your policy coverage keeps pace with your life stage — now and in the future. **NOW**

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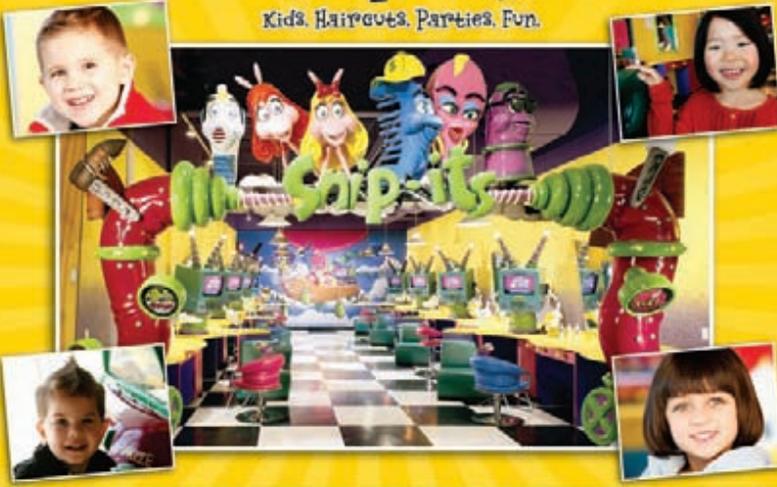
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SALVIAS FOREVER

— By Nancy Fenton

Finally, it looks and feels like spring! There is still time to find and plant some great plants that will bloom spring, summer and fall. Salvias are among these great types of plants. They are also known as sages. The most common are: Pineapple Sage, Mexican Bush Sage, Autumn Sage, Scarlet or Lipstick Sage, Mealy Cup Sage and Garden Sage.

These plants make up an increasingly popular group of shrubby perennials, which do well in alkaline soil and dry conditions. Growing from 15 inches to 6 feet high, depending on the type you select, they can fill blank spots in your home landscape

with color. All they need is sunshine, and not even a full day at that, for they will do well in light afternoon shade. Once established, they take little care or water. This is one of the plants I use to get my landscaping to the point that it can do without me, if heavily mulched, for at least three weeks in the hot Texas summers!

Most salvia will die down in the early winter. After the foliage dies back in the late fall, I cut them back to within two or three inches of the ground and remulch them for a little extra winter protection. But in true perennial form, they rise again with the coming of spring! New growth comes from the roots. Any longer limbs that get stuck under the mulch will root and start their own little plants to be shared with friends if the plants do not fit in your flower bed.

Try some of these Texas-friendly plants. You will not be disappointed, and they can be with you forever! **NOW**

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Every Friday

After Hours Improv Theater presents on a rotating basis: Mystery Murder Dinner at 7:00 p.m. and Standup Comedy Show featuring touring, professional standup comedians at 8:00 p.m. The theater is located at 100 N. College St., Suite 11, in the Rogers Hotel. Call (972) 937-9839 or visit www.AfterHoursImprov.com.

Every Saturday

After Hours Improv Theater: 8:00 p.m. Adult tickets: \$10 plus tax. Children 10 and under: \$5 plus tax. Call (972) 937-9839 to make reservations or visit www.AfterHoursImprov.com for more detailed information. The theater is located at 100 N. College St., Suite 11, in the Rogers Hotel.

Third Monday

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin. For more information, see our Web site: www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org.

Third Wednesday

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries, monthly luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club, located at 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 East (Exit 401B). The cost is \$13, inclusive. Nursery vouchers are available for those with young children. Reservations are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Contact Kay at (972) 937-2807 or windchime423@yahoo.com. or Mary at (972) 937-9984.

Fourth Monday

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, located at 621 Grand Ave. The guest speaker on May 24 will be Ragi Marino. For more information, call Carol

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May 8 and 9

Trade Days of Waxahachie, Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 W. U.S. Hwy. 287, Waxahachie. Free parking and admission. Operating hours are Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.tradedaysofwaxahachie.com or call Les Clemons at (972) 617-8156, James Scott at (214) 202-1788 or Jean Davis at (972) 816-3644.

May 14 and 15

Waxahachie Lions Club Annual Mini Grand Prix race, downtown Waxahachie. For more information, call Rich Hobart at (972) 937-6227.

May 29-June 6

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June 11-13

DFW Summer Balloon Classic will be held at Mid-Way Regional Airport located off Highway 287 between Waxahachie and Midlothian. The event offers something for all ages and is free to the public. For more information, visit www.summerballoonclassic.com or call Debby Standefer at (469) 644-4576.

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