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ON THE COVER



The Desperados love playing cowboy!

Photo by SRC Photography.

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Editor's Note

Hello Burlson, Crowley and Joshua!

This month, Burlson celebrates Founders Day on October 13, right on the heels of the official state and federal holiday, Columbus Day. Students and teachers will enjoy a break from school on October 8, in celebration of the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas, which occurred on October 12, 1492. On that day, we join with many countries in North and South America to honor progress and, in some cases, to reconsider our methods and discuss ways to promote peace. I find it wonderful that here in our own community, we honor the past to help us focus on progress. It is also a joy to report on the fact that in the midst of day-in-and-day-out work, our local business owners, employees, teachers, students, artists, athletes and families go the extra mile to build for our future and rejoice in our now.

Have a happy October!

Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
BurlsonNOW Editor
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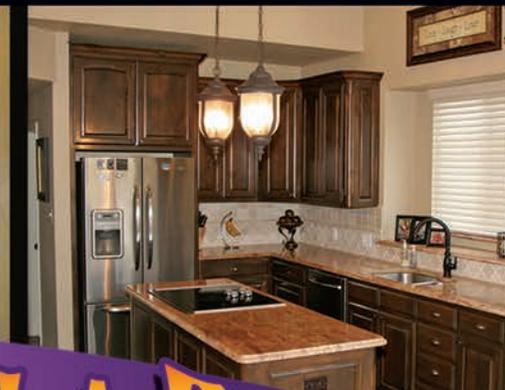
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RUGGED

— By Sarah Anderson

The tales of the Old West often paint a picture of tough, gunslinging, grizzly cowboys, rugged outlaws and Texas Rangers all galloping across the rough terrain in pursuit of justice or revenge. Some have scruples, while others take the law into their own hands determined to get their man, dead or alive. Although some may think the legends of the Wild West have faded into the sunset, Burleson's Kip Turner, and other dedicated re-enactors keep it alive as they tell exhilarating stories through live action gunfights, authentic western films and regular appearances dressed as colorful fictional and historical characters.

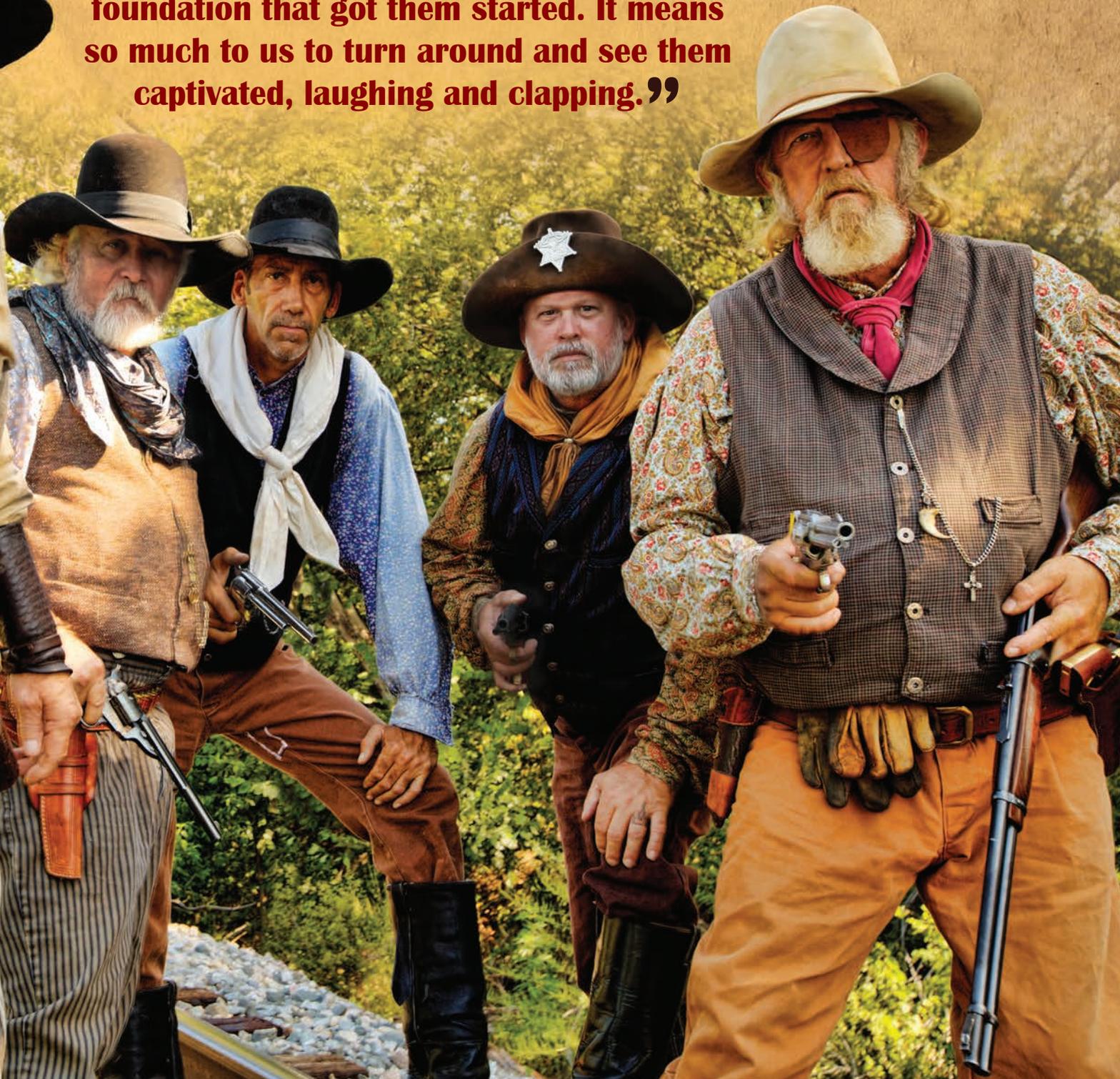
Kip, better known as “Brazos,” began his adventure into America’s rich Western heritage 12 years ago when he discovered the opportunity at a Western-themed wedding reception in Grandview. “I was immediately drawn to it because, growing up watching all the old Western shows on TV with my dad, I had always wanted to play cowboy,” Kip laughed. Looking into it, he discovered there were several things he needed first. He needed the proper clothes, the appropriate weapons and other Western accoutrements before he could fully embrace the world of cowboys and Indians.

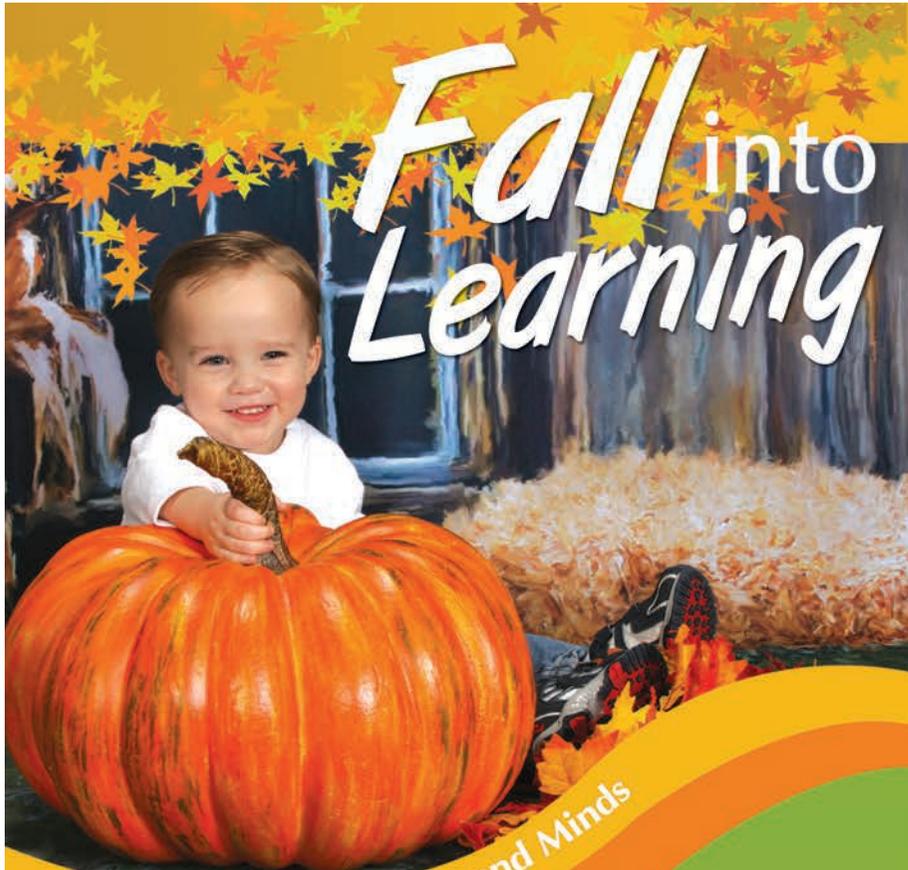
In the meantime, he found the Single Action Shooting Society. “It was like cowboy action shooting where they shot live ammunition at steel targets for timing and accuracy. They also dabbled some in dressing up, but it wasn’t required,” Kip said. It was with them that you might say he was discovered. Several individuals he met there were doing a movie at the time, and he caught their attention. Before he knew it, he was cast in his first film, *Blood on the Brazos*, and his career as a “gun for hire” began.



HERITAGE

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The director of that film, Glenn Helm, later pulled Kip into Lone Star Legacy, an official Western re-enactment group. The men and women didn't mind his lack of Western wear and weapons. "They liked me, I guess," Kip shared. "I didn't have everything I needed, but they nursed me along until I could become a part of the group." It wasn't long before Kip, at 48 years of age, had ample opportunities to play cowboy. With a 12th film on the horizon, among his credits are 11 movies, including a featured extra role in Hollywood's recent re-make of *True Grit*. There's even a life-size, stand-up cutout photograph of Brazos, Kip's Western persona, as a Texas Ranger in the Texas Rangers Museum inside San Antonio's renowned Buckhorn Saloon & Museum. "I haven't seen the exhibit in person yet, but I've seen a picture of it. It looks pretty neat," he admitted. "I'm proud to be a part of something that will preserve our history like that."

Brazos' fully-costumed, authentic, cowboy charm can also be found in fine Western artwork. He has been the inspiration behind a number of artists' oil paintings, sketches and photographs, some for sale and others featured in a variety of publications. But no matter where Kip's cowboy adventures take him, his true passion lies in his ability to use his Western character to leave a lasting impression on today's youth, a generation that hasn't experienced the Old West's history and culture the way children did when he was young.

That's why Burleson's Founders Day is one of Kip's favorite events of the year. For the last five years, he



has joined forces with retired Western stuntman, Doug Grantham; former Burleson resident, Jack Edmondson; and other gunfighters — all known as the Desperados. For 19 years, the Desperados have brought the Old West to life in the streets of Burleson during one of its biggest festivals of the year. This month, as the city commemorates its centennial on Founders Day, the Desperados will appear again for the 20th year.

Since he was 30, Doug has been the man behind countless dangerous and precarious stunts in 19 Western movies and a myriad of live shows across the country. He founded the Desperados in 1982 as another way to impart his passion for an era rich with tradition. “We’ve got to teach these kids the foundation that got them started. It means so much to us to turn around and see them captivated, laughing and clapping,” he explained. “If we can make an impression on even just one, it makes it all worth it.”

Now at 67, Doug does his part behind the scenes. “I’m too old to be jumping off buildings anymore. I don’t bounce as well as I used to. It’d be more like a thud,” he laughed. But he started the Desperados, and he plans to stick with them as long as he can. “This is what I live for,” he said. “I may get to where I’m directing from a wheelchair, but I will be here.”

Jack Edmondson, known for his uncanny impression of the iconic John Wayne, has known Doug for 40 years and has no doubt Doug will never leave the business. “It gets in your blood,” Jack said. “This started as a hobby for me, and



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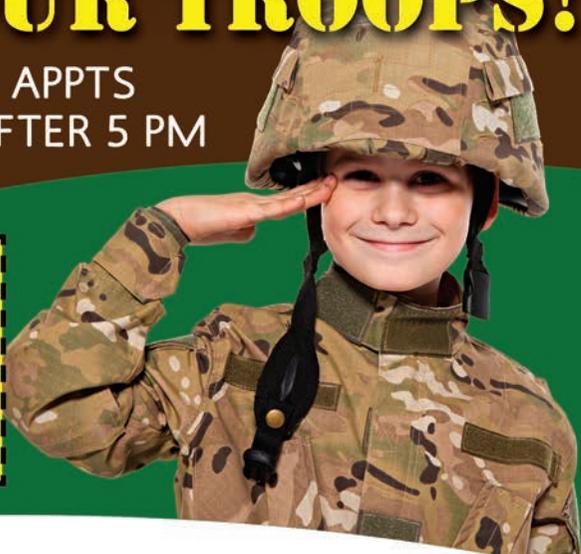


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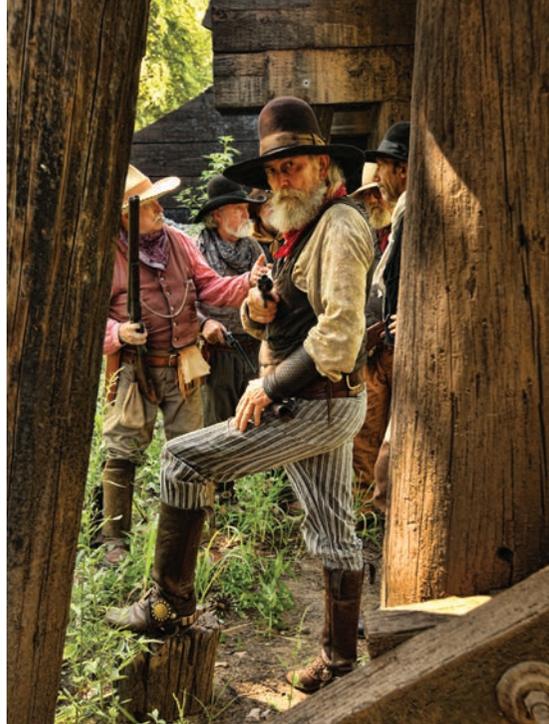
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it became my primary career. It's what I do now, full time." Jack is a published author, actor and expert historian, who currently travels across the state doing programs for schools. He dresses the part and talks about the Fort Worth cattle drive, or tells the story of Sam Houston as the hero himself. "I like to call it edutainment," he said. "Kids today don't have anything to stimulate their interest in history. Our heroes, when we were growing up, were authentic Western or historical figures, but now they have Anakin Skywalker and Harry Potter. To me, history is as important as reading, writing and arithmetic."

Kip, whose family settled in Burlson in the early 1950s, couldn't agree more. "When we do our live shows at events like Founders Day and the kids get so excited and captivated by what we're doing, it gives you a feeling of accomplishment — that you've done something for the kids to help them see the value of our heritage. That makes them want to learn more about the historical part of it," he said. "We especially love it when they come up afterwards to ask us questions."

On occasion, Brazos and Jack can be found shootin' it up in the Fort Worth Stockyards following the longhorns' weekend drive down Main Street. When he's not wearing his Stetson and genuine cowboy boots, Kip also works in Burlson as a carpenter. "I enjoy the carpentry," he smiled, "but I would love for this to be my full-time job. It's a lot more fun to be a cowboy." **NOW**

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Spinning Yarns

— By Erin McEndree

Teachers in life come and go, so do students. Pat West, formerly known as Mrs. Vera, would like to know what her students have achieved since she left Everman Junior High over 30 years ago. Pat taught art for 14 years in the '70s and '80s. Now she spends her days being the learner. A stroke made life harder, but "laughter has helped me make it for so long. I make things funny," Pat grinned. Pat has a funny story for every season of life. Every season mingles together to make the perfect shade on the canvas of her life.

Making things fun is how Pat related to her students. When kids laugh, they learn. "When kids asked me where I lived, I would tell them I lived in a tree house with a moat. When I wanted to get my students' attention, I would say, 'Let me see your eyes.' One time a student took his eye out and rolled it across the table to me," Pat said. "After being shocked, the whole class laughed." Once, after a car wreck, Pat told her students she was a lady wrestler on the weekends. Some kids believed her.

Pat was always passionate about helping her students succeed. When she taught art, she started with cartoon characters. The next lesson was sketching people. Pat told her class, "Cartoons are easy. People are hard. Now you know how to draw the easiest and the hardest figures. Everything else is in between." Pat also taught an advanced class. She handpicked students to learn about advertising. The students created projects and figured out spacing, lettering and color. "I wanted students to realize they were doing what adults were doing and getting paid for it," Pat explained. Her goal was to help kids understand they could make a living using their talent.



Growing up, Pat's brothers and sisters had to make straight A's in school. That was expected. Making good grades was nothing special in her family. "I was always good at art, and that was something [my siblings] could not do," Pat said. Landscapes are Pat's favorite. She has three framed paintings hanging in her room. One picture is the old home place in the woods where her mother grew up. "I painted it from my mother's memory," Pat laughed. "Mom would say, 'You forgot the bird house and the flowers around the tree.' So, I would add what she said.

"My mom was the best cook in town," Pat bragged. "My dad was the milk man, and he sold pastries out of his truck. He had bread, pies, cakes and doughnuts. My sister and I would stay in the back of the



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truck and eat all we wanted. We had to tell customers how good it was, so Dad could sell more." People could not say no to a couple of cute kids helping their dad make a living. "When my dad delivered milk, he put dog treats in the cuff of his pants. He never got bitten by a dog when he put milk inside people's houses," Pat said.

Pat received a bachelor's degree in art and education from Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene. Later she received a master's from Texas Woman's University in Denton. When she moved to Crowley, she helped establish Crowley Public Library in 2000. "We started from scratch," Pat explained. "We put out notices in the paper asking for book donations. It is amazing how many people donated books from their attics and garages. I wrote thank you notes every day." The library was located in the old police department building. Books were organized in the jail cells. "They still had the bars. Kids loved it and wanted to get books from the jail," Pat chuckled.





Being creative is a characteristic that all artists have. Pat got creative with a water tower in her backyard in Crowley. The cylinder-shaped tower stood about 24 feet high. "It was an eye sore. I hated it, so I decided to paint a mural on it. I talked to the water department and the City Council. My idea was approved," Pat said. "The local drug store donated the paint. I borrowed scaffolding from a friend. I painted for three hours a day with the help of my 8-year-old son. He painted the grass on the bottom. It took me three months." She painted a landscape and used a mop to paint the sky. Pat received an Outstanding Community Service award from the city of Crowley. "That is my claim to fame, I suppose," Pat snickered.



After that, Pat received offers to paint murals all over town. She painted in the cafeteria, with her mom's help. "She was 81 with Alzheimer's. I never painted murals by myself. I always had help, and it kept her involved," Pat said. Pat

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painted murals at a children's psychiatric hospital in Denton. She also created a lesson for her students using murals. She taught them to transfer something small to something big. She made up a contest in which the students competed to make huge signs for football games.

Pat was concerned that kids in art did not have contests like the kids in sports did. She realized that participating in contests could make kids feel good about their achievements. So, she formed an art contest with surrounding schools. "Kids need attention to believe in themselves," Pat said. She also had a wall of honor to display students' art, so everyone could see it.

When Pat was 53, she accepted her dream job. She worked for Fort Worth Public Library as the assistant director of the children's department. "I was a storyteller. I [essentially] told lies to kids and got paid for it," Pat giggled. This job was short-lived, however. Pat had a stroke after only a month.

*"She will paint
as long as she can
with a smile"*

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She is thankful her right hand and language were not affected by the stroke. She feels like a learner all over again. She lost some memory and has to depend on others. Her weeks are spent going to speech and physical therapy at Trinity Mission of Burleson (TMOB), but she still paints.

Pat has a friend, Bettie, who picks her up every Wednesday. "I've known Bettie for 27 years. I paint all day long at her store," Pat said. "I am working on some yellow flowers with butterflies." Pat also paints T-shirts and scrubs.

Many people who have strokes lose their initiative, but not Pat. Doctors decided she was different. She has so much to finish. She will paint as long as she can with a smile, and she will spin yarns as long as people listen. "I'm in a mob — TMOB!" Pat laughed. "Come and see me." **NOW**



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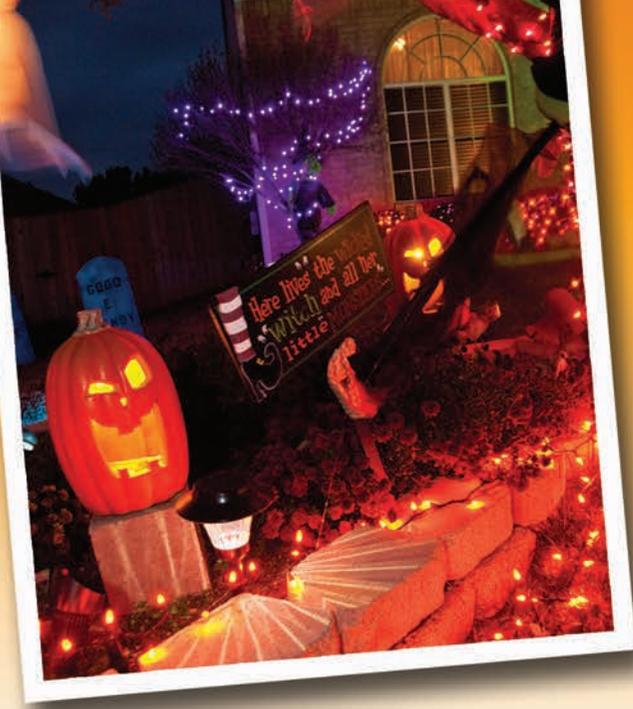
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CELEBRATING *Family*

— By Carolyn Wills

Mike and Joan Asmus have had plenty of practice when it comes to celebrating family. Eighteen years ago, they were newlyweds starting marriage as a family with nine children. They've celebrated birthdays, graduations, weddings, even events like kitchen remodeling and, of course, more holidays than they can count. "Our family celebrates everything that can be celebrated," Joan smiled.

The couple met while living in Minnesota. Joan was widowed and the mother of David, Jennifer, Michael and Stacey. Mike was divorced and the father of Gary, Cheri, Kimberly, Barbara and Andrew. Today, the Asmus kids, aged 24 to 40, are all married. Mike's five live in Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota and Joan's all live in Burleson. "We have 20 grandchildren," Joan said. Completing the family is Mocha, a gorgeous Siberian Husky.

The Asmus family moved from Minnesota to Texas 15 years ago. "My job with the National Weather Service relocated us to Fort Worth, and when Joan and I discovered Burleson, we decided this was the place to live," Mike said. "We thought it was a nice little town with friendly people. I grew up in what basically is a wide spot in an Iowa cornfield with less than 300 people," he



AT HOME WITH
Mike and Joan Asmus



grinned. "I like to brag about graduating in the top 10 of my high school. I really did, but then in Rake, Iowa, there were only nine in the class."

The day Mike and Joan found the newly constructed, two-story house in one of Burleson's family-friendly neighborhoods, they knew they were home. The lovely four-bedroom, three-bath home, just shy of 2,000 square feet, has been the gathering place for children, grandchildren and countless celebrations. "For years, the loft at the top of the stairs was the teenage hangout in the neighborhood," Mike said. "Our kids and their friends were always here. In fact, our house has never been void of children."

Mike joined the National Weather Service about 30 years ago after serving as a meteorologist in the United States Army for more than eight years. Joan has a business degree, real estate license and is a medical technician. "When we arrived in Texas, I sold real estate and, then worked in the medical field. However, when Mike and I first met, I was a day care provider," she said. "When our kids started having babies and asked when I was coming home again, home I came," she smiled. "Now my primary clients are the grandchildren. Seven of our 20 grandkids live in Burleson, and they fill up the house."

Luckily for the grandkids and the neighborhood, the Asmus's' enthusiasm for celebrations is as vibrant as ever, especially when it comes to Christmas and Halloween. "Joan is a certified witch,



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and I'm Santa Claus," Mike grinned. "When we moved to Texas, we thought the kids might miss the snow and ice, so we added a lot of Christmas lights. Then, three years ago, I figured out how to program the lights to music and that's how our Christmas light show began." Having mastered the software, it made sense to add a Halloween light show, too. "Now we have 16 channels that turn lights on and off as music plays," Mike explained. "A sign in the yard displays the

channels so that drivers can tune in."

"We start decorating for Halloween on October 10," Joan said. The Halloween show stays up for three weeks and is taken down the day after the official "trick or treat" date. The Christmas show goes up on November 10, but the lights are not turned on until the day after Thanksgiving. "I'm addicted to witches, so Halloween is a favorite holiday," she smiled. "Our theme is family-friendly and not gory or too scary. We use purple,

orange and white, friendly ghosts, skeletons dressed in funny costumes and lots of witches." Christmas is also whimsical. "One Christmas, we decorated totally in blue and white, and then another year, we had a Disney theme," Joan said. "Mike dresses like Santa Claus, tours the neighborhood and hands out candy."

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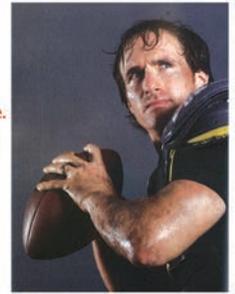


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destination. "This subdivision decorates a lot," Mike said. "Many houses have lights, and one actually has an outside television to show movies. People pull in with carloads of kids, and everyone helps direct parking. We had a little over 300 people for Halloween last year."

"It's very safe for children because, basically, the street is shut down," Joan added. "Our kids always come for chili and hot dogs on Halloween, and then go trick or treating."

When they are not decorating or celebrating, Mike and Joan are busy with other tasks and pastimes. Mike is an avid fisherman. "I fished in tournaments for many years," he said. "Now my son and I like to take the boat out. Sometimes, Joan and the grandkids go, but she doesn't fish."

"I studied for my real estate exam on the back of the bass boat," Joan smiled. "I'm good at holding the deck down." She's also a good decorator. "My daughter



and I just painted the dining room, changing it from orange to white and tan. I like to decorate with what I think looks nice, is functional and makes us feel at home."

Two years ago, Joan and Mike updated their large eat-in kitchen. The counters are now rich, dark granite, the appliances shiny black and the floor and back splash are patterned in a beautiful light-colored stone. "We tend to share the cooking," Mike said. "We have a garden in the backyard and grow vegetables mostly for the grandkids. They like carrots from the garden better than candy and love to sit in the gazebo and munch on peas." The kids also enjoy Mocha, a gorgeous Siberian Husky and beloved family member.

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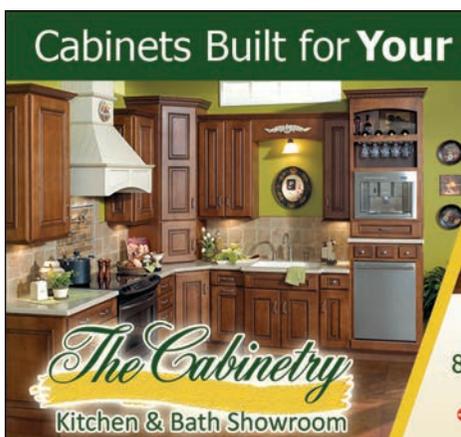
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Joan's favorite room is the upstairs bedroom, displaying her amazing porcelain doll collection. "Some are 35 to 40 years old, and each has a certificate of authenticity," she said. "I call them 'little ladies.'" The room also features a cradle in which all of Joan's children and every one of the Texas grandchildren have slept.

On the wall of the other upstairs bedroom — the one where the day care kids generally nap or play when they aren't watching movies or playing games in the loft area, is a framed quote that reads, "Every child is a story yet to be



told." Clearly, it is a reflection of the Asmus's attitude. "Family is everything, and that's what our house is all about," Mike said. With 20 grandchildren, it's safe to say the family celebrations have just begun. **NOW**

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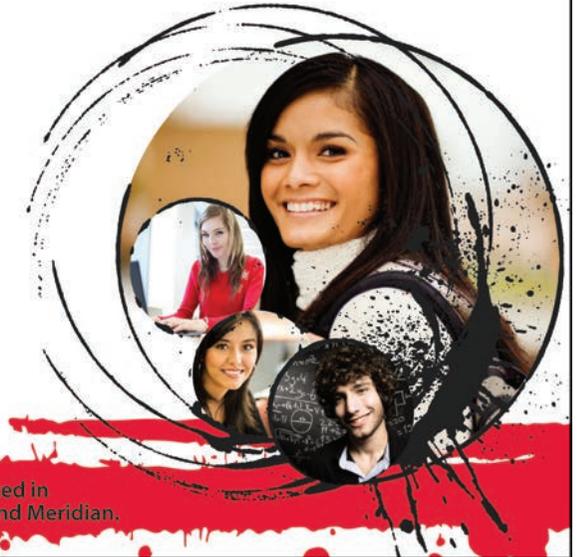
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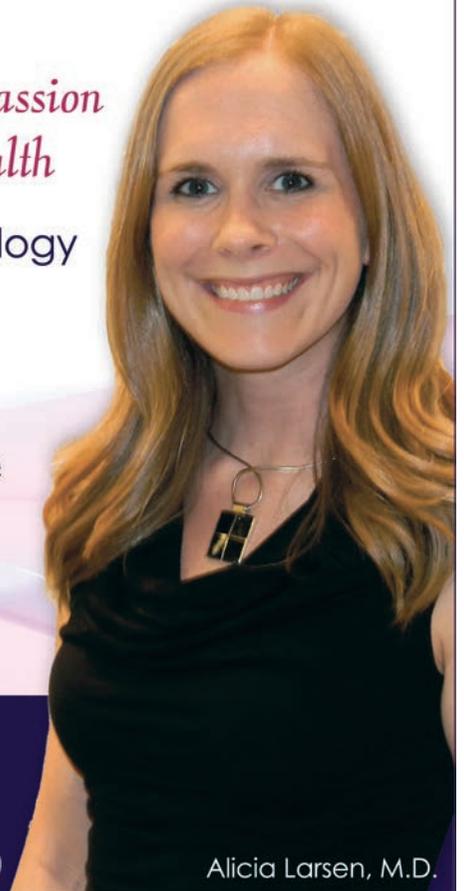
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FIRST BAPTIST QUILTERS

Outreach of Love

— By Sarah Anderson



Quilting is not just a hobby for First Baptist Crowley's quilters. It is a form of handmade, heartfelt ministry. Members and close friends use quilting as a way to bless others in their church and community who may need a blanket of prayer and warmth during a difficult time in their lives. Whether a person is facing a terminal diagnosis, dialysis, hospitalization or moving into a nursing home, the ladies who participate in the quilting ministry are prepared to give a lovingly sewn lap quilt. The group also uses its creativity to bless the church's little ones as they enter the world. Every newborn in their congregation receives a soft, colorful quilt to cuddle. "We enjoy reaching out to people with our quilts, because we see how much they appreciate knowing that we are thinking about them," June Griffin said.



Although June has been sewing as long as she can remember, she didn't learn to quilt until she retired from her 32-year teaching career eight years ago. Her dear friend and neighbor of more than 30 years, Ann Rhoades, retired and joined First Baptist Crowley's (FBC) quilting ministry four years before. "Ann had asked me several times to go with her, and when I finally did, of course, the bug bit. I really liked it. It had a lot of creative opportunities," June smiled. "It's not easy though. It's not an easy skill to learn, but once you have it down, it's a lot of fun."

As many of the other quilters do, June now spends her free sewing time quilting for her 10 grandchildren. "I have finished quilts for eight of them, and I have the fabric for the youngest two," she said. And each quilt is preserved with a loving, embroidered description, so they will always know who, when and where it came from. June said it is important to record the meaning and history of each quilt, so its story is not lost as it is passed down through family generations. She has several antique quilts from both her and her husband's grandmothers. June and her fellow quilters agree quilts are a great way to preserve and pass on a family's heritage.

Active members of the group include: Ann Dalby, Corina Ahern, Dela Felber, June Griffin, Sally Henderson, Jan Pennington, Ann Rhoades, Reyna Schelkle, Joy Teague and Barbara Webb. They are happy to help other people preserve their heritage, too. In addition to the handmade quilts they give for comfort and encouragement, the group will quilt other people's quilt tops for a fee. Both church members and people from the community hire the talented women to complete delicate antique tops that have been passed down by their

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ancestors. The group recently finished a treasured heirloom that once belonged to a church member's grandmother. "We thoroughly enjoy ourselves, and any money we may earn all goes to cover our expenses and support other ministries in our church," June said.

June and her friend, Ann, agree the quilters' greatest satisfaction comes from giving the lap quilts they share through

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their ministry. "It is such a joy to hear how much our quilts mean to them and how much they appreciate it," Ann said. "That is what makes me want to do it more."

The quilters embroider each quilt with a label reminding the new owner of the care and prayer that went into it. Ann Dalby, who joined the group 11 years ago, is the group's official label maker. She embroiders each label with the recipient's name, the month and year it's given, along with an inscription that reads "to cover you with love and

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prayers from FBC quilters." Ann was inspired to add the tender phrase after it came to her for a special quilt she gave to a young girl dying of cancer. "I had cared for her from when she was born until she was 3, and it just came to me when I was making the label for her quilt," she said. "After that, I decided to add it to our quilts, so it would be more meaningful to the people who get them." Ann remembers one gentleman, in particular, who was truly touched by

"IT'S NOT AN EASY SKILL TO LEARN, BUT ONCE YOU HAVE IT DOWN, IT'S A LOT OF FUN."

his quilt. "He has passed away now, but every time I saw him after that he would tell me how much his quilt meant to him and how he had taken it to dialysis. He would always tell me how he told all of the other patients and the people working with him at the hospital about his special quilt," she said.

Sally Henderson has been a part of the group since shortly after it was founded in 1999, and one of her favorite memories is of a young woman who won last year's donation quilt. "She had been a cancer victim, and she really wanted that

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quilt," she said. "When she won, she was so tickled about it, and we were tickled for her. It was really special to see how excited she was."

The ministry is open to anyone interested in quilting or learning how to quilt. They are one of the few groups in the area who still do all hand quilting. They meet in the church's youth building Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. "We want to be sure both the people who still work and those who want to come during the day can," June said.

The women of the group describe their time together of planning and quilting as fun and fellowship. The group also heads to Gainesville twice a year for a three-day retreat where they rejuvenate and spend the uninterrupted time working together on their annual quilt show's donation quilt. This year's quilt show will be held Saturday, November 10. Last year marked their 12th quilt show for the public, which attracted more than 250 people and raised almost \$2,000 in donations for their church and the Crowley House of Hope. In addition to their other projects, the women also delight in crafting special-made quilts for their treasured church staff. They designed an elaborate piano quilt for the church's pianist of 40 years and have also replicated the church's stained glass window into a wall quilt, which hangs in their quilting room. FBC's quilting ministry is a group of strong, wonderful women who are thrilled to bless both their community and church family with their talents and passion for quilting. **NOW**

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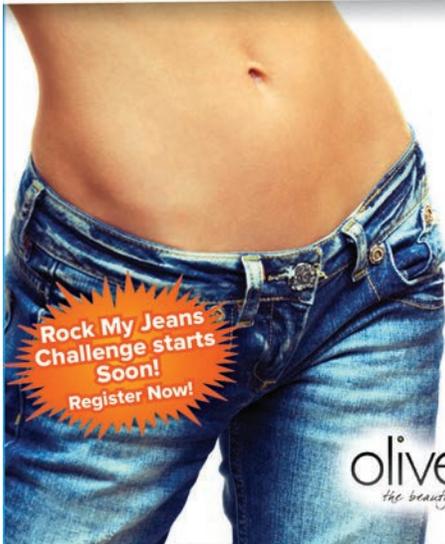
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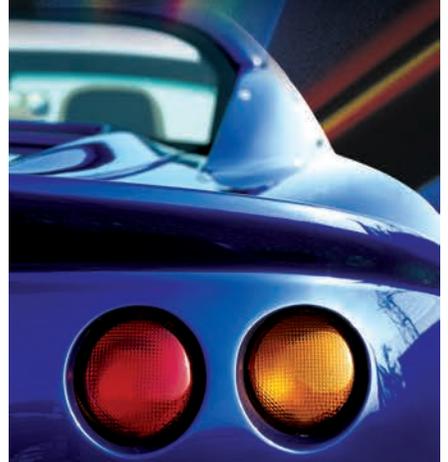
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Speaking Practically

— By Melissa Rawlins

Jody and Trisha Kennedy teach English as a Foreign Language (EFL) to people in far-off countries. This summer in Managua, Nicaragua, their 15- by 20-foot classroom in an urban church had dusty tile floors, because the windows have no glass, only bars over the windows. With chickens clucking, roosters crowing and dogs barking through each session, the students enjoyed an ambience much nicer than most of their homes, which have either dirt or concrete floors. “All the people are just like people here,” Trisha said. “Families love their children (for the most part); want the best for the children; and send them to English class, because they want to help their future.” The Kennedys were in Burlison last month to gather their resources — almost six suitcases of benevolent items that people and churches need, plus their teaching kits — and this month, they will lead a group of EFL volunteers to eastern Europe under the auspices of Jody Kennedy International (JKI).



As mission work, their operating philosophy is relational evangelism, the same as that underlying their former prison ministry with Bill Glass Champions for Life. "You sit and talk with the inmate, and as much as you can in an hour or two, you let them know you care about them and have a burden for their situation," Jody said.

In Nicaragua and other places where volunteers work with Jody and Trisha to teach English, the goal is for instructors to create friendships with their students. "During that nine days, we're expecting them, as best they can, to build a relationship through the teaching of English — as well as the compassion and diligence they exhibit in preparing for class," Jody said.

As educational work, the Kennedys' EFL program addresses another similarity between prison and poverty: hope is dim. "In Nicaragua, neither the young people nor the old people see much possibility for improvement. They're usually thinking in material terms. That's what makes English so attractive. It makes them more marketable. Even if they're not a fluent English speaker, if they can say, 'Good morning!' or 'Where can I take you?' then they're going to get



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Do you understand English?
Yes, I understand English.

the taxi driver job over someone who cannot speak English."

The difference between the prison ministry that Jody used to do and the EFL program he now heads is the amount of time he has to make a difference in a person's life. "In prisons, you're with the inmate maybe for a weekend, whereas in Nicaragua the group is with their students about 15 hours during the week, two to three hours per session for nine days."

"We don't teach anyone how to buy opera tickets."

In that nine-day period, each volunteer with JKI teaches English to about 24 teens, a like number of adults, and up to 200 children. The Kennedys wrote their curriculum in 2005 with a goal of teaching conversational English in a Total Physical Response method that will work in any country. "We call this curriculum Practically Speaking English," Jody explained, "because we teach them to talk about things they have around their home, church or office. We don't teach anyone how to buy opera tickets." They learned about this methodology through their own studies over their 20 years volunteering in Baptist mission work.

"When God called us into full-time



ministry, there wasn't any curriculum out there that would do what we wanted to do. We knew we needed to take it to the next level, so we decided to write our own," Trisha said. The couple spent the years 2005 through 2007 developing Practically Speaking English. "During those 18 months, our house in Burleson was covered with drafts of charts, stacks of cue cards we were having printed, binders stacked everywhere. It was a madhouse here. In the midst of that, we'd go off and do ministry in Nicaragua or Russia and come back to find all this."

They eventually developed a full set of materials that their volunteers use in their classroom. "It's developed so that non-teachers can do it and can provide that highly personal interactive environment in which the students succeed, moment by moment," said Jody, who designed the schedule, also, to promote success. "It's not just English. The student realizes it's the teacher respecting them, honoring them, helping them succeed. Something changes after three or four days, and you can see a change of attitude, from student to friend."

During the children's classroom time, volunteers teach the group their numbers, colors, alphabet or body parts, through repetition and then songs reinforcing the English words just learned. Puppets sing Bible-themed songs in Spanish while someone from the church brings a short Bible story. "What we learned about puppeteering in Nicaragua is that most children have never seen a puppet. They

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really wave at them and talk to them,” Trisha said, “and they go away knowing songs in English and songs in Spanish.”

Customized for adults and teens, Practically Speaking English is a natural way to learn. “They don’t learn to read and write first,” Trisha said, “they learn by listening, repeating and then producing themselves.” In the Kennedys’ classroom, conversation is achieved by using cue cards or other objects combined with repetition. “Total Physical Response is a methodology we use where we actually do what we say. If we say, “Stand up,” we then repeat the phrase while doing what we say.” This method



trains the brain, and in the Kennedys’ lower levels of English, they hold up a pen to teach students phrases like, ‘This is a pen,’ and then substitute other objects to teach other words, like pencil, book or chair.

The volunteer teachers’ job is simply to follow JKI’s curriculum, which promotes a very interactive and dynamic classroom. “We have to keep things moving to hold their interest, whether they’re children or teens or adults,” said Trisha, who recently saw great rewards from her labors in the field.

A teenage girl who came to class every day seemed a little bit sad and was not participating fully. Trisha encouraged her, patting her shoulder and smiling, and with a translator, talked to her. Eventually, Trisha learned that the girl’s mother had moved to another country, leaving only a note saying not to try to find her. “We were able to pray with her, then encourage her and connect her to the pastor at that church in a special way where he just took her under his wing. Our work,” Trisha commented, “has so little to do with us. It has everything to do with us just being useful.” **NOW**

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Rawhide Rustic’s owner, Mike Bartolowits, with store manager, David Ferguson.

No Tricks

At Rawhide Rustic, the service matches the old-fashioned quality of the furniture. — By Melissa Rawlins

Looking for good, solid wood furniture at a very good value? Check out Rawhide Rustic Furniture. They buy directly from Mexico, by the truckload, and pass on the savings to every customer. With so many good deals available, the owner, Mike Bartolowits, chose to open two stores in Burleson to give customers more space to wander while they shop.

Bedroom sets, living room and kitchen furniture, accessories and dining room suites are on view at both locations. At the flagship store, Rawhide Rustic, on West Ellison, you will be helped by manager, David Ferguson. He also manages the sister-store on North Commerce Street, Rawhide Rustic Depot, where salesperson, Wendy Shivers, will guide you to the perfect deal.

At Rawhide Rustic, the service matches the old-fashioned

quality of the furniture. Mike invites anyone to call him directly on his cell phone, (817) 980-1780, any day of the week up until 10:00 p.m., because he wants to help customers fulfill their vision. And if Rawhide Rustic has your selection in stock, they can do same-day delivery.

Offering quality furniture at a reasonable price, Mike insists: “You don’t have to be a cowboy to like the good ol’ Western style.” In fact, he recommends using rustic furniture for non-Western effects — even to create a Mediterranean feel. A trend Mike has noticed is the mixing of traditional and rustic furniture in the same room. He has had customers trade in their entire houseful of cherry wood for rustic. Since many Rawhide Rustic Furniture customers are corporations, like gas companies and

ranches that want to be decorated in the Western motif, Mike stocks Texas-themed lounge furniture plus accessories, like prints by Gary Crouch.

Home decorators will find Rawhide Rustic Furniture is a one-stop shop. In a single visit, smart shoppers can purchase an entire bedroom set for \$1,599 — including bed, mattress, dresser, night stand, sheets, bedspreads and pillows with delivery and set-up. In the same shopping spree, why not buy decorative crosses, lamps and picture frames, and even a cowhide for use as a wall hanging, throw or rug?

“You don’t have to be a cowboy to like the good ol’ Western style.”

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Mike sells the Serta iComfort mattress and bed at the lowest price possible. During October, even on Founders Day and during Boo Bash, you can come in Rawhide Rustic Furniture to try out the iComfort. “It helps you sleep cool and gives you support, along with many different reclining positions and vibration/massage settings,” said Mike, who is pretty excited about the iComfort’s gel-infused memory foam.

Mike, David, Wendy and Shirley welcome you to stop in at either location in Burleson. They can also order traditional, modern or reproduction antique, if that’s your preference. Anyone dreaming of new furniture should check the Rawhide Rustic Furniture Web site, where specials are always listed. For instance, the store has a promotion offering free dinner for two at your choice of participating restaurants in Old Town, with the purchase of \$399 or more, in either the Furniture store or the Depot. And on Founders Day, shoppers will receive a free gift just for stopping by the store. One tip Mike gives only here: “On Boo Bash and Halloween, kids can come in for free candy and treats — no tricks!” **NOW**

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Ambassadors, chamber staff and chamber members help out during the New BISD Luncheon.



Roy Minugh, at left, with his '72 Cutlas Supreme and Robert Webb with his '50 Ford Custom.



Natalee and Rachel, with their mother, Tina Repp, enjoy a Lions Club burger at Police Appreciation Day.



Steven Zanetick, Joe Wolniak, Dylan Goodgion and Chad Mobler ride their bikes.



Susan Fletcher spends some quality time tailgating with her son, Cimarron.



Centennial Cross Country Medal Winners, left to right: Delaney Vance, Brooke Wilkinson, Michael Gonzales and Michael Southall.



Carlos Munoz and Dax Pemberton donate their time to pick Malvasia grapes for Lost Oak Winery.



Keri Holbeck is out on the town with her mom, Kathy Hughes, and grandmother, Dorothy Williams.



Students from Joshua ISD paint a horse at Wings of Hope Equitherapy.



Greg French and his girlfriend, Gina, host the reception for the Lone Star Film Society.



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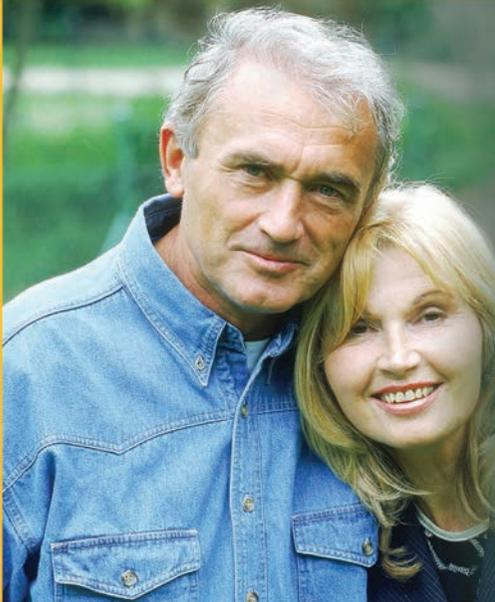
If you have children at home, you're no doubt aware that it's the traditional back-to-school time. But even if your days of parent-teacher conferences are in the past, or even in the future, you can still find a place in your life for education — and you might want to start by educating yourself about investing.

To get the most out of your investment education, ask yourself these questions:

- *What are my goals?* Your financial goals should drive your investment decisions. You probably have short-term goals, such as making a down payment on a home or paying for a vacation, and long-term goals, such as saving for your children's college education or building resources for your retirement. Once you've identified your goals, you can

create an investment strategy to help achieve them.

- *What is my risk tolerance?* Self-awareness is important in every aspect of life — including your approach to investing. As you create your investment portfolio, you need to understand your own views on risk. Would you consider yourself an aggressive investor — that is, someone who can accept a relatively higher degree of investment risk in exchange for potentially higher returns? Or are you a more conservative investor — someone who is willing to take lower returns in exchange for lower potential risk? Or perhaps you're a moderate investor, less risk-averse than some but less aggressive than others. However you'd characterize yourself, it's essential that you factor in your risk tolerance when choosing investments. Otherwise,

Having More Retirement Accounts Is Not The Same As Having More Money.

When it comes to the number of retirement accounts you have, the saying "more is better" is not necessarily true. In fact, if you hold multiple accounts with various brokers, it can be difficult to keep track of your investments and to see if you're properly diversified.* At the very least, multiple accounts usually mean multiple fees.

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*Diversification does not guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

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you'll likely end up causing yourself needless worry over your investment portfolio's performance.

• *When should I make changes to my investments?* Once you've built an investment portfolio, you shouldn't leave it on autopilot. Over time, you most likely will need to add new investments or sell others. However, try to avoid selling quality investments just because their share price has dropped. They may still have good long-term prospects. In general, you should sell an investment under certain circumstances. For example, if your goals have changed, you may find the need to sell some investments and purchase others. You may decide to sell an investment if it's no longer what it was when you purchased it. For example, maybe you've invested in a company whose products are less competitive than they once were, or perhaps the company belongs to an industry now in decline. And finally, if your portfolio has become "overweighted" with certain types of investments, you may decide to sell some of them to bring your holdings back into balance, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

• *Whom should I consult for help?* You can do a lot to educate yourself about investing, but when it comes to making the right choices for your future, you may need help. A professional financial advisor who is familiar with your family situation, short- and long-term goals and investment preferences can help you build and maintain a portfolio that can help meet your needs. The investment world can be complex, so the more knowledge you have on your side, the better off you'll be.

Take the time to learn as much as you can about investing. It's an education that can pay off in the long run. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Lynn Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burleson.

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When Hearing Hurts

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Babies cannot speak our language yet, but their actions speak volumes. Grabbing or tugging at the ear with accompanying symptoms of general fussiness and a fever may indicate an ear infection. Ear infections are common in children. According to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, three out of four children will have an ear infection during their first three years of life. It is the most common reason mothers take their children to the doctor.

Most ear infections (*acute otitis media*) will heal on their own without medical intervention, but some will require antibiotics. Frequent infections in the ear can interfere with hearing. Persistent fluid in the ear (*otitis media with effusion*) can also cause hearing loss. Not being able to hear correctly can cause speech problems. The ear needs a way to drain the persistent and excess fluid and also to allow ventilation of the middle ear. If medication does not solve the problem, tiny, cylindrical ear tubes surgically inserted through the ear drum can accomplish this process.

Ear tubes become necessary when the Eustachian tube loses the ability to drain properly. The Eustachian tube is nature's natural drainage canal that connects the middle ear to the nasal passageway. When it is blocked or swollen from an ear infection, whatever fluid or mucus has accumulated in the middle ear has no way to escape.

Fluid in the ear interferes with hearing because the eardrum cannot function as it was designed. The buildup of pressure in the ear causes pain. Once ear tubes are inserted, the middle ear can drain and be ventilated once again.

Hundreds of thousands of ear tube surgeries are done every year with the goal of decreasing ear infections, restoring or improving hearing and decreasing painful pressure in the middle ear. It is rated as the second most common surgery for children. Since the insertion of ear tubes is a surgical procedure, the decision to do so is not made lightly. Your practitioner will examine your child to determine the need for tubes and the child's general health. They will look at the frequency of ear infections and the length of time fluid remains in the middle ear among other conditions.

Insertion of ear tubes is day surgery, and the actual procedure takes minutes. Children usually recover quickly from the anesthesia and are able to leave the hospital within a few hours, able to look forward to less pain, fewer complications with ear infections and better hearing. **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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October 8

Metro Beekeepers Meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., United Cooperative Services Building, 3309 I-35 West. Contact Stan Key, (817) 888-0470 or visit www.metrobeekeepers.net.

October 11

Breakfast for Burleson Opportunity Fund: 7:30-9:00 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 590 NE McAllister Rd. First annual fundraising event to support college scholarships for community young adults. RSVP to Kellye Cunningham at (817) 426-9682.

October 12

Golf Tournament: 11:00 a.m. check-in; 1:00 p.m. shotgun start at Hidden Creek Golf Course, 555 E. Hidden Creek Pkwy. Registration fee: \$100 per golfer. For more information, contact Gregg Gammon at (817) 480-5846 or Christie at the Chamber at (817) 295-6121.

Senior Dance: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Burleson Senior Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. Call (817) 295-6611 for more details.

October 12-13

Far Out Family Fun Campout: 5:00 p.m.-8:00

a.m., Chisenhall Fields Sports Complex baseball diamonds, \$20 per family. All ages are welcome to bring tent, flashlight, bug spray — please don't bring pets, open-flamed lanterns or grills. RSVP Ashley Newhart at (817) 426-9116 by October 5.

October 13

Founders Day: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Old Town Burleson. Mock gunfights and great food, arts and crafts, carnival rides and entertainment will mark the 20th celebration of the founding of Burleson. For more information, call (817) 343-2589.

October 20

Joshua Fall Festival: 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Owl Stadium Parking Lot, Joshua High School. For more information, call Kim Henderson, (817) 253-7233.

October 27

Parents Night Out: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Alsbury Baptist Church. An evening of rest, relief and rejuvenation for parents who care for special needs children and their siblings, ages 6 months to 12 years. Reservations are required. Contact Keara Sharman at (817) 881-5028 or e-mail us at specialneedsministries@alsburybaptist.com.

November 3

Magic Show: 7:00 p.m., Burleson High School Auditorium. Event is sponsored by the Burleson Kiwanis Club. For more information, please contact bur88kiwanis@gmail.com.

November 10

Crowley Quilt Show: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., First Baptist Church Community Life Center, 400 S. Eagle Dr., Crowley. For entry information, call (817) 297-2189 or (817) 297-4347.

Saturdays Through the Fall

Free Injury Assessment Clinic: 8:00 a.m.-noon. Hoffman Family Practice, 2730 SW Wilshire Blvd. Athletes who are in middle or high school, have incurred an injury in a school-sponsored event and have been referred by a coach, trainer or team doctor are welcome. For more information, call (817) 782-8053 or visit TexasHealth.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.

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In The Kitchen With D'Anna Hamilton

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Bank teller by day, cook by night, D'Anna Hamilton enjoys preparing home style meals and desserts for co-workers, friends and family. She cooked as part of her homeschool studies, inspired by her mom, Penny, who made cakes and delicious meals for the family. D'Anna also learned kitchen tricks from her Mammaw, Jean Hamilton, while helping make Date Rounds and Chicken and Dumplings. "I stood at the stove bringing the chicken broth to a rolling boil and learning just when to place the dumplings in the pot." Nicknamed "Cupcake" by her co-workers, D'Anna bakes delicious cupcake treats annually to raise money for the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Burleson, as well as for birthdays and whenever she wants to say, "I care." **NOW**

Mammaw's Chicken and Dumplings

- 6 (or more) chicken leg quarters**
- 1 10.75-oz. can chicken broth**
- 1 10.75-oz. can cream of mushroom soup**
- 10 (or more) tortillas**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. no-salt all-purpose seasoning**

- 1.** Boil leg quarters in water until chicken is soft enough to pull off the bones. Keep the water you boiled.
- 2.** Cut chicken into pieces; put back into the same water.
- 3.** Add chicken broth and cream of mushroom soup. Let boil while cutting up about 10 tortillas into pieces.
- 4.** Turn burner to high until boiling hard; add

tortilla pieces gently. Once tortillas are all in, reduce heat to low. Add salt and no-salt seasoning; let simmer until ready to eat.

Date Rounds

- 1/2 cup margarine**
- 2/3 cup powdered sugar (divided use)**
- 1 Tbsp. milk**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 1/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour**
- 2/3 cup dates, chopped**
- 1/2 cup walnuts, chopped**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 300 F. In a large bowl, cream margarine with 1/3 cup powdered sugar. Add milk and vanilla and mix. Add flour and stir well. Mix in dates and nuts.
- 2.** Form dough into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheet.

- Bake** 20 to 25 minutes or until lightly browned.
- 3.** While cookies are still warm, roll them in remaining powdered sugar.

Party Rye

- 1 lb. sausage with sage**
- 1 lb. hamburger meat**
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1/2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese**
- 1 loaf rye bread, sliced**

- 1.** Brown meats; drain. Then add garlic powder and Worcestershire sauce.
- 2.** Add Velveeta and stir to melt into meat mixture.
- 3.** Cut rye bread in halves and spoon mixture onto bread. Bake at 450 F for 8 minutes.

Corn Oysters

- 2 cups frozen corn kernels**
- 1/4 cup milk**
- 1/3 cup flour**
- 1 egg**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**
- 2 Tbsp. butter**
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil**

- 1.** Put frozen corn into colander. Rinse with cold water until ice crystals disappear.
- 2.** Pour corn into large mixing bowl. Stir in milk, flour, egg, salt and pepper.
- 3.** Lay paper towels on top of a platter; set aside.
- 4.** Place a skillet over medium-high heat. Add butter and oil.
- 5.** Using a wooden spoon, spread the melted butter and oil evenly in the skillet. Put 6 small spoonfuls of the corn mixture into the skillet.
- 6.** Let the corn oysters cook for 2 to 3 minutes, or until the bottoms are golden brown.
- 7.** Use the spatula to turn the corn oysters gently. Cook them for 2 or 3 minutes more, or until both sides are golden brown.
- 8.** Drain the corn oysters on the platter covered with paper towels. Cover platter with foil to keep warm.
- 9.** Continue frying in the same way until the corn mixture is gone. You should have about 16 corn oysters.
- 10.** Remove the foil and paper towels from the platter and serve while hot.

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