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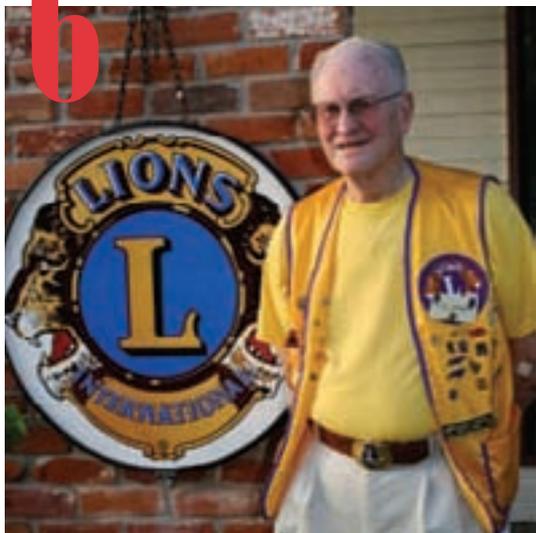
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This barn is one of many scenic locations on Debbye Wallace's property.

Photo by Natalie Busch.

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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Sometimes I forget to stop and count my blessings. Thanksgiving will be celebrated by many this month, but I think I am going to try harder to be thankful every day.

This month, we feature many who have come from both far and near to reside in our community. Please enjoy as we celebrate the accomplishments of each of our featured guests. One local resident of note, O.D. Gaither, is a founding member of the Red Oak Lions Club, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Read on to learn what he and others have done to help make this community the great place you call home.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Diana Merrill Claussen
Red OakNOW Editor



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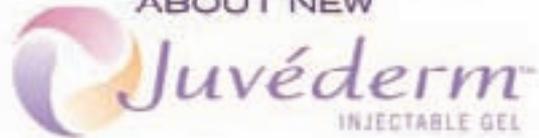
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— By Janice C. Coleman

What do street signs, eyeglasses, baseball fields, savings bonds and a week of summer camp have in common? They are all gifts that the Red Oak Lions Club has given to the community over a span of six decades. Chartered on November 18, 1949, with about 15 members, the club is celebrating its 60th anniversary this month. Chicago insurance agent Melvin Jones founded the International Association of Lions Clubs in 1917 as an avenue for local business clubs to help improve their communities. Now the world's largest service organization, the association consists of 45,000 clubs in nearly 200 countries worldwide.

O.D. Gaither has been a member of the Red Oak club almost since the beginning. He explained that to form a new club, representatives of Lions International visit a city and ask people around town whether they would be interested in belonging to the Lions. "They charter the club," he said,

"and from there, the members pick up the ball and take it."

Reared in Midlothian, O.D. moved to Red Oak in 1950 with his wife La'Treece. The club was only a few months old when one of his new neighbors introduced him to the organization. "Back then, if you invited somebody, you picked them up, took them to the club and took them home," he recalled. When invited to join, he did; except for a two-year hiatus early on, O.D. has been an active member ever since. Only one of the charter members, Grady Chapman, is still living.

O.D. remembers the club's first meeting place. The Lions had cleaned out the basement of the town's one school building on the corner of Red Oak Road and Methodist Street and met there until 1962, when the school burned. They then began to meet at the Methodist church. This was handy for the Methodist ladies, who came and cooked the dinners that were served at each meeting. Later, the Lions bought property at 207 West Red Oak Road, obtained a disused country school building, moved it onto the lot as a meeting place and arranged with Nick Batson's downtown café to cater the meals. By the time the existing building (Red Oak Senior Citizens Center) was erected in 1985, O.D. was serving as president of the local club.

Through one act of service after another, the Red Oak Lions have faithfully lived up to the Lions International motto: "We Serve." What were some of their earliest



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projects? "We built a baseball field for the kids up here behind what was the school on Methodist Street and Red Oak Road. After that, the school expanded and took in the ball field. The club built another field but lost that one, too. After all that long-ago moving, the ball field that's there now, I don't know whether it's one we built or whether someone else built it," O.D. admitted.

O.D. recalled that the Lions also put up Red Oak's first street signs. "Of course, at first, Red Oak only had three streets," he added with a smile. "Ovilla Road was just gravel." A few of those signs bearing the Lions emblem still remain along College Street.

About the time Red Oak was forming its club, the state association opened Texas Lions Camp near Kerrville to serve children with special needs. Besides supporting this statewide project over the years, Red Oak Lions have sent many children to the camp for a week of summer fun. "They go, spend the week and it costs them nothing," O.D. beamed.

"They've got trained people to take care of the kids. We have sponsored kids every year." How did the Red Oak club fund these state and local projects? "Back in the early days," O.D. said, "we had a carnival back behind what is now the community center. We ran it three nights, Thursday through Saturday, and that's the way we made all the money to spend on the kids, the trip to camp and all that."

Affiliation with Lions International always means service, but each region and each local club chooses what kind of service they will emphasize. Many are familiar with the Texas Lions' program that provides glasses for children. The state Lions recently bought a large bus and outfitted it as a vision clinic. "We collect glasses; it's our big deal," O.D. explained. "They [scan] them to know what they are, write [the prescription] down and separate them into different bins. Somebody can walk in and get an eye exam, and nine times out of 10 they

can be fitted right there — and when they leave, they walk out with a pair of glasses on.”

These days, the Red Oak Lions’ ongoing local project is a student award program. During the school year, elementary teachers choose one recipient each month. “The child’s teacher comes to the meeting with them. We present the student with a \$50 savings bond and put their name on a plaque showing they are Student of the Month. We feed the whole family, take pictures and put it in the paper,” O.D. said.

In its long history, the Red Oak club has seen a few changes. To support its activities, monthly pancake breakfasts have taken the place of the annual carnival. The club has fewer members, as well. At one time, the club boasted the largest membership in the world, in terms of percentage of its citizens. “We had 54 members, and the population of Red Oak was only 320. Of course, people go and come. Back when we first started, we didn’t have to compete with television and stuff,” O.D. said, adding that he would like to see more people who want to do something for others. “My big deal is helping someone else.”

O.D. emphasized that everyone is welcome to visit Lions Club meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Red Oak Lions Club Building. “The only way you can join a Lions Club is if a member invites you,” he added. “We won’t ask you to join if you just visit once, but only if you are interested enough to come back a few times.” Now a lifetime member, O.D. has served as president twice, held both zone and district offices, and received the association’s highest honor, the Melvin Jones Award. Asked what he has found most rewarding, his face lit up and he replied without hesitation, “To see the smile on a kid’s face when they get that bond and the plaque. It’s really uplifting to see the kids happy like that. That recognition will go with them the rest of their lives.” **ADW**

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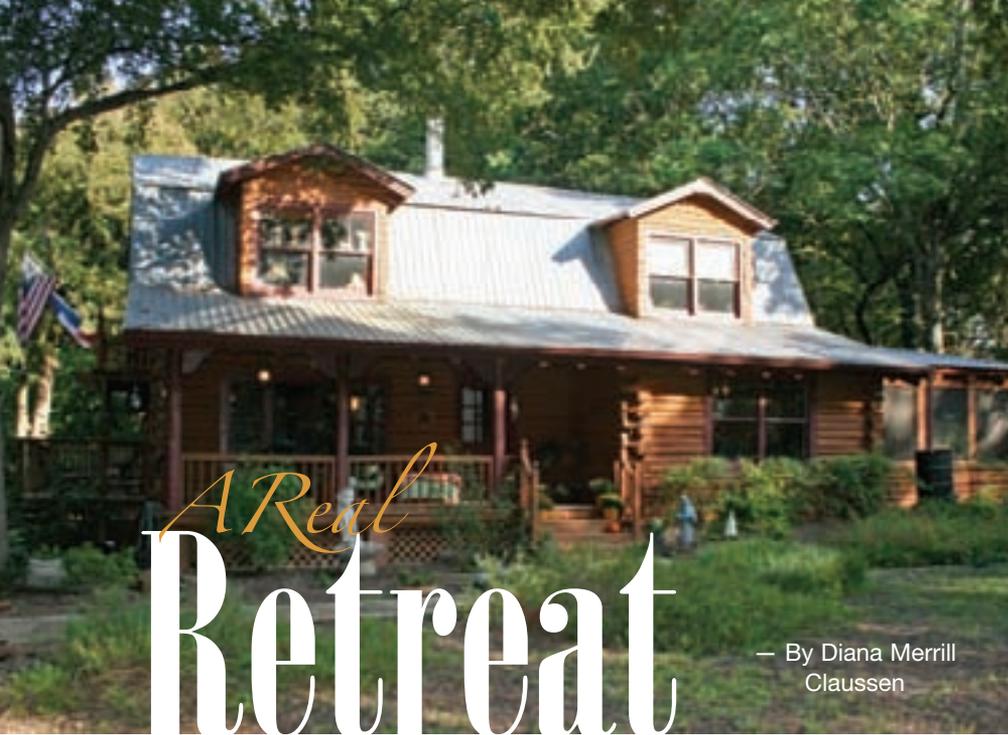
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A Real Retreat

— By Diana Merrill Claussen

Drive down a curvy, shaded path and you will find a home full of history, charm and healing. Located on the property formerly owned by Dr. Sloan Gentry is a beautiful, two-story log home that sits among many native trees such as: red oak, cedar elm, ash, pecan, red bud, crape myrtle and fig trees. Today, this magnificent property, nestled on 24 acres that back up to Bear Creek and a limestone ravine, is

with the land that when she first pulled into the driveway, she thought, *This is the prettiest acreage I've ever seen.* "So, I decided to buy it and fix up the three houses here on the property," she explained.

In addition to the log home in which Debbye resides, there is also the Sloane home, a little bungalow where friends and visitors can bunk; a lily pond, complete with a fire ring for

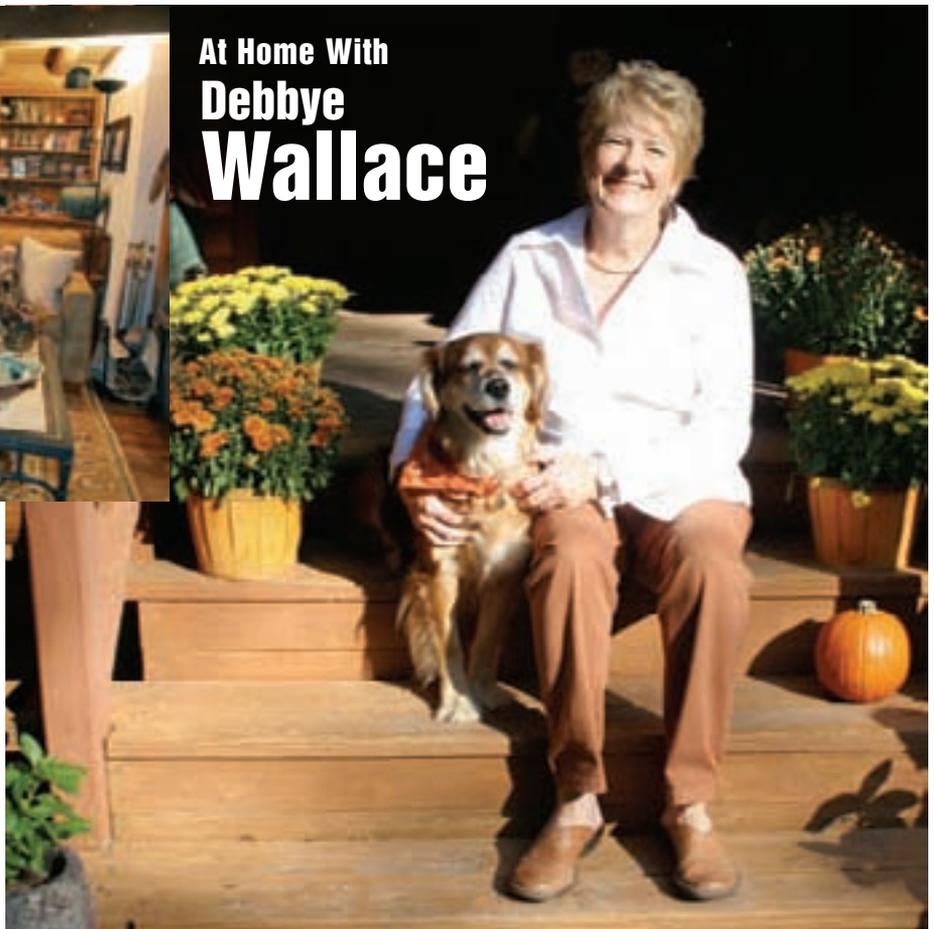
campfires; and a carriage house. One of the biggest highlights of the property is the nature. "I like trees a lot and am not one to cut them down," she said. "I like that you can't tell what is around the drive." That drive leads to her exquisite 25-year-old log home, where the porch is accented by hanging gas lanterns and a rustic front door.

Upon entering the home, a fun and eclectic experience awaits Debbye's guests. The 2,700-square foot-residence has four bedrooms and multiple porches. Stepping through the front door, visitors are immediately greeted by Debbye's dog, Buddy. Large overhead beams and a traditional wood-burning fireplace in the living room create a rustic feel as if the house itself has stepped back in time. "It's quite lovely in the winter because I can build a roaring fire," Debbye said.

One look around the room gives evidence that the home is filled with more than just traditional treasures. Located by the living room's front window is a vintage ottoman Debbye lovingly calls "Buddy's Throne." She explained with a laugh, "I'm trying to get him used to sitting on his 'throne'



At Home With Debbye Wallace



known as the Shooting Star Ranch and Retreat and is owned by Debbye Wallace.

When she first saw the Gentry property, Debbye was in the middle of building a home in Bristol, Texas. "When Dr. Gentry lived here, he planted over 25 different kinds of trees," Debbye said. She fell so in love

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instead of the furniture.” The room also houses a wall-length, built-in book case, and Debbye has hung cute, little tractor lights around the room’s large window, giving the home an even warmer and cozier feel during the cold winter months. “During the winter, the house gets a beautiful glow at night when I have the front room’s lights turned on. I am always happy to come home; it feels like being in a ski chalet,” she beamed. Lamps in the dining room also create a warm glow, and come in handy whenever there is a big storm.

As is true of all the rooms in the home, the living room features original 12-foot soft pinewood floors. Many

artistic pieces Debbye has collected as gifts or from her travels are located throughout the space. One such piece, hanging by the fireplace, is an acrylic painting of a lady relaxing on a chaise lounge. “I bought that piece from Lincoln, New Mexico,” she recalled. Catty-corner to the painting sits an old grandfather clock that was hand-carved in Germany. There is also a Spinnet piano in the room which holds a moose candle holder in the shape of a menorah. A hand-painted elephant on a piece of silk cloth from India hangs over the piano. “The elephant represents good luck,” Debbye said.

Throughout Debbye’s home are many

earthly and nature-inspired pieces. The dining area is home to many authentic pieces of Native American art accented with Asian or Chinoiserie furniture dated from the 1930s. An interesting conversation piece is found on the dining table. The centerpiece is made from American Indian spirit dancer sticks fashioned from deer horns. Most of the windows throughout the home are accented with shelves for Debbye to display additional art. Glass pieces such as Debbye’s hurricane lamp collection sit on one such window shelf display.

Because Debbye makes her home in Texas but loves to travel on Mexican excursions and Native American-themed trips, her art collection is vast and eclectic. One unusual, but highly functional, piece can be found at the kitchen bar. “My barstools are actually

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made from old tractor seats,” Debbye pointed out. She loves her big eat-in bar, especially when she has company. “When I am entertaining, I love to cook on my Jenn-Air cooktop with grill,” she said. The range faces the bar and dining area so Debbye is able to interact with her guests while preparing the evening meal. “It’s so funny because everyone will watch me while I cook,” she laughed.

After dinner, Debbye can usually be found relaxing on her screened-in back porch, complete with a whimsical stand in the shape of a waitress and a vintage-looking cowgirl lamp. The porch’s back door is custom-carved and

features a moon and a shooting star, signifying the Shooting Star Ranch. “It took a year for the artist to carve that door,” Debbye exclaimed. “It is made out of four different types of wood.” The thing Debbye loves most about her porch is that it is surrounded by nature on two sides and connects to her master bedroom through two lovely French doors. In the mornings when the weather is cool, “I love to open the doors, sit in my bed, look at nature and read my devotional,” she said.

The master bedroom is accented with a propane fireplace, antique furniture and a lovely wall motif made out of bird feathers. “We collect feathers,”

Debbye shared, explaining that she often finds all kinds of treasures on her property when she is working outdoors. “I think the feathers in the wall piece are peacock, pheasant and turkey.”

Much can be seen and found on this historic and breathtaking property, and Debbye is very hands-on when it comes to her land. She can be seen doing just about anything that needs to get done. Sometimes she can be found with a chainsaw, cutting branches, caring for her three horses or even driving her front loader tractor. Debbye is surrounded by what she loves, making this property a real retreat and truly her own little slice of heaven. **NOW**

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Miniatures in Detail

— By Kyle Irion

Born and reared in Sweden, few would have expected Anders Heintz to end up a cowboy and historical figurine sculptor in Texas, but through an interesting and slightly enviable series of events, Anders is here to stay. He has won numerous awards for his sculptures, holds two degrees and speaks two languages. In the coming weeks, Anders will take his figurine talent on the road, traveling to Atlanta, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Tulsa, Chicago and Long Island. He also attended one of Europe's biggest miniature figure shows, the Euro

Most of Anders' work is focused on events prior to the 19th century.



Militaire, in Folkestone, England. "It's completely different than the 'Precious Moments,'" Anders said, referring to the difference between his figurines and the Precious Moments line.

Anders makes historical figurines (roughly 2 1/2 inches tall). Without the use of a kit, he sculpts and paints the figures all by hand. With an uncanny eye for detail, Anders paints buttons that are the size of the head of a pin and gives multi-layered flesh tones to tiny soldiers with heads the size of a pencil eraser. Anders uses a material called poxy putty. The lure of this material is that it does not require firing as clay does, and it holds small detail extremely well. In the business of figurine creation, small details are paramount. After he has created the raw, primed figurine, he comes back and paints it. This entire process can take weeks, but the result is nothing short of astounding.

While he enjoyed the plastic model kits he started with in 2001, what Anders enjoyed most were the figures. He began painting the figures and, as he stated, it simply "evolved from there." From those models, Anders' skill has grown considerably. He now competes all over the world, winning numerous accolades and medals. The highest award achievable in the figure sculpting community is a gold medal. Anders has received gold medals for his work at every major show in the United

States. He has also attained a silver medal at the Olympics of historical figurines, the World Expo, which is held every three years. In 2011, the World Expo will be held in Montreux, Switzerland. In reference to the competitions, Anders had this to say: "The deal with the awards is that it's cool to get recognized for what you do. It gives you a measurable thing to look at your work through. You go to socialize and meet with people, like-minded people. You only really compete against yourself. You compete toward that standard."

Most of Anders' work is focused on events prior to the 19th century. His favorite era of soldier to paint is the Revolutionary War because of the great variety and intricacy of Revolutionary-era uniforms. For the opposite reason, he finds the Civil War period to be less interesting because of the bland and fairly muted design of their uniforms. "I don't really like the Civil War. I love the history, but the uniforms are all kind of the same," he explained. History is more than a superficial aspect of Anders' sculpting. Anders loves history. While describing the basis for some of his works, he gave in-depth accounts of the events depicted in his art, down to the month that the event took place. He recently did a sculpture of Thomas Jefferson just for sheer enjoyment. Anders has a special connection to Swedish history because he was born and reared there before he came to the United States.

In 1996, Anders came to the States as an exchange student in high school and came back to graduate from Missouri State University. While there, he became a member of the Missouri State University equestrian team. After being notified of a new PBS reality show called *Texas Ranch House*, Anders tried out and was subsequently cast. The show was shot in Alpine, Texas. While in Alpine, he met his wife, Kate.



Arts NOW

She returned to Missouri with him so he could finish his education. Once his education was completed, he went back to Texas with his wife so she could finish her education. He has been in Texas ever since.

Anders' work is so well-regarded that he is now commissioned to do work for several different companies



and private collectors. It is not about the money for Anders, though. He has an intense passion for figurine sculpting, personally referring to it as an "art" on the same scale as classical paintings once were, referencing 18th century painter James Peale by name. "It's not a classical art per se," he said. "It's more of a hobby I guess, but what some of us are doing can achieve a level of art." The levels of attention to detail and the powerful observances of the human form are what make Anders' work similar to classical painting styles. Anders believes that figurine construction can be, by intense effort and determination, brought to the level of an art form. He never wants to stop improving.

Anders competes, but could do without the medals. He gets paid for his work, but could do without the money. He believes in constantly improving his craft because his art is, to him, an extension of himself. "I feel like I need to work on everything. Whenever I get complacent and too comfortable where I'm at, [I] might as well just stop doing it." It is about finding something that you are passionate enough to do just for the sake of doing it, and that is no small feat. **NOW**

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Quarter Mile Style

— By Diana Merrill Claussen

Sitting in a pit of tar does not sound like a good time, unless you are behind the wheel of a race car doing burn-outs. When local professional racer Steve Hansen thinks about waiting for the column of vertically arranged lights, known as a “Christmas tree,” to signal that exciting moment to burn rubber and fly down the two-lane drag, he cannot help but smile.

When he takes off down the strip, Steve said, “It’s not scary; it’s more like a rush — makes you feel like you’re just dang near floating.”

Steve’s dad, Mark Hansen, first introduced him to the sport of drag racing. “My dad has always raced,” Steve said. “I’ve always loved cars!” In 1987, Mark built his first dragster. He has since built four different race cars. In 1994, Steve started racing in junior drag racing leagues. “I ran a small block Chevy until I was about 16 years old,” he recalled, adding that when he turned 18, “Dad and I built my first roadster together.” From that moment on they became known as the “Hansen Racing Team” which includes father, son, cousins and friends.

Steve’s current car, which he races in both the National Hot Rod Association (NHRA) and International Hot Rod Association (IHRA) series, is a 23T 125 fiberglass-bodied roadster built on a funny car chassis. “We built this car ourselves. The chassis has a suspension rear end,” Steve explained. “The



“It’s not scary; it’s more like a rush — makes you feel like you’re just dang near floating.”

car is naturally aspirated with fuel injection and it runs off of methanol.” The engine is a big block 565 with straight nitrous while the exhaust is tricked out with big tube open headers. The roadster would not be complete without its secure roll cage, a killer paint job and tons of chrome. They also have a parachute, but, Steve added, “We don’t use it very often because it takes a lot of time to pack. The only time you would want to use it is if the track is rough or the car starts getting out of shape [hard to handle].”

The base of the car’s fiberglass body is Hansen Racings’ signature color: fire engine red. The airbrush art located on the front body and Steve’s race helmet not only reflects the car’s name and team logo, but also Steve’s favorite science fiction movie character: the alien from *The Predator*. Fully rendered across the hot roadster’s body, it makes the car just as intimidating as the roar of its engine. “We have won many awards at shows including a Best Appearing Open Body award at a show in San Antonio,” Steve said. “We were competing against 400 other cars.”

Besides killer body work, the Predator has another big edge when it comes to competing on both track and in show. “We are a dying breed because there are not many roadsters doing what we’re doing,” Steve pointed out. When they pull up to the line at a race, they are usually running against

dragsters and funny cars.

Steve races on both one-fourth and one-eighth mile tracks. His best time is 4.91 seconds in the one-eighth mile race and 7.70 seconds in the quarter mile race. He races in the super comp class, where the competitors cannot dial in a time faster than 8.9 seconds for the quarter, and in bracket racing, where drivers race against their own times. "There is also heads up racing and grudge racing where you can win anywhere between \$500 and \$5,000 dollars," he said. Although the sport can be expensive, "We pretty much don't have any sponsors," Steve explained. "I use my own money and cover my own expenses." One of the many costs of racing is getting a drag racing license through NHRA or IHRA. If a car runs faster than 10 seconds flat in the quarter mile, "you have to have the car inspected with the association's sticker fully visible on the chassis," Steve said. The inspection checks for regulation compliance and safety.

Almost every weekend, Steve and his team can be found at one of many area drag strips. Sometimes it varies between Crandall's Dallas Raceway, Texas Raceway in Kennedale and Red Line in Caddo Mills. Most of the time, Steve can be seen racing the roadster, but on occasion he might bring along one of his antiques to show, test or tune. "We have a 1941 small block orange pick-up and a 1970 El Camino which we will race in Chevy events and enter in exterior [body only] shows," he said. "Rebuilding cars is a lot of work because you put everything into it, but rebuilding and racing is more of a hobby than a profession to me. I wouldn't mind racing professionally; it's just that it takes a lot more support and money."

Steve's most valued support comes from his family. Racing is Hansen family-oriented, because, as Steve shared, "It's legal; it's fun; and you get a good rush." **NOW**



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Your One-stop Agency

— By Diana Merrill Claussen



Marianne Whitley and her Farmers Insurance team.



When Marianne Whitley attended college at the University of North Texas, she worked for an insurance agency in Cedar Hill. Marianne, her parents and her grandparents had always been satisfied customers of Farmers Insurance. “We have a family history with Farmers all the way back to the 1940s,” she declared.

While working and going to school, Marianne decided the insurance industry would be her perfect calling. “I liked the idea of having my own business,” she said. So she earned her Bachelor of Arts in business administration with a minor in marketing and insurance. “[I] went to Farmers classes and training, but also taught myself a lot about the business,” she said. “I’d go up to the district office and would just start to teach myself about the business. Then I just jumped right into being a full-time agent.”

Marianne was 23 years old when she started working for Farmers Insurance and opened her own agency located at 117 West Ovilla Road in Ovilla. She has now been in the insurance industry for over 10 years. Her personal and professional accomplishments are inspiring, as is her determination and

dedication to her customers.

Marianne believes in a few key factors when it comes to serving her customers and their insurance needs. “I try to remember what it was like as an insurance customer,” she said. “Since people are busy, I make sure to always keep focused on them and their needs.” As an example of this philosophy, Marianne noted, “We don’t have automated phone systems.” This ensures customers will always be given personal attention. “We know our customers, and when they walk in the door, we usually know their faces and their names,” she added. That is part of the personal assurance Marianne

guarantees to those who seek the agency for their insurance needs. "We offer many services, such as home, auto, commercial, RV, renters, life, financial services, liability, health and even temporary health insurance," she said.

"We are a friendly and family-oriented business and we want to be your one-stop insurance agency for everything," Marianne said. Her mother is the office manager, and she will often have her daughter, Emily, in the office with her, toddling around and greeting customers. "Customers

"I was actually working on my laptop while in labor with Emily, and the nurse told me to turn my computer off."

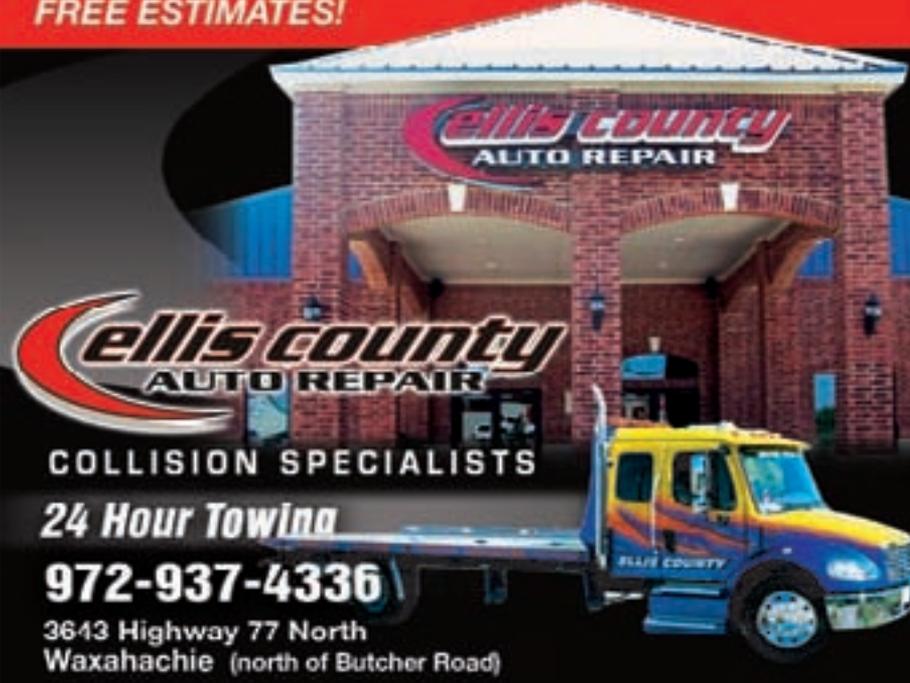
will ask where the baby is when she is not here at the office with me," Marianne laughed.

Being dedicated to her customers is important to Marianne. "I was actually working on my laptop while in labor with Emily, and the nurse told me to turn my computer off," she laughed. "Oftentimes, I stay late and have even worked seven days a week." Marianne's personal cell phone number is listed on her business cards, ensuring that she is always accessible to her clients. "Most of the time if you can name it, we can do it, or else I'll find someone who can do it for you," she said. "But if you have better coverage somewhere else, I'll tell ya!" What better way to illustrate that with Farmers Insurance Agency of Ovilla, honesty truly is the best policy.

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Her Many Blessings

— By Diana Merrill Claussen

When it comes to counting blessings, Red Oak High School teacher Stephanie Smith is lucky. She gets to spend time with those for whom she is grateful every day. Stephanie is a ninth-grade content mastery facilitator. Although she can also be considered a special needs teacher, Stephanie feels she gets to be so much more to her students and ninth-grade friends.

Stephanie's dream to help others started while she was attending college. "I had a friend who encouraged me to teach, and later someone suggested I apply for a high school teaching position," Stephanie said, adding that she was very apprehensive about teaching high school. "I was fresh out of college and at the time, high school kids scared me," she laughed. Stephanie applied for the open teaching position anyway.

During her job interview, she shared her apprehensions with the principal. "I told him I would prefer to teach kindergarteners instead of high schoolers, but, 13 years later, I'm still here!" she said. Stephanie is very glad to still be working in a field and occupation she finds satisfying and fulfilling. "I get to bridge the gap for kids and help them in their classes," she continued, explaining that the students she and her fellow facilitator, Annette Crawford, help "are mainly kids with emotional or learning disabilities."

Having a facilitation partner like Annette is imperative to the ninth-grade program, where the students take regular ninth-grade level classes. "Annette is such a blessing to work with. She is amazing and helps keep me grounded," Stephanie shared. "We will guide [the students] and give them strategies to follow while they are learning or even taking tests."

Stephanie believes providing this additional assistance within the school system is important. "Unfortunately, in a regular classroom, each kid can have their own learning style, so teachers can only help certain people," Stephanie informed. "Some kids are auditory learners and do better



when you read to them, while others are visual or do better with a peer tutor where they can bounce ideas off of each other." There are also children who simply might need a quiet place in order to grasp a lesson.

Part of what makes her students' classroom experience unique and fun are the brightly decorated and mural-enhanced walls of the learning center. Stephanie's classroom and learning center provide whatever each individual student might require so their learning processes are customized to fit their needs. The facilitators help students with all types of disabilities, as well as offering specific subject tutoring, which usually includes English, algebra, world geography and biology. "We are like all-day tutors," Stephanie said. "We meet the kids where they are in their learning style and we comfort them. We utilize many different methods in our teaching, from using flash cards to help with memorization to doing interactive, hands-on exercises."

Final exam time is usually the hardest for Stephanie's students. "The exams literally overload my kids," she shared. Her students may occasionally qualify for a modified exam, but that usually does not happen, so Stephanie and her team provide two-hour, after-school study sessions the week before

exams. The sessions are usually for those who will need help with their biology exam. "We call it the Bio-Blast," she said, explaining that the teachers give incentives to the students for attending the blasts. "We will make snacks for the kids, and they really love it when you give them food. Then Annette, some volunteer teachers and I will tutor the kids to help prepare them for the exam. Our secret is to disguise learning as fun." By the end of the group's study week, "We will have a big play-off match and offer gift certificates to the winning teams," Stephanie continued. "All of the kids get incentives for participating, though." Last year, every student in Stephanie's program passed the final for the first time.

Fun is not the only way Stephanie is able to encourage her students. "What works well is creating a relationship with them first," she said. "The kids have to first trust you before they will let you see their weaknesses." Whether that weakness is mental, emotional or physical, they are usually very guarded about letting others see it. Sometimes her students are hurt, frustrated or angry about situations in their life. "They struggle and you have to help them feel comfortable enough to let those walls down," Stephanie advised. Unfortunately, there are also times the students pick on their peers and point out their weaknesses, so Stephanie has created a safe place within her room's walls. "We call our room the no-bully zone. Every child who comes in here is equal," she noted.

To do what Stephanie does requires someone with a big heart and also the desire to make a difference within the lives of others. To Stephanie, her students are her friends. If she sees one of her students eating lunch by themselves, she will go eat with them. "I want my kids to know they are not alone," she said. "I think that's why I do what I do." **NOW**

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RO Fire Chief, Eric Thompson, waved to all the families during the Red Oak Founders Day Parade.



Karen Anderson and Annette Adams smiled during the Education Foundation Partnership Challenge.



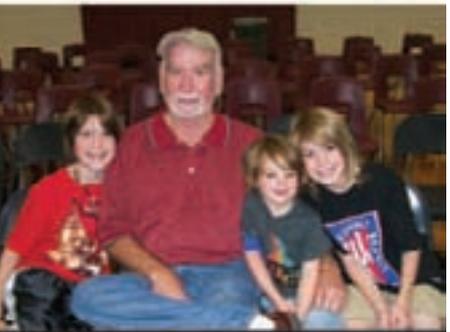
Rene Mangione shared a dinner with his daughter, Nalaya, a first-grade student at Shields Elementary.



Austin Moses held up a book he found at the Red Oak Library.



Holly Webb's family was recognized as RO PTA Family of the Month.



County Commissioner Ron Brown and his grandchildren enjoyed boys night out at RO Wrestling Match.

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"The rewards of caring for women from their first gynecological exam, through childbirth, menopause and the challenges of aging is an honor," says Patricia LaRue, M.D. Dr. LaRue, a Texas native and Texas Super Doctor in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 has also served as a clinical instructor at Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

Rochelle McKown, M.D., sees tremendous advances in minimally invasive and robotic gynecologic surgery and feels that "the advantages are amazing." Dr. McKown graduated from Texas Tech University Health Science Center and has also served as a clinical instructor at Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

For Theresa M. Patton, M.D., "The challenges of adolescent and young adult care, as well as obstetrics" have always been of particular interest. Dr. Patton graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas and is a former chief resident of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

Kecia L. Foxworth, M.D. knows what it's like to be a new mom, "Having recently given birth to two beautiful children, I am very in touch with moms-to-be." Dr. Foxworth graduated from Meharry Medical College School of Medicine and is a former Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Bayne Jones Army Community Hospital.

Sandra Lozano, M.D. says, "I am fortunate to work with such extraordinary women physicians. Being fluent in Spanish, I enjoy providing care for the Hispanic women in our community." Dr. Lozano is a former Chief Resident of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

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Look Who's Cooking

IN THE KITCHEN WITH ADA DePUE

— By Faith Browning

Over the years, Ada DePue has acquired many recipes from her friends, co-workers and her mother who lived to the age of 94. She has taken all of her recipes and created a scrapbook cookbook. "On each recipe, I have written who gave it to me and when it was given," she explained. "I think the oldest recipe I have in there is one that my husband's cousin gave me back in 1958. It

is interesting to go back and remember the people who gave me those recipes."

Ada likes recipes and meals that are simple to create. "I like to make one-pot meals. Nothing that is very complicated," she said, "like a casserole from leftover Thanksgiving turkey. It is something you can put together the night before and cook it the next day after you go shopping." ❄️

CROCK-POT MASHED POTATOES

1. While mashing the potatoes, heat your Crock-Pot on high. When the potatoes are ready turn the Crock-Pot on low.
 2. Butter the inside of the Crock-Pot.
 3. Put the mashed potatoes in and top off with a pat of butter and cover.
- This can be prepared 2 plus hours ahead of time, and it will free up your kitchen for other meal preparation.*

salt, to taste

1. Break the spaghetti into 2-inch pieces.
2. Place spaghetti in a pot of boiling water; cook for 10 minutes or until done.
3. Drain and rinse in cool water; drain off all water.
4. In a large bowl, combine the spaghetti and the remaining ingredients.
5. Chill.

- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup celery, chopped (if desired)

1. Combine all ingredients the night before; chill overnight.
 2. When ready to bake, pour into a greased 8 x 8-inch baking dish.
 3. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour, or more depending on your oven.
- I like to double the recipe.*

SPAGHETTI SALAD

- 1 12-oz. pkg. thin spaghetti
- 2 1/2 cups fresh tomatoes, diced
- 3/4 cup green bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 onion, diced
- 16-oz. bottle creamy Italian dressing

EASY SCALLOPED CHICKEN

A very good way to use your leftover Thanksgiving turkey.

- 1 cup cooked chicken or turkey, chopped
- 1 cup macaroni, uncooked
- 1 cup cheese, shredded or diced (Velveeta works well.)

PUMPKIN BREAD

- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 cups sugar
- 15-oz. can pumpkin

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Who's Cooking **NOW**

- 3 1/2 cups flour (Do not bother to sift.)
- 2 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- pecans, chopped (optional)

1. In a large bowl, combine first 5 ingredients; mix well with electric mixer. Add the remaining ingredients.
 2. Divide batter into 3 greased bread pans.
 3. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or longer if needed, testing with a toothpick.
I use disposable baking pans, this way I can give them away and not worry about the return of my pans. Also, if someone does not like nuts and others do, you can add the nuts after the batter has been divided. Serve with Cool Whip or butter. Freezes well.

COOL WHIP COOKIES

- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 8-oz. container Cool Whip
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- 1 to 2 cups powdered sugar

1. Mix all ingredients together except powdered sugar.
 2. Chill for 2 hours or more for easier handling.
 3. After chilled, drop dough by pecan-sized balls into powdered sugar; roll around until completely covered.
 4. Bake at 350 F for 12-14 minutes.
Lemon cake mix does very well, too.

QUICK CREAMED CHICKEN AND BISCUITS

- 1 10-oz. can chicken or turkey
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can chicken noodle soup
- 1 tube refrigerated biscuits

1. In a saucepan, combine first 3 ingredients, do not add water.
 2. Heat to almost boiling. While this is heating, cut the biscuits into quarters.
 3. Pour the soup into an 8 x 8-inch greased pan; top with the biscuits.
 4. Bake at the temperature indicated on the biscuit directions. This may take 5 minutes longer than indicated in the directions.

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

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Write That Will

— By Andrea Walton



You've worked hard to accumulate valuable assets over the years. How do you plan to distribute this property after your death?

It's important to have a will, regardless of the value of your possessions. This written document instructs how you want assets that pass via your will (money, property and other assets) to be distributed after your death. If you die without a will, your probate assets will be divided according to state law.

Here are some tips for preparing a will:

- Have an attorney draft your will. If you draft your own will, make sure it complies with state law or it could be invalid.
- Name an executor, whose role is to handle all administrative aspects of the will, including collecting assets, paying all debts and taxes and distributing your estate, according to your wishes.
- List personal property such as artwork, collectibles, jewelry and other personal property that you want to go to specific individuals. Be clear about how you want your assets distributed.
- Do not include funeral preferences in your will because it may not be read until several weeks after your death.
- Review your will every few years and have your attorney make changes as appropriate.

A little advance preparation will help ensure that your final wishes are handled the way you planned them to be. **NOW**

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November 2009

Community Calendar

All Month

Ellis County SPCA is in need of pet food donations and drivers to deliver pet food for the pets of Meals On Wheels clients. Call (972) 935-0756.

Every Monday

Celebrate Recovery meeting: First Baptist Church, 100 1/2 Red Oak Rd. (972) 617-3591. www.redoakcelebraterecovery.com.

Third Monday

Ellis County Aggie Moms: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist, 505 1/2 Marvin. Call Cheryl at (972) 723-0341.

First Tuesday

PrimeTime's Senior Group: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Oaks Fellowship, 777 S. I-35 E. Fun, food and fellowship. (214) 376-8208.

First and Third Tuesdays

Red Oak Lions Club meeting: 7:00 p.m., 207 1/2 Red Oak Rd. (972) 617-3577.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting: 7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 600 Red Oak Rd. (972) 617-9100.

Every Wednesday

Family Story Time: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Red Oak Public Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. (469) 218-1230. www.redoakpubliclibrary.org.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

Senior Citizens Club meeting: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 207 1/2 Red Oak Rd. Games, exercise and activities. (972) 576-2777.

First and Third Thursday

Senior Luncheon. Free for residents; \$5 for non-residents. Pre-register the Tuesday before each event. Call Jennifer at (972) 576-3414.

Third Thursday

American Business Women's Association meeting. www.abw-empoweringwomen.org.

First Friday

Worship Jam: 8:30 p.m., Dubba Que BBQ's front porch.

First Saturday

Red Oak Fire Rescue CPR classes: 9:00 a.m. Call early to register. (469) 218-7713.

Second Saturday

Lonestar Cowboy Church Motorcycle group ride: 1011 E. Ovilla Rd. (972) 576-0900.

Third Saturday

Lions Club pancake breakfast: 7:00-11:00 a.m., 207 1/2 Red Oak Rd. \$4 per person to benefit RO Lions charities.

November 3

WIRC Pregnancy Center of Ellis County's Roundup 2009 free

benefit dinner: 6:30 p.m., Creekside Church, Waxahachie. Guest speaker: Jody Dean. RSVP to (972) 938-7900 or (972) 878-0784.

November 7

Ellis County Veterans Appreciation Ceremony: 10:00 a.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie. If you have any questions, please contact: David Hudgins (972) 907-1200 or Perry Giles (972) 937- 6171.

RO Lions Club 60th Anniversary activities. Open House: 4:00-7:00 p.m. Reception: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 207 1/2 Red Oak Rd.

November 11, 12

Canterbury Episcopal School's Fall Open House: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 1708 N. Westmoreland Rd., DeSoto.

November 13

Visual Expressions Fall Student Art Show: 7:00-9:00 p.m., 1425 N. Hwy. 67, Cedar Hill. (972) 293-1117.

November 14

Waxahachie High School Craft Fair: 1000 Dallas Hwy., Waxahachie. (972) 617-5928.

Zumba fitness: 5:30-8:00 p.m., ROHS cafeteria. Community event to help benefit ROISD Quarter Back Club and football program. Special guest: Liana Veda. (469) 230-2278.



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Spa Launch Saturday, Nov. 7th during business hours.

Includes: • Skin care by *Refinée of Beverly Hills* • *Sorme' Mineral Makeup* •
• *Benefits of massage for health* •

*Light snacks and drinks served. Daily specials and a silent auction on donated services from
your staff with all proceeds benefiting The Bridge Breast Network.*

Oct. 25 - Nov. 21 Vitali will be holding fundraiser for **The Bridge Breast Network.**
*Every Wednesday the staff of Vitali will donate 5% of their services & 5% of retail sales. Vitali Staff is
taking donations for the giving tree on behalf of The Bridge Breast Network.*

"Build a bridge, save a life."

November specials:

Pumpkin Enzyme Peel Facial and a Harvest Spice Massage both for \$99 (2 hours of services)

Add on services:

- Pumpkin hydrating hair Masque \$5.00
- Pumpkin Pizze Therapeutic Hand Massage \$5.00
- Deep Heat Hydrating pumpkin hair Masque \$10.00
- New Client Color Special \$10.00 off a color Service.

*Waxahachie for the
Holiday Season*

Candlelight Home Tour
November 27-29
December 5-6 & 12-13
2pm-8pm

Ice Skating
Thanksgiving Week-End
thru December 20

**Community Tree
Lighting & Festivities**
November 27, 7 pm

Photos with Santa!

Bethlehem Revisited
December 4-6 & 11-13
6pm-9pm

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Domestic gas vehicles only. Present coupon during write-up.
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THE WORKS FUEL SAVER PACKAGE \$38.95 Plus Tax

*Oil & filter change *Rotate & inspect four tires *Check
air & cabin air filters *Inspect brake system *Test battery
*Check belts & hoses *Top off all fluids. Taxes & diesel
vehicles extra. Excludes Ford Shelby GT500. Disposal
fees not included in some locations.

Ford vehicles only. Present coupon during write-up.
Not valid with any other offer. Some models slightly higher. Expires 11/30/09.

COOLING SYSTEM SERVICE \$39.95 Plus Tax

*Inspect radiator for leaks *Check hoses, Clamps & belts
*Pressure test system for leaks *Drain & refill radiator
*Includes up to one gallon of coolant.

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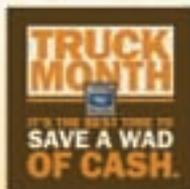
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