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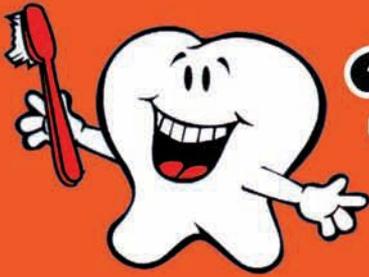
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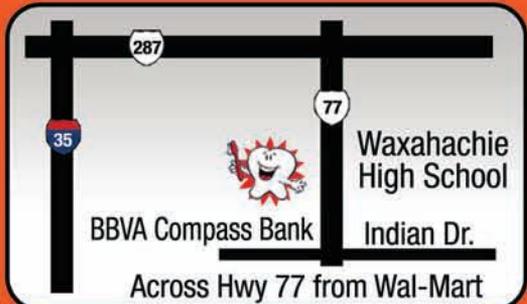
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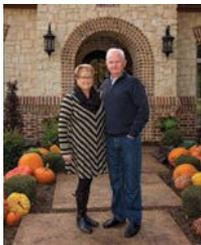
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ON THE COVER



The Barnards still marvel at the home that suits them perfectly.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

CONTENTS

November 2015 • Volume 12, Issue 11



8 The Cross Imagination

This enthusiastic trio is well-rounded, talented and personable.

16 Healing Life's Hurts

Celebrate Recovery turns turmoil into inner peace.

22 The Grandest Gift

At Home With Harold and Debbie Barnard.

34 Beverly's Legacy

Keeping Waxahachie BEE-utiful is on the top of the list.

42 Dealing With Problem Pets

Reasonable precautions ensure safety for people and their four-legged friends.



50 BusinessNOW

52 Around TownNOW

54 FinanceNOW

56 HealthNOW

60 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

While working a jigsaw puzzle, I realized how much puzzle pieces mirror life. Some days, I'll search for hours for one certain piece. Other times, pieces magically fall into place. Life is much the same. Some days, a problem will arise, taking days to solve. Other times, the answer is just waiting for the problem to arise.

I've learned it takes patience with both jigsaw puzzles and my life. If I rush through either, I chance overlooking the one piece that will bring either to completion. If I don't have some form of organization, I could lose the most important piece. And there is always the permanently missing piece — the one that's never found, leaving a gaping hole.

I want to be the puzzle piece that completes the puzzle and gives hope to others. Where do you fit in this puzzle called life?

Sandra

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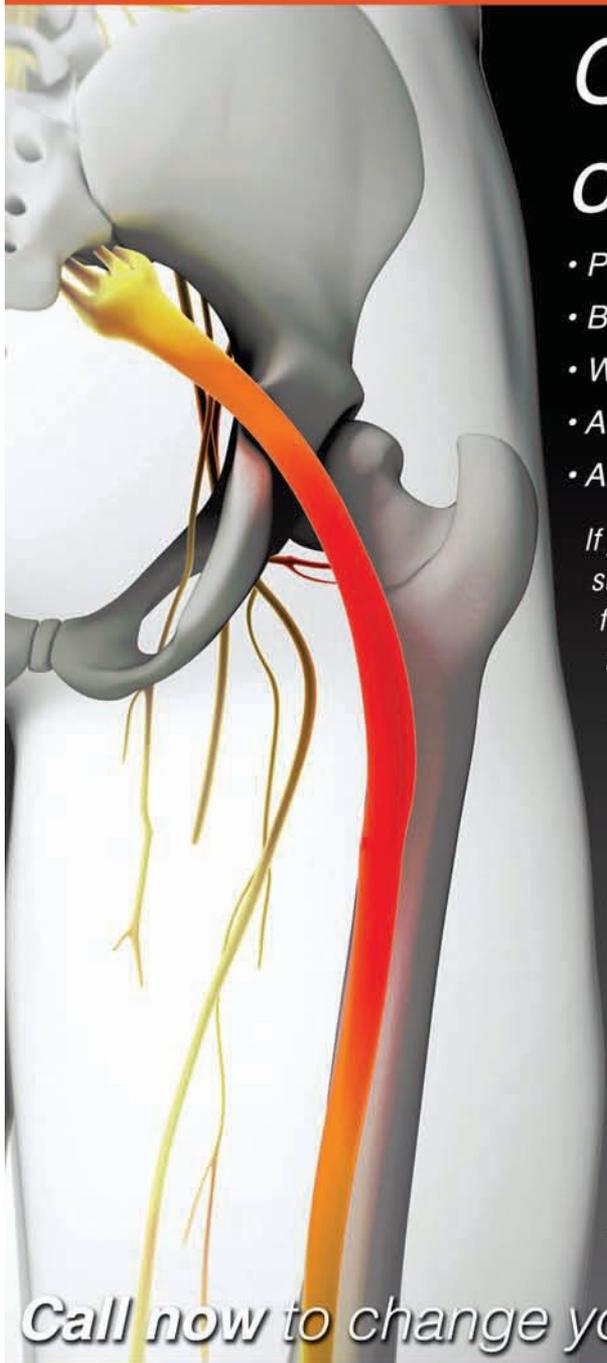
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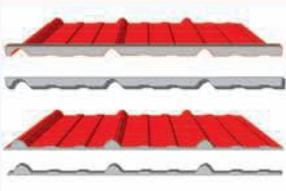
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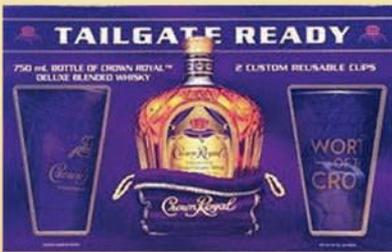
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In this day and age of high-tech gadgetry, it's refreshing to find three siblings whose imaginations go beyond the "right here and now." Caroline, Jessica and Isaac Cross are fine examples of imagination at its very best. Add to this a great love for anything living and you have three, well-rounded, talented and personable individuals.

Caroline, at 13, is the youngest of the trio. Her love for "all creatures great and small" extends to the tiniest insects found in the flowerbeds around her home. "I used to make little paper houses for the roly-polies," she said, remembering back to a time when she was much younger. "I like snails in all sizes, too! I feel I have a connection with them. They're cute, and they wander all about, but they are harmless." She smiles as she recalls the snail she took into the house one day. She forgot about him but quickly remembered him the next morning. "I found him on my mirror," Caroline shared.

e Cross IMAGINATION

— By Sandra Strong

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Jessica, age 16, got her cat when she was 9. “We named him Nelix after the cook on *Star Trek* because Caroline couldn’t say Felix,” Jessica said. “I got the cat from one of my mom’s nursing friends. He definitely grew into his cuteness. He’s the ugly duckling that turned into a swan.”

Hogan, the family dog, is closest to 17-year-old Isaac. Hogan is a 2-year-old German Shepherd the family adopted from a shelter. “We’ve been taught how to treat animals,” Isaac explained. “We have a deep respect for all life.” The family of koi fish also takes up residence in the fish tank in Isaac’s room.

All three children have given care and love to many pets throughout the years. “Most of them we’ve either adopted or accepted from people who are looking for a good home for a pet they can no longer keep,” Isaac continued. “And we definitely have to ask to bring home a stray.” On a few occasions when they have been allowed to take in a stray, they’ve had to return them to their original owners. Needless to say, having to return those animals was bittersweet because it’s easy for these three siblings to become attached to a new pet.

Caroline’s love for all animals came from her dad, Danny, and the many trips they’ve taken to the zoo. “We’ve always

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had a pet since I was little,” she confided. “If not, we’re looking for one to fill the void.”

“We’ve been raised surrounded by animals,” Jessica interjected. “We have grown up in an animal-loving atmosphere.”

The siblings try to remember all the times they’ve stopped to rescue a turtle from the road, and they can’t really come up with a total number because there have been so many. “Turtles are like dinosaurs,” Jessica explained. “The shape of their head looks very much like the head of a stegosaurus.”

Caroline has had two turtles in the past few years. The first one was named Hopper. Hopper was found by Caroline’s mom, Kitty. Her most recent, and still missing, turtle is named Shiloh. “Isaac was coming home from a workout,” Caroline explained, “and spotted Shiloh. She looked battered, so he brought her home to me.”

Shiloh found a wonderful place to rest her shell with Caroline, who constructed a red bikini for Shiloh out of foam. The bikini was then attached to the turtle’s shell. Shiloh even took a 21-hour road trip with the family to Michigan and was dubbed the “Traveling Turtle” by Jessica. Shiloh only bit Caroline once while she was hand-feeding her.

Caroline, always having a desire to learn more, did some research on turtles

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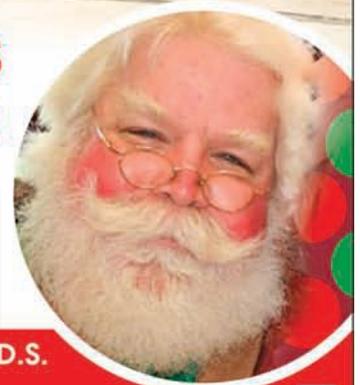
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in general. She wanted to find out what she could do for Shiloh's sneezing. "I had her outside in the sunshine to help her get better," Caroline said with a bit of sadness in her voice. "She crawled over the top of the box and escaped. I still think she's somewhere around the house in the landscaping." Since Shiloh's disappearance, Caroline wakes up extra early each morning to see if Shiloh is basking in the sun. "She was one fabulous turtle," Caroline admitted, "and I'm still looking for her to return."

The Cross siblings are as exceptional in the classroom as they are with their animals and insects. They each love to read. They also like to put their imaginations down on paper or canvas. Isaac loves to draw with pen and pencil. Jessica loves to paint. Caroline loves to draw the characters as she sees them in the books she reads. The girls laugh aloud as they reminisce about all the drawing contests with very unique ideas they've enjoyed with one another.

Isaac would like to one day do something in the field of history, thanks in large part to Mr. Covington, his history instructor at Global High. "Mr. Covington brought the subject to life for me," he said. "He's a great teacher." One other quality that Isaac shared about his teacher is the way he greets and shakes the hand of each student as they arrive on campus. This gesture has meant a great deal to Isaac.

Isaac is also an avid artist who doesn't limit himself to one art form, thanks to Mr. Mills, another teacher at Global High. "I only took one year of art with Mr. Mills," Isaac shared, "but in that year, he helped me refine my art." Isaac is planning on a position in the world of marketing, where he can put his artistic talent to good use.

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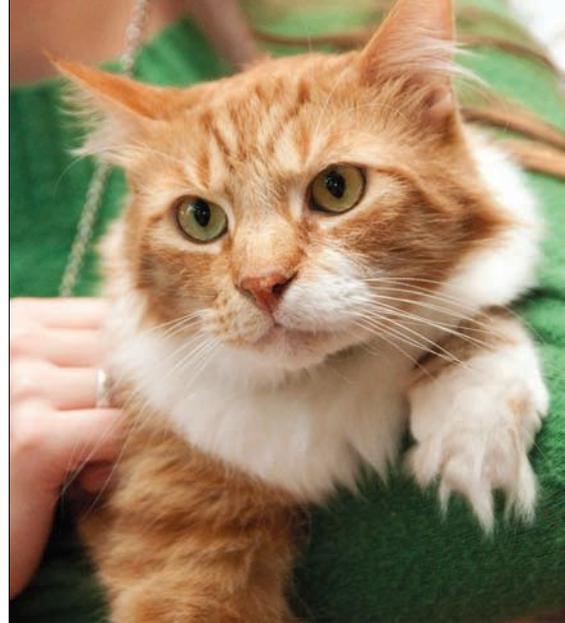
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Jessica has always loved English. "I love to be in class. I love to read aloud," she confessed. "We read *Romeo and Juliet* aloud, and I was the voice of Juliet." Jessica is looking forward to working with children when she completes her education. "I may be a second grade teacher," she said, "or maybe work in a day care center. I know my career will have something to do with kids."

Caroline is still a bit young to nail down her future as an adult, but she feels strongly that she will follow in the footsteps of her mom and become a nurse. "I also want to be someone who does fundraising for worthy causes," she said. "I just want to continue to help others." Science has always been Caroline's favorite subject because she loves animals, but she also loves the way anatomy works.

Stepping away from the television, the computer and modern technology is definitely not a bad thing, as evidenced by the maturity found in Caroline, Jessica and Isaac. These three very close-knit siblings have learned so many things and experienced so much as they've allowed their imaginations to soar. Using the Cross imagination has proven to be a very good thing. **NOW**



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HEALING

Life's Hurts

— By Melissa Swedoski



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dynamics of worship and testimonials with small groups and individuals to build recovery for the walking wounded.

There are many recovery programs for alcoholics, drug addicts, sex addicts, overeaters and more in the large group format. The Avenue's Care Pastor Alan Rogers attended many of those meetings when gathering information to build the church's recovery program, and he found that almost everyone is burdened with hurt, and they needed the power of the small



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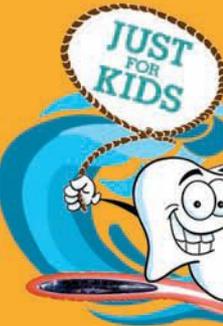

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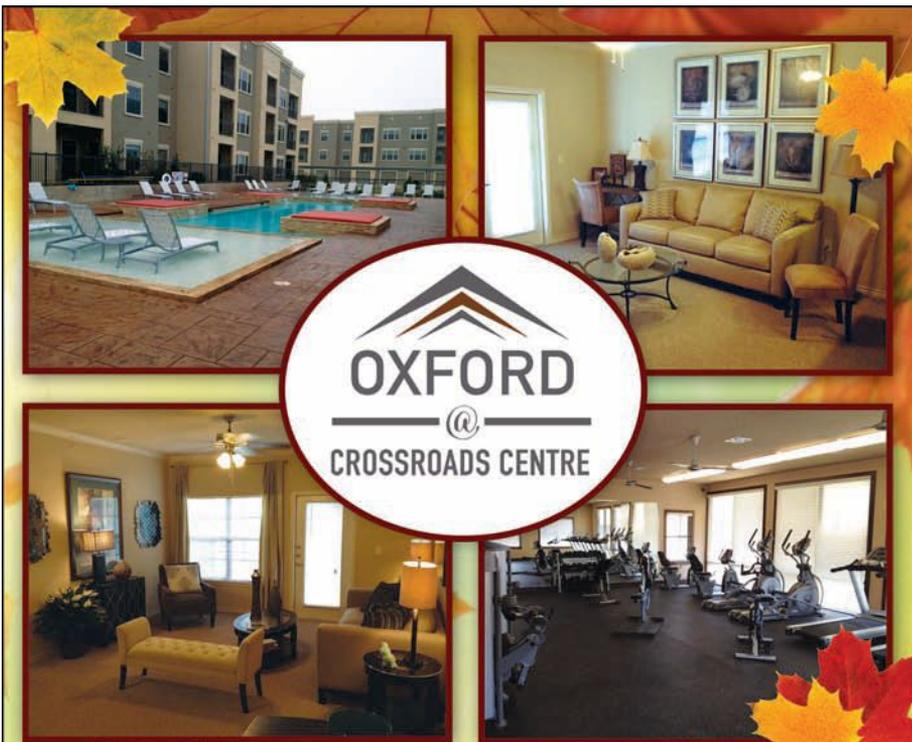
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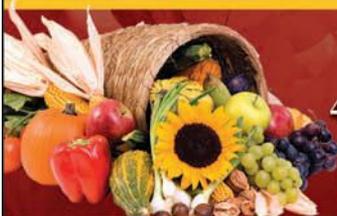
as his background made him the ideal candidate. Alan was raised on the Texas Baptist Home campus, where his parents worked. “I grew up in an environment of brokenness,” he recalled. “I saw the devastation that these hurts can cause.” Alan moved into ministry himself, and in 2000, he began a four-year stint as president of the Texas Baptist Home. “I saw all the hurt again, the things in people’s lives that just shattered them,” he recalled. With the invitation to return to Waxahachie, Alan set out on what would become one of the most joyful journeys of his life.

Celebrate Recovery is an international program, with ministries in over 20,000 churches, including others in Ellis County. The program is Christ-centered, so when Step 2 of the 12 Steps refers to a higher power, Celebrate Recovery names Him. “It’s all about building your relationship with Jesus Christ,” Alan explained. “All 12 steps are supported by Scripture. Jesus had this figured out long



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before we did.” The need for a recovery program in the community arose from a desire to serve the unchurched and the de-churched. “The ones who were hurting or broken, with marriages crumbling and all kinds of addictions,” Alan said. “The church wanted to give them a hand.”

Alan spent the first year visiting recovery groups to see what worked and what didn’t and seeking people who could help start the program. “We only had one guy who had experience with Celebrate Recovery,” he said. “The rest were trained and invested themselves in the program.” During the weekly Monday night sessions, the focus is on God’s healing power through fellowship with others. The program launched with 25 attendees, and after two years, it reached 50. Now, at the end of three years, there are 150 adults in attendance each week. Reflecting on the cause of the growth spurt, Alan said, “This is a safe place where we love people where they are, and we love them too much to let them stay there.”

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The sessions are free and open to community members age 18 and up and begin with an hour of worship, including a live band and a testimony or lesson. The second hour is for open share group and is gender-specific. “There are things that women and men might want to share, and they might not want to share them in front of the opposite gender,” Alan explained. “We want it to be a safe place.” The program examines 25 lessons a year, and when those end, they start over at lesson one. Alan emphasized that there is no right or wrong week to begin. “Each week stands alone, and it’s a good mix of first timers with those who are 20 years sober,” he said. “We always operate with a newcomer in mind. It’s very scary to go for the first time, and we all know that the walk from the parking lot is the hardest walk of your life.”

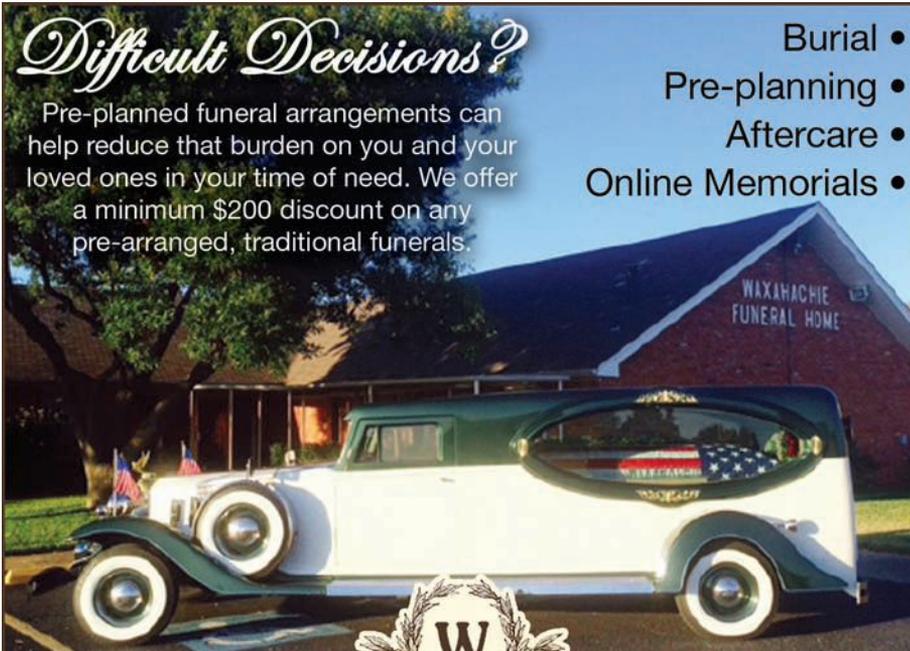
During Open Share, several groups cover different topics, with ones for women’s addiction, codependence and general women’s issues, and groups for addictions and issues for men. “People identify with people hurting like they are hurting,” Alan explained of the format. “This is why we want to help anyone identify their issues. You can sit and listen. You don’t have to talk. People need to figure out if they want company or to be alone.” Alan stressed that Celebrate Recovery is not about fixing anybody, but rather about supporting everyone. Additionally, he noted that some hurts are bigger than what the program can manage, and the group has resources they can share, including counselors, rehabilitation facilities and contacts at Child Protective Services.

The heart of Celebrate Recovery is to be an asset to the community, families and individuals, no matter their demographics or religious preference. “We’ve had atheists and agnostics,” Alan

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said. "You don't have to believe, but you are going to hear about Christ. We want to help people get their kids, families and themselves back." In addition to the weekly sessions, there are 12-step classes that last six to nine months, so members can take their time and work through the recovery process. Alan noted that many of the ones who finish the in-depth classes go on to become leaders for the program. "Recovery is a journey of a lifetime, and we love when people take on leadership roles and serve others," he said. "Sometimes, we need to serve through our pain."

The church offers child care during meetings for kindergarten through fifth grade. Kids learn recovery terminology and have a lesson based on the worship topic for the week, so they also learn the process. "We want this to be a family thing," Alan said. "We all need to know about denial, powerlessness and surrender. It's our hope to eradicate a generation of addiction." The Avenue plans to add "The Landing" to the Celebrate Recovery program for sixth grade to 18 years. "Kids are part of the home," Alan explained, "and some of their parents' problems, they've seen."

In the end, Celebrate Recovery is all about the journey, regardless of background, ethnicity, age or religious preference. "This is a remarkable ministry," Alan said, likening it to watching children grow. "When you hear the testimony of someone who's been battling addiction for years, and then they experience freedom ... I'm the happiest dad you'll ever find." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information on Celebrate Recovery, contact Alan Rogers at (972) 937-5301.

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The Grandest Gift

—By Carolyn Wills



At Home With Harold and Debbie Barnard

“Grand” is the perfect word for describing Harold and Debbie Barnard’s exquisite home. The 3,350-square-foot, brick-and-stone traditional is located on a spacious and beautifully landscaped lot in a neighborhood of distinctive houses. For Harold and Debbie, though, its grandest gift is as a gathering place for family and, also, as reflections of Harold’s passion for gardening and Debbie’s for decorating.

The house was built in 2009, and some might say it chose its owners. “Our daughter lives in Bryan, Texas, and I had been helping her stage homes,” Debbie explained. Mother and daughter had been considering staging in Waxahachie when Debbie happened on to the newly built home and realized it was open. The builder, Leroy Huff, welcomed her in, and she was pleased to discover an ideal match for her style and furniture.

“I asked Harold to look at it, too,” she said. To her surprise, he agreed the house was perfect, but not for staging. “He said it was perfect for us,” she smiled. They were in need



of a bigger, grander dining room and kitchen. As soon as Harold walked in, he recognized the potential.

The two deliberated for days before putting their house on the market and agreeing that if it sold quickly, the new one was meant to be. Harold and Debbie have now lived in their new house, enjoying holidays and family gatherings, for close to six years. They continue to marvel at how the house might as well

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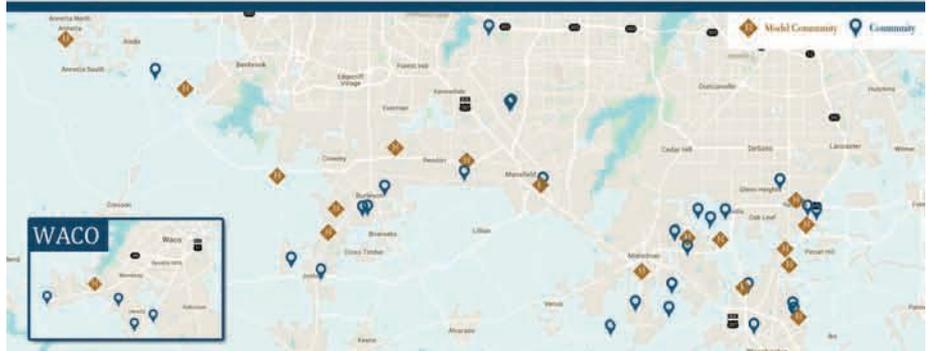
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have been custom-built for them.

"I fell in love with the open floorplan," Harold commented. "The great room, including the kitchen, dining and living areas, is both of our favorites and where we spend most of our time." They were also excited to have a formal dining room large enough to accommodate family and friends.

Inside of the arched front door is a dome-ceilinged foyer with views into the formal dining room and, to the left, the spacious great room. To the right of the foyer is an elegantly furnished study, featuring a coffered ceiling inlaid with wood.

Every inch of the home speaks of quality and superior design. Hand-scraped, wood floors; spectacular ceilings and chandeliers; gold-toned, textured walls; crown moldings; window casings; and deep baseboards are just some of its many attributes.

The dining room features a tray ceiling edged with molding in the same color as the crown moldings. Burgundy and gold silk drapes framing tall windows toward the back of the room complement a beautifully patterned rug, rich dark furnishings and a huge decorative mirror.

"I love the textured walls throughout the house," Debbie said. "The interior

style is largely Italian, which really fits us." The Barnards enjoy collecting and displaying mementoes from their travels, such as the hand-painted tiles and pottery from their trip to Italy and other European countries.

"Debbie sees things better than I do," Harold stated. "She designed our former house that we built. That house, as well as our current one, has been featured on the Downtown Merchants Association Christmas Tour of Homes."

Truly, if a word beyond grand exists, it applies to the Barnards' home during the holidays. "We decorate heavily for fall and Christmas," Harold said. "We have tons

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of decorations for both fall and Christmas that we use every year.”

“There’s something about the fall,” Debbie smiled. “I love seeing autumn colors inside and out.” Heralding Thanksgiving, the Barnards traditionally display pumpkins along the walkway in their front yard. Some are so large they are delivered on a tarp and pulled into place.

“Just prior to Thanksgiving, we haul the pumpkins to Farley Street Baptist Church for our churchwide Thanksgiving dinner and, afterward, we announce the pumpkins are free to take home,” Harold said. “It works great for us because then we’re ready for Christmas decorating.”

In addition to decorating talents, Debbie is a great cook. “She and her friend, Tabby Ashmore, known as Sweet & Savory, cater gatherings like receptions and small weddings,” Harold said. Whether preparing savory dishes from scratch, like her famous Twice Baked Potato Casserole or her family’s Thanksgiving dinner, Debbie relies on her state-of-the-art kitchen.

“It’s great to have so many cabinets and storage space,” she smiled. The gorgeous kitchen features custom alder wood cabinetry, granite counters, a tumbled stone backsplash and task lighting. The large island is centered under two handmade chandeliers suspended from a rectangular wood inset in the ceiling.

Opposite the informal open dining space is a beautiful, custom-crafted, built-in cabinet for displaying pottery, art pieces and seasonal accessories. The eating space features a distressed, Tuscan-inspired wood table with elegant scroll-backed and cushioned chairs. Open to the kitchen and

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eating area is a magnificent great room with an octagonal beamed ceiling, brick-faced fireplace, leather and upholstered furniture, patterned rug and massive wall unit.

The spacious, light-filled master bedroom is a luxurious retreat. "After a vacation to Cannon Beach, Oregon, we were inspired to redecorate our bedroom based on a painting of the beachscape we purchased there," Harold shared. That painting inspired soft aqua and sunlit colors, "beachy" white furnishings, a plush carpet the color of light sand and a bedspread reflecting the same design as their Cannon Beach hotel. Topping it off is a tray ceiling with curved corners. The large spa-like master bath features a soaking tub, walk-through shower, chandelier and domed ceiling.

Among the Barnards' greatest joys are times spent with their grandchildren, so it isn't surprising that two of the three additional bedrooms are designed for overnight stays at Mimi and Pop's. "Our daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Geoff Myers, have two daughters," Debbie said. "Our son and daughter-in-law, Erik and Laura Barnard, have two sons." Seven-year-old Nolan and 5-year-old Knox enjoy a room with blues and green, decorated with vintage sports memorabilia, while 11-year-old Molly and 8-year-old Ally share the room of every girl's dreams, including bling.

Year-round, even in times without the stunning seasonal decorations, the couple's yard is a showplace. "Harold is the gardener," Debbie said. "He's designed and chosen a lot of the landscaping." The front yard features stone-lined flowerbeds and a lush landscape.

"We extended the back patio, installed an outdoor kitchen and fireplace and added a stone wall across the backyard," Harold said.

Harold and Jim Pitts are co-owners of Ellis County Abstract and Title Company. When taking time off, Harold and Debbie, who have been married for 41 years, enjoy traveling and frequently visit New York City to shop, eat and enjoy Broadway shows.

Their truly "grand" trip, though, happened last June. "That was one of our most memorable trips. We took our kids and grandkids to Walt Disney World," Harold stated with a huge smile. **NOW**



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Beverly's Legacy

— By Melissa Swedowski



*If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, there is a veritable feast in Waxahachie for those who appreciate the glory of nature. From nationally renowned crape myrtle bliss to wildflowers and native plants, there is allure aplenty on every corner. The key to the lush landscapes found around town is dedication and a whole lot of elbow grease, and that's where Keep Waxahachie Beautiful comes in, buzzing like the bees, which they have adopted as their mascot. Following their motto, "**B**eautify-**E**ducate-**E**ngage," the group hopes to enhance the city, one person at a time.*

Following the lead of Keep Texas Beautiful, Keep Waxahachie Beautiful cites as its mission and purpose to "enhance the community through beautification, litter prevention and waste reduction." The KWB committee was established by the city council in September 2014, with members appointed from the community. In the last year, the group has partnered with Texas Department of Transportation, the Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, Waxahachie Independent School District, Boys and Girls Scouts, Interact and more, living up to their "busy bee" reputation. "The city saw this as an opportunity to serve the community," said Derica Peters, KWB coordinator in the city's Planning and Development Department. "It definitely fell in line with the purview and scope of work set out by the city, and the committee got people mobilized and engaged."

The group has accomplished so much. In fact, they decided this fall would be a great time to unveil their new bee mascot. More than just a nod to one of the hardest working members of the



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insect kingdom, the selection honors longtime community advocate Beverly Worthington, who passed away in February of this year. “It seemed such a natural progression to name it after Beverly,” explained Amy Hollywood, director of communications and marketing for the city. “Bees are majestic creatures. They work hard behind the scenes in a team, and they have a queen. Beverly fit that description,” Amy added with a smile.

“We thought we needed a mascot, and the name recognition couldn’t have been better,” Derica noted.

The idea for the bees, however, goes even further back. Approximately four years ago, Beverly traveled to Australia, and when she returned home, she brought an intriguing idea to Amy. “Everywhere she went, there were trash cans made by artists,” Amy explained. “There were bugs and other styles, and she thought it would be a neat idea to have them here, supporting public art, as well as having functional trash cans.” The idea became a Leadership Waxahachie project, with creature cans that looked like butterflies placed in Getzenderan



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Park. "Those were Beverly's idea, and the plan was always to add more," Amy said.

With Beverly's passing in February, the KWB decided to honor her legacy and continue to advance her goals for the community. "We saw what other cities were doing with beautification, and a lot of them had mascots," Amy said, adding that the choice of a bee "just felt really right to honor Beverly in that way, and her family and friends loved it." Derica and Amy explained how Beverly was a great supporter of beautifying Waxahachie, beginning in her own neighborhood. "She walked every morning around Chapman Park, and she picked up trash and would recycle what she could," Amy said. "She was a real champion of beautification."

The Parks Department crafted and assembled the bee trash cans and installed them around Chapman Park earlier this year. The cans highlight the need to care for public spaces, as well as private property. "It enhances the quality of life for our citizens," Derica said. "People like living here, and beautification makes for better living." Adding in the fact that Waxahachie relies on tourism as an economic driver, KWB encourages



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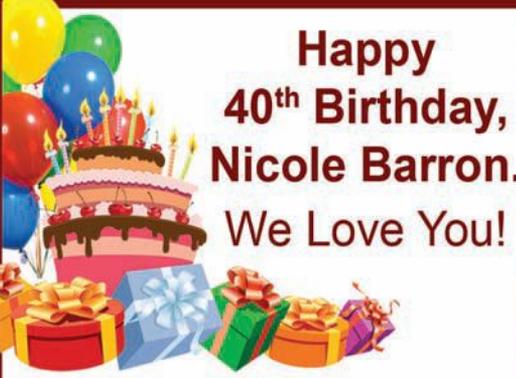
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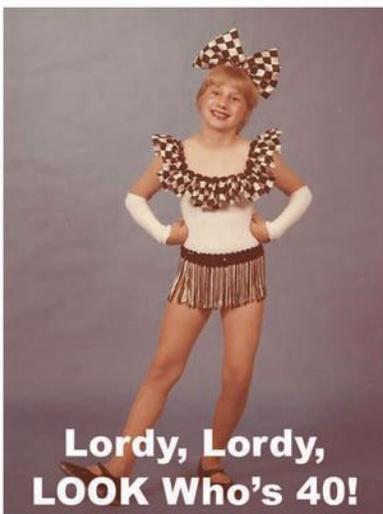
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residents to keep their lawns mowed and free of trash.

"Everyone can help cultivate the tourist-friendly aesthetic," Amy said. "The current city council has placed beautification as a top priority and encourages residents to have excellent maintenance."

The KWB group has joined the Adopt-a-Highway program, taking over Brown Street from Marvin Drive to the curve where it turns into FM 813. They schedule quarterly cleanups, and everyone is welcome to join. "Anyone can help Keep Waxahachie Beautiful by volunteering their time and energy with roadside litter," Derica said. "The more people we have, the better. We've pledged ourselves to this work, including the bigger scale litter issues. We tell potential volunteers that it's super fun, and it's easy to give back."

Derica noted this isn't the first incarnation of KWB, which began in the Beautification committee of the Chamber of Commerce. In partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful, KWB worked to "preserve the natural beauty and protect the environment, making the city of Waxahachie and the state of Texas a better place to live," according to the Chamber archives.

The group flourished for 20 years by hosting the Texas Trash Off in town each year, advocating for reduce, reuse and recycle, and by hosting the annual Christmas lighting contest. Residents, businesses and industries were involved in beautifying Waxahachie, as KWB received the Silver Star Affiliate from Keep Texas Beautiful in 2006. Eventually, however, the program went dormant.

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The legacy remained, and in 2014, the city found itself in need of it. “We were applying for a Scenic City Award through Scenic America, and one of the criteria is an organization for beautification,” Derica explained. “The city took it over in May 2014 as a staffed program, and we did receive the certificate. It was the first great thing as the new Keep Waxahachie Beautiful.” Now, the program includes Adopt-a-Block, Project Pride in the Neighborhood, America Recycles Day, the Texas Trash Off and lots of public education.

Last year, KWB planted wildflowers at Northside Elementary through the Adopt-a-School program of WISD’s Partners in Education. “The city staff adopted a fifth-grade class, so we gave them a lesson in wildflowers, and then we planted them and watched them grow and bloom,” Derica said. “This year, we will double in size, and we hope every class gets to experience it.”

Through programs like this, KWB hopes to encourage residents of all ages to care about their community and how it looks. For example, the WHS Cherokee Charmers adopted the entire square block around the high school, making a commitment to keep it clean. “This is something easy to do, and it can be one small block, an entire neighborhood, done alone or in groups,” Derica said, as she emphasized the mission to educate and engage citizens to take responsibility for improving their community environment. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Residents can keep up to date on KWB activities at Facebook, Twitter or Instagram under the @KeepWxBeautiful handle.

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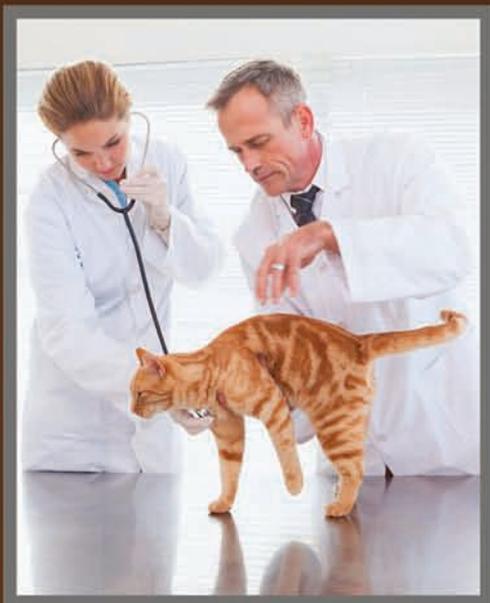
— By Melissa Rawlins

Whether dog or cat, a pet depends on its human for more than just food, water and love. They also require structure, which will prevent many problems faced by parents of four-legged children.

Even though different animals react differently to circumstances and training, common amongst both felines and canines are separation anxiety and food aggression. Both

problems inspire some very nasty behaviors that are enough to make you feel like withdrawing your love and, sometimes, your food! Instead, remember that vast resources are available to help resolve your pet problems and restore peace at home.

Veterinarians are a wealth of knowledge about your pet's health. Since your animal's behavior is often the vet's best clue to what's going on inside your pet's body, you'll find conversation



with your vet an informal source of pet training information. For instance, you will want to have your cat tested for a urinary tract infection if you notice them spraying urine. While there, your vet will discuss with you the fact that when cats spray urine, they are either marking territory or indicating stress.



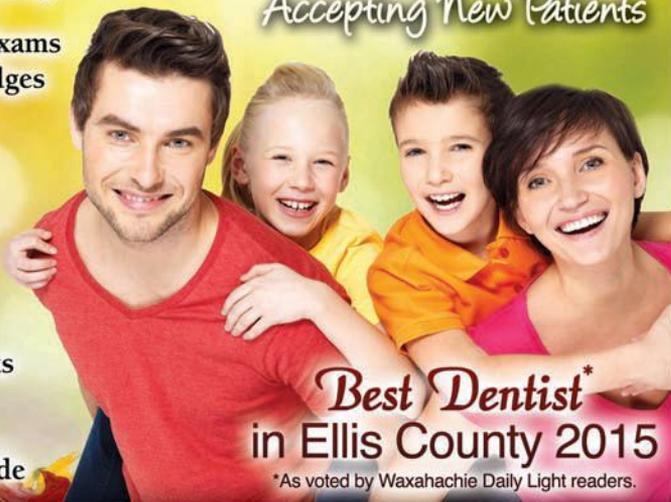
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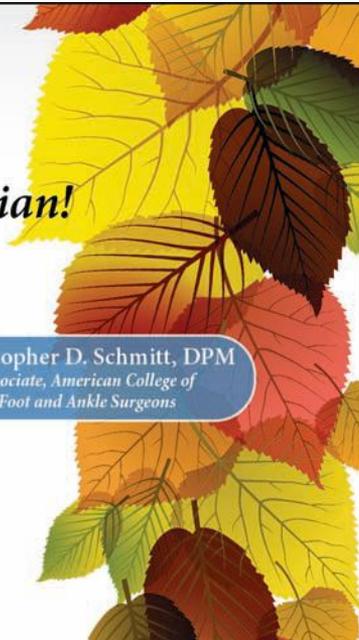
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Similar mitigation is necessary when dogs exhibit food aggression, which the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals simply calls food guarding. Their research says that unless you fear your canine will bite you, you can employ desensitization and counter-conditioning techniques to change the way your dog feels about people approaching him when he has food. The ASPCA website warns never to punish or intimidate the dog that guards food. This could be dangerous and, possibly, derail the relationship you're building with your dog.

A variety of reasonable precautions ensure safety for people and other dogs. Simple procedures to prevent drama include:

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- Feed dogs in a separate room, in a crate or behind a barrier.
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- Do not attempt to take away stolen or scavenged food from dogs.
- Cause the food-aggressive dog to realize that food is provided by you by placing the food bowl at your feet or requiring the dog to eat directly from your hand.

One key to dwelling in a peaceful kingdom is empathy. According to Emily Gilliland, a young mother who has also trained her own cats and dogs for over six years, it makes all the difference when you understand how your animal is feeling about the task or behavior at hand. Commonly, cats jump up on counters and tables reserved for human use. Emily patiently uses a spray bottle of water or an air can to chase them off surfaces, and then sets it on the counter where the cat was. This teaches the cat they will not be comfortable where they once felt welcome.

Repetition is another key. "As a 2-year-old child, a dog has the ability to grasp simple commands only after many repetitions," Emily said. "They also can problem-solve simple tasks. Our communication is skewed, though.



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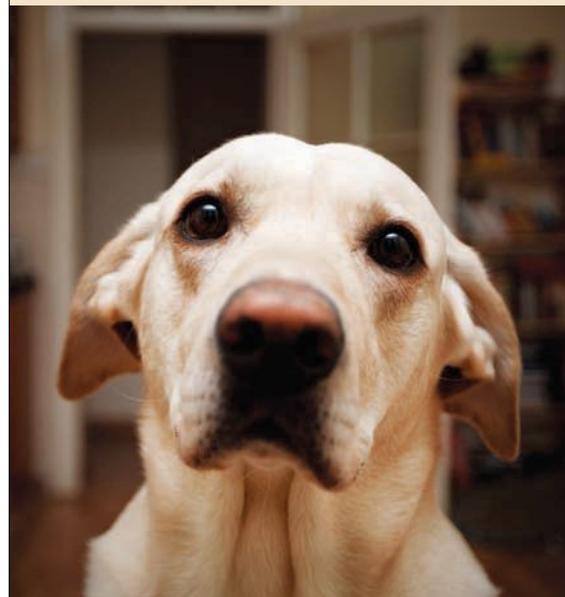
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Animals can be misunderstood because they communicate not with words, but with subtle cues. Remembering this when training and behavior shaping can have a significant impact on the end result and reduce overall stress levels for all involved — canine and child included.”

Emily experienced the joy of a strong trust and loving bond with all her animals after investing patience and energy. “Training my pets is beneficial to both my pets and me,” she said. “They are expected to behave in a particular way, and they have learned to expect the same from me.”



Whether taking in a new dog or changing your schedule, Emily suggests watching for symptoms of separation anxiety that include, but are not limited to: excessive chewing, destruction of doors when keeping the dog inside, pacing, whining, barking and window surfing. There is a simple solution. Have the dog lie or sit in a room, and then leave, closing the door and waiting five seconds before returning. Repeat this procedure, stretching the wait time progressively to 10 seconds, then 45, then a minute-and-a-half and so on. “As you do this, the dog will start to realize you will come back,” Emily said. “Adding in a treat or a little play time on your returns will certainly make this a positive experience in the dog’s mind.”

Promoting positive experiences is part of being what the American Kennel Club calls a responsible owner. Responsible owners have well-mannered dogs and cats. If you discern that you

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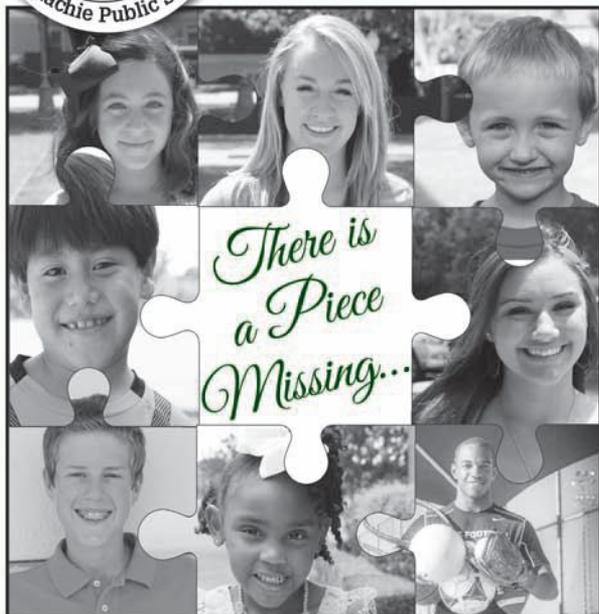
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Waxahachie ISD is so thankful for the many active volunteers who serve our school district each year. WISD always welcomes additional assistance through the services of volunteers. We ask members of the community to consider volunteering with WISD, in one of the following areas:



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Be a Mentor: WISD offers a mentoring program for students through a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Mentors serve as role models and friends to students and offer support, advice, and encouragement.

Help in a Classroom: WISD campuses need classroom assistance in every grade level. If you have an hour a week, a month, or even a year, it can be put to valuable use at any of our campuses.

Go Van Gogh: Volunteers are needed for this fine arts program to assist and encourage students in grades 1-5 as they learn about art and create their own masterpieces.

Parent Teacher Organizations: PTOs are available on all elementary campuses, as well as both junior high campuses, and are a great way to get involved in your child's school.

Adopt a Class: Businesses, service organizations, and churches adopt third-grade classrooms across WISD. Adopters help to enrich classroom experiences and support teachers and students. Please consider this opportunity for the 2016-2017 school year.

If you would like to volunteer on one of WISD's campuses, or if you have any questions about the Partners in Education program, please call 972-923-4631 or e-mail mcobb@wisd.org.

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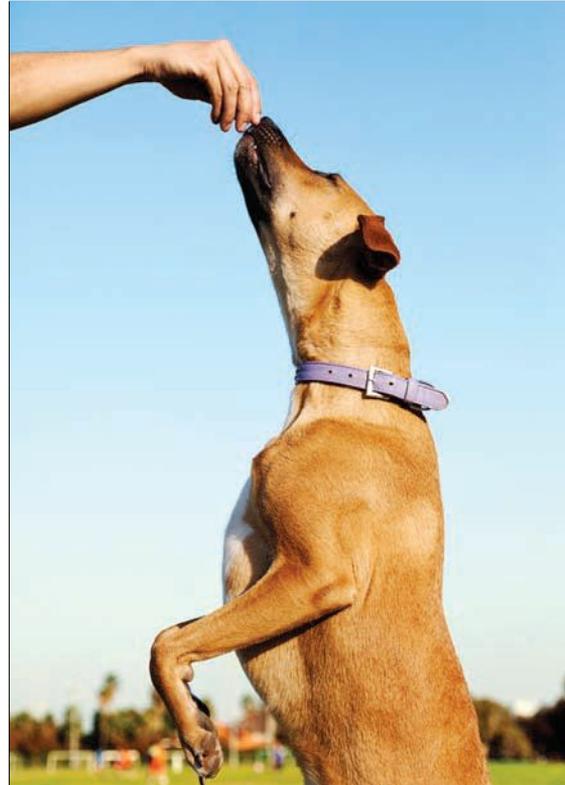
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need a little help, you can find local clubs and classes for training your dog to be a good citizen. Visit www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/ or ask around at boarders and groomers in your community. Although it's rare to find professional cat trainers, there are excellent books on the topic available in bookstores, and tips abound online.

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Shop foreman, Branden McClain, and Zachary "Junior" Huskins are eager to take care of the tire and wheel needs of their many customers. Not pictured: Kelli Evans and Dustin McClain.

Thirty-nine Years and Counting

If you want it, the guys at Jerry's can get it! — By Sandra Strong

Jerry's Tires and Wheels has served Ellis County and the surrounding areas for 39 years at the same location just west of Grand Avenue. As the shop foreman, Branden McClain has vivid memories of growing up in and around the tire business. "My dad, Marvin McClain, worked for the original owner of Jerry's Tires and Wheels for 17 years," Branden stated. "I always wanted to be in the tire business because it came natural to me."

What Branden likes most about working for Jerry's is the easy way in which they get to know customers, and so many are repeat and generational customers because of the service they

receive at Jerry's Tires and Wheels. "Our oldest customer is Terry Sitts," Branden said. "Terry is now close to 76 years old. He followed Jerry's original owner from the gas station to the tire store. He's been a valued customer for over 40 years." Don Walker and Wayne Boze also came to mind when Branden was thinking of customers who have a longstanding relationship with Jerry's.

When Jerry Yarbrough decided it was time to retire, the new owners, Steven and Kelli Evans from Maypearl, took over with the same customer service philosophy Jerry had displayed for all the years he was in business serving the community. They

never missed a beat. "It was important to him that the new owners carry on with business the same way he did," Kelli said. "He didn't want the name changed, and he wanted to know his employees would have job security."

Steven and Kelli proved to be the right fit. So Jerry sold, and they purchased Jerry's Tires and Wheels in May 2015. While Steven holds down a full-time job with Standard Pacific Homes, Kelli is an active, full-time member of the team at Jerry's. "The only thing different is the paint," she said. "We repainted and revamped the building."

Although Kelli didn't know a thing about tires before the purchase, after the purchase, she jumped in and has learned all she can. She is onsite most of the time on Mondays through Fridays. "My girls, Lyberti and Lynlee, still come first," she said. "If I have to leave, I know I'm leaving the shop in good hands."

Pricing stayed the same, while the options and availability of what they sell the most of — tires and wheels — increased. "We now have 400-450 new tires currently in stock," Branden said. "We also have custom wheels." Jerry's Tires and Wheels will do onsite wheel balancing, mounting and flat tire repairs. "All prices on new tires include mounting and balancing. When we quote a price, that's the 'out the door' price," Branden explained. "We order and sell whatever the customer wants or asks for, but we are Cooper and Mastercraft dealers first and foremost."

"If you want it," Kelli added, "the guys at Jerry's Tires and Wheels can get it!"

In addition to Kelli and Branden, the staff at Jerry's includes Zachary Huskins and Dustin McClain. The lack of turnover has a lot to say about the work atmosphere at Jerry's. The biggest obstacle Jerry's has faced over the years is the large group of people who don't know they exist. "There were 5,000 people in town when Jerry's first opened," Branden stated. "Now, there are more than 35,000. We are dependent on advertising and word of mouth in order to let people know we are here, ready to take care of all their tire needs." **NOW**

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Lucab Frye holds Jax the kangaroo.



Northside Elementary Adopt-A-Class volunteers pose for the camera during a recent gathering.



Live music is performed by the catdaddies during the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce Auction.



Laura Dunbar, LaKendra Harris, Randon Samples and Allesia Cerda, team members at Panda Express, take time away from a busy day to smile for the camera.



Rosemary Derstler assigns silent auction bid numbers during the SJCC Oktoberfest event.



Team members from R.L. Harris BBQ, Roy Harris, Steven McCoy and Brian Young, sell out at the first ever Odd Fest hosted by the I.O.O.F. in Singleton Plaza.



Kevin and Jennifer McDonnell and their children, Alexandra and John, enjoy a wonderful day at the St. Joseph Catholic Church Oktoberfest annual event.



Bryan Frye and kids, Mason, Gage, Piper and Lucab, take a moment for a picture outside Remember When Country Cafe.



Several members of Project Graduation take time away from their assigned duties to smile for the camera during the Chamber of Commerce Auction.

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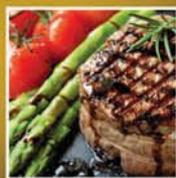
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Money Management for Teens



For many teenagers, living on their own at college is a major reality check. While 71 percent of teens feel confident in their money-managing skills, many lack practical experience.¹ Teach your child how to make sound financial decisions — without your help. Here are three important lessons in money management for teens:

Lesson 1: Creating a Budget

Help teens understand where their money is going with a basic budget.

- *Track spending.* Before deciding how to allocate expenses, teens should track where their money goes for a few weeks. Include items they might not pay for now but will in the future, such as clothing, entertainment or extracurricular activities.
- *Do the math.* Help your teen come up with an income total for each month, including allowance, gifts or after-school jobs. Then

budget necessary expenses first. If there's a shortfall, discuss ways to cut discretionary spending or increase income.

Lesson 2: Saving Money

Make setting aside income second nature for your teen.

- *Be consistent.* Teens should strive to put the same percentage of their income each month toward savings goals. This will help make savings a habit.
- *Watch it grow.* Once your teen is saving consistently each month, open a savings account and explain how compound interest can increase savings.

Lesson 3: Building Credit

Teach your teen the benefits — and risks — of buying on credit.

- *Use responsibly.* By carrying a balance from month to month, your teen could pay hundreds of dollars in compound interest charges. Discourage teens from charging purchases they can't really afford.
- *Scores matter.* Explain how to build a good credit history by avoiding late payments and keeping card balances low. Good credit will help your teen years down the road when securing a car or home loan. **NOW**

Source:

1. <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20130722005575/en/Capital-One%E2%80%99s-Annual-Back-to-School-Shopping-Survey-Finds#.VTIPYmRVhBd>.

Adam Rope is a State Farm agent based in Waxahachie.

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Medicinal Herbs for Oral Health

Alternative medicine has been practiced around the world for centuries, and it is now a popular and growing field in the United States, as well. Herbal and alternative medicine has its place in health care, when used properly and responsibly and in conjunction with professional supervision. There is no substitute for seeing your dentist on a regular basis to have your teeth professionally cleaned, and your gums, mouth and teeth evaluated for disease.

The conditions for which possible herbal remedies exist are often symptoms of disease and should be reported to your dentist if they persist. A dry mouth, which can cause tooth decay, is often a side effect of medications, such as antidepressants, and can be treated with Echinacea, multiflora rosa or capsicum in mouthwash or toothpaste form. Bad breath that is not being caused by gum disease and bacteria on the tongue can respond to alfalfa tea, chewing parsley or using mouthwash or toothpaste with clove, fennel seeds, myrrh, rosemary or wintergreen. Inflamed or irritated gums can be soothed with topical application of aloe vera gel, chamomile, eucalyptus oil, evening primrose oil, goldenseal, red clover or tea tree oil. Mouth sores can be medicated with topical application of horsetail, goldenseal, myrrh, rockrose or sage in poultice, salve or compress. Headaches and muscle tension associated with TMJ Disorder can be relieved with burdock poultice and herbal teas. Anxiety before dental appointments can be

lessened with sage, chamomile, wood betony, sarsaparilla, skullcap tea or valerian capsules. Valerian should not be used in conjunction with any other sedatives.

Do not try to treat an abscess with herbs. Abscesses are serious dental infections that typically are caused by very deep decay or advanced periodontal disease. It is important to have an abscess evaluated and treated by a dentist as soon as possible, and even more quickly if swelling or fever is present. An abscess can be a dangerous health problem if the infection spreads into your blood stream, and antibiotic therapy is a must in these cases.

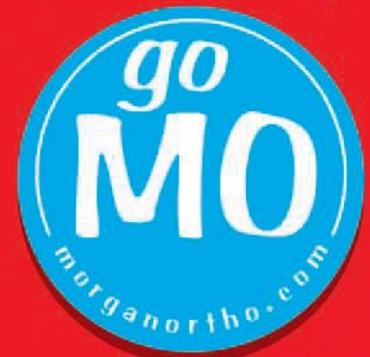
The judicious use of herbal remedies for select dental conditions can provide relief in many cases. When using herbs, it is important to do some research, use the proper dosage and to take them with food if the herb is taken internally. Choose a product that is tested and lists its ingredients on the container. Products that have the American Botanic Council seal are a great place to start. Only take one herb at a time, as herbs can interact with each other in unfavorable ways just like traditional medications can. Always check with your health care provider before combining herbs with prescription or over-the-counter medications, and be sure to see your dentist every five months! **NOW**

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November 6, 7

Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing Project presents "Heaven's Front Porch": 8:00 p.m., **Friday**; 3:00 p.m., **Saturday**, Chautauqua Auditorium. For more information, visit www.waxaofs.com.

November 7

2015 Community Service, Inc. 5K Run/Walk Fundraiser: 6:00 a.m., registration; 7:00 a.m., warm-up; 8:00 a.m., walk begins; Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave. Call Marianne Mitchell at (903) 875-3731 or email mmitchell@csicorsicana.org.

Harvest Fest: First United Methodist Church. Call (972) 937-4400 for more details.

November 13 — 15

Waxahachie WWII Weekend & Reenactment: downtown Waxahachie. The "big battle" reenactment will be at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

November 14

Ellis County Veteran's Appreciation Day: Waxahachie Civic Center.

The Battle Cry 5K Charity Run: downtown Waxahachie. Benefits go to The Salvation Army.

Free Children's Nature Center Event & Pic Social: Settles Nature and Science Center, located behind Pettigrew Academy, 806 E. Marvin Ave. All free event. For more information, call (972) 923-1633.

November 20, 21

Habitat for Humanity Festival of Trees: 5:00-9:00 p.m., **Friday**; 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., **Saturday**, Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave. For more information, email elliscountyhfh@gmail.com.

November 28

Turkey Bowl: 6:00-11:00 p.m., 85 Speedway, 3118 FM 85. Call (972) 875-8500 for more information. Visit www.official85speedway.com for a full schedule.

December 1

Christmas Parade: 6:00-7:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Community Tree Lighting: 7:00-9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie on the lawn of the Courthouse.

December 4 — 6, 7 — 9, 11 — 13

Bethlehem Revisited: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402

N. College St., directly behind Central Presbyterian Church.

December 5

Christmas Market & Gift Show: 9:00-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. The event is sponsored by the Waxahachie Junior Service League.

December 5, 6

Candlelight Home Tour: visit three unique homes. Tickets: \$15 per weekend, children 12 and under are free. Visit www.downtownwaxahachie.com for more details.

Santa Run: 8:30 a.m., registration begins; 10:00 a.m., 5K run begins with the 1-mile run/walk starting a few minutes later. Register or find out about volunteer opportunities by calling Jonathan McLaughlin at (972) 937-9622.

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

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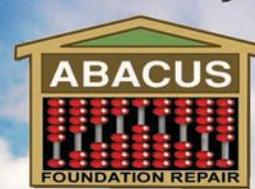
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In the Kitchen With Johnnie Peebles

— By Sandra Strong

Johnnie Peebles enjoys cooking, for many reasons. “One of the most important reasons is how a home-cooked meal brings family together,” she said, referring to her own large family. “We gather around the table to eat, but we end up spending hours just talking and laughing.” Many memories have been made around the Peebles’ dinner table.

Cooking also takes Johnnie back to her childhood. She remembers the friends that would stop by. “My mom and dad made sure there was always something to eat,” she shared, “whether it be a full meal, a cake, cookies or candy, it was always homemade from scratch.” Johnnie has tried to do the same, and she feels the greatest compliment is when someone enjoys something she’s prepared, and then asks for the recipe. **NOW**

Chicken Empanadas

3 cups chicken, cooked and chopped
1 8-oz. pkg. shredded Colby and Monterey Jack blended cheese
1 4-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 jalapeño, seeded and chopped
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 15-oz. pkg. pie crust
1/4 cup water
Sour cream (optional)

1. In a large bowl, add chicken, blended cheese, cream cheese, jalapeño, cumin, salt and pepper. With an electric mixer, beat all ingredients together until well-blended.
2. Unroll pie crust, roll into a 15-inch circle. Cut out 12-15 circles with a 3-inch cookie cutter.
3. Place a heaping tsp. of chicken mixture in the center of each round of pie crust.
4. Lightly brush the edges with water. Fold the pie dough over and press the edges

together using a fork.

5. Bake at 400 F for 15 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve with sour cream.
6. These can be made ahead and kept frozen for up to a full month.

Pineapple Cheese Ball

2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
2 Tbsp. green pepper, finely chopped
2 Tbsp. onions, finely chopped
1/4 cup crushed pineapple, drained
3 tsp. seasoning salt
2 cups chopped pecans (divided use)
Fresh fruit, optional
Assorted crackers, optional

1. Beat cream cheese until smooth. Add green pepper, onions, pineapple, seasoning salt and 1 cup of pecans. Mix well.
2. Shape into a ball. Roll in remaining pecans.
3. Chill cheese ball for 1-2 hours. Garnish with fresh fruit and serve with assorted crackers.

Pizza Dip

1/2 cup whole milk
6 oz. cream cheese
1 cup mozzarella cheese (divided use)
1 cup Parmesan cheese (divided use)
1/2 cup spaghetti sauce
Pepperoni, enough to cover the top of the dip
Garlic bread (optional)

1. Melt the milk, cream cheese and 1/2 cup of each cheese in a medium saucepan.
2. Pour melted mixture into a pie dish. Top with spaghetti sauce and pepperoni.
3. Sprinkle top with the remaining two cheeses.
4. Bake at 320 F until the dip begins to bubble.
5. Serve with garlic bread.

Chocolate Meringue Pie

1 1/4 cups plus 3 Tbsp. sugar (divided use)
2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
2 cups milk
2 Tbsp. cornstarch
4 large eggs, separated
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1/2 stick unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
1 prebaked pie crust

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine 1 1/4 cups sugar, flour and cocoa in a bowl. Stir to mix well. Set aside.
2. Whisk together the milk, cornstarch and egg yolks in a separate bowl, until well-mixed.
3. Slowly add the milk/egg mixture to the flour mixture. Whisk to blend thoroughly.
4. Pour mixture into a saucepan. Cook and stir constantly until thickened, then add the vanilla and butter. (This can be made several days in advance. Keep refrigerated with plastic wrap placed on the surface of the filling to prevent a film from forming.)
5. Whip the egg whites in a bowl with an electric mixer for 2-3 minutes, or until soft peaks form. Add the remaining sugar and beat just to mix.
6. Pour the filling into the pie crust. Top with the beaten egg whites, making sure to spread evenly to cover the chocolate mixture. Sprinkle with additional sugar, if desired.
7. Bake 5-7 minutes until the meringue topping is golden brown. Remove the pie from the oven. Cool for 2 hours before slicing.

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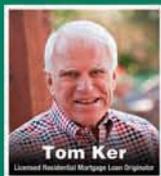
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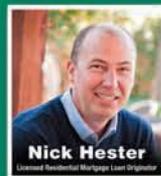
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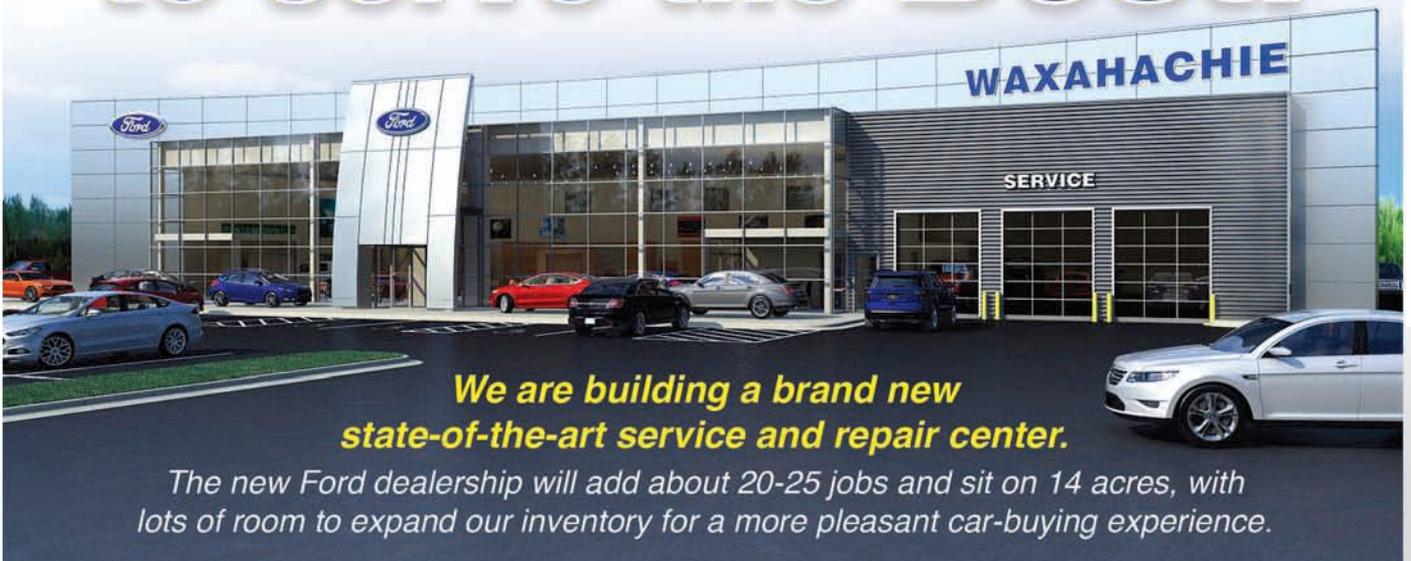
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