

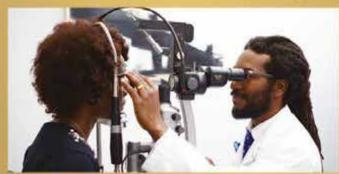
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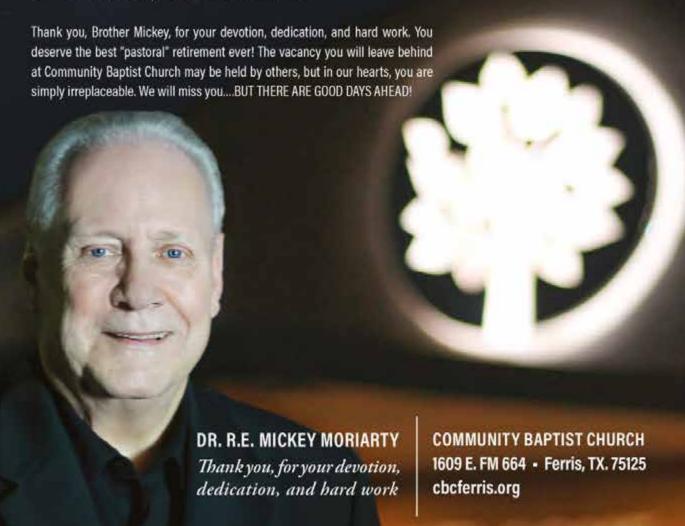
A LIFETIME of MINISTRY

From your friends at Community Baptist Church

Our gifted leader, preacher and teacher, Dr. R.E. "Mickey" Moriarty, who has a deep love for Jesus Christ and in whom we have witnessed the work of the promised Holy Spirit, announced his retirement effective September 27, 2020.

Mickey felt the calling into ministry at an early age and he delivered his first sermon at the age of 17. After graduating from college at Texas Wesleyan University, he attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for his Masters of Religious Education. His ministerial doctoral degree was conferred to him in 1993. Community Baptist Church was pleased to announce his calling as Senior Pastor in October of 2003.

Dr. Moriarty has been a faithful servant and proclaimer of the Word of God among us for many years and he has now reached the end of his ministry at Community Baptist Church, as he retires as Senior Pastor. It is uncommon for pastors to stay in the same location for more than a few years; yet he has labored among this body of believers for seventeen years. Dr. Moriarty has persevered through trials and challenges. He has shown what it means to expose the Word to the world and under his leadership, the church remained faithful!



8 harvest time

A strong couple transforms their hobby into a lifestyle.

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ON THE COVER

Everything is coming up roses for this dynamic duo.

Photo byShane Kirkpatrick.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the family!

Every year, this month brings crisp mornings welcoming us into the holidays. This holiday season, my husband and I gained something to be grateful for, as we helped rescue a starving gray Tabby kitten from the deadly clutches of highway cars.

At 5 weeks old, her huge eyes wander around the apartment, always in awe. Her lawnmowing purr — triggered by our touch — is heard throughout the apartment. She quickly weaved her way into the hearts of everyone in the Rich home.

If it weren't for people who provided wise advice over time, this poor creature wouldn't have survived. Amy Abernathy, our local shelter director, taught the importance of a steady diet for kittens, so they maintain a strong digestive system. Ladies at Weatherford Whiskers, another cat shelter, explained why Royal Canin is the best food for kitten health.

While all this helped, I still naively made one serious mistake ... I initially fed her cow's milk. I reached out to a friend, who hosts cats in her home, for advice on how to care for her. She frantically included that cow's milk can kill kittens, as they are "lactose intolerant." I dropped everything to find her formula, so she'd survive.

All these knowledgeable individuals helped rescue this kitten, and my husband and I are proud parents of a new family member because of them. After a trip to the vet, I am thankful to report she is happy, healthy and warm this holiday season.

Teaching is important but learning from those who know by experience is even more vital. Always listen to those lending a helping hand through their experiences. It might save a life.

Smokey says, 'Hi!'



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HARWEST

British actress Audrey Hepburn once stated, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." Steve Jones and Christina Wafer-Jones must live for all their tomorrows. Colorful koi of all sizes swim in their new habitat, and plants flourish as nature takes its course on the Joneses' land. Among their hobbies, Steve and Christina discovered the beauty of aquaponics and hydroponics after many years spent perfecting their green thumbs.



— By Rachel Rich

Moving to Red Oak in 2007, the Joneses' first action was to prepare a garden. "I began prepping our yard for flower beds," Steve remembered. "I always enjoyed yard work and had a lawn mowing business from the time I was 10 until I graduated high school. I love the satisfaction of a maintained yard." Currently working as a millwright, it's no surprise that Steve doesn't mind hard labor and loves seeing results.

Christina has her own unique gardening experiences. "I have gardened most all of my life, since I was a kid with my parents," she admitted. "My mom believes I got my green thumb from her grandmother and my dad. I'm blessed to have success growing most items with little effort."

What began as a simple family garden transformed into an ever-growing harvest, as they added aquaponics and hydroponics to their list of projects. Steve loves the complex building and construction and seeing all the moving parts come together, while Christina loves the calm and peace that comes with gardening. "Steve had been watching YouTube videos on aquaponics and hydroponics for almost a year," Christina mentioned. "When the kids were all adults, we decided to focus on something we could enjoy together."

Spending hours with each other in the evenings and on weekends in the yard, sunburned and tired, they are still able to see what a couple can accomplish when they are both dedicated to the same outcome. "We don't always see eye to eye, but we make it work," Christina said. "We both find a partnership in gardening together. Even if it's just dragging the hose for watering, planting and carrying pots around or something more physically demanding, such as hand digging a huge hole when you have rock after 6 inches, it is teamwork. There is something to be said when you can stand back and look at what you created together."



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With the new systems in place, time spent tending to their garden went from watering for an hour, picking weeds and other tedious duties to taking care of everything — feeding fish, checking water levels, doing a couple tests — all in about 20 minutes. "This was a lot of work upfront," Steve admitted, "but now, there's nothing to it. It's something that even a person working a full-time job can do with just a few minutes each evening."

The Joneses not only plant literal seeds in the ground, but they also have planted seeds of knowledge and wisdom into the hearts of people through their hosted classes, where they teach about the basics of gardening. They have already seen the fruits of their labor, as a couple of friends have already started their own systems. "That gives us a sense of accomplishment," Christina weighed in. "We are happy where we are in our lives. We are happy to share with others what we have accomplished and give some guidance on how they can do the same."

In one of their classes, Steve shared his favorite memory. "There was this grandma who came to our classes," he said. "She was a tiny thing. She was ducking and crawling and climbing through stuff. It was great to see three generations of ages all enjoying the same thing."

Christina added, "What we are doing, anyone can do on a variety of budgets and space available. We want people to know that there are creative ways to grow your own food and teach your children how to enjoy gardening. When children can be active in the role of





planting and watching their seeds grow, they may be more likely to incorporate those foods into their diets."

When COVID-19 mandated a shelter-in-place order, it didn't slow this hardworking couple down. "We are in the middle of our aquaponics hoop house and have three 40-foot beds, a koi tank and a 250-gallon sump. This will be a large expansion for us," Christina acknowledged. The expansions, among what they've already built, help in their confidence that they could provide strong, healthy food for family and friends should an incomebased disaster occur. "Knowing what is in your food is important. We don't spray insecticides or growth agents on our plants. The only additives that might be used would be the organic nutrients used for hydroponics. Otherwise, we just take the stance to plant as much as we can for dirt gardening and hope for the best."

"The fish are also healthier than in fish aquariums," Steve included, as he noted the circular relationship of the fish and plants, where the fish feed off the plants and vice versa.

"We don't sell the produce we get," Christina said. "We eat it, freeze, can it and share it with our family. We might be interested in the Farmers Market, but we aren't looking for a "get rich quick" or early-retirement opportunity. We just love what we do."

Although their efforts required substantial work, their garden grew into a vibrant, self-sustaining sea of green bursting with color. Gardening allows people to connect with the world around them, and it has surely impacted the Joneses' lives for the better. To all who may be considering gardening as a good pastime, Christina boldly encourages it. "Get outside and get your hands dirty. It's good for you!" NOW





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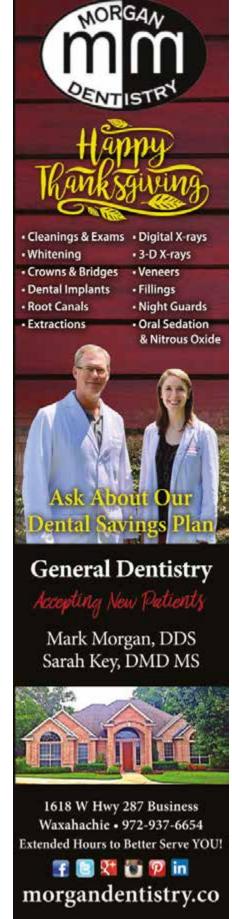
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2020 Holiday, Shopping Guide

A quick look at the gift items and discounts available locally.

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BusinessNOW

Midlothian Plumbing

- By Angel Morris

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Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tommy and Angela Ewton moved their plumbing business to Midlothian five years ago, after serving Mesquite customers since 1999. Formerly Preferred Plumbing & Gas, they then became Midlothian Plumbing. "We wanted to make it easy for customers to find us," Angela said. "So, the name just made sense."

Visits to family prompted the move. "We realized how much we enjoyed the area. After 18 years, we sold our Mesquite home and built a new one here. It's been one of the best decisions, and we wish we'd made it sooner," Tommy said.

The Ewtons believe living in the community they serve holds them accountable. "We work, live and play here. You may find us at the supermarket, car wash or even a youth sporting event," Angela noted. "We also do business with other small businesses in the area."

Midlothian Plumbing prides itself on loyalty. "We're fair and honest while diagnosing and resolving plumbing issues. We want customers for life," Tommy said. "Building a positive rapport with customers and knowing the specifics of their plumbing system makes our job interesting."

Following the motto "Local-Licensed-Loyal," Midlothian Plumbing's customers can expect prompt, professional and affordable services. "We offer lower rates than most competitors. If you get a quote that seems too high, call us for a second opinion," Tommy suggested.

Midlothian Plumbing is fully insured as well as licensed by The Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners. "It's important your issues are resolved by a licensed plumber," Angela said. "And if for some reason we can't get to it, we'll refer customers to another reputable plumber."

Midlothian Plumbing emphasizes respectful relationships. "We're invited into intimate personal spaces, and we show respect toward customers and their property," Tommy noted. "We strive to communicate clearly and do our best to educate them about their specific situation."

Following the motto "Local-Licensed-Loyal," Midlothian Plumbing's customers can expect prompt, professional and affordable services.

Treating customers like family has paid off. "We've grown drastically! We are blessed with many repeat customers and even more are referred to us by a friend or neighbor!" Angela said.

As growth continued, the Ewtons hired additional plumbers for their team. Dustin, a licensed plumber, and Zach, his apprentice, are both looking out for the safety of the community. "We receive tons of positive feedback about their professionalism and are proud to have them on the team," Tommy said. "The community can count on them to do the right thing." Two of the Ewtons' daughters also help in the office. "We are thankful to have Sara and Olivia assisting with customers and paperwork. They are both great assets to the business!" Angela stated.

Midlothian Plumbing plans to continue supporting the community that has been so welcoming. "We offer discounts to military, teachers, law enforcement and fire/EMT personnel," Angela said. "We also look out for elderly residents, offering discounts toward their services."

Midlothian Plumbing also encourages customers to conserve water. "Clean water is a privilege we all take for granted. There are about 663 million people in the world without access to safe water," Angela said.

As they continue providing plumbing services in Ellis County, the Ewtons express gratitude to Midlothian. "Our plumbers are passionate about the health and safety of our customers and will always provide the utmost care in servicing all your plumbing needs," Angela said. "We have the kindest customers, and it's our pleasure to help!" NOW







Around Town



Mrs. Flores' pre-K kiddos socially distance in their classroom.

A local clock and watch group works on refurbishing the famous Red Oak clock in downtown.

Zoomed In:Clint Woodward

By Rachel Rich

When change inevitably knocks at the door, we can make the most of the circumstances. That is what Chamber President Clint Woodward has done during the Chamber's relocation and, also, as fellow Chamber Assistant Melodie Wisdom has left to pursue new possibilities. "She will be missed," Clint expressed.

After moving into a new office inside Access Self Storage, Clint's found new opportunities to allow Red Oak to come together as a community through events and other amazing plans. With gratitude, Clint acknowledged the provider of the Chamber's previous location. "We thank Mr. Danny Humphreys for his many years of dedicated service and generosity to the Chamber and look forward to working together in the future." As he gets settled into the new space, with kindness from his Access Self Storage hosts, he is excited for what is to come.



Parents volunteer their time and effort for the Senior Sunrise event.



Leaders of The Red Oak Soccer Association gather for a photo at a local game.



Ovilla Christian School's Coach Johnson discusses the start of the volleyball season.



Kids learn the basics of soccer from an experienced soccer enthusiast at Oakmont Park.



Julissa Hernandez takes a break to smile as she sets up books on her shelves.



Josh Roman shares his sincerest 'thank you' to service men and women of the community.





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Married for six years to an amazing husband, Danyell, and with five wonderful kids, Dominga Wright has many mouths to feed. "My husband and our kids love everything about food," she said. "They are lucky that mom's a chef," she added with a smile.

Her passion for cooking daily was inspired by her grandmother, Rosie N. Griffin, who taught Dominga at 7 years old. "I also took culinary classes in college to learn different cuisines and desserts," she said. "I love teaching our kids how to cook. Each child gets a cooking lesson on a certain day each week." While she won't give away trade secrets, she relishes in sharing generic recipes and letting others put a spin on it to make it theirs, just like she does. Now

Red Velvet Cookies With White Chocolate Chips

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/2 Tbsp. cocoa powder
- 1 1/2 tsp. cornstarch
- 3/4 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 8 Tbsp. butter, room temperature
- 6 Tbsp. all vegetable shortening, room temperature
- 1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
- I large egg
- 1 large egg yolk

- 1 1/2 tsp. white vinegar
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 Tbsp. red food coloring
- 1 1/3 cups white chocolate chips (divided use)
- 1. Preheat the oven to 375 F. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the first five ingredients; set aside.
- 2. Add the butter, shortening and sugar to the bowl of an electric stand mixer. Mix on medium speed until very pale and fluffy, about 4 minutes. Add egg and egg yolk; mix until combined. Add vinegar, vanilla and food coloring; mix until well blended.

- 3. Slowly add in the dry ingredients; combine well. Mix in 1/2 cup of white chocolate chips.
- **4.** Scoop the dough out by heaping tablespoonfuls (about 1 1/2 Tbsp.). Roll the dough into balls; place on buttered or Silpatlined cookie sheets.
- **5.** Gently press about 6 white chocolate chips into the top of each cookie, being careful not to flatten the cookies. (If you do flatten them a bit, just reshape them to the height they had before adding the chips.) Bake in a preheated oven for 8-9 minutes.
- **6.** Allow the cookies to cool several minutes on the baking sheet before transferring them to a wire rack to cool. Store cookies in an airtight container.

Shrimp Scampi

3 Tbsp. butter Olive oil, to taste

1/2 cup Pinot Grigio white wine

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 red onion, diced

30 raw shrimp, or as many as you'd like

3 Tbsp. Cajun seasoning

1/2 cup heavy cream

1/8 tsp. basil
1/2 cup parsley
Salt, to taste
Pepper, to taste
1/4 cup flour, for thickener
1 serving linguine pasta, cooked
1 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded

- **I.** Heat a saucepan on medium-high heat. Add the butter, a drizzle of olive oil and white wine; bring to a boil.
- **2.** Add the garlic and onions; cook for another 2 minutes. Add the shrimp.
- **3.** Season the shrimp with the Cajun seasoning generously. When the shrimp are pink on one side, flip them and cook for I more minute; remove them from the pan, leaving the liquid.
- **4.** Add the heavy cream, basil, parsley, salt and pepper.
- **5.** Bring to a boil; whisk in sprinkles of flour until the sauce thickens. Lower the heat to medium-low; return the shrimp to the pan.
- **6.** Toss the shrimp to coat with the sauce; serve over pasta. Top with Parmesan cheese. Enjoy!

Blueberry Cheesecake

Crust:

- 3 cups finely ground graham crackers (about 30 squares)
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, melted Nonstick cooking spray

Filling:

- 1 lb. cream cheese (2 8-oz, blocks), softened
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 lemon, zested
- I dash vanilla extract

Warm Lemon Blueberry Topping:

- 1 pt. blueberries
- I lemon, zested and juiced
- 3 Tbsp. sugar
- 1. Preheat the oven to 325 F.
- **2.** For crust: In a mixing bowl, combine the first 3 ingredients with a fork until evenly moistened. Lightly coat the bottom and sides of an 8-inch springform pan with nonstick cooking spray.
- **3.** Pour the crumbs into the pan and, using the bottom of a measuring cup or the smooth bottom of a glass, press the crumbs down into the base and 1 inch up the sides. Refrigerate for 5 minutes.
- 4. For filling: In the bowl of an electric mixer,







beat the cream cheese on low speed for 1 **6.** Set the cheesecake pan on a large piece minute until smooth and free of any lumps. of aluminum foil; fold up the sides around it. Add the eggs, I at a time, and continue to Place the cake pan in a large roasting pan. beat slowly until combined. Gradually add **7.** Pour boiling water into the roasting pan the sugar; beat until creamy, for 1-2 minutes. until the water is about halfway up the sides 5. Add the sour cream, lemon zest and of the cheesecake pan; the foil will keep vanilla. Periodically scrape down the sides of the water from seeping into the cheesecake. the bowl and the beaters. The batter should Bake for 45 minutes. The cheesecake should be well-mixed but not over-beaten. Pour the still jiggle, so be careful not to overcook. (It filling into the crust-lined pan; smooth the will firm up after chilling.) Let cool in the pan

for 30 minutes.

- **8.** Chill in the refrigerator, loosely covered, for at least 4 hours. Loosen the cheesecake from the sides of the pan by running a thin metal spatula around the inside rim. Unmold and transfer to a cake plate.
- **9.** For topping: In a small saucepan, add all the ingredients; simmer over medium heat for 5 minutes or so, until the fruit begins to break down slightly. Allow to cool.
- **10.** Using a spatula, spread a layer of the topping over the surface of the cheesecake.
- **11.** Slice the cheesecake with a thin, non-serrated knife that has been dipped in hot water. Wipe it dry after each cut.

To search for more great recipes from any of the 9 NOW Magazines publications, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



top with a spatula.







Crossword Puzzle

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			17	t	T			18	T	t
19	20	21	Т	T	t	22	23		t	t
24	T	T			25	T	T			
26	1	T		27				28	29	30
31	1		32			33			T	T
	34	T	\vdash	T		35		3	T	T
	36	+	+	+			37	+	+	

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Across

- 1 Title after tying the knot
- 4 As Barrie's boys were
- 8 Stop, affoat
- 10 Engrave
- 11 Senior
- 12 Land measures
- 14 Row of buttons
- 16 Cleo's nemesis
- 17 Cover
- 18 Very small
-
- 19 Picnic favorite
- 24 Post-operative room
- 25 Muscleman's pride
- 26 Sawbuck
- 27 Riot-squad weapon
- 31 Steamy ballroom dance
- 33 Southwest Native American
- 34 Common sign gas
- 35 "Cosmos" co-creator Carl ---
- 36 Assassinate

Medium

37 It's east of Eden

Down

- 1 Kind of maize
- 2 Make over
- 3 Designer -- McCartney
- 4 Father of Goneril
- 5 Kind of market
- 6 Poor penmanship
- 7 The Old Man and --- (Hemingway)
- 8 Rent out
- 9 Eye socket
- 13 Raced
- 15 Solar-treated brick
- 19 Name of two British PMs
- 20 Huge amounts
- 21 Underpass
- 22 Lushes
- 23 TV detective --- Monk
- 27 High-class
- 28 Funk music style
- 29 Big bucks
- 30 Spanish saint
- 32 Former part of Portuguese India

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Solutions on page 28

Easy

Sudoku Puzzle

5	2					9	8
				5			
			7		3		
9				8	6		2
		1	4	7			3
							7
3		2		9			
		Г		4		8	
2		Г	5		1		9

 8
 5
 2

 9
 4
 5

 3
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 1
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 3
 1
 7
 6

 5
 1
 4

 2
 1
 8

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Solutions on page 28

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SCAVENGER



Abigail Markwardt took a break after her virtual school work to play the North Ellis Co. NOW Magazine's Scavenger Hunt. Her mom, Jessia, says Abigail is a super student and a proud \$50 winner.



Lana Carlisle enjoyed the fun challenge of the scavenger hunt and is now \$50 wealthier!

Crossword -Sudoku Solutions

	M	R	3 \$			L.	50	°S	⁷ T	
L	1	E	Т	0		10 E	Т	С	Н	
E	L	D	E	R		12 A	C	R	E	13 S
¹⁴ T	0	0	L	В	15 A	R		16 A	S	Р
			"L	1	D			¹®W	E	E
19 _P	OBO	21 T	Α	Т	0	22S	²³ A	L	Α	D
24	С	U			25 B	0	D			
²⁶ T	E	N		27 _T	E	Α	R	28 G	²⁹ A	30 S
T	Α	N	32 G	0		33 K	Î	0	W	Α
	34 N	E	0	N		S S	Α	G	Α	N
	36 S	L	Α	Y			N	0	D	

Easy

5	2	1	4	6	3	7	9	8
8	3	7	9	2	5	4	6	1
4	6	9	8	7	1	3	2	5
9	7	4	5	3	8	6	1	2
6	8	2	1	4	7	9	5	3
1	5	3	6	9	2	8	4	7
3	1	6	2	8	9	5	7	4
7	9	5	3	1	4	2	8	6
2	4	8	7	5	6	1	3	9

Medium

_	_	_	_	_	_			_
8	1	3	5	9	7	2	4	6
2	9	6	4	1	8	5	7	3
7	4	5	3	6	2	8	9	1
1	7	4	6	8	3	9	2	5
6	8	9	2	5	4	3	1	7
3	5	2	1	7	9	4	6	8
5	6	8	9	4	1	7	3	2
								4
								9

Happy Thanksgiving!

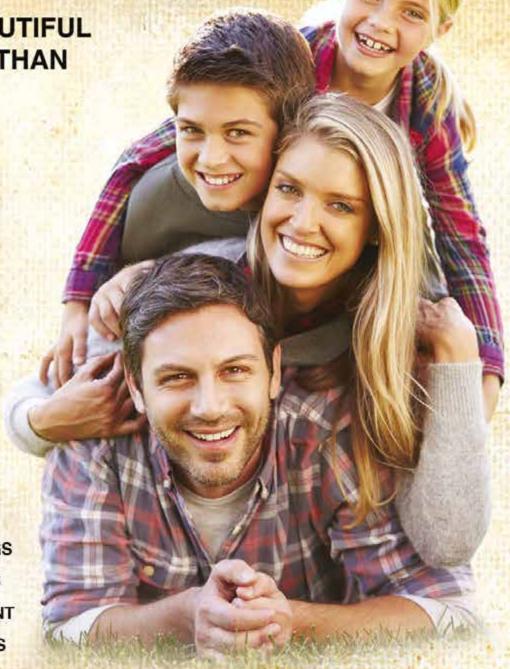
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