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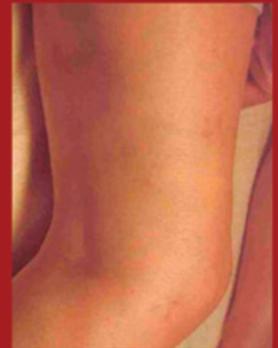
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ON THE COVER



The Christmas season is the perfect time for the Mysers to make merry memories in their Aledo home.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Editor's Note

Happy holidays, WeatherfordNOW readers!

I've seen Christmas decorations displayed in stores since July, and it's finally time to unpack our storage boxes and erect the tree. Christmas is my favorite holiday! There are many reasons for me — the joy of a child's smile opening a surprise gift, curling up to read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* in front of the fireplace, sharing a meal with loved ones.

Family gatherings can get a little crazy around the holidays, but this time of year always brings me peace and serves as a reminder that we must live our lives to the fullest. We must enjoy the time we have together on this earth. Whether you celebrate the birth of Christ, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa, or you have other religious or secular traditions, I wish you peace and joy this holiday season.

Take care and enjoy yourselves!

Amber

Amber D. Browne
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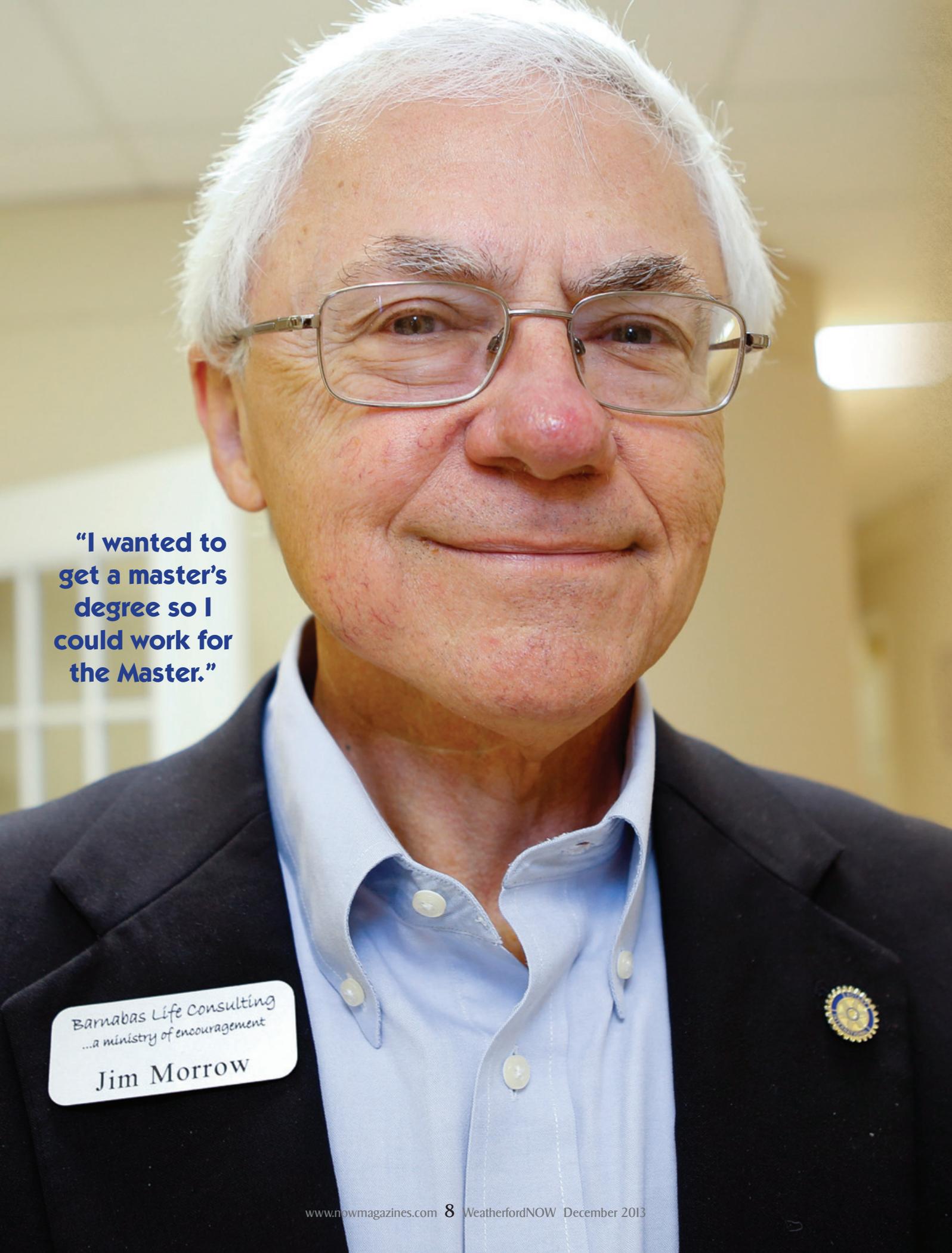
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A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light blue button-down shirt. A name tag is pinned to his jacket. The background is a blurred indoor setting with warm lighting.

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get a master’s
degree so I
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Jim Morrow

Redirected

Life

— By Lisa Bell

“I have not retired,” Jim Morrow said. “I’ve redirected.” As Bob Buford stated in his book, Halftime, Jim spent the first half of his life on success; the second is for significance. Ironically, his passion includes encouraging people, redirecting them to achieve a higher level than they ever dreamed possible.

Jim volunteers with many organizations including Rotarians, his church, the Center of Hope, Crossroads Youth Ministries, Bridge Academy and Weatherford GED program, as well as Texas Agrilife Extension, where he gets to teach parenting classes. “I get to teach, not as a professional anything,” he said, “but as a dude who messed up so much.”

The Center of Hope holds a special place in his heart. What began when his church volunteered to serve a meal quickly grew into something larger. The center was in the middle of a construction program when Jim walked through the door January 12, 2009. Jim swept floors and hung pictures, close to the ceiling, he admitted with a laugh. “No one moved them, and they’re still hanging. I consider that an accomplishment,” he said.

Jim served as director of the Weatherford Center of Hope for a short time, then they asked him to develop a program titled Hope for Tomorrow. The Center of Hope provides services for economically challenged families and individuals, providing food and help with utilities at times. Hope for Tomorrow offers mentoring and classes for individuals who desire change. In many cases, no

one ever told these individuals they could succeed at anything. Some of the men Jim has mentored during the past five years have recently graduated from Weatherford College. These men, who once relied on the Center of Hope, now have careers. Although they may still receive food stamps, the families are moving toward self-sufficiency.

Jim’s passion was ignited through this program, but his passion flames from working with youth in Crossroads, The Bridge and GED classes. “We figured out if we don’t work with them in their teens, they’ll be at Center of Hope looking for help as adults,” he said. They seek to impact young men and women as early as possible, letting them taste success. Using what he learned about appreciative inquiry, he looks for the very best within and encourages it. “No matter how deplorable, how run-down, how worn out an organization or organism is, there’s still something good to be found within that organization or organism,” he said. “That’s appreciative inquiry.”

His experiences led to Jim’s personal ministry, Barnabas Life Consulting. “It’s the neatest job I’ve had in my entire life — walking around town encouraging people,” he admitted. Many people have stressful jobs with no outlet. They may not have anyone to listen. He goes in, affirms a job well done and listens if they want to talk. In exchange, his clients may pay a modest fee. “I never hesitate to ask them for payment. It isn’t about the money, it’s about their self-esteem,” he said. “Pay is pretty light, but the rewards are tremendous.”

After 33 years as a successful business owner in Richardson, Texas, Jim sold the business and relocated to Sugartree with his wife, Sheila. With children and grandchildren in Abilene and Belton, Parker County seemed the perfect place for life after retirement. They built their home in 2006, living there on weekends. Following Jim’s stroke in 2008, the couple moved there permanently.

While they were still living in McKinney, a neighbor came over one night asking to fertilize the yard. This man, who had retired



at 58 with plenty of money, had nothing to do with his days. "Before you retire, you have to have something to do," Sheila told Jim.

Jim Morrow poses with Rashana Buttolph, Pam Murdock and Holly Goetz, who volunteer in the pantry at Center of Hope.



"And golf doesn't count," Jim jokingly added.

At that point, Jim implemented a 10-year plan. He enrolled in a master's program at Abilene Christian University for organization and human resource development, where he learned to manage 501(c)(3) organizations and developing, rather than using, employees.

Before then, Jim didn't know how low he ranked when graduating from college. While the university initially indicated he wasn't a candidate for graduate work, some professors went to bat for him. His success in the business world and passing of certifications courses convinced them he could handle graduate courses. The school admitted him — on probation.

"At 58, I entered the program on probation. Got a hat and shirt because I was the oldest matriculator that year,"



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he said, laughing. Nevertheless he made all A's. He cited two reasons. "I was committed with a reason to be there, and I learned how to use cookie diplomacy."

He often visited with professors. Most of them were younger and valued his business experience and life wisdom.

Jim struggled with a form of dyslexia and had done poorly throughout school. When he entered college, he met four upper classmen, all with challenging backgrounds. They mentored him. One in particular, Jerry, also had a learning disability. The two spent one to two hours every day studying in the college library.

All five men became highly successful after college, including Dan, who gave his life in military service. Jim credited these men as the reason



he finished college, which led to his successful career.

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Debbie Williams, jobs and career education director at the Center of Hope, sits with Jim Morrow.

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"I am forever indebted to them for taking time to make me a different person," he said. "I want to pay back what these men, and so many others along the way, did for me."

Jim is always in learning mode, helping develop programs for the Weatherford ISD and spending several days each week at the different places where he volunteers. A survivor of throat and tongue cancer plus two strokes, he chooses to pour into people who simply need to know they have value.

"It's just so ironic how God worked. Everything I learned in my master's work translated," he said. "I wanted to get a master's degree, so I could work for the Master." He has transposed his learning into caring and development of men and women.

When Jim looks at young men and women in the youth programs, he sees himself with the pain he knew as a child. "These young men and women come to respect me. They may not like me, but they respect me," he said. He tells them they are precious to him, words some of them never heard before. Over time, the toughest person in the room longs to hear Mr. Morrow speak those words. He may never see them again, but they will never forget him.

"I'm not looking for any major rewards," he said. Out in the community, Jim often hears, "Mr. Morrow." He turns and sees someone from these programs, a redirected life. "That's enough," he said. "That's significance." **NOW**

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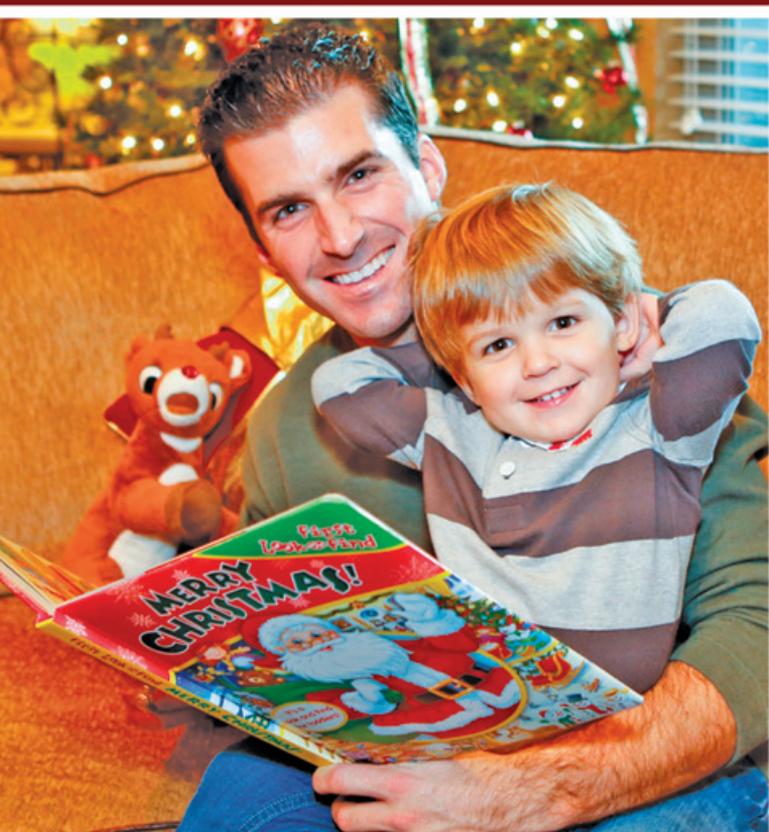


Family TRADITION

By Amber D. Browne

For the Myser family, Christmastime is an opportunity to continue long-standing traditions and build new memories with loved ones. Each Christmas Eve, Scott and Sarah Myser and their two little ones, 4-year-old Abby and 2-year-old A.J., will start their annual holiday traditions with a visit to Aledo United Methodist Church. "We always go to the children's service at the church, so they can dress up," Sarah said. "The kids dress up as angels or shepherds." Back at home after the service, they gather in the kitchen to bake homemade pizzas. "We have all the toppings, and the kids can do it however they want." They have plenty of space to spread out on the large, natural rock-covered island in the center of the kitchen. On their glass dining table, Sarah will set special Christmas dishes to continue the cheery mood during dinner. The cooking continues in the kitchen as the children mix up reindeer food and bake cookies for the jolly fellow's visit.

AT HOME WITH Scott and Sarah Myser





As Santa and other guests visit the Myser home, they are automatically filled with joy and comfort. The home's neutral tones exude a soothing feeling, and traditional Christmas colors of red, green and gold instill happiness and hope to all who enter. On display in the open-concept living room and kitchen area, Sarah has decorated a tall, slender Christmas tree to fit the space. "For Christmas, the word joy is everywhere," she said. The reasoning behind this is yet another family tradition. Joy is a family name — a middle name held by Sarah and her mother, and now little Abby.

Christmas morning is spent under the tree as the children open gifts left behind by Santa. The family then travels to Sarah's grandmother's house for a pancake breakfast. "That's been a tradition ever since I was born," Sarah explained. She and Scott started dating in high school, so he has been a part of her family's tradition for more than a decade. The high school sweethearts decided before graduation they would attend different colleges, with Sarah heading to



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Texas A&M University-Commerce and Scott moving to College Station to attend Texas A&M University. "We wanted to know if it was real and do our own things. We grew together," she said. Scott and Sarah dated for about seven-and-a-half years before they got married in July 2006, and the



Aggies keep their school spirit alive with A&M memorabilia displayed throughout the home. "We'll decorate the outside with an A&M Christmas theme."

The outside back patio is the perfect place to plop down and enjoy the warmth of the fireplace. Scott spends plenty of time grilling in the backyard and watching football on the outdoor TV. He and his two youngsters often curl up by the fire to make s'mores. The fenced backyard allows the children to run free and

provides some relaxing scenery. "We only had about five lots to choose from in this neighborhood at the time. We chose this one just for the fact that we weren't backed up against anything except for this pasture over here," Scott explained.

You can see miles of open space from the upstairs play room windows. The space houses most of the children's toys and artwork, and provides a comfy location to cuddle and watch movies. But, it isn't all kid's play. "Occasionally,



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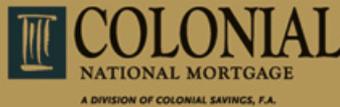
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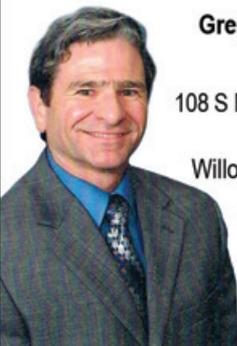
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“I’ll have poker nights up here,” Scott said. “I’ll set up two poker tables with chairs. We’ll get about 20 guys up here. It’s nice to have this big space.”

The Myser family moved to Aledo from North Fort Worth in August 2012, but they had established ties to the community two years before that when Scott opened his business, Myser Orthodontics. They wanted to find the perfect community – one that had a great school district. “Aledo was on the top of our list in every category,” he said.

“When we came to drive through the community we immediately fell in love with it. When you go on the ridge on 1187, and you see the high school and the A at night. You see the orange. It felt right,” Sarah recalled. Sarah is now teaching math at Aledo High School.

They love their new neighborhood and recently celebrated the one year anniversary of their home. They questioned if there was anything they would change about their house, and the answer was a resounding no from both of them. “We love it. It is everything we hoped it would be. We are so blessed to have this house for us and for our kids,” Sarah stated.

Abby enjoys spending time in her room, which is decorated in pinks and purples. “My favorite is everything,” Abby said. “Everything in my room is pretty, and I like everything that’s pretty.” A glass cross and glass tea set, which belonged to her Nana’s grandmother, are displayed on her dresser, which also houses a small library of DVDs. Butterflies dangle from the ceiling above her bed. Her mother has placed a checklist of Abby’s daily responsibilities



on the back of her bedroom door. The door also displays the Golden Rule, which Abby knows by heart and can recite quickly.

A.J.'s room is nearby, and the two children share a large bath. The downstairs area also houses a guest bedroom and bath, along with the master

bedroom and bathroom. The couple has plenty of space in the master bathroom to prepare for the day with two sinks, a vanity for Sarah and a large walk-in shower.

The walk-in closet houses a washer and dryer, which Sarah appreciates. "I love it, because I can fold clothes or hang them," she said. "In our old house, it ended up being on the couch or the bed. But here, it ends up getting put away," she confessed, laughing. A second door in

the closet gives them quick access to the children's rooms.

Abby and A.J. keep their parents on their toes. Scott has taken on the role of soccer coach for his daughter's team, and Sarah is the Children's Ministry Chair at Aledo UMC. Sarah and the children participate in fun runs for charity, while Scott takes on the 5Ks. Scott is also on the Education Foundation with Aledo Independent School District to raise money for teacher initiatives, serves on the committee for YoungLife Aledo and provides pro bono treatment with Smiles Change Lives.

Their lives may be busy, but the Mysers never let a spontaneous family moment pass by. That rings true at Christmas, as the children shriek with joy baking Santa cookies or tearing into gifts under the tree. Although time-honored, these traditions are best for making new family memories. **NOW**



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STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

— By Amber D. Browne



When the Parker County 4-H shooting sports teams get on the range, they must have a steady hand. In most competitions, they're shooting at a target smaller than the size of a dime and 50 meters away. The goal is to shoot directly in the center of the target for the highest score. Both Mindy Miles and Sydney Casey know the excitement of shooting competitively. They've competed all the way up to the national level in air rifle and small bore, or .22 rifle.



Sydney Casey (L) and Mindy Miles (R) love competitive shooting.

The teens did so well at state competition this year that they were invited to compete at the National Junior Olympics in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mindy took home the silver medal for her age group in air rifle. She then competed in a shoot-off to get into the overall finals. "It was exciting," Mindy said. She shot the best score in the air rifle final and moved up from eighth to sixth place overall. In small bore, Mindy shot slightly behind the second-place score and brought home the bronze medal. She barely missed becoming a Junior Olympics team member for the small bore competition, but continues to train and hone her skill. "It is a lot of fun. I come back from a match, and I'm feeling good. Let's do it again!"

"I'M PRETTY DEDICATED, AND I WANT TO DO WELL."

Sydney also had a great run while at the Olympics competition in Colorado. She won bronze for air rifle for her age category and placed fifth for small bore. The 13-year-old enjoys the unique sport. "It's different from other sports. Other sports are more team-oriented. This is a team sport, but it's not like if you lose, it's a big deal. You want to get better, and you want to beat yourself more than beating other people," Sydney explained. They travel to other cities in Texas and out of state for competitions. Sydney enjoys meeting new friends while touring the country.

For Mindy, it's about the camaraderie as well. "Everybody's nice," Mindy said, referring to the other competitors at regional, state and national competitions. "We have dinners every night with a big group of people. You'll finish a match,



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and maybe the guys are shooting. Then you go check out all the guys who are shooting. Well, maybe not 'check them out,'" she said, laughing. "You go watch them shoot, and you can learn a lot from each other," Mindy explained. Shooters are very supportive of each other during competitions, too. "It's mainly just yourself and what can you do to get better."

Back home in the Weatherford area, the teens practice nearly every day. At the Lone Star Guns, Gallery & Gear in Weatherford, they meet with other teammates on the Parker County 4-H rifle team to practice shooting their .22 rifles. But, back at home, their fathers have set up shooting ranges for air rifle, which Mindy describes as a fancy pellet gun. During competitions, the air rifle shooter stands and shoots at a target. The .22, or small bore, is a little different. The competitor must shoot from three different positions — kneeling, standing and prone. The shooter can wear special glasses, a visor to keep the lighting even and a shooting suit. The suit includes special shoes to keep their feet flat while



shooting and stiff pants and a jacket to keep them steady. The shooter can see his or her heartbeat in the gun sight, so the suit lessens the prominence of the heartbeat.

Mindy prefers air rifle, because she likes to stand and shoot. Air rifle is also Sydney's first choice for competitions. "I find air rifle easier. Not that .22 is way harder, but I get better results out of air rifle," Sydney explained. "Because I'm doing better now with air rifle, I like it a little more." Sydney can be hard on herself, but she just wants to excel in the sport.

Sydney's father, Lieutenant Colonel Scott Casey (Ret.), is her coach. She has developed a close relationship with him through the sport. "I have an older brother and a younger sister, so we split time. He's coach on the range, apparently. To him, he's coach on the range, and off, he's dad," Sydney said, grinning. "He's supported me a lot, and he's taken me everywhere."

Scott was instrumental in getting Sydney started in competitive shooting. He met Mindy's father, Chip Miles, at

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a shooting competition several years ago. Scott had been searching for a local program and found only Parker County 4-H had a shotgun team. With their backgrounds in competitive shooting and their desire to get their children involved in the sport, Scott and Chip decided to get certified and established the rifle team.

"It's neat to watch her go through the sport," Scott said about his daughter. Seeing Sydney progress through the program has been quite an experience for Scott, but he thinks it's a good opportunity for her. "Sometimes, it's tough being coach and dad at the same time. That's when Chip and I will reverse roles."

The two rely on each other to coach the girls. "Everybody involved in the sport seems to be nice and helpful. They seem to be really good people, and it's a good crowd for her to hang out with," Chip said, about his daughter, Mindy. "She takes criticism and help very well," he said. "She's at the point where she is self-assessing, so she's pretty far advanced. Her coaching from me is limited now." He is a little nervous about her going off to college next year, but he is excited for her and knows she will succeed.

"Normally kids don't get along with their coaches very well, but my dad and I are really close. He's the best coach," Mindy said. "I'm pretty dedicated, and I want to do well." Although Mindy and Sydney have only been shooting competitively for about two to three years, they see themselves growing their love of the sport. Mindy believes her skills will help her get recruited to a university shooting team next fall.

Sydney's ultimate goal is to compete in the Olympics. She would first have to make the Junior Olympics team and compete in World Cups to advance to the Olympics. "I think it would be cool to go and compete against all those people from everywhere," Sydney said.

Until then, the girls will continue practicing their shooting skills two to three hours each day. Mindy will be busy as a senior at Weatherford High School and enjoying her many hobbies, including reading, hunting and fishing. Sydney is an Aledo eighth-grader and plans to also stay busy playing on a select volleyball team. They are both very goal-oriented and keep the prize in their "sights." **NOW**

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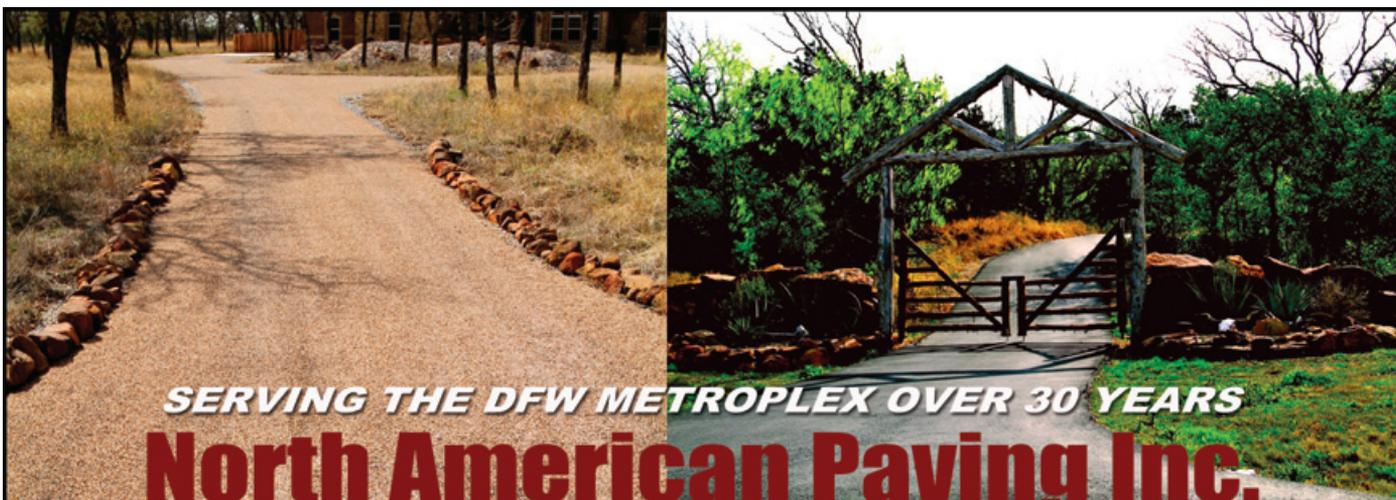
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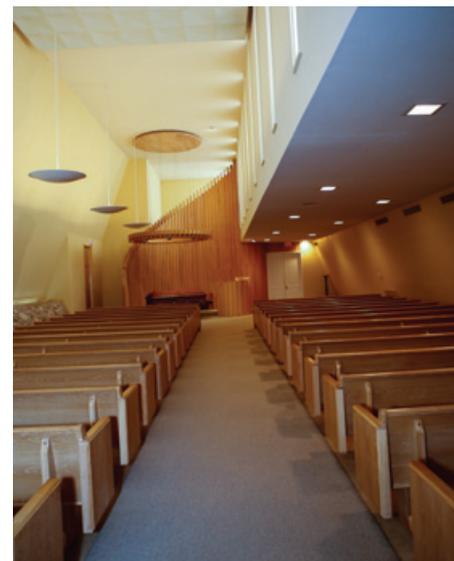


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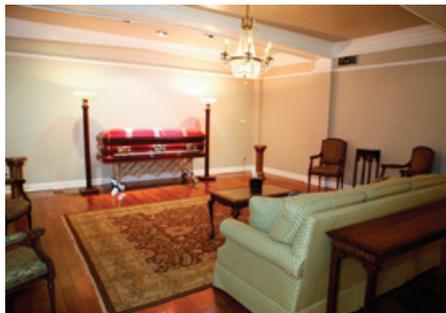
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The Value of Experience

With expertise gained over decades, the staff of White's Funeral Homes comforts families in their time of grief. — By Amber D. Browne

For more than a century, the White family name has been synonymous with funeral services in Parker County. In 1908, W.A. White began building coffins at a general store in Springtown. He gained experience over several years, managed a general mercantile store in Poolville and moved to Weatherford in 1914, embarking on a career in undertaking following the death of the local embalmer.

During the Great Depression in 1931, W.A. built the current White's Funeral Homes location on Houston St. in Weatherford. W.A.'s son, Ford White, joined the business the following year. Over the next two decades, W.A. built a funeral home in Springtown and established East Greenwood Cemetery in Weatherford.

The family tradition in the funeral business continues today

with W.A.'s grandson, Bob White. Bob graduated from the University of North Texas and mortuary school in the late 1950s. "I've been a funeral director for over 50 years," Bob said. He and his wife, Carolynn, continued to grow the business with the purchase of funeral homes in Azle and Mineral Wells and Memory Gardens Cemetery in the 1980s. Bob's daughter, Anita White, continues the family tradition today, working with her father as the fourth generation in the business.

"Just to hear the stories and imagine in your head what it was like back then. It's awe inspiring. And, to see the changes my parents have made, it makes me really proud," Anita stated. White's Funeral Homes is an innovator in the field. The White family established the W.A. White Burial Association in 1940, bringing the first organized burial insurance company to Texas.

Business **NOW**

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White's Funeral Homes provides grieving families with everything they need to plan for their loved one's service — from a traditional funeral or cremation to state rooms for viewing and dozens of casket and cremation urns for purchase. "There's more personalization in funeral service now than there was in the past.

"We pride ourselves on providing customer service that gets you through this time."

People think all funerals are alike, but they're not," Bob said. Some caskets have a memory drawer for family members to place special items inside, and cremation urns can be personalized.

Over the years, the Whites have built relationships with many local families. "We've buried several generations of certain families," Bob said. Although the Whites have decades of experience, it's always a difficult process. "We're burying our friends."

The White family appreciates seeing the gratification families receive from their services. They consider their business a ministry. "I have friends who say my dad is one of the most kind, gentle souls they've ever met," Anita said. "You have to have a certain type of personality to be able to handle grief on a daily basis. It can really get you down," she said. "But it's those gratifying moments that make it worthwhile."

At White's Funeral Homes, the funeral directors and staff try to relate to the families, because they themselves have experienced the grieving process. The directors meet with the families to determine what they expect for the service. "It's that connection you make with a person which makes such a big difference. They walk you through it and hold your hand," Anita explained. "It is an awful time in somebody's life to have to go through this. We pride ourselves on providing customer service that gets you through this time." **NOW**



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Wright Elementary fourth grader Sierra Cherrybomes performs in *Bad Seed* at Theatre Off the Square.



Weatherford College students enjoy a welcome back lunch sponsored by the school.



Tim Mauser, Dr. Trev Dixon, Randall Carpenter and Jeff Lightfoot (not pictured) take home first place in the Weatherford College Foundation Golf Tournament.



These Parker County Cruisers members show off their cars outside Ace Hardware in Willow Park.



The Parker County Women's and Newcomer's Club installs new officers for 2013-2014.



Randy and Melissa Offill, of RAM Granite, share their products with Ryan Mordecai at the East Parker County Chamber Business Expo.



Juanita Perez, Jennifer Hasley and Debbie Buckman, with Freedom House, meet with locals at ParkFest.



Erin Wilde kneels with Dierks as Chaplain Raelynn Scott blesses the dog outside Le Chateau K-9 Day Spa.



Jake, Randy, Alex and Avery Holt enjoy the afternoon with their adopted dog, Dexter, at Parker Paws' Dogtoberfest.



Engineer Tom Short, Lieutenant Bert McFadin and Firefighter Bryan Smith show off the Weatherford Fire Department's new truck.



Donors sign a beam, which will be part of the future Don Allen Health Science Building at Weatherford College.



Aledo Mayor Kit Marshall shares information with the community at a Rise and Dine Breakfast.



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What's Your Retirement “Contingency Plan?”

You probably have thought about what you'd like to do during your retirement years. But all your plans probably depend, to at least some extent, on your financial situation. What happens if you reach the age at which you wish to retire and you just don't have the money you thought you'd have?

If this occurs, it's time for Plan B. What does that look like? Here are a couple of possibilities:

- **Continue working.** If you like your job, you may not mind working an extra year or so. You'll be bringing in more income and contributing more to your 401(k) or other retirement account — and, perhaps almost as importantly, you may be able to avoid tapping into these retirement accounts, thus giving them more time to potentially grow. (However, once you turn 70 1/2, you'll need to begin taking withdrawals from your 401(k) and a traditional IRA.) But if you are really not enamored with the idea of working any longer, you might find that even the ability to “beef up” your retirement plans for another couple of years isn't much consolation.

- **Adjust your retirement lifestyle.** It's pretty simple: If you don't save as much as you had planned for retirement, you probably can't do all the things you wanted to do as a retiree. For example, you may not be able to travel as much, or pursue your hobbies to the extent you'd like.

Clearly, you'd like to avoid these “retirement contingency plans.” To do so, though, you'll need to take steps well before you retire. And the most important move you can make may be to contribute as much as you can possibly afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan.

During the last several years before you wish to retire, you may be in a strong position to “max out” on these plans because, at this stage

of your life, your income may be at its highest point, your children may be grown and you may even have “retired” your mortgage. If you still have money left with which to invest, you may want to look at other tax-advantaged vehicles that can be used for retirement.

But while it's important to put as much as possible into your retirement accounts, you need to do more than that. You also must put the money in the right investments within these accounts. Your exact investment mix should be based on your individual risk tolerance and time horizon, but, as a general rule, these investments must provide you with the growth potential you'll need to accumulate sufficient resources for retirement.

Of course, as you know, investments move up and down. You can't prevent this, but you'll certainly want to reduce the effects of volatility as much as possible when you enter retirement. Consequently, during your final working years, you may need to adjust your retirement accounts by shifting some of your assets (though certainly not all) from growth-oriented vehicles to income-producing ones.

It's a good idea to have contingency plans in place for virtually every endeavor in life — and paying for your retirement years is no different. But if you can make the right moves to avoid the contingency plans in the first place, then so much the better. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Gregg Davis is an Edward Jones representative based in Willow Park.



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December 6

Careity Foundation's Celebrity Cutting Horse Event: 7:00 p.m., Will Rogers Coliseum, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. The event benefits the Careity Foundation and NCHA Charities. Find out more at www.careity.org.

December 7

Annual Christmas Parade: 10:00 a.m. The parade begins at the Weatherford Ninth Grade Center and continues up South Main to the Courthouse and west on Palo Pinto St. Go to www.christmas-on-the-square.com to find out more.

Christmas on the Square: Noon-5:00 p.m., Historic Downtown Weatherford. The free event features live entertainment, children's activities and tasty treats. To find out more, visit www.christmas-on-the-square.com.

36th Annual Arts and Craft Fair: 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Aledo Community Center, 104 Robinson Ct., Aledo. More than 75 craft and merchant vendors will offer one-of-a-kind gifts. Visit www.aledo-texas.com for more information.

13th Annual Christmas Tyme in Aledo: 5:00 p.m., downtown Aledo. Refreshments will be provided, and activities include a petting zoo, wagon rides, a Christmas tree lighting and a visit from Santa. Visit www.aledo-texas.com to find out more.

December 7, 8

Santa Claus is Coming to Town — Old Town!: Noon-7:00 p.m., Hollow Hill Farm Event Center, 1680 Mary Dr. Visit with Santa, enjoy a wagon ride and grab a bite to eat from local eateries. Go to www.hollowhilleventcenter.com or call (817) 771-4253 for more information.

December 7, 14, 21

Holiday Festival at Clark Gardens: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Clark Gardens, 567 Maddux Rd. Bring out the family for a stroll through a beautiful light display in the gardens and a visit with Santa. Visit www.clarkgardens.org for more information.

December 9

Messiah Concert: 7:30 p.m., Alkek Fine Arts Center, Weatherford College, 225 College Park Dr. Kick off the holiday season with the free concert presented by the Parker County Community Choir. Visit www.wc.edu or call (817) 598-6403 for more information.

December 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22

The Star of Bethlehem Experience: 5:30-9:00 p.m., Capernaum First Century Village and Majestic Statue Garden, 10700 FM 920. Call (817) 622-8808 for more information.

December 14

32nd Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes: 1:00-7:00 p.m., various locations. The Parker County Heritage Society-sponsored event features seven historic homes and venues decorated for the holidays. Tickets are available at the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce and Doss Heritage and Culture Center. Visit www.parkercountyheritagesociety.com for more information.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to amber.browne@nowmagazines.com.

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In The Kitchen With Sara Henard

— By Amber D. Browne

Growing up with a single mother who worked two full-time jobs, Sara Henard desired home-cooked meals. “Dinner at our house was always pizza delivery or TV dinners,” she confessed. “Our bodies are our vessels in this life, and I believe you should feed it real food made with love.”

Sara began cooking when she was in high school and has worked in the restaurant industry for more than a decade. She often experiments with ingredients from her kitchen to create her own recipes. Sara also spends time watching the Food Network and searching Pinterest for new dishes to make for her husband and daughter. “I believe in following recipes when teaching yourself a process,” she said. “Once you have mastered the technique, you will never need another recipe.” **NOW**

Pizza Pasta

1/2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
1 small yellow onion, chopped
8 oz. mushrooms, chopped
1 tsp. fennel seed
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 lb. pasta
1/2 cup Parmesan, grated
1 Tbsp. unsalted butter
Salt and pepper, to taste
3 leaves fresh basil

1. Place oil and next 3 ingredients in skillet; sauté until browned; season with salt. Stir in peppers. Add garlic during final 2 minutes of sautéing.
2. Boil pasta until al dente. Drain and reserve

1 cup of water. Add pasta and water to skillet of vegetables. Cook until water is nearly absorbed. Stir in cheese and butter; season with salt and pepper; garnish with freshly tom basil leaves.

Rosemary Potato and Sausage Frittata

1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
(divided use)
1 small yellow onion, chopped
1/2 lb. Italian sausage
Salt and pepper, to taste
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper
1 clove garlic, minced
4 small red potatoes, sliced
1/2 Tbsp. fresh rosemary, minced
(or 1/2 tsp. dry)
4 eggs

1/3 cup whole milk (or half-and-half)
1/2 cup Parmesan, grated

1. Preheat oven to 350 F In an oven-safe skillet, combine 1/2 the olive oil and next 4 ingredients; sauté over medium heat until sausage is browned. Stir in garlic. Drain; set aside.
2. In the same pan, add remaining oil, layer potatoes and add rosemary. Flip potatoes until browned.
3. Whisk eggs, milk and cheese in a bowl.
4. Spread sausage mixture over potatoes; pour egg mixture on top. Bake for 10-12 minutes until eggs are fluffy and start to brown. Cool for several minutes.

Butternut Squash and Bacon Risotto

4 slices bacon, chopped
1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
(divided use)
1 yellow onion, chopped (divided use)
1 1/2 cups butternut squash, diced
1 clove garlic, minced
1 cup Arborio rice, uncooked
1 cup dry white wine
4 cups chicken stock
1 Tbsp. unsalted butter
1/2 cup Parmesan, grated
Fresh parsley for garnish
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Fry bacon in skillet over medium heat; drain and set aside.
2. Add 1/2 of the oil and 1/2 of the onion to the skillet; sauté until onion is soft. Add butternut squash and sauté until browned. Pour mixture into bowl; set aside.
3. In same pan, add remaining oil and onion with garlic and rice. Sauté for 2 minutes. Add wine; cook for 2-3 minutes. Add 1 cup of stock; stir until liquid is absorbed. Repeat until all stock has been added.
4. Add butternut squash mixture, butter, cheese and parsley; season with salt and pepper; top with crumbled bacon.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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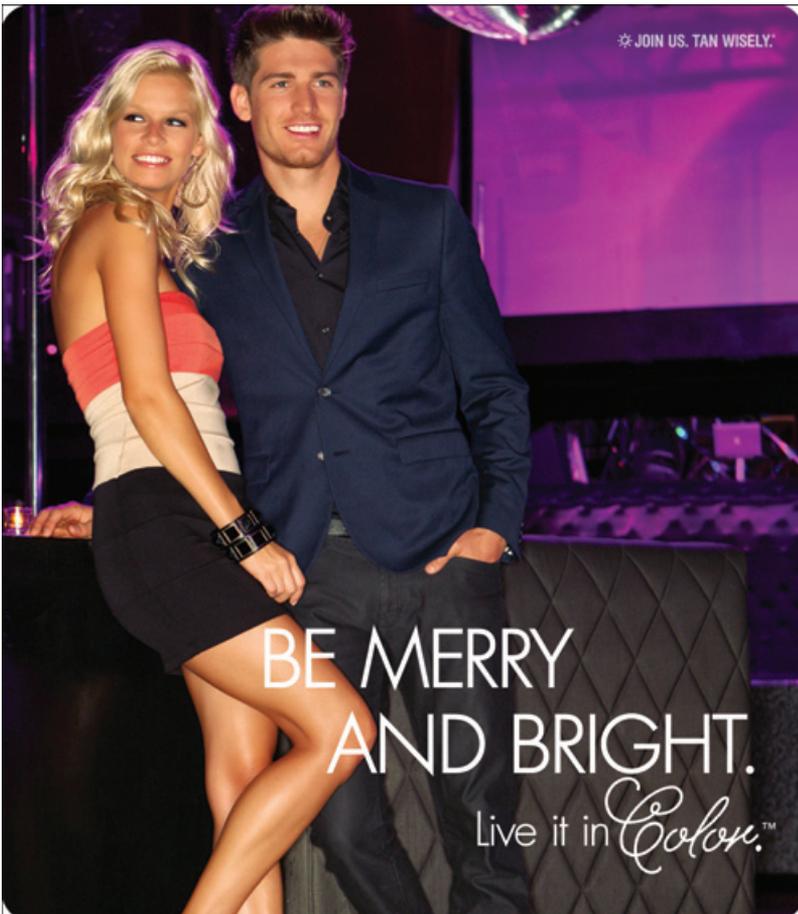
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