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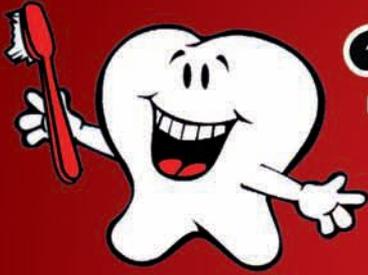
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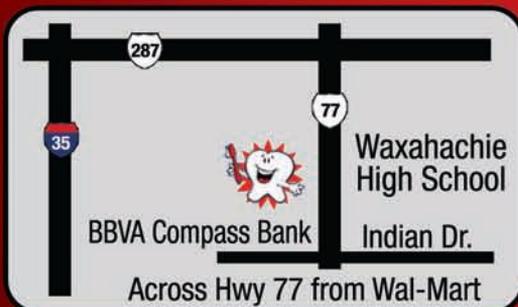
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ON THE COVER



Glittered ornaments say Christmas at the Morgan home.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Merry Christmas!

The holidays are more enjoyable when you have little ones. I know because I've been buying for the grandchildren since December 26th of last year, and I've been having the best time. Yep, I'm one of *those* people who shop early, hide the purchases and then try my best to remember where they're hidden when it comes time to wrap, and that time is now! I'm glad I write everything down so I know how many

items I need to find, but that only works if I can remember where I hid the list.

Jesus Christ, the gift who keeps giving, is celebrated this month, too. I'm so grateful I get a second chance to "get it right" with my grandsons. I'm going to make sure to include the story of His birth in the decorations and the gift-giving. I want them to understand that Jesus is *my* reason for the season!

Sandra

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P.S. The publisher and staff at NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

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- Are you considering surgery to alleviate knee pain?
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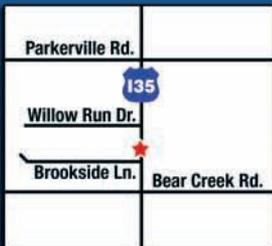


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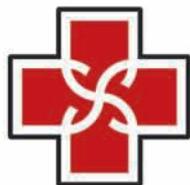
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MORE THAN BRICKS AND MORTAR

— By Sandra Strong

The year 1914 was a very good year. Babe Ruth signed his first contract with the minor league Baltimore Orioles and, later that same year, was traded to the Boston Red Sox. Wrigley Field opened. The first Mother's Day was celebrated. Joe DiMaggio was born. Locally, the Waxahachie Sanitarium opened its doors and has been going strong ever since, thanks in large part to the patrons it has served the past 100 years.

Over the years, the hospital has seen many changes. In 1965, the facility was renamed W.C. Tenery Community Hospital. In 1983, Tenery joined ranks with the Baylor Health



Brooke Glass, Bruce Condor and Angie Glass look forward to the hospital's future.



“TO HAVE SUCH A NICE FACILITY BUILT AND DESIGNED FOR FURTHER GROWTH IS WONDERFUL.”

Care System but didn't undergo a name change until 1986 when it was changed to Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie. In 2013, Baylor Health Care System merged with Scott & White Healthcare, based in Temple, Texas, forming the largest nonprofit health care system in Texas. On December 6, the new facility will open at its new location at the intersection of Highway 287 and Interstate 35E under its newest name — Baylor Scott & White Medical Center-Waxahachie.

The new 300,000-square-foot facility has been designed to accommodate 129 beds with room for what they expect to be much-needed growth in the future. The new hospital offers the latest in technology for physicians and a large number of amenities for patients and their families, but the history made during the past 100 years has proven priceless for many. “There are so many memories here,” said Julie Martin, marketing and public relations manager, as she referred to the old location on West Jefferson, soon to be vacated. “My dad was born at the Sanitarium, and my sisters and I were all born at Tenery. We've welcomed babies into the world here and said goodbyes to our loved ones here, too.”

Another member of Baylor's current staff who will soon be venturing to the new hospital is Iris Wilson. Iris began her career in 1971 when she was hired as a nurse's

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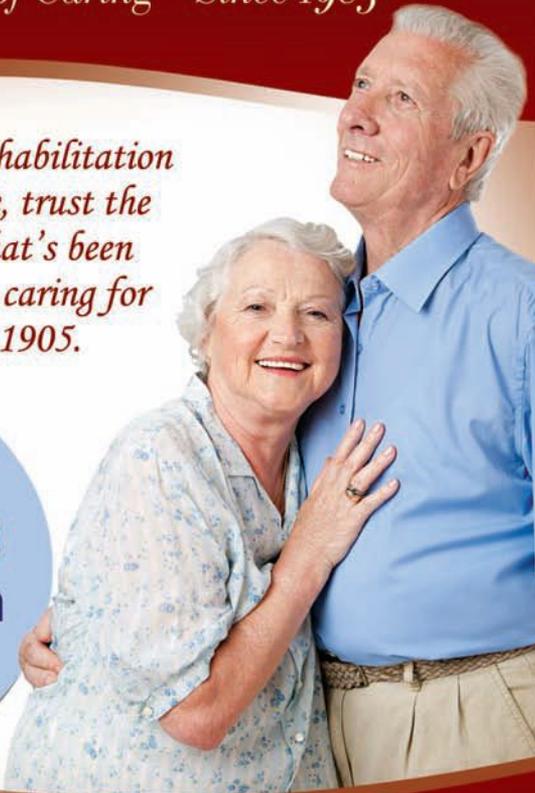
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aide at Tenery. “I came to Waxahachie from Germany in 1968,” she said, her accent still very much intact. “My English was limited, but it wasn’t long before I enrolled in the LVN Program at W.C. Tenery Vocational School of Nursing, graduating in 1973. I graduated from the RN program at Navarro College in Corsicana in 1986.”

Iris couldn’t help but smile as she reminisced about the many changes she’s experienced during her tenure as a nurse. “In 1971, we paired smokers up with other smokers in semi-private rooms,” she admitted. “During my time as an aide, I learned quickly that nothing was a trash item. Syringes were sterilized and reused. It was a hard transition when we went to disposable syringes.”

Iris recalled another memory as she spoke about how patients arrived at the hospital in the early ’70s. “Patients requiring a stretcher were brought in by the local funeral homes that also offered ambulance services. Some of their vehicles were used interchangeably as ambulances and hearses.”

Although Iris retired from full-time employment a year ago, she continues to work, as needed, on the night shift in the emergency room. “I love being a nurse. I’ve cared for more than one generation of patients,” she said with a smile. My career has definitely been multigenerational. Nursing is so many faces,” Iris stated. “It can be just a job, or it can be a job where you are blessed



to bless others.” One of the nurse’s aides Iris hired during her time as interim manager of the medical surgical floor was Angie Condor, who later became Angie Glass, after marrying Bobby Glass, local

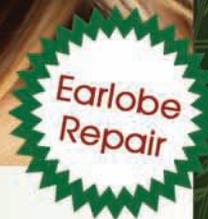


Julie Martin, marketing and PR manager, looks over blueprints with President Chris York.

developer and custom home builder.

Angie is finding the move exciting, yet bittersweet, because of the memories she’s made at the Jefferson Street location. “My family has lots of history at this hospital, too,” she said. “My dad, Bruce Condor, was born at the Sanitarium in 1948,” Angie said. “I was born here when it was Tenery in 1968. My middle child, Brooke, was born at Baylor.”

Angie was 19 when she first came to work as a technician. At the age of 22, she resigned to rear her family, but she came back at the age of 43 as an RN. “Although it’s going to be hard to leave,” she admitted, “I’m looking forward to what the new facility has to offer. I love the historical aspect of the old building, but the neat little gadgets built into each



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room at the new facility are going to be exciting for all concerned.”

Bruce remembers spending an enormous amount of time in the emergency room as a boy. “I was a typical boy,” he admitted, with a laugh. “The new hospital is going to be different for me. It will take a little while to get used to its size.”

Brooke has wisdom beyond her years as she looks toward the community’s medical future. “The new building matches the experience found in the working at the hospital,” Brooke stated,



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with pride for her mom and all the others who provide outstanding care. “To have such a nice facility built and designed for further growth is wonderful.”

The success of the first 100 years is evident in the memories that Julie, Iris, Angie, Bruce and Brooke carry with them into the future. Chris York, the hospital’s new president, who came on board in August hit the ground running. “We are opening the new facility with 104 private rooms, each with its own view,” Chris said. “Our goal was to grow to meet the continued medical needs

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Charles Leach, M.D., specializes in internal medicine and accepts Medicare patients. He enjoys working with patients on a wide range of their healthcare needs. Dr. Leach is a founding member of the former Medical Clinics of North Texas (MCNT), where he practiced for 14 years. He and his wife live in Arlington, and enjoy movies, books and traveling. They have two sons.

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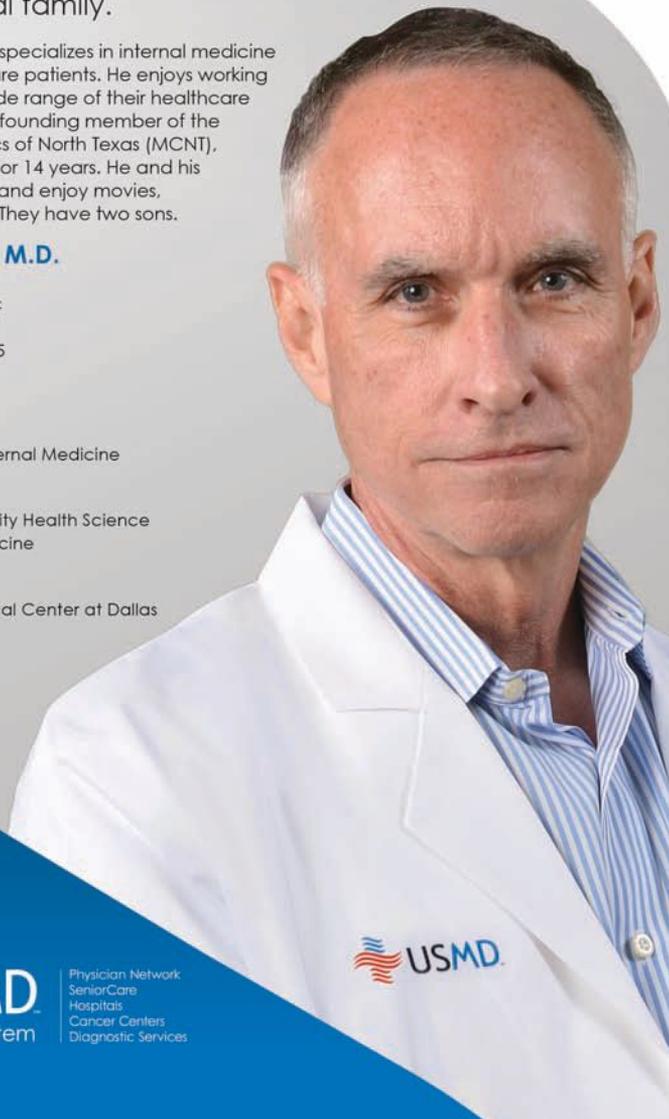
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Iris Wilson has fond memories of her tenure at the hospital.

of the community while keeping the compassionate, family feel we’ve always had. The building is just bricks and mortar, but the staff members create the experiences that keep patients coming back time and time again.”

Highlights of the new hospital include, but are not limited to: 12 ICU beds, an ER department with 37 treatment spaces, six operating rooms, childbirth services that will include a nursery and six delivery rooms and nine post-partum rooms, a cancer center featuring a linear accelerator and infusion bays and an outdoor walking trail that encircles a 2-acre pond. “The hospital is designed with the privacy and overall comfort of our patients in mind,” Chris shared.

“The community has supported the new facility from the beginning,” Julie said, as Chris nodded in agreement. “Our employees, auxiliary members, physicians, local businesses and the community have raised more than \$2 million, so far.”

“Baylor’s commitment to the community,” Chris noted, “coupled with the commitment the community has shown Baylor, is a powerful combination for the future of health care in Ellis County.” **NOW**

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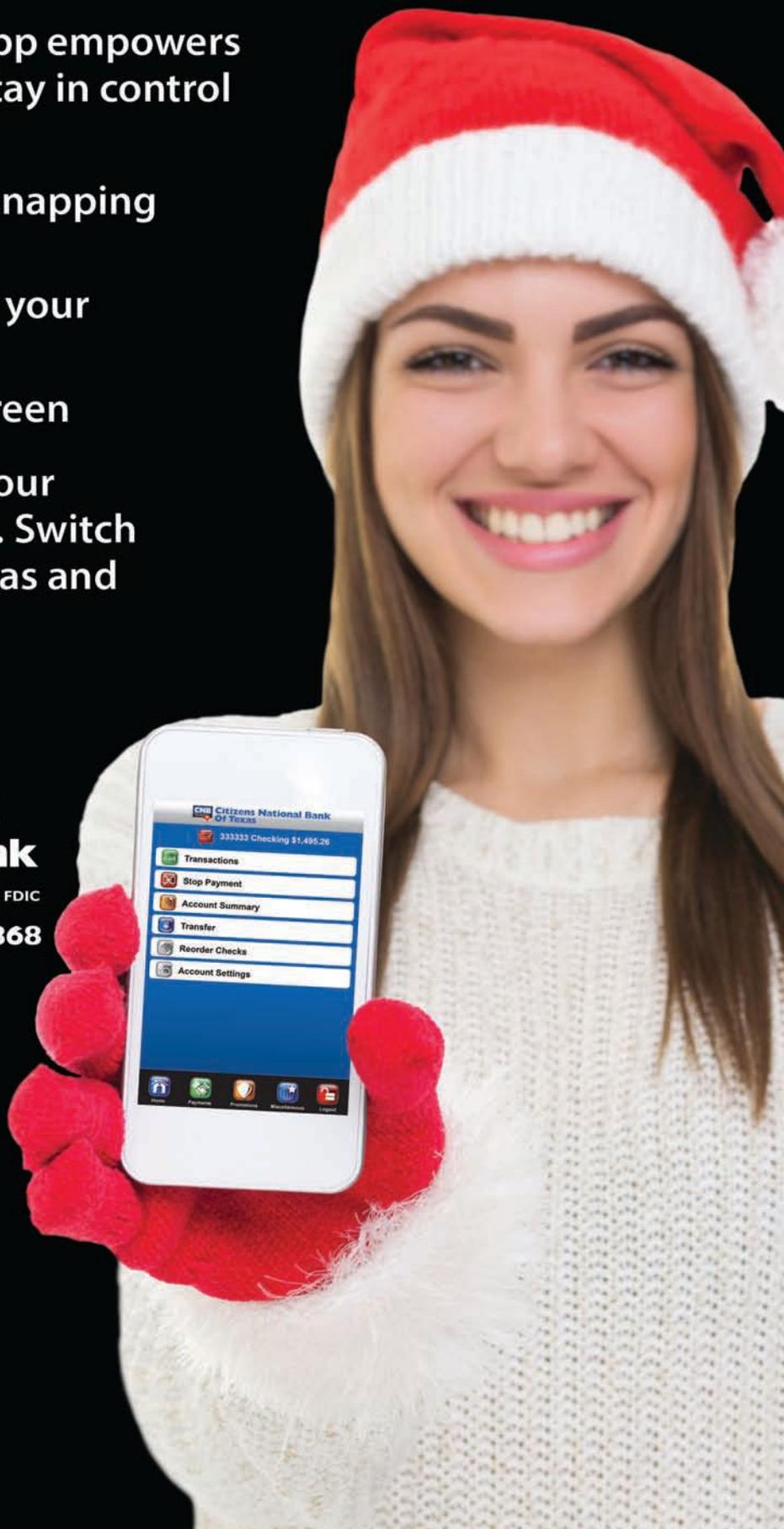


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A Life of Stitches

— By Sara Edgell

A day without knitting is a rare thing in Lore Hale's home. Ever since she was a child, it has been an integral part of her life. Knitting was taught in schools in Germany, where she was born and reared. Knitting was done in practically every home, for functionality purposes. This cultural tradition passed along from one generation to the next. And now, it's a treasured pastime Lore shares with her family and friends in many ways.

In 2011, Lore put her knitting skills to work with a group of ladies at the First Christian Church of Waxahachie. They decided there was a need for prayer shawls for the elderly and those who are ill. Once a person got a chill, it became difficult to warm them up. So, the ladies set out to remedy the situation by busily knitting and purling, crocheting and stitching over 300 shawls in various colors and textures. Each one was then lovingly tagged with a small cross and Bible verse card before being dedicated by the pastor and congregation. "Seeing everyone pray over the shawls was so powerful and moving," Lore stated.

Lore alone made about 12 shawls, taking pride in the fact her handmade work would bring someone comfort and warmth in their time of need. Once the shawls were completed, they were distributed to





members of the congregation, area hospital patients and members of the community. The entire process was a major labor of love. The ladies spent countless hours working on the beautiful shawls, in addition to the many hours spent practicing and perfecting their technique. "After Bible study, we would sit together and teach each other to knit and crochet," she recalled. "We were an enthusiastic group!"



"I think it's so very important to teach knitting to children."



But when the project came to an end, Lore yearned for another opportunity to make a difference and share her knitting with others. In the spring of 2013, she found her reason as she read an article in the waiting room of a doctor's office. The article detailed a perfect portable project focused on knitting socks on the go. The idea was that knitting socks was a manageable, relatively small undertaking that could be taken anywhere and worked on at nearly anytime. And it was exactly what Lore was looking for.

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From her adventures with the prayer shawl group, she had come across a great deal on 20 skeins of fine British wool sealed in the original packaging. Although she knew this particular textile could not be used for the shawls, she purchased it anyway. This proved to be the perfect material to make the socks



with, so Lore, once again, got to work stitching and crocheting, purling and knitting. Her goal was to make socks for her family and friends who suffered from circulation problems and could not keep their feet warm.

As the seasons changed and the temperatures dropped, word of Lore's handmade, comfy wool socks spread, and by the end of fall 2013, she completed over 28 pairs of socks. Her knitting was purposeful and fulfilling — two things that create great meaning in her life. "It started drawing on my old knitting skills," Lore explained. "I grew up in Germany during Hitler's time, when we were not able to buy new wool, but we could undo outgrown sweaters and knit what we needed."

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During that time, people were somewhat forced to be resourceful, and because it could be so very cold, people needed something warm to wear, so they would knit what they needed. Knitting was more than just a hobby — it was a necessity, so all of the girls learned the art form.



Along with knitting, Lore learned many lessons about life as a child. From her childhood in Germany, Lore remembers being able to identify the gravity of what she witnessed in her country. "I remember my father carrying me as a child to see Hitler speak. Red flags lined the streets, and there were soldiers marching. It was very impressive," she recalled, "but I remember thinking, *Why are all of these people*

crying? He put on a great show to conceal the truth, the sorrow." Lore always wanted to get away from the politics, beliefs and negativity of that time period in Germany.

When she met her husband, Art, in 1957, she was instantly smitten with the handsome American Army sergeant. He was impressed with her wit and the



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education she had received. The two eventually started dating, after many encounters at the weekly Saturday night dances. The two married soon after, and Lore made the move from Germany to America, something she was happy to do. Of Art, Lore said, “I could not live without him.”

Over their 57 years of marriage, they moved numerous times, as Art worked for the government and relocating about every four years was part of the deal. She also held a variety of jobs including Air Force base management analyst, public school teacher (of English language arts, Spanish and German), a variety of clerical positions and stay-at-home mom with the couple’s two boys, until they entered school.




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In 1995, when Lore retired from teaching, she rediscovered knitting — working for the FAA in Fort Worth — because, true to her nature, there was a need for it. Over the years, she simply kept at it, which led to the prayer shawls and socks she hopes will serve as her legacy.

In addition to knitting, Lore enjoys gardening and cooking. She makes sure to prepare each meal with a green and red vegetable from the garden in the backyard because, “Art and I are in good health, and we want to keep it that way.” Among her many delicious, traditional German recipes are her famous *Lebkuchen* cookies and *Apfelstrudel*. She takes great pride in sharing her heritage with others by way of meals and treats, but more importantly, she shares her heritage through knitting. Lore spends copious amounts of time with her grandchildren, teaching them how to knit, and them teaching her to play the piano. “I think it’s so very important to teach knitting to children,” she declared. “It’s important to share our love of things with them.”

Although she has seen great sorrow in life, it is through that sorrow she has learned to do for others. For her, knitting is a calming, reflective time that gives her a purpose. Where she sees a need, she provides and adapts her production and involvement. She always sees a need somewhere. So she knits on, one stitch at a time, because, after all, the best things in life are made by hands and come from the heart. **NOW**



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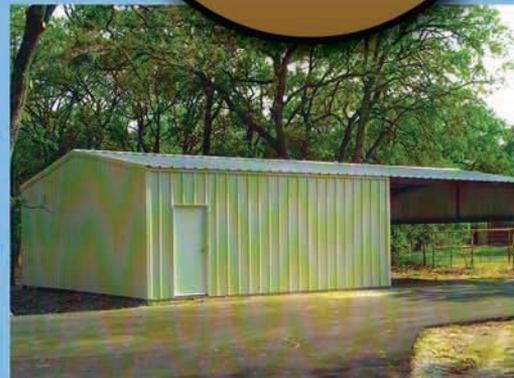
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Some Kind of Wo



Before December's first Sunday, Mackey and Margaret Morgan's stunning Mediterranean-style home, already a cornerstone in a neighborhood of distinctive homes, is edged in Christmas lights and embellished with yards of lush garland woven through wrought-iron fencing. On any day, this 3,500-square-foot home on its large corner lot is impressive, but for the holidays, it is truly a work of art.

Celebrating Christmas at the Morgan home involves a very special tradition that began with their five grandchildren. "Our son, Mark, and his wife, Laura, have three children: Luke, Kate and Amber," Margaret shared. "Our daughter, Michele, and her husband, John, have two children: Morgan and Patrick."

As their family grew and everyone ultimately settled in Waxahachie, a gathering known as the Christmas Book Party began to officially herald the Morgan's holiday season. By December's first Sunday, a magical star-topped Christmas tree takes its place in the grand foyer, promising to thrill family and friends. The foyer's 24-foot ceiling and European-style glass chandelier showcase the beautiful tree decked with ornaments and surrounded by figurines and Christmas scenes. "The kids are fascinated by the animated holiday scenes like the musical carousel," Mackey said.

Mackey and Margaret are native Texans who grew up in Gatesville, became friends in elementary school and have been married for 51 years. Mackey is

At Home With
Mackey &
Margaret Morgan

nderful

— By Carolyn Wills



a dentist, and Margaret taught junior high and high school English for 20 years. “We’ve celebrated more than 50 Christmases together,” Margaret shared. “It’s always a delight to decorate with treasures collected through the years.”

Holiday dinners take place in the formal dining room to the right of the foyer. This lovely room is furnished with a long carved, dark-wood dining table, which is set with holiday china and crystal for Christmas occasions.

Appropriately, to the left of the foyer is a library with custom wall-to-wall



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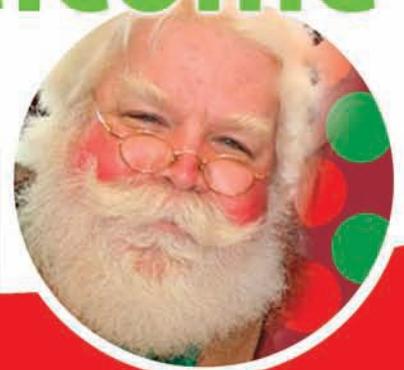
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bookcases filled with favorite books, a rich coffered wood ceiling and a small spiral library ladder. Added to their devotion to faith and family, Mackey and Margaret share a love of books, art and travel. "Margaret grew up with a love for books," Mackey explained. "Her dad read the dictionary as if it were a novel."



"My father loved words and language," Margaret explained. "We never had a television in our home. At our Book Party, everyone in the family receives a book, a Christmas ornament and a fun pair of pajamas."

While the Book Party is relatively new to the family, Christmas Eve dinner, gift opening and candlelight church service are long-standing traditions that began in the home of Margaret's grandparents. "Christmas Eve dinner is homemade beef and vegetable soup served with cornbread," she said. Following the evening church service, family and

friends return for dessert, which often includes Margaret's Martha Washington Christmas candy and homemade fudge.

Mackey and Margaret moved to Waxahachie in 1971 with their two young children. "We didn't know anyone in town," Margaret said. "After living in apartments and rental housing in Houston while Mackey finished dental school and in military housing in Illinois and Alaska while he served in the Air Force, we were ready to settle down."

Mackey's dad suggested Waxahachie as a possibility for Mackey's dental practice. As it happened, the family fell in love

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with the community and their first family home. "We lived on Dartmouth Drive in the College Hills area for 37 years before deciding to build a new home," Margaret added. "I have truly loved every place we've lived."

Construction began on the Morgan's new home in 2007, and today it is testimony to their artistic visions and the result of a great working relationship with their contractor. "It took a year to build. While we knew home-building is often stressful, the experience was really a joy, and in the end, I felt our vision was fulfilled," Mackey said.

In soft-colored stone, topped by a red-tiled roof and accented with a columned and arched backyard terrace, side breezeway, greenhouse and a gorgeous one-of-a-kind, wrought-iron front door, the magnificent three-bedroom home exudes substance, detail and exquisite design, proof that each point of construction, choice of materials, colors and finishing were hand-picked. "We wanted an inside/outside house," Mackey said. The open kitchen, living and breakfast area lined with windows overlooks the shaded patio, large swimming pool, sculpted landscaping, breezeway and greenhouse. "The arch-covered terrace is made of rattlesnake stone and a layer of Austin stone," he added.

The central living area features a state-of-the-art kitchen with warm, custom wood cabinetry, granite-topped island, tumbled marble backsplash, terrazzo flooring and items collected from travels, including Italian pottery. "I would say the kitchen and breakfast areas are my favorites," Margaret said. "The glass-topped breakfast table was part of our children's lives and now our grandchildren's, so it's very special."

The open living room, elegantly and comfortably furnished, is home to a fireplace with custom wood trim and a striking marble inset. For the holidays, the mantel and large built-in entertainment center are draped in garlands studded with gold ribbons and ornaments. In view from the living room, a circular alcove houses a grand piano and another stunning chandelier. Throughout the Morgan's house, most walls are painted soft macadamia beige with deep moldings and baseboards in a darker shade of the same color.

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Mediterranean-style columns flank the hallway leading to a room known as the children's bedroom. "The twin beds are from my childhood," Margaret said. Beyond the children's room is a guest room, lovingly referred to as the grandmothers' room because it holds items inherited from both Mackey and Margaret's mothers.

The master suite, located on the opposite side of the house, accommodates a sizeable sitting area plus a king-sized bed and furnishings. The stunning master bath is arranged in a semi-circle leading to an enormous master closet with customized built-ins. "For 37 years, we lived with a tiny closet," Mackey laughed. "With this house, we wanted a closet big enough to eat dinner in."

Mackey and Margaret enjoy collaborating, especially when it comes to art. Rather than search for something to fill a space, they revel in the discovery of art, knowing they will find just the right place for it. One of their discoveries is a happy, colorful contemporary painting entitled *Some Kind of Wonderful*, which hangs in the breakfast area. During the holidays, it is the perfect backdrop for a gathering of whimsical nutcrackers. The cheerful painting reflects the Morgan's joy. "We love our home," Margaret smiled. "We are blessed with a wonderful family, and I believe the most important aspect of any home is to share it with the people you love." **NOW**

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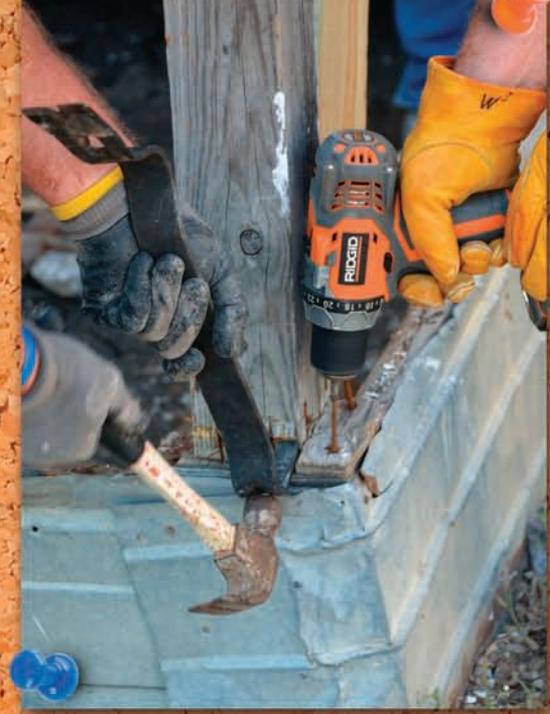
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— By Angel Morris





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The business of a church, simply put, is to spread God's word — not just within its congregation but to its community and beyond. With this in mind, members of Central Presbyterian Church felt compelled to look outward, at what they could do for Waxahachie and its residents. "Our church has really been reflecting on what the local church is and what it is called to do," said church member Matt Authier. "I think church is moving away from an inward focus, as far as what the church can do for its members, and moving toward an outward focus on how God can use the church to meet the needs of the community in which it finds itself."

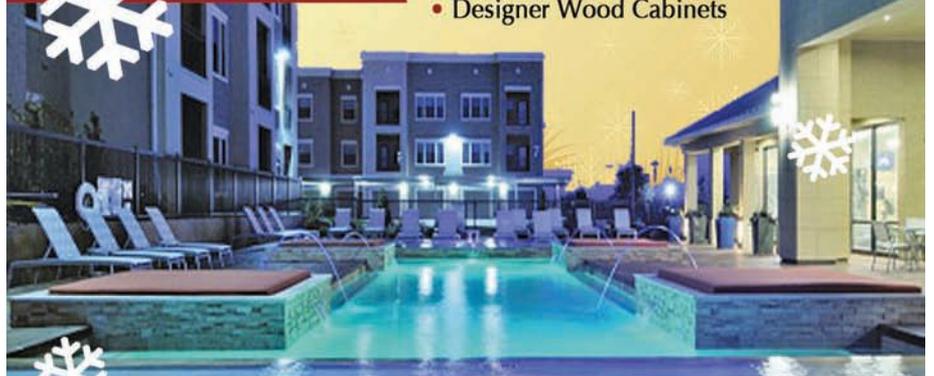
To that end, the Second Saturday Service was born. It began in January 2013 with an entirely different objective: to serve local veterans. "Our community has an incredible number of veterans, and we felt a strong push to meet their needs. We spent all of 2013 serving about 10 veterans in the community with various needs around their homes," Matt recalled. "We built fences, painted,

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caulked, built porches, trimmed trees, mowed lawns, landscaped — you name it. But most importantly, we loved on them and allowed them the chance to feel loved, and in return, they made us feel loved, by sharing their story with each of us.”

In 2014, struggling to fill its project calendar, CPC reevaluated its mission objective. “After much internal discussion, we decided to leverage our relationships with local nonprofits like Waxahachie Care, Common Ground

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Ministries, Daniel's Den, CASA, Gingerbread House and Presbyterian Children's Home and Services. We decided 2014 would be spent on directly meeting the needs of those organizations,” Matt said. “Really getting started was hard. Knocking on doors, cold calling people — we had lots of people willing to work, but getting people to tell us they needed help was the challenge.”

Passionate about helping those in need, however, church members came to spend the second Saturday of each month at the facilities of any number of nonprofit organizations. “That doesn't



mean we stopped serving local veterans, in fact, we've served several this year. It just means we widened our eyes as to those who need assistance," Matt noted.

Overseeing the mission programs, both local and foreign at CPC, Matt organizes the Second Saturday Service teams. "My wife, Kate, and I joined CPC in 2010 and got involved quickly. We will forever be thankful for the opportunity this church has given us to serve in the ways we both feel called to," Matt said.

They talked up the idea of moving toward hands-on mission work and away from monetary support alone. "We all realized there was a real sense of excitement about starting something like this using church resources. I have served as an elder for three years and mission chair for two of those years. God has blessed our church over the past two years with increased giving from our members, as well as denominational grants, to allow us to continue this work and meet community needs."

Second Saturday Service is fully funded by the CPC mission budget and grants from its denomination, and is available for anyone, member or nonmember, to join in on a monthly basis. Participants may build a fence for someone or work on something like laying a commemorative brick garden at The Gingerbread House. "There is always room for more volunteers and more projects," Matt indicated.

"Our church has really taken ownership of this ministry because we had a real desire for this type of mission work prior to its launch," he said. "However, we've also seen friends of our members and a few others in town who will come along on any given second Saturday and pitch in to help."

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Matt is not surprised by outside interest in Second Saturday Service. "Mission work was instilled in me as a young kid growing up in a small church," he shared. "My family, my pastor and my friends all rallied around local mission work, and we had a lot of fun doing it. I realized early my passion for serving God and serving others was through mission work."



And that passion, according to Matt, is contagious among Second Saturday volunteers. "My favorite story is when two members of our church were in line voting for a school district election and the person registering voters was going on and on about how a group was at her house right now building her a brand new fence," Matt recounted. "Our members said the excitement in her voice and smile on her face reassured them the work we are doing is making a



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difference. That person who received the new fence wasn't a member of our church or even someone we knew previous to this ministry starting. In fact, they were actively involved in another local church. However, they had a need, and God placed them in our path to meet that need."

Originally from Corsicana, the Authiers tell folks they beat a path to Waxahachie as quickly as they could. A graduate of Texas A&M University with a BBA in accounting and a master's in finance, Matt holds a CPA license and works for an oil and gas investment advisor in Dallas. He loves high school football, Aggie football, being involved with church youth and more importantly, spending time with Kate and their two sons. All of these interests, in fact, further his desire to see Second Saturday Service grow.

"There is a connection made with our neighbors when we show up on their front lawns on a Saturday morning, and say, 'How can we help you today?' But we live in a world where it is too easy to put our heads down and plow through life with tunnel vision," Matt said. "It's human nature to wonder what we get out of doing something for free for a stranger, but this mission is a reminder that we are called to be His hands and feet in the world and to love our neighbor."

Matt encourages anyone who can find just a few free hours once a month to consider joining him for Second Saturday Service work. "The point of this isn't to get people in the door of Central Presbyterian Church, it's to get people out of church doors and into neighborhoods," he said. "I promise you, seeing the wake God leaves from something as simple as mowing a yard — smiles, cards and hugs from those whom we are lucky enough to serve — it is fun to watch!" **NOW**

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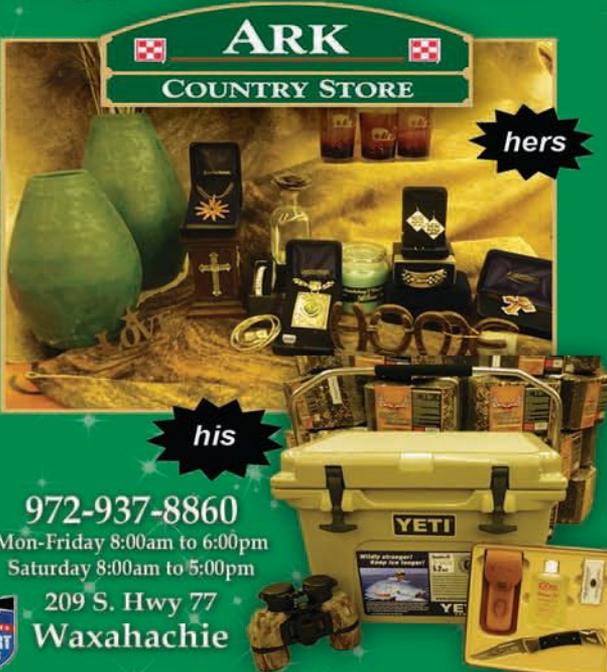
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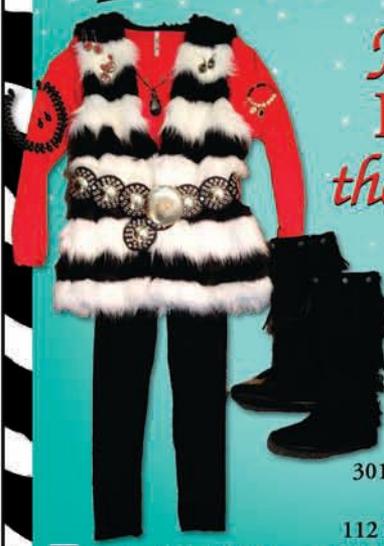
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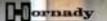
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— By Callie Revell

If you see a classic, bright red Huffy bicycle chained in front of a store, you will know who's inside. Tom McAfee, a longtime resident of Waxahachie, can be seen riding his unique bicycle on any street in town on any day of the week. "The bicycle is very distinctive," Tom said. "It's the only one in town like it." He might greet you with a friendly wave or a smile from underneath his helmet, and you might even hear him ring his shiny silver bell. However, Tom's bike has a story to tell that can't be seen on the surface.

Since Tom loves golf, he traveled to Augusta, Georgia, last April with Beverly Worthington to attend the Master's Golf Tournament. On the way back to Texas, the two stopped in Scottsboro, Alabama. "We found this flea market on the side



of the road,” Tom remembered. “There was a bicycle in the building. I didn’t even know I was looking for it until I found it. It was sitting in the back room. I told Beverly, ‘Come take a look at this.’”

Beverly knew at once Tom had found something special. “At that point, he was already like a kid with a new bike,” she said. “His eyes lit up, and he was so excited about it. I knew

his heart had already purchased it.” Although they had not been looking for a bicycle, Beverly was confident in his decision to take it home. “I knew if he was going to buy it, he was going to use it,”

Beverly said. “I had tried to get him to go walking. Sometimes he would, and sometimes he wouldn’t, but he loves that bicycle.” After getting the bike, cycling soon became one of Tom’s favorite hobbies. “His true passion is golf,” Beverly said. “But his second passion is his bicycle.”

The bike is over 50 years old and had spent most of its life as a floor sample at a Western Auto store before he bought it. “It’s pretty much in mint condition,” Tom said. The owner of the bike was inclined to sell it to someone who would use it instead of selling it to a collector or dealer. “I made them an offer, and they accepted, so we loaded it up and brought it home,” Tom said. “It was an impulse thing.”

“I don’t generally have a route. I just go wherever it takes me.”



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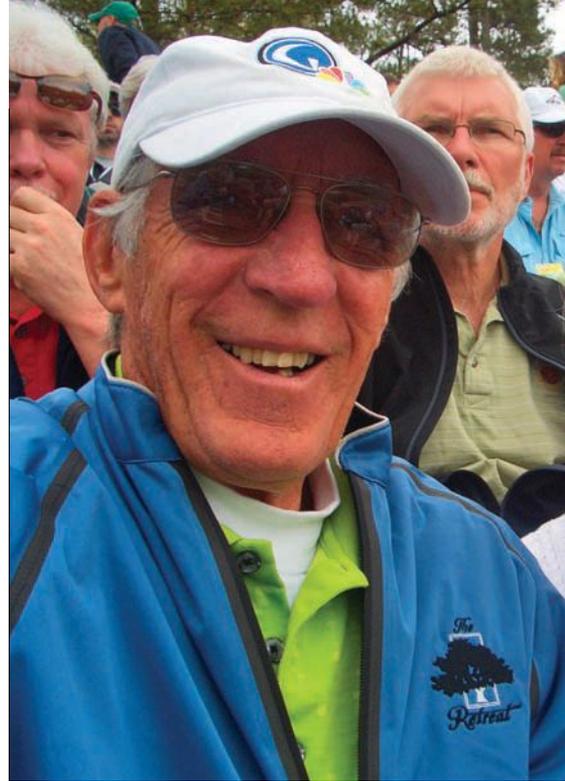
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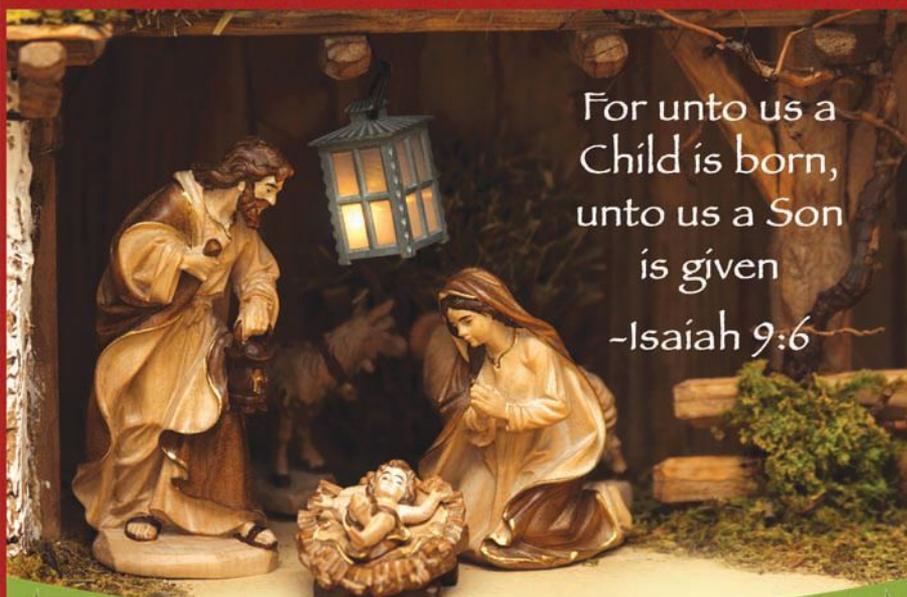




The bike originally caught Tom's eye because it reminded him of his childhood. "It's nostalgia," Tom said. "When I was a kid, my dad bought me a brand new bike similar to this one with fenders and a horn. About two days later, I had that thing stripped down for speed. I took the fenders off and everything!" Tom has taken a different approach this time, taking care to preserve the bike's original features that make it unique. The whitewall tires go well with the red paint and the white stripes on the fenders. Tom loves the original mirrors attached to the handles. "When I'm riding, instead of turning my head to look over my shoulder and riding into a hole, I can just glance at the mirror," he said. He replaced the broken speedometer on the bike with a new digital one. He also attached a bell and added flashing lights to the front and back for safety when riding around cars.

Every Friday morning, Tom schedules time to ride his bike. He also rides it during the week when he can. "I usually ride about 10 miles through the neighborhoods or on the walking trail," Tom said. "I don't generally have a route. I just go wherever it takes me." Tom loves exploring Waxahachie on two wheels. He's found his bike provides a new perspective on a city he thought he already knew. "I get to see more of the city when I'm on the bike," Tom said. "I've gone on all the neighborhood back roads, where I normally would not have

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traveled. I see a lot of the city that I've never seen." Tom has found the best routes to get where he wants to go, some of which are only accessible by bicycle. One route takes him to his men's weekly breakfast meeting on unmapped roads. "I can avoid the major roads for safety reasons. I didn't even know that route was there," Tom said. "I've found places in Waxahachie I never knew existed."

Tom's urge to explore the unknown dates back to his days as a helicopter pilot for the U.S. Army. That training,

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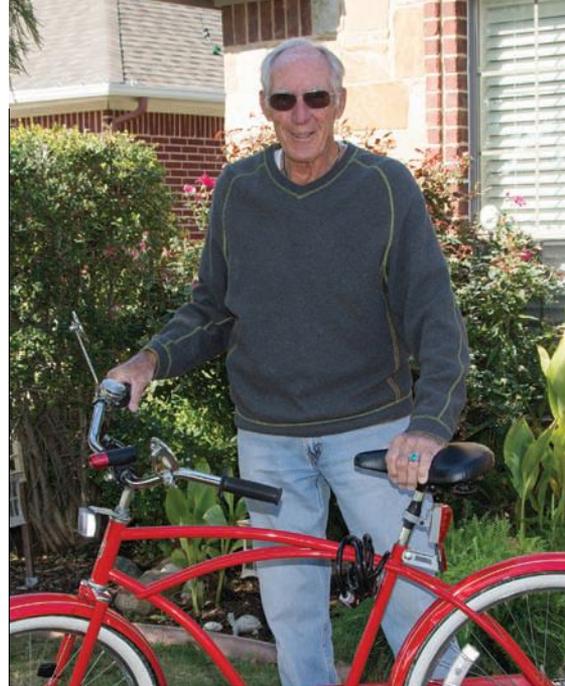


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as well as his experience as a pilot and a sailor, has given him an excellent sense of direction. Although he often finds himself in unfamiliar areas of Waxahachie, he rarely gets lost. "I've never been lost. I *have* been temporarily geographically mislocated a few times," Tom joked.

When traveling long distances or going on road trips with Beverly, Tom drives a van, but he sees many advantages to having a second form of transportation available when he needs it. "Sometimes, I need some service work done on my van and have to leave it at the garage all day," he said. "I'll stick the bike in the back and use it to pedal back home and then ride it back to pick up the van later." Tom can also use his bike to ride to the grocery store or run other errands.

Tom hopes that Waxahachie will continue to develop into a bike-friendly community. With the annual Rotary Club bike ride and other similar races, Tom

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recognizes an appreciation for bikes in the area. “There are a lot of serious bike riders around here,” Tom said. “If I do ride on Saturday mornings, I run into the more serious riders in their gear and uniforms.” Tom prefers to stick with a simple helmet and jeans. “I just ride,” he said. “I wouldn’t consider myself a *serious* bike rider.” Nevertheless, he enjoys the measures the city has taken to accommodate bike riders safely. “It’s nice to have a safe place to ride like the bike trail,” he noted. “It has a great atmosphere.”

Still, there are more steps that could be taken to make sure bike riders are safely accommodated. “They could put bike lanes on a lot of the major roads,” Tom suggested. “I know they would be well-used. A lot of major metropolitan areas are adding them to try to encourage people to be environmentally friendly and cut down on traffic. I mean, go to Amsterdam. There are thousands and thousands of cyclists there. Fort Worth has the system where you can check out a bike and ride.” Tom hopes more trails and bike stands in front of businesses will encourage more people to adapt to a lifestyle of cycling. For now, though, the future looks bright, and he is perfectly content cruising the streets on his classic Huff. **NOW**

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— By Sandra Strong

Are you finding it difficult to get in the holiday spirit? Fret no more. Getting in the spirit will be much easier as you work on crafts that will brighten your home with seasonal merriment, as well as bring smiles to the faces of family and friends, young and old alike.

Milk Jug Snowmen

Mark the beginning of the holiday season by creating a night light that decorates a room with visual warmth while helping children learn basic shapes.

Difficulty Level: Easy

- 1 gallon jug
- 1 1/2-gallon jug
- Scissors
- 2 sheets black foam, felt or construction paper (your choice)
- 1 sheet orange foam, felt or construction paper (your choice)
- 5 sheets tissue paper (divided use)
- 2 strands 20-count indoor/outdoor white lights with white cording

- Cool melt hot glue
- 3 black pipe cleaners (or color of your choice)
- 2 large black pompoms (or color of your choice)
- 1 medium-size Santa hat (design and color of your choice)

- ① Rinse jugs out thoroughly. Set aside, allowing them to dry completely inside and out.
- ② Cut 4 ovals from black material to serve as eyes. Cut 5 circles from black material to serve as the mouth for the gallon snowman. Cut five small squares from black material to serve as the mouth for the half-gallon snowman.
- ③ Cut 2 skinny triangles from orange material to serve as the noses for both snowmen.
- ④ Cut 3 small slits in each jug under the handle toward the bottom of the jug to



Step 4

create a hinged opening large enough to insert the tissue paper and lights. Carefully stuff the tissue paper (3 sheets for gallon and 2 sheets for half-gallon) and lights through these holes, making sure to mingle the lights with the tissue paper. Push the opening closed. Be sure the cord portion of the lights remains outside the jug openings.

- ⑤ Glue eyes, mouths and noses on jugs. Bend noses accordion-style to give them a 3-D effect. Braid and bend pipe cleaners in an arc. Glue to the sides of the half-gallon jug. Glue pompoms over the ends of the pipe cleaners to complete the ear muffs. Pull Santa hat over the top of the gallon jug. Dot with glue to hold the hat in place. (You can also use a cap your child has outgrown.)
- ⑥ Plug in and enjoy what you and your little ones have created.

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Frosty the Snow Pot

Create a Frosty that doesn't melt as he warms your home and the hearts of all those who visit during the holiday season.

Difficulty Level: Easy to Medium
Three variations pictured.

- 1 large clay pot
- 1 medium clay pot
- Small paintbrush
- White acrylic paint
- Black acrylic paint
- Scissors
- 1 piece orange felt
- Needle
- Orange embroidery floss
- 1 cotton ball
- Cheek color (rouge)
- Kleenex
- Cool melt hot glue
- 2 large black buttons
- 7 small black buttons
- Holiday ribbon
- 1 sprig from holly berry artificial flower pick

- 1 Paint large pot white. Paint small pot black. Allow to dry completely.
- 2 Cut two carrot shapes from orange felt. Hand-stitch the two pieces together to make nose. Stuff nose with cotton ball to give the carrot a 3-D appearance.
- 3 For rosy cheeks, smudge cheek color on the cheek areas using a Kleenex or your index finger.
- 4 Glue large buttons in place for eyes. Glue small buttons in place for smile. Glue nose in place, allowing it to stick out.
- 5 Tie holiday ribbon around the base of

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the small pot. Glue holly berry sprig to the ribbon to complete Frosty's holiday top hat.

⑥ Glue around the inside edge of the small pot. Stack the smaller pot on top of the larger pot. Allow glue to dry completely before moving.

⑦ You can also "top Frosty off" with ear muffs made from pompoms and pipe cleaners or a stocking cap of your choice. Eyes and mouths can be painted on or cut from black foam. Let your imagination be your guide.

Santa's Swag

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Difficulty Level: Medium to Hard

- 4 Santa hats
- Needle
- White embroidery floss
- 1/2 yd. white felt
- Spring or cafe curtain rod
- 1/2 yd. green felt
- Green embroidery floss
- 10 green sequins
- 25 gold or silver beads
- 15 red sequins



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- 1 To create the swag, hand stitch the Santa hats together along the white trim only, one hat at a time until you have the desired width. Hand stitch the tops closed to complete the front of the swag.
- 2 To create the rod pocket, cut the



Step 2

white felt in a strip the same width, from left to right, as the sewn hats. Make sure to cut it long enough, from top to bottom, to accommodate the rod being used. (If the rod is 1-inch, be sure to cut the rod pocket at least 1 1/2-inches in length.) Hand stitch rod pocket to the backside of hat curtain making sure not to sew all the way through to the front side.

- 3 Cut green felt in the shape of holly leaves, cutting 10 to duplicate the example shown.



Step 3

- 4 Attach each leaf by sewing one green sequin and one bead to the swag. Sew in place red sequins and remaining beads in clumps of 3 to represent holly berries.

- 5 You can complete the holiday swag by decorating the white portion with embellishments of your choice. This swag was personalized using embroidery floss, sequins and felt, but feel free to let your holiday imagination take over. **NOW**

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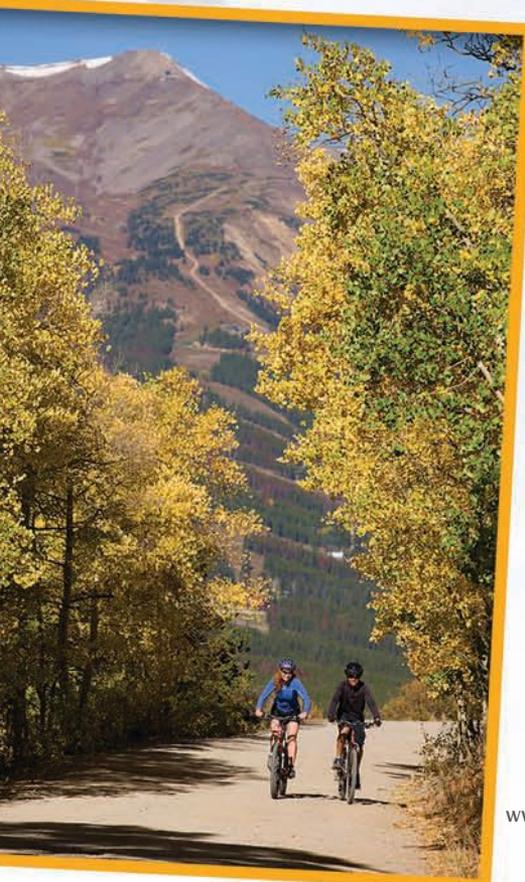


Breckenridge is a warm and friendly place, whether you are sitting in a bar, lunching in a coffee shop, riding the chairlifts or checking out the town — total strangers make friends it seems they've known for years. With gold at stake, the early residents and visitors of Breckenridge likely weren't quite that open. After all, this historic town was founded by a small group of gold-seekers, each in search of their own big strike.





The pioneers of the '60s came in the form of skiers with deep Norwegian roots. In 1961 Trygve Berge and Sigurd Rockne founded what is now Breckenridge Ski Resort. As in the days of Berge and Rockne, the outdoors beckons many who arrive in Breckenridge today. The town sits between the Continental Divide and the peaks of



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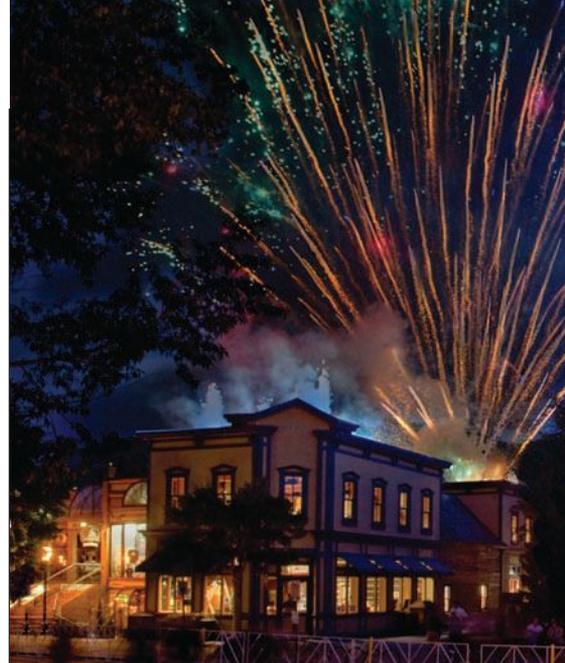


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by beginners and those who seek out the most advanced terrain. Breckenridge's 300 annual inches of snow also hit the backcountry. While there's no preferred method of travel, there's also no shortage of options.

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Dogsledding is a popular activity, especially here, where everyone (who chooses) takes turns at the helm.

For those who prefer activities under their own power, Breckenridge's two Nordic Centers offer snowshoe, plus groomed trails for classic and skate-style Nordic skiing. Those with the proper equipment (and a sense of adventure) head to Breckenridge's trail network

for afternoon outings, overnight hut trips and everything in between.

When the snow gives way to dry, 70-degree summer temperatures, wildflowers bloom. Purple lupine, wild roses, bluebells and a variety of Rocky Mountain wildflowers dot the mountainsides. Rivers and streams rush with cold, clear water that invites boating. Kayaks, whitewater rafts and fishing rigs top trailers and cars throughout town.



Jackson Streit, owner of Mountain Angler, explained that Breckenridge is central to some of the Centennial State's best fishing. Several rivers — each with sections of Gold Medal Waters — flow within an easy drive from downtown, and high alpine lakes sit nestled among surrounding peaks. Afternoons bring beginner anglers practicing casts in the Blue River. Cyclists speed by on the paved path that parallels the river and links Breckenridge with surrounding towns.

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cycling network, Scott Reid explained the town's hiking and biking trails: "It's similar to a bicycle wheel, with the hub as downtown and miles of trails, the spokes, extending into the backcountry. Downtown access points lead to town, county and Forest Service trails. There's no need for a car."

Many of these popular hiking and biking routes were once used by miners in search of gold. Flumes have been converted into flowing singletrack (narrow biking trails), and along it are glimpses of the town's gold-seeking beginnings. Pioneer cabins can be seen on trails — Tom's Baby, Minnie Mine — whose names have roots in the characters of the past. Several restored dredge boats, remnants of a mining method uncommon in the Rocky Mountains, stand abandoned in the backcountry.

The Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, a nonprofit committed to protecting, sharing, and celebrating the unique stories of Breckenridge, has placed interpretive signage both at backcountry sites, such as the dredges and throughout town. Historic walking tours cover the highlights, and museums give an in-depth look at the gold seekers who established the town and created a community with pioneering spirit.

Around Main Street, visitors will meet Breckenridge's modern pioneers: bourbon distillers creating world-renowned craft spirits, a passionate community building an award-winning arts district, and retailers serving up a shopping experience that includes both local and global merchandise. More than 70 independently-owned restaurants and bars serve up all manner of cuisine, not to mention nightlife that consistently ranks highly in top ski and snowboard guides.

The storefronts, once housing mostly gear shops and burger stops, now boast a diverse lineup of funky boutiques and modern menus, all served up in the Victorian spaces that line the downtown streets. The diversity adds up to plenty of options in town, plus a backyard that brings adventurers out to play. Wondering where to head next? Just ask the locals in the coffee shop. **NOW**

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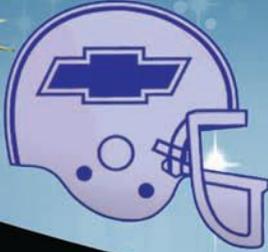
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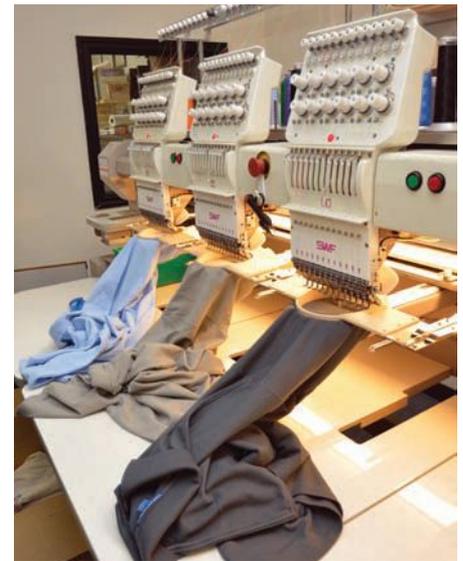


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James Sanchez, Travis Kiser, Rosemere Kiser and Colin Kiser are dedicated to producing what their customers ask for no matter the size of the job.



Stepping Outside the Box

EmbroidMe is a promotional marketing partner in the community and beyond. — By Sandra Strong

Travis Kiser, current general manager of EmbroidMe, just happened to be in the right place at the right time when the franchise's previous owners decided to sell. A couple years prior, Travis had retired from a lengthy career at Southwest Airlines. Soon thereafter, in 2009, he went to work part time at EmbroidMe. "When the business became available, my career with the State Department was coming to an end," explained Colin Kiser, owner and older brother to Travis. "It was the perfect time for us to venture into business for ourselves." Colin became the owner of EmbroidMe in July 2011, and the brothers have been growing the business ever since. Their staff includes two more dedicated employees. "Rosemere is Travis' wife," Colin said. "She is our part-time marketing person, and she does all the sewing on of patches." James Sanchez is their one full-time

employee. He graduated from Waxahachie High School in the spring of this year.

The small, family-owned business has increased its revenue each year doing what the brothers do best — from embroidery and screen printing to letterman apparel and promotional products. "We have the means available to us to accomplish what our customers ask for," Colin said. "We are also able to satisfy orders that cannot be processed in-house." And as a franchise, Colin and Travis have resources at their disposal that help when, where and if a need arises. These resources allow the brothers to step outside the box, so to speak, when it comes to exemplary customer service. "It's all about the customer," Colin reiterated.

Although their client list extends well outside the parameters of Ellis County, EmbroidMe has earned the trust of many local

Business **NOW**

businesses right here in Waxahachie. The Waxahachie ISD and various other local businesses, both large and small, continue to reorder with EmbroidMe for several reasons. "We can order large or small quantities," Colin said, "and we offer competitive pricing."

No job is too large or too small for EmbroidMe. "We can screen-print one shirt or 10,000 shirts," Travis added. "Our goal is to meet customers' needs while guaranteeing our work. Most of the work we do is custom. Custom orders are the most interesting, but they're also the most frustrating at times."

The staff at EmbroidMe keeps busy, especially right before the soccer and baseball seasons get underway. Customers may order complete team uniforms or add lettering and numbering to jerseys. Actually, the sky is the limit when it comes to customized embroidery, screen printing and heat-pressed items. Artwork is created both in-house by Adobe Illustrator and outside the business by graphic artists specifically to meet the requests of customers. "Typically, Mondays are the

"We can screen-print one shirt or 10,000 shirts."

slow days," Colin said, "and Fridays are usually busier than the rest of the week."

Colin and Travis both reside in the community, so giving back is something that comes naturally to the brothers. Colin is a member of the Rotary Club. Travis is a member of the Chamber Leadership Class. Both are Chamber Ambassadors. They also donate their expertise to many worthy causes in the community. One of the most recent efforts was realized in a large banner for the Shirley Singleton Wish Upon a Paw Gala held in September.

As long as there are noteworthy causes and sporting events, there will be a need for the services provided at EmbroidMe. "We really do enjoy what we do," Colin shared. "We have lots of unbelievable days." **NOW**



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Aryn Dalton of Cedar Hill paints a mural on the side of the Waxahachie Parks and Recreation Building in honor of Richards Park.



Mayor Kevin Strength talks with Robert Benton at the dedication of the stars on the Waxahachie Walk of Fame.



Abyssa Jay and Layla Jay celebrate with a birthday night out at Cici's Pizzeria.



A large crowd gathers for ClinPoint Trials Ribbon Cutting.



During the Texas Country Reporter Festival, Bob Phillips and the Purple Hulls took time out from the fun to smile for the camera.



Sandra Strong as Spider Granny enjoys throwing imaginary web with Easton McIntosh, one of her two favorite super heroes.



Ladies at Precinct 117 are ready for Election Day.



Brookdale - Waxahachie Senior Living Solutions pose at their ribbon cutting.

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Year-end Charitable Giving

As the holiday season approaches, with the end of one year and the start of another, we pause to give thanks for our blessings and the people in our lives. It is also a time when charitable giving often comes to mind. Charitable giving can be enhanced using income tax deductions, and so it can be much more effective when it is included as part of year-end tax planning.

Example(s): Assume you are considering making a charitable gift equal to the sum of \$1,000 plus the income taxes you save with the charitable deduction. With a 28-percent tax rate, you might be able to give \$1,389 to charity ($\$1,389 \times 28\% = \389 taxes saved). On the other hand, with a 35-percent tax rate, you might be able to give \$1,538 to charity ($\$1,538 \times 35\% = \538 taxes saved).

• **A word of caution**

Be sure to deal with recognized charities, and be wary of charities with similar sounding names. It is common for scam artists to impersonate charities using bogus websites, and through contact involving emails, telephone, social media and in-person solicitations. Check out the charity on the IRS website, www.irs.gov, using the Exempt Organizations Select Check search tool. And don't give or send cash. Contribute by check or credit card.

• **Tax deduction for charitable gifts**

If you itemize deductions on your income tax return, you can generally deduct your gifts to qualified charities. However, the amount of your deduction may be limited to certain percentages of your adjusted gross income (AGI). For example, your deduction for gifts of cash to public charities is generally limited to 50 percent of your AGI for the year, and other gifts to charity may be limited to 30 percent or 20 percent of your AGI. Disallowed charitable deductions may generally be carried over and deducted over the next five years, subject to the income percentage limits in those years. And be sure to retain proper substantiation of your deduction for a charitable contribution.

• **Year-end tax planning**

When considering making charitable gifts at the end of a year, it is generally useful to include them as part of your year-end tax planning. In general, taxpayers have a certain amount of control over the timing of income and expenses. You generally want to time your recognition of income so that it will be taxed at a lower rate, and time your deductible expenses so they can be claimed in years when you are in a higher tax bracket. For example, if you expect that you will be in a higher tax bracket next year, it may make sense to wait and make the charitable contribution in January, so you can take the deduction in the next year when the deduction produces a greater tax benefit. Or you might push the charitable contribution, along with other deductions, into a year when your itemized deductions would be greater than the standard deduction. And, if the income percentage limits above are a concern in one year, you might move income into that year or move deductions out of that year, so that a larger charitable deduction is available for that year. A financial or tax professional can help you evaluate how to make charitable gifts in a way that is beneficial to you. **NOW**

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Donald Pope is a Raymond James Financial Advisor in Duncanville.

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December 5

Waxahachie Junior Service League Christmas Market Preview Party and Shopping Event: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Dr. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at www.waxahachiejls.org.

December 5 — 7, 12— 14

Bethlehem Revisited: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College St. Free admission, but donations are welcome. For more information, call (972) 937-2390.

December 6

Christmas Parade: 10:00-11:00 a.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Christmas Market and Gift Show: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Dr. Call (972) 825-6077 for further details.

December 6, 7 and 13, 14

Candlelight Home Tour: 2:00-8:00 p.m. Visit

seven unique homes dressed in their holiday best during the two-weekend event. To purchase tickets, visit www.downtownwaxahachie.com or www.waxahachiecvb.com.

December 12, 13, 14

Waxahachie Community Theatre presents *Forever Plaid*: Dec. 12 and 13, 7:30; Dec. 14, 2:30 p.m.; Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call the box office at (972) 646-1050 or email wct.texas@gmail.com for group rates.

December 13

YMCA Santa Run: 10:00 a.m., downtown Waxahachie. Compete in Santa costumes in either the 5K or mile format. Pre- and post-race activities will be available for the whole family.

Community Cowboy Christmas Carnival: 1:00-5:00 p.m., 4-c Stables, 1355 Ovilla Rd. The event will feature photos with Santa, pony rides, a bounce house and face painting. Call Ryan Metcalf at (972) 849-8376 for more information.

December 14

Christmas for Cowboys: 8:30-11:00 a.m., Lone

Star Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 1011 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak. The church band and children's ministries will perform the program in memory of former church band member, the late Steve Weisberg. For more information, call (214) 334-8963 or (972) 576-0900.

December 20

Ryan Wilt Memorial Event: Ryan's Run and Teezy's Tourney: 8:00 a.m., Lakeview Camp and Conference Center, 5128 FM 66. Ryan's Run consists of a 5K all-terrain course or a 1-mile fun run/walk on a paved pathway. Teezy's Tourney consists of friendly games of three-on-three basketball. For more information, visit www.ryanwiltmemorial.weebly.com.

February 6

Waxahachie ISD's DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Day: reading times are 8:45 and 10:15 a.m. Contact Melissa Cobb at mcobb@wisd.org or call her at (972) 923-4631 to reserve your place to read.

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

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The sciatic nerves are the largest (and longest) nerves of the body, reaching about the size of your thumb in diameter, and running down the back of each leg. When these nerves are irritated or affected by the inflammation of nearby soft tissues, doctors refer to this as sciatica.

One of the most common causes of sciatic leg pain is the vertebral subluxation complex. It can be accompanied by the bulging or herniation of the soft, pulpy discs, which separate each spinal bone. This can irritate or put pressure on the sciatic nerve roots as they leave the spinal cord. The result can be an intense pain shooting down either or both legs. Sciatica, like other health problems that can be traced to the spine, often responds dramatically to the restoration of normal spinal function through conservative chiropractic care.

Pain is caused when the sciatic nerve roots are irritated, scraped, twisted, stretched or pinched as they exit the spine. Causes of the impairment may be chemical, physical or the emotional stress of everyday living. A full-blown sciatic flare-up can involve the entire sciatic nerve path, resulting in symptoms of lower back pain, burning, cramping or numbness that radiates into the thighs, legs, ankles, feet and toes. Pain may also be limited to various points along the nerve, such as the buttocks, knee area and calf.

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**SEE OUR AD ON
PAGE 5**

A Good Acid

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Information and misinformation abound in the realm of vitamins. Regardless of the data, Americans spent \$28 billion in annual sales in 2010 according to the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, established by the American College of Physicians. Much of the conversation focuses on whether these vitamins are necessary as supplements to a healthy diet. The cadre of vitamins the body produces are Vitamin A, B complex, C, D, E and K. All vitamins are found naturally in food, but many think we are not eating properly diverse diets to obtain all of the vitamins we need. Hence, supplements may be necessary. While the controversy marches on, there is one vitamin that has been shown to be crucial to the development of new cells.

Folate is a part of the B complex of vitamins and is the form that is naturally found in food. Folic acid is the synthetic form of the vitamin that is found in supplements. Folate and folic acid are used interchangeably, because they function the same way in the body. They are both water soluble, meaning they dissolve in water and must be replaced every day since the body does not store them. Folic acid's main job of assisting in the formation of healthy new cells is extremely important in an unborn baby, whose body is in a constant state of rapid growth and needs to have all of the necessary building blocks to grow healthily.

Normal levels of folic acid taken before conception and throughout the first trimester have been shown to greatly reduce the development of spina

bifida. The disorder, spina bifida, is a neural tube defect, which means there is an opening in the spine, and the spinal cord is not protected. Two other significant benefits of folic acid are a reduced risk of hypertension for women and assistance in the formation of healthy red blood cells.

The Office on Women's Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states, "In the United States, most women who eat foods enriched with folic acid are still not getting all that they need. That's why it's important to take a vitamin with folic acid every day." Some sources of folate naturally occurring in foods are whole grains, dark green leafy vegetables, melons, citrus fruits, beans, peas and beef. Some foods are rich in folic acid, because they have been fortified with it, such as: breads, cereal, pasta and grain products. If it is necessary to supplement, consult with your health care provider for the appropriate amount as the dosage can vary for many reasons. **NOW**

Sources:

<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=1789253>.

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/folic-acid.html#g>

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.

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In the Kitchen With Julie McClellen

— By Sandra Strong

Julie McClellen started cooking at the age of 12. “My mom had always been a stay-at-home mom up until then,” Julie remembered. “When she decided to go back to work, I quickly learned I didn’t like cooking, but I loved baking.” At 14, Julie decorated her first cake, and she proudly admits she’s been hooked ever since.

One of Julie’s proudest moments happened two years ago when she was one of 40 people chosen, out of thousands, to compete in New Jersey at Buddy’s (The Cake Boss) Bakery for the TV show *The Next Great Baker*. “I was one of the runner ups,” she shared. “Although I didn’t make the cut, that experience was one of the coolest things I’ve ever done!” **NOW**

Easy Christmas Tea Cookies

- 1 lb. butter, room temperature**
- 8 oz. powdered sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 18 oz. all-purpose flour**
- 8 oz. dried cranberries**
- 8 oz. pistachios, chopped**

- 1.** Cream butter and sugar together. Add vanilla. Slowly add flour. Add the fruit and nuts. (Can substitute any dried fruit or nut.) Mix together until just combined.
- 2.** Roll dough into logs. Refrigerate for 2 hours.
- 3.** Slice cookies 1/4-inch thick. Bake for 6-7 minutes at 350 F until cookie edges are golden brown.

Gingerbread Cake

- 8 oz. butter, room temperature**
- 8 oz. sugar**
- 1 1/2 cups molasses**
- 1 egg**
- 1 egg yolk**
- 20 oz. all-purpose flour**
- 1 Tbsp. ground ginger**
- 2 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 2 tsp. baking soda**
- 14 oz. buttermilk**
- 4 1/2 oz. canned pumpkin puree**

- 1.** Cream butter, sugar and molasses together. Stir egg and yolk into wet mixture.

- 2.** In a separate bowl, mix all dry ingredients. Add dry ingredients to creamed mixture. Add buttermilk and puree, making sure to alternate the two as they are added.
- 3.** Bake at 350 F for about 30 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out clean.

Cream Cheese Icing

- 8 oz. Philadelphia cream cheese, room temperature**
- 4 oz. butter, room temperature**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 lb. powdered sugar**

- 1.** Cream cheese and butter together until perfectly smooth, making sure to scrape down the side of the mixing bowl.
- 2.** Add vanilla. Add sugar. Mix until thoroughly combined.

Chocolate Gingerbread Cookies

- 4 oz. butter, room temperature**
- 4 oz. brown sugar**
- 1/2 cup molasses**
- 1 egg**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 1/4 tsp. ground ginger**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg**
- 1 Tbsp. cocoa powder**
- 7 oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips**
- 1/2 cup sugar**

- 1.** Cream butter, brown sugar and molasses together. Add egg.
- 2.** Mix all dry ingredients, except chocolate chips and sugar, in a separate bowl.
- 3.** Add dry mixture to creamed mixture. Fold in chocolate chips.
- 4.** Scoop cookies by rounded tsp. and roll in sugar before baking. Bake at 350 F for 8 minutes, or until cookie edges are golden brown. Cookies are meant to be chewy, so be careful not to over-bake.

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

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LES HILL A master stylist and colorist, Les is a leader in the industry with 30+ years of experience working with hair. Les has an uncanny ability to assess a client and determine the most flattering cut and style for both their features and personality. Les is constantly upgrading his repertoire by continuing education with global masters.



CHARLOTTE MCGRAW Charlotte began her career at Shelton's Salon and Spa in Bedford, Texas. After 16 years of working and training with top designers from around the world, she moved to Waxahachie. She began working with Les in 2010 and continues to use her artistic ability and passion to create a look designed for each individual.



BEVERLY FRANKLIN With 28 years' experience working with hair, Beverly has been Aveda-trained for six years. She is constantly inspired through education in her field. Beverly has a passion for creativity in color and hair design. She enjoys giving 100 percent to each client and possesses a true love for the industry.



MICHAEL GREEN Michael is a strong colorist and stylist and has joined our team after relocating from Houston. He has been in the industry for 24 years and trained under Salon Friends' own Les Hill when he graduated from cosmetology school. We're excited for him to be a part of our team!



BRITTNEY HARPER Brittney was "created to create," and for the last eight years that passion has shown through in her cutting, styling and coloring techniques. She specializes in bridal and prom styles and has been used multiple times for high fashion runway shows and professional photo shoots. Her goal is to never cease growth as a person and a stylist.



STEPHANIE JONES Stephanie is a haircut specialist with more than 10 years' experience. She was trained by and worked with Aveda for seven years. Her passion is creating haircuts customized to reflect your individual style.



DESI MUNOZ Trained by Aveda, Desi has created looks for individuals for six years. Highly educated in the art of color application and cutting hair, she excels at achieving a completed look of beauty by design. Desi has worked with Les off and on for six years and joined him most recently in 2010.



JACLYN NESS Jaclyn completed the requirements for a cosmetology license in 2004. For the next few years, she continued her education and honed her skills at Worx, an Aveda Salon in Cedar Hill, where she first met and worked with Les. Since then, Jaclyn has worked locally, pursuing her passion of creating great looks through her haircutting skills. We're happy she joined our team this fall!



MELISA RODRIGUEZ Melisa has a passion for hair that began in her childhood. She followed her dreams and eventually graduated from the Aveda institute of Dallas. She now calls Salon Friends her home. Melisa uses her skills as a cosmetologist, along with client input, to realize her vision for your perfect look.



MELANIE RUIZ Melanie is a graduate of Aveda Institute of Dallas and has a life-long passion for doing hair. She says she loves every minute of it! Melanie specializes in coloring and cutting for both men and women, and is constantly taking new classes to keep up on all of the new trends.

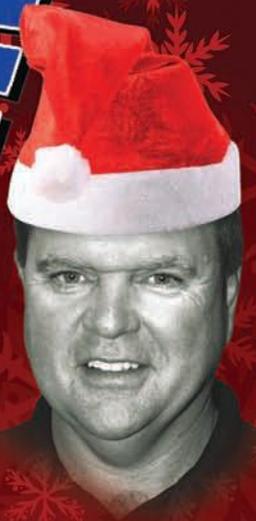


CHARLOTTE LOMAX Charlotte has been assisting Les for 18 years. She goes above and beyond to make clients feel relaxed and cared for. She is Les' right-hand assistant. Her smile lights up the salon and clients can't help but feel their spirits uplifted. Her nurturing touch is an invaluable part of the "friends" at Salon Friends.



SHARON LEACH Sharon has been practicing massage therapy in Ellis County for the past eight years. Professionally trained, Sharon takes a holistic approach in her treatments. She specializes in, but is not limited to, Swedish massage, aromatherapy, myofascia release and pre-natal massage. Her healing touch speaks for itself.

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