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Shooting Stars

Logan Gaddy is passing her passion along

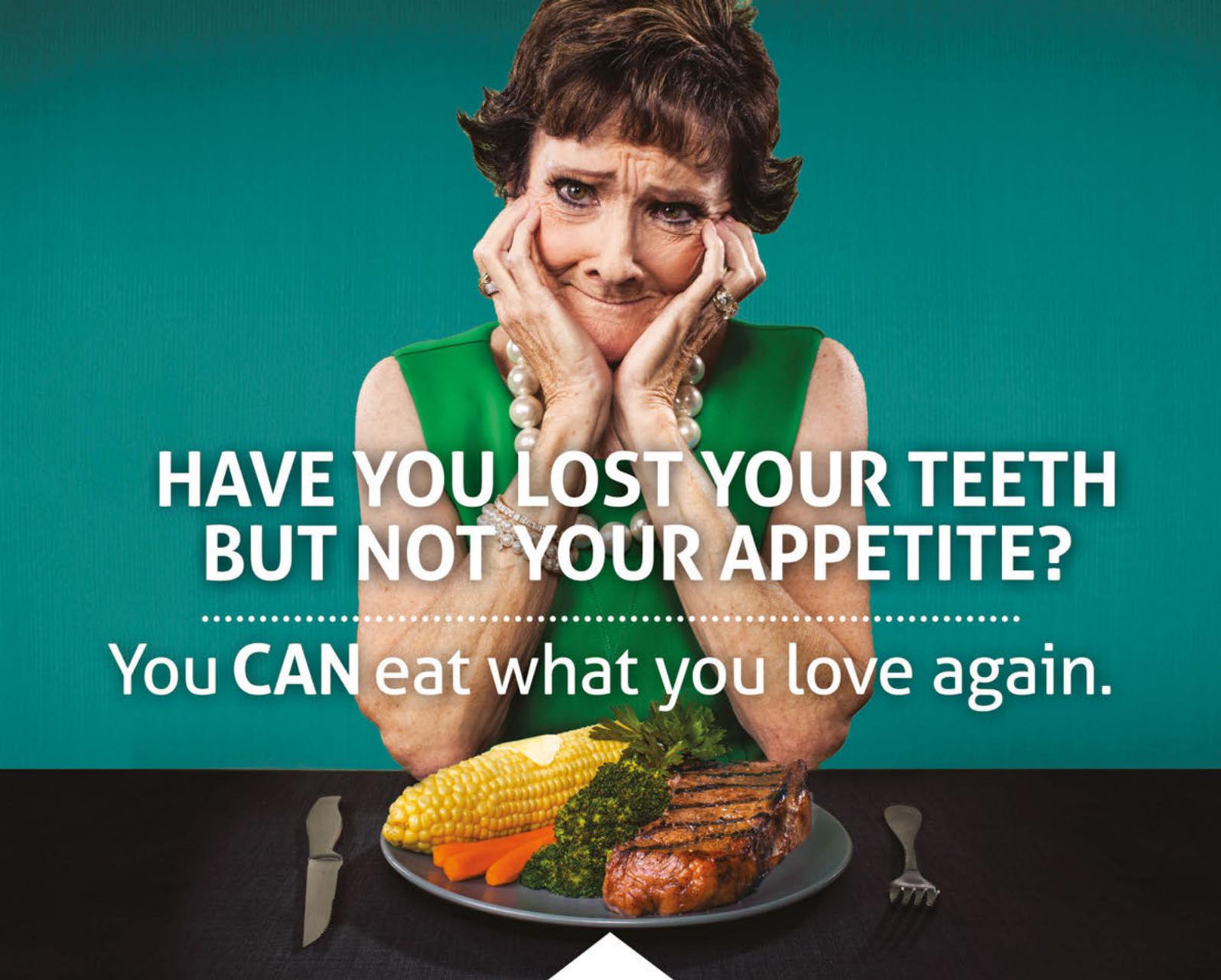
Everything Has History

At Home With Martha Childs

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ON THE COVER



Logan and Anthony Gaddy share a passion for shooting.

Photo by Dorothy Timmerman.

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Editor's Note

Happy Valentine's Day!

Love is a word packed with emotion. There are many different levels of love. As a baby, the love you have comes in the form of total dependence. As you grow into the teenage years, most experience "puppy" love — and their first broken heart. As time goes on, there's unconditional love for your soulmate and the agape love you have for your children. As those same children grow and mature, parents will find many times that tough love is the only love that will produce the change they are praying for. And finally, you have the love for a lost family member or close friend. I'm walking through a season of tough love now. Even though it's the hardest thing I've ever done as a mom, I can see the positive changes already taking shape in my life.

No matter where you are on "life's love train," remember to tell your significant other how much you love them, and hug your children extra tight. We aren't guaranteed tomorrow, so make the most of today.

Share the love!

Sandra

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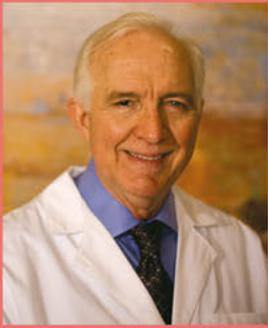


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The dictionary defines sport as “an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or a team competes against another or others for entertainment.” When people think of sports, most often their minds focus on a game involving a ball, some sort of race or a water-based competition. Logan Gaddy’s mind, however, goes straight to clay pigeon shooting.

Shooting

This bright, young lady spent a significant amount of time in her formative years learning to be an excellent shooter. Her father was a hunting safety instructor, and he instilled in Logan the love of shooting sports that she now possesses.

Logan was very focused and driven in this pursuit. As a result, she traveled all over the United States in her junior high and high school years competing against other clay target shooters. She won many awards and, eventually, became the Junior World Nationals Champion. “My parents and grandparents really supported me in this endeavor. I couldn’t have done it without them,” Logan commented.

At one time, she considered competing at the Olympic level, an idea perhaps influenced by two of her former coaches — Kim Rhode and Dan Carlisle, who medaled and later coached the 2008 U.S. Olympic shooting team. “You have to be very driven, and I was. I love the game, but training for the Olympics would have required too much time. I wanted other things, too, so I kept shooting as a passionate hobby,” Logan admitted.

Though Logan was born and raised in California, she moved to the Texas Hill Country to attend Schreiner University located in Kerrville. What drew her most was the Shooting Sport Society the university sponsors. As she studied to become a teacher of advanced sciences, she honed her shooting craft further. Logan continued to experience success in her sport, as she represented Schreiner University in national championships against as many as 50 schools, including Texas A&M University.



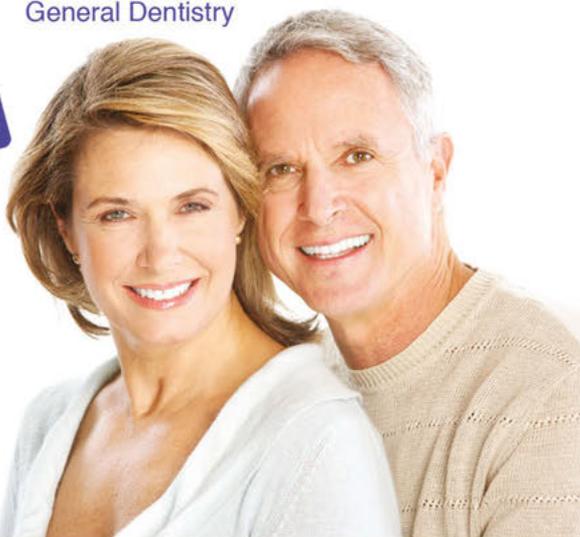
ng Stars

— By Jill Martinez

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The best shot during these years was taken by Cupid, though. He aimed his arrows at Logan's heart, and she fell in love with Anthony Gaddy as she taught him how to shoot. Their passion for the sport and for each other continued to grow, and they later became husband and wife.

After graduating from university, the Gaddys started their careers in education. Two years ago, Logan got a job as a science teacher at Ennis High School, and Anthony landed a job as band director in Blooming Grove. "What I enjoy most about my teaching career is getting to be a role model for my students, both in and out of the classroom," she stated.

After completing her first year of teaching, Logan began looking for a way to share her shooting hobby with young people. She networked for a while and, eventually, founded the Ennis Clay Target Team, which is part of the Scholastic Clay Target Program. Anthony is one of her assistant coaches. "Sometimes, it's challenging to be a female coach in a male-dominated sport. I have to work harder to prove myself, sometimes," Logan commented. Once people learn of the awards she has earned and actually see her





shoot, she receives their full support.

The Gaddys' team members are either students at Ennis High School or come from the Navarro County 4-H program. "The 2015-2016 school year was the first year we had the team, and we had a good turnout. This year, we have a total of 15 kids, three of which are girls," Logan shared. Most of the kids who joined her team were first time clay target shooters, which was very exciting for Logan because it meant that she was spreading her passion for shooting.

Setting up the co-ed team required Logan to register with the Scholastic Clay Target Program online and then take the coaching classes they provide. After that was done, she had to locate parents who would act as team supporters. She knew there was no way she could pull this thing off alone. "One of the best things about this sport is that everyone on the team gets to participate fully. There is no bench to sit on," Logan shared. "I also love that the people in this sport are some of the nicest around. They are always willing to help." She recalled being at a competition when someone's gun jammed. A competitor didn't bat an eye at lending that shooter a gun, so he could complete the competition.

Logan's commitment to the shooting team requires a good bit of her time, but she doesn't mind at all. The season runs from September to June when national competitions are held. Once a week, the team meets to practice in Waxahachie at the Ellis County Sportsman's Club on Sterrett Road. If everything hums along nicely, practices take almost two hours to complete.

In a typical practice, Logan has half the team members practicing skeet shooting, while the other half practices trap shooting. Both skeet and trap shooting use the same type of clay target. However, skeet shooting uses a "high house" and a "low

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house" to release targets at fixed angles in opposite directions, while trap shooting uses a "trap" to release targets at random positions. Each member of the team shoots a round of 25 targets in both types of shooting in a practice session.

The team participates in roughly one competition per month during the season. These are held on the weekend and usually take place at their practice location. Logan's team competes against teams from all over the Metroplex, including those from Red Oak, Allen and the Ellis County 4-H. During these competitions, members compete individually and as a team, which gives everyone a terrific opportunity to shine. This year, Logan plans to enter the team in the state and regional competitions, and she hopes they will join the national competition in future seasons.

Shooting offers excellent benefits to its participants. "Clay target shooting is good practice for real life hunting," Zach Junger, a sophomore at Ennis High School and member of Logan's team, said.

Secondly, it offers an opportunity to build social skills. "Clay target shooting creates new opportunities to meet other people. I like to shoot clay targets and have fun. My teammates are people that I may not have talked to outside of clay shooting," Dylan Jones, another team member, said.

Finally, there are college scholarship opportunities. Various shooting organizations and larger universities offer scholarships to shooters who excel. There are over 300 colleges and universities that operate shooting programs across the country. Logan's mantra is, "Whatever you do in life, make it a mission." She has made educating young people about clay target shooting one of her missions, and the future is looking bright for these shooting stars. **NOW**



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A photograph of an elderly woman with short, curly brown hair and glasses, wearing a black vest over a patterned long-sleeved shirt, sitting on a piano bench and playing a dark wood grand piano. The piano is open, and sheet music is visible on the stand. The background shows a window with white blinds and a potted plant on the right.

EVERYTHING HAS HISTORY

At Home With Martha Childs

As friends and family members enter the doors of Brookdale Ennis, an assisted living facility, they are often greeted by strains of familiar melodies played beautifully by Martha Childs on her baby grand piano that stately stands in the open dining and gathering room. Residents pause from their conversations or reading activities to listen. Martha and other talented residents play the piano often. "I'm very blessed to be here, and I am so thankful that the staff found a place for my piano," Martha said.

Ninety plus years young, Martha grew up in Paducah, Texas, south of the Texas Panhandle and east from the plains of Lubbock. "My father was from Waxahachie, and my mother was a Denton native, but they settled in Paducah to teach school." Martha was only 8 years old when her dad bought the grand piano for her. "It was during the Great Depression, and my dad made payments, sometimes with eggs and milk from our little farm," Martha remembered. She also gained a penchant for traveling from those early childhood days. "My dad loved to trout fish, so we always spent the month of August in Aspen, Colorado. I love the mountains," she remarked.

She traveled southeastward to Denton, Texas, to attend college at Texas Woman's University, and upon her graduation, she and her roommate ventured out to Roswell, New Mexico, because the pay was higher there for teachers. "It was during WWII, and I had gotten a teaching position in the public schools," Martha recalled. "I enjoyed teaching elementary students, even though, sometimes, I had up to 45 students in a class. But God prepares a way for you. I met my future husband, John T. Childs, in Roswell. He had been



— By Virginia Riddle

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in Italy during the war and had returned home to Roswell to purchase a grocery store there.”

The couple had three children — Ann, Joe and D’Etta. Today, Ann lives in Lubbock; Joe has earned a doctorate degree, is married to Sabrina and lives in Tennessee; and D’Etta and her husband, Scott Rider, are Ennis residents. Besides raising her children, Martha kept books for the family’s meat locker plant business. “I didn’t know the difference between a debit and a credit, but I learned,” she explained.

Other changes happened during those years. The airfield became Walker Air

Force Base before its closure in 1967, and the area became known for its fine hunting, especially deer. “We were always very busy during hunting season,” Martha said. With the sale of the business and retirement, the couple moved to DeSoto in order to be nearer to their growing family. “We were married 59 years before his passing in 2009. We have seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren with one on the way,” Martha said proudly.

During a visit with D’Etta, Martha toured Brookdale Ennis and decided to downsize and move once again. “The kids came and took what they wanted,

John & Martha

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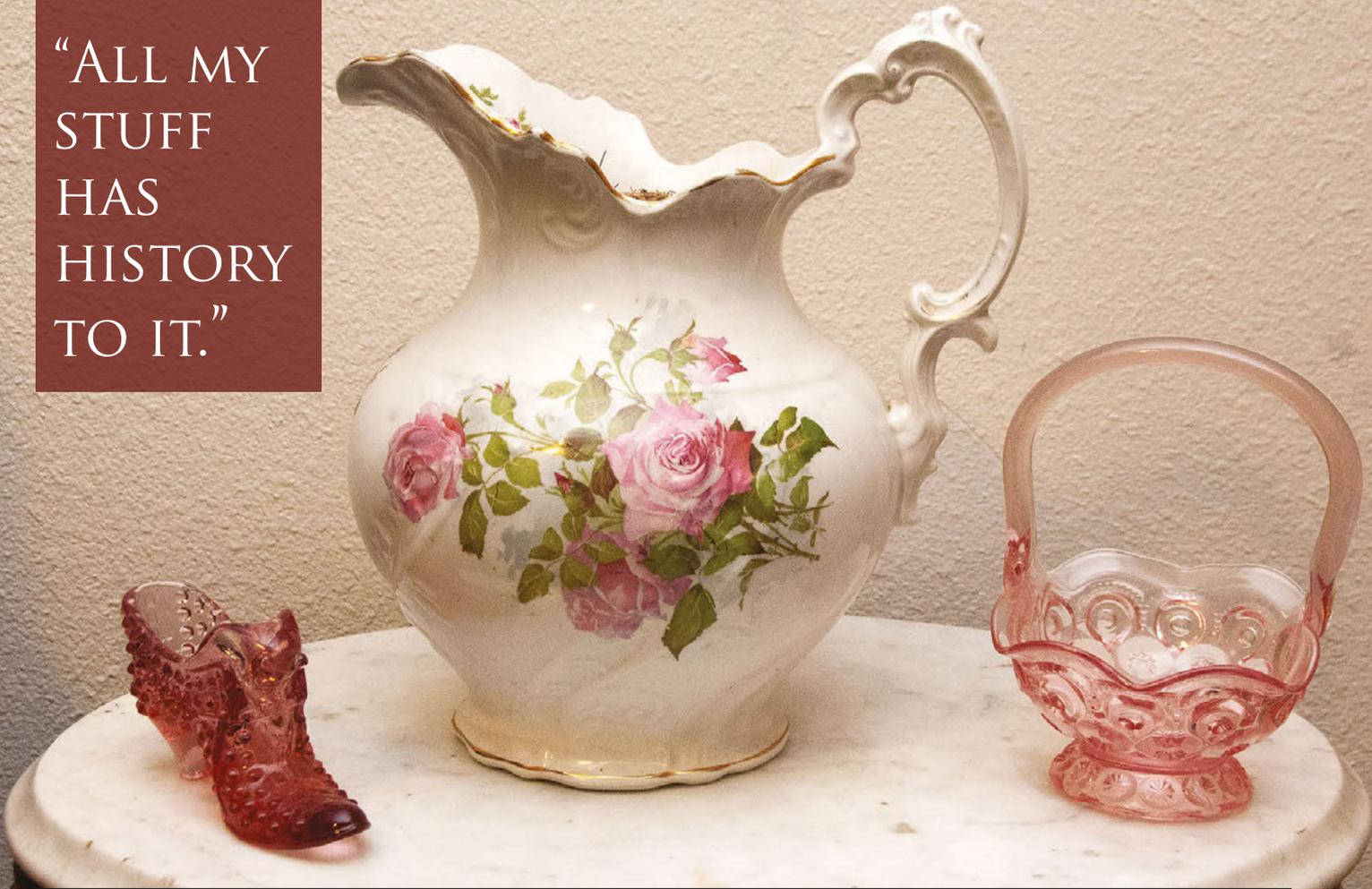
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but I love and kept my antiques, including my queen-sized bed,” Martha admitted. She moved into her Brookdale apartment in July 2015. Family photos, including one of John and Martha, are displayed in her suite of rooms. A photo of the couple’s wedding party is full of smiling faces. “My roommate in Denton and my younger sister were my attendants,” she said. The wedding took place on June 20. “It was the hottest day of the year, and air conditioning wasn’t so great back then,” she remembered.

A colorful seasonal wreath welcomes visitors to Martha’s apartment. A desktop bedroom computer allows Martha to keep in touch with the world. “I’ve found out more things about Roswell that I didn’t know, and I love Facebook,” she said. She also has reminders of her years spent in Roswell through a collection of paintings done by Peter Hurd, a Southwest painter of New Mexico landscapes, who lived in the Ruidoso, New Mexico, area and was a native of Roswell. “He became pretty well-known when he painted President Johnson’s official portrait, and the president didn’t like it,” Martha said. “All his paintings on my walls are special to me.” Peter’s beautifully painted watercolor shades of the mountains, especially those of El Capitan, blend well with Martha’s antiques.

Bingo, the colorful stuffed bear that sits on Martha’s bedside table, is evidence of her success in playing the game. “I take part in every activity here. All the things we do are amazing, and all the personnel are great. We go on shopping trips, get our hair done, have manicures, attend exercise classes and once a week we go to Corsicana for ceramics,” Martha

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said. "I enjoy that so much." She has several figurines that she has produced during those classes. Martha's collection of china cups and saucers and her mother's painting of a zinnia complete the room.

A mini-kitchen nook allows Martha to microwave favorite foods and keep snacks at hand for visitors and family members who join her in her comfortable and separate sitting area, which looks out to a garden area. "The window and its view was the reason why I liked this apartment so much," she stated. A bright afghan hangs handily over one chair. Martha's grandmother's hutch displays many of Martha's collections of treasures. "I like a lot of stuff," she said. Hummingbird figurines that Martha's sister brought to her from Japan frame a cut glass vase that was given to her mother as a wedding present. Stained glass hummingbirds are mounted on the window. "Hummingbirds built a nest in the chain link of a swing. I watched and fell in love with them," Martha said. She also has a plaque commemorating John and Martha's 50th wedding anniversary celebration. "A nephew had everyone present that day to sign their names and later created the plaque," Martha said. "All my stuff has history to it."

These days, Martha enjoys heading farther eastward to the mountains of Tennessee, while visiting her son and his wife. "I like to go with him to the hospital where he is a pediatric intensive care doctor," she said. When asked what advice she would give to younger generations, Martha said, "I just want them to know that they need to know the Lord."

"I never thought I could live without my husband, but the Lord always provides a way," she said. "I am very blessed to live here near my youngest daughter and very thankful that the Lord has provided friends and family for me." **NOW**

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Keewan Williams may only be 12 years old, but he is a young man who knows what he wants out of life, and he's learning how to achieve his lofty goals one day at a time. "I've never been shy," Keewan said, remembering his entertaining antics at an early age. "I was probably 4 years old when I started 'preaching' at home with a hairbrush as my microphone."

Keewan and his little sister, Kanya Smith, live with their grandparents, James and Brenda Warren, lovingly known as PaPa and Granny to the children. They also recall Keewan as a much younger child. "He really loved the church," Brenda said. "He would stand up in the pew and really listen. When he was old enough to write, he began taking notes."

"I still take notes today," he added with a grin. As other kids his own age would sit, respectfully, not really understanding the message being brought before them, Keewan would be taking his notes — notes he would refer to after church was over. "It's all about the individual and what they elect to do or not to do," he stated.

One of his teachers at Dorie Miller Elementary saw something special in Keewan, as well, and she called Brenda to tell her how good he was in class. This phone call led to a very



ORY

— By Sandra Strong



Keewan now holds the title of “youngest reverend” at his church, and it’s a title he wears with pride and full understanding.

special speaking event for Keewan. “I welcomed all the teachers back to school in August of last year by reading a poem and just giving them a warm welcome,” he explained. “I had some experience with the school superintendent the year

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“I am the last leg on the relay team because I am the fastest of the four.”

before when I participated in the Ennis Showcase.” Keewan was one of the team members from Dorie Miller who entered with a science-like project that talked about weather and the part it played in the process of erosion. “I had a one-on-one with the superintendent as he asked me questions about the project,” Keewan noted. “I won’t lie, I was a little nervous, but I breezed right through.” He credited the answers he gave without much thought to the extensive research he did for the project beforehand.

His most memorable speaking engagement thus far was in August 2016, when he preached his first sermon to the congregation of Burning Bush Baptist Church in Dallas, the church he’s called home since he was a toddler. “I remember it was the second Sunday of the month,” Keewan shared. “It was awesome. I felt like I had a reason to be there.” The calling he felt God had on his life to be a preacher was realized that day during that single message. As he stood before nearly 100 church members, he preached on all the verses from Psalm 100. “I gave God praise for everything, just like the Scripture tells us to do,” he said. “I preached at my own age level

because I wanted everyone to get a full understanding of what I was saying.”

He will never forget the nerves he had prior to taking his place in front of the congregation. “I was a little scared,” he remembered, “but when I stood up, I knew I was ready. I was glad that a lot of people showed up to hear me preach.” Keewan now holds the title of “youngest reverend” at his church, and it’s a title he wears with pride and full understanding. He is an example for others, and he doesn’t take that responsibility lightly.

Brenda laughed as she recalled the answer Keewan gave her prior to that Sunday when she asked what he was going to be preaching about. “His answer was simple, straightforward and to the point,” she said with a smile. “You will hear when everyone else hears.”

Keewan is a firm believer that to be respected, you must first show respect to others and always have respect for yourself. He also believes it’s very important to be honest in all situations. Even as a sixth-grader, these are personal attributes he lives by, and they are personal attributes he is passing along to his sister. He is proud of the athlete and scholar she is becoming. “She has spent the past three years on a select track team,” he said, with pride in his voice for her accomplishments. “She has also played basketball for the past four years at the Boys & Girls Club.”

It all began several years ago, while she was participating in field day events at Sam Houston Elementary. PE coaches saw Kanyia compete and recommended she sign up on a select track team. Her cousin, Ricky Smith, signed her up for both track and basketball. Another cousin, Antario Bollin, is a fitness coach who helps her stay in shape, while motivating her to excel. “I am a very fast runner,” she admitted with a huge grin. “I am the last leg on the relay team because I am the fastest of the four.” And she loves to show off the myriad of medals she’s won in such a short amount of time. Although she excels at track, her favorite between the two sports is basketball. “I want to one day be a pro in the WNBA,” she shared.

Keewan looks forward to a future as an FBI agent. “I want to solve the mystery first, and then bring justice to the situation,” he explained. “My



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plans are to attend Sam Houston State University where I will earn a doctorate degree in law.”

The goals this brother and sister have may seem lofty to those on the outside looking in, but that’s not the case for the two who know them best. “They both consistently make the honor roll,” James shared. “Writing is Keewan’s favorite thing to do, while math has always been a favorite subject for Kanyia.”

“Kanyia has been doing seek-and-find word puzzle books since she was very young,” Brenda said. “I honestly believe they have helped with her reading skills.”

James may be laid-back, but he is the kids’ first choice when it comes to help with homework. Brenda, on the other hand, is their choice when it comes to eating out, shopping or going to the movies. “We are both so proud of the young people they’ve become,” Brenda confessed. “They do their homework. They keep their grades up. They make us proud, while keeping us young.”

Keewan and Kanyia love being silly at home, but they know how to act when they are out in public. They are products of their strict upbringing, and that’s OK with them. That upbringing gave them the wings they needed to fly — Kanyia on the track field and basketball court and Keewan behind the pulpit. They will, no doubt, continue to follow their callings. **NOW**

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Many years of riding lessons turned into a career choice for Dakota Haney. Dakota finds a great deal of enjoyment in going to work each day.

H Is for Horse

Sitting high in the saddle is home for Dakota Haney. — By Sandra Strong

Even as a toddler, Dakota Haney had a love for horses. She still remembers the alphabet books she read as a child. “The H always showed a horse,” she stated. “I’ve always had a thing for horses.” As a child, Dakota admits she was super shy and painfully timid. Around the age of 4, she rode her first horse, but the experience she had when she was 8 is the one she’s never forgotten. “The horse I was on bolted,” she recalled. “He was following the leader, and when the leader took off, so did the horse I was riding!”

That ride may have frightened her, but it didn’t keep her from getting back on and trying again. As her lessons in Cedar Hill with the late Christine Radosta continued through her teen years, Dakota’s confidence grew, as did her sense of accomplishment. “I gained from Christine what I needed to

be a good rider,” she admitted. “Horses were a big part of my overall development.”

Many years of lessons turned into a career choice, as Dakota began assistant teaching under Christine’s tutelage. Dakota worked alongside Christine for three years, learning all she could about training horses and riders prior to opening the stable doors to her own business — Dakota Haney Natural Horsemanship — three years ago. “I also have wickedly awesome parents,” she confessed. “They helped me see my little girl dreams come to fruition.”

Dakota finds great enjoyment in getting up for work each morning. Leaving for work means pulling on her boots, going out the front door of her “barndominium” and making a sharp right turn into the stables. And riding, to Dakota, is like eating

to anyone else. She rides at least once a day, thus allowing her to consider the day successfully complete. Currently, Dakota Haney Natural Horsemanship is working with seven students who range in age from 9 to 70. Students alternate lessons on two lesson/work horses — Amira and Margeaux.

Natural horsemanship trains the horse and rider to function as one fluid unit.

Personal horses that belong to Dakota include Stewart, Boomer and Taisce, which is Irish Gaelic for “treasure.” “Taisce is my treasure,” Dakota added. “I was present at his birth. He’s my baby.”

Dakota has owned several horses throughout the years. She will never forget her first one. “I got Guy for Christmas when I was 14,” she said. “He came with a big red bow.” This horse, an Appaloosa Gelding, was 12 at the time, and what made it even more special was that he had belonged to Christine prior to the purchase, and he was the horse that Dakota had been riding during her lessons. “He was already my boy,” she confessed. Sadly, Guy had to be put down in 2012 because of a severe case of rheumatoid arthritis.

Natural horsemanship trains the horse and rider to function as one fluid unit. In addition to riding lessons, Dakota also trains horses and does colt starting. She has been a certified registered therapeutic riding instructor since 2010 through the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship. She is looking forward to the training event in Colorado in 2017 where, once she has successfully completed the training, she will be a licensed Parelli professional, a goal she’s had since 2002. “This will be another dream come true,” she stated.

The more Dakota grew in her knowledge of horses, the more she advanced in what she feels is her God-given ability and talent. “God gave it and mapped it all out. I took it,” she admitted. “It would be wrong to squander the career I know I am to follow.” **NOW**



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Pastor Cord Blankenship looks down from on high while checking the roof for water damage after a recent winter storm.



LaNita Wilson, executive director for Brookdale Senior Living Center, is all smiles because she enjoys her career choice.



Ashley Banks restocks the toy shelves at Dirt Cheap.



Johnny Johnson, a longtime Ennis resident, acts silly in the customer service line at HEB.



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Here are five of the most common obstacles:

Insufficient investments. Very few of us have ever reported investing “too much” for their retirement. But a great many people regret that they saved and invested too little. Don’t make that mistake. Contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, and increase your contributions whenever your salary goes up. Even if you do participate in your retirement plan at work, you may also still be eligible to fund an IRA, so take advantage of that opportunity, too. And always look for other ways to cut expenses and direct this “found” money toward your retirement.

Underestimating your longevity. You can’t predict how long you’ll live, but you can make some reasonable guesses — and you might be surprised at your prospects. According to the Social Security Administration, men reaching age 65 today can expect to live, on average, until age 84.3, while women turning age 65 today can anticipate living, on average, until age 86.6. That’s a lot of years, and you’ll need to plan for them when you create long-term saving, investing and spending strategies.

Not establishing a suitable withdrawal rate. Once you are

retired, you will likely need to start withdrawing money from your 401(k), IRA and other retirement accounts. It’s essential that you don’t withdraw too much each year. Obviously, you don’t want to run the risk of outliving your resources. That’s why you need to establish an annual withdrawal rate that’s appropriate for your situation, incorporating variables, such as your age, the value of your retirement accounts, your estimated lifestyle expenses, and so on. Calculating such a withdrawal rate can be challenging, so you may want to consult with a professional financial advisor.

Taking Social Security at the wrong time. You can start taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your checks will be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will probably be 66 or 67, or when your payments “max out” at 70. You might not be able to afford to wait until then, but by postponing the date you begin taking withdrawals, you could help yourself considerably.

Ignoring inflation. It’s been low in recent years, but inflation hasn’t disappeared, and it could rise at exactly the wrong time — when you’re retired. That’s why you’ll want your portfolio to include some investments with the potential to outpace inflation, even during your retirement years.

By being aware of these roadblocks, and taking steps to overcome them, you can help smooth your journey toward retirement. And once you get there, you may enjoy it more. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Jeff Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.

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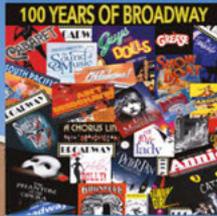
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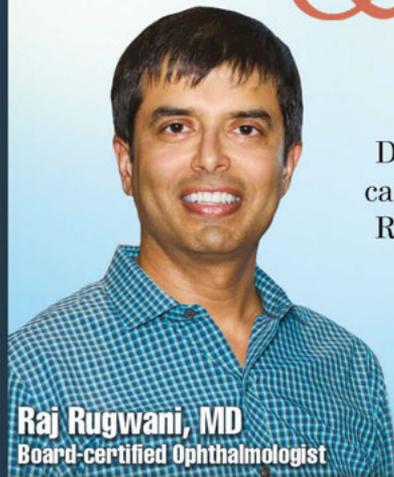


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Gingivitis and Your Heart

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Having a pretty smile is not the only reason for good dental health. For the last 20 years, researchers have been investigating the possibility that poor dental health may be a potential link to heart disease. Although there is a definite connection, the premise could not be definitively proven. One thing the researchers were clear about was good dental health does not prevent heart disease. Because the connection seems strong, it does warrant a deeper look into the possibility of a link and a more focused and consistent attitude toward care in maintaining good oral health.

Gingivitis or inflammation of the gums is a condition that should be treated as soon as possible. This could be a reason or link that may predispose one toward an increased risk of developing the complications of heart disease. Inflammation is a sign of gum disease. The bacteria that resides on the gums gets into the circulatory system and sets up the scenario for heart disease and other complications.

Normally, your mouth is full of many different types of bacteria that belong there. It's a certain type of pathogenic bacteria that finds its way into your mouth that will cause decay and gum inflammation. These types of bacteria will break down the barrier healthy gums provide and allow harmful bacteria to enter the circulatory system. Wherever the bacteria land and begin to colonize, they set up the process of inflammation that damage

tissue, including blood vessels in the heart. This disease process can not only predispose one to cardiac disease, it can also make existing heart problems worse. If you have a heart condition, you should check with your cardiologist to determine if antibiotics are necessary before any dental procedures.

More research is needed before anything definitive can be proven. The findings, so far, are very suggestive of a link, so good dental health is vital. Any gum disease or signs of a disease, such as sore and swollen gums, should be treated. Daily dental care is important in keeping the mouth as clean as possible. Your toothbrush can harbor a multitude of germs and should be rinsed thoroughly after each use and stored upright to air dry in between brushings. Replace it after three months or when the bristles start to turn up. Daily flossing is necessary to clean in between teeth. It's important to have regular dental checkups to make sure your mouth and all its parts are healthy. Keeping a clean, fresh mouth makes sense both aesthetically and medically. **NOW**

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

February 2

6th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance "Be Our Guest": 6:00-9:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, Waxahachie. Food, fun and dancing. Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the Civic Center during regular business hours. Tickets will **NOT** be available the night of the dance.

February 2 — April 12

AARP Tax Assistance: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Call the library at (972) 875-5362 for additional information on what documents to bring.

February 10

Let Your Light Shine: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Gallery Schloss, 204 W. Knox St. Create artwork using an old lamp. For more information, visit www.juliaschloss.com.

February 11

Ennis Czech Music Festival: 1:00-10:30 p.m., Sokol Activity Center, 2622 E. Hwy. 34. Five live Czech bands will be featured. For more details, visit www.ennisczechmusicfestival.com.

February 11 — 25

Things My Mother Never Taught Me: Theatre Rocks, 505 N.W. Main St. Performances are held on weekends only. For more information and curtain times, visit www.theatrerocks.com.

February 17 — 19

Annual Gingerbread House Chili Cook-Off: For more information call (972) 937-1870 or visit www.elliscountycac.org.

February 17 — 26

100 Years of Broadway: 113 N. Dallas St. Visit www.info@ennispublictheatre.com for curtain times and ticket information.

February 17 — 27

The Sunshine Boys: weekly on **Friday** and **Saturday** night, Theatre Rocks!, 505 N.W. Main St. Visit www.theatrerocks.com or call (972) 877-5126 for curtain times and ticket information.

February 18

SPJST Fundraiser Dance: 7:00 p.m., SPJST Hall, 1901 E. Ennis Ave. Featuring live music by Lost Money.

March 4

Lantern Fest: Texas Motorplex. Visit www.thelaternfest.com for more information.

March 10 — September 1

Fast Fridays: Texas Motorplex. For track times and more information, call (972) 878-2641 or visit www.texasmotorplex.com.

April — October

Ennis Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., **Saturdays**, historic downtown Ennis.

Ongoing:

Mondays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign up required.

Acrylic Painting Class: 4:00-6:00 p.m., Interior Ideas, 211 W. Knox St. Classes offered by Jana Jennings. \$75 (one time only) supply fee for the year, plus \$15 per class. For more information, call (972) 878-6868.

Second Mondays

Parkinson's Support Group: Ennis Regional Medical Center.

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.elliscountyyaggiemoms.org.

Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

Second Tuesdays

Ennis Masonic Lodge No. 369 meeting: dinner at 6:30 p.m., meeting to follow at 7:30 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 209 N. Dallas St. For more information, contact Cecil Curry at [ccurry_98@yahoo.com](mailto:c Curry_98@yahoo.com).

First Wednesdays

Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney. Contact Judy Wensowitch at (972) 921-8800 or Diana Buckley at SeldomSeenQuilting@gmail.com for more information.

Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's

Connection meeting: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. Cost is \$13. For more information, contact Kay at (972) 935-2054 or Margaret at (972) 937-1016 for reservations.

Thursdays

Chess: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Ave. Elementary age and above. No sign up required.

Fourth Thursdays

MACS: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center. Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message.

Second Thursdays

Mom's Connected meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Call the church office at (972) 875-3861 for more information.

First and Third Fridays

MOPS meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m. during regular school semester, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 County Club Rd. A ministry for mothers of preschoolers in the Ennis community. Visit www.tabernaclefamily.org/mops/.

Second Fridays

Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Support Group: 9:30-10:30 a.m., Ennis Regional Medical Center.

Saturdays

Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 100 N. Dallas St.

Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

Sundays

GriefShare meeting: 2:30-4:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the sanctuary Youth Inc. room. For more information, call (972) 935-9801 or visit www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org.

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



In the Kitchen With Sal Khammash

— By Virginia Riddle

Sal Khammash is pleased to share her recipes with her friends and neighbors in Ennis, since her cooking is mostly reflective of her Middle Eastern heritage. “My love for my children, family and friends makes cooking an enjoyable thing to do. I cook with love, just as my grandmother did for me,” Sal said. “My grandmother was the best!” She and her children celebrate any and all special occasions.

“We cook and then enjoy sitting down and eating together as a family every chance we get, even though we are very busy,” Sal said. Family meals are important to this businesswoman and owner of Ennis’ Computers For All. “Even in my few spare moments,” she said, “I enjoy working with computers and electronics.” **NOW**

Saffron Almond Rice

- 2 1/2 cups basmati or long-grain rice**
- 3 1/2 cups water or stock**
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil**
- 1 tsp. salt, or to taste, if stock is used to cook rice**
- 1/2 tsp. saffron threads, ground in a spice mortar to a powdery texture**
- 1/2 cup almonds, flaked or sliced**
- 3 Tbsp. butter**

- 1.** Rinse the rice in a strainer for a few minutes; in a large pot, bring the water, or stock, oil and salt to a boil.
- 2.** Add saffron and rice; let the mixture come to a boil again while stirring well.
- 3.** Change heat to low; cook rice for 25 minutes.

- 4.** In a small pan, roast the almonds in butter until golden.
- 5.** Drain cooked rice; garnish with almonds and butter mixture.

Moroccan Fish

- Seasoning Mix:*
- 1/3 bunch cilantro, reserve stems for layering use**
 - 1/3 bunch Italian parsley**
 - Half a lemon**
 - 1 tsp. cumin**
 - 1 tsp. paprika**
 - 1 tsp. salt**
 - Small pinch red chili flakes (optional)**
 - 1/4 cup olive oil**

Layers:

- 1 tsp. olive oil**
- 1 medium carrot, sliced thinly vertically**
- 4 salmon or white fish filets**
- 2 Yukon Gold potatoes, sliced**
- 2 Roma tomatoes, sliced**
- 1 jalapeño, sliced (optional)**

- 1.** *For seasoning mix:* Blend all ingredients in a food processor.
- 2.** *For layers:* In a 9x13-inch baking dish, drizzle olive oil; layer in carrots and cilantro stems to keep fish from burning.
- 3.** Place the fish filets in dish; lightly brush seasoning mix over fish; top with potatoes and tomatoes.
- 4.** Generously slather remaining seasoning mix over the vegetables; top with the jalapeño.
- 5.** Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes or until the fish become fragrant and flaky.

Lebanese Tabbouleh

- 1/2 cup fine bulgur**
- 1 cup boiling water**
- 1/2 cup olive oil**
- Leaves from 3 bunches fresh flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped**
- 1/2 cup fresh mint, finely chopped or 1 Tbsp. dry mint**
- 2 medium tomatoes, cut into 1/4-inch pieces**
- 1/2 cucumber, peeled, cored and cut into 1/4-inch pieces**
- 1/3 cup fresh lemon juice**
- 3/4 tsp. salt**
- Romaine lettuce**

- 1.** In a bowl, mix bulgur and water; set aside for 30 minutes.
- 2.** Using a sieve, drain bulgur; press on it to remove excess liquid.
- 3.** Transfer bulgur to a bowl; toss well with next 7 ingredients.
- 4.** Let set in refrigerator for a few hours. Serve on Romaine lettuce.

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

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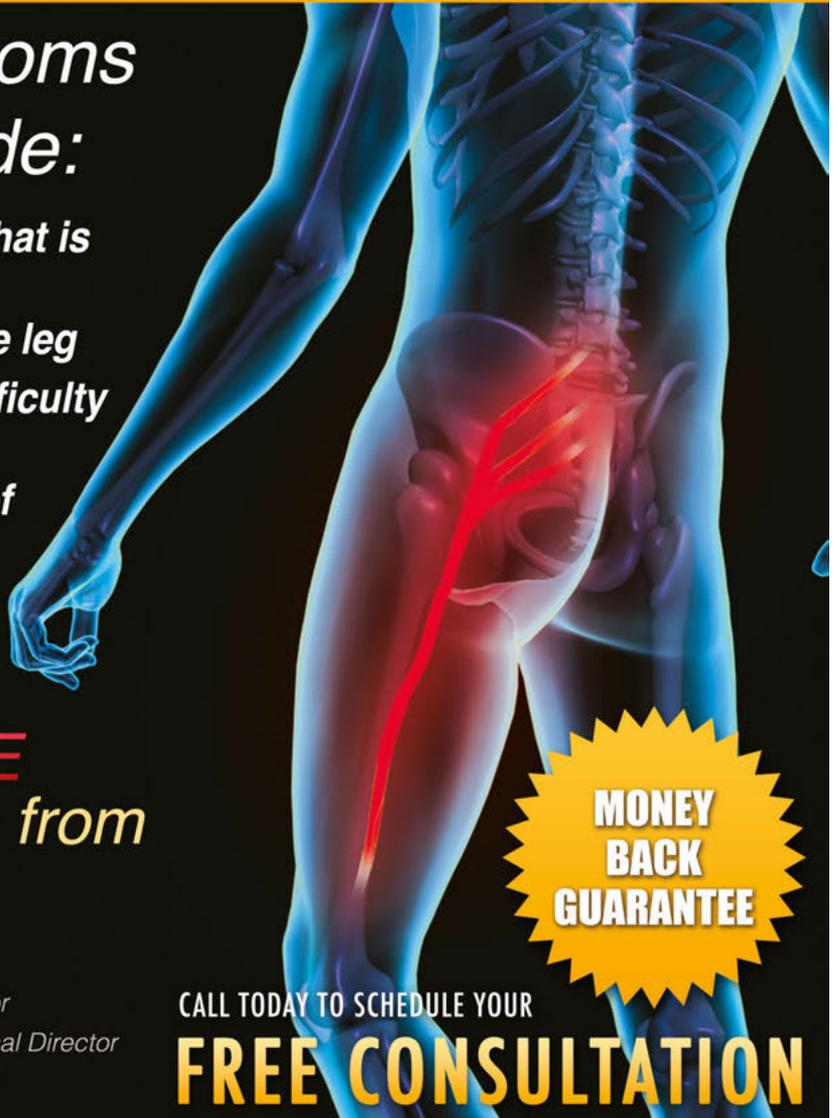
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