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March 2009

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*Photo by Natalie Busch.*

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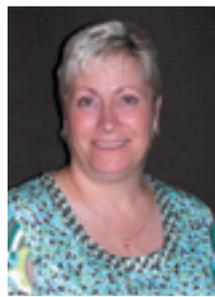
## Editor's Note

*Hello, Waxahachie!*

How are you doing on your New Year's resolutions? Are you still eating properly and exercising regularly? If so, then pat yourself on the back, especially since March is National Nutrition Month. I encourage you to continue celebrating the choice you made to make 2009 the best year ever by making a few decisions that are leading to a happier, healthier you.

March is the time when the leaves begin to bud with new life and temperatures begin to even out. The longer days allow for quality time to be spent with family and friends. Whether you are Irish or not, be sure to wear green on March 17 in honor of St. Patrick's Day or risk being pinched! For me, March is a time for new beginnings, both at work and in my personal life. By the way, if you have any good sports leads, please forward them to [www.smcintosh-nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:www.smcintosh-nowmag@sbcglobal.net).

*Sandra McIntosh*  
WaxahachieNOW Editor



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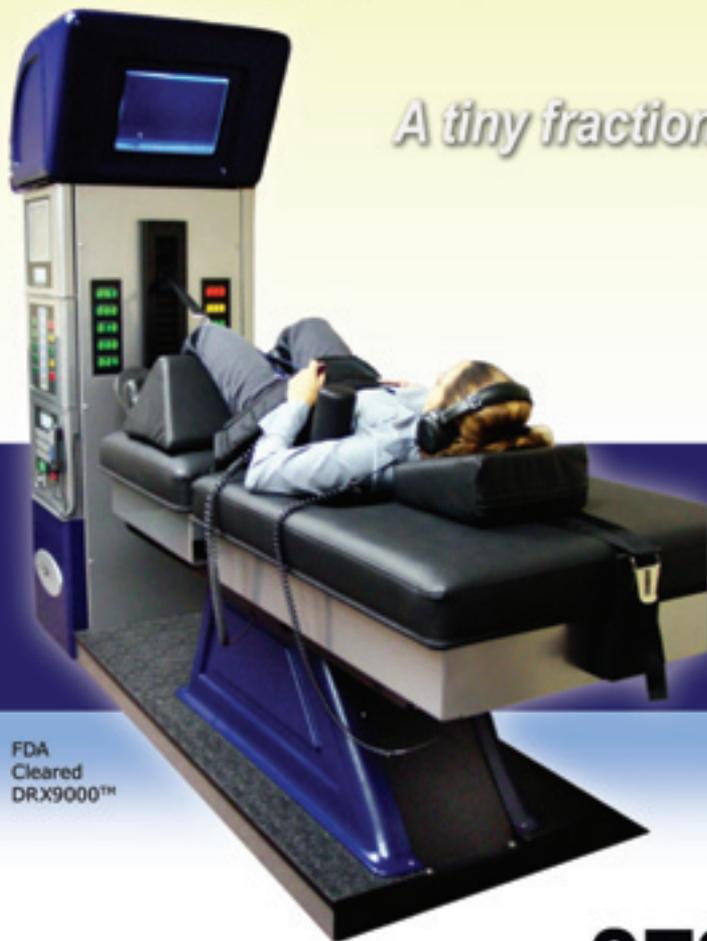
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For 96 years, the Farley Street Baptist Church has held its doors wide to welcome both old and new friends into a congregation that has been a family since March of 1913. Due to an ever-growing group of worshipers, this self-proclaimed “friendliest church in Ellis County” recently moved to their new location on Brown Street. With a large and beautifully appointed new building, the church is once again opening its doors to the community.

Pastor Richard Smith, who has been an integral part of the church family for 16 years, counts himself blessed to be part of such a strong congregation. “It speaks well of them to put up with me for so long,” he chuckled with good humor. Clearly excited about the new building, he said, “We moved into this new building the first Sunday of November. It’s a multipurpose building. It doubles for our worship service and it’s also a gymnasium, so we use it for fellowship.”

Because the church was located on Farley Street for almost 95 years, Richard admitted that the transition from old to new was quite an undertaking in many ways, but one that was necessary. “We had gone to two services because we had grown so much,” Richard said explaining that with all this growth came some growing pains. “We have a really strong choir. With two services, you basically cut your choir in half. You only have half the choir in one service and the other half in the other service. Also, when you have more than one service, people that normally get to

# Fellowship of Friends

— By Jaime Ruark

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Jason Prewitt, Youth Pastor.

see one another don't get to anymore," he shared. "We were just out of room and that's why we decided we needed to move," he recalled. "We sold our building and moved to the SkillsNet building off Highway 77. We thought we'd hold our own there during the transition period, but we continued to grow."

In a community that continues to change and grow, a church must expand accordingly. The temporary location at the SkillsNet building was an answer to prayer, but even there, the friendly church needed more space. "We were there two years while we built this building, and we had to go to three services," Richard said.

Such growth may not have been expected from a church with modest beginnings. "The church (in 1913) started with six people. The Texas Baptist Home for Children was here in Waxahachie. There were some people in the town who helped sponsor the children's home and they wanted to start a church, so that's how the church was born," Richard recounted. "Back then, the home was called an orphanage, and all the kids who were orphans came to the church. We have members who are in their 80s who are from the home. They've stayed here all these years, so there's definitely a real strong connection still today between the Texas Baptist Home for Children and our church." In fact, during their

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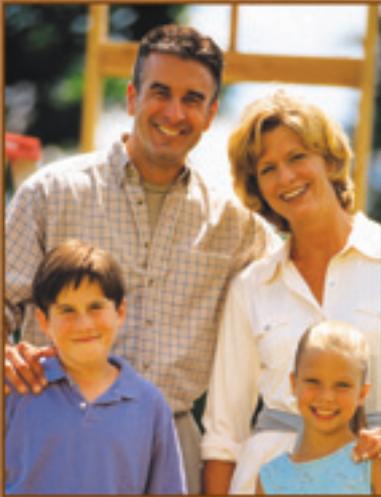
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interim stay at SkillsNet, the church held their Wednesday night prayer and youth services at the home. "It was really neat," he added, "because for so long we've loved to be part of their work and help them, and for two-and-a-half years, they got to help us."

The recent transition was actually a long time in the making. "We bought this land in 1994, and we've been saving ever since," Richard said. "Then, two-and-a-half years ago, we put our building up for sale. We were told it would take a year or more to sell our building, but that next Monday we had a pastor in our area call the office wanting to buy. It sold that week." Such a quick sale came as a surprise to everyone. "We really thought we would have time to build this building and move from our old one to here, so we were shocked when that happened and we had to find a place to stay temporarily," he added.

This was a tough time for a church family with such strong ties and such a vibrant history, but the people pulled together and made sacrifices for their future. "It's difficult for a church that has been in the same building for 95 years to suddenly be homeless," he divulged. "It was a drive out to the temporary location, but people did it. We changed our service times probably 10 times trying to find something that would work, but our people just kept coming. We laughed and said, 'If you can actually find us and figure out the right time, you are welcome to come worship with us.'"

Some of the sacrifices that at the time may have seemed difficult are now looked back on with smiles and fond memories. "During the transition, we had to baptize in a swimming pool. We thought it would be a problem, but I actually liked it better," Richard confessed. "When all the people gathered around the pool, there was something so personal about it. That was surprising."

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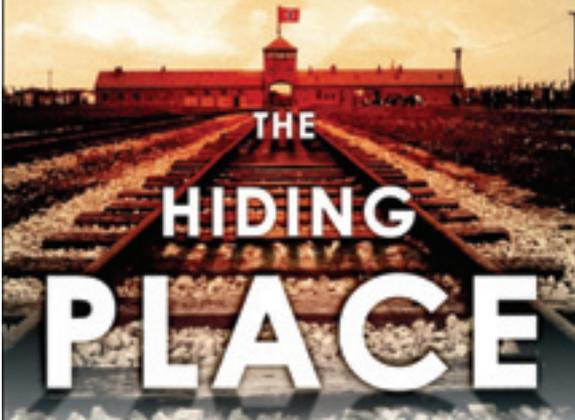
area, is phase one of two phases. "Right now, everything is used at least twice, sometimes three times," Richard said. The second building will include space for adult education and offices, as well as a 1,200-seat auditorium. "We're not sure when that will be built. We're going to save up money. We're already out of room here, so we need it to happen as soon as possible. It's a good problem to have," he added with a smile.

With last year being their 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the church does not have a huge celebration planned the first Sunday of March, but they will definitely be commemorating another year and a new building. "We'll have a luncheon and some other activities," he stated. "Our anniversaries are kind of like a homecoming day, where we invite former members to come. It's like a big family get-together."

The Farley Street Baptist Church's mission statement is "to bring everyone to a supreme friendship with Jesus Christ, in the church and in the community." Brother Richard and his congregants work hard to provide a place where people can come and find true friends. "Once we sold our building, that was the turning point. There was no looking back; we had to move forward," he asserted. "We could have stayed in that same building and been happy and comfortable, but building this church was for our future and for the future of our community." **NOW**

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## Reminded of

# Family

— By Sandra McIntosh

When Chuck and Kathy Edge first relocated to the Waxahachie area, the place they lovingly call home today was nothing more than 135 acres of undeveloped land. “There was no power, no water and no culvert,” Chuck remembered. Chuck and Kathy got to Waxahachie as quickly as they could, relocating from Palestine, Texas, in April 2007. “And I’m not moving again,” Kathy stated. “I don’t want to ever move our belongings again.”

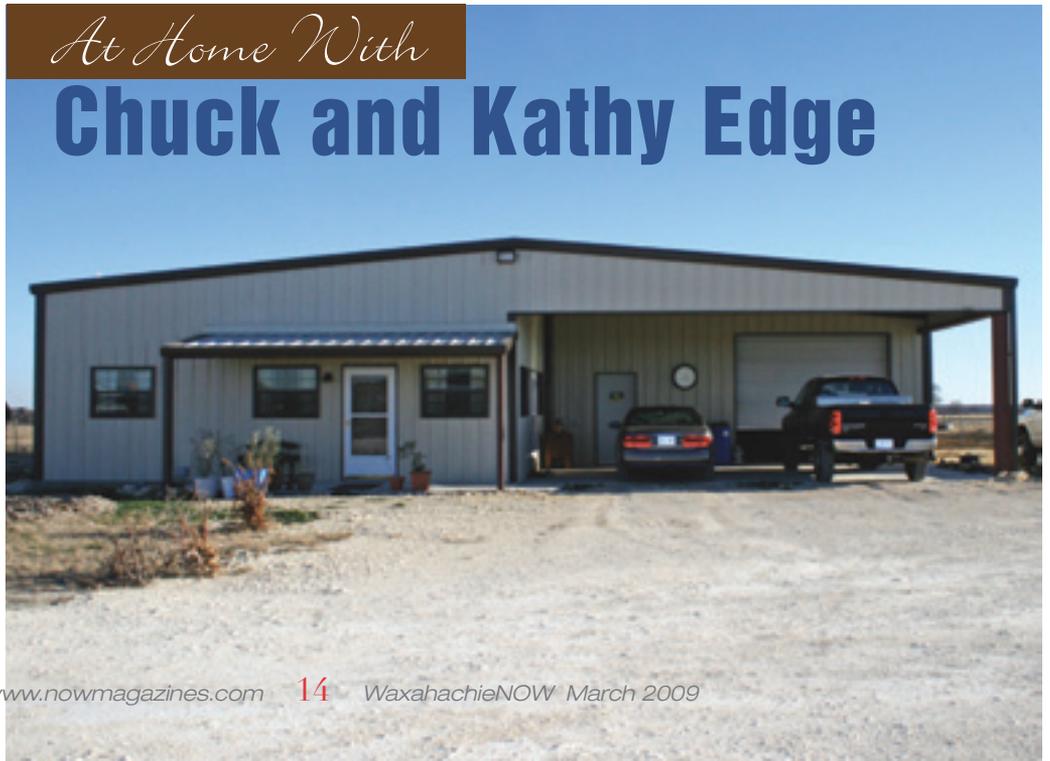
Chuck quickly took a moment to explain further. “I grew up military,” he said. “In my family, the military is considered the family business. It truly has been a family affair.” Chuck wanted to follow the other men in his family, too. He had dreams of making a career out of the military while at Texas A&M University, but after injuring both knees, things quickly changed. “I went from a military career to law enforcement in a matter of minutes,” he said, commenting on just how fast change can come.

As Waxahachie’s new chief of police, Chuck knew they



*At Home With*

## Chuck and Kathy Edge



needed to get living quarters and a home office designed and built in a short period of time so he could take care of the police business at hand. Right now, home for the couple is found in a 30 x 40-foot, two-bedroom, one-bath structure constructed by DC Metals. Another smaller metal building serves as the couple's home office. "In fact, we spend most of our time in the office," Kathy said.

Visitors understand why as soon as they see what the couple has created

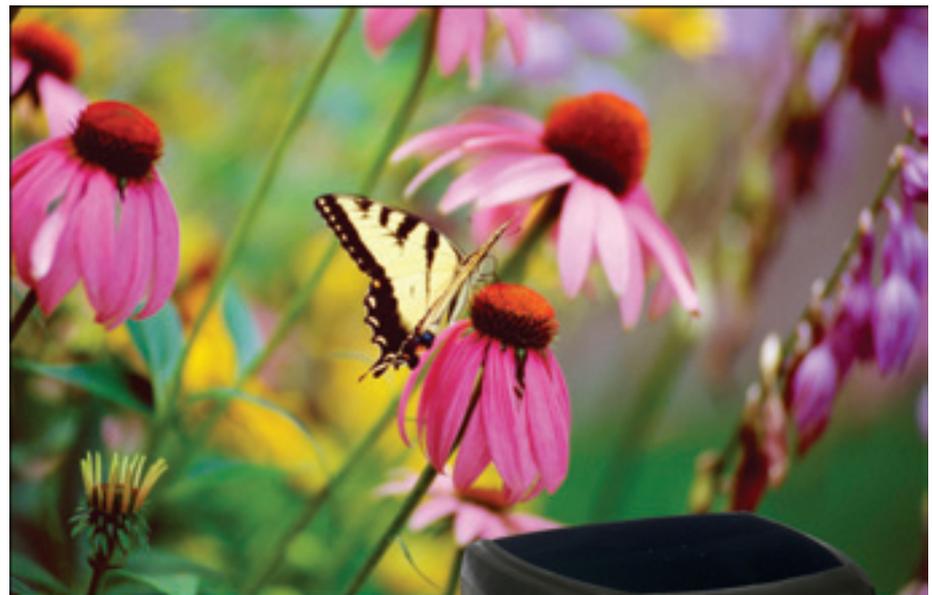


within the office's four walls. Almost every piece of furniture and every item hanging on the walls and placed around the one large room remind Chuck and Kathy of family members, some still living and many others who have passed on.

The wagon wheel furniture in one section once belonged to Kathy's grandmother. "We've had that furniture in the family for as long as I can remember," she said. The brass bed

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along one wall also belonged to her grandmother. “The two quilts were made by my great-great aunt when she was a little girl,” Kathy said, as she pointed to one quilt on the bed and another quilt hanging on the wall above and behind the bed.

The door to the half-bath also came from her side of the family. It is a hand-me-down from her grandfather’s camp house. “There’s also a picture in the bathroom of the camp house that the door came off of. It was painted by my dad,” she added. Everything reminds them of their 27 years together as husband and wife, from the spurs Chuck wore in

college, where the two met, to the arrowhead collection passed down three generations to Kathy. Chuck’s collection of antique carpentry tools once belonged to his grandfather. When asked why there is more family history and memorabilia from her side of the family, Chuck is quick to respond. “Most of her family has passed on,” Chuck explained. “My family has a bit longer longevity. Both families have done a great job of preserving the history, but that’s why there are more things from her side than mine.”

Other one-of-a-kind, unique items that make the office feel more like home include: an old ink well student desk and a teacher’s desk that came from a school where Chuck’s father once taught; a modest collection of paint horses; framed black-and-white photographs on one wall; her father’s home

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economics apron; and the saddle placed high above in the rafters on a cornice-like display shelf. "At one time, Kathy was a cobbler," Chuck proudly informed. "Her tools are displayed all around, and the kitchenette counter was the counter she used."

In the evenings when they finally decide it is time to walk a few feet to their home, they do so knowing they will be experiencing more of the same — more cozy comfort intermingled with family history and memorabilia. The wood floors and rich colors Kathy chose give the home a log cabin feel. The wardrobe closet in the living room was handcrafted by Kathy's grandfather. The old black Singer pedal sewing machine evokes memories of times gone by when women sewed the clothing they wore and created their own window treatments. At the front entrance, visitors will see a framed letter that was penned by Kathy's great-grandfather in 1909.

A railroad pocket watch, still in perfect working order, is also displayed on a



side table in the living room. "Kathy grew up around her family," Chuck said. "Since we were military, I didn't see my family as much. These things remind me of family. They help me feel near to them."

The guest room shows the couple's love of history through the decor. The bed and matching chest of drawers once belonged to Chuck's grandfather. "I can remember sleeping many nights in this bed as a boy," he noted. The shades of green used in the master

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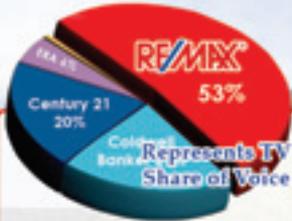


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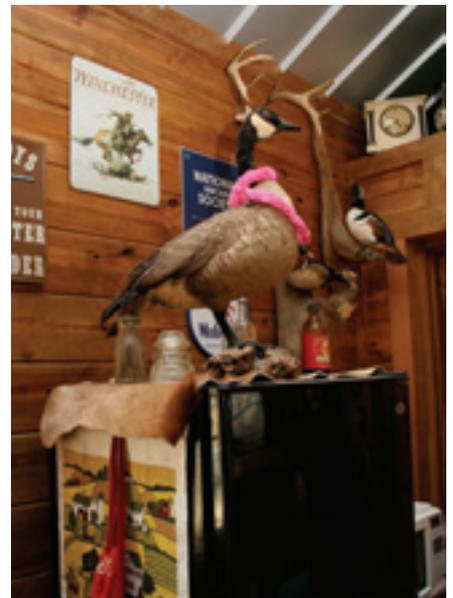


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bedroom are a shade darker than the rest of the home, but offer the same calming effect after a long day.

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early January and the couple is looking forward to moving into their new abode soon. Once the new home is complete, the structure the couple resides in now will become a mother-in-law's suite or a place for the couple's son, Cody, and his wife, Nancy, to stay when they come for a visit.

Chuck and Kathy are also looking forward to spring. "Winter is hard for us," they both said simultaneously. "We spend lots of time outdoors," Kathy added, "so winter is the hardest time of the year." They enjoy working on things together, whether it is inside in the office or



outside with the new home and their four horses. "I need someone to tell me what to do," Chuck joked. While they work, their three dogs, Bob, Luke and Cal, follow closely at their heels.

Home for the couple can be summed up in a sign that Kathy had specifically made for Chuck before he transferred to Waxahachie. "It simply says," Kathy quoted, smiling at her husband, "'my troubles are over and I am home!'" **NOW**

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Since retirement, Edith O'Brien has been able to go back to her first love — crocheting and knitting. “It’s a lasting love,” she said. “It makes a difficult day bearable, especially if I’m creating something for someone else.” Edith even went so far as to compare her needlework with her first morning cup of coffee. “It’s just something to look forward to,” she expressed with an all-knowing smile.

Edith’s mom taught her the art of crocheting and knitting at a very young age. She vaguely remembers being 7 or 8 years old the first time she put a crochet hook between her small fingers. “I would watch my mother work the needles,” she said, explaining that she mastered the art of crocheting before her mother taught her the basics of knitting. “The needles and the way her hands moved fascinated me,” she added.

Knitting is done by casting individual stitches on one needle to make the first row. From that point on, two needles are used to complete the item. Crochet simply means a chain begins the item and then graduates to one row after another row. Both are uniquely different, but the end result is still the same. “You end up with something beautiful you’ve created,” she said.

Edith recalled all the scarves and doilies she made for the

dining room sideboard as a youngster. “I remember my mom displaying items that her mother, my grandmother, had made, too,” she said. “You don’t see these items in homes today, and that’s really kind of sad.”

As a mother who is proud to carry on her Scandinavian roots, Edith also made sure to follow in her mother’s footsteps. “I taught my two oldest daughters both art forms,” she noted,



“while my youngest daughter found her niche in culinary art.”

There are hundreds of stitch names and techniques associated with both crocheting and knitting, but the one Edith has grown quite fond of is the stitch known as the Tunisian crochet technique. “The finished product looks a lot like aida

cloth when it's complete," she said. "This allows you to personalize the piece by adding embroidery." She explained that the Tunisian technique flows faster and is much sturdier than other stitches. "To lay people, the Tunisian stitch is best known as the basic afghan stitch."

Taking a look around her sewing room, visitors quickly learn that Edith is not limited to the Tunisian stitch. A rose pillow is a perfect example of the diversity found in Edith's crochet needles. "The trim is a single crochet stitch," Edith explained, "and the raised stitch is called a popcorn stitch." There are several examples throughout her home of potholders and a delicate snowflake doily made using a basic treble crochet stitch. Edith's example of Irish crocheting can be found in a raised flower. "The three-dimensional feel is really unique," she admitted, as she gently stroked her work, proud of what she has been able to accomplish since getting reacquainted with her first love. A Granny Square crocheted quilt is displayed across the arm of a chair. "I revised that pattern," Edith confessed, "to be a nine-patch Granny Square quilt. It's probably 15 years old, and I use it every day."

The Serendipity and pineapple doilies were created using a simple crochet stitch that Edith offers in the Lighthouse for Learning sessions she has been teaching at Waxahachie High School for the past three years. Edith only teaches crochet to her Lighthouse for Learning students, thus allowing them to learn something totally new or brush up on skills they may have forgotten. "I teach many of the crochet stitches," she said, "from the most basic to the Tunisian stitch."

During the last session, Edith taught the class exactly what they needed to know in order to complete a baby sweater and a matching hat. "Everyone works at their own pace. Some have never even held a needle, while others

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have a strong desire to learn an altogether new stitch," Edith said. "This was also the first time for me to teach an article of clothing. Their success makes me feel good."

As if Edith was not busy enough with her needlework, she took on the art of quilting in her early 30s. "I taught myself to quilt," she remembered. "I like staying busy with my hands." The

**"The needles and the way her hands moved fascinated me."**

first quilt she made was a spool quilt. Each square resembles an oversized spool of thread. Edith gifted this quilt to her youngest daughter. Edith has also made blankets for her dolls. "My daughters have now become my dolls," she expressed. "I thoroughly enjoy making things for each of them."

Regardless of what she may be doing, whether it be crocheting, knitting or quilting, Edith enjoys making up her own patterns and designs. She even takes patterns and revises them to create what she envisions within her mind. Crocheting, knitting and quilting are art forms that may be mind-boggling to many, but it is a form of relaxation for Edith. It appears Edith may very well be on a journey filled with the simple pleasures in life as she returns to her first love. **NOW**

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# Speed Racer

— By Danielle Parker

They stumbled upon go-cart racing, which turned out to be right up Dakota's alley. "For about three-and-a-half years, we took Dakota to the go-cart tracks where he'd compete," Carla Boll, Dakota's mother, recalled. "Just about every time, he would finish first, racing against kids 8 years old and under."

This young speedster took to racing quickly and became very good at the sport. "They would put me in the back of the line, and I'd weave to the front," Dakota said. Dakota's skills made him a regional go-cart champion and attracted attention from local media and race enthusiasts from around the area. When Joe retired from the Air Force in 2004, the family moved to Waxahachie, but the move did not extinguish Dakota's love for racing. The Bolls decided to put the go-cart aside and try out a new type of vehicle.

For more than a year, bandoleros, similar to small race cars, were Dakota's fixation. For his parents, the distance to Texas Motor Speedway posed a problem. Redemption came one day when a friend offered to sell them a dragster and the Bolls learned of the tracks in Ennis and Kennedale. Almost immediately, Dakota and his family knew this was finally it — they had found his specialty. "We enrolled him in a junior drag racing school," Joe said. "It was supposed to be a four-to-

It only takes about eight seconds and the show is over, but for 11-year-old drag racer, Dakota Boll, that brief moment on the track is enough to get his adrenaline pumping. Dakota's parents claim their son was born with a need for speed. "He's always loved cars," Joe Boll, Dakota's dad, said. "He could drive a car before he knew how to ride a bike."

Dakota's love for racing began when he was about 3 years old. "When I was stationed in Wichita Falls, he was too young to play any of the sports in the area," Joe said. "We looked around for something for Dakota to get involved in."



five-hour class before he started racing. But after an hour, the instructor told us, 'This kid doesn't need to be in the classroom, he needs to be out there racing.'

In a drag race, two dragsters race against each other down a straight, narrow track about one-eighth of a mile long. With dragsters hitting speeds of almost 90 miles per hour, the race is over in 8-10 seconds.

For the class that Dakota participates in, racers dial in, or guess, the time they anticipate they will finish. So the race may not go to the quickest on the track, according to Dakota. "If I go too fast or too slow, I can be eliminated," he explained. "There is no speedometer, so you have got to have a feel for the car.

**"This kid doesn't need to be in the classroom, he needs to be out there racing."**

It's not the fastest that always wins."

Like most of the sports he participates in, Dakota was natural at drag racing. "In his rookie season, he finished fifth, qualifying him for the junior dragster nationals that were held in Denver, Colorado, even though he missed five races," Joe said. "There is no telling what he will do this year." His father also stated that he could very well have won the nationals had he been allowed to attend. "His Select baseball team also qualified for the Select World Series during this same time," Joe added. "The team came first."

With all the fun and excitement this sport entails, drag racing is no small investment. "The cost can easily run you \$10,000 a year," Joe said. "Getting started, you can get up to six-figure spending. The engine alone can cost upwards of \$7,000, and if we travel out of state for competition, that adds

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even more expenses.”

Along with the price tag on the sport, drag racing also requires a time commitment. With Joe and Carla acting as Dakota’s crew, transportation, sponsors and much more, days on the track can be lengthy. “Our days start around 6:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 or 3:00 p.m., depending on how well he does,” Carla said. “And his season runs from March to September.”

Dakota’s level of competition requires him to train by exercising, eating healthy, working on hand/eye coordination and getting to know his car. “It’s important that he is prepared



— body and mind. During the summer, the temperature may be 110 F outside, but it can be about 140 F in the car,” Carla pointed out. “The weather plays a big factor in how the car runs as well. If it’s cold, it can throw the weight of the wheels off and slow it down.”

No matter the cost, drag racing is Dakota’s sport of choice. “I love the feel of going down the track,” he expressed. “I want to go pro someday like Tony ‘The Sarge’ Schumacher [the winningest driver in NHRA Top Fuel history].” His parents have seen that dedication firsthand and feel it makes all the effort worthwhile. “We knew this was something he was really interested in, so we were willing to invest,” Carla said. “He’s tried everything that has an engine, is fast and makes noise. We know this is what he loves.” **NOW**

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# Building Smiles

— By Sandra McIntosh

Laura Morgan remembers what it was like not to smile. “As a child, I was embarrassed by my crooked teeth,” she confessed. “Braces allowed me to smile.” Braces for her began in the fourth grade and treatment continued off and on until it was time for senior photographs. While earning her degrees and certifications at San Antonio Dental School and the Medical College of Virginia, Laura also underwent orthognathic surgery, a procedure that adjusts the overall alignment of the jaw.

After going through years of braces, Laura realized early on what her career field was going to be. “I knew in fourth grade,” she said. “I was going to be an orthodontist.” Laura is not only building smiles in her office located at 201 Ferris Avenue, she and her staff are also boosting self-esteem in patients who range in age from 7 to 70. Come August, she will celebrate her eleventh year in business.

Some braces will go on for correction, while other times it is a question of aesthetics. Regardless the reason, Laura



*Roxanne Moore, Belinda Ashley, Dr. Laura Morgan, Monique Allen and Brooke Crow enjoy sharing smiles with patients.*

said the outcome is always the same. “Braces enhance appearance,” she explained, “as well as overall health and well-being.” She feels that braces allowed her to have a great smile, and her goal is to give that feeling and sense of pride to others.

Laura is the first person after the receptionist to relate with the patient. The process of braces can be anywhere from six months to two years. For her, the most important aspect of great customer service is getting to know her patients on a personal level, and she encourages her staff to follow suit. “We love people,” she added. “We have fun with our patients. We really do enjoy getting to know them.”

The office is upbeat, and a positive

energy greets you at the door. In fact, customers continue to comment on how jovial the office staff is on each and every visit. “The staff makes this place rock ‘n’ roll,” Laura admitted with a laugh. “I have a great staff and we serve a great community, especially a wonderful dental community.”

Building her clientele from zero, patients now come to the office of Laura Morgan DDS from areas as far as Corsicana in one direction and Grandview in another. As a wife to Mark and mother to Luke, Kate and Amber, ages 8, 5 and 3 respectively, Laura realized when she opened her practice how important scheduling was going to be. “I’ve learned to juggle the practice and being a mom,” she said. “I enjoy interacting

with other moms. They understand the balance that we're trying to achieve here." In keeping balance, Laura also makes it a point to keep track of all the area school schedules. Keeping it "real and simple" for parents, as well as students, is important to her and it seems to have worked in building a successful orthodontic practice.

She has no preference when it comes to the patient who needs and/or wants braces. "Children are so resilient," she quickly mentioned. "When they come

**"We have fun  
with our patients.  
We really do  
enjoy getting to  
know them."**



to my office, there aren't any shots and the pain, if any, is minimal." Laura believes a person is never too old to make positive changes. It is all about making those wanted, and sometimes necessary, changes that prove to have positive results. "I enjoy the adult patients, too," she smiled. "The joy is knowing we can help them keep their teeth for a lifetime."

Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (972) 938-1688. **NOW**



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# Still a Ray of Sunshine

— By Sandra McIntosh

Lily Hall's love of books was born at a very young age and has grown throughout her 20-year teaching career at Dunaway Elementary. "I remember my high school literature teacher," Lily said. "She was tough, but she was a phenomenal teacher." When recalling what and who inspired her teaching career, the memory of being a library aide at Waxahachie Junior High School also came to mind. In fact, her love affair with books began as a junior high school student under the close guidance of Margaret Venters. "Waxahachie has an excellent foundation of educators," she stated. "As a teacher, I want to honor the memories of those who inspired me by being a mentor to my own students."

Teaching for Lily did not begin until after her daughter, Cassie, now 25, started kindergarten and Lily had earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Southwestern Assemblies of God University. She came to the district at the high school level as a long-term substitute for the Spanish teacher. "At the time, my last name was Gonzales, so the students called me Miss Guacamole," she laughed. "I loved teaching at the high school level, but there was no opening the following year for a full-time teacher."

Max Simpson, the assistant superintendent at that time, sent Lily to Dunaway to begin the 1989-90 school year as one of the fifth grade teaching team members. "I asked him, 'Are you sure?'" Lily admitted. Max told her that she was exactly where she needed to be. "He said I was a ray of sunshine," she added. Lily began her tenure at Dunaway alongside Cheryl Langley, the current fifth grade math teacher who also boasts of 20 years at the same campus teaching the same grade level.

"Twenty years — it just doesn't seem possible," Lily expressed, finding it difficult to wrap her mind around that fact. "No two years have been the same."

Over the years, several other teachers have been added to the team. Each member teaches a different core subject. When given the choice to teach either math or reading, Lily quickly chose reading since she had grown up loving books. "We all teach the same students," Lily explained. "Each class is 45 minutes long. They come, learn and move on to the next class." Since this is the first year for the team to go departmental, it took several weeks to get used to the new schedule. Teachers not only have the students' full attention during their class times, the process of rotating from one classroom to another is preparing the students for junior high and high school.

Reading is all Lily has ever taught at Dunaway. Throughout her teaching career, she has always known the importance of setting boundaries. "Effective learning happens when the classroom is organized and structured," she explained. "When students know what's expected of them, learning takes place."

Her hope, or objective, has always been to pass on her fascination for a good book. Her room could easily be classified as the "substation" to the campus library. "I have accumulated several thousand books," she said, mentally counting as she scanned the bookshelves. "I'm buying new books all the time." Lily has read or is reading every book offered in her classroom. "Doing so gives me a better understanding of how best to help a child when they are looking for a book on a specific subject," she noted, using a little girl's love of horses as her example for independent reading.

Lessons on tolerance are the norm in Lily's classroom. Even though a book may be chosen for the class because of one individual student, the entire class will reap the benefits of the overall lesson. "I had one overweight student who had issues with her self-esteem," Lily claimed. "As a class, we read *Nothing's Fair in the Fifth Grade*, which was an example of this same type of student." By the end of the book, the female character had made friends. "The Dunaway student did, too," Lily remembered. "And they all learned a valuable lesson on tolerance." Her classes have also learned through reading books that being different is a good thing.

Lily has found that listening to audio books is a great way for her students with dyslexia to understand, comprehend and enjoy the book, instead of becoming frustrated with the act of reading. "Brains

## "Effective learning happens when the classroom is organized and structured."

today are so stimulated with technology," she said. "Books have become less appealing because of our fast-paced technology. My job is to give them the hook to get lost in a book." Lily said the main "hook" is finding something that makes the book personal to the student.

With 20 years behind her, Lily is starting to teach second-generation students, and this year, she has the privilege of having her 11-year-old son, Caleb, as one of her reading students. Lily knows reading is an instrumental component in her students' overall education, but she wants them to remember her as an educator who tapped into their love for a good book. She is constantly asking herself, "What does this child need today?" Keeping it "real and current" is important to Lily, but still being a "ray of sunshine" cannot hurt. **NOW**

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Barry, Amber and Chloe Hollingsworth, top left, enjoyed a spring-like day at Getzendaer Park with their dog, Maggie. Ariel Mason and Jessie McGehee, top right, spent some time at the park together after school. Debra Wakeland, center of photo, was honored with a reception, bottom left, held by the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce in celebration of her 25 years of service to the community. Mia Castro, second row center, enjoyed swinging higher and higher. Michael Copeland, second row right, was named HEB's Friendliest Employee of the Month. Camilla Castro and her mother, Maegan Weber, bottom center, stopped swinging long enough to pose for the camera. Carolyn and Angela Mixon, bottom right, celebrated Christmas with the James twins.



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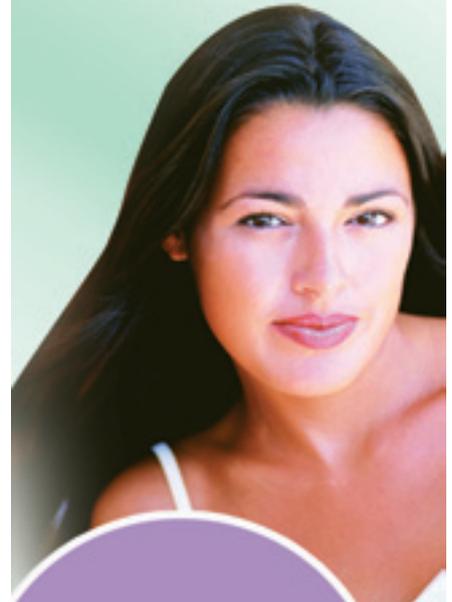
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# Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

## IN THE KITCHEN WITH JOEL SKIPPER

### ROASTED CORN AND TOMATO SALAD

4 oz. olive oil  
 3 oz. white wine vinegar  
 1/8 oz. roasted garlic paste  
 1/8 oz. Kosher salt  
 1/2 tsp. coarse ground black pepper  
 3/4 lb. roasted corn kernels  
 3/4 lb. plum tomatoes, peeled, seeded and diced  
 1/2 oz. green onions, sliced  
 1 Tbsp. cilantro, chopped  
 1 Tbsp. flat leaf parsley, chopped  
 Blend oil, vinegar and garlic paste. Season with salt and pepper. Add corn, tomatoes and green onions; toss to coat evenly. Adjust seasoning and serve.

### RISOTTO CROQUETTES WITH FONTINA

1 oz. shallots, finely diced  
 2 oz. butter, unsalted  
 1 lb. Arborio rice  
 8 fl. oz. white wine  
 48 fl. oz. chicken stock  
 4 oz. Parmesan cheese

15 oz. Fontina cheese, cut into small 1/4-inch cubes  
 5 oz. Panko bread crumbs  
 Sauté shallots in butter; add rice and coat with butter. Cook until parched. Add wine; simmer until absorbed. Next, add chicken stock one cup at a time until absorbed; stirring frequently until done. Add Parmesan cheese; mix well. Cool; form risotto into balls wrapped around cubes of Fontina cheese. Generously coat balls with Panko bread crumbs; deep fry at 350 F until golden brown. Serve with roasted tomato sauce.

### ROASTED PORK WITH ROSEMARY AND OLIVE OIL WITH PORT WINE SAUCE

1 lb. pork tenderloin  
 olive oil  
 fresh rosemary, to taste  
 salt and pepper, to taste

**PORT WINE SAUCE:**  
 1/2 bottle Port wine  
 4 oz. orange juice  
 3 oz. honey

3 oz. sugar  
 Rub tenderloin with olive oil and rosemary and season with salt and pepper. Roast at 375 F for 45 minutes to 1 hour until internal temperature is 150 F. Let rest 10 minutes before slicing. Prepare wine sauce by mixing all ingredients in sauce pot. Bring to boil to dissolve sugar; reduce to simmer. Let wine reduce until about 5 oz. left and sauce coats back of spoon. Serve hot over sliced pork.

### GRAHAM CRACKER CRUST

4 oz. graham cracker crumbs  
 2 oz. sugar  
 2 oz. butter, unsalted, melted  
 Combine first two ingredients; mix well. Add butter and mix well. Place into round cake pan and pack down crust, going up sides just a little, about 1/8 inch. Bake at 350 F for 10 minutes. Cool completely.

**CHEESECAKE**  
 2 lbs. cream cheese  
 11 oz. sugar

Family and food top the list of Joel's favorite things. Spending quality time with his wife, Amber, and their daughter, Abigail, and son, Augustus, cannot be topped, not even by cooking. "My hobby has always been cooking and tinkering around in the kitchen," Joel expressed, "but I find no greater joy than being a husband and father."

Currently, he is a banquet chef at the Crescent Hotel in Dallas and attends culinary school at Le Cordon Bleu in Dallas. Joel also does catering on the side through his own company, AMAG Catering, which was named after the first and middle initials of both his children. "I would have to say I have no greater support than my wife and family," he admitted. "I am blessed!" **NOW**

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Pictured are: Leandra Gonzales, Assistant Manager; Ana Lara, Manager; Whitney Trevino, Senior Assistant

# Who's Cooking **NOW**

- 1/2 oz. cornstarch
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 6 1/2-oz. eggs
- 2 1/2 oz. egg yolks
- 4 oz. heavy cream

In electric mixer with paddle attachment on speed 2, beat cream cheese until smooth and no lumps. Add sugar; beat until smooth. Add cornstarch, salt, vanilla, zest and juice. Add eggs 1/4 at a time until all are incorporated; add cream and beat until smooth. Pour into completely cooled crust, filling only 2/3 of pan. Bake at 350 F until set. Normally 1 hour 20 minutes to 1 1/2 hours. Cool. Can be served with your favorite fruit purée and an unhealthy dollop of whipped cream.

## PARKERHOUSE ROLLS

- 5 1/2 cups all-purpose flour (about)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 tsp. salt
- 2 pkgs. active dry yeast
- 1 cup margarine or 2 sticks butter, softened
- 2 cups hot tap water
- 1 large egg

In a large bowl, combine 2 1/4 cups flour, sugar, salt and yeast; add 1/2 cup margarine or butter. With mixer at low speed, gradually pour 2 cups hot tap water (120 F - 130 F) into dry ingredients; add egg. Increase speed to medium; beat 2 minutes, scraping bowl with rubber spatula. Beat in 3/4 cup flour or enough to make a thick batter; continue beating 2 minutes, occasionally scraping bowl. With spoon, stir in enough additional flour (about 2 1/2 cups) to make a soft dough. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, about 10 minutes, working in more flour (about 1/2 cup) while kneading. Shape dough into a ball and place in greased large bowl, turning over so that top of dough is greased. Cover with towel; let rise in warm place (80 to 85 F) until doubled, about 1 1/2 hours. (Dough is doubled when 2 fingers pressed into dough leave a dent.) Punch down dough by pushing down the center of dough with fist, then pushing edges of dough into center. Turn dough onto lightly floured surface; knead lightly to make smooth ball, cover with bowl for 15 minutes, and let dough rest. Preheat oven to 400 F. In 17 1/4 x 11 1/2-inch roasting pan, melt remaining 1/2 cup margarine or butter over low heat; tilt pan to grease bottom. On lightly-floured surface with floured rolling pin, roll dough 1/2-inch thick. With a floured 2 3/4-inch round cutter, cut dough into circles. Holding dough circle by the edge, dip both sides into melted margarine or butter pan; fold in half. Arrange folded dough in rows in pans, each nearly touching the other. Cover pan with towel; let dough rise in warm place until doubled, about 40 minutes. Bake rolls for 15-18 minutes until browned.

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# Estate Planning Can Help Protect Your Retirement

— By John D. Hale, Attorney at Law

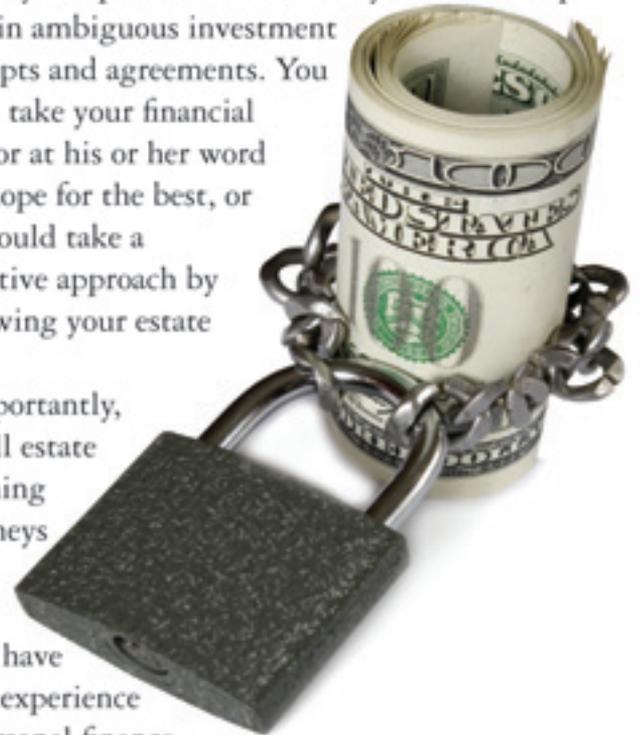
When it comes to retirement planning, perhaps the best place to start is with the end in mind. Estate planning provides the perspective for retirement planning.

In an effort to save money or postpone reality, many people mortgage their retirement by avoiding estate planning. A thorough review of your estate by an attorney may lead to more than simply the preparation of legal documents. Opportunities and threats may be uncovered, that if known, would lead to a better retirement strategy. The difference between a good estate plan and what amounts to a fill-in-the-blank plan is that a good plan focuses first on meeting your needs and then the needs of your beneficiaries. Good estate planning looks for ways to ensure basic needs will be met.

Estate planning is retirement planning without the high-pressure product sale. An estate planning

attorney can provide a watchful eye and can help explain ambiguous investment concepts and agreements. You could take your financial advisor at his or her word and hope for the best, or you could take a proactive approach by reviewing your estate plan.

Importantly, not all estate planning attorneys are alike. Most have little experience in personal finance.



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Therefore, many are ill-equipped to provide a critical examination of a client's financial strategy in a cost-effective way. Before hiring an attorney to assist in reviewing your estate plan, you should make sure the attorney focuses in estate planning and has experience in the financial industry. **NOW**

*John D. Hale is an estate planning attorney with The Hale Law Firm, P.C. and a former financial advisor located in Waxahachie, Texas. This information is neither provided in the course of an attorney-client relationship nor is it intended to constitute legal advice, or as a substitute for obtaining legal advice from a licensed attorney.*

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# Compassion Helps With Epilepsy

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

Jennifer went from a bubbly sixth-grader to a frightened and silent little girl. She started to walk with her head down most of the time. Her friends seemed to be afraid to spend time with her. Why? She had her first seizure, days ago, in front of the entire classroom. She was eventually diagnosed with epilepsy. However, with time, medical management and education, Jennifer became popular as ever. A seizure disorder is not a social death sentence. This disorder can be managed.

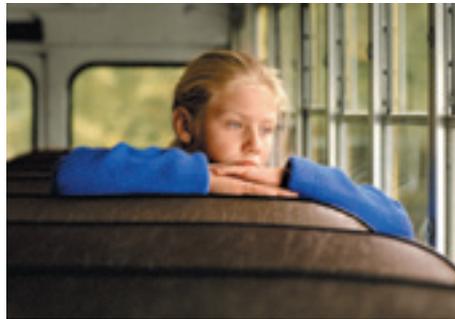
Epilepsy affects millions of Americans with thousands being newly diagnosed every year. In epilepsy, the neurons (nerve cells) have bursts of abnormal electrical activity in the brain. When these nerve cells misfire, communication between them is temporarily disrupted resulting in a seizure. Epilepsy is not a disease. It is a neurological condition affecting the nervous system. You cannot catch it from anyone. It is not a mental illness. It does not indicate a person's intelligence level or ability to think and learn.

It may be frightening to watch someone have a seizure because it can cause uncontrolled jerking movements of the body. Sometimes, the person may lose consciousness. When someone goes into seizure activity, they need your help. It used to be a common practice to use a padded tongue blade

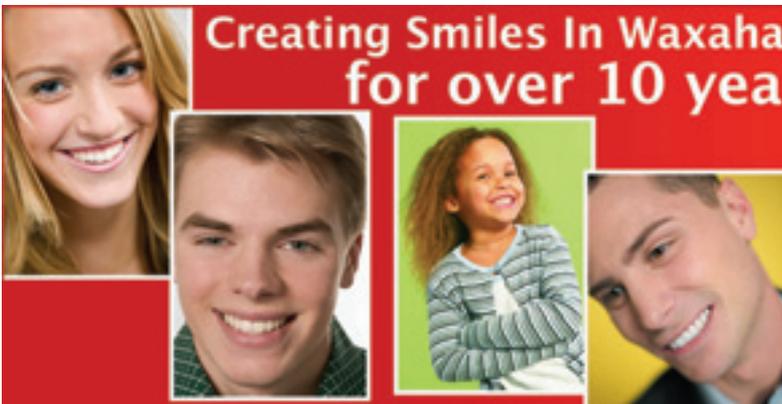
between the teeth. This is now discouraged because of the possibility of broken teeth or accidental choking. The most important thing to remember when someone has a seizure is to keep him or her safe. If they are sitting or standing, gently ease them to the floor to avoid a hard fall. Remove glasses, ties, backpacks — anything restrictive. Move furniture and other objects out of range so they are not injured when their limbs are thrashing uncontrollably. Stay with them until the seizure is over. Some of the indications that dictate calling 9-1-1 are — breathing difficulties (if breathing stops, begin CPR), if the person is pregnant or diabetic, if the seizure occurred while in water, repetitive seizures without a break in between or if the person is injured or unknown to you. Call also if the seizure is longer than five minutes. The old adage that it is better to be safe than sorry applies here.

Because of the occasional social stigma attached to this disorder, it is important for others to know that people with epilepsy are regular people with the propensity to have a normal life, just like them. **NOW**

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



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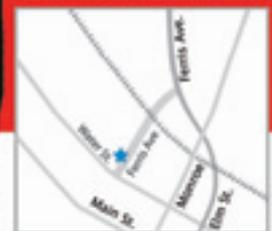
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# Are We Going to be DRY and DUSTY Again?

— By Nancy Fenton



I have not noticed any soaking rains in a long time. The one-fourth inch of ice we got in January does not really count. It was too little, too late for my yard. How about yours? If you have not started your watering schedule, get the rain gauges out and start watching them.

The United States government monitors all kinds of things including rainfall and drought conditions. The U.S. Drought Monitor Map shows 71 percent of Texas in some stage of drought, despite hurricanes Dolly, Gus and Ike soaking East Texas in 2008. More than 15 percent of the state was shown in extreme drought, in spite of the cooler temperatures. Remember the high fire risks and the broken trees of 2006 and 2007? This could be happening again.

The general rule of thumb for landscape watering is one inch per week on turf areas (use tuna cans or similar to measure), one-to-two minutes of three-quarter inch hose on full at the base of established shrubs only when they show signs of stress (wilt, color change, etc.) and slow soak on established trees every two to three weeks during hot, dry periods. Mulch will slow down water loss and lower soil temperature to prevent roasted roots this year! New plants will need more time and effort, plus more water, until they get established.

Protect your landscape and your earth by being aware that over 50 percent of water going to landscaping is wasted, so water wisely! Reduce, recycle and restore is the ongoing theme of the Ellis County Master Gardeners. Come and learn more at their yearly Lawn and Garden EXPO, Saturday, March 28th, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at the Waxahachie Civic Center. For more information, please call the AgriLIFE Extension Service office at (972) 825-5175 or check the Web site at [ECMG.com](http://ECMG.com). **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.*

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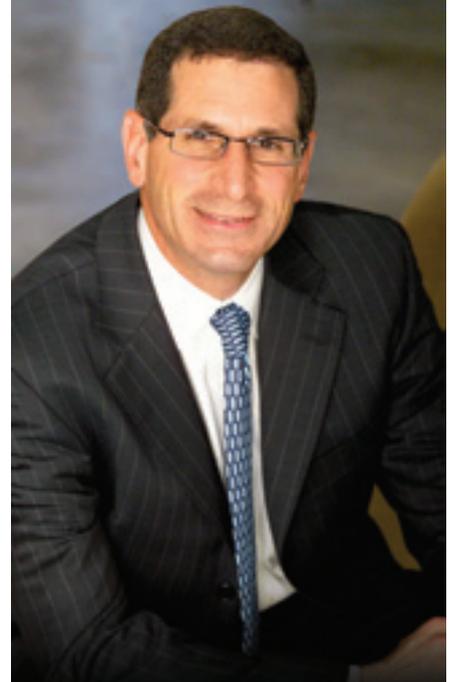
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# March 2009

## Community Calendar

### First Thursday

Dutch Treat Out to Supper with the Senior Citizens of Waxahachie at 5:30 p.m. at local eateries. Call the center at (972) 937-8271 for upcoming location.

### First Thursday

ABWA - Empowering Women Express Network will meet at 5:45 p.m. at the Midlothian Conference Center, located at 1 Community Circle in Midlothian. Please visit [www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org](http://www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org) to RSVP a seat and dinner reservations.

### March 3

Ellis County Day in Austin will be held from 6:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. For more information, call (972) 937-2390.

### March 7

The LifeStyles Home & Family Expo, featuring a Taste of Waxahachie, is hosted by the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce and CVB. The annual event will be held at the Waxahachie Civic Center from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. This is the largest consumer expo, with over 60,000 square

feet of entertainment, shopping and fun for the whole family. Tickets: \$3 for adults, children under 10 are free. For more information, call (972) 937-2390.

An Outpouring of Love, for all Ellis County ladies, will be held at the Waxahachie Bible Church from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Area churches and organizations are hosting this event that will include several guest speakers and lots of information on the various ministries available throughout the county. A charge of \$15 will cover breakfast, lunch, materials and prize drawings. Child care is by reservation only. Contact Shanya Matthews at (214) 693-5218 or visit [www.reconciledtopray.com/conference](http://www.reconciledtopray.com/conference).

### March 11

The Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will meet at 11:45 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce building located at 102 YMCA Dr.

### March 15

Red Oak Bridal Show, a Dallas Area Bridal Show: noon-5:00 p.m. at the Red Oak Municipal Center. For more information, call (972) 617-1933.

### March 21

The Christian Music Festival will be held from 4:00-10:00 p.m. at the Ellis County Expo Center. Children's activities will begin at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will begin at 5:00 p.m. Musical groups will begin performing at 6:00 p.m.

### March 28

The Lawn and Garden Expo, hosted by the Ellis County Master Gardener Association, will be held at the Waxahachie Civic Center. For more detailed information, call James at (972) 814-0699 or e-mail [expo.ecmga@yahoo.com](mailto:expo.ecmga@yahoo.com).

### March 31 and April 1

The Waxahachie Head Start Program will be accepting applications for the 2009-2010 school year on the campus at Dunaway Elementary School during regular school hours. They will also continue taking applications throughout the summer. For more information, contact Lucy Mares, Waxahachie Head Start Site Facilitator, at (972) 923-4763 or e-mail her at [Imares@wisd.org](mailto:Imares@wisd.org).

For more community events, visit our online calendar at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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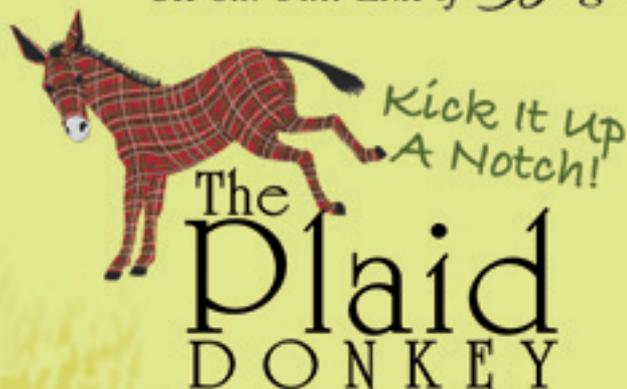
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