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M A G A Z I N E

MARCH 2023

## Family of Ministry

Truett Treadaway builds on his heritage of faith

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Scavenger Hunt

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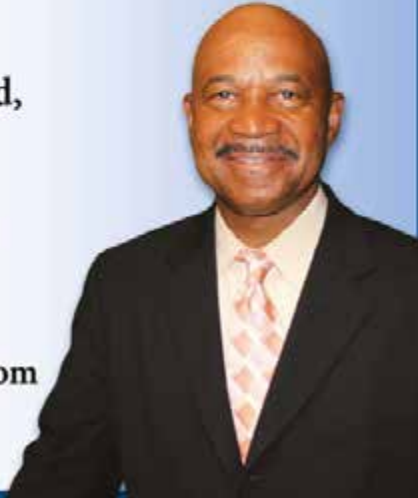
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ON THE COVER



Truett Treadaway, with wife, Chloe, builds on a legacy of spiritual leadership decades in the making.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

*Looky, looky!*

The year 1844 brought us the telegraph. In 1876, the telephone. Long before those, there were cave paintings and hieroglyphics. Fast forward and it was radio, then TV. Now, computers and cell phones make communication instantaneous. It's hard to wrap your brain around what might be next. Turns out what's next may wrap around your brain instead ... Introducing augmented reality glasses.

Not to be confused with the clunky headsets you might associate with videogaming (virtual reality glasses are another story altogether), but instead discreet designs more like everyday eyewear. AR glasses would let you communicate with Alexa or Siri and have the answers to your questions pop up, quite literally, right before your eyes. No more fumbling for your cell phone from your purse or pocket (talk about #firstworldproblems), with AR glasses the map you need to get where you're going, the instructions for making a recipe, the menu at your favorite restaurant, even that email or text message you've been awaiting simply appear. Smart AR contacts are reportedly in production, too, able to monitor and provide your health data in, well, the blink of your eye.

Believe it or not, AR glasses are nothing new. Sources credit Google with the first modern pair around 2011-2012, but American engineer Ivan Sutherland is considered an AR pioneer, developing a heavy, head-mounted display device in 1968. This year, it's rumored that Apple, Facebook, Microsoft and more are set to unveil AR glasses to the masses. Not only might the resolution make that tiny font easy to read for most of us, it could also mean your TV, computer monitor, even (gasp!) your cell phone might go the way of those cave paintings someday. Whatever your thoughts on technology, AR glasses are coming into view.

*Keep an eye out!*



*Angel*

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# FAMILY OF MINISTRY

— By Angel Morris

*Young Truett Treadaway is carrying on a family tradition. Including him, there have been at least four ministers in his family within the last six generations. Tracing back to a great-great-great-grandfather, Truett's roots in ministry run deep. As youth pastor of Vertical Church Ovilla, he continues a legacy of spiritual leadership in Ellis County that began in the 1980s. "My grandfather's great-grandfather was a pastor, but I don't think they ever met. Papa first began preaching in 1961 at a small church in Tennessee. He pastored eight churches before moving to Texas with his wife, Carol, and their three children — one being my mother, Heather — and joining Ovilla Road Baptist Church in January 1983," Truett outlined.*

Nick Harris, Truett's Papa, helped found Ovilla Christian School, a ministry of ORBC, the school from which Truett would graduate. Today, Nick serves as pastor of Glenn Heights' Bear Creek Baptist Church, while Truett's father, Brian (a 40-year minister), founded and pastors Vertical Church. Truett's brother, two sisters and a brother-in-law work in various capacities at the church, as well, and Truett's wife, Chloe, is a leader in their youth group.

"Ministry has become the 'family business' because it is in everything that we do. As a pastor's grandkid and pastor's kid, and the passion that I have for other people to know Christ ... how could I not devote my life to ministry?" Truett relayed. "I want to pass onto the next generation the passion, confidence and joy that's been passed to me."

Truett wasn't always certain he would follow the familial path, however. "Before I graduated high school in 2018, I did not know what I wanted to do. I settled on attending Navarro College, but I wasn't passionate about what to study," he admitted. "A youth pastor I knew talked with me about his studies at Scarborough College — the college at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary — and it just felt like every word he said was grabbing my heart.

"When I got home from that conversation, my mother was enjoying a midnight bowl of cereal like she usually would, and with the most joy in my heart I told her how I finally felt passionate about this next chapter of life!" Truett continued. "My father and my papa shared wise conversations about what this phase would look like. I read the book *Discerning Your Call* to





Ministry by Jason K. Allen, and it sealed my desires to be in full-time vocational ministry.”

In January 2019, Truett began his education while still serving in the youth group at Vertical Church. Now as a full-time youth minister, he builds on his family’s local legacy. “My grandparents, parents, all my siblings and me and my wife all live in Ellis County. Including the nieces and nephews, it will be a total of 26,” Truett tallied, with his and Chloe’s first child as the latest addition.

As a new father, Truett said reaching today’s youth becomes even more important. “Students especially know very quickly when the person who is speaking actually cares about what they are saying. If it is half-baked or nonchalant, then it will be received that way,” he noted. “But when the message has captivated your own heart, and you are able to express the impact it has personally, that is when people respond.

“Some of the challenges I see youth facing are a lack of purpose, record-

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high anxiety, overwhelming depression and addiction to dopamine. I hope to help them combat those things not by blaming or shaming, but by raising a banner of hope, peace and freedom.”

Truett’s family experience as part of a church plant, church merge, small church, big church, many seasons of a church and many different youth groups along the way make him uniquely qualified to introduce youth to the Church. “Our family has committed to feeding the spiritually hungry, and our ministries are all about serving the

community. We are not a closed off church, but one that is open to all and preaches the same message to all,” Truett stated.

Truett hopes the youths he addresses today will change the future. “I believe this generation has the power to change the course of our cities, county, state, nation and so on,” he said. “Life is more than just living for your appetites and being told what to do ... it is about waking up to one’s true purpose in Christ.”

With this message, Truett builds on what his father, grandfather and family set before him. “My goal is to be a voice in Ellis County that is trusted to speak the truth no matter how hard the topic, a voice that is trusted to bring comfort to anyone hurting and a voice that is trusted to always point you to Christ,” Truett explained. “I would one day love to be a pastor of a church, but for now, I know that my work as youth pastor is exactly where I need to be. The relationships that me and my wife have developed, the students’ lives changing and the peace that we have here are all confirmation of that!” **NOW**

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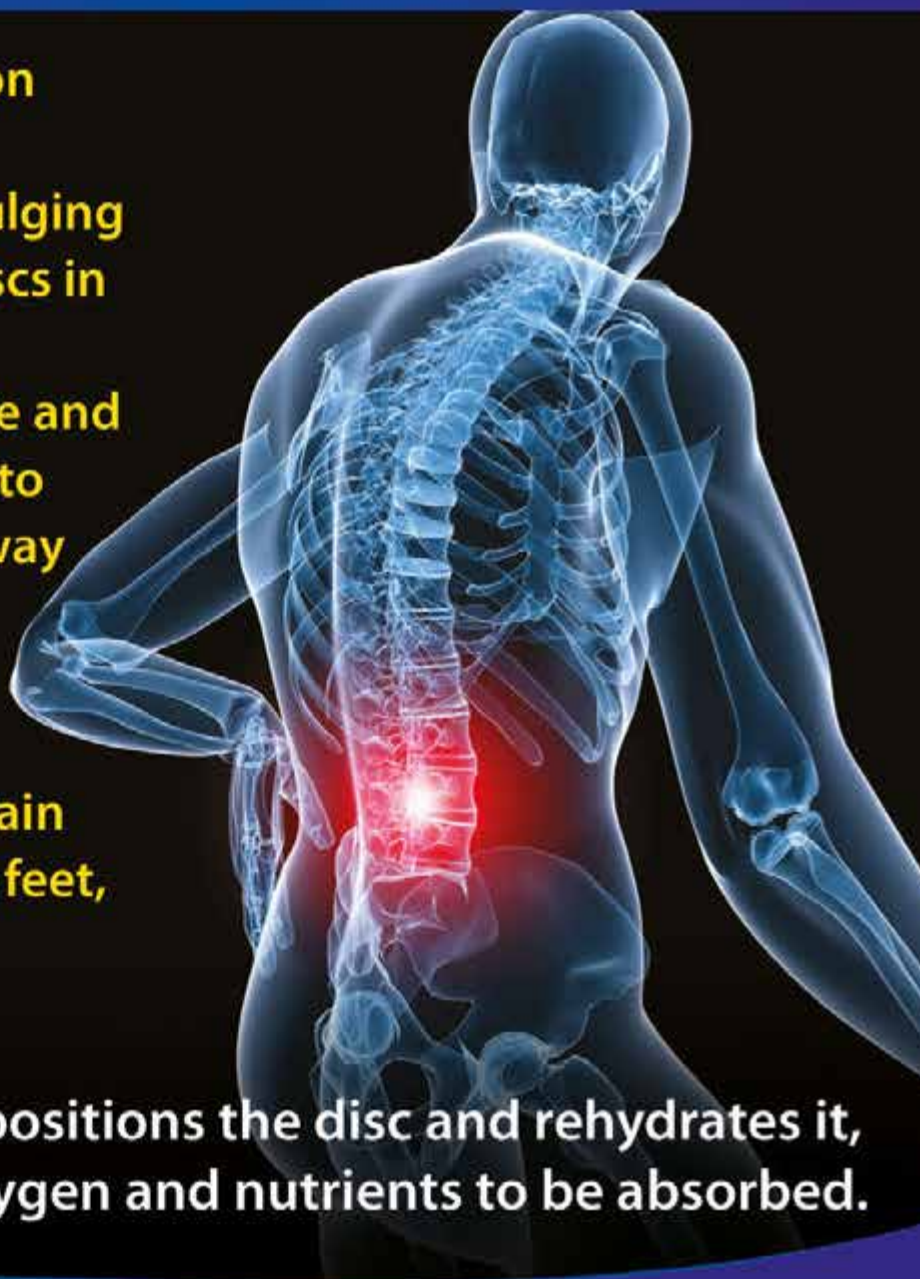
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# BusinessNOW Options Plumbing, LLC

— By Angel Morris

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When Don Hill got into the plumbing business, it was because he wanted to make an honest living for his growing family, while also providing services to the community. He started out in 1998, after being mentored by a fellow Master Plumber who still runs a successful business. “Having a family-owned and family-operated business means you get to work with the people you love on a daily basis. The trust in each other is already there, and this makes it easier to build trust with your customers,” Don, who owns Options Plumbing, explained.



Options Plumbing is truly a family business from your first call to the arrival of their technicians. Marjorie Williams, Don’s sister, is the office manager, who keeps Options running smoothly. Rebecca, Don’s wife, handles social media and event planning. Hunter and Chance, Don and Rebecca’s sons, share their beliefs about providing customers with personable service.

Options Plumbing handles emergency plumbing to remodeling — and every pipe situation in between — sending licensed, insured plumbers to assess situations. “We use powerful methods such as hydro jetting to unclog drains and ensure all blockages are flushed away,” Don said.

Options Plumbing also helps identify and repair pipes in need of service. “We offer leak repair, new installation, re-piping and rerouting for residential and commercial properties. Also, if a slab leak repair service indicates your pipes require assistance, we’ll work to find the best solution for your home or business needs,” he noted.

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Repairs and maintenance are not Options Plumbing’s only areas of expertise. “For many of us, our homes are our sanctuaries — our safe havens from the world outside. That’s why we offer a wide range of home remodeling services, so that you can give your home an updated look or a complete overhaul,” Don mentioned. “Whether you are looking for the kitchen of your dreams or updating your bathroom, we can help. With our services, your imagination is the only limit to your transformation.”

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## Zoomed In: Noma Lankford

By Angel Morris

Noma Lankford, former owner of Happy House Daycare in Red Oak, marks her 90th birthday this month. "My love for children urged me to open Happy House in 1975. That was my calling. My husband, Bill, made my dreams come true by purchasing the house that sits on the property," noted Noma, who retired in January 2020 at age 87.

Noma lost her twin sister at birth and then her husband in a plane crash in 1991, but she said her faith has always kept her going. Noma's family invites the community to a birthday celebration from 10:00 a.m.-noon on April 1 at Grace Church in Ovilla, where Noma said she would love to see all her former Happy House kids: "I still pray for them all every night!"



*Brendon Lewis introduces his daughter, Colstyn, to her very first snow day.*



*Dale Rozas, Cindy Garris, Victoria Spears, Debbie Ray and Ann Turner help The Creative Quilter's Guild of Ellis County celebrate its 20th year.*



*Darah and Nala Bartels love cold days at home to read and draw by the hearth.*



*Taylor Brogdon, Faith Dickerson and Paige Sebring cuddle up at the Fox Hollow Gazebo.*





Gus and Hulon Bell have an indoor picnic and play a game of Clue during one of the recent school closure days.



Wooden Elementary's Jasmine Harrott and ROMS's Katie Eaton learn new things at the TCEA educators' convention.



Twins Ian and Lia McChesney, age 10, take advantage of the hot tub during winter weather in Ovilla.



Sylvia Craddock, wife of Glenn Heights Founder N.L. 'Moe' Craddock, addresses the crowd at the grand opening of the new City Center.

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**Urgent  
Health  
Warning:**

## ***An Important HEALTH WARNING for Men and Women Age 55 or Older!***

**Do You Suffer from *Pain, Burning, Numbness,*  
or *Tingling* from Nerve Damage Caused by  
**Diabetes, Infection, or ANY of the Other  
Conditions Listed in this Urgent Special Report?****

***If so, now you can virtually end your discomfort,  
protect your health, and help you live a more active life.***

Dear Suffering Friend:

Tens of millions Americans have nerve damage — a condition known as “neuropathy.”

*The most common symptoms of nerve damage are pain, burning, tingling, and loss of feeling in your feet, legs, and fingers* — with the pain ranging from mild to almost unbearable.

If you are diabetic, and especially if you are also age 60 or older, odds are that your nerve damage has been caused directly by your diabetes — although many younger diabetics also have nerve damage from this potentially deadly disease.

*But many OTHER people with these symptoms — pain, burning, and tingling — are NOT diabetic, yet also suffer from nerve damage.*

According to the Mayo Clinic, the many diseases and conditions that can destroy the nerves in your extremities and limbs include:

- |                        |  |                  |
|------------------------|--|------------------|
| ✓ Alcoholism           | ✓ Repetitive motions such as typing        | ✓ Chemotherapy   |
| ✓ Autoimmune diseases  | ✓ Bone marrow disorders                    | ✓ Tumors         |
| ✓ Vitamin deficiencies | ✓ Certain prescription medications         | ✓ Infections     |
| ✓ Liver disease        | ✓ Falls, sports injuries, and other trauma | ✓ Kidney disease |
| ✓ Underactive thyroid  | ✓ Wearing a cast or using crutches         |                  |



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# CookingNOW *In the Kitchen With* MIKE BLAIR

— By Angel Morris

After some time as a substitute teacher, Mike Blair pursued his certification and now teaches at Schupmann Elementary. By night, he enjoys “cooking cuisine from around the world. Food is culture!” he said. “It’s how I decompress. It enables me to switch my mind from thinking about work to focusing on family.”

Before teaching, Mike owned a remodeling/construction business. “I can build a house from the ground up and repair whatever needs to be repaired,” he noted, crediting his mom with his interest in creating things since he grew up watching her work magic in the kitchen.

Mike’s wife inspired his own cooking endeavors. “I was excited to marry an Italian, but she only knew about five recipes. I wanted more things to eat, so I started watching Food Network and experimenting!”

Mike is also involved in worship ministry. He serves as associate pastor of The Promise Church in DeSoto. **NOW**

- 2.** Sauté the carrots, celery and onions in the butter until the onions are translucent. Add the garlic; cook 1 minute.
- 3.** Add the meats; cook until browned. Remove the mixture into a bowl.
- 4.** Add the wine to the pan and deglaze. Reduce by half. Return the meat mixture to the pan; add the tomato paste. Mix well.
- 5.** Add 3/4 cup hot pasta water and tomato sauce; begin cooking down. When the ragu is thickened up, add salt and pepper to taste. Add heavy cream; mix. If too thick, add the rest of the pasta water.
- 6.** Place the pasta in a bowl. Add the ragu on top. Put a handful of blueberries and Parmesan on top.

## Venison Ragu

Tube pasta (like penne)  
2 large carrots, diced  
2 celery stalks, diced  
1 medium yellow onion, diced  
2 Tbsp. unsalted butter  
3 large garlic cloves, minced  
1 lb. ground venison  
1 lb. ground beef or pork  
1/2 cup red wine

3 oz. tomato paste  
1 cup pasta water, reserved  
4 oz. tomato sauce  
Salt, to taste  
Pepper, to taste  
1/3 cup heavy cream  
Fresh blueberries, to taste  
Parmesan cheese, grated, to taste

**1.** Cook the pasta to al-dente while preparing the ragu sauce.

## Italian Venison Chili

Oil, for sautéing  
1 onion, chopped  
1 carrot, diced small  
1 Tbsp. garlic  
1 lb. ground beef  
1 lb. ground venison  
1 lb. ground Italian sausage  
3 Tbsp. cumin  
4 Tbsp. smoked paprika



**1 Tbsp. chili powder**  
**1 6-oz. can tomato paste**  
**1/2 cup red wine**  
**3-4 cups beef broth**  
**1 1-oz. can diced tomatoes**  
**Salt, to taste**  
**Pepper, to taste**

*Toppings:*

**Cheese, shredded**  
**Sour cream**  
**Fritos**

1. Heat oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. Add the onions and carrots. Cook until the onions are soft. Add the garlic; cook 1 minute.
2. Add the ground meat; cook until brown. Add the spices; stir into the meat. Add the tomato paste; incorporate into the meat mixture.
3. Add the red wine; cook 1 minute. Add the beef broth and diced tomatoes. Add salt and pepper to taste. (You can add more spices to your liking.)
4. Reduce the heat; simmer until the desired consistency is reached. Skim the fat from the top. Serve with shredded cheese, sour cream and Fritos.

### Simple Salsa

*Quick and easy to make on the fly.*

**1 jalapeño, seeded and deveined**  
**1 medium red onion, chunked**  
**1 bunch cilantro, washed**  
**5 cloves garlic**  
**3 1-oz. cans diced tomatoes**  
**2 limes, juiced**  
**Salt, to taste**  
**Pepper, to taste**

1. Put everything in a blender; blend until desired consistency is reached.
2. Put the mixture into the refrigerator; let it sit for a couple hours before serving.

To search for more  
**great recipes**  
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Happy

# St. Patrick's Day

MARCH

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

3/23-4/1

## Ellis County Stock Show & Rodeo:

Supporting the 4-H and FFA youth of Ellis County. Multiple events scheduled daily. 2300 Hwy. 287 N., Waxahachie. Learn more at [ecyexpo.com](http://ecyexpo.com).

3/25

## North Ellis County Market:

A showcase of businesses around the community and what they have to offer. Free for attendees. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Red Oak Municipal Building, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Call (972) 617-0906 for sponsorship or vendor information.

## 22nd Annual Lawn &

## Garden Expo:

Hosted by Ellis County Master Gardeners and featuring keynote speakers from Fredericksburg's Wildseed Farms and Austin's LBJ Wildflower Center. Master Gardeners will discuss pocket prairies and pollination, plus Texas Discovery Gardens will be in the Children's Workshop. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Lane, Waxahachie. Visit <https://ecmga.com/> or follow on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ECMG> for ticket locations.

## Third Mondays

### Book Club:

New members always welcome. 6:30-8:00 p.m., Red Oak

Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. For more information, email [redoakbookclub@gmail.com](mailto:redoakbookclub@gmail.com).

## Third Wednesdays

### Lancaster Women's Connection:

Welcoming Christian women in Ellis County. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch, a special feature and a Stonecroft Speaker. Reservations due **Thursday prior** to the monthly meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Country View Golf Course, 240 W. Belt Line Rd., Lancaster. Contact Dee Ann Ellis at [deannellis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deannellis@sbcglobal.net) or (972) 921-6221.

## Wednesdays and Thursdays

### Senior Citizen

### Center of Red Oak:

Enjoy coffee, juice and donuts each morning, as well as a sponsored lunch on first-third Thursdays and a potluck on fourth Thursdays. Also, games, puzzles, bingo and informative guest speakers. 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 207 W. Red Oak Rd. Call (469) 218-1217 for more information.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [angel.morris@nowmagazines.com](mailto:angel.morris@nowmagazines.com).*

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