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May 2009

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MAGAZINE



## Editor's Note

*Dear Readers,*

The last month of spring is upon us. What beauty! There are all sorts of events this month in Burleson where you can get outside and enjoy the bright green grass, colorful flowers and blue skies. The best-known opportunity is the Honey Tour. On May 23, bicyclists from all over the Metroplex will ride a winding course through Johnson County. Volunteers are needed to hand out cold water and fresh fruit at rest stops along the ride. Call the Chamber at (817) 295-6121 to sign up.

For the younger crowd, Bailey Lake will be an awesome place to discover the joys of fishing, when the Burleson Community Center hosts the 2nd Annual Fishing Camp on May 16. Children 6 years old and up will enjoy learning about rods and reels, basic skills, proper casting techniques, how to bait a hook and safety. Check out our community calendar at the end of every issue to stay up-to-date on fun times in Burleson!

*Melissa Collins*

*BurlesonNOW* Editor



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*Assistant manager Elizabeth Stinson,  
Angie Paschall and Manager Bo Green  
proudly welcome guests to 102 Café*



— By Jaime Ruark

Brightly colored linen napkins and tablecloths decorate candlelit tables, soft music plays in the background and the smell of homemade lasagna and garlic bread fills customers' noses, making their stomachs growl. Sound like your favorite Italian restaurant? Actually, it is a classroom at Burleson High School, where teacher Angie Paschall conducts her Life Skills Occupational Preparation Class.

The students of Angie's class are being trained for life after high school in a creative and hands-on approach that is helping them develop important and necessary life skills. Along with her parent professionals (teaching assistants), Jan Seifert and Jodie Lindsay, Angie has exactly mimicked the operating standards of a running restaurant. 102 Café, now in its second year and named for the door number of the classroom, provides a "full-service, sit-down dining experience to faculty and staff" and covers all aspects of running a successful restaurant, from "room décor, selecting music, menu planning, purchasing groceries, meal preparation, money management, custodial considerations, advertising and marketing.

"We started the café last year and the whole class is structured around it," Angie explained. "I chose a café because I knew it was something that would help us address the different developmental levels and cognitive skills of our students, and it met the resource criteria that we had available in our room." The classroom has two kitchen areas, complete with ovens, refrigerators and cabinets where the chefs can prepare each meal, all concealed from the diners' view by hanging curtains. "This is really a very functional job that our students will likely

choose once they leave high school. It's important that we help them develop the skills they're going to need later in life," she added.

From the café's inception, the students were involved with every detail, from sewing tablecloths and napkins to hanging the curtains and making the artwork that helps create the café's ambience. "We went through every job description and what was required for each so that the students had a very firm understanding of what each job entailed. They selected the positions they wanted and then had to go through the whole interview process and fill out applications for every role, from manager and assistant manager to sous-chef, pastry chef, waiter and the clean-up crew," Angie added. "We prepared them for the interviews ahead of time and practiced and prepped them for the questions they will someday really have, and we encouraged parents to help them practice at home. Not everyone got the job they applied for, but we made sure to assign the jobs that fit their skill level. Just like anyone else, some did really well and some of the kids froze under the pressure."

Angie and her parent professionals were a bit surprised at first by some of their students' vocation choices. "It was really interesting to see what they wanted to do job-wise," she expressed. "Some of our more vocal, interactive kids wanted jobs that were more behind-the-scenes because they were nervous, but once they were put in their positions and trained and supported, they completely blossomed."

The café started off simply, but has progressed as the students' skills improved. "We started off with a lot of supervision and simple menus, simple steps of service. We've built on those



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first steps to create more complexity,” Angie said, explaining that menu items have increased and become more difficult to prepare, which in turn makes taking an order a harder task as well. “Our waiters started off with picture forms. When taking an order, they could just check the picture that went with the menu item. Now they actually have to write orders down. They’ve all gotten more comfortable with their duties and interacting with their customers, which is important, because we really want to help them develop good communication skills and the confidence it takes to interact with their peers.”

102 Café has become a favorite dining spot for some of the teachers and staff who enjoy not only the food, but encouraging the students in their



*Elizabeth Stinson waits on Susan Houp and Tina Jarrett.*

work. Chili, enchiladas, pizza, spaghetti, chicken dishes and lasagna are served for \$5 a meal; the portion sizes are not only filling, but delicious. “We try to have the café once a week or once every other week, and the teachers are starting to look forward to the meals,” Angie smiled. “The students love it when the teachers come up to them and say, ‘When is enchilada day?’ or ‘When is the next café?’ They get excited and it encourages them a lot.”

The diners’ opinions, in fact, are one of the ways Angie assesses how her students are progressing. “We have every customer fill out a little survey at the end of their meal to give us feedback. That helps with our assessment of the students, plus it also gives them some great in-the-moment comments. We sit down as a group after each café and read the comments, look at ways we’re

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doing well or ways we can improve," she explained. Jan, who helps manage the kitchen duties, and Jodie, who manages the wait staff, both take pride in their students' progress. "Just to see how far they've come is great," Jodie said. "They've gone from yelling across the room to hushed whispers, and they really communicate well now, not only with each other but with the customers."



Jordan Gillian takes the drink orders of Jon Seifert, Jeane Jeffery and Jodie Lindsay.

Bo Green, a friendly and engaging junior, is the café's manager. Among his many responsibilities are handling the café's money and greeting his customers at the door with a smile before guiding them to a table. "It's been a great experience. I enjoy it," he expressed. "We have a lot of responsibilities. We were nervous at first, but now this is our second year and we're used to it and better at it."

Elizabeth Stinson, a well-spoken and sweet-mannered senior, works as the café's assistant manager, ensuring that both the workers and the customers are happy. "I like doing this a lot, because I get to see people and learn how to do different things. I like to help people and make sure everyone is having a good time," she said. "This will help us later in life because you have to work with people, and we're learning to do that here."

Angie takes great pride in her café workers, especially as she watches her students progress individually and together as a team. "The satisfaction I get comes from seeing the students grow socially as well as academically. They've gained a lot of confidence in themselves," she noted. "These kids are going to be productive citizens someday, leading happy, enriched lives." **WOW**

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**At Home With  
Carter  
and Susan  
Mahanay**

# Third-generation Texans

— By Melissa Collins

Carter Mahanay's family has noticed no difference in the head of the household since he joined the Burleson City Council last year. He still makes family — both the older and the younger generations — his number one priority.

"He's gone to meetings; that's about it," said Susan, who became Carter's best buddy after meeting while waterskiing with friends. "My parents sent me off to Abilene Christian University to meet a good Christian girl, her parents to Oklahoma Christian to meet a good Christian boy, and we met on Lake Alvarado in the summer," laughed Carter.

They married in Everman, Texas, in 1980. Now — as they have almost every day since they began working together 11 years ago — the couple eats lunch together and shares their family, business and community news. "Serving on the Council has been an eye-opening experience. I get to bounce things off of Susan," Carter said. "There's so much more involved than what I had envisioned. It gets you involved in







the community where you live. I see the city differently. I won't be quick to criticize City Council or the mayor."

As he does with his employees at Best Homes, Carter shares with his family his opinion on issues that are before City Council and tries to get his girls' input. "We do have more conversations about our city than we did before," said 24-year-old Nicole, who lives with her parents while she seeks work in the social services.

Nicole also cooks a lot for the family. "We like Mexican," said Susan, who works in the office of a local CPA, Jay Wilson, during the day, and cooks things like chicken enchiladas when she gets home. Nicole smiled and said her enchiladas, with chicken and sour cream, are better than Susan's.

"They like to try new things," refereed





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Carter, "from recipes they see on the Food Network or in magazines." In fact, both Susan and Nicole spend a lot of time in the kitchen preparing new dishes for the family to enjoy. Once a month or so, their "extended family" of 12-15 friends from the Burleson Church of Christ will meet in their home on a Sunday evening, to enjoy a devotional and share a meal together. Susan, who decorated her kitchen with her collection of old-fashioned biscuit tins, usually cooks the meal. "I was raised basically the same way Carter was. There was no question about going to church," she said. "We went to church every time there was a service. God's the center of your home, and we tried to teach that to our children."

"We couldn't have had better parents," Carter agreed. "We are both third-generation Texans, and were taught good values. I'm not going to say I always lived up to what I was

taught, but as I get older, I try to." One of Carter's goals as a husband and father has been to be the same person at home that he is out in the world. "If there's a difference there, people are going to see that ... especially your family."

Lately, another member of Carter's family has been sitting around visiting, eating and catching up on everybody's day. Talin Pepper, the Mahanays' son-in-law, has lived with the Mahanays this spring while completing a clinical rotation at TheraWorks in Burleson. Next month the soon-to-be Dr. Pepper will go back home to Lubbock to finish his Ph.D. and join his wife, Amanda, who teaches prekindergarten in the Levelland school system.

Amanda and her sister, Nicole, have always been big card game players, and lately really enjoyed playing Rummy Q and Liverpool Rummy on the dining room set that Susan













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got just this winter from a local antique dealer. "I re-covered the seats with help from my best friend, Pam Fear," said Susan, who added a black swag over gold panels covering the dining room windows. That room faces the living room, where a custom-built black entertainment cabinet forms the focal point of the family's high-definition fun. "We all like to read," Nicole said, "and we all like to watch movies." On top of that, Carter likes to save money. "We like to travel," he joked, "but with an HDTV and some good DVDs you can travel without going anywhere!"

The entertainment cabinet was



designed by Susan. "When we were building this house, the cabinet guy from Best Homes told me to tell him what I wanted. I found the design in the IKEA catalog. We didn't want a fireplace." The spindles on the corners were inspired by the spindles on Susan's great-grandmother's spindle bed — which "belongs" to Amanda and Talin when they visit. "Coming home to that room is just a reminder of how blessed I am," Amanda said, "to have so many great memories of such a supportive, loving family that has taught us to love the Lord and to love each other."

Amanda and Nicole (who keeps a

collection of her grandmother's costume jewelry on a cast iron mannequin in her room) visit both sets of grandparents often. "Our children are fortunate to have two sets of grandparents who actually want us all around," said Carter, who brings hot batches of his grandmother's big puffy yeast rolls to holiday feasts. "She handwrote her recipe — which I have framed in the kitchen — in 1988, when she was about 92 years old." Carter, who grew up in Burleson, remembers going to help her after she couldn't get around very well.

Susan keeps fond memories of her own ancestors as well. The spindle bed in Amanda's room once belonged to Susan's great-grandmother as did the rocking chair in the master suite. In the hutch, Susan displays Carter's mother's set of pink Mayfair Depression glass. "She collected that when Carter was growing up," Susan explained. "His dad worked for the government. They went in a travel trailer on four-

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- ✓ Fronts of cabinets hand wiped
- ✓ Drapery rods and window sills hand wiped
- ✓ Floors given extra attention
- ✓ Faucets, sinks, & chrome handbrushed

#### Kitchen & Eating Area Detail-Clean

- ✓ Inside of range hood cleaned
- ✓ Dish pane or glass top surface cleaned
- ✓ Doors and door frames hand wiped
- ✓ Appliances cleaned and shined
- ✓ Knickknack areas cleaned
- ✓ Fronts of cabinets hand wiped
- ✓ Drapery rods & window sills hand wiped
- ✓ Floor given extra attention
- ✓ All kitchen furniture hand wiped

#### Sleeping & Living Areas Detail-Clean

- ✓ Doors & door frames hand wiped
- ✓ Window sills & ledges hand wiped
- ✓ Knickknacks individually cleaned
- ✓ Furniture surfaces hand wiped
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week vacations every summer, and that's when she collected the glass. She bought it in antique stores, and Carter's dad made sure she got to stop to hunt for the Mayfair."

His father, Bill, has given Carter much to be proud of. "He organized the Community of Gas Lease Holdouts. By the time I got on City Council, what I called the "shady leasing practices" had pretty much subsided. But about a year ago, my dad and I might have had a directors meeting here in our

home, probably just him and me," grinned Carter, who uses the game room filled with Coca-Cola memorabilia for an "office" when Talin, Amanda and Nicole are busy elsewhere.

More than anything, the Mahanays' home is their refuge. "That's where you're with your family," Carter said. "We've always enjoyed being together and sharing our lives together, so you know everyone in your home is on your side; you're on the same team. We try to support each other the best we can."

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# Wearable

— By Jaime Ruark

Doris “Dotte” McKinley, a recent addition to Burleson, is proving that art comes in many shapes and packages. Dotte, as she is known to many, moved here with Fred, her husband of 37 years, to be near their children and to escape the wet South Carolina weather. “We went through three hurricanes in the seven years we lived there. We just got tired of putting the lawn furniture up,” she laughed. Making the trip with the McKinleys from Myrtle Beach were Dotte’s denim purses, and now the people of Burleson are carrying her colorful, washable, wearable art.

Dotte has always been an artistic person, finding an outlet for her creativity by making cloth dolls or birdhouses and wooden fish. “Fred got me a Dremel tool, and I just went crazy,” she smiled. “I don’t know how many fish I made — huge fish we hung on the outside of our beach houses — until I got tired of it.” When Fred began writing his second book, Dotte knew she was going to have to find a hobby that would not only keep her busy, but hold her creative interests as well.

The outgoing and vivacious Dotte has been creating her bags since 2004, when she saw a similar bag in a thrift shop in Myrtle Beach. “I wanted one, so I made it myself, but I didn’t want it to be so plain,” she recalled. “I started drawing stuff on it, and that’s how it all started.”

Dotte’s purses are made of refurbished durable denim jeans and come equipped with endless pockets — up to 20, depending on the size of the bag. Each bag features brightly colored fabrics on the inside to match the painted figures on the outside. Dotte hand-paints the bags with an array of animals, flowers, cowboys, Harley Davidson motorcycles, school mascots and witty or cute sayings. “I never run out of things to draw on them. I see something in a newspaper, magazine or the Internet, or even Christmas cards, and I paint them on free-hand,” she



# Art

explained. “Every purse is different. No two are ever alike.”

At first, Dotte experimented with how to put the bags together, finding ways to cut the jeans, piece and sew them to incorporate pockets and how to braid denim strips from the legs of the jeans for the bags’ shoulder straps. “I use every part of the jeans,” she said. Each bag also features a charm attached to the zipper that echoes the theme of the bag. “I’m a garage sale nut, and for years I’d go to sales and pick up little things here and there. I have baskets and baskets of stuff I’ve collected over the years, and I finally put them to good use,” she said of the hearts, butterflies, keys, cowboy boots or horseshoes that give each bag Dotte’s special and unique artistic touch.

Her love of her new hobby grew and grew, as did the number of bags she was making. “Fred said, ‘You’ve got to start doing something or we’re gonna have to build an extra room or rent a storage building just for your bags!’” she chuckled. Encouraged by her friend, Sonja Spottswood, Dotte took five of her bags to the local flea market and gave them to a lady, Natalie, to sell, sure that no one would be interested in her art. “The very next day, I got a phone call from her saying she needed more bags,” Dotte remembered with a smile.

It is hard for Dotte to pick a favorite out of her vast array of bags, but one of her favorite figures to paint is the cartoon character Betty Boop. “When we lived by the beach, I did a lot of Bettys in bathing suits, at a tiki bar, in the ocean,” she noted. “Of course, coming to Texas, I’ve changed some of my themes — more cowboys and horses now.” Each purse is signed



by Dotte and numbered. "I'm getting close to 800 now," she added. "That's a lot of purses!"

Dotte's house has a room, which she laughingly calls her studio, set aside for her bags, with closets filled with jeans and fabric and shelf upon shelf of paints, charms and pockets. Tables hold her two sewing machines as well as a computer, an important part of



**"Dotte hand-paints the bags with an array of animals, flowers, cowboys, Harley Davidson motorcycles, school mascots and witty or cute sayings."**

her creative process. "I'm one of those people who has to be doing something all the time," she laughed. "When I'm hand-sewing the linings, I play Canasta online. I'll sew until I hear the computer beep and then I know it's my turn."

From kittens to cowboys to sunflowers, each bright and whimsical purse is imbued with Dotte's fun personality. Her art brings a smile to everyone's face, especially her own. **ARTS NOW**



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# All Over That Horse

— By Melissa Collins

Frank Pace does not claim to be centered. The vaulter prefers finding balance all over his horses, and teaches his students the same. “Our weight is not only from side to side, it’s from front to back. We’re on their neck, their croup, their loins, their withers, hanging on their side in a Cossack drag,” Frank said. He spends a lot of time training his horses to expect such antics from the humans who leap up and all around the moving animals.

“The horse has to get used to that, and learn to be ready. You can’t tell him, ‘Okay, I’m fixing to pop up into a flag position.’ You can’t cue him for what you’re going to do next; he just has to accept it,” said Frank, who explained that vaulting was developed through the ages by courageous military men. “The sport has been huge in Europe for years.” Frank and his wife, Patti, learned the fundamentals of vaulting from Paul Kathen, a visitor from Germany who brought with him a piece of equipment peculiar to the sport — a vaulting surcingle, a strap made of leather or similar material that passes around the body of a horse.

“The basics of vaulting come from [the island of] Crete,” explained Frank. “Similar to our rodeo bullfighters, they’d taunt the bull and as it came by [they] would grab its horns and vault on board. It became a part of the cavalry training, to dismount and mount on a running horse. Like everything else, it got turned into a competitive kind of thing. It was actually a part of the Olympics until 1920.” Modern gymnastics, in fact, mimic vaulting — just without the horse.

Frank and Patti grew up riding

Western. They had seen trick riders all their lives. When they discovered vaulting in the late ’70s, they used it to improve their riding skills. “I don’t know if we were blessed or honored, but we had some [special needs] kids come along and we’d put them up on the vaulting horse with the surcingle, and we’d see some improvement in the kids. They’d move along, and the surcingle would get hung back up in the barn until the next kid came along,” Frank shared.

“Some, we’d actually get ’em to do the tricks — and to see a cerebral palsy child get up on a horse and do a flag is an amazing good thing,” said Frank.



Building confidence in people became the Paces’ goal for their operation of Gold Star Pacesetters, a Burleson-based vaulting club dedicated to glorifying Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through teaching people to do gymnastics on horses.

“We’ve had a few horses that just weren’t going to work — rough paces, too rough to use,” Frank said. “Now



we’ve got Gus, the one we use all the time. He is a 17’1” half draft, big and bulky. We use him mostly for trot and canter freestyles and teamwork, when there will be two or three people on his back at one time.”

Teamwork is only one aspect of Frank’s chosen sport. Vaulters compete, sometimes only against themselves. The compulsories are a set of movements set forward by the American Vaulting Association and the International Equestrian Federation that every vaulter has to perform. Frank’s Pacesetters will perform their compulsories during medal testing this month on two new horses that Frank says are relatively small in the vaulting world. “But we’ve got a lot of small kids, so that’s OK!”

One of those small horses has a really nice canter, one a great trot. They are small and narrow, and good for compulsories because you can get your legs around them if you’re a small person.” Frank will take 12 riders to Albuquerque, New Mexico, next month for regional competitions, and plans to take one team to Lexington, Kentucky,



for nationals in July.

"In the medal test, you compete against yourself," said Frank. "You try to meet a criteria to get your medal. Everyone who does it is striving to be better. Even I am trying to be a better coach, a better lunger [a horse trainer who uses a long rope]. There's a great deal involved just in that. I want to be better every week."

"That striving to be better is there, even though I'll never be on another horse [for competition]," Frank explained. "I'm 66 years old and have broken too many bones. I've had one



hip replaced from getting bucked off, and a titanium rod in my right leg from being bucked off last year."

Though Frank will probably never ride again competitively, he does ride with his grandchildren through the woods. Nowadays, he trains vaulting horses and prepares his Pacesetters for the show ring.

The arena holds no surprises for Frank, who has won blue ribbons over the last 50 years in lots of different disciplines, including hunter-jumper and dressage, western pleasure and trail horse events. "Honestly, most of my success has been in helping others," said Frank, a high school social studies teacher in Joshua. The top three things he has helped others develop through vaulting are pride, teamwork and trust. "When you're standing on somebody's shoulders on a galloping horse, or when you're hanging upside down, you've got to trust them to hold you," he expressed. **NOW**

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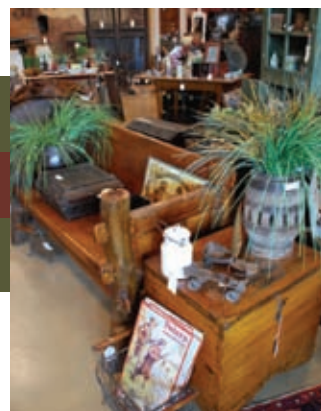
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Questions are welcomed by Scott, who gained great familiarity with antiques during his 22-year career with the U.S. Marine Corps. The C-130 aircraft, which flew him to various locations, was a perfect carrier for whatever antiques he purchased in the cities he toured. “That is when I developed an eye, whether it was in Asia or France or Egypt. I love all styles of furniture,” Scott said.

“Scott’s the guy who researches the history of the pieces and continually gains knowledge about the styles and background on the pieces,” Leslie said, a pediatric dental hygienist who spends two days each week in the store. She updates displays, orders new gift items, fulfills customer requests and helps Scott provide the great customer service that has branded Ellison Street Interiors as Old Town’s friendly, home-town furniture shop.

During Scott’s final two years in the Marine Corps, he worked his own booth in The Montgomery Street Antique Mall in Fort Worth. “That way he gained more knowledge, by picking the brain of the owner,” Leslie said. Scott now shares his understanding with customers. Not only does he know where each piece in his store came from — a lot came out of the collection of an Army general — but he knows how to care for the unique furniture you might own. Scott is very knowledgeable about the Howard’s products, which he recommends as an especially good quality line of furniture preservation solutions. “If people have a piece of furniture that’s not shiny, it means the wood needs to be nourished. I wouldn’t use Pledge,” Scott explained. “I use a beeswax.” He tells customers how to use different products, with steel wool, to get rid of water spots.

“I talk a lot,” said Scott, who joined the Rotary Club in Burleson upon opening his business. He likes the people of Burleson, and has a helper’s heart. People come to Ellison Street Interiors to show him what they have, hoping Scott will buy the furniture they are retiring. “I’m no certified appraiser,” asserted Scott. “Still, if they come in, I’ll tell ‘em what I think it’s worth on the market today in this area.”

# Fine • Design

— By Melissa Collins

Mysteriously shaded glass windows fronting Ellison Street Interiors set the stage for the warm, homey feeling inside. Olive green columns support the high ceilings and chandeliers hang over the fine furnishings that Scott Lynch and his wife, Leslie, offer for homes and businesses. Many of their clients are interior decorators from Dallas, who appreciate the reasonable prices on the classy antiques and gifts. However, most of their clients are from Burleson — people who have followed their curiosity and stepped inside the glass door.





Leslie and Scott work hard to help their customers achieve perfection. "We have a cabinet guy that we have people call if they have a piece that needs work," Scott said, adding that they refer customers out to experts who specialize in any necessary repair work for their piece. "We try to customize pieces of furniture, like making adjustments in height, to make it work for people."

Scott's passion for all kinds of antiques is highlighted by Leslie, who decorates the store with love. For those who also enjoy decorating, the Lynches sell custom floral arrangements as well as individual floral picks, plus containers.

The first Saturday of every month, Lone Oak Winery serves wine, tea, lemonade and appetizers for Ellison Street customers. "They enjoy it; we enjoy it," Scott said, adding that all decorating questions can be e-mailed to [ellisonstreetinteriors@yahoo.com](mailto:ellisonstreetinteriors@yahoo.com), or phoned in to (817) 426-1880. Ellison Street Interiors, located across the street from Babe's Chicken at 108 West Ellison in Old Town is open Monday and Tuesday, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., and Friday and Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m. Their Web site, [www.ellisonstreetinteriors.com](http://www.ellisonstreetinteriors.com), is always open. **NOW**

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## Going Where God Goes

— By Melissa Collins

One day Beaux the dog was visiting with a little girl at the Johnson County Child Advocacy Center. He rested his furry black head gently in her lap. They just looked at each other. His owner, Jennifer Fletcher, remembers getting goose bumps. "I don't know what he was telling her, but that little girl just relaxed," Jennifer said. "She was there to do an interview for some kind of family violence situation. She wasn't there for fun. She just relaxed and held his head, looking so happy and at peace. And Beaux just looked at her like, 'It's going to be OK.' That's when I knew he could reach those kids and make their day better, make 'em learn something they don't want to learn."

Since then, Jennifer and her certified therapy dog, Beaux, have visited schools throughout Joshua as "Tail Waggin' Tutors." The Tail Waggin' Tutors program is just one of the services offered by Therapy Dog International, whose volunteers take their therapy dogs on regular visits to facilities where people need the love of a friendly dog.

"I guess I was supposed to do this," grinned Jennifer, a degreed counselor who has reared two girls with her husband,



Scott, on a secluded lot in northern Joshua. "It has just worked out so beautifully with having a therapy dog. I mainly do this so I can help other people, make their day better, improve their quality of life. A lot of what I enjoy is to see the smile on the people's faces. I have watched a facility go from being very depressed and serious to animated and happy and excited just because Beaux came in," Jennifer said.

"To see kids who don't want to learn start running over each other to come in the room and read to him, that's exciting. Part of the Tail Waggin' Tutors program is that the children read out loud to the dog. The dog isn't going to laugh at them if they make a mistake," Jennifer explained. "The students focus on the dog, not on the scariness of reading. That helps them get all the benefits of the good part of reading."

Beaux has reaped a lot of benefits along the journey with Jennifer, who adopted him from the Joshua Animal Shelter in February 2005. "He's quite a lucky dog. Somebody found him curled up by a church in downtown Joshua," Jennifer shared. "Burleson Animal Control picked him up, since the lady at Joshua was not available. They were going to euthanize him since he was hurt. They waited for Joshua to open up, and Debbie Wallis loaded up her euthanasia kit, since she was told his back legs were broken. She got there and he stood up!"

Then, Debbie saw his beautiful Labrador head. "She's really good about using adoption groups and therapy groups," Jennifer, who used to be on the Joshua Animal Shelter board, said. "Debbie knew I was in the habit of going by and visiting with her occasionally. I went and there was Beaux laying in that kennel, skinny as a rail, just a mess."

They moved his leg around, trying to see what was wrong. He only whimpered once, so Jennifer knew he was gentle. He healed because Jennifer and her family kept him quiet for a month. "He was so happy to be in a safe place; he lay out there with our other two rescue dogs and they accepted him," Jennifer said. "There had been another dog in the shelter that looked just like him. They euthanized that other one, because nobody would adopt him. Beaux was probably hit by a car, and then he escaped euthanasia twice! Obviously, he was meant for something great because there were plenty of chances where he might not



have made it out OK.”

“It was supposed to happen because it keeps happening easily,” Jennifer said referring to Beaux’s role as a therapy dog. She added that it still takes effort to clean Beaux up for his school visits and the scheduling of his visits with the teachers. “But they’re so accommodating and accepting of having Beaux in the classroom. Once they meet him, they’re so welcoming, and they want him to come back the next week!”

Joshua’s Tail Waggin’ Tutors use the same curriculum the teachers are using, whether it is a reader or phonics. “We’re here to help the teachers in what they



are teaching. We help them do what they are doing already,” Jennifer said. “[Retired reading teacher from Plum Creek Elementary] Diane Strobel swears their test scores went up because Beaux had been there all year.”

One of the most memorable events for Jennifer was a day at Loflin Middle School, when a girl’s older sister had been killed violently. “The counselor came and got me out of another classroom, and asked me to come into the room with the young girl and all her other friends. That’s when we just go wherever God takes us,” Jennifer remembered. “Beaux went up to each of those kids and pawed them, telling them, ‘You’re going to snap out of it.’ Within 20 minutes, the 15 girls were able to go back to work. Dogs are just so giving!” **NOW**

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CASA of Johnson County volunteers, board members and staff, top left, met with Texas State Representative Rob Orr. Ribbon cuttings were held for: Judy Santos of Edward Jones, top right; the Law Office of Martin A. Rechnitzer, PC, second row left; Magnet Signs, second row center; Impaco Promotions, bottom left; and Cooper Salon & Spa, bottom right.



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## Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

### IN THE KITCHEN WITH JIMMYLENE ANDRESS

#### SNICKER PIE

4 Snicker bars cut into small pieces  
12 large marshmallows, cut up  
1/2 cup milk  
9-inch graham cracker crust  
8-oz. tub Cool Whip

Melt candy and marshmallows with milk in microwave, stirring often. Pour into piecrust. Top with Cool Whip. Refrigerate 4 hours before serving.

#### OATMEAL CHOCOLATE FUDGE COOKIES

2 cups sugar  
1/2 cup canned evaporated milk  
2 Tbsp. cocoa  
1 stick oleo  
3 cups quick oatmeal  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup peanut butter

Mix first 4 ingredients well and bring to a boil, then cook for 1 minute, remove from stove. Mix in oatmeal, vanilla and peanut butter. Drop by

teaspoonfuls onto waxed cookie sheet. Let set until firm.

#### LEMON SUGAR COOKIES

2 tsp. lemon extract  
1 cup oleo  
1 cup vegetable oil  
1 cup powdered sugar  
1 1/2 cups sugar (divided use)  
2 eggs  
1 tsp. cream of tartar  
1 tsp. salt  
4 1/2 cups flour  
2 tsp. grated lemon rind

Cream together lemon extract, oleo, oil, powdered sugar, 1 cup sugar and eggs. In a separate bowl, sift together next 3 ingredients. Combine sifted ingredients to creamed ingredients. In separate bowl, big enough for the bottom of a glass to fit into, add 1/2 cup sugar and lemon rind. Stir until ingredients have formed a dough. Spoon cookies out in medium ball size and place on cookie sheet. Take a medium size glass, dip the bottom

into the sugar, and press down each cookie. Cook 350 F for 12 minutes.

#### NO BAKE ORANGE BALLS

1 6-oz. can frozen orange juice  
17-oz pkg. vanilla wafers, crushed  
1/4 lb. stick butter, softened  
1-lb. pkg. powdered sugar  
1 cup pecans, chopped (optional)  
2 cups coconut

Mix all ingredients except coconut. Shape into balls and roll in coconut. Place on waxed paper to set.

#### CRANBERRY CHICKEN

6-8 boneless chicken breasts  
2 bags Minute Boil-in-Bag White Rice  
1 14-oz. can whole cranberry sauce  
1 8-oz. pkg. French dressing  
1 envelope Lipton Onion Soup Mix

Place chicken breasts in deep casserole dish. Breasts can be cut into halves or placed in

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# Who's Cooking **NOW**

whole, whichever you prefer. Boil rice until done. If you like a lot of rice in your casseroles, use more bags. Mix rice and other ingredients together well. Pour over chicken. Cook at 350 F for 1 hour or until chicken is fully cooked.

## CHICKEN A-LA KING

1 small can mushrooms, diced  
1 green pepper, diced  
1 1/2 sticks butter  
1/4 cup flour  
4 cups milk (2 cups scalded/ 2 cups cold)  
salt, to taste  
pepper, to taste  
1 medium chicken, boiled and diced  
1 4-oz. jar pimentos  
1 pkg. frozen peas

Sauté mushrooms and green peppers in butter; add flour. Immediately add 2 cups scalded milk; add 2 cups cold milk stirring constantly. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add chicken, pimentos and peas. Cook slowly for 30-40 minutes. Stir often. Remove from stove and serve over toast.

## POTATO CAKE

This is a family favorite from my mother's 1930 recipe book.

### POTATO CAKES:

2-3 potatoes, cut up  
1 cup butter  
2 cups sugar  
4 eggs, separated  
1/2 cup cocoa  
1 cup evaporated milk  
2 cups flour  
3 tsp. baking powder  
1/4 tsp. nutmeg  
1 cup pecans  
**ICING:**  
1 cup evaporated milk  
1/2 cup butter  
2 cups sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla

Cook 2 or 3 raw cut up potatoes in saucepan until soft, then mash. Cream butter and sugar. Add beaten egg yolks, cocoa and mashed potatoes, mix will be very liquid. Add milk; mix in 1 3/4 cups flour, baking powder and nutmeg. Beat egg whites until stiff. Toss nuts in 1/4 cup of the flour, fold in nuts and very stiffly beaten egg whites. Bake in 3 9-inch greased and floured cake pans at 375 F for 20 minutes. (I double the icing because my family likes lots of frosting.) Cook first 3 icing ingredients to softball stage; add vanilla. Beat until creamy, then frost completely cooled cake.

## CAKE MIX COOKIES

1 box cake mix (any flavor you desire)  
2 eggs  
1/2 cup oil

Mix all ingredients and spoon onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350 F for 10-15 minutes.



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# I Have a Home Office – Can I Still Exclude Gain When I Sell My Home?

— By Craig Couch and Rex Russell

You are generally eligible to exclude from income up to \$250,000 (\$500,000 if married filing jointly) of the capital gain that results from the sale of your home if:

- You have owned and lived in the home as your primary residence for at least two out of the five years preceding the sale. (Special rules apply to certain individuals, including members of the U.S. Armed Forces.)
- You have not sold a principal residence and excluded some or all of the resulting gain in the prior two years.

Even if you fail to meet these tests, you may be able to claim a partial exclusion if the primary reason for selling your house is a change in place of employment, health or certain unforeseen circumstances.

The fact that you use a portion of your home for business purposes (in this case, your home office) adds a couple of wrinkles. First, when you sell your home, any capital gain that is attributable to depreciation deductions allowed or allowable for the business use of your home after May 6, 1997, cannot be excluded. Second, if your home office is



separate from the residential portion of your home (for example, a home office that is located in a converted, detached garage), any gain from the sale of the property typically has to be allocated between the business part of the property and the part used as a home. The gain that is allocated to the business portion (the separate office) cannot be excluded. This can get complicated, though, so it is worth discussing your situation with a tax professional.

For more information, see IRS Publication 523, *Selling Your Home*. **NOW**

*Craig Couch and Rex Russell are financial advisers with Couch & Russell Financial Group. This article is for general information only and does not constitute investment or legal advice.*



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# Think Fast!

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

The month of May is designated for stroke awareness. It is a great time to focus on another aspect of your health. Throughout the month, various agencies, groups and medical personnel will endeavor to influence your awareness of the danger of having a stroke and inform you on how to recognize if you or someone else is having a stroke. Information will be available about how to become involved in your community and pass the word on to others.

There exist ample reasons why increased knowledge about strokes is important. As the third-leading cause of death and the number one reason for disability, the numbers are disturbing enough to warrant concern. A brief look at the breakdown of the numbers is even more alarming. More women die from stroke than breast cancer. African-Americans have double the risk of having a stroke than do Caucasians. Also, compared with Caucasians, the strokes suffered by African-Americans tend to be far more disabling.

Strokes are so dangerous due to what occurs when a stroke takes place. When a blood vessel to the brain becomes damaged for any reason, and blood flow is disrupted, cells in

that area of the brain start to die and brain damage results. Whatever area of the brain is affected, those abilities will be severely compromised or lost. The earlier treatment is received for a stroke, the better. If medication is received within a three-hour window, you can diminish damage to those areas of the brain affected and improve chances for survival. One of the slogans used by the National Stroke Association to help educate the public is Act F.A.S.T., which stands for face, arms, speech and time. If a stroke is suspected, take a close look and determine if one side of the face is drooping. Determine if there is any weakness in the arms. Is speech difficult; is there any slurring of the words? Time is crucial.

If any of these symptoms are present, call 9-1-1.

Because the effects of having a stroke are so debilitating, and an option is available for diminishing many of those effects, it is critical for the public to have the correct information, hence, the reason for May being Stroke Awareness Month. You might notice bulletin boards in schools and health care facilities all raising the awareness of strokes.

Eighty percent of all strokes are preventable. Watching your diet, cholesterol and weight are a few steps you can take to avoid a stroke. Take advantage of this month to increase your knowledge and your chances of surviving a stroke. **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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# May 2009

## Community Calendar

### May 1-2

Cinco de Mayo, a two-day celebration sponsored by the city of Burleson and La Buena Vida de Burleson (Burleson for the Good Life). Location: parking lots between Eldred St. and Ellison St. (around First Baptist Church Burleson). Friday: 6:00-11:00 p.m. Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mouthwatering food, dance troupes, mariachi bands, Burleson Idol contest, arts and crafts. Featuring the band Silver Rail from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Bounce houses for the children and carnival rides. Call Ike Vera at (817) 447-5312, ext. 250.

### May 4

Burleson City Council meeting: 7:00 p.m., City Hall. (817) 447-5400.

### May 5

Teen/Life Challenge Banquet fundraiser: 6:45-8:30 p.m., Cleburne Senior Citizens Center, 1212 Glenwood Dr. \$10. To reserve seats, call Shelly McQuarie at (817) 454-2175 or Zane Mitchell at (817) 526-0911.

Spring Meet for Special Athletes, sponsored by Burleson Independent School District: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Elks Stadium. Huggers at the finish lines will be from the Burleson Lions Club. Call Donny Crittenden at (817) 245-1193.

### May 8

Golf Challenge 4-Man Scratch Scramble, benefiting the Maypearl Education Foundation: Waxahachie Country Club. Registration: 11:00 a.m. Shotgun Start: 1:00 p.m. Call Thomas Pieper at (972) 880-2001 or Clint Bittick at (972) 937-9055.

### May 9

"Surviving This Economy and Moving Toward Financial Freedom" free seminar: 6:00-7:00 p.m., 308 E. Renfro, Suite 206. RSVP to (817) 447-4443, ext. 5.

Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Heritage Visitors Center, 124 W. Ellison. (817) 447-1575.

### May 11

Burleson ISD Board meeting: 6:30 p.m. (817) 245-1000.

### May 12

Burleson Police Department Open House: 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., 225 W. Renfro. (817) 447-5300.

### May 16

2nd Annual Fishing Camp: 9:30 a.m., Bailey Lake, 280 W. Hidden Creek Pkwy. Cost: \$25 (a non-refundable \$15 supply fee covers bait, hot dog lunch and basic fishing pole). Children 6 years of age and older. Hot dog

cookout and games from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the Chisenhall Park pavilion, 500 Chisenhall Park Ln. Must register at least 48 hours in advance. Call Community Center Supervisor Paula Benjamin at (817) 295-8168.

### May 18

Burleson City Council meeting: 7:00 p.m., City Hall. (817) 447-5400.

### May 23

Annual Honey Tour bike ride: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Kerr Middle School, 517 S.W. Johnson Ave. Bike through beautiful Johnson County. Before May 16, entry fee is \$15. After May 16, fee is \$25. Register online at <http://honeytour.athlete360.com> or call (817) 295-6121 for information.

### May 28

Town Hall Meeting #5, in support of "Imagine Burleson 2030," in which citizens are invited to give their opinions on community livability in Burleson: 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Burleson High School cafeteria. (817) 447-5400.

For more community events,  
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[www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).

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