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ON THE COVER



American Legion Post 235 extends hands of friendship to citizens and patriots.

Photo by Jennifer Spears

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Editor's Note

Hello Burselon, Crowley and Joshua!

This month I'm writing about my dad, pitching a story to a national magazine for Model A enthusiasts about the awesome road trip that my father organized on behalf of my sister's boys. With help from old and new friends, my adventurous dad and his two grandsons drove their fabulous 1931 4-door slant windshield sedan, which the family lovingly calls "The Gangster Car," all the way from Weatherford, Texas, to Tacoma, Washington. After

3,122 miles in 16 days on the road, my nephews learned about Model-A-ing, while proving the truth of the favorite line from their granddaddy, a retired Air Force pilot: "Flexibility is the key to air power."

Men like that are all around us, and we have a great opportunity this Father's Day to celebrate our dads. May you be blessed with time to enjoy your family. Happy Father's Day!

Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
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235

AMERICAN
LEGION

STRENGTHENING

— Our — Community

— By Melissa Rawlins



Tapping into hearts of veterans in Burleson, Joshua and Crowley, Bill Taylor stepped into his new role as commander of American Legion Post 235 with a vision to strengthen our community. Anyone who has served during specified Department of Defense operations is eligible to serve through the American Legion, and Commander Taylor is networking his way through our area, looking for good men and women. "I'm impressed with how friendly people are here. They have knowledge and dedication to Burleson and the surrounding area, and not to tap that resource is a shame," Bill said.

His leadership style is the same he used in his classroom, when Retired Colonel William L. Taylor (U.S.A.F.) led Burleson High School's JROTC program from 2003-11. "As senior aerospace science instructor, I involved them in the classroom process," said Bill, who brought his school-teacher habits to the American Legion last year. His fellow Legionnaires admired his precision and punctuality. While he was out of town visiting his son, they nominated him to take commandership once Jim Bailey stepped down.

"Taylor got drafted," American Legion Chaplain Chuck Snay said.

The 36-strong membership works together to benefit Burleson and the surrounding areas. They were established three

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years ago, and produced Burleson's Flag Day last June. The post was overwhelmed with the number of unserviceable American flags brought by the public for retirement, and Adjutant Sandy Mason reconfigured their propane-fired incinerator to accommodate the expected numbers of flags at this year's ceremony.

Under Bill Taylor's leadership, the number of Legionnaires is growing thus multiplying the manpower. "What we are capable of accomplishing for our community is ambitious," Bill said. Post 235 is aligned in mission with the other 526 posts across Texas and 2.4 million members across the nation. Chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919, the American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and devotedly honoring their fellow service members and veterans.

You have seen members of Post 235 doing things like setting flags on graves for Memorial Day. They have helped maintain the bricks in Old Town's Veteran's Memorial Park. This month, they host a solemn Flag Ceremony to retire colors that have become unserviceable. "For God and country," Bill said, "we do this according to Title 36, the United States Code, in the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion. This, we hold near and dear in our hearts and extend our hands in friendship with our fellow citizens and patriots."

Anyone with flags that have flown at residences, businesses, churches, schools, municipal and even military facilities are welcome to bring the flags to Warren Park on the evening of June 14. While gathered, each individual's heart will be making its own statement. Some, like Chaplain Snay, may be



praying something along the lines of his very own poem, "A Vietnam Veteran's Dream," in which he states:

I was pulled into a war in Vietnam
 My country called, and I did my best,
 All I ask for myself now is
 Lord, "Please" let me rest.

"A very poignant aspect of this ceremony is when fellow citizens line up to commit their flags for proper disposal," said Bill, who determines whether the flag is unserviceable. "The criteria includes: whether it is fading, withering from wind, soiled in appearance or in any other condition that would detract from what it is intended to represent for our country: our Constitution, our freedoms and our government at all levels."

Bill invited local mayors, city council members and school board trustees, as well as city hall staff and members of business and fraternal organizations. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and churches will be represented, and Burleson High School is providing a bugler to play "Taps." Although the community dresses comfortably for summertime, the American Legion will wear stiff white shirts and their uniform caps for the ceremony. "As citizens, we gather for patriotic recognition of the visible symbol of our country in its final glory," Bill said, "and renew our allegiance to our flag, our Constitution and our country for what it represents."

Allegiance runs deep in Bill's family. "I have an unofficial record, that came out of the archives at Texas A&M University-Commerce, which delineates my military heritage all the way back to the Battle of Saratoga, New York, Freeman's Farm and Bemis Heights, a turning point in our American Revolution. According to this, my

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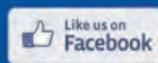
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son and I are direct descendants of a regimental commander for Benedict Arnold," Bill said.

Joining the military in 1957, Bill rose through the ranks of the United States Air Force while rearing his son, Will, to follow in his footsteps. Will was in ninth grade in 1997, when Bill finished his final year of active duty. Bill became senior instructor of a high school JROTC program 15 miles south of Joplin, Missouri, and Will joined JROTC, where his leadership characteristics were refined. His home life had already made an impact. "I wore Air Force uniforms, my dad was Air Force reserves, a retired colonel, and we lived on air bases," Bill explained. "You accept the culture because you know it and observe its positive aspects."

Since graduating through the ROTC program at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2005, Will went on to serve as company commander of the 82nd Airborne in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. "It took me months to understand why he switched to the Army," Bill said. "He said the Air Force would not give him an opportunity to command, and that he preferred to be the commander on the ground calling in the air support. As it stands, Capt. Will Taylor may well be a part of the last deploying force from Ft. Bragg to close out Afghanistan."

Bill never saw combat. Yet as a servant leader, he went to bat for every young person who crossed his path — both during active duty and through his nearly 14 years teaching high school JROTC. "ROTC is somewhat of a culture that cuts across the spectrum of scholastic abilities, family life situations and any sort of social differences," Bill said. "We know whether or not our students are disciplinary problems, special education or honor students, and we tune their education to this whole spectrum."

Certainly, it is a challenge for a teacher to tune in to so many needs. But taking risks was all in a day's work for Bill, and still is. "When I commanded Burleson's JROTC, with a cadet corps of almost 105, we did an annual 2,000 hours of community service with one cadet simply making two to three hours of service per month," Bill said. "That's my vision for the American Legion. Just think what we could do with 100 members or more!" **NOW**



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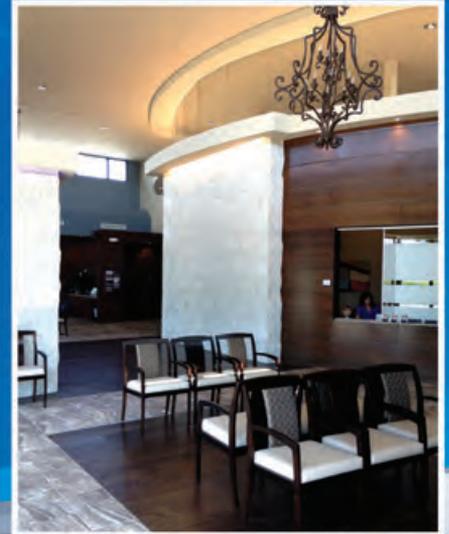
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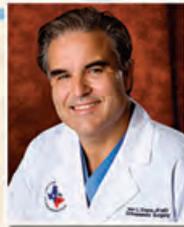
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SOFTBALL

Sisterhood

— By Lisa Bell

The locker room buzzes with activity. Erika Menchaca and 13 other girls gather, ready to jog onto the field for another softball game. Well, almost ready. First, they must check hair and makeup. A chorus of “Do I look okay?” bounces off the walls. Looking good is at the top of a high school girl’s priorities — at least until she gets on the field and picks up a bat or glove. The ribbons in Erika’s hair cease to matter when she faces the opposing team and focuses on overcoming one more obstacle on the way to state.

Erika started playing softball long before her freshman year at Burleson High School. She’s experienced seasons of undefeated records, advancing to district. So far, she hasn’t yet tasted the thrill of winning district playoffs. Nevertheless, she faced her senior year with high hopes of making it all the way to state.

In spite of a young team this year, she remains hopeful. “I think we have a good chance of going to state this year,” Erika said. “All the girls on the team want it really bad.”

Coming from a family of baseball and softball players, Erika’s career began as a young girl. She loved softball, but when she reached the third inning, she had to have her nachos. She wouldn’t continue without them. She also

played soccer and basketball, staying busy every weekend.

Entering high school, Erika continued playing basketball and exchanged soccer for volleyball in addition to softball. As a freshman, she made varsity as a starting first baseman. With her cousin playing shortstop, and their twin best friends on second and third bases, they enjoyed a bond, which helped the team gel as one cohesive body. When the other three girls graduated in 2011, Erika felt somewhat lost, but she still has great friends on the team. She and the three other seniors this year have the same type of bond, and they work hard to set an example for the younger girls.

The seniors make an effort to encourage others on the team. When they miss a play or make a mistake, no one gets angry. Instead they say, “It’s okay. You got it next play.” In the same way, Coach Young points out weaknesses, but he doesn’t yell. He gently pushes them to improve.

“I don’t wonder what my friends are doing, because they’re right there with me. We’re like a family, and they’re my sisters.”

The team spends three days each week in the weight room. The other two weekdays finds them on the field practicing. Sometimes the routine isn’t fun. “On days when we really don’t want to work out, one of us encourages the others,” Erika said. “We can’t let them (younger girls) see us down. When we’re running and sweating, we remind ourselves, this is all for state.”

As Erika considered colleges, she needed to focus on one sport. She enjoyed all three, but walking onto the field, prepared for a softball game, felt right. Not wanting to injure herself, she settled into her place with softball. The hard work and commitment to improvement paid off. Tarleton State University offered her an 80-percent scholarship. She plans to play softball for them, but looks forward to pursuing a career in the medical field, perhaps neonatal nursing.

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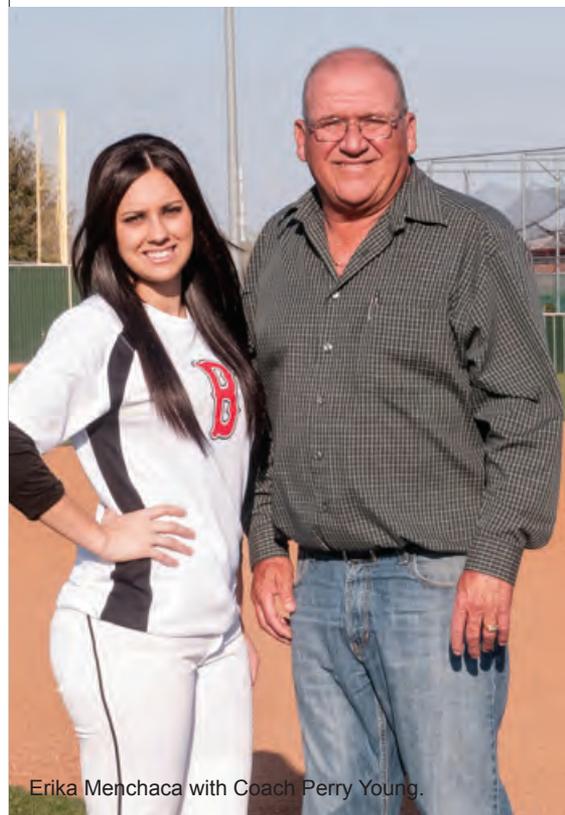
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Mallory Foster, Erika Menchaca, Logan Friend and Samantha Montes.



Erika Menchaca with Coach Perry Young.

and maintaining friendships isn't easy. "I hate to say it, but schoolwork always comes first," Erika said. "Coach Young stays on us about keeping our grades up." All four seniors are college-bound.

Although she has other friends, her teammates comprise the closest relationships. "I don't wonder what my friends are doing, because they're right there with me. We're like a family, and



they're my sisters," she stated. With two brothers at home, Erika is thankful for girls in her life.

The team spends time together off the field, often hanging out at the pitcher's house, sometimes having fun and other times praying together and encouraging each other. During out-of-town games and tournaments, they do fun things like making music videos in the hotels and taking lots of pictures. Erika enjoys the trips, which create an even deeper bond, strengthening the team.

Erika recalled her best and worst memories of high school softball. One year, the Elks went into district playoffs undefeated. They played Crowley and lost. Devastating to the team, every one of the girls determined they had to win next time.

The game began. Erika's turn at bat, the bases were loaded. The pitch came, and she hit a grand slam. Everyone went wild, yelling with excitement. The next time at bat, she hit one over again. "Oh my gosh, it was crazy," she said. "I remember because I hit two over in that game." What was even better was her teammates were already on base, so it was a great team play. "It was an awesome feeling because we were gonna win."

When she was a sophomore, the team played Midway. In the fifth round, a step away from state, they lost the first game in a best two out of three series. The pitcher had a move on the ball they

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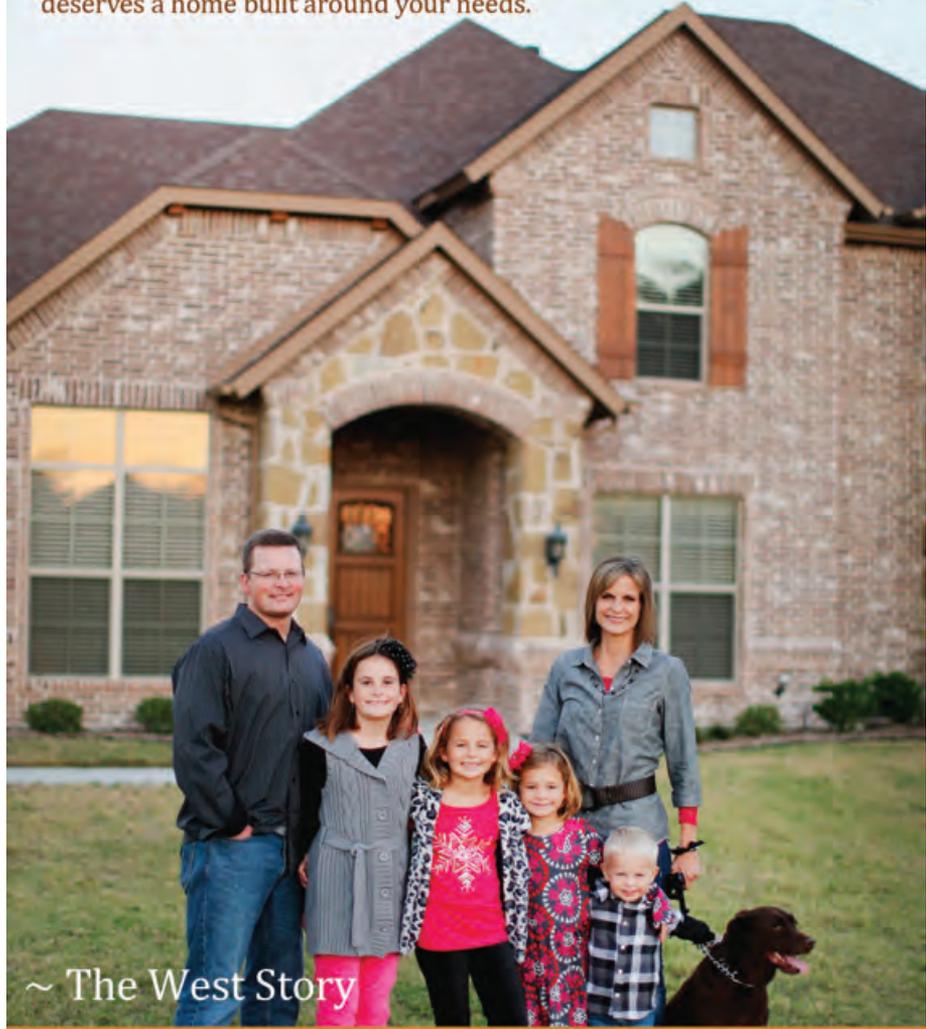
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couldn't hit. The team went out the next morning to practice, telling themselves they had to win, convinced they could do it. They did everything imaginable in preparation for the second game. In spite of their efforts, they lost again, ending the series.

Erika draws support from her coach and family. Her dad points out areas for improvement, but doesn't stop there. He practices with her at the batting cage. Her mother, also a softball player, encourages her as well. Both of her brothers and multiple cousins play baseball, so when the family gets together, a rousing game often ensues. Her grandparents refuse to miss games, even during illnesses. They show up, cheering her on.

Once the high school softball season ends, Erika will immediately move to play on a select team. The girls wait until summer for select games to avoid the potential of getting injured and hurting the chance for making it to state. For Erika and the other seniors, this is the last opportunity they have to make it to state as high school players. Everything they do is focused on that goal.

The bond between players develops as friendships grow and tightens the team when they play ball. When Erika looks back years from now, she'll remember phenomenal plays and heartbreaking losses. She'll reconnect with former teammates and laugh over incidents that seemed serious at the time. They'll look at old pictures and reminisce about the game. Most importantly, she'll cherish memories of the girls who were her friends in the softball sisterhood. **NOW**

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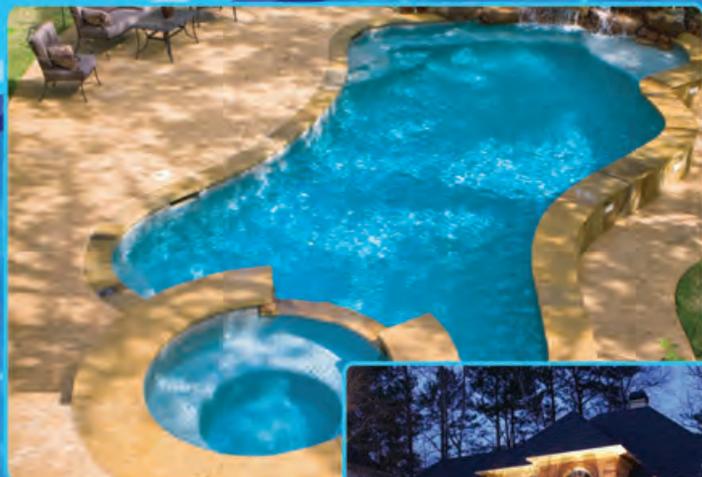
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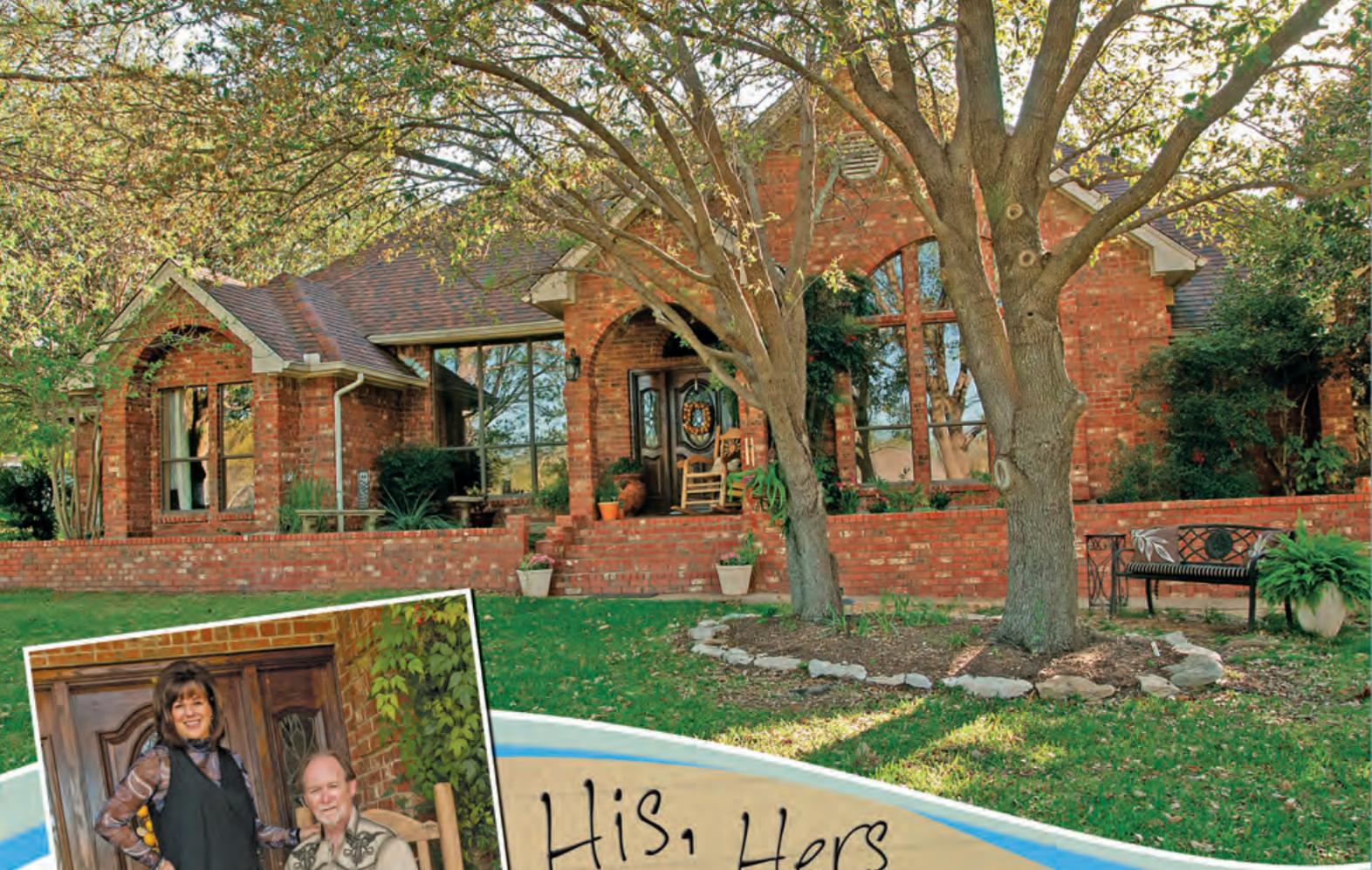
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His, Hers & Theirs

At Home With
Dr. Gene and Leigh Ann DeWitt

— By Lisa Bell

When Leigh Ann ventured from Southlake to visit Judy and Gene, her friends and co-owners of a winery in Burleson, she didn't anticipate a life-changing event. After the experience of an unpleasant divorce five years earlier, she wasn't looking for a husband. Dr. Gene, also a friend of the owners, went to the winery on the same evening. After losing his wife to cancer, the thought of another marriage seemed improbable.

The two Genes stood chatting when Leigh Ann arrived. She walked right up and gave her longtime friend a kiss. Dr. Gene thought, *Wow. I wonder if his wife knows about this.* He quickly learned the two women had known each other for half of their lives. The unexpected swooped down following the initial meeting.





After an enjoyable evening of music and talking, the foursome went out to dinner. Swapping stories about kids, they found common ground. "I had a hard time not putting my arm around him," Leigh Ann admitted. She just felt as if he'd been part of their group forever.

"It was weird," Gene said.

"It was an act of God," she said.

Both agreed they bonded from the beginning. A year and a half later, they married.

Tricky situation — she owned a home and dance studio in Southlake. He had a successful dental practice in Joshua and still lived in the house he built with his first wife in 1987. For a time, they tried living in Southlake. Getting up at 5:00 a.m. to commute wore on Gene. They looked at houses in Keller, North Richland Hills and Fort Worth. Although they liked one in Keller, the drive back and forth didn't make much sense.

Considering the cost of buying a new house, they looked at the option of spending the amount for a down payment on renovating Gene's home. She embraced moving into his home, which had the same exterior atmosphere of hers. Somewhat rural, they still see coyotes in their neighborhood, as she did in Southlake. Leigh Ann loved her house and thought she'd never move from it. "By the time we got out of my house, we couldn't get out fast enough," she admitted.

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They loved the archways and wide openings in the Keller house. With Burleson contractors doing the work, they removed and transformed walls in Gene's home into 10 archways and wide openings between rooms.

Leigh Ann's favorite place, the living room, is exactly like her old living room. "She brought her style to the house in general, but especially to this room," Gene remarked. She loves the comfort of her sofa, recovered twice, but still in great shape. The 15-year-old entertainment center holds pictures of the kids at various ages among decorative items. Two shelves flank the piece. She tried painting them to match, and then paid someone to fix her failed attempt. She enjoys spending time reading and relaxing in the bright, cheerful room.

Gene prefers the den, very much a man room. Leigh Ann added a few personal touches. "I did

bring the animals into this room," she said, referring to the cat and moose.

"She called that my bobcat, and it's a cougar of course," Gene added with a twinkle in his eye.

He shot the cougar and bear with a bow. He killed the moose, which is really an elk, in Mongolia, and the ram above the fireplace belonged to his brother, who passed away recently. The animals bring back memories of hunting trips with his brother. While some people might not like mounted animals as decor, Leigh Ann



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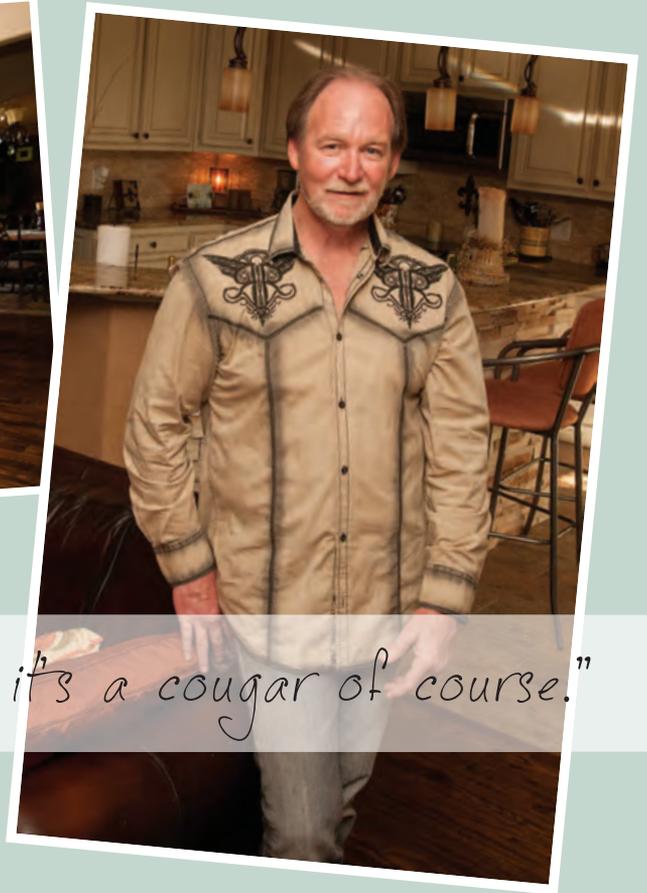


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has no desire to take them away from her husband. Above the television, the cougar perches on a branch, always keeping a close eye on the room.

Although she prefers hanging out in the living room, she spends time in the den with Gene watching ball games. The big leather sofa seems too stiff for her taste, but he has no problem falling asleep on it sometimes. “She doesn’t mind cuddling up in the recliner when we have the fireplace going,” he said. The stone surrounding the fireplace completes the rustic feel of the den.

Born in Louisiana, Gene likes having bits of his home state in the house. Near the back door, a painting depicts a beautiful scene from near Thibodaux. They bought the painting from a Louisiana artist during Arts on the Square in Southlake. When Gene saw the work, he recognized the scene — not the exact place, but the area.

The simple kitchen contains a backsplash with stone-like tiles, adding a natural style that blends well in their home. A fleur-de-lis, which sat on her dresser in Southlake, became part of a tile above the stove.

Most of the rooms are painted with an interesting cappuccino-blended color, but the dining room walls have a golden color, providing a subtle contrast to other walls. A photo of the couple who introduced them to each other graces a china cabinet shelf in the dining room.

The remodel did not include the entire home. However, Leigh Ann brightened the large master bedroom. When she moved in, mini-blinds and curtains covered every window. She removed them, revealing an amazing view of

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the backyard. She wanted the walls and uniquely shaped ceiling to match, and each of their sons painted the three remaining bedrooms and bathrooms. In one bedroom, she changed a simple, white laminate dresser. Knowing she couldn't repaint it, she opted to use decals, giving the dresser a completely new look and adding her style.

At the other end of the house, a simple office holds sparse furniture. Admittedly, she prefers sitting at the kitchen table to pay bills, but a special photo hangs in the office. The earth, seen from the moon, autographed by Jim Lovell, an Apollo 13 crewmember, carries special meaning for Leigh Ann. Her father flew with Jim in the Navy, and the photo belonged to Leigh Ann's mother. Leigh Ann's mom helped Jim edit his book, which later became the basis for the popular 1995 movie, *Apollo 13*.



Outside, the backyard provides a wonderful place for gathering with family and friends. The patio filled with benches and outdoor furniture looks out over a pool. The couple loves plants and spends a lot of time working in the yard. During nice weather, Leigh Ann loves sitting on the benches. They also use the swimming pool frequently. According to the DeWitts, the best part of having a pool comes from a refreshing dip while doing yard work. They work, jump in the pool, work some more and then take another break in the refreshing water. Gene and Leigh Ann have successfully blended old and new in their home, creating a wonderful combination of two households — a glorious representation of the way God joined their lives. **NOW**

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Sowing For Growth

— By Erin McEndree

Burleson has been growing for decades due to its orientation to I-35, Fort Worth and Dallas. The city is a prime location for business and residential development. For this reason, 75 members of the Lions Club founded the Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce in 1966. They wanted an establishment to help lead them into the next century and beyond. The current president of the Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce, Sherri Sechrist,

Lisa Keese, Steve Davis, Sherri Sechrist, Alison Bradham, Gregg Gamon and Ellen Larimore.



continues the vision the Lion's Club proposed many years ago. She helps span the gap between business and community by acting as a liaison for the Chamber's board of directors, members and the community.

Sherri heard about the Chamber position from a friend active with the organization. "My husband, Steve, thought the position would be a good fit for me," Sherri said. "It was a lark, but I applied for the position and never thought I would get hired. When they hired me, I thought it was the opportunity of a lifetime." Sherri is just as enthusiastic six months later to promote a city as wonderful as Burleson.

Unlimited opportunities are available in the future to benefit businesses and residents. Burleson will soon be in the middle of an ideal transportation grid, with an even easier commute to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. Being in that grid, the possibility for shopping, restaurants, lodging and commuting will be endless. Land for future development enables the progressive leadership to use every opportunity to enhance the community. "Burleson ISD is a great school district, also," Sherri said. "I have two children who are products of BISD. We had a great experience. There are so many awesome reasons for families to live here."

The Chamber of Commerce is a small organization with a two-person staff. "Ellen Larimore is the director of community outreach, and we share many duties and responsibilities," Sherri said. "With the help of great Chamber volunteers, Ellen and I manage member benefits and plan events, fundraisers and educational meetings for our members. I'm more the spokesperson, but Ellen is exceptionally proficient in so many areas. She's a great asset to the Chamber." The mission of the Chamber is to be an advocate for business members and the community by giving support, encouragement and promotion of local businesses through various avenues of networking and to share ideas, grow business and help each other succeed. "I

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ask this question about every Chamber decision I make,” Sherri said. “How does this benefit my members?”

One branch of the Chamber, the ambassadors, encourages new businesses. They welcome new member businesses, manage the ribbon cutting ceremonies and educate members on the many benefits of being a Chamber member.



Another branch, the diplomats, serves as the public relations arm of the Chamber, giving support to business owners and enhancing goodwill from the Chamber.

The Power of Heels division promotes women in business through professional and personal development.

Even though Burleson is rapidly growing, Old Town has remained a historic focal point that readily identifies Burleson. “Most cities would kill to have an asset like Old Town and the historic flair it brings to the community,” Sherri said. Many people talk about Burleson’s small town feel even though several major highways and railroads dissect Burleson.

There is a delicate mix of the old days and new developments that appeal to many people looking for a place to live.

The Chamber is governed by a board of directors comprised of business and civic leaders from the community. Sherri works side-by-side with the board to define the goals and direction best suited for members and Burleson area



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businesses. "We strive to help members be successful and promote quality of life in the city of Burleson," Sherri shared.

Sherri considers a strong work ethic and her faith important qualities, both of which were instilled in her by her parents. On the farm in Iowa where she grew up, Sherri had many responsibilities, such as "walking beans" in the summer. With

her last year's wages topping out at \$2 an hour, getting weeds out of the field was important for a successful crop, and it's also hard work to pull all the weeds. "All the kids on a farm did it," Sherri said. "Jobs in town were scarce. My parents taught me the value of working hard and always doing what you say you're going to do. I'm grateful to my parents." Her parents still live in the white, two-story farmhouse next to the big white barn built by Sherri's grandfather years ago.

The Century Farm has been in the family for more than 100 years. Always the focus of their family, Sherri's parents also imparted strong faith and values whether



times on a farm were good or bad.

Sherri is very involved with her church, St. Matthew Cumberland Presbyterian Church. She is an ordained elder, has taught adult Bible classes for 12 years and plays the piano. She was instrumental in introducing contemporary music to St. Matthew and looks back on that accomplishment with joy. "I feel a sense

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of peace and gratitude to be a part of worship life in my community?"

"Faith, family and then everything else" is Sherri's adage. "My husband and I have been at St. Matthew for almost 20 years. My spiritual friends are the ones who have walked with me through the difficult times and helped me through the hard times," Sherri said. "Living [in Burleson] has blessed our lives."

When Sherri is not at work, she enjoys reading, writing and speaking. "These things are my calling," Sherri said. She completed two Christian fiction novels for women, but admits they are unpublished and sitting in the closet.



Allan Tidwell meets with Sherri Sechrest.

Someday she will return to them. She also writes devotional messages to family and friends on Facebook.

Sherri and Steve also love to travel and have visited many wonderful places over the years. Today, they are empty-nesters. Their daughter, Lauren, is an Oregon State University graduate and works in Portland. Their son, Doug, just finished his second year at The University of Texas in Austin.

Sherri's goal for the Chamber is growth. "When I started at the end of October, we had 520 members. My goal for this year is to have 650. I think that's very attainable," Sherri said. "We have a loyal board of directors and members who are a strong, vibrant voice of the community."

As for Sherri's outlook for her future, whether personally or in business, she laughingly stated, "I'll work hard and follow the natural process of life [learned] on an Iowa farm. Prepare, sow, harvest and rest — then start all over again." She is dedicated to rolling her life into a package that mirrors that outlook in every aspect of daily living. **NOW**



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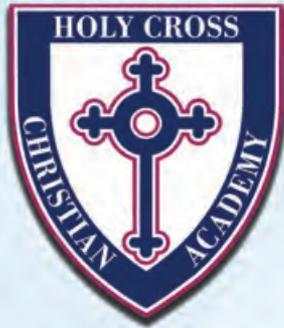
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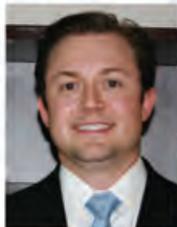
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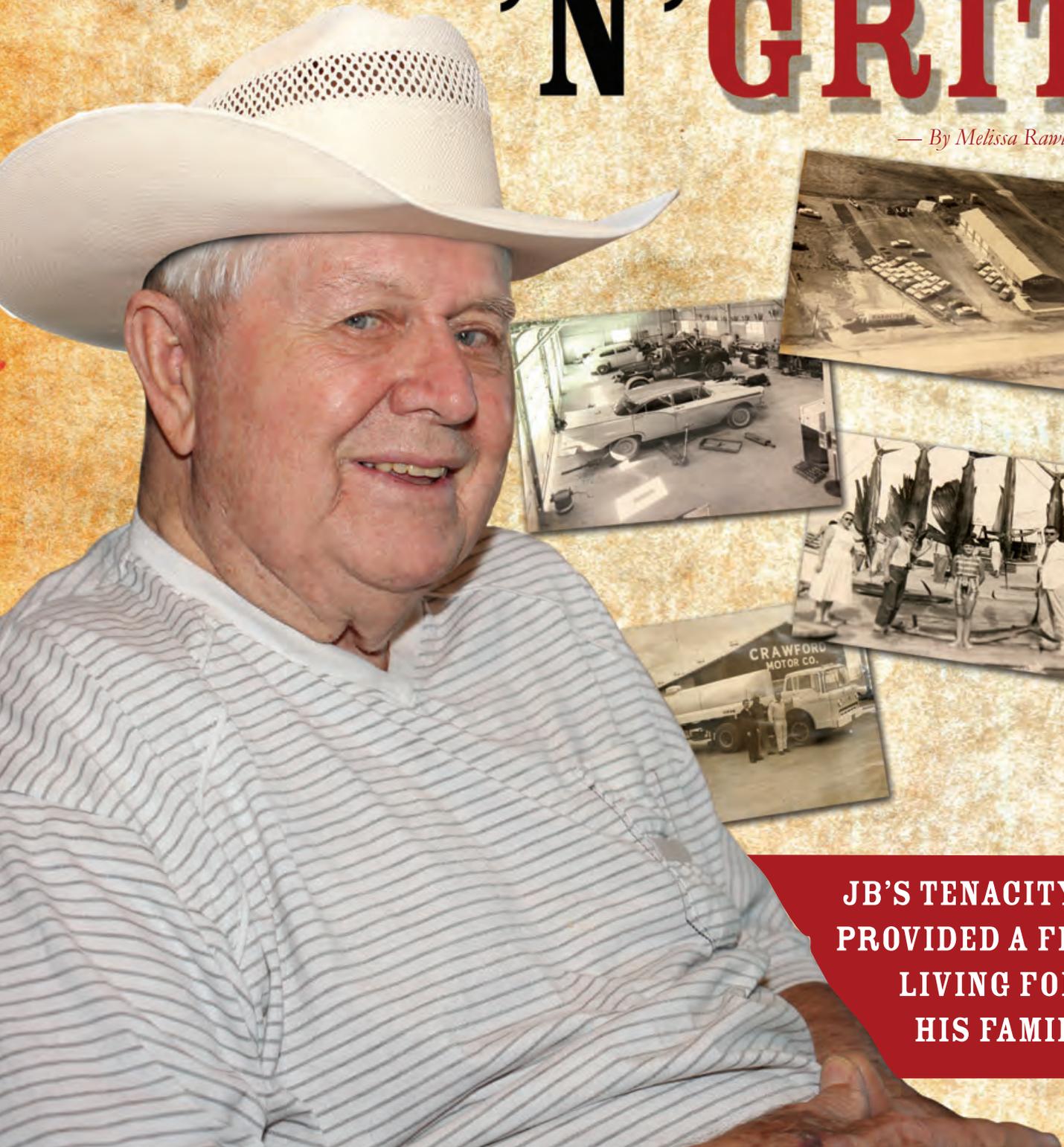


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GUTS 'N' GRIT

— By Melissa Rawlins



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Reaching the 90-year milestone takes courage. Anyone who knows JB Cranford will say it's more than guts that got him to this moment when he and his family are celebrating JB's perseverance through life's challenges and enjoying his success. Since his hard-scrabble youth, chopping wood with his father and selling it for fuel to the bakery in Goldthwaite, Texas, JB's indomitable spirit spurred him to achieve. And in the process, this risk-taking businessman helped build Burleson into what it is today.

Believe it or not, what once was the Western Club, a bar and dance joint, used to be a Ford dealership built by JB in 1957. Its concrete floor still has the footprints of JB's children: Johnny, Mickie, Pamela and Randy. Back then, the area surrounding the current intersection of Hwy 174 and I-35 was farmland and pasture. Old timers still recall the names of some of the hardy souls who worked the land there: Whitaker, Stone, Jones and Faust. Sam Wilshire raised cotton and grain, and Hwy 174 traversed his property.

A little farther south, in a building near Old Town's lawnmower shop, there had been a Ford dealership in Burleson in the

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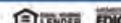
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late '30s. But it had gone out of business by the early '40s.

When JB graduated high school in 1942, he was not thinking about selling cars. Although he was labeled a 4-F (unable to serve in the military) due to the stiff leg he incurred after a horse stepped on his kneecap, he worked at Camp Bowie in Brownwood, Texas, driving nails and anything necessary to support the thousands of soldiers coming in from overseas battlefields. At the end of WWII, JB managed Camp Fannin in Tyler, where soldiers getting out of the U.S. Army were processed. JB was tasked with selling every piece of Army property possible, and he found buyers.

While at Tyler's root beer stand one day, he met a beautiful teenager, Helen, and in 1945 she became his wife. While he worked, they lived with her parents. In 1952, JB bought the Ford dealership in Crosbyton, in West Texas. In 1955,



after three years of drought resulting in three years of no car sales, JB sold to the Lincoln Mercury dealership and moved his young family back to Tyler.

"I called my friend at Ford Motor Company in Dallas," JB said. "After a short time selling used cars in Tyler, my man in Ford said he was going to open up in Burleson. I saw it was at the city limits of Fort Worth, and knew I could sell into Fort Worth." Helen waited with her parents while JB established himself in Burleson. She had already given birth to three children and had another on the way.

Cars were rationed, and Ford Motor Company only gave small dealerships like JB's one car per month. "Ford would not let me be where the highways came together, because that was somebody else's territory. I-35 was not yet built,"

said JB, who stayed in a rented room on South Scott and started his Ford dealership in the office of Gene Harris' Mobil station. His Crosbyton mechanic,



Speedy Mason, came to Burleson and worked on all his cars.

"As they worked on the overpass where I-35 and Hwy 174 now come together," JB recalled, "I went up there and bought one acre from an old man named Faust. He had an old tractor with iron wheels on it. It wasn't rubber tires; it was iron wheels! He wore a handkerchief over his face for the dust." They ate supper together, and Mr. Faust sold him an acre for \$5,000.

Meanwhile, JB worked his strategy, selling cars to Fort Worth customers. By this time, Helen and the four children had joined him. They lived on Renfro Street, which was still a dirt road. "On weekends, I took two of my oldest kids and one of their friends and put 'em in the backseat of a car," JB said. "I took off to Arkansas, looking for little bitty Ford dealers. I'd go in a Ford place and buy a car, give a \$50 bill to a kid, and say, 'Go on, and don't have a wreck.' I had to take those cars and hide them in a barn or wherever I could, because Ford did not want me to have more than one car."



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After awhile, Ford Motor Company figured out what JB was doing. "They'd all get on me in meetings. The head man of Ford Motor Company came up to me one day," JB recalled, explaining how at that time his dealership was in the Fort Worth portion of Tarrant County. "Ford would not let me keep my franchise unless it was in the Burleson city limits, because there were already so many dealerships in Fort Worth."

JB's solution was to get the city limits sign moved. He called in favors from friends in Fort Worth's government, one of whom had been a squirrel-hunting partner of JB's father back in Goldthwaite. "When my friend called me and said the city limits had been moved about a quarter mile north of my dealership, I hollered real loud," JB said. After that change, he was off and running. "I had no rent to pay, two mechanics and a bookkeeper named George Tucker. People would make me an offer, and I'd sell used cars to pay off the new cars."

Eventually, JB and Helen asked Jimmy and Johnny Schumaker to build them a rock house on five acres on West Renfro. Theirs was the second swimming pool in town. By the late '70s, when JB sold the dealership to Jerry Boone, he and Helen had moved to a home on a hill near Crawford Industrial Park in Joshua.

In his retirement, the family traveled frequently. And JB went on hunting trips around the world. While fishing in South America, he caught a couple piranhas and, stuffing a stick in each fish's mouth, carried them home in the breast pockets of his *guayabera* (a Latin American shirt). Once home, he had the piranha mounted, and they hang over his bar today.

JB's tenacity provided a fine living for his family. He and Helen now live in the Stayton Residences in Fort Worth, a luxury JB prepared for by merely following his father's advice. "Every time I got a nickel or \$10 or whatever I got, I'd buy an acre of land in Johnson County," JB said. "Until 2008, nobody wanted the mineral rights; I saved them. In 2008, natural gas companies began leasing land for gas wells. So we have 37 gas wells all over Johnson County. The first one I leased was \$10 an acre. The last I leased I got \$400 an acre." From a poor little boy who had nothing but a faithful father, JB did alright. **NOW**

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Ellie Harty and Kristy Jones are a couple of the bright-idea people at Accents, where you can find what you need to make your home even sweeter.



Love Offerings

Family-owned Accents of Burleson treats you like one of their own. — By Melissa Rawlins

Smart people at Accents of Burleson use smart phones. The store is one of a family of four unique home decor shops, and staff in each shop work together getting exactly what every customer wants. “We can forward a picture of what we have with our phone,” Ellie Harty said. “It’s fun because decorator’s eyes are different in each store.”

The outlet store in Keene works as closely with the retail store in Granbury as it does with the very first store, which was started in Cleburne 30 years ago by Betsy, Ellie’s mother. Her father, Peter, had worked for Pier 1 Imports in the ’70s. The whole family spends every day making shopping an exciting prospect.

Ellie has gone all out, painting Burleson’s 2,500-square-foot store bamboo-shoot green, which is both neutral and rejuvenating. This summer season, people are preparing for

outdoor entertaining. Ellie’s staff is prepared to help hosts create an inviting, comfortable environment and also to help friends choose hostess gifts. Accents’ bright, spacious displays make picking the perfect love offering a real treat.

Looking for meaningful baby or bridal gifts? Accents’ broad variety, from picture frames to storage canisters, includes an exciting assortment of cookbooks. The staff takes time to read them all, so they can tell you which are most helpful. Their stand-by recommendation is the old fashioned *Betty Crocker Cookbook*, like everybody’s grandmother had. New brides and mothers may register their selections at Accents stores.

“Since June is the huge wedding month, that’s also the month people are buying anniversary gifts,” Ellie said. Accents of Burleson offers wind chimes, dip mixes, cake mixes, barbecue

Business **NOW**

seasonings, hammock chairs, outdoor rocking chairs and gliders.

Refreshing your home is both fun and simple at Accents. One of their year-round best-sellers is scented candles. Tyler Candles are offered, plus five other Texas-made candles along with two non-Texan candles.

Decorators from any of the four Accents stores are available to do home consultations. The 5,000-square-foot Cleburne store has very talented floral designers, and if you see a silk arrangement in Accents of Burleson it can be recreated to perfectly match your vision for home. Combining their custom furniture and textiles in their displays with accent pieces from around the world, Accents' decorators give all their stores a homey appeal so people can see how Accents' stuff might look in their own home.

“Accents is a family business, and we all have families we’re taking care of. So, we relate to all our customers.”

Local folks tasted Accents' specialties at Burleson's Wine Crawl. “We took smaller items, like painted wine glasses, foods to pair with wine, wine stoppers and wine carrying bags, cutting boards for cheese, even cake mixes that come in bottles — stuff we carry year round,” Ellie said, “and we will do it again this fall.”

Ellie knows the value of working together. “Accents is a family business, and we all have families we’re taking care of. So, we relate to all our customers,” she said. To fulfill many different tastes, the staff at Accents spends a lot of time looking for unique items that you can turn around and give as a gift to yourself or a loved one.

Their gift-wrapping service is as exciting as it is thoughtful. Even if you did not buy your gift at Accents, you can bring things in for Ellie's staff to wrap for you. With hundreds of colorful ribbons and papers at hand, these decorators have a great time serving you. **NOW**

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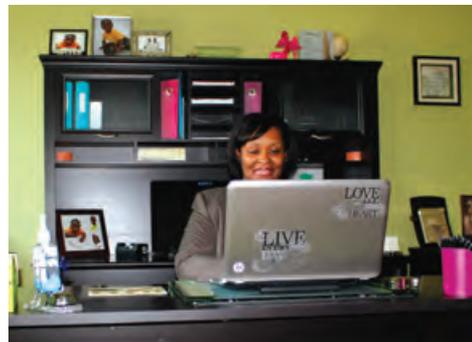
Joshua ROTC Cadet Andrew Marko receives an award from representatives of the Sons of the American Revolution.



Mary Slaney shows her support to fight cancer at the Bursleson Relay for Life.



Jason Durgin and Dakota Beasley purchase a gift for Jenna Villa at Palace Nails & Spa.



De Wanda Harris Trimmar finishes her paperwork for the day.



Alex Farnan's job as a clerk also involves changing tiles on the gas price sign at Renfro and Highway 174.



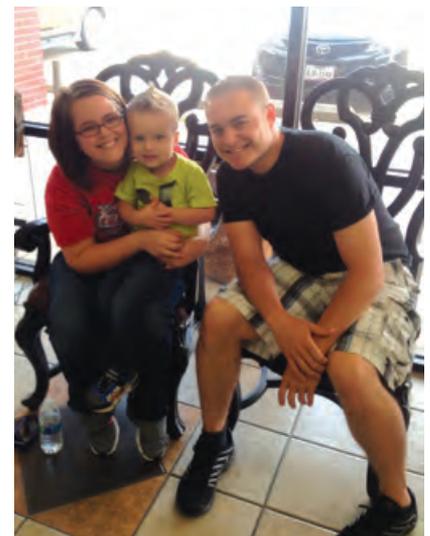
Mayor Billy Davis, Andy Versace and Nathan South get ready for their pony race at the Annual Crowley Chamber appreciation event.



Jake and Kaleb shoot some hoops inside the bounce house at the Crowley Chamber.



Bursleson Area Midday Rotary Club and several second graders from Bransom Elementary School plant trees for Arbor Day.



Jessica and Carter Steel's son, Chance likes it when Jennifer cuts his hair at the Grand Salon & Spa.

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For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. -Ephesians 2:10

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Answering Five Questions Can Help You Pursue Your Goals

As you strive to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you may, at times, feel frustrated over events you can't influence, such as the up-and-down movements of the financial markets. Yet there is much you can control — once you determine the answers to just five key questions.

Where am I today? Take stock of all your assets — your IRA, 401(k) and other savings and investment accounts. Then, do the same for your debts, such as your mortgage and any other financial obligations. On your financial journey through life, it's essential that you know your starting point.

Where would I like to be? Once you've established where you are today, you'll need to identify where you'd like to be tomorrow. How much will you need to pay for the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned? Will you be able to help pay for your children's or grandchildren's college education? Will you need to support any other family members? At this stage, you'll want to write down all your goals and put a price tag on each one.

Can I get there? After you've identified your goals, determine if they are, in fact, achievable. By considering a variety of



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factors — including your likely future income stream and your family situation — you should be able to determine if you can attain your goals or if you need to modify them in some way.

How do I get there? Now it's time to put a strategy into action. Specifically, you need to choose those investments that can help you pursue the goals you've selected. Your ideal portfolio will depend on your risk tolerance and time horizon, but in general, you'll want a diversified mix of quality investments. While diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against loss, it can help reduce the effects of volatility. As you put together your holdings, make sure you understand what you can expect from your investments. For example, growth stocks may offer the highest potential returns, but they also carry the greatest risk. On the other hand, investment-grade bonds can offer a steady income stream and, barring the default of the issuer, will repay your principal when they mature.

How can I stay on track? Once you've built your investment portfolio, you'll need to review it regularly — at least once a year — to help ensure it's still meeting your needs. After all, many things can and will change in your life, such as your family situation, your goals, your employment and your risk tolerance. To address these changes, you'll need to adjust your portfolio over time.

As you can see, answering all these questions will take both work and expertise. That's why you may want to work with a professional financial advisor to help you identify your goals and create a strategy for pursuing them.

In any case, start asking — and answering — these five key questions as soon as you can. It's easier to reach your financial goals if you put time on your side. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Lynn H. Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burleson.

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Source: Insurance Institute for Highway Safety Fatality Facts 2007-2009. Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company © 2012 Allstate Insurance Company.

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West Nile in Texas

By Betty Tryon, BSN

Some of the peskiest pests during the summer are mosquitoes. Anyone who spends any time outdoors in a mosquito-inhabited area must deal with their presence. Today, we are aware that a mosquito bite has the potential to represent more than an itchy and irritating bump on the skin. The West Nile Virus (WNV) is now a part of the language of summer — thanks to the mosquito. WNV has been proven to be a deadly virus, causing havoc during the summer of 2012. In a four-county area of North Texas, there were 36 deaths and more than 1,000 reported cases of the virus. A health emergency was declared and aerial spraying was enacted due to the devastation. The last time there was a call for such drastic action was in 1966.

One should not count on luck to avoid this virus. WNV is a mosquito-borne illness, which is transmitted after the mosquitoes feed on infected birds and then bite humans. To avoid being bitten by a mosquito:

- Use a bug repellent on your skin and clothing, particularly at sundown and at dawn when mosquitoes are more active.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “recommends that a solution of 30-50 percent DEET be reapplied every three hours for maximum safety.”
- Cover your skin as much as possible by wearing long sleeves and pants.

- Get rid of any stagnant water. That is where mosquitoes breed. After a rain, do a check around your property for standing water in trash cans, flower pots, children’s toys, bird baths, the seat of outdoor chairs, etc.

The incubation period for WNV in humans is two to 15 days. That is the time from when you become infected to the onset of symptoms of the disease. Infection with WNV can be asymptomatic, mild or severe. The mild type is called West Nile Fever. Symptoms resemble the flu and may persist for weeks. You may have muscle aches, fever, headache, gastrointestinal disturbances, sore throat or sometimes even a rash.

The more severe form of WNV is called a neuroinvasive disease. Those symptoms may manifest as convulsions, disorientation, stiffness, tremors, muscle weakness and possible paralysis and coma. The majority of people with WNV probably will not even know they have been infected. A very small percentage will develop the severe form, and their life will change drastically — perhaps forever. Some will die. This summer as you go about your day-to-day business and send your children out to play, take precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones. **NOW**

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

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June 3

Metro Beekeepers Meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Cana Baptist Church, 2309 E. Renfro St. Novice and expert beekeepers in Texas will enjoy learning from each other at Metro Beekeepers meetings. Contact Stan Key, (817) 888-0470, or visit www.metrobeekeepers.net.

June 4

Partners in Progress: 11:00-1:00 p.m., Cousin's Barbecue, 910 S. Crowley Rd. Networking with a punch! For more information, please contact the Crowley Chamber of Commerce, (817) 297-4211 or info@crowleyareachamber.org.

June 7

Lunch & Learn: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Dalton's Corner. Hot Plate lunch and "Sales Tips: Important Things to Do for Success in Growing Your Sales," sponsored by Couch and Russell Financial Group. \$10 for Chamber members; \$15 for non-members. RSVP to (817) 295-2236.

2013 Casino Night: 6:00 p.m., Crowley Rec Center, 405 S. Oak St. Benefiting Crowley Area Chamber of Commerce, your investment of \$35, prepaid, or \$40 at the door paves your way to play BlackJack, Craps and Roulette while supporting local business growth. RSVP to the Chamber office, (817) 297-4211.

June 7, 14, 21 and 28

Hot Sounds of Summer concert series: 7:30 p.m., Burleson City Stage, 124 W. Ellison St. Bring your lawn chair, come early and get seats in front of city hall for free music by Le Freak, **June 7**; Two Tons of Steel, **June 14**; Metal Shop, **June 21**; and Quaker City Night Hawks, **June 28**. The series is sponsored by 95.9 The Ranch, 92.1 Hank FM, Fresco's, City Market, H-E-B, Victory Market Solutions, Alan Glazener and Associates and First Travel. For more information, visit www.burlesontx.com/hotsounds.

June 11

Business After Hours Networking: 5:30-7:00 p.m., Trinity Chiropractic. Food, drinks, door prizes and networking, free for Burleson Chamber of Commerce members and only \$10 for non-members. Contact Sara Pryor at (817) 999-0823 or Allan Tidwell (817) 798-5008.

June 14

Summer Kickoff Party: 6:00 p.m.-midnight, Hide Out Burgers, 212 W. Ellison. Twenty bands, all genres, play live for a cover charge. Call (817) 426-3535.

Flag Day: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Bartlett Park on Summercrest near the BRiCk. American Legion Post 235 invites you to come, with or without your flag that has become unserviceable, to honor God and Country. Contact Bill Taylor, (817) 294-5390.

June 21

Power of Heels: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Texas Health Huguley Fitness Center. Includes boxed lunch, networking and inspirational presentation by Officer Jack Goleman with a special message for women and girls; bring your daughter to hear his speech, Women's Safety. \$15 BACC Members; \$20 Non-Members. Call Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce, (817) 295-6121, to RSVP.

June 24 — 28

Fun Everywhere Fair: 6:00-8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church Burleson, 590 N.E. McAllister. Vacation Bible School teaching Luke 10:27, based on the theme "Where God's World Comes Together," for children 4 years old through fifth grade. Register in person with Tamara Bowers at FUMC, or online at FUMCburleson.org.

June 26 — 28

Passion Horse Summer Camp: It is all about the horses, all ages are welcome. For more information, contact Debra Naismith at (817) 372-0047 or passionhorserescue@yahoo.com or visit www.passionhorse.com.

July 1

Rescue Horse Training Challenge Application Deadline: Bluebonnet Equine Human Society will assign each participant a horse, which can be picked up around July 15. Anyone in Texas or a surrounding state who is willing to become an approved foster home for Bluebonnet is eligible to compete in five divisions. Call (888) 542-5163 for more information.

July 3

4th of July Celebration: 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m., Joshua Owl Stadium. Free fireworks start approximately 9:15 p.m., after a lovely evening that includes a children's parade and then a concert by Jole Holliday! Concessions will be available. Contact Joshua Area Chamber of Commerce, (817) 556-2480.

Ongoing

Mondays and Thursdays

Toastmasters International meetings: **Mondays**, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; **Thursdays**, 7:00-8:00 a.m., Burleson Chamber of Commerce

on Wilshire Blvd. Join other professionals to encourage each other to speak effectively and persuasively in public settings. Contact Neal Jones at (817) 343-2589 or Gary Miller at (817) 919-3243.

Tuesdays

Burleson Kiwanis Club meetings: Noon-1:00 p.m., Golden Corral Restaurant, 301 SW Wilshire Blvd. Contact bur88kiwanis@gmail.com.

First Tuesdays

AARP Chapter 4055 of Burleson meetings: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Burleson Senior Activity Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. All seniors welcome. This month's program is "Fire Safety" presented by Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton. Potluck included! Contact Barbara Knight, (817) 447-4060.

Second Tuesdays

Burleson Heritage Foundation meetings: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Burleson Heritage Visitors Center, 124 W Ellison. Call (817) 447-1575 for more information.

Third Tuesdays

Neighbors On Watch meetings: 7:00 p.m., Crowley Public Library. For more information, contact (817) 297-6707.

Wednesdays

Knitting classes: 10:00 a.m., Burleson Senior Activity Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. Free. Contact (817) 295-6611.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Burleson Lions Club meetings: Noon-1:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church on McAllister. Visit www.burlesonlions.org or call (817) 992-9823.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

Family Storytime: 10:45-11:15 a.m., Burleson Public Library. Free weekly opportunity for parents, grandparents and caregivers to spend time with their children and encourage the love of reading with stories, songs, games, music, puppet shows, finger-plays and much more. Contact Carolyn, (817) 426-9204.

Fridays

Crocheting classes: 1:00 p.m., Burleson Senior Activity Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. Free. Contact (817) 295-6611.

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



In The Kitchen With Nina Heard

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Nicknamed “the casserole queen” by her nephew, Nina Heard has learned how to feed her family at minimum cost for maximum satisfaction. One of their favorites is Plantation Supper, a recipe handed down from Nina’s mother-in-law who got it from her mother. Nina’s joy comes not only from pleasing palates, but also from making desserts. A self-taught cake decorator, Nina produces eye-catching birthday and wedding cakes. Such delectables are part of her earliest memories. “My sisters and I were visiting Grandma for the summer. I was about 11,” Nina recalled. “We would make cakes and cookies for my grandma. It was fun, because Grandma didn’t care how messy we were as long as we cleaned up afterwards.” Just ask Nina’s husband, Fred. Nothing’s changed. **NOW**

Beef Egg Rolls

- 1 lb. ground chuck
- 1 Tbsp. soy sauce, or to taste
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 14.4-oz. can Bavarian sauerkraut
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 1 1-lb. pkg. egg roll wraps
- 64 oz. vegetable oil, as needed

1. Brown ground beef. Add soy sauce and onions; cook until tender; drain the mixture.
2. Add sauerkraut and carrots. Mix well.
3. When mixture has cooled, spoon onto egg roll wraps. Roll and seal by rubbing water on ends.
4. Deep fry until golden brown.

Plantation Supper

- 12 oz. egg noodles
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion

- 1/2 cup green pepper, chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- Garlic powder, to taste
- 2 10.5-oz. cans cream of mushroom soup
- 1 soup can milk
- 1 8-oz. block cream cheese
- 1 15.25-oz. can corn

1. Boil and drain noodles; return them to pan.
2. Brown ground beef with onions, green peppers and spices. Drain; then return to pan.
3. Add soup, milk, cream cheese and corn. Keep heating and stirring until cream cheese has melted.
4. Add to noodles and serve.

Home-spun Pie

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion
- Salt and pepper, to taste

- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1 8-inch deep-dish pie crust
- 6 potatoes
- 1/2 stick butter
- 4-8 oz. milk
- 1/2 cup Velveeta cheese, cubed
- 1 Tbsp. parsley flakes (optional)

1. Mix first 5 ingredients. Put into pie crust.
2. Bake at 350 F until browned. Drain any grease that settles. Leave in pie plate.
3. Cook potatoes. Mash until soft, adding butter and a little milk. Mix in cubed Velveeta cheese until blended. Add to meat pie.
4. Sprinkle parsley on top. Return to oven; bake until cheese melts.

Tater Tot Casserole

- 1 32-oz. pkg. tater tots
- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 10.5-oz. cans cream of mushroom soup
- 1 soup can milk

1. Brown tater tots on a baking dish at 350 F for about 20 minutes.
2. While tater tots are browning, brown ground beef with onions.
3. Drain meat; stir in soup and milk.
4. Remove tater tots from oven. Pour meat mixture over tater tots.
5. Return to oven; bake until sauce starts to bubble, about 20-25 minutes.

German Chocolate Bundt Cake

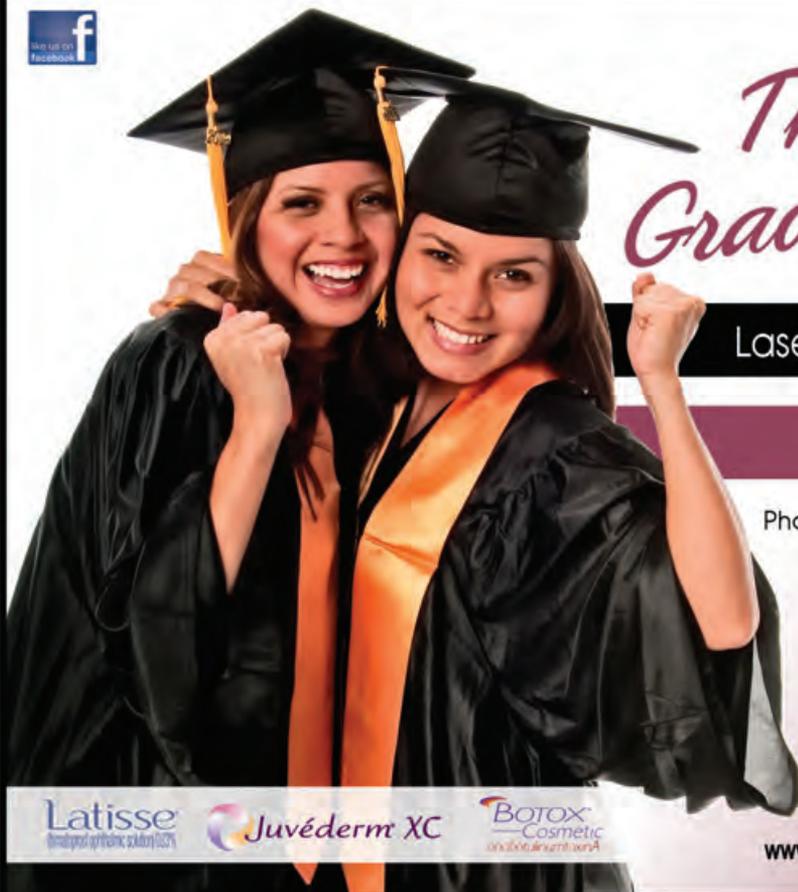
- 1 10-oz. box German Chocolate cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 cup water
- 1 15-oz. container coconut pecan frosting
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar

1. Mix cake as directed. Add frosting to cake mix.
2. Pour into greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 F until done for 30 minutes or until cake springs back when touched.
3. Turn out onto plate; dust with powdered sugar.

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



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