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Editor's Note

The impact a father can make on a child cannot be underestimated!

As I was growing up, my dad did more than put a roof over our heads, food on the table and clothes on our backs. He modeled a living faith, a strong work ethic and sacrificial love. He didn't always speak the words, but his actions showed my brothers and me that he loved us dearly. I'm blessed to have a father-in-law who did the same for his five children. Both of these men continue to pass this

legacy on to my children.

No father is perfect. Fulfilling the role is a daunting task. Any man who steps into fatherhood and gives it his all is to be honored. Cook him a meal, buy him a gift, but don't forget that he deserves respect all year long. Whether it is your biological father, stepfather, father-in-law or an honorary father figure, make sure to tell him all the things you appreciate about him.

Happy Father's Day!

Jill

Jill Martinez

North Ellis Co.NOW Editor

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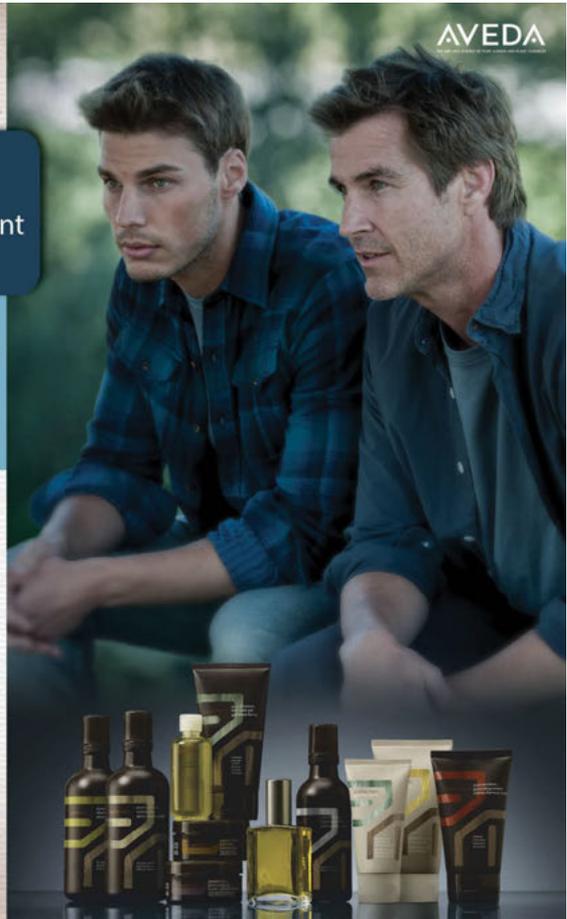


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ON PAR WITH GREATNE

— By Jill Martinez



Kathy Higginbotham is her son, Marshall's, biggest fan.

Marshall Higginbotham has just concluded his educational, musical and athletic career at Red Oak High School. Besides his mother's unwavering support, he had coaches and teachers who poured into his life, shaping him into the young man he is today.

“Probably the person who had the biggest impact on me in high school was my band director, Mr. Steven Moss, because he modeled self-discipline. We practiced for marching band late into the evenings. Despite that, he would wake up at 4:00 a.m. to be back at school by 6:30 a.m. He saw something in me when no one else did. He shaped me into a better person than I was before,” Marshall shared.

“My sister, Katarina, was in band. I went to her games and competitions and thought it looked fun. When I had the chance, I joined, too,” Marshall said. In the sixth grade, he began playing the euphonium, an instrument with sounds he compared to Michael Bubl ’s tenor voice.

By nature, Marshall enjoys being silly and having fun, but during his senior year, he had the chance to take on a leadership role in the marching band. “I enjoyed being a drum major because it developed me as a person,” he remarked.

Alongside Mr. Moss and Noah Vaughn, the second drum major, Marshall helped the Red Oak Mighty Hawk Band earn straight ones at the 2016 Region 20 UIL Regional Marching Contest. They also advanced to finals at the 2016 Midlothian Marching Showcase. “We played in the Duncanville Marching Invitational for the first time and had our best run of the year that day. It felt great to finish strong,” Marshall reflected.

SS



**“I feel he can be one of the
greatest golfers of all time
if given the opportunity.”**




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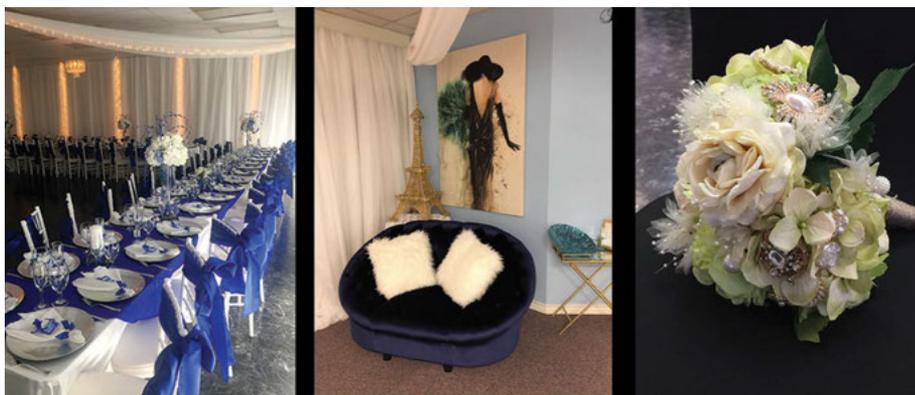
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Marshall's mother, Kathy Higginbotham, has been by his side every step of the way. She was the official band photographer during his senior year, and she attended all of his golf tournaments, taking photos of him as he played. "I am "Team Marshall,"" Kathy said with a laugh. "My biggest role has been to support, encourage, listen, pray and just be there," she said.

From the time Marshall was 5 or 6 years old, he had a golf club in his hands. He joined a league in Waxahachie after Katarina brought home a flyer about it. He also began working with a private golf coach, Mr. Lee Adger, who took Marshall under his wing. "I saw that Marshall was a naturally gifted golfer with knowledge of the game that far exceeded his age. I remember our early times together when, without thought or practice, he could hit any shot I would ask him to hit, and then just look up at me with a smile that seemed to say, "What do you want me to do now?"" Adger recollected fondly.



Coach Lee Adger sees great potential in Marshall Higginbotham.

Despite his natural talent for the game, Marshall set his golf clubs aside for a few years to pursue other interests. The summer before his freshman year, he picked up his clubs again and rejoined Coach Adger at the JCL Golf Academy. Adger and professional golfer Clyde Hughey taught Marshall the unique golf swing he now uses. "My swing has no rotation, so my foundation is secure, and my swing is stable, leaving less room for error. I know this swing has given me more than an edge," Marshall commented.

Marshall's coaches feel he has great potential. "With the mindset he possesses, he can accomplish anything that is put before him. I feel he can be one of the greatest golfers of all time

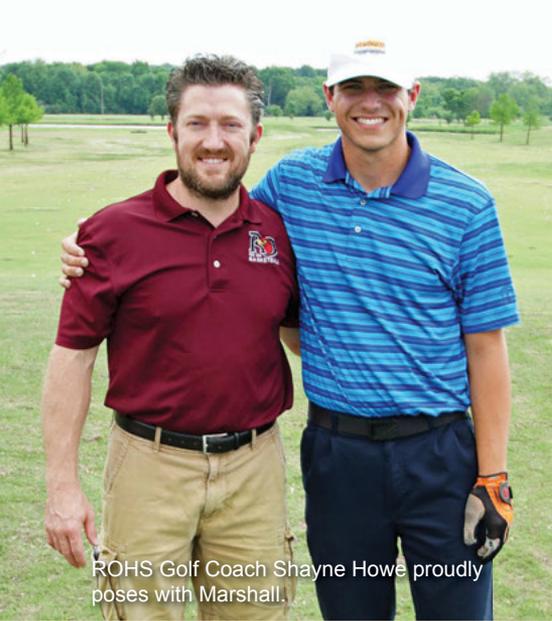


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ROHS Golf Coach Shayne Howe proudly poses with Marshall.

if given the opportunity,” Coach Adger stated confidently.

Marshall spends many hours per week on the golf course. “Weather permitting, I practice five days per week. During marching band season, I’ll do four days,” he informed. A typical practice involves hitting 100-300 balls, in addition to playing some holes and working on putting. During the summer, playing eight hours a day is easily achieved. “I love it! I bring a lunch and play all day,” Marshall said enthusiastically.

Marshall recently hit his personal best scores of 71 and 75 in district play, which made him a first place medalist and qualified him for the regional tournament. It has been six years since a Red Oak Boys’ Golf team member advanced to that level of competition.

“Marshall has four loves that I’m aware of. In no particular order they are: band, his mom, his girlfriend and golf,” Shayne Howe, Red Oak High School golf coach, said.

Marshall has one more love that undergirds all of these: his love for God. “Mom has always been a great example. She has devotions in the living room in the mornings. She showed me there’s no shame, no need to be private about it. It’s just what you do,” he said.

“Every morning as we drive to tournaments, he has his flashlight on so that he can read. What is he reading at 5:00 in the morning? His Bible!” Coach Howe proclaimed.

Marshall attends The Oaks Fellowship in Red Oak where he serves as an usher a few weeks out of the month. “I got into this when the church challenged people to get plugged into

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...serving in different ways. I've been doing this about a year," he explained. He faithfully attends a small group with other ushers twice a month. They have lunch together after church service and Bible study. Marshall is the youngest in the group by 20 years or more. "I gain wisdom from the experiences they share, and it helps me to avoid rougher pathways," he said. "I don't know how people live life without faith. I can't function if I don't have faith."

According to his mom, Marshall has always been a leader to his sisters and to others. Marshall's band director concurs. "Marshall has a gift for finding the people who need the most help, and he serves them until they are at the level of those around them. He always tries to take care of others with no need for recognition. He is a great kid whose presence will be greatly missed," Mr. Moss said.

In regard to Marshall's future plans, he has faith that God will show him the way and open the right doors. He dreams of being on a PGA tour in a few years, so he's working to get his swing firm and score down. Wherever Marshall ends up, it's very likely that he is destined for greatness. **NOW**

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A Happy Flock

— By Jill Martinez

Bryan and Laura Sherman have spent 16 of their 17 years of married life in this home. Many memories have been made here as their family grew to include their three daughters who continue to bring so much joy to their lives. Country style living suits the Shermans, who love to spend as much time as possible out of doors.

Bryan and Laura have jobs serving the public, which can be taxing and time consuming, but they love what they do. Bryan has been working for the Dallas Sheriff's Department for 24 years. "I guess you could say it's in my blood. So many in my family have worked for the Sheriff's Department," he said. He has done his job with excellence and has been awarded for his work. Through the years, Bryan has been promoted from

sergeant to lieutenant and has been honored by the MADD organization for his commitment to their cause, among other things.

Rarely do public servants perform their duty for the recognition they might receive. Bryan serves because he has a heart for people. In 2005, he was able to help Louisiana residents devastated by Hurricane Rita, and once he helped to deliver a baby in a car on I-45. "That makes for a good story," Bryan recalled with a chuckle.



At Home With Bryan and Laura Sherman

Laura has worked in education for 21 years. She has been a general education teacher, a special education teacher and currently serves as a diagnostician for Red Oak ISD. Her heart's desire is to help children become all they have the potential to be. This desire is for her own children, too. "We have been blessed with three girls who are part of the Gifted and Talented program, love to sing, perform and do gymnastics," Laura said proudly.

If they aren't working to protect and serve the public, Bryan and Laura are

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against the white vinyl fence is an iron gate that Laura's dad made in high school. There are also some animal fossils the children have collected on various family adventures resting in the rocky landscaping. In the evening, after dark, the family enjoys gathering around the fire pit and looking at the starry skies.

supporting Brooklynn, Skylar and Trinity's interests. "We do stay busy. Sometimes, we tag-team dinner and after-school activities," Bryan said.

When they sit down all together at home, there are a few places where they will likely be found. The first place is the family favorite — the backyard. Over the years, they have spent countless hours relaxing under the patio, splashing in the pool or soaking up the sun on the chaise lounge. The Shermans have worked to beautify the yard. A treasure leaning

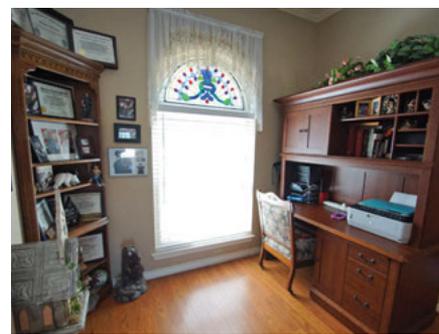
The Shermans recently added a few feathery females to the household. Bryan was already living in a figurative hen house, but now they have a literal one, too. They repurposed a headboard to make a shelter for their three little hens. "I love fresh eggs, and these girls are keeping us in good supply," Laura said.

The Shermans can also be found hanging out in their casual family room, part of a remodel done in 2012 when they converted the garage. Bookshelves loaded with reading material, board games and

toys occupy one side of the room, while comfy seating and a big-screen TV reside on the other.

Also added during the remodel was a third restroom, which the girls benefit from. Colorful towels are housed in a white hutch, and a peg board painted in a cheery outdoor scene displays the girls' hats and bows.

One of Laura's favorite things about the add-on was the extension of her laundry room. "With the extra space, we were able to add storage shelves and a place for everyone's laundry baskets," Laura explained. Every woman running a household can appreciate the joy that this kind of practical space can bring.



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It's obvious that family is cherished in this home. Sweet pictures of all three daughters as toddlers wearing Bryan's uniform are displayed off the formal living area, and in the dining room, there are pictures of each daughter wearing the exact dress that Laura wore as a young girl. More family photos along with the girls' artwork are displayed in the casual and formal living areas.

Each of the bedrooms reflects the personality of its occupants. Trinity, the youngest, is a princess at heart. Lavender walls, a white poster bed and plenty of dolls are evidence of that. She has an imagination that lets her drift out of her room to faraway lands when she puts on her dress up clothes. Her bedroom is a magical place.

Skylar, the middle daughter, is an artist — with hair, that is. She keeps several hairstyling mannequin heads in her closet, so she can practice various techniques in her spare time. Skylar's room recently received a facelift. Three walls now sport a soft blue color while one accent wall, two closet doors, curtains and the rug are gray, which blends nicely with the leopard print bedding. "A friend of ours built this bed out of pallets. There are lights that change colors in the three recessed areas," Laura explained.

Brooklynn's bedroom has a modern retro feel. A comfy red couch provides a chill space under her loft bed. Metal sheeting on the wall provides a magnetic area where she can post awards, pictures and drawings. Whiteboard paint was used near the closet, so she can make additional notes or fun drawings on a whim.

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The master bedroom is a tranquil retreat complete with classic wooden furniture with metal accents. A Thomas Kinkaid painting, a gift from Bryan to Laura for one of their anniversaries, hangs over the headboard, and Bryan's challenge coin collection sits atop a dresser.



Family meals are enjoyed in the breakfast nook. Laura's love for birds influences the decor in this classic country kitchen. The ledge of the bay window above the kitchen sink is replete with birds and birdhouses, bringing the feel of the outdoors in. The eggs supplied by the hens are showcased in a black metal egg stand nearby. An extra wall of cabinets with a countertop and serving window leading to the formal dining area provide a great serving area when family comes over on special occasions.

The Sherman home serves as an anchor for this family. It's a place of comfort where each member can relax and relate with the others or kick back in their own space and enjoy their favorite hobbies. While this family enjoys recreational activities in town or vacations out of state, they always look forward to getting back to their favorite place to roost. **NOW**

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Ovilla, the oldest town in Ellis County, began as a fortified settlement in 1844, but it wasn't incorporated into a city until 1963 in order to avoid being annexed by neighboring cities. By 1973, a group of 10 ladies from farms that dotted the countryside surrounding the small city of Ovilla organized the Ovilla Christian Women's Club. It was a social outlet for them, but the ladies had much higher purposes in mind — meeting the needs of their small community, maintaining and improving the quality of life for their citizens and raising funds for the Ovilla Volunteer Fire Department. Several years later, the new Ovilla Police Department began to share the funds.



Community

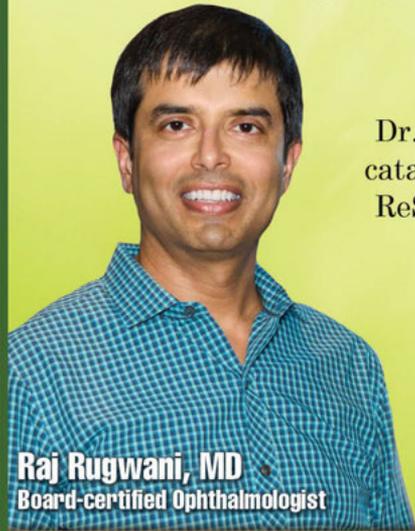
— By Virginia Riddle

Rachel Huber joined the club in 1974. “This was a rural area then. None of the charter members lived in Ovilla, but they all considered themselves to be ‘Ovilla people.’” she recalled.

Times have changed since then. In 1986, the name of the club was changed to the Ovilla Service League. However, as those farmlands have turned into subdivisions, retail stores and other businesses, the members of Ovilla Service League still have the same mission of service to their community. The once all volunteer fire department now employs full- and part-time firefighters, but funding is always tight for first responders, especially within the fast-growing area that is now Ovilla. “This has become a bedroom community. We have to be proactive to meet our

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neighbors,” Jo Ann Graham, a league member since 2003, explained.

Helping the league’s president, Windy Zabochnik, a member for four years, lead the club of now more than 30 members, is the 2016-17 Board of Directors, which includes: Sandy Cawley, junior president; Sherry Burn, secretary; Cynthia Harris, treasurer; and Moon Cox, member-at-large. Chairpersons include: Jo Ann, communications; Carolee Juergens, sunshine; Marilyn Langenheder, historian and immediate past president; and Peggy Dickey, charities.

For over 25 years, the members have hosted an annual spaghetti benefit dinner, which has become a favorite community event. As the aromas of the league’s famous homemade spaghetti and meat sauce mingle with the garlic bread, the ladies make sure that the approximately 250 attendees load up their plates with spaghetti, salad, homemade desserts and have a drink to sip. While enjoying their spaghetti, attendees bid on silent auction items, and a live auction follows featuring Walt Cade of the famed television show, *Storage Wars: Texas*. “Different members are famous for the desserts they make and bring,” Jo Ann said. League members have, in the past year, compiled a booklet, *How to Put on the Spaghetti Dinner*. “It’s open for modification this year and has every detail noted. There are thousands of details,” Jo Ann said.

“The dinners, held each February, are an example of the entire organization becoming involved,” Jo Ann said. “Members prepare the pasta and bake desserts in their homes. The sauce, Marilyn’s recipe, is prepared by members at Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church. And the dinner is served by members at the Ovilla Road Baptist

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Church. City Council members, both past and present, help,” Jo Ann explained. “The men take over the kitchen, move the big pots, heat up the spaghetti and clean up. Everyone performs together like a well-oiled machine, and the dinner makes more money every year. It’s amazing how well it all works, even though there is a lot to do.” It is not surprising that the league has honored men —Doug Hunt, David Griffin and Dean Oberg — with honorary memberships.

In past years, \$14,000-\$15,000 has been raised and distributed to the Ovilla first responders by these ladies. However, league members have also donated to improvements in Ovilla’s Heritage Park and City Hall, actively supported the North Ellis County Outreach food pantry and helped neighbors through the Tornado Relief Fund. “It’s just giving and taking care of the community,” Rachel stated.

Another fundraiser takes place each September. League members serve as the city’s hostesses during Ovilla’s Heritage Day and hold a raffle to finance their organization’s activities. “Heritage Day has gotten bigger every year, too,” Jo Ann added.

In appreciation for their husbands’ help throughout the year, the Ovilla Service League hosts an annual July

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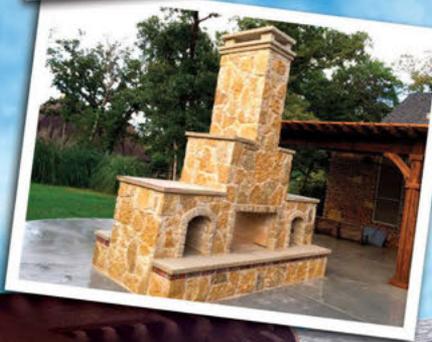
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picnic at the Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church. "It is a pot luck supper treat for the husbands," Jo Ann said. "And we welcome anyone interested in joining the Service League." Membership is open to all men and women with a willingness to serve. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from September through May at 10:00 a.m. at the Ovilla City Hall, and recent bylaw changes allow for some future night meetings. "Members do not have to attend the meetings, however, if they participate in the activities," Jo Ann explained.

Service League members are encouraged by the spaghetti dinner's growth each year. "The Ovilla area is split into four different school districts and between two counties, and the dinner is a way to meet our neighbors. Only our churches are centrally located," Rachel said. "So many new people come to the dinner."

Windy, a native of the Texas Panhandle, is an area real estate agent. She served as the league's junior president and volunteers at her 6-year-old daughter's school and with Meals-on-Wheels.

Jo Ann grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and lived in McKinney for 15 years before moving to Ovilla 20 years ago. She has a married son who lives in McKinney near where he grew up. Jo Ann retired from a career as a human resource executive and has served the league as secretary and treasurer. She loves to travel, cook and do needlework, and she studied cultural anthropology after retirement.

In her many years of membership, Rachel has done just about everything in the organization. A native of Marlin before moving to Ovilla, she had a career in retail. She has family members, including a son and daughter, throughout Central Texas. She loves to travel and read and is an Ovilla City Councilwoman. Rachel's crocheted afghans receive Texas State Fair awards and are often featured in the league's fundraisers.

The police and firefighters are always very thankful for the funds they receive, but Ovilla Service League members do not look for praise. The tradition of service that began so long ago remains today and will continue into Ovilla's future. **NOW**

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Dr. Rogers provides compassionate, comprehensive and individualized care for cats and dogs. — By Jill Martinez

For nine years, Dr. Rhea Rogers has been practicing veterinary medicine. After graduating from Oklahoma State, she settled in North Texas and started practicing.

She worked on large and small animals in Corsicana her first three years. “I also went to Houston on weekends to do surgery and treatment. I was exposed to shelter-style medicine by doing that,” Dr. Rogers explained.

Dr. Rogers also gained ER experience in Dallas, which led her to some extremely interesting cases. It was a positive experience that helped her to overcome discomfort with difficult cases. “One time, an 8-pound orange tabby came in with a gunshot wound to the chest. He had nerve damage in one arm as a result,” she explained. “I continued to get updates on him until he was fully recovered. That was a rewarding experience.”

Her Red Oak office opened in May 2016, and the Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting ceremony took place a few months later. She is now treating cats and dogs but hopes to offer equine services in the future. Dr. Rogers’ practice has experienced strong growth since it opened just one year ago. Presently, she has around 800 furry patients being served on a regular basis.

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She and her staff do this job because they love it. It’s a service of the heart. For Dr. Rogers, it’s a calling she has felt since she was 3 years old when she announced to her

parents that she would become a veterinarian. In her childhood, her parents accommodated her desires to bring home stray animals. At any given time, she had cats, dogs, a duck, ferrets and hamsters.

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Currently, Dr. Rogers has a feline assistant named Oreo who resides at the clinic. When his owner couldn't be located, Dr. Rogers took him in. Oreo helps to welcome customers as they enter the clinic, and his presence enhances the peaceful, inviting atmosphere. “I am very proud of where I am now. I have waited my whole life to have this set up — the colors, the feel of the place. This is a dream. I don't take it lightly.”

Strengthening the human-animal bond that her clients share is a top priority. One of her favorite parts of the job is helping to educate pet owners about preventative care. “I want people to feel comfortable asking me questions. I enjoy client education,” she remarked.

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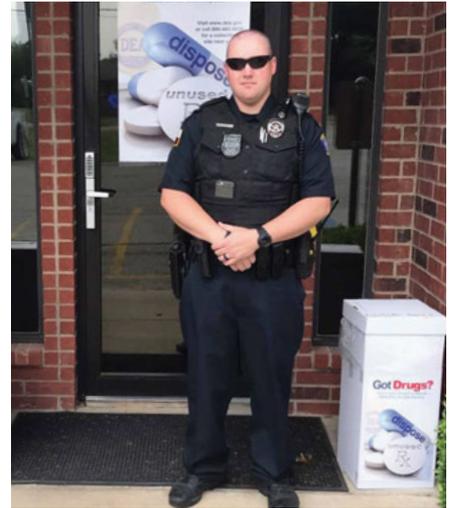
Marikay Dewberry, Kim Buttgen, Karen Stanfill and Peggy Schieffer help set up for Ovilla United Methodist Church's garage sale.



Ferris art teacher Pamela Wilson is proud of 5th grader Tyanne Ugorji's top 10 placement in the Treasures of Texas Coast art contest.



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A Body Heat Wave

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

As the sun heats up, the incidences of heat-related illnesses will rise. It's important to know what you are dealing with and what to do. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke are sometimes used synonymously, as if they are the same. That is understandable, considering they are heat illnesses with their genesis in very high temperatures, but they are different medical conditions. Both are serious and require immediate medical attention, but heat stroke can be fatal.

Some of heat exhaustion's symptoms are: heavy, drenching sweating; feeling weak; having a weak but rapid pulse; fainting; cold and clammy skin; experiencing nausea; headache; and muscle cramping. If any of these symptoms occur, the person should be removed from the heat to a preferably air-conditioned location. Give them non-caffeinated liquid to drink. Avoid sugar and alcoholic drinks while rehydrating. Loosen clothing and elevate legs above the heart. Use cool, wet cloths or shower to bring the body temperature down. If the person is not better within an hour, do not delay in seeking medical treatment. Forcing the body to continue an activity when it is in heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke, if not treated. It is important to note that heat stroke can develop without the accompanying symptoms of heat exhaustion.

If experiencing heat stroke, the body loses the ability to regulate

its temperature. The heartbeat speeds up, as it tries to cool the body down. The skin feels hot and dry and is unable to sweat to bring down the temperature. One may experience nausea and vomiting. The temperature spikes to 104 degrees or higher. Confusion, delirium, dizziness, seizures, loss of consciousness and even coma can occur. If not treated quickly, organ failure and death can result.

In order to prevent these heat illnesses that can have such a devastating result on the body, it makes sense to try to prevent the problem from happening. If one has been indoors, acclimate yourself slowly to outdoor heat. Keep hydrated with water. Avoid outdoor activities during the intense heat of the day. When outside in the sun, protect your head with a wide-brimmed hat or cap. Wear sunglasses for eye protection. Wear sunscreen to prevent sunburn, which interferes with your body's mechanism for ridding itself of heat. When in a heated location, whether it's outside or in a non-air-conditioned gym, it's important for you to watch others for heat illness and for someone to watch out for you and respond appropriately. Call 911 immediately at the first sign of heat stroke, and you just might save a life. **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

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. The event will include classic airplanes and fighters, helicopter rides, fly-overs, Midlothian Classic Wheels, Gold Wing Road Riders, RC model airplanes, live music and children's activities. Breakfast tickets are \$6 for adults and children over the age of 8. Children under 8 are \$3. Parking is free. For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit www.mid-wayregional.com.

Glenn Heights Family Festival: Noon-6:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 400 E. Bear Creek Rd. Enjoy bounce houses, live music, food, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and much more. Visit www.glennheightstx.gov/community/events/family_festival for more info.

June 10

Trucks and Tunes: 6:30-9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Enjoy an evening of outdoor fun with food trucks and music.

June 17

Best Southwest Juneteenth Celebration: 4:30-10:00 p.m., Lancaster Community Park, 1700 Veterans Memorial Park, Lancaster. This event will be celebrating freedom through diversity and honoring the oldest known celebration for the ending of slavery. Activities will include food vendors, a variety of art by local artists, crafts, musical performances and much more.

June 24

Cow Creek Country Classic Rotary Bike Ride: 7:30 a.m., Waxahachie High School, 1000 Dallas Hwy. Early registration through **June 12** for \$30 per rider. Family discounts also offered. Five route options available to suit all skill levels. Visit www.cowcreekcountryclassic.org for more information.

Ongoing:

Second Mondays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group meeting: 6:00 p.m., Ryan's Steak House, Waxahachie. Join the group for dinner and listen to the guest speaker. To RSVP or for more information, call (214) 763-0378 or email vetsnetgrp@att.net.

Third Mondays

Red Oak Book Club: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Red Oak City Hall/Library. For more information, email redoakbookclub@gmail.com.

Fourth Mondays

Living with Diabetes: 6:00 p.m., Zula B. Wylie

Public Library, Cedar Hill. Learn life skills suggested in living with diabetes.

Glenn Heights Chamber of Commerce meeting: 7:30-9:00 a.m., 1938 S. Hampton Rd. Food and drinks provided. For more information, contact Cyndy Powell at cyndy.powell@glennheightstx.gov.

Tuesdays

Writing for Enjoyment Group meeting: 12:30-1:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Red Oak, 600 Daubitz Dr. For more information, call (469) 383-5365 or email joanpomero@att.net.

First and Third Tuesdays

Red Oak Lions Club meeting: **First Tuesdays:** noon, Cancun's, 273 E. Ovilla Rd.; **Third Tuesdays:** 7:00 p.m., 207 W. Red Oak Rd. For more information, call (214) 864-8014.

Second Tuesdays

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE): 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Meetings rotate between Ryan's Buffet in Waxahachie, the Sirloin Stockade in Corsicana and the Grand Ennis Buffet in Ennis. Email rjcarey1@gmail.com or call (972) 775-2463 for more information.

342 Network Group: 7:30 a.m., Denny's, I-35E Service Rd., Red Oak. The group includes business owners who would like to network and is open to all businesses in any county. RSVP to Melton McKown at (214) 244-2829.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

North Ellis Co. Outreach assistance: 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 205 S. Main St., Ferris. Assistance is for Red Oak and Ferris residents. For more information, call Denise Butler at (972) 617-7261.

Story Time: 11:00 a.m., Ferris Public Library. Pre-school children and their caregivers are invited for stories. For more information, call (972) 544-3699.

Wednesdays

Toddler Story Time: 10:00-10:45 a.m., crafts/story time for children 18 months-4 years and their parents. Call the library at (469) 218-1230 for more information on all library events.

Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club. \$13 includes lunch and a featured guest speaker. Vouchers for

mothers requiring childcare are available. For reservations, call Barb Jacobs at (214) 463-5064.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

The Red Oak Senior Citizens Group: 8:30 a.m.-noon, Lions Club Building, 207 W. Red Oak Rd., Red Oak. Call (214) 502-9747 to RSVP by **Wednesday** for \$2 lunch on **Thursday**.

Thursdays

SYNERGY: 11:30 a.m., Sparacello's Deli, 600 Methodist St., Suite 3120, Red Oak. This is a Red Oak Chamber of Commerce networking opportunity.

Third Thursdays

Ferris Lions Club meeting: 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 101 Redbud Rd., Ferris.

Second Saturdays

Texas Civil Defense monthly drill: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 101 Live Oak St., Red Oak. For more information, call LTC Tim O'Connor at (214) 868-0082.

Red Oak Opry: 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., Lone Star Cowboy Church, 1011 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak.

Third Saturdays

Ferris Trades Day: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 101 S. Main St., Ferris. For more information, call Tina Miller at (817) 992-9204.

Texas Concealed Handgun class: 8:30 a.m., 208 S. Central St., Ferris. Fee is \$75. For more information, contact CHL instructor Charles Hatfield at (214) 402-3689.

Self Defense Class: 9:00-11:00 a.m., 301 Locust Dr., Oak Leaf. Must call (972) 617-2660 to RSVP. Wear loose fitting clothing.

Third Sundays

Matthew 7:7 Riders Motorcycle Ministry: For the next meeting and ride, visit www.facebook.com/Matthew77RidersMotorcycleMinistry or contact Mark Rose at (972) 748-4076.

Fourth Sundays

Prayer Shawl Circle: 10:00 a.m.-noon, First United Methodist Church of Red Oak, 600 Daubitz Dr. Circle of Hope and Healing ministry. For more information, call Beth Norris at (214) 392-0732.

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



In the Kitchen With Carlton and Sonya Scott

— *By Jill Martinez*

In the Scott family, sharing down-home food with family and neighbors is a tradition. “My grandmother would cook meals, wrap them up and deliver them to the neighbors. I love trying new ways of cooking with different spices,” Sonya said. Every chance Sonya had, she spent time in the kitchen with her mother learning all she could.

Carlton, Sonya’s son, has learned to cook from her and her husband. “I really enjoy cooking for my family and friends because with food comes laughter and conversation. My parents are a huge inspiration to me, and they are the reason I love to cook and bake,” Carlton added. He is proud to have parents who served as chefs in the Navy. Here, Sonya and Carlton share some family favorites. **NOW**

Buffalo Chicken Balls

Serve with your favorite dipping sauce.

- 1 store-bought rotisserie chicken**
- 1/4 cup Texas Pete hot sauce**
- 1 tsp. ground black pepper**
- 1 3/4 cups sharp cheddar cheese**
- 1/4 cup freshly sliced scallions**
- 1 cup all-purpose flour**
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten**
- 2 cups panko breadcrumbs**
- Vegetable oil, for frying**

- 1.** Heat oil to 350 F
- 2.** Pick the meat from the chicken and discard the skin.
- 3.** Place chicken in a large bowl and add hot sauce, pepper, cheese and scallions. Toss to combine.
- 4.** Roll chicken into 2-oz. balls, about the size of a golf ball.
- 5.** Place flour, eggs and breadcrumbs in three

separate bowls. Roll each ball in the flour, then the egg and then the breadcrumbs.

- 6.** When oil is ready, drop chicken balls in and fry until golden brown.

Pecan Pie Muffins

- 1 cup pecans, chopped**
- 9 Tbsp. salted butter, melted (divided use)**
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour**
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar**
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 300 F
- 2.** Mix pecans and 1 Tbsp. of butter. Spread pecans on a baking sheet and toast in the oven for 4-6 minutes, until fragrant. Remove from oven and let cool slightly.
- 3.** Increase the oven temperature to 350 F. Line a 6-cup muffin tin with paper liners and coat with cooking spray.

- 4.** Combine toasted pecans, flour and brown sugar in a bowl.
- 5.** Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients. Add eggs and remaining melted butter. Mix just until dry ingredients are moistened.
- 6.** Spoon the batter into the paper-lined muffin cups, filling 3/4 full.
- 7.** Bake for 20-25 minutes, until tops are browned. Remove from the pan immediately and cool completely on a wire rack.

Sausage Cornbread

- 1 lb. ground pork sausage**
- 2 large eggs**
- 1 1/2 cups self-rising cornmeal**
- 1 15 1/4-oz. can cream-style corn**
- 3/4 cup whole milk**
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil**
- 1 large sweet onion, chopped**
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 425 F. Grease a 10-inch cast-iron skillet and set aside.
- 2.** In another skillet, brown the sausage over medium-high heat. Drain well and set aside.
- 3.** In a medium bowl, combine eggs, cornmeal, corn, milk and oil.
- 4.** Pour half of the cornmeal mixture into the cast-iron skillet. Layer the chopped onion over the cornmeal mixture; add sausage and cheese.
- 5.** Pour the remaining cornmeal mixture over the cheese. Do not stir.
- 6.** Bake for 30-40 minutes until puffed and brown.

Sour Cream Pound Cake

- 2 sticks butter**
- 3 cups sugar**
- 1 cup sour cream**
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda**
- 3 cups all-purpose flour**
- 6 large eggs**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 tsp. lemon extract**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 325 F.
- 2.** In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar.
- 3.** Add sour cream; mix until smooth.
- 4.** In another bowl, sift baking soda and flour together. Add to the creamed mixture, alternating with eggs, beating each egg one at a time. Add vanilla and lemon extracts.
- 5.** Pour into a greased Bundt pan; bake for 90 minutes.



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