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M A G A Z I N E

JUNE 2017

NOW

A photograph of four women and a dog sitting on a lawn. They are all wearing red and grey 'Streets To Sheets' t-shirts. The dog is a large, dark-colored breed, possibly a Mastiff, and is looking up at the woman in the center. The background shows a brick wall and some trees.

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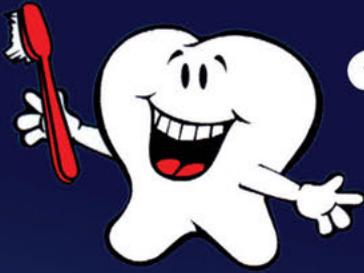
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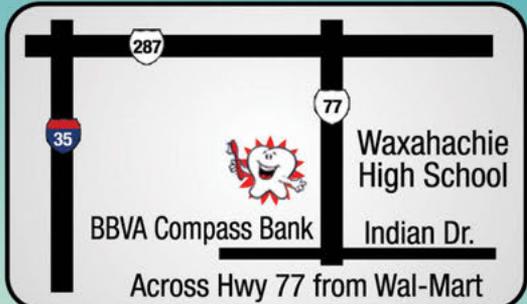
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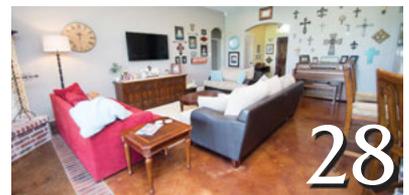
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Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

June is for jumping!

As I watch the grandkids swim like fish and hear their uninhibited laughter, I think of my five God-given senses — sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. Recently, I realized I've been taking them for granted. After my annual visit to the ophthalmologist, I learned my blurry vision and headaches were not caused totally by the excessive amount of time I spend at my computer. The loss has more to do with my age, normal daily use and overall wear and tear. My new glasses allow me to see clearly, and that is a blessing.

I've since added a sixth sense to my list — common sense. I've got to start using mine if I want to keep my other five intact. To appreciate the sounds of summer, I must have ears that hear. My sense of taste allows me to enjoy snow cones, while my sense of smell brings happiness to my nostrils. And if I couldn't feel a little hand in mine or a hug around my neck, this Granny would be lost.

Remember to stop and smell the roses!

Sandra

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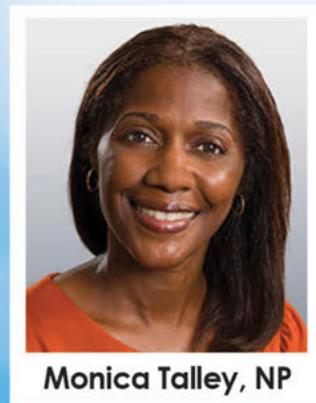
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conditional love

— By Sandra Strong

Mysti Boehler dreams of acreage with a building located outside the city limits for her emergency street dog rescue, Streets to Sheets. But for now, she is living in the present, making due with what she does have. “I’m hoping to one day have a place where we can offer solutions for people with unwanted dogs besides just euthanizing them or dumping them,” she said. “Our rescue needs a facility for meets and greets, intake and a fostering home base.”

As the community continues to learn more about the nonprofit, the need for a facility will no doubt become even more important. Mysti’s main goal is to provide a loving, safe environment for the dogs that she rescues. Once a foster family is found, Streets to Sheets provides all the supplies needed to care for the fostered canine, including home visits and trips to the veterinarian for shots and overall health care. Each rescue is immediately tagged, chipped and wears a collar, making contact with Mysti a lot easier if the dog should come up missing. Our fosters keep our rescued dogs safe and shower them with love,” Mysti shared. “A loving atmosphere allows the dog to move into the healing phase.”



Mysti says fostering the dogs she rescues is a very rewarding experience for everyone involved. “Fosters are needed more than anything right now,” she admitted. “They allow us to keep saving lives.” Streets to Sheets is a ministry to Mysti, and her main goal is to find forever homes for the rescues. “I want them to have a family,” she added. Once a forever home is found, adopters and the pups are given two weeks to settle in together. “I want to give them that adjustment period in the home to make sure it’s the right fit for everyone,” she explained. “I keep in contact with each one of my adopters, and I know the dogs are spoiled rotten.”

Looking back on her younger years, it’s no surprise that Mysti’s ministry includes “man’s best friend.” Since early on in her life, she has cultivated a special connection with animals, but she feels many people’s perspective on pets has changed for the worse. “I was raised right here in Waxahachie. I’ve had dogs



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all my life,” she said. “We get called on to rescue dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs.” One thing she can’t fathom is how pet owners can put their four-legged fur babies in the car, dump them on some deserted road and drive away. “There are so many other alternatives,” she said with emotion in her voice. “There are safer and better ways to re-home unwanted dogs than by dumping them.”



Research and studies show that the two most abandoned breeds of dogs are Pit Bulls and Chihuahuas. Mysti knows these facts are true when it comes to Pit Bulls, because she's rescued her share of them from all types of dire situations. "I have yet to meet one that's aggressive," she stated. "They are sometimes scared and somewhat timid, but they have definitely never been aggressive or dangerous." Like any other breed of dog who has been unloved, dumped or mistreated, Pit Bulls need patience, understanding and care. "Don't assume the worst about stray dogs, regardless of breed," she said. "Any dog can act defensively if put in a scary situation, and barking is how they communicate."

Sometimes travel is part of the job. Mysti remembered the time she flew to California to rescue a large Pit Bull from a Los Angeles kill shelter. Before flying home, she took Jayrad on an adventure. "We took him to all the tourist spots," she said. "We drove to the Hollywood sign, walked down Malibu Beach and saw Beverly Hills." Dogs are just like people. "You can't judge them by their outward appearance, someone else's opinion or their breed," she added. "Many dogs come to us so broken, they won't even look up or wag their tails. As they heal, it's amazing and very rewarding to watch their spirits return."



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Those who would like to volunteer, but who are unable to take a dog home, are encouraged to get involved in the Virtual Foster Program offered at Streets to Sheets. Those same individuals can follow the rescue on Facebook through their daily updates. One dog found her forever home via a Facebook post. “Grace, a Heinz 57, was found under a porch in Alma. She was missing a paw. A sweet lady from Arizona followed the story online,” Mysti explained. “Now, Grace is living the good life in Arizona. Her family loves her so much, they are wanting to give another homeless dog a forever home, too.”

Penny is another dog who lives on the acreage behind a nearby post office. Neighbors share in the feeding and watering. “We have been trying to get her to a home,” Mysti said, “but she’s been feral for about six years. Penny has allowed people to rescue several of the puppies she’s had, but she won’t let us get close enough to her.”

Mysti has met and works with some very special people when it comes to the rescues — Terry Muniz with the city of Waxahachie, Shirley Bailey with Bow Wow Barbers, Ginger Mulkey from Boyce Feed & Grain and several from

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The Ark Country Store, to name only a few. Devoted volunteers include Jamie Grimes, Krystea Matthews and Jennifer Harisis, as well as Mysti's two boys, Justin and Jeremy.

All those involved wish they could rescue every dog in need. Mysti has tried to answer each call that's been made to her thus far. "I want to offer viable options," she admitted, "but it's becoming more difficult as we grow. A new facility would allow us to take in more rescues. Right now, we have no headquarters. We rely solely on available foster homes."

Board members include Mysti, Laurie Reynolds and Sofia Graham. All three have taken in their fair share of fur baby fosters who bring with them unconditional love, and they will continue to do so until there are no longer dogs without forever homes. It was Mysti's first foster, a pregnant Pit Bull named Sophie, that prompted her desire to move forward with Streets to Sheets in May 2015. "She was spotted all over town, and then she showed up just down the road from the house. She was in bad shape," Mysti explained. "It took me six days to catch her. We lost all her babies, but she's home now. She really was my inspiration to move forward."

Interested people are always asking Mysti where she came up with the name, Streets to Sheets. "That's simple," she stated. "They are rescued from the streets, but once they are cuddled and loved, they end up in someone's bed."

Mysti has learned a lot from abused, neglected and abandoned dogs, and their never-ending ability to forgive. "God allowed all this to happen," she confessed. "The rescues have opened me up so I now see life differently." **NOW**

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A CHANCE TO SUCCEED

— By Rick Mauch

Jim Jordan may be the youngest 71-year-old around. But then, it's hard to feel old when you're surrounded by as many happy youngsters as he is. Jim is a director of Waxahachie's Common Ground program for students in kindergarten through fifth grade on the east side of the city. It is an after-school program from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. during the school year and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday during the summer months. "The goal was to help deal with poverty in Waxahachie," Jim said of the program that began in 1991. "We have to fill in more than getting homework done."





Stacie Dixon helps Landon with his homework.

O ED

There is room for 30 children in the Common Ground facility that includes a classroom, playground and a basketball court. And there's always a waiting list. The program stays full for a variety of reasons. Many parents need it for their children — and the children love it. First, children are greeted with snacks upon entering. Then, it's homework time. Reading and/or math practice follow, and then comes activities, crafts and playtime. "Last summer, our children could tell you all 66 books of the Bible, in order," Jim said. "One of our volunteers, Kathleen Hopgood, wrote a song about all the books. They have hand gestures that are memory joggers."

Common Ground strives to give children a chance to succeed in both school and life, by teaching them to make good choices. Many of the children in the program come from single-parent homes or from homes where mom and/or dad have two or more jobs. "We give them another peer group to be a part of. They can strengthen each other," he said.

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Jim Jordan enjoys spending time with Landon and Ashleigh.

A popular program implemented three years ago involves iPads for fifth-graders to utilize while working on reading and math. Once the school year is over, the students get to keep the iPads. “When the school changes, we change. You have to,” Jim said. “It came to the end of the school year, and it didn’t seem right to take them away. Some businesses around town said, ‘Yes, we’ll help. Come see us every year.’ So, in August, I go see them and say, ‘It’s tablet time!’”

Bailee Gardner, age 10, loves the iPad program. In fact, she wants to be a teacher herself someday. “I like to read on it, then take a break and read some more,” she said. “I like that there’s always a volunteer to help with my homework. And, it’s just fun being here.”

According to Jim, the use of iPads is critical in helping students overcome the “digital divide.” Students in more affluent communities have access to tablets, computers and smartphones that those from economically challenged communities — such as east Waxahachie — might not. “You walk through H-E-B and all of their employees are using tablets,” he said. “In a job interview, the manager says, ‘We use a tablet. Can you do that?’ If they’ve gone through the Common Ground program, they can say, ‘Yes.’”

Eleven-year-old Kendrick Wallace combines work and fun on his iPad through a math game called Prodigy. He can’t wait to play each day. “It makes math fun,” he said, “and a lot easier.”

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“The things you do for a third-grader pay off with what they do for the rest of their lives.”

Common Ground prides itself on being nondenominational. After all, when it comes to helping youngsters, it doesn't matter where you go to church — though they do get a lot of help from churches throughout the city, along with Southwestern Assemblies of God University. “The beautiful thing is you have all the churches in Waxahachie working side-by-side,” he said. “We all have a common goal.”



Ms. Carolyn encourages Bailee and Braelyn to do their best in school

The program uses students from SAGU as volunteers and interns because it helps both the Common Ground youngsters and the university students. Also, the kiddos connect well with the SAGU students because they are younger and closer to them in age. “My goal is to help these kids in all areas of their lives,” said Michelle Williams, a volunteer from SAGU. “I don't want where they live or what their families do to define them. Not only have I helped them, but they help me in ways I can't describe.”

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The program's name comes from Proverbs 22:2, found in the Bible. Rich and poor, the one thing we all have in common is the Lord. Common Ground exists because of the charity of others. Along with area churches, local charitable organizations pitch in. Organizational grants are obtained, and help is received from businesses, charitable foundations and, of course, individuals.

The program also makes full use of the annual Texas Day of Giving. According to Jim, they have raised as much as \$7,500 in a single day. "The things you do for a third-grader pay off with what they do for the rest of their lives," Jim said.

Some help even comes from outside the city and even the state. For example, the Dart Foundation out of Michigan has provided a grant to help Common Ground start a greenhouse project. Students will be working with Ellis County Master Gardeners. "We're going to build an ecologically friendly greenhouse," Jim said. "There's going to be an excess of vegetables, so we'll donate to Waxahachie Care to help others deal with hunger. Also, the students can sell some of what they've grown at the farmers market. Look at the lessons they'll learn!"

Common Ground helps the community every chance it gets. Recently, 1,500 cans of food were donated. They have given away 500 to help needy families and still have 1,000 in their shed. "We're not a food bank, but these are our neighbors," he said. "We get a message, and we go with it.

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There is a nominal charge of \$40 per semester for students to be in Common Ground. That fee gives the parents the dignity of providing for their children. The fee can, however, be paid out in installments as small as \$5 per week.

Also, each year at Christmas, churches will collect toys. They are then priced at about 30 percent of what they would cost in a store and are made available for families to purchase. "Again, it's a way for the family to know they provided for their children, and it wasn't given to them," he said. "That means a lot."

Common Ground has had second-generation students come through the program and graduate. Also, several former students have returned to work as volunteers. "They got something, and it's helped them, and now they want to make sure other children get it, also," he said. "And any day now the first grandchild of a former student is going to come through." **NOW**

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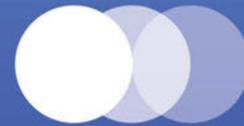
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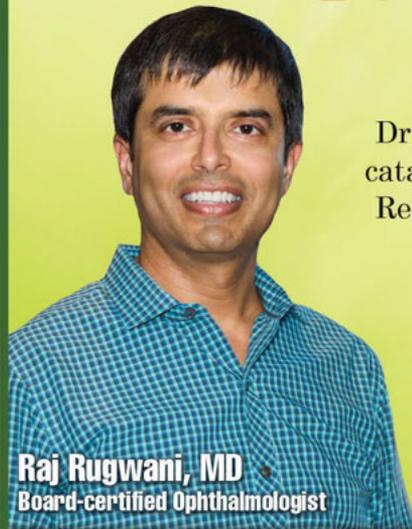
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— By Jill Martinez

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Wess and Elizabeth Winn added 1,000 square feet onto their home in 2013 and installed a pool in the backyard. "Our work with the church youth group was our inspiration for the add-on," Elizabeth said. "We want to welcome people into our home and minister to them here."

Wess, a fifth-generation Ellis County native, had temporary departures from Ellis County when he was drafted to play baseball in the Baltimore Orioles farm system and when he attended university. "I finished up my degree and was a baseball coach at Northwestern State University in Louisiana," Wess said. Perhaps Wess' roots in Waxahachie are what cause him to give back to the

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community so much. He currently serves as a Waxahachie police officer and just completed a term as a Waxahachie School Board member.

Elizabeth is a reading recovery teacher at Felty Elementary School. She is a Texas transplant originating from southern Louisiana. She and Wess met when they attended Northwestern. "Wess and I met at the baseball fields," Elizabeth shared. Their love for each other and the game have stayed strong for nearly 20 years.

From the moment guests enter their front door, they find themselves in an amalgam of two time periods. The Winn family home fuses pieces of days gone by with modern features. The sides of the foyer have antique furniture items passed down from family members. Elizabeth's grandmother's Singer sewing table and Wess' father's secretary desk now showcase knickknacks with the fleur-de-lis, a classic symbol of Louisiana. The color scheme in the kitchen, dining and living areas of the Winn home come from a French influence. "I was inspired by this tapestry I bought in New Orleans depicting the French Quarter," Elizabeth said,



pointing to a piece hanging in the dining room. The yellows, golds and reds warmed Elizabeth's heart as the image brought back fond memories from her childhood.

Butter yellow and light gray cover the walls, while burnt red brickwork and stained concrete floors give a rich finish. "We had leftover brick from the exterior of the house. When we remodeled, we covered the kitchen island with them and used them for a support pillar near the back patio," Wess explained.

The oversized fork and spoon, which hang above the pantry door in the kitchen, once belonged to Elizabeth's grandmother. This touch of old shares space with more modern features like stainless steel appliances and tiled backsplashes.

The living area is inviting and comfortable. Above an upright piano, an array of fleurs-de-lis and crosses are displayed. The main wall of the living room features a collection of the children's photos with arrows interspersed for decoration. The *W* near the top is for the Winn family name, of course, but this family is so much a part of Waxahachie, that it could be for the city's name, as well. Just to the left sits a beautiful wooden buffet that Elizabeth inherited from her mother. It features fleurs-de-lis on each door panel.



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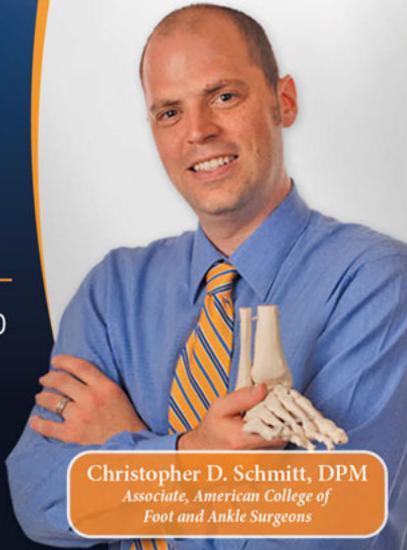
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The most striking piece of furniture in the room is the red sofa that is angled across from an oversized brown chair. The yellow trellis-patterned rug and the yellow wall featuring the stone and brick fireplace behind it work together to create a harmony of colors that exhilarate the eyes.

Just behind the sofa are the sliding, glass doors that lead to the patio and the pool. On a nice day, the glass doors can be opened while the screen doors just behind them remain closed, allowing a cool breeze to trickle in. The covered patio houses a ping pong table, patio furniture and two rustic rocking chairs. Just beyond lies the pool, which features a raised section with a waterfall. "This is where we envisioned our kids and other young people spending lots of time," Elizabeth said.

There are four bedrooms and three bathrooms in the home. Belle, age 13, will be a student at the Waxahachie Ninth Grade Academy in the fall. Her passions are volleyball and musical theater. Her bedroom features turquoise walls, which are accented by warm yellow chevron curtains. Her desk and chest of drawers were custom painted with various patterns in a variety of colors. Her room is a depiction of her colorful character.

Audrey, the youngest family member at 10 years old, attends Felty Elementary. Singing and children's theater are her favorite pastimes. Her small stature shouldn't fool you. She can pack a punch on the stage! When at home in her room, she enjoys nestling up in her white, wrought-iron daybed with the family dog while watching television.

B.G., the oldest sibling and only son, enjoys a little separation from his sisters as his room and bathroom are on the other side of the house. B.G. will attend Waxahachie High School when the new school year begins. With sports

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memorabilia and decor filling his room, there is no doubt about what B.G.'s heartbeat is. His passions include playing football and baseball. He's a chip off the old block, some might say, and his parents couldn't be prouder of him.

The master suite's upgrades are, by far, the most impressive. Wess and Elizabeth totally renovated their master restroom. They used neutral-colored tiles in the walk-in shower. The nearby tub is surrounded by the same tilework, while the toilet has its own private closet across from the dual-sink vanity. The walk-in closet, the envy of every woman, makes a u-shape around the bathroom and includes Elizabeth's War Room, a term for her prayer room made famous from the Christian film with the same name.

The final upgrade to the home is the conversion of the original garage into what they now call The Indian Room. This is where they host groups of young people as often as they can. It is a casual room filled with all the things young people need — a refrigerator, a comfy couch, a dining table, a television and lots of games. Elizabeth has infused the room with more treasured furniture items passed down from her grandmother. "We are very proud to be Waxahachie Indians. It's part of the family legacy," Elizabeth said. Two unique Indian headdresses adorn the walls along with arrows, a Waxahachie Indians football helmet and a collage of newspaper clippings about Winn family members who played baseball and football for the Indians.

Whether the Winn family is gathered in the Indian Room or around the dining table, their love for each other is unmistakable. And, as everyone knows, it's the people, not the structure, that make the home. The Winn family home is a place where the legacy of former family members is cherished and where the memories currently being made will live on for years to come. **NOW**

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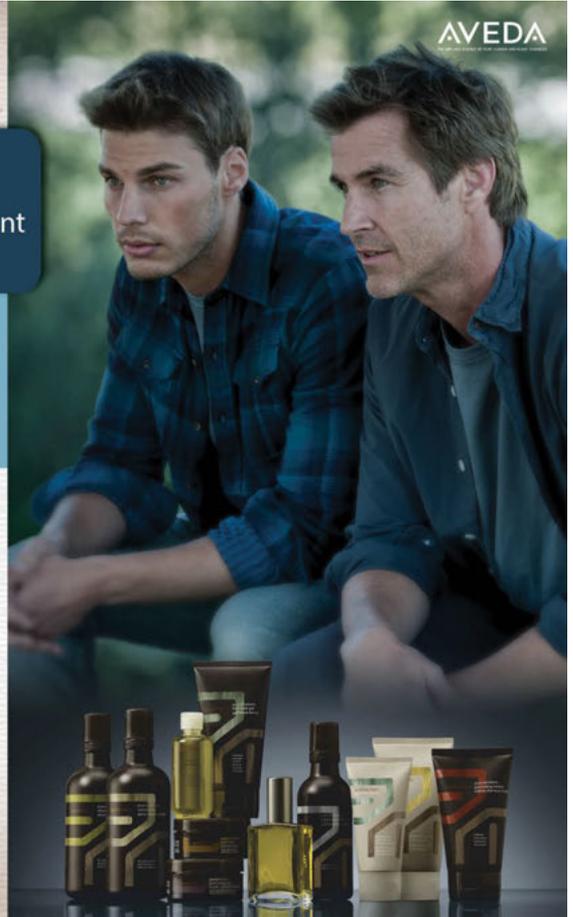
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MESSA

Alexander "Alex" Hamp, a member of the War of Ages band, has settled here in Waxahachie, along with his wife, Natalie, and their two children. Three years ago, after attending a service at The Avenue Church, Alex and Natalie decided to relocate, and they are more in love with being here than ever.

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— By Debbie Durling

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Alex and his brother, Leroy, had a long and difficult journey before pulling War of Ages together. They know about rising from pain. In their life experiences, they have dealt with kidnapping, abuse, both sexual and mental, and the confusion that plagued their family early on. It is these life experiences that gave them passion to reach out to others who are going through or have overcome difficulties in their lives by using their special brand of music.

They are from Los Angeles, California, but relocated to Pennsylvania when Alex was only 6 years old. While working at Wal-Mart as a young adult, Leroy met Steve Brown, a guitar player. They began playing music together, forming the War of Ages band in 2002. Leroy and Steve, along with other members, extended an invitation for Alex to join the band on drums. Early in the formation, they entered a competition called, "Battle of the Bands," in Erie, Pennsylvania. Winning first place gave them their first recording contract to make one album in a studio, self-titled *War of Ages*, in 2005.

Because of this album, which had great sales, they were signed to a record label with Facedown Records. "People began noticing us, and we were invited to bigger tours," Alex said. They made a name for themselves because while heavy metal bands can come with connotations of immoral, wild lifestyles, this band is clean. With a very realistic view of the world from their troubled past, their lyrics are designed to loudly proclaim their Christian faith.

Several other albums have been released since that first appearance on the recording scene. *Pride of the Wicked* was released in 2006; *Fire from the Tomb* in 2007; *Arise and Conquer* in 2008; *Eternal* in 2010, with Sonny of POD performing a guest vocal; *Return to Life* in 2012; *Supreme Chaos* in 2014;



and *Alpha* in 2016. The album, *Arise and Conquer*, was recorded with members of As I Lay Dying, a world-renowned heavy metal band. The popularity of War of Ages has taken them around the world. They have played in countries, such as Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Poland, Denmark, France, New Zealand, China, Japan, Switzerland, Austria, Spain, Italy, Czechoslovakia and, of course, all over America. The present members of the band are Leroy Hamp, lead vocalist; Alex Hamp, drummer; Steve Brown, lead guitar; and Jack Daniels, guitar.

War of Ages has energy and passion that appeals to a younger audience. They are not a worship band, but rather heavy metal. They use this medium to scream their passion to the world. "If you want to see an energetic performance like you have never seen before, then buckle up and come along for the ride," Alex said with zeal. They can easily be pegged



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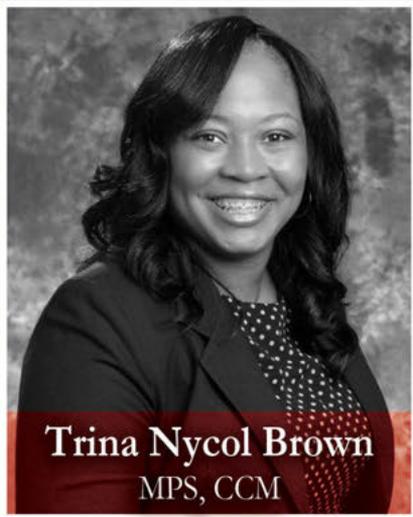
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as a highly motivated and driven band. Nothing provides more irrefutable proof of their dogged determination than their impressive and extensive touring history, which includes playing alongside Terror, As I Lay Dying, Living Sacrifice, Demon Hunter, Underoath, Hatebreed, Sick of It All, Throwdown, Earth Crisis, Bleeding Through, POD, 10 Years, Times of Grace and many more. The band has also had music videos from previous albums from MTV's *Headbanger's Ball*, a feat which spurred them on to continue making intriguing, visually exciting videos. Their music is based on intensely heavy, but melodic and catchy, metal and hardcore, and their songs range from pure fun '80s-inspired metal, to the more therapeutic songs with inspired strength from their past.

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On an occasion when the band was playing in Denver, Colorado, a young man wandered in off the street. He had intended to go home that very day and end his life. But something drew him inside. He heard about all the Hamp brothers had experienced during their childhood. He heard how God had brought them out of the dark circumstances and given them hope.

After the concert, this young man approached the brothers at the merchandise table and proceeded to tell them that after watching the concert, his life had been changed. "He gave my brother a handful of razor blades, dropped to his knees, began to cry and gave his life to God right there," Alex said. The band still keeps in contact with him and are glad they played a part in his transformation.

Since moving here, the Hamps have sought ways to be involved in the community. Being the drummer of the band, Alex was invited to a Waxahachie High School Band drum practice by the percussion director, Paul Jaso. "When Paul spoke to the students, it touched me and made me want to be a part of helping the WHS Band in any way I could," Alex said. He has a desire to put together a sponsorship for the band.

While the popularity of War of Ages takes them all over the world, they intend to put down deeper roots in Waxahachie. They say the people they have met in this area have enriched their lives, and Alex believes being with his band partners has made him a better man. **NOW**

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Central Kubota's mission statement is still to be a premier retailer of tractors. Their goal will always be to exceed the expectations of their valued customers.

Exceeding Expectations

The Widrick family is optimistic about what's in the future for them. — By Sandra Strong

As the company continues to grow and the customer base increases, it's only natural that things would change for Steve Widrick, owner of Central Kubota, LLC. The properties next door to the dealership's original location were purchased, thus doubling the size of their "outdoor showroom." More lot area meant the addition of a new line of Kubotas. "We added Kubota's equipment line," Steve said, "and that allowed us to add a great deal more inventory."

The new line of Kubotas includes: excavators, compact track loaders and skid steers for construction, while hay tools and higher horsepower tractors are available for those in agriculture. "Our customer base still includes the weekend ranchers," Steve shared, "but we are seeing a large growth in commercial contracts, both in construction and agriculture."

Steve's son, Justin Widrick, has taken on a much larger role in the company with the expansion. Currently, Justin's duties include some sales, inventory control, invoicing all whole good sales and, as the yard manager, he makes sure the lot looks good. His philosophy about the company is spot on. "If you don't grow," Justin said, "you are actually going backwards."

Inventory control for Justin means keeping six to nine months' worth of inventory on the lot throughout the year. "I order in the fall. The shipment is received in the winter," Justin explained. "That gets us ready for the spring and summer season, which overall is our busiest time."

Other staffing additions to the family-owned business include Steve's daughter, Jamie Widrick, and her husband, Christian, who just moved back to Texas from Costa Rica. As the receptionist,

Business **NOW**

Jamie's voice is generally the first one customers hear when calling and the first smiling face seen when visiting Central Kubota in person. Christian, along with several other long-term staff members, works as a shop technician.

Faithful employees who have been with Central Kubota for years include Steve's brother, Jay Widrick, and salesman, Larry Thedford. "Jay has been with the company as the controller since day one, but he didn't come on board full-time until a year-and-a-half ago," Steve added. The staff is now up to 13, counting all those previously mentioned.

"WE ADDED KUBOTA'S EQUIPMENT LINE, AND THAT ALLOWED US TO ADD A GREAT DEAL MORE INVENTORY."

Kubota is continually expanding their product lines. Knowing he wanted to continue giving the best in customer service, Steve added a fully equipped service truck to provide quality care and repair for Central Kubota's customers. Each service call from Kubota customers is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Since the beginning, Steve has believed in offering what his customers want, when they want it. They are well-stocked on the lot at any given time. "Our mission statement is still to be a premier retailer of tractors, while implementing services that offer a lasting value to our customers," Steve said. "Our goal will always be to exceed customers' expectations today and into the future."

Central Kubota's location is great, and the visibility of Kubota's bright orange branding color seen from the interstate has helped grow the company to its current size. The large lot area is easily accessible for customer pickups and inventory deliveries. Steve foresees great things for the future of Central Kubota, as well as Waxahachie and its surrounding areas. "The 287 Corridor is going to continue to expand," he stated. "In time, North Ellis County and South Dallas will meet. It's inevitable." This merging together is sure to keep the growth coming for Central Kubota for years to come. **NOW**

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Constable Brad Elliott and Lt. Michael Toby with the Ellis County Sheriff's Department enjoy the festivities at the annual Ducks Unlimited Banquet held at the Civic Center.



Melissa Cobb is honored during the annual Partners in Education Luncheon for 20 years of dedicated service to WISD.



Cay and Gene Kubin celebrate Cay's award for being one of The Great 100 Nurses in the Dallas Fort Worth Metroplex.



Waxahachie's Dan Coy joins Burleson's Holly Moore at the fundraising table for Children's Advocacy Center.



Madelyn and Audrey Fields are electrifying as they play on the slides.



Mike Dredan, Albin Zrile and Brady Buegeler with Ducks Unlimited were on hand for enthusiasts during the annual banquet.



Judge Diane Lewis congratulates David Smith on winning Best Performance at the Annual Irene Emerson Poetry Contest.

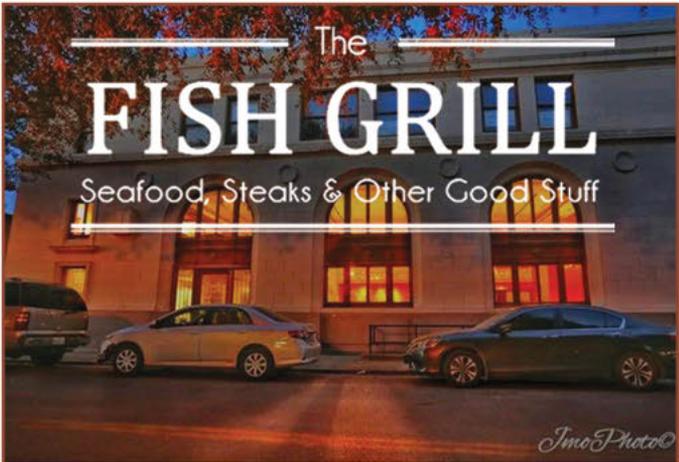


Yusuf Jimva and his dog, Max, enjoy a Sunday afternoon at Love's where furry family members are now welcome as long as they are on a leash.



Shelby Turner and Mikayla Orona are girls that just want to have fun as they grocery shop.

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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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Gingerbread Tea Party: three parties: 11:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 1:30 p.m., seating limited to 25. www.downtownwaxahachie.com.

Downtown Rummage Sale: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Wine & Film – A Perfect Pairing Dinner with Hayley and Gary Cogill: For more information, visit www.crossroadsoftx.com.

June 3, 4

Gingerbread Trail Historic Home Tour: Sponsored by the Ellis County Museum. For featured homes, pricing and general information, call (972) 937-0681.

June 7

Improv in the Teen Lair!: 10:00 a.m., Sims Library.

June 10

Junk in the Trunk: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Waxahachie Riding Club Playday: 2:00 p.m., Waxahachie Rodeo Complex, 704 Howard Rd. For rainout dates and more information, visit www.waxhachieridingclub.com.

Trucks 'n Tunes: downtown Waxahachie.

June 15

LEGOs at Lunch: 10:00 a.m., Sims Library. For more details, contact Holly Browning at (972) 937-2671.

June 16

Professor Pop's Bubble Show: 10:00 a.m., Sims Library. For more details, contact Holly Browning at (972) 937-2671.

June 17

Father's Day Craft Beer Sip 'N Stroll: 4:00-8:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

June 21

Brushbots: 10:00 a.m., Sims Library. Teens will build a fun simple robot using a

toothbrush head, pager motor and a button cell batter.

June 24

Adoption 5K/Back to the 80's: 8:00 a.m., registration begins. For more information, visit www.tbhc.org/adoption-5k-201-donation-form/.

Waxahachie Cow Creek Country Classic Bike Ride: Sponsored by the Waxahachie Rotary Club. For more information, visit www.cowcreekcountryclassic.org.

Super Science Saturday! The Chemistry Road Show: 1:00 p.m., Sims Library. For more details, contact Holly Browning at (972) 937-2671.

June 28

Luau on the Lawn: 10:00 a.m., Sims Library. Holly Browning at (972) 937-2671.

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In the Kitchen With Eldonna Bates

— *By Virginia Riddle*

Baking for those she loves is what Eldonna Bates enjoys doing in her kitchen. “I started baking in high school for friends and during my days at SAGU. For years now, our home has served as a nightly gathering place for my children’s friends,” Eldonna said.

Twice a year, she hosts a “Bates Bash” giving classmates from those student years a chance to reunite. Additionally, she hosts a weekly young adults Bible study. “Desserts are the heart of my social gatherings,” Eldonna explained. “My mom was known for her pie crusts, but it wasn’t until we lost her that my crust came out perfect. I know it was a gift from God. Remember: a home full of sweets is ‘Home Sweet Home!’” **NOW**

Snickerdoodles

- 1 cup shortening**
- 1 1/2 cups plus 2 Tbsp. sugar (divided use)**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 3/4 cups flour**
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 2 Tbsp. cinnamon**

- 1.** Cream shortening, 1 1/2 cups of sugar and eggs together; add the flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt; chill for two hours.
- 2.** Meanwhile, blend together 2 Tbsp. sugar and cinnamon.
- 3.** With the chilled dough, create 1-inch balls; roll the balls in the sugar/cinnamon

- mixture; flatten the balls with fork tines.
- 4.** Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet at 350 F for about 6 minutes.

Cardamom Cookies

- Cookies:*
- 1 cup softened butter or margarine**
 - 1/2 cup sugar, packed**
 - 1/2 cup brown sugar, packed**
 - 1 egg, separated**
 - 1 tsp. vanilla**
 - 2 cups flour**
 - 1 tsp. ground cardamom**
 - 1/4 tsp. salt**
 - 1/3 cup nuts, chopped**

- Butter Frosting:*
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. butter or margarine**

- 1 cup powdered sugar**
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla**
- Milk, to taste**

- 1. For cookies:** Combine butter or margarine and sugars in a mixing bowl; beat until creamy and fluffy.
- 2.** Add egg yolk, vanilla, flour, cardamom and salt; mix well to form a soft dough.
- 3.** Spread mixture in an ungreased 10x15-inch baking pan. Beat the egg whites and brush the dough’s surface with them.
- 4.** Sprinkle evenly with nuts. Bake at 275 F for 1 hour.
- 5. For frosting:** In a skillet, melt the butter or margarine until it browns slightly; remove from heat.
- 6.** Beat in the powdered sugar and vanilla; add enough milk to make a drizzling consistency.
- 7.** Drizzle frosting onto warm cookies, and cut into bars.

French Silk Pie

- 2 sticks butter or margarine**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 2 1-oz. Baker’s Unsweetened Chocolate Squares**
- 2 tsp. vanilla**
- 4 eggs**
- Pie crust, prepared per package instructions**
- Cool Whip, to taste**
- Nuts, chopped, to taste**

- 1.** In a large bowl, cream butter; gradually add the sugar.
- 2.** Melt the chocolate squares; let cool.
- 3.** Add the chocolate and vanilla to the butter mixture.
- 4.** Add the eggs, one at a time, beating each egg in for 5 minutes at medium speed. (The 5 minutes each requirement is very important.)
- 5.** Pour mixture into pie crust; chill for 2 hours. Top with Cool Whip and nuts.

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



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