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A Z I N E

JUNE 2018

Blazing a Path

Burleson Fire Chief
K.T. Freeman led the
department to its
highest rating ever

Magical Creation

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The Jacksons

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ON THE COVER

The Burleson Fire Department, led by K.T. Freeman, does much more than fight fires.

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Melissa

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EDITOR'S NOTE

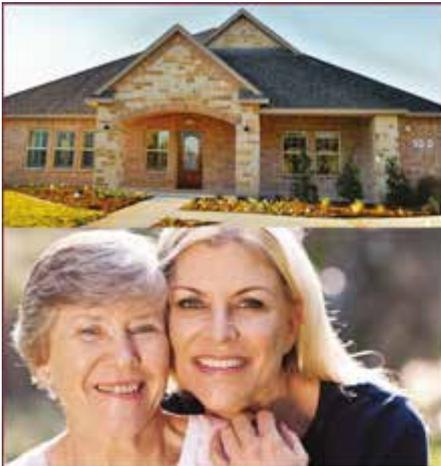
Hello, Friends!

Fat is a good thing. If I had a little more on my bones, I'd have more energy. On the other end of the spectrum, I have several overweight family members who are often miserable, sometimes simply sick and tired. Either way, according to www.obesity.org, fat's simply an endocrine organ. So, it falls into the same system as the hypothalamus, thyroid, pituitary and pineal glands. Fat is only a problem when it is excessive and can lead to inflammation, asthma, sleep apnea and even type 2 diabetes.

When I stumbled across an award-winning research paper by Paul von Hippel, Ph.D., titled *From Kindergarten Through Second Grade, U.S. Children's Obesity Prevalence Grows Only During Summer Vacations*, I thought its finding would inspire those of you with children or grandchildren. In a nutshell: the active family that spends the summer playing together, eats more fruits and vegetables than fats and sugars, limits television time and avoids eating while watching TV will send healthy children to school at the end of the summer.

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BLA

K.T. Freeman never planned on being a firefighter. Now, not only has he had a successful career in the field, he's helped the Burleson Fire Department make history. K.T., who took over as Burleson's fire chief after Gary Wisdom retired at the end of 2015, has done a lot in a short amount of time. This includes guiding the department to the first No. 1 rating with the Insurance Service Organization.

Less than 1 percent of fire departments in the nation achieve this elite rating. "They basically grade the entire community, with the fire department having the most weight [over 50 percent]," K.T. said. "A community has excellent service if you can bring 14 firefighters and a commanding officer to a standard residential fire within eight minutes 90 percent of the time. This is how many people it takes to have the best chance to save lives and property. We were a No. 2, and the thing hindering us was we didn't have enough to assemble 15 firefighters."

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A P A T H

— By Rick Mauch

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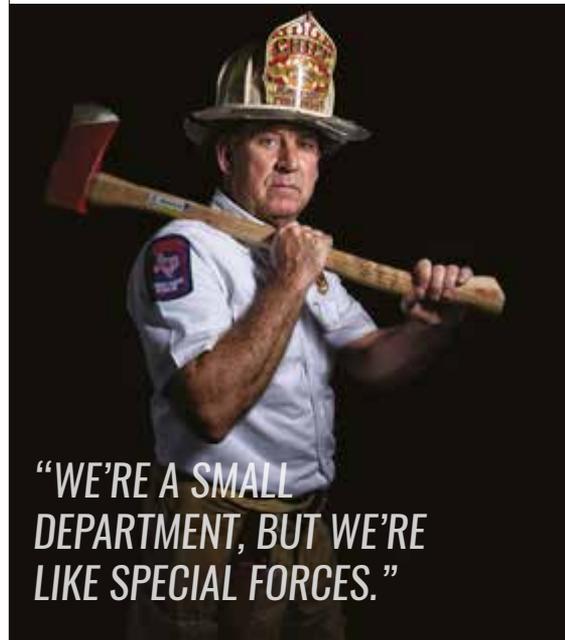
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The 15 required firefighters for the standard do not have to all be from the same department. They can be part of a joint effort with neighboring departments, such as Alvarado or Crowley. While Burleson once didn't have enough to fill those requirements, they now have enough to send 15 on their own, if needed.

Among K.T.'s first orders of business upon taking the job was requesting more firefighters. City Manager Dale Cheatham listened, and through a grant, they were able to raise \$800,000 for funding. In addition, K.T. said the city manager and the city council began a fund to make sure those hired could stay employed. “Dale saw the value and need to get these firefighters and



“WE’RE A SMALL DEPARTMENT, BUT WE’RE LIKE SPECIAL FORCES.”



keep them,” K.T. said. “From the day we got them, the city manager began putting funds away for them.”

Six new firefighters were brought on board initially. A seventh was added last year and an eighth this year. Now, the department numbers almost 50.

The importance of an ISO 1 rating is significant, not only to the department, but to the city as a whole. Commercial and residential insurance rates are based, to some degree, on the ISO rating. “Communities that have a 1 should have a direct correlation to lower rates. When companies start looking at relocating, they look at these ratings and the safety of the area,” K.T. said.

“In the two years that Chief Freeman has assumed the top leadership role, he has elevated the way our fire department engages in the Burleson community,” City Manager Cheatham said. “Chief Freeman has a passion for making our community a safer place to live.”

K.T. graduated from Haltom High School in 1976. His grandfather was a firefighter, a captain with Fort Worth Fire Department. K.T. would often visit the fire station with his grandpa, but didn’t think he’d follow in his footsteps, until one day his grandfather asked him a question. “He asked me if I ever thought about becoming a fireman. They called them firemen in those days,” K.T. recalled. “After we talked, I thought,

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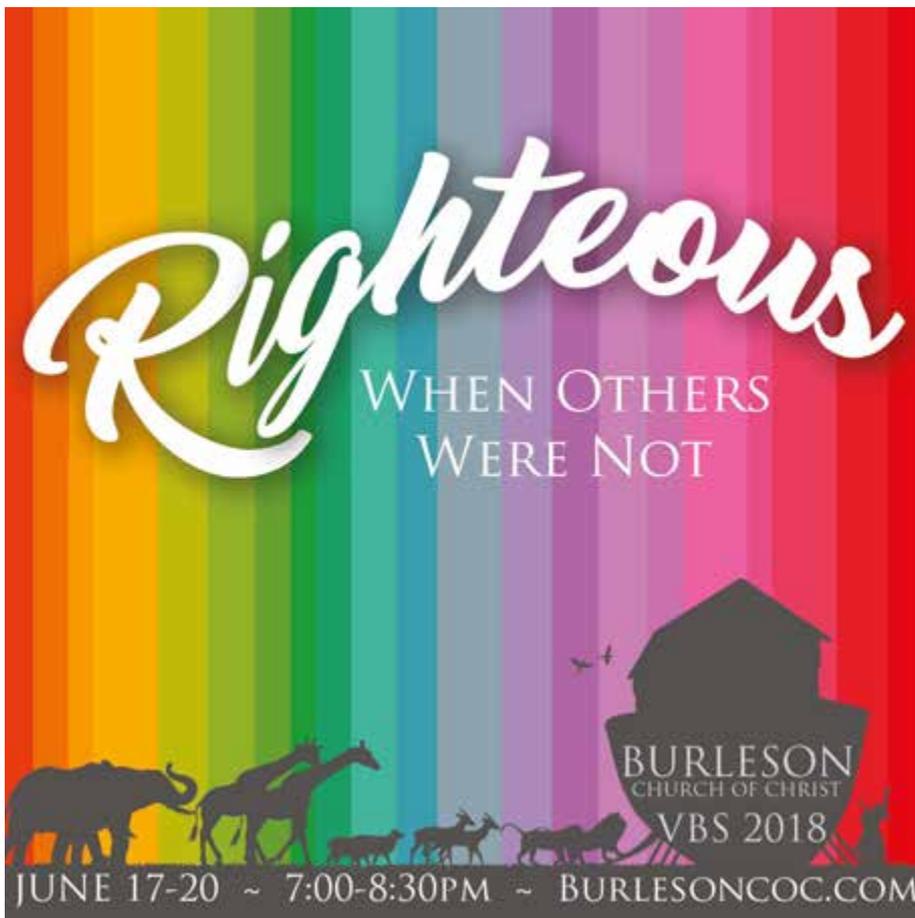
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K.T. was 19 at the time. He came to Burleson after 38 years with FWFD, where he reached the rank of deputy chief. He said he made battalion chief at age 30, which he believes is still the youngest ever.

He had no intention of coming to Burleson as he and his wife were looking forward to retirement in a few years. However, a friend put the thought in his mind to apply, and he said he simply could not dismiss it. "My friend kept coming back, telling me Burleson's a great department, and that it's growing," K.T. said. "I told him, 'I've already got more than I can say grace over.'"

Nonetheless, he promised his friend they would have a family meeting. He applied, and after some time passed with no notification, he figured someone else was chosen, so he and his wife began final preparations for a church mission trip out of the country. "I was about to call American Airlines to book my flight, and then the phone rang," he said. It was a call from Burleson to tell him he was among the final 10 candidates.

The department K.T. now leads does much more than fight fires. The Emergency Medical Services, for example, has transitioned to offering advanced life support, the highest rating possible. "Short of being a doctor in the field, we cannot provide any higher level of assistance to our





community,” K.T. said. “EMS is 72 percent of what we do, and this is consistent throughout the United States.”

K.T. and his department are also leading a coalition known as the Community Risk Reduction Program. This provides free drowning prevention lessons to youngsters and enforces bicycle helmet safety, along with making sure children in cars are buckled in properly, or in their car seats and not left unattended. Recently, Burlison Nissan and Honda of Burlison underwrote swim lessons for almost 300 second grade students. This year, the fire department is going to teach every employee of the city of Burlison, more than 400 in all, advanced CPR, so each can become certified. “I’ll bet a Coke there’s no other department that was volunteer 20 years ago and now has an ISO 1 rating,” K.T. said.

The department’s next big initiative is a Community Paramedic Program/ Mobile Integrated Health. Members of the department will go to citizens, much like doctors used to do when they made house calls, cutting down on 911 calls and heading off certain problems. “We’re working with Texas Health Resources Huguley (Hospital) and MedStar (Mobile Health Care) to identify people in the community with medical needs. We’ll go to those people,” he said. “Maybe all they need is somebody to check on them. It’s the right thing to do — people caring for people, in their homes, where most prefer to be. We’re a small department, but we’re like Special Forces. We’re well-trained and well-prepared.” **NOW**

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Magical C



At Home With t

Editor's Note: While preparations for this story were underway, BurlesonNOW Magazine learned of the untimely passing of Judy Jackson, who will be deeply missed by family and friends. In extending our heartfelt sympathy to Melvin, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, we trust the following story, which appears as originally written, will serve as a tribute to Judy's creative and generous nature and the love of family that was central to her life.



It's difficult to make a move in the home of Melvin and Judy Jackson without seeing something Melvin didn't build. In fact, he built the home itself, along with their daughter's house across the street. And Judy is quite creative herself. Her cooking is something to envy, particularly her jams and jellies.

The Jacksons moved into their 2,000-square-foot home on 12 acres in 1976. Even before guests step into the house, Melvin has stories to tell of the outside. "See that tree?" he said, pointing to a large live oak in the backyard. "We had a deer lease in Lampasas. In 1982, we had a hard freeze. I dug the tree up and moved it here."

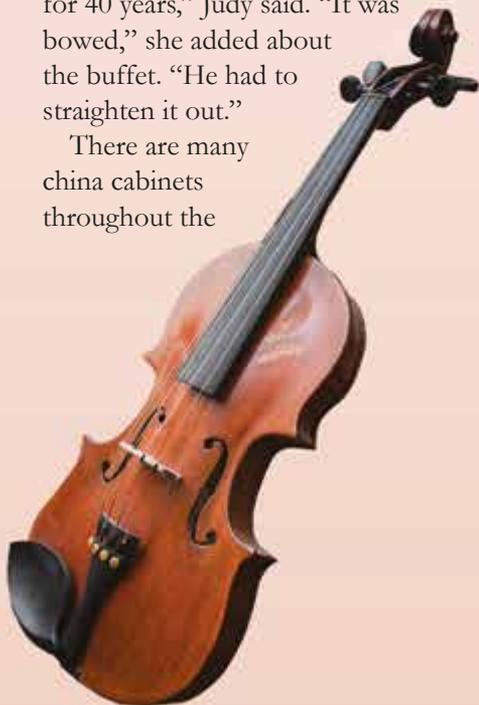


— By Rick Mauch

The Jacksons

Inside is a plethora of creations by Melvin. And while it is the result of hard work and much talent, those who see his creations get the feeling they've witnessed magic in the making. In the living room, an old buffet from an estate sale has been refurbished. It has two of the many clocks they collect sitting on top. "We've been collecting clocks for 40 years," Judy said. "It was bowed," she added about the buffet. "He had to straighten it out."

There are many china cabinets throughout the




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home. They hold Judy's collectibles, such as a bowl from Prussia that she said is the oldest piece in her collection. There's also some expensive Capodimote pieces from Italy, of which she's extremely proud. "When I see something pretty, I get it," Judy admitted. "Melvin said I don't have enough room, but I always find it."

That could be because Melvin is quite the handyman. If something new is needed in the house, odds are

he's going to provide it. "I started building things when I was about 20 years old," Melvin, now 75 (Judy is 73), said. "I've been doing it ever since."

Melvin and Judy have been married 57 years, after going to school together in Ennis. That's a lot of time to build a marriage, and a lot more — a lazy Susan made from an old cedar tree, benches and even the fireplace mantel — he built them all.

In the corner is an old spinning

wheel they found in an antique store. It was painted green before Melvin refinished it. "The grandkids play with it all the time. They love to roll it," Melvin said. Melvin and Judy had three girls. One passed away in a tractor accident several years ago. They have five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

One of the family's favorite gathering places is the shed. But, this is hardly like any other shed. Melvin's workshop is in one room,



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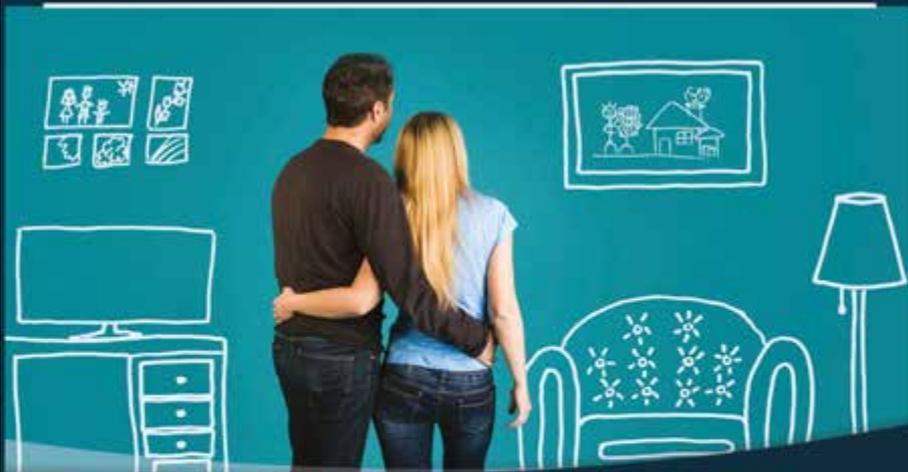
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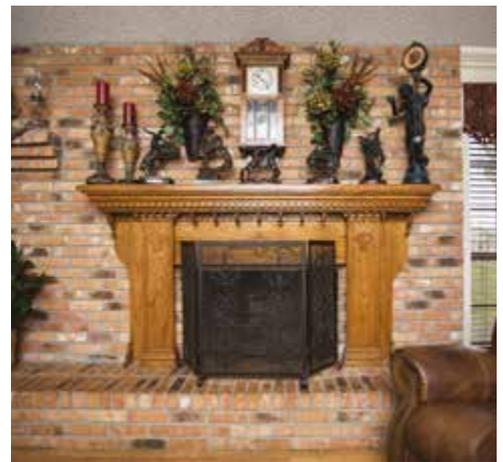


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and the other features a table made of pecan wood, two recliners, a sofa, an old church bench, two rockers, a mantel and lots of room to gather. Of course, Melvin handcrafted most of it, but there is a unique clock design on the wall that was their daughter's idea, made from old saws. There's another, smaller version in his workshop. "Our great-grandkids love to come out here and play," Judy said. "We all like to come out here and visit."

A small bronze statue resembling Wyatt Earp, displayed in the living room, has its own story. "My daughter got up and hit her head on it. She said, 'Oh, Wyatt Earp shot me,'" Judy laughed.

In the kitchen, there's another china cabinet they picked up for \$30. Once Melvin finished working on it, its worth grew to 10 times more than what was paid for it. Next to it are a table and some chairs that Judy said are about 100 years old, although you'd never know, thanks to Melvin.

Both are complemented by an old grandfather clock in the corner that is, likewise, about a century old. "I think they call it a black forest clock," Melvin said.

In the hallway, there's a very old, mirrored étagère. "They painted it black for the mourning of the king of England," Melvin said. Next to it is one of several tables throughout the house that he constructed from an old sewing machine. Above it is

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one of three antique telephones in the home resembling what one might find in Mayberry as Aunt Bee made a call to Andy.

An old gun case in the hallway now holds Judy's collection of cheese trays and butter dishes. "After he got a safe for his guns, he gave me that," Judy smiled.

In one bedroom is a hand-carved foot locker at the end of the bed, made by Melvin. There's an old secretary against the wall, and a cabinet holds Melvin's antique pocket watch collection.

Melvin also makes pens and violins and has refurbished a Russian guitar and a Tater Bug Mandolin. "A fiddle player told me one time you carry a violin in a violin case, and you carry a fiddle in a tow sack," Melvin said with a laugh. "My Grandpa built violins."

Their grandson took some violin lessons and even played one in church. "It was beautiful," he said.

In another bedroom is another cabinet. This one has perhaps Judy's most unique collection, items that feature a hand. "That's my hand collection," she said with a smile.

Back outside is the guest house. Once Melvin's workspace, it was refurbished years ago for their grandson to live in. (He has his own place now.) It has seating for up to a dozen people, a small wooden daybed in the corner, two refinished cabinets and a refinished trunk and table with four chairs done by Melvin, of course.

Not only are the Jacksons creative, they are generous. He's given away plenty of his creations over the years, especially to family. Same for Judy and her cooking. "I make peach, strawberry, plum and pear preserves. I can green beans, relishes — anything I can get my hands on I can, and I give a lot of it away," Judy said.

"We just enjoy the work," Melvin said, as Judy looked upon the knives he also created. "We like the fact that others get to enjoy it, too." **NOW**

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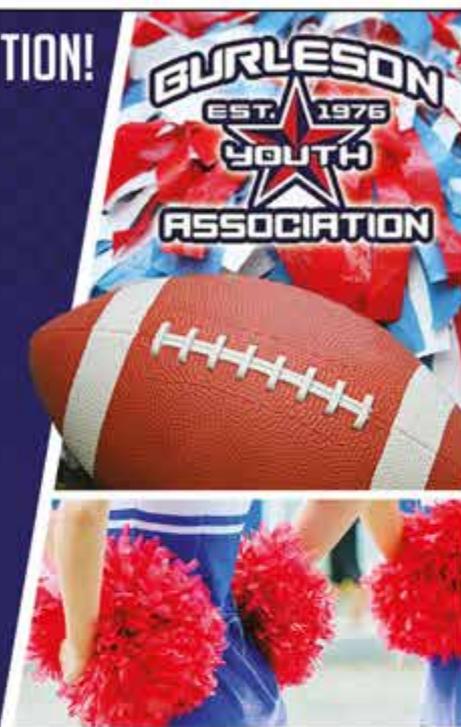
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IMPORTANT: All football (flag/tackle) must attend certification on 8/11 or 8/25 (times TBD). All players must attend a uniform fitting at in-person registration dates. Helmets may be purchased at uniform sizing for additional cost.

**Cannot be 13 as of 9/1/18 and cannot be in 7th grade.

Late Registration: Thursday, July 5th 6:30pm - 8:30pm, Saturday, July 7th 10am-2pm, Sunday, July 8th 1pm-3pm. All registrations after July 1st will incur a late fee.



For More Information: www.bya.org/football • Football: sam@bya.org • Cheer: shanrod@bya.org
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It Takes Two

— By Melissa Rawlins

“There’s a bear on my chair,” Judy Gorski said, reading from a children’s book held sideways and almost 2 feet away by a kindergartner. The little girl smiled at Judy, a 70-something woman who was as interested in the story as she was.

“Ooh ... better watch how he sits,” Judy commented, inserting her own thoughts into the reading lesson held in the Clinkscale Elementary School library. A boy to Judy’s right commented on a book he was reading, and Judy turned to him with a witty response. She turned back to Keeton, and told her what a pretty name she had — which made Keeton smile. As Judy handled two different students gracefully, Keeton remained amazed by how well Miss Judy read letters sideways.

Giving of her time twice a month to read to children, Judy’s outlook on life is as bright as theirs. Judy used to be a librarian in Oklahoma, and now helps youngsters alongside other residents of Mustang Creek Estates of Burleson, where Judy lives. Clinkscale’s counselor,

Jaree Sheeler, suggested this program in order to begin a partnership within the community benefiting both elementary students and residents of Mustang Creek.

“Besides providing another opportunity for students to increase their reading time and exposure to literature,” Jaree said, “the program provides the opportunity for social and emotional relationships that benefit both generations.” During their precious hours together, children learn from the elderly, who are in turn invigorated in the presence of children again.

“We are excited about the partnership with Clinkscale Elementary School and the opportunity to work with the amazing students and teachers,” Karen Jennings, Mustang Creek Estates’ executive director, said. “It is a privilege to work with the students on an ongoing basis. Our residents always look forward to spending time interacting with the children. Intergenerational activities are extremely beneficial because both generations can learn a lot from one another.”

Second-grader Zaden Sullivan counted on Judy for help reading some of the words he didn’t yet understand in a book he picked off the library shelves, *Fly Guy’s Amazing Tricks*. “I’ve helped some of the children sound out the bigger words,” Judy admitted.

She's also helped Cadence Gozdowski appreciate a book by one of her favorite authors, Dr. Seuss. "His books are fascinating to any child. It's because of the way the words sound," she said, adding that Dr. Seuss was already in publication when she began being a librarian.

Her daughter, Tricia Embrey, has lived in Burleson for 11 years and moved Judy here nearly four years ago from Lawton, Oklahoma. She reared five children while working in the schools there. "This is what she loves," Tricia said. "Helping the kids, being a librarian, was her thing.

"My mother has a million kids' books, and when they moved her to memory care, we couldn't take all the books with her," Tricia said. "I'm looking forward to her teaching my son, Kolton, to read when he's patient enough to sit in her lap."

Judy surprises the children at Clinkscale Elementary School frequently with her humor. "I think these kids can understand my jokes," she said. "You don't make them real tough. You make them kid friendly."

"What I really like about stories we read together is that they rhyme," Cadence said. She said she also loves Miss Judy. "When I first saw her, I thought she looked lonely and wanted to be her friend." Now they share a love for Dr. Seuss books together.

"The water is blue and the birds are awake ... think, think and wonder, wonder, and think, *How much water can 55 elephants drink?*" Judy read. Cadence smiled and nodded as she meditated on the question.

When the reading session ended, Cadence said, "Well, maybe I'll see you next time." And then she hugged Judy. "Thank you for coming over. Bye."

"Bye, Sweetie," Judy said.

"I hope other kids give you a hug, too!"

"I hope so, too." **NOW**

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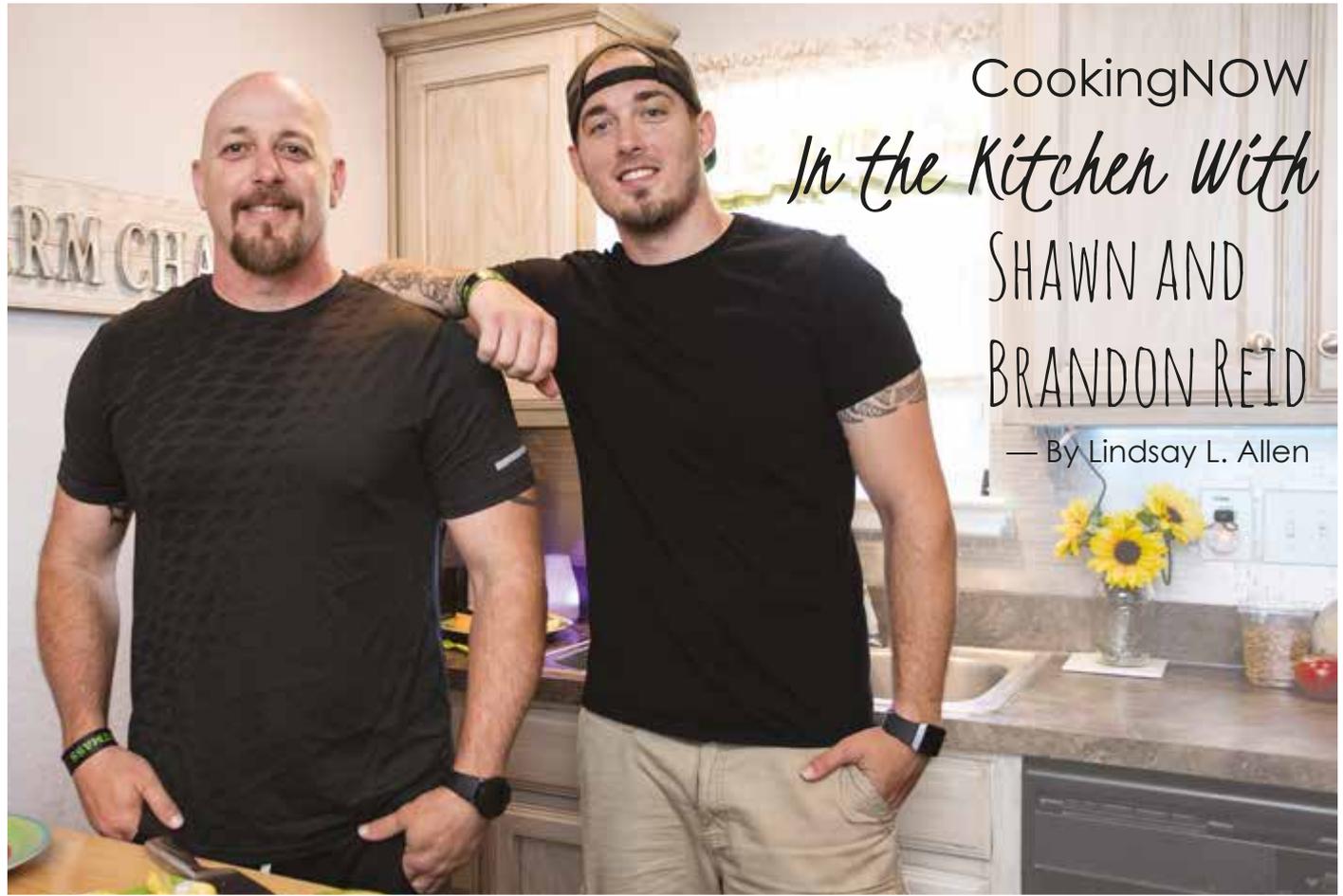
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CookingNOW
In the Kitchen With
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 BRANDON REID

— By Lindsay L. Allen

Shawn and Brandon Reid are a father/son duo that can out lift and out cook the best of them. Personal trainers by profession, they have learned their way around the kitchen and enjoy cooking healthy options for their family. “Nutritious, clean eating is what I aim for,” Shawn said. “I try to find foods that keep us full and are good, clean carbs and proteins, while utilizing good fats for our bodies.”

For Brandon, grilling is his favorite, but preparing food wasn’t always easy. “I burned macaroni and cheese the first two times I made it. But my dad has been my teacher when it comes to cooking and grilling, and I can’t wait to teach my daughter how to make a mean grilled cheese.” NOW

Marinated Skirt Steak

- 2 Tbsp. lite soy sauce
- 1 Tbsp. plus 1 tsp. Agave
- 1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 Tbsp. dried oregano
- 1 Tbsp. grape seed oil
- Fresh black pepper, to taste
- 1 lb. skirt steak, trimmed of any excess fat

1. Combine all ingredients, except for the steak, in a small bowl; whisk together.
2. Add the steak; marinate up to 24 hours in the refrigerator.
3. Remove steak from the refrigerator about half an hour before you are ready to grill.

4. Preheat grill to a medium-high heat. Once the grill is nice and hot, grill steak for about 4 minutes on the first side, and then flip and grill for another 3 minutes for a medium-rare steak.

Grilled Spicy Shrimp With Lime

- 3/4 tsp. sea salt
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. curry powder
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1/8 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 lbs. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- Cooking spray or 1 Tbsp. butter

- 2-3 limes
- Fresh cilantro, to taste

1. Mix together the salt, paprika, cumin, curry powder, cayenne and cinnamon. Sprinkle over shrimp and toss to combine.
2. Preheat grill on medium heat and spray with cooking spray to prevent shrimp from sticking.
3. Thread shrimp on skewers; place on grill for 1-2 minutes, until pink. Turn over; cook an additional 30 seconds to 1 minute, depending on how you like them. If you wish to pan fry in a large skillet, melt about 1 Tbsp. light butter over medium-high heat. Add shrimp and cook, stirring occasionally for about 3-5 minutes. Shrimp should be opaque throughout.
4. Squeeze lime juice over top; garnish with chopped cilantro, if desired.

Tomato Jalapeño Salmon Burgers

- 2 cans wild caught pink or red salmon, or 2 lbs. fresh salmon
- 2 Tbsp. tomato paste
- 1/4 cup scallions, chopped
- 2 eggs
- 1 Tbsp. coconut flour

- 1/2 jalapeño, seeds removed and finely chopped
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1/2 tsp. Himalayan sea salt, or more to taste
- 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes, or more to taste (optional)

1. Combine all ingredients. Mix well; form into 4 patties.
2. Heat grill to 350 F or a cast-iron skillet until hot. Grease and place burgers on heated surface to cook.
3. Let cook 3-5 minutes on each side; serve with toppings like guacamole, roasted red peppers, lettuce, tomato, onion and scallions.

Paleo and Nut Free Crispy Chicken Strips

- 1/2 cup tapioca flour
- 1/4 cup ground flaxseed
- 1/4 cup coconut flour
- Dash Himalayan sea salt
- Dash freshly ground pepper
- 2 organic, pasture-raised eggs
- 1 lb. organic chicken breasts

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. In a bowl, combine first 5 ingredients.
2. In a separate bowl, whisk together eggs.
3. Dip sliced chicken breasts into egg; dredge in flour mixture. Repeat until all the chicken is coated.
4. Place chicken on a lined baking sheet. Bake approximately 45 minutes, flipping halfway through, until crispy and golden but juicy in the center.

Skinny Dark Chocolate Pomegranate Hazelnut Fudge

- Coconut oil, enough to grease pan
- 8 oz. dark chocolate, melted
- 3/4 cup coconut oil
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/2 cup almond butter
- 1/3 cup hazelnuts, chopped
- 1/2 cup dry cranberries
- 1/4 cup pomegranates

1. Grease an 8x8-inch glass pan with coconut oil.
2. Put dark chocolate in a large bowl; microwave for 30 seconds at a time, stirring after each time until it is melted.
3. Add coconut oil, honey, almond butter, hazelnuts and dry cranberries; stir until smooth.
4. Pour fudge mixture into greased pan, sprinkle top with pomegranates.
5. Place in a refrigerator for 2-3 hours; slice and serve.



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Mansfield Glass and Windows

— By Adam Walker

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Jimmy and Rhonda Jones have been serving the glass and window needs of Mansfield, and the surrounding area, at Mansfield Glass and Windows since 2009. This locally owned business was started in downtown Mansfield in 2000, and Jimmy and Rhonda purchased it in 2009. As Mansfield grew, so did Mansfield Glass and Windows. They outgrew two locations before purchasing their current property and building a facility with plenty of room for growth. The

Joneses enjoy living in the community where they work and serving their friends and neighbors. “We aren’t just selling glass here. We are building relationships. We’re part of the community. We live here. Our kids are in school here,” Jimmy explained. “We want good relationships with our customers when we run into them at the grocery store.”

Mansfield Glass and Windows specializes in replacement windows, shower enclosures, mirrors, tabletops and other household glass applications. If you need new replacement windows, have a foggy insulated window or are looking for the shower of your dreams, they’ve got you covered.

They also do light commercial glass, such as storefront doors and windows, and glass walls for conference rooms or tops for large conference tables, like the one where they meet with customers in their glass-enclosed conference room. “Mansfield ISD keeps us busy with replacing windows

near the end of the school year. The students get a little excited around that time,” Jimmy said with a chuckle.

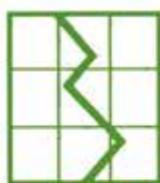
“We only hire the best, experienced employees, and we train our new employees to a high level of expertise,” Jimmy said. “We really emphasize customer service. We have three front-desk people, because we never want a call to go to voice mail. We treat all our customers the same, whether it’s a \$10 job or a \$3,000 project. And we tell our techs to leave a place cleaner than when they arrived.”

“You can trust us with your panes” isn’t just a slogan. It’s a promise. Their technicians are trained in customer service and get lots of compliments on the cleanliness and quality of their installs. “Jimmy is a very hands-on owner,” Rhonda said. “He does installs right alongside his guys. And all of our installers know that.”

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In addition to regular clear glass, the team at Mansfield Glass and Windows offers various patterned glass options. One such option is antique glass made to match that slightly warped look of vintage windows found in old Victorian houses. Another is glass patterned like rain. Numerous other options, from ridges to leaves, are designed to obscure the view, while still letting in light. These options are just right for cabinet doors or shower enclosures.

Whatever your window or other glass needs may be, Jimmy and Rhonda Jones and the rest of the Mansfield Glass and Windows team are ready and eager to help you. From the front desk to the install team, they want to provide a great product and a great customer experience. **NOW**



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TravelNOW Cultural Attraction

— By Andrea Panozzo

For a slice of Americana, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, beckons Texans with family fun, outdoor adventure, live music, shopping, museums and history. Enriched culture, ever-growing culinary and brewery scenes, beautiful art and a variety of sports entertainment are all within visitors' reach. Driving northeast from Fort Worth will take almost 16 hours and about \$150 in fuel. Or, the Eastern Iowa Airport is 9 miles from Cedar Rapids, where cultural immersion is easy, thanks to a community proud of its heritage.

For many years, Czech was commonly spoken in Cedar Rapids, and today, more people of Czech ancestry live in Cedar Rapids than in any other city in the world, except for the Czech capital of Prague. It is a proud aspect of Cedar Rapids culture, and the history is expressed through extraordinary

exhibitions and experiences at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The museum isn't the only representation of the Czech culture. Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District was voted Best Cultural Attraction by the *Corridor Business Journal* in 2017 and was a 2016 Great American Main Street Award semi-finalist. It is home not only to incredible artists and world-class museums, but also some of the best dining, shopping and entertainment in the area.

One fantastic shopping area in the district is NewBo City Market, a year-round indoor farmers market. Visitors can taste local cuisine and brews and support local artistry, all while experiencing a unique and fun atmosphere.

One of Cedar Rapids' most famous local artists, Grant

Wood, got his start here. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art holds the largest collection of his works. The classic art piece, *American Gothic*, was painted in his studio home in 1930. His studio is located near downtown Cedar Rapids and is available to visitors on weekends from April through December.

Another historic landmark is the Brucemore Estate, former home to several history makers who played a large role in Cedar Rapids' factory industries, including Quaker Oats. The estate was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1981, and today 43,000 people are drawn to the site every year. Brucemore Estate hosts signature events for the public, like the poolside Tahitian Party, Balloon Glow in the summer, Brucemorchestra in the fall and A Modern Salon in the winter. The house and incredible gardens are open for tours throughout the year.

Hundreds of other parks allow for escape into nature. Indian Creek Nature Center's grounds and trails are explorable at no charge. Families can hike scenic trails, see a concert in the amphitheater, participate in a yoga class or let their children play in the outdoor classroom.

Throughout spring and summer, visitors can join residents cheering on their Cedar Rapids Kernels baseball team, the Minor League affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, playing at the single A level. Fans get to experience firsthand future MLB talent, as top prospects from all over the world play for and against the Kernels. There are also hockey, indoor football and soccer teams competing in the winter.

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Photos by Liz Zabel, GO Cedar Rapids.



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RV There Yet?

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

You may be thinking about getting a new ride before your family heads on its ultimate adventure. Whether you just need a vehicle to get to your destination, or you are thinking of having the RV experience this year, here are some tips to keep in mind before you head to the dealership.

The Best Type for You

- *Compact vs. Roomy* — If you are just looking at getting a simple sedan, the main decision is two-door or four-door. If you have kids, a compact car with limited legroom in the back may not be the best choice. But, if you just need something to get to work and back, a compact car is often cheaper and offers better fuel efficiency.

- *Minivan vs. SUV* — If you have a big family or tend

to drive a lot of people around town, you probably need something that seats seven or eight people. While minivans are sometimes thought of as uncool, their sliding doors and lower access make them more convenient than bulkier sports-utility vehicles. If you need the space but not necessarily the seating, an SUV or even a pickup truck may be the ideal choice for you.

If the Car is More Than a Car

While alternative accommodation options like Airbnb have given travelers more choices than ever, many people still love the freedom of having a vehicle that doubles as lodging. If you are looking for the perfect RV, here are the questions you should ask:

- *Pull vs. Drive* — While there are many specific choices, the first decision to make is whether you want something

that attaches to a vehicle, or if you want to buy a larger unit that is a vehicle in and of itself. Motor homes vary in size, but they are self-contained houses that sleep any number of people, while fifth wheels and bumper pulls attach to trucks, and even small cars, in some cases, and tend to be less expensive on average.

• *Fifth Wheel vs. Bumper Tow* — Fifth wheel RVs are a specific type of trailer that use a sophisticated system to hitch to the entire bed of a pickup truck. Because of their attachment method, they tend to be bigger than other towable RVs. But there are varied sizes available for those who want to tow from a bumper hitch. Some of the smallest pop-up campers can actually trail a sedan, though most RVs will still require a decent-sized truck for the towing power they afford.

• *A vs. B vs. C* — If you decide to go the route of a true motor home, there are three classes, A, B and C. Type A is the largest and, understandably, the most expensive, but it offers more sleeping accommodations. Type B is essentially a larger version of a minivan, with sleeping enough for a small family. Type C is smaller than type A but, typically, offers sleeping space over the driver's area, similar to the way type B does.

While there are no special license requirements for operating an RV, you will want to practice driving such a large vehicle before heading out on the open road for the first time. If you opted against a motor home, be sure you have all the necessary hitches, light hookups and the registration needed to tow from your vehicle. This summer could be the perfect time to take your family on the road trip of a lifetime, so be prepared and get the perfect vehicle to meet your family's needs. **NOW**

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Cheryl deMeyere dreams of the beach while making a mosaic at her daughter's store in Old Town Burleson.

Zoomed In: James Neel

By Melissa Rawlins

When Academy at Nola Dunn student James Neel, 5, was sworn in as Burleson Chief of Police for the Day, he spent the morning with Chief Billy Cordell and BPD officers. While in the Chief's office, James looked around and thought, "Chief Cordell is very good at keeping his things picked up, and he has a cuddly bear just like the one he gave me that I named Chief Cuddly."

While his hero has always been his daddy, James now highly respects all police officers. James learned all about their vehicles from Officer Bauereisen and received lessons on SWAT gear and motorcycles from Officers Wickman and Martin. Sometimes playing cops and robbers at home, James always prefers to be the cop. "SWAT officers have a special job," he said. "I'd rather have the SWAT vehicle, but I like the lights and sirens on the police car. Maybe, I could have both!"



Old Texas Brewery's Tayler Sheehan serves Bricoleur Vintage Home's owner, Terry Sjotvedt, during a monthly meeting of Old Town Business Association, facilitated by Monica Sheehan, studio manager of Painting with a Twist.



Rosa Vasquez and Anna Rivera enjoy dinner with Kyndra Christopher, their ESL teacher at Joshua United Methodist Church.



Business owners and city leaders gather at the annual Crowley Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Luncheon.



Two of Burleson's beautiful ambassadors, Ruth Turner and Ruth Moor, meet up at a BACC event at First United Methodist Church.



Annie, a Russian-bred, English-creme, Golden Retriever, gets gentle praise from her owner, Steve Sullivan, after their mission inside Lowe's.



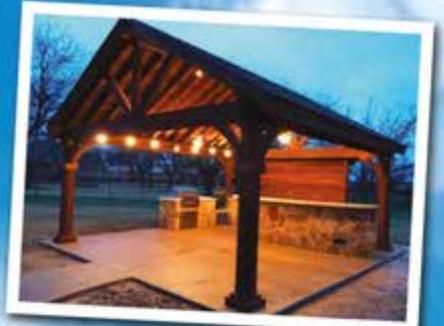
Taylor Perkey serves a freshly made mocha to Cassadie Dobson.



The Rev. Tom Echols Sr. renovates his shed with help from his son, Tom Echols Jr.

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Calendar

June

1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Hot Sounds of Summer: 7:30 p.m., Old Town. Free fun as the sun goes down. **First Friday**, Memphis Soul; **second**, Charlie Robison; **third**, China Town; **fourth**, Me and My Monkey; **fifth**, Live80. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic or eat at one of the restaurants in Old Town. For more details, call (817) 426-9622.

2

Market on Main: 8:00 a.m.-noon, 106 E. 12th St. Joshua Farmer's Market invites your family to support local artisans, crafters, musicians, bakers, canners and farmers. marketonmain@joshuachamber.com.

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-in: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, Midlothian. (972) 923-0080 or www.mid-wayregional.com.



Vive! Ensemble: 7:30 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St., Mansfield. The Applause Music Concert Series is free. For more details, visit ApplauseMF.org.

5

OTBA Mixer: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Moontower Pizza Bar, 137 S. Wilson. Learn about the value of membership in Old Town Business Association

while tasting what just might be the world's largest pizza. (817) 426-9638.

6, 13, 20, 27

Summer Reading Program: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Crowley Recreation Center, 405 S. Oak St. Crowley Public Library hosts *Music with Lizza Connor* the first Wednesday, *The Pipdilly's* on the second, *Wildlife on the Move* on the third and *Slappy & Monday* on the fourth. Registration is required. Contact Teresa Copeland, children's librarian, (817) 297-6707.

8

All Star Equestrian Foundation Golf Tournament: 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Hidden Creek Golf Course. Support therapeutic horseback riding for special needs riders and disabled veterans. (817) 477-1437.



9

Second Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Old Town Burleson. Find great deals at participating retailers, who pledge to give a portion of Second Saturday's proceeds to a local charity. (817) 426-9622.

Benefit Concert for Harvest House: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Dwell, 217 W. Renfro St. Enjoy music by David Tribble. jennifer@yourharvesthouse.org.

10 — 13

Shipwrecked: **Sunday**, 10:00 a.m.-noon and 5:30-8:30 p.m.; **Monday**,

Tuesday and **Wednesday**, 9:00 a.m.-noon. Victory Family Church, 455 N.W. John Jones Dr. Vacation Bible school. Free. (817) 447-2667.

12

Business After Hours: 5:30-7:00 p.m., Mustang Creek Estates. Enjoy relaxed networking and find out whose business you can help grow. For more details, call (817) 295-6121.

19

Roots & Branches Genealogy Club meeting: 7:00-8:00 p.m., Burleson Senior Activity Center. Free. Call (817) 426-9550 for details.

22

Casino Night and Auction: 6:30-11:00 p.m., Crowley Recreation Center, 405 S. Oak St., Crowley. RSVP to terri@crowleyareachamber.org.



27

Nefarious Deeds: 6:30 p.m., Burleson Public Library. Free presentation by Gina Bombola, Ph.D., Lecturer in Musicology at Texas Christian University, on the topic of how Hollywood film studios use music as a tool to distinguish between various movie villain "types." (817) 426-9600.

30

Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast: 7:00-10:00 a.m., 209 N. Magnolia

St., Crowley. For more information, contact Jim Hirth, (817) 297-1942.

July

3

Independence Day Celebration:
6:30 p.m., Owl Stadium, Joshua.
Food trucks. Children's parade. Free.
info@joshuachamber.com.



Ongoing:

Second Tuesdays
Burleson Heritage Foundation meeting:
7:00-8:30 p.m., Burleson Heritage

Visitors Center, 124 W. Ellison. Call
(817) 447-1575 for more information.

Second Wednesdays

Burleson Area Recreational Cyclists:
7:00 p.m., Spokes Bicycles & Service,
111 S. Wilson St. Contact Dave
Garrett, (817) 447-3505.

Thursdays

Take Off Pounds Sensibly: 5:30 p.m.,
United Methodist Church, Room 203,
Education Building, 114 Paula, Joshua.
Contact Kay Gray, (817) 239-8307.

Second Thursdays

American Legion Post 235 meeting:
6:00 p.m., Community Room,
Burleson Police Department. Contact
R. J. Niznik, Adjutant. (609)-220-2721.

Third Thursdays

Burleson Breast Cancer Support
Group: 6:00 p.m., Pathway Care

Ministries, 250 N.W. Tarrant Ave.,
Suite L. Contact Nedra Lamar,
(817) 915-5529.

Saturdays

Burleson Farmer's Market: 8:00 a.m.-
noon, 217 W. Renfro St. Bring your
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Third Saturdays

VFW Post 6872 Breakfast: 9:00
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Should You Make Extra Mortgage Payments or Boost Your Investments?

Every month, you pay your mortgage. And, depending on your circumstances, you may be able to afford to put in additional payments — perhaps sizable ones. But should you? Or, if you really have the extra money, should you invest it?

Initially, you might think it would be quite nice to rid yourself of that mortgage sooner, rather than later. But is it really the burden it seems?

Actually, you get some real benefits from a mortgage. It certainly provides something of great value to you — your home. If you got your mortgage — or refinanced your home — within the past decade or so, you are borrowing money at a pretty favorable interest rate, by historical standards. And even assuming a mild rate of inflation, such as we've had for the past several years, you'll essentially be paying off your mortgage with cheaper and cheaper dollars over time. Plus, your interest payments may well be tax deductible. (The new tax laws limit deductions on new mortgages of \$750,000 or more. For questions on your specific situation, consult your tax professional.)

So, given these advantages, an argument could be made that you should be in no hurry to pay off your mortgage. Still, you might be tempted to make the extra payments because you'll be building home equity. After all,

isn't this equity valuable? It is — to a degree. The larger your home equity, the more money you'll get to keep when you eventually sell your home.

But in the meantime, that home equity may be less useful than you might imagine. For one thing, just building more equity won't make your home more valuable. It will rise (or fall) in value, along with whatever's happening in the housing market. By contrast, you could take the extra money and buy more shares in an investment, such as stocks, and the more shares you own, the more valuable your investment will be if the price per share rises.

Also, if you were to experience a temporary job loss or some other financial emergency, your home equity might not help you much. If you're not working, you could even have trouble getting a home equity loan. Conversely, your investment portfolio can offer you greater liquidity, depending on your specific investments. Most investment vehicles, such as stocks and bonds, generally can be sold quickly, without much difficulty. (Keep in mind, though, that if you were forced to sell investments when their price was down, you could take a loss on the sale.)

Clearly, you could gain some advantages by using any extra money to invest, rather than paying down your mortgage. Nonetheless, you may simply get emotional and psychological satisfaction by speeding your progress toward the day when your house is paid off — and that type of satisfaction certainly has value. You'll need to weigh these intangible factors carefully in deciding whether to increase your investments or make extra mortgage payments — because, ultimately, you need to feel that you're doing the right thing for the right reasons. **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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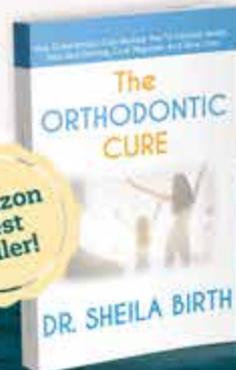


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