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JUNE 2026



Set to Go

Chloe Sims is courting success

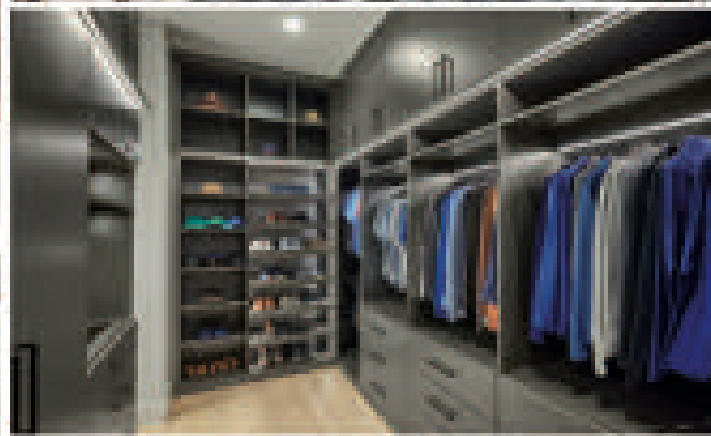
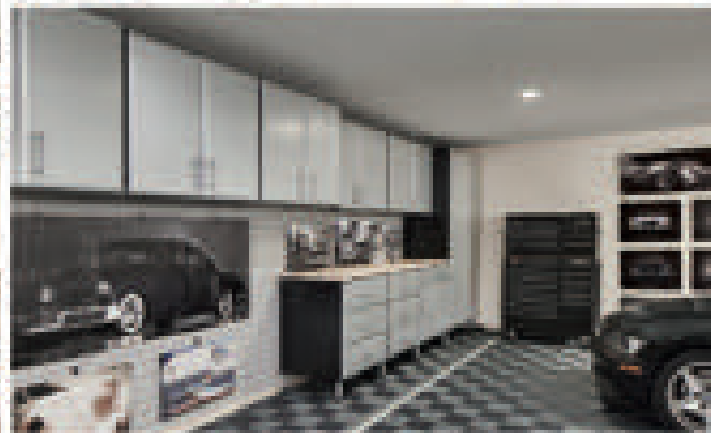
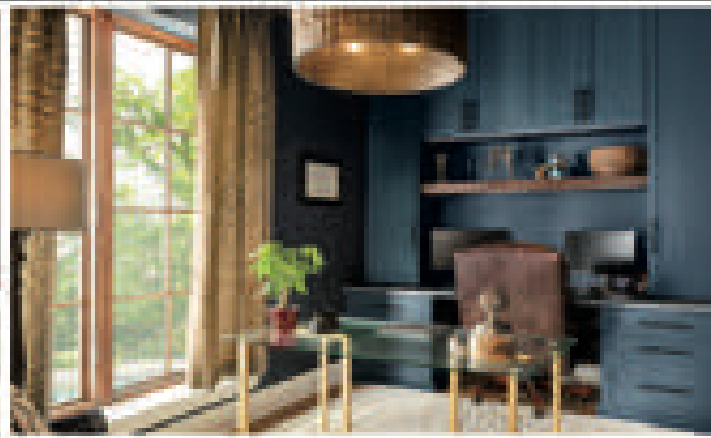
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Waxahachie
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Law Office Pug: Not An Actor

June 2026
Volume 23, Issue 6



Adam Walker

WaxahachieNOW Editor
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ON THE COVER

Chloe Sims is ready to ace her future.



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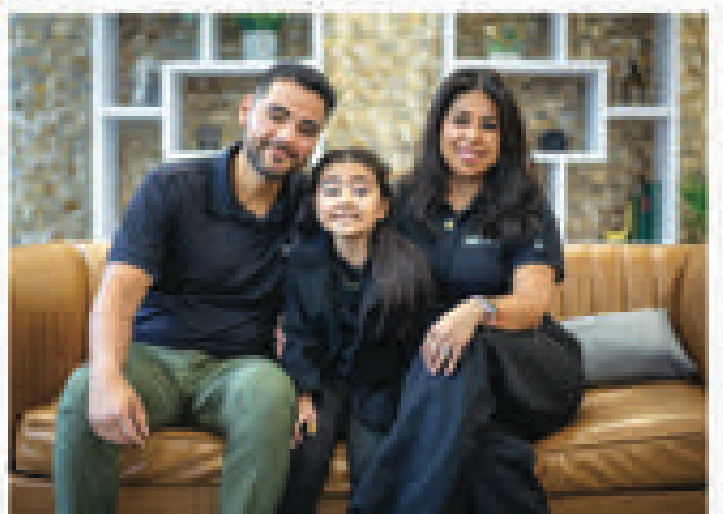
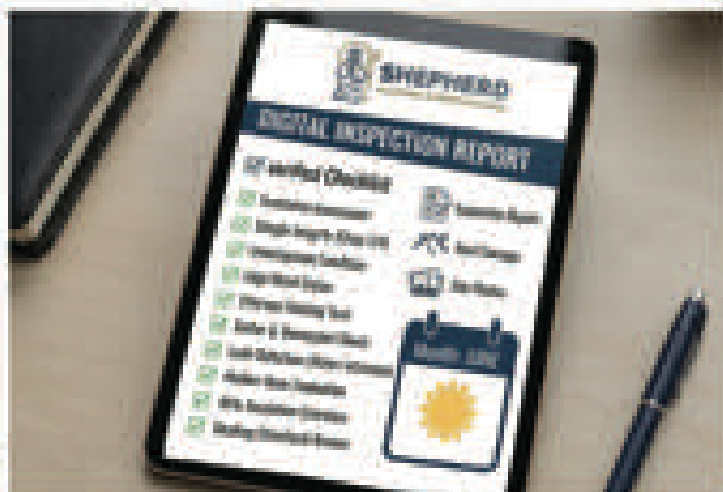
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SET TO

— By Adam Walker

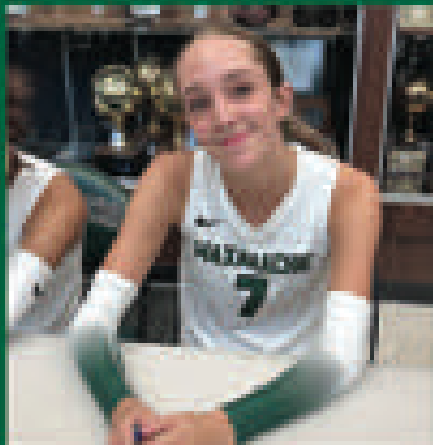
Chloe Sims, a 6-foot-2-inch sophomore at Waxahachie High School, lives for volleyball. "I play volleyball, and that's pretty much all I do," she reported. Only that's not quite true. She also maintains good grades and holds down an after-school job in her free time between out-of-state tournaments and driving to Denton County for practices.

Chloe plays outside for the Waxahachie Indians, the primary offensive player who gets set most of the time. She plays right-side, the player behind the setter, for Excel, her club team in Carrollton. "I love the chaos," she said. "I've been playing volleyball

since fifth grade. I tried was the sport I fell in love with. I've been doing this basically half my life. I really do love this. I wouldn't do it if I didn't. I'm trying to play in college. Next month, I can start talking to schools."

Her dad, Miles, is very proud of his daughter's accomplishments. "USA Volleyball is the Olympic organization, and they oversee the club tournaments. There are six levels of competition. Chloe plays in the 16-open division, which is the top level for club teams. There are thousands of players at these tournaments, but only a couple hundred at this top level. She'll be playing at Nationals in Indianapolis in June."

At school, her last period of the day is volleyball. "The Indians practice for two hours. Then I either go to work from 4:30 to 7:00, or I drive to Carrollton and practice with Excel for two to two-and-a-half hours," she said. "Every day is either work or volleyball, so I try to get all my homework done at school, during study hall. I'm in practice 10 to 15 hours a week.



GO

When tournaments are coming up, that's 20 hours." When she has tournaments during club season, Chloe may be traveling for three or four days at a time. "I have lots of makeup work at school!" That may seem like a lot for a sophomore to handle, but to Chloe, it's just normal. "Like I said, I've been doing this since so honestly, it would seem weird if I didn't have that much going on."

She may travel a lot, but she's glad she lives here. "North Texas has the best volleyball players in the country. The clubs around here have the best girls from all the high schools. North Texas is the best region to be in," she said.

Her dad agreed. "At national

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“Volleyball is 90 percent mental and 10 percent skill. If you’re not there mentally, you let the whole team down,” Chloe explained. “It’s not like baseball, where you can mess up, but one of your teammates will go in and score. In volleyball, everyone has to be good at the same time. I like to watch a lot of volleyball. It’s inspiring to watch other people play. I like how technical and mental this game is. If you’re serving bad, you’re going to lose the game. Everyone has to be on point. One player with a bad attitude or having a bad game can bring everyone down.”

Relationships are a big part of Chloe’s love for the game. “One of my favorite things is the people. Lifelong friendships make it 10 times more enjoyable. I met my best friends and we’re still best friends because of volleyball. I have friends all over the country. They get my schedule. They understand this life, because they’re in it, too.”

Chloe isn’t really sure what she wants to major in at college. She’s keeping her options open. “I’ve talked about it with my dad, but I still have two years to decide. I’m just focused on getting into college first. I’m not sure after,” she shared. Whatever it is, it won’t be coaching volleyball. “Oh, no! I’m not trying to coach. I don’t have the patience for that. I can play, but I can’t coach.”

While there are colleges she’s more interested in playing for, she can’t talk about it yet. “It’s not like in some other sports. In volleyball, everything has to stay on the down-low until after you commit with a school.” At some of her tournaments, there may be 20 coaches from different colleges in the bleachers, watching her and her teammates play. After June 15, those coaches can begin talking to Chloe, and she to them. Big decisions await this young lady, and the promise of a bright future calls. She says she isn’t interested in the Olympics, but who knows? **NOW**

tournaments, she will often be from North Texas. We travel all over the country for Chloe to end up playing the same teams from the Dallas area that she plays against at home!”

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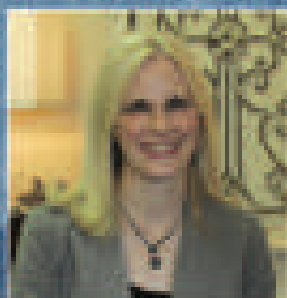
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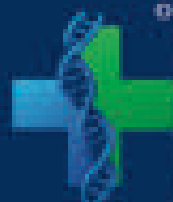
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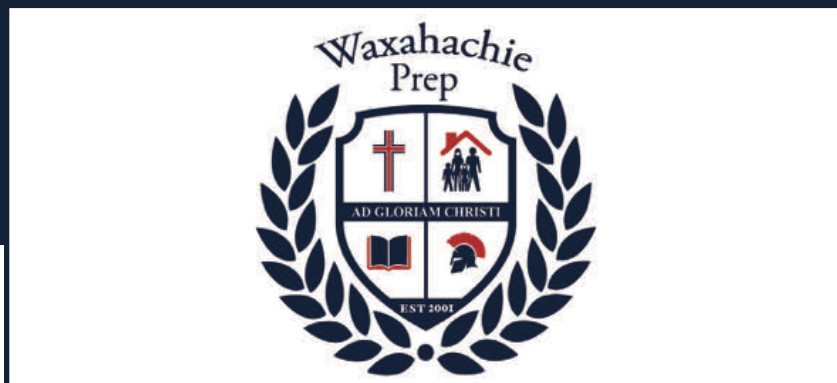
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that combines the homeschooling with the structure, accountability and opportunities of a traditional private school.

The academy serves students in grades K-12. Elementary students attend classes on campus two days a week, while junior high and high school students attend three days a week, completing additional coursework at home with parental guidance.

For the first time Waxahachie Prep is on the verge of having its very own campus!" Head of School Brig Thompson revealed. "Land has been acquired, and now funds are being raised to construct a new and permanent campus home. This has been a long time coming and after years of praying. We have outgrown every church

campus that has allowed us to lease space from them, including our current campus, Pathway Church on Brown Street. The future is bright, and we are excited to be on the precipice of a new era of Kingdom impact at Waxahachie Prep.”

The uniqueness of how the academy operates is governed by its Four Core Pillars: Spiritual Growth, Healthy Families, Rigorous Academics and an Active School Culture. These pillars drive what the school regards as the “Three-Legged Stool” — the close partnership and active relationship between the home, the local church and the school. School leaders describe the model as preserving strong family relationships while preparing students for college and life beyond graduation.

Waxahachie Preparatory Academy is accredited by both Cognia and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Teachers at the academy hold advanced degrees and are dually accredited by both the State of Texas and ACSI. This dual accreditation ensures that students receive education that meets both state standards and excellence criteria set by Christian schools. The academy offers honors, AP and dual-credit opportunities through its Prep+ program, giving students access to advanced coursework while maintaining a biblical worldview.

Beyond academics, students participate in athletics, arts, clubs, retreats and service opportunities designed to build leadership and community involvement. The school competes in TAPPS athletics and offers activities ranging from STEM clubs and yearbook to drama and National Honor Society.

Waxahachie Preparatory Academy offers a proven model backed by 25 years of success. School leadership is focused on expanding opportunities for students while maintaining the close-knit, family-centered culture of the school since its founding. Contact Cory Lucas at the school for more information about enrollment and how the collegiate-hybrid model might benefit your child.

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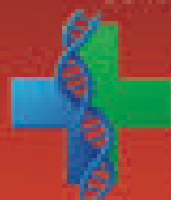
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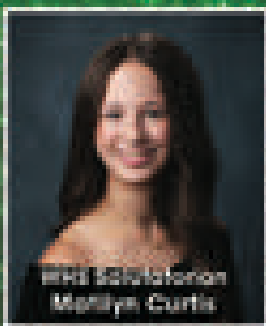
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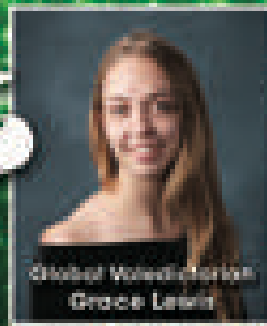
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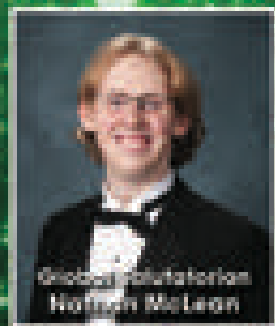
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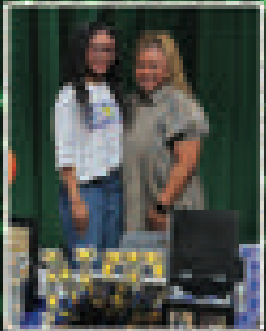
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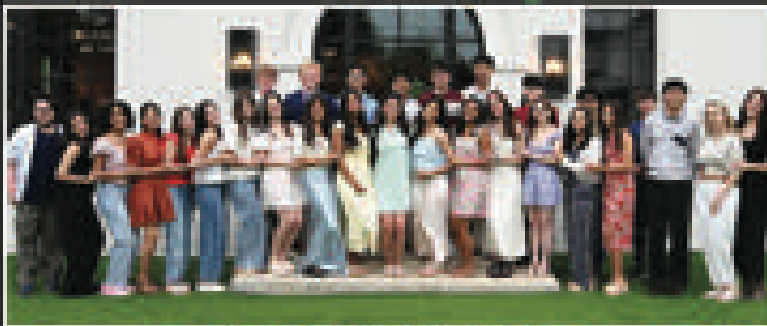
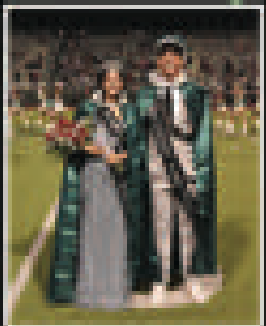
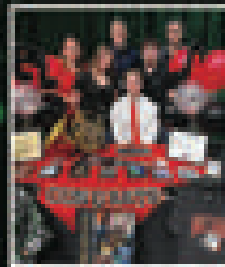
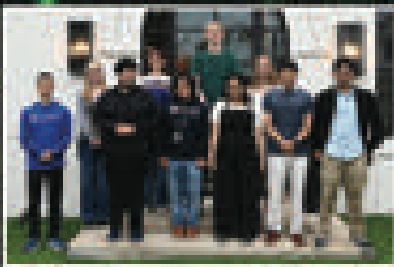
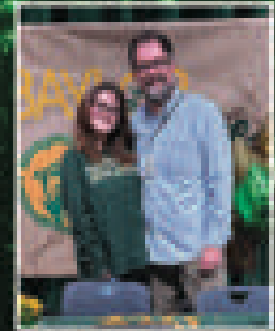
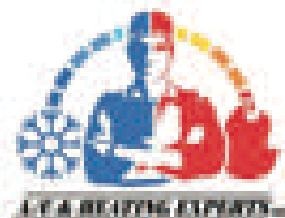


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Cord Jay Photography

Photos by Ami Trull for WSD





Zoomed In: Charlotte Pless

By Adam Walker

Charlotte Pless was sitting outside The Crafty Scrapper, on the square, selling her book, *Come Find Me: A Love Forgotten and Remembered*. "My friend owns this store, so she lets me set my table up here to sell my book outside. I'm a member of Write On! Waxahachie. They meet at the library every Wednesday. They helped me so much with critiquing my writing."

Her book is a memoir of her life. "My husband passed away from lung cancer in 1999," she shared. "The last thing he said to me was, 'We've been through enough to write a book!' We met in 1970. Then in 1973, he suffered a traumatic head injury in a car wreck and forgot me. Eventually he remembered me, and we were married for 25 years."



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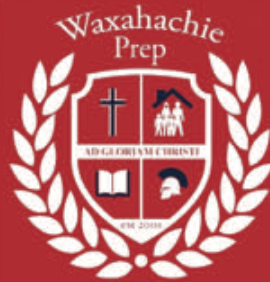
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Zoomed In: Jewel Price

By Adam Walker

Jewel Price works at the circulation desk at Sims Library, where she always has a smile and a story for patrons. "I've lived in Waxahachie for 40 years," she said. "I've been at the library for seven-and-a-half years. Before that, I was a nurse for 37 years. And before that, I got a business degree from what's now Nelson University and worked for several different companies. I love books and people, so this is perfect for me."

Jewel brings a unique skill to her work. Sometimes books go missing, when someone puts a book back on the wrong shelf. "My specialty is finding lost books and figuring out where they've gone. People call me 'Sherlock' because I'm so good at it!"



Kim and Mitch Martin sell yummy treats at the Farmers Market.



Juliette Lex and her daddy, James, bring a bandana so she can be a real cowgirl.



Readers visit Wyrd and Wand for the Ellis County Bookstore Crawl.



Alyssa Tamyó and Lindsey Thompson grab lunch at Farm Luck.



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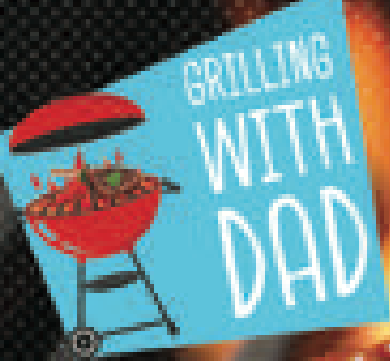
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Father's Day is the perfect occasion to fire up the grill and treat Dad to a special meal that shows how much you appreciate him. These smoky, savory recipes will give you the chance to take over the grill, and make his day truly memorable. **NOW**

Grilled Jalapeño Poppers

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
1/2 tsp. garlic powder
12 jalapeño peppers, halved and seeded
12 bacon strips, halved

1. Mix together the cream cheese, cheddar and garlic powder.
2. Fill each jalapeño half with the cheese mixture.
3. Wrap each pepper with a half strip of bacon; secure with a toothpick.
4. Grill over medium heat for 15-20 minutes until the bacon is crispy.

Grilled Shrimp Skewers

3 Tbsp. olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. paprika
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. black pepper
2 lbs. large shrimp, peeled and deveined
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

1. Soak wooden skewers in water for 30 minutes to prevent burning.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together

the olive oil, garlic, paprika, salt and pepper.

3. Add the shrimp to the bowl; toss to coat evenly.
4. Thread the shrimp onto the skewers, about 5-6 shrimp per skewer.
5. Preheat the grill to medium-high heat; oil the grates.
6. Grill the shrimp skewers for 2-3 minutes per side until pink and opaque.
7. Remove from the grill; drizzle with lemon juice. Garnish with parsley; serve immediately.

Grilled Steak With Herb Butter

4 1-inch ribeye steaks
2 Tbsp. olive oil
2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. black pepper
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 Tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped
1 Tbsp. fresh rosemary, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. lemon zest

1. Remove the steaks from the refrigerator; let them come to room temperature for 30 minutes.
2. Brush both sides of each steak with olive oil; season generously with salt and pepper.

3. In a small bowl, mix together the butter, parsley, rosemary, garlic and lemon zest until well combined.
4. Preheat the grill to high heat (450-500 F). Place the steaks on the grill; cook for 4-5 minutes without moving them.
5. Flip the steaks; cook for another 4-5 minutes for medium-rare.
6. Remove the steaks from the grill; let them rest for 5 minutes.
7. Top each steak with a generous dollop of herb butter; serve immediately.

Grilled Pineapple With Cinnamon Sugar

1 fresh pineapple, peeled and cored
2 Tbsp. melted butter
3 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
Vanilla ice cream, for serving

1. Cut the pineapple into 1/2-inch thick rings. Brush both sides of each ring with melted butter.
2. In a small bowl, mix together the brown sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle the cinnamon sugar mixture over both sides of the pineapple rings.
3. Grill over medium heat for 3-4 minutes per side until caramelized with grill marks.
4. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.



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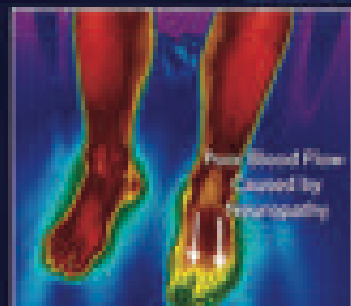
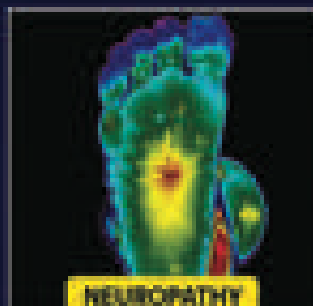
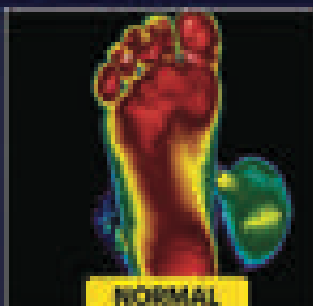
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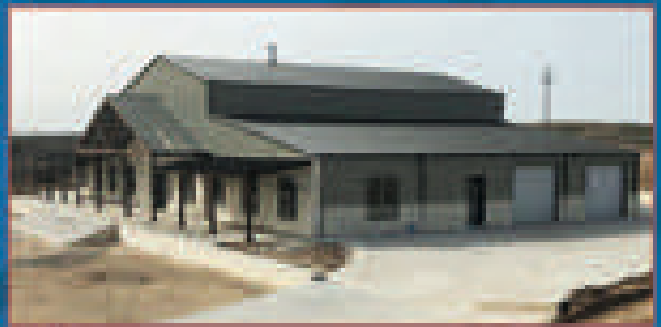
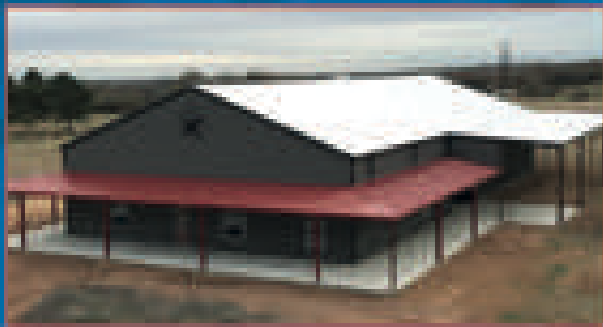
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