

# Ennis NOW

MAGAZINE

JULY 2011

Also Inside

Sew Inspired

Mastering Her Trade

In the Kitchen With  
John & Linda Waters

## A MAN CAN DREAM

Flying still evokes fond memories for Henry Odlozil and his family.

BEST DECISION EVER  
AT HOME WITH  
CLINT & TONYA BARBER

# Celebrate Patient Success



Mrs. Bonnie Johnson was admitted to Pleasant Manor on February 2nd, following knee replacement surgery. She was referred by a local physician for short-term rehabilitation. She had been living in her own home prior to her hospitalization, but the pain in her knees made it difficult for her to complete tasks. The pain made walking and simple tasks difficult. Once she was admitted to the skilled unit at Pleasant Manor, she began a carefully tailored physical therapy plan to rehabilitate the function of her right knee and regain range of motion so she could walk freely with no pain. She also received occupational therapy, which assisted with compensatory strategies to complete dressing tasks and return to her activities of daily living. Mrs. Johnson was a hard worker and made significant gains during her stay. After only three weeks of fast-track rehab, Mrs. Johnson returned home to be with her loving husband. Pictured is Mrs. Johnson giving the thumbs up along with the Charlotte Pleas, her physical therapist, and Crystal Collier, administrator. Mrs. Johnson stated, "Thank you all for the wonderful stay. The therapy department did a great job, and I am grateful to be home again."

Una Haynes was referred to Pleasant Manor Rehab following a right hip arthroplasty performed by a local orthopedist. Prior to her admission here, Mrs. Haynes lived at home with her husband, and she performed all her own homemaking tasks independently using a rolling walker. She participated in physical and occupational therapy five days a week up to three hours each day. Mrs. Haynes was extremely motivated and compliant with her intense training in rehab. With her family support and her frequent visits from her husband and her little dog, she was eager to return home. After only two weeks of fast-track rehabilitation, Mrs. Haynes returned home using a rolling walker and demonstrated increased range of motion in her right knee, the ability to walk up to 300 feet before requiring rest break and improved activity tolerance and muscle strengthening to prevent falls. Mrs. Haynes is joined by the therapy staff in her farewell picture.



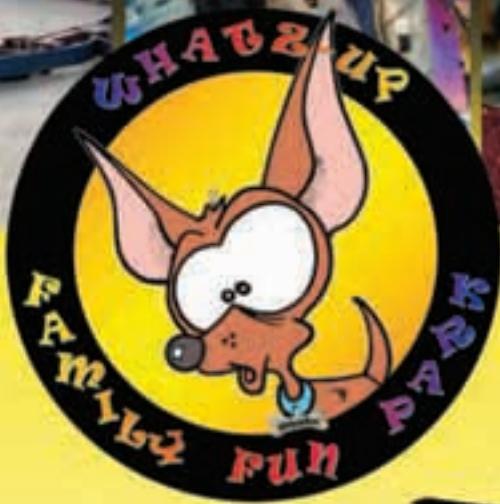
Ms. Party Foreman was referred to Pleasant Manor Health and Rehab after hospitalization in March 2011. She participated in physical and occupational therapy five days a week. Prior to admission, she lived at Sterling House Assisted Living in Waxahachie. Ms. Foreman depended on a wheelchair for her mobility and was able to dress and care for herself independently. Her goal while at Pleasant Manor was to restore as much function as possible to allow her to return back to assisted living. Ms. Foreman overcame several challenges during her stay, such as medication management and several health complexities, which enabled her progress with her rehab. After 30 days of intense rehab, Ms. Foreman was able to return to Sterling House and is independent with all activities of daily living and utilizes a rolling walker for her mobility versus a wheelchair. She demonstrated significant gains in all functional areas allowing her to return to the community. With the love and support of her sister, Sharon Wilf, Ms. Foreman was motivated and determined to reach her goals. Best wishes to you Party!

Mr. Agapito Trevino was referred to Pleasant Manor on February 11th following a total left knee replacement performed by a local orthopedist. Prior to his stay at Pleasant Manor he lived at home with his wife and family using a rolling walker to get around. The chronic knee pain he suffered, prior to his surgery, made tasks difficult to complete. After twenty days of intense rehab, physical and occupational therapy, he returned home with his wife and family. Mr. Trevino was a very hard worker and participated in rehab five days a week, twice a day, for a total of three hours each day. He made significant progress with his range of motion with his left knee and improved his strength by one grade. On the day of discharge, Mr. Trevino walked out the front door using a single point cane walking independently up to 300 feet and was able to safely go up and down steps, curbs and ramps. Mr. Trevino stated, "Thank you all for the great rehabilitation. I know exactly where I will be coming when they do my right knee. Save me a room!"



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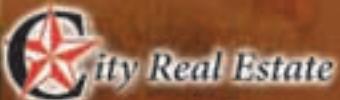
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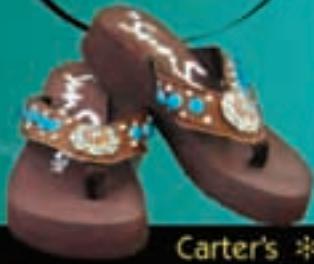
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## On The Cover



The Barber family has no regrets about moving to and staying in Ennis

*Photo by Amy Ramirez*

# Contents

July 2011 • Volume 8, Issue 7



8

### 8 A Man Can Dream

Henry Odlozil continues to have his head in the clouds.

### 14 Best Decision Ever

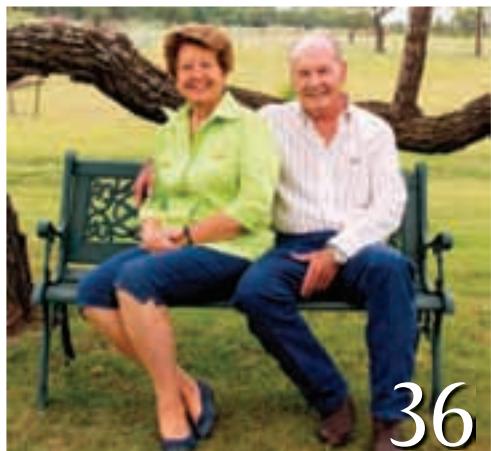
At Home With Clint and Tonya Barber.



22

### 22 Sew Inspired

As one door closed, another one opened for Brandi Schlottman.



36

### 28 BusinessNOW

### 30 Around TownNOW

### 32 HealthNOW

### 34 FinanceNOW

### 36 CookingNOW

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# Editor's Note

Celebrate Your Independence!

You know July is here when the sidewalks are hot enough to fry an egg. Well, July has arrived! We also spend time celebrating our independence this month with family gatherings, hotdogs and burgers, thanks to the brave men and women who sacrifice, sometimes everything, to keep that freedom intact.

Later this month, on the 24th, I encourage you to take time out of your busy schedules to celebrate your parents. I'm one of the lucky ones. My parents are still living. In fact, they are finally getting settled in their new apartment in Waxahachie. They had been living in Whitney for the past 20 years, but my brother and I got them here as quickly as we could.

Remember to water your flowers and wear your sunscreen. If you do decide to fry an egg on the sidewalk, please give me a call. That would make a great *Around Town* photo.

Sandra

Sandra Strong  
EnnisNOW Editor  
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# A MAN CAN DREAM

— By Sandra Strong

Henry Odlozil has always loved airplanes. Born and reared in Ennis, he remembers spending lots of his spare time building model airplanes and dreaming of the

day when he would be the pilot of his own aircraft. In a young man's mind it may have seemed like forever, when in reality it was only a few short years before Henry

began to actually start living his dream. "It was 1947, and I wasn't even out of high school yet," Henry said. "My dad had to sign papers so I could get my pilot's



TO THIS DAY,  
THE FLYING O  
FARM IS STILL  
LISTED AS AN  
AIRSTRIP ON  
SECTIONAL AND  
AVIATION MAPS.

*license." He signed the necessary papers to allow Henry's dream to take flight, but Henry's father never got close to the planes or the airport.*



*The Odlozil Family 1998*



Thirty hours and one year later, Henry took his first solo flight, and what a flight it was. Henry learned to fly in a Piper J-3 Cub, a plane where the pilot takes the backseat and flies the plane using a "stick," while the passenger, or instructor in this case, rode in the front seat. "We were flying, making touch and goes," Henry said, explaining that touch and goes are when the plane lightly touches the ground and then quickly lifts to go back up again. After a few of these, the instructor got out and walked back to the hangar, allowing Henry to take to the skies of Ellis County by himself. "I said my prayers and went," he smiled. "I had to make three takeoffs and three landings while the instructor watched and graded me."

As the teenager grew into adulthood, he met and married Mary Jane Slovak,

his wife of 62 years, who was also reared nearby in the still-rural community of Bardwell. The two married on a Tuesday in February 1949, just a couple months following Henry's proposal on Christmas Eve 1948. "It was very much a surprise," Mary Jane added about the Christmas proposal. And luckily for Henry, Mary Jane wasn't scared of flying, or Henry's other hobby — riding Harley-Davidson motorcycles.

They were living and working in Dallas as a young married couple, building their family to include five children — Catherine Hefner, Henry Odlozil Jr., Janice Kirk, Cynthia Odlozil and Mary Minter, now grown with families of their own. Mary smiles as she recalls a story that never gets old in the retelling. "It was the early 1950s," Mary said. "Dad would

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The sciatic nerves are the largest (and longest) nerves of the body, reaching about the size of your thumb in diameter, and running down the back of each leg. When these nerves are irritated or affected by the inflammation of nearby soft tissues, doctors refer to this as sciatica.

One of the most common causes of sciatic leg pain is the Vertebral Subluxation Complex. It can be accompanied by the bulging or herniation of the soft pulpy discs which separate each spinal bone. This can irritate or put pressure on the sciatic nerve roots as they leave the spinal cord. The result can be an intense pain shooting down either or both legs.

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pick Mom up from work on his Harley. She would be in a dress or a skirt, but she'd hop on the back and ride. The family stills laughs about this story all the time."

During this time of early marriage, Henry continued to fly. He flew planes belonging to others for enjoyment, while



still dreaming of the day when he would have the title to a plane of his own. In 1964, the couple made plans to come back home, buying a 40-acre farm in Bardwell, still referred to today as the Flying O Farm. They spent their first night in the home as a family a year later, once the updates and remodeling had been completed.

Before long, Henry had another thought that would lead him one step closer to realizing his dream. Even though most of the acreage was planted in cotton and home for cattle, Henry decided a landing strip would be a good idea. "I remember the 'strip party' we had," Mary stated. "We sodded 3,400 feet of Bermuda to build the landing strip that put the farm on the map." To this day, the Flying O Farm is still listed as an

airstrip on sectional and aviation maps.

Soon after the strip was complete and a hangar was constructed, Henry was able to buy the plane of his dreams, a 1956 Champion 7EC. "This was a two-seater," Henry reminisced. "It flew with a stick, and I owned it outright." Henry also

partnered with three other men on the purchase of a second plane that held four passengers. This second plane was used mostly for business, while the Champion provided many hours of family fun.

Airplane memories include 14 consecutive years of Flying O Farm fly-ins. As members of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Chapter 168, no fewer than 32 planes would land in Bardwell on any given year. Once everyone was on the ground, the stories of the year gone by would begin. Even after Henry's health prompted him to give up flying his plane, the fly-ins continued until September 1999.

The Odlozil children and grandchildren didn't realize what a unique childhood they had until they became adults and had children of their own. "As a kid I thought we were abused," Mary said, laughing now at how absurd that sounds. "We would leave for Mass at St. John's Catholic Church by 6:00 a.m., just so we could hurry home to fly 20 minutes to Red Bird Airport to have a burger for lunch and then fly 20 minutes back home. Now I know how unique my childhood really was."



Dianna Glenn, Mary's daughter, has fond memories of her time in the air with her Grandpa, as do all the grandchildren. Her first flight is best retold by Henry.

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"Dianna was sitting in her mother's lap when I took off," he said. "She got so excited that she began to scream and squeal. I think maybe because the strip was so bumpy. Once the plane lifted off, she calmed down. She loved looking around."

"Yes, I still remember how Lake Bardwell looks from the air," Dianna confessed. "To see things above with the eyes of a child, to be able to point things out was special." And just like her mom before her, Dianna thought all kids went flying, but as an adult she realized this wasn't true. "There's a much different perspective from above," Mary added.

If memory serves Mary Jane correctly, all of the couple's nine grandchildren were able to go up with their Grandpa



before he landed the plane for good due to health issues. The five, soon to be seven, great-grandchildren are experiencing flight with their Great-grandpa through the stories he still loves to share. After four generations, Henry is still keeping his dream alive, albeit one-story-at-a-time.

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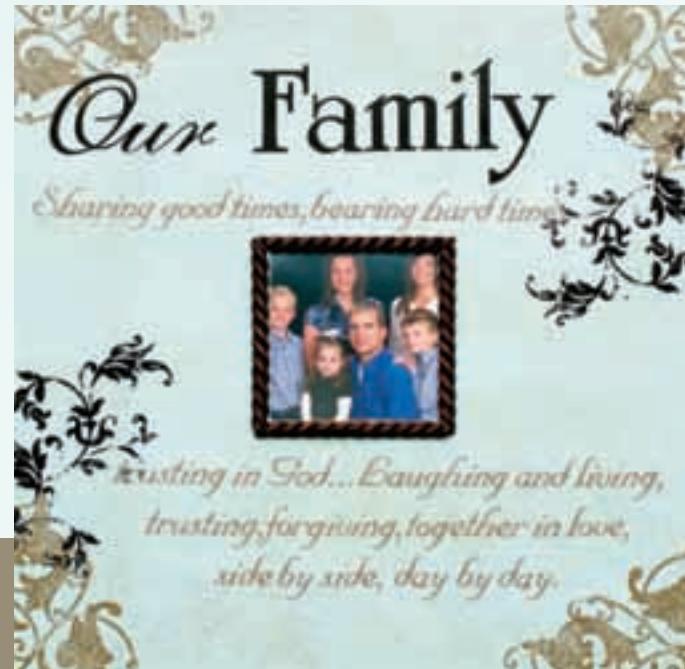
— By Sydni Thomas

## AT HOME WITH *Clint and Tonya Barber*

*Ennis has been the stage for Clint Barber's entire life. Born, reared and an alumnus, he had no plans of making anywhere else his hometown. That is, until he met Tonya and almost moved away.*

In 2002, mutual friends had a plan to get Clint to take Tonya out on a blind date. Both were weary of the idea and hadn't had good experiences with such meetings in the past. After setting a date, Clint put Tonya up to a test of endurance. He planned a marathon date to see how she would handle the challenge. Starting with a Dallas Stars' hockey game, he followed up with an arts festival in Dallas' Deep Ellum and the date ended with a showing of the movie *The Rookie*. Originally skeptical of the arranged date, they quickly changed their minds. They were married in June of 2003.

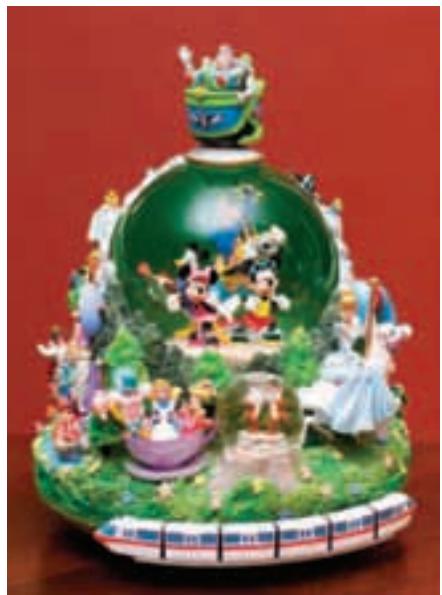
Tonya was a Mesquite native and lived in the Metroplex



while they were dating. Moving to Ennis introduced a new world to her. Clint had built one of the first homes in his subdivision in 1998. She moved into his home to give the town a try, but being away from all of her friends and family made adjusting difficult. The couple soon began talking of selling the home and moving to Dallas, so Clint could be closer to his job and Tonya to her old life.

That's when Deanna Davis entered the picture. Tonya's daughter, Makayla, was beginning the first grade in Ennis that year, and Deanna's daughter was in her class. Soon, the two adults became close friends and, some say, inseparable. Eventually, Clint and Tonya stopped talking about moving all together. Deana and Tonya's friendship extended to both families and has led to many shared family vacations.

Last year, around the same time, Deanna and Tonya were introduced to Zumba, a workout program combining Latin and international music. Now, they both teach several classes around Ennis each week. "I joke that Deanna is my wife's wife," Clint said. "They're always together. Some weeks Deanna sees Tonya more than I do."



Clint and Tonya have four children now, Makayla, 14; Jaylen, 10; Brendon, 6; and Olivia, 3. Over the years they have made a few changes to the home's paint colors, textiles and layout to accommodate their growing family. However, the reoccurring theme of family has remained intact. Every part of

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A portrait of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a purple top, smiling. The photo is framed by a white border and centered on a brown background.

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their decor has family incorporated into it, from the painting by Clint's mother hung over the mantle, to the photographs of each stage of the family's life around every corner, on each table and hanging on the walls. "I didn't have to do much when I first moved in," Tonya said. "Clint has great design skills."



Clint has had a hand in almost every piece of furniture in the home. His parents used to run an upholstery business out of their garage and taught him all the tricks of the trade. For the past 16 years, he has worked in upholstery for Massoud Furniture Manufacturing in Dallas. In his spare time, Clint does upholstery projects out of his garage. He not only does furniture, but also interiors for cars and boats. "I made the sectional in the living room," Clint said. "I also upholstered our dining room chairs."

The youngest Barber, Olivia, acts as the official tour guide whenever the family has visitors. The tour begins in her room and does not go much further. Proudly showing off her *Pinkalicious*-inspired room, Olivia thinks it is the best room in the house. Tonya recently created the pink paradise for Olivia when she was ready to switch from her crib to a bed. Olivia is quick to point out the canopy over her princess bed and her name stretched across the wall.

"Bieber fever" has struck the females in the Barber house, creating a debate

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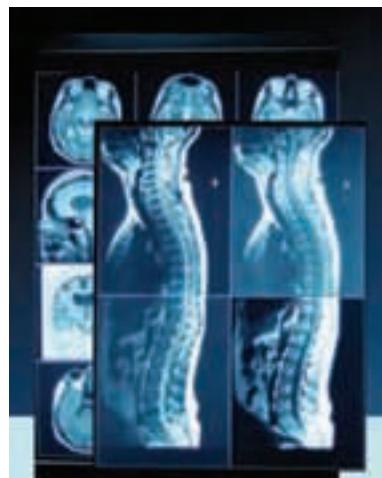
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between sisters on which of them the teen heartthrob will choose. In typical teenage fashion, Makayla's room and closet is wallpapered in posters, mostly of Justin Bieber. In the fall, Makayla will enter high school as a freshman cheerleader. Prior to its days as a teen haven, Makayla's room was part of the garage. When the family started outgrowing the space, Clint reconfigured the home's layout. By converting the work area of the oversized two-car garage, the family extended their dining room, added on a playroom, which can double as a sitting room, and Makayla got her own room on the opposite side of the house from her younger siblings.

Jaylen and Brendon are less particular about their room's decor. They bunk together down the hall from Olivia and stuck with a blue-and-red-plaid color scheme. In the spring and summer they are rarely in the house — due to the family pool close by. They also keep their parents busy with baseball practice and games. "This year Jaylen is playing his first season in the kid-pitch league," Tonya said. "Brendon's last season of T-ball also happens to be this year."

The family spends a lot of time together when sports do not crowd their schedule. They are a family of movie buffs, and they try to go to the movies as often as they can, especially to see Disney

movies. In the summer, they always take a family vacation, and every few years the Davis family joins them on an adventure to Walt Disney World in Florida, the Barber's favorite vacation spot. They have been there four times in the past few years. As a souvenir of each trip, Tonya brings home a glass Mickey Mouse Christmas ornament with their names and year painted on it. "Clint loves the House of the Mouse," Tonya said. "We would go every year if that was possible. Our house key is even Mickey Mouse."

During the summers, when the family does not visit Walt Disney World, it isn't uncommon for them to jump in the car and visit San Antonio's Sea World for a weekend. As soon as Clint gets home from work the family starts driving. They stay in San Antonio until the last possible minute and then drive home. Unlike Disney World, the family can visit Sea World several times in one summer. "We



usually don't get home until one or two on a Monday morning," Clint said. "Then I turn around and go to work a few hours later. It's worth it though. We always have a great time."

New-move jitters almost led the Barber's to live a different life. The decision to stay and rear their children in Ennis was one they say will not be regretted. "I wanted to get back to the Dallas area and everything I knew," Tonya said. "Staying here was the best decision, and because of it, we have made some really great friends." **NOW**



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# Sew Inspired

— By Aleta Penfold



*Life has an uncanny way of shutting some doors while opening many others. For Brandi Schlottman, a very busy mom of three, the birth of her second child closed the door of the corporate world in which she was working when she decided to be a stay-at-home mom. "I have always wanted to be there for my kids," Brandi explained. Being there for her children also meant having something to do with the creative energy she found she had. "I needed an outlet," she admitted.*



A few years following Brandi's decision to stay at home with her children, a door opened for her husband, Tanner. His journey with the fire academy began around the same time Brandi's mother-in-law gifted her with an old sewing machine. As Tanner was fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming a firefighter, Brandi was also getting an education of her own. Her mother-in-law was teaching Brandi, who knew nothing about sewing, how to thread the needle and sew a straight line. "She only taught me how to sew a straight line because that's all the old machine could do" Brandi laughed. "She warned me that the old machine wouldn't last."

Brandi was running over with ideas for her newfound crafting outlet. She taught herself how to sew tote bags and purses from empty juice-pouches. She also made girl's hair bows. Brandi found great joy in taking other people's creative ideas and bringing them to fruition on a shirt or a pair of jeans. But Brandi saw this door close when the sewing machine broke. "I put my sewing aside," she remembered sadly.

A few months later, Tanner's grandmother, G.G., passed away, and Brandi inherited her 40-year-old Kenmore sewing machine. Brandi promptly put it in the closet, literally shutting the "sewing door" before it had the chance to be opened again.



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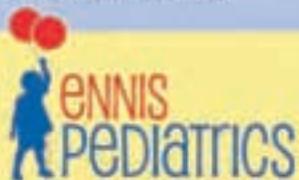
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Brandi Schlottman's daughter, Tandi

Brandi's son was soon having a "fire-themed" birthday party. Brandi searched the Internet for an outfit for her 1-year-old daughter, Tandi, and quickly tried to order one. Seven days before the party when she was finally able to get through to the company, they told her they did not have the time to make the promised outfit. Not allowing discouragement to take over, Brandi did the next best thing. "I opened the closet door and looked at G.G.'s machine and said to myself, *I can do this!* I loaded the kids in the car and bought tons of stuff I thought I'd need, looked through catalogs for ideas and made Tandi an outfit," Brandi remembered. "The overalls had appliqués of a fire truck sewn on the bodice and a fire hose sewn down one of the legs. It was so cute; it turned out even better than I thought it would."

Those darling overalls opened an artistic door for Brandi that is still swinging in the wide-open position. G.G.'s old sewing machine was never put back in the closet again. Christmas was just around the corner, so Brandi made Christmas stockings for all the members of her family, the children's teachers and Tandi's classmates. Everybody loved them. She made an outfit for a friend's little girl: overalls with appliqués of

purses and cute shirts and pants. Her craft soon grew in popularity. Valentine's Day was next, and her son's teachers fell in love with the homemade Valentine outfit Tandi was wearing. They started wondering how they could acquire one-of-a-kind outfits for their children. Tandi was, and still is, the best little model her mom could have asked for.

Soon, Brandi was sharing her original holiday creations from Easter and St. Patrick's Day to the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving. She has created unique gifts for birthdays, weddings and brides-to-be. One of her favorite items to create has been Ennis Spirit Shirts, which students in the Ennis Independent School District are allowed to wear on Fridays. The shirts have an "E" logo, sometimes called a "Rocking E," placed on an oval background. She is constantly coming up with new, fun ideas for the background and for the "E" itself. Some of the more popular backgrounds have been animal prints, polka-dots and camouflage. Sequins and anything that sparkles is in right now, too. "Girls love lots of glitz and bling," she stated.

Brandi says she always has at least one shirt or outfit "in the works" and many more just waiting to be created.



Personalized blankets were a big hit last Christmas, as well as towels, with or without hoods, and pillowcases. "Recently, my own children finally got their own personalized pillowcases," she was quick to point out while laughing and shaking her head.

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something she refers to as "activity aprons." Children use the customized aprons while playing, baking or doing art projects. The apron keeps the necessary tools for each activity in one convenient location.

Koozies are another item Brandi handcrafts. They are most generally insulated to fit regular-sized beverage cans. Names can easily be added to commemorate family reunions, bachelor parties or company parties. One year, Brandi made so many Koozies for the Polka Festival that G.G.'s machine bit the dust. "G.G.'s broken, tired machine started sewing on its own, without my help," she laughed. "We said it was possessed by Grandma, and she was just trying to help. When it started sewing my fingers we had to retire it."

Did that mean the sewing door was once again about to close? Not hardly. Since G.G.'s machine died, Brandi has gone through four Kenmore sewing machines in just two years. "I loved those machines and really there wasn't anything wrong with them, they just couldn't keep up," she admitted. "They weren't meant to be used sometimes up to 18 hours a day. They would start sewing on their own, too, just like G.G.'s. Strange, huh? Hopefully, my current machine will make it until I have time to research and find another, good sewing machine. There just was nothing like G.G.'s machine. I loved it and I loved that lady." **NOW**

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# Architectural Vignettes of New Orleans

New Orleans, with its richly mottled old buildings, its sly, sophisticated air and its Hispanic-Gallic traditions, has more the flavor of an old European capital than an American city. Townhouses in the French Quarter, with their courtyards and carriageways, are thought by some scholars to be related on a small scale to certain Parisian "hotels" — princely urban residences of the 17th and 18th centuries. Visitors particularly remember the decorative cast-iron balconies that cover many of these townhouses like ornamental filigree cages.



One of the truly amazing aspects of New Orleans' architecture is the sheer number of historic homes and buildings per square mile. Orleanians never seem to replace anything. Consider this: Uptown, the city's largest historic district, has almost 11,000 buildings, 82 percent of which were built before 1935 — truly a "time warp."

The spine of Uptown, and much of New Orleans, is the city's grand residential showcase, St. Charles Avenue. The St. Charles Avenue streetcar line represents the nation's only surviving historic streetcar system. All of its electric cars were manufactured by the Perley Thomas Company between 1922 and 1924 and are still in use. Hurricane Katrina flood waters caused severe damage to the steel tracks along the entire Uptown and Carrollton route and had to be totally replaced and re-electrified. The cars themselves survived and are included in the National Register of Historic Places. New Orleanians revere them as a national treasure.

Creole cottages and shotgun houses

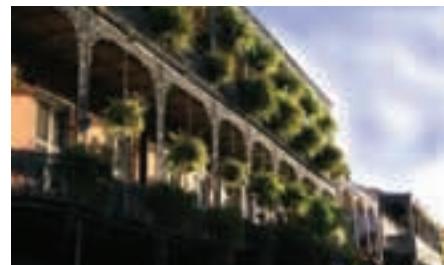
dominate the scene in many New Orleans neighborhoods. Both have a murky ancestry. The Creole cottage, two rooms wide and two or more deep under a generous pitched roof with a front overhang or gallery, is thought to have evolved from various European and Caribbean forms.

The shotgun house is one room wide and two, three or four rooms deep, under a continuous gable roof. As legend has it, the name was suggested by the fact that because the rooms and doors line up, one can fire a shotgun through the house without hitting anything. Some scholars have suggested that shotguns evolved from ancient African "long-houses," built here by refugees from the Haitian Revolution, but no one really knows.

It is true that shotguns represent a distinctively Southern house type. They are also found in the form of plantation quarters houses. Unlike shotgun houses in much of the South, which are fairly plain, New Orleans shotguns bristle with Victorian jigsaw ornaments, especially prominent, florid brackets. Indeed, in many ways, New Orleans shotguns are as much a signature of the city as the French Quarter.

New Orleans' architectural character is unlike that of any other American city. A delight to both natives and visitors, it presents such a variety that even after many years of study, one can still find things unique and undiscovered. **NOW**

*Photos and text courtesy of the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2020 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70130 • (504) 566-5019  
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#### From left:

Laurie Mah sits in her home office looking for the right home for you. Laurie stands in front of one of her many home listings.

## Mastering Her Trade

*When advising clients, Laurie Mah's main goal is finding the perfect fit. — By Sandra Strong*

As an independent contractor, Laurie Mah may hang her Realtor's license in Dallas, but she plays an integral role in the local real estate market as she works from her home office in Ennis. "Ellis and Dallas counties are my main market areas," Laurie stated. "I can hang my license anywhere, but I want to let everyone know I'm still here locally, as this has been my home for 10 years."

She had a vision in mind when she decided to branch out to the Dallas area. Her goal was, and still is, to bring Dallas to Ennis. "The decision was twofold. I not only wanted to broaden my market area," she admitted, "but I also wanted Ennis to receive the recognition it deserves and to introduce Dallasites to our small-town atmosphere."

Before real estate, Laurie worked in a number of different careers, each with a common thread of customer service — helping other people. Her start in New York City, where she earned her B.B.A. in finance while working in hotel and hospitality, and then her move overseas to Singapore for five years afforded her the opportunity to perfect her people skills, a valuable asset in her current business. Laurie has devoted the past six years to perfecting her real estate career through earning several designations along the way: Graduate Realtor Institute, Certified Residential Specialist, Senior Real Estate Specialist and International Real Estate Specialist. "Education is very important," Laurie stated. "With each designation comes greater knowledge of the industry." She also attends continuing

## Business NOW

education classes annually to keep abreast of the every-changing real estate market.

Laurie is so much more than a Realtor. She basically handles every aspect of the buying and selling process, whichever she is called to do. The first plan of action when working with clients is to get to know them. "As a trusted real estate advisor, I listen to their wants and needs and work a detailed plan to accomplish them," Laurie added. "I will listen and give opinions and advice, but ultimately the client makes the final decision." As the Realtor, Laurie may control the process, but the client always controls the decisions.

*"I want a perfect fit between the home and the buyer."*

When working with clients who want to sell their home, Laurie offers a complimentary staging consultation in order to present the home in the best possible light. "It's always in the best interest of those buying and selling to hire a Realtor," she explained, "because they come to the table with a wealth of knowledge." They are expert negotiators, superb navigators within the community and they offer the best resources when individuals decide to buy or sell. Bottom line, Laurie's main goal when advising her clients is the fit. "I want a perfect fit between the home and the buyer," she added.

Her desire to help clients uncover and solve their real estate problems is at the heart of Laurie's business. Putting her knowledge of the industry and expertise to work, she's able to achieve the desired results for every client. She has built her business one-client-at-a-time by striving to be a master of her trade. And yes, buying and/or selling a home really can be stress-free. How? Laurie just smiled as she said, "You just need the right real estate agent." **NOW**

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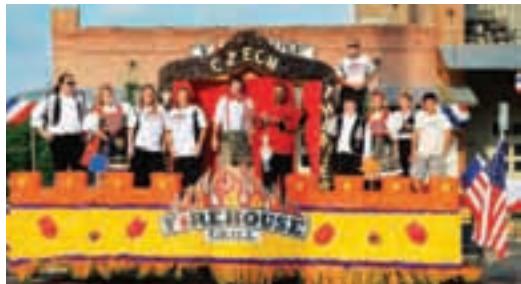
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## Around TownNOW



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Yolanda Morales dressed her dog, Diva, in patriotic style for the annual Polka Festival parade.



Tanner, the dog, enjoys shopping during the Polka Festival.

Reese Clark looks on at the Polka Festival parade.

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# Celebrate Safely

Fireworks are loud, beautiful and exciting. They are a part of many Independence Day celebrations, and it is very important to remember that as beautiful and amazing as fireworks are, they can also be extremely dangerous. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were two deaths and nearly 9,000 emergency room visits related to firework injuries in 2009. Burns and lacerations to the hands and face were the most commonly reported injuries with more than one-half of the injuries related to sparklers, firecrackers and/or bottle rockets.

## Safety Tips to Remember:

- Before celebrating with fireworks, make certain it is legal to use them in your area.
- Never allow children to use fireworks without strict adult supervision.
- Do not give fireworks to small children. Even sparklers can cause serious burns. Many people do not realize that sparklers burn at an approximate temperature of 2,000 degrees and remain very hot for several minutes after burning out.
- Never attempt to make your own fireworks.
- Always read and follow the label directions, warnings and instructions.
- Never light a firework of any kind indoors. Only use fireworks

outdoors and on a flat, smooth surface away from all buildings and away from dry leaves, trees or grass.

• Never lean over fireworks when lighting them or hold them when lighting them.

• Never try to relight a firework that failed to go off.

• Tie your hair back, wear safety goggles or safety glasses and do not wear loose-fitting clothing that could catch fire easily.

• Make certain that other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

• Never throw fireworks at another person, vehicle or animal.

• Do not set fireworks off in glass or metal containers.

• Keep a bucket of water or water hose close by in case of fire.

• Be courteous of your neighbors and pets. Fireworks make a great deal of noise.

After having a safe and fun holiday with fireworks, dispose of them properly by soaking them thoroughly with water to prevent a trash or grass fire.

Thank you to the military and their families for allowing us to celebrate Independence Day and enjoy our freedom each and every day. **NOW**

*Kim Loftin, RN, CEN • Trauma Coordinator*

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## Getting Rid of That Itch

— By Nancy Fenton

Let's take a break from our specialty gardens series and look at all that glossy, three-leaved foliage coming up in our yards. *Toxicodendron radicans*, commonly known as poison ivy can strike fear into the heart of some of the stoutest gardeners. This year seems to be a really good one for poison ivy; at least it is in our yard. It's sprouting in ground covers and at the base of trees where I haven't seen it before. Master Gardeners tell me the birds are bringing it in through their droppings, but no matter how "natural" it is, I want it gone!

My first line of attack is to mow it as short as possible with the mower (being properly outfitted in long pants and sneakers with socks). I use the theory that the plant must have the leaf area to make the food it needs to survive. By cutting it at the roots or as close as I can get, I can effectively starve it out. Please note: It is not a good idea to use weed eaters for this step since they send the cuttings flying. (It would be my luck to catch a stray leaf in the face!)

For the poison ivy growing among the plants I want to keep, I take a different plan. I use what I call the plastic bag approach. Using regular storage plastic bags with ties (any size will do), I stuff the leading part of the vine into the bag,

give it a very hardy spray of Roundup and tie it off. A small square of paper toweling in the bag helps keep the poison in the bag as you tie it. The bag protects the surrounding plants, concentrates the systemic poison on the vine and increases the heat Roundup needs to work. I leave the bag tied on for several months and watch the poison ivy shrivel up and die all the way to the ground!

Be aware poison ivy can pop up almost anywhere the berries can roll or the birds can fly. Special care should be taken when collecting and bagging clippings. Any sap can start an allergic reaction (i.e. the "big itches"). Smoke or ash in the air from burning poison ivy can also start a severe reaction. Be careful; glove up; and get rid of your unwanted ground cover!

For more information on the plants that cause the "itches," call the Master Gardeners at the AgriLife Extension office at (972) 925-5175 or ask a Master Gardener at their booth at the Waxahachie Farmers' Market. NOW

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

# Work Toward Your Own Financial Independence Day

— Bob Irish

On July 4, we shoot fireworks, attend picnics, watch parades and otherwise celebrate our nation's independence and the many freedoms we enjoy. But as you go through life, you'll find out how important it is to work toward another type of freedom — financial freedom. That's why you need to put strategies in place to help you work toward your own Financial Independence Day.

And there's no way to "sugar-coat" this task, because it will be challenging. In recent years, a combination of factors — including depressed housing prices, rising health care costs, frozen or eliminated pension plans and the financial market plunge of 2008 and early 2009 — has made it more difficult for many of us to accumulate the resources we'll need to enjoy the retirement lifestyle we've envisioned. In fact, the average American family faces a 37-percent shortfall in the income they will need in retirement, according to a recent report by consulting firm McKinsey & Company.

But now that we've gotten the "bad" stuff out of the way, let's turn to the good news: You can do a great deal to work toward financial freedom during your retirement years. Here are some suggestions that can help:

- Save and invest more.** Obviously, the younger you are, the greater the benefit you'll get by increasing your savings and investments. But whatever your age, you'll find that it pays to save and invest more. During difficult economic times, of course, it's not always easy to boost your savings and investments, but try to find ways that are as "automatic" as possible. For example, whenever you get a raise, increase your 401(k) contributions, which come directly from your paycheck. And whenever you get a "windfall," such as a tax refund, try to use part of it for your

IRA or another investment account.

- Rebalance your portfolio.** It's always a good idea to periodically rebalance your investments to make sure they are still aligned with your goals and risk tolerance. But it's especially important to rebalance as you get older and you near retirement. At this stage, you'll want to decrease the volatility in your portfolio and lock in what gains you've achieved, so you may want to move some (but certainly not all) of your more aggressive investments into less volatile ones.

- Cut down on debts.** It's easier said than done, but anything you can do to reduce your debt load will free up money to invest for your retirement. Work diligently to pay off whatever debts you can and examine your lifestyle to find areas in which you can reduce spending.

- Consider working part-time during retirement.** Many Americans are now living longer and enjoying happy, healthy retirements. In fact, the concept of "retirement" has changed so that it now includes any number of activities — including part-time work in a completely different area from one's previous career. If you are willing to do even a little part-time work during your retirement years, you can greatly reduce the financial pressures you may face during this time of your life.

The 4th of July comes and goes quickly. So put strategies in place now to help you work toward your own Financial Independence Day. **NOW**

*Bob Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.*

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# Calendar

JULY 2011

## July 3

Celebrate Independence Day: 5:00 p.m., MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium, Midlothian. The event is free with children's activities, fireworks, singing, concession stands with ham, hot dogs, hamburgers and barbecued corn. Donations toward the Senior Citizen's Food Pantry are welcome.

## July 4

Independence Day.

## July 8

Summer Moonlight Movies: 9:00-11:00 p.m., in historic downtown Waxahachie on Franklin Street between Jackson and College. Featured movie: *Despicable Me*. Call (972) 937-7330, ext. 198 for more information.

## July 8-9

Texas Family Musicals presents *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*: Friday: 7:30 p.m.; Saturday: 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 108 West 6th Avenue, Corsicana. Call (903) 872-5411.

## July 14

Thundering Thursday: Texas Motorplex. The event includes fireworks.

## July 15, 16

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County Quilt Show: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Center Circle, Midlothian. \$5 per person; \$4 for all those 60 and above. Over 120 judged quilts on display.

Texas Family Musicals presents *Oklahoma*: Friday: 7:30 p.m.; Saturday: 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Palace Theatre, 108 West 6th Avenue, Corsicana. Call (903) 872-5411.

## July 16

Dallas Cowboys Gatorade Football Camp: 9:00-11:00 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park, 2301 Ennis Parkway. This free event for ages 4-12 will be instructed by Anthony Lawrence who has 20 years of experience in youth football and Dallas Cowboys personnel. Class will work various drills. Bring water bottle, running shoes and shorts.

## July 21

Rustlin' Up Grub: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch. A three-hour course led by a licensed dietitian for ages 11-14, this event focuses on healthy eating, "teenager style." Teens learn how to make informed choices. Hands-on class includes food preparation and consumption. Class size limited. Cost only \$40, which includes all supplies. Visit [www.pawsforreflectionranch.org](http://www.pawsforreflectionranch.org) or call (972) 775-8966.

## July 21-30

Warehouse Living Arts Center presents *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*: 116 W. 6th Avenue, Corsicana. Call (903) 872-5421 for times and reservations.

## July 22-24

Summer Balloon Classic & AirFest: Friday: 4:00-8:00 p.m.; Saturday: 6:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Sunday: 6:00 a.m.-noon, Mid-Way Regional Airport, off Hwy. 287 between Midlothian and Waxahachie. Admission is free and parking is \$10 per vehicle. Something for everyone! Balloon flights at 6:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Saturday Balloon Glow at 8:00 p.m. Mid-Way to Skies Air Show on Saturday: 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Exhibits, vendors, food, aircraft flights available, kids' area, live music. For more information, call (469) 371-9218.

## July 29

Summer Moonlight Movies: 9:00-11:00 p.m., in historic downtown Waxahachie on Franklin Street between Jackson and College. Featured movie: *How to Train Your Dragon*. For more information, call (972) 937-7330, ext. 198.

## August 27

29th Annual Chamber of Commerce Auction: Knights of Columbus Hall. For more information, call (972) 878-2625.

## Ongoing:

### Mondays and Wednesdays

Sign Language Class: 4:00-5:15 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue, Ennis. Classes are free and available for all ages. No sign-up required.

### Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m. at Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie. For more information, please visit our Web site at [www.elliscountyaggiemoms.org](http://www.elliscountyaggiemoms.org).

### Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Avenue.

### First and Third Tuesdays

Ennis Cancer Support Group: 7:00 p.m., Ennis Regional Medical Center classroom. For more information, call Kathy at (972) 878-6927 or visit [www.enniscancersupport.com](http://www.enniscancersupport.com).

### Third Tuesdays

Skyblazers of Waxahachie R/C Club: 7:30 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation Building in downtown Waxahachie.

### Wednesdays

GriefShare: recovery seminar and support group: 6:15 p.m. at Palmer Christian Child Care and Day School, located at 510 S. Dallas Street. Call Vivian Saladino at (214) 802-2256 or e-mail [griefshare@fbcpalmer.com](mailto:griefshare@fbcpalmer.com) for more information.

### Third Wednesdays

The Ellis County Christian Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries, monthly luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Waxahachie Country Club, located at 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 East (Exit 401B). The cost is \$13, inclusive. Contact Kay at (972) 937-2807 or [windchime423@yahoo.com](mailto:windchime423@yahoo.com), or Margaret at (972) 937-1016 or [pmstepp@yahoo.com](mailto:pmstepp@yahoo.com).

### Thursdays

Celebrate Recovery: 7:00 p.m. at 408 Water Street, Waxahachie. The purpose of this group is to help people live free from addiction, compulsive or dysfunctional behavior. Contact Brandon Jones at (214) 949-5725 or [Brandon@thefrontiercommunity.org](mailto:Brandon@thefrontiercommunity.org) for more information.

Chess for Kids: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Ennis Public Library, 501 W. Ennis Avenue, Ennis.

Elementary age and above. No sign-up required.

### First and Third Thursdays

Mom's Connected meeting: 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd. Free fellowship for moms of all ages. Contact [ennismoms@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ennismoms@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### Third Fridays

Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Zula's Coffee House, 1804 W. Hwy. 287 Business. For more information, contact Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 or at [vetsnetgrp@att.net](mailto:vetsnetgrp@att.net).

### Third Saturdays

Covenant Treasures Institute College Level Classes: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Refiner's Fire Ministries International, 1611 W. Ennis Avenue, Ennis. Call (972) 765-3530 for more information.

### Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. Sponsored by Bristol Cemetery Association and Caring Hands of Bristol. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*



## In The Kitchen With John and Linda Waters

— By Sandra Strong

Even though they have been in Ellis County for 12 years, John and Linda Waters still feel like newcomers. "We live in the wonderful community of Bristol," John said. "There's always something going on that requires food." A lot of the recipes John uses originated with his sister and his mom. Most of the recipes Linda uses come from family and friends. "I take no credit for originality," she laughed.

After cooking for 50 years, Linda finds herself tired of spending time in the kitchen. Her goal these days is to find recipes that are easy, as well as ones that can be prepared ahead of time. "John is the real cook in the family," Linda confessed. "He loves his desserts, and pies are his specialty." **NOW**

### Napa Cabbage Salad

#### **Salad:**

**1 head Napa cabbage, chopped  
1 bunch green onions, chopped**

#### **Topping:**

**2 bags Ramen noodles  
2 tsp. sesame seeds  
1/2 cup almonds, slivered  
1/4 tsp. salt  
1/4 cup butter**

#### **Dressing:**

**1/2 cup sugar  
2 Tbsp. soy sauce  
3/4 cup cooking oil  
1/4 cup white vinegar**

**1.** For Salad: Toss cabbage and onions together, place in a Ziploc gallon bag and then store in the refrigerator.

- 2.** For Topping: Crush noodles in the bag they come in. Discard the flavor packet. Brown crushed noodles, sesame seeds, almonds and salt in butter. Stir until golden brown. Cool, but do not refrigerate.
- 3.** For Dressing: Over low heat, cook all ingredients until blended.
- 4.** Mix salad mixture, topping and dressing just before serving.

### Apple Dumplings

**2 Granny Smith apples  
2 cans refrigerated crescent rolls**

**Cinnamon  
2 sticks butter  
1 cup sugar  
Splash of vanilla  
Pinch of salt  
1 12-oz. can Sprite**

**I.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray 9x13 pan

with nonstick cooking spray.

- 2.** Peel and core apples, cutting them into 8 pieces.
- 3.** Unroll crescent rolls. Place one apple slice on top of each crescent roll. Roll up placing seam side down in the pan. Sprinkle with cinnamon.
- 4.** In small saucepan, melt butter over low heat. Stir in sugar; mix well. Add vanilla and salt. Pour over cinnamon-topped rolls.
- 5.** Pour Sprite over all. Bake 30 minutes. Let sit 45-60 minutes to soak up juice.

### Artichoke Dip

**1 14-oz. can artichoke hearts  
1 4-oz. can green chili peppers  
1 cup grated parmesan cheese  
1 cup cheddar cheese  
1 cup mayonnaise  
Corn chips**

- I.** Mix all ingredients, except chips, together.
- 2.** Bake at 350 F for about 30 minutes or until brown around the edges.
- 3.** Serve with corn chips

### Poppy's Pancakes

**1 pkg. (use only 1 1/2 tsp.)  
2 eggs, divided  
2 Tbsp. Ovaltine Malt Beverage Mix  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/4 cup brown sugar  
3 cups milk  
1 cup quick oatmeal  
2-3 cups biscuit mix**

- I.** Dissolve yeast in small amount of warm water. Add egg yolks, Ovaltine, vanilla, dissolved yeast and brown sugar to milk.
- 2.** Add enough water to cover oatmeal in 1 microwaveable cup. Cook in microwave until cooked.
- 3.** Add oatmeal to milk mixture. (It may be necessary to beat the mixture to break up the oatmeal.)
- 4.** Add biscuit mix to milk mixture until proper pancake texture is achieved.
- 5.** Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into pancake mixture. Amount of ingredients may be varied so suit your own taste.

*(Note: I usually add a little corn meal and some whole wheat flour to the left over batter. Then add regular flour until it is at a bread texture. Knead until well mixed. Let double in size; place in bread pans and bake. The kids love the bread.)*