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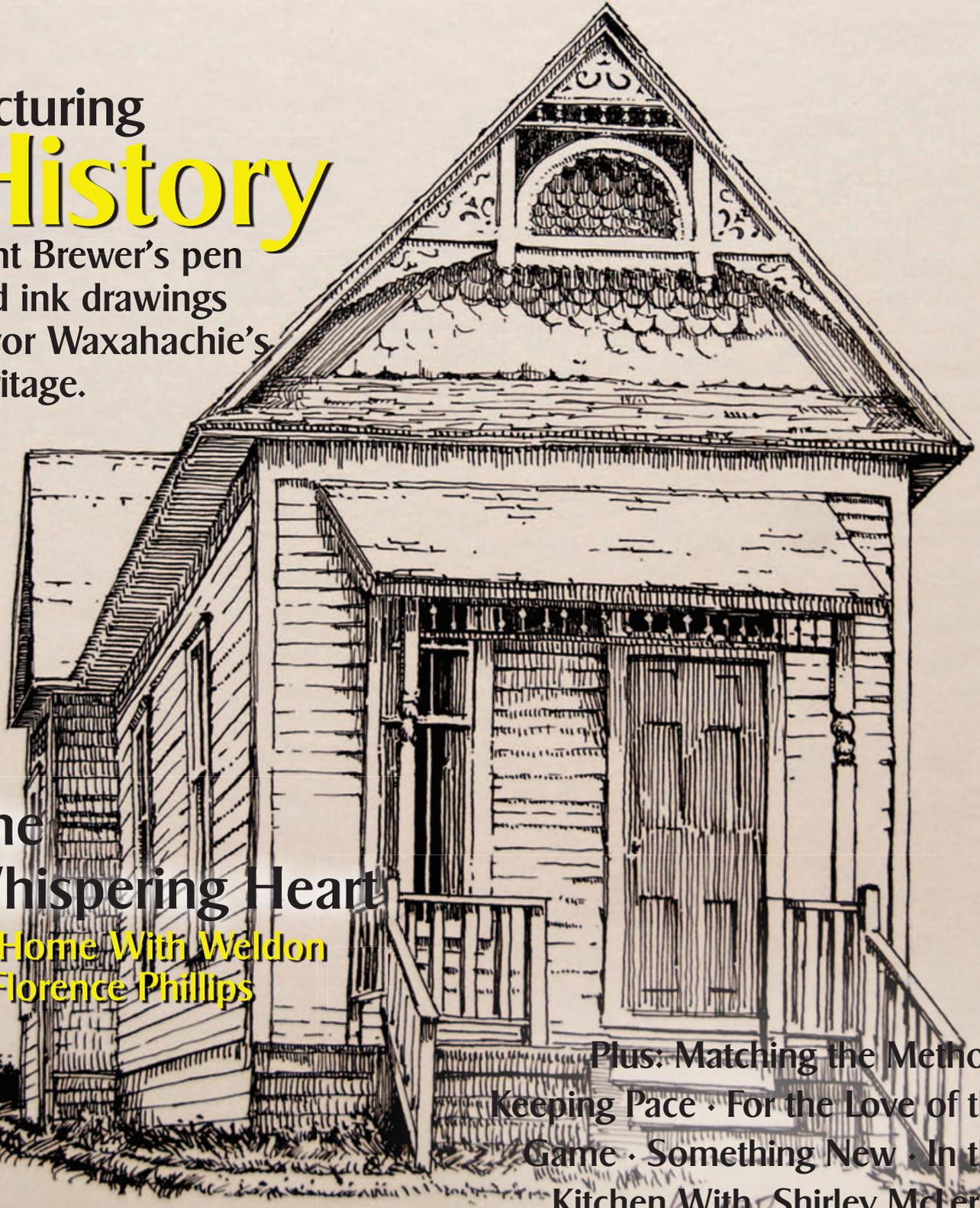
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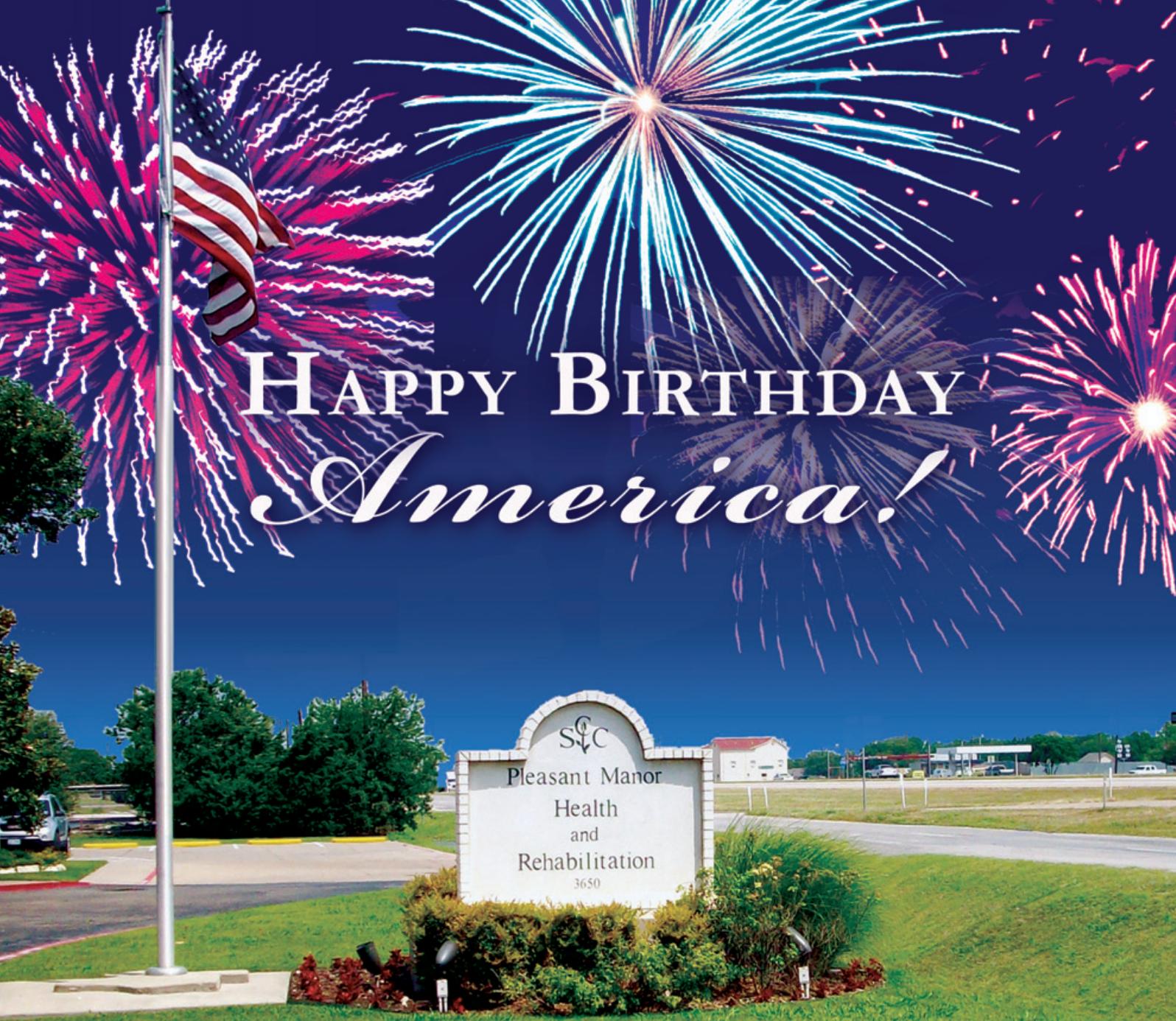


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Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Waxahachie Editor, Sandra Strong
Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay
Writers, Katie Almond . Randy Bigham
Nancy Fenton . Adam Rope
Betty Tryon
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony
Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Julie Carpenter . Martha Macias
Connie VanderBeek . Allee Brand
Marshall Hinsley . Arlene Honza
Brande Morgan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose
Photographers, Amy Ramirez
Opaque Visuals

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On The Cover



*Kent Brewer keeps history
alive in his artwork.*

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Summertime is here!

Do you have a fondness for hot weather, higher-than-normal electric bills and lawns fried due to the excessive temperatures? If so, then you must be one of those who love July and the sizzling Texas summers. When I was younger, I loved the hot weather, but as I've surpassed the age of 50 I've grown to loathe the hot days. It's just too darn hot when you can melt butter and fry an egg on the sidewalk.

July is also the month that we, as Americans, celebrate our independence. Whether you plan on attending a parade, a picnic or a family reunion, you need to take the time to remember those who have made our freedom possible. Because of those who have served, we're able to enjoy the heat of summer any way we choose. Make your choices wisely!

Sandra

Sandra Strong
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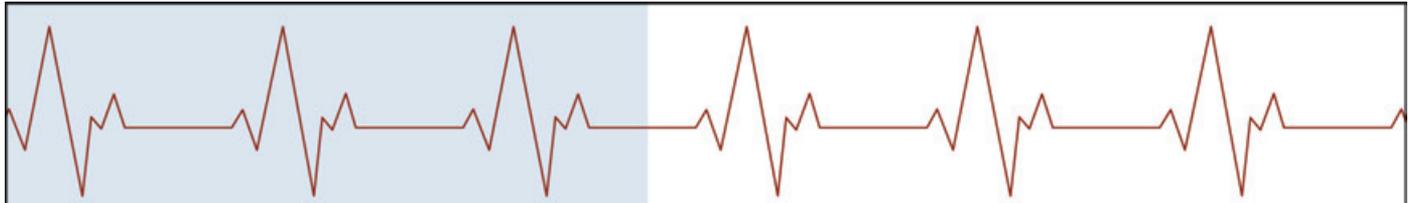
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Picturing History

— By Randy Bigham



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Kent Bower 1924



Kent Brewer, one of Waxahachie's best known young painters, prefers to work in watercolor these days, but his earlier pen and ink drawings of historic homes and other locales continue to fascinate the public. These expertly drafted sketches capture the enchanting nostalgia that defines the Gingerbread City's identity. "I love old homes and things in old homes," the Wichita Falls-bred artist said. "I have moved away from pen and inks because of how time consuming they are, but I'm thrilled to know people still admire and collect the house drawings I did."

With wife, Tanya, Kent has lived in Waxahachie for 15 years, and their home, built in 1911, reflects their shared interest in history. The Brewers' home, once owned by a former mayor in the 1920s, may also have inspired Kent in his pen and ink depictions of other structures around town. "I love the atmosphere of history we have in Waxahachie," Kent admitted. "People really know their local history and are proud of their old homes and neighborhoods. In the historic districts here, if you tell someone your address, they know the house."

Aside from the local veneration of history, Kent loves the friendliness of the city's residents and merchants. "Everybody knows everybody else," he laughed. "That can be a good and a bad thing, I guess, but I think it's mostly good. Waxahachie is a good neighbor kind of town."

Tanya admires her talented husband's work, and although



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she enjoys history, too, she doesn't retain the facts and figures as well as her husband. "He remembers everything," she said. "The dates, the stories, all the information about a place, he takes it all in." The Brewers' son, 8-year-old Lawson, also respects his father's interest in art and history, but prefers his high-tech games to dad's more "antiquey" pursuits. Even the family's pooch, Gus, part Jack Russell terrier and part Beagle, gets into the act, recently posing for Kent in the backyard for one of the artist's first experiments in oil.

The ability to recall historical details served Kent well when he first started sketching many of the picturesque



houses in Waxahachie. "I also had to be very precise when I did the drawings. You have to get the lines right. That's why I concentrate more on watercolor now. It's looser and more fun. I like the sort-of-sloppy result." But Kent is proud of his pen and inks, as much for their faithful rendering of local homes as for the importance of preserving heritage they underscore. In addition to running his own online art store, he maintains a Web site devoted to promoting local heritage, Waxahachie Preservationist, at www.waxapreservation.com.

Some of the private and public dwellings immortalized in Kent's drawings include the John Solon Home, built in 1894 by the well-known stone mason and landowner who emigrated from Ireland. "The home displays superb craftsmanship and is one of Waxahachie's most architecturally noteworthy structures," Kent said. This familiar house, which today sits in a bustling neighborhood, was once a rural location — a "four-mile buggy ride from town," as Kent said.

Some stunning departures from the Victorian tradition that he has sketched are the 1918 Whipple House, with its Prairie-style roof, and the brick-veneered Davis Hall, built in 1925 as a meeting place for women's civic groups. One of Kent's wife's favorite old homes in Waxahachie is the Trippet-Getzendaner House, an exemplary version of the Queen Anne fashion, which was built in 1895. Kent sketched the house for Tanya's 30th birthday.

In addition to being accessible for viewing on his Web site, Kent's pen



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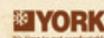
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and inks of private houses and public buildings are still available in a limited edition book the artist published in 2002. The 65-page volume, *Waxahachie in Pen and Ink: An Illustrated Guide to the Gingerbread City*, contains 28 of Kent's beautiful drawings of such revered structures as the Hines-Timmons Home, built in 1895, and the Citizens National Bank, built in 1905.

"My intent was to create an illustrated cross section of these still existing properties," Kent wrote in the introduction to his book. "The subjects were chosen at random, except for a few commissioned works." In *Waxahachie in Pen and Ink*, Kent tells of the history of Waxahachie's days as a cotton mecca, and explains why so many charming local homes and other properties have escaped the wrecking ball of progress. "In the late 1800s and early 1900s, Waxahachie experienced a period of tremendous growth and wealth," he wrote. "Ellis County became the largest cotton producer in the nation. But overdependence on this crop and the

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rapid fall of production in the 1920s created a sudden halt in local prosperity.” The fact may have meant hardship for residents at the time, but for posterity it was a blessing in disguise. The financial standstill caused Victorian homes and other old buildings, which would likely have been razed if prosperity had continued, to be essentially frozen in time.

Kent’s sketches provide an excellent overview of examples of the more than 300 historically designated locations throughout the city’s five historic districts. These include the Ellis County Courthouse District, the West End, Oldham Avenue, Wyatt Street Shotgun Houses and North Rogers Street. Many of the homes he has illustrated are distinguished by the National Register or the Texas Historical Medallion markers, as well as by designations selected by Historic Waxahachie, Inc. and the Gingerbread Trail.

Despite the popularity of Kent’s pen and ink interpretations of local architecture, he insists his real pleasure now continues to be his work in watercolor. “And I’m starting to do some oils now,” he said. “Portraits are something I will do more of, too.” The artist will find ready and willing subjects in Tanya, Lawson and Gus as he pursues the craft he loves, but he’s not giving up on painting Waxahachie homes, streets and parks. He always welcomes people to come by and chat when he and his trusty easel are on location. “I prefer to paint en plein air,” Kent said. “So stop by and say, ‘hello’ if you see me out and about.” **NOW**

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MATCHING THE Method

— By Katie Almond

"I'm not just 'the teacher' to my kids. I might have to be the nurse. I might have to be the counselor. I can wear all the hats that I have to," said Jennifer Nash, a third-grade teacher at Dunaway Elementary. She's also a wife, mother to three children, a gardener,

a church choir soloist and a brand-new children's choir director. That may not be as many hats as Bartholomew Cubbins (lead character in Dr. Seuss' The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins) wore, but it's certainly a full contingent.



Jennifer has been teaching third grade for 11 years, the last three here in Waxahachie. Her classroom is an explosion of color and texture that would make a Hollywood set decorator green with envy. It's the perfect balance between order and chaos, organized enough to easily find things and cluttered enough to delight the heart of any child. The brightest thing in Jennifer's room, though, is her smile. She lights up like a Roman candle when she talks about teaching. "In third grade, their minds expand so much, and they can come up with questions that I have to say 'Well, we have to look that up, because I don't know,'" Jennifer laughed.

According to Jennifer, third grade is a pivotal year. The class has to begin training for the STAAR writing test they'll take in fourth grade. The students have been taking math and reading tests in some form since they began school, but aren't as familiar with writing tests. "Even though the STAAR tests are more intense because they're from the state, they're still just math and reading tests," Jennifer explained. "The kids are familiar with that, but a writing test is new for them."

She helps prepare her students by practicing writing as part of all classroom subjects. "We have our journals, and we practice in social studies, science and even math. The more they write now, the better they can transfer the skill when they receive specific prompts," Jennifer elaborated. She does provide her third graders with specific prompts sometimes,



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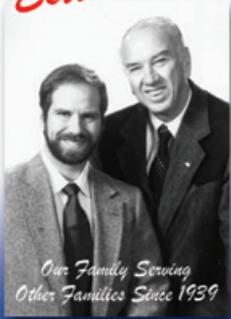
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but more often asks them to write what they know. Jennifer puts it this way. "Write what's in your head. Come up with your own idea because you're the expert at what you know. I'm not."

This approach to academics is a logical extension of Jennifer's classroom philosophy. She brings to teaching her strong conviction that each child is

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an individual and should be respected and treated as such. "Every child is their own person. They're someone's son, someone's daughter, someone's grandchild or niece or nephew. I have to think about how I would want my own child to be treated by their teacher, and that's how I treat my kids," Jennifer explained. "Each kid is a different person.

They have to know that I respect them as much as I want them to respect me."

She spends time talking with her students to help them understand teachers are real people, too, just like them. "If they understand that I'm a real person, and I make mistakes, then it's OK for them to make mistakes and we move on," Jennifer stated. She believes there are many different ways to teach and discipline, and that what works for one child won't necessarily work for another. To be truly successful, you must match the method to the child.

Her approach to classroom discipline relies heavily on positive reinforcement





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and involving the kids in the process. As a class, they can earn rewards as a result of other teachers complimenting their behavior. Each compliment earns one letter to spell out a reward the class chose together. They've earned rewards like magic tricks performed by the school counselor, a week without homework and a water balloon party. Individual students can earn tickets for good behavior. The tickets get placed in a bucket, and 15-20 are drawn each week. The most popular rewards are lunch in the classroom and sitting on a yoga ball for the entire day. The children requested the yoga ball reward. "I told them OK, but three strikes and you're out. If I have to tell



you three times to quit bouncing or to sit on it correctly, you lose it," Jennifer said. "Most of them have done pretty well. I only had to take it away once all year."

Of course, it's not all sunshine and smiles. Sometimes the kids grumble and complain and ask if they have to do the assignment. Jennifer's response is a quick, "No, you don't have to. You could have a zero. It's really your choice."

When asked if she sees a big difference between the beginning of third grade and the end, Jennifer replied, "I do. I see their wit and humor develop. Friendships usually develop more fully, and their minds expand so much. As the year progresses, I get to know them and how much I can push them; how much they can take in at one time." But, Jennifer



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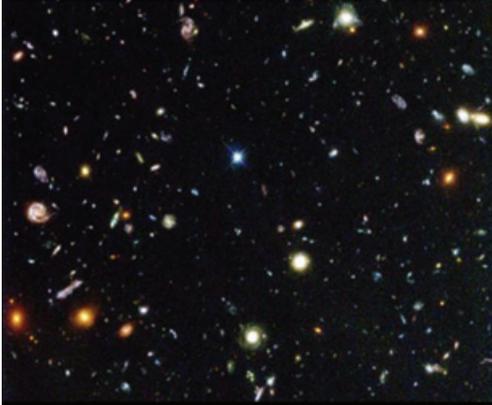
said that sometimes she has to stop and say, "We'll do this again tomorrow. We'll pick up on this when we're ready, but we're not ready today?"

Jennifer was enthusiastic about her most recent classroom experience. In the past, she taught reading and language arts as part of a third grade teaching team. During the 2011-2012 school year was the first time she taught all the academic subjects and had the same group of children for the entire school day. "This year has been so different than any other year. I could not have hand-picked a better group of kids," Jennifer grinned and continued, "They're willing to do anything you ask. They're very helpful. They take care of each other. We have some special ed students who join us for music, PE and lunch. They make sure those kids are taken care of. They just have such big hearts for each other."

Maybe that's because their teacher has such a big heart for them. Her teaching degree includes a specialization in music, so she sings to her kids at the end of almost every day. "I don't know of any other teacher, except the music teacher, who sings to them. I sing songs my mom sang to me when I was a little girl," Jennifer said. "I had a parent tell me when they moved to a different district, 'She'll probably never have another teacher who sings to her.' They're just silly songs, but the kids love it." Whether she's singing or speaking, Jennifer Nash has a gift for teaching. You can see her love and respect for the profession in everything she does. **NOW**



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The Whispering Heart

— By Randy Bigham

Florence Baurys Phillips isn't originally from Waxahachie, but you wouldn't guess it to hear her praise the city she has called home since a string of fateful encounters led her here in 2004. Following the death of her first husband from lung cancer, Florence felt compelled to move from her San Antonio home of 30 years to be closer to her children and their families in the Dallas area. "God told me to leave," Florence, an established children's book author, said.

*"It was like He whispered it to my heart. I didn't question it, and I put my house up for sale." The inspirational story of her journey — accepting divine cues on the way to a new life — she has told in her recently released autobiography, *Traveling Interstate Highway 35 with God*.*

"I wasn't just led to Waxahachie, I was led here to meet Weldon," Florence explained. In her book, Florence traces the fateful thread that united her with Weldon Phillips, a retired

electrician, who had also suffered through his first wife's death due to lung cancer. The pair discovered their common history when they met at the Ferris Heights United Methodist Church shortly after Florence moved to Waxahachie eight years ago. For both of them it was the culmination of an odyssey.

Friends, strangers, hunches and coincidences converged as if by providence to deliver the couple into one another's arms. These disparate sources were interpreted by the twosome as messages from God, or "heart whispers," as Florence calls them. Her book describes how the grieving widow followed the spiritual and emotional signs, which spurred her onto the path that would connect her to the new love of her life. Florence's book also extolls the beauty of the Gingerbread City and the kindness of the people she has met here — from her neighbors on the northernmost edge of town and her church pals to the children she helped through a local crisis center.

In her memoir, Florence recalled her first visit to Market Days in Waxahachie's famous Victorian square. "The downtown area is a charming place," she wrote, "where life is so simple and slowed down that I felt I had stepped into an old western film." She also described the courthouse and its surrounding vintage buildings as a scene in which "time had stopped, and the modern world had not filtered in."

But there were some adjustments. With Weldon, whom she



married in November 2005, Florence learned to enjoy nature — fishing in particular — which she now loves as much as her husband does. And she has found her local writing voice,





penning a column for her church's newsletter. Florence is working on several other projects she hopes to see in print, and she insisted her approach to writing is a matter of being honest with oneself and letting the words flow. "You have to open a vein and let people know what's inside you," she said.

She's proud of the success of her

latest book which was a therapeutic exercise and one she hopes will aid other women who are facing widowhood and wondering how they can pick up the pieces. "I've heard the book is helping people who are divorced or who have experienced other losses," she said. "And I'm glad to know it's having a broader impact than I imagined."

The home that Weldon and Florence now share combines evidence of their merged journeys. Outdoorsy Weldon's love of animals and fishing are reflected in portraits of ducks and other game, while Florence's affinity for all things pretty finds expression in antiques and country touches. In the blue and yellow living room with its comfortable

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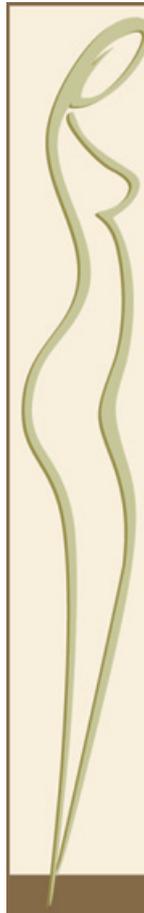
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sofas and chairs, the two of them enjoy relaxing with books or tuning in to their favorite TV programs. Florence is a fan of the show *What Not to Wear* but joins Weldon in “watching the Rangers,” too. Florence’s office is painted lilac with framed artwork that represents her love of writing for children.

This is where the dedicated author composes her columns and prepares notes for other projects, like a new children’s book called *Colby Calf, Moon Howler*.

The master bedroom and bath comprise an oasis of calm, preserving a happy medium between masculine and feminine elements carried out in laidback, neutral tones. The blue dining room is accented with lace and elegant furnishings — a fine table and hutch among them. Near the entryway an entertainment center in the style of a 1950s record player and radio gives a clue to the owners’ enjoyment of music and dancing. The guest room is a place Florence likes to call her memory room, filled with photos, gifts of stuffed animals and other reminders of family and friends. An afghan made by her daughter and another from her aunt are displayed, and a wall decoration in the form of a photo montage, incorporating an artistic use of metalwork, pays tribute to her father.



Florence’s favorite room is the kitchen, renovated by her daughter as a surprise while the lady of the house was away with friends on a cruise. The style is Tuscan, and Florence couldn’t be happier

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with it. "When I moved into this house I had casually mentioned that I'd love to have a Tuscan-style kitchen," she said. Little did she know her daughter had listened, and on the world traveler's return she was overwhelmed to find the gold and cream, faux-plastered walls of her dreams. "She even painted several dark red bricks in random areas to look like the plaster had fallen off," Florence enthused. The red pop of color ties in well

with the red canisters on the kitchen countertops, and even matches a painting of an Italian scene that hangs in the couple's living room.

As much as Weldon and Florence love their home, they equally enjoy traveling. They are looking forward to a



week-long trip to Branson, Missouri, and have other plans for on-the-road fun. "We can always find something to do," Weldon said. Meantime they are often found on their pontoon boat at Richland Chambers Reservoir, fishing with friends and relatives. "I love going out on a lake to spend long days afloat," Florence said, "listening to music, dangling our poles in the water and watching the sunset." But sooner or later they always come home to Waxahachie. "This is the place where God led me, where I found Weldon," she said. "So this is home."

Florence looks forward to writing more books and articles. As to her own story, she already knows how it ends: "They lived happily ever after in the little town with the funny name beside I-35." **NOW**



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Keeping Pace

— By Sandra Strong

His God-given name is William Kite, but family and friends lovingly call him "Pappy." It's a nickname he was given when he started his car racing career, and over 30 years later, it's what he still prefers to be called. But Pappy didn't begin living dangerously until the age of 58. His life is one for the history books. "I've done a little bit of everything," Pappy smiled. "Done just about all a man can do."

As Pappy begins to reminisce about his 92 years, he goes back to when he was a teenager living on a farm in Ohio. He remembers the first thing he ever built — a tractor. "It was the very first piece of equipment I built. We used it on the 250-acre farm," he said. "After that, my dad put me to work building and working on the other farm equipment."





Looking back, even Pappy understands the importance of that first tractor. The knowledge to build and repair things seemed to come naturally for him. This uncanny way to figure things out has been the catalyst, which has carried Pappy into so many other endeavors throughout his lifetime.

He was competing on the rodeo circuit in Ohio at the young age of 18. His girlfriend became his wife when he was 21. Almost immediately, the dangers of roping and riding broncos came to an end. "I chose my family over the rodeo," he said, smiling at the memories as they flooded his mind. "I no longer had the desire to rodeo."

In 1942, a year after he and Jessi Jean married, their first child was born. The years until Pappy turned 58 were



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spent rearing his family. Once Gary, Craig, Larry, Donny and Shirley Jean were grown, Pappy decided he needed something daring in his life, as if rearing five children hadn't been daring enough. "We were living in California at the time. I owned a Phillips 76 gas station," Pappy explained. "The younger guys who bought gas from me were building their own race cars. I was intrigued. I wanted to build, too."

Building one car turned into a total of five race cars — one for him, one each for three of his four sons and one for a nonfamily member — all Chevrolets. When he first started building and racing, the oval track was dirt. As time passed, the tracks were hard topped making it better for the drivers, as well as the fans. "We raced somewhere just about every weekend," he mused. "I never raced against one of my sons. I always raced in a different class." Pappy started his career as a novice, moving up the racing ranks to compete in what is still known as the modified class on the oval track today. His boys always raced street stock. "If I had raced my boys," he laughed, "I know I would have beaten them. It was best to just race in another class."

All kidding aside, Pappy gives praise where it's due when it comes to his children. "The oldest, Gary, was probably the best driver. He was sort of the daredevil," Pappy stated. "Gary was such a good driver that he was able to give fellow drivers some pointers."

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'PAPPY' KITE DESERTS SOIL
Ex-Farmer Finds Thrills Building, Driving Racers
 By PORTER FLINT
 MINT CANYON—Maintaining heavy-duty farm and rental equipment in his livelihood but building and driving racing cars for his first love, admits Bill "Pappy" Kite 47, of 15629 Vasquez Canyon Road, Agua Fria, Kite, 54-year-old, four feet and one inch tall, raised on a farm near Upp, Texas, Ohio, and was unable to get into the last year when he was drafted to farm for the duration. For him, he converted a Model "A" into a tractor for planting corn while others dug high school at Franklin, Ohio, and this soon led him to the race track where he has won ribbons and trophies in a career of 25 years.
 One of his boys, Craig 21, recently married with Ellen, U.S. Army at Ft. Carson, Ohio, has three more racing cars. The war stopped all but one of his cars. He has three years of racing experience, 25 months in Vietnam as an instructor and three years as a pilot, plus a number of other accomplishments. Kite said "Craig probably will receive his race license when his completed his service."
 Daughter Whitney 19, married with the U.S. Army, Gary 21, married and father of a son, has raced at Texas and Arizona, and like his father, with his own race track. "I'm a student at the University of Texas at Austin and probably will receive his race license when his completed his service."
 Kite and his wife Dean have been married for 25 years. Kite returned to California in 1960. He has a son, "When Dave 16, son of Kite, does a lot of racing, he has appeared with Father's "Thunder Alley" a series of races around the state. "I've done some Westerns, Arizona, and the son of the Thunder Alley, for the son of the Thunder Alley, for the son of the Thunder Alley."
 All the available outdoor equipment has not been used. Kite has a number of cars ready with a smile.
 —Don Kline Reporting
 "It's really nothing at all," he said. "I'm reporting, in fact, it would rather race than build houses. He was racing."

Building and racing goes hand-in-hand, or at least it did for Pappy. For him, it was the whole package. Jessi Jean, his soul mate and biggest cheerleader, passed away two years prior to Pappy's decision to no longer race at the age of 85. "She passed when I was 83," he reiterated. "I had 62 wonderful years with her, but I knew I had to live and go on."
 Going on meant living life to the fullest, which meant attending the race track as a spectator every chance he got. One of his fondest memories came at a NASCAR race soon after he stopped competing. "They pulled me from the

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crowd. They needed a driver for the Number 70 car," he said, still proud of the opportunity he was afforded. "The guy that was slated to drive was a no-show. The owners knew I was there, and they knew I could drive."

Pappy had never driven at NASCAR prior to this unexpected invitation. "I didn't win any race," he quipped, "but no one who started behind me passed me. I kept up the pace."

His life is filled with so many colorful experiences. He built some of his own furniture. He met the famed Parnelli Jones. Pappy not only rode horses in the rodeo, he broke them so others could ride. And he acted in two movies while living in California. The one that brings a smile to his face was the movie, *Thunder Alley*, which was taped in Ascott. "They wanted me to drive a car into the lake,"

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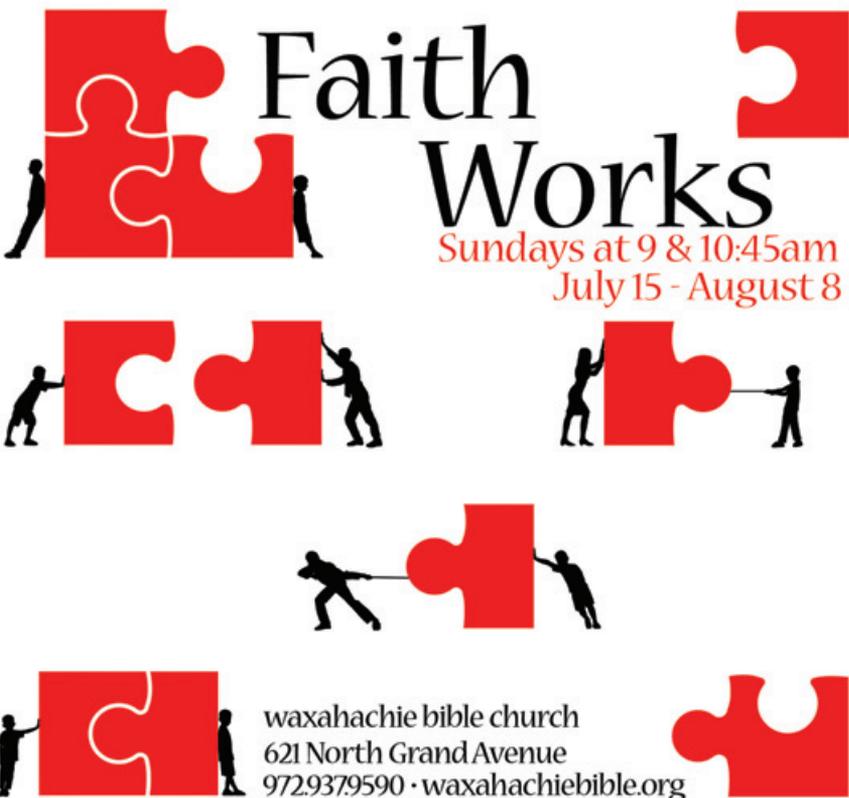
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he said, “but trick photography and a stunt person made it look like it was me. The stunt person was a female.”

In another movie, Pappy served as a stand-in. The movie was shot in Pioneer Town, California, an Old West motion picture set that is now open to the public as an amusement venue. “I met Roy Rogers,” Pappy said. “We went back a year later, and I was so surprised to see my photo hanging on the wall in one of the bars.”

Pappy moved to his home in Waxahachie in 2010, after first living with his daughter for six years before her move to Texas, and then with his son in Arkansas before making the decision to come to Texas, too. Since his daughter lives in nearby Midlothian, he spends quality time watching her race these days. “She may race with four hooves instead of four wheels and tires,” he said, referring to her love of barrel racing, “but I enjoy spending time with her and watching her compete.”

He still goes to a circle track race when the opportunity presents itself. He meets his newfound friends for coffee most mornings. And he still loves to dance. “I don’t want to give up dancing until I absolutely have to,” he confessed. “Three doctors told me I’d live to be at least 100, so I still have some dancing left to do.” Although getting older comes with its own set of difficulties, Pappy is still keeping pace today using the same principles he’s always used. “Realizing my limitations are the hardest part of getting older,” he said, “but I still believe in doing *it* right, whatever *it* may be. The hard work has kept me young.”

Pappy’s memories are all his, until the time comes when he cares to share them with others. They are a testament to a long life lived well. “If staying busy and staying happy worked for me,” he smiled, “it can work for you, too.” **NOW**



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— For — LOVE OF THE GAME

— By Katie Almond

Ellis County Athletics is an 8U coach pitch tournament baseball team. It's also, quite literally, a dream come true. President and head coach, Chad Caldwell said, "The idea actually came to me in a dream, believe it or not." He saw a little older version of his son and the sons of his two assistant coaches playing baseball on a team wearing the same green, white and gold uniforms that the team wears now. There was a banner and matching equipment sporting the same Athletics logo the team uses. "It was so vivid, that as soon as I woke up I had to call Steven. I had to tell him about it," Chad continued.

Steven Navarro is the vice president, assistant and third base coach for the Athletics. Nathan Nichols completes the triumvirate as treasurer and first base coach. These three men, along with administrators, Jaclyn Caldwell and Jami Navarro, make up the leadership of the Ellis County Athletics Baseball Association.

To pinpoint the exact beginning of the partnership



is a bit tough, though. Chad, Steven and Nathan grew up and went to school together in Ennis. Their families knew each other. They've been friends as long as they can remember. Steven and Chad's fathers worked together on the railroad and played softball together. Nathan's dad was one of Chad's very first coaches. Whenever it may have begun, it's definitely still going strong.

The second generation timing has worked out well, too. Chad and Nathan have a boy each and Steven has twins — all about the same age. They're all just the

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right age to play together on an 8U select baseball team. The four boys started out on a t-ball team at the Waxahachie YMCA when they were just 3. Chad, Steven and Nathan helped coach. Later, they moved to an Optimist League team. As things evolved, their dads wanted to give them the chance to play at a more advanced level.

After they heard Chad's dream, Jaclyn, Steven, Jami and Nathan were enthusiastic about starting the select team. Within a week, things started





to happen. "If I set my mind to do something, I follow through with it immediately," Chad said. Jaelyn was instrumental in getting the team's nonprofit status established. She handled all the paperwork through the state. The five adults met regularly to work on requirements, such as getting the name established, writing bylaws, setting up a bank account and obtaining insurance. The most critical part came after the team was established as a nonprofit organization. According to Chad, "You



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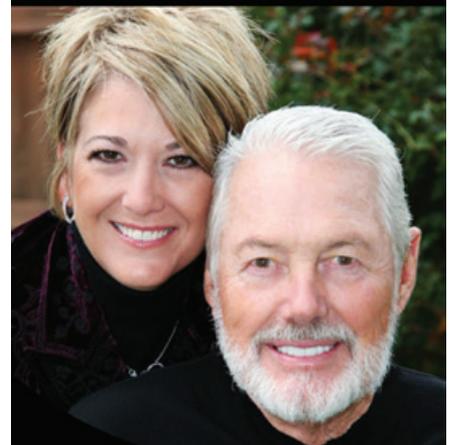
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gotta get some people to give you some money. With equipment, uniforms and insurance, we figured our expenses at about \$7,000.” They had flyers printed and reached out to the community for support. “Every business has an advertising budget. I showed them what we were trying to do, what our expenses were and said, ‘Any amount will do. We’ll put your name on a banner, and we’ll fly the banner over the dugout every inning of every game.’ Some money started coming in.”

When asked if it was difficult to raise the entire amount, Chad replied, “People in Ellis County, Waxahachie and Ennis want to help. If you show passion, and you show them that you’re doing something to help not only your kids, but other kids, opening up their checkbook and writing you a check isn’t hard. I can’t remember a time that I didn’t leave with either a check or the promise of a check.”

In addition to the business side of the Athletics, the leadership team worked together to define a positive team culture. As important as being good players, they want the boys to be good citizens. “We want to compete at the highest level, play our best every day, every game. But, we also want to teach our players the right way to handle themselves not only on the field, but off the field, too,” Chad asserted. The main purpose of the Athletics isn’t just to teach an appreciation of baseball. On this team, one of the main goals is to grow up to be a good role model and contribute to the community.

The coaches tell the parents that while they want the boys to excel on the field and make the team better, they also want them to be good kids. Team rules teach that being a good student is important and actions have consequences. “We tell the kids if they act up or don’t do right in school, they don’t get to play. They get to run for half of practice or sit out a game,” Chad stated.

The coaches understand that having fun is important, but they also know that in real life, not everyone gets a trophy. “You succeed and fail in life. Baseball is a game of failure. The best players fail 70 percent of the time. If you don’t teach kids about failing now, what are they going to do when they’re adults and don’t get the job they want or the lady they like doesn’t like them? How are they going to

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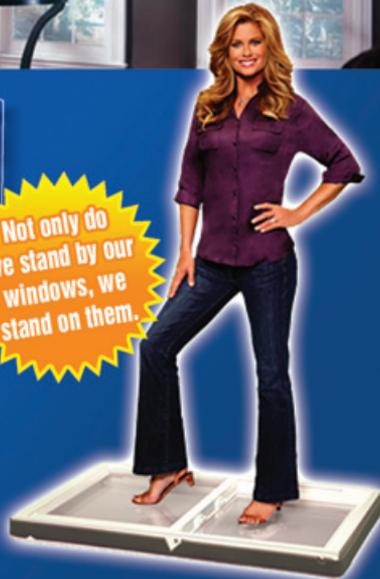
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react? I think baseball helps with that,” Chad said.

It’s quite a bit of work to manage, fund and coach a select baseball team, but Chad, Steven, Nathan, Jaelyn and Jami are committed to the Ellis County Athletics. Steven has a younger son, and Chad has a younger nephew. They’re already thinking about ways to field a second team under the Athletics umbrella. All of the coaches have full-time jobs, but love of the game and a deep desire to share that with their sons makes it all worthwhile. They grew up playing baseball. There’s something appealing about the smell of the glove, the crack of the bat and the feel of the grass. It’s a gift they want to pass on.

Chad, Steven and Nathan are taking this one day at a time. They’re bringing the boys along at a steady pace, teaching them discipline and good values. Is there a second dream? “We want to keep this going, with the same group of boys as much as we can, all the way to 18 and under and then send them all off to college on baseball scholarships,” Chad said.

Baseball, it has been said, is a thinking man’s game. The Ellis County Athletics Baseball Association believes baseball helps create a thinking man. “We think,” Chad explained, “starting at a young age, getting the kids to focus and pay attention and really make them think about what’s going on out there helps them develop good thought patterns.” **NOW**

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Dub and Sherrie Green have spent most of their adult lives in retail. The Studio's new location offers rustic decor and a large variety of unique jewelry.

Something New

Dubb and Sherrie Green continue to take each day as it comes.

— By Sandra Strong

Dub and Sherrie Green are no strangers to hard work and commitment. Sherrie grew up working in her family's café. "Dub and I married so young that he became part of the family's business, too," Sherrie said with a smile. "We've done it all."

Most all of their adult lives have been spent in the world of retail sales. Just one month shy of their 56th wedding anniversary, Dub and Sherrie opened the doors to The Studio at its new location. "We had been at the old location for 11 years," Dub shared. "We had run out of space, so when the opportunity to expand came along, we decided to go for it."

Scott and Deborah Green, owners of The Greenery, along with Dub and Sherrie, made an investment when they purchased a 10-acre parcel of land. That investment prompted

an opportunity for both family-owned businesses to move and share one much larger, more convenient location. "Scott and I talked," Dub remembered. "We both came to the same conclusion." Both businesses had outgrown their old locations. The best thing to do was bring them together in one central location, while maintaining separate businesses.

Things are much different now at The Studio. Extra space means extra offerings. An item soon to be available is a line of lavender products straight from a lavender farm in New Mexico. The organic essential oils and lotions offer soothing and calming effects for the body. Seeing all The Studio has to offer in only one visit is near impossible. "We started out with furniture and iron yard art," Sherrie said, "but over the years The Studio has

Business **NOW**

added metal stars, rustic crosses, wind chimes, candles and a large selection of jewelry to its list of specialized items. I knew I wanted to offer fashion jewelry, and once we did, it grew very quickly.”

Fashion jewelry includes rings, bracelets, earrings and necklaces for all price ranges — from beautiful costume jewelry selections to upper end jewelry that includes sterling silver, gold and precious stones. Another popular item is the Native American jewelry. No matter the event — prom, wedding or special gift — The Studio more than likely has what you are looking for in their extensive line of jewelry choices. Sherrie handcrafts a percentage of the jewelry offered at The Studio. She loves visiting with her return customers, while making so many new ones. Local customers have come to appreciate her one-of-a-kind pieces.

As life settles back into a routine

“We had run out of space, so when the opportunity to expand came along, we decided to go for it.”

following the relocation, Dub and Sherrie continue to feature local artisans. Items from locals make great gifts, such as unique crosses crafted from wood, bailing and barbed wire, and a full line of beaded crosses created by students at the School for Autistic Young People. “We also carry Break the Bondage bracelets,” Sherrie said. “The money from the bracelets helps fund a mission in India.”

Dub and Sherrie believe in staying busy, while accomplishing something new every day. They also realize how important their customers are to the continued success of the business. “We are so thankful to our customers,” Dub shared. “If folks didn’t support us, we wouldn’t still be in business.” Dub and Sherrie admit they would like to retire one day. “But until then,” Sherrie said, “we’ll continue to take each day as it comes.” **NOW**

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Seminole Canyon State Park — Worth the Trip

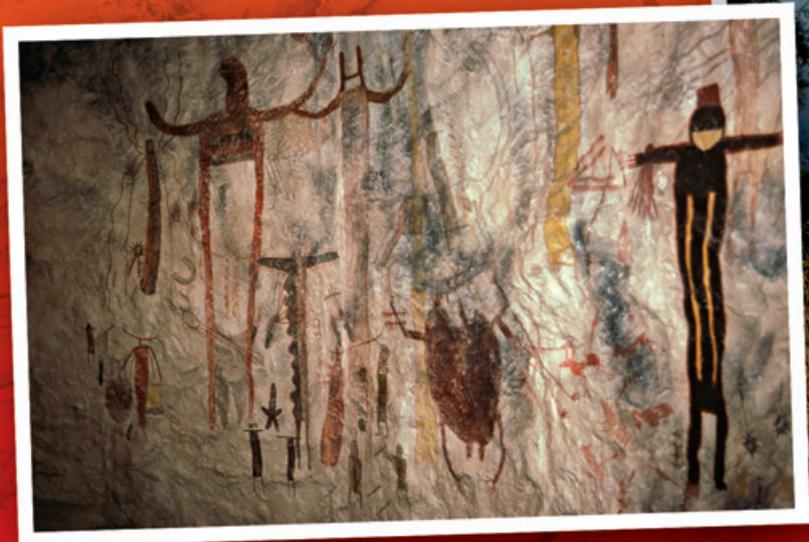
Station wagons may seem like dinosaurs now. Yet even piling into SUVs or 4x4s, families are hitting the roads this summer for relaxing trips to places quite different from their normal surroundings. Imagine going back in time on your next vacation, to an expansive piece of Texas that may have been home to dinosaurs, as well as our human ancestors. Literally thousands of years before it was officially designated a state park and historic site by the citizenry of Texas, the rugged limestone hills, flowing waters of the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers and wildlife-laden thorn scrub outside of present day Del Rio were a popular gathering place.

Perhaps not surprisingly, little has changed over the years for this unique and scenic sector of Texas. In fact, this region remains one of the few places where factual documentation of prehistoric settlement is preserved, providing evidence testifying to their lives. Ancient peoples recorded their whereabouts with mural-like paintings on the arching rock walls of this near desert-like canyon country, producing some of North America's

most renowned examples of Native American pictographs and preserving one of the continent's oldest cave dwellings.

Technically speaking, the canyon land is still being formed, even though its beginnings date back to the age of the dinosaurs. Unending erosion from rain, wind and the elements continues its immeasurably gradual craft of carving out the ever-widening escarpments.

The first human settlers here date back at least 12,000 years to the Pleistocene ice age, when prehistoric mankind hunted large game with stone-tipped spears across a lush landscape of oak and pine woodlands and verdant





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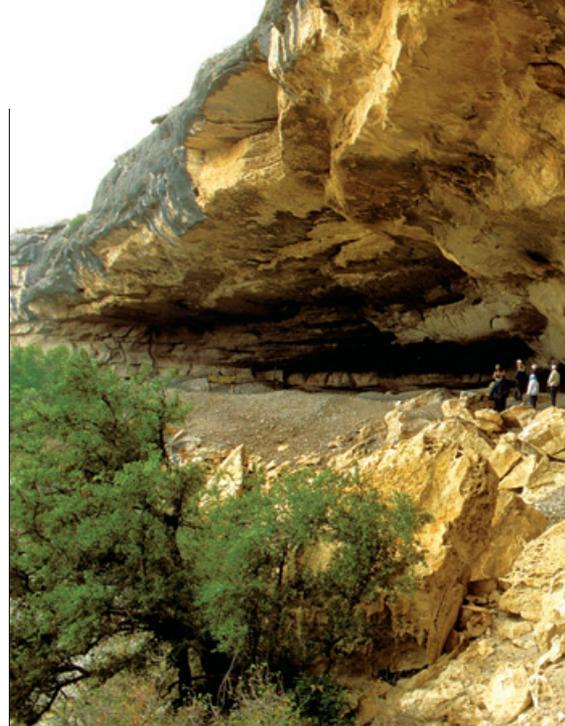
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grasslands in search of now-extinct species of bison, mammoths and elephants, camels and horses.

But rapid climate change made for a new environment and a culture that likely struggled to scratch out survival. By approximately 5,000 B.C., the landscape resembled much of what can be seen today. These inhabitants settled in the dry, lofty caverns, and despite their



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subsistence-level struggles, managed to paint remarkable pictographs that can be found in the park's Fate Bell Shelter, as well as other rock shelters throughout the Lower Pecos River region. These paintings have a distinct style that can only be found in portions of the Rio Grande, Pecos and Devils River areas, all located in Southwest Texas. More than 200 pictograph sites are known to exist and range from smaller, single paintings to caves with panels of art hundreds of



feet long. Although numerous figures or motifs are repeated in various locations, the exact meaning of these paintings is unknown.

The first known European to visit this area was Castaño de Sosa, of Monclova, Mexico, who in 1590 traveled much of what is modern Val Verde County. The U.S. Army brought the first American presence in the Lower Pecos. Later, the Southern Pacific Railroad, the nation's second transcontinental railroad, was completed in 1883 and crossed what is now park property. Sections of old rail bed can still be found inside the park boundary. The railroad also brought more access to markets for would-be ranchers and, along with barbed wire, helped expand and accelerate the ranching industry as a staple of life beyond the Pecos.

Seminole Canyon first opened to the public as a state park in 1980, and is named in honor of the U.S.



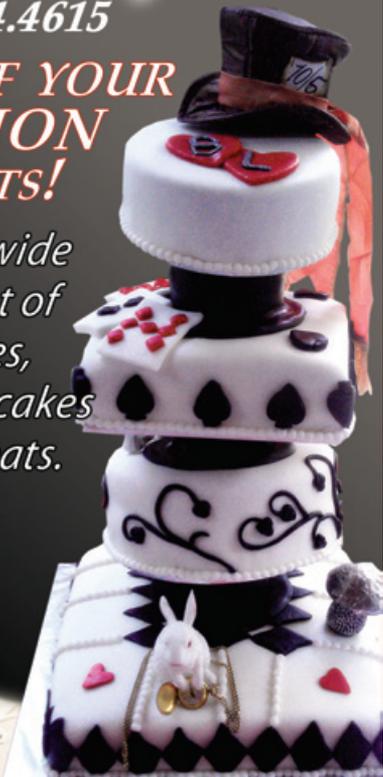
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Army's Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts, garrisoned at Fort Clark. The scouts protected the West Texas frontier from marauding Apache and Comanche bands between 1872 and 1914, when the United States maintained a military presence along interior routes through the frontier. These scouts were known for exceptional cunning and toughness, and it was deemed a befitting tribute to have a park bearing their namesake.

Today, those very same original features which attracted early man — beautiful scenery, proximity to abundant fresh water and lots of wildlife — continue to make Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site a popular destination among tourists, despite its remote location in this sparsely populated part of the Lone Star State.

Seminole Canyon State Park is 2,172 acres with miles of hike and bike trails, and 46 campsites, including 23 sites with water and electricity hookups compatible for RVs. The park also has restrooms with showers, a visitor center and state park store. Daily entrance fees are \$3 per person for adults (13 and older), children (12 and under) are free. Because of the sensitive nature of the park's rock art history, hikes into areas with rock

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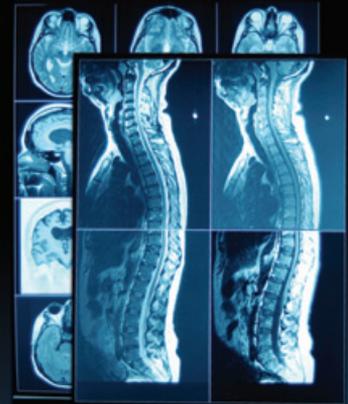


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art are only accessible through guided interpretive hikes with park staff and volunteers.

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The park is located some 40 miles northwest of Del Rio, not far from Lake Amistad National Recreation Area, and is nine miles west of the town of Comstock on U.S. Hwy. 90, just east of the Pecos River Bridge. For more information, contact Seminole Canyon State Park and Historic Site staff at (432) 292-4464. Or, if you'd like to plug the coordinates into your GPS for travel: Latitude: 29.7001 Longitude: -101.313058. For park reservations, call (512) 389-8900 or visit www.texasstateparks.org. **NOW**

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Term Life vs. Group Mortgage Life Insurance

— By Adam Rope

There are things to consider in comparing term life insurance to the group mortgage life insurance offered by many financial institutions.

Group mortgage life policy*

- The financial institution is the automatic beneficiary for the amount due.
- Policy choices usually have less flexibility for amounts and periods of coverage.
- A waiver of premium for disability is usually not available with a group policy.
- Provisions can be cancelled by the insurance company or policy owner. You are certificate holder; the financial institution is the policy owner.
- Portability is applicable to a particular mortgage loan. If loan is terminated, so is your protection.
- Flexibility for additional coverage is usually not available. Coverage for a spouse may be available with some group policies.

Term life insurance

- You name the beneficiary.
- There are policy choices for any initial amount, subject to policy limits that meet your needs.
- A waiver of premium for disability is optional coverage. If you are totally disabled for the time period defined in the rider, premiums will be paid for as long as you remain totally disabled.



- Provisions cannot be cancelled by the insurer. You own the policy, and it stays in force for its term, as long as the premiums are paid.
- While the policy is in force, it may be converted to permanent life insurance without evidence of insurability prior to age 75.
- Portability protection does not stop if you move. The policy can follow you from one mortgage loan to another.
- Additional protection can be added according to your needs and your spouse and children, if each qualifies.

*All group plans are not the same. This is a general comparison only and may not be applicable to a specific group policy. **NOW**

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Have a Drink

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

You should drink eight glasses of water a day. No, you should drink only six glasses per day. Or, perhaps three glasses is enough. So, what is the right answer? When you consider that your body is 60-percent water and every day you lose some of it by breathing, urinating and perspiring, it should be clear and incontrovertible how much you need to replenish it. It should be, but it is not. The optimal amount of fluids your body requires may change depending on the circumstances. The hydration needs of a sweaty athlete practicing in the hot sun will be monumentally different from a person who spends most of their time on the couch in a comfortable room.

The standard amount most often given as a starting point is eight eight-ounce glasses of fluids a day. Contributing to that eight-glass total can be fluids such as: broth, soft drinks, milk, Jell-O and juice. However, water is the ideal drink, because your body does not need to process extra substances, such as sugar, alcohol or caffeine. You also can receive a great percentage of water through your food, especially fruits and vegetables.

Here are a few guidelines to consider for your hydration needs:

- If you exercise, and particularly if you perspire heavily, you must increase your intake of fluids to stay hydrated.
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding requires more liquid to support the baby and to produce milk.
- Extreme temperatures will affect your intake. When it is very cold, use of indoor heat is very drying and causes your skin to lose moisture. Likewise, hot temperatures cause sweating, and that water needs to be replaced.
- Illnesses that cause vomiting, diarrhea or fever increase your need for fluids. Some illnesses require limiting your liquid intake.



When advised of this by your health care professional, guidelines should be strictly monitored.

- Although alcoholic beverages and drinks containing caffeine are included in the daily fluid count, you may have to drink more water because of the diuretic action these liquids have on the body.
- Diets that contain large amounts of salt or fiber will create a need for extra water.

You can tell if your body is receiving the proper amount of fluids each day. Dark colored urine may be a sign of not enough fluids. Don't try to reach your daily total amount of fluids in one sitting. Spread your drinks throughout the day. Once again, water is the best choice for your body. If you have an aversion to drinking plain water, add lemon or cucumber slices to jazz it up a bit. Try not to get thirsty, and if you do, have a drink! **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.

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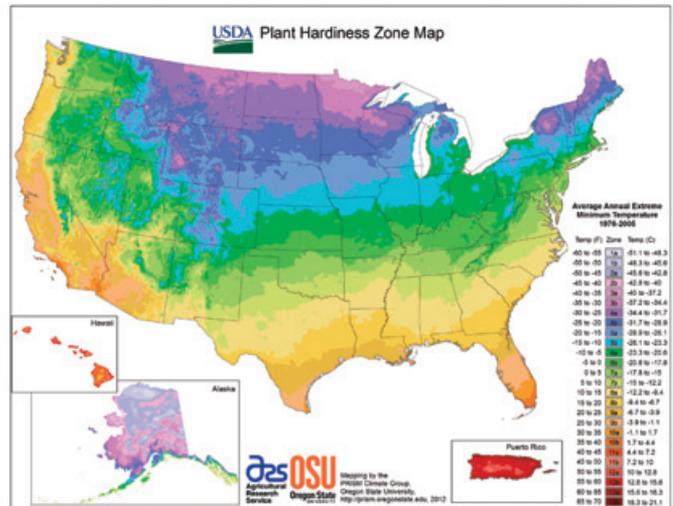
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Know Your Zone

— By Nancy Fenton

Do you wonder what those numbers on the plants you order and buy mean? The numbers are to give us an idea of the minimum cold temperature, which certain plants can tolerate. In this region of North Texas, we are now in what is called hardiness zone 8. We have been in 7b, but things are “a changing.” The scientists at the National Arboretum in cooperation with USDA have tweaked the 2012 map a bit. The specialists don’t think it is a result of global warming, but it does reflect a warming trend.

The new map carves up the U.S. into 26 zones based on five-degree temperature increments. Our counties were a good solid 7b where the very coldest day would average between 5 and 10 degrees. Now we are in 8a where the coldest average day will be 10 to 15 degrees. This makes a difference in what we can plant and when we plant it. It will make a large difference if you are ordering plants. Look for zone 8 in the information. I buy lots of bulbs, and a great many will not do well year after year in our warmer alkaline areas, so I look for zones 8 and 9. You can always buy any plant from any zone, but this information can be vital for survival outside a greenhouse. You can get the specific zone information for your ZIP code on the USDA Web site. Next month, we will talk more about neat Web sites where you can find lots of great information.



Meanwhile, be sure to check the Master Gardeners’ booth at Waxahachie’s Farmers’ Market on Saturdays. **NOW**

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July 3

Midlothian's Annual Independence Day Fireworks Display: 9:00-9:30 p.m., MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th Street, Midlothian. Free to the public.

July 3, 4

15th Annual Grape Myrtle Festival and Parade — Bloomin' & Boomin' Bash: **July 3**, 5:00 p.m.: Vintage Bank tailgate party, Waxahachie Sports Complex; 6:00 p.m.: Battle of the Bands begins; 9:00 p.m.: H-E-B fireworks display. **July 4**, 10:00 a.m.: hometown parade. All activities are free. For more information, call (972) 937-2390.

July 4

Old Fashioned Fourth of July: 10:00-11:00 a.m., Sims Library, front lawn. Events include sack races, egg tosses, hula hoops and the three-legged race. Popsicles will be served at the conclusion. Visit children@simslib.org for more information.

July 16

Summer Wildflower and Bird Walk: 8:30-10:30 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Road, Midlothian — just north of Mockingbird. Bring water, bug spray and sunscreen. Free to public.

July 21

American Heart Association First Aid and CPR Class: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Baylor Institute for

Rehabilitation and Fitness Center, 507 Hwy. 77 N., Suite 700. For more details, call (972) 938-3311.

Free Seminar on Diabetes by Michael Schwartz: 3:00 p.m., Ann's Health Food Center, 2305 Highway 77 North. For more information, call Angelo at (972) 923-1400.

Red Oak Reunion: 6:00-10:30 p.m., Sleep Inn & Suites, 1701 N. Hwy. 77. For more information, contact Renee Bryan Wood at reneewood1963@yahoo.com or Nancy Holloway Drake at njhdrake@yahoo.com.

July 26-28

Waxahachie Community Theatre's Showcase Kids Production of *Cinderella and the Substitute Fairy Godmother*: **July 26, 27**: 7:30 p.m.; **July 28**: 2:30 p.m., McCafferty Hall, SAGU, 1200 Sycamore. Advance tickets: \$8. Tickets at the door: \$10. The venue is not wheelchair accessible. For more information, call (972) 646-1050.

Saturdays through October 20

Waxahachie Downtown Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Ongoing:

Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County: 6:30-8:30

p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Avenue.

Second and Fourth Saturdays

Songwriter Saturdays: 6:00 p.m.: social time; 6:30-7:15 p.m.: dinner and fellowship; 7:30-8:15 p.m.: opening act; 8:30-10:00 p.m.: featured artist. For more information, contact Randy Tredway at (972) 938-9990 or e-mail him at randy@inthemusicroom.com. Bring beverages for yourself and a covered dish to share. Seating is limited.

Third Saturdays

Waxahachie Jamboree: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Women's Building, 407 W. Jefferson Street. For more information, call Hoyt Patterson at (214) 535-3473 or visit www.waxahachiejamboree.com.

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 sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com.

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B's Texican

Handcrafted Burgers, Freshmex and Lone Star Specialties

Ellis County has a new hip restaurant located on Highway 287 between Midlothian and Waxahachie. Ellis County has chains a plenty, but now we have B's Texican, a cool Austin-esque, fast-casual burger and freshmex joint. Cool and hip is one thing, but the made-from-scratch food is really awesome!

B's Texican is owned and operated by Executive Chef Brian Hennington and Lori Hennington his restaurant and art-savvy wife. The Hennington's are known in the Dallas Ft. Worth Metroplex for opening cutting edge restaurants such as the Deep Ellum Café, The Elm St. Winery, Ruby's Greenville Av. Café, Christos Table Catering and Hennington's at the Nutt House Hotel in Granbury.

When talking with B and Lori about what is most important at B's, this was their response; "The main thing we care about is our customers," state both B and Lori. "We do not believe in cutting corners or using inferior products. B's Texican is a chef-driven, fast-casual restaurant that creates unique and excellent scratch recipes served in a fun environment. We buy the freshest and highest quality products available and train our chefs with the best methods and techniques to prepare your food to order. The world is loaded with restaurants serving frozen cookie cutter food that has absolutely NO nutrition or flavor."

B's specializes in fresh ground chuck and brisket burgers, tasty freshmex, Texas specialties and house baked desserts. B's is a local favorite and regional destination spot known for their made-from-scratch cuisine.

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 Hours: Mon-Sat 11-9pm • Sun 11-2pm



- 🍴 Fish tacos with chipotle mayo and Latin-Asian slaw
- 🍴 Picadillo tacos and chile con carne cheese enchiladas
- 🍴 Trial by fire burger with ghost pepper jelly
- 🍴 The Old Lordy burger with ham, bacon, Swiss, cheddar, fried egg and Russian dressing
- 🍴 Texican burger with queso, guacamole and pico de gallo
- 🍴 Maui wowie burger with teriyaki-grilled golden pineapple and smoked ham
- 🍴 Fresh turkey burger with arugula, pecan bacon, Swiss and horseradish mayo
- 🍴 New Mexico green chile chicken enchiladas
- 🍴 Hand-breaded chicken-fried steak and chicken-fried chicken with scratch gravy
- 🍴 Salads with the chef's roasted garlic and avocado dressing
- 🍴 Mississippi catfish and fried Gulf shrimp with homemade tartar and cocktail sauce
- 🍴 Guacamole made when ordered
- 🍴 Handmade salsas and made-to-order corn and flour tortillas.

Our food is fresh, tasty, fun, exciting, creative, unparalleled and healthy. No MSG; no corn syrup; no preservatives.





In The Kitchen With Shirley McLeroy

— By Sandra Strong

Shirley McLeroy's love for baking and cooking came from her mom. "I was in the kitchen at the age of 12, helping her cook for our family of seven," she remembered. "I realized I really loved to be in the kitchen." How fitting that Shirley's first job in high school was at a bakery. After she married and moved to Georgia, she accepted a job at a bakery. "My boss taught me how to decorate cakes," she admitted. "It wasn't long after my training that I was baking 100 cakes a day."

Cooking healthier meals has become very important to Shirley. "We stopped eating all the sweets," she explained, "when I started creating dishes out of chicken and fish with lots of fresh vegetables." **NOW**

Healthy Bean Soup

- 1 onion, chopped**
- 4 stalks celery, chopped**
- 1 lb. turkey meat**
- 6 16-oz. cans beans of your choice, undrained**
- 1 pkg. taco seasoning**
- 1 pkg. buttermilk dressing (dry)**
- 1 4-6 oz. can green chiles**

1. Sauté onions and celery; add turkey

meat and cook until done. Pour beans over the mixture.

2. Add taco seasoning, buttermilk dressing and green chiles. Cook on stove until hot.

Healthy Chicken Dish

- 4-6 pieces skinless chicken breasts**
- Roger's Kickin' Chicken spice**
- 2 cups brown rice, cooked**
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth**
- 1 onion**

- 1 bell pepper**
- 1 zucchini**
- 1 squash**
- 1 spear broccoli**
- 1 green pepper**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

- 1.** Line a 9x13-inch pan with aluminum foil. Add the chicken to the pan, adding spices and topping the meat with the rice and broth.
- 2.** Cut up the vegetables; laying them on top. Salt and pepper vegetables to taste.
- 3.** Close the foil over the ingredients. Bake at 350 F for 30-45 minutes. All flavors will blend together.

Easy Chicken Noodle Soup

- 2 7-oz. pkgs. Sweet Sue premium chicken breasts, diced**
- 1 onion, chopped**
- 4 stalks celery, chopped**
- 3 lbs. chicken broth**
- Small pkg. carrots, diced**
- Medium pkg. pasta noodles**

- 1.** Sauté chicken, onion and celery on stove top. Pour chicken broth over ingredients.
- 2.** Add diced carrots; add pasta. Cook on medium heat until noodles are done.

Tilapia

- 4 filets fresh tilapia**
- Virgin olive oil**
- Geoffrey Michael's Cajun Breakdown**
- Spicy seasoning, to taste**

- 1.** Brush fish with olive oil; sprinkle both sides with Cajun spice. The more you add, the spicier it will be.
- 2.** Cook fish in a hot iron skillet. Be sure not to overcook. Serve with brown rice, healthy vegetables or a salad.

Banana Nut Muffins

- 1 1/2 cups flour**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 cup Canola oil**
- 3-4 very ripe bananas, mashed**
- 1 cup nuts, your choice**

- 1.** Mix flour, sugar and baking soda; add Canola oil, bananas and nuts. Mix well.
- 2.** Place scoop of ingredients in sprayed muffin tins. Bake at 350 F for 10-15 minutes; if moist, cook 2 minutes longer.

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