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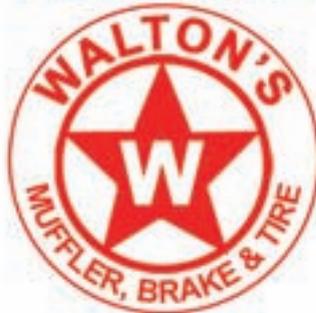
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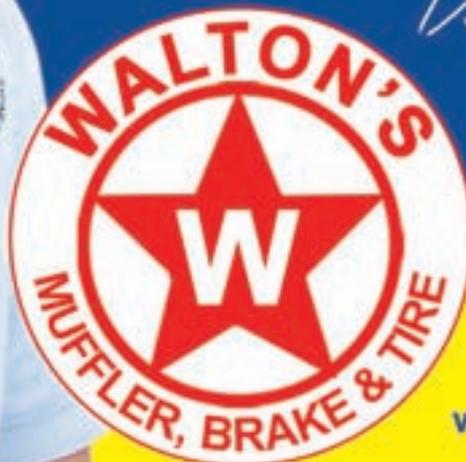
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MAGAZINE

Editor's Note

Dear Waxahachie Friends
and Family,



I have been living in Waxahachie now for five months, and I am so happy to be here. I realize I have only been living 16 miles down the highway, but it is nice to feel as if I have finally come home. My comfort comes in knowing I have always had wonderful friends and family here in Waxahachie. You guys mean the world to me!

This August heat is great for those of you who enjoy being sweaty and parched, but for older folks like myself, some cooler temperatures are starting to sound nice. Even though I have spent many hours this summer at the lake *trying* to learn to slalom ski, the lake water has reminded me of a hot tub without the bubbles! I am ready for what fall and winter have to offer.

School resumes this month, so please remember to drive safely!

Sandra Skoda
WaxahachieNOW Editor

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Double the Talent

— By Jaime Ruark

Having someone to walk through life with is a gift. Family members and friends are treasures because they can share in the laughter of good times and help shoulder the burden of the bad. Having a sister who is also a best friend and almost a mirror image is therefore something Melina and Michele Lyon, 18-year-old twins, truly count as a blessing.

Dynamite in two almost identical petite packages, the young cowgirls are natural beauties. Both speak with the same confident tone; both have a maturity that belies their years. It might take a stranger a second glance to find the differences in the girls. Melina, the older of the two by one minute, has a slightly larger frame, while Michele has a small mole on one cheek. “When they were little, it was impossible

to tell them apart,” their mother, Lois, said. “They pulled a prank on us when they were younger. Melina took a brown marker and colored a mole on her cheek. It tricked everyone, even us.”

The twins have been blessed with God-given talents in multiple areas. Both girls are incredibly athletic, sing like angels and are amazing artists. “We love being twins. We’re best friends. We hardly ever fight, but if we do, we can’t even stay mad at each other for more than five minutes,” Michele said. Melina continued, “We always know exactly what the other one is thinking. We finish each other’s sentences and agree on just about everything.”

The Lyon girls have been busy making a name for



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themselves through their artistry. The Willow Run Kennel in DeSoto features a touch of the twins. The walls on the second floor are covered with floor-to-ceiling murals that would make a professional artist jealous. “We picked a different theme for every room,” Michele explained. “In the rainforest room, we painted a waterfall, a tiger, a panther, an albino alligator, a sea turtle and a sting ray.” Melina added, “Other



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than art classes at school, we've never had any professional training. Both our parents are artistic, so I guess that's where we got it.” The girls have won top prizes for their artwork at the Texas State Fair.

Michele has started drawing portraits, lovely likenesses she either sells or gives as gifts. “Me and my sister really have a heart for older dogs and there was this dog named Augustina — she was just the sweetest thing. She had a tumor in her face and she needed help with walking and eating, but she was still always a happy dog,” Michele recalled. “I took a picture of the dog, drew her and gave it to the owner. A lot of the reason why we like to do drawings for people is because it's more personal than just having a picture taken. It's a gift God has given us, and we like to use it in a good way.”

True athletes and cowgirls, the twins have always loved working with horses. They participate in various tournaments and events. Michele said, “We're a part of the Cedar Hill Saddle Club and we participate in playdays [horse and rider timed events] and drill team. Melina also participates in Pony Express.” Melina added, “We

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have a need for speed, and we both love barrel racing. We got into that about five or six years ago. We had friends who did it, and they would let us ride their horses. Then we eventually got our own."

"We always wanted to work at a ranch because we wanted to be around horses. Now we work at 4-C Stables on Ovilla Road in Waxahachie, which is where all of our horses are," Michele said. "We used to volunteer at the stables as trade for our horses' boarding before we worked there."

The twins have a love for all animals — especially those which people have



Michele Lyon, Stacey Carpenter and Melina Lyon share their love for horses.

decided are past their prime or no longer useful. "We started rescuing and training horses, and now our family has eight and they're all fat and happy," Michele laughed. The girls' first rescue horse was a thoroughbred and from there, the number of rescues has grown, including their sister Tiffany's horse, Ruger, an old police horse that was left in a field, and Sakima, a paint horse purchased at an auction for \$225 that was headed for the slaughterhouse if Melina's father, L.B., hadn't bought him that night. "I've trained him myself to be a barrel racing horse," Melina said, pointing out her shiny Junior Champion belt buckle that she and Sakima won from the National Association of Riding Clubs and Sheriff's Posses.

Neither of the girls has ever had a formal riding lesson, much less formal education on how to train a horse. For them, it just comes naturally. "We

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watched videos; we've gone to seminars; we watch training sessions on TV; and we ask a million questions," Melina said. Now that the girls work and keep their horses at 4-C Stables, owner and trainer Stacey Carpenter has become their mentor. "We all work together really well," Michele added. "It all really depends on the horse and its personality, because every horse is different. It depends on how well you connect with it."

Melina's first training experience was with a horse that was born with a club foot. "Her hoof was pretty much growing backwards," she explained. "Her owner wanted to either give her away or just put her down." Farrier Paul Spurgin made the connection bringing "Gracie" into the Lyon family and lined up surgery with Dr. Tony Ellis. "She was terrified when we first got her, Melina recalls, "She would turn away from me. Her club foot was so extreme we had to wait until she was two-and-a-half to see if she could even hold someone. Now I do drill team with her, and you can't even tell which foot it was," she said proudly.

Michele's first horse, Molly, was also headed to the slaughterhouse. "Training her was painful at first because she bucked me off almost every day for a year straight," she laughed. "She had such a snotty mare attitude, but I kept working with her." With patience and determination, Michele would get up off the ground, scold Molly and get right back on. "Now anyone, even a little kid, could ride her," the girls' father, L.B., proudly added.

The dynamic duo rides in Cowboy Church events and playdays, helps their family financially and are an amazing example to all those who know them. Their faith is strong and so is their determination to turn their talents into a business for themselves. "We want to continue with our art, and, of course, the barrel racing and our training," Michele said. "The world can always use more cowboys and cowgirls!" **NOW**

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Living *a* Dream

— By Sandra Skoda

Now that the remodel on their newly acquired two-story Mediterranean style home with three bedrooms, two full- and two half-baths is complete, Wayne and Marlene Norcross can finally sit back, relax and enjoy a sense of ownership. “We are caretakers of such wonderful history,” Wayne said, referring to the old Carlisle/Blankenbeckler home they purchased approximately one-and-a-half years ago. “Marlene and I feel it’s a privilege to keep the history alive.”

The home on Sycamore Street was built in 1935 by Bertram C. Hill and the Mediterranean style was inspired by Maude Carlisle. Maude was the motivating force behind the unique home located on a corner lot. The original facade did not change until 1960 when the kitchen was redesigned

At Home With Wayne and Marlene Norcross





and a morning room and utility room were added. "The morning room was trendy before its time," Marlene mentioned. The bank of sliding windows still offers an outstanding view to the courtyard when closed, while allowing the courtyard to become one with the home's interior rooms when they are in the open position. "The home is conducive to family gatherings," Marlene added.

In 1969, the garage of the home was closed in so the family room could be added. Frank and Neil Blankenbeckler, Maude's son-in-law and daughter and second owners of the homestead, took the fourth bedroom original to the home and turned it into an upstairs dressing room in 1975. In 1987, the family room received an update. "The fireplace was added at that time,"



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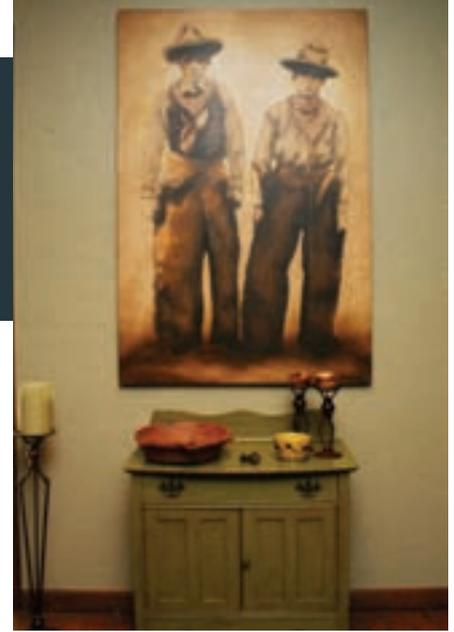
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Wayne explained, “as was the custom cabinetry. The last time anything structural was done to the home was in 1987.” When purchasing the home, Wayne and Marlene inherited the plans, renovations and updates, so they can be certain on the history of the home when sharing it with others. “The stainless steel countertops are original to the home,” Wayne said, “as are all the windows.”

Many “firsts” to Waxahachie were found in the home’s construction so many years ago. The hydraulic water

sprinkler and tennis court were the first of their kind in the area. Today, the sprinkler system is still in working order, but the Norcrosses decided to replace half of the tennis court with an in-ground pool. The remaining section of tennis court became an all-around sport court for the couple’s grandchildren.

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home quiet, while also lending to a balanced temperature year-round. Chandeliers are commonplace within the home. The Murano glass chandelier, which hangs in the upstairs bedroom, was custom-made in a factory in Italy. The second upstairs guest bedroom is home to an antique French crystal and brass chandelier dating back to the late 19th century. The door handles and knobs throughout the house are from Spain. The stair railings, also original to the home, were hand-forged and hammered to what visitors still consider artwork at its finest.

During the purchase, Wayne and Marlene acquired several items from the Blankenbeckler family. A couple noteworthy pieces include a hand-painted bedroom suite dating back to the 19th century that Marlene placed upstairs to honor Mrs. Blankenbeckler's memory, and a French Rococo mirror that is well over 100 years old. "I love the less ornate French decor and furnishings," Marlene admitted. Marlene has taken



the traditional and merged it with one of her favorite collections — pigs — to make for a cozy, whimsical home with a deep French Mediterranean feel. "We added our own things," she said, "while maintaining the integrity of the home." Other collectibles include blown glass artisan vases and trays, which go perfectly with the Murano chandelier. A washstand in the family room that was passed down from her great-grandmother is the only material memory Marlene has of this side of her family. "My great-grandmother brought it with her in a covered wagon from Virginia," Marlene said. "When their house burned,

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this was the only thing that survived.” It may not be in the best condition, but it is a piece that evokes some very special memories.

During the remodel, Wayne and Marlene removed all the old, outdated wallpaper, had the home’s interior and exterior repainted and the floors throughout were also redone. They remember the traffic jams they caused when trying to pick the perfect shade for the outdoor shutters. “We painted the shutters all different colors until we found a color we both liked,” Marlene laughed. “Neighbors would drive by

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and vote on their favorite colors. It was fun!” Still today, people will drive by slowly, and some will even stop and knock on the door, to revisit a memory they made years earlier.

Tradition in this couple’s home has always been to come and go by the back door. The front entrances in their previous homes were never really used. “We looked at and bought this house



without ever going through the front entrance,” Wayne confessed, also mentioning they chose Waxahachie when moving back to the area so he could pick up where he left off in the insurance business. They quickly realized the same tradition applied to the

Carlisle and Blankenbeckler families.

The water feature found in the courtyard pond today was originally a brick barbecue pit. The trees, offering shade by day and romantic lighting when evening comes, were planted



when the home was built. The far back area of the 1.03 acre lot is where visitors will find the English flower garden, always in bloom. “The garden blooms all year long, thanks to Mrs. Blankenbeckler,” Marlene noted. “She wanted to be able to come to the garden at any time and enjoy flowers in bloom.”

When company comes to visit, Wayne enjoys sharing a bit more history about the home, its original owners and its location. “During the Great Depression, Sycamore Street was known as Silk Stocking Row because of the wealthy people who resided here,” he said. “The women who lived in these homes were of a certain level of good fortune, influence and privilege.” Marlene cannot go one day without thinking of her own mother and the childhood that includes vivid memories of the house she and Wayne lovingly call home today. “When I was a little girl, my mom and I used to drive by this house. I used to dream of living here one day,” she reminisced. Many years later, she is living her dream. **NOW**

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Always a Cowgirl

— By Sandra Skoda

Michele Goodwin has always been a cowgirl. She attended her first rodeo when she was only 2 weeks old. “My father was a bull rider and a rodeo clown,” she said. “I grew up at the rodeo, so it’s no wonder I love cowboy boots and lots and lots of turquoise and silver jewelry.” For Michele, the western look began at a very young age and has grown into a passion in adulthood.

The western look for Michele would be incomplete if it did not include her artistic passion — creating her own bejeweled pieces. “While some people wear a little,” she said, referring to the amount of jewelry, “I wear a lot. I love piling it on.” Throughout her childhood, Michele’s parents traveled to rodeos and different events in Texas and New Mexico. Her memories as a little girl are still vivid in her mind. “We’d go to the Labor Day horse races in New Mexico,” she remembered. “Every year, I’d get a special jewelry gift.”

Michele’s love for cowboy boots and jewelry never wavered. The idea of making her own pieces never crossed her mind — that is until a fateful day in 2006. “I had a previously

purchased piece break,” she explained. “A friend of mine at The Studio used to always fix and repair my jewelry. That day Sherry Green, owner of The Studio, advised me on how to fix it myself.” That was the start of a passion that has grown over the past several years to include some of the most gorgeous pieces.

Her artistic résumé includes earrings, bracelets and necklaces. Michele has also created several ankle bracelets. She is very particular about the pieces she makes and the need for perfection has recently paid off. “I’ve always loved the *Cowboys & Indians* magazine,” she said. “I met a gentleman at the bank where I work, and he told me to call his wife. She actually worked for the magazine.” Michele made a phone call and, like they say, the rest is history.

In June of 2008, Michele sent three of her jewelry pieces to the magazine for consideration in an upcoming edition. “All three pieces were returned, but they kept one of the bios that I was required to send with each piece,” she stated. “That was the piece that made it into the fall issue that same year.” The cover of the magazine may feature Kevin Costner, but the model on page 113 is a backdrop to the beautiful, bold turquoise necklace created right here in Waxahachie. “I still can’t believe a piece of my jewelry was chosen,” she enthused. “Other people who sent pieces in are well-established artisans who have been featured in many other publications.”

The necklace that was featured in the magazine is a piece that Michele has worn quite often. The stones for the necklace, one strand of nuggets and another strand of teardrop-shaped turquoise pieces, came in an assorted bag from a company located in New Mexico. When the bags get to her home, Michele spends hours separating them. It is during this time of separating that her eye sees the vast assortment and her mind begins the process of creating. "I see what I have when I get them," she added. "It's always a surprise."

The bags that are ordered from New Mexico are a mixture of leftovers that come in all shapes and sizes. The shades and dimensions of the turquoise and semi-precious stones are many. Some are so oddly shaped that Michele has no idea what she will create with them, but she puts them aside until the day an idea comes to her. The stones have always come packaged this way, so



"Every year, I'd get a special jewelry gift."

when Michele has a desire to mimic a specific style, she has to hope the stones she needs will be included in the bag.

In December 2008, some months after she submitted her first pieces of jewelry to the magazine, Michele went

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through the process again. She sent three more pieces, along with individual bios, to the magazine. This time they kept all three bios, but unfortunately, none of the three made the final cut for the spring issue. Michele does not look at this as a setback. It gave her the incentive to keep on masterfully creating unique, one-of-a-kind pieces that have traveled from Ellis County to individuals across the country, including California, Georgia and Tennessee.

The most special piece Michele has made to date was for her daughter-in-law.



"She wanted to wear one of my creations for the wedding," Michele admitted. "She designed it, and I made it." The necklace was crafted from pearls, off-white glass beads and liquid silver. "Her something borrowed and blue item was a blue turquoise ankle bracelet," Michele added.

Greg, Michele's husband of 28 years, continues to reinforce her lifelong love of jewelry. "At the age of 20, we went to the horse races with my parents. I told Greg if he bought me a little silver bracelet, I'd never take it off, except of course to polish it," she smiled. Still today, Michele wears that special bracelet, along with several of her own designs. "Like I always say," Michele laughed, "the more the merrier." **NOW**

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A Special Touch

— By
Sandra
Skoda

Over the past 30 years, Tim Grant has coached almost every sport available to athletes from junior high through the college level of play. On May 5, 2009, Tim officially became the head soccer coach at Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) following months of service as the interim coach. “I’m really kind of new to the sport myself,” he admitted. “I’ve only had a couple of years’ experience.” Tim, a team player himself, stepped into the interim position when the need arose. Landing the coaching position could be due to his team-like spirit to “play” wherever he is needed, or it could be because of the fact he has 20-plus years of athlete recruiting experience on his résumé.

The soccer program at SAGU has only been offered to students for the past five years. Tim’s goal this season was to recruit 25 players on both the men’s team and the women’s team. “Twenty-five of each would almost guarantee junior varsity and varsity teams,” he explained. “Girls are much harder to recruit. They usually know by high school what college or university they want to attend. Guys are a little easier because they tend to think in the moment.”

Tim runs a tight ship on and off the soccer field. It is a ship of firm rules with minimal exceptions. “Recruits must

“Recruits must realize that a relationship with God is first and foremost here at SAGU.”



realize that a relationship with God is first and foremost here at SAGU,” he stated. “They understand in the very beginning that God is part of the athletic equation and drinking and smoking will not be tolerated.” Knowing this beforehand, makes instilling and following the rules much easier on both Tim and his players.

In early spring, as Tim began to recruit athletes, he had a desire to develop the soccer program at SAGU into the international game it has been for years elsewhere. “I wanted to mirror this,” he said. In doing so, Tim has been able to recruit players from Latin, North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia. In the future, Tim is making plans for the soccer team to take an overseas mission trip. The location has not yet been confirmed, but they could very well end up in India.



The soccer season actually begins on Sunday afternoon, August 9, when the players report for duty. The next morning, the team will leave for their annual mission trip to Mexico that focuses on friendship evangelism using



the game of soccer. "We start the week out by first making a connection with the people in Mexico," Tim expressed. "Once we get that behind us, the real mission behind the trip can begin." This real mission includes new construction projects, craft activities with the younger children and playing soccer late into the night. "The goal is to expose my kids to a new culture, as well as the game of soccer in its most basic form," he added. "Working at length with Native Americans [in Mexico], I've learned their culture is much different than ours." Once a relationship has been forged, the goal then becomes one of helping the culture in the area most needed. "The older kids will partner up with the new kids to make the whole experience a success," he said. "The overall mission is to reinforce the need for a 'real worldview' of things. Life is a constant development and life is full of change."

The actual SAGU soccer season begins on September 12, after a full month of two-a-day practices. A total of 12 matches for each team will be played. This year's goal is to end up as one of the top six teams in their conference. If they reach their goal, they will be playing in the Red River Conference Tournament held in the fall. "It's a far-reaching goal," Tim said of the conference tournament,



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“but I plan on building on the foundation the previous soccer coaches have started. SAGU has only made it to the conference level one other time, but I believe it’s a goal that can be reached.”

To hopefully reach this lofty, yet attainable goal, Tim had to maintain high recruiting numbers. It was imperative for him to have enough players to build the two teams per gender he desired. “The core group is good, but we needed relief players that



The teams at SAGU take all the hard work and mesh it together as a team.

are just as good,” he explained. “I also went through the process of hiring assistant coaches and two student assistant coaches, one each for each team, too.”

This season, like all other seasons in the past, players learned that “touch on the ball” was paramount in the game of soccer. “Everyone can kick a ball,” Tim said, “but it takes talent to have that special touch on the ball.” Touching the ball with special finesse means putting top or back spin on the ball when needed, or being able to see down the field to successfully shoot, or kick the ball, on goal within only two touches.

Soccer is a contest that involves teamwork. The teams at SAGU take all the hard work and mesh it together as a team. “We have learned to embrace the differences we all have in talent and ability,” Tim said. “That’s the only way we’re able to come together as a team.” **NOW**



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The Credibility Factor

— By Sandra Skoda

Rodney Bell, independent owner of Bell Insurance, was not always in the insurance business, but feels his first job out of college paved the way for his success as a claims adjuster. “I graduated from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, with a bachelor’s degree in social work,” Rodney explained. “I spent the next four years working for the state.” The interest and ambition he had to aid the senior population may have been birthed in Wichita Falls all those years ago, but since opening his office in Waxahachie in

January 2001, the offerings at Bell Insurance have proven invaluable to the community.

As a full Germania Farm Mutual Insurance agent, Rodney and his office manager, David Dooley, write all types of insurance policies from property and casualty policies to coverage for home, auto and life, as well as policies designed specifically for the senior adult population. “As a senior market specialist,” Rodney said, “I enjoy working with seniors. I do a lot of consultations where I never sell a thing. I want to be an educational source. My long-term goal is to help them understand the fine print.”

Understanding the fine print is important in the insurance business. While Rodney explains the policies available in great detail, he is building trust between himself and his clientele. The “trust factor” goes a long way when talking about customer service and retaining long-term customers. The senior market products Bell Insurance specializes in include Medicare supplements, fixed annuities, long-term care and life insurance.

Rodney feels it is paramount to give back to the community, to establish trust and credibility. In doing so, he makes certain things clear to his customers at the very beginning. “We have no control over premiums,” he said. “At Bell Insurance, we give them value — more value than premium.” When

customers can trust their insurance agent to always do the right thing by telling them everything they need to know at the onset of writing a policy, they appreciate the honesty. In turn, they come back to Bell Insurance for all their additional insurance needs. "There is a real credibility factor that comes from this business," Rodney re-emphasized. "We must show our clientele we can be trusted, and we're going to be here for them."

Rodney and David make up the two-man insurance agency located at 102 Professional Place, Suite 102. Rodney has 16 years of valuable experience, while David has nearly three years of experience in some form or fashion. David is a fully certified, fully licensed agent. His duties within the office are to produce new home and auto policies and to service existing policy holders.

Becoming an insurance adjuster may have started out as just an opportunity for a chance at a better career. Once Rodney became a claims adjuster, he quickly realized he wanted to help others make the right decisions. He understood the great responsibility that came with this opportunity, and it had everything to do with honesty, integrity and always doing the right thing for each individual client. "Insurance is only valuable when the customer has a claim," he stated. "It's only at this time that customers fully realize the importance of quality coverage. It's up to Bell Insurance to make sure they have the coverage they need at all times."

Rodney is also involved in the community on a personal level as a member of the Waxahachie Rotary Club and as a Chamber of Commerce board member. He has been married to Suzie for 16 years. They have two children, Jackson and Audrey. "Everyone has a calling," he said. "Mine just happens to be in the insurance business." For more information, please give Rodney or David a call at (972) 938-9676. **NOW**

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Excellence Lives On

— By Danielle Parker

Mr. Finley went on to become the Waxahachie Junior High principal and director of Title I Funds. “From there, he felt it was about time to retire, so he moved back to Turner Middle School, which used to be the high school where he started out, to finish his tenure,” Edith said.

A student of Paul Quinn, Texas Southern University, Oxford University and East Texas State University, Mr. Finley received his bachelor’s degree in calculus and a master’s degree in mid-management. “As long as I could remember, he was always involved with education and education for his children as well,” Edith said. “He stressed it by modeling education himself. He gave every one of my siblings and I a chance to go to school. If you wanted to go, you could go. As long as you did something to advance yourself, he was proud.”

This model of education set precedence for each of his children, particularly Edith. “Daddy finished his master’s about the same time I received my bachelor’s,” she said. “So we walked across the same stage on the same day. I

think he always knew I’d become a teacher; that’s probably why he demanded so much from me.”

All five of the Finley siblings still live in the area — four in Waxahachie and one in the Lancaster area. As children, they were required to uphold a higher standard than their peers, according to Edith. “Daddy was a no-nonsense person,” she said. “We had to respect him at school. There were no favors for us. He was strictly by the book. I could perhaps woo him at home, but certainly not at school — although, I never could call him ‘Mr. Finley.’”

Regardless of family ties, fairness, respect and excellence were qualities by which Mr. Finley lived. “Daddy respected everyone,” his daughter, Minyon Finley-Thompson, said. “He called all of his students ‘mister’ or ‘miss.’”

In 2008, honor was given to whom it was due, as the former junior high became the Eddie Finley Sr. Seventh Grade Center. “When it came to the name of the school, I rallied to that,” Edith said. “I could not think of another



On October 14, 2008, Waxahachie’s Seventh Grade Center achieved a new level of significance. That day, what seemed to be an ordinary edifice, was renamed to honor an educator and leader in Waxahachie Independent School District (WISD) and the city.

Born August 3, 1923, Eddie Finley Sr. was known for his involvement in the community and his love for his family, but primarily, the people of Waxahachie knew him for his commitment to education. “My father was in the educational field more than 37 years and filled different capacities during his time in the field,” his daughter, Edith Finley, recalled. “He was a biology teacher in Italy for one year, and then moved back to Waxahachie, his hometown, to teach mathematics. He later became principal at Turner High School.”

Mr. Finley then stepped into one of his greatest educational battles as he became an assistant principal at Waxahachie High School at the height of integration. “He was transferred to the integrated high school,” Edith said. “He faced prejudice there. When you step into a situation like that, you expect that kind of treatment. He had to prove himself and he knew that. With all races, though, he had to show that he would treat everyone equal.”

Education **NOW**

person who would be better deserving. There must have been a love there for teaching and his students. You don't stay in education without a sincere passion for it."

The admiration and appreciation for Mr. Finley did not solely come from his family. WISD also acknowledged the inspiring life of the educator. "Before naming the school, I submitted a letter to the school board, so school board members went out and surveyed the community. They received an overwhelming response that there was not a better person than Eddie Finley to name the school after."

Edith, who is now an assistant principal at the Sixth Grade Center in Ennis, aspires to follow in her father's footsteps and make her father proud. "His memories inspire me," Edith said. "I still have the burning desire to prove to him that we are as successful as he wanted us to be. Growing up he expected so much from us, but we didn't realize those expectations were slowly becoming ours as well. The legacy is still there." As an adult, Edith carries on her father's motto: Know where you are going, what it takes to get there and when you expect to arrive.

With more than 800 children whom she refers to as her "kids," Edith makes every effort to be a role model and create a safe environment for each of them. "I don't know what my kids face once they step out of those doors," she said. "I strive to bring about fairness and respect, so my kids can come here and not think about those things they have to face when they leave."

Though Eddie Finley Sr. passed in 2002, his memory continues to live on, through his family, his former students and community. "My Daddy was father to so many people that did not have fathers," Edith said. "That was just who he was. He respected the school and he enjoyed his job. This was his pride and joy." **NOW**



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•The ambassadors for the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, top left, enjoyed a recent luncheon at TaMolly's Mexican Restaurant. • Past Crape Myrtle Queens, top right, that were present at the tea posed with Dinah Weable, the newly crowned queen. • Rotarians Harold Varnado and Frank Guy, bottom left, were busy planting flags before Independence Day. • Lincoln Meissner of Flower Mound, Texas, bottom center, spent the afternoon at Waxahachie Creek Park learning to surf. • Bonney Ramsey, bottom right, prepared those attending the annual Crape Myrtle Queen's Tea for the crowning of the new queen.

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH EVA CALVERT

GOULASH

1 lb. ground chuck
 1 large onion, chopped
 1 16-oz. can tomatoes
 1 Tbsp. catsup
 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
 salt and pepper, to taste
 1/2 green pepper, chopped
 2 Tbsp. parsley flakes
 1 14-oz. can mushroom soup
 2 cups elbow macaroni, cooked and drained
 1 cup cheese of choice, grated
 Brown meat; drain. Add next 7 ingredients; cover and simmer about 30 minutes. Add soup, macaroni and cheese; simmer about 15 minutes. Great with corn bread.

POOR BOY ROAST

1 1/2 lbs. ground chuck
 salt and pepper, to taste
 2 Tbsp. oil
 3 or 4 potatoes, sliced
 4 carrots, sliced
 1 medium onion, chunked

1 12-oz. can mushroom soup
 Mold beef into 1-inch thick and 2-inch wide patties; salt and pepper both sides. In a pan, brown both sides in oil; add vegetables. Mix soup and 1 can water; pour over meat and vegetables. Cover and cook slowly on top of stove until vegetables are tender. Good with corn bread.

CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING

2 Tbsp. cocoa
 1 cup sugar
 1 3/4 cups hot milk
 4 cups bread, crumbled
 2 eggs, beaten
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1 Tbsp. butter
WHITE SAUCE:
 1 cup sugar
 2 rounded Tbsp. flour
 1 1/2 cups milk
 1 tsp. vanilla
 1 tsp. butter
 Mix cocoa and sugar; set aside. Heat milk; pour over bread crumbs. Stir in eggs and cocoa/sugar mixture; add vanilla and butter. Bake in greased

Eva Calvert began cooking after she married her husband, Leland. “I have been cooking for 58 years because we’ve been married 58 years,” she laughed. “When we first married, there was not much cooking going on because I did not know how to cook at all.”

Over the years, she has enjoyed making wedding cakes, birthday cakes and candy. “I guess my thing is divinity candy,” she said. “I do not know why people think they cannot make it, but I don’t have any problem with it. If the truth was known, I have made a truck load of divinity!”

After 15 years of service as a rural mail carrier, Eva has been volunteering at Baylor Hospital for 12 years as a dedicated Pink Lady. “I have thoroughly enjoyed it,” she expressed. “It’s a worthwhile organization and you get lots of blessings from it.” **NOW**

square pan at 350 F for 20 minutes. Prepare sauce by combining sugar and flour; place in saucepan with milk. Cook until thickened; add vanilla and butter. Cut bread pudding into squares; top with white sauce.

DIVINITY

2 egg whites
 3 cups sugar
 1 cup white Karo syrup
 1 cup water
 pinch of salt
 1 tsp. vanilla
 Place egg whites in mixer; beat until stiff. While egg whites are mixing, heat sugar, syrup, water and salt to soft-ball stage. After egg whites are stiff add 1 cup of syrup mixture; continue to mix. Cook remaining syrup mixture until crackle stage; add to egg white mixture with vanilla. It is best to remove mixing bowl and paddle stirring the remaining step by hand. Place bowl in towel covered lap (mixture is hot) and stir by hand until mixture loses its gloss and begins to stiffen. Spoon into buttered 9 x 13-inch pan; let cool. After cooled, cut into squares.



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What is Your Objection to Term Life Insurance?

— By Adam Rope

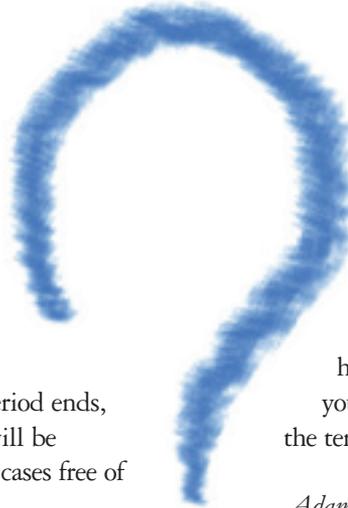
One objection to purchasing term life insurance is just that: when the term is over, the policy is finished. That's it. No more coverage.

Many people worry they will outlive the policy period and 'waste their money' on something they didn't need. It can be difficult to counter these arguments except by explaining how term insurance can be an affordable way to provide life insurance coverage for a specific time period.

Until now. Insurance companies are offering term policies that actually return the premiums you've paid after the level premium period ends. In other words, if you purchase a 20-year term policy and are still living when the 20-year level premium period ends, the premiums you paid will be returned to you, in many cases free of federal income tax.

Those returned premiums can have a number of uses. If you still need life insurance, you could purchase another policy. You could also use the premiums that are returned to pay down your mortgage or even add to your retirement savings.

Life insurance can provide peace of mind that your loved ones' financial burdens may be eased if you are no longer there. The benefit provided by life insurance can help keep dreams alive.



One objection to buying term life insurance has been addressed by a policy that may return the premiums you paid. Ask an insurance professional about a product that provides needed life insurance coverage but has the potential to return your premiums at the end of the term. **NOW**

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Through the Fog

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

On a foggy day, the car windows often look murky. It does not matter how hard the wipers work to clear the vision field; it remains cloudy. The world looks this way through the eyes of a person afflicted with cataracts. If left untreated, it can lead to complete loss of vision. Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in the world. Although the condition is very common in America, total blindness from cataracts is rare here because treatment is so readily available.

Cataracts cloud the lens of the eye. Normally, light passes through the lens on its way to the retina. The retina then sends signals to the brain. In order for the retina to send clear, sharp signals, the lens must be clear. In cataracts, the clouded lens restricts the amount of light sent to the retina and results in a fuzzy image.

If you have cataracts, your first symptom may be awareness that you can no longer drive safely at night because of glare from oncoming car lights. Seeing double is another symptom. You may find yourself going in for frequent changes to your eyewear prescription in order to see better. The progression of the condition varies and not every case is

the same. When symptoms reach the point that vision is impaired, corrective action can be taken.

Diagnosis is simple and begins with a comprehensive eye exam. The visual acuity test is a routine eye exam that determines how well you can see from a distance of 20 feet. A dilated eye exam allows the practitioner to observe the retina and optic nerve. The tonometry test is a painless process of measuring the pressure inside the eye. These objective methods will determine if cataracts are present and the extent of the condition.

The natural aging process causes many cases of cataracts; but not every senior citizen is plagued with this condition.

Prolonged exposure to sunlight without protective eyewear is another risk factor in addition to aging. Some diseases such as diabetes can be a causative factor.

Treatment, depending on the degree cataracts have progressed is effective. Early cataracts may only call for a different prescription for your eyewear. Increasing the wattage of your lighting helps also. If the cataract starts to interfere seriously with your vision, you and your eye health specialists may decide that surgery is necessary. Surgery for cataracts is very

common and usually very safe. Cataracts need not lead to blindness. It is a condition that can be managed. **NOW**

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



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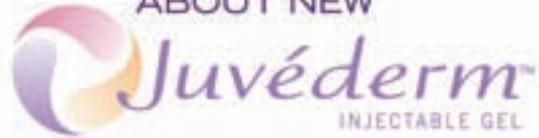
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First Thursday

ABWA - Empowering Women Express Network meeting: 5:45 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle, Midlothian. Please visit www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org to RSVP a seat and dinner reservations.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Get Smart: Strategic Marketing and Research Technologies (formerly Waxahachie Business Interchange Networking) is held from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Network with other professionals and promote your business. Call (972) 937-2390 for location of the next meeting.

August 15

A fundraiser will be held for Ellis County Habitat for Humanity beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Waxahachie Civic Center starring the Pit Pops, a nine-piece band with local member, Gary French, performing "Rock and Rock with Soul." Tickets may be purchased online at www.ellishabitat.org for \$15. Tickets purchased at the door are \$20 or a table for eight is \$100. For more information, contact Cynthia Montgomery at (972) 268-5856

or (972) 938-9510.

August 19

Ellis County Christian Women's Connection, affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries, monthly luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 East, Exit 401B. The cost is \$13, inclusive. To make reservations, please contact either Kay at (972) 937-2807 or Mary at (972) 937-9984, or e-mail Kay at windchime423@yahoo.com by Friday, August 14.

August 21, 22

Precept Ministries 2009 Men's Conference "Breaking the Power of the Past" will be held at the Waxahachie Civic Center. The cost is \$130 and will include three meals prepared on site by Christian Brothers. To register, contact Kim Rock at (423) 296-8503. For more information, listen to Radio Station 91.7 or visit www.kvtt.org and view the attached link. This gathering is for all men — every color, age and denomination.

September 7

Everyone is invited to enjoy free yoga classes

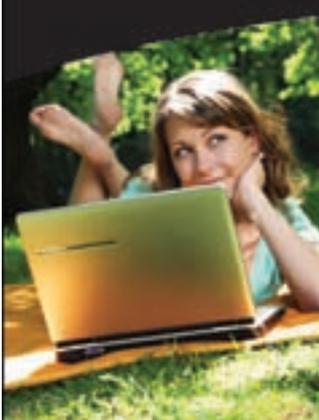
conducted by local yoga teachers. This is a great opportunity to try yoga for the first time, try out a different instructor or experience a different style of yoga. To accommodate all schedules, classes will be held beginning in the morning and continuing into the evening. As a kick-off to the free day of yoga, a giant community class will be held on Sunday, September 6, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at One Arts Plaza in downtown Dallas. For more information, visit www.elliscountyyoga.webs.com or call Lisa Ware at (214) 532-0776. Free classes will also be held in Midlothian, Red Oak, Ovilla and Waxahachie.

September 27

Ellis County SPCA charity event at Hawaiian Falls Waterpark, Mansfield. Come play in the water with your dog! Tickets on sale now. See www.elliscountyspca.org for ticket prices and details.

For more community events, visit our online calendar at www.nowmagazines.com.

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For a physician referral or for more information about weight loss services at Baylor Waxahachie, call **1.800.4BAYLOR** or visit us online at BaylorHealth.com.

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