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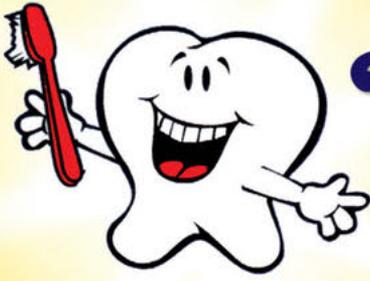


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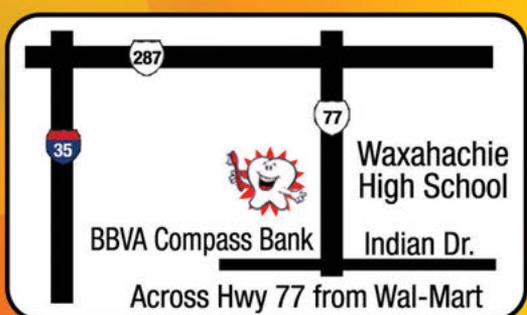
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ON THE COVER

It's not a Texas gathering without barbecue.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Sandra

Sandra Strong
WaxahachieNOW Editor
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(972) 765-3530

Happy Grandparents Day!

In a couple weeks, I'll be celebrating Grandparents Day as I take a walk down memory lane. I'll remember the coffee I used to drink with Grandpa Skoda — a little coffee and lots of cream. I'll recall the purple sweater dress I'd purchased with hard-earned money — the same dress Grandma Skoda shrunk in the dryer before I could wear it a second time. I'll reminisce about my trips to Illinois to visit my Grandpa and Grandma True. She could bake hundreds of the yummiest sugar cookies without once glancing at a written recipe because she carried the ingredients in her head and heart. All I remember about Grandpa True was how tall he was. As a child, I thought he was a giant with a size 15 shoe.

I hope my grandchildren will look back one day and have memories like mine — memories that will bring smiles to their adult faces. I hope they remember the books we read out loud; the leaves we raked, so we could jump into them; the Band-Aids, so many Band-Aids, that covered so many boo-boos; and the unconditional love I tried to always show by example. If they do, they will have a heart like mine, overflowing with wonderful, meaningful memories.

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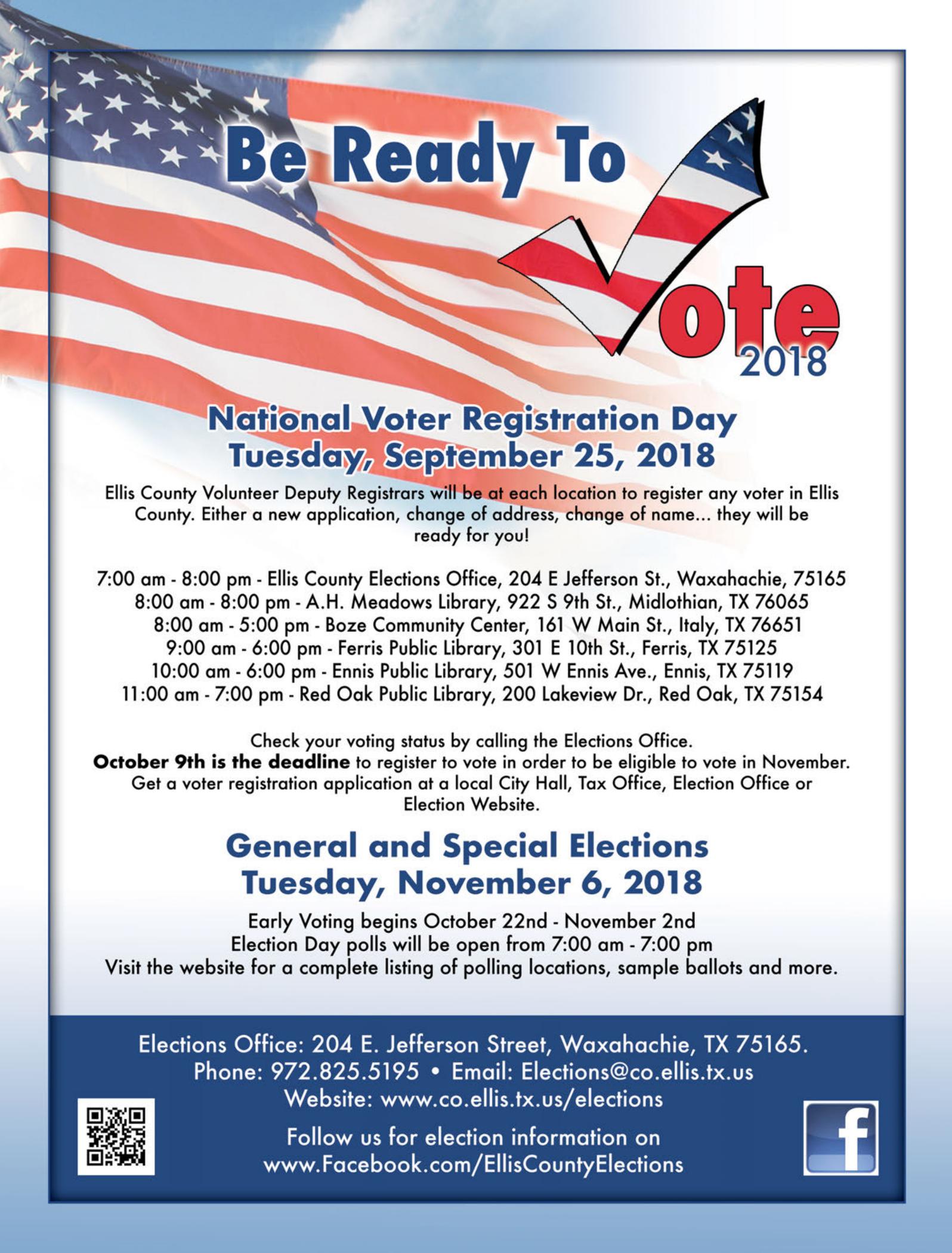
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Methodist Family Health Center - Waxahachie is excited to welcome family nurse practitioner Jasper Peña, MSN, APRN, RN, FNP-C. In collaboration with Christopher M. Broadway, MD, and Ashley N. Pirisino, MD, Ms. Peña will provide primary care to patients of all ages. She has earned her advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) and registered nurse (RN) licenses at the University of Texas at Arlington. Ms. Peña is bilingual in English and Spanish.

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- 7:00 am - 8:00 pm - Ellis County Elections Office, 204 E Jefferson St., Waxahachie, 75165
- 8:00 am - 8:00 pm - A.H. Meadows Library, 922 S 9th St., Midlothian, TX 76065
- 8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Boze Community Center, 161 W Main St., Italy, TX 76651
- 9:00 am - 6:00 pm - Ferris Public Library, 301 E 10th St., Ferris, TX 75125
- 10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Ennis Public Library, 501 W Ennis Ave., Ennis, TX 75119
- 11:00 am - 7:00 pm - Red Oak Public Library, 200 Lakeview Dr., Red Oak, TX 75154

Check your voting status by calling the Elections Office.

October 9th is the deadline to register to vote in order to be eligible to vote in November. Get a voter registration application at a local City Hall, Tax Office, Election Office or Election Website.

General and Special Elections Tuesday, November 6, 2018

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CALL TO ACTION

— By *Alexandra Allred*



Michael and Melissa Boler know how to throw a party. Specifically, the Bridges' Bands and BBQ Bash, including a state championship barbecue contest with WFAA's Dale Hansen acting as the master of ceremonies and a professional judge provided by the International Barbeque Cookers Association. For cupcake lovers, they have celebrity chef and former Food Network star Michele Ragussis judging the ever-popular Cupcake War, as well as a few other surprise guests.

"We're just getting started," Michael said of the event. With live bands, car shows, a huge kid zone and even goat yoga at the Ellis County Expo Center, "this will be our biggest event yet."

That's right. This year's party on September 29 is the third year of the bash, raising funds for its nonprofit organization, Bridges Training Foundation, and spotlighting the under-served community of young adults with intellectual learning disabilities or special needs, including autism spectrum disorders, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, developmental delay, Down syndrome, Fragile X syndrome and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.





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How the Bolers got to this point, and the love and commitment they have given back to the community, is a story worth telling. As impressive as this year's event appears to be, it all began very humbly. Melissa, the founder and CEO of Bridges Training Foundation, had no visions of high-profile parties or extravagant affairs. "I just want people to see how capable my guys are," Melissa said of Bridges' clients.

Melissa had been teaching special needs young adults for 15 years, hoping that what she did was enough. "Then, about two years after he graduated, I saw one of my former students. He was standing in Wal-Mart in his pajamas. He had little hope, no motivation and limited opportunities."

It was then Melissa realized there was "little to nothing" for this population to hope for after the



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education system ended, “and I wondered, *What are their choices? What are their options?* Graduation for everyone else is the beginning of their life,” she said, noting that for her clients or, as she calls them, her “kids,” the opposite is all too often true.

“Their opportunities, for the most part,” Michael said, “are limited after graduation.”

Unable to shake the image of her student in pajamas, Melissa launched into action. “I knew I needed to start a nonprofit, but it had to be different from the other programs.”

After extensive research, the Bolers drew a line between *want* and *need*. “We all want a car, to have a job, to live on our own. Those with special needs are just like us. They want all those things, too. But what they really need are the opportunities to have those things,” Melissa said.

Educating and training her clients is only half the battle. “Educating our society and local community’s awareness are equally as important,” she said.

“Our guys don’t have a problem with their disability, most everyone else does,” Michael added.

For the last five years, Melissa’s foundation has helped teach life skills and offer job coaching to her clients, while networking in the community. Bridges actively works to get its clients out in the public to be seen, heard and appreciated. So much so,

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in fact, that Melissa has fielded phone calls from around the country from families asking what their options are for a loved one. “We want to be a resource for everyone. The need is so diverse that we must have diverse solutions,” she said.

When the Ellis County Women in Business learned about the Bridges BBQ Bash, they were all in. Created to empower, mentor and provide scholarships to young women in Ellis County, ECWB sought a way to partner with Bridges. “We knew we wanted to be a part of this,” said Dionne Zschiesche, vice president of mentoring.

Dionne has seen Melissa’s clients firsthand when the group comes into the Main Street Gym for weekly fitness classes. “We all whine and complain about our daily lives, and these young people come in, smiling, encouraging and inspiring the rest of us to be better. I just love their spirit and their drive!” she noted.

Now enter the goats. ECWB partnered with Bridges to organize and run a goat yoga event, with all proceeds going to the Bridges Training Foundation. “I’m so excited about this,” Melissa said. “We are not a daycare, but a resource that opens doors and provides opportunities. My kids need social outlets. My kids need jobs.” The popularity of goat yoga is another way to attract bash participants and raise awareness of her clients’ needs.



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And why barbecue? “Hey,” Michael laughed, “this is Texas. We have a long, proud history of producing some of the best barbecue in the country. People are really passionate about barbecue. It’s become synonymous with a get-together.”

Add goats, cupcakes, cars, live music, silent auctions, bounce houses, a professional cornhole competition and more and, “It’s a party all day long,” Michael said. “We’re celebrating differences. We’re celebrating inclusion!”

“This is our call to action. We want everyone to know who we are and what we’re about,” Melissa said.

No matter how the day goes, Melissa’s wish is as simple as the day she first opened her doors to the special needs population. “I would really hope at some point people could walk through our doors and see how amazing our individuals are instead of focusing on what they can’t do,” she said. “If nothing else, I wish people knew that we [Bridges Training Foundation] are one of the best kept secrets in Ellis County. We want people to know that we’re here and ready to help — that there are solutions.” Just maybe, over that bridge, there are options and choices that every graduate deserves. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information about Bridges Training Foundation, visit www.bridgestf.org.

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HISTORY IN THE MAKING

— By Derek Jones

AT HOME WITH EMMA BAUMAN

Emma Bauman grew up in Waxahachie, having attended Pettigrew Academy and Global High. After graduating high school in 2013, she moved to New Orleans to attend college. Her heart, however, remained in Waxahachie. She explained, “Halfway through my senior year of college, my multiple sclerosis flared up, and I knew I needed to return to my home in Waxahachie to finish that last semester remotely.”

The house Emma returned to is the one in which she grew up. The home has a rich and interesting history, of which she is proud to be a part. “My parents visited Waxahachie and went on the Gingerbread Trail Tour of Homes in 1984 and discovered an old house, which was basically falling down,” she explained. “They had already renovated several houses, so they bought this one and began the long process of restoration.”

Emma grew up with the house taking shape around her. “My parents did everything themselves,” she stated. “They restored one room, and then lived in that room while focusing on the rest of the house.”

Last year, Emma’s parents moved down the street and left the house to Emma. “You know, the house they bought now is the first one that didn’t have to be renovated,” she laughed. She shares the house with two roommates and her two dogs, Joplin and Zeppelin. “I love classic rock,” she explained, which is confirmed by the vintage concert posters hanging on various walls around the house.

The house was originally built in 1892 and is about 2,500-square-feet. It has been in a constant state of updating. “The house is never finished,” Emma said. “When one thing is done, something else needs attention. You know how old houses are.”






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The exterior of the house is wood painted in a classic white with green trim. The front porch is inviting with two wooden rocking chairs and a large Texas flag, which hangs lazily in the warm, summer breeze. The backyard contains Emma's outdoor workshop where she spends time woodworking, blacksmithing and

working on various other projects.

Emma has workshops both inside and outside due to her various hobbies and interests. "I can't sit still, so I am always learning something new," she confessed. "I have too many hobbies to list."

One of her hobbies is beekeeping, and as she talks, she slowly scrapes



honey and honeycombs into buckets. "I just do this for fun," she explained. "I like to give honey to friends and family." Whether it is archery, reading, beekeeping or any of her other various interests, it is clear Emma is always up for a new challenge.

The inside of the house contains many of the original elements which harken back to a simpler time. The floors are wood, and in one of the rooms, the ceiling is wood also, which her mother designed and her father built.



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The wide, wooden planks that make up the floors of the kitchen differ from the floors in the rest of the house. “Years ago, the general store next to our home was being torn down, so they gave us permission to take the wood from there, and we used it to make the floors,” Emma explained. “My late grandfather took the original mantel in the living room and restored it, and we have had to convert the coal-burning fireplaces to wood-burning.”

Attention to detail is evident throughout the home, and the entire house represents a lifetime of memories for Emma, yet she cherishes one room in particular. “I love spending time in the library,” she said. “My mom designed the bookshelves in here, and they were always full of books.”

On the wall, hangs two fencing foils that Emma purchased from a local estate sale. The stained glass in the library window casts a soft, yellow hue throughout the room. “We converted the fireplace to wood-burning, and I have such great memories sitting in this warm room, reading,” she said.




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Living in an older home is a perfect fit for Emma, as she has a deep love of history. When she was returning from college, Emma found the Ellis County Museum in downtown Waxahachie was seeking help, and she was able to land her dream job. "I'm the collections manager," she stated. "I catalog new artifacts and oversee storage of artifacts for preservation."

Emma is amazed at how many people have lived in Waxahachie for years without knowing the museum is here. "It is great when people discover this place and are amazed by the rich history of Waxahachie," she shared. "I love being a part of that experience."

Through maintaining a historical home and working for the museum, Emma is actively engaged in helping the community of Waxahachie remember the past while moving into the future. Several years ago, Emma's dad did some research on the house and discovered it was built and originally owned by Confederate Calvary Captain John Rolston. "My dad even went and found his grave at the Waxahachie Cemetery," Emma elaborated.

Although the house is well over 100 years old, with the Bauman family touch, it stands as a beautiful and elegant tribute to Waxahachie's past, while also reflecting Emma's current and future hopes and dreams. As Emma explained, "Our life as a family is in this house, and that is what makes it a home." **NOW**

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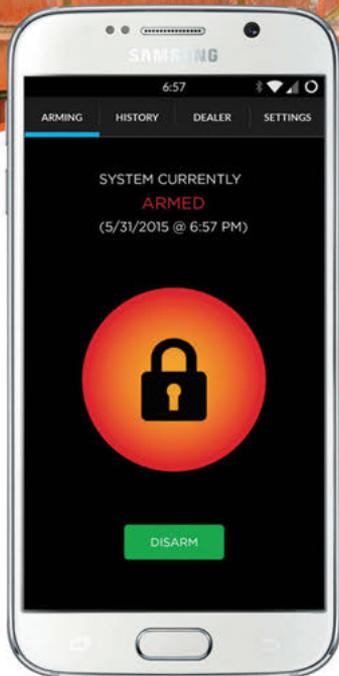
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That One Something

— By Sandra Strong

You can't see him as he rests in his bed under the pro shop counter at Hilltop Lanes. No one new to the bowling alley knows he's there, unless he wants to be seen and heard. "Odey is the alley greeter," said his owner, Mike Freeman. "He is a unique dog, and I don't know what I ever did without him."

His full name is Odey Prancer. He is a certified service and emotional support dog that helps Mike manage his asthma, COPD and the PTSD he lives with, following years as an EMT and paramedic. He also worked for the deputy coroner in California. Odey may appear to be a small fellow, but he has a big heart for his master. He never lets Mike get too far away from him. He keeps one eye on him all the time, and his ears perk up whenever Mike speaks.

Odey became a member of the family on December 14, 2014. "I never really wanted a dog, but after several years of marriage, I got Christmas





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stupid,” Deb stated. “When I saw Mike’s depression and sadness set in, I knew he really did need something to cheer him up.” Odey has proven time and time again to be that “one something” Mike needed.

Deb looked for a dog in several places before meeting Odey’s previous owners. They were moving from Texas to Colorado and were unable to take Odey with them. Mike first saw Odey in a photo on Deb’s cell phone. When it came time to go get their new charge, Mike made a mad dash to the car. “We couldn’t get to Odey fast enough,” Mike admitted. “He has been a life changer for sure.”

The previous owner’s move and Mike’s need proved to be an ideal match, but he and Deb admit, Odey hasn’t always been the perfect little service dog he is today. “Early on, he would get loose and run off,” Mike explained. “Now, that would never happen.”

Odey also likes to chase squirrels in the yard and sit in the window of the couple’s apartment, barking most times at nothing at all. “And he loves to eat ice cream from a spoon,” Deb said with a smile, “and lick peanut butter off our fingers.”

Odey is a bit different than other federally licensed service dogs. His vest — a blue working vest — is almost identical to the ones the larger service dogs wear, just many sizes smaller and with one very special patch. The patch reads, “Ask to pet me. I’m friendly?”

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Although Odey is always working, Mike encourages people to pet him. “Many times, Odey and I will be out somewhere in town. He will walk away, stretching his leash as far as it will go to walk up to a person he’s never met,” Mike said. “Odey will stand right there until the person pets him.” Once petted, he nonchalantly returns to Mike’s side.

The stories Mike has of the adventures with Odey are many. They extend not only to the local grocery and convenience stores, but to St. Paul Episcopal Church and several days a week at the bowling alley. He partakes in communion and is blessed each year during the church’s annual pet blessing event.

Odey accompanies Mike to all his appointments at Methodist Charlton Medical Center in Duncanville. “He’s been to the X-ray department with me. He’s watched as I’ve gotten a CT scan and an MRI,” Mike stated. “He’s even gone into the minor surgery room.”

Mike remembers being “carded” one time, and one time only. “We were at a fast food restaurant in Dallas. I won’t say where,” Mike stated. “I had to pull out the card I carry in my wallet before they would let Odey come in.” By law, with a vest, patch and card, Odey can go anywhere a person can go, and go he does.

Where do Mike and Odey spend most of their spare time outside the home? At the bowling alley where Mike bowls on a league and works in



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the pro shop. Pete Seibel, owner of the pro shop, said it best. "I let Mike volunteer," he laughed, "but Odey gets to stay here anytime."

"He's the king of the alley," Mike added.

Kim Prikryl and Billie Bradley are just two of the many league bowlers who have taken a keen liking to Odey. "He flirts to get your attention," Kim said.

"Odey gives us all unconditional love. We take turns loving on him," Billie added. "No one person really owns Odey because Odey runs the show."

In the past two years, Odey has rescued and put a smile on more faces than Mike and Deb can count. "He can just tell when someone is down and needs some love," Deb said. "He has unbelievable instincts. I believe that's what makes him such a good service dog."

It wasn't easy for Mike to get what he needed when trying to have Odey properly certified. Mike had to explain in detail why he needed a service dog and why he thought Odey could be that dog. "We were so happy when we received his vest patches in the mail," Mike recalled. "And thanks to a local seamstress, we were even happier when he got to put his vest on for the first time."

When Deb found Odey, she found the best medicine for Mike. Finding that "one something" is exactly what Mike needed, and a loving home is exactly what Odey needed. "Mike was a changed man almost immediately," Deb said. "Odey's been good for all of us!" **NOW**

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Tools for Success

— By Derek Jones

For Harry Steinfeldt, being a member of the Waxahachie Freemasons means belonging to a brotherhood of men dedicated to supporting one another and Waxahachie. “Being a part of the Masons means good fellowship and offers a way for me to be involved in helping better the community I live in,” Harry stated.

Harry was recently elected to fill the position of Worshipful Master for the Waxahachie Masonic Lodge. He explained, “The term ‘Worshipful’ actually comes from the Old English term and simply means ‘honorable.’”

The Masons employ many symbols and terms from Old English and the Bible. Herbert Brand Jr., who serves as the chaplain, commented, “Just about every symbol we use has a Biblical reference.”

More than 165 years old, the Freemasons in Waxahachie

represent the second oldest organization in the city still in operation. Gregg Burdett, who serves as the secretary, explained the significance of the Masons. “The Freemasons represent the oldest fraternity in the world,” he explained. “Our organizations raise about 3 million dollars a day nationwide for charity.”

In the spirit of the Freemason’s charity work, the members of the Waxahachie Lodge are involved in supporting the community. “Our lodge holds blood drives for Scottish Rite Hospitals, gives dental care kits to all first-graders in Waxahachie ISD, participates in the Adopt-a-Class program and offers scholarships to high school seniors,” Gregg explained.

The Masons are continuously looking for ways to add to their charitable work. “Back in 1993, when we first started offering scholarships, we were only able to offer about \$200 scholarships,” he added, “and now that amount is up to \$2,000 per scholarship.”

As important as charity work is to the Masons, they have other missions, as well. “Our goal is to take good men and make them better,” Herbert said. “The tools of

a stone mason like the plumb, square and level are all symbolic of a moral teaching in how to act toward our fellow man and community.”

Herbert offered a specific example: “The 24-inch gauge represents measuring our day into three eight-hour segments. Eight hours is spent in service to God and our brothers, eight hours to our vocation and eight hours toward sleep and refreshment. The tools of a stone mason help ensure the building is true, and we want to help insure we offer the symbolic tools to help men be successful in life.”

The Masons engage in a unique tradition of leveling cornerstones for new school buildings built in the state of Texas. “We just did a cornerstone leveling for the new high school here in Waxahachie,” Harry said.

Leveling a cornerstone is a ceremony put on by the Freemasons to dedicate a new building. “A cornerstone must be level and square, as it is the first building block of a new structure, and leveling that cornerstone signifies that the workmen did their job well, and the building is ready for use.”

There is clearly a grand tradition of Masons in Waxahachie. One of the prominent buildings in downtown Waxahachie, which is now the Ellis County Historical Museum, originally served as a Masonic Lodge from 1889 to 1925.

As to what it takes to become a member of the Masons, Harry offered, “2 B 1 ask 1.” In other words, the Freemasons do not ask people to join their fraternity. If one wants information on becoming a Mason, he must take the initiative to find a Mason and express his interest in joining.

For anyone looking to serve in a brotherhood of men committed to bettering one another and serving the community, the Masonic Lodge in Waxahachie offers just such an experience. **NOW**



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Trial and error. That is how Raylea Willey prefers to cook in the kitchen. “I make up recipes myself. I throw things together the way I think would make them taste good,” she said.

She still remembers the time at a sleepover when she and two friends made breakfast at 3:00 a.m., only to be “caught” by her friend’s mom an hour later, who was quite upset with the homemade hash browns, orange juice and omelets the girls had just prepared. “When I’m in the mood for steaks, I mix all the right spices together to make them. When my sweet tooth kicks in, I make cupcakes,” she said. Raylea also pulls recipes from her grandmother’s published cookbook, *The RV Centennial Cookbook*. **NOW**

Raylea’s Tropical Chocolate Cake With Buttercream Icing

Cake:

- 3 cups blended fresh strawberries, no stems
- 1 cup freeze dried strawberries
- 2 Tbsp. coconut oil
- 4 cups flour
- 2 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. salt
- 4 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 eggs
- 6 tsp. crushed pineapple

Icing:

- 4 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 4 cups confectioner’s sugar
- 4 Tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

1. For cake: Preheat oven to 350 F; grease 2 round cake pans.

- 2. Food process both types of strawberries and coconut oil; set aside.
- 3. Mix all the other cake ingredients together. Add strawberry mix into the rest of the ingredients.
- 4. Split batter into 2 round pans; bake cake for 25-35 minutes, or until cake is golden brown.
- 5. For icing: Whip butter on medium speed. Add in remaining ingredients. Mix on low speed for 1 minute and on high speed for 3 minutes.
- 6. Ice each layer of the cooled cake with buttercream frosting and enjoy.

Sausage Gravy and Biscuits

- 1 lb. mild breakfast sausage
 - 1/2 cup flour
 - 2 cups milk
 - Salt, to taste
- Biscuits**

1. Brown breakfast sausage on medium heat until cooked thoroughly.

- 2. Remove sausage from pan, leaving the grease behind.
- 3. On low-medium heat, add 2 Tbsp. of flour to the grease in the pan; stir constantly, creating a roux.
- 4. When the flour/grease mixture begins to thicken, add in 1/4 cup of milk; continue to stir constantly.
- 5. As the milk combines with the grease/ flour mixture, you’ll continue to add either flour (to thicken it) or milk (to thin it) until you achieve the amount of gravy you desire.
- 6. Add salt to the gravy and taste. For a family of 4, you likely will use somewhere around 1/4- to 1/2-cup flour and 1-2 cups of milk.
- 7. Turn off the burner; remove from stove.
- 8. Add the sausage back into the gravy pan; serve over fresh warm biscuits.

Raylea’s Favorite Sandwich Recipe

- Bread of choice
- 1 slice pepper jack cheese
- 1 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- 2 lettuce leaves
- 2 slices ham or turkey

- 1. Toast the bread. Add cheese to one slice of bread while the bread is still hot, so that it gets a little gooey.
- 2. Spread mayonnaise on the other slice of bread. Add lettuce and ham or turkey.
- 3. Top with the other slice and enjoy.

Macaroni and Sausage

1 725-oz. box Kraft macaroni and cheese
6 links of sausage

1. Cook macaroni according to the instructions on the box.
2. Sauté sausage over medium heat on stove.
3. Slice the sausage; mix into the macaroni and cheese while it is still hot.

Cranberry Salsa With Cream Cheese

1 12-oz. bag or 3 cups fresh cranberries, rinsed and drained
1/4 cup green onions, minced
2 small jalapeños, minced
1/2 cup sugar or Splenda
1/4 cup fresh cilantro, minced
2 Tbsp. ginger
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
16 oz. cream cheese
Crackers of choice

1. Rinse, drain and pick over the cranberries.
2. Add the cranberries to a food processor; process until till chopped (not mushy).
3. Mix with minced onions, jalapeños, sugar, cilantro, ginger and lemon juice.
4. Cover and refrigerate for 4 hours. Spoon over cream cheese; serve with crackers on a platter as an appetizer.

Peanut Butter Fudge

3/4 cup evaporated milk
1 2/3 cups sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
1 10-oz. pkg. peanut butter chips
1/2 cup peanuts, chopped
1 tsp. vanilla

1. Bring the milk, sugar and salt to a boil in a large saucepan.
2. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly for 5 minutes.
3. Remove from heat; add marshmallows, peanut butter chips, peanuts and vanilla.
4. Stir until smooth and pour into 9x9-inch pan. Cool; cut into bite-size squares.

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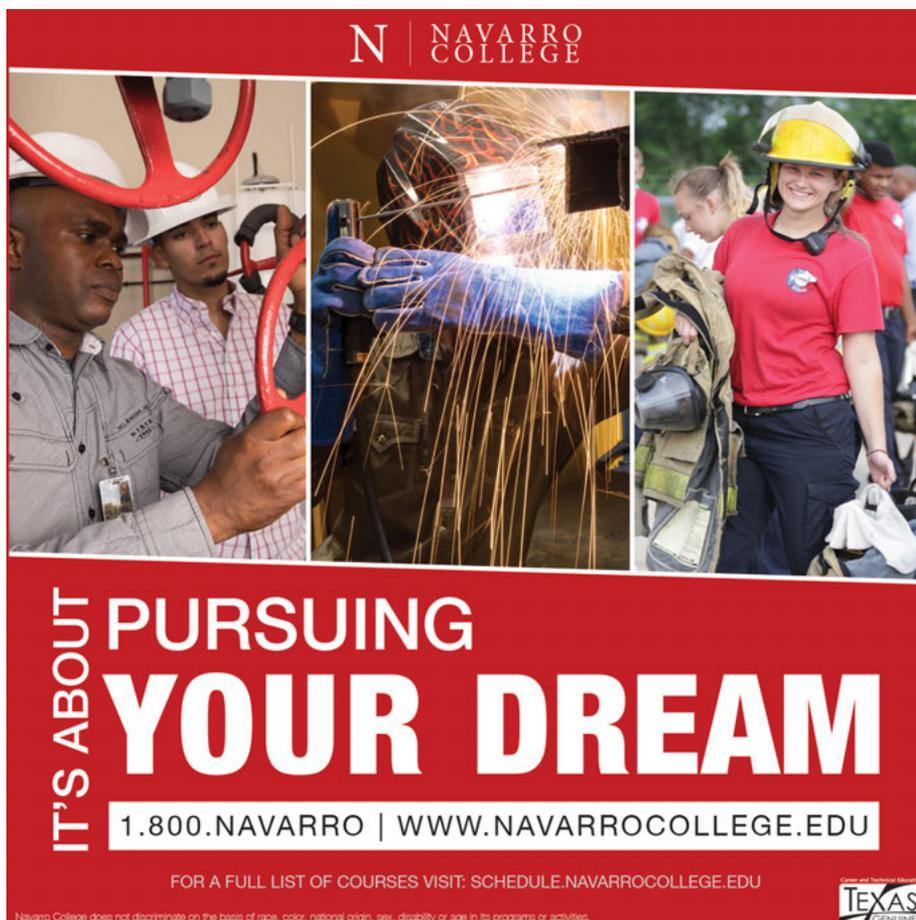
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— By Sandra Strong

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These days, people are bombarded with advertising that encourages them to get on the Internet to find a quick “do-it-yourself” quote. “This is a scary thought when you think of all the ins and outs of insurance and what could be left off of a policy,” said Kirk Davis, owner of Ellis County Insurance Agency. “The price may look good, but be careful when you have to count on the policy to take care of you. We are licensed insurance agents ready to help with an insurance plan that fits your needs.”

ECIA is a full-service independent insurance agency with access to dozens of companies. “This benefits the shopper because it allows them to make one call and let us do the shopping for them,” Kirk said. Whether the need is for personal home and auto insurance or any type of commercial or business insurance, ECIA can find the right fit.

Dustie Jones takes care of home and auto customers. She has the knowledge and experience to get the best deal when it comes to rates and coverage. Dustie is proud to take care of their customers year after year. She watches their customers’ renewals on an annual basis, so ECIA can shop with other companies if there happens to be a large rate increase. This is where having an independent agency can really make a difference.

Kirk and Wendy Frank handle the commercial business side of the agency. Kirk said that the commercial side has

really grown since he first started with the agency in 2006. “We get a lot of referrals from our existing customers,” he said. “We are proud that our customers think enough of our service to refer their friends and business partners.”

Ellis County Insurance Agency is a full-service independent insurance agency with access to dozens of companies.

ECIA can handle all types of commercial insurance — from a small business owner’s policy to a large manufacturing operation policy with many lines of insurance. “I have very large accounts that love doing business with us because of the personal service they receive,” Wendy said. “They know that I am easy to reach when they need something or have a question.”

ECIA works directly with dozens of companies and brokers, so they can find the perfect fit for any commercial insurance need. Their offices moved several years ago due to the need for additional space and more convenient parking and access. The competent, well-established staff makes insurance shopping easy for the customer and the new offices have offered an environment that is quite conducive to conducting business.

Regardless of one’s insurance needs, potential clients are encouraged to visit the website to find out all that ECIA has to offer. “We are able to quote insurance with many companies to find the right fit for any situation,” Kirk restated. “We’re here to do the insurance shopping for you!” **NOW**

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TravelNOW A Canadian Adventure

— By Alf Blanchard

From the stunning red cliffs, the miles of red and champagne beaches and the vibrant small-city scenes, there is only one way to describe Prince Edward Island — magical. If driving, you will be pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the highway. It takes you through towns and villages, scenic landscapes and coastal views. Every journey on the island is as special as the destination. Driving along the highway or one of the designated coastal drives, you will see a small glimpse of life on Prince Edward Island, and it will make you feel the need to explore.

Prince Edward Island is also known as Canada's Food Island. Once you take a bite of what the island has to offer, you will undoubtedly understand why. Not

only is the island abundant with fresh ingredients such as mussels, oysters and potatoes, artisanal cheeses, breweries, wineries and distilleries, its views will also take your breath away. Every September, you can attend Fall Flavours Festival, which includes the International Shellfish Festival. Visitors from all over the world come to enjoy these festivals.

The size of Prince Edward Island is one of its greatest assets. You can taste fresh seafood in a small fishing town and still only be a short drive to the capital city of Charlottetown for experiencing live music, theater and bars.

Visitors can spend their time basking in the sun on one of the 90 beaches, listening to the waves crash and

digging their toes in the sand. Prince Edward Island isn't just for relaxation though. Get your heart racing with paddleboarding, kiteboarding, hiking or cycling. The Confederation Trail is built on an abandoned railway that goes across the entire Island. It's 269 miles of rolled stone-dust surface — an incredibly unique way to experience Prince Edward Island.

If all that adventure isn't enough, Tourism Prince Edward Island offers hands-on activities led by local community leaders. Jigs & Reels, where you join Captain and multi-instrumentalist J.J. Chaisson onboard his boat, *Chaisson A Dream*, is one such activity. Learn about traditional music, step dancing and how to play a musical instrument.

At the Table Culinary Studio in New London, one can take classes or have an experiential meal. For instance, Marilla's Table — A Taste of the Past, begins with a visit to the birthplace of L.M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, to see what life was like in Anne and Marilla's time, and ends with an authentic meal made from locally grown organic vegetables, while listening to stories from a historian who specializes in Montgomery history.

Speaking of Anne, if the book holds a special place in your heart, you will enjoy visiting the island. Head over to Green Gables Heritage Place and feel like you are part of the story, or visit the Anne of Green Gables Museum (operated by relatives of Lucy Maud Montgomery and part of the inspiration for the world-famous novel). In Charlottetown, see Anne on stage at the Confederation Centre of the Arts in *Anne of Green Gables — The Musical™*, or watch love bloom at the Guild in *Anne & Gilbert*.

Love and magic await you in Canada. Come find your adventure on Prince Edward Island. For more details, visit www.tourismpei.com. **NOW**

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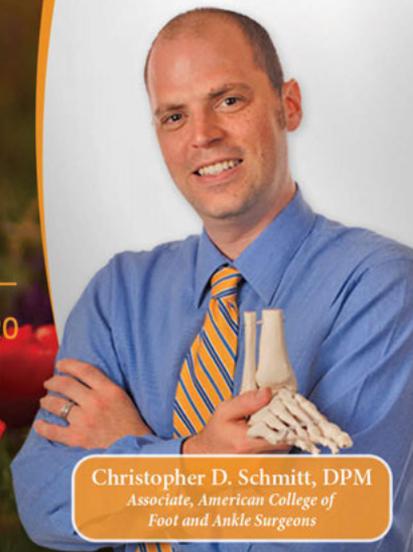
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A New Way to Landscape

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

Landscaping can be one of the most time-consuming tasks for homeowners. Pulling weeds and trimming bushes are jobs that are seemingly never really finished. Instead of planting flowers, consider adding hardscapes, decorative structures or materials that add a different kind of beauty to your yard.

Patios and Walkways

• *Create a Walkway.* One of the simplest ways to enhance part of your property is with a patio or walkway. The most permanent route is to pour concrete, possibly even covering your new space with an awning or gazebo. For a simpler DIY project, you can lay stones to make your new walkway or patio.

• *Do It Yourself the Right Way.* If you decide to lay your own stone, there are some important choices to make.

You can buy square or rectangle stones and lay them end to end, leaving no space between. Or, you might want a more irregular stone, which necessitates putting a material like pebbles or crushed granite in the gaps. Whatever your finished product is, your first step should be laying down weed blocker. And the key to a solid, level walking surface is getting a good foundation of sand before you put your stones down.



Build What You Need

- *Add Form to Function.*

Sometimes, hardscapes can be as much about necessity as beauty. If you need to build a retaining wall, you will want to carefully plan your project. Including pipe for drainage is essential, as is tamping down the soil while you backfill to cut down on the land's settling making your wall uneven. And to improve the aesthetic value, spread out any stones that are slightly discolored to give the wall a more artistic look.



- *Check for Codes and Cables.* If you decided to build stairs, retaining walls over a few feet or are pouring a new driveway, do not start the work on a whim. For some larger projects, city codes may dictate size restrictions and what materials you can use. For projects that require significant digging or trenching, you should always call 8-1-1 first, so you can ensure there are no pipes or cables underneath your project area.

Accent Pieces

- *Create Some Counterspace.* If you admire your friend's outdoor kitchen, but building something that large is not an option, consider building an outdoor island. Find a space, get your measurements and use simple right angles to design a counter for food prep. Large hardware stores and lumber suppliers will generally make cuts for you, so you will only have to put the wood together yourself. And if you want to add a small refrigerator underneath, it is easy enough to install an exterior outlet by tapping into an existing outlet inside.



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• *Create a Buzz With a Blaze.* If you want to add something fun that can be a conversation piece, fire pits are a great and relatively simple project idea. Unless your pit is going on top of existing hardscape, you should dig about a foot into the ground, then add sand as a foundation for the stones. Be sure your stones are at least 12 inches above ground level to ensure a safe barrier between your fire and your yard.



If you need design help for whatever hardscape ideas you have, sites like Pinterest are flush with pictures and plans perfect for builders of all levels. With all the options available, hardscaping your lawn is a great way to put your personality into your property. **NOW**

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Walking up the wooden stairs to the beautifully renovated White Rhino Coffee + Kitchen takes Mike and Joe Smith back to their childhood. They remember a time when going to the picture show downtown or hanging out with friends on Ferris Avenue were the popular things to do, a time when electronics were absent and walking was a familiar mode of transportation.

Rekindlin the Feelin

— By Joy Horn

“It was a perfect residence at the time and allowed us to really experience small-town life.”





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The house where the coffee shop now operates, though it has changed in many ways, still acts as a catalyst to fond memories for Mike and his brother, Joe, who grew up in the home. “The house was originally built by a physician in 1895,” Joe explained. “He lived there for a short period until the stove blew up in the kitchen and his wife was tragically killed. He then sold the place to our family relative, Ms. Beatty, who turned it into a boarding house.”



Eventually, the home was passed down to Mike and Joe’s grandparents who passed it down to their family. “It was a perfect residence at the time and allowed us to really experience small-town life. You could walk downtown or to the library. There was always something to do,” Mike said.

It was 1952 when Mike and Joe’s parents decided to move into the home. “My dad had been managing a pharmacy in College Station. After my mom’s mother passed away, my grandfather was living in the house all alone. When my dad found an available building in Waxahachie to start his own pharmacy, we moved into the house with my grandfather,” Mike shared.

Mike and Joe, who were still in grade school when they moved, remember how the home felt to them as children. “We had moved from an average size house in College Station to this house which was significantly larger. Our bedrooms

were upstairs, and it was a little scary at night,” Mike remembered.

They also remember the upstairs being subject to Texas heat during the warm months, since there was no central air conditioner. “The downstairs was cool because they had a swamp cooler, but upstairs we just had fans and open windows,” Mike recalled. “It got pretty warm at times.”

Their bedrooms were once in what is now called the library. The original wall that divided their rooms has been knocked down, but at one time, the brothers shared a wall. “That’s a different fireplace,” Joe acknowledged. “When this was my bedroom, the mantel could be pulled out, and I could hide my secret treasures in there,” he remembered with a smile.

The brothers also recognized that the windows look like the originals they had in their bedrooms, although the wall finish is much different, as the entire house was papered when they lived there.

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Across the hallway from their bedrooms was a room their mother used as her “junk room” and a room with a kitchen sink, which Joe utilized for his chemistry experiments. “That famous sink was so stained it looked like Love Canal,” Joe laughed.

Mike recalled a day when something went astray with one of his brother’s experiments. “I don’t know if you were making a smoke bomb or what, but smoke was billowing out of the kitchen,” Mike said. Joe laughed as he remembered having to climb out

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onto the roof with his friend to get away from the smoke.

Downstairs, near the present kitchen and bathroom area was a sunroom and covered porch where their grandfather lived. “My grandfather stayed out on his porch most of the time. The room just had a bed, chair and a cage for Buddy, his parakeet. The kitchen had a window unit that helped cool his room, and it also had heating in the floor to keep him comfortable,” Mike said.

As time passed, the boys grew, graduated high school and went to college. Mike was eventually married and moved back home with his wife while he was attending graduate school at The University of Texas at Arlington.

During this time, Mike and his wife occupied the upstairs floor of the home. One of the boy’s rooms was used as a bedroom while the other was used as a den for the couple. The room across the hallway with the sink served as their kitchen.

This is also the house where they brought their daughter home from the hospital. “She slept in the front bedroom downstairs, so my mother could come in and check on her,” Mike recalled. Years later, she was able to revisit the home to see the unique house she lived in when she was born.

Over the years, many changes have been made to the house. However, the brothers acknowledge that the front of the house still resembles the home they remember, though the city around it has changed. “In front of the house was the main highway, Business 287, and there wasn’t anything but that. Cars and trucks would go by all night, and when I had



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the windows open, it was distracting,” Mike admitted.

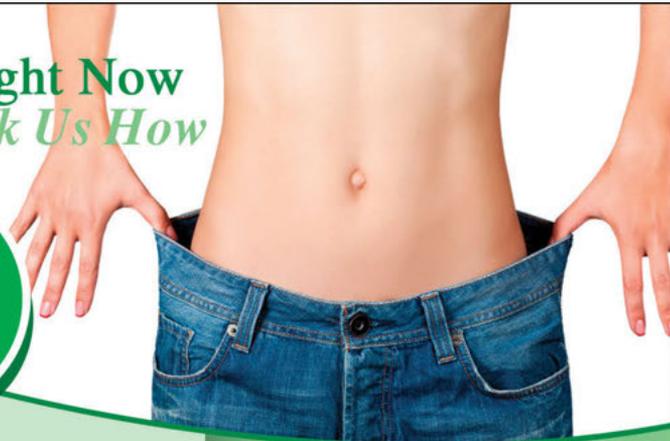
The brothers also remember when the home was showcased in the Gingerbread Trail Tour. It was one of the first homes featured, so there were some learning curves that went along with the newness of the tradition. “One year, they had so many people on the front porch it started to sag and give way. There must have been nearly 100 people on the porch. It was then that they changed the rule and didn’t allow so many people on a porch at one time,” Joe explained. This was one of three times that the home was shown during the time the Smiths owned it.



When the men walk into the house now, they see a much different environment than what once was. Nevertheless, the staircase still takes them back to the days when they occupied the beautiful home with their family. It is that family atmosphere that the owner, Chris Parvin, had in mind when purchasing the home for White Rhino Coffee + Kitchen. “White Rhino Coffee has always been about family and fellowship. Our Cedar Hill location is in a central neighborhood, and for years, folks have said it feels like they’re getting coffee and catching up with old friends in someone’s home,” Chris expressed. “We wanted to apply that same principle here — familiar surroundings where people feel comfortable and can focus on what matters most — connection and relationships.” **NOW**

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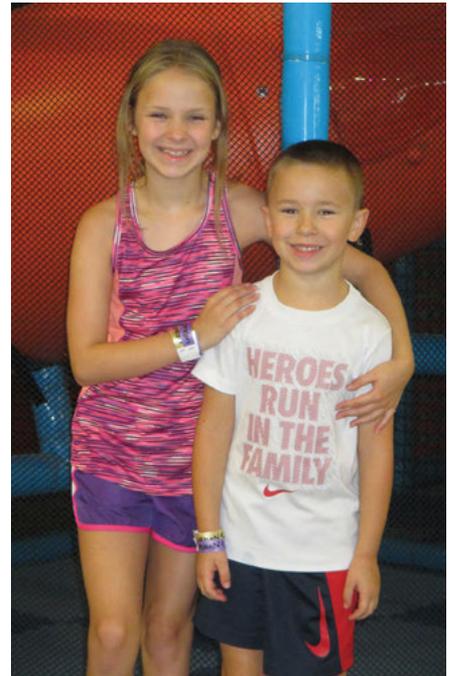
Jadalynn Griffin shops for the perfect shadow box at Hobby Lobby with her niece, Gracie Cook.

Zoomed In: Jen Graf

By Sandra Strong

Jen Graf is the circulation manager at Sims Library. She also oversees the Dig It! Gardening Club for children of all ages that is offered on Friday afternoons. “The children learn about gardening, insects, recycling and other earth science topics,” Jen said, as she displays just one tray of the herbal tree garden they are currently working on. “Once the plants reach maturity, the kids will try different types of herbal tea.”

This group has proven to be much fun for Jen, as each child brings something different to the table. “I love to sit back and just listen to the things they say and the conversations they have,” she said. “I learn just as much from them as they do from me.”



Kaylee and Jaxen Ratjen, 8 and 6 respectively, are all smiles as they spend an afternoon at Urban Air Trampoline Park.



Lincoln and Henry Caldwell, The Traveling Blues Brothers Band, entertain residents at Focused Care at Waxahachie.



Chris Parvin, owner of White Rhino Coffee + Kitchen, celebrates his grand opening with friends and employees at their Chamber ribbon cutting.



Jacklyn Jordan smiles for the camera as she works several tables at TaMolly's during the dinner rush.



Rick and Patti Holloway's dog, Jake, loves to go get the mail with Rick.



Two-year-old cutie, Devonte Oston, enjoys a snack while getting comfortable in the shopping cart.

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September:

8

Junk in the Trunk: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

12

Survivor Trail, Surviving Cancer Together: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County. Call (972) 935-9801 for topic titles, more information and directions to the church.

14 — 16

20th Annual Cancer Memorial Golf Tournament: **Friday**, practice round; **Saturday**, tournament play, silent auction from 3:00-7:00 p.m., dinner for golfers, sponsors and spouses at 6:00 p.m., Calcutta and live auction following dinner; **Sunday**, tournament play continues. Tournament will be played at the Old Brickyard Golf Course, 605 N. I-45, Ferris; all other activities will be held at the Sokol, E. Hwy. 34, Ennis. Cash donations, hole sponsorship and live and silent auction items are welcomed. For more details, call Marilyn Boon Linstead at (972) 365-1206.



22

Walk to End Alzheimer's/Southern Region: To register and find out more about the event, visit www.act.alz.org.

Downtown Sidewalk Sale: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., participating downtown merchants.

Ellis County Women's Praise, Worship & Prayer Night: 7:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1200 Country Club Rd., Ennis. For more information, call (972) 875-3861.

28 — 30

Disc Golf Tournament: Waxahachie Disc Golf Course. For more information, visit drowan816@gmail.com.



29

Waxahachie Chautauqua Assembly: "Comedy & Humanity": 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Explore and discover humor through science, history, drama, spirituality, psychology, politics and so much more. Also, come paint a trash can in the park for "Trash Can Transformation." For more details, visit www.WaxahachieChautauqua.org.



Bridges Bands & BBQ Bash: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass. For more information, call (817) 996-8793 or visit www.Bridgestf.org.

30

"Farm Fun Day" at Ellis County Rural Heritage Farm, Inc.: 2:00-5:00 p.m., 130 Cunningham Meadows Rd. For more information, call (972) 937-0681 or visit www.ruralheritagefarm.org.



October:

6

Jazz Under the Stars: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Minnie McDowal Park, downtown Ennis.

Ongoing:

Last Thursdays

Marine Corps League, Detachment 1452 meeting: 7:30 p.m., Refiner's Fire Church, 1611 W. Ennis Ave., Ennis. All active, retired or former Marines, Navy chaplains or corpsmen are welcome. For more information, call (214) 803-4954.



Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com.



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HealthNOW

Toes on the Move

Crossover toe is a common foot problem that can inhibit physical activity for older Americans, but there are conservative options, such as splints, that can help. Ultimately outpatient surgery might be needed to address the deformity and keep senior citizens active and on their feet.

Individuals with hammertoes, bunions or a second toe that extends beyond the big toe are most susceptible to developing crossover toe as they age. It's a common problem among older people in which the second toe gradually moves across the big toe. It can be painful and, therefore, difficult to walk comfortably or pursue an active lifestyle.

The first symptom of crossover toe is pain in the ball of the foot. A tear in the joint makes the second toe unstable. It falls out of alignment and eventually drifts over toward the first toe and can even overlap the first toe.

Doctors normally check the ball of the foot for a possible plantar-plate tear when an older patient complains of pain in the area. Pre-existing forefoot problems combined with normal wear and tear or possible trauma



can cause the plate to tear over time. If the pain persists and the toe starts to drift, it is time to find a foot doctor.

Surgery to correct crossover toe is an outpatient procedure performed with local anesthesia. Patients with bunions or hammertoes are advised to have those deformities corrected during the surgery. Recovery time is about six weeks.

If you're an older adult with persistent pain in the ball of your foot, it's in your best interest to see a doctor, because if your foot hurts, you aren't exercising, and your cardiovascular health can take a nosedive. **NOW**

Christopher Schmitt, DPM
Associate of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons
Southern Star Foot & Ankle



40th Founders Day

The Beat Goes On

Red Oak — Watkins Park

40th CELEBRATION

September 8, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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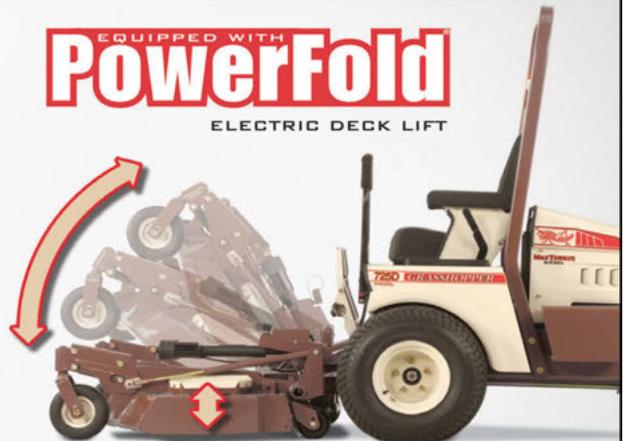
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