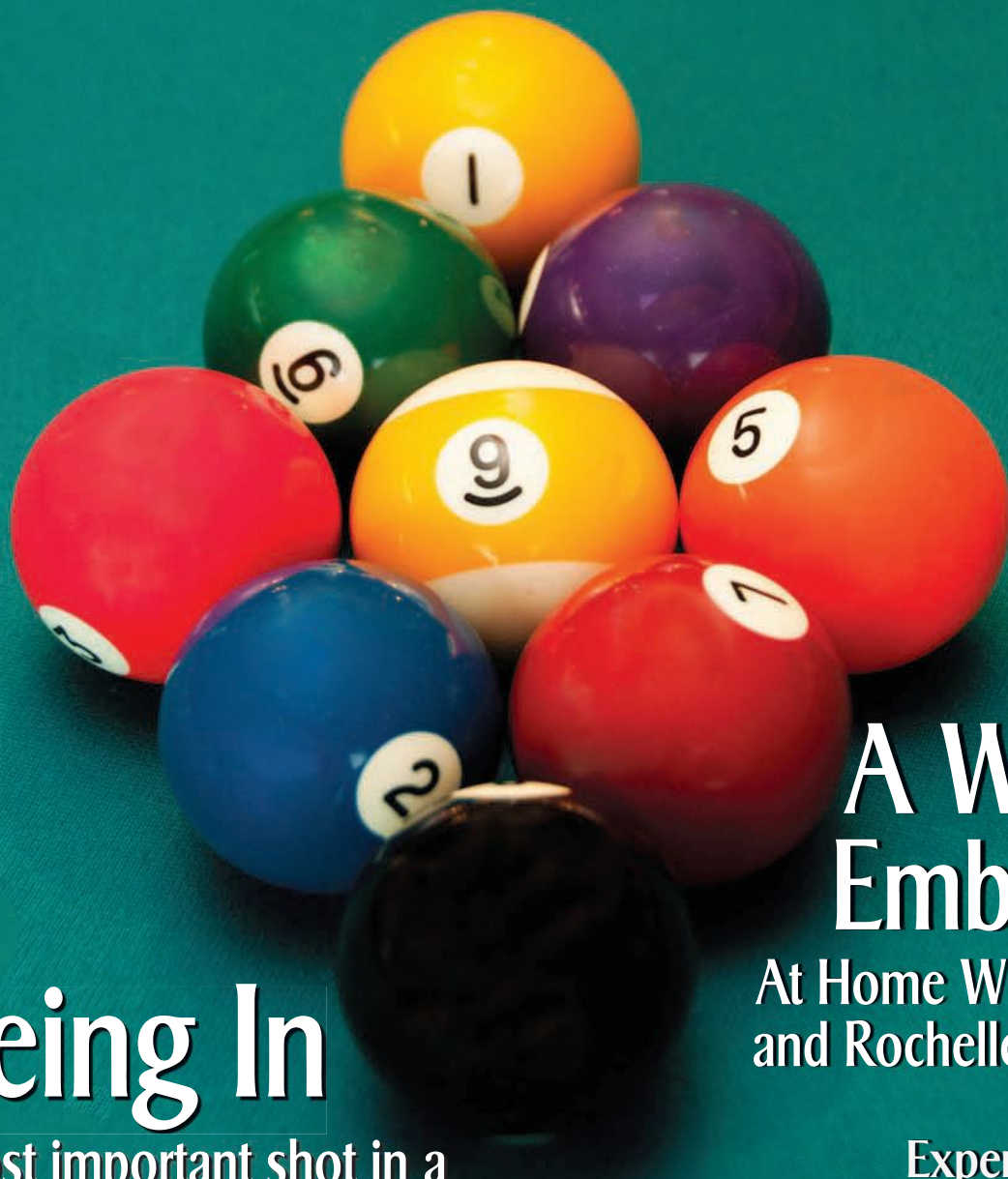


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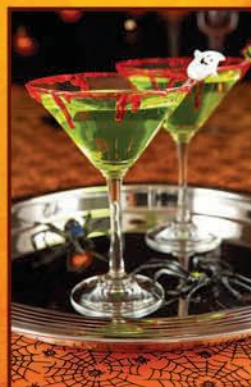
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ON THE COVER



Brent Palmer sets his balls carefully waiting for that unpredictable break.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Midlothian!

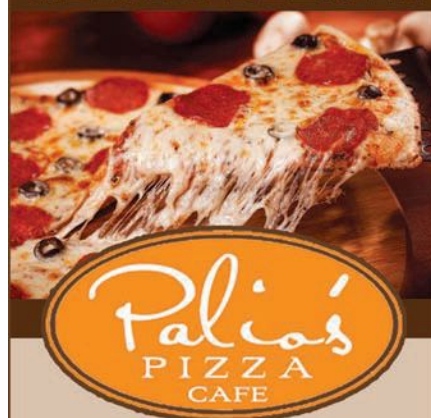
"Mom, it smells like Christmas in here!" Christmas? Baffled, I looked around the kitchen to see why my son, Stephen, said that. There were no gingerbread men baking in the oven, no hot cider simmering in the Crock-Pot and not one whiff of evergreen. It was the middle of the summer, and I was sautéing green peppers and onion — a chore that takes on monumental proportions as a beginning prep for the stuffing. To him, that combination of vegetables cooked that way said "Christmas." For me, apples stimulate my sniffer into thinking Christmas thoughts. It's because my grandmother always had freshly picked apples all over her kitchen during the holidays. From October until Christmas, cooks everywhere will whip up treats and treasures that define the season for their families.

MidlothianNOW Magazine would love to feature some of the wonderful cooks out there. Using the email below, contact me and let's chat!

Betty

Betty Tryon
MidlothianNOW Editor
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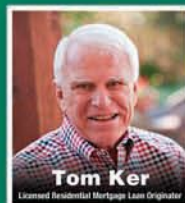
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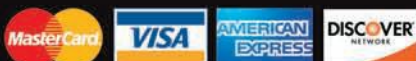
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Cueing IN

— By Betty Tryon



When one walks into Brent Palmer's home, it becomes very obvious what has captured his interest. Sitting in the middle of a room planned to resemble a tastefully designed pool hall is a pool table. During one of his sessions at his pool table, Brent confidently ran a table of 9-balls, one through nine, in numerical order without missing a single shot during his only demonstration that day. Having his own setup is very convenient considering how often he practices. "I play every day for one to two hours," he explained. "I love shooting pool, and I shoot pretty good — not too bad at all."



Shooting pool is a mental challenge,
and this mathematician knows how
to work the numbers.



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Brent started playing pool at the age of 14. "In Oklahoma City, where I grew up, there was a pool hall close to the high school," he stated. "It became a hangout. I'm mathematical and love science and physics. Most people think of pool as being based on geometry, but it's based more on physics." Brent uses his mathematical mind not just to play pool but also to make a living. He is self-employed in his accounting business, Small Business Analysis.

In addition to playing and becoming proficient in pool as a child, Brent also played the piano with a great deal of talent. He took piano lessons for five years but, according to him, he never listened to the lessons. He possesses a natural ability toward music and can play by ear. Brent expanded his skill when he learned chords from a teacher. "I've been a lot of things, and was a professional piano player in a piano bar on Lincoln Avenue in Oklahoma City for only three weeks," he laughed. "I can play the guitar, harmonica and piano, but they aren't my thing. If I had to sit down for hours to play the piano it would just be drudgery to me."

However, playing pool for hours is something Brent easily does. When playing in tournaments, he shoots on a Masters level. "There are classes of pool if you are not a professional," he stated. "C player is the lowest. You can step



up to a B, then a B-plus, step up to A and then A-plus. The highest you can go is the Masters, which is professional-quality play.”

In the U.S., the national organizations for pool play are the American Pool Association and Billiard Congress of America. “APA is more for amateur play,” Brent described, “and as you progress and get better, you can move into BCA. Both are national organizations, so no matter where you live in the United States you can join one of the two. You play on a team of five people who play other teams in the same level. Each man will play all five of the men on the other team, so whichever team wins the most games wins that match.”

Brent started playing in competitions 25-30 years ago. Although many players do so for the money, that was not Brent’s focus. “Shooting pool is a mental challenge, and sometimes you’re not always up to your peak. But I usually cut the mustard, or I try to. There are some people who play for money to mark themselves as to how good they are,” he clarified. “If you shoot for money you know you’re getting the best game out of them.”

There is another reason money comes into play in the game of pool. There are some con men always on the lookout for their next mark. A common practice is for someone to pretend not to shoot well

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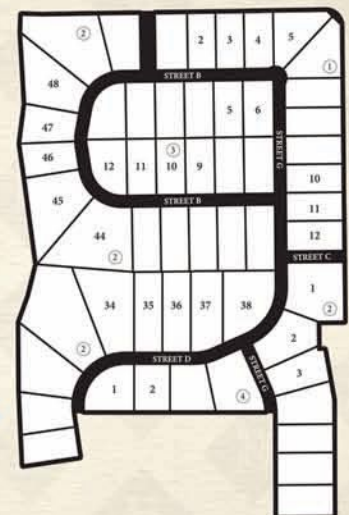
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in order to encourage another player to bet money. "I've never done that," Brent declared. "I'll shoot my best game and if someone wants to shoot for money, then I'll put up the money. But I don't try to con anyone."

Brent recently had an experience with someone he called a hustler because of his habit of pretending he doesn't shoot that good. "I love hustlers because usually I shoot better than they do, but they don't know it," Brent observed. "But, they can beat most people. He wanted to try and hustle me. I agreed to shoot with him, and we were to play for \$200. I know that's not a lot of money for a race to five. That is, the first one to win five games wins the match and the money. I ended up beating him 5 to 1. I've had that happen several times, especially by young guys. Boy, do they get upset when they lose their money!"

Brent's game in pool is 9-ball. Balls have to be shot in order of one through nine. In simple terms, playing pool seems straightforward. There is a cue ball and an object ball. Using the cue stick or cue, you hit the cue ball, which shoots your object ball into the pocket. "Whoever makes the 9-ball wins the game," he clarified. "No matter how many balls you make, if you don't make the 9-ball, you're not going to win."

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The level of skill comes into play in using the cue ball to hit the object ball in such a way that your cue ball goes where you want it to. "When the cue ball touches the object ball, the cue ball is always going to veer off in a 90-degree angle," Brent explained. "That's physics, and it's going to happen. When it goes off at that angle, you want the cue ball to go to a place on the table that sets you up for the next shot. If you don't, in 9-ball for example, there is no sense in making the ball if you can't get on the next ball — if you can't run the table out and make the 9-ball. So, position of the cue ball for the next ball is as important as making a ball."

The cue ball can manipulate what happens on the table. "The cue ball will start out at a 90-degree angle," Brent continued, "but, if it's spinning forward, it will start curving forward. If it's spinning backward, it will start coming backward. If it has a left spin or right spin when it hits the rail, it will spin off to the left or right. There are a lot of calculations for most shots."

Some players are so good, they can win the game on their first shot at the table. Brent is one of those guys. However, there is an element in the game that gives everyone equal odds at the beginning. That is the break. "When you get really good, the most important shot is the break," Brent stated. "No one can control a break. There can be billions of configurations that the balls will go into, and I've never seen two alike." Shooting pool is a mental challenge, and this mathematician knows how to work the numbers. **NOW**



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— By Betty Tryon



On a bright, sunny day, perfect for photographing nature, Florence Kamp, a third-grader at the time, and her father, Todd, headed out to capture flowers on film and enter them into the Midlothian Photo Expo.

That is the earliest time Florence can remember working with her dad in his occupation as a photographer. She became an asset to his work as she learned over time to master Photoshop.

“I’ve always used Photoshop to edit my dad’s pictures. I do a lot of digital art,” she said.

The time Florence spent with her dad reinforced her own innate creativity, even as she decided not to follow in his footsteps to be a photographer. “Photography is very technical. It’s a different language when he talks about it,” she said.

Florence’s desire to create took her down a different path — drawing. Her dad is gifted in this area also, so she could still take advantage of his talent. “I remember always

“Art is a really important part of my life, and I honestly couldn’t imagine myself not being so passionate about it.”



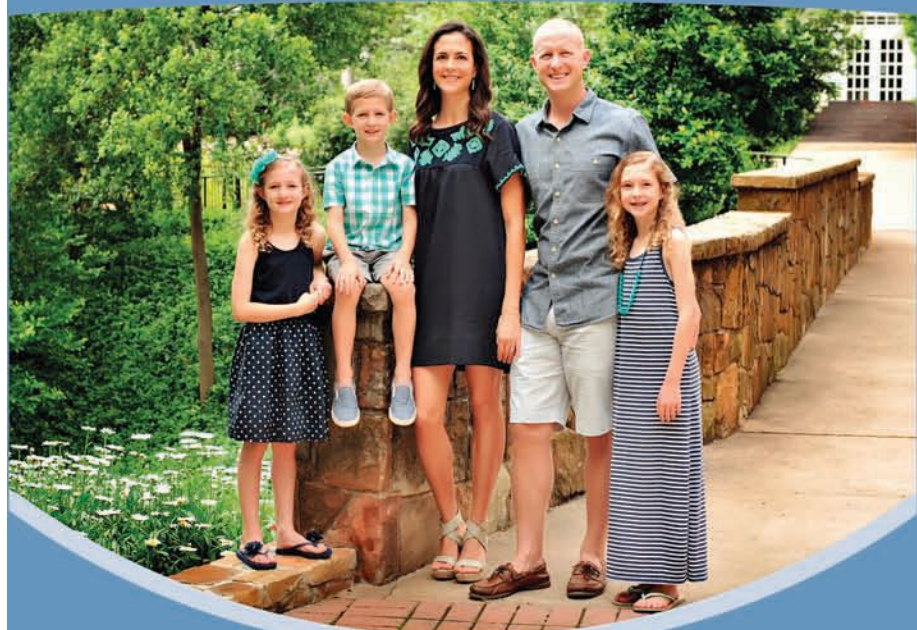
asking my dad to help me, and we would sit down and draw together.” He gave Florence his sketchbook that she holds onto as a keepsake. Florence acknowledged it wasn’t until the latter part of her junior year in high school that she realized she wanted to be an artist.

In the beginning of the school semester, she had an assignment to draw a portrait. At the end of the semester, she drew the portrait again and was astounded by how far she had progressed during the year. “I was just amazed at how much I had improved! I thought, *If I’ve improved this much in one year, how good can I be in five years?*” she said. “The first portrait was pretty bad. I was embarrassed by it, but I didn’t want to throw it away. I compared it with the second portrait, and it was such a drastic change.” She credits her art instructor, Larry Gentry, with her improvement, saying, “He definitely influenced me.”

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Other artists who have influenced Florence are some she follows on Instagram. “They will post pictures from 10 years ago to now, and it’s such a drastic change,” she marveled. “Anyone can draw. You don’t have to be a good artist, but you do have to practice.”

In art class, she practiced her drawing, worked on her art and explored different mediums. “I

looked forward to trying new things, like oil and acrylic,” she remarked. “During my senior year, I started drawing using charcoal. I’m more interested in painting and drawing. With painting, I like oil more than acrylic, but it is harder to use because it takes so long to dry. I do like the texture of it.





In drawing, I prefer charcoal because it has a darker look.” Florence’s acceptance into the art program at The University of Texas at Austin gives her the opportunity to continue to grow and to major in studio art. “Studio art is basically anything — painting, sculpting and print making. There is a lot of freedom in that,” she shared.



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She enjoys drawing portraits of people using Conté instead of charcoal because it is less messy. Her portraits are intense and beautifully done. The young artist manages to portray that elusive quality of life in the face when drawing portraits. When she finds an image or photograph she wants to draw, she goes to Photoshop for editing. "I begin to dramatically darken the background and adjust the lighting, so the focus is completely on the face," she stated. "For me, it's all about light." The deep black color she chooses for her backgrounds makes the faces show even stronger. She really prefers to draw black and white portraits. "I think this technique really reflects an inner being because all the light and attention is on the face and expression of the person. It really puts emphasis on the eyes, which is really important because I think they reveal the strongest emotion."

There are many reasons people create art. It could be to make a profound statement, for the beauty of the image or just for the process of creating something. "Art is a really important aspect of my life, and I honestly could not imagine myself not being so passionate about it. I also think that it's an important part of everyone's life whether or not they see it. Art, for me, is not always something that is waiting to be understood or dissected," she said thoughtfully. "The art I love and want to create is something that I want people to be able to envelop themselves in without trying to give everything a definition."

Part of Florence's goal in attending college is to have the opportunity to experience different mediums in the art world. "I have some ideas in mind about what I want to do," she shared. "I'm trying to keep my options open, so I

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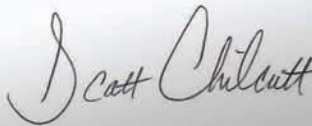
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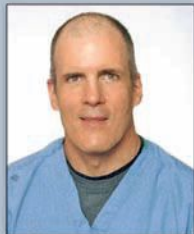


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have more room to explore new things in college. I don't really know where my art is going to take me quite yet, so I don't want to define my artistic future at this point in my life. I try not to think about it too much when I'm working on a piece. I usually just go with the flow."

As a freshman in college, she has plenty of time to decide what career path she will take. However, she is interested in art therapy. Florence finds psychology fascinating and is looking into art therapy as a possible career goal. "Being able to use psychology mixed with a creative outlet to help others could be very fulfilling," she noted. "A career where I get to do that is always something I have looked for when planning my future. It would be a life-changing experience to get to work in a hospital, nursing home or rehab center and help others express themselves through art. I would love to help people."

Florence wants to be able to inspire and influence others through her creativity. She wants this to be her main accomplishment in life. "I think it would be an amazing experience to teach people how to express their emotions and heal through art," she shared. "I am still exploring art with mostly painting and drawing. I hadn't tried anything else in high school. Now that I'm in college, I have a world of opportunities opening for me that I look forward to." **NOW**

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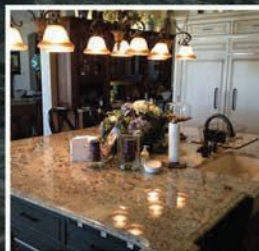
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— By Zachary R. Urquhart



At Home With CODY & ROCHELLE MURRAY

Houses can be many things, and in some cases, they are extensions of the people who inhabit them. For Cody and Rochelle Murray, their home is like a hand welcoming its frequent guests with the warm embrace of a long lost friend.

Cody grew up in Gorman, Texas, and went to nearby Tarleton State University after high school. Currently, he is a voice-over artist and works as the director of training for USMD.

Rochelle moved around growing up. “My dad was an evangelist with a heart for people, so we often moved to where the needs were,” she said. She lived in California early on, and then moved to Arlington, graduating from Martin High School. She earned a

degree in theology from Christ For The Nations Institute in Dallas, and loves teaching preschool and leading the pre-teen ministry at church.

Cody and Rochelle met while working in the same retail store during college in 1991. The couple married in December 1995, while living in Illinois. "Her family happened to move just before we got married," Cody recalled. "I followed her up there, and we lived outside of Springfield for the first five years of our marriage." They came back to Texas to raise a family, choosing Midlothian for common reasons. They have three children who have loved growing up here. Judah is 16 and is a drummer and interested in interior design; Grace is 14 and plays tennis; Tatum is 9 and loves dance, playing outside and her pet fish.

When they chose Midlothian over 15 years ago, theirs was one of the first homes in Overlook. "When we were pregnant with Tatum, we knew we had outgrown our first house, but we wanted to stay close to our friends, so we moved a few streets away," Rochelle laughed. Thinking that selling and moving would take a while, they expected to be in the old house for some time yet. But their house went quickly, and they had to make the move with a 3-week-old baby.



Just inside the home's red front door, guests are invited into a living room that has a slightly more formal feel than typically seen today. "We feel like we need a place with no TV, where we can focus on each other or our guests," Cody expressed. For that reason, their living room is central to the home both spatially and symbolically. The room is accented with shells and plants, reminiscent of the California coast from Rochelle's upbringing. "We have been richly blessed by friends and family over the years, and our home is a reflection

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of that,” Rochelle said. A favorite piece is a Duncan Phyfe-style couch from the early 1900s.

“We both really like Duncan Phyfe couches, and we missed buying one we found when we first married,” he described. “It took 10 years of looking in antique stores, but we finally found another one we really liked.”

When buying their sofa, they also bought two different chairs. “He thought the gold leaf chair was manlier, but I

liked the curves on the white chair, so we bought them both,” Rochelle added. Many other pieces of furniture in the room have come from family or friends over the past two decades. “We have whole rooms where we didn’t purchase a single thing, and we love that because of the history and character it gives our home,” she said.

The master bedroom sits to one side of the living room and has an eclectic mix of furniture for a cool, relaxing feel. “We like combining antique pieces like the 1930s chaise we got from my great-grandmother, some more modern pieces and personal touches like the cornice boards we made for a Bohemian feel,” Rochelle said. Their furniture comes together seamlessly in spite of being from different decades. And having so many different styles mixed together is part of what they love to do.

“You can buy whole rooms in the store, but then you miss the character, the stories and the connection to family history we have,” Cody surmised.

The kids’ rooms are clustered on one side of the house, each with its

own design picked by the child. Tatum’s room is decked in purple, green and pink. A child’s dresser from the 1940s, used as a changing table for all three kids, houses her fish — Caution, Hazard and Dynamite. “One of my favorite things is to repurpose old things. I love being able to find something someone has discarded and turn it into something great again,” Rochelle said.



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Judah's room has a great example of that repurposing, as he and his dad refinished ammo boxes and turned them into decorative display shelves. "Judah has shown interest in this type of thing since he was a little kid," Rochelle said. "He took a design class last year and is set to do an internship at a design firm in Cedar Hill next year. He loves to bring order and beauty anywhere he can."

Grace's room makes it easy to see that she wants to one day be an

oceanographer. "She has wanted to do that since she was 5," Cody explained. The room has an aquatic theme, with a shelf on her desk for her rubber duck collection. Refinishing her desk and hutch was a mother-daughter project.

With the main TV upstairs, the family often hangs out in their bonus room. "Our friends' house has this area as attic space, but this room really sold us on the house," Cody shared. The room has



plenty of seating for the kids and their friends or can serve as a perfect spot for the family to relax and spend time together. It includes a reading nook and lots of family artwork.

The last room in the house is the kitchen, which sums up many aspects of the family's outlook on life. "We buy FiestaWare of every color for our dishes," Rochelle said. "And if a piece gets broken, we just replace it with whatever color we find, no harm done. We want to have a relaxed home where people are free to bring their children. We even have friends who bring their pets when they come."

The other kitchen feature that stands out is the coffee center. They have multiple coffee makers, at least one of which is often running. "We love having people over, and we've kind of made having coffee our thing," Cody detailed. "All five of us are coffee lovers, even the 9-year-old. We believe in bringing them up in the way they should go!" With a house that includes many collections, Cody considers the friendships they have collected most important of all. In being as hospitable as the home in which they live, Cody and Rochelle are always ready to offer a hot drink and a familiar, warm embrace that tells friends and family just how welcome they are. **NOW**



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Kids like breaking stuff. Though sometimes an unfortunate truth, that destructive tendency can be used positively at times. Jamie Raybourn, Hunter Thompson and Jeffrey Wright have spent their formative years breaking stuff for good reason, as they have become accomplished practitioners in taekwondo. Because of their impressive skills, this summer they represented Team USA in the ITF Taekwon-Do World Championships.

— By Zachary R. Urquhart





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Jamie, 16, is homeschooled and lives with her parents, Sam and Gina Raybourn, and her brother, Jack. She tried gymnastics and ballet as a little girl, but she quickly moved on to other pursuits. "My parents say I was a power kid, not a finesse kid," she laughed. Her parents let her try taekwondo at the age of 5, and it stuck right away. "I was usually the only girl, or if there were others, they were adults," she recalled. "I used to get beaten by all the boys, until I got skilled enough, and then I started winning." In addition to her martial arts, Jamie plays basketball for a homeschool team that competes against hundreds of teams, both in state and across the nation.

Hunter is 17, goes to Midlothian High School and lives with his parents, Lori and John Thompson, and his sister, Shelby. He started when he was 6 because it seemed fun. "I think I saw a sign with a picture and asked, 'Mom, can I do karate?'" he said. Hunter's mom describes him as having been an energetic kid, and taekwondo helped give him a focus for his energy. He also plays French horn for the MHS wind ensemble. He took a break from taekwondo to play football a few years ago, but now he's back, and seemingly better than ever.

Jeffrey, 15, is also homeschooled and lives with his parents, Laura and Rob Wright, and his sister, Taylor. He was the late bloomer, not starting until the age of 7. "My parents were looking for something for me to do that summer, and taekwondo was it," he remembered. He has stayed active in the sport ever




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since. While Jamie and Hunter both have a few other activities they are involved with, Jeffrey spends most of his free time training and even teaching at his gym.

The kids started at Cross Martial Arts, where they were part of the Double Dragons team. Two years ago the owner had to move, so they transferred to Poteet Martial Arts, owned by Chris and Annette Poteet, who had previously been students at Cross Martial Arts. "Besides being our instructors, Mr. and Mrs. Poteet were the managers for Team USA at the international competition," Jamie explained. "We are so grateful for all that they did in getting us there and taking care of so many details for the entire team."

For years, the three kids have trained and competed together, and for years, they have won together. "We were the first three kids in Double Dragons, and here we are still," Hunter said. "We found that we did well against other teams pretty much right away." Jeffrey used to be very reserved and shy with his skills, but he has learned to open up in recent years. Though humble, Jamie admitted she knew early on that she could do this pretty well. That ability earned them all a trip to Jesolo, Italy, this past May, and they came back with medals to show for their effort.

The World Championships are held every other year in early summer, with national qualifying tournaments that winter. "We went to Houston last December and competed with kids from all over the country," Jamie explained. "We compete with kids from 14-17,

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and anyone who places first through third gets to be a part of Team USA for individual events. Then, the team selects members for team skill events.” The kids can compete in several events including: specialty breaking, power breaking, patterns and sparring. Based on their success at the national tournament in Houston, Jamie and Jeffrey each competed in six events in Italy, while Hunter represented America in three.

While it was an outstanding accomplishment just to qualify for the World Championships, there was another obstacle before they could go to compete against the world’s best. “We had to do a bunch of fundraising,” Jeffrey recalled. “It cost several thousand dollars per person, so we tried to raise as much of that as we could. We raffled a gun from the Range on 287. We had a huge garage sale, and we even served as waiters at Villa Italiana in town one night.”

With spots in the competition earned and travel arrangements in the books, Jamie, Hunter and Jeffrey headed to Italy for about two weeks. “It was beautiful there, and the town we stayed in was so laid-back and peaceful,” Jamie described. Jeffrey mentioned that the areas around Jesolo were more rural than he had expected. Hunter noted the gelato stands, seemingly on every corner. Jamie reiterated that, saying, “Oh, yes, the gelato! I can’t even eat normal ice cream anymore.”

While the sightseeing and the time on the beach were great, the kids were definitely there with a purpose — to bring home hardware for Team USA.

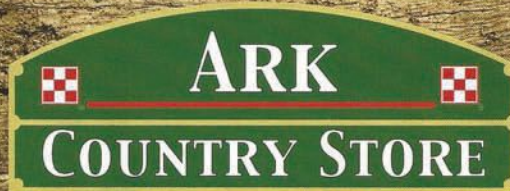
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They have all competed extensively for years, but they said there was a clear difference in the atmosphere at World's. "It is way more intense over there," Hunter said. "In local tournaments, you know everyone you compete with pretty well, so you're friendlier with them. But there, everyone is so focused on getting a medal."

Jeffrey noted the difference between America's team and those from the rest of the countries. "In a lot of those countries, the athletes are sponsored by their governments," he explained. "So while we're in school, they're training." In spite of that competitive advantage, all three were able to medal in some of their events. Jeffrey and Hunter were part of the power breaking team that won silver. "One of my favorite parts of the whole trip was holding up our flag while they put the medals on us," Jeffrey reminisced.

Jamie, meanwhile, won bronze with the ladies' power breaking team, as well as winning the gold in Jr. Female Sparring. "I'm a World Champion," she asserted. She had to beat four opponents without suffering any losses in order to become a world champ, yet she keeps a humble demeanor about it. Her favorite part of the trip sums up a dream most American athletes have at some point. "When I was in that last match, the whole team was shouting, 'USA, USA,'" she recalled. "There is even a great photo of the team raising me in celebration after I took the gold medal."

Thanks to years of hard work, excellent coaching and a group of parents offering plenty of support, Jamie, Hunter and Jeffrey went to Italy as accomplished youth athletes. With great pride, they came back as champions. **NOW**



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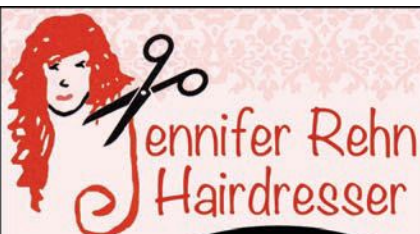


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A woman with blonde hair in a bun, wearing a white t-shirt and a paint-splattered apron, stands in a kitchen with green cabinets. She is holding a paintbrush with green paint on it. The background shows more green cabinets and a wooden dining table.

CABINET REFRESH 101

— By Jill Rose

Looking for an inexpensive way to dramatically change the look of your kitchen? Painting cabinets is a great way to get the look of a new kitchen without the price tag of a complete remodel.

FIND THE PERFECT COLOR

For most people, one of the hardest parts of painting kitchen cabinets is finding the right color. With all the paint options available, even opting for white cabinets can result in having to sift through hundreds of variations to find the “right” white.



One of the biggest obstacles to choosing a color is lighting. The number of windows in your space (natural lighting), as well as the type of bulbs you use (soft white, bright white, daylight, etc.), can drastically change the way a color will look. Buying your paint from a paint specialty store can alleviate a great deal of indecision, as the employees in these stores are able to provide you with the best options, depending on your lighting. Keep in mind, homes with a lot of natural light tend to cast a blue hue on white paints, whereas homes with artificial lighting can cast colors ranging from blue to orange, depending on the bulb used.



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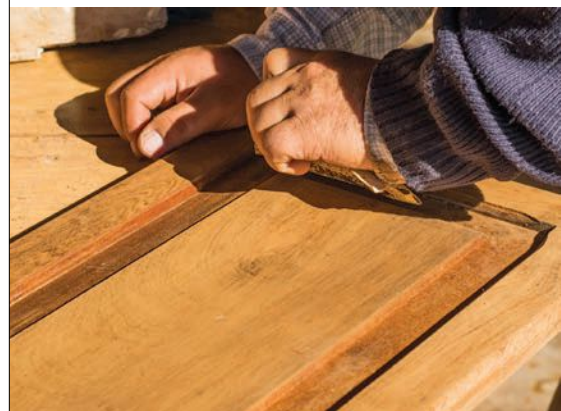
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After selecting a few sample colors, purchase scrap pieces of wood strips that are the same species as your cabinets and paint them using the sample colors. Leave the samples in your kitchen for a few days to see how the color changes throughout the day. Once you've decided on a color, select your sheen. Choose a high-gloss sheen for a more modern look or an eggshell for a more classic feel.

PREP YOUR AREA

Begin by taking the cabinet doors off and removing the hinges. Be sure to label each cabinet door and hinge for reassembly. Next, tape off the wall area around the cabinet frames.



GIVE EVERYTHING A GOOD SANDING

Whether your cabinet doors, drawers and frames are painted or covered in stain, you will need to sand them. Begin by using a 100-grit sandpaper, and then move on to 120-grit sandpaper. Note: Most of the cabinet can be sanded with an orbital sander, but the smaller areas will need to be sanded by hand.

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After sanding everything, remove the dust created. The frames are easy to clean, but doors and drawers can be tricky. Dust will ruin your paint job, and you will find yourself having to sand out specks and reapply paint. To ensure maximum dust removal, start by simply turning the cabinet door or drawer over and patting the back so most of the dust falls out. Follow this with a quick pass over with a vacuum wand. Finally, use a duster and get into the crevices. If you find you still have dust specs, use mineral spirits and a rag to remove any remaining dust.

FIX ANY GOUGES OR DENTS

If you have deep scratches or dents, fill them in with wood filler. Let it dry, and then sand it down using a 180- or 220-grit sandpaper. Be sure to clean away any excess dust.

PRIME THE CABINETS DRAWERS/FRAMES

Using a 2-inch paint brush, apply a light coat of primer to the cabinets, drawers and frames. Tinting your primer to match the color of the new cabinet paint is excellent insurance against future nicks and scratches showing.

Begin by priming the back of the cabinet door. Start in the center panel section. If you get primer on the stiles or rails, make sure you brush them out, so they don't leave a blotchy finish.

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Next, prime the rails, and then the stiles. Do not prime the edges of the cabinets at this stage. After priming the cabinet doors, move on to priming the drawers. Since drawers only have a front, prime the entire drawer (edges included). The next step is to prime the cabinet frames. If desired, prime the inside of the cabinets, also.

Once all items have been primed, allow them to cure for at least 24 hours before lightly sanding (by hand) all the primed surfaces with a 300-grit sandpaper. Sand them just enough to remove any imperfections or random pieces of dust that may have fallen on them while they were still wet.

Turn the cabinet doors over to the front, and repeat the entire process above. Be sure to prime the edges of the cabinets, and allow them to cure for 24 hours.

PAINT THE CABINETS/ DRAWERS/FRAMES

After the primed pieces have been allowed to cure for 24 hours, begin painting. Painting is really no different than priming, and you should follow the same process as priming. Begin by painting the back of the cabinet door, and

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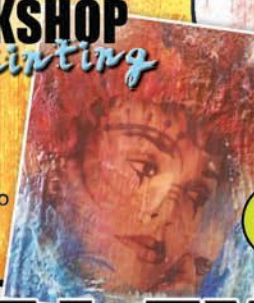
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then lightly sand out any imperfections before moving on to the drawers and cabinet frames. Allow them to cure for 24 hours, and then repeat the entire process for a total of two coats of paint.

After the second coat has been allowed to cure for 24 hours, move on to painting the front of the cabinet doors. Again, follow the same process as above (panel, rails, stiles but now also the edges). Allow them to cure for 24 hours, and then repeat the entire process.

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Before actually adding the polyurethane, lightly smooth out the door's finish using a 300-grit sandpaper. Apply the polyurethane with a foam brush for a suggested total of three coats on each side. Allow the polyurethane to cure per label, reassemble the cabinets and enjoy the beautiful new look of your kitchen for years to come!

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Oct. 10 • 8:00 a.m.
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1955 Sock Hop & BBQ Dinner

Oct. 23 • 6:30 p.m.
Ovilla @ Westmoreland Roads, Ovilla

Casual Worship Service in the Tent

Oct. 25 • 10:00 a.m.
Ovilla @ Westmoreland Roads, Ovilla

Miles for Missions 5K Run/Walk

Oct. 31
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Midlothian, TX 76065
(972) 775-5550
Facebook: Lee's Jewelry & Repair

Hours:

Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-5:59 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-3:59 p.m.



Danny Ledesma and Leon Averitt (son and father) work together to make the business a success.

Everyman Jeweler

Leon Averitt uses his many years in the business for his customers' benefit. — By Betty Tryon

For 52 years, Leon Averitt, owner of Lee's Jewelry & Repair, perfected his skill and salesmanship in the industry of beautiful stones and metal. Leon moved his business to Midlothian one-and-a-half years ago. He previously operated in DeSoto but wanted to relocate his business here where he lives.

Leon's enthusiasm for working with jewelry began in his childhood. "There was a jewelry store next to my father's theater," he shared. "The store owner got tired of me hanging around there, so he put me to work." Leon enjoyed it so much he went to jewelry school in Natchitoches, Louisiana, to a state operated trade school on the campus of Northwestern State University. He remembers working to make handmade screws smaller than a pinhead. He also learned how to do repairs when in school.

His knowledge in jewelry repair gives him an advantage over some of the other jewelry stores. Leon describes his business as an old-fashion hometown jewelry store. "People will ask me to do anything," he smiled. "I cater to all repairs and have repaired everything anybody brings in. The repairs are done here on site." Leon admits to doing repair work on items other than jewelry, such as: purses, shoes, eyeglasses, car parts and even boat parts. Currently, Leon does all the repairs, and he is teaching the business to his son, Danny Ledesma.

After being in the business for such a long time, Leon still enjoys what he does and the customers who visit his store. As a small-town jewelry store, he tries to carry a variety of everything. "If I don't have it, I can get it," he declared. "I had a gentleman who didn't believe that I could get what he wanted. I got him a

\$53,000 diamond and had it here in two days." Many of Leon's customers are very loyal to his business even if they no longer live in the same city. "One of my customers lives in California and comes to visit her mother here twice a year," he said. "She brings all of her jewelry repair needs when she visits, and I fix it while she is here. She won't let anyone else touch it. I've had people drive here from other cities just for me to change their battery."

"I cater to all repairs and have repaired everything anybody brings in. The repairs are done here on site."

Leon's prices are very competitive, especially the watch batteries, and his coupon makes it an even better deal. He is very flexible with his coupons and has a liberal policy for them. "If a coupon expired, so what? They still came into my store. If I spend money advertising, and they come in with an expired coupon, there is no way I'm going to decline it. That's a good way to run off a customer," he shared. He remembers when an elderly lady came in to have her watch battery changed. After he changed it, she handed him a coupon for a hamburger! Leon figured his coupon was mixed in with her other coupons, but he took it anyway. "I hoped she didn't take my coupon and try to buy a hamburger with it!" he laughed.

Even with 52 years in the business, his customers still manage to surprise him. "That's why I like coming to work. There is always something new going on." **NOW**

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Mayor Bill Houston is about to be dunked at the Manna House Back to School Bash.



David and Jocqui show off their delicious sweets at the Midlothian Farmer's Market.



Marilyn Jones and Janet Goad welcome guests to the United Way Kick-off fundraiser at Mo & Hari's.



Casey Ballard and friends gather at Mo & Hari's to help kick-off United Way fundraiser.



Kimberly Miller is all smiles as she gets her hair cut by Michelle Garza at the Mayor's Back to School Bash.



Ovilla Christian School Cheer Coach Candace Snow with Midlothian's Elizabeth Brannon prepare for OCS homecoming.



Pat Archer, Ron Raburn, Anna Hart and Robert Nelson celebrate their August birthdays at the Midlothian Senior Center.




Mrs. Johnson's kindergarten class is excited to have varsity football player, Drake W., visit them.



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Retirement, Stage Three: Planning, Contentment and Reflection – and Your Legacy

When you are still firing on all cylinders, there may be no need to cut back on your retirement activities. Just because you have reached 75 and entered what the AARP labels the “older retirement years,” you don’t have to stop traveling, trying to perfect your golf game, working or whatever you chose to pursue during the most dynamic years of your retirement.

You may be enjoying what can be one of the most wonderfully fulfilling times of your life. More than anything else, it is likely that your state of health will determine when you must start applying the brakes. And that may not be for a very long time. It is no longer a novelty to find golfers in their 90s shooting their age or travelers in their mid-80s flying off to new destinations.

Financial Planning

Earlier in your retirement, you may have determined the smartest ways to withdraw funds from your nest egg. Perhaps you stayed invested in equities longer than previous generations, because you planned for a long, active retirement, not a short, sedentary one. As the years pass, it may be prudent to revisit your portfolio to decide whether any allocation shifts and changes in direction are needed to keep it in line with your situation.

Certainly, if you have not yet done so, it is time to update any legal documents, wills, lists of named beneficiaries and charitable causes and anything else you want to make part of your legacy. Studies show that surprisingly large numbers of even astute investors fail to tend to such matters. Names of beneficiaries on your IRAs, for example, supersede your will, so check their accuracy. In addition, make sure that a trusted family member or friend knows the whereabouts of your vital documents.

Modern technology has added a new problem — username and password confidentiality. You can save your loved ones a great deal of anguish if you share this information, or at least keep a list of usernames and passwords along with account numbers and other information. Banks and financial institutions, to guard against unauthorized persons obtaining access to your money or your identity, may require death certificates and other information before they will unlock accounts and allow anyone else in. Even spouses with joint tenancy may have to supply death certificates and corroborating information — and wait weeks — to get access, unless they know the correct information.

Defining Your Legacy

Your life may still be a fantastic journey, but there will come a time to reflect and plan your legacy. Handled appropriately, with the right financial plans, trusts, charitable contributions and family bequests, your legacy can last for decades. Just as your vision and interests defined your lifetime accomplishments, they can now determine your role in your family’s or community’s story. **NOW**

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Jonathan Pope is a Raymond James Financial Advisor based in Duncanville.



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Six Tips to Protect Your Kids in Fall Sports: Back-to-school Sports Season Is Linked to Ankle Injuries

If your children are playing sports this fall, pay attention to six tips that could protect them from serious ankle injuries. Every fall, there is an increase in ankle injuries among young athletes. Football, soccer and basketball are the sports most likely to lead to sprains, broken bones and other problems.

The most important tip is for parents is to get ankle injuries treated right away. What seems like a sprain is not always a sprain. In addition to cartilage injuries, your son or daughter might have injured other bones in the foot without knowing it. Have a qualified doctor examine the injury. The sooner rehabilitation starts, the sooner we can prevent long-term problems like instability or arthritis, and the sooner your child can get back into competition.

Other tips:

- *Have old sprains checked by a doctor before the season starts.* A medical check-up can reveal whether your child's previously injured ankle might be vulnerable to sprains, and could possibly benefit from wearing a supportive ankle brace during competition.
- *Buy the right shoe for the sport.* Different sports require different

shoe gear. Players shouldn't mix baseball cleats with football shoes.

- *Children should start the season with new shoes.* Old shoes can wear down like a car tire and become uneven on the bottom, causing the ankle to tilt because the foot can't lie flat.
- *Check playing fields for dips, divots and holes.* Most sports-related ankle sprains are caused by jumping and running on uneven surfaces. That's why some surgeons recommend parents walk the field, especially when children compete in nonprofessional settings, like public parks, for spots that could catch a player's foot and throw them to the ground. Alert coaching officials to any irregularities.
- *Encourage stretching and warm-up exercises.* Calf stretches and light jogging before competition helps warm up ligaments and blood vessels, reducing the risk for ankle injuries. **NOW**

Christopher Schmitt, DPM

Member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons

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October 1, 2

Annual Midlothian High School Pantherette Extravaganza: **October 1**, 5:30-7:00 p.m. with parent meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Midlothian High School Cafeteria; **October 2**, 6:30 p.m., drop off at Gate B of MISD stadium. Each participant will learn a dance routine on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** evenings and will then perform the routine prior to the MHS Varsity Football home game on **Friday** night. Visit sites.google.com/a/misd.gs/pantherettes/extravaganza or call (972) 775-8237 x1171 for more information.

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Hope Clinic Shot Clinic: 3:00-5:00 p.m. for any Ellis County youth. For more information, call (972) 923-2440

October 1— 31

MDBA 14th Annual Scarecrow Contest: The scarecrows will be on display at Heritage Park for the entire month of October and will be taken down on **November 1** by 5:00 p.m.

October 2 — 31

Screams Halloween Theme Park: **Fridays**

and **Saturdays** only. For park times and detailed information, call (972) 938-3247.

October 3

Heroes of Midlothian Oktoberfest 2015: 4:00-10:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle Dr. Family fun, silent auction, carnival and games.

The Midlothian Market (formerly Midlothian Farmers Market): 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or until everything is sold, Larkin Newton Cabin.

Paws for Reflection Ranch Round Up Fundraiser Event: 6:30 p.m., 5431 Montgomery Rd. Adult only event. Tickets are available at The Ranch. Contact information: Visit PawsForReflectionRanch.org, email PawsForReflection@att.net or call (972) 775-8966.

October 6

National Night Out.

October 15

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center (County Farm), 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie.

Talk-in on the 145.410 machines. All are welcome. For more information, visit d5ddh.org.

October 16

Midlothian Opry Country Music Show Featuring the Goodtimers Band: 7:00 p.m., Old Civic Center. \$5 admission, 50/50 drawing, concessions available. Enjoy the music.

October 17

Midlothian Annual Fall Festival and 5K Run: 5K Run begins **8:00 a.m.**; festival opens **9:00 a.m.**

October 24

20th Annual Texas Country Reporter Festival: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., historic downtown Waxahachie. Join Bob Phillips for a day of arts and music. Admission is free. For more information, call the Waxahachie Convention & Visitors Bureau at (469) 309-4040 or visit www.waxahachiecvb.com.

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

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In the Kitchen With Cyndi McDonald

— By Betty Tryon

When Cyndi McDonald was growing up, food was not plentiful, but those hard times actually made her more grateful. “It made me appreciate how good food can make you feel,” she shared. “I like the smells that come from the kitchen of a house when I walk in.” She and her family make it a tradition to pray before each meal, whether at home or in public. “I want my children to know that we are blessed to have this.”

Cyndi loves the confidence her family has in her cooking skills. When sampling something tasty in a restaurant, they will suggest for her to make that food item. She takes it as a challenge to recreate the dish at home. **NOW**

Sopa de Conchas

- 1 Tbsp. oil**
- 1 16-oz. box small shell pasta**
- 1 12-oz. can tomato sauce**
- 12 oz. water**
- 1 Tbsp. cumin**
- 2 tsp. chicken bouillon**

- 1.** Pour oil into a hot pan. Pour 1/2 box of shells into pan and lightly brown.
- 2.** Pour tomato sauce over shells; add water and seasonings.
- 3.** Boil 5 minutes; simmer 10-15 minutes. If water boils down, add more. It should be like a soup. Add more water or spices to your taste. *Variation: When the mixture begins to boil, add frozen vegetables.*

Brisket

- 1 medium brisket**
- 1 cup Lawry's Seasoned Salt**
- 1-2 Tbsp. pepper**
- 1/2 cup butter**

- 1.** Prepare the brisket by trimming all the visible fat.
- 2.** Put brisket on foil. Rub half the seasonings on the brisket. Flip it over and rub the other half with the rest of the seasonings. Wrap tightly in foil.
- 3.** Put in a covered baking dish, and almost cover brisket with water. Bake for 6 hours at 350 F.

Sopapilla Cheesecake

- 2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese**
- 1 cup white sugar (divided use)**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1/2 cup brown sugar**
- 1/2 cup cinnamon**
- 1 stick butter, melted**
- 3 cans crescent rolls (divided use)**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Cream the cheese, 1/2 cup white sugar and vanilla in a mixer.
- 3.** In a separate bowl, mix remaining 1/2 cup sugar and brown sugar with cinnamon. Set aside.

- 4.** Add half of the melted butter to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Place 1 1/2 cans of crescent rolls over butter.
- 5.** Spread the cream cheese mixture on crescent rolls. Layer rest of crescent rolls over cheese spread. Add the rest of the melted butter; sprinkle the sugar/cinnamon mixture on top. Cook for 30 minutes.

Tex-Mex Pico

- 2 cans sweet corn**
- 2 cans black beans**
- 2 cans Ro-Tel Original (or Ro-Tel Hot if desired)**
- 1/4 to 1/2 bunch of cilantro**

- 1.** Drain all cans. Clean and chop cilantro.
- 2.** In a bowl, mix together all ingredients well. The flavors meld better if made the night before, but this is a great dip/salsa to make for last-minute guests.

Summer Sangria

Yields 2 pitchers, 4 quarts.

- 1 orange**
- 1 lemon**
- 1 lime**
- 1 pineapple**
- 1 mango**
- 1 2-liter Sprite or 7 Up, cold**
- 1 bottle White Sweet Moscato, cold**

- 1.** Wash the citrus fruit well.
- 2.** Slice citrus fruit into rounds; set aside. Save as much juice as possible. Cut pineapple and mango into big bite-size pieces. Pour saved citrus juice into pitcher.
- 3.** Mix one or two pieces of the pineapple and mango into the juice in the pitcher. Add half of the fruit.
- 4.** Pour half the Sprite or 7 Up into the pitcher. Add half the Moscato. (It will overflow if poured too quickly.)
- 5.** Stir gently and serve.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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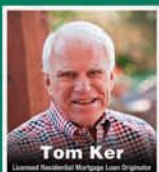
The Waxahachie office has over **90 COMBINED YEARS** of experience in the mortgage industry.

So, whether you are purchasing a new home, considering refinancing or even seeking access to your home's equity, we have the right solution to meet nearly any mortgage need.



Jeff Schmidt
Licensed Residential Mortgage Loan Originator

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Regional Manager



Tom Ker
Licensed Residential Mortgage Loan Originator

972.365.7022
Senior Loan Officer



Nick Hester
Licensed Residential Mortgage Loan Originator

469.855.9262
Senior Loan Officer



Terry Wooten
Licensed Residential Mortgage Loan Originator

214.949.9285
Senior Loan Officer



Lupe Diaz
Licensed Residential Mortgage Loan Originator

682.241.2902
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WAXAHACHIE AUTOPLEX

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Building the Best to serve the Best!



**We are building a brand new
state-of-the-art service and repair center.**

The new Ford dealership will add about 20-25 jobs and sit on 14 acres, with lots of room to expand our inventory for a more pleasant car-buying experience.

**Waxahachie Autoplex is proud to announce
the opening of a new NISSAN Dealership.
We hope to be operational to better serve
our community around Thanksgiving!**



Nissan. Innovation that excites.



In an effort to **GIVE BACK** to the community, Waxahachie Autoplex has donated 6 cars to local schools and given over **\$42,000 to Local FFA programs.**



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