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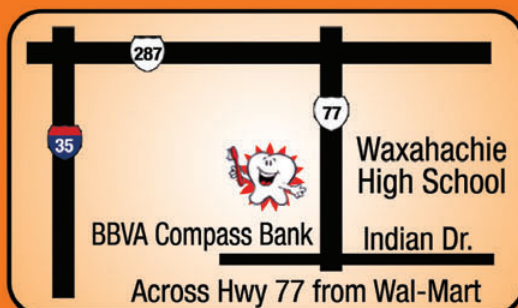
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## ON THE COVER



*Ricardo Campbell reaches children as a superhero.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).





## Editor's Note

*I'm so excited!*

October has finally arrived. The orange storage containers in the attic are whispering my name. I can hardly wait to get them down and go back through the fall decorations I've been accumulating for a lifetime. You'd think they wouldn't cause so much excitement, but they do. I so enjoy re-fluffing the ribbons, ironing out the crinkled fall leaves and making sure the breakable items made it through another year. I will work for an entire weekend turning my home into a wonderland filled with all things fall. You never know, I may even bake a pumpkin pie.

Later this month, my family and I will celebrate my mom's birthday. As she turns 83, we will no doubt remember the years that have come and gone with lots of laughter and, probably, a few tears. I'm not sure what "bucket list event" she has planned, but I guarantee it will be something that will make us wonder where she gets her fearlessness. I want to be just like her when I grow up.

Have a great day, Mom!

*Sandra*

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# CAPED CRUSADERS

— By Debbie Durling







Longtime Waxahachie resident Ricardo Campbell spent 35 years in the field at the Dallas Police Department. As part of the CRT team and being responsible for issuing warrants for felonies, he witnessed the demise of many young lives in crime-ridden neighborhoods. After seeing all the carnage, stealing, robbing and gang violence, he told his friend, Ray McCampbell, "We need to come up with something to make a difference in the lives of the kids." He wanted to create real change, to give kids a reason to strive to do better and not give in to the darkness around them. Ricardo, Ray and Merlin Lofton came together to form "Heroes, Cops and Kids," a Christian organization headquartered in Waxahachie, but serving all of Ellis County and beyond.







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In their mission statement, they pledge to enhance the quality of life of children and young adults. The end of their mission statement reads, "We are a team of professional working individuals who have a strong religious belief, we all feel children are important, and should be supported in any positive way in order for them to pursue their dreams." They bought movie-quality superhero costumes because they knew this would get the attention of the children they wanted to reach. Next, they met with the DeSoto Police Department, which has a summer youth program boot camp that reaches out to at-risk youth. Their first show was scheduled, and they were a hit. Through the identities afforded them by their costumes, they spoke to the kids about making good decisions and doing better in school.

A website was created in 2012, and they became incorporated and certified by the state. Before long, they were doing shows in the local area, as well as Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, Children's Medical Center and Ronald MacDonald houses. Dallas Police Chief David Brown decided he wanted the "heroes" with him everywhere he went, especially when it concerned children. Ricardo remembered with a smile that on one such event, a little boy ran up to him and announced, "Batman's not black!"





Edgar Sanchez, a resident of Midlothian, takes on the persona of the Marvel character, Deadpool. He has portrayed this bad guy-chasing mercenary at a Scottish Rite Hospital event, as well as at the Dallas St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Now, after four years of being in operation, they are being invited to community events, schools, hospitals and many other places where they can influence kids to be upstanding citizens and do what is right. Just in the past year, they grew to 95 events. To leave a lasting impression, they give out trading cards. One side of the card is a picture of a team member in hero costume, and the other side has a badge that says, "Heroes, Cops and Kids."

They use the word HERO as an acronym to make their message memorable. The letters symbolize: Honor, Education, Respect and power of One. These words are in a PowerPoint presentation the heroes show to the students as they speak to them about how they can live with honor and respect, rather than anger and violence.

With Honor they teach fairness, integrity and high respect. This element stresses to kids that honorable people make good choices and do the right thing. The E in HERO stands for Education, which is used to encourage kids to stay in school, focus in class



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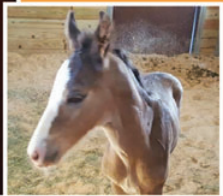







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and recognize that reading is the key to achievement. They show the income possibilities of those who achieve various levels of education and reinforce to students that “education is the only thing that no one can take away from you.” The R in HERO is used to remind the kids that people must be respected — family, teachers, peers and especially themselves. Lastly, the O affirms to the kids, “You control yourself. Be an individual. Try your best to avoid peer pressure. Set a goal and go after it.” To join the team, students must rise to A/B Honor Roll, have good school attendance, show good conduct/behavior and act like a HERO.

Recently, the group was invited to Houston to honor the death of an 18-year-old who was working two jobs. While leaving work, he heard a lady screaming. When he found the source of the scream, a man was beating the lady. Without a thought for his own safety, the young man ran to her aid and was shot and killed. The HERO team held an event to raise money for the family. Ricardo was invited to speak at the funeral where the young man was honored just like a fallen officer would be.

The team loves to visit hospitals and brighten the day of kids battling cancer and other terminal illnesses. Dominique Ayala is one of those kids. He loved Optimus Prime and got to take a picture with all the superheroes. He passed away in June. One of Ricardo’s most prized pictures is of Dominique hugging Batman and laying his head on his shoulder.

Jack Culverhouse had brain cancer. The team brought him to the police station and gave him a uniform and a badge. He passed away two months later, and the team attended his services.

Once while visiting Medical City in Dallas, they met a little boy with a rare blood disease. Sgt. Edward Trevino was dressed as The Hulk that day. The boy jumped up out of his chair and grabbed him around the legs and said, “I love you, Hulk.”

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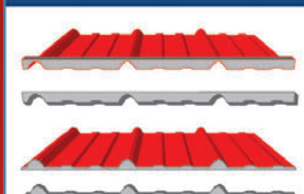


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"It took us all by surprise, and Edward teared up," Ricardo remembered.

One of the team members, Sophia Hurley, took a trip to the Philippines to work at a kids' athletic camp. She took the Heroes, Cops and Kids program along with her. She came back with wonderful reports of excited kids who had a new zeal to be heroes in life.

Just recently, Ricardo participated in a Dallas talk show. The program has also been featured on Zoomin.TV out of Germany. The TV show made a documentary and filmed part of their show while they were guests at Thomas Haley Elementary School in Irving.

Following the riots over the latest controversy in St. Louis, Missouri, Ricardo and his team received a call. City members borrowed the entire program and began a new chapter there. It has done wonders in giving the kids hope and painting a new perception of those pledged to protect them.

Officer Darren Cole, an officer out of Fort Worth, began an offshoot of the program and is calling it Heroes Against Cancer. He travels across America visiting children in and out of hospitals. "We are very careful about who gets to be part of our HERO team," Ricardo firmly stated. "We want to be heroes to the kids, and that means being examples whether we are in costume or not." Ricardo tells all of those who want to be part of this amazing endeavor, "When you leave here, remember who you are and whose you are."

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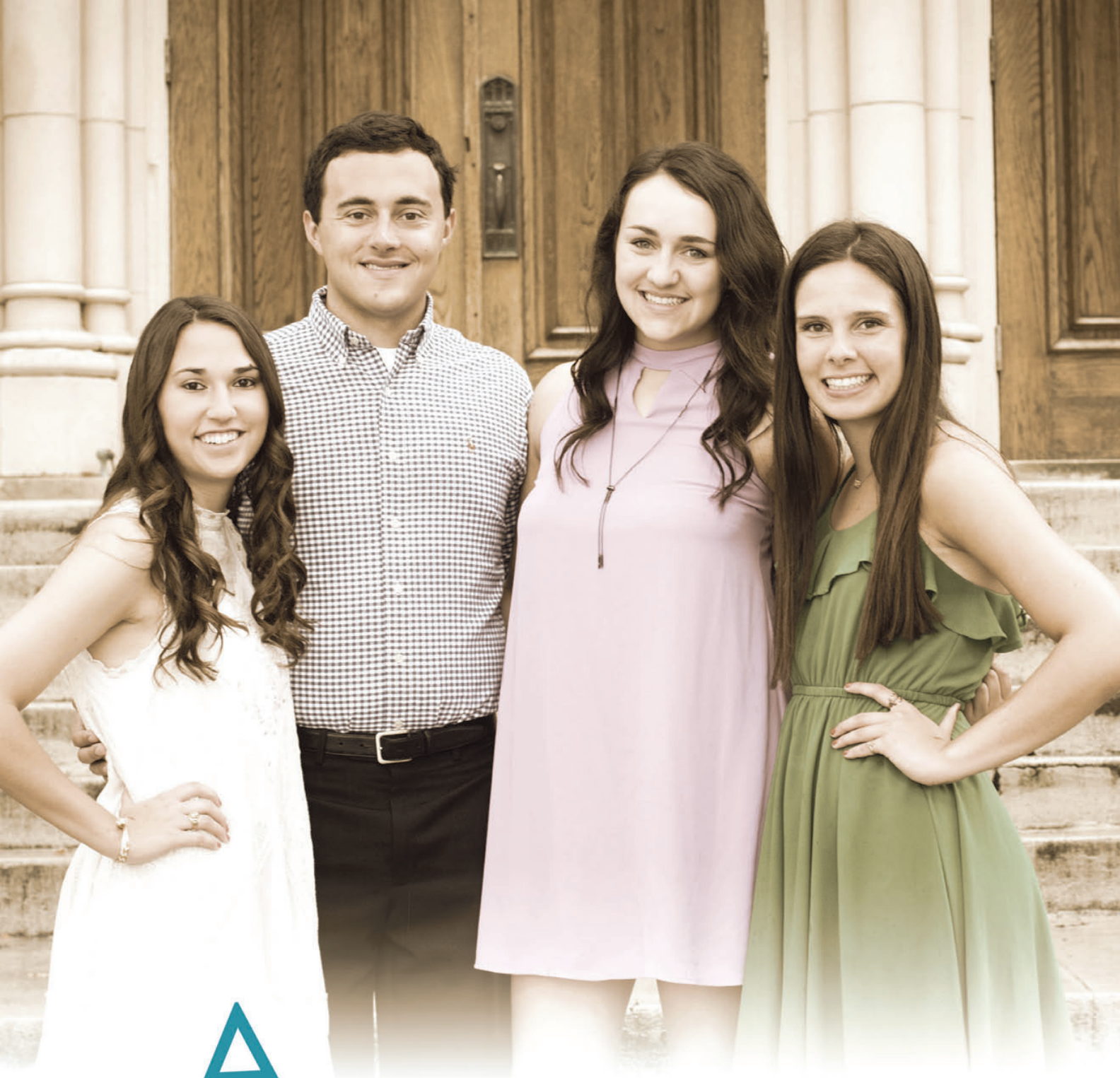
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# A LASTING LEGACY

— By Debbie Durling



*There is no doubt that the churches of Waxahachie have nurtured and inspired greatness within the community. Central Presbyterian Church, for example, has created many leaders, such as: John Arden, Dave and Shirley Williams, Hilda and Steve Chapman, Winnie and Gene O'Donnell, Jay Barksdale, Jason Willett and Mark Price, to name a few, who have helped shape this great town. Among those are four young people who have left their mark within the community they call home.*

Marisa Price, Chase Barksdale, Caroline Barksdale and Audrey Willett have watched men and women from their church, who are in leadership positions, worship and give of their talents to the church. "Our parents have taught us to do our best and work our hardest," Chase said.

"[My parents] have always tried to do good for others, give back to others and make smart decisions," Marisa added.

This influence has been so impactful that these young people feel a natural inclination to step up and lead, when called upon to do so. They believe that CPC is comprised of a leadership culture that fosters confidence to run for office and make a difference.

These four students share more than a church home. They have also influenced the leadership culture for the past four consecutive years at Waxahachie High School. Marisa was the first of this group to be elected student body president.



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Marisa Price helped write the constitution for  
the WHS student council.

Even before she was elected, she helped begin a project called Mums for Emily, during her sophomore year. Marisa and her then boyfriend decided to take the money they would have spent on personal mums and garters to create mums and garters for special needs kids who might not have one. They named the project for Emily Buie, a special needs student who had also grown up in CPC. It began on a kitchen table, and over the past few years, has inspired many students to gather in the school's library to volunteer their time and talents to help.

While Marisa was student body president, Brad Burns, principal of the high school at the time, began the President's Club. It was an attempt to bring all of the top leaders of each high school club together to know what the others were doing, as well as to work together for a purpose. She helped write the constitution for the student council, which gave leaders guidelines for organization, reorganized extra-curricular groups on campus and brought the leaders together to work toward the common goal of getting students on campus more involved in the school.



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The next year, Chase was voted in as student body president. His year could be characterized by “creating connections.” He carried on the constitution and tried to pull everyone together in even more ways. Chase worked diligently to provide many social opportunities. “I wanted students to enjoy interacting and to give them something to do besides athletics,” he said. He was the first student body president to lead with the new constitution and reorganization in place. His leadership team worked to make homecoming more special. They initiated decorating the hallways during homecoming week. “Chalk the Walk” was also part of their plan to create excitement and an activity to last throughout the years. He gave all of the clubs a square of the sidewalk, which leads from the school to the stadium, to decorate for the special week. He also invited the elementary schools to participate because his vision was not only to help students connect, but to connect the generations.



Chase Barksdale started the Chalk the Walk tradition.

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Caroline Barksdale initiated the spirit call, "Roll Tribe."

Chase was not only followed the next year by a fellow CPC student, but the next president was also his sister. Caroline hit the ground running. Knowing the other two had laid a great foundation and had started programs and traditions that helped students connect more than ever before, she wanted to bring a new height to school spirit. She noticed that other schools seemed to always have a spirit group at games, so she began to call on leaders to help organize one at WHS. They created the WHS Spirit Squad. Caroline also initiated the spirit call, "Roll Tribe," by using it every day when she did the daily announcements across the school intercom. The student attendance at games began to grow.

Last but not least, Audrey was elected this past year to serve as student body president. Her goal was to carry on the legacy of the other three. They had implemented positive changes that she wanted to continue and strengthen. "I wanted everyone to have a voice," Audrey said. "We always heard from the same few, but I wanted more people to feel they could speak up." So, she created more positions to include a wider range of students. Some of those were parliamentarian, historian and reporter positions. Each day, she ended her daily announcements on the intercom by giving a shout out to someone she caught



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being good. She and her fellow officers also made major efforts to include and make the school aware of groups that could otherwise feel left out.

These four students have grown up in CPC, which has developed them into trustworthy and admirable people of high moral character — just as they have looked up to and trusted the leaders of the church. Besides being from the same church and being elected the past four consecutive years as student body presidents, outstanding morals and growing up in a culture of leadership and faith while respecting others has made them very special. They each took the office they held very seriously and applied a tremendous work ethic to make a difference. Under their leadership, the student government gained strength, a greater sense of inclusion and empathy



Audrey Willett created more student council positions to include more students.

for others. Over these past four years, they have also seen the student section at WHS football games grow from five rows to the now entirely filled section. "Football players have noticed and thanked us," Audrey said with a smile of satisfaction.

Marisa will be the first to graduate from college this December from The University of Texas at Austin with a degree in advertising. Chase and Caroline are in the midst of their college careers at The University of Alabama, while Audrey has started her first semester at The University of Texas at Austin this fall. Truly, Central Presbyterian Church is carrying on a legacy of leadership in the students they nurture and by "training them up in the way they should go." **NOW**

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# TREASURE *At Home With* CURTISS THOMPSON — By Donnielle Tynor

# TROVE

*Not many people find their lifelong passion for antiques at the age of 15, but Curtiss Thompson is the exception. Born in Italy, Texas, he moved to Waxahachie where he graduated in 1980. His 81-year-old mother, along with his eight siblings, are still close to him, and he adores spending time with them. His maternal grandparents hail from Round Top — the antique capital of Texas — a fact that Curtiss is especially proud of. “I grew up around antiques. My aunts had beautifully decorated homes, but it wasn’t until I was about 15 years old that my love for antiques came around,” Curtiss explained. “My mom allowed me to decorate my own bedroom, so I went out and bought some Victorian pieces. It was that moment when it all started.”*

As a patron of the arts for many years, Curtiss spends his time and money supporting organizations such as the Ellis County Museum, Kimble Museum of Art and the African American Museum. Eventually, he plans on joining Historical Waxahachie. “I love art,” he proclaimed. “Salvador Dalí, George Stubbs and Karen Dupré are a few of my favorites.” Throughout his home, there are many





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various styles of art that he has collected and a few special pieces given to him by the artists themselves. Curtiss is also a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Ennis, where he serves as president of the pastor's aide committee.

His home was built in 1941 for Milton and Irma Watkins. He purchased the property in September 2004. There was a lot of work that needed to be done, but he saw potential and was willing to put in the effort to restore the home, especially since it was a childhood dream to live in that particular neighborhood. "I remember going to Dairy Queen (where the Walgreens is now located) with my father, and he would drive through this neighborhood. I remembered being so infatuated with the homes.

I never imagined God would bless me so that I could live here," Curtiss beamed with pride.

In March 2015, the entry was reconstructed. There was considerable mold damage to the floor joist, so they had to rip out the original flooring to repair the lumber underneath, but thanks to the owner's wife of TSA Construction, they were able to replace the floors with hardwood reclaimed from another home. After the flooring was finished, they texturized the wall in a Tuscany style and gave it a fresh coat of paint.

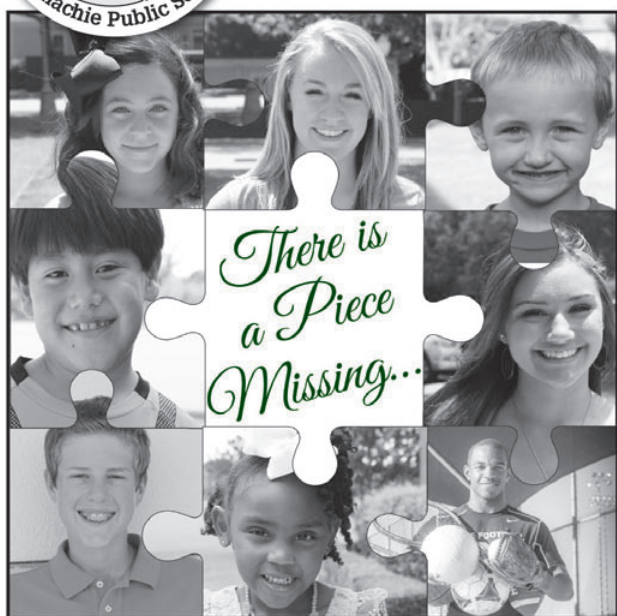


Stepping into the formal living room feels as if you stepped back in time. French pieces collected from various estate sales and antique shops include an 1870 French empire sofa with the original fabric that was reupholstered once in 1948. It is unique not only in design, but the method in which the cushions were stuffed.

The comfortable sofa is made with springs and horse hair. The coffee table is a functional French carousel table he found in his hometown. Masterfully displayed throughout the room are three blue and white, Cloisonné monkey statuettes that accent his vast collection of Blue Willow china. An 85-year-old French settee, a gift from a friend, sits next to 100-year-old English nesting tables gifted to him from one of his sisters. "I appreciate the handcrafted work of all the pieces I own, but I adore French



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pieces,” he explained. “It’s something in the way they build their furniture.”

An open concept connects the dining and living rooms, making the space look inviting. Although surrounded by many antiques, the dining room table is not one of them, but every holiday, Curtiss dresses it up with a Battenburg lace table cloth and napkins from Germany and Royal Dalton china. Above the ornately carved French buffet table hangs a special painting titled *Tulips Delight* by Curtiss’ late friend Lou Waters. “I am so blessed and proud to own a piece of her work,” Curtiss stated with admiration. Two wooden puppets from Singapore that no longer work, find their resting place in the corner. They are quite interesting to look at.

In 2015, the kitchen was partially renovated. Since most of the kitchen was in excellent condition, they were able to keep the original 1941 cabinets with the exception of the hardware. Luckily, they were able to find some period-appropriate hardware at Restoration Hardware in Dallas. The granite, under-mount sink, tiled backsplash, wall texture and appliances are all new additions.

The guest bedroom holds one of the pieces that started it all — a Victorian chair he found when he was a teenager. Alongside the bed stand two of his newest acquisitions — dancing lady lamps from New Orleans.

Curtiss keeps pieces especially close to his heart in the master bedroom. Hanging above his 1890s bed is a painting from his late friend Lou Waters and on another wall hangs a watercolor from a favorite artist, Karen Dupré, but there’s a painting without a frame that holds special meaning to him. Leaning against his dresser is a portrait of an African-American youth that Curtiss discovered in a shop one day. “Months later, my friend gave me the exact same painting as a gift.





The crazy thing is she didn't even know that I had wanted it," Curtiss stated with exuberance.

With its large windows that open to the backyard, the sunroom quickly became a sort of "man cave" for Curtiss. It's his favorite room to sit with his poodle, Jozelle, and read

novels. Unlike the other rooms in the home, the sunroom displays African art alongside the 128-year-old Chippendale hutch and Satsuma vase. Curtiss has successfully blended three different cultures into a beautiful, yet comfortably decorated room.



When it comes to antiques and art, Curtiss has experience, but it's the history that grabs him. He knows where every piece in his home originated and what year. When able, he learns the previous owner's name and a little about their history, too. It's that devotion that makes his home feel open and inviting for all who visit. "Having everyone I love around me makes me feel warm," Curtiss admitted. "I love spending time with my family and close friends — Chris and Mike Roberts, Diane Becks and Ross Reynolds. They mean the world to me." **NOW**

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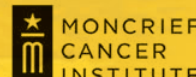


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# MEMORY LANE

— By Sandra Strong



*Memories from days gone by come alive when family members gather to take a walk down memory lane. As a sister, brother and cousin remember what it was like to be a child in the Higgins family, the smiles quickly come and the stories begin to spill over. Susan Lewis Clymore, David Lewis and Reed Higgins love sitting down with one another every chance they get to talk about their firm family foundation.*

This firm foundation began when Sam Higgins met Eunice Kees. He was 30 and she was 20. As the story goes, the two were sitting side-by-side at an event in the park when Sam gently put his hand on Eunice's knee. It was said to be love at first sight,







and the rest is history — history that Susan, David and Reed find pleasure in sharing.

Sam and Eunice courted and, soon thereafter, married in March 1911. They made their home in the small town of Maypearl. Their first son was born in April 1912. By May 1927, the family had grown to include three more sons and one daughter. "Paw Paw was a farmer by day and a watchman by night in Maypearl, until their home burned down," Susan recalled. "Maw Maw had been frying chicken when the grease caught on fire. They lost almost everything they had."

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### Higgins Family Memories by Susan Lewis Clymore

For years, I have wanted to put our Higgins Family Pictures together so that our children and grandchildren can, hopefully, get a little glimpse of the joy, fun, and love that we experienced through all the years...  
I've learned from talking to so many others how blessed we are to have these wonderful treasured memories!!!

Some of our most memorable memories were at 405 W. Main Street in Waxahachie at our grandparents, Maw Maw and Paw Paw's. All of our young Christmas Eve's were spent there in that little 'T' room apartment. As all of us agreed, the house was filled with excitement and anticipation as we waited to open up all of our presents from our cousins and Maw Maw and Paw Paw.... Reed said in the 'Higgins' Christmas Memories' booklet... "Wasn't it amazing that with our parents' 'huge' salaries, there was always lots of gifts for us kids!" This book is filled with so many memories of Christmases, Mother and Father's Days, Easters...and just 'being together days'!!

It is with all my love that I dedicate this book to our grandparents, Sam and Eunice Higgins, and to all of our precious parents!!!!

But it didn't take long for them to assess their situation, regroup and move into town. Family members did what family members do when times are hard financially — they stepped up to help them get back on their feet. In the early 1940s, Sam, Eunice and the children made one more move. "They relocated to a house in Waxahachie that was owned by the Youngbloods," David shared. "The address was 405 W. Main St., and the rent was \$15 per month."

As a *Dallas Times Herald* distributor, Sam quickly became part of the downtown area when he opened the first half-price book store on the floor above the basement in what is still the Rogers Hotel. There he also bought, sold and traded all things written. All the grandkids, of which there were 12, had experience rolling papers for their Paw Paw, as did many other non-family members and friends who worked as paperboys throughout the years. "I was amazed at how he did things," Susan said,

explaining how Sam stretched chicken wire and hung newspapers, magazines and comic books on the wire with clothespins. "He was definitely ahead of his time." She also remembers that he always wore his Sunday best, regardless of what day of the week it was.



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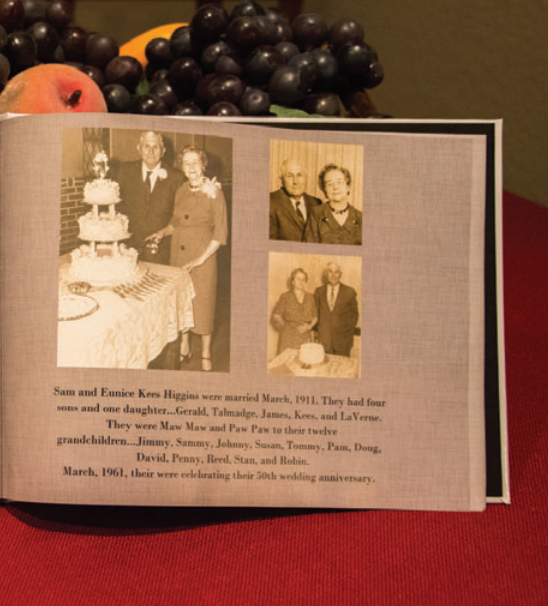
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"He walked to and from work every day," David said. "I don't believe they ever owned a car."

Most days, he would leave the store in the hands of his oldest grandchildren, so he could walk home to eat the lunch Eunice had prepared for him. The store also offered pop, candy and the then famous chocolate soldiers. "He kept his money in a 6-cup muffin tin," Susan stated. "We, the cousins, were left to 'man' the store."

On the days he did eat out at Gressett's Cafe, Eunice could almost guess what he'd had to eat, and most of the time it had been a bowl of chili. "He would be wearing it on his tie,"



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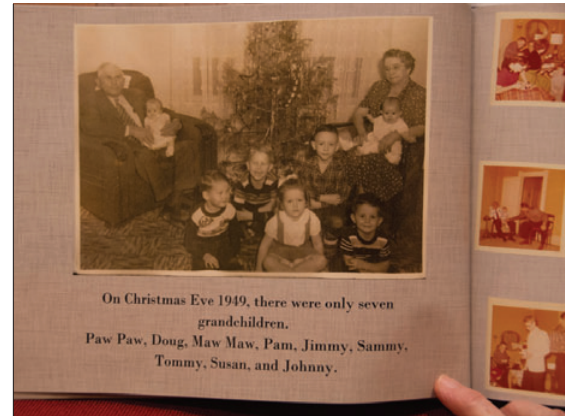
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Reed laughed. "When he ate at home, Maw Maw would pull his tie back and put it in place before he returned to the book store."

Eunice was a great cook. She could have a full five-course meal prepared in a matter of just a few minutes. And there was always bread — one pan for Sam and one pan for the table. "When it came to chicken, we all knew Paw Paw got the breast," David admitted.

"Maw Maw's coconut cake was fabulous," Susan added.

To this day, David loves to cook, and he credits that love to his Maw Maw. "She taught me how to pick fresh eggs from the Piggly Wiggly that was located a block over from their house on Water Street," David said.

Thanks to Maw Maw, Susan is able to pick a "good orange," while Reed, on the other hand, partially remembers the way to choose a ripe watermelon based on Paw Paw's expertise. "It had something to do with a straw and how it turned when placed on top of a watermelon," Reed said with a grin.

As Paw Paw taught his children and grandchildren about business, Maw Maw remained true to the teachings of the simpler things in life. She taught Susan the proper way to put on hose. She taught David the correct way to cut up a chicken. "She taught us all the love of family," Reed stated, as Susan and David nodded in agreement. "Paw Paw and Maw Maw's whole life was centered around family and friends."

As their conversation continued, the memories came like a rushing river. Susan remembered sitting in the front porch swing, singing and admiring the periwinkles that were a mainstay at her grandparent's house. Reed remembered Maw Maw saying, "It's OK!" for a lot of

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David Lewis, Reed Higgins, John Higgins and Susan Lewis Clymore relish their deep family roots in Waxahachie.

things. One thing that came to mind for the group was her way of giving to the community, expecting nothing in return. "She would leave food on a porch," Reed explained, "and I wondered if the homeowners ever knew who left it. Maw Maw would say, 'It's OK!' She didn't need or want a pat on the back."

Holidays were wonderful because they were centered on quality time spent with family. The in-laws were lovingly referred to as "the outlaws." Visiting and spending the night was always a fun adventure, too. "They didn't have air conditioning, so you slept with the windows up," David said. "All night long you could hear the big trucks brake and start up."

"We might as well have slept in the yard," Reed laughed.

Four Higgins children and one son-in-law served during World War II. Five generations have loved the sound of a baseball hitting a bat. Sam and Eunice accepted everyone that came to visit with a handshake and a smile. Sam passed away in the home on Main Street in 1962. Eunice stayed there until she was moved to the Renfro Nursing Home, where she passed in 1977.

Susan has never been able to find a picture of 405 W. Main St., where so many family memories were made. When the home was torn down in the '70s, she found several shingles. "I drew a picture of the home I remember on one of those shingles," she said, with emotion in her voice. Also, on the front of the shingle, Susan wrote the words found in Galatians 5:22-23 that talk about the "fruits of the Spirit." "I can truly say we all found these fruits exhibited at 405 W. Main." **NOW**

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— By Zachary R. Urquhart

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## New Appliances

• *Do the math.* When appliances, such as refrigerators, washers, dryers or ovens start having problems, think about the potential monthly energy savings of a new model before pouring money into repairing an older, less efficient unit. If you are buying replacements, or completing a new build, make sure you know the monthly energy costs before simply picking the cheapest model. You can easily find the energy use specifications on manufacturer or retail websites.



• *Look for the logo.* For two decades, the government has sponsored Energy Star, an agency that tests products and reports on their energy efficiency. Products that meet the highest standards will have a small blue sticker with the word, "energy" followed by a star. When buying new appliances, it is usually worth spending a few dollars upfront for the savings over the life of your machine.



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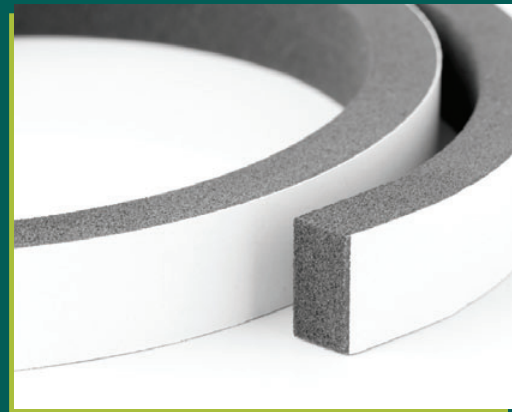


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• *Check your windows.* Air can also escape through cracks near your windows, and weather stripping and caulk should be all you need to correct this problem. If you have older, single-pane windows, getting an estimate from a local window replacement company may be worth your while.

## Shield It Inside and Out

• *Think about shade.* While they are great for offering views of the yard and can be made to be very attractive from the outside, windows have a notable downside. During the hot summer months, heat comes in through the windows. If you are building a new home, try to include some trees or shrubbery close enough to shade some of the direct sunlight coming in through your windows. And if you need a quick fix or cannot add vegetation, consider solar screens instead.

• *Insulation is key.* Hot air comes into the house in the summer and flows out during the winter, and your main defense against that unwanted and expensive heat transfer is insulation. If you do not have adequate insulation in your walls and attic, you need to add it as soon as possible. There are pros and cons to options, such as batting, spray foam and radiant barriers, but the key is to have it installed properly, so be ready to hire a professional.



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## Make Small Changes

- **Insulate your pipes.** Your attic and walls are not the only things that need insulating — your pipes do, too. The copper pipes for your central air unit undoubtedly have insulation already, but some people neglect to cover their hot water pipes. Insulation there will keep your hot water from cooling down as quickly, which means your hot water heater won't have to work overtime to do its job.

- **Invest in new bulbs.** You might have noticed that the light bulb section at the store has changed more and more over the last 10 years. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) and light-emitting diodes (LED) are replacing what used to be standard incandescent light bulbs, and for good reason. There is some fluctuation, but CFL and LED lights typically cut electricity by more than half, with some LEDs cutting cost by as much as 90 percent. While there is a bit of an upfront cost difference, the bulbs last much longer, and emit less heat, leading to less electricity being used in the home's cooling process.



## More Incentives

- **Consider tax credits.** If saving money over the life of an appliance and conserving energy and electricity use is not enough, the government offers tax credits for making many efficiency upgrades to your home. When you are looking at windows, central air units and even simple appliances, you can often get a credit on your taxes the following year just for buying the units that save you money in the long run.



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*Editor's Note: For more information about energy efficiency, tax credits and the Energy Star program, visit [www.energystar.gov/](http://www.energystar.gov/).*





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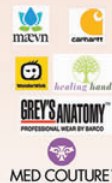
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Josh Carroll stays connected to the community through Ellis County Power Wash, as he makes old things new again. He and his family will celebrate the company's 1-year anniversary on November 1.

# BRIGHTER THAN BEFORE

*Josh Carroll has carved out his own niche in Ellis County. — By Sandra Strong*

Josh Carroll hasn't always been a business owner, and he hasn't always lived in Waxahachie. Three years ago, he married Julie Ballance and relocated from Dallas to her hometown to start their new lives together as husband and wife. For the first two years of marriage, Josh made the long trek from Waxahachie to Addison each day as a licensed securities broker. "I soon grew tired of the long commute," he admitted, "and at the same time, the price of the commodity I was handling had decreased considerably."

During this time of uncertainty, he and Julie had several conversations centered on the idea of Josh starting a family-owned business. "She encouraged me to start a local business," he shared, "one that would further connect me to the community."

On November 1, Ellis County Power Wash will celebrate its 1-year anniversary, and what a wonderfully busy year it's been.

While doing his research, he soon realized there wasn't another power-washing business in the immediate area. Ellis County Power Wash has allowed Josh to carve out a niche all his own. "Now, I have total control over the end product," he stated. "Right now, I'm the only employee, so I handle all aspects of the business."

As his own one-man, power-washing team, Josh takes great pride in his work. "I'm accountable for my work, and the quality of my work dictates my reputation," he said. "My goal is to always give the customer exactly what I'd expect if someone were doing the same job for me."

Ellis County Power Wash offers a 100-percent satisfaction guarantee. If the customer isn't happy, then Josh isn't happy. "People are so busy these days that it's difficult for them to keep



## Business **NOW**

up with the maintenance that's needed," Josh explained. Josh is able to power wash commercial sites and residential home exteriors including wood, stone, concrete, vinyl siding and so much more. The only job he shies away from is metal roofs. "The equipment I have to rent in order to get on the roof safely is not cost-effective," Josh stated. "I do referrals on those types of jobs."

**"MY GOAL IS TO ALWAYS GIVE THE CUSTOMER EXACTLY WHAT I'D EXPECT IF SOMEONE WERE DOING THE SAME JOB FOR ME."**

Water is the only element Josh uses when power washing. When needed, he will spot-treat grease and/or rust spots, but 90-percent of the time he uses only water. How does water clean all the surfaces aforementioned? "It has to do with the amount of pressure per square inch, plus the number of gallons of water used," Josh explained. "I generally use the customer's water when I'm doing a local job. I take my own water when I work at remote locations."

Ellis County Power Wash makes old things new again. Green mold is quickly removed from white vinyl fencing. The blackish-green discoloration found on cedar fences and pergolas is washed away. Concrete walkways and driveways are restored to at least 90 percent of their original beauty. "A discolored and highly traveled sidewalk can give the age of a home or business away at first glance," Josh explained. "Power washing adds curb appeal, and it definitely brightens things up."

Josh is proud of what he's been able to accomplish in the past 12 months. His customer base has grown to include several commercial accounts and just as many repeat residential customers. He chose the name Ellis County Power Wash so customers would know he was committed to Ellis County and its surrounding areas. "I want the business to grow," Josh admitted, "but I don't want to lose the quality of service and overall customer service we currently offer." **NOW**



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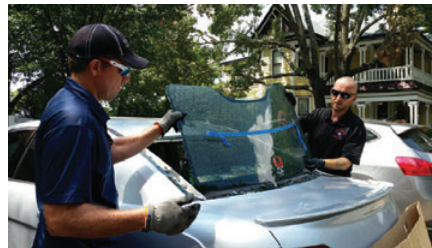
*Wes Spence with Waxahachie Autoplex cuts the Chamber ribbon at the grand opening of their new Ford facility.*



*Michelle, Kimberly and Dominique Estrada, with The Vintage Touch, pose for the camera in between customers.*



*Jennifer Walter, Lindsey Kuhn, Aryn Williams and Susan Lindsey with Zig Zap Stripe take time out from their busy grand opening to smile for the camera.*



*Danny Odell and Chris Meska from Richardson Auto Glass replace a back window after it was accidentally shattered by a flying rock.*



*The Blues Brothers perform for a large crowd at the Downtown Waxahachie Farmers Market.*



*Yolanda Duke works with Ryan, a service dog in training.*



*Lynn Pike and Jeanie Blake oversee the first Partners in Education board meeting of the new school year.*



*The Timothy Wayne Band entertains visitors at the Waxahachie Autoplex ribbon cutting ceremony.*



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# How to Build an Emergency Fund

Most people face some sort of financial emergency during their lifetime. This could range from home and car repairs, to a job loss or health scare. And it's usually not easy to pay for these unexpected expenses.

That's why having an emergency fund is important. Most financial experts recommend setting aside enough money to cover your expenses for at least three to six months. But if you're not already there, don't worry. It might seem like an unattainable goal, but finance professionals are there to help, so you can be prepared for the unexpected.

## 1. Determine How Much Money You Need

When you're creating an emergency fund, it's important to be accurate and realistic about what you'll need. Remember, what you spend during good times can usually be pared down when money is tighter.

Also, take a look at your monthly expenses and determine what is a necessity and what is a luxury. Things like cable television, gourmet coffee and dining out are expenses that can be reduced or even eliminated from your budget during challenging times.

## 2. Set Up a Separate Liquid Account

Put your emergency savings somewhere accessible, but not too accessible. Your checking or savings account might not be the best place to keep it, since you can easily dip into that stash. Instead, save your funds in an account that's liquid — one that is easily convertible to cash, such as a separate savings or money market account.

Since even the high-yield versions of these accounts have lower rates compared to other savings vehicles, they may not feel like the best place to store your emergency fund. But remember: your goal isn't to make money. It's to have a place where you can quickly withdraw funds when you need them, without high-penalty fees.

Once your emergency fund contains more than a few months of expenses, you can consider an alternative, such as a certificate of deposit (CD) with a high annual percentage yield. Just make sure you choose a short-term CD, and leave enough money in a liquid account, so you don't defeat your efforts.

## 3. Set Up Automatic Deposits

If you wait until the end of the month to contribute to your emergency fund, there may be nothing left. Setting up an automated monthly transfer into your emergency account is a great way to make sure you stay on track with your plan. Once you commit to doing this, it will help you better budget your money.

## 4. Make Your Emergency Fund a Savings Priority

It may seem overwhelming to save for three months of expenses or more, but it's important to start somewhere, even if it's somewhere small. It may help to set an initial goal that's achievable in just a few months, like \$1,000. Or begin with a small amount that you increase incrementally. You could start with only \$20 a week, then raise the amount when you reach a point where you don't miss that income.

Also, because an emergency fund is so important, you may want to put it at the top of your savings to-do list and wait on other kinds of savings plans until this fund is built up. Most importantly, don't touch your emergency fund unless a financial emergency presents itself. When that time comes, you'll be thankful it's there. **NOW**

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*Adam Rope is a State Farm agent based in Waxahachie.*

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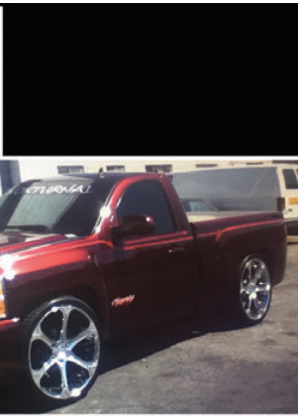
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## Preventing Ingrown Toenails

*Snug cleats and repeated kicking can contribute to a painful problem.*

Toes and feet can take a beating, especially from sports. This time of the year, soccer-playing children become more prone to ingrown toenails due to improper toenail trimming, snug soccer cleats and repetitive kicking, which can create this painful problem. Many kids wear hand-me-down cleats that don't fit. Also, older children like tighter cleats. They believe it gives them a better feel for the ball and the field.

There are steps soccer moms and dads can take to prevent their children from suffering a painful ingrown toenail. First, teach children how to trim their toenails properly. Trim toenails in a fairly straight line, and don't cut them too short. Second, make sure cleats fit properly. A child's shoe size can change within a single soccer season.

If a child develops a painful ingrown toenail, soaking their foot in room-temperature water and gently massaging

the side of the nail fold can reduce the inflammation. Other home treatments can be dangerous.

Also, if your son's or daughter's ingrown toenails show signs of infection, it's definitely time to seek medical care. A foot and ankle surgeon can remove a child's ingrown toenail, and prevent it from returning, with a simple, 30-minute surgical procedure. During the short procedure, the doctor numbs the toe and removes the ingrown portion of the nail. Various techniques can permanently remove part of a nail's root too, preventing it from growing back. Most children experience very little pain afterward and can resume normal activity the next day. **NOW**

*Christopher Schmitt, DPM  
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### October 7 — 9

Vintage Market Days: Ellis County Expo Center.

### October 8

4th Annual Dentistry From the Heart: 7:30 a.m., official registration begins, Waxahachie Family Dentistry. For more information, call the dental office at (972) 937-4370.

### October 20 — 22

Ellis County Youth Commercial Heifer Show & Sale: **Oct. 20**, cattle check-in; **Oct. 21**, ranch-beef course presented by Mark

Arnold, county extension agent; **Oct. 22**, cattle judging and auction; Ellis County Expo Center. For more information, call John Paul Dineen III at (214) 236-0407.

### October 21, 22

Muster Mansion Home Tour: 7:00 p.m.-midnight. To purchase tickets and for more information, visit [www.munstermansion.com](http://www.munstermansion.com).

### October 28

Halloween Costume Party: 7:00 p.m., Prestonwood Country Club, 15909 Preston Rd., Dallas. Fundraiser will benefit the Heroes, Cops & Kids. Tickets are \$35 per person. They can be purchased at [www.PurchaseTicketsNow.com](http://www.PurchaseTicketsNow.com). For more information, call Petya Edwards at (214) 971-5005 or email [office@pedwards.org](mailto:office@pedwards.org).

### October 28 — 30

Waxahachie Community Theatre's Fall Musical *Fiddler on the Roof*: **Friday** and **Saturday**, 7:30 p.m., **Sunday**, 2:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Tickets prices: \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors and students. Curtain times and tickets prices are available by calling (972) 646-1050 or by visiting [www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com).

### October 29

21st 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. Enjoy a free concert by Restless Heart as they take the main stage. Admission is free. For more information, call the Waxahachie Convention & Visitors Bureau at (469) 309-4040 or visit [www.waxahachiecvb.com](http://www.waxahachiecvb.com).

### October 31

Trick or Treat on the Square: 3:00-5:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

10th Annual City-wide Waxahachie Fall Festival: 6:30-9:00 p.m., Ellis County Expo Center, 2300 Hwy. 287. The event is free, but concessions will be available for purchase. For more information, visit [info@mission75165.org](mailto:info@mission75165.org) or call (972) 391-7676.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com](mailto:sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com).*

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ELLIS COUNTY ELECTIONS BUILDING

Check your voting status by calling the Elections Office.

**October 11th** is the deadline to register to vote or to change your name or address in order to be eligible to vote this November. Get a voter registration application at a local City Hall, Tax Office, Elections Office or our website.

**General and Special Elections - Tuesday, November 8th, 2016.**  
**Early voting begins Monday, October 24th - Friday, November 4th.**  
**Visit our website for a complete listing of polling locations, sample ballots and more.**

Elections Office has relocated to 204 E. Jefferson Street, Waxahachie.  
New Phone: 972.825.5195 • Email: [Elections@co.ellis.tx.us](mailto:Elections@co.ellis.tx.us)  
Website: [www.co.ellis.tx.us](http://www.co.ellis.tx.us)



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## In the Kitchen With Angie McClain

— By Sandra Strong

As a young girl, Angie McClain enjoyed experimenting with food while preparing the evening meals for her family. “Cooking is one of the most personal and intimate things you can do for someone,” she admitted. “The special thing about a home-cooked meal is the feeling of abundance it provides.” The enjoyment shared around the table with family and friends is what inspires her to cook.

Angie cooks because it gives her children a firm family foundation. The children learn reading skills by following recipes and math skills as they measure ingredients. “They learn responsibility and organizational skills while having fun,” she said. “We have rules during family mealtimes: No cell phones, no TV, and everyone shares something they are grateful for.” **NOW**

### Chicken Enchiladas

- 2 1/2 cups chicken, cooked and shredded**
- 3 cups Monterey Jack cheese (divided use)**
- 20 corn tortillas**
- 3 Tbsp. butter**
- 3 Tbsp. flour**
- 2 cups chicken broth**
- 1 cup sour cream**
- 1 4-oz. can green chilies, diced**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine chicken and 1 cup cheese. Fill tortillas with mixture. Roll each one up and place in a greased 9x13-inch baking pan.
- 2.** Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir in flour; whisking for 1 minute. Add broth; continue whisking. Cook over heat until the mixture is thick and begins to bubble up.
- 3.** Remove from heat. Add sour cream and chilies. Make sure the mixture is not too

hot; otherwise, the sour cream may curdle. Pour mixture over enchiladas. Add remaining cheese to the top.

- 4.** Bake for 20-23 minutes. Then broil for 3 minutes to lightly brown the cheese.

### Fettuccine Alfredo

- 1 16-oz. box fettuccine pasta**
- 1 stick butter**
- 1 clove minced garlic**
- 1 pt. heavy cream**
- 2 Tbsp. cream cheese**
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

- 1.** Prepare pasta according to package directions.
- 2.** Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add garlic and cook for 2 minutes.
- 3.** Add cream and cream cheese. Heat until bubbling but not boiling.

- 4.** Add Parmesan cheese. Mix until the cheese melts. Add salt and pepper to taste.
- 5.** Mix some sauce with the pasta. A little sauce goes a long way in this recipe.

### Crock-Pot Shrimp Boil

- 5 cups water**
- 1 12-oz. can beer (may substitute with broth)**
- 1/4 cup Old Bay Seasoning**
- 3-4 garlic cloves, minced**
- 1 1/2 lbs. small red potatoes, halved**
- 1 onion, quartered**
- 2 lemons, halved**
- 1 lb. Kielbasa sausage, cooked and cut into 1-inch pieces**
- 8 mini frozen cobs of corn**
- 2 lbs. fresh, uncooked large shrimp, in shells**

- 1.** Spray a 6-7 qt. slow cooker with cooking spray. Add water, beer, seasoning and garlic. Stir until well combined.
- 2.** Add potatoes and onion. Squeeze lemons over mixture. Place lemons halves in the slow cooker. Cover. Cook on low setting for 4-5 hours.
- 3.** Add sausage and corn. Cover and cook for 2 more hours. Increase heat setting to high. Add shrimp. The slow cooker will be very full, so do your best to stir a little and squeeze all the shrimp in. Cover and cook for an additional 30-40 minutes, or until shrimp is pink.
- 4.** Drain the shrimp boil using a large strainer. Serve on a newspaper-covered table for easy cleanup.

### Banana Pudding

- 1/2 gal. Dreyers Homemade Vanilla Ice Cream, softened**
- 1 4-oz. pkg. vanilla pudding**
- 1 8-oz. tub Cool Whip, thawed (divided use)**
- 1 12-oz. box vanilla wafers (divided use)**
- 8 bananas, sliced**

- 1.** Mix the ice cream, pudding mix and 2 oz. of Cool Whip together. Set aside.
- 2.** Layer a rectangular baking pan in the following order: Vanilla wafers (making sure to save some for the top), bananas, ice cream mixture, remaining Cool Whip and remaining vanilla wafers. Wafers can be crushed or left whole, depending on preference.
- 3.** Refrigerate until ready to serve. Can be made early and refrigerated overnight.



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