

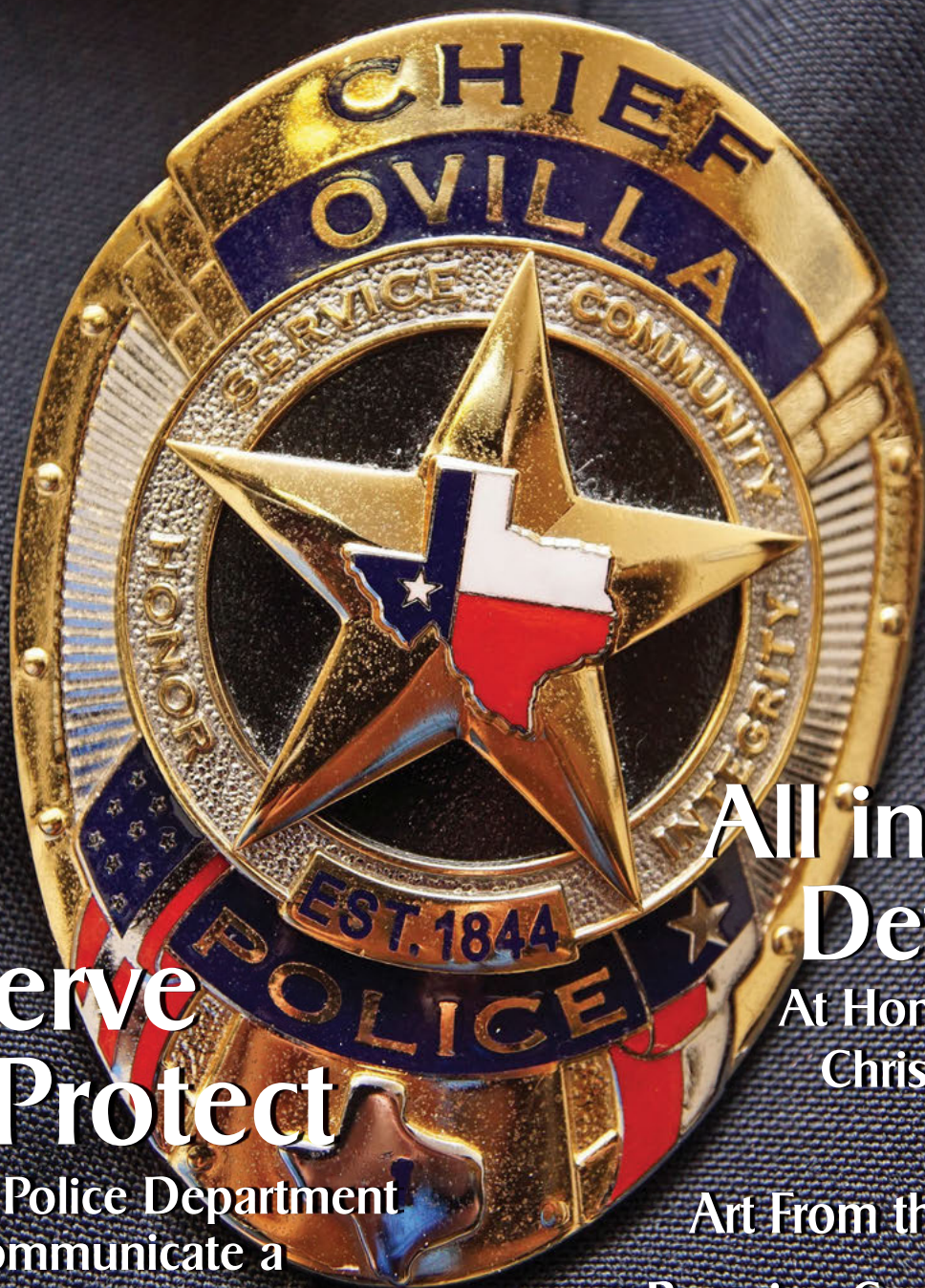
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ON THE COVER



*This badge is synonymous
with quality policing.*

Photo by Shane Kirkpatrick.

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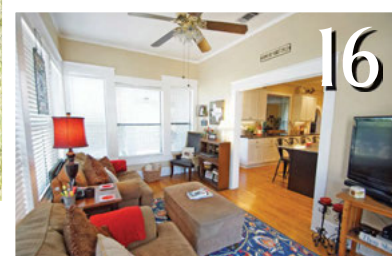
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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



Editor's Note

October is here!

Autumn is one of my favorite seasons. There are many things it brings to mind. I love cool nights by a campfire, roasting marshmallows with my family while camping at a Texas State Park. It is one of our favorite pastimes. In Texas, we get such a great view of the stars, something we missed while living in cities of 6,000,000 people in Asia. (All the city lights drowned out the starlight.)

Friday night high school football games and special homecoming activities make October exciting for young and old alike. There's nothing quite like the energy provided by the players, the band and the fans.

And, of course, there is Halloween. Costumes, candy and pumpkin everything. What more could you ask for?

It's going to be a great month. I hope you live every moment of it to its fullest.

Happy reading!

Jill


Jill Martinez

North Ellis Co. NOW Editor

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Byron Ingram of Red Oak is auctioning a painting he made so he can donate the money to Hurricane Harvey victims.



Ovilla Christian School students, including these K-4 children, raise money for the Texas Baptist Men's Disaster Relief Fund to help Houstonians.



Walmart associates, including Stephen Edmison of Red Oak, head to south Texas to relieve overworked associates in Houston.



Patsy drops off supplies for hurricane victims to Training 4 U Academy in Ferris.



Dr. Virginia Williams and the Ferris Family Dentistry staff are ready to send the relief items they collected to Hurricane Harvey victims.



Brittany Cline (right), a member of The Oaks Fellowship, partners with others to help clean out homes in Houston.



Texas Strong



The past few weeks have been emotional ones, as image after image of Hurricane Harvey's wrath have come across our TV and computer screens. But one thing has been evident, and beautiful, in the middle of the aftermath — the spirit of Texas, or should I say, the spirit of *Texans*. Neighbor helping neighbor. People from all over Texas and from all across the U.S. pitched in to help.

We at NOW Magazines had the privilege of seeing the generosity and compassion of people throughout all of our 10 market areas. From Corsicana all the way to Weatherford, from Duncanville down to Granbury, people just got to work. Without a second thought, they hitched their boats to their trucks and went to the rescue, assisting in any way they could. Medical professionals offered their services. Contractors offered their skills. Churches and civic organizations packed trailers full of needed supplies. School children had penny drives, collected canned goods, prayed, auctioned off their artwork and held blood drives. So much clothing was collected that a request was issued to refrain from giving more. Hotels opened their doors to refugees. Volunteers helped set up temporary shelters. Emergency response teams for various local communities mobilized to assist. People loaded

up grills and went to Houston over the Labor Day weekend to cook for first responders and those who had been displaced by the storm.

People from all walks of life and backgrounds, with different kinds of skills and abilities, looked for ways they could make a difference. It might seem like one person can't make that much of an impact. But we are all like the individual pieces of glass in a mosaic. When you step back, you can see the bigger picture. Each unique piece is needed and has a place where it fits. Not everyone had the training or strength of the first responders. But that's OK. They contributed with the skills they did have and gave what they could. And what a difference they made!

That generous spirit will continue to be needed. Federal agencies are gearing up, expecting the recovery effort to take years. Below are some different organizations you can contact to learn what still needs to be done and how you can help.

The staff of NOW Magazines counts it an honor to live and work in such giving communities. Let's keep showing the world we are Texas Strong! **NOW**

Becky Walker • Managing Editor • NOW Magazines

State and National Organizations:

Red Cross of North Texas • (214) 678-4800
<http://www.redcross.org/local/texas/north-texas>
 Text Harvey to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.
 Corsicana Office: (903) 874-4551

North Texas Food Bank:
 Donations of food and funds to replenish their available food supply are needed. Contact ntfb.org.

Save the Children Flood Fund • SavetheChildren.org

The Texas Lions Foundation:
 The Texas Lions Foundation has already sent disaster grants to the districts affected by Hurricane Harvey. Any person wishing to financially assist, may mail checks earmarked for "Harvey Relief" to PCC Bernie Gradel Jr., P.O. Box 64881, Lubbock, TX 79464.

SPCA of Texas • (214) 742-7722 • Financial donations requested.

Texas Baptist Men Disaster Relief • (214) 381-2800
texasbaptistmen.org • Text HurricaneHarvey to 73256, then click on the link sent to you to complete your donation.

Community Organizations:

Salvation Army
Corsicana location: 212 E. 1st Street • (903) 874-7131
Waxahachie location: 620 Farley St. • (972) 937-7727

Habitat for Humanity • (972) 937-2797
elliscountyhfh@gmail.com • www.ellishabitat.org

Ellis County Emergency Management • Stephanie Parker
 (972) 825-5199

Volunteering: We send trained emergency volunteers out in the field first when people come looking for a way to help out.
What you can do: Send money/gift cards. All drop off locations in Houston and the surrounding areas have been overrun with clothing. They don't have space for more.

Waxahachie Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Marcus Brown
 His assistant: Sheila Adams • (469) 309-4000

Unity in the Community of Ennis
 Contact Shirley and Charlotte Watson at (214) 475-0042.
 Refugees are currently staying at Motel 6 and Comfort Inn in Ennis. Local churches are preparing meals daily for the refugees. They are also helping with hygiene items and the basics.

Camp Hoblitzelle • 8060 Singleton Rd. • Midlothian, TX 76065
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The United Way of West Ellis County
 207 N. 8th St. Midlothian, TX 76065 • (972) 723-9280

The Oaks Fellowship
 Is working with Convoy of Hope to identify opportunities to mobilize teams to serve in the areas impacted by the hurricane. Visit community.theoaksonline.org for updates.

Note: Be sure to do your research before making donations to ensure you know how your donation is being spent.



TO SERVE ★ ★ ★ *and* ★ ★ ★ PROTECT

— By Derek Jones

The smell of coffee welcomes citizens to a time of fellowship and conversation with Ovilla police officers in a tranquil setting. The settings have included a gazebo in Heritage Park, as well as any number of local venues. Officers from the Ovilla Police Department supply the coffee and conversation. Lieutenant Joey Bennett, who has served on the Ovilla police force for the last 12 years, explained the importance of serving coffee to the community. "Many times, the media communicates a negative message about police officers," he said. "Making ourselves available to the community helps us send a positive message about who we are as a police force."

Once a quarter, the Ovilla Police Department serves coffee to anyone within the community of Ovilla who wishes to attend. Community Coffee is just one small way Police Chief Brian Windham can help his department build a relationship of trust with the community. "It really was not hard," Chief Windham reflected about the idea to serve coffee. "I had a desire for our department to know the people of the community better, so we bought a small coffee pot, some cups and invited people to come talk to us."

Over the last few years, people in Ovilla have responded positively to the officer's casual approach to getting to know them. "You know sometimes people want to talk about police stuff, such as traffic tickets, which is what we are here for," Chief Windham said as he laughed. "But I will talk to anyone about the Cowboys, the Rangers, the weather or anything else." Serving coffee is only one small piece of a larger vision Chief Windham has for the Ovilla Police Department.

For the last couple of years, Chief Windham has been busy leading his department to achieve excellence in everything they do.





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"When I first became police chief here in Ovilla, I asked the officers what they most wanted as we moved forward," he reflected. "What they placed at the top of their list was a desire to be viewed as a professional and legitimate police department." As a first step toward this goal, Chief Windham asked his officers to design a new badge and decide on their top four core values. "It was important to let the officers decide what they wanted their values to be," Chief Windham stated. "I wanted them to take ownership of who we were going to be as a police department." Today, each badge includes the words integrity, service, community, honor. These four values guide the Ovilla Police Department in everything they do.

Creating a new badge and core values was only the beginning. The department adopted new uniforms and obtained new police cruisers to outwardly communicate their commitment to professionalism. Inwardly, the department began writing new policy and reworking old policy to ensure the department was working with the most current standards in law enforcement, as well as training opportunities to ensure the officers effectively enforce policy. "We have worked hard and continue to work hard to make any necessary changes to allow us to do our job effectively," he explained. "Today, we are a fully staffed police department living out our commitment to excellence."

Perhaps nothing communicates Chief Windham's commitment to professionalism more than his desire for the department to acquire accreditation through the Texas Police Chiefs Association. According to their website, www.texaspolicechiefs.org, the



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recognition program requires that each police department pursuing accreditation prove compliance with 164 Texas Law Enforcement best practices, which have been developed by Texas law enforcement professionals. Sergeant Jeffery Seif, who is overseeing the department's involvement in the program, stated, "Acquiring this certification takes time and commitment, but it is worth it." In regard to why it is important to the department, Sergeant Seif did not hesitate. "With this accreditation comes respect within the law enforcement community, and it ensures our department is employing best practices when it comes to serving our community," he said.

Chief Windham is committed to doing everything possible within the department to ensure he and his officers are serving and protecting the community. However, he also has a desire to see citizens involved in serving and protecting, as well. Last fall, the department hosted its first ever Citizens Police Academy. "This is an eight-week program designed to teach citizens all aspects of law enforcement and why we do what we do," he shared. Out of the six who attended the Citizens Police Academy, four individuals went through additional training to become part of Ovilla's Citizens on Patrol. "These individuals are not to engage in law enforcement," Chief Windham said. "That is the job of the officers. They serve as eyes and ears for the community." As to the importance of having citizens serving on patrol, Chief Windham stated, "It is important for community members to be equipped to help keep their community safe and moving in a positive direction. Citizens on Patrol makes this possible."

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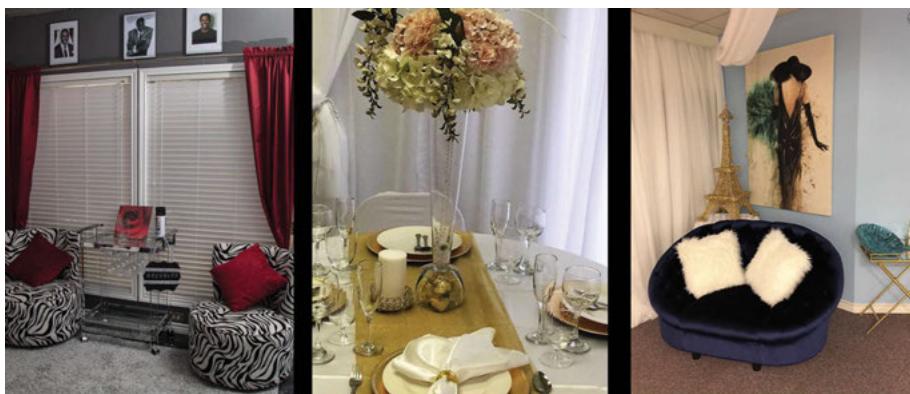
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Ovilla's Police Department is not only committed to building strong relationships with community members but also with local businesses. Ovilla is a small community and has limited businesses, but that in no way deters Chief Windham and his officers. Commenting on meeting with community members over coffee, Chief Windham admitted, "Larger cities have businesses, such as Starbucks to host these events." However, Chief Windham asserted, "We decided to take our show on the road, so we meet in different places and businesses each time we host this event. We have met at Heritage Park, but we also gather at the cleaners, churches and anywhere else that will host us." The police department is working with local churches and other businesses in Ovilla to support the community. In September, the event was held at Grace Church of Ovilla. According to Chief Windham, "It is about resources to serve our community, which comes through strong community bonds."

Walter and Sue McCain, citizens of Ovilla, offered the best insight into the importance of positive police/community relations. "We saw this meeting posted on Facebook and decided it would be a good opportunity to come visit with the officers," Sue said.

Walter echoed his wife's sentiments. "We have a son in law enforcement. It is important to show our officers we support them."

The Ovilla police department is making it a priority to build strong relations with the community it serves, and the community of Ovilla is demonstrating its support of the officers sworn to protect and serve them. It is clear Walter understands this balance. "The police officers are here for the good of the community," Walter said, "and we are here to show our support." **NOW**



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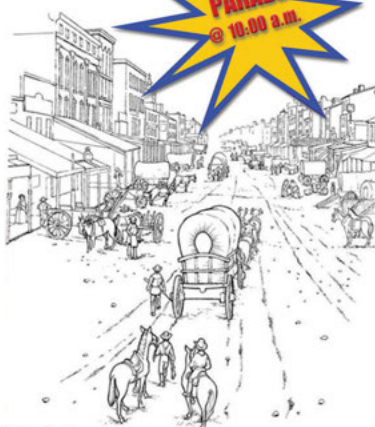
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All in the Details

— By Debbie Durling

AT HOME WITH CHRISTI FARISH

Christi Farish is a talented and passionate educator. She has led several school districts to success through her professional support and creative methods. Her passion to see kids succeed is without a doubt a defining characteristic of her life. She gives careful attention to detail and quality programs to create success wherever she serves.

It is no wonder that, with the beauty she brings out of staff and children, she would also give that same attention to a precious home she bought to restore. She had her eye on it for many months, and when it came up for sale, she chose to buy it right away. On a sweet, little corner lot in Ferris, sits this charming country home built in 1901.

The front porch wraps around to the right side giving a casual, welcoming curb appeal. Christi cleaned up the outside with gray siding and white trim, creating a clean and crisp, simply stated canvas for the home. When reaching the end of the wraparound portion of the porch, steps lead down to two other sets of steps which give rise to the wooden patio. An earthen fireplace, lush plants and iron furniture allow for relaxing gatherings. To the right of the patio is a garage that would make anyone who enjoys spending time in a shop envious. It fits multiple vehicles with room for hobbies, lawn mowers and the like.



But, the real prize for Christi is the large room above the garage. This is a crafter's dream room. Shelves and drawers line the walls down the long corridor with most anything a crafter would need to bring their imagination to life. Various machines make the creating easier, and a long table down the middle makes it a perfect place for those infamous "craft parties." When it's just too much, there is also a comfy chair and lamp to take a break from the task at hand. "One of the ladies at work suggested we do a team-building activity like the popular painting parties. I told her

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we could just do it at my house, and we did," Christi said.

"I always wanted an older house with a sunroom," she shared. When stepping into the home from the garage and back patio, the sunroom awaits. Three walls are lined with continuous windows. Lovely tan, oversized chairs provide lots of relaxation with a matching ottoman and a television in the right corner. Khaki Sheetrock walls and a ceiling fan just add to the "sit a while" feel of the room. To the right, a wide entry gives a full view of the kitchen.

The kitchen is a delight to the eyes. Black granite crowns white cabinets, which are accented by a silver tin backsplash. "When I bought the house, the walls were paneling. We tore the paneling off to find the original cheesecloth wallpaper," she remembered. Christi and her family carefully sanded the strings from the cheesecloth off the beautiful shiplap walls beneath, which added an Old-World charm to the kitchen. A large island provides in-kitchen dining space, as well as ample workspace for even the most astute chef.

The island complements the kitchen with black cabinetry, topped with black and white granite which yields to a country sink in the middle. A floor-to-ceiling wall separates the kitchen and dining room. A large pass-thru serving window with folding glass shutters is situated in the middle of a built-in buffet and china hutch, giving privacy to each room, while also lending an open feel.

The arched doorways and arched white-paned glass doors are among the truly unique features of this home. At the opposite end of the kitchen is an open area surrounded by two arched doorways and



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one square doorway. One of the entrances leads to the front dining and living rooms. Another leads to the parlor or sitting room, and the third leads to a hallway that continues to the bedrooms of the home.

Walking through the door to the dining room allows a breathtaking view of the wall of cabinets, which sit back-to-back with the wall of kitchen cabinetry. Well-done and stunning, they make the room feel brand new, while sitting against the backdrop of shiplap that also continues throughout this room. Right in the middle sits an exquisite table made of solid wood. "My dad made that table for me," Christi shared with a smile.

The original wood floors have been restored throughout most of the home with carpet remaining in a few rooms. One of the carpeted areas is the formal living room, which is at the other end of the great room from the dining area.

Several walk-through rooms begin at the right side of the formal living. The first is a sitting room with a wall of shelves and books on the far side. It also has arched doors, identical to those seen in the kitchen. Next, a smaller room sports two floor-to-ceiling, fixed corner cabinets that meet the entryways. The home continues into a series of bedrooms, one-and-half-baths and a laundry room. Each area has its own defining characteristics that reflect the early 1900s.

Christi saved some of the original wallpapers that were scraped off the wall. Beautiful floral patterns, with the cheese cloth and strings clearly showing, are preserved in frames and placed on the walls of the home.



Both sides of Christi's family are from the Ferris area and were the original owners of other turn-of-the-century homes in town. In one of the spare bedrooms, she keeps pictures of those homes and takes delight in recalling the history they represent for her family. Soon after she bought this house, her parents moved in across the street — indicating a family that loves to remain close to one another. "On many of the holidays, we all find ourselves here, in my home, celebrating together," Christi shared.

A loving family, creative flare and a successful career in education mark Christi's life. Just as she has made a lasting impression in restoring this old home, she has made many lasting impressions on those she mentors. One teacher summed up her appreciation in a note that said, "Things I have learned from you: Every student matters, study the data and always bring a pen. Thank you for investing in me." While she enjoys investing in the piece of real estate she calls home, her real passion is the investment she makes in lives every single day. **NOW**



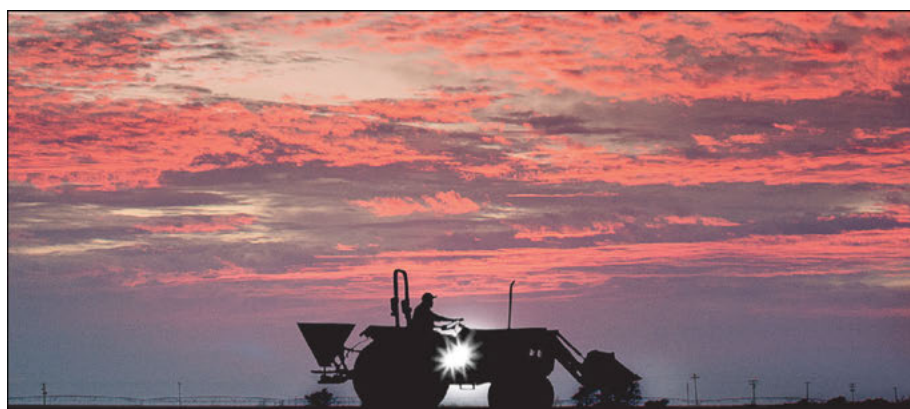
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Half stitch, back stitch and tweeding — these are words in Jan Sonnier's vocabulary that enable her to create some of the most beautiful, award-winning cross-stitch framed pictures. She often designs them herself. To keep even busier, Jan also enjoys knitting and purling yarn into useful caps for U.S. military veterans, cancer patients and for fundraisers of all types. And if that's not enough, she makes Barbie doll clothes for children. "I don't like to sit and do nothing. I always have to be creating something with my hands," Jan said.

ART FROM THE HEART

— By Virginia Riddle

Her passion for creativity began around age 16 while in high school, but Jan recalls learning to embroider items such as iron-on designs on pillowcases at an even earlier age. "My mother did needlework a little bit, but I was left-handed and she wasn't, so I learned a lot of what I do now on my own," she explained. While she raised her children, Jan made all their clothes, including coats. "I enjoy putting stuff together and making something," she added.

Born in Big Spring, Texas, and raised in Fort Worth, Jan furthered her education at Grayson College and The University of Texas at Arlington. Upon graduation, she served as a registered nurse for 37 years at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, CHRISTUS Spohn Hospital and Doctors Regional Hospital, both located in Corpus Christi. She and her husband, Robert, retired and moved to Red Oak



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to be near family two years ago. "We have two children who live in Irving and three grandchildren who live in Lake Dallas, so we made our move back to the Dallas area," she said.

"I grew up in the Metroplex, too — in Oak Cliff," Robert remarked. "We both had to make our moves to Corpus to finally meet each other. We like living in Red Oak." The couple married in the same Corpus Christi American Legion post in which they met.

Charlie, the couple's Yorkshire Terrier, is Jan's constant companion as she stitches or knits. "There are times when Charlie gives me a look that says, 'Put that down. I want attention,'" Jan quipped. "If I'm working on something while at home, the TV is usually on, but if Robert's not here, I sew and knit in silence, and I like silence when I write. It helps keep me focused." Jan enjoys writing poetry, and while living in Corpus Christi, she wrote for a local publication.

Jan sells her knitted caps, Barbie doll clothes and stitched pillows of all designs at Waxahachie's Festival of Trees that benefits the Ellis County Habitat for Humanity, as well as at area gun shows. "My camo caps are popular, and I love making Christmas items," she said. Her Christmas pillows are frequently trimmed with hand-sewn bells and depict such designs as Santa's workshop or Christmas animals. "I sell enough to buy yarn, so I can knit more caps to donate to the Veterans Administration hospital patients," Jan said.

Robert has served as the state's commander of the Sons of the American Legion and is a member of the Veterans





of Foreign Wars. Jan is a member of both the American Legion and VFW auxiliaries. "During his year as state commander, we traveled somewhere for 38 of the 52 weeks of his service," Jan recalled. "We saw all of Texas and went to Colorado, Kentucky and Wisconsin for national conventions."

The folks the couple visited then and now are the patients in the 10 VA hospitals located in Texas. "I take my knitting with me when traveling, and I keep thinking of that next person in line who needs a warm cap, and I keep knitting," Jan added. "I sit in the Americana Legion and VFW and knit. Everyone knows what I'm doing and why, so nobody minds." She has been awarded a Home Service Award from the American Legion for her baked goods and knitted caps. Being able to donate knitted caps to veterans and cancer patients brings personal joy to Jan.

While in Corpus, Jan donated knitted and cross-stitched pillows for auctions to support public television. She has donated items to the Ovilla Police Department and the Ellis County Habitat for Humanity auctions and raffles. "One of my items brought \$800," Jan said.

The intricately patterned, cross-stitched pillows are just part of Jan's handiwork. A framed, cross-stitched carousel brought her a first-place award, and its accompanying carousel horse took second-place in a Corpus show — awards she holds dear. Other framed pictures include an Irish angel, a Christmas tree with animals, a tiger and her personal favorite — Pumpkin Pyle, since Pyle was her grandmother's maiden name. Jan subscribes to British magazines from which she gets her patterns. "I sometimes take pieces of different patterns and put them together to make a totally different pattern," she explained. She finds it

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challenging to read in the Queen's English and convert the British pound to the American dollar. Her next cross-stitched project might be a poppy design like the poppies sold by the American Legion.

Some of her handiwork can be done in one week, but other designs command months of her attention. A crewel embroidered hanging of Japanese maidens took Jan "six months just to do the border."

Robert and Jan are very close to their church family, the Ovilla Church of the Nazarene. "It was the worst of times when the tornado damaged the parish house, but we've rebuilt," Jan said proudly. She's also donated knitted caps to three children who were adopted by a family in their church. "Seeing them showing their caps to everyone is one of my best memories," Jan said.

She knits Barbie doll clothes on No. 2 needles, and often gives them away or sells them to fund the purchase of yarn. But Jan's interest in dolls goes much further. She collects Barbie and Madame Alexander dolls. Her collection even spills over into Robert's "man cave" in their home. "She changes them out by the season," Robert revealed.

"I make ponchos, dresses and pants, all out of the yarn left over from knitting my caps," Jan stated.

Her home is filled with designs from past efforts, current projects and plans for future projects, fulfilling Jan's desire to keep busy during retirement. She concluded, "I find it all very relaxing and rewarding." **NOW**

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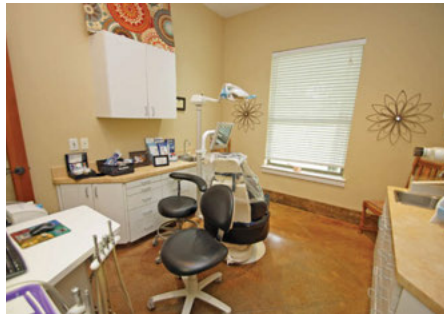


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Patients cry tears of joy when they see their beautiful new smiles. — By Virginia Riddle

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Dr. Carol Wald started Fearless Dental about 20 years ago, and it has been in this homey Red Oak location for approximately 10 years. "We serve residents throughout Ellis County," Dr. Martin said. With its corner location, there is easy access to the office and plenty of available parking.

The professional staff and the use of the latest dental technology give even the most nervous patient confidence to seek help.

A native of Baytown, Texas, Dr. Martin and his family have lived in Ellis County since 1999, when he moved to the area to attend Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, from which he graduated in 2003 with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. He has since earned Dental Implant Certification, and Dr. Martin is certified in Level II oral sedation. Dr. Martin's undergraduate studies were completed at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

As busy as he is taking quality care and spending time with each patient of this busy dental practice, Dr. Martin takes time for his family and church. "My family has grown to include my wife, Gina, and our three children ages 17, 14 and 10," Dr. Martin said. They enjoy taking road trips together, especially trips that include golfing or going to the beach. He enjoys helping with the family's church activities and with Cub Scouts.

Dr. Martin's reason for becoming a dentist is fulfilled daily. "I love doing stuff with my hands and making people beautiful," he said. "It is very gratifying for us to see patients cry with joy when they see the smile they have always dreamed of having." **NOW**

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Womb in Distress

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Nestled in the womb, the fetus' world was safe and harmonious, until its mother developed toxemia, also known as pre-eclampsia, or pregnancy-induced hypertension. Pre-eclampsia is when the mother experiences a dangerous and precipitous rise in her blood pressure. She will also have a high level of protein leaking into her urine (albuminuria), and her face, hands and legs may swell and retain fluid (edema). With a pre-eclampsia diagnosis, that perfect environment in the womb has now become a perilous place for the baby to be.

This condition usually occurs after the 20th week of a pregnancy. The specific cause is unknown, but irregularities with the placenta may precipitate it. There are risk factors associated with toxemia that are worth noting. The most obvious risk factor for pre-eclampsia is the pregnancy itself. Being a first-time mom or one who is carrying multiple births can lead to this complication. The number of years in between pregnancies can also be an issue, if the births are less than two years or more than 10 years apart. If a woman had this condition in a previous pregnancy, she is at risk of developing it again. A familial history of other females in the family having pre-eclampsia predisposes one toward this condition. If the woman already has other health problems, such as chronic hypertension, diabetes, obesity, kidney disease and lupus, she is more at risk for toxemia.

There are serious consequences to unmanaged pre-eclampsia. Some of these complications will be present and others will not. It will depend upon the severity of the pre-eclampsia and the gestational age. Because this condition affects the flow of blood to the placenta, the fetus will be affected to some extent. One way is in fetal growth restriction. Because the placenta may not be nourishing the fetus adequately, its growth will slow down, leading to other problems, such as preterm delivery and low birth weight. Placental abruption, where the placenta pulls away from the wall of the uterus and causes uncontrolled bleeding, is a life-threatening situation for the mom and baby.

If the pre-eclampsia is mild, then possibly, bed rest along with close monitoring of blood pressure, blood and urine will allow the pregnancy to proceed to its optimum delivery date. Eclampsia is pre-eclampsia with seizures. When the pregnancy progresses to this state, only the delivery of the baby will help. It is very important for the mother to keep all prenatal doctor visits and be diligent in following the doctor's instructions. Her life, as well as the life of her child, could depend on it. **NOW**

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

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October 6

10th Annual Family Fiesta: 6:00-8:00 p.m., McDonald Elementary, Ferris. For information, contact Racheal Martinez at (972) 544-2574.

October 7

Ferris Lions Club's Pioneer Day: parade begins at 10:00 a.m., Historic Downtown Ferris. Enjoy food, vendors, music and more. There will even be an authentic western gunfight.

5th Annual Round-Up (adults only): 6:30 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5431 Montgomery Rd., Midlothian. Tickets are \$45. Call (972) 775-8966 or email pawsforreflection@att.net for more information.

5th Annual Dentistry From the Heart: 7:30 a.m., registration begins, Waxahachie Family Dentistry. Call (972) 937-4370 for more info.

October 12

Red River Celebrity Softball Game: 6:00 p.m., Dr. Pepper Ballpark, Frisco. Tickets on sale now for as low as \$10. Celebrities and veterans will be playing on both teams. Game benefits the Lone Survivor Foundation. For information,

to view team rosters and purchase tickets, visit www.rrcsg.org.

Legacy Realty Group's Anti-Litter Campaign Drawing: Legacy Realty, Waxahachie. Ellis County citizens who post a picture of themselves picking up 10 pieces of litter are eligible to win prizes such as movie, spa or restaurant gift certificates. Prizes vary. Post a picture on the Texas Home Team Facebook page no later than **Oct. 11** to be entered in the drawing. Contact Donna David at (972) 523-4664 for more information.

October 20

Veterans Expo 2017: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., TSTC North Texas Campus, 119 N. Lawrence, Red Oak. Veterans are welcome to gain veteran benefit information and learn about nonprofit organizations, veteran service organizations and schools that work with veterans. Contact Rachel Mims, rachel.mims@tstc.edu or (254) 867-3651.

October 28

22nd Annual Texas Country Reporter Festival: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Admission is free. The event includes a free concert, more than 250 artisan booths, food

and so much more. For more information, call the Waxahachie CVB at (469) 309-4040 or visit www.waxahachiecvb.com.

Ongoing:

Fourth Mondays

Red Oak Friends of the Library meeting: 6:30 p.m., Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Contact redoakffriends@gmail.com for more information.

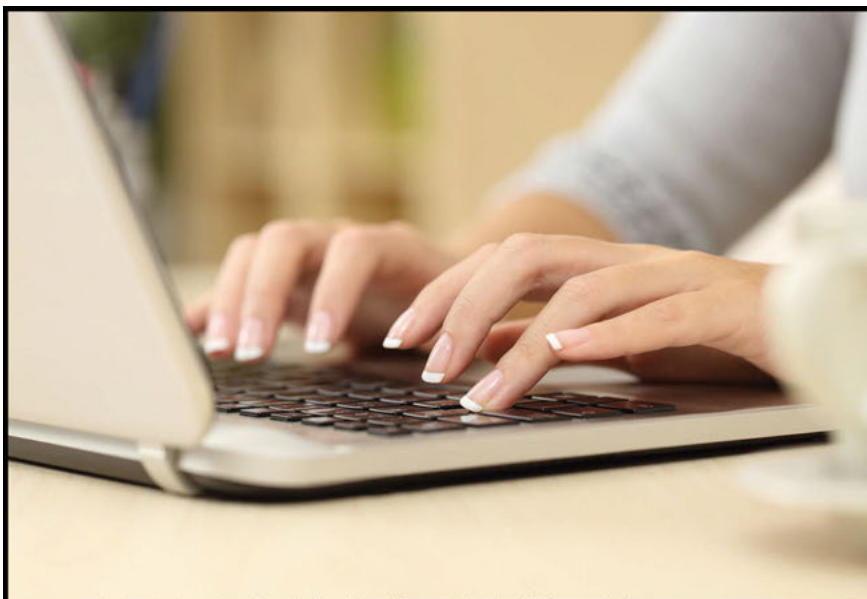
Second Tuesdays

National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE) meeting: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., rotating between Ryan's Buffet in Waxahachie, the Sirloin Stockade in Corsicana and the Grand Ennis Buffet in Ennis. Email rjcarey1@gmail.com or call (972) 775-2463 for more information.

Wednesdays

DivorceCare: 6:30-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Midlothian, Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St., Midlothian. Call the church office at (972) 775-3993 for more info.

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



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In the Kitchen With Heaven-lee Landrum

— *By Rachel Smith*

Putting a pan of juicy meats or delicate pastries in the oven is one of Heaven-lee Landrum's keen pleasures in life. She's been helping in the kitchen since she was 9 years old. Growing up, her family used cooking to make time together fun. "My mom made sure we enjoyed ourselves in the kitchen during the Christmas and Thanksgiving times," she remembered. "We used to make Christmas ornaments with cinnamon and apple sauce!"

Cooking four days a week now, she receives help from family members who enjoy cooking, too. Heaven-lee is proudly part of three generations' worth of cooks. "My dad was a big cook while I was growing up," she said. "Now, my 3-year-old son likes to help in the kitchen, which is a huge delight." **NOW**

Mac 'N' Meat

- 1 lb. ground beef**
- 1 small onion, diced (divided use)**
- 1 bag macaroni noodles**
- 2 14.5-oz. cans tomato sauce**
- 1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes**
- Garlic, to taste**
- Salt, to taste**
- Pepper, to taste**

- 1.** In a skillet, cook meat with half the onion; drain meat.
- 2.** In a pan, cook noodles per package instructions. Once noodles are done, drain them. Place them back on the stove.
- 3.** Add tomato sauce, diced tomatoes and remaining onion to pan. Add meat mixture to pan. Add garlic, salt and pepper; let simmer.
- 4. Note:** The longer it simmers, the better it tastes.

Italian Pork Chops

- 1 lb. pork chops**
- 1 bottle Italian dressing**
(You won't use the whole bottle.)
- 4 Tbsp. butter**

- 1.** Marinate meat with enough dressing to cover meat. Let sit for a couple of hours or overnight.
- 2.** Place butter in a skillet with pork chops; cook covered for 10 minutes.

OREO Buttercream Icing

For one cake or up to 12 cupcakes.

- 10 OREO cookies**
- 1 cup salted butter**
- 3 cups powdered sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 2 Tbsp. heavy cream**

- 1.** Crush OREOs; set aside.
- 2.** In a bowl, mix butter and 1 cup powdered sugar at a time to make sure mixture is blended.
- 3.** Add vanilla and heavy cream; mix well. Add OREOs; mix well.
- 4.** Spread over cake or cupcakes.

Chocolate Cupcakes

- 1 box sugar-free devil's food cake mix or regular chocolate cake mix**
- 1 can pumpkin**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 325 F. Stir cake mix and pumpkin together.
- 2.** In a muffin pan, fill each muffin cup half full with mixture.
- 3.** Place pan in oven for 20 minutes; let cool and serve.

Pan-fried Cinnamon Bananas

- 2 bananas, slightly overripe**
- 2 Tbsp. sugar (or sugar substitute)**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1 tsp. nutmeg**
- Olive oil spray, enough to cover skillet**

- 1.** Cut bananas into small slices.
- 2.** In a small bowl, mix sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg.
- 3.** Coat bananas with spice mixture until all sides are coated.
- 4.** Spray skillet with olive oil; place over medium-high heat. Add bananas. Cook 2-3 minutes on each side; serve.

Beef Ribs

- 2 lbs. boneless beef ribs**
- Salt, to taste**
- Pepper, to taste**
- Oil, enough to cover bottom of skillet**
- 1 bottle barbecue sauce**
(You won't use the whole bottle.)

- 1.** Season ribs with salt and pepper; add oil to skillet. On medium heat, add ribs to pan. Sear them on all sides.
- 2.** Place ribs in a Crock-Pot. Add 1/2 cup barbecue sauce, or to your taste. Cook on high for 2 1/2 hours, or on low for 4 1/2 hours.

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

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