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Band of Brothers

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A Charming Legacy

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JOURNEY TO HOPE

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Fall decorations are
in abundance at
the Corpany home.

Photo by Shana Woods

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Editor's Note

Happy Thanksgiving!

I often wonder what the first Thanksgiving meal must have been like for the Pilgrims and their newfound Indian friends. I'm sure everyone was on their best behavior. It just may have been the largest potluck dinner ever recorded. Can you imagine "picking the short straw" when it came time to cleanup?

Things at my home are nothing like what I've imagined the first Thanksgiving to be. Yes, we all bring our assigned potluck dishes from potato salad and pumpkin pie to rolls and relish trays. But I can promise you no one is on their best behavior, especially when it comes to game time. I am not talking about football, but Farkle, a dice game we've played for years. Getting loud and being proud is part of the game, at least the way my slightly dysfunctional family plays. But, I'm thankful for every loud and proud moment.

Sandra

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WaxahachieNOW Editor
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JOURNEY TO HOPE

— By Carolyn Wills

Almost 12 years ago, Dr. Bobby Haney attended a very special opening. New Years Day 2000 had been celebrated, and the occasion was the opening of Hope Clinic, the newest medical and dental home in Ellis County. In a year's time, the Ellis County Coalition for Health Options (ECCHO) had initiated a way for uninsured and underserved residents to receive medical care. What began as a "hope" on the part of ECCHO had become a reality, and the group of community leaders, including Dr. Haney, was encouraged to "hope" for more.



Left to right: Dr. Haney with Mackey Morgan

Before joining the ECCHO efforts, Dr. Haney and fellow dentist, Dr. Jeff Kosoris, surfaced from a similar mission. “Dr. Kosoris is currently chairman of the board of directors for Hope Clinic,” Dr. Haney explained. “He and I went to Baylor College of Dentistry together and we have both been in private practice in Waxahachie for nearly 30 years. By the late ’90s, we were aware of the need for indigent dental care and decided to put our heads together to do something about it.”

With limited know-how, they started a free dental clinic in an abandoned school building. “We did the best we could,” Dr. Haney said. “Thankfully, about the time we figured out that we were failing, we had a meeting with Mackie Owens, chief

executive officer of ECCHO, and have been involved with Hope Clinic since its beginning.”

For the first four years, Hope Clinic operated with a small staff of doctors, dentists and nurses. “Until 2008, all the dentists were volunteers. For the most part, that meant Dr. Kosoris and me,” Dr. Haney

smiled. Then, in March 2009 and in another huge developmental step, the clinic was designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC.) The FQHC program facilitates the provision of medical services in underserved urban and rural communities. This designation gave the clinic the ability to serve Medicare patients, as well as eligibility for federal funding. The program also required the clinic to offer medical, dental and behavioral care.

“My dad was a minister. I grew up in a church and family of helpers.”



Gavin Lee Rivera (4) gets a checkup.



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Left to Right: Teresa Diaz, Cindy Gonzales,
Crystal Moser and Vanessa Lewis

Hope Clinic began as a single building, essentially donated by the county and moved to its current location on Waxahachie's Jefferson Street. "I served on the board for about seven years," Dr. Haney said. "In a meeting one evening, we were discussing the availability of the lot next door, and I suggested that we buy it. It seemed to me that we might want to get bigger one day." Although Mackie was not quite as convinced, they took the leap and purchased the property. "Sure enough, we expanded," Dr. Haney smiled. "I'm not so much a creative guy as I am an idea person."

After purchasing the lot and acquiring FQHC designation and provisions to grow, Hope Clinic was poised for another giant step. By April 1, 2010, a new building had been constructed and was attached to the original through a series of wooden ramps, decking and stairs. The "new" larger Hope Clinic was painted a bright yellow. The original "A" building became the medical services, laboratory and administrative home, while the new "B" building housed dental, pediatric and behavioral medicines. "Dental services moved from one room to three with new equipment, including three fully-equipped dental chairs and, at last, a full-time dentist," Dr. Haney explained. "We had literally gone from recognizing a need, wanting to serve, employing used or donated equipment, volunteering a half day a week, to becoming a full-blown, full-time clinic. We also now have a hygienist and two dental assistants."

These days, the two bright yellow buildings are bustling with activity. In 2009, the clinic served slightly less than 2,000 individual patients. In 2010, the



number of individual patients seen doubled, while more than 11,000 people contacted them seeking information about their services. In addition to dental care, the clinic offers comprehensive on-site pediatric and adult primary medical care, prenatal, women's and behavioral health services.

"Our focus at first was toward residents of Ellis County," Dr. Haney explained. "The FQHC determination, though, increased the scope to include the whole region and now anyone can come here." While Ellis County continues to be the largest patient source, people come from Johnson, Navarro and surrounding counties. While the clinic accepts Medicaid, Medicare and other insurances, above all, it is committed to serving the uninsured. Fees are based on a sliding scale according to a patient's income. "We have a contract with the county to serve indigent patients for no fee," Dr. Haney said. "We treat insured people, too, but our focus is on those who can't afford medical or dental care."

In another forward move, Hope Clinic added a director of community relations and special projects. "Her name is Tish Creech," Dr. Haney said. "She has already made a difference." Community outreach and fundraising are essential to the clinic and, with Tish's expertise volunteer opportunities have been incorporated into a program called Magnolia Blossom. Now potential volunteers or supporters can easily learn about the history of Hope Clinic and opportunities to serve on committees such as Physician Liaison, Spreading the Hope, Events and Giving and Getting. "Our major fundraiser is called Seeds of Hope," Dr. Haney

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explained. The annual event features a one-hour program and dinner. All contributions generated from the event go directly into the Hope Clinic ministry.

Originating from a grass roots dream, Hope Clinic continues to grow with the help of community driven efforts. "Being active in the community is very important," Dr. Haney said. "We travel to senior citizen centers and schools throughout the county and participate in



off-site health fairs and back-to-school events with services, such as fluoride varnishing and dental screenings."

Dr. Haney has been a dentist in private practice since 1983. Last year, he partnered with a fellow dentist, moved to a new building and established a two-partner group. He and his wife, Penny, have been married since 1979 and are parents to daughter, Dakota, a senior at Dallas Baptist University and an avid equestrienne. If he was only a dentist, devoted husband and involved father, Dr. Haney's life would be full and busy, yet this lay minister, community leader and volunteer is on a mission of hope. "My dad was a minister. I grew up in a church and family of helpers," he said. "As I came to understand the truth in the words I heard as a youth, I realized that the only thing of earthly value is what I leave in my relationships. I am called to help others," he smiled. "It's why I get up in the morning. When a patient finishes treatment and says 'Thank you,' my heart fills." **NOW**



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Pedaling With Purpose

— By Sandra Strong

Brittany Martin was tall and thin when she got pregnant with Kinsley, now age 9. Eighteen months after giving birth, Brittany had lost all the extra maternity weight she'd gained — all that is but 25 pounds. Three years later, she received the joyous news she was pregnant again, this time with twins, Lily and Logan, now 6. "This time, I never lost the weight I'd gained," Brittany confessed, "and I gained 55 pounds."



As time continued, Brittany's stress level grew. She was upset because she was unable to shed all the unwanted pounds. Her level of stress also grew when her husband, Jerad, lost his job unexpectedly and then shortly thereafter, needed to undergo knee surgery. "I was an emotional eater," she admitted. "I got up to 198 pounds, and I told myself that was enough. I was not going to buy anything bigger."


It's funny how things just start to happen when we decide to conquer the battlefield in our mind. The moment Brittany decided to once again take charge of her life, it seemed the pounds began to just melt off. "The first thing I did was change my eating habits," she remembered. "I began eating healthier by choosing not to eat sweets and to control my portions." Brittany lost 17 pounds that first month.

"I will probably never be 100-percent comfortable in my own skin, but that's not going to stop me from trying."


The first 30 days gave her newfound confidence. She knew she could do it as long as she kept her mind on her goals — getting back down to her pre-pregnancy weight and learning how to live her life differently when it came to food intake and exercise. She made some inquiries and learned the local YMCA was offering "spin classes." Spin classes are high-intensity, cardiovascular indoor cycling on a stationary bicycle. These 30-minute classes were considered "quick spin" classes, where the person spinning would alternate standing and sitting throughout the entire class while using their arms for balance. "I was so out of shape I had to sit down the entire time," Brittany confessed. "I would just come home and cry."

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She learned that when you're overweight it doesn't take long to become totally exhausted. She knew she had to take control of her mind or she wasn't going to be able to make it past this hurdle. "Once again I dared myself," she stated. "In fact, I guess you could say I double-dared myself." Brittany was bound and determined to get the unwanted weight off. She started pedaling on a regular basis. She pedaled with a newfound purpose.

The second month, after incorporating the spin classes, Brittany lost an additional 13 pounds. The support from family and friends helped rocket her successfully through the next four months. As time went on, Brittany's strength and determination allowed her to work out longer and more often. "There were five of us who consistently went to spin class four days a week for one full hour," she explained. "In January 2010, we decided we were going to take a girls trip to Las Vegas in May."

May gave the group a goal date. All they wanted was to be in the best shape they could be in when they took the trip. "We just wanted to feel good about ourselves," Brittany added. When they boarded the plane to Vegas, Brittany had lost a total of 50 pounds. "I really was feeling pretty good about what I'd accomplished up to this point," she shared. "But, I still had a little ways to go to be the weight I wanted to be."

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The five stayed with the workouts four times a week until “life happened” and they disbanded. At this same time, Brittany’s life came to somewhat of a standstill. “We were moving into a new house. I wasn’t satisfied with what I was doing anymore,” she explained. “I quickly realized I was no longer being challenged when it came to exercising.”

She wanted to share her passion with others, so in October 2010, one full year after she made the decision to change her lifestyle, Brittany returned to school. “I earned my certification in spinning,” she stated. “I spent one full day — eight hours — in an indoor cycling workshop offered by the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America.” After obtaining her certification, Brittany began to push and challenge herself harder than she’d ever done before. “I lost another 20 pounds before Christmas,” she said.

She had the education and stamina she needed to teach others, but her mind once again tried to tell her differently. “I’m loud and outgoing when I’m around my family and friends,” she explained. “I get real shy when I get in front of strangers.” How in the world was Brittany going to share her passion with others if she allowed her shyness to be stronger than her desire to share? Once again, she won on the battlefield in her mind, and started sharing her love of spinning at Studio One.

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different than a traditional outdoor group ride, although Brittany enjoys those as well. Spinning is an upbeat, fast paced, aerobic workout, which starts out slow so the riders can properly warm-up. As the music continues to play, the rate of intensity climbs. The final few minutes of exercise are reserved for the cool down. "Spinning is one thing you have control over," Brittany said. "The resistance level is controlled by the rider. How hard you push is how hard you ride."

Spinning not only works the heart, it also added definition and tone in the legs. "No matter your body size," Brittany shared, "you will see a positive change in your legs in about eight to 10 weeks. People may not choose to change their eating habits when they start spinning, but they will notice a remarkable change in their legs."



Once Brittany got to her ideal weight, she learned how best to maintain it. She found the biggest tool was holding herself accountable for what she put in her mouth. "I also learned the importance of exercising at least 30 minutes five days a week," she stated. "Exercise has to become habit. You have to make time for it. Schedule it in on your calendar if you have to."

Changes in her lifestyle are now being seen in the choices her family is making. Jerad has lost 50 pounds, and Kinsley enjoys running with her mother. "I've learned I was an emotional eater," Brittany confessed. "I will probably never be 100-percent comfortable in my own skin, but that's not going to stop me from trying." **NOW**



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Now in their 80s, the Corpanys say they have slowed down a bit, but their zest for beauty remains. They continue to lavish that passion on their home. “Herb likes to tell people,” Ruby laughed, “that the house is filled with antiques, including the two that live here.”

The pair’s love of decorating has extended to their spacious brick house’s exterior, which has attracted the interest of friends, neighbors and others who admire the growing trend of front yards and gardens dressed in seasonal charm. The Corpanys especially enjoy outfitting

Autumn Festival

— By Randy Bigham

For one Waxahachie couple, retirement has brought reflection, relaxation and an opportunity to savor the finer things of life — in their case, fine antiques. During 63 years of marriage, Herb and Ruby Corpany have reared a family, served their church and community and traveled widely both stateside and abroad. Along the way, they have collected a wide range of exquisite furniture, artwork and decorative accessories that embody their fondness for the Victorian era.





the place for fall, taking advantage of harvest-time colors and accoutrement to make an oasis of autumnal cheer. "That's a hobby I have enjoyed so much over the years," Ruby said. "Making the yard inviting with all the things we associate with fall is fun, and Herb has been so good to help me pull it into shape."

Herb and Ruby have been a team from the start. Originally from the Wichita Falls area, they met in Waxahachie while Ruby was still in high school and Herb, who had just served a tour of duty in World War II, was finishing classes at the



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Bible Institute (now called Southwestern Assemblies of God University). Tying the knot in 1948, they were the first to marry in the college's chapel, then still under construction. Rounding off his education at Texas Christian University, Herb preached around the state and served as minister for four Metroplex churches, including a 28-year pastorate in Lancaster.

Ruby was at his side, bringing her natural talent for interior design to bear on the sanctuaries and fellowship halls of the churches her husband pastored. "I have always liked decorating, whether in my own house or for church events,"

Ruby enthused. "It's something I can't help myself from doing." Ruby credits her knack for color and texture to the fashion experience she gained as owner of the popular local dress shop, Grace's, which she operated with her daughter for 22 years.

With retirement came freedom to "see the world," and Herb and Ruby did just that, visiting England, France, Italy and such exotic locales as Egypt, Tunisia and other Middle Eastern countries. They picked up many handsome souvenirs in the foreign lands they toured which now form the nucleus of the couple's extraordinary collection of 19th century European antiques. "Antiquing has been our greatest pastime," Ruby admitted. "We had a big collection, but it's much smaller now because we downsized before moving here."

Prior to relocating to their current residence six years ago, the couple lived in a 4,700-square-foot home in Red Oak. "We had to auction a lot of items when we left," she added, "but we still have our favorite things with us." The placement of pieces is as important to Ruby and Herb

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as their quality, and the pair work in happy unison to achieve perfection in displaying the art and furnishings they love.

"Ruby comes up with the idea of where to put things," Herb explained. "Then I sit down and draw it for her. Together we lay everything out according to the sketch." This formula applies to their house, as well to the various area churches Ruby has decorated, such as The Oaks Fellowship and Evangel Temple.

The dominant theme of the Corpanys' home is Victorian, though some furniture and accent pieces date to the late 18th century. Herb and Ruby particularly admire English, French and German work. They have blended these divergent styles seamlessly throughout the house, from the parlor with its echoes of the gilt grandeur of Versailles to the guest room with its ultra-feminine decor punctuated by displays of dolls and period clothing. Elegant mahogany and cherry with delicate marquetry have gone into tables, chairs, armoires and clocks, while portraits, china, sculpture and porcelain figurines dot walls, cabinets and nooks. In upholstery, curtains and bedding, Ruby's nose for fashion has ensured a careful mixture of Victorian and modern fabrics and colors. Some pieces are kitschy, too, like a lampshade edged in feathers, and such surprises as a big oaken thread dispenser that once sat on a department store's notions counter.

Yet for all the expense and labor that has gone into the interior, it's the outside of the Corpanys' home that has thrilled Waxahachians. "People say they enjoy it, and we're glad they do," Ruby said. "But this may be the last time I'm able to decorate the yard. It's hard for me to keep it up now. Take my advice —

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never get old!" But Ruby was still feeling young enough this year to dream up new arrangements for the festival of autumn that her yard has again become, the work voluntarily carried out by friends who hate to see the Corpanys' visual feast come to an end.

Fall 2011 is indeed alive and well in the Corpanys' neighborhood. Pumpkins flank flowerbeds and trees on the front lawn, and in the couple's side yard is perched a green, wrought-iron vintage bicycle, its baskets filled to overflowing with orange and yellow foliage intertwined with sprigs of hay. Scarecrows stand guard over the bounty that includes more hay, pumpkins and assorted gourds. The home's entrance is a harvest treat with great swags of sunflowers, baby pumpkins, pheasant plumes and corn husks forming a canopy over the door, to one side of which a rake-wielding scarecrow welcomes visitors to this haven of good taste and good company.

Ruby is pleased with the result of her scheme for this year, but reiterated she will soon have to stop decorating because it exhausts her. Herb took issue, interjecting with a husbandly tease. "She says that all the time," he laughed. "But she'll be at it again. Besides, we have a shed and a storage locker full of decorations ready to go!"

Whether Ruby and Herb continue the tradition of ornamenting their lawn for fall and other occasions, they are proud their decorations have brought fellow residents happiness through the seasons. "It's been a privilege to celebrate with the community in this way," Ruby said. "And Herb and I have loved working on it. We have had a wonderful life together and are so blessed." **NOW**



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BAND OF BROTHERS

— By Randy Bigham

A former Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) employment representative has recognized a need among past and present service personnel and founded a grassroots organization to meet it. Half social, half business and all helpful, the Veterans Networking Group, started by Mike Lamb, meets monthly at Zula's Coffee House to discuss, debate and down a cup of java. "I found that the vets wanted some place to meet where they could say what's on their mind and feel comfortable doing it," Mike explained. "We're open to any and all vets, and we're here to listen."

Members run the gamut of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, current war veterans, Patriot Guard riders and others interested in making sure veterans' issues, from funding assistance to health care, are addressed and resolved. As a representative for TVC, Mike was a counselor at the Texas Workforce Commission's

Waxahachie office when he conducted a survey to discover what the veterans among the facility's clients desired most in the way of outreach and support. "They seemed interested in a networking group, so when I retired from TVC, I decided to put one together. We had our first meeting in January of this year," Mike said. "We had a good turnout of 15 or 20, and we've been growing ever since. We're not a 501(c)(3). We don't charge anybody anything. If you want to drink the coffee that's fine, if you don't that's OK, too. We don't care so long as you come."

The Veterans Networking Group's first guest speaker was a representative of Vets 4 Vets, a peer support team for Iraq and Afghanistan troops, and the positive reception set the tone for future meetings. Mike's organization encompasses the same philosophy as Vets 4 Vets — camaraderie, respect, confidentiality and well-being — but the Waxahachie-based group's appeal is broader, embracing veterans in general and working toward solutions to problems of unemployment,

"I want to make sure that vets are aware of their benefits and know where to go for help."

medical coverage and legal funding. A clearinghouse for information and referrals, the Veterans Networking Group doesn't omit the personal touch. The casual setting of the coffee house invites the free exchange of ideas, opinions and emotions, and Mike is all for it. "I find listening to veterans of all walks of life and experiences interesting," he said. "If they get emotional healing from their military experiences by networking in the group, I feel this could be a good thing."

Mike's downhome friendliness makes him well-suited to the role of group leader, although he insists it's not his group. "It belongs to the members, not

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Left to right: Terra Garza (VET & owner of Zula's), Mike Lamb (VET), Les Clemons (not a VET, but very involved) and James Campbell (VET)

me. It's what they want to make it." His distinguished military career also recommends him. An Air Force captain, he served at Carswell in Fort Worth and later in Guam during the Vietnam War, participating in bombing missions. Mike remained in active duty for 22 years, retiring in 1989. He is proud of his credentials but shared them with modesty. "I'm a life member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV)," he said, "a life member of the Non Commissioned



Officers Association and the Military Officers Association of America, and I was a chaplain.” He pointed out that although he served during that conflict he does not consider himself a Vietnam veteran, because he didn’t see combat in the immediate region.

Yet he sympathizes with his brother warriors who encountered less-than-welcoming arms when they returned from fighting. “I didn’t have the support troops have now, either from family or from the public,” Mike recalled. He also had a difficult time adjusting to private life after serving so long in the military. “My wife didn’t even know me,” he said, “and neither did my 12-month-old son.”

Other veterans of Vietnam may have suffered more than he, but he thinks the public has since enfolded these heroes. “It’s been a long time coming,” Mike said. “There were those who came home to live a normal life, those who couldn’t get the war out of their minds, but now most have received deserved respect.” He believes difficult personal stories like his own have a place in the discussions his group furnishes, but hopes people will come for the “fellowship and info.”

As an example of the beneficial information available at meetings, a member shared a tip on a mortgage

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The Veterans Networking Group is playing a crucial part in the community in other ways, too. Members have helped with renovations to a local armory, volunteered to perform a flag ceremony and flag retirement program at a senior citizens center and have sponsored an Iraqi vet and his family who are transitioning to Florida. Recently, the group participated in a Support Our Troops packaging party, collecting donations, cards and gifts for deployed military. The Veterans Networking Group also maintains a table at Trade Days on the second Saturday and Sunday of the month.

Mike stressed that his main purpose in starting the meetings is to be a lifeline for fellow veterans. "I want to make sure that vets are aware of their benefits and know where to go for help," he said. "And I want to encourage them to accept what they deserve — great VA health care, education, employment and especially, speedy claims processing." He hopes the ultimate impact of the Veterans Networking Group will be that servicemen and women from Ellis County and elsewhere (Mike welcomes all vets) know they can turn to the organization for "camaraderie and a good ear."

For the former Air Force captain, being able to make a difference in others' lives has been the most fulfilling aspect of his efforts to connect with fellow vets. "Watching the meetings grow and helping people get the info and help they need is rewarding," he said. So far over 20 veterans from Waxahachie, Ennis, Fort Worth and Dallas attend the Veterans Networking Group's evening meetings on the third Friday of each month. Many wear their special insignia T-shirts, featuring an eagle on the front and on the back the slogan, "All Gave Some and Some Gave All." **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, contact Mike Lamb at vetsnetgrp@att.net.

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Believing IN Miracles

— By Janice C. Johnson

If you benefit from a pleasant coincidence or a little good luck, you might as well not tell Bettye Davison about it. She has another name for these fortuitous happenings, large or small. "I firmly believe in miracles," she said.

Bettye grew up in Cambridge, Maryland. Her parents often told her the story of her first winter, when whooping cough threatened her life. After the doctor had done all he could for her, Bettye's father took the tiny girl from her mother's arms. He carried her into the unheated parlor, asked not to be disturbed and closed the doors. After a long wait, he emerged and gave Bettye back to her mother. "She'll be all right," he said.





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PEOPLE I CAN
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“Many prayers were going up on both sides of those doors. And I believe it was a miracle,” Bettye said of her recovery, the first of many instances of divine protection throughout her youth and adulthood.

Bettye has enjoyed many special experiences, which she also sees as miracles. In 1933, when she was 11 years old, then-President Roosevelt addressed her community from his wheelchair on the deck of the presidential yacht, which was tied up at the wharf. Bettye’s father took her to hear the speech. He sat on the front row, with Bettye on the grass in front of him. When the president finished speaking, Bettye blew him a kiss. “Out of all those people there, he saw me and sent his aide down to invite me aboard his yacht. So I went aboard, and President Roosevelt hugged me around the waist and said, ‘I caught your kiss.’”

Kind and gracious, Bettye has a great capacity for learning from others. When she started sixth grade, a tall, new classmate named Bernice Frankel transferred from a private school in New York. Bettye wanted her to feel welcome, and was horrified when some of the

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children called Bernice names. After one incident, Bettye said, "Bernice, I'm so sorry you were hurt."

But Bernice replied, "Bettye, I wasn't hurt. That boy is just rude, and I don't care what he calls me."

Bettye recalls this example of dealing with ridicule as one of her first lessons. Though Bernice soon went back to her New York school, Bettye never forgot her friend's confidence. Decades afterward, she was delighted to see Bernice again — on television, now known as Bea Arthur, in the role of Maude.

In the late 1930s, Bettye and her high school girlfriends often went dancing at a local grill. One evening the place was crowded with strange young men, all Naval Academy students. The midshipmen returned several weekends in a row, and Bettye found her kindness tested as she was singled out by one named Hank. "I didn't especially like him," she admitted. "He said he knew the two-step, but his two-step was always one-and-a-half or three. He just couldn't dance! Besides, he was always talking about battalions and platoons — I got bored with this man. And I ended up marrying him!" she smiled. "Time changed my opinion of him."

Hank Davison graduated in June 1940 and was soon sent to the Hawaiian Islands, leaving his fiancée behind. The two planned to marry on his return in June 1942, but the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor changed that. Everyone worried, as they did not hear from Hank. Not until weeks later did his parents receive a terse wire: "Injured. Extent unknown." They later learned he had been on deck duty aboard the USS *Arizona* when Japanese planes attacked.



After trying to warn the crew, though badly burned, he and another sailor dove overboard and rescued as many sailors as possible with lifeboats. Bettye affirmed that Hank would not have survived except for the miracle of being officer of the deck that day.

The couple married in 1942 and had two daughters, Darlyn and Jane, while Hank's career took him from overseas service to a Naval Academy professorship to the Pentagon. During those years, their landlady offered to teach Bettye to sew, so she could make clothes for her girls. Two other women also came for sewing or tailoring



lessons. Bettye was surprised to learn that all these women were senators' wives, and that she had been sewing alongside Senator Hubert Humphrey's wife Muriel.

Once, Muriel came to help Bettye with a household emergency so she would not have to miss a sewing session. That day, Muriel shared the Humphreys' humble beginnings, relating that in the early years, when one of Hubert's suits needed replacing, she used to salvage the material to make a coat for their little girl. "Sewing is very important," she advised Bettye.

After the Korean War, Hank experienced diplomatic life as a naval adviser in Uruguay. Bettye volunteered at an orphanage and a sewing circle there. She met several foreign dignitaries at the U.S. Embassy. Her favorite guest, though, was Nat King Cole. The morning after his embassy visit, Cole attended the Davisons' church and sat beside Bettye. "I could barely hear him sing, so I asked him why he was just whispering," she

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recalled. "He told me, 'Bettye, I don't come to church to sing to people; I come to listen. I sing to Jesus and God — and God can hear a whisper.'"

"To me, all these things are miracles. These people taught me what life is really about," Bettye said.

She learned those lessons well, and has been honored in turn. Decades ago, while living in Florida, she was invited to join PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization) International. She has been a member ever since, helping women earn college degrees.



During retirement, Hank applied for permission to be buried with his shipmates at the USS *Arizona* Memorial. Bettye quietly wrote on his behalf to their U.S. Representative, asking for his help. She treasures the 1981 letter Hank received, granting that request. Commander Davison died in 1999.

Bettye used to visit her children — Jane Yeager, Darlyn, and son-in-law, Ed Davidson — in Texas each year. But after enjoying the 2004 Candlelight Tour in Waxahachie, her family suggested that they all move to the historic town. Bettye agreed, immediately taking to Waxahachie life. Her daughters surprised her earlier this year with a 90th birthday party. She has since opened her own doors to both the Candlelight and Gingerbread Tours. And she is thrilled her beloved PEO is organizing a Waxahachie chapter that she can attend.

Bettye still travels, now visiting Jane's daughter, Ginger; grandson-in-law, Wes; and great-grandchildren, Savannah and Alex, in Florida. She also confided that she has a private, self-assigned job: "To see how many people I can make laugh or smile is my daily desire; that, and enjoying miracles!" **NOW**

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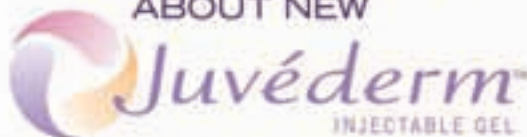
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A Charming Legacy

— By Sydni Thomas

Erica Pointer and her assistant director,
Jessica Ramirez.



Anticipation rises from the stands packed with fans as the Waxahachie Cherokee Charmers take the field during the Friday night halftime show. Little girls watch and dream of one day becoming one of the girls on the field with bright red lips and sparkling green uniforms with white boots. Fans are dazzled by the way the drill team moves across the field. Their four-and-a-half minute performance is only a slight glimpse into the life of a Cherokee Charmer. These girls spend countless hours preparing for each performance, and it takes a team of leaders to make them the local icons that Waxahachie is proud to claim as their own.

Waxahachie native, Erica Pointer, was no stranger to the Charmers when she took the job as Charmer director. During her sophomore year at Waxahachie High School, Erica



auditioned for the team. A new passion was born, and by the time she was a senior, she had made captain. Erica knew, while still in high school, she wanted to lead the Charmers one day. She attended college and got a degree in dance.

After graduating she came back as an assistant and led the Maidens. When the time came for the director to move on, Erica's dreams came true. She finally became one of the footprints in the legacy that all the past directors had left. She has been the director for the past three years. "The Charmers run my life," Erica admitted. "I'm always trying to think up new things for us to do. I'll be at the mall and see an outfit and think of a way to incorporate it into one of our shows."

There are five officers who also help Erica and her assistant director, Jessica

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Ramirez, lead over 50 Charmers and 60 Maidens: Captain Megan Sheffield, Senior First Lieutenant Libby Power and Senior Lieutenants Jordan McGee, Caroline Roberts and Rachel Rockwood. Each has been part of the Charmer organization throughout their entire four-year high school experience. To get to this point was not an easy task for any of them. The process to become an officer is long and detailed. Each leader must prove they can lead their team. They help plan routines alongside Erica and the squad's choreographers. "All of my older friends were Charmers," Libby said. "I didn't want to be left out. Now it's a way of life."

"My older sister was a Charmer and a Lieutenant her senior year," Megan said. "I wanted to follow in her footsteps. I've been a dancer my whole life and did cheerleading for a while. I gave up cheerleading to be a Charmer."

The Cherokee Charmers were founded in 1962. Nearly 50 years later, the organization has grown, and their reputation has spread across the state. As girls enter high school, they have the opportunity to become a Maiden by signing up for the drill team class. To progress to varsity as a Charmer, girls must compete in tryouts. Once on the team, the girls learn more than dance.

As public figures, they are taught the importance of respect, discipline and responsibility. The glitz and glitter that makes up the life of a Charmer attracts many girls to the team. At every event a Charmer must be in character with "stop-sign-red lips" and a friendly smile. "Our motto is 'Yes, ma'am. Smile and wear red lipstick,'" Megan explained. "Once



a Charmer, always a Charmer. We have dedicated our lives to being Charmers. It takes a lot of hard work, and we are really proud of the name we put out there.”

“Being a Charmer has given me the opportunity to be friends with people I would otherwise have never met,” Libby admitted. “We love dancing and are one big family.”

The Charmers work year round with no off-season. Being a Charmer isn’t just about performing at football games. They perform at basketball games, attend competitions and host an annual spring show. Their year begins in the summer with a camp, where they learn two routines a day. The team practices at least five days a week for two hours. As competitions approach, they will also hold Saturday practices. Most go home and practice even more on their own to ensure they have learned the routines.

The Charmers learn over 50 different routines throughout the year. “I hold tryouts every week before a game and competition,” Erica said. “We want to look uniform on the field, and that means every girl must know her part.”

“You are sure to know the routine if you have to try out each week,” Jordan said. “If you don’t know it, you don’t dance.”

In the past, competitions have been held every other year. After this year, it will become an annual event. Competitions consist of team, ensemble and individual events. Preparing for these events takes all year, and the team arrives knowing the routines like they know the backs of their hands. The last competition the team attended was in New Orleans.

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The Charmers might be best known for their Friday night halftime routine at football games. Each week they try a different routine. From Earth Wind and Fire to Michael Jackson, they dance to music from past decades to prevent performing to anything another drill team might dance to. They rarely perform to current music at football games. During basketball season, 15 of the Charmer's elite dancers attend and perform at basketball games. Unlike football games, the music at the basketball games is more main stream — chosen to fit the crowd of students in attendance. "We want the parents and grandparents in the stands to know the music during the football games," Erica said. "We perform for their enjoyment, so choosing music from their time era is important. During basketball games, we want the kids in the stands to get excited, so we'll do more of what's on the radio."





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 For many clients, weight loss is only temporary.

These are the last few football games in which the five officers will lead the Charmers. They will finish out the year with competitions and their spring show in April at the Fine Arts Center. While they will be unsure what to do with all of their extra time once the year ends, it won't be long before each finds a way to continue dancing.

From the Kilgore Rangerettes of Kilgore College to studying for a career in professional dance, these officers have big dreams of where they will go, and it's all thanks to the charmed life they've led as they have entertained the Waxahachie community as Charmers. "People know who these girls are out in the community," Erica said. "They have learned life skills, respect and discipline while on this team. Their time as a Charmer will always be a big part of who they are." **NOW**

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Paul and Elizabeth Palmer are always ready to ride. The store offers everything a biker needs for a safe, fun ride.

Ride On

Thanks to the help of family and friends, Paul Palmer is living his dream.

— By Sandra Strong

Motorcycles seem to be making a comeback and are the chosen mode of transportation for many these days. Thankfully, The Shop has everything a biker needs when it comes to riding with safety and style. “We have a full line of motorcycle gear,” Elizabeth Palmer said. “We have something for everyone, from big and small to young and old.”

Paul Palmer dreamed of having his own motorcycle shop one day, but until he met Elizabeth online, he thought a dream was all it would ever be. “I came to visit her in Waxahachie, and the one thing I noticed were all the motorcycles,” he remembered. “I also noticed there were no motorcycle shops.” As the couple realized they were meant for one another, Paul decided it was

time to start saving money for marriage, and for the shop he’d only dreamed about.

When The Shop opened its doors to the public on August 26, 2009, Paul’s lifetime dream came true. “I’ve been riding bikes for nearly 40 years,” Paul stated. “I’ve wanted to open a shop of my own since I was a teenager.” Paul, who still works part time as a truck driver, admitted he would never have been able to open The Shop without his wife. “Elizabeth is helping make the dream come true.” While Paul is out on the road, Elizabeth and Nola, the resident shop dog, handle the business until he returns.

The Shop is much more than a business to the Palmers. “It’s a place where family can gather,” Paul said. “I guess you could say

Business **NOW**

I love the camaraderie with the customers so much that I consider them family.”

“I just love people in general,” Elizabeth added. “I grew up around deep sea diving. Deep sea divers and bikers are the same breed of people. They’re down-to-earth.”

“That’s true,” Paul agreed. “They will help you out no matter what, and we’ve found that bikers have a passion for children in need, too.”



Paul and Elizabeth are already gearing up for the annual Ellis County Toy Run that will take place next month. For the past several years, Toy Run riders have begun their journey at The Shop with a cup of coffee before making their way to Midlothian to start the trip back to Ennis.

The shop’s inventory includes heated motorcycle grips, gloves, vests and jacket liners, which are perfect for the colder weather that usually arrives before the Toy Run. The Shop also offers a full stock of riding gear, such as leathers, boots and helmets. Items that allow bikers to sport the latest style include: handbags, caps, T-shirts, sunglasses and a large selection of jewelry.

The Palmers encourage anyone with a bike to stop by and have their picture taken for the ever-growing “wall of fame.” If you stop by on a Friday, don’t be surprised if you get an invitation. “We have Friday night dinner rides,” Elizabeth said. The group leaves The Shop around 6:30 p.m., taking the back roads to their restaurant destination of the week. “There are about 45 of us now,” Paul said. “We may end up as far away as Seven Points or as close to home as Midlothian or Cedar Hill. Come on out and ride with us.” **NOW**

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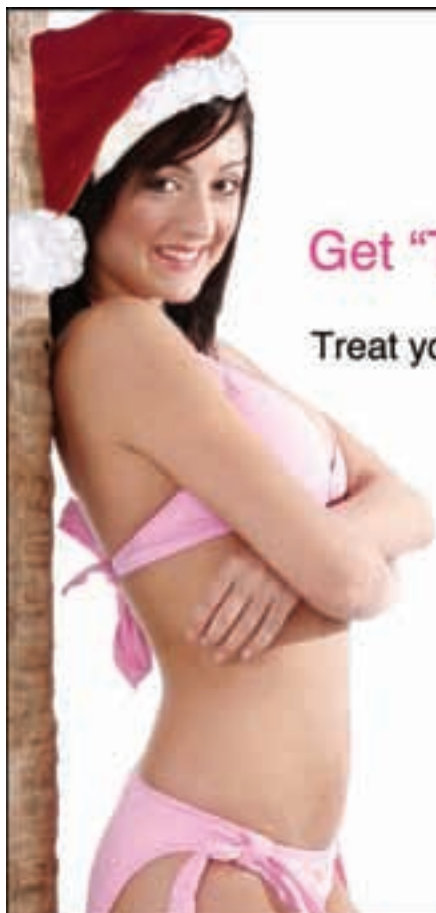
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The Waxahachie High School band marches during the homecoming parade.



Bonney and Mike Ramsey, 2011 Auction Co-chairs, take a moment to smile for the camera.



Kody and Mandie Harper take their new baby, Macon, home.



Loli Gomez & Sofia Schoonveld root on their favorite tackle football team, the Tomahawks.



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Supplement for Color

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Are you feeling weak, fatigued, dizzy, looking pale and perhaps craving substances that are not food such as chalk, clay or paper? You may have iron deficiency anemia, a condition characterized by not having enough red blood cells (RBC). Mild cases of anemia often go untreated because the symptoms are not distressing enough to send someone to the doctor for diagnosis. However, as the anemia becomes more pronounced, obviously the symptoms become more alarming. Your red blood cells are the vehicle for oxygen transport. If you do not have enough RBC, your body is not receiving the proper amount of oxygen, which can make you feel very fatigued, as well as cause other problems. Other symptoms of iron deficiency are headaches, inflamed or painful tongue, fast heartbeat and pale skin.

If you are not aware or paying attention to your health, you can be at risk for iron deficiency. A slow bleed over a period of time from conditions such as peptic ulcers, polyps, hemorrhoids or colon cancer can cause anemia. Women who have heavy menstrual periods can be at risk. Pregnant females must take precautions against becoming iron deficient, since they must provide iron not only for their body but also for their growing baby. Diets lacking in iron-enriching foods will also contribute to this condition. Usually, this deficiency can be corrected by taking iron supplements. Just as Vitamin D is important for the absorption of calcium, Vitamin C aids in the absorption of iron. However, check with your physician before drinking a big glass of orange juice with your iron supplement to make sure other conditions are not a factor.

If you suspect your iron levels are low, get a diagnosis instead of treating yourself. Too much iron in your body can damage your liver and cause complications. In addition, trying to self-medicate without knowing the reason for the problem, could delay appropriate treatment for a more serious condition. If your health care provider



determines you have iron deficiency anemia, the next logical step is to discover why and treat the disorder. Treatment may be as simple as taking iron supplements and eating an iron-rich diet. If the anemia is from a more serious condition such as ulcers or cancer, the physician will follow the protocol necessary for treatment.

In most cases, you can prevent iron deficiency anemia by eating a healthy diet that includes iron-rich foods such as eggs, dark leafy vegetables, red meat and iron-fortified cereals. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. **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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Two Great Trees for North Central Texas

— By *Nancy Fenton*

Two Texas natives have made it into my yard this year. They are Possumhaw Holly (*Ilex decidua*) and the Smoketree (*Cotinus obovatus*). Both of these trees are fast growing, very adaptable to alkaline soils and extremely drought-tolerant. They won't grow much over 15 feet tall, but that is all the better for under power and telephone lines. The Possumhaw Holly has gorgeous red or orange berries after it drops its leaves. It has often been called the "yaupon-like plant without any leaves." If you are trying to buy one, be sure to get one that has at least a few berries on it. Only the female plants will have the berries, but they all look alike the first two years!

The Smoketree is known more for its great foliage and beautiful spring flowers. Actually, there are three varieties, each with a little different color of leaf. The American Smoketree will show silky, pink leaves in the spring turning bluish to dark green. The blooms which cover the tree in late spring are wispy and smoky looking, hence the name. The Ancot Golden Spirit

has bright golden leaves and is multitrunked and a bit harder to trim into a tree shape. If it doesn't get trimmed, it makes a lovely shrub. The yellow blooms turn to the smoky blossoms of other smoketrees. The Royal Purple is the last one to look for. This tree has dark purple leaves with red veins and stems. Full sun will turn it even darker purple. Like the other varieties, it flowers from late spring to early summer, turning to the smoky blossoms that cover the tree.

Some local nurseries are trying to find these rare natives, so check with them before you head to the Internet. Plant them this fall and enjoy them next spring! If you are unsure about planting, check last month's article, ask the nurseries, or call the Master Gardeners at the Texas AgriLife Extension (972) 825-5175. **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.

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How to Buy a Car With Ease

— *By Aaron Penny Neighborhood Credit Union*

Fall is the best time of the year to buy a new vehicle. By October, most dealerships are making room on their lots and in their showrooms for the next year's new models. That usually means they are willing to sell what is already on their lots for a lot less money. If you are willing to shop around, you may drive away with a 2011 vehicle at a 2010 price. You definitely want to take advantage of these savings.

Many people often give up a good deal, because they don't like to haggle for a good price. They consider buying a car a hassle. If you arm yourself with the right information, you can be in control of the car buying process.

First, get pre-approved for an auto loan. At most credit unions, this is as easy as applying for an auto loan, but not applying for a specific dollar amount. You will be told how much you qualify to borrow. Use this as a bargaining tool. It's pretty hard for a salesperson to haggle with you when you have a limit on what you can spend. It also gives you a price range so you can start shopping.

Second, do your homework. Shop online. Decide what size vehicle you need and what features are appealing to you. Narrow down your vehicle picks to two or three, then read reviews on all of them and see which, if any, received high safety ratings and other industry recognitions. When you know exactly what you want, it's hard for a salesperson to sell you something different.

Third, get a price quote online. Many dealerships offer this service, and it gives you the control of letting dealerships

compete for your business. If they call you with a quote that isn't favorable, let them know another dealership quoted a lower price and ask them to make a counter offer. You can shop multiple dealerships without leaving your home or office.

Fourth, do the math before you accept special dealer offers like \$199 a month to lease a vehicle, zero percent financing or cash rebates. Leasing a vehicle may be a good deal. Just know there's a balloon payment at the end of that note, which will need to be paid in full or refinanced, leaving you to pay even more interest.

When dealers offer low-rate financing, there often are conditions attached. The low rate usually applies to specific models, or for specific terms — usually 36 months or less. If you're in the market for that specific model, or you can afford to pay off the loan in three years, this could be a good option for you.

Cash back incentives can either stand on their own, or they can be tied to a condition like purchasing a specific model or financing with the dealer. Ask before you get your heart set on a different model.

If you have the choice between cash back or dealer financing, think about taking the cash rebate and financing your vehicle at a credit union. That puts money back in your pocket and gives you an option for affordable financing. **NOW**

Aaron Penny is the branch manager at the Neighborhood Credit Union in Waxahachie.

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Heart of Texas Arts and Craft Show: **Nov. 4:** 2:00-8:00 p.m., **Nov. 5:** 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Admission: adults \$4, children 12 and under are free. Visit www.heartoftexasshow.com.

November 6

Daylight Savings Time ends.

November 11

Veterans Day

November 12

Pre-Christmas Craft Fair benefiting Student in Need Fund: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie High School, 1000 Dallas Highway. Contact Kim Kriegel at (972) 617-5928 or kkriegel@wisd.org.

Ellis County Veterans' Appreciation Ceremony 2011: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Waxahachie Civic Center. Call David Hudgins: (972) 937-1200 or Perry Giles: (972) 937-6171.

Thanksgiving Family Craft: 10:30-11:30 a.m., N.P. Sims Library. To celebrate the season we will be making Thanksgiving themed placemats. This program is for children 2-10 years of age and their families. Call (972) 937-2671 or e-mail children@simslib.org.

Tail Waggin' Tutors: noon-1:00 p.m., N.P. Sims Library. To improve reading skills, children will be reading

aloud to therapy dogs. Call (972) 937-2671 or e-mail children@simslib.org.

Old Fashioned Singing: 7:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium.

November 15

Girl Scouts in Waxahachie volunteer meeting: 7:00-8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Avenue. Visit joinus@gssu251.org, through the Web site at www.gssu251.org or via Facebook at www.facebook.com/gssu251.

November 24

Thanksgiving Day

December 2, 3

Waxahachie Junior Service League Christmas Market and Preview Party: **Friday**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Preview party will feature an exclusive shopping experience that includes cocktails, refreshments, live entertainment and a silent auction. Admission: \$25, good for Saturday also. Saturday only admission: \$5, children 10 and under are free. Saturday's market will feature unique gifts, photos with Santa, door prizes and more. WJSL cookbooks will also be available for purchase. www.waxahachiejls.org.

December 3

Annual Model Railroad Open House: noon-5:00 p.m.,

home of Bob and Freda Brand, 2509 Lake Ridge Road, Glenn Heights. Bring the family for a free tour of this extensive model train collection. Call (972) 230-8101.

Ongoing:

Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County: 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Avenue.

Third Fridays

Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Zula's Coffee House, 1804 West Highway 287 Business. Contact Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 or at vetsnetgrp@att.net.

Second and Fourth Saturdays

Songwriter Saturdays: 6:00 p.m. social time, 6:30-7:15 p.m. dinner and fellowship, 7:30-8:15 p.m. opening act, 8:30-10:00 p.m. featured artist. Contact Randy Tredway at (972) 938-9990 or randy@inthemusicroom.com. Bring beverages for yourself and a covered dish to share. Seating is limited.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



In The Kitchen With JoAnn Thompson

— By Sandra Strong

Like most good cooks, JoAnn Thompson has fond memories of her childhood. Being of German descent, she remembers having lots of great food as a youngster growing up in the country. Her mother taught her how to cook at a young age, but as an adult, JoAnn has loved “doing her own thing.”

“I love all kinds of cooking because it makes me happy to see other people enjoying what I’ve prepared,” she admitted, “but baking is my favorite.” She recently made bread pudding with rum sauce for her church auction. “It brought in \$300,” she added.

JoAnn gets her recipes from family, friends, cookbooks and the TV. “My children said I couldn’t share some of my recipes,” she laughed, “so mum’s the word.” **NOW**

Festive Pineapple-Cranberry Salad

- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple (undrained)**
- 2 4-oz. pkgs. raspberry Jell-O**
- 1 16-oz. can whole cranberry sauce**
- 1 apple, chopped**
- 2/3 cup chopped walnuts or pecans**

- 1.** Drain pineapple; reserve juice. Set pineapple aside. Add enough cold water to the juice to measure 3 cups. Pour into saucepan. Bring to a boil and remove from heat.
- 2.** Add dry gelatin; stir 2 minutes. Stir in cranberry sauce. Pour into a large bowl.
- 3.** Refrigerate 1 1/2 hours or until slightly thickened. Stir in pineapple, apple

and walnuts.

- 4.** Refrigerate 4 hours, or until firm.

Cheesy Black Bean and Artichoke Dip

- 2 15-oz. cans black beans, drained**
- 1 10-oz. pkg. frozen spinach, thawed, drained and chopped**
- 1/2 cup medium-hot salsa**
- 1 4-oz. can chopped green chilies, undrained**
- 1 tsp. minced garlic**
- 2 cups low-fat cheddar cheese, shredded**
- 1 14-oz. can artichoke hearts, chopped**
- 1/2 cup pepper jack cheese, shredded**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine beans, spinach, salsa, chilies, garlic, cheddar

cheese and artichoke hearts in a 1-quart casserole dish.

- 2.** Sprinkle pepper jack cheese on top.
- 3.** Bake for 30 minutes or until cheese is bubbly and golden.

Libby's Pumpkin Cheesecake

Crust:

- 1 1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs**
- 1/3 cup butter**
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar**

Filling:

- 3 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese**
- 1 cup granulated sugar**
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar, packed**
- 2 large eggs**
- 1 15-oz. can Libby's 100% Pure Pumpkin**
- 2/3 cup Nestlé Carnation evaporated milk**
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch**
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon**
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg**

Topping:

- 1 16-oz. container sour cream**
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**

1. For crust: Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine graham cracker crumbs, butter and sugar in medium bowl. Press onto bottom and 1 inch up side of ungreased 9-inch springform pan. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes (do not allow to brown). Cool on wire rack for 10 minutes.

2. For filling: Beat cream cheese, sugar and brown sugar in large mixing bowl until fluffy. Beat in eggs, pumpkin and evaporated milk. Add cornstarch, cinnamon and nutmeg; beat well. Pour into crust.

3. Bake for 55 to 60 minutes or until edge is set but center still moves slightly.

4. For topping: Combine sour cream, sugar and vanilla extract in small bowl; mix well. Spread over surface of warm cheesecake. Bake for 5 minutes. Cool on wire rack. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight. Remove side of springform pan.

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