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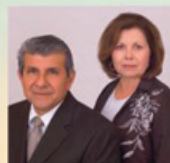
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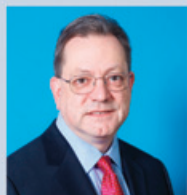
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ON THE COVER



Robin Guy is one in a cast of many committed volunteers.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

CONTENTS

November 2013 • Volume 10, Issue 11



8

The Bethlehem Bug

Behind-the-scenes workers help make the annual event a success.

16

Bella's Tale

Even heartworms couldn't slow Bella down.



16

22

We Call It Our Canvas

At Home With Joe and Loryn Leonard.



22

34

What School Can Be

Katrina Lemons recounts her journey through the education system.

42

Fall Family Fun

Let autumn begin with crafting ideas designed with the family in mind.

50 BusinessNOW
54 FinanceNOW
56 OutdoorsNOW
57 HealthNOW
60 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Don't do it!

Have you ever tried typing on your laptop with your toes? Take it from me, don't do it. You run the risk of losing everything in your inbox. I bet you're wondering what possessed me to try to type with my toes in the first place. I had a conversation with a co-worker about the importance of our arms and hands. Could we work productively without them?

Sadly enough, I found it would take lots of therapy — occupational, physical and emotional — for me to even type one legible word, let alone a phrase. I can laugh now as I think back on that OMG moment in time. And I can honestly say I'm thankful for the many gifts God has given me, including functional arms and hands. Without them, I'm not sure what I'd do — other than delete my inbox again and again.

Sandra

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THE BETHLEHEM BUG

— By Sandra Strong

The annual event known in the area as Bethlehem Revisited all began after a trip to Burnett, Texas, in 1995. Several members of Central Presbyterian Church made the trip to experience Burnett's rendition of the city of Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus Christ. Upon their return to Waxahachie, they quickly realized the endeavor of producing a similar live Christian performance was too big to handle on their own. The Chamber of Commerce, the city of Waxahachie and many other churches and individuals came on board to help turn the idea to reality.

Joanne Frisbee, Robin Guy, Connie and Pat Gorman along with some 200 volunteers help people revisit Bethlehem.





Seventeen years later, the alternative to Santa Claus is still going strong thanks to dedicated individuals who have withstood the test of time, trials that come with a production this size, cast and crew turnover and adverse weather conditions. “People do come and go,” said Connie Gorman, primary seamstress since the beginning, “but those who take ownership of the purpose of Bethlehem are the ones who make its meaning come to life. These dedicated individuals are the ones who keep Bethlehem Revisited going from year to year.”

“Our personal mission is to share the true story of Christmas,” said Robin Guy, set director and person in charge of props. “We couldn’t do this year after year without the cast

of people who work behind the scenes tirelessly all year long.” Connie and Robin weren’t the only two individuals who caught the “Bethlehem bug” in the very beginning.

As the acting chairwoman, Hilda Chapman is so thankful and blessed to have been a part of such a spiritually-moving production since its inception. Hilda’s greatest satisfaction comes in seeing the dedication and conviction of all those involved in this annual endeavor. Liz Tull is this year’s event vice-chairwoman, and Hilda is happy for the help.

As head of construction, Connie’s husband, Pat, began working with Bethlehem Revisited a couple years prior to the time Connie started designing and sewing the costumes worn





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by many of the actors and actresses each year. Pat admits his talent isn't acting; it's being good with his hands. "Mike Tull and I keep the grounds mowed and exterminated," Pat stated. "During the off season, I do a lot of building repairs and maintenance."

Steve Burwell has been the acting blacksmith since year one, and Doug Baum's family has also faithfully attended the event with their camels since the beginning. Arlene Hamilton has consistently worked the event year-after-year, while her husband, John, is the resident photographer. Joanne Frisbee has been the Bethlehem weaver for years. "You will see her teaching people the art of weaving during the presentation," Robin shared, "but the wonderful thing about Joanne is her heart to teach young girls how to master the craft all year long."

The board meets several times throughout the year. They brainstorm ideas in an effort to make each year's presentation better than the last. What began with black garbage bags stapled to wooden stakes has grown into a true replica of the bustling town of Bethlehem during the time of Jesus' birth, complete with the sights and sounds dating back over 2,000 years. "It's grown so much since those early trash-bag days," Connie added. "We really have come such a long way."

"All year long, we think about what we can do to make Bethlehem better," Robin admitted. "We make it happen on a limited budget, but it always comes to fruition."



According to their mission statement, the goal of Bethlehem Revisited and the over 200 volunteers who make it happen each year, is to present a nondenominational, historical depiction of the city of Bethlehem at the time of Christ's birth, complete with artisans, entrepreneurs, royalty, religious leaders, farmers and sheep herders. "The emphasis is on the Savior's birth," Robin said.

"It's authentic to the time period, right down to the items, sets, costumes and verbiage used while in character," Connie added. "We are always looking for artisans and ideas for new booths."



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Some of the actors enjoy dressing their own booths, while others look to the expertise of Connie and Robin when it comes to authenticity. “Connie and I are always on the lookout for stuff,” Robin confessed. “Bethlehem Revisited is always in the back of our minds, and it’s not at all uncommon for us to be carrying garage sale finds around for months before incorporating them into a set.”

So many things within the production have to be done repeatedly during the two weekends of the annual production. Herod’s Court outside the gates of Bethlehem and the marketplace within the city both have to be torn down and reset. Dough has to be prepared each morning so it can rise properly. Flutes, crafted by B.J. Sullivan, and souvenir coins, stamped by Steve Burwell, have to be constructed year-round so there will be plenty available to those who frequent the event.

Catching the Bethlehem bug is easy for those who are committed and have a heart for sharing the age-old story of Jesus’ birth with others. Exposing children to the reality as it was during

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that time in history has provided so many heartwarming stories, which keep the longtime volunteers coming back, even when they think it may be time to let others take over. Families leave the manger in awe after seeing the birth of Jesus. A lady from Jordan said it compared to the real Bethlehem, while another lady felt as if she'd returned to her home in Israel.

Some of the greatest rewards for the longtime volunteers come from the memories they cherish of the youngest visitors. The children retell the story of Jesus' birth with an innocence that's refreshing. One little boy comes rushing to Connie's memory, causing emotion to well up in her voice and her eyes. "After the crowd left the manger, this one little fellow stayed behind. He crawled under the fence, walked up to the manger and left a Hot Wheels car at the foot of the crèche as his gift to Jesus."

Central Presbyterian Church has played a huge part in the continued success of Bethlehem Revisited. They allow the use of the grounds, the sanctuary and the church office on production nights. The city of Waxahachie, along with the police department, has made it a point to help with the undertaking. A Boy Scout donated 10 benches as his Eagle Scout project, while Don Locke, DDS, offers his Last Supper quilt for all those in attendance.

"There are so many denominations and individuals who have helped grow this event," Robin said. "We are dependent on so many to make it come together each year. It's truly a labor of love. I know we've left so many out, but they know who they are, and they know we couldn't revisit Bethlehem each year without them." **NOW**

Editor's Note: Call the Chamber of Commerce at (972) 937-2390 for more information on volunteering for the annual event.

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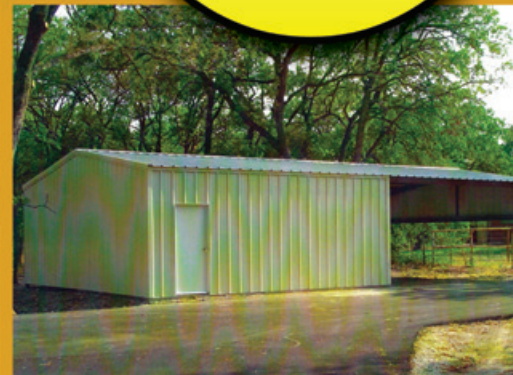
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BELLA'S TAIL

Dog owners often wonder what their dogs would say, if in fact their dogs could talk. Would they share their innermost thoughts? Would they tell their owners what they had been up to while they were home alone all day? If Bella the Labrador could talk, the story she would tell would be nothing less than a saga.

The first time Jill Smith saw Bella, she didn't give much thought to the skinny, little stray wandering the lawn at the bank near Whataburger. "We didn't even know if she was a girl or a boy," Jill recalled. "I'd see her wandering in the Whataburger parking lot or sometimes at the bank, the movie theater and even around the sports complex."

At the time, Bella was wandering the streets much like many dogs people see and quickly forget as they go about their lives.

— By Jon Peeler

"We were amazed at how smart and well-behaved she was. My mother calls her my angel dog."



But if Bella didn't have a family or a home to call her own, she definitely wasn't lacking in friends. She was living a hand-to-mouth existence, welcoming whatever scraps were given to her by employees and patrons of the businesses in the area.

No one knew where she was living, but everyone knew her by sight. Even though Bella didn't have a place to call home, she quickly became part of the scenery in that particular area off Broadhead Road. "I saw her often and sometimes wondered how she survived from day-to-day," Jill explained. "That was until the day we made eye contact as I was

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approaching the stop sign near the sports complex, and I knew then I had to do something for this dog."

The Smith family had dogs before and had recently planned on getting another. "I thought it might be time for another dog," Jill said. "But I had always thought I'd get a little lap dog. I never dreamed of getting a dog as big as a Lab."

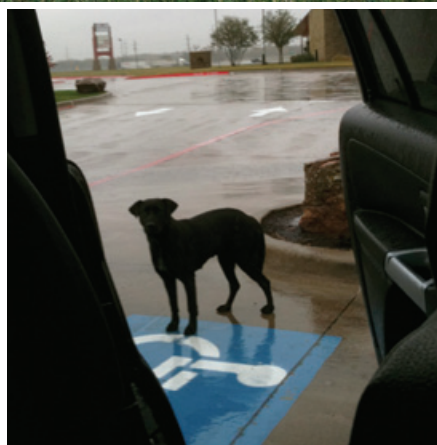
After talking it over with her husband, Daryl, who was the first to say, "Can we get the dog?" and talking with their daughter, Ashley, Jill agreed it was time to attempt to rescue the dog they had seen many times. That evening, they unanimously agreed to welcome her into their home. But, sometimes the ones in life with the greatest need are the same ones who are the most difficult to help. Seemingly, Bella's saga was just beginning, and she hadn't even made it to her new home yet.

"It was Thanksgiving Day. Daryl had to work, so Ashley and I had gone to the movies. There she was in the parking lot, "Jill recounted. "I called Daryl and asked him to stop by after work and try to get her." That was the first time Jill was able to get close enough to see the dog she had been bonding with from a distance was a female. "For two hours, I had been sitting in the theater listening to the *Twilight* story and thinking about this lost dog, so when I saw she was a girl she was instantly named Bella."

While the street-smart dog certainly wasn't a vampire, she was just as aloof and seemingly immortal as her namesake from the movie. Her time on the street had made Bella understandably skittish



Daryl, Jill and Ashley Smith have happily included Bella in their family.



of people. "We bought a cheeseburger to try to lure her to us, but it just wasn't meant to happen that day," Jill explained. "She ran off."

The Smiths weren't the only ones who had taken notice of Bella. Employees and patrons at the neighboring businesses were accustomed to seeing her as they came and went. For them, it was normal to leave food and water for her. One young boy went so far as to make a special trip every day to bring Bella food. Once she was even darted by the city in an attempt to take her in and hopefully give her a better life. Bella just wasn't ready to give up her wandering ways and slipped away each time, avoiding capture.

In the process, Bella was becoming something of a celebrity. Jill's desire to help her was just as well-known. "I had connected with an employee of the bank and gave her my phone number in case anything ever happened to her," Jill explained. "She wasn't our dog, but I felt responsible for her because we had bonded." Jill called local veterinarians to

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*"She wasn't our dog,
 but I felt responsible
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see if there was anything she could do to help rescue her. But Bella still wasn't ready for help.

Finally, on a cold, December day in a dramatic rescue captured for YouTube, animal control officers, along with locals trying to help her, succeeded in rescuing Bella. "One of the ladies at the bank called and told me Bella was at the shelter," Jill recalled.

Jill wasn't the only person who called the shelter in reference to her fate. After a flood of calls to the animal shelter, it was determined that Bella's new home would be with the Smith family.

Bella was taken to Brookside Animal Clinic where she was diagnosed with heartworms. After word spread of her circumstances, the same community of supporters who had come to love her from afar banded together, donating over \$500 to help cover her medical expenses. She was featured in newspaper articles and photo shoots. Bella's saga even inspired the young man who had lovingly brought her food daily to start an outreach program for homeless animals.

Doctors estimated Bella was about 3 years old, but it's much harder to estimate the life she led in those 36 months. Bella still has a scar on her left hip where it is believed she was hit by a car, and she is missing a toe. But even the heartworms that many times are fatal in canines weren't enough to slow Bella down.

Bella looks nothing like the thin, street-



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wise dog of her youth when she sits on her bed in front of the fireplace. "She really is the perfect dog," Jill said with a smile. "We really weren't sure how it was going to all work out. We didn't know if she would make a mess of the house or what her habits would be. But the first day she came right in and took a nap on the couch as though she had been here forever. We were amazed at how smart and well-behaved she was. My mother calls her my angel dog."



The story of Bella is nothing less than a multi-faceted story. She was on the streets for no fewer than 39 days, and that's just counting the days when people began to notice her in the area. But, those days of wandering are long behind Bella now. Her life as part of the Smith family is a much happier one — one that befits Bella perfectly. **NOW**

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**At Home With
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— By Carolyn Wills

Once upon a time, a talented and handsome young couple named Joe and Loryn Leonard made a special wish. They wanted to own a charming Waxahachie bungalow, slowly refurbish and redecorate it and make it their happy home. Their wish, though, was not for just any bungalow. It was for one with certain histories and a chain of important events.

That certain home was built in 1955 and purchased in 1958 by Loryn's great-grandmother, Della Mae Smith, and it has been in Loryn's family ever since. Loryn's grandmother, Earlene, lived in it until she was a teenager. Then, years later, Loryn's parents, Michael and Susan Brown, returned from working in New York and moved in with Della Mae. "I spent the first three years of my life here," Loryn smiled. "My great-grandmother retired as a seamstress to help care



for me, and we were very close.” Joe and Loryn have owned the house for nearly two years, and now they have a delightful 1-year-old daughter named Juniper Elizabeth. “Juniper is the fifth generation to live here,” Loryn said.

The connections in the Leonard’s home are clearly special. “We want to honor history, but also reflect our style,” Joe said. They’ve kept the original hardwood floors and have furnished the rooms with a mix of heirlooms — retro, refurbished and traditional treasures. What truly distinguishes their home, though, is the result of artistic talent. Joe and Loryn are both accomplished artists. Their creativity is seen in the use of color and the wonderful displays of contemporary art throughout the house. “Part of the fun of being an artist is we often trade with each other,” Joe said. “It’s a great way to build a collection.”

Joe is an art teacher at Skyline High School in Dallas and an adjunct ceramics instructor at both Cedar Valley College and Navarro College. He graduated



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from the University of North Texas in Denton and earned his master's degree at Wichita State University. His specialties are ceramic sculpture and pottery. Loryn has two art degrees. She has worked in art museums and is currently a special education teacher at Howard Junior High School in Waxahachie. She creates metal art including whimsical metal jewelry. They both exhibit at art shows and also do commissioned work. "We were inspired by Carl Block, our high school



art teacher and a well-known artist. He started The North Texas Art Collective which we are part of, and we often exhibit at their shows."

Not surprisingly, then, the home Della Mae owned is awash in style. "We call it our canvas," Loryn smiled. The house was originally 1,250 square feet until Loryn's parents built on a den, bathroom and master bedroom, creating an additional 700 square feet. That change allowed the kitchen and dining room to open to a large den with a grand fireplace. "The den is really comfortable," Joe said. "My favorite room, though, is probably the master bedroom. It's good-sized, toward the back of the house

and very quiet." The bedroom is painted a calming blue and furnished with the oversized light oak bedroom set that belonged to Loryn as a child.

The house has three bedrooms, two baths, front room, den, kitchen, dining area and attached garage. "My favorite is the front room," Loryn said. "It's the first to greet people, and it looks like a contemporary art gallery."

As for the wonderful colors, they are largely Loryn's domain. "I especially like spearmint shale and flamingo pink," she said. The den is painted soft green a la spearmint shale, and the kitchen is flamingo pink. "I've always wanted a pink kitchen with a black and white floor. We





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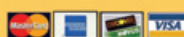
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have pink walls now, and I'm hoping we can remodel the kitchen soon." A photo of Loryn's mother, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother standing in the kitchen shows the room is the same as it's always been except for the wall color. "So it's time to remodel," she laughed.



In the two years they've been in their home, Joe and Loryn have painted just about everything. "It took three months to sand and repaint the wood siding and build and add exterior cedar shutters," Joe said. "We've also ripped out the old porch, replaced most light fixtures, gutted and completely remodeled the guest bathroom." A new backyard fence has been installed, and Joe and Loryn did all of the landscaping themselves.

"How Loryn and I met, married and bought this house is a cool story," Joe smiled. "Our marriage is like a fairy tale. We were born in the same hospital three days apart. We knew each other at Waxahachie High School where we shared art classes." They didn't start dating, though, until they met again in art class at the University of North Texas in Denton. "We were meant to be," he shared. "Now we live in this house with our daughter, and it means so much that, through our family, the tradition that Della Mae started is continuing."

It's also time to start their own traditions, beginning with Juniper Elizabeth, their singular and remarkably delightful daughter. "Elizabeth is a family



name that goes back five generations,” Loryn said. Appropriately, Juniper’s room is filled with color and fun and is the absolute expression of a happy little girl. “The nursery she had as a baby was once my nursery,” Loryn shared. “She has since moved into her ‘big’ room, which was once my older brother’s.”

Another member of the Leonard family and Juniper’s best friend and nanny is Thor, a 90-pound, 6-year-old Labrador mix. “He’s also a vacuum,” Loryn grinned. “Cleaning around Juniper’s high chair is the highlight of his day.”

While she was growing up, Loryn never thought she would stay in Waxahachie. “I left for about 10 years to study in London and live in Denton and Kansas before Joe and I decided to come back. We both love it here.”

“We wanted a place to grow as artists,” Joe said. “Waxahachie is blooming. There’s a lot of talent here, and Loryn has aspirations to open an art gallery downtown someday. It’s also a great place for families.”



“My mother, Susan, lives in Waxahachie, and everyone in my family flocks to her home for the holidays,” Loryn smiled. “Joe’s family gathers at his father’s home on Lake Limestone, so we’re close enough to celebrate with both families.”

Joe and Loryn are connected to each other, to family and through their artistic gifts. Above their bedroom is the quote *and they lived happily ever after*. It’s safe to say that this vibrant, loving couple is well on the way. **NOW**



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What School Can Be

— By Callie Revell

Katrina Lemons is going on her third year working with the Waxahachie Independent School District, but this is the first year she has had the chance to work with some of Waxahachie's



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youngest students. Five years ago, Katrina moved to Waxahachie from DeSoto with her husband of 15 years and three children. Her oldest children, twins, are students at Waxahachie Ninth Grade Academy, while her youngest son has recently transferred from Shackelford Elementary School to Clift Elementary School, a move inspired by his mother's new position as assistant principal of Clift Elementary.

"When I heard there was an opportunity at Clift, I all but stalked Magda Hernandez, the WISD assistant superintendent for human resources. I'm really serious! I was like, 'Oh, I want to be at Clift.' I was very excited about the possibility of coming to this campus," Katrina said. She had spent the last two years working as a teacher at Finley Junior High. Before that, she worked in the Duncanville ISD for a decade. Now that she's at Clift, though, Katrina believes she has found her niche. "I don't plan on going anywhere. This is the place I need to be."

Clift Middle School was reconfigured



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in the spring of 2011 to accommodate kindergarten through fifth grade students as Clift Elementary. Since then, the school has prided itself on its intimate and personal teaching, diverse student body and successful test scores. Katrina hopes to contribute to the strong academic tradition of Clift by fostering the literacy skills she values as an English teacher. "I grew up loving to read. It's fun to be able to share that with students and try to encourage those who are reluctant readers that there's always a book they can find kinship with," Katrina explained.

She understands that in the fast-paced world in which we live, it's difficult to find the time to read with children. "I know I'm a mom of three, and my kids are super busy. I think it's really important we read to them and take the opportunity to discuss it. Just encourage them to be literate, to be aware of current events going on," Katrina encouraged, emphasizing the importance of reading in a child's academic career. "With all subjects, reading is the foundation. No student can be successful in any subject if they cannot read the instructions and the material." This year, Clift has started a book club and has installed a Read Box in their library, a spoof of the popular video rental kiosks, Red Box.

Katrina attributes her love of reading to her mom, and her desire to teach to the excellent teachers she had growing up. "Initially, reading started out very difficult for me. My mom worked with me every night to improve my reading skills. I can remember when it finally



clicked, and I could read with fluency. Going to the public library with my mother became one of our weekly traditions. Additionally, I had some great teachers who saw things in me I didn't know existed," she admitted. "I had some teachers who pushed me and exposed me and my mother to take advantage of available opportunities." She remembers one teacher in particular who went the extra mile and created the opportunity for Katrina to attend the Hockaday Preparatory School for Girls in Dallas. "I was accepted, but I did not get financial aid. But I can recall going to that campus," she said. "There was on-campus boarding for students, they had an equestrian program with horses on-site — that just blew my mind being a student from an elementary school in South Dallas." Even though Katrina did not attend Hockaday, the experience opened her eyes, showing her "this is what school *can* be."

"What I liked about my teachers was

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they *wanted* to be there, and they put everything they had into us. They were truly master teachers in their ability to establish a nurturing environment, yet firm with high expectations and challenging instruction,” she continued. “Those things made me want to do the same thing when I grew up. I liked school, and I thought, *I could go to school every day as a teacher!* I just wanted to do for others what had been done for me.”

When Katrina decided to transition from teacher to administrator, she knew it would help her achieve her goal of reaching students. Of course, her journey to becoming an administrator is still underway. “It’s different when you are responsible for the little people, the big people—everything—and just answering questions and being a resource,” she said. “It’s going to take me a while before it becomes natural. I don’t expect to be an expert in a year. Every day gives me a new opportunity to learn something else.”

Because Katrina is no longer in a classroom setting, she gets to interact with more children — and younger children — than she ever has before. “When I’m a teacher, I only see a set group of students. As an administrator, you see everybody. All the students are speaking to you. They want their recognition and their time. The little ones want you to see their bubble in the hallway. They want a thumbs up. I get to interact with more students and

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parents, and it's going to assist me in being more compassionate as I get to know more families and students. The more I learn, the more I understand everyone is unique."

Working with elementary students has proven to be a great experience for Katrina. "They are hilarious. They will hug you. They are forgiving. Every day is a brand new day. They are honest," she confessed with a smile. "You don't have to wonder where you stand with them. And most of them want to do well. They want to be loved."

According to Christi Kubin, principal of Clift Elementary, "Katrina has a positive, upbeat presence about her. She took the bull by the horns and presented herself in a confident manner. She has that genuine quality of having people come together for a common goal. We're very lucky to have her here."

"Clift Elementary is a great place, and the proof is in the pudding, because they have a Lemons' child," Katrina laughed. "He's happy, and he's thriving."

So far, Katrina's journey from teacher to administrator has been enlightening. "It's been very humbling, teaching me what I thought I knew that I don't know and teaching me how to work with different issues I hadn't seen before. I thought I had seen it all, but I really haven't," Katrina said. "I'm enjoying the journey. I love it. When you are passionate about what you're doing, it doesn't seem like work." **NOW**

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FALL FAMILY FUN

— By Sandra Strong

Families have extra time to share in November as the sun sets earlier and the temperatures begin to drop. The fall craft ideas listed below are designed for the entire family and can help you fill a chilly evening or long weekend. We hope these activities will facilitate fun and laughter while you make lasting family memories.

FALL TREE

Recycle a puzzle that's missing some pieces into a priceless work of art, while making memories with the youngest members of the family. Your fall tree can be kept for years in a scrapbook, or a magnet can be glued to the back to make the perfect fall decor for the family's refrigerator door.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY

- Child-safe scissors
- Cardboard
- Paint brush
- Black acrylic paint
- Blue craft foam
- White craft glue
- 36 small puzzle pieces
- Gold, red and brown acrylic paint
- Small brown lunch bag
- Green yarn



HOW TO DO IT. ▼

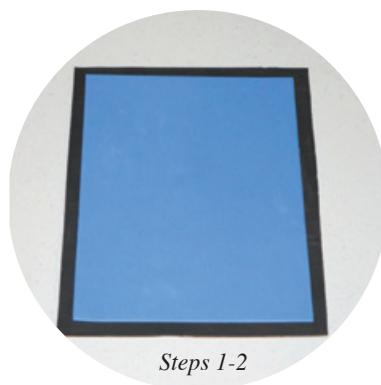
1. Create frame by cutting cardboard into a piece measuring 8 1/2x11-inches. Paint front side black. Allow to dry completely.

2. Create background by cutting foam into a piece measuring 7 1/2 x10-inches. Glue foam to cardboard allowing cardboard to frame the foam.

3. Paint one side of the puzzle pieces, alternating gold, red and brown until you have three equal piles of 12 to create fall leaves. Allow to dry completely.

4. Cut bottom off lunch bag and discard. Wad up remaining section of bag to form tree trunk. Set aside.

5. Cut green yarn into 1/2- and 1-inch pieces to represent grass. Glue bag to bottom edge of foam to make trunk.





6. **Glue yarn** pieces randomly along bottom edge of foam to make grass. Glue puzzle pieces haphazardly around bag to represent leaves on the tree, making sure to glue some in the grass around the bottom of the trunk to represent leaves that have already fallen. Allow to dry overnight before displaying.



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This three-dimensional hand turkey can be used annually as a holiday table topper or mantel decoration. More than one can be made and presented to those grandparents who can't get enough of their grandchildren!

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MEDIUM

- Tracing pencil
- 2 squares beige felt
- Scissors
- 1 square each: red, orange and yellow felt
- Pinking shears
- White craft glue
- Cool melt hot glue
- Wiggle eyes, 2 each
- 3x2 1/2-inch piece of cardboard
- Brown acrylic paint
- Cotton balls

HOW TO DO IT. ▼

1. **Trace hand print** on both pieces of beige felt. Cut both prints out.
2. **Using pinking shears**, cut 6 red, 6 orange and 2 yellow triangles (2 1/2 inches from top to bottom and 2 inches from side-to-side for adult handprint and 2 inches from top-to-bottom and 1 1/2 inches from side-to-side for child's handprint).
3. **Glue handprints together** with craft glue making sure to leave palm area and bottom unglued. Let dry. Reinforce with hot glue if needed.
4. **Using craft or hot glue**, glue 3 red triangles in between fingers on each side. Glue 3 orange triangles in the middle on each side. Glue 1 yellow triangle toward the bottom on each side. Let dry.
5. **Cut two very small triangles** from remaining yellow felt, gluing on each side to make turkey's beak. Glue eyes in place. Let dry.
6. **Paint cardboard brown.** Let dry. Stuff cotton balls into bottom opening to plump up the holiday hand turkey. Glue turkey to board before displaying.



Step 1



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Step 3



Steps 4-5



Step 6

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DIFFICULTY LEVEL: MEDIUM TO CHALLENGING.

- Sepia-tone photographs from nature that spell THANKS
- Scissors
- Holiday scrapbook paper
- Natural burlap
- Elmer's craft glue
- 12 clothespins
- Twisted jute twine, 5-foot length

HOW TO DO IT. ▼

1. Take photos in nature. You can design them yourself to complete the project sooner, or you can hunt until you find the "letters" to spell THANKS. Have photos developed into 4x6 prints.



2. Cut holiday printed paper into 6 5x7-inch rectangles. Cut burlap into 6 6x8-inch rectangles.



3. Glue paper to burlap. Let dry. Glue photo to paper making sure to secure corners. Let dry.

4. Trim burlap from top allowing the paper edge to be your guide. Make fringe frame by shredding remaining edges of burlap by pulling strands until reaching edge of paper.



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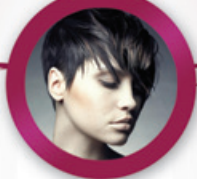


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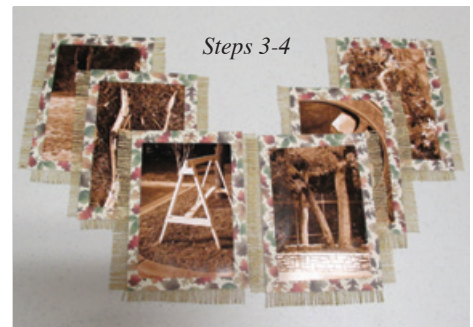
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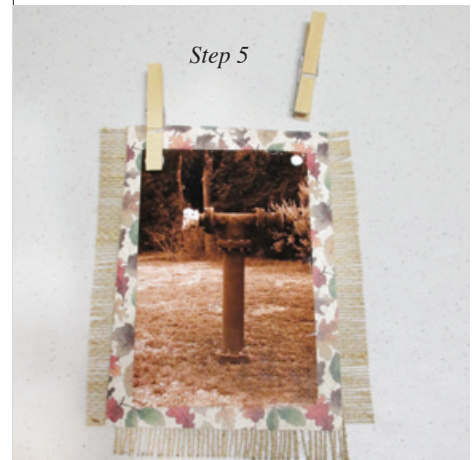
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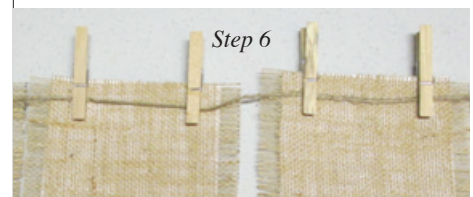


5. Glue clothespins to front corners of photographs only. Let dry. Backside needs to remain unglued to allow for stringing.



6. Lay photos face down. Thread twine through circular cutout on clothespin allowing you to hang pictures in the same manner you would hang clothes on a line. This trick also allows you to move photos freely on the twine, bringing them close together or stretching them farther apart.

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Scentsy opened up a whole new fragrance world for consultant Debi Mangan, and it can do the same for you through home, catalog and online shows.



The Smell That Sells

Debi Mangan offers a quality product at a great price.

— By Sandra Strong

As Debi Mangan talks about Scentsy, it's easy to see her passion for the product line that offers a scent for everyone. "We have over 80 scents available for customers to choose from," she said. "My favorite scents are black raspberry vanilla and sweet pea and vanilla."

Debi was living in Canton when she was introduced to Scentsy. She learned firsthand how the product works wonders when preparing a home for the market. "I was helping 'dress' a home to get it ready to sale," she remembered. "Scentsy works really well in the real estate market."

That first encounter was in December 2006. Just one month later, Debi became a Scentsy consultant. For a year, she taught customers in Canton about the "smell that sells" before moving back to Waxahachie to be closer to her family. Her mission hasn't changed. She still believes in the importance of being upfront and honest with customers, while giving them the best price for the best product.

After spending a lifetime with allergies to wicked candles and the invisible soot they leave behind, Debi now finds satisfaction in knowing she can enjoy rich, long-lasting aromas

thanks to Scentsy. "Scentsy opened up a whole new fragrance world for me," she admitted. "And they're safe candles — no flame means no chance of fire."

Debi has spent years opening this same fragrance door to others through home, catalog and online shows. When she first became a consultant, she made a commitment not only to Scentsy, but to herself, that she would work diligently to offer the products she firmly believes in to those who have an interest in learning more. "I host one to two events per month," she said, "and I'll do as many parties in a month as someone wants to do. I also participate in several community fundraising events." The product line has grown to include a large assortment of products for the home, the bath, the body and those on-the-go. There's a whole new world of Scentsy options open to customers today.

Valuable lessons have been learned during her time with Scentsy. One costly memory came during a summer event when the excessive heat caused her candles to start melting. The hard lesson learned that weekend was that no matter what she has prepared for, she must expect the unexpected. "Just like in any small business," she said, "you have to work extra hard to make it successful."

Her strong commitment to Scentsy and its sister companies, Grace Adele Fashions and Velata, a food/entertaining venture, have afforded her several trips and awards, as well as her home and new pool. "My specialty is Scentsy, and it has provided a nice income," she stated. "It hasn't been easy, but it's been worth the hard work and long hours." Debi admits the last three years have been somewhat easier and more manageable thanks to Alex Teale, her executive assistant. "Alex is so detail-oriented. I trust her with anything and everything," Debi said. "Her creativity and desire to do a good job are priceless."

Debi is one of those individuals who can honestly say she loves her job. With Scentsy products, she is able to bless customers by filling every room in their home and beyond with clean, safe fragrances of their choosing. Her goal will always be customer satisfaction. **NOW**

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County Judge Carol Bush and Michel Moser enjoy the Godfather theme at the Chamber auction event.



Elise Farmer helps her mom pass out gluten-free, red velvet, cake samples at a recent BNI Excellent Referrals Chapter meeting.



Army National Guard and friends run down Ferris Avenue for the memory of those who fell on 9/11.



The WHS graduating class of 1993 smiles for the camera during one of many homecoming events.



Dentistry From the Heart staffers take time to smile for the camera during the Saturday free dental clinic event hosted by Waxahachie Family Dentistry.



Harper Grace Atkins, 3, and Caden Atkins, 5, enjoy the morning at Oktoberfest as evidenced by their smiles and uniquely painted faces.



Mary Lou Pike, Bill Siglar and Carolyn Reichle fellowship during a recent Friday night dinner event.



Bella and Grace Bray, 4 and 8 respectively, enjoy a warm fall Saturday on the bike trail.



Easton McIntosh visits the Texas State Fair for the first time with his mom and dad, Michelle and Nick.



Rhonda and Rick Hensley, NOW Magazines General Manager, are all smiles during the annual Chamber auction.



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Three popular ways to save for college are:

- **529 Plans.** These “qualified tuition programs” allow you to save and prepay for college tuition under Section 529 (b) of the Internal Revenue Code. The 529 college savings plan allows you or any other family member to open an account specifically for future higher education expenses. A 529 plan lets you invest in any public college or university in your state at present-day prices. Residency requirements apply. Your investment is tax-deferred and distributions from the fund are exempt from federal income tax.

- **Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA).** A Coverdell ESA is a trust that lets you contribute funds earmarked for future educational costs (elementary and secondary education through college and graduate school), up to \$2,000 per year, per child. Contributions can begin at birth and continue until a child turns 18 years of age. Coverdell ESA accounts are exempted from federal income tax and withdrawals are tax-free.

- **UGMA and UTMA Accounts.** You can also set up a college account for your child under the Uniform Gift to Minors Act (UGMA) or the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA).

With these two accounts you can make monetary gifts toward your child's future educational needs without setting up a trust. Minors can take control of the funds when they reach the age of trust termination (which is age 18 to 21, depending on state and account restrictions). The donor pays no taxes. Income from UGMA/UTMA accounts must be reported on the child's tax return, but the assets are taxed at a much lower tax rate than those of an adult.

Talk to your financial advisor before moving forward with any of these educational account options. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider the plan's investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses. Contact the plan issuer for an official statement containing this and other information. Read it carefully. An investor should consider, before investing, whether the investor's or designated beneficiary's home state offers any state tax or other benefits that are only available for investments in such state's qualified tuition program. **NOW**

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Time to Sit Back

November is a great time to sit back, browse the catalogs and take inventory of what you have and what you need to do. I like to use this time to clean up and sharpen my tools. Clippers are a real challenge and need a bit of concentration. If you have an old pair, think about refreshing them. Cleaning your clippers with light oil and steel wool is a good place to start. The best way to sharpen them depends on if they are anvil (the ones with a single blade that hits on a blunt edge or anvil) or if they are bypass (two sharp blades that move past one another with a scissor motion).

If they are anvil clippers, sharpen both edges of the sharp blade. You can use a screwdriver or a wrench to take the clippers apart to make it easier. Keep them steady or put them in a vice. File or use a whetstone to put a clean, sharp edge on one side and then the other. Just be sure that you stay with the factory bevel or angle of the blade. One way to clearly see the bevel is to take a dark magic marker and run it along the side you are working on. When the marker comes off, you know you have accomplished your goal. The flat blade will only need a bit of cleaning. It should have a groove for sap, so be sure to clean it and then test it out.

The bypass clipper really needs to come apart. Use your finger and work the spring loose, and then use your wrench and loosen the locknut to pull the blades apart. After you have cleaned them, you can sharpen the blades in much the same way as you would anvil clippers.

Having sharp tools makes working with them so very much easier. Shovels and hoes are easier to sharpen than clippers are, because you can use a file. Just clean and secure the tool, so it doesn't slip on you. The marker is a big help in maintaining the right bevel.

Enjoy your late fall and winter and know you will be ready when it comes time to dig again! Stay tuned for gift suggestions for your gardeners! **NOW**

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A Painful Swallow

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

One minute you are humming along just fine. The next minute your throat feels so horrendous you practically quiver when you swallow. Your body temperature shoots into the fever zone. All you have the energy to do is lie down with the wretchedness of your misery. You may have a strep throat infection. The majority of sore throats are not from strep but from viruses. Strep throat is a bacterial infection from *Streptococcus pyogenes* bacteria. This is not to say sore throats from viruses are not also painful. They can be, but they are usually not as intense as with strep.

To be absolutely sure of a strep diagnosis, laboratory tests must be given. However, there are some clues that point to strep being the culprit. If the symptoms come on suddenly with a high fever, tender swollen lymph nodes in the neck area, fatigue and an extremely sore throat, it may be from a strep infection as opposed to a cold or other viral infection. Also, if you look at your tonsils, and they have white or yellow patches of pus on them, it is probably from a strep infection. The typical symptoms of a cold or viral infection — coughing, sneezing, congestion, runny nose — are usually absent with strep throat infection.

Even if you come to the conclusion you have strep throat without the benefit of lab tests, it still needs to be treated with antibiotics. Treatment will lessen

the symptoms fairly quickly, and you will feel better. Treating strep infections is very important, because of possible complications, such as rheumatic fever, scarlet fever and kidney complications. After taking the antibiotics for 24 hours, you are no longer contagious. If you feel well enough, you may resume your duties. If you are prescribed a course of antibiotics, take all of the medication as ordered. Stopping your treatment after you feel better can lead to relapse and still leave you vulnerable to complications. Discontinuing antibiotics prematurely also contributes to antibiotic resistant organisms.

The best way to prevent a strep infection is to hold high standards for your personal hygiene. Wash your hands frequently — particularly if you are around someone who has strep throat. Do not share personal items such as towels, cutlery, plates, drinking glasses, etc. Since the bacteria is spread by droplets, be diligent about containing sneezes and coughs in a manner that doesn't spew them into the air. If you do get strep throat, see your doctor, complete your medication, take care of yourself and feel better soon! **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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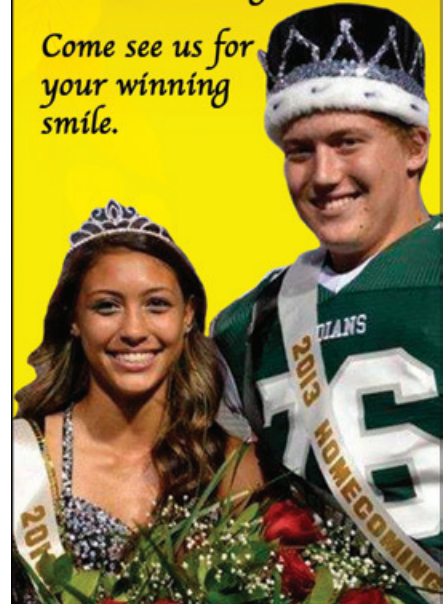
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November 1, 2

Heaven's Front Porch: **Friday**, 7:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 3:00 p.m., historic Chautauqua Auditorium. Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing presents a staged musical featuring quality arrangements of several well-known hymns and gospel songs. Contact artistic director R. G. Huff at (972) 923-2709 or visit www.WaxaOFS.com.

November 2

Pre-Christmas Craft Fair: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Buffalo Creek Baptist Church, 2032 S. Hwy 77. For more information, contact Judy at italygoatlady@yahoo.com or call her at (469) 335-3573. You can also visit www.buffalocreekbaptist.org or call the church office at (972) 937-0500.

November 9

Jog for Dogs 5K Benefit Run: 8:00 a.m., Midlothian ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium. Proceeds go toward the cost of Joshua Seller's

diabetic alert service god. Visit www.facebook.com/jogfordogsmidlothiantx for further details.

Harvest and Holly Days Craft Show and Bake Sale: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 505 W. Marvin Ave. Pictures with Santa from 10:00-noon. Activities for the whole family!

November 19

Girl Scout Monthly Volunteer meeting: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Brown Street Church of Christ, 2471 Brown St. For more information, visit joinus@gssu251.org.

November 20, 21, 22, 23

Ellis County Habitat for Humanity Festival of Trees: **Nov. 20**, 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., deliver and set up trees; **Nov. 21**, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Service Organization Luncheon; **Nov. 22**, 5:00-9:00 p.m., preview trees, wreaths and table decorations with bidding included; **Nov. 23**, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., final day of bidding includes activities for the family; Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand St. Free. Call Teresa McNiel at (214) 244-0711 or the Habitat office at (972) 937-2797 for more details.

November 29 — December 22

3rd Annual German American Holiday Market "Christkindl": **Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays**, Noon-9:00 p.m.; **Fridays**, Noon-10:00 p.m.; **Saturdays**, 10:00 a.m.-noon; main entrance next to the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington at Six Flags and Ballpark Way. Admission and parking are free.

December 7, 8

Model Railroad Open House: 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., at the home of Bob and Freda Brand, 2509 Lake Ridge Rd., Glenn Heights. Public invited, children welcome.

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Waxahachie Jamboree: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Women's Building, 407 W. Jefferson St. For more information, call Hoyt Patterson at (214) 535-3473 or visit www.waxahachiejamboree.com.

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

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In The Kitchen With Glenn Morrill

— *By Sandra Strong*

Firefighter Glenn Morrill enjoys sitting down to eat with his family. “In our world of instant information, overstimulation and hyperconnectivity, it’s important to take time to turn off the electronics and share a meal with our loved ones,” Glenn said. “I draw a lot of pleasure from seeing my family and my fellow firefighters enjoy my cooking. It’s rewarding to prepare food that both looks and tastes good.”

Glenn’s love for cooking came as a child. “My ‘grandma’ was a professional baker, and my ‘big momma’ was a traditional southern cook who seemed to always have food waiting just in case someone showed up hungry.” In both cases, no one was ever allowed to leave either of his grandmothers’ kitchens without a full stomach. **NOW**

Easy Peasy Pot Roast

Beef roast, cut and size your choice

1/2 cup flour

Salt and pepper, to taste

1-2 tsp. olive oil

Splash balsamic vinegar or red wine

4-5 large carrots, peeled and sliced

1 large onion, peeled and diced

Red or gold potatoes, washed and diced, 1-2/person

2 cloves garlic, peeled and crushed

1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes with Italian seasoning

2-3 cups beef stock

1. Dust the roast with flour; season with salt and pepper. Set aside. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Sear roast on all sides.

2. Remove meat from skillet; place in a

large Crock-Pot. Deglaze skillet with a splash of vinegar or wine; pour over roast. Add remaining ingredients to Crock-Pot using just enough beef stock to just cover the top of the vegetables.

3. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours or on high for 4 hours. Cook until meat falls apart and vegetables are tender.

Lemon and Garlic Chicken

4 cups chicken broth

20 whole garlic cloves, peeled

3 large lemons

3 Tbsp. salted butter

3 Tbsp. olive oil

5-6 chicken breasts, boneless and skinless

Salt and pepper, to taste

4 Tbsp. flour

1/2 cup white wine or chicken broth

1. In a stock pot, bring broth and garlic to a rapid boil; cover, reduce heat; simmer for 45 minutes. Remove from heat; strain, making sure to retain garlic. Set broth and garlic aside.

2. Preheat oven to 350 F. Cut ends of lemons; slice off peel and pith completely. Slice remaining lemon flesh into several thick slices; removing seeds in the process. Set aside.

3. Heat up a heavy-bottom, oven-safe pan; make sure pan has a lid. Melt butter with olive oil. Season chicken with salt and pepper. Sear both sides of chicken for about 2 minutes. Remove chicken.

4. Sprinkle flour into hot pan; stirring with whisk. While whisking, add wine or chicken broth to create a roux. Continue to cook for a minute or so, making sure not to brown too much. Slowly pour broth into rue; whisking vigorously to prevent lumps.

5. Return chicken to the pan; bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Sprinkle garlic over chicken; layer lemon slices onto the chicken and in sauce. Cover; bake for 30-45 minutes until chicken is done. Remove; serve with boiled, lightly buttered red potatoes.

Randy Johnston’s Chicken Pot Pie

1 10.5-oz. can cream of chicken soup

1 10.5-oz. can cream of mushroom or celery soup, your choice

1/2 soup can milk

2 9.75-oz. cans chunk white chicken

2 10.5-oz. cans Veg-All mixed vegetables

2 prepared pie crusts

1 pkg. frozen Filo dough

2 Tbsp. butter, or to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine soups and milk in a large skillet over medium heat; whisking until smooth. Add chicken and vegetables. Bring to just a boil. Remove from heat; ladle even amounts into pie crusts.

2. Place Filo dough over top of pies according to pkg. directions, basically one layer at a time. (I usually use 5-8 layers per pie.) Lightly brush each layer with butter. Trim edges; bake in oven for 30 minutes until golden brown.

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