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NOVEMBER 2015

2015
Holiday
Shopping
Guide

The Well-known Voice

A positive
attitude goes
a long way
with
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Farmer

An Avid Traveler

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Nancy Brady

The Power of Perseverance

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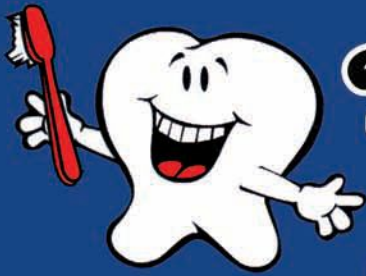
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ON THE COVER



Royann Farmer is finding great joy in retirement.

Photography by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

As I looked at the patchwork quilt, I was amazed at how the quilt squares came together perfectly at each corner. I found joy in the way each colorful patch flowed into the next. As I continued to study the quilt, I began to see how the patches mirrored my life's journey thus far.

Although I'm a little rough around the edges and my attitude sometimes fades to gray, the quilt of my life tells a story of many colors. The reds represent the compassion I have for others. The blues are the tears I've cried along the way. The blacks, grays and browns paint a picture of the bumps and bruises I've endured.

Separately, they are *just* colors, but when seen as a patchwork quilt, they become my colorful life. What colors do you find in your patchwork quilt?

Sandra

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The Well-known Voice

— By Sandra Strong



Royann Farmer retired from Ennis ISD at the end of the 2011-2012 school year, after 25 years of consecutive service. Her career in the field of education began at Travis Elementary in the special education department. After three years there, she moved to Bowie Elementary, but her time at Bowie was short lived. “Don Walker was the assistant superintendent at that time,” Royann shared. “At the beginning of the first semester, Mr. Walker asked me to go to the high school for one day to see how I liked it.”

That first day, she worked with Brenda Collier. “I knew it would be a challenge, but Brenda was a dream to work with,” she stated. “I feared I’d never get it all down, but I did finally learn what switch on the callboard belonged to what teacher.”

The principal at the time was Bill Chapman. He *also* wanted to make sure the transfer to the high school would work out for the good of the whole. Royann had a daughter who was starting her senior year, and Bill wanted to make sure she would be OK with her mom working in the front office. Of course, she said it would be fine. “And it gave me the chance to see her a few times throughout the day,” Royann added.

In the receptionist position, Royann’s voice was the first one heard as the phone was answered. Her main duty was to be cordial. She greeted people with a smile and a kind word, and she taught her office aides to do the same. “Getting frustrated wasn’t in my job description,” she said. “I was there to serve, and I served with a smile.”

This 21-year journey at the high school filled Royann’s heart with so many wonderful memories. Although no day was perfect, she remembers that most of her days were quite pleasant. “You can make it a good day or a bad day. I had more good days than bad,” she said, referring to the philosophy she still holds true to in retirement. “It all depends on your attitude and disposition. I tell my grandchildren this all the time. If you do fail at something, do the right thing and get back up. It’s all about keeping a positive attitude.”

The transition from small children to young adults seemed to come naturally for Royann. The younger students took more time because their needs were greater, while the older students were more self-sufficient. “I feel you have to possess a passion for the school and its children in order to find joy and contentment in the job you’ve been hired to do,” she explained. “Students and co-workers know when you’re being ‘real’ and when you aren’t.”

Royann’s role as the well-known voice the community came to know and love proved very essential to so many. “I thought it was important to be in service to the children, staff, administration and parents,” she stated. “As the campus receptionist, I had so many dealings with so many individuals.” Those same individuals came to rely on Royann’s calm demeanor, listening ear and kind, sincere words of encouragement.

The changes that were implemented over her tenure didn’t bother Royann much at all. She was able to successfully “roll with the punches,” especially when it came to technology and heavier campus security. “I always looked for the positive in all things,” she said.

Peer pressure also grew during her time at the high school. Sometimes the pressure from athletics, testing and grades was too heavy for some students to handle. “Trying to keep up with others seemed so important,” she said, “but I always tried to teach them to be proud of where they were in life — to try their hardest and not worry about what others were doing.” When she’d see these

“I was there
to *serve*, and
I served with
a *smile*.”



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same students smiling later in the school year, it made her smile, too, because it meant they had found some joy deep down within themselves.

Several times, she was lovingly accused of being too easy with some of the students she served, but Royann has never regretted the way she treated others. "I am NaNa to so many people, still to this day," she confessed. "So many of my kids are married and now have families of their own."

Some would push the envelope to see how far they could actually go, but no one ever broke Royann's spirit or her desire to serve. As she reminisced, she remembered a couple of boys that seemed to find trouble or wait on trouble to find them. They would be

disrespectful, but Royann won them over with her one-of-a-kind brand of patience topped with lots of loving-kindness. "Three years later, on graduation day, those boys, then seniors, stopped by the office to give me roses," she said, with emotion in her voice. "I will never forget that."

The one thing that makes Royann feel her age is seeing students who she helped while they were in high school come back to the campus as teachers. "I've seen so many success stories," she explained. "My greatest pleasure came when I'd see students with an 'I don't care' attitude toward school and life change midstream. They would go on to graduate and become successful members of the community."

Had it not been for her age of 75, Royann believes she would have served the district for several more years. But, spending time with her husband, her 13 grandchildren and soon-to-be 16 great-grandchildren is bringing so much joy to her retirement. "I'm able to take care of things here at home now," she shared. "I can drive family to and from the doctor. I can pick up and deliver kids, when needed. And no one close to 80 needs to be driving back and forth to town every day to work."

Before going to work at Ennis ISD, Royann never took naps. Since retirement, she now eagerly looks forward to her afternoon "power nap."



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"I enjoy my 15-20 minutes of rest," she confessed. "When I don't get it, it sure does hurt."

When the time to leave came closer, Royann told all those around her that she didn't want or need a going away party. She wanted to walk out the door as if she were going home, much like the way she walked in that first day so many years ago. "I never had a day that was so bad that it made me want to quit," she explained. "I met so many wonderful people along the way. I enjoyed every single minute of it." **NOW**

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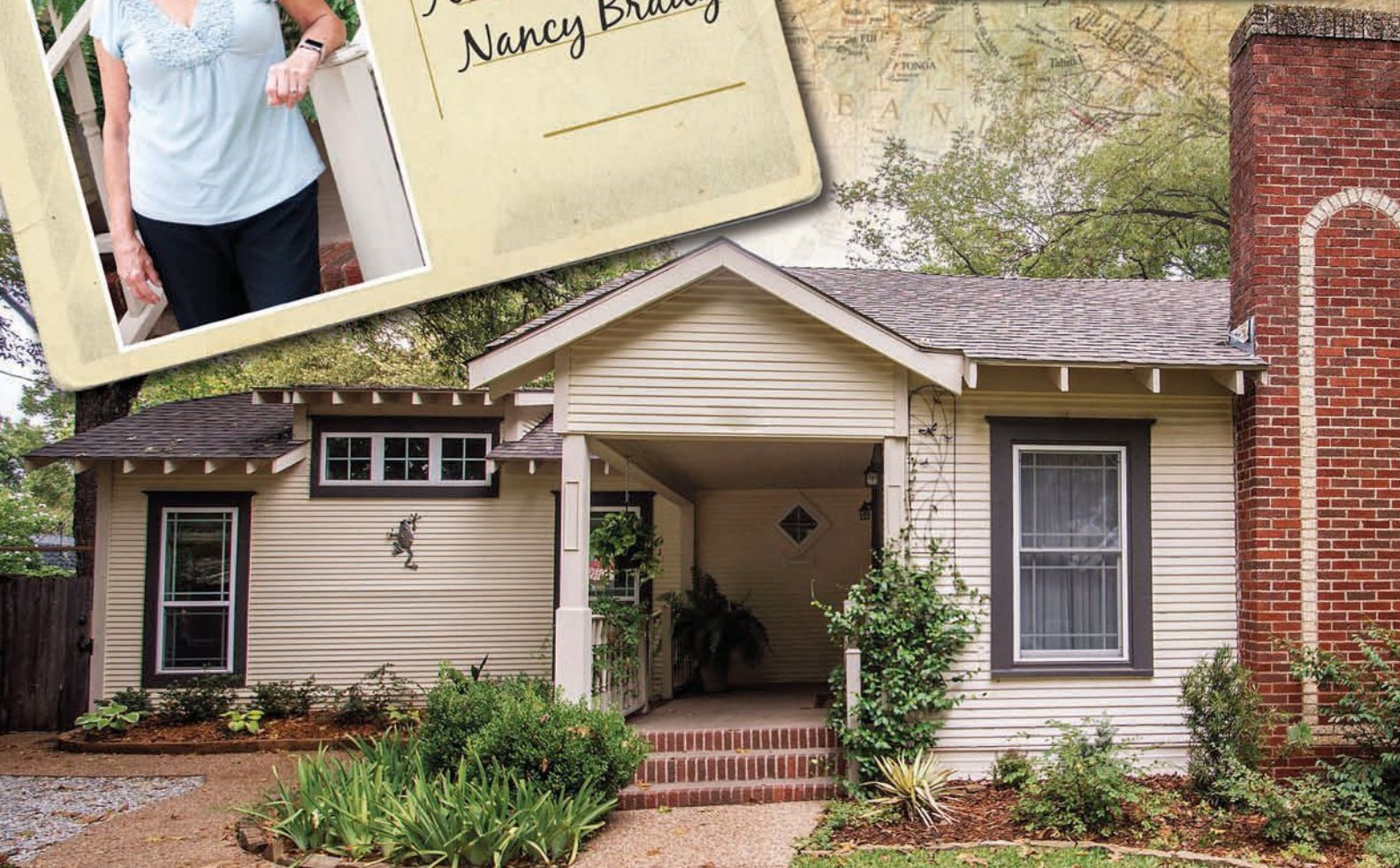
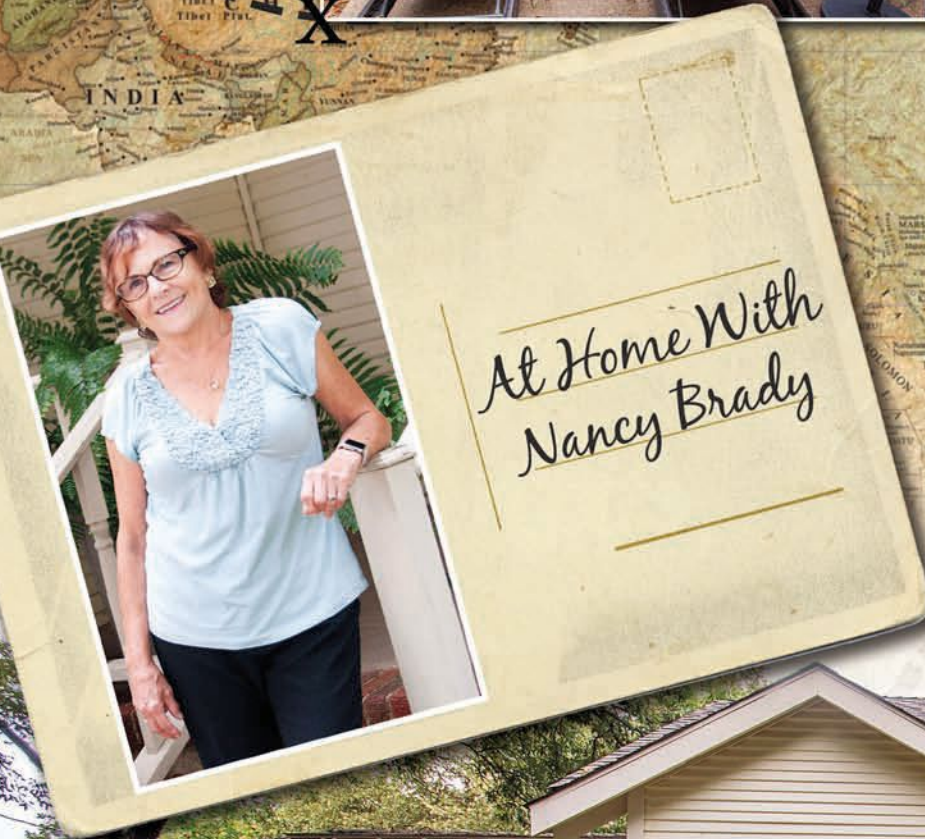


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An Avid Traveler

— By Donnielle Tyner





Not many can say they've had a life of travel and excitement, but Nancy Brady can. She was born in Illinois but spent most of her young life in Michigan. Nancy was raised by her father to love science and respect the environment — two lessons that followed her throughout her life and inspired her devotion to organic gardening. Nancy graduated from the University of Michigan and went on to join the Peace Corps with her then husband. They lived in Bolivia, working with public health in a tuberculosis program. "It was a wonderful experience. I think Peace Corps volunteers learn a real appreciation for what we have here in America, and they get the chance to see other cultures," Nancy explained.

After the Peace Corps, they traveled around South America, through Morocco and Europe before coming back to the United States, where Nancy continued her education and had her first daughter,

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Jessica Zembala. Jessica passed away in 2003 from an unexpected and rare heart condition.

After moving to Washington, D.C., Nancy worked as a curator at the Smithsonian's Archives of American Art. Both she and her husband renovated houses and had their second daughter, Meg. Eventually, Nancy relocated to Baltimore to work as an archivist in the Medical Archives of Johns Hopkins, where she met her second husband, Joe Brady. She and Joe visited Turkey, Greece, St. Petersburg, England, Ireland, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the Galapagos Islands, Mexico and Japan.

Meg married John Sullivan and moved to Ennis. When they had their first child, Nancy decided to purchase a house in Ennis for her and Joe to stay in when they came to visit their grandson. "When I first saw the house, I saw the oak tree out front and asked if the lot next door belonged with it. When they told me, 'Yes,' I was excited to see the inside," she remembered. "I thought it was the perfect size, close to my daughter and the large yard was very appealing."

The house needed a lot of work, but Nancy saw potential. Nancy and Joe would work on the house whenever they visited until he passed away in 2011. Soon



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thereafter, Nancy moved to the home in Ennis, and she hasn't regretted it. "I have great neighbors, and I absolutely love living in the historic district," she added.

Since then, she has spent most of her time renovating the older home. Renovation turned out to be big, and in the end, there wasn't much of the original home to salvage, except the oak floors. First on the agenda, she noticed the house was sinking and needed to be leveled. The plumbing, electric and heating/AC needed to be totally replaced. All the windows were replaced with energy-efficient ones, and all the doors were replaced. "The house had a strange layout, so I tore out walls. Now the layout makes sense," she said. "I love doing that kind of stuff. I used to hang Sheetrock, paint and do simple electrical and plumbing work, but this time I hired professionals."

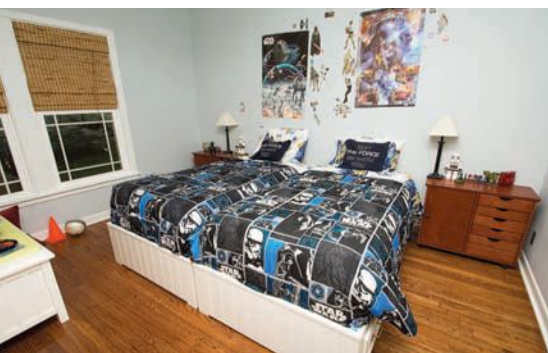
She added on to the house by expanding it into the empty lot and adding a saltwater swimming pool in the backyard. "At my age, I think swimming is just an excellent way to get exercise, plus, my grandsons love it," Nancy smiled. Besides swimming and fixing things, Nancy loves to garden. But learning to garden in Texas weather has been a bit of a challenge.

Nancy's travels are apparent throughout her home. The walls of her living room are adorned with prints from Japan that she brought home from a business trip, a rug turned tapestry bought in Portugal and a jazz poster bought in New Orleans while on vacation. In one corner hangs a beautiful handwritten Christmas card from her daughter, Jessica, informing Nancy that she donated to the Smithsonian in her mother's name in lieu of a gift. Beautiful new French doors separate the room from the rest of the house. "The couch and chair are old pieces," she noted, "and when I recently had them recovered, I decided to install the doors to keep my cat and dog off the nice furniture."

When walking into the dining room, visitors pass an inlaid china hutch next

to a beautiful rosewood table. Hanging above it is a painting by one of Nancy's friends. "I loved this print called *Gossiping Cardinals*," she shared. "It was painted when the new pope was being chosen. I adore the geometric patterns in the tree."

The dining room is open to the newly added family room. Nancy added plenty of windows to the room, highlighting the open feel of the layout. A circular couch sits in the center of the room. It's a piece Nancy loves and has had recovered multiple times over the years that adds a touch of intimacy to the room. On one wall, a large bookshelf filled to the brim with books, showcases another of Nancy's passions — reading. The rest of the room displays more of her treasures from her travels. From a wood carving of



an Aymara Indian she brought back from Bolivia, photographs taken from her balcony of the fireworks in the Baltimore harbor and an exhibit poster from the Smithsonian of American Artists and Writers to a textile her oldest daughter brought back from India, Nancy's home is definitely filled with many wonderful memories.


In the original design, the kitchen was small, which Nancy did not mind. However, at the insistence of her daughter, she expanded the kitchen, almost doubling it in size and made a few changes to suit her own needs. "When I go over to my daughter's house, I have to get my son-in-law to reach the coffee cups, so when I remodeled my kitchen, I had one low level of cabinets installed that I could easily reach. I now have a short-person kitchen," Nancy proudly proclaimed.

Throughout the rest of her home, Nancy's life is displayed in an array of forms. Varied though they may be, all of them have led Nancy to where she is today. She may not be an Ennis native, but after spending years of her life traveling the world, she is happily settled down, eager to spend her free time fixing up her home and making new memories with her grandsons. **NOW**

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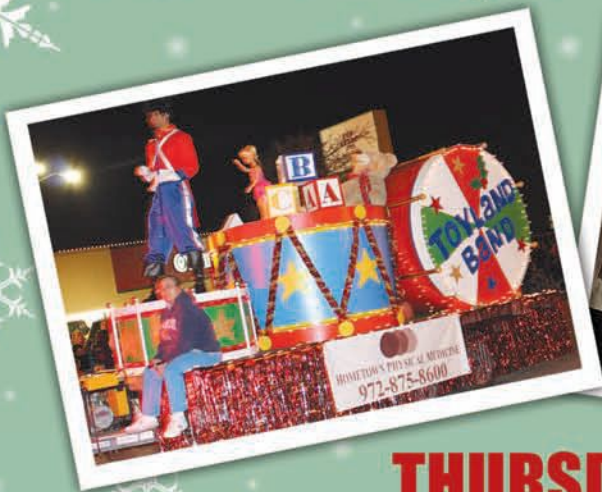
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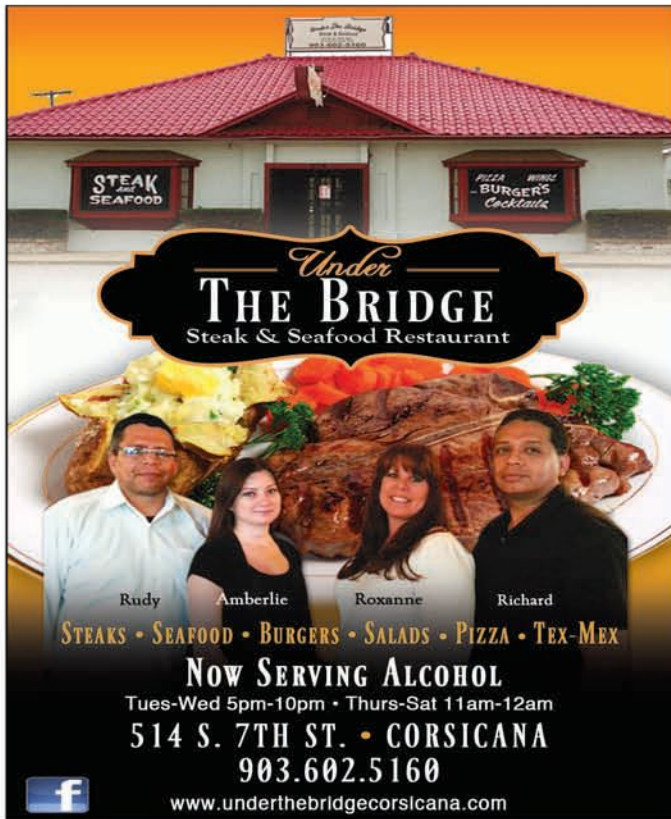
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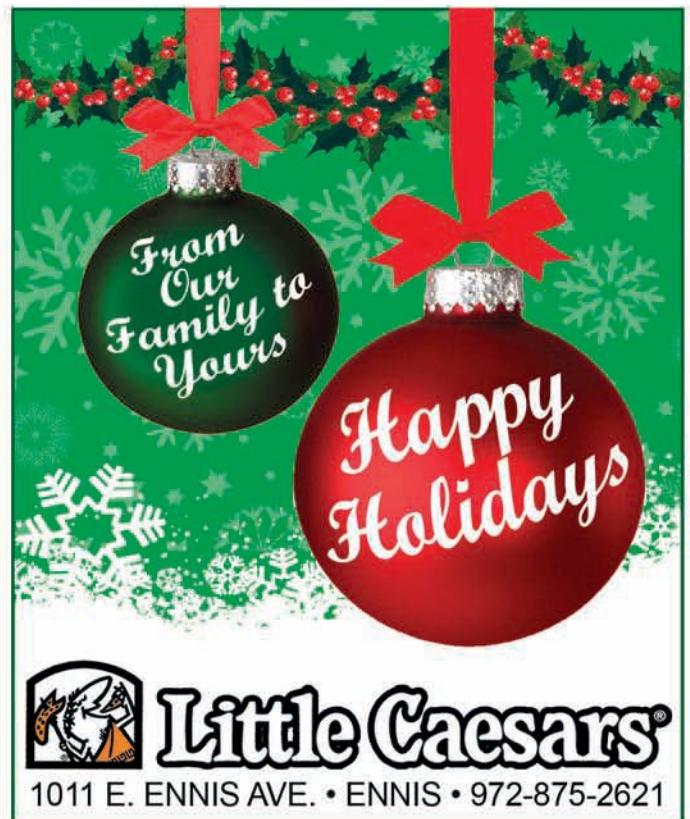


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The Power of **PERSEVERANCE**

— By Stephanie Marchbanks

From his beginnings in Waco, through a storied academic career, teaching at three colleges at once, writing four books and serving as a pastor, Dr. Bob Uzzel knows how to take a fall and get back up. And it's that kind of determination that brought him to where he is today. "Time, patience and perseverance accomplish all things," Bob explained.

Today, Bob and his wife, Debra, reside in Ennis. Married for 38 years, they have four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Debra's 82-year-old mother, Aldessa Henry Bass, makes five living generations on her side of the family. Bob teaches government and history classes at Navarro College in Midlothian, Cedar Valley College in Lancaster and Hill College Center in Burseson. He is also the pastor of Wayman Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, a position he came to Ennis in 2002 to fill. In addition to being the wind beneath Bob's wings, Debra does private duty nursing in Corsicana.

Somehow, Bob finds time to serve his community as a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a Shriner. First exposed to Freemasonry in the Order of DeMolay as a teen, Bob joined the Masons in 1972 at Waco Lodge No. 92. He currently participates via the Pride of Ennis Lodge No. 420.

But in the beginning, Bob's career began with a love for history, birthed in the fourth grade. He so impressed his teacher by memorizing the first 35 presidents, that she urged him to dress up as Uncle Sam and recite them. Wearing red, white and blue, Bob did just that. From that beginning, he never looked back. "History is just something I'm passionate about," Bob pointed out. "When I was in college, I knew I wanted to write books."

Bob's college career spans two decades. Earning a bachelor's degree in sociology and religion from Baylor University in Waco in 1973, he went

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on to receive his master's degree in church state studies from Baylor in 1976 and his Ph.D. in world religions, also from Baylor, in 1995. This makes Bob a three-time graduate of Baylor. He also completed a second master's degree in political science from The University of Texas at Arlington in 2008.

Sometimes dreams come true, and Bob's dreams about writing were realized in 2002 with the publication of his first book, a biography titled *Blind Lemon Jefferson: His Life, His Death and His Legacy*. Blind Lemon was a successful and influential blues and gospel artist from Texas, whose untimely death in Chicago is shrouded in mystery. In fact, Bob's interest in Lemon began while standing over Lemon's grave in Wortham, Texas, nearly 30 years before he wrote the biography. And in the gap, there is a story.

The story is about Debra, the woman Bob would marry. In 1974, Bob moved to Teague, about 18 miles from Wortham, to work as a social worker with the Texas Department of Human Services. At the time, he was writing his master's thesis at Baylor, but he found time to put in extra hours at his job, which he loved. Debra, a nurse since 1973, worked at Fairview Manor in nearby Fairfield. Through what was known at the time as the

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ABD (Aged, Blind and Disabled), Bob and Debra found themselves working together. "I really didn't care for him at first," laughed Debra as she retold the story.


In 1976, Debra became ill and was hospitalized for several weeks. Bob had a client in the same hospital and was visiting. He checked the register to see if there was anyone else whom he knew that he should visit, and he saw Debra's name. He visited her, and that was the beginning.

Eventually, Bob asked Debra to dinner, and her first thought was, *Well, it will be something different to do.*

Different is a good word to describe their first date, because at the time, interracial relationships were far more taboo than they are today. They had dinner on October 21, 1976, and were engaged on Christmas Day. They married on February 19, 1977, and it was a day they will always remember. Although life as husband and wife has had its challenges, it's also had many fun times that lend to the memories the couple share. "I could tell you so many funny stories," Debra related, good-naturedly.

In 1981, Bob remembers three major, life-defining events. The first is that on April 15 of that year, he became a Prince Hall Mason. Prince Hall is the branch of Freemasonry that is comprised of predominantly African-American men. The second event was on April 20, when he became a social worker at Terrell State Hospital in Terrell, Texas. And the third event occurred on June 12, 1981, when his son, Robert Elton Uzzel (Rob), was born. It was Loving Day, the day on which the Supreme Court decreed that all laws against interracial marriage were unconstitutional, in a decision known as Loving vs. Virginia. Joining Ericha, Eric





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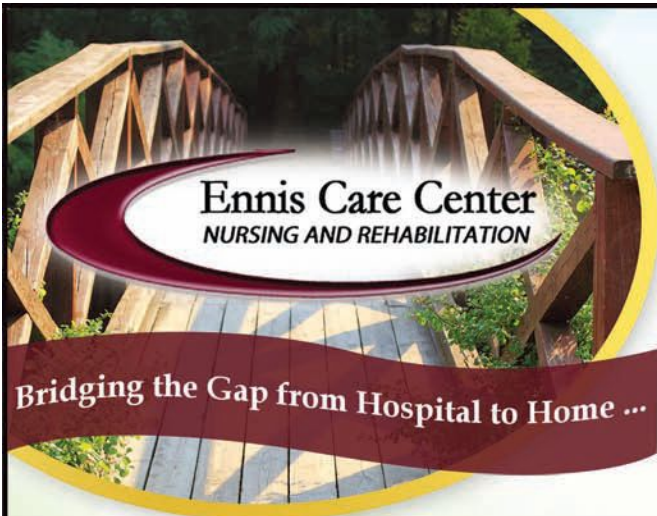
and Joanna, Rob completed Bob and Debra's family.

Bob's involvement as a Mason sparked an enthusiasm that led to the publication of his next two books. In 2004, *Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Lone Star State: From Cuney to Curtis, 1875-2003*, was published. This book chronicles the history of his beloved fraternity. Bob's subsequent book, *Éliphas Lévi and the Kabbalah: The Masonic and French Connection of the American Mystery Tradition*, was published in 2006. This book represents Bob's doctoral dissertation. It took him 11 years to get it published, but he pressed on until it was accomplished.

Bob's fourth book was published in 2014 and is called *The Durams of Fairfield: An African American Genealogy*. This book traces Debra's family history through 10 generations, from a slave named Gobi to their great-grandson, Chaz. Inspiration for this book came from *Roots*, the well-known work by Alex Haley. Bob's research took him from Fairfield, Texas, to DeSoto Parish in Louisiana and, finally, to Fairfield County, South Carolina. Bob discovered striking coincidences, but the consistent theme for him and Debra was family.

As to their current lives in Ennis, both Bob and Debra enjoy ministering to others. Of particular impact for Debra is being a part of Unity in the Community and Give a Kid a Chance. For Bob, in addition to being a pastor, his years working with the mentally ill, including with a former group home in Ennis, stand out.

And in the end, Bob and Debra just never gave up. "Some things in my life have taken years to come to fruition," Bob reflected. "I believe in the power of perseverance." **NOW**



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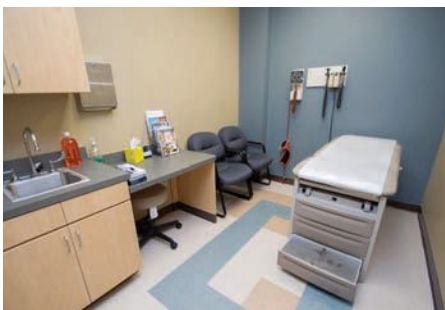
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Dr. Felicia Lewis, pictured with medical assistant Alicia Suitts, enjoys being on a life journey that involves helping others.



A Partnership With Patients

Dr. Felicia Lewis, a primary care physician, listens to patients. — By Virginia Riddle

Getting to know her patients and their family caregivers is of utmost importance to Dr. Felicia Lewis, a specialist in internal medicine. Dr. Lewis believes it is critical to a patient's well-being that a partnership is established between herself, the physician and each patient. She values patients' questions and concerns and takes time to counsel patients, so they can make informed decisions pertaining to their health care. "It's a joy when I establish a long-term relationship with a patient and his or her family. I strive to have a positive impact on lives, and I appreciate being on the journey through life with people," Dr. Lewis stated.

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Additionally, Dr. Lewis counsels patients concerning their lifestyle choices. The safety and well-being of patients is her

priority, so she keeps an open mind when discussing treatment options with patients that might include alternative medical practices, such as homeopathy, massage therapy and acupuncture.

A grandmother who was a nurse, and other family members who held lab tech and other positions in medicine, inspired Dr. Lewis to study medicine. "Before I went to college, I had watched as my grandmother's health declined for years with a condition that was difficult to diagnose," Dr. Lewis explained. She received a degree in molecular biology from Harvard University before returning to her home state to study at The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine.

In 2007, Dr. Lewis established Lakewood Hills Internal Medicine in Richardson, Texas. "My husband, Claude Baily, a Ph.D. in engineering, had a job offer in Dallas," she recalled. Life in a smaller community agrees with this family. "Our 4-year-old son, Colin, is having fun attending Pre-K in Ennis," she said.

The practice of medicine is challenging, but Dr. Lewis feels no greater challenge than when she cannot effect a positive change in a patient's outcome. "There are days when, as a doctor, you give your best, but you are not going to alter someone's time to go," Dr. Lewis reflected.

Weekends are, for the most part, reserved for important family time. Being a mom to an active young child doesn't leave much time to rest, but Dr. Lewis does take time to occasionally enjoy her relaxing pastimes of reading and cooking.

Dr. Lewis is board certified in general internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is licensed to practice in the state of Texas. She has hospital privileges at Ennis Regional Medical Center. "I volunteer through the hospital whenever the staff holds sports or wellness clinics," Dr. Lewis said. "I love feeling like part of the Ennis community and seeing my patients around town in restaurants and while shopping." **NOW**



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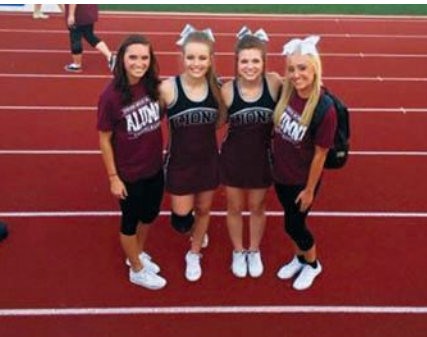
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Luke Holland gets his first haircut by Melissa Allen as his Uncle Byron Betik captures the moment.



Raegan Davis celebrates her 8th birthday with her friends, Kaylee Wickliffe, Elle Marie Hintz, Brayden Thompson and Kyla Smith.



Cousins Ashley Knott, Jalena Pruski, Christian Mach and Bailee Ervin get to cheer together again at the EHS Homecoming where all alumni cheerleaders come back to show their support.



Brayden and Wyatt Thompson at Travis Elementary BBQ Bash.



Stefanie Davis, Shawn McMillan and Trella Salinas at Lummus Meet the Teacher night.



Elizabeth Eastham shows off her hat and her beautiful smile while shopping with her mom, Angela Eastham.



Brett and Tate Norton are all smiles.

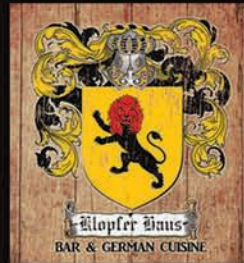


Zane Robinson opens presents during his birthday party where he celebrated turning 2.

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No Secrets to Investment Success

Many people look for the secrets to investment success. Is it timing the market just right? Is it finding those hot stocks or getting in on the ground floor of the next big thing? Actually, these types of moves have little relevance to the vast majority of investors — even the most successful ones. So let's take a look at some steps you can take that can be effective in helping you work toward your financial goals.

It's time in the market — not market timing. Some investors think they can succeed at market timing — buying when the price is low and selling when the price is high. And this would indeed be a good strategy if they could predict highs and lows. No one can accurately forecast these peaks and valleys, though. So, instead of ducking in and out of the market in a vain attempt to catch the highs and lows, simply stay invested. The more time you spend in the market, the lesser the impact you're likely to feel from short-term price swings. And if you're always invested, you'll always be in a position to benefit from the next market rally.

It's buy and hold — not buy and sell. Even if you aren't trying to time the market, you may be tempted to buy and sell frequently as you look for new and better opportunities. Yet, this constant buying and selling can be costly. Frequent trading, with all the additions and subtractions from your portfolio, can make it hard for you to follow a consistent, unified investment strategy. You're better off purchasing quality investments and holding them for the long term, until either your needs change or the investments themselves no longer possess the same attributes they did when you purchased them.

It's building a strong foundation — not getting in on the ground floor. Many people regret not being one of the initial investors of a company that has done spectacularly well. But most new companies don't achieve anywhere near that level of success. So, instead of looking for the next big thing on the ground floor, try to build a strong foundation consisting of a mix of quality investments suitable for your risk tolerance, goals and time horizon. This type of investing may not sound glamorous, but a strong foundation is better equipped than a possibly shaky ground floor to withstand the shifting winds of market forces.

It's cool-headed thinking — not chasing hot stocks. If you browse the Internet or watch one of the investment shows on cable television, you are bound to read or hear about hot stocks. But by the time the news reaches you, these stocks may already be cooling off. Even more importantly, they might not be right for your needs in the first place. Instead of chasing after hot stocks, which, by their nature, carry a strong emotional component (namely, the desire for quick, big gains), try to coolly and dispassionately analyze your situation to determine which investments are really most appropriate for your goals.

There really aren't any shortcuts to reaching your desired financial destination. But by taking the slow and steady path, you can work toward getting there. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Jeff Irish is an Edward Jones representative based in Ennis.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the things for which we're truly grateful. At Edward Jones, we're thankful to serve our clients and our community. During this holiday season and every day, we wish you all the very best.



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Ready for the Road?

As you prepare for your holiday travels or plan ahead for that next great vacation, you have probably carefully noted the items that you must carry with you. After all, most of us can recall a time when we left something really important behind, and we don't want a repeat performance. All the while, we are keenly aware of the capacity limitations of our vehicle, or airlines as the case may be. Of course, a little room must be left for that special souvenir or Aunt Sally's signature dessert to return with you. But what if your travel carries you far from home, even to another country? If it does, some consideration should be given to prepare for possible medical needs along the way.

For instance, don't forget the Band-Aids, gauze and some adhesive tape. These will serve most needs in case of minor cuts or abrasions and may also be invaluable to treat and possibly prevent blisters arising from extended walking. Throw in a little triple-antibiotic ointment to act as a barrier to infection. Always bring your routinely prescribed medications and perhaps a mild analgesic, such as acetaminophen or aspirin in their original containers.

If you are traveling to an area in which certain infectious diseases are endemic, you will need to make immunization plans several weeks in advance of travel. This information can be obtained through the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) website or through a visit to an international travel clinic. If your travels involve a boat and motion sickness is an issue, there are great prescription medications for that purpose, but they should begin hours before the boat leaves in order to achieve maximal effectiveness.

When traveling to areas in which traveler's diarrhea is prevalent, some people like to take antibiotics preventively and will often buy them in countries allowing over-the-counter access. Most physicians believe this is a potential prescription for disaster. By altering the normal bacterial flora in the bowel, antibiotics will often cause diarrhea or worsen previous symptoms. A better approach is to reserve antibiotic use for established symptoms and, even then, after counsel with your personal physician. Antibiotics for minor respiratory symptoms generally should be avoided as most of these illnesses are viral and do not respond to antibiotics. Repeated use may lead to antibiotic resistance.

Finally, every traveler should carry a list of his or her medications, including dosage. A list of any medical problems should also be included along with the name and phone number of the individual's personal physician. Any medication allergies or sensitivities should be listed. Before leaving on an out-of-country journey, one should check with their insurance carrier to determine coverage for services in their travel destination. Supplemental coverage may be desired in select circumstances.

Travel is a great privilege and can be loads of fun. A little advanced preparation may prevent a medical misadventure from shortening the trip of a lifetime. **NOW**

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The Heart of West Texas

Historic downtown Abilene sports surprisingly sophisticated western flair. From cattle auctions to BBQ, opera to ranching, Abilene has a bit of everything with a West Texas flavor. Founded in 1881 by the T&P Railway, Abilene has become the heart of West Texas.

Oil strikes and lucrative crops led to Abilene's success in the 1920s, when the Downtown District was constructed. Abilene Historic District preserves the architecture and cultural landscape created through civic progressiveness with strong western heritage in a family atmosphere. Relive Abilene's early days at Frontier Texas! via teepees, a buffalo stampede or an exploration of 1770-1880 countryside. Frontier Texas! presents first-person hologram narratives about the frontier with big-screen special effects.

The Historic Paramount Theatre opened in 1930. Now fully restored, the art deco movie theater shows classic films and hosts art films, plays and concerts year-round.

Housed in a beautifully restored 1909 hotel, the Grace Museum consists of three museums. The Abilene Historical Museum, the interactive Children's Museum and the Art Museum. The Mallouf Boot Shop highlights the unique craft of custom cowboy boots.

The National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature is in the restored Rhodes Auto Building, with many well-known authors and illustrators, including William Steig, creator of *Shrek*, Stan, Jan and Michael Berenstain of the famous *Berenstain Bears* series and Leonard Marcus, of *Golden Legacy: Original Art from 65 Years of Golden Books*.

The Center for Contemporary Arts has four galleries with rotating exhibits and 10 studios showcasing the vision and work of artists. The center also coordinates monthly programs, such as ArtWalk.

The ruins of Fort Phantom Hill, built in 1851, still stand north of Abilene along the Texas Forts Trail. The fort, manned by Bluecoats of the U.S. cavalry and infantry, was part of a chain that protected frontiersmen and their families against Indian raids. Although the fort burned, the stone commissary, a

guardhouse, a powder magazine, numerous chimneys and foundations remain.

Camp Barkeley, which housed over 60,000 troops and POWs, and Abilene Army Air Base were located in Abilene during WWII. Dyess Air Force Base, which opened in 1956, houses the 7th Bomb Wing with two B-1 Lancer squadrons and the 317th Airlift Group with two C-130 squadrons. The 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum portrays the men who risked their lives for your future.

Abilene offers an assortment of fun-filled activities. PrimeTime Family Entertainment Center's 43,000-square-foot indoor facility features bowling, NASCAR simulators, laser tag, X-D theater, bumper cars, billiards and over 70 arcade games. Play Faire Park is considered an Abilene staple, offering affordable, family fun in a well-shaded, outdoor environment.

Each June, Abilene hosts the magical Children's Art and Literacy Festival (CALF), featuring illustrators, such as Dr. Seuss and Walter Wick. It's the only U.S. city displaying the entire Dr. Seuss Storybook Garden Collection at Everman Park. Other children's places include the Abilene Zoo, Abilene Splash Park or Fort Imagination.

Abilene's proud heritage includes cattle, railroads and oil. Buffalo Gap Historic Village is filled with buildings and artifacts from West Texas, presenting the last 50 years of the Texas frontier (1875-1925) with exhibits, historic structures and living history.

For Texas-style excitement visit the annual spring Western Heritage Classic and Ranch Rodeo for a chuck-wagon cook-off, cowboy poetry, the largest bit-and-spur show, cowboys, dances and horse races. West Texas Fair and Rodeo features food, rides, exhibits and amusements. Abilene hosts numerous cutting horse and western equestrian events year-round at the Taylor County Expo Center.

Abilene has not lost its frontier soul. To discover yours, call the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 727-7704 or visit www.abilenevisitors.com. **NOW**

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November 1, 6, 7, 8

I'll Be Back Before Midnight: 7:30 p.m., **Friday** and **Saturday**; 2:30 p.m., **Sundays**. For more details, visit ennispublictheatre.com or call (972) 878-7529.

November 6, 7

Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing Project: 8:00 p.m., **Friday**; 3:00 p.m., **Saturday**, Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, visit www.waxaofs.com.

November 12

Veteran's Day Celebration: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Ennis High School Auditorium, 2301 Ensing Rd.

MACS: 6:00 p.m., Tabernacle Baptist Church Life Center. Evening includes a covered dish meal and a program of singing or informational message.

November 14

First Look Boutique Christmas Open House: 10:00 a.m., 210 W. Brown St. For further details, call (972) 875-8055.

November 26 — December 19

Ennis Police Officer's Santa Cop: Toy donations may be dropped off at the Ennis Police Department or at Dollar General. Monetary donations need to be made at Ennis State Bank. For more information, visit Ennis Police Department on FB.

November 28

Turkey Bowl: 6:00-11:00 p.m., 85 Speedway, 3118 FM 85. Call (972) 875-8500 for more information. Visit www.official85speedway.com for a full schedule of the evening's activities.

December 1 — 31

Lights of Ennis: thousands of twinkling lights will illuminate the downtown area. For more information, call (972) 878-4748.

December 3

Christmas Parade and Block Party: 7:00-9:30 p.m. Call (972) 878-4748 to find out more about the event.

December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19

A Christmas Story: 7:30-9:30 p.m., **Friday** and **Saturday**; **Sunday** matinees, Theatre

Rocks, 505 N.E. Main St. For more information, call (972) 878-5126 or visit www.theatrerocks.com.

December 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13

Shrek the Musical: 7:30 p.m., **Thursday**; 7:00 p.m., **Friday** and **Saturdays**; 2:30 p.m., **Sunday**, Ennis Public Theatre. For more information, call (972) 878-7529 or visit www.ennispublictheatre.com.

Ongoing:

First Wednesdays

Bluebonnet Patches Quilt Guild meeting: 9:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 210 N. McKinney. Contact Judy Wensowitch at (972) 921-8800 or Diana Buckley at SeldomSeenQuilting@gmail.com for more information.

Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

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 Kathey McIntosh

— By Virginia Riddle

Family Sunday dinners after church give Kathey McIntosh and her daughter, Becky, the joy of satisfying everyone's choice of recipes that have been handed down from her husband, John Lee's, aunt and grandmother. At age 5, Kathey was learning from her mother how to make biscuits that her dad called terrapins, for their turtle shell shape.

This former medical receptionist is a canner. "In the late '60s and early '70s, I canned pickles and chow-chow and entered jars in the State Fair of Texas. I'm a very proud winner of many blue ribbons," Kathey smiled. These days, she enjoys teaching others to can vegetables and tweaks recipes John Lee finds on the Internet. "We share the blessing of being Wednesday night cooks at our church, Baylor Baptist," she added. **NOW**

Sweet Turnips and Baby Carrots

1 8-oz. pkg. baby carrots
6-8 small turnips, peeled and cut like French-fried potatoes
4 Tbsp. butter
1/2 cup sugar
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Place carrots and turnips in a small skillet; cover with water.
2. Add butter, sugar and, if desired, salt and pepper; stir to mix well.
3. Add more water, if necessary, and simmer slowly until vegetables are fork tender and the liquid begins to caramelize.

Skinny Broccoli Salad

2 stalks broccoli, cut into small florets
1 head cauliflower, cut into small florets
1 red pepper, diced
1 green pepper, diced

1 large tomato, diced
1/2 red onion, diced
1 cup black olives, sliced
1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
1 1/2 cups ranch dressing

1. Place all cut, diced and sliced vegetables into a large bowl; stir to mix well.
2. Add cheese and ranch dressing; stir again until mixed well.
3. Cover; chill before serving.

Apple Parmesan Walnut Salad

4 cups fresh spinach
1 Granny Smith apple, halved and thinly sliced
1/3 cup walnuts
1/2 cup olive oil
1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
3 Tbsp. maple syrup
2 tsp. Dijon mustard
Salt and pepper, to taste
1/2 cup Parmesan cheese

1. Combine spinach, apple and walnuts in a large salad bowl.
2. Combine remaining ingredients, except Parmesan, in a jar; shake until well-blended.
3. Drizzle the dressing over the salad; toss well.
4. Just before serving, top with Parmesan cheese.

Bacon Wrapped and Stuffed Chicken Breast

1 6-oz. box of Stove Top stuffing, personal choice of flavor
Dried cranberries and nuts (optional)
4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
8 bacon slices
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Prepare stuffing according to box directions; add cranberries and/or nuts, if desired; set aside.
2. Cut a slit in each chicken breast; fill the breasts with prepared stuffing.
3. Wrap 2 pieces of bacon around each breast; season with salt and pepper.
4. Place prepared chicken, seam side down, on baking rack.
5. Cook at 350 F for approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Railroad Cake

3 eggs
1 cup sugar
3 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted
1 cup flour
1/3 tsp. salt
3 Tbsp. whole milk
1 tsp. vanilla
Cinnamon and sugar combined for topping, to taste

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. In a mixing bowl, cream eggs and sugar together. Add butter; mix well again. Blend in flour and salt.
2. Mix in milk and vanilla until mixture is smooth. Grease and flour a 9x9-inch cake pan; pour in batter. Bake for 20-25 minutes.
3. Remove from oven. While the cake is still hot, sprinkle top with desired amount of cinnamon/sugar mixture. Serve warm with hot coffee.

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



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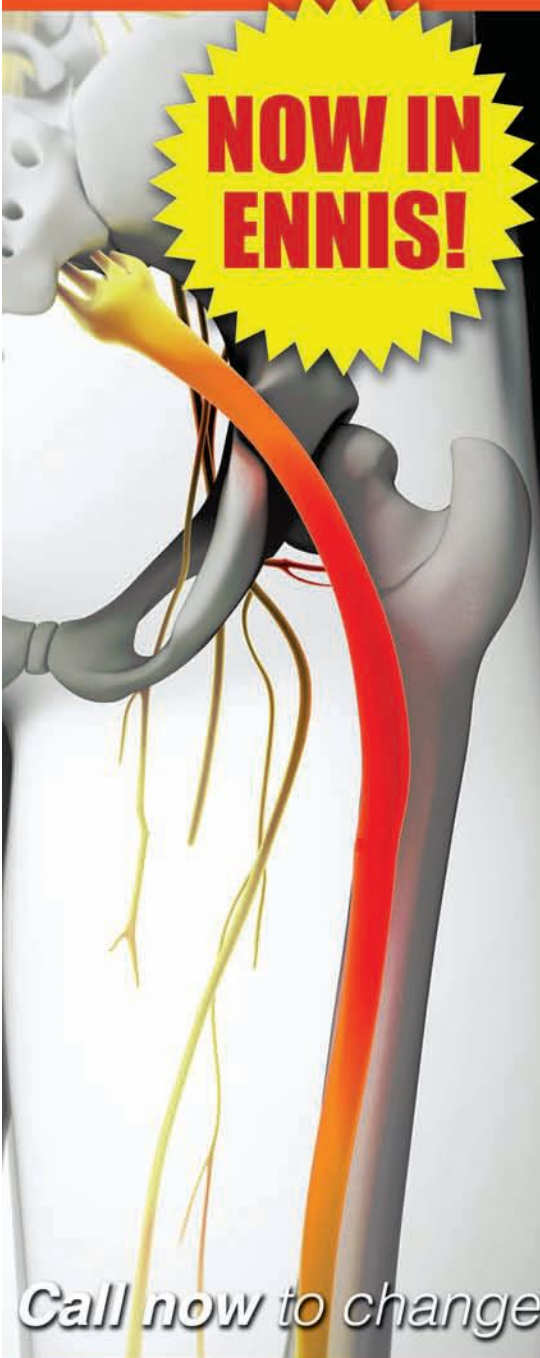
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