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CONTENTS

November 2016 • Volume II, Issue II



ON THE COVER



The entire Thompson family is beaming after the arrival of their new baby girl.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

6 The Coolest Club Around

ROISD students have a blast getting a jump start on learning the necessary skills to take into the job market.

12 Desire and Dedication

Typical isn't a word used to describe a Texas game warden's day.

22 A Family Affair

At Home With Chris and Laura Thompson.



28 BusinessNOW

30 Around TownNOW

36 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Thanksgiving Thoughts and Intentions ...

My one fall wreath is hung on the front door, and I've attended the last of the fall festivals. I guess it's time to start planning for Christmas, so the bombardment of commercials tells me. But, I'm getting ahead of myself. November is the time for Thanksgiving and reflecting on what we're thankful for. This year, I'm thankful for awareness. It's difficult to step back and look at myself, being aware of the impact I have on others. However, it's easy to focus on how others should be doing things differently. So, I will continue to work on my own shortcomings and how I can change my tone and actions to be more positive. I'm going to get ahead of the game, so it can happen before the big family Thanksgiving dinner. I'll let you know how it goes.

Here's to self-awareness and being thankful!

Abby

Abby Rich
North Ellis Co. NOW Editor
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THE COOLEST CLUB AROUND

— By Abby Rich

For young adults, the “new cool” is robotics because they realize no matter who you are or what you will become, technology is the future. A very diverse group, The Red Oak High School Robotics Club has members in band, baseball and student council. In a sense, the club is for everyone, and is especially reliant on an array of skills. Through the club, students use math, science and problem-solving skills that are applicable to everyday life.

The robotics club is headed up by Bryan Rogers, Red Oak High's engineering teacher and cross-country coach. The club began six years ago, but eventually classes were added to the school curriculum. The high school currently offers Robotics I and II classes. More importantly, the programming used in the robotics classes at Red Oak High is at an industrial level, and students can become certified through the classes.

In the first years of the robotics club, Bryan helped his students get involved in the Texas Instruments BEST Program, which helped fund the robotics program in the beginning, and provided the tools for the kids to get started. “Robots are generally \$4,000 to build, so when the time comes to build, the club has to gain support from corporate sponsors, which in the past have included such household names as Exxon and NASA,” Bryan relayed.

While some of the students in the club take robotics classes for credit, to participate in the club they must attend at least half of the club meetings, where there are plenty of areas to become involved like administration, mechanical, electrical, pneumatics, programming, design and CAD, marketing and creative design. Red Oak Robotics Club welcomes students with or without these skills.

While the club meets throughout the school year, the event they look forward to attending is the FIRST — For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology — Robotics Competition, or FRC. FIRST was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, an inventor, an entrepreneur and a major advocate for science and technology. The program came about after our nation's employers and policymakers became worried about the decline in the number of students taking rigorous science, technology, engineering and math courses, according to Laura London, who worked on the launch of FIRST's competition. Thus, Mr. Kamen ended up creating a fun and rewarding program for students.



Mohamed Abumerhi, Jonathan Labrum and Sara Bannister have fun in the Red Oak Robotics Club.



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While building a winning robot is the goal, collaboration and teamwork are key parts of the experience. The skills students learn from being part of FIRST robotics goes beyond knowing the right tool to use. In addition to the problem-solving that's gained from FIRST, team members learn welding, computer-aided design and assembly. Plus, they have to brainstorm in order to solve a problem without a lot of time and resources. The FIRST program also gives out \$25 million in scholarships.

According to the FIRST website, the competition combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology, and the FIRST Robotics Competition is the ultimate sport for the mind. Under strict rules, limited resources, and an intense six-week time limit, teams of 20 or more students are challenged to raise funds, design a team "brand," hone teamwork skills, and build and program industrial-size robots to play a difficult field game against like-minded competitors. It's as close to real-world engineering as a student can get.

At every regional tournament, there are always adults from the engineering and



"I can't."
(before)

"Let's go!"
(after)

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science workforce who come to help out as volunteers or judges. This mentoring opportunity offers some great meet-and-greet and networking potential.

Being involved in FIRST means students learn the skills of operating drills and drill presses, miter saws and band saws, and making real-life engineering decisions. They work on CAD models and talk to manufacturing companies. They are able to experience what it's like to be involved in a project, whether they are the project leader or another integral part of the team.

The "official season" of FIRST begins in early January when the Challenge is announced at a kickoff ceremony. Then the robotics club basically gets a kit in the mail from the competition leaders at FIRST that includes raw materials and instructions as to what type of robot to build. They then have a six-week build session before the competition. The build time includes programming, designing, parts building, tool building, sawing and more.

Sara Bannister, president of the club and a junior, has been in the club two years. A newbie to robotics, Sara, who was more interested in writing and art, admitted she had no experience building anything. However, she quickly found out she's extremely good with power tools. "And, it's great experience for the real world because in any career you will always have to work with others," Sara stated.

Senior Jonathan Labrum is in his third year as a club member. He is also in the marching band and jazz band, plus he



Red Oak students love the challenge the Robotics Club offers.

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participates in gymnastics, karate and plays violin. "Robotics has really helped me to become more confident in myself, and I can eventually see myself in the field of computer science," Jonathan explained.

Alternatively, Mohamed Abumerhi, a sophomore, wanted to join the club to follow in his sister's footsteps. "I've always been good with computers, but didn't have any robotic experience until I joined the group," Mohamed said.

Last year, the robotics club attended the Irving Regionals with 60 teams, including teams from China, Mexico and Brazil. At the championships in St. Louis, the team finished in the top 10 percent. A few years ago, the club won Rookie of the Year.

When asked what's the best part of watching these smart kids in action, Bryan replied, "Discovery, problem solving, essay writing — they handle it all at competition, and they work as a team without my hands-on help. I pretty much just let them run with it.

"The kids are learning without even realizing it, especially when it comes to problem solving, cooperation and seeing how mechanical things work," Bryan explained.

Regardless that 88 percent of students in robotics clubs have more interest in doing well in school and 92 percent become more interested in attending college, the kids of the Red Oak Robotics Club say it's just "pure fun." The friendships they develop and the skills they learn and will go on to use in the "real world" are added bonuses. **NOW**



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While citing his dad as his first mentor, Warden Powell remembers being about 10 years old and observing a game warden in action for the first time. "That meeting left an impression on me and my

— By Virginia Riddle

tion

brother. Later, after college, I introduced myself to our local game warden, who allowed me to come on ride-a-longs for several years and observe. I learned a lot from him and became hooked. I knew I wouldn't be happy unless I was doing this job," Warden Powell said.

But becoming a Texas game warden isn't easy. Less than 10 percent of applicants are accepted each year into the Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden Training Center located in Hamilton County. All applicants must have a bachelor's degree — a unique requirement since a degree isn't required to become a commissioned officer for other types of law enforcement. Playing football on a scholarship helped pay Warden Powell's way through Northwestern State University in Louisiana. Even with a degree in wildlife management, Warden Powell applied several times before he was hired into the game warden training center. "I worked on a GM assembly line many years before I was hired," he recalled. Perseverance is



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an attribute that comes in handy. "I once received information from a source about a group of hunters who were illegally hunting deer at night. I sat and waited for seven nights straight until I caught that group who poached and killed a deer the last night!" Warden Powell stated.

Since 1895, when Texas game wardens were first commissioned as state police, they have earned reputations as can-do men and women. Their training is intense. New Texas game wardens become part of one of the best-trained corps of conservation officers in the United States. "Our training is longer than any other and lasts almost eight months. We have to learn what all police officers learn, and on top of that, the parks and wildlife code, hunting and fishing laws, intensive swim training, boat operations, search and rescue and so much more. Having integrity, facing adversity and being able to work without set hours and direction are important attributes game wardens have," Warden Powell stated.

Border patrol duties are also a part of the job description, so Warden Powell, who has been Ellis County's game warden for 13 years, periodically spends time in South Texas. "We have boats where we patrol the Rio Grande River, but we also work in the rural areas where illegal aliens and drug crossings occur. There are lots of kids who are coming over by themselves. They hop on top of trains from Central America to Mexico to get here. Some don't make it across the river. We also have to watch out for drug cartel members who are bringing illegal drugs over. It can become very dangerous," Warden Powell stated.

Texas game wardens serve at the direction of the governor, and their duties include enforcing all state laws, with an emphasis on hunting, fishing and water safety regulations. Game

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wardens are fully commissioned police officers who also work with other law enforcement agencies. Texas, with its diverse terrain, is challenging, and game wardens are able to handle any situation involving any of those ecosystems. "We log hundreds of hours of boat patrol in the spring and summer throughout all bodies of waters in the state, including the Gulf of Mexico, enforcing our fisheries. We're the primary agency that works drownings on state lakes and rivers. We have specialized sonar on our boats to help locate drowning victims much faster, and we have specialized teams, such as our dive team, that assist. His work can be dangerous since game wardens are often working alone and back up by fellow officers from other agencies can be as far as 20-30 minutes away, in some remote locations.

Beginning in 2015, Warden Powell has been followed on the job by a film crew from Animal Planet's popular show, *Lone Star Law*. "I wanted to represent the over 500 game wardens around the state. The show isn't about me but what we all do as game wardens. This is a docuseries, not a reality show. Everything you see is in real time, just like the episodes of COPS. The camera crews are very professional and know how to mingle into the surroundings while filming us on patrol," he said. Recognized often, especially by fans of the show, Warden Powell grants autographs and photos with a smile. "It's flattering but, also, a little surreal. Some folks look at people who are on television differently. I'm just doing my job, but the difference is, I have a camera crew following me." The family show is getting good reviews, and there are lots of young kids who enjoy it.

"Everyone's always intrigued and loves to hear our stories. Texas is the biggest hunting, fishing and recreation state," Warden Powell stated. One of his most

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memorable stories occurred in 2008. “I was lucky enough to do a private conservation program in Ellis County for the former President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush, guests from Cornell University and the ranch owners. The program was on injured raptors and their rehabilitation. I released numerous recently rehabilitated hawks and owls, and I related the presentation to an illegal wildlife case I had made that same morning on an individual who had shot and killed numerous hawks just north of Ennis. President Bush, being an avid outdoorsman and conservationist ... let’s just say his remark on what should be the individual’s future punishment was priceless! I was invited to stay for dinner and was able to visit with President Bush in a casual setting. It’s a day I’ll never forget.”

Game wardens live where they work, and working with the citizens of their community is vital. Ellis County’s population is booming and changing, demographically, from its rural roots to a more urban society. “My job has become more contextual. I meet new folks and explain about wildlife in the area. Urbanization is a people problem, not an animal problem. People have to learn to adapt, too,” Warden Powell explained. “Also, we want people to be involved and report problems to us. Half the cases we make began with people calling in to report a violation.”

When on vacation, Warden Powell loves the mountains, hunting, fishing, playing golf and traveling. “I advise kids who want to become a game warden to stay in school and go to college,” he said. “And if you love the outdoors, hunting and fishing and law enforcement, then this is the best job, hands down!” **NOW**

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A Family Affair

— By Jill Martinez

At Home With Chris & Laura Thompson

Approaching Chris and Laura Thompson's home, visitors pass a raft of ducks and a small neighborhood playground. A bird bath is nestled among the bushes in their front yard just a few steps away from the porch where two rocking chairs are separated by a wicker table. Entering this home, guests are greeted by warm smiles and humble hearts, making them feel like family upon arrival.

Throughout their eight years of marriage, Chris and Laura have acquired several furniture pieces and collectible items from various family members, resulting in the eclectic style found in their home. Laura has balanced dark and light earth-tone colors to create a peaceful atmosphere.

In the entryway, guests are greeted by a mint green chest topped with vintage items given by family members. Photos displayed on a nearby wall indicate how important family is here. "As much as we value our careers as teachers, family will always take precedence," Laura expressed.

The U-shaped kitchen is lined with oak cabinetry. Coffee and owls are subtle themes. "Chris makes us coffee every single morning. In the evenings, we love to have a cup after Asher goes to bed and watch our favorite TV shows," Laura said. From the kitchen, there is an open view of the dining and living areas, creating an airy feel. The couple loved the open layout when they initially toured the home.

The dining area features a dark marble table, a piece obtained from Laura's mother,





which juxtaposes the lightly colored walls and floors. The leather-backed chair cushions display circles in a variety of autumn colors, which carry over into the living area, a favorite room for the family. The spacious living room is characterized by its dark wood laminate floors that contrast the red and cream couches. Brown, orange and sage green accent the room. The framed birds on the wall and the leaf-print pillows give the room a relaxed ambience guests are sure to feel at home in.

The furniture, arranged around the perimeter of the room, allows maximum space for guests. "We host a college and career life group here every Saturday night," Chris said. "I feel like Laura and I can speak to the situations they face."

Chris and Laura enjoy spending family time with Asher, their 2-year-old son, in the living room. "We bring toys



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from his room out here, so we can play together,” Laura mentioned.

After spending their work day teaching children in the Red Oak Independent School District, Chris and Laura enjoy pouring into their son’s life. “Laura is proud to be a reading teacher and has never met a children’s book she didn’t love. We take turns reading to him each night,” Chris noted.

The flex room, located in an enclave off the entryway, serves

primarily as an office and hobby space, but will soon house out-of-town guests, as well. The couple doesn’t plan to make big changes to the room other than putting doors in place of the curtains that now close it off, in order to provide guests with more privacy.

Notions of nature fill the flex room. Laura’s love of birds is expressed clearly. On the wall, a wire bird holds craft paints and hangs below a wood painting of colorful

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birds. "My love of birds comes from my Memaw, my maternal great-grandmother. We used to sit on the back porch of her house and watch the hummingbirds while drinking café au lait," Laura reminisced.

Evidence of Laura's roller derby days can be found here, too. She was the captain of her team in Assassination City Roller Derby, a reference to JFK and the city of Dallas. She traveled with the league, enjoying the competition. "Yelling and being aggressive is part of the game. It was a good outlet," she stated.

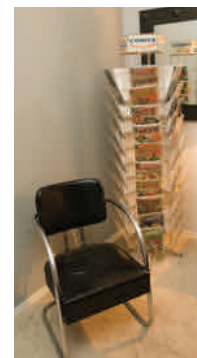
Chris and Laura take great pride in being teachers in the Red Oak ISD. For four years, Laura has taught reading and writing at Eastridge Elementary, while Chris has taught math at Red Oak Middle School. "I feel very blessed to be in the Red Oak district. Since we aren't originally from this area, it's like having family when we are away from ours," Chris said. The district loves this couple in return and has bestowed honors upon them. In 2015, Chris was named ROISD Secondary Teacher of the Year. Laura followed this performance becoming the ROISD Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2016. Additionally, they have each been named Teacher of the Month in their respective categories during their tenure.

Chris and Laura aim to balance work, play and family. In this home, the bedrooms are reserved for resting. In the master bedroom, the bed stands center stage with a cream, tufted headboard, and a gray, ruffled comforter. At the foot of the bed sits a chaise lounge given to the couple by Laura's mother. "Though it isn't a family heirloom, it is the most special piece of furniture that I own," Laura explained.

Chris' passion for comics cannot go unnoticed. An antique comic merry-go-round, given to him by his brother, houses his meticulously organized collection. *Daredevil*, his favorite

comic, claims an entire column, but magazines from *X-Men* and *DC Comics* are also showcased.

One look at Chris' bookshelf reveals what matters most to him — faith and family. Most



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of this bookshelf features images of his son, along with several Bibles and books on Christian living. Before becoming a teacher, Chris attended Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie where he met Laura, the love of his life.

Asher's bedroom exemplifies the expression: "The apple doesn't fall far from the tree." Chris is passing his love for comics down to his son. The muted blue-gray walls are ornamented with depictions of Justice League heroes. Asher also loves LEGOs and *Star Wars* characters that he plays with regularly. Two corner bookshelves display numerous books, evidence that Laura is influencing Asher, as well.

Down the hall lies the third bedroom, a nursery for Darcy, the daughter whose arrival they eagerly anticipated. When Laura isn't playing with Asher, she finds herself doing what most new moms do — sitting in the rocking chair spending time with her child. Laura's aim for the nursery was to make the room daintily elegant. She strayed from the stereotypical pink in this room and favored seafoam green and other earth tones instead. The result is soothing and has proven to be a perfect place for baby and mother to bond.

The family enjoys soaking up nature on the back patio centered in the cozy backyard. Asher enjoys swinging and climbing on his mini-playground or soaking up some rays in his kiddie pool. Laura and Chris look lovingly on while rocking in the wicker chairs.

The Thompson home reflects their values: faith, family and balance. The open design lured them to the home, and their kind neighbors help keep them there. Whether at work, in the neighborhood or at home, the Thompsons make life a family affair. **NOW**

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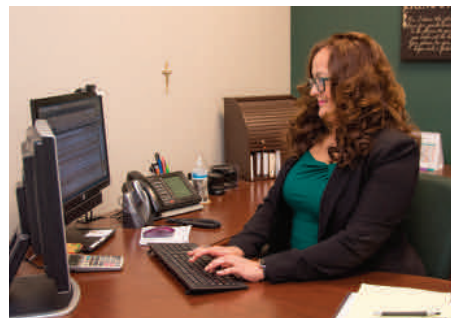


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At Edward Jones, Cynthia Luna listens to her clients and assesses their goals, and then tells them what it will take to achieve those goals.



Let's Talk About Money

When it comes to saving and investing, Cynthia Luna takes a hands-on approach.

— By Abby Rich

Cynthia Luna has always enjoyed budgeting and became interested in purchasing stocks at a young age. So, it was a clear choice for her to seek a career in accounting and finance. As a financial advisor at Edward Jones, she is able to offer the expertise she has gained in the industry to help people.

“There is no better teacher than experience,” according to Cynthia, and she has seen her personal investments perform through the years — and in turn, she wanted to share what she has learned. She also did not feel that investing should be so complicated. Through her years consulting in the field of finance, she has always had the notion that “money can be easy if you have a plan.” Whether it’s saving and investing for her clients to enjoy the golden years they’ve always pictured or

making sure their babies can one day afford to go to Southern Methodist University, she coaches her clients through the complicated choices they have to make when saving and investing for the future.

“What makes a ‘good client’ is having a goal in mind,” she said. Then after listening and assessing, she is going to honestly tell her client what it will take to achieve that goal. Cynthia can provide a personal analysis on anything, like how long it will take to save for that dream vacation or how much someone will really need for retirement — as long as there’s a goal in mind.

Initially, no one wants to talk about their finances. In fact, before any major decisions are made, she insists on meeting with her clients several times. Clients find it gets easier to talk

Business **NOW**

about money with every meeting. Though Cynthia admits her strategy of getting information out of a client can seem like nagging, in her words, she'd rather be a little relentless up front than have to perform triage after a crisis. It's beneficial for the client as well as Cynthia to form a close relationship, and a trust, in order to know what's important to her clients and to assess their financial situations. Most importantly, everything discussed between her and her clients is confidential.

Through her years consulting in the field of finance, she has always had the notion that "money can be easy if you have a plan."

An added benefit to partnering with Edward Jones is to see how much they are involved in the community in which they serve. Cynthia loves to see how much the Red Oak area is growing and knows how much more potential it has to grow. Not only is she on the board of the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce, she also is the membership chair of the Boy Scouts, which helps the community in numerous ways, including the special Eagle Scout projects that give back to the community.

Edward Jones offers a relationship unlike other investment counseling shops, including a familiar face and a personal connection. "People want to see who they are entrusting their money to, regardless if it's a little or a lot," she added. And she sees herself as more of a coach to her clients, with the understanding that the players should listen to their coach in order to reach their potential. It helps that Cynthia loves to counsel and help others achieve lifelong goals. It's also important to her to educate clients about investing in a way they can understand. **NOW**



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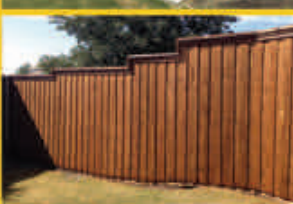
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From: Steve, 11 June 2006 8:00

Project	Start Date	End Date	Duration
Project A	2018-01-01	2018-03-31	90 days
Project B	2018-04-01	2018-06-30	90 days
Project C	2018-07-01	2018-09-30	90 days
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Coat Drive: Drop off location at Magic Carpet Café, 201 S. Main St., Ferris. Donate new or used coats, jackets, scarves, gloves and hats. All sizes needed. Sponsored by Ferris Area Business Association. For more information, call (214) 783-4610.

November 5

Christ the King Lutheran Church Vendor Fair and Silent Auction: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 301 W. Hwy 287 Bypass, Waxahachie. Fundraiser is for the church's youth and mission events for 2017. For more information, email ctkcrafterandvendorfair@yahoo.com.

November 6

Wreath Laying Ceremony to honor our veterans: 2:00 p.m., Heritage Park, Ovilla. For more information, call (972) 617-7262.

November 11

Shooting for Shelter to benefit Daniel's Den: 8:30 a.m., registration; 9:00 a.m., shotgun start. The Sporting Clays Tournament will be held at the Ellis County Sportsman Club. For more information, call (972) 938-0103.

November 14 — 21

Operation Christmas Child, Shoebox Ministry of Samaritan's Purse, National Collection Week: two drop off locations at Farley Street Baptist Church, 1116 Brown St., Waxahachie and East Ridge Baptist Church, 732 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak. For more information, call (310) 413-8716.

November 18, 19

Ellis Co. Habitat for Humanity Festival of Trees Benefit: Waxahachie Bible Church. For more information, visit www.ellishabitat.org.

Ongoing:

Second Mondays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group meeting: 6:30 p.m., Ryan's Steak House, Waxahachie, Hwy 287 Bypass and 77. For more information, call (214) 763-0378.

First and Third Tuesdays

Red Oak Lions Club meeting: 7:00 p.m., 207 W. Red Oak Rd.

Wednesdays

The Oaks DivorceCare classes: 7:00-8:30

p.m., The Oaks Fellowship Church in Red Oak. Classes are held in the Educational Building in Room 203. The current session runs through **December 7**. Classes are co-ed and all are welcome.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

The Red Oak Senior Citizens Group: 8:30 a.m.-noon, Lions Club Building, 207 W. Red Oak Rd., Red Oak. For more information, contact Becky Ives at (214) 502-9747.

Thursdays

Grief Share meeting: 7:00 p.m., The Oaks Fellowship in Red Oak, Room E-104. This is a recovery group for those who have lost loved ones. For more information, call (214) 376-8208.

Third Saturdays

Ferris Trades Day: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 a.m., 101 S. Main St., Ferris. For more information, call Tina Miller at (817) 992-9204.

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In the Kitchen With Janie Ripley

— *By Rachel Smith*

Eager to fill a table that feeds their continuously growing family, both Janie Ripley and her husband, Don, relish working hard in the kitchen. “I can always be confident if I become sick or must have surgery, I will still be fed with amazing meals created by Don’s unique touch,” she confided.

With memories of grandparents’ cooking from the “good ol’ days,” Janie found her drive. “It seems I come from a history involving the love of cooking,” she said. After her dad’s passing, and multiple nannies, one caretaker named Osel finally came on board who understood the art of cooking. “Osel had dinner prepared early, so when we got home from school it was ready to dive into,” she reminisced. “Boy, could she cook!” **NOW**

Panna Cotta

From a dear friend raised in Italy

1 1/2 tsp. unflavored gelatin
2 Tbsp. cold water
3 cups heavy whipping cream
1/2 cup sugar, or to taste
Pinch salt
1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup sour cream
Your choice fresh fruit, cut up

1. Sprinkle gelatin over cold water. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. In a 3-quart pan, warm cream, sugar, salt and vanilla. (Do not let it boil.) Stir in gelatin until dissolved. Take mixture off stove; let cool about 5 minutes.
3. In a medium bowl, place sour cream. Gently whisk in cream a little at a time until smooth; taste for desired sweetness.

4. Rinse ramekins with cold water; fill with mixture until 3/4 full. Chill overnight. Top with preferred fruit.

Crackus

Can serve as a meal or make as a dip.

2 2.5-oz. jars dried beef, cut into bite-size pieces
3 Tbsp. butter
2 Tbsp. chili powder
1 28-oz. can tomatoes
2 cups cheddar cheese, grated by hand
6 eggs
Your choice crackers, to taste
Sweet Gherkins small pickles

1. Cook beef in butter until brown. Add chili powder and tomatoes; simmer 10-15 minutes. Add cheese; let melt.
2. Beat egg yolks; add to mixture. Cook

about 5 minutes. Beat egg whites until fluffy. Fold in with beef and cheese mixture. Serve with crackers and pickles.

Brown Derby

Inspired by Bishops Restaurant in Tulsa, OK.

Hamburger Patties:

2 lbs. hamburger meat
1 egg
1/2 tsp. mustard
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. pepper
2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

Sauce Diablo:

1 jar Campbell’s beef gravy
1 Tbsp. mustard
2 tsp. A-1 sauce
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1/2 cup ketchup
2 pats butter

1. *For patties:* Mix all ingredients together; form into about 6 small oval balls. Brown patties in skillet on both sides; remove and place in casserole dish.
2. *For sauce:* Mix all ingredients together; bring to a boil. Pour over patties. Place in oven at 350 F for 30-45 minutes; serve.

Osel’s Roast Beef Hash

Leftover roast beef, cut into bite-size pieces
Leftover roast beef gravy
3 carrots, cut up
3 celery stems, cut up
3-4 potatoes
1/2 large onion
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Add all ingredients to a deep skillet; add enough water to cover ingredients. Bring to a boil. Cover with a lid and lower to a simmer. Stir off and on, making sure it doesn’t stick to the bottom. Add more water if needed.
2. Vegetables should feel soft. Make sure gravy has reached preferred thickness. For thicker gravy, mix in a little corn starch or flour.

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

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