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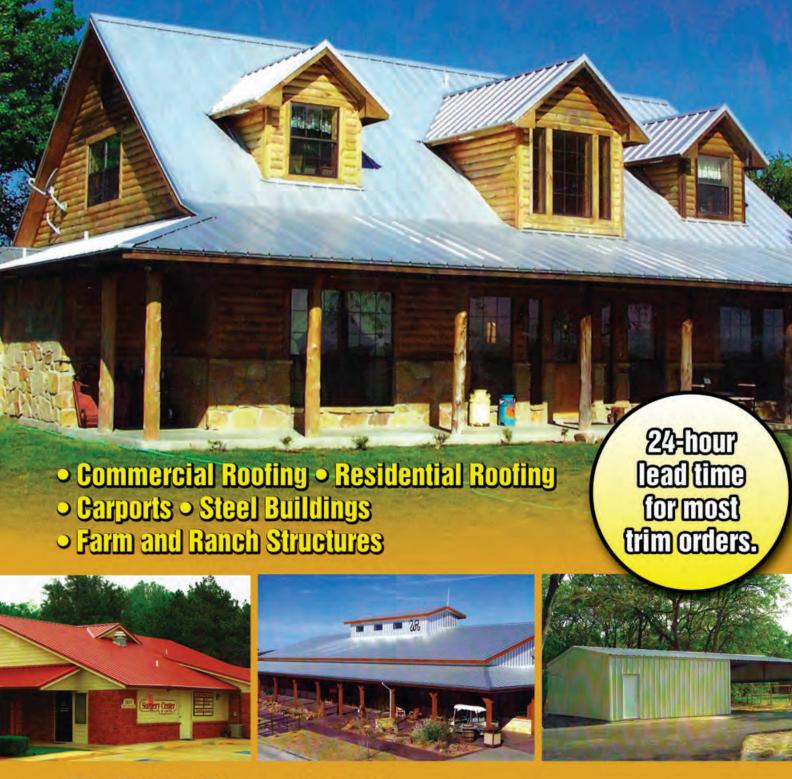


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ON THE COVER



The Borjas family spends quality time in the park.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Нарру 2013!

Each new year brings a new set of resolutions, promises to do better and changes that are inevitable. My resolutions always include eating healthy and exercising regularly. I promise to take better care of myself. As a creature of habit, change is something I still find difficult to accept. This year is going to be different!

I resolve to take each day as it comes. My goal is to handle problems with patience and professionalism. I want to learn to relax — to take life less seriously. I want to welcome the

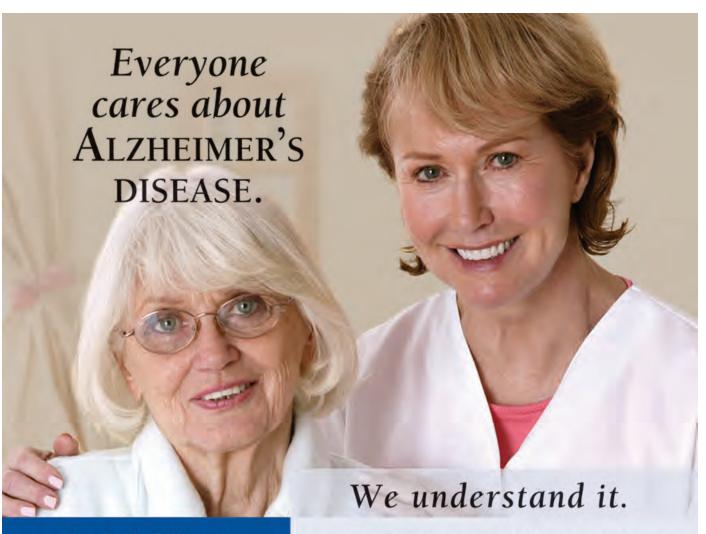
changes that are sure to come at work, at home and with my family. I want to laugh more and cry less. If I didn't learn but one thing last year, it was to find the joy in each day. This year, finding that joy is going to be my daily priority.

Sandra

Sandra Strong WaxahachieNOW Editor sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com







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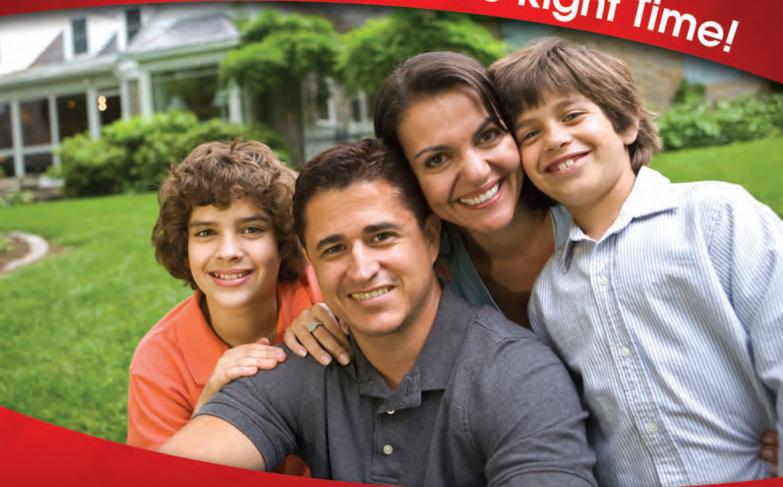
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Cruising WAXAHAC

By Florence Phillips



When Pete Borjas walks down the hall of the Waxahachie Police Department, it's obvious he belongs there. His dark eyes and contagious smile broadcast that he likes being a cop. But it wasn't his first love. Pete made a detour to the United States Marine Corps before wearing a policeman's uniform.

As a youngster, he was watching a parade with his family when a float passed by with two Marines on board. Pete was immediately impressed. "I knew

that's what I wanted to be," he said. By the time he was a senior at Waxahachie High School, he was so anxious to follow his dream that he missed his senior class trip to enlist in the United States Marine Corps. He flashes a mischievous grin as he remembers the day he took the recruiter home to meet his parents. "My dad was shocked. I said to him, 'I told you I wanted to be a Marine!"

Pete's dream got rattled some when he was deployed overseas. "My daughter was only 17 days old. I missed her a lot. That was really hard." Since the Marine Corps is small and doesn't have a man to fill each job, Pete had many different tasks, including logistics, machine gunner and communications — whatever was needed. "We didn't get much time off.

"Ever since I was young, I've always wanted to help, to be interactive with people, so this was perfect."











I might be doing logistics during the day then training Marines in martial arts after hours," he explained. He had three more overseas deployments during his enlistment, including two combat tours



in Iraq. "I'm a praying man, so there was a lot of talking to God going on over there." He spent nearly nine years in the military before he gave it up to spend more time with his family.

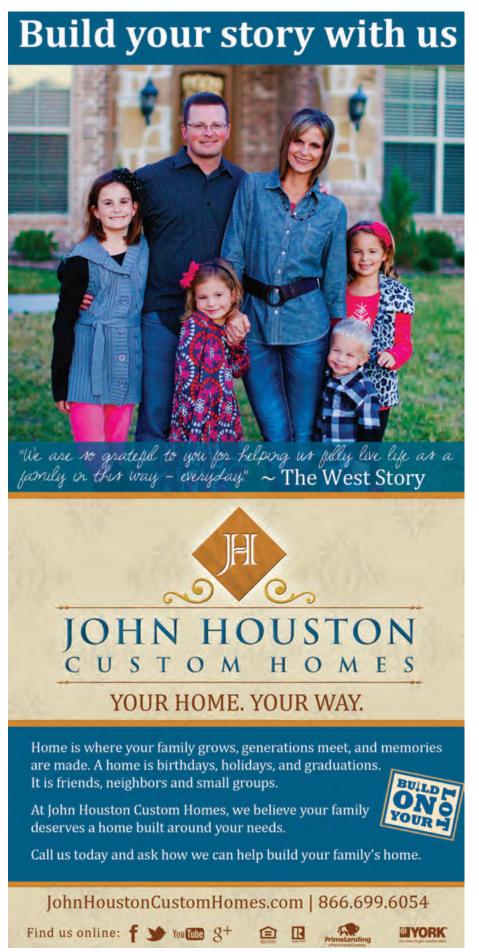
Back home, he landed a job as an information technology recruiter, finding people to develop information software for computers. He was in a high-class



location with a big office where he was making good money. "But that's where I found out money isn't everything." Pete admitted. "I wasn't happy, so I began looking for a new job." One rainy afternoon, he and his wife, Monica, were out with their two daughters, Aleena, 11, and Anaya, 7. They stopped to get something to eat. "My wife ran into the restaurant to pick up our food, and I waited in the car with the kids. Next thing I knew, she came out with a detective, pointed to me and said, 'There he is, talk to him."

The detective encouraged Pete to apply for police work. "And that's how I got a job as a Waxahachie policeman! It was exactly what I was looking for," he said. "Ever since I was young, I've always wanted to help, to be interactive with people, so this was perfect."

Navarro College had just started a Police Academy, and Pete was in the first class. He also went through five months of training with the police force. Now that he's a seasoned veteran, he has a cruiser assigned to him. He works 12-hour shifts, and his beat rotates to different areas in Waxahachie so he can be familiar with all parts of the city in case there is an emergency. He carries a duty-assigned firearm (handgun), department-issued Taser, two sets of handcuffs (and two extras in a bag), his cell phone and a shotgun. The department also has pepper-ball rifles that can be issued for crowd control if



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necessary. "My buddies and I don't think about danger. We just think about things we can do to eliminate it," Pete explained. "Information is key. If we can find out what's going on before we get to the scene, that's most important."

Pete believes the courage, commitment and discipline he learned in the Marines helped him prepare for this job. "If you're out on a minor accident where people are squabbling over who had the right of way, and the next 20 minutes you're rushed off to an assault with a deadly weapon, having that flexibility and being able to switch gears is how the Marine Corps prepared me in a huge way."

According to Ron Turbeville, Pete's Patrol Sergeant, "Pete is a professional first and foremost. He's very dedicated to the people and community he serves.



I have a lot of respect for him and feel fortunate to have him on my watch."

Pete finds happy moments in his work. One day while on duty, he helped a Korean lady who was lost. They struck up a conversation about the Asian food he loved when he had been stationed overseas. A few days later, she showed up at the precinct with enough homecooked Asian food for the entire police force. "I had a good day that day because the small thing I did was so big to her." Then, there's the goofing around and playing tricks on each other — their way of unwinding and developing the close friendships they can rely on when protecting each other's back. "Monica learned to cope with [danger] when I was in the Marine Corps," he said, regarding his wife's feeling about the danger his job could present. "She gets frustrated, but she understands I wouldn't be satisfied doing anything else."

His devotion reaches to his family,

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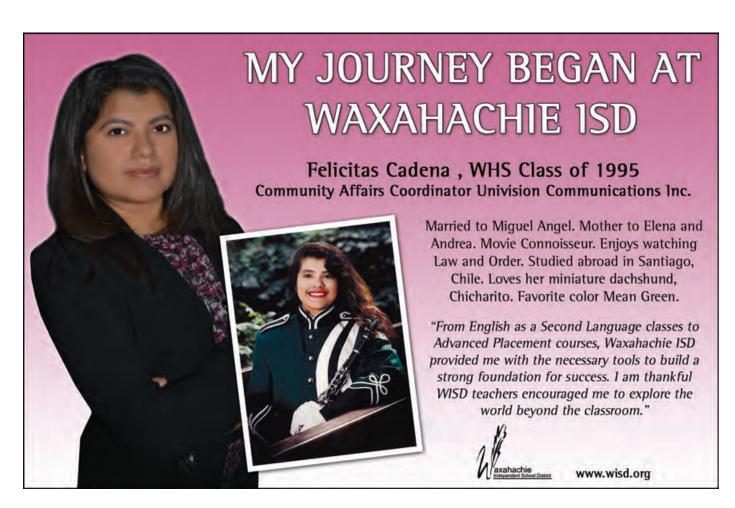
too. "When I was deployed to Iraq and had to leave my baby girl, the importance of being involved in their lives really hit home with me," he confided. He and Monica, who teaches pre-K at The Children's Montessori Center, spend a lot of time with the kids: walking, going to movies and hanging out at the park. Their older daughter is active in sports, and the youngest is now getting started with sports, so both parents stay involved with their activities.

Another of his off-duty joys is restoring his 1962 Chevy Impala. "I've done everything from body work to updating the interior," he shared. "It's not completed yet. I don't know that they ever are. It's what my dad and uncles did when I was growing up. I saw a lot of very, very nice vehicles rolling in and out of our driveway."

Pete has been with the Waxahachie Police Department since 2008. He has seen the city grow rapidly in that time,

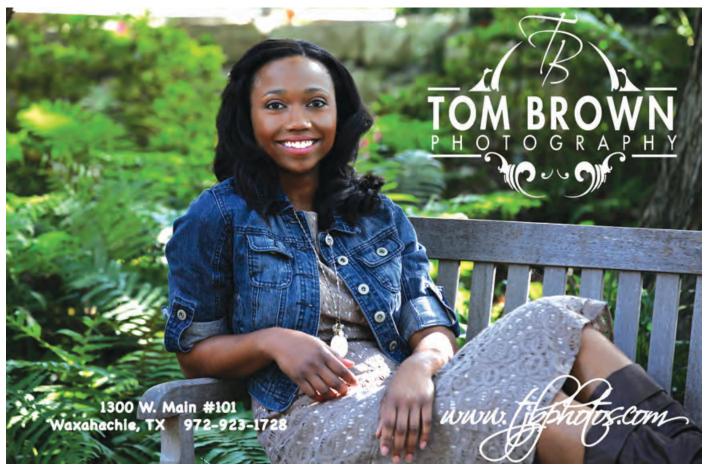


and when population rises, crime tends to rise. "The criminal element is coming up with new ways and new technology to deceive police responses," he said, "but Waxahachie is keeping up and making changes." Pete likes being part of that. "I still enjoy doing what I do, and I don't know what God's plan is for me, but if it's what I'm thinking, I'm going to be here a long time."











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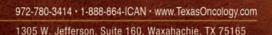
Vasu Moparty, M.D.



Douglas Orr, M.D.



WAXAHACHIE







The trial-and-error process could also be considered a happy mistake. She began with plain white ceramic tiles ranging in size from 3.5-by-3.5-inches to 12-by-12-inches. Next, she mixes her paints and applies them to the tiles. This process of mixing the paints to create the unique swirl and hue patterns is top secret, known only to Dyan. To finish off the process, Dyan pours it, another top secret method for finishing out the tile's look, and lets it dry for four days. "I haven't named this process yet, but if I had to name it today it would be called 'Dyan's Mistake," Dyan said. "There is nothing unique about the tiles I start out with. They're the plain white tiles that anybody can get down at the hardware store, but once I do my thing to them, there are no two tiles alike."

One of her favorite gifts to give at weddings is a tile made from the wedding invitation she received in the mail.

Friends and family saw Dyan's colored tiles and wanted them, delaying her backsplash project even further. She began experimenting with adding catchy phrases, Bible verses and photographs to the tiles. As long as she seals the paper product she is trying to preserve, Dyan can turn anything into a tile masterpiece. One of her favorite gifts to give at weddings is a tile made from the wedding invitation she received in the mail. She has also created a chair rail in a sewing room by sealing photographs into tiles. "It took me a few tries to figure it out," Dyan admitted. "Some of the first times I tried turning paper products into tile, the pour bled through and made the paper splotchy."

While her signature color process and preserving memories are a big part of what Dyan does with tiles, they are not the biggest and most time-consuming tile project she takes on. Years ago, Dyan began painting out of necessity and frugality. Since discovering how to paint on tiles like she would a wall or canvas,

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Dyan has switched over to painting her illustrated works on the ceramic tiles. These illustrated masterpieces can range from one tile up to dozens of tiles.

Visitors to Dyan's home will find one of her more elaborate illustrations, a lifelike green dragon stretching across several black tiles, framed on her wall. She left this tile piece ungrouted to give each tile within the piece more definition. These pieces that she creates can take days to sketch and paint.

Dyan draws inspiration for her pieces from conversations with other people, her imagination or a photograph she has seen. Some are so elaborate they stretch out as large as twin beds. After Dyan switched to illustrating tiles, it was not long before Dyan's pieces began taking over her home. She has had to convert two of her bedrooms into a tile drying and storage place. Each piece of art needs a flat, dry surface in order to be finished properly. "If a tile doesn't meet my approval, it is thrown in the trash, no matter how long it's taken me to create it the first time around," Dyan explained. "Sometimes I can finish a tile in a few hours, other times it can take up to two weeks. The most expensive part of creating these pieces is time."

Most of Dyan's days are spent creating new pieces, but not everything Dyan creates is for herself. With a heart for her community and helping others, Dyan has found a way to give back through her art and glass etchings. She donates paintings, tiles, glass-etched mirrors and plaques to community organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and the Waxahachie Police and Fire departments. Recently, she donated a piece to the Waxahachie Chili's restaurant to raise money for St. Jude's Research Hospital.



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MY KOME IS MY CANVAS



Dyan, a former Homeland Security agent, has always made time for art in her life, her home being her main canvas. She taught herself how to lay tile, paint, draw and etch glass. When remodeling the living room in her Waxahachie home, Dyan wanted the expensive look of Venetian plaster without the price tag. Not afraid of learning through experimentation, Dyan set out to cover her walls in the plaster. After the living room, she applied the texture to both bathrooms. To finish those projects she etched the glass mirrors and shower doors with outlines of flowers and butterflies and laid tile countertops. As a

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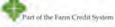
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do-it-yourself guru, Dyan has been laying tile since she bought her first home. No project has been too big. Dyan has laid everything from outdoor tile walkways to indoor flooring. "I have saved a ton of money in labor costs," Dyan said. "I have taught myself how to do the tiling, plastering and etching. I want to live in a nice house with nice things, and I think I do, without it costing me a fortune. My home is my canvas.

The kitchen, her main workstation, is one of the final projects Dyan has left in her home-makeover project. She spends



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As co-owner of a karate school, Valerie Honeycutt's hip pain from chronic arthritis made it difficult for her to even tie her shoes. At Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie, Valerie underwent hip resurfacing, an alternative procedure to total hip replacement. She then participated in physical therapy to regain strength and full range of motion. "It was an absolutely wonderful experience," she says. "Everyone at Baylor was very compassionate and caring." With her full mobility returned, Valerie is enjoying traveling, karate, swimming and even tying her shoes. I'm back on my feet doing everything I want."

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a lot of time cooking and working in the kitchen so the room needs to inspire her. Drawings, paintings and tiles have found their way into the room, where each week she bakes bread for family meals and makes her own butter.

The only thing left to complete in her inspiring kitchen is the tile backsplash. This unfinished do-it-yourself project has

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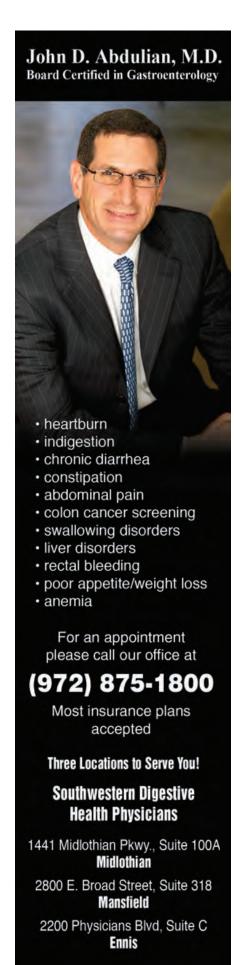
Not afraid of learning through experimentation, Dyan set out to cover her walls in the plaster.

started Dyan on a path of great artistic

started Dyan on a path of great artistic discovery, where boring white tiles are given new life as color-popping pieces that evoke discussion. "I will finish the backsplash one of these days," Dyan said, with a smile. "Now I just have to decide which of my colors I want to use. Maybe I'll just use them all."











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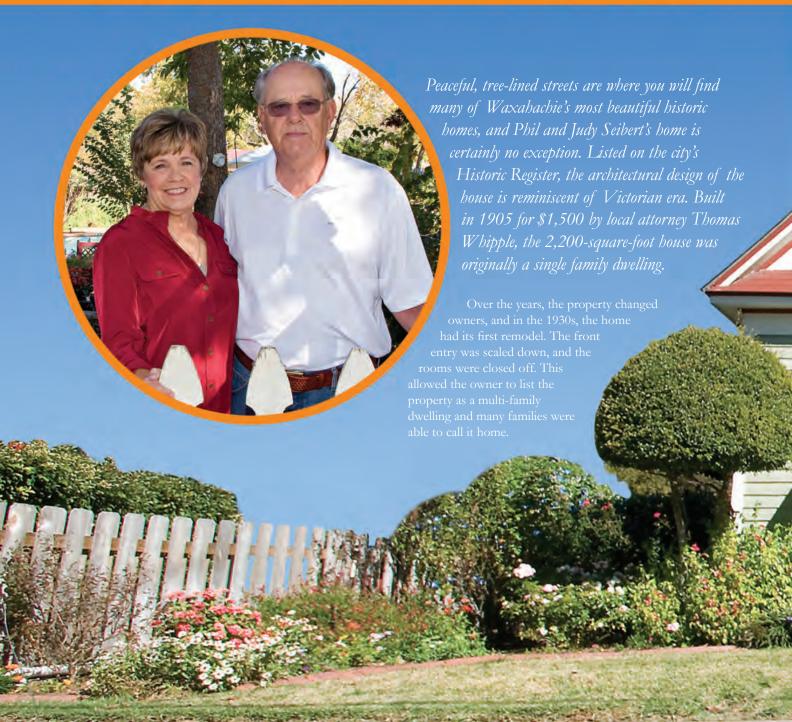
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At Home With Phil and Judy Seibert







industry, they had been on the move — literally. "I worked for major corporations such as Frito-Lay, Pillsbury, Häagen-Dazs and Kellogg's," Phil explained. As an executive, it was necessary for Phil, Judy and their two children, Kelley and Scott, to move frequently. "We've lived in Baltimore, Houston, San Diego, Atlanta and Detroit," Phil added. Judy was a



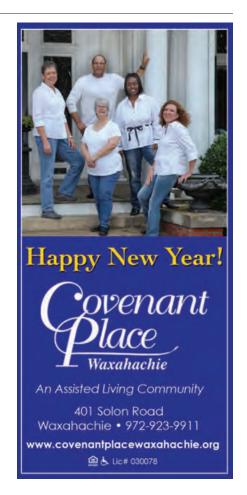
registered nurse, a career that provided her with the flexibility necessary to accommodate Phil's career advancement.

The Waxahachie home that "spoke to them" had been remodeled in 1998, with function as a major element for the blueprints. "The closed-off rooms were opened back up, and the unfinished attic became a source for additional space," Judy shared. "It was redesigned

to accommodate a bedroom, a halfbath, and there was enough remaining space for a small room our two young grandsons used as a playroom when they were around 2 and 4 years old."

Staying true to the design, even the stairwell has function. It is lined with picturesque photographs of the couple on overseas vacations in the lush, beautiful countries of Scotland and













Ireland. Even the modest empty space at the top of the stairway was in the designer's crosshairs. Now it houses a small office area with a modular desk, a chair and a small sofa. The soft lamp lighting provides the perfect space to get work done or simply relax with a good book.

Not only does the outward appearance of the home feature historical prominence, the interior design has vintage appeal as well. "When the home was updated, local decorator, Diane Johnson-Collard, was the designer. As each phase of the work was completed, it was featured as a remodel segment on WFAA's Good Morning Texas.

The traditional appeal of the exterior of the house demonstrates a loyalty to the character of the home, and Judy has done a masterful job of preserving the interior historical personality. Each room displays beautiful antiques. Judy laughed, "I collect antiques. I had an antique shop in downtown Waxahachie for several years called The Faded Rose. I loved collecting antiques for the shop, but the problem was that I wanted to bring home everything that I found!"

The living room features an antique Farm & Ranch treadle sewing machine which operated with the continuous manual push of a foot pedal. An old Edison Victrola stands proudly in a dining room corner, which incidentally, was original to the home. "It came with the house," Judy said. Marie Holchak, one of the youngest occupants of the home, had been a small child when she and her family lived in the house during the first half of the 20th century. The Victrola had been a part of her family's estate sale.

The Seibert's home has been on the Gingerbread Tour once and on the Christmas Tour twice, and the Seibert's actually met one of the former childhood occupants. "We met Marie in 2000, when she came during the Christmas Tour. She wasn't able to go up the stairs to see the redesigned attic space, but she enjoyed seeing the other updates. She brought an old photograph with her, which showed her father on the front porch of the house with her when she was a little girl. It was remarkable to see the past and present come together as she walked through her childhood home."

Another common theme runs throughout the home. On the walls, on the coffee table and in the curio cabinets were framed classic black and white and vintage photos of Phil and Judy's family members. "I am a genealogist," Judy stated proudly. "I love history. I have always been curious about my family roots, so genealogical research was a natural progression for me. When I started researching, the only information I had were my grandparents' names."

Armed with an inquisitive nature and Ancestry.com, she set out to discover more about her family's origins. She knew her Texas roots run deep, but her persistence revealed a European lineage that reached back through Texas and beyond. She discovered family records that dated back to the 1700s and a paternal lineage that dated back to the 1500s in both England and Scotland. Her proficiency in researching history has found itself in demand. "I'm currently helping local author and historian, Ellen Beasley, research what will eventually be an architectural guide book on Waxahachie homes and businesses."

The Seibert's beautifully remodeled kitchen now has all updated appliances and boasts dark granite countertops. But what is most striking about the space is the large window that opens the room up to the picturesque view of their backyard. While Judy may have had the last word on decorating their home, Phil is definitely the king of all things outdoors. His manicured lawn and roses are the perfect backdrop against for the swimming pool, and he maintains the landscaping with environmentally friendly, nontoxic fertilizers and pest control agents. His backyard even has a small organic garden full of tomatoes, onions, squash and black-eyed peas.

The question of which room is the favorite in this home is up for debate. The weather this time of year in north Texas tends to be a bit on the chilly side. And Phil and Judy have a cozy home that favors a warm blanket and a hot cup of cider on nippy Texas evenings. But, when the warm summer months roll back around, the inviting pool and open patio space offers the most relief from the heat. Regardless of which setting you prefer, the Seiberts have the best seats in the house!









Sara began to noticeably lose weight during the spring of her sophomore year in high school. On the way home from a tournament, her coaches, Ruben Vargas and Carrie Castleberry, noticed Sara needed more frequent water and restroom breaks throughout the weekend. They suggested Sara be tested for diabetes.

The following week, Sara played at the regional tournament. That morning Kim, Sara's mother, brought a glucose meter and tested Sara's blood sugar. When the numbers came up, Sara's family physician was called, and Sara was immediately taken from the tournament to the hospital. Soon it was determined Sara had type 1 juvenile diabetes. After a short stay in the hospital, Sara was deemed fit to step back on the tennis court just in time for the state tournament. Her blood

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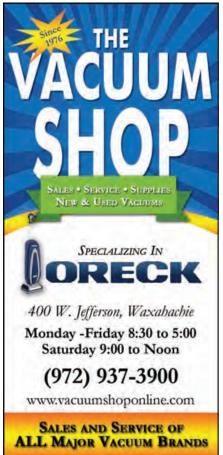
Faheem Ahmed, M.D.

Revathi Angitapalli, M.D.

Charles Lee, M.D.













sugar levels were closely monitored. "It was my first time to ever give myself shots," Sara remembered. "I was terrified, but I knew this was something I had to do in order to stay healthy throughout the tournament."

During team tournaments, multiple matches are played at once. But during the finals of the 3AAA State Team Tennis Tournament the score was 9 all, Sara's match was the deciding factor. "The one problem with me and tennis is that you're supposed to be quiet during points," she explained. "I thrive on noise and excitement, but at this point the only voices I needed to hear were the ones of my coaches. Coach Vargas took a chance by putting me out there, but he knew I would fight to the end. I will never forget the feeling of him believing in me."

Sara is forever grateful for the manner in which her coach pushed and motivated her, because it helped her decide what





she would do for the rest of her life. She felt as if God knew she needed to be in that moment to learn what true encouragement and coaching was. "I think I would still be wondering what to do with my life if I had not had these experiences with those coaches," Sara said. "I want to show kids they are capable of doing challenging things. I needed that challenge and the



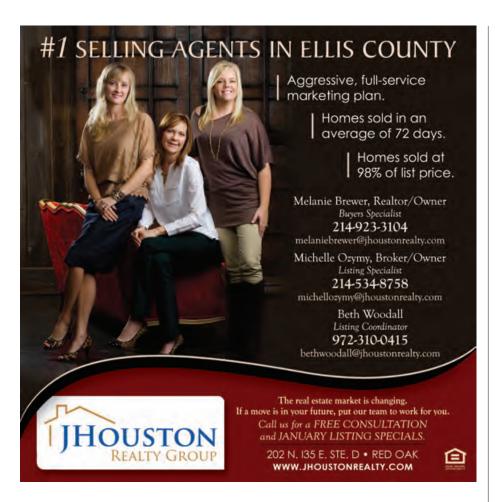
help of my coaches to show me I had the ability to master anything in life."

During her junior year, Sara became determined to play volleyball at the collegiate level. Volleyball didn't come as easily to Sara as tennis did, but the hard work she put in paid off the day she signed with Wayland Baptist University. After graduating from Wayland with a degree in education, Sara began teaching and coaching in the Ferris Independent School District. Her first year coaching, she was the seventh and eighth grade girls















volleyball and tennis coach. At the end of the year, she was asked to be varsity head coach. During this time, the Ellis County Juniors found out about Sara and asked her if she would be interested in coaching one of their club volleyball teams.

The Ellis County Juniors (ECJs), founded by Justin Wilson 14 years ago, is made up of 13 teams (140 kids) coached by 26 coaches. Sara was able to juggle her high school team and her club teams because the seasons run at opposite times of the year. Tryouts are held each fall, and the season runs from December to May. "Working with the ECJs is a great opportunity that allows me to do both of the things that I love, coaching volleyball and teaching," Sara shared.

Although having the opportunity to coach was important to Sara, she realized she was neglecting one of her greatest loves — teaching elementary students. In 2012, Sara left Ferris ISD to take a third grade teaching position at Wedgeworth Elementary School.

When Sara isn't coaching her Ellis County Junior's team or teaching, she is more than likely giving private volleyball lessons. She trains kids from age 8 to 17. Sara enjoys supporting each of the young ladies she works with by going to watch them play. Sara's busy schedule could be problematic with her diabetes, but she has found ways to control the stress levels of being a coach. "I coach two to three hours a night, as well as on the weekends," Sara said. "I've had players















go through difficult and possibly careerending injuries like I did. Being able to push them in the ways they need it is why I wanted to be a coach. If I'm able to reach one kid in all of this, it will have been worth it."

Coaches and parents have been a large part of where Sara landed. As her support system, they did not let the type I diabetes slow her down. Inspired by her life story, Coach Vargas gives motivational speeches to athletes, educators and community leaders across the state. Sara's parents were with her at every game, and she credits them with how she developed as an athlete and coach. "My parents have been there with me through it all," Sara admitted. "They knew when to push me and when to comfort me. They encouraged hard work. Without their support I wouldn't be where I am today."

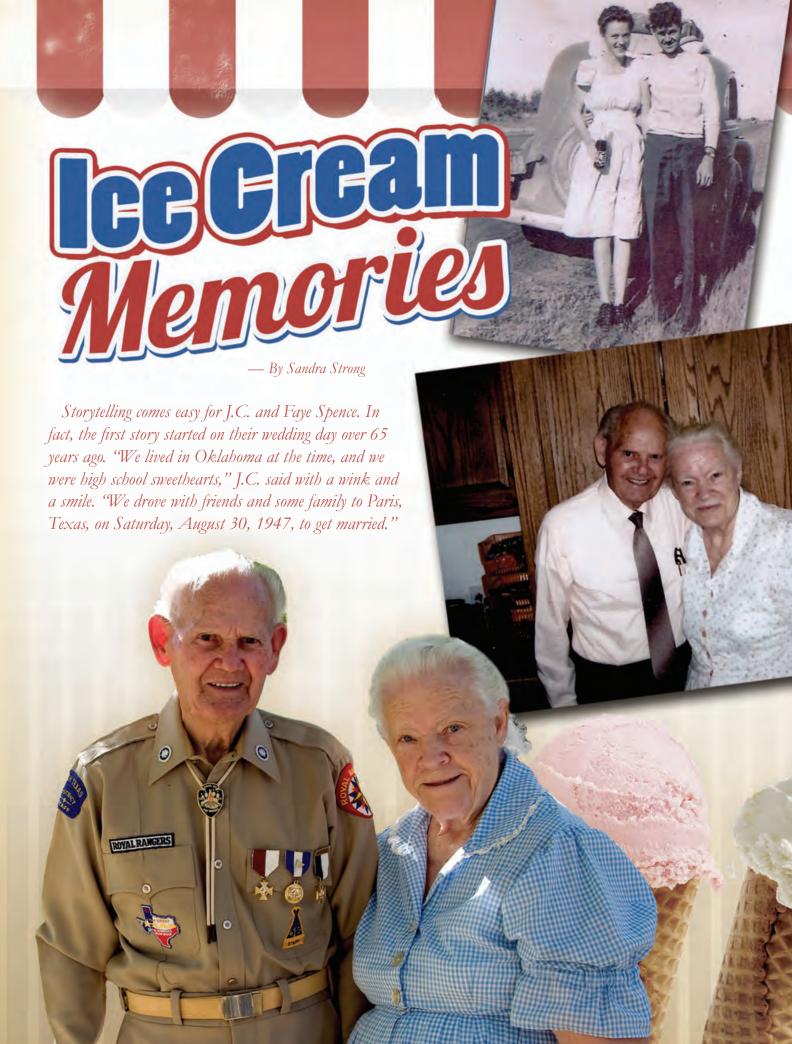
Life is all about challenges and learning how to deal with the obstacles one faces on a daily basis. Having learned firsthand about the struggles athletes face, Sara's purpose is to teach her students and players how to become confident in themselves, as well as the game they play. "I treat my players the same way I would treat my own family. I make sure not to talk to them in any way that would hinder their self-esteem," Sara explained. "The best part of all of this is I get to see them grow as individuals. It's my job to coach a sport, but the best part of it is seeing someone develop confidence."











After exchanging their vows, they started the trek back to Oklahoma. On the way home, J.C. asked if anyone wanted to stop for ice cream. "Sure we do," was the unanimous reply, so he proceeded to The Palace. "I was driving a long hay truck," J.C. explained. "When I started to park, I realized I didn't have any brakes. Being the fast-thinking

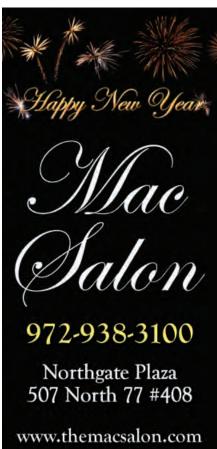
person that I am," he said with a laugh, "I quickly put the truck in reverse and watched the smoke boil. I jumped the curb, hitting and breaking the door to the ice cream shop. Finally, the truck started to move backwards."

As the vehicle came to a stop, J.C. once again asked who wanted ice cream. "That was the most expensive ice cream that day," he said, as Faye smiled from the memory. "Every year on August 30, Faye and I have ice cream. I think ice cream is what has kept us healthy and strong." After finally making it back to Oklahoma

on Saturday evening, they boarded a bus on Sunday evening to return to Southwestern Bible Institute, now known as Southwestern Assemblies of God University, before classes began on Monday morning. "We rode the bus all night," Faye stated. "We got back to school at 5:00 a.m. Monday. It was definitely a

long, busy weekend."







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The couple left school during their senior year to pursue their true calling — teaching and storytelling — at a children's home in Hot Springs, Arkansas. After several months, they returned to Waxahachie to continue working with children as volunteers with the Royal Rangers, a mentoring program for future men. The program provides Christian character formation and servant leadership development for boys and young men in a highly relational and fun environment. "The Royal Rangers' mission has always been to evangelize, equip and empower the next generation," J.C. added. "It's a ministry. The new objectives are to reach, teach and keep boys for Jesus Christ."

J.C. was recently honored for 50

consecutive years of dedicated service to the Royal Rangers. He has taught more than two generations the same morals he learned as a youngster. "Young boys need a positive role model — one who teaches by example," J. C. explained. "I teach them the same principles that made me the man I am. I teach them, and they learn. If you don't teach them and give them good examples to follow, then they don't learn."

Fifty years is a very big deal that has afforded J.C. many memories. He has been honored with several Royal Ranger Lifetime Service Awards. He just received grand accolades for 50 years of distinguished service. His commitment has also been recognized at the national level. "I'm considered a



lifetime member throughout the world," he shared. "Tve travelled all over the country. I even received a congratulatory e-mail from people we don't even know from Australia."

Royal Rangers has opened so many doors for the couple, but J.C. admits he couldn't do what he does without his helpmate and life partner. Faye has been an integral part of the lifetime commitment J.C. made such a long time ago. "He gets very emotional when he shares Bible stories with the boys,"













Faye admitted, "so I'm there to help by finishing the stories."

As J.C. dabs away the tears in his eyes, he stands firm on his beliefs. "We don't do this for fame or fortune," he said. "It's what God has called us to do. We've never gone looking for accolades or awards. It's our ministry."

J.C. and Faye have what they call "two sets of children." As they remember the early years, they understand fully how life can pull at your heartstrings, and because of their strong faith, they've weathered



every storm that's come their way. "Our first set of children, two boys 11 and 12, were rolling a 55-gallon drum on the wet grass when they rolled the drum over an electric line buried in the backyard," Faye explained. "The cord had a cut in it that caused them to be electrocuted. I could have been mad at God, but I've learned His ways are not my ways. My head and heart had to finally come to an agreement before I was able to move forward."

Their second set of children includes two daughters and another boy whom they adopted when he was only 18 months old. But over the years, the Spence home has been a haven for more than 160 children. "We've opened our home to so many who have needed a safe place to stay," J.C. said.

"We've had legal guardianship over so many more," Faye added.

Even today, J.C. and Faye think young.







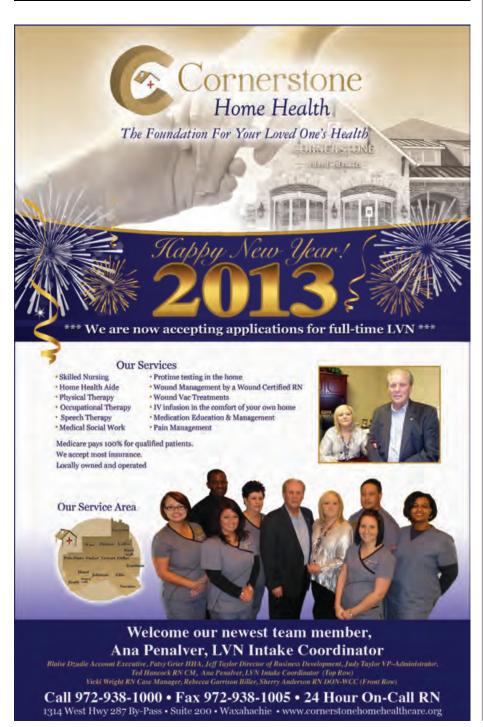




Dr. Hamilton was great with my son Jayden. He was patient and very understanding. I am blessed we found him. I would recommend him to anyone. - Jennifer B.

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He gets up at 5:00 a.m. to eat a breakfast consisting of a sausage biscuit and tea. He then drives himself to BaylorWorx where he works out until 7:00 a.m. Once home again, he eats another small meal before taking his morning rest. "I exercise five days a week," he confessed. "I think the exercising is what keeps me going."

"My exercise comes from chasing him," Faye stated with a laugh.

Through good times and bad, through thick and thin, J.C. and Faye have stayed together. It's all about teamwork for J.C. "I couldn't do all the things I do without



her. Faye and I are a team," J.C. stated with conviction. "God is the glue that keeps us together."

Faye sees things just a little differently. "The Bible says that man is to love his wife like He loves the Church. I'm married to that man," Faye said. "I can count on one hand the times he's spoken ugly to me. We're pretty elastic, too!"

J.C. and Faye find great joy in giving to others. They don't mind sharing their food, loaning money for gas or offering a warm bed or a ride to and from work. "Faye has a huge heart for the underdog. If you're hungry," J.C. smiled, "she will feed you. She doesn't miss a chance to love on someone."

The couple has shared some big blowouts over the years, and each celebration has included ice cream. "We spent our 65th wedding anniversary at Braum's," J.C. said. "We shared a banana split." NOW

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Sealed With a Kiss

Simply Chic offers high-end services for reasonable prices.

— By Sandra Strong

Growing up in Midlothian, Lindsey Medlock was the ultimate tomboy. Hair was the furthest thing from her mind. She would let it grow and then chop it off. Soon after graduating, she found herself in the role of mother. "I wanted to further my education," Lindsey said, "but college wasn't really an option with a small child. My mother thought I should try doing hair."

The minute the idea was planted, Lindsey took her mother's words of advice seriously. She enrolled in the Ogle School in Fort Worth, finding her true passion along the way. "I realized I love doing hair," she stated. Lindsey graduated at the top of her class at the age of 19.

Lindsey went on to apprentice under world-renowned

Fort Worth hair stylist, John Kataz, for more than a year, then moved on to work as a stylist in two prestigious Metroplex salons. During this two-and-a-half year period, Lindsey achieved the skills and acquired the techniques necessary to work in a high-demand position, while also providing an exceptional level of quality to her clients.

Her move to Waxahachie came in March 2007. Lindsey quickly began to build her clientele. After only five months, she had gained the confidence she needed to take a giant leap of faith. "My desire to offer my own personal touch to customers prompted another decision," she admitted. "At 22, I decided it was time to open my own salon."

Simply Chic, A Trendy Salon & Spa has been satisfying

Business NOW

its clientele for five years now. The salon had its beginnings in a quaint little shop for three years off Marvin Street. "I wanted to start small," she confessed. "I just wanted to make sure." As the business continued to grow, Lindsey realized the need for a new location that offered more spa services, as well as convenience in parking. This expansion brought Simply Chic to its present locale on Ferris Avenue. "We gutted the building and started over," she explained. "We painted and added wallpaper. We found hardwood floors under the carpet. I wanted it to show my personality."

Each room, although uniquely equipped for the service it provides, is a perfect representation of the salon's owner. The rooms are bubbly, upbeat and modernly whimsical. They also carry out Lindsey's love of lips and her motto of "Sealed with a kiss!" When hiring her staff, Lindsey wanted the same upbeat personalities working with her. She found that and so much more in confidantes and experienced stylists, Janelle Kargel and Sandy Chance; massage therapist, Erica Pena; nail technician, Debbie Griffin; aesthetician, Belynda Bridgford, who also offers full body wax; IonCleanse Foot Detox technician, Denise Humphrey; and permanent makeup artist, Janet Campbell.

Lindsey admits the interview process to hire new staff is intensive. "They have to be right for the salon," she emphasized. "They have to be dedicated, hard workers who always put the client first. We are a team of professional women who work very well together."

As a people-oriented person, Lindsey believes the most important aspect of being a business owner is focusing on the clients. Clients are the priority at Simply Chic, the trendy upscale salon that offers high-end services for reasonable prices. "Their needs always come first because they represent the heart of the business. We want them to feel at home here," Lindsey said. "Nobody leaves without a smile."









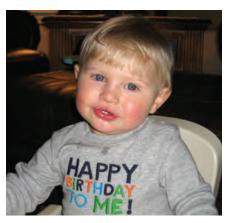
Around Town NOW



Candice Jones of Ark Country Store celebrates their 5-year annivasary with her customers, Russell and Missy Phillips.



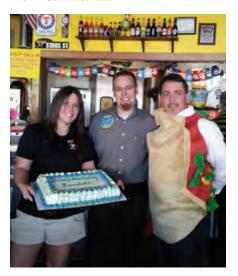
Casey Henson has too much fun decorating the NOW Christmas tree.



Easton Rider McIntosh celebrates his 1st birthday with a big smile.



Tyler and Noah Ehmer enjoy their time at the WHS Pre-Christmas Craft Sale.



Randall Chase (center) celebrates his birthday at Fuzzy's Tacos.



Bob and Ann Worsham show off the custom crosses they handcraft.



The guys from Mueller, Inc. are all smiles.



Michelle Burks and Dr. Peggy Linquist enjoy the Homecoming Parade.



Michelle Stanley and her 4-year-old daughter, Chloe Cron, love to visit Merry Toppins after gymnastics class.













New Year's Resolutions: **Boost Your Credit!**

— By Aaron Penny

It's that time of year again — time to make New Year's resolutions! While friends and family members promise to eat better, run that marathon or just get more done, why not look at reducing your debt and improving your credit?

Credit Management and Financial Fitness Programs

A great way to start is by taking advantage of free debt and credit counseling. Reviewing your credit can be daunting, so why not save yourself the stress and ask an expert? Look for financial institutions that offer free counseling or partner with a debt and credit management program. Financial fitness programs, such as BALANCE, work with you to give a big picture view of your finances. From there, representatives create and tailor a plan specific to your goals. Having a course of action to follow will save you time and give you a sense of accomplishment along the way.

Credit Builder Loans

The New Year is also a great time to start building solid credit history. Try to look for products like share secured or credit builder loans. These provide an easy way to build up your credit by using funds on deposit (or in some cases, funds the institution provides for you to deposit) as collateral. As you make payments each month, the steady pay history is reported to the credit bureaus, which in turn helps build up that elusive credit score. Many institutions even offer to set up your payment automatically, so you don't have to

worry about remembering the due date each month. As you make payments, part of the funds being held as collateral are released for you to use. Try letting the funds build up so you have a nice savings account at the end of the loan!

Consolidate Credit Card Debt

Speaking of savings, sometimes you can find a way to save a little in places you wouldn't think possible, such as that credit card you've been steadily paying off for the past few years. Check into getting qualified for a lower rate and transferring the credit card balance. You can even consolidate several credit cards into one for a lower rate. Consolidating credit cards is also convenient, because it brings all those pesky payments into one single monthly payment. Use the funds you've saved on interest to make extra payments to bring down the balance. Or, at the end of your New Year's resolution, why not use all the money you've saved for a down payment on that new car you've been looking at?

Bring in the New Year by setting reasonable and accomplishable goals for yourself. Ask a friend for a reliable financial institution in your neighborhood to help you accomplish your new plan! NOW

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

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Crawling With Life

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Once again, the two sisters found themselves on a familiar path to the nurse's office at school. They were sent there by their teachers who noticed the troubling symptoms of another round of head lice infestation. Head lice are wingless parasitic insects that live on your scalp, feed on your blood and lay their eggs in your hair. They are very tiny, about the size of a sesame seed, and when they move around on the scalp, it can feel like a tickling or crawling sensation. Lice infestation is not a sign of uncleanliness or poverty. Anyone can get lice. They are nondiscriminatory about whom they choose to crawl on. They spread by crawling from personto-person and by the sharing of personal items, such as combs, brushes, hats or headphones.

The earliest and most predominant sign of lice infestation is itching with resultant scratching. The itching is because of an allergic reaction to the saliva excreted from the louse (singular form for lice). Intense scratching can cause open wounds which can then become infected. Another visual to determine if lice are present is the actual bug itself and its eggs, which are called nits. Nits are deposited on the hair shaft next to the scalp. One can find the bugs most often on the back of the neck and behind the ears.

Getting rid of lice is involved but worth it. There are products and medications available over the counter (OTC) and by prescription to kill lice and their eggs. Follow directions carefully. Use a fine toothed comb on wet hair to remove nits. Check the hair of all persons in the household. Remember to wash all brushes and combs in hot sudsy water. Afterwards, either soak them for an hour in isopropyl alcohol or replace them. Sheets, pillow cases and clothing that have come in contact with the infected person need to be laundered using hot water. Items such as large comforters or stuffed animals that cannot be laundered should be placed in a plastic or airtight bag tightly sealed for at least two weeks. The



environment, floors and furniture, should be vacuumed thoroughly. For children under the age of 2, check with their health care provider before using any chemicals or OTC medications. For them, it is usually sufficient to remove live bugs and nits by hand.

Having lice may be embarrassing, and it is definitely annoying. However, the good news is that with effort they can be eliminated from your home and your head.

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



North Texas Challenges

— By Nancy Fenton

Gardeners in North Texas take on a number of challenges. Our soils are very inconsistent. In places, the soil is only 2-3 inches deep covering giant limestone boulders (highly alkaline). In other areas, we have rich-looking black clay soil that doesn't drain well at all. A soil test available from Texas A&M will help you know what to do with that awakened soil.

The second problem is our inconsistent rainfall. Deep mulches help greatly. Natural mulches like bark, chopped leaves and tree and shrub trimmings work best, turning into rich compost year after year. Remember mulch should stay in your flowerbeds to decompose rather than being removed and replaced. Just add to the top like the teens do to their dirty clothes.

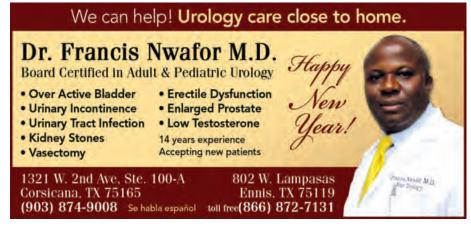
Plant selection is the third problem. Due to back surgery, digging is a no-no for me this year. So, I'm counting on my perennials (plants that come up year after year.) The native grasses I planted last year will come on strong as will the native shrubs and Earth-Kind roses. Check with the Master Gardeners for lists of hardy and beautiful plants that do well in North Texas.

The fourth problem is the rock and clay under our feet. Additions of compost (homemade or commercial) and expanded shale help loosen the good stuff in the clay and will also help it drain when we have those "frog strangler" rains. Watch how many times you push that heavy tiller through the soil. Loosening the top 6-9 inches will provide the best result without compacting the soil underneath into concrete. A fork works well for repeated turn overs. Remember if you are using a high nitrogen source (21-0-0, blood meal, green clippings or fresh manures), don't dig them in and then plant immediately. Dig them in three to six weeks before you plant and water well to start the nitrogen release. If your plants are already in the ground, spread the nitrogen source in a thin layer on top of the ground like mulch and water well. You don't want to burn the tender new roots.

Have a great 2013 and enjoy your outdoor areas. Since I am on limited activity in this year, next month we'll start a series on orchids that will grow outside in North Texas!

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.











January 2-4, 7-11

Christmas Tree Recycling: 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 1011 Eastgate, Midlothian. Please check in at the office. Make sure all decorations and electrical lights are removed. No artificial trees or wreaths will be accepted.

January 4

First Friday at Barking Rocks Winery: 7:00-11:00 p.m., 1919 Allen Court, Granbury. Bring chairs and enjoy live music and wine tastings. For more information, call (817) 579-0007 or visit www.barkingrockswine.com.

January 8

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1009 Meeting: 7:00 p.m., Sirloin Stockade, 2508 West 7th Ave., Corsicana. For more information, e-mail Ron Wright at rekwji@hughes.net.

January 19

Black and White Gala hosted by the Waxahachie Community Theatre: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium. The evening will include food, live music, dancing and the presentation of Spotlight Awards for the 2012 season. Black tie is optional and all family members are welcome. Tickets are \$15/adults

and \$7/children ages 6-11. Preschool children are free with a paid admission. Reservations are required and must be made by January 14. Visit www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com or call (972) 646-1050 for more information or to order tickets.

Texas Baptist Home's Adoption Run For Their Lives 5K: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave. Run will benefit the Texas Baptist Home's Adoption Department. For more information, call (972) 937-1321.

January 22

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

February 2

Jazz Café presents "A Night of Memories:" 6:30-10:30 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. The event includes dinner, live music from the WHS Jazz Orchestra and silent auction/raffle benefiting the WISD band programs. Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 after January 20. For more information on where to purchase tickets, go to www.spiritofwaxahachie.com/jazzcafe.

February 9

Valentine's Dinner & Auction Benefiting CASA of Ellis County: 6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Tickets are \$50 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (972) 937-1455 or visit www.CASAofEllisCounty.org.

Ennis Czech Music Festival: 11:00 a.m.-10:30 p.m., Sokol Activity Center, 2622 East Hwy. 34. Bands performing will include the Moravians, Ennis Czech Boys, Jak Se Do, Czech Harvesters, Jodie Mikula Orchestra and Czech & Then Some. For more information, visit www.ennisczechmusicfestival.com or call (972) 878-4748.

March 2

Fresh Grounded Faith area-wide women's event: The Avenue Church, 1761 N. Hwy 77. The event features Jennifer Rothschild. For more information, visit www.FreshGroundedFatih.com or call the church office at (972) 937-5301.

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











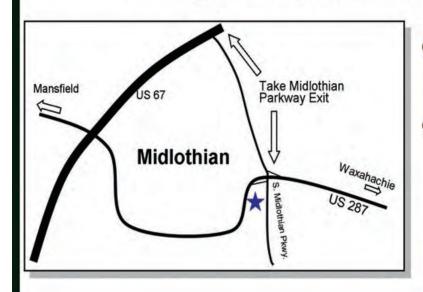
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In The Kitchen With Marsha Lock

— By Sandra Strong

The women in Marsha Lock's life have been her inspiration when it comes to cooking. "My love for the craft came from my mom," Marsha shared. "My mother-in-law was also a fantastic cook." But she gives credit to her good friend, Kay, for her boldness in the kitchen. "We worked together cooking meals on Wednesday nights at our church," Marsha explained. "She helped me to not be afraid to invent my own recipes."

Saucy Lime and Raspberry Salad is just one of those bold recipes. "It's an easy and refreshing salad that's good anytime," she said. "The kitchen is such a special place for drinking coffee, creating new ideas for recipes and spending special moments with my daughter and daughters-in-law, just as my mom did with me."

Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner Quiche

- 3/4 cup cheddar or Colby cheese, shredded
- 3/4 cup Swiss cheese, shredded Readymade pie shell
- 3/4 cup cooked ham, bacon, sausage or hamburger or all four if desired
- 4 eggs, well-beaten
- 1 cup Pet evaporated milk or 1/2 cup Pet evaporated milk and 1/2 cup
- low fat milk 1/2 cup onion, finely diced Salt and pepper, to taste
- **1.** Put cheeses in pie shell. Add meat, mixing well.
- **2.** In a bowl, mix eggs, milk, onion, salt and pepper. Pour over cheese and meat mixture.
- **3.** Bake at 325 F for 45 minutes or until knife inserted comes out clean.

German Sweet Rice

I cup Adolphus Best rice Milk (enough to totally cover rice) Sugar, to taste Butter, to taste Cinnamon, to taste

- **1.** In a double boiler, cook milk-covered rice until done, about 60 minutes. Do not overcook otherwise rice will become sticky.
- **2.** Remove from stove. Add sugar to taste.
- **3.** Pour into a serving dish. Dot with butter and sprinkle with cinnamon to cover. Serve immediately while still warm.

Saucy Lime and Raspberry Salad

Salad:

6 cups mixed salad greens

- 3/4 cup raspberries, washed and drained
- 4 thin slices purple onion, separated into rings
- 2 eggs, hardboiled, optional
- 3 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled

Dressing:

- 3 Tbsp. Raspberry All-Fruit
- 1/4 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 Tbsp. Fat Free Catalina dressing
- 1/4 cup lime juice
- I Tbsp. vegetable or canola oil
- 1/4 tsp. poppy seeds
- **1.** For salad: mix and toss all ingredients in large salad bowl.
- **2.** For dressing: mix All-Fruit and mustard in a small sauce pan on stove over low heat until All-Fruit becomes thin. Add Catalina dressing; remove from heat. Stir in other ingredients.
- **3.** Pour over salad and serve immediately or allow guests to pour their own.

Italian Cream Cake

For cake:

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 cup Crisco oil
- 5 eggs, separated
- I cup buttermilk
- I tsp. baking soda
- 2 cups flour, sifted
- I cup coconut, divided use For icing:
- 1 8-oz. Philadelphia cream cheese, softened
- 1 stick butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 1 lb. box powdered sugar
- **1.** For cake: cream sugar, butter and oil. Add 1 egg yolk at a time. Then add buttermilk, soda and flour. When well-blended, add 3/4 cup coconut.
- **2.** Beat egg whites until stiff; fold into batter. Grease and flour 3 cake pans or one 9x13 glass baking dish. Bake at 325 F; cake pans for 30 minutes and baking dish for 45 minutes. Allow cake to cool before icing.
- **3.** For icing: mix cream cheese, butter and vanilla. Beat in sugar a little at a time until softened enough to spread easily.
- **4.** Ice cake, making sure to spread icing between layers. Sprinkle cake with remaining coconut.

When an apple a day isn't enough!

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