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JANUARY 2014

Learning Forever

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reviews her lifetime on the court

Bringing the Outdoors In

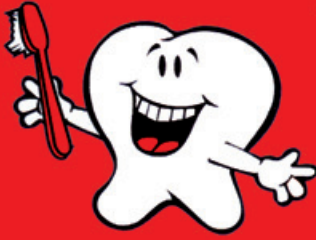
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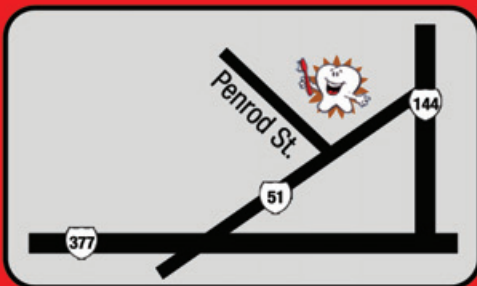
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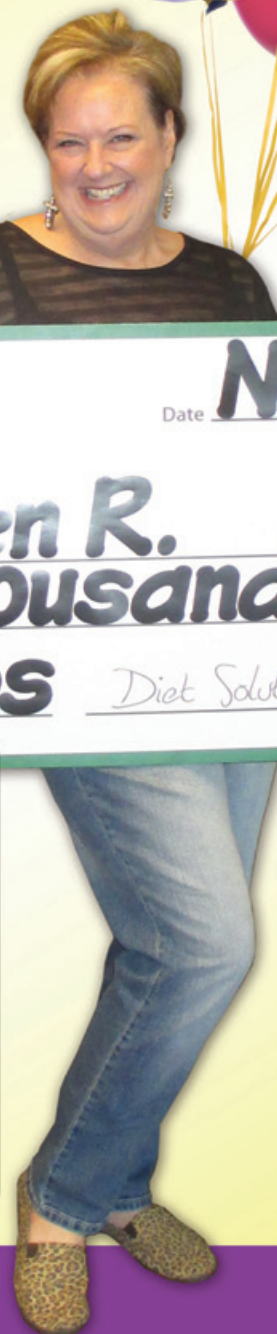
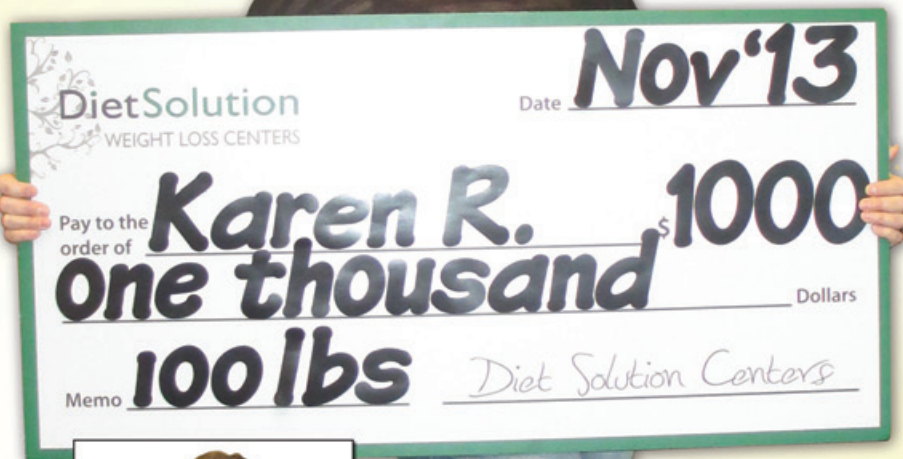
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Managing Editor, Becky Walker

Granbury Editor, Melissa Rawlins

Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong

Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay

Writers, Lisa Bell . Jace Foreman

Betty Tryon

Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony

Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla

Artists, Kristin Bato . Casey Henson

Martha Macias . Felipe Ruiz

Arlene Honza . Brande Morgan

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose

Photographer, Michelle Winters

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Morgan Northcutt, Bryce Frank and Coach Leta Andrews promote the Lady Pirates' success.

Photo by Michelle Winters.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (817) 279-0013 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



Editor's Note

Hello Friends,

Favorite memories from this time of year involve family. Yes, I recall one New Year's Eve in Manhattan, where I lived for three years in my youth. With friends and a case of Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut, I watched the lights of the city competing with stars in the heavens from the rooftop of my Lower East Side apartment. I felt no connection, merely hopeful excitement — which fades.

What lasts is comfort in loving, accepting and familiar relationships. So the deepest impression was made during a snowy night in Colorado when Daddy and I stayed home to watch *Casablanca* — while those with staying power went to a party. We enjoyed peace. When the movie ended, we watched the Times Square ball drop and then fell asleep —

until the rest of the family woke us with their whispers and giggles.

Happy New Year from all of us at NOW Magazines!

Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
GranburyNOW Editor
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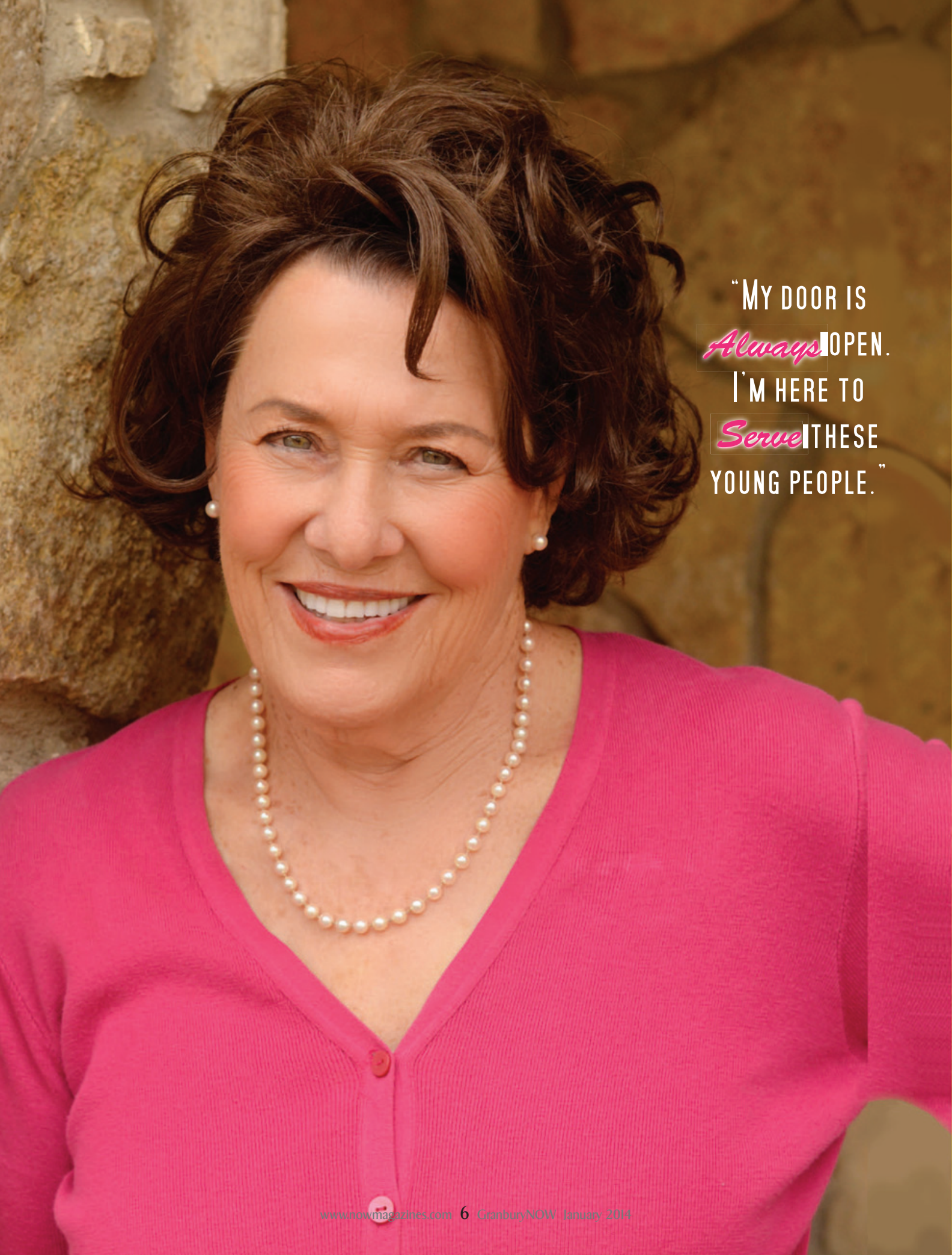
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LEARNING

Forever



— By Melissa Rawlins

Our teachers juggle many tasks, from classroom instruction to tracking attendance. When Coach Leta Andrews' students are absent consistently, she follows up with parents and counselors to achieve her greatest goal — seeing young people come to school happy, ready to meet the challenges in front of them every day. "There's a lot in teachers' hands, but also a lot in the hands of students and the parents who encourage them to come to school," said Leta, the award-winning coach of the stellar Lady Pirates basketball team and coordinator of all girls' athletics in the district. Desiring to see each athlete grow academically, she encourages personal goal-setting. "Get up, come to school, learn and grow. Pay attention. Show respect. Be productive."

She knows teachers can't do everything for the students. "They have to want it themselves, to have that desire to reach for the stars," Coach Andrews said, looking over the purple rims of her reading glasses. "When students are successful in the academic area of their daily routine, they will be successful in their chosen sport."

Her basketball players have been successful, year after year, so much so that Mrs. Andrews became the nation's winningest high school basketball

coach on December 7, 2010, when the Lady Pirates won Coach Andrews' 1,334th game. She attributes her young ladies' success throughout the years to their strong commitment to their high school education. "The fun part of that," she said, "has been participating in a sport and tasting the fruits of success."

Coach Andrews knows just how that tastes, since she played and won many games of high school tennis and basketball for Granbury High School in the early '50s. She played the six-player game of basketball, making forever

Morgan Northcutt, Coach Andrews and Bryce Frank are proud to be part of the Lady Pirates basketball team.



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friendships with her teammates — some of whose grandchildren have played for the Lady Pirates.

Born in Hood County, Leta progressed through all 12 grades in the Granbury ISD with encouragement from parents who taught her to work hard and complete each task well — whether responsibilities at home, academics or athletics. She refined her discipline and self-control through sports.

Leta was one of 49 graduates in the class of 1955. Leta and David married and reared three daughters as David moved from teaching posts to school administration positions in Tolar, Gustine, Comanche, Calallen and, finally, Granbury. For the past 24 years, she has coordinated athletics in Granbury ISD. Before that, she taught English, as well as physical education. She credits her success to a good decision she made at the onset of her career.

“The choices you make down the pathway of life will be your life. If you make bad choices, then you’ll probably suffer from those choices,” said Coach Andrews, whose initial college degree was in elementary education. “I did some observing, some mentoring, some student teaching, and thought, *I can’t do this. There’s no way. Elementary education is not what I want to do.* I told my husband I wanted to do something else, and even though somebody needed to put beans and potatoes on the table, we pinched pennies until we completed what we were on fire to do.”

David taught social studies while his wife earned another degree in English, health and physical education. She wanted to focus on sports, which she enjoyed and believed could make a difference in young people’s lives. Now,

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Coach Andrews teaches her students to care for their bodies through exercise and proper diet. "Life is movement. And it is the good nutrition I put in my body that makes me want to do those 5K runs I've done nearly all my life," she said. "I've only been blessed with one body, so I have to take care of it."

Thriving in what she considers "the best job of anybody in the world," Coach Andrews eats the fruits of her success daily. "The prize I earn every day is the preparation to win that prize," she explained. "If I don't teach well, coach well, there's not a prize to enjoy."

She learned much from her husband, copying his excitement and enthusiasm to help her students hunger for the knowledge she shared with them. She cherishes other mentors as well. She met John Robert Wooden, the former basketball coach for the University of California, Los Angeles, when she was named 1993's Most Outstanding Teacher-Coach of the Year by The Walt Disney Company. That same year, they named Wooden the Honorary Teacher of the Year. "When I get down and out, I pick up his book *Wooden*, which he gave me the first time we ever met," Coach Andrews said. "Wooden says even though you're just a common person, you have to believe in what you are doing."

Recalling the parents and children she has coached since 1962, and the many goals she has set with individuals and groups along the way, Coach Andrews reviews her lifetime on the court, and just as speedily returns her focus to today. She shares a truth Coach Wooden helped her understand: "You can die tomorrow. While you've got today, learn things that will help your students and your athletes."

Coach Andrews learned the value

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of patience early. Students in her first English classrooms sometimes needed her to re-teach lessons. "That's the greatest gift I've learned, and I carry it with me everywhere I go," Coach Andrews said. Secondly, she learned success requires preparation and planning. "You have to follow through with your plan, committing to do what you have planned. At the end of the trail, there will be good things for you."

The lesson this coach has learned lately is the necessity of seeking wisdom. "The Bible teaches that to gain wisdom you pray for and you seek out wisdom," Coach Andrews said. "Wisdom helps me to understand my athletes, who are all different and come from different walks of life. More and more I understand it is wisdom I need to help my young ladies."

Off the court, young Lady Pirates come to their coach's office for celebration, coaching, counseling and tender loving care. She keeps a collection of nail polish on her desk next to her Rolodex. She gets the bright yellow, deep purple, cherry red, plush pink, pure white and sleek coral shellacs at Sally's Beauty Supply for 50 cents. The girls know they're welcome to dip in anytime they wish. "My door is always open. I'm here to serve these young people."

Coach Andrews visits every table during lunch time. The huggiest teacher in the world puts her arm around the young men and women, letting them know they are loved. This Lady Pirate's job will only be done when she quits learning how to love. **NOW**



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Bringing the **OUTDOORS IN**

At Home With Ranny & Nancy Danley

By Lisa Bell





In the Danley home, the term open concept means something entirely different. "I'm an outside girl. I was raised on a ranch and do not like feeling closed-in," Nancy said. Her love of the outdoors country atmosphere shows throughout the sprawling house.

Stepping through the front door, a large window immediately brings the backyard inside. The rich beauty of a small fountain, long porch and numerous trees fill the window, beckoning visitors to sit and relax.

The house contains numerous bay windows. The back of the home is mainly glass, plus four doors leading out onto the porch, giving it a sunroom feel. The house has two additional exterior doors, so stepping outside is easy. The hottest Texas days or cold winter nights do not keep the family from enjoying nature, even when they stay indoors.

Ranny and Nancy moved from New Mexico to Granbury in 1998. Long ago, her grandfather lived where Interstate 30 now intersects with Camp Bowie, so in a way, she came home to her roots. After moving to Granbury, they discovered an interesting fact — Ranny's grandfather grew up in Thorp Springs, just 5 miles northwest of Granbury.

After leaving New Mexico, they lived in an apartment while their son, Lon, served as their builder, taking time from his general contracting business in San Antonio. The adventure of

completing the house in 1998 involved the entire family, making it a unique experience.

Kathy, the Danleys' oldest daughter, painted the walls and ceilings throughout much of the house. The entryway walls appear simple, but the ceiling has a rich glow of brown with a touch of sage and gold accents. An archway separates the living room from the formal dining room. Nancy loves longhorns, but she didn't want a western feel in the house. Kathy produced a mural above the arch using colors similar to the entry ceiling. The longhorns and cacti blend into the colors, bringing a subtle view of the Old West into the living room. A set of French doors opens out onto the porch.

The dining room houses an antique table and buffet, two of several older pieces in the house. Two corner curio cabinets match the furniture, but came from the Wagon Yard and aren't antiques. One of them, however, holds a complete set of very old china. "Ranny served in the Navy and found the dishes in Japan," Nancy explained. "He bought them for me before we married, over 58 years ago."

Moving down a short hallway, a small powder room, which also includes an exterior door, features unique walls and a ceiling painted like tin. Nancy painted the walls in this room. The interesting design incorporates tissue paper with paint. "My daughter taught me how. This was the room I learned on, and my office down there is the room I retired from it," she said laughing. She put a lot of work into the process, finishing the decor with an antique mirror from a train depot in



El Paso. She found an antique washstand at the Montgomery Street Mall, completing a homey look for her guests.

In many of the rooms, painted designs appear near the ceiling, creating an elegant touch. The kitchen and breakfast nook, however, look more like stucco, complete with grapevines loaded with fruit. A bay window looks out to where trees partially hide a canal. Nancy's mother lived with the couple for many years until she passed away in December 2011. "She used to



sit in that chair and watch the squirrels play," Nancy said, looking out at the picturesque view.

An elevated dishwasher makes the kitchen unique. Nancy insisted on the raised height, so she doesn't have to bend over quite so far when loading and removing dishes.

The den holds simple leather furniture and is complete with a corner fireplace and more windows, while a set of French doors leads onto the porch and beyond.

Ranny added a split-level deck to extend the porch. Stairs off the deck lead down to the lower part of the yard, providing a pathway to the canal. Filled with patio furniture and two grills, the deck provides a place where the couple can entertain many guests. They especially enjoy the space when Nancy hosts an annual sales meeting. As a Mary Kay Cosmetics director, she enjoys using her home for these meetings, and the ladies love coming to visit.

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Nancy's office, also featuring her handiwork on the walls, incorporates shades of pink, built-in closets, shelves and awards. One of her favorite rewards, a pink electric guitar, graces a wall.

The master bedroom, painted in sage with a brown glaze, has a recessed ceiling. Ranny made their headboard, and Kathy painted it, using colors that complement the room. The open feel continues, with more windows and the fourth glass door opening to the back porch.

The master bathroom, however, is a favorite part of the house. "I love my bathroom," Nancy said. "Who has a chaise lounge in their bathroom?"

She does, along with an enclosed toilet area, large bathtub and a double shower enclosed by glass blocks. The showerheads, hung at different heights, along with a split-level double sink, reveal a well-thought-out design to benefit Ranny, who is much taller than Nancy. The bathroom also has a vanity area with plenty of room.



The house also has what Nancy calls her antique room. Besides antique furniture, the room holds many dolls that once belonged to her mother. Even the door leading into the room is an old, glass-paned door. The simple room invites relaxation in a bright atmosphere.

The second office, the working one, provides additional space where the couple keeps a printer, paper and other office supplies. A Murphy bed installed on one wall provides extra room for company. In this room, Ranny displays



antique weapons, which belonged to his dad. Although it has a smaller window, the office also includes a glass door leading outside to a small porch.

The Danley home has 65 windows. With that much glass, open concept means bringing the outdoors inside. **NOW**

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MAKING

RESOLUTIONS

STICK

— By Jill Rose

Be realistic.

With the New Year comes a clean slate and a chance to start over. Bad habits and lifestyle choices can be altered with resolutions and goals, and the not-so-great living of the last few months slowly becomes a memory. Whether you want to work out or eat healthier, resolutions can help change your life for the better. Follow these simple guidelines, and this year your healthier resolutions may stick.

You have probably made hundreds of yearly resolutions, yet given up within a few months. Frequently, giving up is due to unrealistic expectations of quick achievement. When setting goals, it's easy to get carried away with grand ideas, but this can set you up to fail. Although it would be amazing to achieve our goals in just weeks, realistically, it will take time — especially when it comes to weight loss. Excess weight/fat did not show up overnight, instead it culminates from decades, or even a lifetime, of poor eating habits. Losing 10 pounds may take you six months or more. Adjusting your goals to your current situation and



not where you want to be in a year, will prove a key to success. Perhaps you plan to run a marathon, but have never run farther than a mile. Break large resolutions like this into smaller, attainable goals: running a 5K in three months, a 10K in six months, a half marathon in nine months and a full marathon in a year. Breaking goals into smaller increments allows you to reach milestones quicker and will motivate you to continue.

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Find your true motivation.

In order to stick to your resolutions, you have to be honest about your motivations. Motivations rooted in pleasing others often result in frustration and disappointment. Determine what motivates you — not others — in order to do well. Find your true motivations by asking yourself the following:

Why do I want to live a healthier life? To feel better? To look better for a special event? To impress someone?

Am I afraid of taking risks or failing?

What has stopped me from keeping my resolution in the past?

What can I do differently this year?

When thinking of giving up, what will I say or do to keep my resolve?

Answering these questions first will not only clarify your true motivations, it will prepare you for obstacles.

Write it down.

While setting realistic goals and determining your motivations may seem like a no-brainer, writing them down is crucial. This is a great way to visualize what you want to accomplish. Write your goal on a sticky note and post it somewhere highly visible, like the bathroom mirror or refrigerator. Seeing what you want staring back at you every day helps keep you focused.

Do you want to eat better and lose weight? Awesome! But what changes will you make in your day-to-day routine to obtain your goals? Will you cut out junk food? Eat more fruits and veggies? What is your weight-loss plan? Will you eat less, work out more or a little bit of both? When and where will you work out? Although these are basic questions, they make obtaining your desired result possible. By mapping out your strategy for achieving your goal when you make your resolution, you can see the work it will take and visualize what you want.

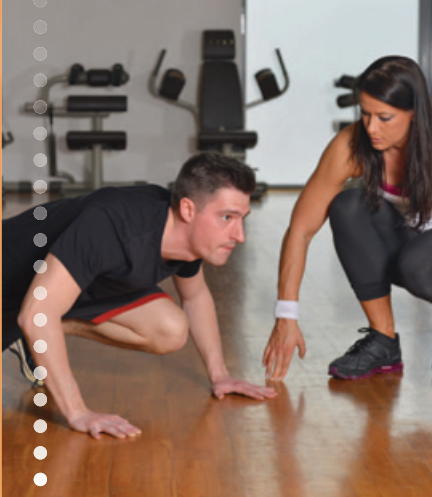


Monitor your progress.

Perhaps the most vital part of sticking to your resolution is monitoring your progress. If your resolution is to eat better, keeping a food journal is an absolute necessity. No longer is it necessary to write down everything you eat in an actual journal. Apps like MyFitnessPal and LIVESTRONG.COM allow you to record foods quickly and easily, while monitoring your calories and macronutrients. The key advantage is accountability, providing a visual reminder of your progress and warning you when you begin to veer off-path.



If losing weight is your goal, use a journal to monitor your weights and measurements. Most fitness experts advise weighing and measuring once a week. Just a reminder: If you are lifting weights or participating in a muscle-building program, it's not wise to use the scale as a monitoring device. While muscle and fat weigh the same, muscle takes up less space. In the process of converting fat into muscle, you will lose



inches but may not lose pounds. Because of this, measure around the widest part of your hips, arms, calves and stomach (the area right below your belly button). This more accurately measures change for those participating in strength training programs.

Accept that you are going to mess up.



Making life changes — no matter how big or little — is hard. Whether with work, kids or just life in general, mistakes are made. Workouts are missed. Cookies are eaten. Things don't go as well as planned. Using these obstacles to convince yourself the goal is too hard makes it easy to give up. Accepting you can't always adhere to your plan can make it easier to achieve your goals. Modify your resolution/goal as needed. If you plan to work out five days a week but you can't find the time, adjust your goal to three days a week. Once you get into a routine and working out becomes second nature, adding an extra two days down the road will be a breeze. Keep the faith and hang in there, because in the end you will be glad you did. **NOW**



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An American Dream

What goes around comes around at TD's, where your vehicle receives tender loving care! — By Melissa Rawlins

Tony Denton began fixing vehicles during high school, in order to help his single mom put food on the table. Over the years, he avoided burn-out by playing hard on weekends: racing motorcycles and boats, lifting weights, spending time with his family. He and his wife, Pam, operate TD's Automotive & Transmission Repair at utmost efficiency. They give their meticulous technician, Matt, weekends to rest and enjoy life. Then, he and Tony work smartly all week long.

The duo's services include every automotive repair, except bodywork and state inspections. TD's repairs engines and transmissions, as well as brakes, rear ends and ball joints — the type of jobs where people will leave their vehicle at TD's for two or three days. Accommodating customers with a 10-percent discount through Enterprise Rental Car or driving

people home, they make sure to recommend only the best parts. For big investments, TD's suggests transmissions or motors manufactured by Jasper, which offers a three-year, 100,000-mile warranty.

Tony's major concern is the customer's bottom line. He and Pam have a married daughter, Toni Elkins, and her daddy still fixes her car. Pam and Tony most often recommend giving a car tender loving care forever, in the form of regular services for transmissions, coolants, brakes and general lubricants. "If you've got a small leak, get it resolved," Pam said. "These are the things that will make a car last forever."

Tony and Pam opened TD's Automotive & Transmission Repair 11 years ago. Prior to that, since 1994, Tony performed mechanical services out of his garage after working for another

auto repair shop by day. Tony prefers keeping a small workforce to promote quality control and efficiency. Pam, his bookkeeper, uses local vendors and supports local franchises.

Several charities benefit from the good hearts at TD's. Granbury Friends for Animals and HALO receive donations from Tony and Pam, who are devoted to animal rescue, both personally and publicly. The couple also participates in the local Habitat for Humanity Carpenters Club. "We're one of the companies that help build five homes per year," Tony said. "We wanted to help people less fortunate, who also help build the home with you because they want to better themselves."

"I try to treat people the way I want to be treated. I know what it's like to work for a living."

TD's supports the fire departments for Rendon, Stephenville, Tolar, Granbury and Indian Harbor. Tony admires people who pay it forward. In fact, when he applied for his business loan — which, by the way, is already paid off — he told the bank his company aimed to offer high-quality repair services and establish a good relationship with the community in order to build a regular customer base. "If we're not stable," he said, "we can't be here to back up the work we do!"

Tony, Matt and Pam focus on superior customer service, including accuracy with estimates for repair cost and completion times. The two mechanics attend classes to stay current on electronics, diesel, power stroke engines and air conditioning systems. They also maintain a clean environment, presenting pristine vehicles to their customers when the work is finished.

"We put doing the job right before getting paid," Tony said. "I try to treat people the way I want to be treated. I know what it's like to work for a living." That's what got Tony and Pam where they are today, and that's what will keep TD's Automotive & Transmission Repair here, ready to help you. **NOW**



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Will Your Retirement Savings Last?

Increasing life expectancies mean you're likely looking at a longer retirement than the previous generation of workers. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the average person spends 20 years in retirement — while others put the figure at 30 years or longer. And financial advisors generally suggest you'll need 70 to 80 percent of your annual preretirement income to maintain your standard of living.

Will your retirement savings be up to the test? Here's what to consider:

Picture your retirement.

Whether you're planning to travel extensively or kick back by a lake, your income will need to support your desired lifestyle. Once you decide how you'd prefer to spend your retirement days, you can map out a strategy that could help get you there.

Assess your finances.

Take a realistic look at your current financial position. Note such things as how much you've saved, the debt level you're

carrying, the amount of life and disability insurance you carry and what you have available in emergency funds. Talk with a financial professional about your options.

Increase savings.

It's never too early — or too late — to add to your savings. If you've got plenty of time before retirement, save as much as you can to take advantage of interest compounding. If retirement is near, look into catch-up contributions, which can help improve your financial picture. Even small gains matter. Increasing your retirement contribution by one to two percent each year adds up over time.

Knock out debt.

Most financial professionals recommend keeping debt level manageable: no more than 35 percent of your income. Getting rid of high-interest debt such as credit card balances is always a good idea. And before you retire, you'll want to eliminate as much debt as possible so that you aren't servicing it with your savings. Consider paying off your home

before you stop working, too.

Monitor your plans.

Review your retirement plans with a financial professional at least annually to see that they still work for you. (It's also a good idea to review your insurance coverage periodically and any time your life changes, such as when you marry or have a baby.)

As you near retirement, you might decide to shift some of your savings to income-producing investments, such as annuities. Or, to keep your nest egg intact, your plan may be to continue working a few years more into retirement. To review your insurance coverage as part of your retirement and financial strategy, contact your financial adviser. **NOW**

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Cassandra Kight practices a swing bob during cosmetology studies at Fort Worth Beauty School, Granbury campus.



Claudia Arellano and Liliana Ibrra dream of enjoying drinks on a beach between serving tables at Don Melquias.



Twenty Granbury High School girls are inducted into POWER SET, a student organization focused on providing high school girls with educational tools, support and professional opportunities in the fields of science, engineering and technology.



David Lambert and Cathy Kelsbaw toast the Opera House grand opening with a hot coffee.



Members of the Spit 'N' Whittle Club, Don Kennon, Bill Flusche and Royce Bolton, enjoy their morning coffee.



U.S. Veterans Museum booth at the Builders Expo display historical artifacts.



Linda Foster won an evening with Preserve Granbury at Party on the Peak from Diane Williams and Lake Granbury Newcomers Club.



Kindergarteners in Evelyn McWilliams' class at Emma Roberson Elementary School receive activity books from the Granbury High School digital and interactive media class.



Cynthia James decorates one of the Artists Trees on the Square, raising money for Granbury middle schools art programs.

January 2

Granbury Newcomers ladies luncheon: 9:30 a.m., Pecan Plantation Country Club. Andrew Barrus, director of Granbury Theatre Company, previews the remodeled Opera House. RSVP at www.granburynewcomers.org.

January 7

Opera Guild of Granbury meeting: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeCordova Country Club. Enjoy a fashion show by Bella Rosa, plus bid in their silent auction in support of the Granbury Opera House. Lunch, \$13, is not mandatory, but RSVP is required. Call Faye Landham, (682) 936.9572.

January 8 — 11

Junior Livestock Show and Sale: **Wednesday-Friday**, 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Hood County Livestock Raisers Association Exhibit Building. Saturday's sale begins at 1:00 p.m., buyers buffet at 11:00 a.m. Visit www.hclra.org.

January 11

Girls Night Out: 5:00-8:00 p.m., historic downtown square. Drawing for \$100 downtown dollars, drinks and food for ladies who come to shop in the boutiques and

galleries surrounding the courthouse. Call Brenda Hyde, Historic Granbury Merchants Association, (817) 573-5299.

January 13 — 15

Freedom on Hooves: 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m., John Justin Arena in Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3400 Burnett Tandy Dr., Fort Worth. During the Fort Worth Stock Show's Chisholm Challenge, riders from Wings of Hope and many other Texas equine therapy centers show their spirit! Visit www.chisholmchallenge.com.

January 14

Salvation Army Women's Service League meeting: 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 2810 French Kingston Ct. This kick-off luncheon is open to anyone interested in joining to support projects assisting those in most need in Hood County. RSVP to Cheryl Troxel, (817) 326-8345.

January 17, 18

Carla Kaplan Book Signing: **Friday**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Iron Horse Inn, 616 Thorp Springs Rd.; **Saturday**, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Hood County Library. Author Carla Kaplan's book, *Miss Anne in Harlem*, tells the stories of six women

who lived in New York City during the Jazz Age. One of those women, Josephine Cogdell, was born in Granbury and lived here until the age of 18. RSVP to Dee Gormley, Friends of the Library, (817) 279-3906.

January 21

Healthy Woman Luncheon: Noon-1:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center. Step up to a brand new year, learning healthy habits for 2014. \$2 or \$5 for non-members. Reservation required. RSVP to www.granburyhealthywoman.com or (817) 579-2979.

January 24

Granbury Chamber of Commerce luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Granbury Resort Conference Center, sponsored by Willsher & Associates, Lake Granbury Medical Center and First Financial Bank. This luncheon features guest speaker will be Dr. James Largent, superintendent of GISD. \$15. To RSVP, call the Granbury Chamber of Commerce, (817) 573-1622, or email tammie@granburychamber.com.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com](mailto:rawlins@nowmagazines.com).

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In The Kitchen With Mark Kirk

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Now creating big ole Texas grins, Mark Kirk began cooking as a curious, young boy. He made dinner and desserts with his mom, and most weekends he grilled something with his dad. Today, Mark's favorite cook is his wife, Ginger. Both Granbury High School products, they bought a house on some peaceful property outside of town, and Mark has been teaching here for 11 years.

His co-workers, friends and family are great fans of Mark's concoctions. He usually grills, smokes and bakes, placing no limitations on his recipes. "I really like to try new stuff," said Mark, who developed his Bacon-wrapped Jalapeños for the highly successful 50 Fellas Foodfest fundraiser supporting the Granbury ISD Education Foundation last fall. He also enjoys tried-and-true recipes handed down from grandparents on both sides of his family. **NOW**

Bacon-wrapped Jalapeños

3 dozen jalapeños
1 lb. ground sausage
8 oz. cream cheese
2 1-lb. pkgs. bacon

1. Cut the ends off jalapeños, using a knife to empty the seeds/core out of the jalapeños. Save seeds and core contents in a bowl. Either leave the jalapeño whole or cut it in half, like a canoe.
2. Brown sausage in skillet. Then mix with cream cheese while sausage is still warm in skillet. Make it spicier by adding some of the core contents, diced. Use a teaspoon to fill the hollow jalapeños with the sausage/cream cheese mixture.

3. Cut raw bacon strips in half. Wrap short strips of bacon around jalapeños. Stick a toothpick through each to hold bacon in place.
4. Grill the bacon-wrapped jalapeños on medium heat, long enough to cook the bacon. Stay near the grill so that the flames don't scorch/blacken the peppers. Or place jalapeños on a foil-lined cookie sheet in a 350 F oven. Bake until bacon is cooked.

I-I-I Cobbler

1 stick butter
1 cup flour
1 cup + 2 Tbsp. sugar (divided use)
1 heaping tsp. baking powder
1 cup milk

1 15-oz. can of apple, cherry, strawberry or other pie filling or 2 cups fresh sliced fruit

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Place butter in 8x13-inch casserole dish and set into oven to melt.
2. Mix together flour, 1 cup sugar, baking powder and milk.
3. Once butter is melted, pour batter down the middle of the casserole dish. Distribute the fruit evenly around the dish. Bake for 30 minutes or until batter bubbles and turns golden.
4. Sprinkle a light coating of remaining sugar across the top of the cobbler.

Italian Cream Cake

Cake:

1/2 cup Crisco shortening
1 stick butter
2 cups sugar
5 eggs, separated
1 cup buttermilk
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. baking soda
2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. salt
2 cups coconut flakes
1 cup pecans

Icing:

1 stick butter
1 16-oz. box powdered sugar
8 oz. cream cheese
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup pecans, chopped

1. For cake: Mix shortening, butter and sugar. Add egg yolks, one at a time, beating well. Add buttermilk, vanilla and dry ingredients, beating well. Stir in coconut and pecans.
2. Beat egg whites until stiff. Fold them into batter. Pour into 3 8-inch round pans.
3. Bake at 350 F for 30 minutes. Remove cake from pans to cool.
4. For icing: Mix together ingredients; spread between layers, on top and sides of cake.

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