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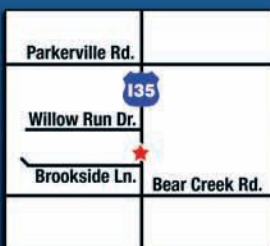


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Editor's Note

Swan song ...

I like songs from just about every genre, but this time of year it's pretty easy for me to pick one favorite tune: "Oh Holy Night" moves me to tears almost every time I hear it. There are bright stars and a baby is born. It's ripe with forgiveness and hope. Even a weary world rejoices. *Rejoices!* I mean, how cool is *that*?

It's the time of year when we set aside our weariness, close our eyes and hear the angel voices.

As I move to another job, I thank NOW subjects for having let me share their stories and be a quiet note in the soundtracks of their lives. A "new and glorious morn'" dawns with editor Dianne Reaux coming soon, and I trust you will welcome her as you did me. Here's to new beginnings and nights divine!

Angel

Angel Morris
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P.S. The publisher and staff at NOW Magazines wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy holiday season.

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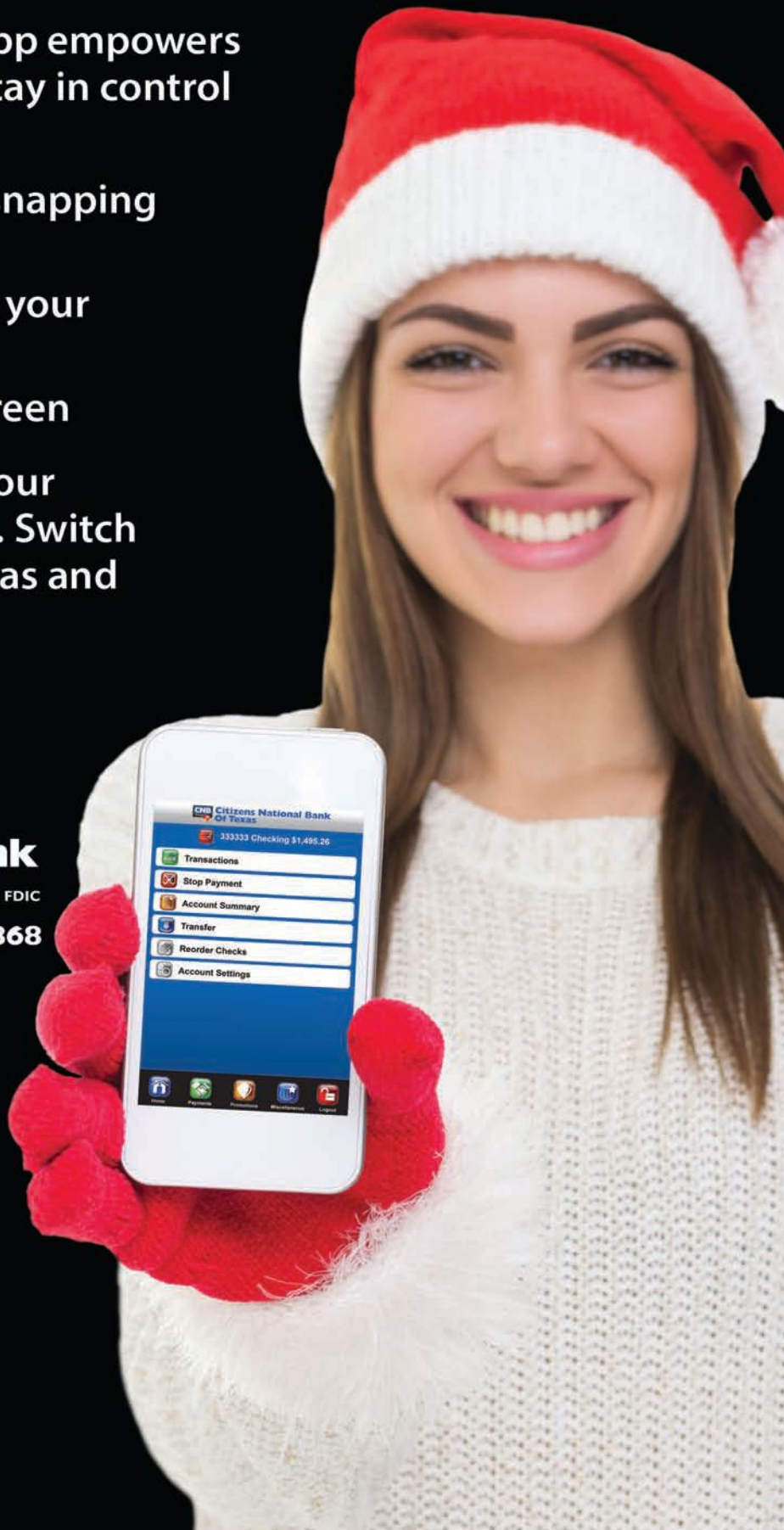


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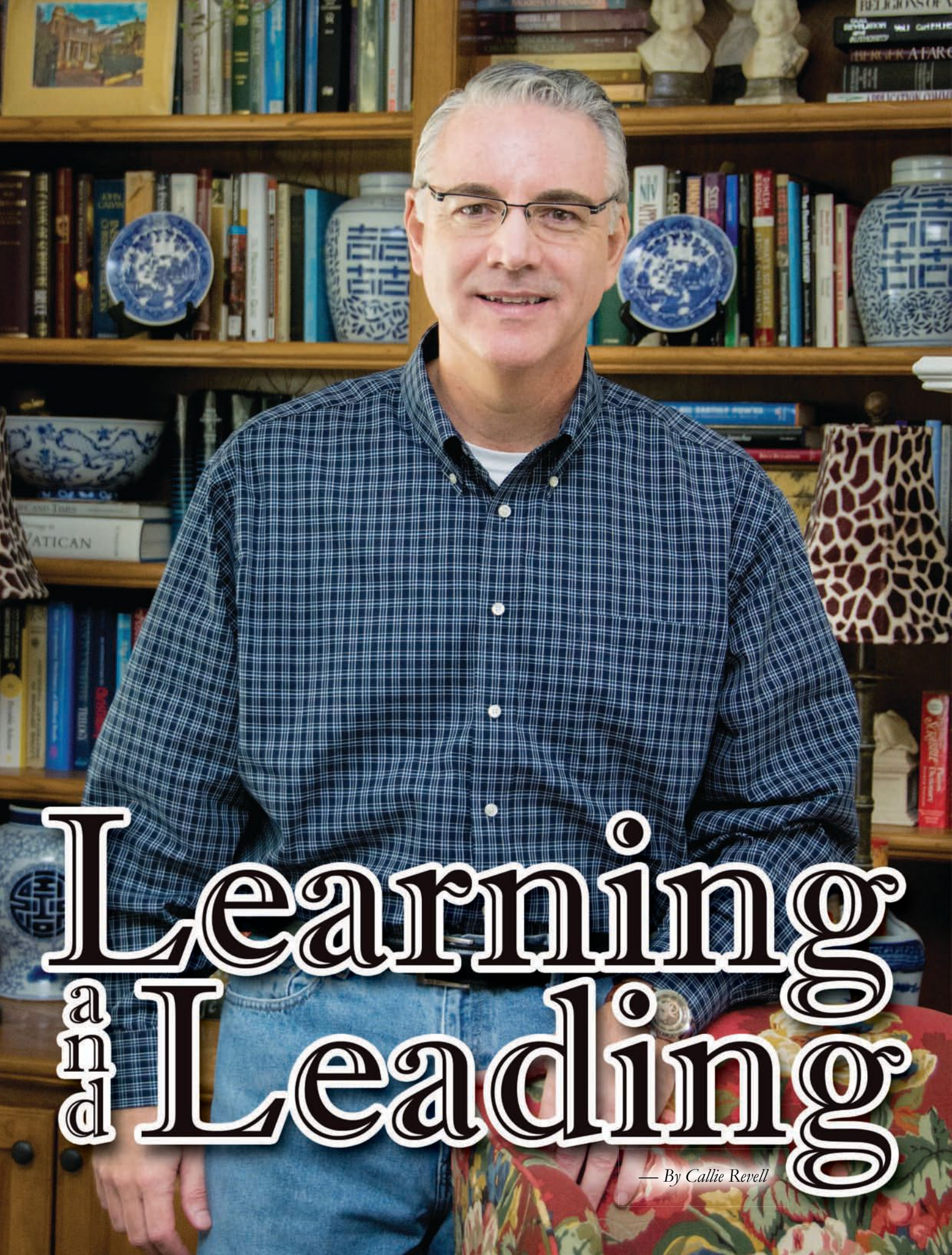
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Learning and Leading

— By Callie Revell

As a child, Dr. Derward Richardson never thought he would serve as the headmaster of a private school. He grew up on a large beef farm in a small town in east Tennessee, as one of six children. Although he was an outstanding student, he never expected to go to college. "I thought I would end up driving a farm tractor, just like my dad," Derward said. "I had no clue about the future." After graduating near the top of his high school class, he went to work at a local bank for five years. "At age 24, I decided to enter ministry. I knew there was something more," Derward said. "So, I had to go to college."

He attended Carson-Newman College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in religion, after finding the collegiate environment exhilarating. "My world exploded. It opened up," Derward said. "I literally had an existential experience. The veil was lifted educationally." Once Derward experienced what college had to offer, he couldn't get enough. "Just opening up one textbook after another — that seemingly small experience was completely transformative," Derward said. "I got hungry. Wherever education takes me," he said, "I'm willing to go there." Soon, his original plans for entering ministry were replaced by new goals. "The more I went through school, I knew teaching was what I wanted to do," Derward said. "The academic side was attractive to me." With his sights set on becoming a professor of religion at a university, Derward attended seminary in New Orleans, where he met his wife, Teresa.

After he received his Master of Divinity, Derward and Teresa moved to Fort Worth in 1991, so Derward could earn his doctorate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His doctorate in systematic theology took eight years to complete. "It was a grueling, grinding journey," Derward said.



"I would sit 12 to 14 hours a day in a cubicle doing research." The culmination of his research was devoted to writing his dissertation, an experience that changed his entire outlook on education. "Our students always receive education, fact after fact, but they aren't often challenged to create something from what they've learned and give it back," Derward explained. "That experience of having to create something changed my mind about what education is. Until it can be applied, it's worthless. You can learn all you can, but if you can't take it and do something with it, it's all futile." He eventually went on to earn another degree, a Master of Education in differentiated instruction from Concordia University.

Along with his extensive schooling, Derward also knows several languages. "I got interested in Biblical languages in college," Derward said. He took seven years of Greek and five years of Hebrew. He enjoyed the experience of reading the Bible in its original language. "I learned to love languages," Derward said. "It was just fun." He also took German and French for his doctoral program. "I fell in love with German. It is a crazily worded language," Derward said. "For that reason, I didn't enjoy French as much as German. But language is something I



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embraced,” Derward said. “Chemistry doesn’t excite me. Physics doesn’t excite me, nor does geology. But give me a book, words and language — that’s just how I’m bent.” Understanding his own strengths helps him relate to his students who have weaknesses in some areas and great talent in others. “These kids are bent a certain way,” Derward said. “Finding their God-given strengths will be the key to their purposeful lives. I can’t imagine not doing what I do.”

The road to becoming a headmaster was long and winding. After working as a wealth management officer for seven years in Dallas, Derward spent another seven years as a pastor. “But, I told my wife, ‘I’ve just got to teach,’” Derward said. Since then, he has spent seven years in the educational field and loves it. “I wanted to be in the classroom. Six years later, here I am,” Derward said. “In my wildest imagination, I never thought it would lead to this.” His job is the perfect combination of the three career paths he has pursued in the past. “I’ve never been more challenged in my life, but there’s nothing I’d rather be doing,” Derward said. “It’s blending ministry, which is nurturing, caring for and loving kids, with the academia, which I enjoy, and the business part, which I learned in banking. All three facets of what I’ve experienced professionally are now being tapped into and employed here.”



“The more I went through school, I knew teaching was what I wanted to do.”

As a teacher and administrator at Ovilla Christian School, Derward enjoys having the opportunity to impact his students in a positive way. “I’ve been a student for 29 years,” Derward said. “I know knowledge is there to be utilized — for you to do something with it. It’s there with purpose, to be applied and used for something else. Getting students from one point to the other is the challenge of education. It’s about getting them to use knowledge to solve problems.” One challenge he and his teachers face is being able to teach a variety of students with different learning styles. “We have to recognize that students lie on a spectrum,” Derward said. “There’s no perfect student. No one processes everything perfectly. The educator’s goal is to know students as much as possible to reach them where they are.”

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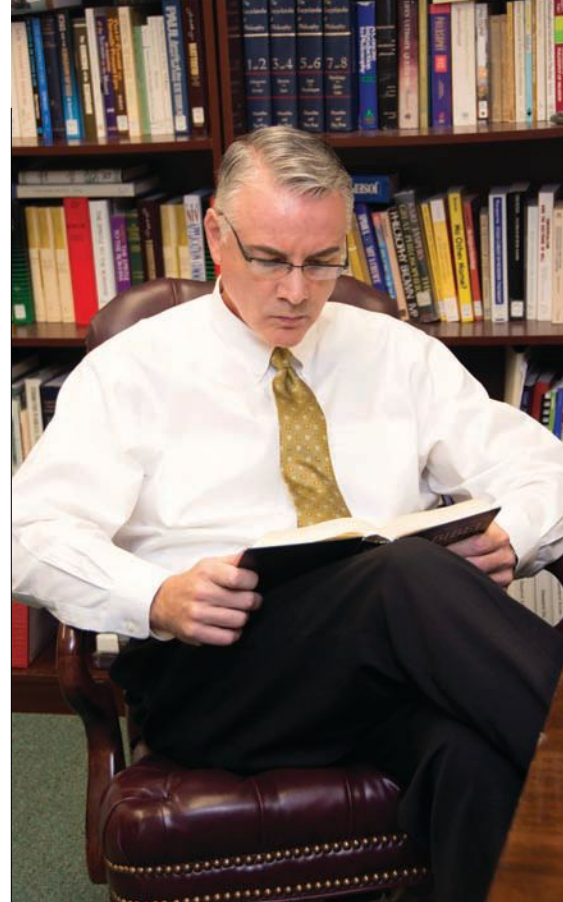
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Ultimately, Derward is passionate about education, because he knows how important it is to a functioning society. "Ignorance is a plague on any society, and education is the means by which that is combated," Derward declared. "To be an effective citizen, you have to be able to think. An education is what accomplishes that." This inspires Derward and his teachers to give students a desire to learn. "Our goal should be to give them a small piece and use that as a launching pad to set them up as learners for the rest of their lives, which will help them to succeed no matter what their career," Derward said.

Derward attributes much of his own success to Teresa, his wife of 23 years. "I cannot justify her support throughout the years," Derward said. "We are where we are because of my wife, no question about it." Together, they have a 10-year-old daughter named Madeleine. He also believes his success comes from a calling from God. "I'm here because I am constantly answering that 'tug' from God that says, 'Get out there. Serve,'" Derward said. "I truly am just an individual who has been given a brief time to make a difference. I'll pass on, and my name will pass on, and I'll be forgotten. All that truly matters is what I give to the next generation." **NOW**

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Beary Christmas!



— By Angel Morris

At Home With Joey & Kimberly Dufour



Once upon a Christmas, Kimberly Dufour filled a giant stocking with Teddy bears as a gift. The action sparked her own bear collection and a lifelong interest in holiday decorating. Today, the Oak Leaf resident calls on her family to make their home Christmas-ready. “My mom was into decorating with themes, so that was probably where I got it. One Christmas, she bought a white tree with purple ornaments, and it became tradition to see who could find the neatest purple ornament every year,” Kimberly explained.

Holiday decor was a Dufour tradition, even before purchasing their current home. Her daughter Morgan, now a freshman at St. Edward’s University, had a Noah’s ark nursery theme in the family’s previous home that translated easily into Christmas. “We spray-painted animal crackers gold to make them two-by-two holiday style,” Kimberly recalled. Her son Nick, today an assistant softball coach at The University of Texas at Dallas, was given a nutcracker, and his Christmas theme was set, as well.





"He's 26 and has gotten two or more nutcrackers every year since he was 4, so he has quite a collection."

Husband Joey laughs about wearing his *Grinch* T-shirt and pj's the kids gave him, and tolerates a house bedecked in Christmas sometimes well beyond the holidays. "He watches in amusement as the kids and I choose the themes and decorations and get busy. He really enjoys the finished product and having friends and family here for the holidays," Kimberly said. "He loves the bar area that gets a Harley motorcycle-theme for Christmas, even though he might not admit that's why he likes it!"

The family loves many things about the 3,950-square-foot home, which they purchased when Morgan transferred



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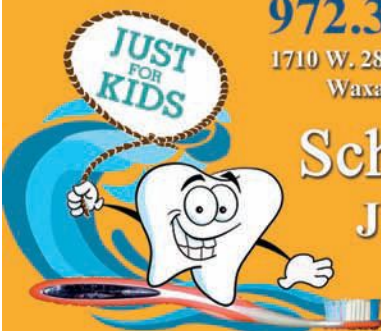


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to local schools. "It was a blessing that a listing agent, who was a friend of ours, showed us this home before it was even officially on the market back in April 2007," Kimberly said. "Joey and I saw its potential and got right to work with renovations after purchasing it."

Kimberly and her dad did much of the work themselves, with the assistance of Joey and the kids. Kimberly's mom joined in with lunches and dinners so everyone could stay on task. "We gave it an all-around facelift. Everything got repainted, flooring was replaced, along

with kitchen countertops, appliances and hardware," Joey said. "We liked its ranch style and tried to keep our updates true to its original design." Nick built new shelves on the sides of the fireplace in the den and a wine rack and entertainment center in the bar. Morgan learned first-hand about renovations, while updating her bathroom with paint, a hand-stenciled border and new cabinet doors and fixtures.

The Dufours were not strangers to partnering on big projects. They met as employees of the Superconducting Supercollider then began their own

project management consulting firm. This year, they celebrated 20 years of working together and marriage.

"Joey works a lot, but I have been able to refocus some these last few years. With Morgan's senior year and Nick's recovery from a motorcycle accident, it was great to have the flexibility that having our own business allowed," Kimberly said.

The family is very close, especially after spending about a month living together in a full-sized apartment on the property while main home renovations took place. "The apartment is a nice feature. It will be great to have if any of our parents



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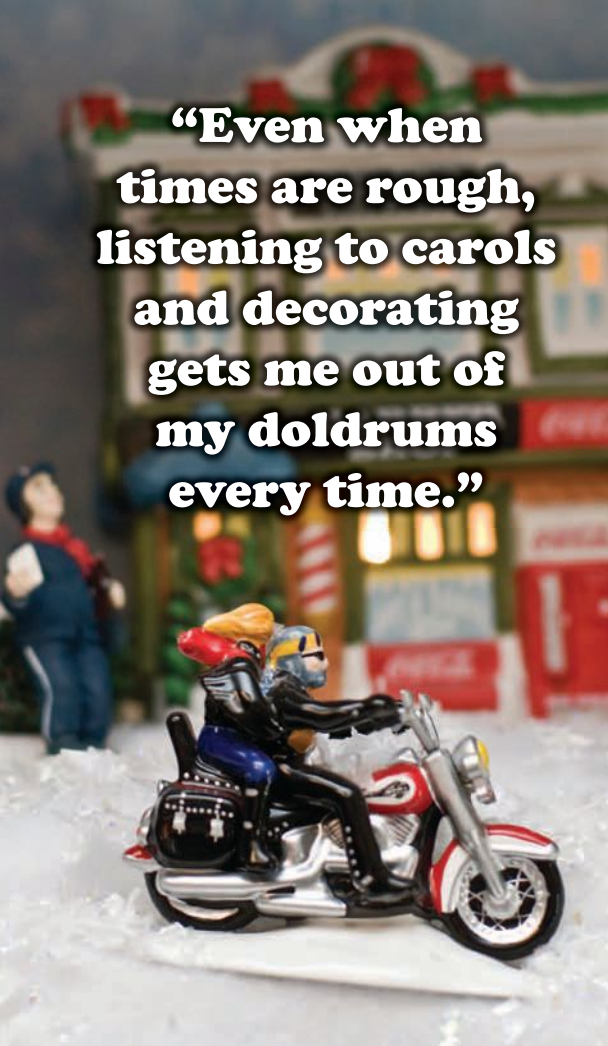
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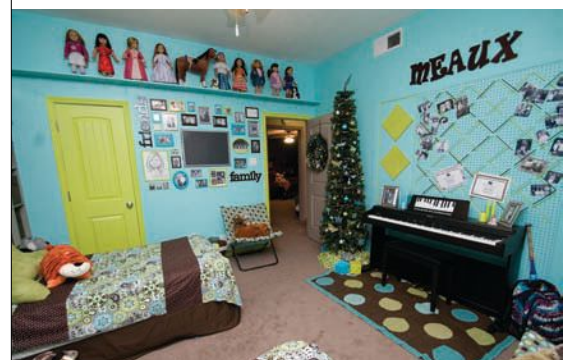


need to live with us at some point,” Joey said. “It is a wonderful space, with a full kitchen. But four adults there for four weeks was more than enough!”

Even though they were glad to spread into the big house with its three bedrooms and two-and-one-half bathrooms, the family still comes together for holiday decorating. Each year the kitchen takes on a Cajun theme — a nod to Joey’s birthplace — with crawfish, crabs and Tabasco chili decor, while the den has fleur de lis, music and angels. Joey’s Harley-themed bar also houses floor-to-ceiling custom shelves where Kimberly’s Christmas village of ceramic homes comes to life.

“It started with a large set that a church was selling at a fundraiser. They agreed to take payments in installments, and my Christmas village was born!” Kimberly recalled, noting the collection now showcases family favorites, from Joann’s and Home Depot to Chick-fil-A and Coca-Cola.

Every room has a tree corresponding to its theme, including Morgan’s turquoise, lime and brown color scheme of butterflies and dragonflies, and the lavender and plum guest bedroom full of angels and nativities. The dining room displays an angel collection and has two trees accented in silver and gold trimmings of stars and fleur de lis. The two den trees compliment the fireplace, which is adorned with five large musical angels surrounded by teal and maroon poinsettias and roses.





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Each space, from bathrooms down to the utility room, showcases Christmas favorites, including candy canes, poinsettias and gingerbread men. Perhaps most unique is the snowflaked-themed master bedroom where more than 100 stuffed bears and 350-plus bear ornaments adorn the space. "I guess that's my most impressive collection, since that's really where it all started," Kimberly noted.

The home's exterior is not forgotten, with wreaths on every window, garland across the wraparound porch and about two dozen lighted trees accented by red lights on the roofline. Typically, decorating starts in early November, but Kimberly admits to listening to Christmas music earlier. "Even when times are rough, listening to carols and decorating



gets me out of my doldrums every time," Kimberly admitted. "If they come in and hear Christmas music, the family knows I've been decorating."

Fortunately, the kids have adopted their own decorating duties. Nick primarily handles outside decor, while Morgan takes on whatever needs to be done inside. "Sometimes, she'll just hand me a box of decorations and say, 'Here. Yell at me when you're done,'" Morgan joked. While only two miniature trees went with her to her college dorm, Morgan admits she will likely continue her mom's tradition when she's on her own. "Probably not to this extent, but since I'm sure I'll inherit it all, why not?"

The kids are used to their mom's fervor. In fact, they aren't opposed to holiday decor all year. "It is a lot of work to do all of this, and I appreciate that the kids enjoy it as much as I do," Kimberly said. "But thank goodness this house has a lot of storage, because Joey's not willing to let us leave it up year-round!" **NOW**

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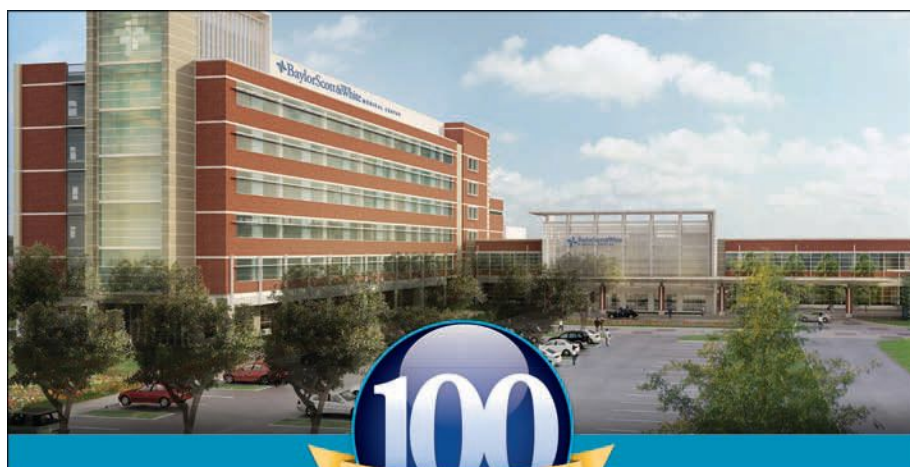
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Sunday, December 14, 2014

10:50 AM - Worship Service & Children's Pageant: *Celebrate the Gift*

Christmas Eve, 2014

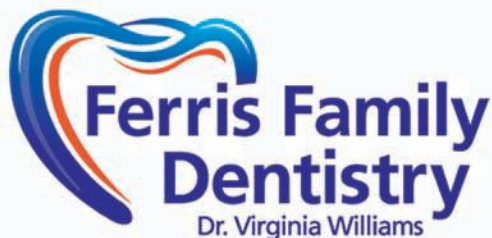
2:30 PM - Church Service at Red Oak Rehabilitation Center

5:30 PM - Family Candlelight Communion Service

8:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

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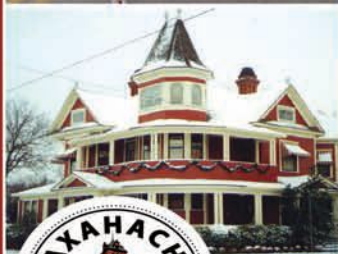
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Let the **FUN** **BEGIN**

— By Sandra Strong

Are you finding it difficult to get in the holiday spirit? Fret no more. Getting in the spirit will be much easier as you work on crafts that will brighten your home with seasonal merriment, as well as bring smiles to the faces of family and friends, young and old alike.

Milk Jug Snowmen

Mark the beginning of the holiday season by creating a night light that decorates a room with visual warmth while helping children learn basic shapes.

Difficulty Level: Easy

- 1 gallon jug
- 1 1/2-gallon jug
- Scissors
- 2 sheets black foam, felt or construction paper (your choice)
- 1 sheet orange foam, felt or construction paper (your choice)
- 5 sheets tissue paper (divided use)
- 2 strands 20-count indoor/outdoor white lights with white cording

- Cool melt hot glue
3 black pipe cleaners (or color of your choice)
2 large black pompoms (or color of your choice)
1 medium-size Santa hat (design and color of your choice)

- ① Rinse jugs out thoroughly. Set aside, allowing them to dry completely inside and out.
- ② Cut 4 ovals from black material to serve as eyes. Cut 5 circles from black material to serve as the mouth for the gallon snowman. Cut five small squares from black material to serve as the mouth for the half-gallon snowman.
- ③ Cut 2 skinny triangles from orange material to serve as the noses for both snowmen.
- ④ Cut 3 small slits in each jug under the handle toward the bottom of the jug to



Step 4

create a hinged opening large enough to insert the tissue paper and lights. Carefully stuff the tissue paper (3 sheets for gallon and 2 sheets for half-gallon) and lights through these holes, making sure to mingle the lights with the tissue paper. Push the opening closed. Be sure the cord portion of the lights remains outside the jug openings.

- ⑤ Glue eyes, mouths and noses on jugs. Bend noses accordion-style to give them a 3-D effect. Braid and bend pipe cleaners in an arc. Glue to the sides of the half-gallon jug. Glue pompoms over the ends of the pipe cleaners to complete the ear muffs. Pull Santa hat over the top of the gallon jug. Dot with glue to hold the hat in place. (You can also use a cap your child has outgrown.)
- ⑥ Plug in and enjoy what you and your little ones have created.

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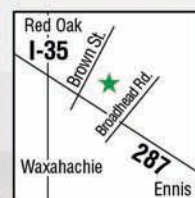
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Frosty the Snow Pot

Create a Frosty that doesn't melt as he warms your home and the hearts of all those who visit during the holiday season.

Difficulty Level: Easy to Medium
Three variations pictured.

- 1 large clay pot
- 1 medium clay pot
- Small paintbrush
- White acrylic paint
- Black acrylic paint
- Scissors
- 1 piece orange felt
- Needle
- Orange embroidery floss
- 1 cotton ball
- Cheek color (rouge)
- Kleenex
- Cool melt hot glue
- 2 large black buttons
- 7 small black buttons
- Holiday ribbon
- 1 sprig from holly berry artificial flower pick

- 1 Paint large pot white. Paint small pot black. Allow to dry completely.
- 2 Cut two carrot shapes from orange felt. Hand-stitch the two pieces together to make nose. Stuff nose with cotton ball to give the carrot a 3-D appearance.
- 3 For rosy cheeks, smudge cheek color on the cheek areas using a Kleenex or your index finger.
- 4 Glue large buttons in place for eyes. Glue small buttons in place for smile. Glue nose in place, allowing it to stick out.
- 5 Tie holiday ribbon around the base of



the small pot. Glue holly berry sprig to the ribbon to complete Frosty's holiday top hat.

⑥ Glue around the inside edge of the small pot. Stack the smaller pot on top of the larger pot. Allow glue to dry completely before moving.

⑦ You can also "top Frosty off" with ear muffs made from pompoms and pipe cleaners or a stocking cap of your choice. Eyes and mouths can be painted on or cut from black foam. Let your imagination be your guide.

Santa's Swag

Say, "Ho, Ho, Ho!" with a unique window treatment that will, no doubt, be the talk of all your holiday gatherings.

Difficulty Level: Medium to Hard

- 4 Santa hats
- Needle
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- 1/2 yd. white felt
- Spring or cafe curtain rod
- 1/2 yd. green felt
- Green embroidery floss
- 10 green sequins
- 25 gold or silver beads
- 15 red sequins



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- 1 To create the swag, hand stitch the Santa hats together along the white trim only, one hat at a time until you have the desired width. Hand stitch the tops closed to complete the front of the swag.
- 2 To create the rod pocket, cut the



Step 2

white felt in a strip the same width, from left to right, as the sewn hats. Make sure to cut it long enough, from top to bottom, to accommodate the rod being used. (If the rod is 1-inch, be sure to cut the rod pocket at least 1 1/2-inches in length.) Hand stitch rod pocket to the backside of hat curtain making sure not to sew all the way through to the front side.

- 3 Cut green felt in the shape of holly leaves, cutting 10 to duplicate the example shown.



Step 3

- 4 Attach each leaf by sewing one green sequin and one bead to the swag. Sew in place red sequins and remaining beads in clumps of 3 to represent holly berries.

- 5 You can complete the holiday swag by decorating the white portion with embellishments of your choice. This swag was personalized using embroidery floss, sequins and felt, but feel free to let your holiday imagination take over. **NOW**



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A CUT ABOVE

Wiley's Jewelry shines through modern-day business techniques and old-school service. — By Angel Morris

Kendall Wiley had been running corporate jewelry businesses for 15 years when he and his wife, Michelle, decided to start a family. As a result, Kendall wanted more control over his hours and a job where he could rear his children. The end result was Waxahachie, where he has met customers' jewelry desires for 20 years. "We'd heard of Waxahachie and thought it would be a great place to live. I had a lot of friends in the jewelry business who helped me get started here," Kendall explained.

On his own since 1994, Kendall opened Wiley's Jewelry at its current location in 2006 in a building he had constructed. Since then, his business has evolved via advertising and technology. "We started with a banner out front and progressed to print advertising and billboards and, of course, social media," Kendall said. "My theory is, if you're not changing, you're not moving forward."

One thing that never changes, however, is Kendall's attention to service. "Most of our business is repeat business and word-of-mouth referrals. We don't sell brand names because, while we still offer the nicest product, we also want it to be affordable," Kendall said. "Our goal is to give a price range from \$50 to tens of thousands of dollars and to have a price point for everyone."

This month, Wiley's inventory, from bridal sets and class rings to watches and everyday wear, is viewable online. "The tech side has changed how we do business. While this remains a business where people need to come in and see what speaks to them, they can start by browsing online," Kendall said. "We are also equipped to do custom design. If we can sketch it, we can make it."

Underscoring the magnitude of jewelry's importance,

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particularly wedding rings, some of Wiley's advertising suggests men "Update Her Status" or invest in "Wife Insurance." "This is an emotion-based business, and these can be purchases people live with the rest of their lives. Next to buying a house, jewelry can be the biggest investment a person ever makes."

To that end, Kendall takes his job seriously. "This is a relationship business. And while we offer the modern-day conveniences technology brings, we also expect to meet people face-to-face," Kendall reiterated. "We're here to help customers meet their needs when it comes to jewelry. In fact, our in-store jeweler means customers can expect next-day sizing and basic repairs in three to seven days. We also offer layaway and finance plans."

With more than three decades' experience, Wiley's Jewelry knows how to please customers.

Kendall is so confident in what his store offers, he encourages shoppers to stop in even if they have no intention of buying anything yet. "We're here to help educate shoppers, whether they buy from us or not, and to give them information so they are better versed to shop the competition. That's one reason people like to shop here, and, honestly, we don't lose very many sales!" Kendall admitted.

With years of experience, Wiley's staff is well-versed in jewelry yet casual in their approach. Ultimately, they want to be known for high-quality product, good prices and service. "We have a huge selection, which means you don't have to drive to Dallas to get what you want," Kendall said. "We're a friendly, laid-back environment but professional — a place that offers something for everyone!" **NOW**

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Austen Meagber is a fitness enthusiast who has plans to pursue a career in kinesiology.



Dayton and Austin work on their Christmas lists as they check out the toys at Wal-Mart.



Devin Reaux is all smiles as she helps her little cousin, Addie, pass out Halloween treats.



Military branches are honored during ROISD homecoming festivities on Veteran's Day.



Midnight and Diva help Liz Dockery and Megan Dyer enjoy a sunny afternoon as the two furry friends enjoy a lively romp in the grass.



Taylor and Alex are all smiles as they leave the Ferris Library with their books and umbrellas.



Maya is a bit too young for Take Your Daughter to Work Day, but she still enjoys a little daddy time with her father, Dr. Maurice Lynch.



Paige and Mia enjoy picking out just the right costumes for their fun night out with no tricks, just treats!

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A Good Acid

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Information and misinformation abound in the realm of vitamins. Regardless of the data, Americans spent \$28 billion in annual sales in 2010 according to the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, established by the American College of Physicians. Much of the conversation focuses on whether these vitamins are necessary as supplements to a healthy diet. The cadre of vitamins the body produces are Vitamin A, B complex, C, D, E and K. All vitamins are found naturally in food, but many think we are not eating properly diverse diets to obtain all of the vitamins we need. Hence, supplements may be necessary. While the controversy marches on, there is one vitamin that has been shown to be crucial to the development of new cells.

Folate is a part of the B complex of vitamins and is the form that is naturally found in food. Folic acid is the synthetic form of the vitamin that is found in supplements. Folate and folic acid are used interchangeably, because they function the same way in the body. They are both water soluble, meaning they dissolve in water and must be replaced every day since the body does not store them. Folic acid's main job of assisting in the formation of healthy new cells is extremely important in an unborn baby, whose body is in a constant state of rapid growth and needs to have all of the necessary building blocks to grow healthily.

Normal levels of folic acid taken before conception and throughout the first trimester have been shown to greatly reduce the development of spina

bifida. The disorder, spina bifida, is a neural tube defect, which means there is an opening in the spine, and the spinal cord is not protected. Two other significant benefits of folic acid are a reduced risk of hypertension for women and assistance in the formation of healthy red blood cells.

The Office on Women's Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services states, "In the United States, most women who eat foods enriched with folic acid are still not getting all that they need. That's why it's important to take a vitamin with folic acid every day." Some sources of folate naturally occurring in foods are whole grains, dark green leafy vegetables, melons, citrus fruits, beans, peas and beef. Some foods are rich in folic acid, because they have been fortified with it, such as: breads, cereal, pasta and grain products. If it is necessary to supplement, consult with your health care provider for the appropriate amount as the dosage can vary for many reasons. **NOW**

Sources:

<http://annals.org/article.aspx?articleid=1789253>.

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/publications/our-publications/fact-sheet/folic-acid.html#g>

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

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December 4

Ennis Christmas Parade of Lights: 7:00 p.m. Following the parade, the city will gather downtown on NW Main, West Knox and North Dallas streets for a Block Party! Santa, Mrs. Clause and the Grinch will make a special appearance and there will be a live performance by GO! Dance and Gymnastics Studios. For more details, call (972) 878-2625.

December 4, 6

Festival of Trees: **Dec. 4**, 3:00-8:00 p.m.;

Dec. 6, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Old Red Oak Jr. High School, 200 Live Oak St. The Red Oak community will enjoy beautifully decorated Christmas trees, wreaths, stockings, centerpieces and other festive items donated by community members.

December 5

Christmas Market Preview Shopping Party: 6:00-9:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 1950 N. Interstate 35 East Service Rd., Waxahachie. The \$15 admission includes food, two drinks, entertainment and reentry into the Saturday event. All proceeds benefit local Ellis County charities.

December 5, 6, 7

Dashing Through the Snow presented by SAGU Black Box Theater and Hagee Communications Center: **Dec. 5**, 7:00 p.m., **Dec. 6 and 7**, 3:00 p.m. Contact www.sagu.edu for more information.

December 5 — 7, 12 — 14

Bethlehem Revisited: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College St. Free admission, but donations are welcome. Performances are repeated every 30 minutes. The recreation allows visitors to walk the streets of ancient Bethlehem and see beautiful sights including The Nativity, Herod's Court and The Three Kings as they travel bringing their gifts to honor Christ's birth. Free admission, donations are welcomed. For more information, call (972) 937-2390.

December 6

Christmas in Red Oak: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Watkins (Old Towne) Park, 101 Live Oak St. The fun-filled event will feature vendors, drawings for prizes, hayrides, bounce houses and much more. Bring your cameras to take photos with Santa! The Red Oak parade will begin at 5:30 pm. Visit www.redoakchamberofcommerce.org for more details.

Upcycled Life Craft Fair: 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m., NOB, 102 Waller St., Red Oak. North Ellis County Outreach is hosting the event to celebrate the creative diversity of local women

as they repurpose and recreate unusable items into beautiful jewelry, décor accessories and more.

Christmas Market and Gift Show:

10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 1950 N. Interstate 35 East Service Rd., Waxahachie. This wonderful holiday event will feature vendors, gifts, entertainment, food, and drinks. For more information, visit waxahachiejls.org.

December 6, 7, 13, 14

Waxahachie's 2014 Candlelight Home Tour: 2:00-8:00 pm. Each weekend will feature three beautifully decorated homes adorned in their holiday finest. For more details, or to purchase tickets, visit www.downtownwaxahachie.com or www.waxahachiecvb.com.

December 9

The Southwest Autism Parent Educator Group: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Red Oak Elementary Campus, 200 Valley Ridge Dr., Red Oak. This group of parents and professionals is dedicated to helping children with autism to be all that they can be! Participating school districts include: Cedar Hill ISD, DeSoto ISD, Ellis County Co-Op, Lancaster ISD, Life School, Midlothian ISD, Palmer ISD, Red Oak ISD, and Waxahachie ISD.

December 11

Ladies Night Out: 5:00-8:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Enjoy an evening out shopping with participating merchants.

December 12, 13, 14

Waxahachie Community Theatre presents *Forever Plaid*: **Dec. 12 and 13**, 7:30; **Dec. 14**, 2:30 p.m.; Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call the box office at (972) 646-1050 or email wct.texas@gmail.com for group rates.

December 13

Annual Lancaster Christmas Parade: 3:00-4:30 p.m. Parade route begins at the Historic Town Square and will end at the Lancaster Recreation Center. The theme for this year is "Sights & Sounds of Christmas!" For more information call (972) 218-1303.

Christmas Festival: 4:00-8:00 p.m., Lancaster Recreation Center, 1700 Veterans Memorial Pkwy., Lancaster. The theme for this year's festival is "Healthy Heart for the Holidays," and is sure to be fun for the entire family! Many activities have been planned including hay rides, pictures with Santa, a Christmas tree lighting, puppet show and more!

Community Cowboy Christmas Carnival: 1:00-5:00 p.m., 4-C Stables, 1355 Ovilla Rd., Waxahachie. The fun-filled day of activities includes a hayride, petting zoo, face painting and pictures with Santa! For more information, call (972) 849-8376.

Santa at the Ranch: 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5421 Montgomery Rd., Midlothian. The celebration will host children with special needs, and the exciting family event will feature games, crafts and meet the ranch animals. Santa will make a special appearance so make sure to remember your camera!

December 14

Christmas for Cowboys: 8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Lone Star Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 1011 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak. The church band and children's ministries will perform the program in memory of former church band member, the late Steve Weisberg. For more information, call (214) 334-8963 or (972) 576-0900.

December 20

Pancake Breakfast with Santa: 7:00-11:00 a.m., Lions Community Center located at 207 W. Red Oak Rd., Red Oak. All proceeds benefit local non-profits. For more information, visit www.redoaklionsclub.com.

Ongoing:

Mondays

Celebrate Recovery: 7:00-9:00 pm, The Avenue Church, 1761 Hwy 77, Waxahachie. The meeting is a Bible-based, 12-step program that provides support as people work to overcome life's challenges. For more information, please call (972) 937-5301.

Third Mondays

Red Oak Book Club: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Red Oak Municipal Building, 200 Lakeview Pkwy, Red Oak. Admission is free and open to all adults in and around the city of Red Oak. Call 469-218-1230 for additional details.

Second Tuesdays

342 Morning Networker: 7:30-9:00 a.m., Denny's restaurant I-35 Service Rd., Red Oak. This networking event is a great opportunity to meet and network with business people throughout the community. Remember to bring plenty of business cards and flyers to promote yourself and your business.

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

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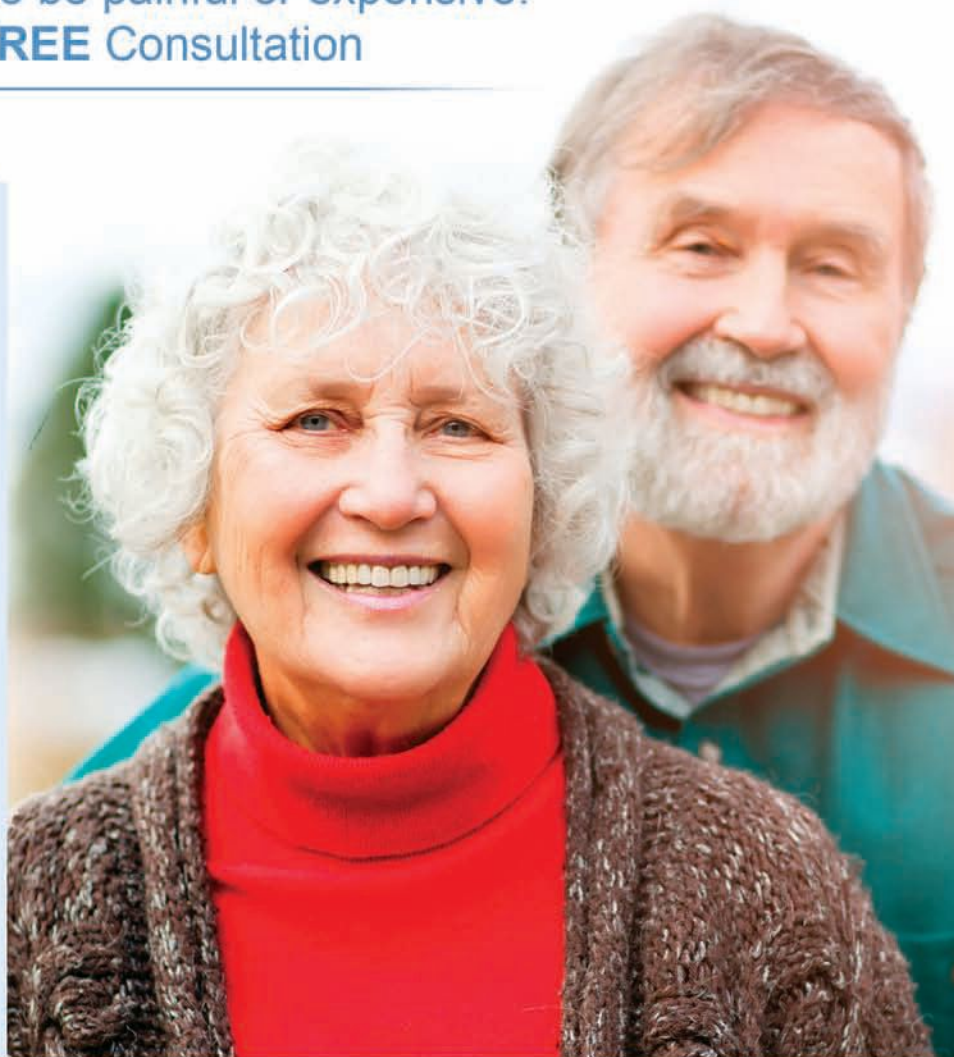


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In the Kitchen With Kenneth Kelley

— *By Angel Morris*

Although Kenneth Kelley recalls making toast on his grandmother's stove as a child and learning a bit in high school economics, his real kitchen expertise began with marriage. "I've been cooking ever since I've been married, 29 years this year," Kenneth noted. "My wife and I used to do catering on the side, and I cooked dinner for anywhere from 40 to 250 people."

Whether he's inventing recipes or recreating meals he discovers at restaurants, Kenneth's cooking "makes people happy. I like adding a little extra touch to downhome cooking and baking," he said. "I do all the meals for family functions, but I'm happy to cook for anyone who wants me to!" **NOW**

Baked Beans

- 2 14-oz. cans pork and beans**
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar**
- 1/2 medium onion, finely chopped**
- 1 cup barbecue sauce (your choice)**
- 1 tsp. mustard**
- 4-5 strips bacon, cut in small pieces**

- 1.** Drain beans. In large baking dish, mix beans, sugar, onion, barbecue sauce and mustard. Top with bacon.
- 2.** Bake in 275 F oven for 2 hours.

Sausage Pastries

- 1 lb. sausage**
- 1 cup fresh Parmesan cheese**
- 1 pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 3 pkgs. Athens Mini Fillo Shells**

- 1.** Cook and drain sausage. Chop sausage and Parmesan cheese in chopper.
- 2.** Mix finely chopped sausage/Parmesan and cream cheese together until blended.
- 3.** Fill frozen pastry shells with mixture, sprinkling additional Parmesan on top.
- 4.** Bake at 350 F for 20 minutes.

Creamy Mashed Potatoes

- 5 lbs. potatoes**
- 2 sticks salted butter (divided use)**
- 1 12-oz. can evaporated milk (divided use)**
- Salt, to taste**

- 1.** Peel potatoes; cook until soft. Drain but DO NOT rinse.
- 2.** Add 1 stick butter and 1/2 cup of evaporated milk, mixing with masher.
- 3.** Add remaining butter, milk and salt.

Garlic Baked Brisket

- 1 brisket, non-trimmed**
- Brisket rub**
- 1 cup garlic, minced**
- 2 cups water**
- Garlic salt, to taste**

- 1.** Cut brisket in large chunks and place in roasting pan.
- 2.** Cover each chunk with brisket rub and spread minced garlic over brisket.
- 3.** Pour water in bottom of pan, cover with lid; bake at 350 F for 4 hours. Remove and chop brisket.
- 4.** Season with garlic salt, pour some of the juices on top and blend.
- 5.** Serve with potato or Hawaiian bread buns.

Hazelnut Trifle

- 2 cups hazelnut-flavored liquid dairy creamer**
- 1 3.4-oz pkg. instant vanilla pudding and pie filling mix**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 2 cups water**
- 1 11-oz. pkg. frozen pound cake, thawed**
- 1 21-oz. can raspberry pie filling**
- 1 16-oz. can whole berry cranberry sauce**
- Whipped topping (optional)**
- Fresh raspberries (optional)**
- Fresh cranberries (optional)**

- 1.** Combine dairy creamer and pudding mix in medium bowl. Beat with wire whisk for 1-2 minutes, or until thickened.
- 2.** Combine sugar and water to make simple syrup.
- 3.** Cut pound cake into 3/4-inch cubes. Combine pie filling and cranberry sauce in medium bowl; blend well.
- 4.** In a straight-sided 1 1/2- to 2-quart glass serving bowl, layer 1/3 cake cubes, pouring 1/3 simple syrup over cake cubes. Add 1/3 of fruit sauce and 1/3 of pudding mixture. Repeat layers twice.
- 5.** Cover and refrigerate until serving time. Garnish with whipped topping, fresh raspberries and fresh cranberries, if desired.

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



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