

North Ellis Co. NOW

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M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2015

2015
Holiday
Shopping
Guide

A Winter Wonderland

At Home With Alden and Tammy Daniels

Promoting Patriotism

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Star Mothers
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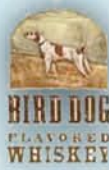
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North Ellis Co. NOW is a NOW Magazines, L.L.C. publication. Copyright © 2015. All rights reserved. *North Ellis Co. NOW* is published monthly and individually mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Red Oak, Ferris, Ovilla, Bristol, Glenn Heights, Pecan Hill and Oak Leaf ZIP codes.

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 (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



Editor's Note

Merry Christmas, North Ellis County!

There's something magical about Christmas. It's a time to show love, hope and good will toward our fellow man. And many of us will look forward to celebrating the season with family and friends. Just as all families grow, so does our editorial family here at NOW. And I hope you'll join me in welcoming our newest member, Jo Monroe, the new community editor for *North Ellis CountyNOW*.

So as I share my last editorial note with you, I'd like to extend my sincerest thanks to everyone who has helped make our magazine a success. I'm grateful to residents who've shared their homes, recipes and beautiful smiles. And I look forward to reading many more wonderful stories that will fill this magazine's future pages. Feel free to email your story ideas to Jo at joanne.monroe@nowmagazines.com.

Wishing you and your families the merriest of holiday seasons!

Dianne

Dianne Reaux
North Ellis Co. NOW Editor

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

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The Fright Before Christmas

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Advent Activities:

Sunday, December 6, 2015

8:30 AM & 10:50 AM - Worship Service & Christmas Cantata

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Sunday, December 13, 2015

8:30 AM - Worship Service

10:50 AM - Worship Service & Children's Pageant: Felix Finds Christmas

Christmas Eve, 2015

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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New 6th Grade Wing Open

This fall we opened the doors to a brand new addition to our Ferris ISD facilities. Our Facilities Team met last year and made the recommendation to move 6th grade from Ferris Intermediate to Ferris Junior High and to add an additional wing to house our 6th grade. We had a few construction delays due to weather this past summer and were not able to move in when school started, but the teachers and students of Ferris Junior High adjusted and the transition to the new building went flawlessly. Our 6th grade teachers and students are really enjoying their new classrooms.

Building Information

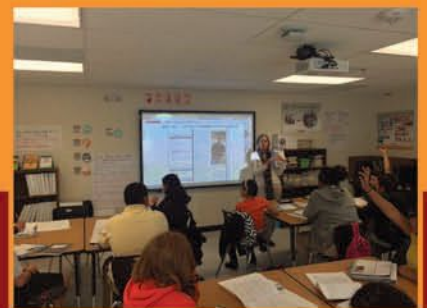
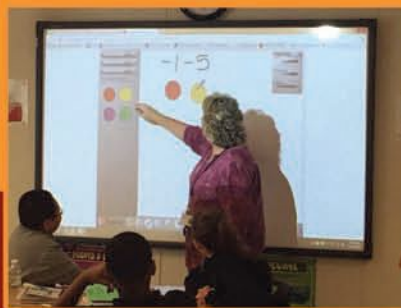
We chose to build a permanent modular building through a design build project with Ramtech Building Systems out of Mansfield. A similar project with a typical brick and mortar design would have cost the District an additional one million dollars. Our classrooms look beautiful and the teachers and students have all the latest technology for their learning environment.

What's Next?

At this time with our current projections we do not foresee the need for any new spaces for PK-12 for approximately 10 years. With the city's growth and development we may see a change in that projection. Regardless of the time, we welcome the challenge and look forward to the anticipated growth.

"Growth is never by mere chance; it is the result of forces working together."

- James Cash Penney



Our spacious new wing spans over 200 feet long and encompasses 12 classrooms, a multipurpose room, restrooms and an office.



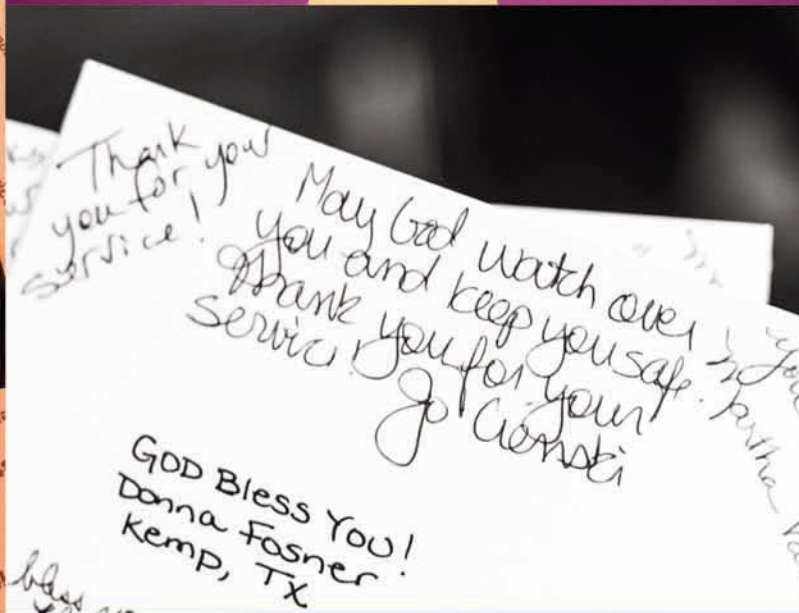
Promoting PATRIOTISM

— By Virginia Riddle

Cheree Barrett is a proud mother and wife of men who have served in the U.S. military. Her husband, Rick, who served as a Navy Seabee, is a second-generation veteran. Rick and Cheree's son, James, served as an Army sergeant and was honorably discharged in 2013. Cheree serves in her own way as president of the Bluebonnet Blue Star Mothers, a chapter of the state and national organizations of Blue Star Mothers, Inc. "The camaraderie of the mothers is a joy felt by all of us," Cheree said.

It's not just an organization for mothers. Stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, godmothers and female legal guardians of children serving in the military, National Guard, military reserve branch or of military veterans are welcomed. Cindy McCain, wife of Senator John McCain, is the national spokeswoman of the organization, since she is a former military wife and mom of two sons serving in the U.S. Navy. The Blue Star Mothers' mission is to never forsake U.S. troops, veterans or families of Fallen Heroes. "We are a nonpartisan, nonpolitical and nonsectarian organization," Cheree said.

When parents raise a son or daughter who is inspired to serve their country through joining a military branch, that parent is full of pride and apprehension. Studies have shown that supportive parents play an important role in how their son or daughter reintegrates



"The camaraderie of the mothers is a joy felt by all of us."

into everyday life at home following deployment. Some of the most supportive parents of military service men and women are the Bluebonnet Blue Star Mothers.

"Our local chapter has 25 members from locations as far away as Snyder toward the west, Southern Dallas County to the north, Corsicana to the south and Mabank to the east," Cheree explained. "When someone sends in her membership application, she can choose a local chapter or decide to be a member at the national level only." Cheree is one of the original members of the Bluebonnet Chapter located in Ovilla, which was chartered five years ago with the required five initial members.

Rounding out the chapter's governing board are 1st Vice President Martha Vansyckle, 2nd Vice President Donna Fosner, Treasurer Karen Hall, Financial Secretary Doris Urban, Recording Secretary Kathy Kresse, Chaplain Joy Sanders, Care Package Coordinator Sheryl Hornung, Membership Chair Sheri McMillan, Patriotic Instructor Collis Blackmon, Refreshment Chair Pat Minyard and Scrapbook Chair Donna Fosner. The chapter's annual membership fee is \$30. Members meet on the fourth Monday of each month (except on holidays) at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Church in Ovilla.

Trenda Thompson of Waxahachie became a member in 2014 and has already become very active in the chapter's work. Her son, Colt Thompson, is in the Army Reserves until he graduates from Texas A&M University, at which time he will go into active duty. This busy mom works at DeSoto Fashion Glass but still finds time to participate in many of the group's activities, as well as volunteer with the Boy Scouts of America and reenactment troops with her husband, who is an Army veteran.



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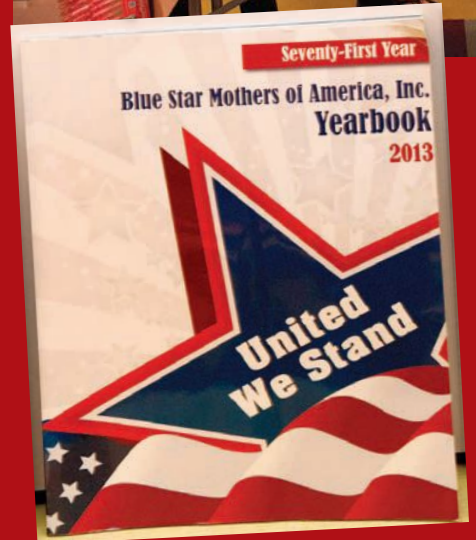
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A scrapbook chronicles the chapter's many activities, which include participating in area parades, donating boxes of Girl Scout cookies to VA hospitals, shipping male and female gift boxes quarterly to military units, sending out "care cards" to troops in the U.S. during holiday seasons, participating in area veterans' ceremonies, speaking to civic clubs and volunteering at the Dallas Fisher House and DFW Airport USO. "We are allowed to go to the gate to greet service men and women," Cheree said. Chapter members receive help with their activities. "We work with the Patriot Guard Riders, and area churches and Crafty Scrappers in Waxahachie are collection points for donations that are packed into the gift boxes. "The Boy Scouts of America troops help pack boxes," Cheree said thankfully. The scrapbook is especially important to members, since each mom has a page dedicated to her military child or children.



Some duties are very hard on members emotionally but are essential in order to carry out the chapter's stated mission of support. Chapter members presented a Waxahachie mom with her Gold Star flag signifying the loss of a child while serving in the military. "Thank goodness that isn't something we do often nor do we want to have do it," Cheree said. Members were interviewed by WFAA-TV, Channel 8, while standing on the route Chris Kyle's burial procession took. "That was a sad day for everyone," Cheree remembered. A Hutchins-area mom's son received a traumatic brain injury from an IED while in a mess hall, and the chapter members were able to help the family through his recovery in the Dallas VA Medical Center. He is successfully continuing to serve in the Army National Guard. "We have found that families deal with death and injury in many different ways," Cheree revealed.



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The chapter has won several honors for its parade truck, which is decorated with flags. Rick created the special equipment used, and the members use hand clappers and display big photos of their children while chanting a shortened version of "We Raised Warriors" that Cheree learned while attending a national convention of Blue Star Mothers. The group won the Mayor's Choice Award in the Ovilla Heritage Day Parade and took second place in the Red Oak Veterans' Day Parade. Additionally, they have appeared in the Ennis Polka Festival Parade and the Ferris Pioneer Day Parade.

Cheree has enjoyed attending the group's national conventions in Colorado; Washington, D.C.; Ohio; and California. She gets to learn from speakers and network with moms from every corner of the U.S. "At the D.C. convention, we were given a tour of the Pentagon, which was fascinating," she remembered.

A native of Ferris, Cheree holds a position in the Trust Department of Bank of America in downtown Dallas. That experience has helped her during speaking engagements and in conducting meetings, which always include a prayer, business meeting and occasional speakers. Each member has a lanyard, pin, ribbon and decal for her car, all of which denote her child's service.

One message that the chapter tries to instill in the public's mind is to remind veterans to register with their local VA. "That's a first priority," Cheree emphasized. "Veterans have many benefits, which they need to access. When my son became a veteran, it made me more aware of veterans' issues. I can't say enough good things about the Dallas VA." **NOW**

20TH ANNUAL FERRIS

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015 • 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Event Schedule

- 11:00 Christmas Parade to Town Square
- 11:00 Silent Auction Begins
- 1:00 Santa Photos (1:00-3:00)
- 2:00 Live Auction
- 2:30 Contest Winners Announced
- 3:30 Silent Auction Closes; Winners Announced
- 5:00 Retirement of the Colors by Ferris Boy Scouts
- 5:30 Lighting of Christmas Tree by Candlelight
- 6:00 Christmas Caroling on Hayrides

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Editor's Note: For more information about the chapter, contact Cheree at (972) 679-9425.

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A Winter Wonderland

— By Melissa Swedoski

"Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right in your front window..." Christmas traditions are created every year around the world, but at Alden and Tammy Daniels' home in Red Oak, the best



At Home With Alden and Tammy Daniels

ones remain the same. With a waving, smiling, cookie-eating Santa in the front window and unique ornaments hanging from several trees in the house, the family keeps tradition alive and well, even when there isn't snow on the ground.

Nestled in the Harmony subdivision, Alden and Tammy enjoy gorgeous views from their front windows, no matter the season. Looking onto a greenbelt area with plenty of trees, the 3,600-square-foot, two-story brick home is already a postcard spot in the neighborhood. When Christmastime comes around, however, Alden and Tammy put on a show, with the jolly old elf as the main attraction. Using a special projector in the front office window, it appears that Santa is right inside. "Kids drive by with their parents and think he lives here," Tammy said. "They'll stop and wave back at him. I love that." This is the third year for the digital Santa, who also drinks milk and eats cookies.

The front of the home is accented with stone on an archway leading to the glass front door, which is flanked by two life-sized nutcracker soldiers during the holidays. Thanks to hard work by Alden, the landscape beds are also framed by stone, with benches on the porch. Once inside, an office is on the left, with an antique desk the couple has had for 28 years of their 34-year marriage. "Before we had kids, we loved to go





antique shopping,” Tammy explained, and she cited the desk as their proudest purchase. The couple also purchased chandeliers for the entryway, office and for above the pool table and installed each one. “We’d go shopping, get one for a good price and then store it,” Tammy chuckled. “We’d always say, ‘We’ll use it one day.’”

Just to the right of the foyer is a sitting area with antique couches and a beverage cart. The space also serves as host to another of the family’s Christmas trees. The tree is pink with poinsettia flowers painted pink and a variety of white ornaments and small, white bears. “The pink tree was for my husband,” Tammy





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

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including an ice skating rink, Santa and even a Wal-Mart. Tammy also had September draw a winter wonderland to serve as the backdrop for the village. The display is one of Tammy's favorite Christmas traditions, because, "I like it for me. I like to sit and watch it for my personal enjoyment."

The Danielses' open-concept home, designed

from a First Texas model seven years ago, provides a two-story vaulted ceiling in the living room. With an 8-foot-tall armoire, the love of antiques continues,

said, "because that was something he always wanted. I usually change the colors on the trees, but the main one is always red and white." The tree is encircled by a toy train, sometimes on the floor and sometimes around the tree in the middle. Thirteen-year-old September is the couple's youngest daughter. Her artwork and family pictures are also on display.

Opposite of the sitting area is a pool table where Tammy places her 1800s-style winter village, complete with people and benches, some of which was formerly Christmas village furniture. For 30 years, she has collected people and pieces,



with leather couches and an ornate TV stand and coffee table. The fireplace has Christmas light strands inside to give the look of a fire, and the mantel has stockings for all family members, including their 4-year-old dog, Madeline. Placed prominently on the wall coming from the foyer is a 5-foot-6-inch tall photo on canvas of the couple, a 30th anniversary present from Alden. "My husband, he likes everything big," Tammy said with a smile. "It's a picture of us pre-children, when we were at the Majestic Theater seeing a play."

The living room flows right into the kitchen, which also gets decorated, with an eating area to complete it. Tammy

loves to cook and will serve up all the traditional foods at Christmas, with ham, turkey, brisket, dressing, yams and greens, along with desserts made by the kids.

The first floor is also home to the master bedroom, which is filled with antique furniture. "My husband loves antiques," Tammy said. "The traditional, dark

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wood, we have that in the sitting area and the bedroom.” The king-sized bed has an ornate carved headboard, complete with claw feet. There are Christmas decorations in that room as well, and Tammy said she includes the bathrooms, although she changes her mind annually about what she’ll use. “I’ll decorate the whole house, inside and out,” she said.

Walking up the stairs, the banister is covered in garland and lights, and the railing on the loft area is also decorated. The cozy space includes two couches and built-ins, with family memories covering the shelves, from drawings by September and pictures through the years to knickknacks with sentimental meaning. A Christmas tree stands in the window, with another smaller tree in September’s bedroom. During the rest of the year, the loft has a keyboard for oldest daughter, Brittney, and a drum set for Alden. There are two bedrooms connected by a bath on one side of the loft, with another bedroom and bath on the other side.

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One of the showpieces of the home is a media room, complete with stereo surround sound and a 120-inch screen. Alden built two platforms for the sofa and media chairs in the room to give an authentic theater feel. Tammy reflected on the layout of the home and said with a smile, "I think our house is more for our children. They're getting older, and it's nice to keep the girls close."



Tammy was a big decorator for Christmas even before children came along. September is in middle school and Brittney, age 23, is a medical student at UT-Southwestern. Brittney discovered a new enzyme during a summer internship at Duke University last summer, and she is now on the chemistry wall there. Her children influence the decorating now, as Tammy said this year will have more animated items. "The kids love the moving stuff," she said. "I always have my nutcrackers, Santa Claus, dogs, village and gift boxes. Then there's the stuff outside that moves — Santa Claus, snowmen, reindeer and elves." Her inspiration is centered on and around the season. "It makes people happy," she said. "There's enough anger in the world. In general, people seem to be nicer at Christmastime." **NOW**

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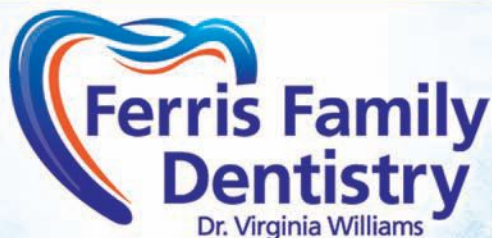
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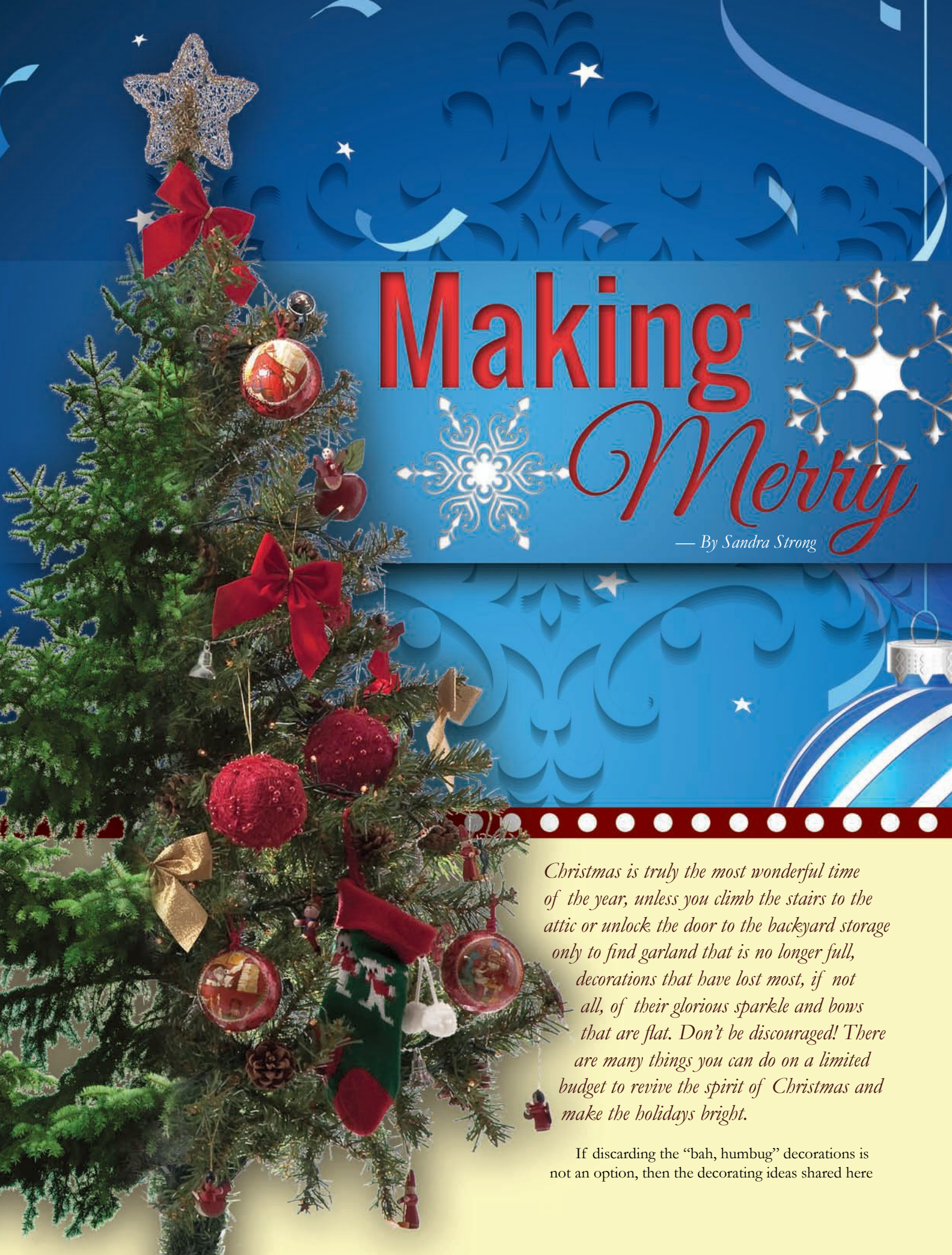
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Making Merry

— By Sandra Strong

Christmas is truly the most wonderful time of the year, unless you climb the stairs to the attic or unlock the door to the backyard storage only to find garland that is no longer full, decorations that have lost most, if not all, of their glorious sparkle and bows that are flat. Don't be discouraged! There are many things you can do on a limited budget to revive the spirit of Christmas and make the holidays bright.

If discarding the “bah, humbug” decorations is not an option, then the decorating ideas shared here



will, hopefully, be the help you need to restore your holiday favorites to their original glory. Each suggestion can be accomplished alone, but why not get everyone together for some good, old-fashioned family time. You might even start a new Christmas tradition.

Decking the Halls

Here are a few ways you can revive your garland. The easiest option is to take two strands of old garland and twist them together from one end to the next, securing both ends with floral wire. Once secured, the two strands will need

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to be entwined, one with the other. This process calls for patience and plenty of time to do it properly. As you entwine the two, you will touch each small limb on the garland strands, merging them together as you work from one end to the next.

To further fill out the garland, you can also add a string of twinkling lights and some holiday ribbon. These options can be added and removed from season-to-season in order to give the decorations a new punch each year. You might use white lights with blue ribbons one year and decide to go all out with red lights and Scotch plaid bows the next. One year, you may even decide to forgo the ribbons and bows and tie themed ornaments and festive greenery to the garland. As your taste in holiday decorating changes from year-to-year, now, so can your fluffy strands of garland.



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Trimming the Tree

Some homes boast one tall, regally standing, fresh cut tree, while other homes have trees of varying shapes and sizes in every room. Regardless of how many trees you display, there are some easy guidelines you can follow to ensure the tree-decorating process is one that lends to good memories, instead of huge holiday headaches. Patience will, once again, be important as you plug in the pre-lit tree or the string of lights to begin wrapping the tree in their warm

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For those who opt for a tree that is not pre-lit, your struggles could be just as great, especially if the light Grinch somehow got into the lights that were organized and working when you stored them neatly away the year before! If you find this is the case, get a large cup of hot cocoa, have a seat and let the untangling begin.



Ornamental Revitalization

Ornaments on a Christmas tree are what keep the memories alive within the branches each year. The engraved spoon commemorating baby's first Christmas, the paper star those same little hands made once they got to kindergarten and vintage glass decorations that have been passed down through the generations evoke emotions each time the tree is trimmed. Sometimes, these same decorations need to be rejuvenated to bring back their original beauty.

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Outside the Box

Decorating outside the box takes on new meaning as children marry and have children of their own. Although it sounds like something Scrooge would do, some may choose to not put a tree up until children understand that the tree is to look at and not to touch. One unique idea, which has been passed down through the generations, is to take the baby out of the playpen and add the tree in his or her place. This allows the child to still be mesmerized by the tree's beauty, while keeping them safely away from breakable ornaments and the "no-no's" that will surely come with each touch. Another option is to simply downsize the tree, so it can be displayed on a tabletop or the fireplace mantel.

Regardless of what you decide to do, the main focus should be on having family fun. Garland, decorations and bows will come and go, but your Christmas memories can last a lifetime, if they are preserved and cared for properly. **NOW**

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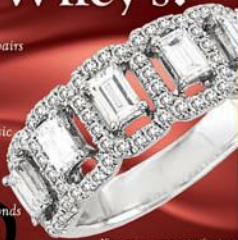






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Sundays: Closed



Mike Boyd, owner/pharmacist, and his friendly staff welcome you to Red Oak Drug.



Three Decades of Quality Service

Red Oak Drug is experienced, ready and available to meet the customer's ever changing needs.

— By Jo Monroe

For 31 years, pharmacist Mike Boyd, RPh, has continued to operate the only privately owned pharmacy serving the Red Oak community. "He was here first and is still here. That is quite an accomplishment," General Manager Cody Zajicek said. During the years, when many businesses were uncertain about their future, Mike Boyd has been dedicated to providing exceptional customer service and reserving a place in today's competitive world.

Mike opened Red Oak Drug in 1984, after graduating from the College of Pharmacy at The University of Texas at Austin. He opened the only pharmacy on Ovilla Road, which is located across from Brookshire's and the new Wal-Mart in Red Oak. "I believe the reason Mike was drawn to Red Oak, was the location," Cody stated. "Ovilla Road was, and is still, a predominate road."

The Red Oak community is fast-growing. With so many choices in pharmacies, it can be difficult for an individual or a family to know where they can find a specialized pharmacy that makes complex compounds, fits custom compression stockings and prepares prescriptions. Considering the multiple needs of a family today, it is important to find one place to trust with all prescription needs now and in the future. Mike's loyal customers could share their family stories of how they have depended upon Mike for years.

No matter the age, customers are looking for a plethora of current knowledge, experience and old-fashioned values. Often it is said, "I wish it was the way it used to be." What is the way it used to be, and where do we find it today? You can find it when you step through the doors at Red Oak Drug. You are greeted with a smile

and a hello. "We have a knowledgeable and friendly staff," Cody said. From the beginning, Mike placed customer service as the No. 1 priority and instills its importance to his employees. The customer is treated with courtesy, dignity and respect and receives professional, but personal service. Mike has earned customer loyalty and trust since starting in 1984.

"Comparing any pharmacy to the next, it isn't about prescription savings — it is the experience of when you are picking up your prescription. When you go to pick up a prescription, at Red Oak Drug, the pharmacists are there, you can talk with them. Mike is there ready and available. I believe our customer service aspect sets us apart and is the reason for our success," Cody said.

Mike Boyd has been dedicated to providing exceptional customer service and reserving a place in today's competitive world.

"Today, there are so many requirements placed on the customer and so many options in health care plans that being able to speak to the pharmacist is important," Cody stated. This is what makes Red Oak Drug truly unique.

Mike is a reputable pharmacist and highly regarded in business. As the customer's needs have grown, and to maintain records and billing reports, Mike has equipped the pharmacy with an updated comprehensive program for accounting accuracy and customer confidentiality.

Since opening Red Oak Drug in 1984, Mike purchased an existing pharmaceutical business in Waxahachie, where the Boyds live and raised their children. Ten years have passed since The Prescription Shop in Waxahachie opened and 31 years since Red Oak Drug began serving the Red Oak community. Red Oak Drug was here first and, "We are still here," Cody said, "still taking pride in our customer service." **NOW**

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The Ferris High School drama department performs the History of Ferris.



Red Oak ISD Superintendent J. Scott Niven joins Executive Director of Communications Adi Bryant and Dr. Cindy Kirkpatrick, Deputy Superintendent, at the Fall Senior Citizen Luncheon.



Carl and Crystal Welch enjoy breakfast with their children, Caroline and Colten, at Javier's Cafe in Ferris.



Ovilla Christian School eighth graders participate in the placing of the wreath at Washington, D.C.'s Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Medical Professional Institute's Gracie Garza accepts her membership plaque at her Red Oak ribbon cutting.



Karen Carrion, president of Ferris Main Street, and Connie Bratcher, with the Ferris Historical Society, take time out to pose for the camera.



Ovilla City Councilman David Griffin, wife, Beth and friends show their support by attending the Red Oak Chamber Auction Disco & Denim with Chairwoman Jo Ann Brewer of Prosperity Bank and her husband, Al.



Ovilla United Methodist Church Quilters proudly present their Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County award winning quilt at the 60th Annual Lord's Acre & Regional Fall Festival.



Ovilla Councilman Doug Hunt and wife, Donna, enjoy the Red Oak Chamber Auction with Access Storage managers Chuck and Mary Culp.

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Straighten Up

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

“Stand up straight!” How many times have you heard that in your lifetime? It could’ve been from your mom, your teacher, dance instructor or a friend. Depending upon who gave the order, you may or may not have tried to accommodate them. But who wants to stand straight when a good slouch seems to work just as well? And, what about that cozy curl into the big chair? Why sit up straight when the opposite feels so right and comfortable? Here is an inconvenient truth: Unless you have been taught and encouraged to practice good posture, you probably need some encouraging reminders.

The correct posture follows the natural curvature of the spine. A good standing posture starts with holding your head up, shoulders back, stomach tucked, knees relaxed, not locked, and your feet a shoulder’s width apart. A good sitting posture begins with your buttocks touching the back of the chair. Have your back and shoulders straight and feet planted on the floor. Your weight should be equally distributed. Use an arm rest. If you need to turn while sitting, do not twist. Turn your whole body. Practice good computer posture by sitting with good posture and keeping your arms and wrists parallel to the floor. Make sure the computer screen is at eye level.

Posture plays a big part in your overall health. One of the areas impacted is your breathing. There is a reason programs

such as yoga and Pilates place so much emphasis on breathing. For the brain to function properly, it is critical for it to receive the oxygen it needs. This improves your critical thinking. Proper posture facilitates that. When you use good posture, your muscles, ligaments and joints are aligned as they should be, and this alignment allows internal organs to be positioned properly inside the body. When your organs are compromised because of bad posture, they can’t function as they should, and that sets up other issues, such as digestion or respiratory problems.

There is less wear and tear on the skeletal system when you maintain good posture, thereby lessening the prospect of injury. Going against this can set you up for arthritis, back pain and body fatigue. Good posture equals a more efficient system. Other considerations would be to invest in a good mattress for the good of your spine at night and an orthopedic pillow. Wear quality footwear. Sit in a solid chair that gives your back the support it needs. There are good reasons for all of this attention to posture. In addition, you will look better and exude confidence when you stand and sit up straight! **NOW**

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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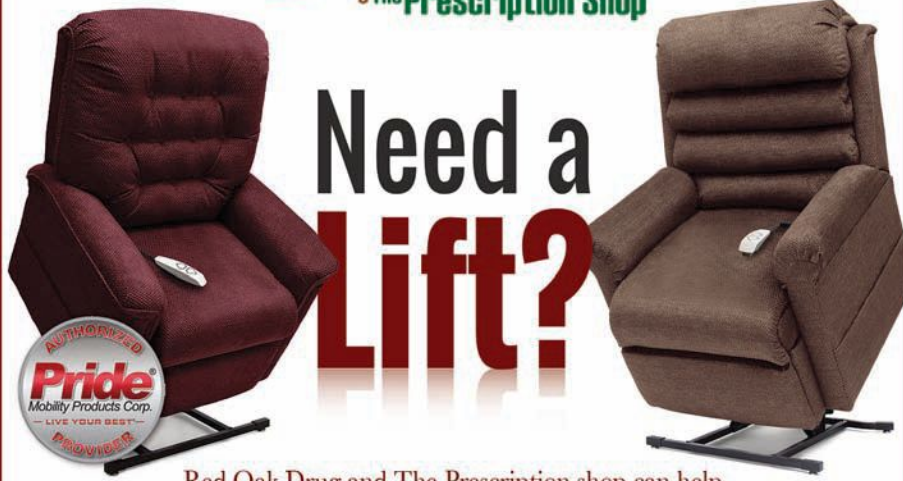


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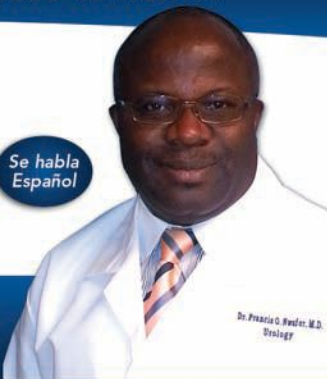
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Mountain to Metro

Year-round adventure beckons explorers from every generation to Ogden, Utah.

Ogden, Utah, a vibrant town in northern Utah, is a nationally recognized destination nestled within the Rocky Mountains. This old railroad town transformed itself into a Mecca for adventurers. Passion, intrigue and rich history combine to offer endless experiences. Ogden's mountain-to-metro personality is derived from a unique balance of vibrant shopping, delicious dining, exciting nightlife and backyard access to year-round, breathtaking outdoor recreation.

Don't come to Ogden expecting a typical mountain town. Al Capone is rumored to have said Ogden was too wild a town for him in the 1920s. While Ogden has recently experienced a renaissance, O-town's soul will always be a bit rowdy.

As Utah's oldest settlement, transcontinental railroad officials designated Ogden as their junction point in 1896. More than 120 trains passed through Ogden each day. Today, Ogden's accessibility makes it a gathering spot for visitors and locals alike.

The area boasts three major ski resorts — Snowbasin, Powder Mountain and Wolf Mountain. The resorts offer a combined

10,000 acres of skiing with an average of 400 inches of snow. No lift lines mar the landscape, just open terrain and access to pristine groomers and powder shots, not to mention spectacular views. *Ski Magazine* consistently ranks Powder Mountain and Snowbasin resorts in the top five for value, snow, on-mountain dining and service.

Snowbasin provides luxurious skiing with multi-million dollar lodges, 3,000 vertical feet and high-speed gondolas. Powder Mountain's 7,000 acres, one of the largest ski basins in North America, gives skiers of all abilities a true backcountry experience. Wolf Mountain is arguably the best learn-to-ski mountain in the western United States and operates the largest night skiing venue in the state.

After absorbing Ogden's 170,000 acres of national forest, three ski resorts, miles of trails or 13,000 acres of lakes connected by pristine rivers, you can head downtown for a cool place to hang with friends. Charming, historic 25th Street is injected with local love, featuring boutique shopping, galleries,



independent restaurants and bars, including Tona, voted one of the top-10 ski-town sushi restaurants by *Ski Magazine*.

Downtown Ogden offers live entertainment, museums, culture and events. Visit Fort Buenaventura for an epic sporting event or mountain man rendezvous. Tour the Union Station's numerous museums, including the John M. Browning Firearms Museum or the Utah State Railroad Museum among others. Children will enjoy the award winning George S. Eccles Dinosaur Park, Ogden Nature Center and Treehouse Children's Museum.

Experience live theater, music and dance at Peery's Egyptian Theater or browse one of the 20 fully operating galleries displaying original works of art. A number of nationally recognized events take place throughout the year — from the independent Sundance Film Festival held in Park City and Harvest Moon Celebration to the XTERRA USA National Championships and Ogden Marathon.

The town offers luxury mountain getaways, with mountain trails at your back door, to restored historic hotels located right

downtown. In addition, the Ogden-Hinckley Airport is only five minutes away from downtown or the Salt Lake City International Airport is a quick 35-minute drive.

Travel times from Ogden are more than reasonable for educational daytrips to exotic sites like Utah's Great Salt Lake, where high-salinity water is so buoyant that people can easily float. You'll find opportunities for great hiking and wildlife viewing, including bison, antelope and birds, at Antelope Island State Park. Swimming and sunbathing are also popular on its clean, white sand beaches. Freshwater showers are available to rinse off after swimming, before the 40-minute drive back to your lovely lodging in Ogden.

For more information on great escapes available throughout the year, go to www.visitogden.com. **NOW**

By Aimee Edwards. Photos by Out of Bounds Creative.

December 1

Christmas Parade: 6:00-7:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Community Tree Lighting: 7:00-9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie on the lawn of the Courthouse.

December 4 — 6, 11 — 13

Bethlehem Revisited: 6:00-9:00 p.m., 402 N. College St., directly behind Central Presbyterian Church, Waxahachie.

December 5

Christmas on the Square: all day event, downtown Ferris. A live Nativity and Santa are at the Pavilion for the children and photos, live and silent auctions are under the big white tent. The event is sponsored by Ferris Area Business Association.

Ferris Christmas Parade: 11:00 a.m., downtown square.

Ferris Tree Lighting: 6:00 p.m., on the square, Ferris.

Christmas Market & Gift Show: 9:00-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. The event is sponsored by the Waxahachie Junior Service League.

Red Oak Christmas Parade: 11:00 a.m. Parade route is south on Main Street, right on Waller Street and end at Watkins Park.

Christmas in Red Oak/Watkins Park: festivities follow at 101 Live Oak St., Watkins Park and continue until 3:00 p.m. Hayrides, bounce houses, vendors, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Clause and drawings for toy-filled stockings are some of the activities. For more information, contact Kendra Worthy at (469) 218-1202.

December 7

Fine Arts Christmas Night: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Ovilla Christian School, 3251 Ovilla Rd. Visit ovillachristianschool.org/calendar for more information or contact Angel Morris, Communications Director/Yearbook 972-533-7216 (Direct).

December 10

Christmas Market at Red Oak High School: 5:30 -8:00 p.m., Red Oak High School Cafeteria. Silent Auction and donations benefit the ROHS Special Needs Prom. Free admission and door prizes. This event is sponsored by FCCLA.

December 12

HADDIT (Hawks Against Destructive

Decisions Inspiring Teens) Holiday Luncheon honoring Red Oak Senior Citizens: 11:00 a.m., Wooden Elementary School. If you are unable to attend and would like the meal delivered, call by **December 4**. For more information, call (972) 617-4607 or email Charmianne Womack at charmianne.womack@redoakisd.org.

YMCA Santa Run: 8:30 a.m., registration begins; 10:00 a.m., downtown Waxahachie. 5K run begins with the 1-mile run/walk starting a few minutes later. Register or find out about volunteer opportunities by calling Jonathan McLaughlin at (972) 937-9622.

Breakfast with Santa: 9:00-11:00 a.m., Grace Church of Ovilla, 519 Westmoreland, Ovilla. Free. Community families are invited for a light breakfast, photo with Santa, crafts and the real Christmas story. For more information, visit www.gracechurchovilla.org.

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

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In the Kitchen With Heidi Borden

— By Dianne Reaux

Heidi Borden has loved baking since she was young. “For my 13th birthday, I decided to have a baking bash,” she shared. She and her friends baked all kinds of goodies together — and then, “licked every bowl,” she shared!

Heidi’s love of cooking eventually grew into her ministry. “I took homemade muffins to my church at Rock Community for years,” she explained. When she was 15, her church started a young-adult ministry, and Heidi began preparing gourmet desserts and home-cooked meals. Heidi loves watching people’s faces light up as they enjoy her dishes. “I’m 22 years old now,” she shared, “and I still prepare the meals for the ministry. I love my church, and I love serving there — even if it’s in the kitchen.” **NOW**

Layers of Love Chocolate Brownies

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour**
- 3/4 cup Nestle Toll House Baking Cocoa**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**
- 1 stick butter, cut in pieces**
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar**
- 1/2 cup packed, brown sugar**
- 3 large eggs (divided use)**
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 cup chopped pecans**
- 3/4 cup Nestle Toll House Premier White Morsels**
- 1/2 cup caramel ice cream topping**
- 3/4 cup Nestle Toll House Semi-Sweet Chocolate Morsels**

- 1.** Preheat the oven to 350 F. Grease an 8-inch, square baking pan.
- 2.** Combine flour, cocoa and salt in a small bowl.
- 3.** Beat butter, granulated sugar and brown

sugar in a large mixer bowl until creamy.

- 4.** Add 2 eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Add vanilla extract; mix well. Gradually beat in the flour mixture.
- 5.** Reserve 3/4 cup batter. Spread remaining batter into the prepared baking pan. Sprinkle nuts and white morsels over batter. Drizzle caramel topping over top.
- 6.** Beat remaining egg and reserved batter in the same large bowl until light in color. Stir in semi-sweet morsels and spread evenly over caramel topping.
- 7.** Bake for 30–35 minutes, or until center is set. Cool completely in the pan on a wire rack. Cut into bars before serving.

Turtle Trifle

- 8 oz. mascarpone cheese, softened (or 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese)**
- 1 1/2 cups whipping cream**
- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 2-lb. frozen pecan pie thawed, and cut into 1-inch cubes**

- 1/3 cup chocolate fudge topping**
- 1/3 cup caramel topping**
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, toasted**

- 1.** Beat mascarpone cheese, whipping cream and vanilla extract in a large bowl at medium speed with a heavy-duty electric stand mixer, using the whisk attachment for 2–3 minutes or until smooth and firm.
- 2.** Place half of the pie cubes in the bottom of a 4-qt. trifle dish, or a tall, clear 4-qt. glass bowl. Spread half of the whipped cream mixture over the pie cubes.
- 3.** Drizzle with half of the chocolate fudge topping, followed by half of the caramel topping. Sprinkle with half of the chopped pecans. Repeat layers.
- 4.** Cover and chill at least 1 hour or up to 8 hours.

Premiere Cheesecake Cranberry Bars

- 2 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 1/2 cups quick, old-fashioned oats**
- 1/4 cup packed, light brown sugar**
- 2 sticks butter or margarine, softened**
- 1 12-oz. pkg. Nestle Toll House Premier White Morsels**
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 1 14-oz. can Nestle Carnation Sweetened Condensed Milk**
- 1/4 cup lemon juice**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 1 14-oz. can Ocean Spray Whole Berry Cranberry Sauce**
- 2 Tbsp. cornstarch**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease a 13x9-inch baking pan.
- 2.** Combine flour, oats and brown sugar in a large bowl. Add butter; mix until crumbly. Stir in morsels.
- 3.** Reserve 2 1/2 cups of the morsel mixture for topping. With floured fingers, press remaining mixture into the prepared pan.
- 4.** Beat cream cheese in a large mixing bowl until creamy.
- 5.** Add sweetened condensed milk, lemon juice and vanilla extract; mix until smooth. Pour over crust.
- 6.** Combine cranberry sauce and cornstarch in a medium bowl.
- 7.** Spoon over cream cheese mixture. Sprinkle reserved morsel mixture over cranberry mixture.
- 8.** Bake for 35–40 minutes, or until center is set. Cool completely in a pan on a wire rack. Cover; refrigerate until serving time (up to one day). Cut into bars.

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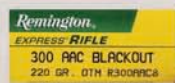
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Tink's #69 Doe-In-Rut
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