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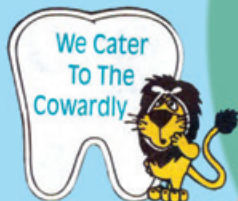
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ON THE COVER



The Minialoffs love February 14, but consider Friday the 13th their true love holiday.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

"Grow old along with me ..."

Who can deny there's sappy joy in bringing a smile to the face of a loved one, whether it's with the traditional box of candy or a creative jumbotron proposal? While new love is giddy, what is most amazing to me is old love. Love that's grown since you first learned you'd be a parent to the day you watch your child wed. Love that brings you to a job day after day, because what you do makes a difference. Love that transcends the beauty of youth to the time when all you see when looking at your love is the life you've built together through laughter and tears. What a gift to have someone with whom you can sit and read a story or two now and know that "the best is yet to be!"

Angel

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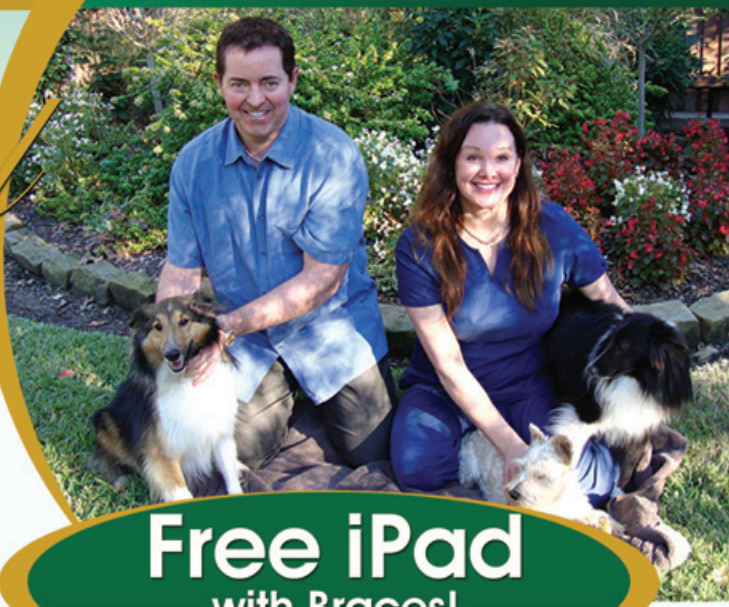
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Love at First Flight

— By Angel Morris

A chance meeting on an unlucky date may be the luckiest moment in Rob and Julie Minialoff's lives. This dual-country couple has overcome obstacles and odds, and their relationship continues to grow today in what was first Julie's home in Red Oak.

"I moved here with my son, Riley, in March 1999. Riley started kindergarten and worked through Red Oak High School, graduating in 2012," Julie said. Prior to rearing her son in Red Oak, Julie grew up in Duncanville and went on to work in the cosmetic industry.

Rob was reared in Toronto, Canada, where he eventually opened his own company, Roof Logic, making software for roofing contractors all over Canada and the U.S. Traveling for business, Rob had a connecting flight from Toronto through North Carolina on Friday the 13th, in March 2009. Julie was headed home from a company meeting in Charlotte on the same flight.

"There was one empty seat on the plane, and it was between us. We talked the whole way to Dallas, and when we got to baggage claim, I didn't want to part," Julie said. Unwilling to let the chance encounter end, Julie asked to drive Rob to his hotel. "I asked if it was strange for me to offer, and he — ever the gentleman — said, 'Not if it is on your way,'" Julie recalled.

The two made dinner plans for the next evening. "I knew that night there was something about Rob. I called my best friend

when I got in the car to head home and told her all about him," Julie said.

"For me, the feeling grew the next night at dinner and really knocked me out when we had to part. My heart hurt so bad," Rob said. Headed back out of town the next day, Rob was desperate to talk with Julie.

"I saw three ladies in the airport with phones like my new one. I explained I had just met this girl I was crazy about, but I didn't know how to text," Rob said. "I got a two-minute lesson and sent my first text to Julie. Now we had instant communication. It was amazing but could not fix my heavy heart, so I called and heard her sweet voice and knew I had to see her again!"

They spent the next three years traveling to meet each other — around the country and many trips between Toronto and Red Oak. That was the time needed for Riley to finish school and begin training at DeSoto Fire Academy. "It was a long time, but thanks to texting and Skype, Rob and I weren't completely apart!" Julie said.

"I wondered how it could work, but very early on Julie said, 'I can be in Canada in three years.' So I had a commitment, and we had a goal. It wasn't easy, but we did it," Rob recalled.

December 2, 2011, Rob proposed and plans began — originally for one wedding in Red Oak and one in Toronto. But Rob's family was able to come to Texas, so one big ceremony took place May 19, 2012, at The Greenery in Waxahachie. Rob's parents, sisters and their husbands, and Rob's daughter, Katie, all made the trip.

"We were married by our best friend, Danny Roland, and



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Kellie Roland coordinated the day for me, so I could just enjoy. Most of my family was there with us, including my Mema, who is 97 years old," Julie said.

Guests agreed Rob and Julie's love story was one of a kind. "You hear about rare couples with an amazing love. Now thanks to Julie, we are one of those couples. I feel it every day," Rob said. "When I met Julie, I was a broken man at a very tough point in life. Julie was an angel sent down to save me, and she has."

"Rob is the most thoughtful man I have ever known. He even celebrates my birthday for a week every year," Julie said. "I never knew love could be like this, and it was worth the 40-year wait to find him."

The couple noted they even like each other's differences. "I am one to make quick decisions. Rob processes things. When I would ask his thoughts, he would say he needed to think about it," Julie said. "I now look to him to think things through for us."

"Julie taught me how to fight fair, including never using hurtful words. I can honestly say she has never said a mean thing to me," Rob said. "She told me, 'I may disagree with you, but I never want to hurt you.' It was a great lesson, and we both live by it."

When it came time to start planning Julie's move to Toronto, the duo could never get far into a conversation about selling the Red Oak house. "We had both fallen in love with Red Oak — especially our incredible neighbors," Julie said. "Rob finally said, 'We need to keep the house. We love it here, and one day we will give it to Riley.' I was thrilled! I never really wanted to sell the house, and now my son could continue to live in our home, and we always had a place to come home to."

Today, the Minialoffs alternate four to six weeks in Red Oak then Toronto. "Since we settled down, we have become homebodies. We traveled so much the past three years that we are happy to be home for good," Julie admitted. "One place we still make a point to get to as often as possible is Fort Myers Beach, Florida. That is our happy place. Once we get Katie through school, we plan to buy a home on the beach."

"We love spending time together. We love dumb, funny movies, we like to fish on our boat in Florida, cooking dinner



together ... everything," Rob said. "And we both love this town. I grew up in a big city and always thought I would like to live in a small town, and now for part of the year I do. I just love how easy it is to get around and get things done at a relaxed pace."

Wherever they live, the Minialoffs agree life is easier together. "Rob is the love of my life," Julie said.

"Julie sees the best in everyone and every situation. She is the most positive person I have ever known," Rob said. And, perhaps most importantly for every successful relationship, he added, "We tell each other we love each other every chance we get!" **NOW**

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Exactly Where She Belongs

“It really doesn’t matter what we’re doing,” she said, “as long as we’re doing it together!”

— By Dianne Reaux

As far back as Shondra Jones can remember, she always wanted to teach. As a “PK,” the affectionate acronym for “preacher’s kid,” Shondra grew up with a love for people and a heart for helping others. “I’ve always been involved with people. I can remember teaching youth Sunday school classes at my father’s church, mentoring children and helping them to learn,” she explained. “On a personal level, they were very rewarding experiences, and today as I look back, I know they helped to mold and fashion me into the person that I am today.”





Shondra grew up in Oak Cliff and was a gifted student at Wilmer-Hutchins High School (WHHS). Teachers took note of her high test scores, and as a 10th-grader, she was selected to participate in the Honors Track of coursework. "In the Honors Program, there was a heavy emphasis on science and math courses," she recalled. It was the beginning of what is commonly now known as STEM — the acronym for science, technology, engineering and math. The curriculum was designed to stress the importance of science and math in the classroom, and that emphasis would explain the first college major Shondra chose.

Shondra's parents, A.C. and Dollie Johnson, encouraged Shondra and her sisters to read, read, read, as children. "My mother knew the value of reading, and she instilled that value in us," Shondra said. "She would tell us, 'We can't take you a lot of places, but reading can.'"

Her mother's encouragement was a constant in Shondra's life. In 1988, Shondra graduated as valedictorian from WHHS and was accepted into Prairie View A&M University. She followed the natural progression of her academic trajectory and majored in engineering. Her head told her it was the right decision, but her heart never agreed, and it didn't take long for her to become disillusioned. The following year, in an attempt to reverse course, she made the decision to transfer to Emporia State University in Kansas, to major in business administration. But this was yet another decision that would appear, at first, to be misguided.

In 1992, Shondra graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree and returned to Dallas to begin what she thought would be a rewarding career in the business field. "I held a few temporary positions, working in file rooms and



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making copies, because I understood that no one starts out in a corner office,” Shondra said. But not only did she find the work boring and unchallenging, it left a huge personal void. “I didn’t feel as though I was helping anyone or anything,” she admitted.

A chance conversation with one of her aunts provided Shondra a moment of clarity, and the conversation proved to be life changing. “My Aunt Fairrene knew that I was discouraged with my job. Growing up, she had watched me help and nurture others, so she must have thought that perhaps I would make a good teacher,” Shondra explained. “She listened to me and then suggested that I look into the Alternative Teacher Certification program offered through the Dallas Independent School District, a program that offered degreed professionals the opportunity to prepare for a career in the classroom.”

Shondra did her homework and researched admission requirements. She applied, was accepted and, in 1995, successfully completed the program which certified her to teach students pre-K through sixth grade. She had always had the desire to teach, and completing the certification program provided her with the professional credentials she needed. Her first classroom was a group of first-graders at Edward Titcher Elementary in Pleasant Grove, and she loved it! One experience during that first year has remained with Shondra. It reaffirmed her decision to become an educator.

“I had a student whose living conditions were unhealthy and unsafe, and one of my responsibilities as a teacher was to escalate this type of information to my superiors. I called the parent, and during our conversation, the mother shared with me that she, too, had grown up in an unstable family. She had struggled with addiction, incarceration, unemployment — the deck had not been stacked in her favor. It hadn’t been easy for her, and she admitted that she just didn’t know how to be a good parent,” Shondra said. “I was still obligated to report what I saw as an unfit situation, but what resulted from that report was a collaborative effort between me, the administrators, the school’s resource officer and the department of social services. We worked with her, and she

ended up becoming an active, involved parent. She turned out to be one of the best parents I had that year.

"That experience has always stayed with me, because I've remembered feeling how rewarding it was to help someone who really didn't know how to help themselves," Shondra continued. "It showed the difference I could make in someone's life by providing them with the tools they needed, along with a little encouragement and support." Educating others provided Shondra with a genuine sense of satisfaction and achievement, and it didn't take long for her to see that her business degree would prove to be valuable after all.

The career path of an educational administrator involved both business and education. It would allow Shondra to combine her experience in the classroom along with the business and organizational aspects of managing a campus. In 1997, she decided to pursue graduate studies at Texas A&M University-Commerce, and in 1999, she graduated with a master's degree in educational administration.

In 2001, Shondra began her career in Red Oak as an administrator working as the assistant principal for both Wooden and Shields Elementary campuses. It was a bit of an unconventional arrangement, but Shondra rose to the challenge, and in 2009, her hard work paid off. She was selected as the principal of Wooden Elementary, and when she accepted the position, she became Red Oak's first African-American principal.

Shondra loves her work, and though it keeps her busy, she still finds the time to read. She has been married to Gregory, a Dallas firefighter, and her high school sweetheart, for 20 years. They have three children: Ke'Yauna, a Phi Theta Kappa designee attending Mountain View Community College, who plans to pursue an advanced degree in nursing; Kayla, a junior at Red Oak High School; and Zyaun, a sixth-grader at Red Oak Intermediate. They are a close family and enjoy spending time together. They choose their leisurely activities diplomatically. Sometimes, they attend football games; sometimes they go shopping at the mall; and they all love to travel. "It really doesn't matter what we're doing," she said, "as long as we're doing it together!" **NOW**

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The Family That Builds TOGETHER

At Home With Chance and Aimee Stockton

— By Sydni Thomas



Choosing Red Oak as the location for their perfect family home was a no-brainer for Chance and Aimee Stockton. Finding the house was more of a hunt. After looking at several houses, Chance and Aimee came across a one-story, three-bedroom, two-bathroom house built in the late 1970s. The long list of updates and repairs the house needed did not deter the couple as it did other potential buyers. One look at the house and all they could see were the pecan trees and a trove of do-it-yourself projects that would take this house out of the 1970s and turn it into their dream family home. "I love old things, and that is why I love this house," Aimee said. "I think most of the people who saw it overlooked it because of its age, but we saw something that no one did. We get the chance to fix it up in the way that best reflects us."

With a limited budget and no rush to finish things, the Stocktons are taking their time, when it comes to remodeling the house, to make sure they get it just the way they want it. Shortly after moving into the home in March 2012, Chance and Aimee developed a five-year plan to tackle the list. They would begin with the biggest problem areas and end with smaller aesthetic changes. "We want to update bathrooms, landscape the yard, level the house, change up the kitchen and build a man cave for Chance," Aimee said. "With a daughter about to go to college, it will probably take us five years to do it all."

"I'm going to be able to do a lot of the projects with the help of Aimee," Chance said. "When it comes time, my dad and I will level the house. My parents bought an older home when I was young, and



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they made me help out.” He now realizes that experience helped prepare him for the projects awaiting him in his own home.

One of the first things the couple set out to fix was their master bathroom. Shutting the door was impossible if anyone was in the bathroom. Chance knocked out the wall that separated the bathroom from their walk-in closet, to add more room. On his way home from work one day, he called Aimee with an

idea. He’d come across a long chest of drawers that looked like it would fit perfectly into the bathroom. At \$40, Chance took a risk and bought the chest, built a pedestal for it to stand on and converted it into a bathroom counter with sinks. The original bathtub was able to stay but got a fresh coat of paint on the tiles for an instant update. Aimee and Chance installed a tile backsplash above the sink as well. “We were able to completely redo our bathroom, including

new flooring, for less than \$500,” Aimee said. “I’m proud of that. We lost our closet space, but we really needed the room in the bathroom.”

“One of my next projects will be to cut about three feet off the side of our bedroom to give Aimee back her walk-in closet,” Chance added.

Down the picture-filled hallway from their master suite are two more bedrooms — one for Aimee’s daughter, Katelyn Helms, and the other for Chance and

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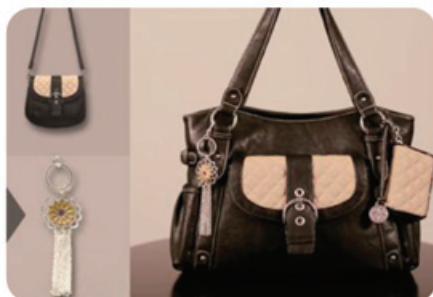
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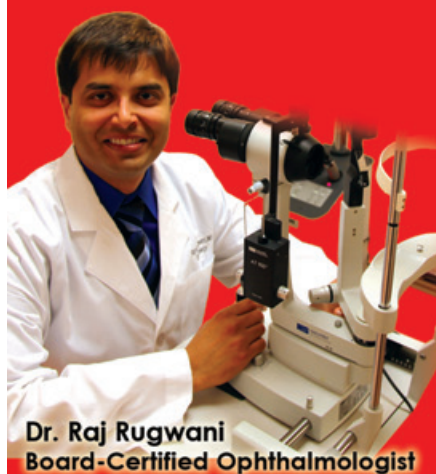
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Aimee's son, Chase. Katelyn's room is solid turquoise with a sophisticated modern cowgirl aesthetic to match her cowgirl spirit. On the weekends, Katelyn barrel races and goat ties at rodeos. Chance made her a lamp out of an old pair of her boots. Her grandfather painted her dresser and desk to match her room. Katelyn's grandfather, Gary Clark, stenciled the cowgirls across them for the final touch. Across the hall from her room is Chase's. It is the ultimate boy's room, a mix between Pixar's *Cars* and sports. At 5, Chase has already discovered a passion for music and can be heard down the hallway playing on his keyboard and writing songs.

When Chance and Aimee began searching for a new home, there was no doubt in their minds that it would be in Red Oak. They wanted to find a home and be settled into it before Chase started kindergarten this past fall. Katelyn, a senior, has been in Red Oak schools since she was in kindergarten, and the Stocktons wanted Chase to have that opportunity as well.

Being close to the schools is not only important for her children, but for Aimee's business, a day care she operates out of the home. Running a day care out of their home has been challenging for Aimee and her family because of the space it took up. When the Stocktons stumbled across this house, its layout with an extra-large den was a great solution to her dilemma. With the business taking up so much space, Aimee wants to make sure Chance gets a special space all to himself. "I've taken over the whole house, so the least I can do is make

sure that Chance has a place to escape to when he needs time to get away from the day care and all of the DIY projects we have going on," Aimee said. "We will build the ultimate man cave for him."

When Chance is not working, running around with the kids or helping Aimee remodel the house, he is out back fixing up his 1969 Chevy truck. When he got the truck, it was missing the front end and was in bad shape overall. Piece by piece, Chance has put it back into driving condition. "Katelyn wanted the truck, for a while," he said. "But then she found out it was a '69 and not a '68 like the Jason Aldean song. Now I get to keep it."



Using stones from local lakes, Aimee created rock gardens, which wrap around the house. The acreage the house sits on and the large pecan trees were an added bonus for the Stocktons. When the pecans start falling, picking them up is a family event. Chase helps out by chasing the squirrels away and helping make pecan pies.

Remodeling with a busy family is a slow process, but Chance and Aimee have a plan that will help them turn their once overlooked house into the one of their dreams. It will take each member of the family to accomplish their goal. "I usually think their ideas are crazy," Katelyn said. "I'm not one of those people who can see how the project will look in the end. I just see a mess. But that is what they are good at, and so far it has turned out great." **NOW**

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From left:

Diane Armstrong, Oranna Medina and Juana Beltran work together to ensure there is always something fresh in stock for their customers.



Filling Needs

This unique store is a one-stop shop for gifts, crafts and more.

— By Angel Morris

From fabric and beads to vintage and western decor, Needfull Things has something for everyone. With owner, Oranna Medina, at its helm, the 2,500-square-foot store received a warm welcome from the community last fall. “We moved in August 25 and had our official opening September 15, just in time for the holidays,” Oranna said. “The community was so warm and welcoming, and we quickly developed a faithful customer base.”

Fronting busy Sixth Street in downtown Ferris, Needfull Things is stocked by two vendors and multiple consignees. Maddie’s Attic is owned by Diane Armstrong, who brings vintage collectibles and shabby chic furnishings to the

store. Juana Beltran owns Treasures on Sixth Street and offers a mix of furnishings, decor and other original goods within Needfull Things. Consignee items are all handmade goods approved by Oranna for placement in the store — from original paintings to colorful custom tutus, scarf sets and receiving blankets.

In addition to items like crosses and handmade jewelry, shoppers can find candles, key chains, flower pens, lip glosses and Cross Over Body Body Bags. A large stock of fabric and selection of beads are mainstays at the store, as well. “We add new fabric and beads regularly, so we always have something fresh for our crafters,” Oranna noted.

Oranna wanted to offer not only supplies for those who sew and craft but instruction to those who wanted to learn. To that end, Needfull Things is preparing the back of the store for lessons in crocheting, quilting, scrapbooking and jewelry making. "I'd love to expand to offer classes in all things crafty. Really, anyone who has an idea should call me — whether they want to teach something or learn," Oranna said.

Experiencing the learning curve every new business owner faces, Oranna is discovering what works best for her customers. A children's costume contest for Halloween was a hit, and monthly gift certificate giveaways have been well received. "I want to build on what my customers like best and grow the shop from there. We probably only have about one-fourth of the inventory that I have planned for Needfull Things, so far," Oranna said.

Speaking of its unique inventory, the store also has a Mary Kay Cosmetics niche, where free facials take place once a month, and a stitching corner, where Oranna sews custom creations, while another consignee embroiders to customers' requests. Oranna is a consistent Facebook poster, where she keeps customers informed of her ever-changing stock.

Oranna sees great things in store for the shop, getting motivation from her mother, Marian, and daughter, Chris. A former Xerox employee, Oranna had a vision of owning a store like Needfull Things for about 15 years before taking the plunge. "I live in Red Oak about seven minutes from the shop. But before we opened here, I said for years that if I ever got to open a store, I wanted it to be in Ferris," she said. "My family and friends have been so supportive of making this dream come true. And I am so excited to have found this place in Ferris. I love all of my customers, and the best thing is when I hear them say, 'We'll be back!'" **NOW**

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Danny Meadows replaces sign panels for the Exxon Tiger Mart.



Mary Burr carhops at Sonic in Glenn Heights.



Red Oak Elementary kindergarten student, Eugenia Salazar, has hot cocoa after her ride on the "Polar Express" before winter break.



Oak Leaf's Ron Spurlock gets around town in his 1941 Ford pickup.



Red Oak Chamber of Commerce attends the Subway ribbon cutting in Ferris.



Zeplin Perez, 3, shows off her creation from the Red Oak Library's Mosaic Madness event.



Volunteers in Policing represent Red Oak Police Department during a recent city event.



Sebastian Campos gets a haircut from Enrique Gonzalez at The Barber Shop.



Owner Freda Brand prepares for Valentine's Day at Wee Resale in Glenn Heights.



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There Is Hope

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

For many, muscular dystrophy is synonymous with the *Jerry Lewis MDA Labor Day Telethon*, which has now been renamed *MDA SHOW of STRENGTH*. Because of the telethon, countless numbers of people have been educated about this disease, and for many, hope abounds. Muscular dystrophy (MD) is not one disease but defines a collection of more than 30 genetic diseases. In simple terms, the most characterizing factor of these diseases is that the muscles grow weaker, degenerate and become nonfunctional. The diseases are genetic. You can't catch this from someone. You can't do something to your body that sets off a chain reaction of destruction. It is inherent in your genes, and there is no cure.

Muscular dystrophy can make its presence known anytime from infancy to adulthood. The progression of the disease, age of onset and degree of muscle weakness depends upon which disease manifests itself. The most common form is Duchenne MD, which primarily affects boys and occurs in early childhood. The first symptoms are a weakening in the limbs, where it becomes increasingly difficult to run, then to walk. The progression of the disease is relentless, and by age 12, most boys are unable to walk. At some point in the later stages of this disorder, to breathe a respirator may be necessary. The heart muscle may be affected also. Duchenne MD is rare in girls, but they can inherit the gene and pass it on to their children.

Myotonic dystrophy, which is also called MMD or Steinert's disease primarily affects adults. The name myotonic comes from myotonia, which means the muscles have a difficult time relaxing after contraction or rather, after use. Myotonic MD is characterized by prolonged spasms and contractions, primarily affecting adults. This disease also affects the endocrine system, causes cataracts, cardiac abnormalities and affects the central nervous system. Some sufferers have long thin faces and droopy eyes.

Although there is no cure, the news is not all gloomy. For some with the disorder, the disease progresses slowly, and they can enjoy a normal life span. For others, it helps to know the research is intensive, ongoing and impressive. The Muscular Dystrophy Association is proud of the fact that they are "the world's largest nongovernmental sponsor of research seeking the causes of, and effective treatments for, neuromuscular diseases." There are medications and forms of therapy that can slow the progression of the disease and not only add to the quality of life, but prolong life as well. Medical advances continue to march steadily forward. Never give up hope. **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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Calendar

FEBRUARY 2013

February 2

Pancake Breakfast: 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 600 Daubitz Dr. Enjoy all-you-can eat pancakes and sausage prepared by the Lions Club. Proceeds help fund activities that benefit the community.

Computer Basics for Adults: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Covers keyboarding, Windows and Web browsing basics, as well as a brief history of the internet. Free, but space is limited. For more information, e-mail librarian@redoaktx.org or call (469) 218-1230

February 7

Local Author Group: 6:00-7:30 p.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy. A discussion and critique group run by local author Donald Horne for veteran and novice writers in the Museum Room of Red Oak Library.

February 8

Concert: 7:30- 9:30 p.m., Dynamic Yoga 4 Love Studio, 558 Bluebird Ln. Paradiso and Rasamayi are sound healers who have traveled the globe with their unique style of music, achieving the 2012 New Age Album of the Year. Tickets \$19 by **February 7**; \$25 at the door. Visit www.Yoga4Love.net for other February classes and events.

February 9, 23

Prayer Shawl Ministry: 10:00 a.m., First United Methodist Church, 600 Daubitz Dr. This group meets to crochet and sew for those who might find comfort in a shawl. If you know someone that might need a shawl, contact Beth Norris at (214) 392-0732.

Daddy's Girl Forever Father-Daughter Dance: 7:00-9:00 p.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Girls may be accompanied by their father, grandfather, guardian or an adult male relative. Attire is semi-formal (dresses and skirts for the girls, suit/suit coat attire for the males). Reserved seating: \$50 per couple, general seating: \$30 per couple, \$15 each additional daughter. Call (972) 513-4197 or e-mail nicey774@yahoo.com.

February 18

Staff Development Day: Red Oak ISD is open for teacher development only. Student return to classes **February 19**.

Red Oak Book Club: 7:00-8:30 p.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Discussions include activities related to the book, but one does not have to have read it to participate. The club is free and open to all adults in the Red Oak area. Refreshments served.

February 22

Young at Heart: 6:30-9:00 p.m., Ovilla Road Baptist Church, 3251 Ovilla Rd., Ovilla. Fellowship, dinner and fun for church members aged 55 and over. Call (972) 617-8544 or e-mail office@orb.org for more details.

February 25

Indian Trail Master Naturalist Chapter Meeting: 6:00-7:00 p.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Ronald Reagan Room of Red Oak Library. The Indian Trail Chapter serves Ellis and Navarro Counties. ITC is committed to education about and conservation of natural resources, completing thousands of volunteer hours in the community each year.

February 27

Chamber Luncheon: Noon-1:00 p.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Networking opportunity for local businesses. Members with reservations \$12; members without reservations \$15; non-members \$20. RSVP to katherine@redoakareachamber.org.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to angel.morris@nowmagazines.com.



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In The Kitchen With Elizabeth Griffith

— *By Angel Morris*

While her parents are great cooks, Elizabeth Griffith decided to expand her own kitchen horizons. “To find a variety of meals, a friend and I cooked something every Saturday for a year. It was fun, but everything was expensive, time consuming or too fancy for every day!” she said.

Elizabeth, who enjoys hosting nice dinner parties, derives her current recipes from Web sites. “I take similar recipes and combine their best ideas to get what I want,” she stated.

Elizabeth appreciates Amish-style and Eastern-European dishes but loves any food that brings people together. “A tradition my family had was eating Saturday-morning breakfast together. I loved it when Dad poured pancake circles into a Mickey Mouse head shape. I hope to continue it with my kids someday.” **NOW**

Beef ‘n’ Noodles

1 onion, chopped
1 bay leaf
1 tsp. parsley
Salt and pepper, to taste
2 lbs. beef roast
4 cups beef broth
Water
1 pkg. egg noodles

1. Layer onion, seasonings and meat in a slow cooker.
2. Pour broth over all; add enough water to cover meat.
3. Cook on low for 8 to 10 hours.
4. When meat is done, remove broth to a saucepan and cook noodles according to

package directions, using broth instead of water.

5. Instead of draining noodles, dump noodles and remaining broth back into slow cooker. Serve hot.

Nut Rolls

Filling:

1.5 lbs. pecans
3/4 cup granulated white sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 Tbsp. butter, softened
Milk (see instructions below)

Dough:

5 cups flour
1/2 cup granulated white sugar

1 tsp. salt
1/4 oz. yeast (2 1/4 tsp.)
1 lb. butter, softened
5 eggs
1/4 cup milk, warmed
Powdered sugar

1. *For filling:* In food processor, chop pecans almost to a meal-like consistency; add sugars and softened butter.
2. Pulse until well-combined. Add just enough milk to turn it into a paste.
3. *For dough:* Combine dry ingredients.
4. Using pastry cutter, cut in butter until dough forms crumbles.
5. Add eggs and 1/4 cup milk; mix until well-combined to form moist dough.
6. Slightly knead; chill in refrigerator two hours to overnight.
7. When ready to bake, preheat oven to 350 F.
8. Separate dough into 12 balls. Coat each ball in powdered sugar and roll into a rectangle. (Dough should be fairly thin.)
9. Cut in thirds lengthwise, and then cut each third in half. You should have six small rectangles. Cut each rectangle diagonally to make 12 triangles.
10. Spread 1 tsp. of filling on each triangle and roll from large to small end (like a crescent roll).
11. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until cookies are slightly brown, but not crispy.

Corn Casserole

2 cans whole kernel corn, drained
2 cans cream-style corn
8 oz. corn bread mix
1 egg
1 cup light sour cream
1 stick butter, melted

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. Combine all ingredients in a 9x13-inch pan.
3. Bake for 45 minutes, or until knife inserted in the middle comes out clean.

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



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