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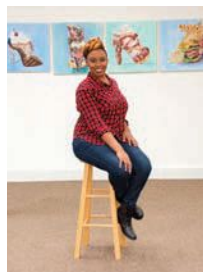
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Editor's Note

The month of love and a healthy heart!

I find the older I get, the more I attempt to replicate my favorite childhood memories. First, I love the receiving of Valentine's Day cards, whether handmade or store bought. The second is receiving a box of chocolate. My favorite, is a piece of Diane Krön's dark chocolate, which will bring decadent joy to anyone who appreciates chocolate.

My preference, otherwise, is a HERSHEY'S Milk

Chocolate Bar. I recently read that chocolate may be good for our hearts, and milk chocolate seems to be just as good as the dark chocolate, in fact, maybe even better. I resolve that for my 2016 healthy eating program, I'm increasing my chocolate intake. Happy Valentine's Day, everyone! Please send someone you love a valentine and have a little chocolate.

From my heart and pen,

Jo

Jo Monroe

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PAINTING HER OWN PATH

— By Dianne Reaux



The 21st century ushered in revolutionary economic and technological advances, and some would argue these advances helped reduce the stability of the American workforce. Young adults are learning to adapt to this new normal, and have started to reject the notion that multiple jobs over the course of a career signifies a lack of stability. Many have decided to forge their own career paths, and Cicily Pettigrew of Glenn Heights is among them.

Cicily has always loved art. “As far back as I can remember, I was always drawing, painting and showing everyone what I’d made with my Play-Doh,” she shared. Cicily’s mother, Sylvia Pettigrew, also noticed her daughter’s love of art. “Cicily loved to draw and color in her coloring books,” Sylvia shared.

“Yes!” Cicily agreed laughing.

Sylvia still has a drawing Cicily made when she was about 5 years old. “She drew me and a co-worker going to the mall,” she recalled, smiling.

When Cicily was in middle school, a budding knowledge of

entrepreneurialism began to emerge. In seventh grade, she was a student at Harry Stone Montessori in Dallas. During this time, she was introduced to graphic design and taught herself how to make calendars. “I’d take pictures of people and their families, go to the store and find design software to create custom greeting cards, which at the time, were on CDs.” But when Cicily learned to make business cards, she quickly realized she was on to something.

“A lot of my teachers and other staff members would have businesses on the side. My home economics teacher

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had a catering business, and our school secretary did taxes on the side. So, I would make their business cards for them," Cicily explained. She knows that her work back then was that of a child, but she still appreciates being given the opportunity. "It was a positive start for someone so young, and it encouraged me to continue learning," she shared.

At the time, Cicily didn't realize she was exhibiting characteristics of an entrepreneur. "I just knew that if I was going to make something, I needed to know how much it was going to cost me to make, and what to sell it for so I could make a profit," she said.

When Cecily entered high school, she attended Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center. "There was a career program in the marketing cluster, so I took the graphic design courses," she shared. Cicily's favorite teachers were Ms. Joycelyn Wilhite and Ms. Rochelle Simon. "They introduced me to more sophisticated graphic design programs like Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator," she stated.

While in high school, Cicily also discovered that she had a gift for leading people. "I've always had leadership roles," she shared. "I was always serving in some kind of official capacity." She recalled one leadership role in particular because it's how she discovered she

possessed initiative. “When I was a senior in high school, I served as the DECA secretary for District 7,” she said. DECA is an international organization that is “preparing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs to be college and career ready,” per their website. “The DECA District 7 president also attended my school, and our principal sponsored both of us to attend the national DECA competition in California,” Cicily said. The school paid for their airfare and accommodations, all Cicily and her classmate needed was their own spending money.

Two more admirable character traits emerged — independence and initiative. Cicily didn’t want to ask her parents for spending money. “So, I decided to sell candy bars out of my backpack, and I learned that it’s really easy to sell if you’re selling something your customers want,” she shared wisely.

By the time she was getting ready to graduate from high school, Cicily knew she didn’t want to go the traditional route of working for someone else. There was a brief period of time when she entertained the thought of pursuing a career in sports and entertainment marketing, with dreams of working for either the Dallas Mavericks or Disney’s marketing machine.

After graduating from high school, she enrolled in Cedar Valley Community College. “I wanted to learn more about creating designs, rather than persuading someone to buy something.” There was also a practical basis for her decision. “I had to pay for my degree, so I wanted to pay for something I didn’t know.” Cicily had studied marketing for four years in high school, which provided her with a solid foundation in the fundamentals of that subject. “So I said, ‘Why not just focus on what I really enjoy doing?’ And that was design,” she explained.

Cicily decided to major in art. “I learned the fundamentals of art in drawing, painting and ceramics,” she said. She finished her associate degree, and then enrolled at the University of North Texas in Denton to continue her art studies. And her experiences while a student in Denton cemented her decision to work for herself, thanks to a combination of having existing relationships with many students who



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also attended UNT, and the very active Greek organizations on campus. “I found myself doing a lot of freelance work, and I designed lots of invitations and flyers. From word of mouth, Cicily found herself being busier and busier.

Cicily’s biggest opportunity presented itself when her father, Mr. Willie Pettigrew, decided he wanted to retire from running Uncle Willie’s Pies, Bakeshop and Catering. Cicily was the ideal candidate to take over because she’d been helping her father in the kitchen since she was 4 years old. “I was 21 years old at the time, so I told him to give me one year to finish school, and I’d take over for him.” And in 2011, she graduated from UNT, *cum laude*, with a Bachelor of Fine Arts, concentrating in drawing and painting, and she’s been her own boss ever since.

“I can’t say that it is all me,” she shared modestly. “I have a huge faith in God, and when the opportunity presented itself, I had to be fearless, and not focus on what I couldn’t do. I chose to focus on what I was capable of doing.”

Cicily credits her parents with teaching her to value her independence. “I’m blessed to have them in my life. And her pastor, Rev. Mack T. Flemmings, was another big influence. “He would tell me that you have to have confidence and not settle for anything,” she stated, smiling. “I have goals, and I have standards,” she shared proudly. And there is no need for her to apologize for having either one. **NOW**

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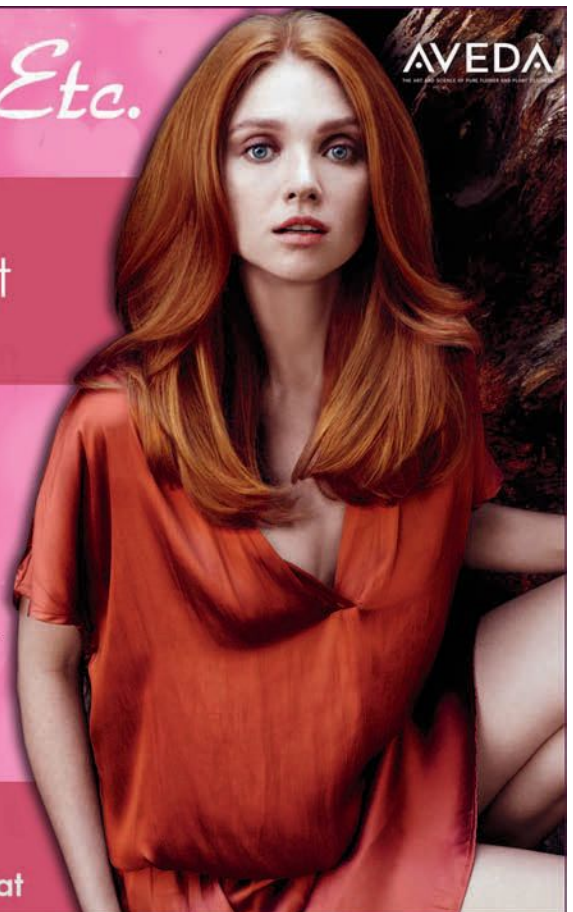
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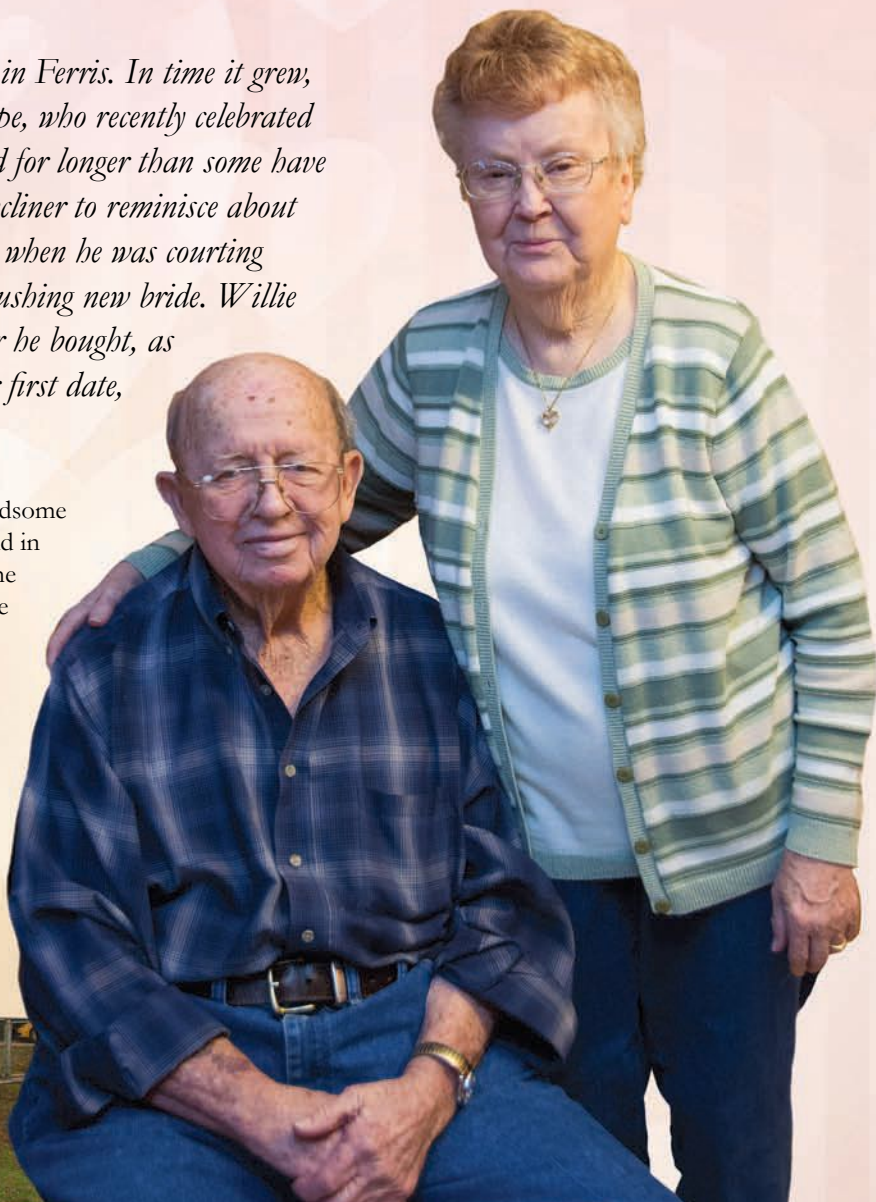
A Love STORY

— By Jo Monroe

There once was a little house that was built in Ferris. In time it grew, as did the love between Willie and Hazel Hope, who recently celebrated 63 years of marriage. “We have been married for longer than some have lived,” Willie stated, as he laid back in his recliner to reminisce about good friends, family and the once upon a time, when he was courting Hazel. She smiled and laughed, giddy as a blushing new bride. Willie smiled with pride, sharing memories of the car he bought, as they teamed up to share the highlights of their first date, courtship, a wedding and their first home.

Willie and Hazel first met in December 1951. A handsome 21-year-old staff sergeant stationed at Goodfellow Field in San Angelo, Texas, Willie was thinking of heading home to Dallas for Christmas. “My older sister, Lena, said she would fix me up with a date if I came in,” he said. “So I did.”

Hazel’s sister roomed with a girl named Irene. Lena intended to set up a date for Willie with Irene, but she wasn’t home when Lena called to make the date. With much resistance, Hazel stepped in for Irene. “She was





AT HOME WITH WILLIE & HAZEL

Hope

my substitute date,” Willie laughed. And the rest is history. After courting for almost a year, they wed on November 15, 1952.

Their first home was just two rooms in the back part of someone else’s house. “Later, we moved to a duplex just west of Interstate 45. Then we bought our first home — \$50 down and \$50 a month. It wasn’t worth any more than that,” Hazel laughed. “There wasn’t any indoor plumbing.”

Today, they enjoy a little home that is really not so little. The interior is 2,164 square feet, and the house consists of three bedrooms, the living room and other rooms necessary for a family. The kitchen is the heart of this home.

In the kitchen is the family’s genealogy gallery. Camouflaging the birch-tone, paneled walls, is a parade of frames, in various colors and shapes, which preserve the photos of their children and their children’s children. Hazel’s graduation photo, along with a montage of Willie and Hazel’s wedding, are also on display. Around the corner, a vintage radio sits at attention, surrounded with photos of when Willie served in the Air Force.



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If the kitchen is the heart of this home, then the living room would be considered its arms. The cozy room offers generous seating for guests and family. Over the years, Willie and Hazel have modified rooms to fit the family's needs. The sunroom was transformed into the master bedroom and offers lots of windows for enjoying the daylight. The front bedroom is spacious enough to host the piano their daughter, Karen, enjoyed as a young girl. "She wanted to learn how to play piano. There was no room anywhere else, so we put it in her bedroom," Hazel recalled.

Willie's experience in the construction business served their needs when making improvements to the house that was built in 1949. He explained how he poured cement into the home after taking out the windows, and then he replaced the hardwood floors. "It was the only way we could do it," he said.

The beauty of this couple's house is not necessarily its design, nor the composition of the walls, the brand of flooring or the make of the windows. It is the paintings, photos and plaques preserving their memories that truly make it lovely. Instead of seeing the living



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room's warm, fawn-tone paneling, eyes are drawn to a painting of Jesus kneeling in the garden, which hangs over the sofa and a painted cross with the 23rd Psalm.

The Hopes have worked hard on their home, but this isn't the first time they have transformed rooms into a house and then made them into a home. Willie recounted the experience of helping prepare Hazel's parent's home for their wedding. "The house wasn't finished. Not all of the walls had Sheetrock up. In preparation for the wedding, Hazel's dad was able to find some beaver board to build the walls," Willie said.

"Then he and Willie painted only the walls that would be seen by our few wedding guests," Hazel added. They laughed, remembering how everything came together. Though their finances were meager, they didn't build their future on what they didn't have, but on what they *did* have, which was love and a will to find a way to make things work out.

In their decor, a single word appears over and over. It is the name of this family, *Hope*. You will find it in their collected signs, plaques and all types of keepsakes throughout the home and on the patio.

The side porch or patio is where they have enjoyed many Texas mornings and just as many sunsets. There is a whimsical charm to the tea-pot wind chime, which hangs just behind where they sit, and a silent wisdom to the old rocking chair,





which sometimes rests empty, but is strategically placed there by Hazel for Willie to enjoy.

The porch is rather descriptively shy on extras, somewhat characteristic of Willie's proposal to Hazel. She recalled how romantic the event was. "It was very, well extremely, romantic," Hazel said, and then laughed. "We were in his little, green Easter egg car," she shared.

"It was a 1941 Mercury Coupe," Willie interjected.

"And he did like this ..." she demonstrated the proposal by stretching her arm out to the side, "and he says, 'Here.'" They both laughed. Hazel laughed so hard she held her head and almost fell out of her chair. "Do you remember that? That was it. 'Here.'" Hazel explained that she wasn't going to let Willie get off with just a one-word proposal. "I asked him, 'What was that?' and he answered, 'I want to give you this ring.'" Hazel continued to prompt him to say it was an engagement ring and to propose. "What does that mean?" she asked. "What am I supposed to do?"

"Well, we worked it out," Willie laughed. And they have worked it out, for 63 years. Just as their family name, Hope, graces the home in many ways, Willie and Hazel have held tight to their hope, its meaning and to each other.

Hazel pointed out one very special picture hanging in the living room. "Jesus is what makes the difference in our lives," she said, smiling at Willie. During the hard times and the loss of a son, their love and hope in Jesus have kept them strong.

Willie and Hazel have journeyed together down life's highway to arrive at a place called home. Their love has proven to be stronger than any hardship they have faced and tougher than any storm they have weathered. **NOW**

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Reaching Every One

— By Virginia Riddle

Enter Geneva Abrego's science classes for a true adventure into learning. The experiment of the day might involve walking across the lab tables or shooting marbles across the nearby Ferris ISD football stadium. There are no students sitting stiffly on lab stools in her class. They are moving through station rotations with enthusiasm and laughter. "I present information in short spurts," Mrs. Abrego said. "Every day is different. If I'm excited about learning, then the kids get excited. A teacher sets the tone every day."

Eight seems to be Mrs. Abrego's number this year, since it's her eighth year to teach eighth grade students in Ferris ISD. She and her family are active members of the community and business owners. Mrs. Abrego is the science department chair on the Ferris Junior High campus and was selected as the 2014-2015 Secondary Teacher of the Year. "I love having the best impact I can on the kids in my community," she shared. "In my three-page essay I wrote for the award, I said that I believe every student should be given an opportunity to learn."



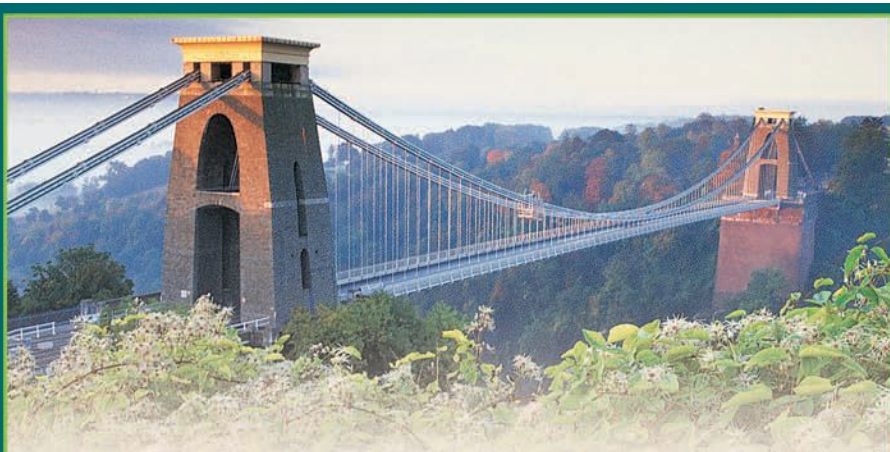
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Rhonda Renner, the campus principal, sees Mrs. Abrego carrying out that belief. “She can differentiate for every student. Mrs. Abrego has students in the floor or gathered around an experiment. She is always creating a passion for learning in her students, and she builds unconditional relationships every day with students,” Mrs. Renner stated.

Relationships are important to Mrs. Abrego who grew up in the small South Texas town of Hebbronville. “My dad was from there, so everyone knew what we were doing,” she remembered. Mrs. Abrego graduated from Sunset High School in the Dallas ISD. “I hated science until I had a gifted teacher, Cynthia Williams, for chemistry. I remember the dry ice and music in her labs,” Mrs. Abrego said.

She entered the corporate world, then marriage and kids followed. But the world of science kept calling, so Mrs. Abrego started attending Navarro College as a pre-nursing student. “I attended college off-and-on but wasn’t working toward a teaching degree,” she said.

Family is important to Mrs. Abrego and her husband, Frank, who is now a paraprofessional and coach with Ferris ISD. The corporate world didn’t allow either of them time to enjoy watching their children participate in sports. “I was doing well, but decided to become

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the head secretary when the junior high was in the old administration building,” Mrs. Abrego explained. “I found that I really enjoyed working with the students, so even though I had taken a pay cut and had to pay for college, I was inspired to change my major to interdisciplinary studies.” After graduating from Navarro College and Texas A&M University-Commerce in Corsicana, Mrs. Abrego earned her Texas certification to teach science in fourth-eighth grades. “It took five years, but it’s been worth it,” she said.

“When I started teaching, we weren’t gaining on state assessments,” Mrs. Abrego recalled. “Own It!” is the school’s motto, which was taken from a quote by John G. Miller, an expert on personal responsibility: “Ownership — a meeting of the head, heart and hands to fix the problem and never again affix the blame.” In keeping with that motto, Mrs. Abrego said, “I knew it was me, and I was lost until I finally figured out how best to teach the students. I’m always looking for new ideas. Since the kids are always changing, and I have them for only one year, I have to change teaching styles quickly to adapt to their needs. I don’t ever want to find myself thinking that teaching is becoming easy.”

Her teaching style must be working because student scores in recent years have been rising. “I’m very proud of my students, especially the special education and English as a Second Language students. “We’ve had only a few failures, and those students get so upset because they don’t want to disappoint me,” Mrs. Abrego explained.

Support from administration has been a key element in implementing Mrs. Abrego’s ideas. “I have had amazing principals, Mrs. Renner, her husband and Mr. T.J. Knight (now a Ferris ISD deputy superintendent). The administration has bent over backwards to allow me to make the changes as long as they benefit the kids of the community,” Mrs. Abrego said. “All my administrators ask is, ‘How can I help?’”

She now has outfitted the lab with hands-on equipment and class field trips have been to the Crandall Wetlands, NASA and the Perot Museum. Other future plans will include a robotics program. “There are so many teachable moments. One of my challenges comes from the students when they ask how the

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lesson applies to them or what they want to do in the future. I show them that science is everywhere and will be a part of almost any future job or profession," Mrs. Abrego revealed. "Technology is a part of everything and there are lots of things students wouldn't enjoy in life without science."

Besides having started working as a paraprofessional this year, on the same campus, Mr. Abrego owns a company that manufactures shutters. Having him and their youngest son on campus has made this year more interesting for Mrs. Abrego. "My husband is beginning to understand how tiring teaching is. He has remarked, 'I hit the floor running and keep going all day!'"

Both Mr. and Mrs. Abrego can be seen around town volunteering. The family enjoys having Mrs. Abrego's parents and sisters living in the area. The couple has three children, Margo, age 23, Frank, age 20 and now a Navarro College student, and Roman, age 13. "My husband coached Little League baseball from the time Roman was in first grade, and now the boys are in eighth grade. I was team mom, nurse and scorekeeper all those years," Mrs. Abrego recalled. "We really don't plan what we are going to work on. We just see a need in the community and help."

Running provides Mrs. Abrego exercise and stress relief. "I love to run, participate in Camp Gladiator in Ennis and do crafts," she said.

Mrs. Abrego doesn't come from a heritage of teaching, but she's found her calling. "Good teachers are invested 100 percent, and I love that I get to see the product of my teaching." Though it is hard for her to see the students graduate and leave, one boy summed up his year when he said, "This is the best thing I've ever experienced in school." He had a teacher who made a difference. **NOW**

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— By Jo Monroe

Dr. Corinne Pearson, B.S., D.D.S., is the sole practitioner of Pearson Family Dentistry, located in Red Oak. She is a mother, a woman of faith, a dentist and a businesswoman. In 2007, Dr. Pearson opened the doors to Pearson Family Dentistry on faith. Since that time, her faith has not only unlocked many doors for her and her professional team, but has given comfort to her clients through many anxious moments.

Dr. Pearson has a great passion for education and serving those in need. Upon completing high school, she continued her education by studying public health and the demographics of tooth decay in children. At that time, her desire was to work in community health and with low-income families. "We know that dental health care is not a priority in that sector," Dr.

Pearson said. She expressed great respect and admiration of her mentor and teacher, Dr. Ernestine Lacy, M.A., D.D.S. "She encouraged me to follow my interests, as opposed to doing it for financial gain," Dr. Pearson shared. "As a student in her high school physics and math classes, I recognized that Dr. Lacy was a brilliant woman." Surprised to meet again at what is now known as Texas A&M University Baylor College of Dentistry, Dr. Pearson learned that Dr. Lacy had left teaching high school to pursue her own education in dentistry and continued on to instruct in dentistry. So, once again, Dr. Pearson had the honor of sitting under Dr. Lacy's instruction.

Dr. Pearson loves continuing her education, teaching nutrition and practicing modern procedures for healthy teeth.

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Pearson Family Dentistry offers an abundance of services. "The one thing that helps accomplish this is I have a great staff," Dr. Pearson stated. "They understand timing. They understand each procedure, our patients and our patients' tendencies and concerns." Dr. Pearson and her team provide the client with comfort and assurance during each procedure.

Dr. Pearson became a dentist because she has a sincere concern for good nutrition for children and families.

Dr. Pearson holds a number of degrees, including a degree in science nutrition and dental surgery. In studying nutrition, Dr. Pearson completed her studies in child psychology, business management, as well as in designing menus for day cares and similar facilities.

Dr. Pearson and her staff educate clients as to what cookies and sports drinks do in creating cavities. "That is where we are ahead of the game in the fight against cavities," Office Manager Christie Hobbs stated. There is a battle against both the effects of sugar and the acid found in snacks.

"I think what makes it all work is Dr. Pearson and who she is. Doctors attract employees like themselves," Christie stated. "She is very strong in her faith, and her employees are, too. We pray for each other."

"Patients come in apprehensive, but we know that we all need to overcome our human apprehensions and that this isn't just a job," Dr. Pearson added.

Dr. Pearson became a dentist because she has a sincere concern for good nutrition for children and families, and a desire to provide excellent dental services at an affordable cost. Her team follows her lead in providing caring procedures with confidence, assurance and comfort. The result is a beautiful, healthy smile. **NOW**



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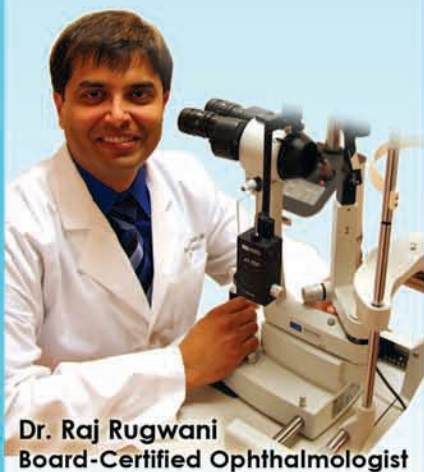
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Healthy Heart

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Imagine a pipe drain inside your bathroom. Over time, hair, soap residue and other gunk may stick together and start to collect on the internal walls of the pipe. Naturally, since the deposits are inside the pipe, the pathway for flowing water begins to narrow. In coronary artery disease, or CAD, the pipe is your blood vessel and the gunk is cholesterol. If the gunk in your pipes builds up enough, water flow will cease, and you'll have a clogged drain. If the cholesterol in your blood builds up enough, you could have a heart attack or stroke.

CAD is the buildup of cholesterol containing deposits called plaque in the arteries that supply blood to the heart. This plaque causes the arteries to become narrow and rigid, which in turn restricts the blood flow through the vessels. It often takes years to receive this type of damage. Some people may not be diagnosed with CAD until they have a heart attack. As the arteries narrow, it becomes more difficult for enough oxygen-rich blood full of nutrients to reach the heart.

One of the most common symptoms of this disease is angina, or pain in the chest. In women, especially, this pain can also be felt in the back, abdomen, jaw and arm. Angina may feel like indigestion, squeezing, pressure or aching. Another telltale symptom is shortness of breath. If your coronary arteries are compromised enough by plaque buildup, the proper amount of

blood cannot get through to meet your body's needs. This leads to breathlessness and fatigue.

Risk factors for CAD are interrelated and can exacerbate each other. Some of the factors are smoking, which can restrict the flow of blood vessels; high blood pressure; high cholesterol; being overweight; family history; and diabetes. Men are more likely to have CAD than women. But that statistic changes when a woman reaches menopause. A sad fact is that some risk factors now begin in childhood, with so many children being overweight and inactive.

CAD can be prevented and/or treated. There are medical procedures and medication to treat CAD, but there is a lot you can do for your health on your own. It begins with living a healthy lifestyle by watching your diet, keeping your weight under control and getting enough exercise. Much of what makes a healthy body is up to you. **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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February 4 — 6

Into The Woods Musical: 7:00 p.m., Red Oak High School Performing Arts Center. Music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. For tickets, contact ROISD.

February 6

Red Oak Baseball Softball Association Spring Sign-ups: 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., 200 Live Oak, Red Oak, Gym Hallway. For more information, (972)895-4636.

Men's Prayer Breakfast: 8:00-9:00 a.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County Youth Center. Enjoy coffee, eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy. Contact James Prater (972) 880-9730

February 11

Understanding Scams Seniors Face: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Home Instead Senior Care, 101 Austin Blvd., Suite 600, Red Oak. Free, lunch provided, advanced registration required. Call (972) 576-1100.

February 13

THE RO FACTOR: Annual Talent Show and 2016 HADDIT Fundraiser: 6:00-9:00

p.m., Red Oak High School Performing Arts Center. For more information and tickets, call (972) 617-4607.

SKYWARN Spotter Training: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Waxahachie High School. Become a NWS Storm Spotter, classes are free. For more information, visit www.srh.noaa.gov or call Mark Fox (817) 831-1157 x 223.

Ongoing:

Sundays

Griefshare meeting: 2:30-4:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County. The grief recovery group focuses on the journey from mourning to joy.

Third Mondays

Red Oak Book Club: 6:30 p.m., Red Oak Municipal Building/Library. Join mailing list at e-mail redoakbookclub@gmail.com.

Tuesdays

ALON meeting: 6:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 600 Dawbitz Dr. Support for families. For more information, call (972) 617-9100.

Third Tuesdays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:30-7:30 p.m., meets at various locations in Waxahachie. For more information, call (214) 763-0378 or e-mail vetsnetgrp@att.net.

Third Thursdays

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center (County Farm), 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. For more information, visit www.wd5ddh.org or contact: Sharon Wrobel, at (972) 978-8256.

Second Saturdays

Lone Star Cowboy Church/Matthew 7:7 Riders motorcycle group ride: 1011 E. Ovilla Rd. Call (972) 576-0900 for more information.

Third Saturdays

Trade Day: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., The Pavillion, Ferris. Vendors and high quality crafts are welcome. For more information, call Sheila (972) 814-3240.

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 Lois Turner and Loey Parker

— By Jo Monroe

A grandmother's love can do miracles for a young girl — especially, a grandmother who loves to cook and has a gift to teach. Lois Turner was born in northern Indiana in a small village called Valentine. "I enjoy just plain down-home cooking," Lois said. "My mother was raised Amish. My husband was raised in a 'meat and potatoes' family, so he is very happy with my cooking."

Lois' mother did not teach her how to cook. "I learned from watching her," Lois explained. "So, I am pretty much a self-taught cook."

"I enjoy teaching my granddaughters to cook. I have two granddaughters who live in North Dallas, and they love to come over and cook with grandma and their older cousin, Loey." **NOW**

Double Chocolate-Chocolate Chip Cookies

This recipe is Mrs. Turner's version of the \$250 Neiman Marcus Chocolate Chip cookie recipe. Makes 9 dozen cookies.

- 5 cups oatmeal**
- 2 cups butter**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 2 cups brown sugar**
- 4 eggs**
- 2 tsp. vanilla**
- 4 cups flour**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 2 tsp. baking powder**
- 2 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 24-oz. bag chocolate chips**
- 1 8-oz. Hershey bar, grated**
- 3 cups chopped nuts**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 375 F.
- 2.** Measure oatmeal and process in a blender to a fine powder.

- 3.** Cream the butter and both sugars; add eggs and vanilla.
- 4.** Add flour, oatmeal, salt, baking powder and baking soda; mix together.
- 5.** Add chocolate chips, Hershey bar and nuts.
- 6.** Roll into balls and place 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes.

Chocolate Pie

Pie shell:

- 4 egg whites**
- 1 1/4 cups sugar**
- 1/4 tsp. vanilla**
- 3/4 cup saltine crackers, crushed**
- 1/2 cup chopped nuts (I use pecans.)**
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon**

Filling:

- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 1/3 cup cornstarch**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**

- 3 cups milk**
- 4 egg yolks, slightly beaten**
- 2 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted**
- 1 Tbsp. plus 1 tsp. vanilla**

- 1.** *For pie shell:* Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Beat egg whites until frothy. Add sugar gradually and continue beating egg whites until stiff peaks form. Add vanilla.
- 3.** Mix together crushed crackers, nuts and cinnamon. Fold into meringue.
- 4.** Pour mixture into a well-greased, 10-inch pie plate, building up the sides.
- 5.** Bake for 30 minutes. Cool completely before adding filling.
- 6.** *For filling:* Stir together sugar, cornstarch and salt in a saucepan.
- 7.** Blend milk and egg yolks; gradually stir into sugar mixture.
- 8.** Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture thickens and boils.
- 9.** Boil and stir 1 minute. Remove from heat; stir in melted chocolate with the vanilla.
- 10.** Immediately pour filling into baked pie shell; press plastic wrap or waxed paper onto the filling. Chill pie thoroughly, at least 2 hours. Top with whipping cream before serving.

Pot Luck Potato Casserole

- 2 lbs. frozen hash browns**
- 1/2 cup melted butter**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped**
- 1 10 1/2-oz. can cream of chicken soup**
- 1 pint dairy sour cream**
- 10 oz. sharp cheddar cheese, grated**
- 1/4 cup melted butter**
- 2 cups crushed corn flakes**

- 1.** Defrost hash browns and combine in a large mixing bowl with melted butter. Season with salt and pepper.
- 2.** Add chopped onion, cream of chicken soup, dairy sour cream and grated cheese.
- 3.** Blend ingredients thoroughly. Pour into a buttered 3-qt. casserole.
- 4.** Mix the 1/4 cup melted butter with the crushed corn flakes. Sprinkle over potato mixture. Bake in a 350 F oven for 45 minutes.

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

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