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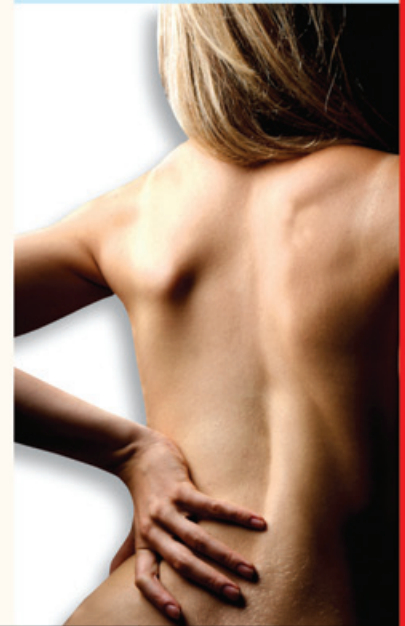
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Sprinkles leads the clowns at
Burleson Spring Meet for
Special Athletes.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!

Look around you! Along with blooming bluebonnets, you'll see sections of Burleson turn purple, thanks to teams of people who have been diligently fundraising for The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Residents from Burleson, Crowley and Joshua will convene at Kerr Middle School during the dark hours of April 13 through dawn on April 14 to walk for cancer survival. The kids' area provides children the chance to learn about early prevention while having fun. The Mr. Relay Pageant — in which males dress for success, high heels and all, and walk around the track, hoping to fill their purses — very effectively earns donations for cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services. I join Relay for Life chairwoman, Kathy Allen James, in her prayer that one day soon, Burleson will be hosting the last Relay event because the cure for cancer has been found.

Have a happy spring!

Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
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When Clowns Show Up

— By Sarah Anderson



When Sprinkles the clown arrives, there is no missing him. The joy emanating from him quickly fills his surroundings and captures the attention of everyone in sight. People of all ages are captivated by his playful antics, which is exactly why Mattie Foster invited him and his fellow clowns to help her with the annual Burleson Spring Meet for Special Athletes. "Sprinkles spreads cheer wherever he goes," she said. "I just love him to death. He has such a lovable spirit, and you can tell he has a genuine heart."

Sprinkles and his friends first joined the Spring Meet in 2004 as handlers for the young athletes in wheelchairs. Mattie, who has been a part of the event since it began 26 years ago, said their presence has taken the experience to a new level. "Since they have come aboard, all the kids get to participate," she said, "and the enthusiasm they bring can be felt in the air. They are

so colorful and cheerful. They have a spark about them, and they work so hard. They're an amazing group of people."

But Sprinkles and his cohorts didn't stop there. Over the last eight years, their role has evolved into much more. They run to greet the more than 500 students from over 18 area school districts as they arrive at Burleson's Elk Stadium. They march in the parade and even run with the other students, who race on foot. Mattie said they encourage and cheer on all the students throughout the meet. "What they do is just awesome," she smiled. "When the clowns show up, the kids' faces light up and they laugh and grin from ear to ear. By the end, there's rarely a dry eye in sight."

The students aren't the only ones who delight in the experience, though. Sprinkles and his friends walk away with



joyful hearts, too. All the clowns — Sprinkles, Holly, Disney, Tweezer, Patches and the others — cherish the opportunity to give back. "We love it," Sprinkles admitted. "We're a bunch of big kids ourselves, and we look forward to it every year."

This year the April 5th Spring Meet will celebrate the theme "We Are Champions," which Mattie said fits perfectly. "Our athletes *are* champions, everyone one of them," she emphasized. "Sprinkles and the other clowns help make them feel that way."

But who are these enthusiastic, spunky characters? They are Johnson County residents, most of whom are volunteer firefighters — firefighters who use their fun-loving alter egos to teach elementary students fire prevention and safety. The Burleson Spring Meet is only part of their commitment to giving back. The rest of the year, they are creating and planning their annual fire safety program for National Fire Prevention Week.

As the Alvarado Fire Prevention and Safety Educators, they dedicate the second full week of October to performing for local elementary schools, including all those in the Joshua ISD. They take a week of vacation from their day jobs to teach kindergarten through second-graders the importance of fire prevention. In one week, they visit at least 14 schools in at least

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five Johnson County communities. “We have a lot of fun and enjoy the heck out of it,” Sprinkles said. “But we also take it very seriously. Even though we are joking around, we are teaching these children how to be safe if something were to happen.”

When Sprinkles isn’t wowing young audiences with his comedy-filled lessons, he is Robert Beimler, a fire sprinkler engineer, Boy Scout leader, husband and father of three. He and his wife, Charlotte, a.k.a. Holly, work closely with Alvarado Fire Marshall Paul Bemis; Alvarado firefighter and Joshua volunteer firefighter, Joe Kratky, a.k.a. Ronnie J.; and 9-1-1 dispatcher and Briar Oaks volunteer firefighter, Kristi Kleine, a.k.a. Disney. Other volunteers join them from time to time, but not everyone can consistently give that kind of time.





"It's a lot, but we love it," Charlotte said. "We are a close-knit team, and we all bring something unique to the table. We have a great time. I think we have as much fun as the kids do." The crew works year-round to create an entertaining and engaging program each year, that way the kids have a good time and remember the information when they need it.

Misti Fannin, the principal's secretary and bookkeeper at Joshua's Elder Elementary School, said the students are always excited to see Sprinkles. "They love him, and they get so much from the show," she said. "It's motivational and funny, and the clowns really keep the kids focused on the lesson."



But Misti was not always a fan of Sprinkles. Since she was a little girl, clowns have sent her into a panic. The first time she saw Sprinkles at school, she ran to hide in her office. She couldn't even look at him or the others. "I don't know why I have such a phobia of clowns, but it paralyzes me. I am deathly afraid of them," she laughed. "I can't help it."

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Sprinkles, however, has won her over. It has taken years for her to warm up to him, but gradually she began to trust him. So much so, she even agreed to go on stage with him during this year's program.

"I was shaking like a leaf, but there's just something about him that put me at ease. He's very calm and patient," she said. "He's crazy on stage, but in a good way. He's so good with the kids and very understanding."

Sprinkles and his friends occasionally pop up at other community events, too. They have been known to show up in parades or during fundraisers, and children aren't the only ones who enjoy their cheerful appearances. Adults adore them, too.

After nearly 14 years as Sprinkles, who was born when Robert was serving as a Nolan volunteer firefighter, he still loves every minute of it. Even out of make-up Robert is full of spirit. His friends agree that it shines through everything he does, but Robert insists he is not a one-man show. "We all work together to make this happen," Robert said. "Everyone contributes so much creativity and energy. We just feed off each other, laughing the entire time."

Sprinkles and his fellow clowns have been teaching fire safety since 1999, and years later, they're going strong but could always use more volunteers. "My vision is that we continue to grow," he said. "People don't realize how much goes into this. Given some people and some time, we are really going to become something. It's all about serving the kids in Johnson County." **NOW**



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Faithful & Fruitful

— By Melissa Rawlins

When Steve and Carey Beckwith came to the area near Oak Grove Baptist Church, only the streets were cut into the raw dirt. The Beckwiths lived on church property until two years ago, when they moved into a brick house in the subdivision directly across from the school where Carey teaches fourth-graders. She can walk to work, if she desires. And within two minutes Steve can drive to Oak Grove Baptist, where he has served as pastor for 10 years. When the couple reunites at home, the cappuccino-colored walls and dark-wood furniture promote a feeling of simplicity and calm.



Set discreetly on shelves, Steve lovingly displays a few mementoes. “My dad gave me my great-great-grandfather’s pocket watch the other day,” Steve said. “Thomas Louis Horoney fled Budapest during the revolution in 1858 because his father was a physician who served the royal family.” While that side of the family was fleeing, Steve’s mother’s family was working its way to Burleson. “There have been Hardgroves out in this part of the world for over 100 years. The road that’s now Burleson-Retta Road used to be Hardgrove Lane. Some of the people in our church are distant relatives back up the family tree.”

Another piece inherited from Steve’s grandparents is a little trunk, now employed in the master bedroom as a toy box. Already full, it

welcomes the Beckwiths' grandchildren. Their home bursts with energy when the whole, fun-loving family is together. They have one son who lives in Burleson; one daughter and son-in-law in Athens, Texas; one son and daughter-in-law in Fort Hood; and their youngest daughter, who lives in Denton while attending college. "Then there's Wickett, the little Yorkie, named after an Ewok from the *Star Wars Trilogy*," Carey said with a grin.

Carey grew up in Burleson, as well, and began dating Steve during their years at Burleson High School. Her dad, who was in the construction business, gave Steve work. He became an electrician, which helped pay for his seminary education once he went into ministry. "Funny enough, I didn't marry a pastor," Carey said. "Our deal was he would work in construction, and I would teach. Then everything changed.

"We'd been married four years. One Sunday morning, I saw Steve go down to make a decision, and I just knew that God had called him to the ministry. And I consider it a calling also," Carey said. "I remember thinking, *Lord, I can't be a pastor's wife because I can't play the piano*. But it's really been neat, because everywhere God has sent us, I've felt real comfortable to be who I am."

"Carey's done a lot of ministries but work with children has been her strong suit through it all," Steve said. While she taught school and reared her children, Carey learned to prioritize. By focusing on children's hearts, Carey earned a Burleson Independent School District Bell, awarded to her in May 2011, by her former student, Paige Hamilton.





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"When I look at it, it helps me come back around again and remember why I do what I do," Carey said. "Paige and her family attend our church now, and she'll hug my neck when she comes home from Baylor."

The bell has a place of honor in the dining room next to a wooden moose that Carey's father got in New Mexico. "He's funny, doesn't really match anything," Carey said. "So I move him from place to place, like, 'Where's

Waldo?'" This little joke fits perfectly in the dining room, which has hosted many a meeting of church elders and is decorated with Coca-Cola plates and old-fashioned bicycles in an early-1900s travel theme.

Her love for the color red shows up in Carey's kitchen, where black granite countertops are punctuated with candy-apple-red appliances. Atop the cupboards are a few churches from Carey's collection, including one signed by ladies

from the church. She also loves angels, and has placed artistic visions of angels here and there. Little Dreamsicle angels are scattered throughout her house, reminding her of the people who love her.

"Until this home, we have always been in parsonages or rent houses. When I was young, I thought I needed a house," Carey said. "God's taken me all the way to the other end where I don't feel I need a piece of anything to own. It's all about

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our people, wherever our children are. It's not about the structure." So Carey keeps an electronic picture frame in the high-traffic area of the house. As it rotates hundreds of pictures, the family photos retell the Beckwiths' journey.

On a side table in the large living room, often used to host church families as well as their own, the Beckwiths keep an amber glass vase which they call their "Ebenezer," which means "stone of help." "We've put some stones of remembrance in the bowl, and marked them with a magic marker for each of our grandchildren and children," Steve said. The vase already contains a stone for the boy grandchild they expect in June. One says House, 2009 to memorialize this home.

One of Steve's favorite little table decorations is a miniature cotton bale made by women in the church to celebrate Oak Grove Baptist's 100th anniversary. "The church was founded in 1911," Steve explained. "For the first





decade-and-a-half, it had no facility. They met at a school and, at times, it was a brush arbor church. In 1924, someone donated some land. The church worked together to farm a cotton crop. With the resulting monies, they could begin to construct its first building. This has been a congregation

willing to sacrifice and come together to stand for Christ in this community, to try to be the lighthouse and to be salt and light in this area. That's something the church is still trying to be, trying to play a vital part in this community."

Because their home is so close to the church, the Beckwiths can host prayer sessions and fellowship meals for missionaries, members and deacons. They



have also hosted neighborhood block parties and Bible clubs. Their church adopted Ann Brock Elementary, and helps produce its annual carnival and school beautification project. In further effort to build community, Oak Grove Baptist hosts an Easter egg hunt and fall festival.

Thanks to their vision and good planning, the Beckwiths' home provides the perfect base for their work in the country community that has grown along with Burleson. "We try to keep in mind that we're just passing through. Our home is not really here," Steve added. "We came to this place with the understanding that we'd have a great opportunity to see people come to Christ and come to Oak Grove Baptist, and sure enough God's been faithful." **NOW**

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Passion Fishing

— By Erin McEndree

Steve Amburn did not know that calling an insurance company would change his life — for the better. Steve needed a quote and Debbie answered the phone at Farmers Insurance. “I noticed his voice first. We had a certain chemistry on the phone,” Debbie said. She confessed that they talked on the phone for three months before she finally agreed to meet Steve at a restaurant.

Debbie thought this blind date was a crazy idea and almost backed out. Her unsure feeling caused her to be 45 minutes late. When they finally met face to face they had a connection and talked for three hours. “Steve was the best guy I ever met,” Debbie beamed.

As they were saying their goodbyes, Steve mentioned he was going fishing the next day. Debbie essentially invited herself. “I told her I was leaving at 8:00 a.m. sharp, and if she wanted to go, to be at my house on time. She was there!”

Steve remembers that he was fishing, and Debbie was putting on suntan lotion. “The next thing I knew, she dove in the water,” Steve rolled his eyes. “I knew I

wasn’t going to catch any fish that day!”

“I didn’t know I was scaring the fish,” Debbie laughed. She didn’t know much about fishing then. Later in their relationship, they began fishing in a couple’s bass fishing tournament together.

On April 9, 2005, the couple married. “We were buying our first house. We did not close until the 11th, two days after our wedding, but the builder let us





and some close friends in the house. We were married in front of our fireplace,” Debbie said.

Three years into their marriage, Debbie’s 23-year-old daughter, Cara Young, died of cystic fibrosis. January marked the fourth anniversary of Cara’s passing. “It was a hard year as we remembered Cara,” Steve said. “Debbie made it easier and suggested we think of it as Cara’s birthday. We went out to dinner to celebrate her life.”

Cystic fibrosis is a genetic disease that causes thick mucus to build up in the lungs and digestive tract. The body cannot process food and the mucus clogs the lungs. “Cara was a positive spirit all the time. She never mentioned that she had cystic fibrosis. She was never negative,” Debbie said. “She liked to roller skate and play the violin at church.”

“She’d take your money playing pool,” Steve added with a huge smile and a chuckle. “I wanted to do something to

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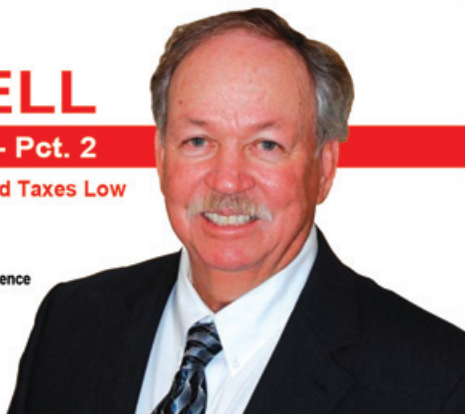
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give back to Cook Children's Medical Center. The staff was so good to us. They waited on us hand and foot while Cara was under the weather," Steve explained. "I sent a post to the Texas Fishing Forum to solicit assistance for an idea I had. Within minutes I got a response."

Steve was put in contact with Mark Jones. He ran a tournament trail. After hearing Cara's story, he was interested in helping. Because of Steve and Debbie's love for fishing, and with Mark's help, they created a bass fishing tournament.



"We wanted the funds raised to go directly to families who stay at the hospital with a child battling a lingering illness," Debbie explained. "[We can] specify the funds be used to help people who travel across the country and who are off work."

Steve needed to create a tournament name and slogan for the event. "One morning I woke up, and the name and slogan were on my heart." Fish For Life, along with a heart-felt slogan, Giving Today's Kids a Tomorrow, was created that day. "I really believe God gave the



name to me," Steve said.

Cara's dad, Steve Young, added a scripture that adds to the essence of the tournament and the motivation they have for helping the families in need: "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work" (II Corinthians 9:8).

Many businesses have come on board to help with this good work. Sponsors participate by donating items to be given away and raffled. Businesses donate rods

and reels, sun glasses and gift certificates. Other items donated include Wii fishing games and a two-night stay at Bass Hollow Lodge on Possum Kingdom Lake. Fliers and business cards are printed and distributed all over town.

Two weeks before the tournament, local fishing pros get together in the lobby at Cook Children's Medical Center to show their support for the families staying there. They give away T-shirts, put together huge puzzles and talk to the children about fishing.

They also visit children in their

rooms who are unable to come to the lobby. "The hospital gives tours of their facility. If you don't come out of there a changed person," Steve said, "you don't have a heartbeat."

The first year the tournament was held at Lake Grapevine. It raised \$5,000. The second year it was held at Lake Lewisville and raised \$6,500. The headquarters was Sneaky Pete's Bar and Grill. "There were 35 entries. That was a great turn out. We had a great time," Steve said. "The wait staff was supportive and donated their tip money the day of the tournament."



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They also sold raffle tickets during their shift. It is interesting how illness pulls people together who have similar situations and similar interests.”

The Third Annual Fish For Life Bass Tournament is at Lake Lewisville again in October. The tournament is open to everyone. “Our goal is to raise \$10,000



this year,” Steve stated. “We want the tournament to grow so more families are supported each year.”

“Fish For Life bass tournament details should be on the Oakley Big Bass Tour Web site closer to the event,” Steve said, “but we want to create a Web site for Fish For Life in the future. I am also applying for a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization status so all donations will be tax deductible.”

For years, the Amburns competed in couple’s bass fishing tournaments. They mostly fish for pleasure now, but still enjoy a good competition with other couples now and then.

Henry Ford said, “Coming together is beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” Steve and Debbie Amburn and so many others come together annually to honor Cara by helping others with similar stories. They work hard to give hope to those in need and help today’s kids have a tomorrow. Fish For Life recognizes the tireless effort toward sustaining life. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information, contact Steve Amburn at steveamburn@yahoo.com.

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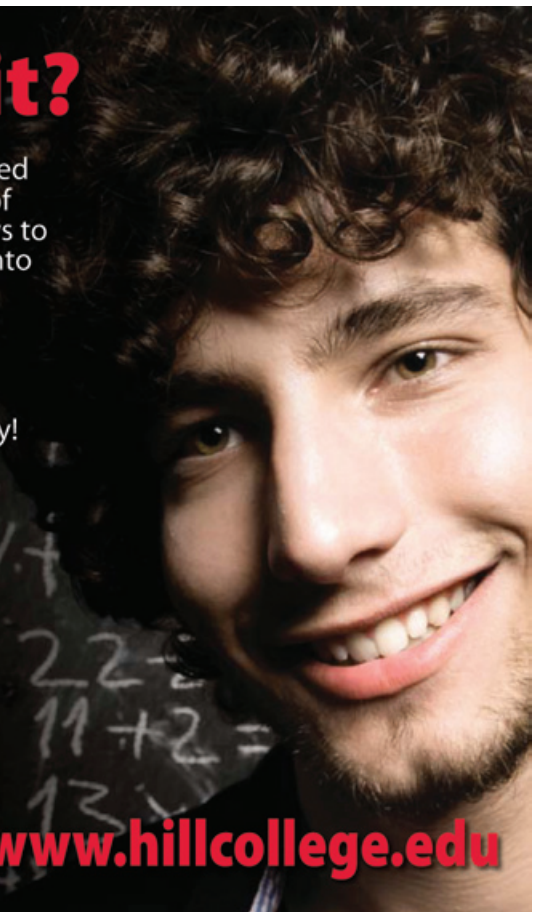
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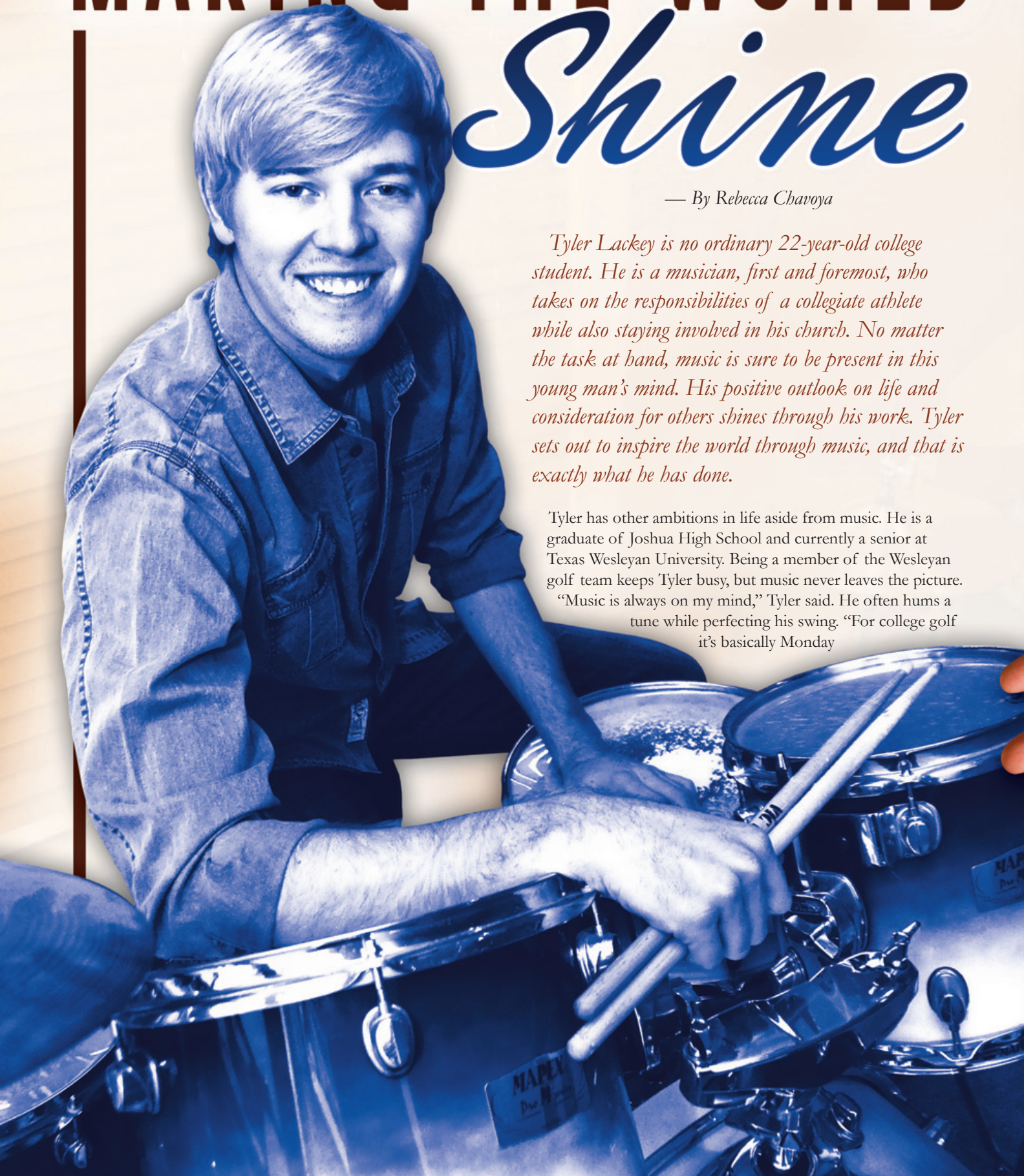
MAKING THE WORLD *Shine*

— By Rebecca Chavoya

Tyler Lackey is no ordinary 22-year-old college student. He is a musician, first and foremost, who takes on the responsibilities of a collegiate athlete while also staying involved in his church. No matter the task at hand, music is sure to be present in this young man's mind. His positive outlook on life and consideration for others shines through his work. Tyler sets out to inspire the world through music, and that is exactly what he has done.

Tyler has other ambitions in life aside from music. He is a graduate of Joshua High School and currently a senior at Texas Wesleyan University. Being a member of the Wesleyan golf team keeps Tyler busy, but music never leaves the picture.

"Music is always on my mind," Tyler said. He often hums a tune while perfecting his swing. "For college golf it's basically Monday



through Friday, whether it's practicing or playing in tournaments," Tyler said. He showed an interest in golf when he was 5, and his talent is undeniable. He has qualified for more than 10 tournaments in his four years with Texas Wesleyan golf.

On top of being a collegiate athlete, Tyler serves his church, the Burleson Church of Christ. By teaching Sunday school and Vacation Bible School classes,

"I make music to make people happy. If someone can listen to a song and feel a sense of happiness and optimism, then it's all worth it."



he has a chance to educate children on a topic that is very important to him. "I think it's cool to teach kids about the Word of God," Tyler said. "It's very rewarding." Although the church does not play music during service, other members are fans of his work.

When not busy driving a golf ball, evangelizing or studying, Tyler makes music. Like his love for golf, he caught the music bug at a young age. "I started playing drums when I was 5. My dad

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taught me. I didn't start getting into other instruments until I was 13," Tyler said. From there, everything fell into place. The self-taught guitarist eventually formed a band with his cousins called The Holdup. The band played shows around Fort Worth. "It was a lot of fun being able to make music with my cousins," Tyler said. "After high school we kind of went our separate ways, though."

Nowadays, Tyler makes music solo as Tyler.Lee, recording indie rock-style tunes. Not only does he write his own songs, he also records every instrument in an at-home studio that has been in the making since his early teen years. "Ever since I began playing guitar, I started buying equipment for a studio," Tyler said. This studio is where he recorded his first two albums, *TwentyInLove* and *Sessions From the Heart*. The space, small but efficient, provides a professional workplace for Tyler. Posters of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Queen and Stevie Ray Vaughn line the walls. A full drum set sits against the window, while numerous acoustic and electric guitars lie collected in the corner. Amidst a stack of amps are microphones of all shapes and sizes that help Tyler create the perfect sound. The main focal point of the studio is his large recording desk, where Tyler fine-tunes his music. "I love editing my own music. I love seeing what it sounds like afterward," he said. The fact



that Tyler possesses the skill to produce his own music makes his style authentic.

"I like to make music because it's a way I can express myself better than if I were to just talk to you," Tyler said. "I write my songs based off of my own life experiences." With upbeat tempos and refreshing lyrics, Tyler's music could cure any sour mood. His songs are fit for any place, whether you are driving down country back roads or taking a run in the park. The driving force behind his uplifting music style is his love and appreciation for life. "I think for the most part, the music I write will always have a very positive vibe no matter what I'm singing about," Tyler said. It is not uncommon while listening to his tunes to inadvertently tap a foot or finger along with the beat.

"To me, good music is music that you can listen to and be happy at any point in time," Tyler said. "No matter what genre it is, you can listen to it and enjoy it." Tyler shows an appreciation for all kinds of music. "I believe that there is good music in every type of genre," he said. "I like very soft indie music, but then again I like other types of bands, like Justin Townes Earle, a country-folk artist, and faster-paced rock groups like blink-182."

Tyler's favorite song off of his second album, *Sessions From the Heart*, is "En Route." "It's about the spiritual battles you face being a young Christian, or believing in any type of religion," Tyler

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said. Messages such as this are what make his music influential for the younger generation. Not only are his songs easy on the ears, they have a good message as well. His songs can be enjoyed by all members of the family.

Looking toward the future, Tyler plans to keep music a major part of his life. "I'd eventually like to make music my career," he said. "I'd like to be able to tour and get as many people to listen to it as possible." Recently, Tyler obtained a much coveted spot on the front page of the music sharing Web site PureVolume.com, and now has songs from two albums archived. This is a place where bands, local and professional, display a sample of their music for the world. "It has been awesome because a lot of people are able to listen to my music from a lot of different places. It'd be cool to have fans from other parts of the country, and maybe even the world, I guess," Tyler said humbly.

Tyler Lackey uses his passion in life to benefit others. "I make music to make people happy. If someone can listen to a song and feel a sense of happiness and optimism, then it's all worth it," Tyler said. His music positively impacts those around him, and his artistic talent, sunny demeanor and sound work ethic make him a role model. A verse from Tyler's song, "The World," reminds us to take charge of our dreams, just as he has: "We are all just numbers in this busy life, but only you can make it shine." **NOW**

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The team at Gentle Family Dental helps Dr. Quinlyn Yates tend to mouths in Burleson.



All That's Necessary

People between the ages of 3 and 102 visit Gentle Family Dental to maintain clean teeth and healthy mouths.

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

What would life be like without a dentist? “Kind of painful, sometimes,” Dr. Quinlyn Yates said. She thinks about the Tom Hanks’ movie, *Cast Away*, in which Hanks’ character knocks his tooth out to end his pain. “Dentists and doctors used to be one and the same. You basically sat in a chair and the doctor pulled the tooth without anesthetic. Dentistry has gotten to be a lot more comfortable in that aspect.”

In fact, of all the procedures that Quinlyn performs at Gentle Family Dental, extractions are her favorites. “I like pulling teeth,” confessed this down-to-earth dentist. “Every tooth is a challenge, and each extraction is different than the next. Plus, I’ve been told I’m real gentle with it.”

In her early days as an oncology nurse, Quinlyn decided to

change her career. She planned on going into oral surgery, but had a family instead. After she graduated with a degree in dentistry from The University of Texas Health Science Center in 1993, she began practicing in the Burleson area, close to her family.

Whole families come to see her in Gentle Family Dental’s current location, near Texas Health Burleson. Her team consists of two certified dental assistants, Sabrina Owens, CDA, and Kim Warren, CDA and RDA; two registered hygienists, Sondra Pendergras and Brenda Padgett; and Brenda Clark, office coordinator. They moved into a new clinic in October 2010, and its modern decor hints at the newest technologies used for the benefit of each patient.

Developing X-rays takes a few short minutes now, so the dentist can get information a lot faster. Also, tools are now sterilized very quickly. "That translates for the patient into shorter chair times," Quinlyn said. Her staff tries to keep the wait in the comfortable lobby less than five minutes. Yet they provide a cushy couch and a nice playroom for children for the patients who show up early.


Children and adults should visit the dentist twice a year. "April is a good month to call and set appointments because summertime fills up fast," Quinlyn said. She recommends having cavity detecting X-rays at least every year-and-a-half, to screen for decay between the teeth and under the gums.

"We're seeing as much tooth decay as 20 years ago," Quinlyn said. "We should not be getting cavities anymore, but I guess the public doesn't brush twice a day nor get their teeth checked. I'd like to see more education in the schools about dental hygiene." She is finding more oral cancers on tongue, lips, palate and gums than in prior decades — and always refers those patients to an oral surgeon for biopsy.

Since each mouth is unique, Gentle Family Dentistry customizes its approach to each patient. Yet they offer the same advice to all: Avoid tobacco. Watch your diet. If you enjoy sodas, sweets or starchy foods, limit them to three times per day with meals, and always follow that up with water or brushing. And take longer to clean and brush your teeth at night.

Quinlyn has noticed more requests for cosmetic dentistry, so offers bleaching, veneers — and "anything that's not exactly necessary but gives you the Hollywood smile," the dentist said. "I am seeing more people go to implants instead of dentures. They choose implants because there is probably not a comfortable set of dentures out there."

In a friendly atmosphere, privately owned Gentle Family Dental focuses on all that's necessary to keep your teeth and mouth healthy. "If you come and you like me," Quinlyn said, "I will be your dentist until I get ready to retire." And since she is still having fun, you can figure Gentle Family Dental into your family's long-range health plan. **NOW**



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Members of the 1969 BHS football team pose at the BISD Sports Hall of Fame Awards Ceremony.



Gentlemen with the Midday Rotary help plant trees at the new playground area off McAlister in Burleson.



Chief Wayne Baker is recognized as Employee of the Year by the city of Joshua's Paulette Hartman.



Kevin Lee says a quick thank you from everyone at Pinnacle Bank, which received the Business of the Year award at the Joshua Area Chamber Banquet.



Robert Miller gets acquainted with Jill and Kurt Jaeger at the Athena's Annual Mardi Gras fundraiser.



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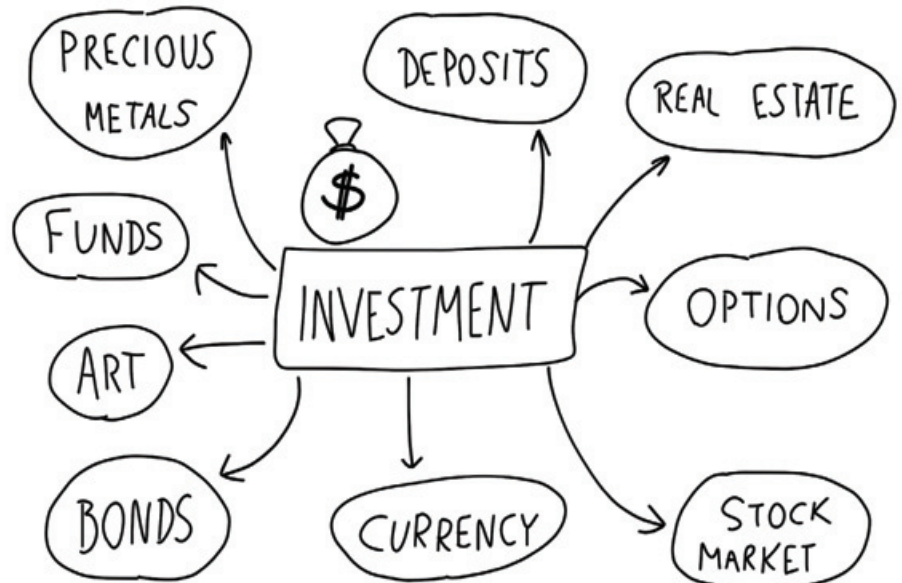


Great Ideas, Lousy Investments

— By Scott Brown

Sometimes, it is easy to get caught up in the herd. One of the greatest challenges investors face is to discern between good ideas or good companies and good investments. Maybe the idea is the fashionable trade of the day like dot-coms were in the '90s or "green energy" was a few years ago. It's not hard to see potential in these life-changing ideas, especially when they are sold to us by politicians, news anchors, magazine writers and friends alike. Or, maybe, it is a business that we are very familiar with and even use on a daily basis, like a social networking site. Whatever the case, it is important to consider the difference between a good company or idea and a good investment.

Many dot-coms were good ideas. They revolutionized shopping and some even allowed us to get things for free that we




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used to pay for. There is no question that the Internet has shaped the world and the way we interact with it. But many dot-coms went bust because they had no profits and no reasonable plan to be able to generate them. Businesses can only run for so long without profit — at which time the company becomes insolvent and often worthless.

Likewise, many “green” investments were great ideas. They promised everything from energy independence via windmills and solar panels to using algae or water to power our cars. Who wouldn’t want to believe these stories and be on the ground floor of the investment opportunity for these world-changing technologies? The problem came in their execution and marketability. In many cases these idea companies blew up when their startup capital or government subsidies ran out. Their business model was unproven, and their ability to deliver on their promises was suspect. In many cases, the product that they were hyping was not yet commercially available or turned out to be simply uneconomic to produce. These good ideas made lousy investments.

Other times we might find a company that legitimately is a great business and want to know how we can take part in this business. We know little to nothing about the fundamentals or profitability of the business, we just know it is well-run, well-respected and heavily used. “Gimme some o’ dat.”

But at what price? This is akin to a real estate investor being willing to buy a fashionable house in the Metroplex irrespective of cost, simply because it is a fashionable house. There is no argument that the house is nice, well-built and desirable. But at any price? There are other fashionable houses that one can buy at a fair price.

Do not confuse solid businesses with solid investments. Before you invest your money anywhere, determine the value of what you are buying and do not overpay for that investment. Determine why you are buying the investment, the reasonable basis of what you hope to achieve by holding it and what would cause you to sell it. If you can’t determine these things, walk away and keep your money. Following these rules removes much of the risk from your investing, and you will sleep better at night. **NOW**

Scott Brown is a financial advisor based in Joshua.

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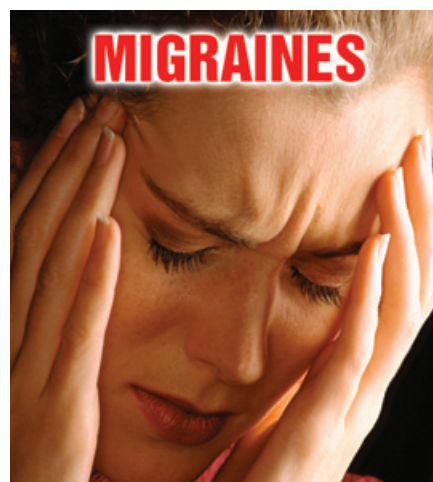
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April 5

26th Annual Burleson Spring Meet for Special Athletes: 9:00 a.m., Elks Stadium. Special education students from 19 Texas school districts enjoy competing in events like long jump, rocket toss, Frisbee, softball toss and sprinting. Call Donny Crittenden at (817) 245-1193.

April 9

Metro Beekeepers meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., AA China Buffet, 1054 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. Contact Stan Key at (682) 459-1737.

April 13-14

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life: 7:00 p.m. Friday-7:00 a.m. Saturday, Kerr Middle School Stadium. The goal this year is to net \$245,000 for cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services. Contact Chair Kathy Allen James at (817) 999-6006 or kallen@burlesontx.com.

April 14

Hill/Stokes Memorial Youth Scholarship Application Deadline: 5:00 p.m. For full details of the scholarship and a copy of the application e-mail Colleen Shorrock at cs4316@yahoo.com.

April 20

Injury Prevention and SafeKids Community Fair: 4:00-7:00 p.m., Bartlett Park. Winners of The Burleson Mayor's Youth Council's "If I Were the Mayor of Burleson" essay contest will be announced. Contact Stephanie Killam at (817) 426-9687 or skillam@burlesonisd.net.

April 20, 27 and May 4

Spring Concert Series: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Bicentennial Park, Crowley. City of Crowley presents "From Us to You," a tribute to the Beatles, on **April 20**, then "Voo Doo Blue," a tribute to Stevie Ray Vaughn, on **April 27**, and finally "Walk the Line," a tribute to Johnny Cash, on **May 4**. Contact Kelly Harris, community services administrator, at (817) 297-2201 or kharris@ci.crowley.tx.us.

April 28

Stick Horse Rodeo and PBR Enterprise Tour, Celebrity Team Roping and Wild Steer Saddling. Kids Rodeo on Stick Horses: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. PBR Bull riding: 7:00 p.m.-midnight at Johnson County Sheriff Posse Grounds. Tickets range from \$12-free. Entrance for contestants in the Stick Horse Rodeo is \$10. Visit www.cowboysforkids-jc.

org or call The Children's Advocacy Center at (817) 558-1599.

April 28

Parents Night Out: 5:00-7:00 p.m., Alsbury Baptist Church. An evening of rest, relief and rejuvenation for parents who are caring for special needs children and their siblings ages 6 months-12 years. Volunteers will guide the children through fun activities, a pizza dinner, crafts, snacks and building new friendships — all at no cost. Reservations are required. Contact Keara Sharman at (817) 881-5028 or Kearasharman@att.net.

May 3

National Day of Prayer in Burleson: 6:30 a.m., First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 317 W. Ellison Street; noon, City Hall, 141 W. Renfro (parking on Ellison). The NDP Prayer Breakfast and Noon Prayer Session are hosted by the Burleson Christian Ministerial Alliance. Contact Charles Dorsett at (817) 271-5433 or cdorsetts@aol.com.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.nowmag@sbeglobal.net.



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In The Kitchen With Donna Barton

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Despite always being asked to join the cooks in the kitchen of First United Methodist Church in Crowley, Donna Barton never thought herself a good cook. “My husband gained 30 pounds during the first six months we were married,” she admitted, with a grin. Bill married Donna 41 years ago. Their two children and two granddaughters love to eat her goodies.

When United Methodist women cook to raise money for missions, you’ll usually find Donna in the kitchen chopping, mixing, baking and washing dishes. She prepares simple meals and a variety of foods, such as Italian, Oriental, German and all-American. Because she has traveled since age 5, first with her Air Force father and then with her Army husband, Donna has collected recipes from people the world over. **NOW**

Potato Casserole

- 2 lbs. frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed**
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped**
- 1 10.75-oz. can cream of chicken soup**
- 1 pint sour cream**
- 2 cups American cheese, grated**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 tsp. pepper**
- 1 cup butter or margarine, melted (divided use)**
- 2 cups corn flakes, measured and then crushed**

- 1.** Combine first 7 ingredients with half the melted butter, and pour into a 9 x 12-inch casserole pan sprayed with cooking spray.
- 2.** For topping, mix remaining butter with corn flakes and place on potato mixture. Bake 45 minutes at 325 F.

Cranberry Salad

- 2 3-oz. boxes cherry or strawberry-flavored gelatin**
- 1 3/4 cups boiling water**
- 1 14-oz. can whole cranberry sauce**
- 1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained**
- 1 cup nuts, chopped**
- 1 cup celery, chopped**

- 1.** Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. While still hot, add cranberry sauce, pineapple, nuts and celery.
- 2.** Pour into a gelatin mold and place in refrigerator to set.

Tuna Burgers

- 2 6.5-oz. cans tuna, rinsed and drained**
- 1 cup celery, chopped**

- 1/2 cup (about 4 slices) American cheese, cut-up**
- 1/4 cup onion, minced**
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 8 hamburger buns**

- 1.** Mix together first 6 ingredients.
- 2.** Fill buns with tuna mixture, place on a baking sheet and cover with foil. Bake 15 to 20 minutes at 350 F.

Pork Chops Italiane

- 4 pork chops**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil**
- 8 oz. elbow macaroni, cooked and drained**
- 1 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes**
- 2 10.75-oz. cans condensed cream of mushroom soup**
- 1 clove garlic, minced**
- 3/4 cup milk**
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, grated**

- 1.** Season chops with salt and pepper. In a skillet, brown on both sides in oil.
- 2.** Spray 13 x 9 x 2-inch dish with cooking spray.
- 3.** Mix macaroni with tomatoes and spoon into casserole dish. Place chops on top.
- 4.** Mix soup, garlic and milk and spoon over chops. Sprinkle with cheese. Preheat oven to 350 F and bake for 1 hour.

Easy Lemon Cake

- 1 15.25-oz. lemon cake mix**
- 4 eggs**
- 3/4 cup oil**
- 3/4 cup water**
- 3-oz. box lemon-flavored gelatin**
- 2 cups powdered sugar**
- 1/2 cup lemon juice, fresh or RealLemon**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Combine first 5 ingredients. Beat with mixer for 4 minutes. Pour into 10 x 3 1/2-inch Bundt pan sprayed with cooking spray. Bake 40-45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
- 3.** Stir together powdered sugar and lemon juice. While still in Bundt pan, punch holes all over cake bottom and pour lemon mixture over hot cake. Let sit 5 to 10 minutes, and then turn onto cake plate and dust with powdered sugar, if desired.



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