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Man of the Diamond

Drew Grimes reacts to challenges with character

Plus:

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Tuscan Character and Charm

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ON THE COVER



*Drew Grimes makes A's and B's
in school while focussing on
all things baseball.*

Photo by Jennifer Spears

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Editor's Note

Hello Burleson, Crowley and Joshua!

In my line of work, I'm constantly hearing about ways good people are working to strengthen the community. Some of what I hear is surprising. For instance, two people in Burleson are busy rehabilitating injured and orphaned wildlife, so they can be released back into the wild. The duo with Texas Metro Wildlife Rehabilitators needs help and is hoping to attract other volunteers to their mission. If you're curious, visit <http://txmetrowildlife.org/>,

or I can put you in touch with these two animal-loving environmentalists.

I can also help you meet the well-organized, dedicated people and sponsors who make possible this month's American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Burleson. Although they have been working for over three months to coordinate special memorials at Kerr Middle School and to honor cancer survivors and caregivers, organizers can always use more help in hosting their 12th annual event. Call me!

Melissa

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"I just want to play."

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in comfort and convenience, but where he stands in times of challenge and controversy." That quote is attributed to the late Martin Luther King Jr. Drew Grimes keeps that quote close to his heart and uses it as inspiration and motivation for the road he travels. Drew is a man who has seen challenges in his young life, but each time those challenges have come he has reacted with character. And he has definitely measured up.

Drew grew up in Burleson, and his family has always been involved in the school district's athletic program. His father, Eddie, was a football star during his years at Burleson High School. For the last two years, Eddie has been an offensive line coach at Centennial High School in addition to also coaching track and field. His mother, Karen, is a physical education teacher at Swift Elementary. His older brother, Will, enjoyed a four-year stint pitching for a college baseball team. His younger brother, Luke, is a student at Stribling Elementary School in Burleson and is also quite active. Seemingly, it was only natural Drew would also pursue athletics.

Basically, if you give Drew a ball, he can take off. But ask him which sport is his favorite, and his gaze will gravitate toward the baseball diamond. "I've played baseball almost my entire life," Drew said. "I have always loved the game." Drew's grandfather, Willie Maxwell, was once the head baseball coach at Texas

Christian University and encouraged Drew to go out for Little League. "He would even give me tips in the backyard," Drew remembered. "He is my hero. In my mind, everything he does is correct. He's always there for me. When it comes to baseball, he taught me everything I know."

The encouragement he received from his grandfather may have started Drew in Little League, but from there, Drew never really looked back. He continued to play baseball during his elementary and middle school years. This year, as a high school senior, he plays his final year with the Centennial High School Spartan baseball team. He now wants to play baseball professionally. "I would like to play for the Texas Rangers, but it really doesn't matter what team I play for," he admitted. "I just want to play."

Currently, Drew is focused on the here and now and his baseball career at Centennial High School. He readily admits he has big dreams this year for himself and the team. Last year, the team went three rounds deep into the playoffs and finished second in the district. Drew believes they have the potential to go all the way to state. "We just have to pull together and be a team," he stated.

Regardless of how the team does, Drew's future prospects in baseball are looking very bright indeed. Drew, who makes A's and B's in school, initially wasn't hearing much from colleges and was actually getting discouraged. However, last year, that all changed. "All of a sudden, I was getting a bunch [of offers]," Drew said with excitement. Several colleges sent Drew offers to come play baseball. Offers he's received thus far include California Tech, Texas Wesleyan University, North Central Texas Junior College, Frank Phillips Junior College, Hill College, Howard College and Grayson Community College. Drew finally

A young man with a goatee, wearing a white baseball cap with a blue 'C' logo, a grey t-shirt with 'CENTRAL BASEBALL' in blue, and a blue long-sleeved shirt underneath, is smiling and holding a yellow Mizuno baseball glove. He is standing on a baseball field with a blurred background of a stadium and sky.

MAN OF THE DIAMOND

— *By Rick Hope*



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settled on Seminole State Junior College in Oklahoma. "From there, I hope to get drafted into a league," he confessed.

Although baseball is his first love, Drew also excels at football. "My father encouraged me to go out for football," Drew explained. "Actually, it was kind of expected." Drew plays defensive end and tight end and gives his all to football just as he does in baseball. However, it was football that almost ended Drew's entire athletic career.

Drew is the type of guy who doesn't view setbacks as problems, but rather as opportunities.

During a practice early last year, Drew got a stress fracture. An MRI was done, and the doctor said he was out for the season. This sidelined him for the rest of the football season. But Drew is the type of guy who doesn't view setbacks as problems, but rather as opportunities. As far as Drew was concerned, this simply prompted him to make sure he was ready when the baseball season started. It wasn't easy. He had to go to physical



therapy twice a week and, in Drew's words, "did everything else I could to stay healthy." One week after the football season ended, Drew was pronounced ready to start baseball by his doctor.

Drew plays the position of pitcher. The one he would like to emulate the most is former pitcher and current overseer of the Texas Rangers, Nolan Ryan. "I just like the way he carries himself," Drew said. "He played with class! And no matter the achievement, he was never boastful." Drew would most certainly jump at the opportunity to meet Ryan someday.



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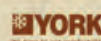
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Drew cites the most important things in his life as God, family and baseball, and he is quick to point out that it is in this exact order. An active member of Cana Baptist Church in Burleson, Drew's faith is a very important part of his life. He also considers himself blessed that he can see his extended family on a regular basis. "My grandparents live right across the street from us," he said with a smile. "My aunts, uncles and cousins also live close by, and we keep up with each other often."

Where does Drew see himself in 10 years? He readily admits he hopes to be playing professional baseball somewhere. "Of course," he said, "I'll go wherever God wants me to go."



**"I'll go wherever
God wants
me to go."**



But Drew is one who keeps his dreams planted in reality. Many an athletic career has been sidelined by the unexpected injury or mishap. Should that happen to Drew, he already has a backup plan firmly in place. "I want to be a fireman," he shared. "I've always been fascinated by them. They get to help people through some traumatic experiences on a regular basis. And what's even more amazing, they get to do it for a living." **NOW**



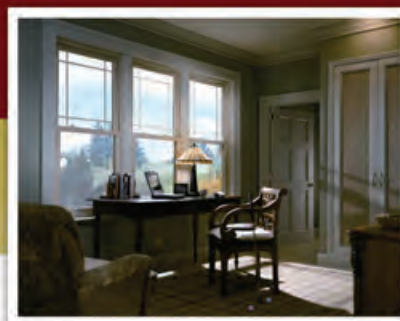
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Tuscan Character and Charm

— By Lisa Bell



At Home With Robert and Kathleen

What would it feel like to live in Italy? Imagine buildings with amazing architecture, arches, lots of texture, windows looking out over incredible views and art niches everywhere. The charm of Tuscan-style melds the interior of a house with the world outside. Robert and Kathleen Moretti's home feels like Tuscany — but located on a country road in Burleson, only minutes away from restaurants and a major highway.



This unique home pricks the senses. From the grand entrance, a panoramic, pastoral view of the backyard greets the eye. Stepping through the extra-wide front door, an immediate sense of creativity opens up the old-world feeling, transporting visitors. The laughter of family, comfort and style radiate throughout this open-concept home. The entire house focuses on the back patio, where the couple frequently entertains guests.

Robert and Kathleen spent approximately two-and-a-half years in the design phase, tweaking and changing plans to avoid wishing they had done something different.



d Kathleen Moretti

"This house was fun to build," Robert said. "There's not much I'd change about it."

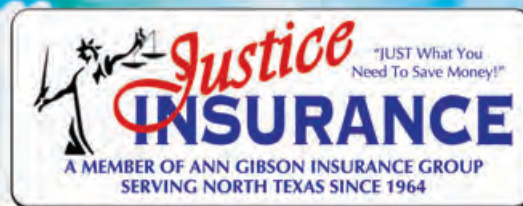
"There's nothing I would change about it," Kathleen added.

The entryway features a groin style ceiling, with not one, but two lights. The arched full wall windows match the exact curvature of the arched ceiling, providing an instant view from the front door all the way to pastures behind the house. Only one wall exists in this room. Like something from an Italian restaurant, a breath-taking painting consumes it. Unlike a flat mural, this hand-painted wall contains layers, creating depths of mist-covered countryside. Trees and hills provide the backdrop for a large tree bearing metallic leaves, which reflect light.

One accent wall, to the left of the entry, produces the feeling of walking along an Italian sidewalk. The illusion of peeling plaster, revealing bricks, adds charm and character. A paned window in this wall peeks into the kitchen, completing the scene of peering into a restaurant filled with good food and friendship.

The dining room opens to an eating nook and breakfast bar area, which looks into the kitchen. Beyond that, the family room, complete with a fireplace and

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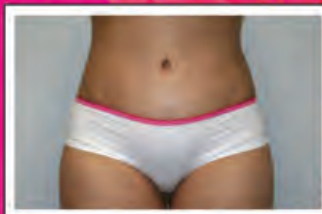
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comfortable furniture, beckons guests. When the couple's four children, their spouses and seven grandchildren come together for holidays, they spread out yet seem to occupy a single room.

One of Kathleen's favorite places in the house is the kitchen, which spreads across the front. A window above the sink looks out over the front lawn and across to the neighbor's pasture, complete with Longhorns and a fountain. From the breakfast bar, they sip coffee and enjoy the front view, then turn and look out into the back yard. The kitchen itself evokes envy in anyone who likes cooking. With many cabinets and counters, an island, large pantry and built-in wine cabinet, a big group of people can join in the fun.

One of the favorite spaces in the Moretti home, the media room, intentionally lines up with the family room. The media room holds eight to 10 people comfortably. When large groups of people fill the house, the design lends itself to a sense of overflow between the two areas, bringing family and friends together even when they spread into separate spaces. The media room itself



contains a level floor, sofas and a 140-inch screen. If one were to look up, they would see how Robert captured the feel of a night sky, replete with clouds and hundreds of twinkling stars. Fiber optic lights create the illusion. Decorated with posters of movie stars — Elvis, Marilyn and the Rat Pack — the room resembles an old-time movie theater, with much more comfort.

No two ceilings in the house are the same. "I'm big into ceiling treatments," Robert shared. The design of each ceiling brings unique character into every room in their home. The use of texture carries the Tuscan feel throughout the home as well, although used sparingly as accent walls.

Careful to minimize hallways, Robert included art niches in them. Filled with



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art, photographs or flowers, the arched-shaped niches add to the character and Tuscan feel of the design.

To accommodate guests, the couple included a powder room between the living and media rooms. A door from it opens to the patio, providing easy access when they hold a cookout or simply enjoy sitting outside. A patio spans the entire back of the house, connecting both sides. The outdoor kitchen and fireplace create the perfect extra room, where they frequently spend time eating and savoring the view.

The master bedroom, which also features a fireplace, has large windows and a door opening out to the back patio. "We love fireplaces," they said simultaneously. Between the master bedroom and bath, a morning kitchen greets them daily. With a coffee maker and small refrigerator, they have everything necessary to start their morning.

The bathroom itself incorporates stone and more archways, adding to the natural style. Far above the bathtub, the ceiling streams in natural light. A walk-in shower fits the couple well, with no doors to clean. Separate sinks stand at different heights to accommodate the size variance between Robert and Kathleen.

The Morettis lived in North Richland Hills for 15 years before moving to Burleson. Robert worked in the telecom industry, but when it took a dive, he ventured into building with a friend. Kathleen worked in the corporate world before they married 16 years ago. When Robert and his friend began developing Devonshire Village and Huntington

Manor in Burleson, he drove back and forth until they decided to move to the area around 2008. They built their dream home and moved in less than three years ago.

They like the Burleson area, and give back to the community through a family business they started in 2010. Wanting to pass something down to their children, the couple opened Moretti's Gourmet Popcorn as a second business. Robert plans to continue building through Villa Monticello LLC, named after his grandfather, who was from Monticello, Italy, and because villa means house on the hill.

The connectivity in the house shows how important family and friends remain to this couple. Robert designed walls around a few pieces of furniture they owned, including specific measurements



of one where he planned to put a player piano. A Victrola graces another wall. "It was my grandmother's," Kathleen said.

From amazing ceilings to well-thought design, the couple's creativity spans the entire house. The Tuscan feel leaves guests wondering if they spent the evening indoors or outside, and if they were in Burleson or had somehow traveled to Italy. "It takes time to make a house a home," Robert said. The Morettis, it seems, accomplished that goal in under three years. **NOW**

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The Art of Collection

— By Sarah Anderson



After a lifetime collecting unique and distinctive rocks, Billy Proffitt still loves the thrill of exploring obscure Texas trails and traveling the country to discover exceptional stones he can craft into polished jewelry. Known for Bep Texas Rock Jewelry, Billy's carefully crafted pieces can be found at local shows and most notably at the International Gem and Jewelry Convention in Fort Worth.

Formerly a machinist at Lockheed Martin, Billy enjoys his hobby as an artistic outlet that offers adventure and uses his dexterity and critical eye for detail. He has mastered many forms of jewelry from necklaces and bracelets to belt buckles and earrings. He also designs gems for bolo ties. One of his favorite pieces to make is a butterfly bracelet complete with a daisy-shaped clasp. He even teaches a class on how to create the delicate wristlet. The class is one of three he teaches for the Rockhound Club, which meets monthly at the Lockheed Martin Recreation Area in Fort Worth. He joined the group during the 1980s and has been a member ever since.

His three decades of experience with his fellow Stone Steppers have given him vast insight and a wealth of knowledge. His adventures have taken him

and his wife, Sue, and even their two children at times, from the Southwestern states all the way to more northern treks in Yellowstone National Park and the Rocky Mountains. He has even scoured the green beaches of Hawaii, where he and Sue celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 1989. "I've been to every state except Alaska," Billy said. "We have made a lot of memories and brought home a lot of rocks over the years."

Sue is a member of the Rockhounds,



"They say in the art of collecting, you have to have a little knowledge and a lot of luck."

too, and laughs about how she and the other wives often exchange stories. "We joke about how we gradually discover rocks in every room of the house. It starts in one room, and before you know it, you see them everywhere." But she doesn't mind. She enjoys the trips and loves having a colorful plethora of jewelry to choose from.

"My wife has so much jewelry, she could wear five pieces a day and go two years without wearing the same piece

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twice," Billy chuckled. "She's got one of everything I've done."

And she's thrilled. "It's lovely to have his jewelry," Sue said. "I wear it all the time."

Now, as they approach their 52nd year of marriage, they still actively travel the country, and Billy can often be found at the head of their rock hunt guiding others with his expert eye. "They say in



the art of collecting, you have to have a little knowledge and a lot of luck," Billy laughed. "Sometimes you get lucky and just walk up on what you're looking for. Other times you can hunt for hours in the best spot possible and leave empty-handed."

Walker Ranch in south Texas is one of Billy's favorite places to hunt for what is known as "Texas biscuits" or Walker Agate. He cuts and polishes this burnt orange gemstone into flat decorative Texas pendants for necklaces and bolo ties. He also carves and refines colorful pieces of the stone for ornamental belt buckles.

Among other things, he has also transformed large chunks of Turrutella Agate he's brought home into attractive bookends. According to Billy, Turrutella Agate are 20,300,000-year-old snails in a limestone stratum with quartz. "It takes a lot of work, but it makes beautiful pieces," he said. "I have a number of large rocks of it in the front yard waiting for me to use."

As long as he can remember, there have been similar piles of rocks in his yard. Since he was a little boy growing up in Lake Worth, he would collect

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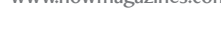
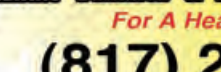
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rocks everywhere he went. Every family vacation, he would come home with new treasures to stack against the house. "I think my mom was just glad I had something to keep me out of trouble," Billy said. "My brother and I would come up with all kinds of things to do in the acre beside our house."

Long before he worked for and later retired from Lockheed Martin, Billy was very familiar with military aircraft. He has many stories of them flying so low over his childhood house in Lake Worth that it rattled everything around them. "We got so used to it, it got to the point where we nearly woke up if they didn't fly over in the middle of the night," he laughed.

Billy and Sue met at Lake Worth High School



when Sue was 15 and Billy was 16. The couple married on August 3, 1961, and it wasn't long before they started looking for a house where they could rear their children. "A friend suggested we check out some new homes being built in Burleson, and we found exactly what we were looking for," Sue said. "Our daughter was 3 when we moved, and we got settled into the new house just in time to celebrate our son's first birthday. We have been here ever since." Forty-eight years later, their home is filled

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with countless mementos of the many memories they have shared in their 51 years of marriage. From family heirlooms and antiques to Billy's collections and artwork, their home reflects a great deal of character.

"Billy does so much more than just jewelry. He is so talented. He paints, does photography and even makes clocks," Sue said, pointing to a lovely clock



carved from Turretella. He also designs his own intricate copper chains by hand. He often works on the elaborate metal chains at the table during jewelry shows. Each chain takes a lot of patience and a significant attention to detail. According to Billy, it takes 9.75 inches of copper to craft 1 inch of his uniquely coiled chains. His design is so detailed he had to create his own tools to make it. That's where his talent as a machinist comes in. "Ingenuity is a big part of doing these things," Billy said.

The Rockhounds are so impressed with his skills they have asked him to teach a class on his chain-making. Now 72, Billy has been on 20 rock-hunting trips with the Rockhounds. "It is a lot of fun and gives us something to do in retirement," Billy said.

He is scheduled to lead another rock hunt soon. On the last rock hunt he led, more than 80 people eagerly followed him to McGregor, Texas. "He really knows what he is doing and he just loves it," Sue said. **NOW**

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A photograph of a woman with brown hair, wearing a grey and black striped sweater, and a young boy with light brown hair, wearing a blue t-shirt. They are both looking down at an open book on a table. The woman's hand is pointing at a colorful illustration in the book. The background is a warm, indoor setting.

HIDDEN *University*

— By Lisa Bell

Jessica Walls always wanted to teach. As a child, she pretended to be a teacher, but wasn't sure she could do it. "I was one of those nerds who got overly excited about shopping for school supplies when school was about to start," she said. "I loved that part more than buying clothes."

Life took her in a different direction, as she went to work in the healthcare industry. Although she didn't hate her job, the unfulfilled dream of teaching left her less than happy, longing to do more with her life.

A defining moment arrived with an unexpected turn of events. Her mother entered college to obtain an associate degree in nursing. Discontented with doing a job instead of loving her work, Jessica made a decision. "If my mom could do it, so could I," she declared. Backed by encouragement from her husband, Kenny, and her mom, she drove to Tarrant County College (TCC) in Fort Worth, sought out a faculty member and determined the next steps toward pursuing an early childhood education degree. "I still remember that first day I stepped onto the TCC campus. It was scary, yet wonderful," Jessica said.

When a co-worker mentioned the Texas Wesleyan University (TWU) campus in Burleson, Jessica was ecstatic. Born at Huguley Hospital, she lived in Burleson all her life. Yet, she had no idea TWU occupied an old church building across from Fuzzy's Tacos on one side and Bransom's on another. The idea of attending classes close to home influenced her decision to



Although Jessica delights in teaching any young child, she particularly likes kindergarten.



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change schools. She quickly grew to love Texas Wesleyan for many reasons. "It's family there," she said. "I don't want it to ever go away."

Having spent two years in an environment where professors lectured at least 50 students in a class, the smaller campus and classrooms immediately captured her interest. "Most students at larger colleges never meet their dean. I went to Greece and Turkey with the dean of education," she said. "Education is very different there. In both countries, education is not required beyond fifth grade. Those who continue don't do it to further careers or improve themselves. They simply love learning."

Each class at TWU averages 15 to 20 students. Instead of lectures, the students participate in learning, experiencing the type of classroom Jessica plans to use. The hands-on approach prepared her for the way she feels children learn best. Whether students in her future classes are visual, kinesthetic or auditory learners, she believes a teacher at the front of the room has less impact than one moving among the students. Peer-to-peer learning during her education taught her the great value in using the same method even with young children. "Sometimes, students learn better from classmates than they do from teachers," she admitted.

As a child, she had trouble learning. "My grandma always told me issues arise in your life, but you learn from them. Then you can help others who have those same problems," Jessica said. "So my background will make me a better teacher."

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Because her coursework included alternative ways of teaching, such as the use of manipulatives, games and technology, Jessica faces the future prepared to help students learn. In the process, she hopes to share her knowledge with other teachers who want to learn how to use technology, like Promethean boards. Much like an oversized iPad, this newer technology opens the door to a multitude of opportunities for various styles of teaching and learning. Not all teachers know how to use them, so Jessica feels grateful she got some training and hopes she'll have one to use in the classroom.

While working on her degree, she participated in community programs, which provided an opportunity to practice what she learned. In one instance, she volunteered at a math camp



for underprivileged children, many who spoke English as a second language. Word problems, difficult for most students, pose extra challenges for those struggling to read English. One boy tried very hard to understand, fighting through each problem. They used games designed by the professors, but even then, she had to help him break down problems to figure out equations. Fortunately, after four or five weeks, he figured it out.

"That's what it's all about," Jessica said with a triumphant look. "That 'aha' moment makes me want to cry." When he finally got it, the excitement on his face gave her more satisfaction than she ever imagined. That moment fuels her desire to teach.

In another volunteer opportunity, Jessica worked with a little girl in an intermediary reading class. As the girl read, she made almost no mistakes. Unfortunately, she didn't understand any of it. Simple words like *these* and *want*, or

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even names meant nothing to her. Using a book called *Amelia Bedelia*, they worked through every word the child didn't understand — beginning with the main character's name. Through the process, Jessica helped her discover how to learn, and the girl's comprehension blossomed, complementing her reading abilities.

Although Jessica delights in teaching any young child, she particularly likes kindergarten. She relates well to their sense of humor and enjoys being around that age because of their innocent honesty. During a time of observation, one little girl approached her. "You're so pretty," the little girl said. "You remind me of my mom, because you're fluffy." Jessica burst out laughing. The little girl continued. "My mom's very fluffy and pretty. You look just like her." Although Jessica loved the comparison to someone the child obviously adored, the comment motivated her to lose 50 pounds — so she wouldn't be quite so fluffy.

In 2012, Jessica served as the president of the Burleson Leaders United for Education (B.L.U.E.) organization. Kim Tyler, the faculty advisor, founded B.L.U.E. to promote the university, but also as a way to give back to the community. Members of B.L.U.E. volunteer all year, participating in activities such as Relay for Life, Founders' Day, the Christmas Parade, Boo Bash, Book Fairs, picking up trash along the Burleson Waterway and other events. One of her favorite activities involves volunteering with Special Olympics for intellectually disabled athletes.

When Jessica finished her coursework in 2012, she became the first person in her family to receive a bachelor's degree. On January 7, 2013, she began her student teaching at Clinkscale Elementary to complete the last phase of her education. Well on the way to fulfilling her dream of teaching, she enthusiastically chats, her passion for teaching shining through. No doubt, the children in her classes will love their teacher. "But I won't wear holiday-themed clothing like some teachers do," she stated emphatically with a chuckle. "And no kitties playing with balls on my dresses." However, when the time comes, she won't have any issues with plastic kitten shapes helping children master addition or subtraction. **NOW**

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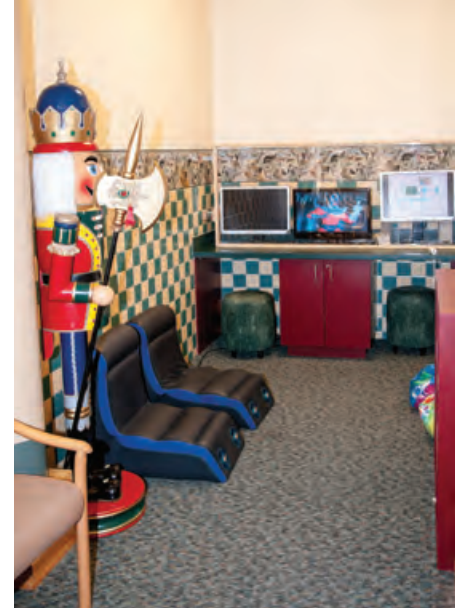


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Tim Tidwell, clinic administrator, and Dr. Foust's fellow doctors of dental surgery, Megan Belkan, Ashraf Seif and Kathryn Luse, welcome families to Alsbury Dental.

Keeping You Healthy

Alsbury Dental provides family-friendly dentistry by people who love people. — By Melissa Rawlins

Got a pain in your mouth? Take control over how your pain is treated by calling the gentle doctors at Alsbury Dental. The most expensive way to restore a tooth is with an implant, but there are always tooth extractions to get a person out of pain with minimal cost. “We’re trying to care for people,” explained Tim Tidwell, clinic administrator. “Our goal is to get them out of pain according to their desires, their budget and their needs.”

This attitude flows from the heart of Alsbury Dental’s founder and lead dentist, Dr. Blake Foust. As he has added each of his 25 employees to his team, especially the hygienists and dentists, patience and gentleness are the top two qualities he and Tim look for. “Dr. Foust himself is very gentle. Our associate doctors mirror their boss by picking up his traits and bringing them into their interactions with every patient,” Tim explained.

One of Alsbury Dental’s doctors of dental surgery — Megan Belken, Kathryn Luse or Ashraf Seif — will work with Dr. Foust during the full mouth reconstructions he regularly performs. “With Dr. Foust’s great experience, he likes to come in and do the surgery, placing the implants. Then one of his associates will build the dentures and hook them into the implants, so the person will have a stable bite.”

Dr. Foust started Alsbury Dental on a shoestring in 1989. “After attending Bill Gothard’s seminars, Dr. Foust derived principles like ‘shun debt like the plague’ and began his business with his wife and one dental chair. Little by little their business grew. He did it the hard way, the old-fashioned way,” Tim said.

Striving to meet every person’s budget, Alsbury Dental has tools to deal with emergencies, as well as preplanned oral health

maintenance. The clinic is in network with more than 100 PPO insurance plans, and will accept all PPO plans. They also accept private pay and regular preferred provider dental plans — except HMO or Medicaid — and offer CareCredit payment options.

The clinic is prepared to help mothers with children while the family spends a day at the dentist. “Some moms flat depend upon our children’s area in our waiting room. Our television and video games are babysitting two of them

Maintenance of your teeth will enhance lifelong pleasure in eating and smiling at the world around you.

while the other two are in the chair, for example,” Tim said. Often, while a mother is getting her teeth cleaned, her child stays in the room with her, and the hygienists entertain the child.

Folks in the waiting room could be here for any manner of general dentistry, whether cleanings, examinations, extractions, fillings, root canals or crowns. The doctors at Alsbury Dental are also known for their skill in building bridges to restore healthy smiles after a football injury or a car injury.

Maintenance of your teeth will enhance lifelong pleasure in eating and smiling at the world around you. “Sometimes we know to floss and brush our teeth, yet we don’t,” said Tim, whose father has endured an aortal aneurism and carries a valve in his heart. “I have an extra appreciation now about tartar buildup. It’s the same pollutant that clogs the arteries in your heart. This average Joe Blow says, ‘Floss! Take care of your mouth!’” Recognizing the deep connection between a healthy mouth and a healthy body, the professionals at Alsbury Dental are here to watch your oral health. **NOW**

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The answer depends, to a large extent, on the size of your refund. In 2012, the average tax refund was about \$3,000, according to the IRS. Let's look at a few possibilities for how you might use this amount:

- *Help fund your IRA* — In 2013, you can now put in up to \$5,500 per year (up from \$5,000 in 2012) to a traditional or Roth IRA. And if you're 50 or older, you can put in an additional \$1,000 per year above the new contribution limit. Consequently, your \$3,000 refund could cover more than half of your maximum IRA contributions, or slightly less than half if you're 50 or older. And if you don't think that \$3,000 would make much of a difference, consider this: If you invested the \$3,000 in an IRA that earned a hypothetical 7 percent annual return, and you never put in another dime, you'd end up with nearly \$23,000 after 30 years. And if you put in that same \$3,000 per year to your IRA — well below the maximum — every year for 30 years, earning that same 7 percent annual return, you'd accumulate more than \$303,000. (Keep in mind that you'd eventually be taxed on your traditional IRA



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- *Pay off some debts* — In the last few years, Americans have done a pretty good job of lowering their individual debt loads, according to the Federal Reserve. But if you still have some outstanding loans or a credit card balance that carries a high interest rate, you might want to consider applying your tax refund to these debts. The lower your monthly debt payments, the better your cash flow — and the more money you'll have available to invest for your future.

- *Help build an emergency fund* — Life is full of unexpected events. If you need to purchase a new furnace or pay for an expensive car repair or incur a hospital bill, will you have the money available? If you don't, you might be forced to dip into your IRA or other investments. This move could result in taxes and fees; more importantly, it will reduce the financial resources you're counting on to help meet your long-term goals. You can help avoid this problem by building an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, kept in a liquid, low-risk account. Your tax refund could give you a nice start to this fund.

- *Invest in a 529 plan* — If you have children (or grandchildren) whom you'd like to send to college, you may want to invest in a 529 plan. Your earnings grow tax-free, provided withdrawals are used for qualified higher education expenses. (Withdrawals for other purposes will result in taxes and possible penalties.) Contribution limits are quite high, so you can put in significant amounts each year — including a \$3,000 tax refund.

As you can see, you've got some attractive options for using your tax refund — so consider them carefully. If you can apply more resources to your various financial goals, you may find yourself in a better position in the future. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Lynn H. Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burleson.

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At Odds With Social Cues

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

From an online discussion on Asperger's syndrome, you can feel this mother's anguish as she describes her son. "My only son, who is almost 8 years old, has Asperger's. He doesn't understand personal space. He wants friends, but no one wants to listen to him ramble on about his interests for hours at a time, and he speaks very loudly. He gets beat up at school for talking too much. He can't help it. He gets very frustrated very easily. He doesn't understand things the way we do and has his own explanation as to why things occur and stands by them. School will always be very difficult for him. Homework is almost impossible. Socially he will always have difficulties."

She described in painstaking detail of how her son just does not quite fit in his group of friends. He has a developmental disorder called Asperger's syndrome, which affects a person's ability to interact effectively with others in a social situation. Even though someone with Asperger's displays a lack of social skills and difficulty in communicating, children with this disorder usually have normal intelligence and language skills. Some individuals with Asperger's have superior intelligence. Albert Einstein has long been thought to have had Asperger's syndrome.

Susan Stokes, an autism consultant states, "Children with Asperger's syndrome tend to exhibit a lack of effectiveness in social interactions rather than a lack of social interactions." These children

may feel awkward when trying to interact with others. A child can join others in a conversation and completely take over the direction and tone as it suits them to do so. They do not have the sense of inhibition and social tweaking children normally learn as they mature. They cannot discern social cues from others or understand others' points of view. They usually show an extreme, almost obsessive, interest in a few very specific topics, such as cars or one particular aspect of a sport. In communicating their interest, they will talk incessantly and in great detail about engines or schedules totally disregarding another's lack of interest in the conversation. They are unaware of the social cues or the normal give and take in a conversation. They are not able to read the expressions on the faces of others. Physically, they may have an awkward gait or seem clumsy and have some fine motor difficulty.

Asperger's syndrome has no cure, so the goal of treatment is to improve communication skills, social skills and behavior management. With specialized intervention, many children with Asperger's grow into well-adjusted adults, as they mature and learn new skills. **NOW**

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

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City of Crowley Spring Concert Series: 7:30 p.m., Stage Pavilion, 900 E. Glendale St. **April 12**, Texas Flood, a Stevie Ray Vaughn tribute band formally known as VooDoo Blue; **April 19**, Mike Calloway; **April 26**, Time Warp the Band; **May 3**, Jeff Burns Band; **May 10**, Mike Wissel & The Pawn Shop Pistols. There will be a food vendor on site. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, friends and family! Call (817) 297-2201.

April 17

BACC Spring Quarterly Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., First Methodist Church. \$25 for non-members, or \$20 for members of the Burleson Chamber of Commerce. RSVP by April 14 to (817) 295-6121.

April 19 — 20

Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale: **Friday**, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Contact (817) 426-9210.

Relay For Life: The 12-hour Relay begins **Friday**, 7:00 p.m., and ends **Saturday**,

7:00 a.m.; Kerr Middle School. Huge kids' area, clowns, food trucks. **Friday**, 10:00 p.m., the band Union Hill plays. Bring the family. <http://www.relayforlife.org/burlesontx>.

April 20

Free Basic CPR Class: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Fire Station No.1, 828 S.W. Alsbury Blvd. Open to the first 30 registrants. Call Fire Station No.1 at (817) 426-9176.

April 26

Arbor Day Celebration: 10:00-11:00 a.m., Clinkscale Elementary, 600 Blayke St. City staff distribute 400 free tree seedlings — live oak, red oak and bald cypress — on a first-come, first-served basis. Call (817) 426-9291.

April 26 — 27

Cowboys for Kids: **Friday**, 5:30 p.m., Coffeen Family Ranch, 3165 CR 808, Cleburne; **Saturday**, 11:00 a.m., Sheriff's Posse Grounds, Cleburne. Children's Advocacy Center hosts their 16th annual rodeo event to support eradication of child abuse and help bring unconditional love into the lives of Johnson County

children. **Friday's** Roping the Stars Dinner prepares everyone for next day's fun. **Saturday**, the Stick Horse Rodeo starts the morning, and Professional Bull Riding ends the night. For more information, call (817) 558-1599.

April 27

Burleson's Great American Clean-Up: 9:00-11:00 a.m., Warren Park, 301 S.W. Johnson Ave. Volunteers are asked to register in advance to get a location assignment. Call (817) 426-9824.

Tuesdays

Burleson Kiwanis Club meetings: Noon-1:00 p.m., Golden Corral Restaurant, 301 SW Wilshire Blvd. Kiwanis International is a global organization of members of every age who are dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. Contact bur88kiwanis@gmail.com.

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



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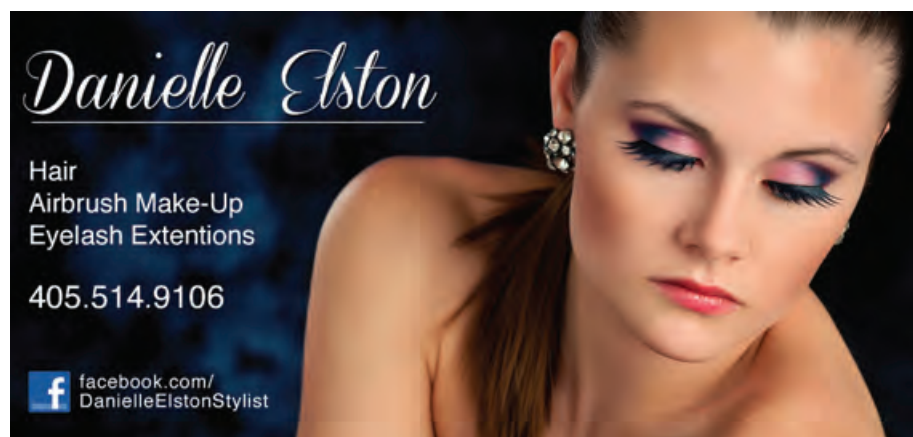
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In The Kitchen With Dwyane Daughtry

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

Baking cakes from scratch has been part of Dwyane Daughtry's repertoire since he was 12 years old. His mom let him make a cake requiring pulverized vanilla wafer cookies instead of plain flour. "It had chopped pecans and coconut in it as well, and it weighed a ton when it was finished," Dwyane recalled. "I enjoyed measuring the ingredients, mixing it together and seeing and tasting the results of all the preparations. Getting praises from everyone who ate some was pretty special as well." Now he works part time on a working cattle ranch as a lunch cook. Below, he shares the recipe for President's Cake, named by his granddaughter, Blaze, after former President George W. Bush visited the ranch and ate three pieces. **NOW**

Chilled Corn Salad

- 2 15-oz. cans whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 cup bell pepper (half green, half red), chopped
- 1/2 to 1 cup red onion, chopped
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups cheddar cheese, shredded
- 10.5-oz. bag chili cheese flavored Fritos corn chips

1. In a large mixing bowl combine corn, bell peppers and onion. Chill for 1/2 to 1 hour.
2. Mix in mayonnaise. When thoroughly combined, add cheese; stir until mixed well. Chill.
3. Add chips just before serving.

President's Cake

- 1 white, French vanilla or coconut cake mix
- 3 eggs

- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 1/3 cups water
- 1 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 14-oz. can coconut milk
- 1 8-oz. container Cool Whip
- 1/4 cup toasted coconut
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

1. Prepare and cook cake mix according to box directions in a 9x13-inch pan.
2. Immediately flip cake upside down on large serving plate or pan. Using a wooden spoon handle, punch 25-30 holes in top of entire cake.
3. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the condensed milk with the coconut milk. Using a cup or large spoon, slowly pour the mixture into the holes in cake. The liquid will soak into cake so move from hole to hole until all liquid is absorbed. Cool.
4. Just before serving, spread Cool Whip evenly on top of cake. Sprinkle with coconut and pecans. Refrigerate any leftover cake.

Cream of Jalapeño Soup

Serves 6.

- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 3-4 jalapeño peppers, seeded and chopped
- 1 medium carrot, peeled and grated
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
- 4 cups water
- 1 14.5-oz. can low-sodium chicken broth
- 3/4 cup half-and-half
- 2 Tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 cups Monterey Jack cheese, shredded

1. In a large, heavy-bottomed pot melt butter over medium heat. When foam on butter goes down, stir in jalapeños, carrot and onion. Sauté until tender, about 4-5 minutes.
2. Sprinkle in flour; cook for a few minutes, stirring constantly. Pour water and chicken broth into pot, slowly and steadily, while whisking constantly. Bring to a boil, reduce heat; simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Strain soup; reserve liquid and strained ingredients.
4. Purée the strained vegetables in a blender or a food processor until smooth. Return to pot along with reserved liquid; heat over medium to low heat. Pour in the half-and-half, stirring until well mixed and thoroughly heated. Remove from heat; stir in cilantro and salt. Garnish with cheese.

Me-Maw's Okra-tomato Gumbo

Best when made with fresh ingredients.

- 2 cans diced tomatoes (low-sodium if possible)
- 2 small bags/boxes frozen cut okra
- 1/2 medium onion, thinly sliced
- 1 tsp. Creole seasoning (or to taste)

1. Combine tomatoes, okra and onion in a medium saucepan. Add 1/2 cup water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to a simmer; add Creole seasoning; simmer for 20 minutes adding water if needed. Add extra seasoning if needed.

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



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