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Editor's Note

Fourteen words...

Unlike me, my husband doesn't think lines of poetry should necessarily end in words sounding the same. It's probably a sign of higher intelligence on his part, but frankly, I don't care. I like my poems to rhyme ... so there.

I also prefer poetry with a clear message. I don't want to painstakingly analyze line, verse and meter to understand what was meant by a tortured author. For me, simplicity is poetic.

For National Poetry Month 2014, I challenge you to write a simple poem of 14 words. Something like:

*Wife, mother, daughter
writer, teacher, me.
Doing what I ought-er
with faithfulness and glee!*

What's your 14-word poem? May it be beautiful ... rhyming or not!

Angel

Angel Morris
North Ellis Co. NOW Editor
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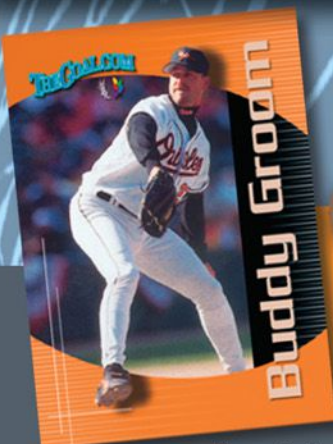
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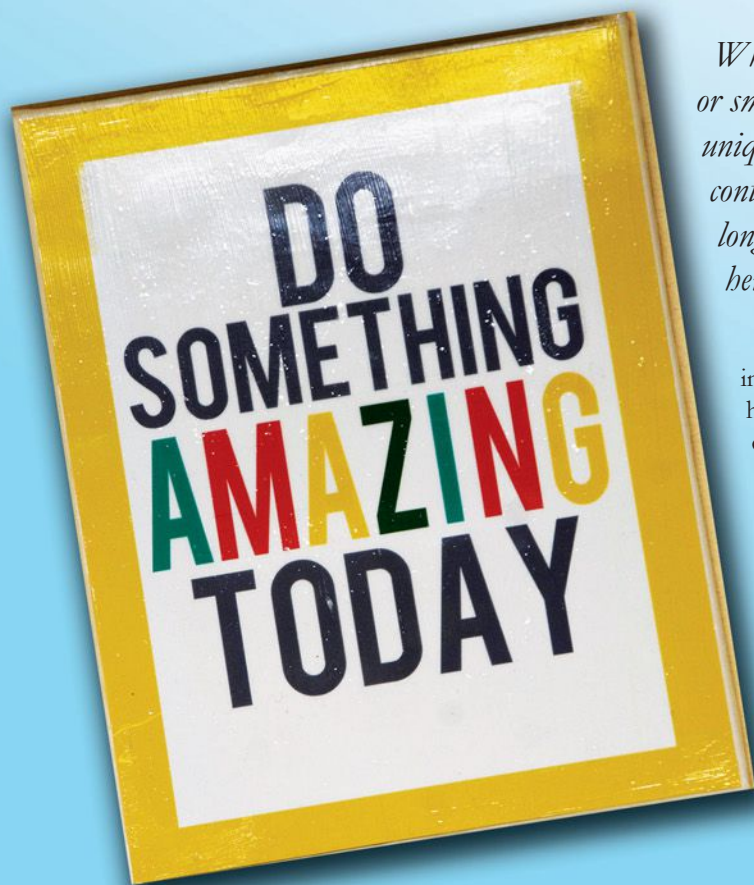
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Sole Mate

— By Sara Edgell



Whether the footprints people leave in their wake are large or small, the fact remains that each person makes their own unique impression on the world and those they come in contact with. Intentional or not, the mark we make can be long lasting and powerful. For Stacy Stockdale, the deeper her footprints the better.

Stacy has a distinctively energetic way about her that draws people in. To say she's quirky is too generic. She is a true original, shaping her own path in life and on her own terms. Growing up, she was co-parented by her mother, Cheryl Stockdale, and her dad, Steve Stockdale; and her grandparents, Forrest and Carol Latimer. Carol was constantly painting and making quilts, while Forrest doted on Stacy, offering praise and positive reinforcement in her childhood endeavors. Cheryl taught her to care about others by demonstrating selflessness, while Stacy gives her dad credit for some of her creativeness, too.

Stacy inherited Carol's artistic streak. Although painting and sewing are not among Stacy's repertoire, she has a visual aesthetic that includes skills in photography and graphic design. "They are my outlet," Stacy said.

Being reared by such creative, strong and caring individuals has proven invaluable. Stacy has developed an originality and



gentleness that is deeply engrained in her character. She was fortunate to have opportunities that helped inspire her. Today, she endeavors to inspire others.

It was in 2008 when Stacy realized her dream career. She became a high school graphic arts teacher for Red Oak ISD after working in the business world for a few short years. "It just wasn't for me at all," Stacy admitted, although her degree is in business. "I thought, *I'll try teaching, and if it doesn't work, I'll try something else.*"

In her tenure at Red Oak High School, Stacy has dabbled in a variety of clubs, committees and organizations. She was the cheer coach and worked as an adviser for the school's Renaissance program, a reward system for students geared toward encouraging good grades and



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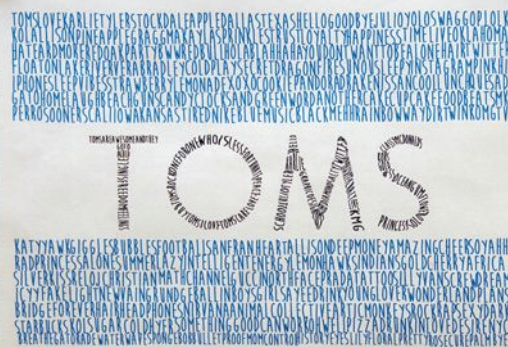
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attendance. Stacy has also been a senior class sponsor for several years where she helps plan the prom.

Her most significant contribution has been her involvement with TOMS Shoes. Stacy registered her school with the organization in order to be a part of the annual nationwide event known as One Day Without Shoes, which helps raise awareness for children's global health and educational issues. For the past four years, she has headed up a committee of students that brings this big event to the Red Oak community. Since Stacy and her team cannot go all day long without shoes on, they hold an annual one-mile walk on the same day as the nationwide event. Students and community members gather at ROHS and walk barefoot to Red Oak Park where yoga, live music and a variety of other activities are enjoyed.

Preparation for the walk involves much more than arranging a simple shoe-free walk. The team spends time making posters and banners, fundraising, selling T-shirts and spreading the word by making a promotional video. This is where her background in business proves useful. Tons of planning and organizing go into the event, requiring a commitment of time and resources.



Stacy takes it all in stride, because it's about getting her students involved in something for the greater good. "The kids really get into it. They just love it," she enthused.

Stacy found that TOMS was actually a natural path to pursue for leaving her mark at her school. "I was looking for a community project to start at ROHS, where the kids could get involved," she said. "I noticed that most of the kids were wearing TOMS, and I loved my TOMS, so it was perfect."

Her inspiration came from reading *Start Something that Matters* by Blake Mycoski. The book left her profoundly inspired and ready to take action. "I was trying to really do something with my life. Teaching is huge, but I wanted to do even more," Stacy commented. By encouraging her students to participate in the One Day Without Shoes event, she has helped open their eyes to the effects of poverty worldwide. The program allows her students to put "hands and feet" to what they learn in the classroom. Once they studied about the TOMS program, starting a TOMS Club on campus was just a natural extension of what she had been teaching. "I wanted to get my kids excited to help, and they were all for it."

Although she's personally invested, her main priority in this annual endeavor is to offer students the chance to be involved in a cause bigger than themselves. "My passion is teaching," she shared, "but I want to instill goodness in my kids."

Stacy understands that instilling these things in her students doesn't always require a large-scale event. In her classroom, she offers up tidbits of advice, such as treating the elderly with consideration and respect, not littering and not speeding — whatever pops into



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her head at the time becomes a mini-life lesson. Because she talks to her students and listens to what they say, she knows how to connect with them.

Stacy understands how to be relevant in students' fast-paced lives by implementing an old-school policy — honesty. When one of her students was killed in a car accident, it was through open lines of communication that Stacy was able to reach her students. "I was honest with them," she said. "I told them I'm angry and hurting, too. But we healed together, because we talked and got through it together."



Even though she loves where she teaches, the big city scene also has her heart. Stacy is drawn there because of her love of photography and for experiencing the hustle and bustle of city life. In fact, traveling, especially to New York and Chicago, is one of her favorite pastimes. And two years ago on a vacation to Chicago, Stacy met her fiancé, Chris, on a subway headed to a Cubs game. Baseball, big cities and public transit are now forever linked to her life, similar to her seemingly random tidbits of classroom advice.

Stacy is a teacher and a mentor whose passion is to foster kindness in her students. Being there for her kids is what it's all about: talking to them, listening to them, being invested in their lives. Everything she does in the classroom is rooted in her desire to pass on something meaningful to her students.

Movement and progress are strong themes in Stacy's life. They can be seen in her relentless drive to succeed through grace and compassion. Whether it's a one-step-at-a-time pace, or running full speed, the footprints Stacy makes are ones she hopes will be lasting. **NOW**

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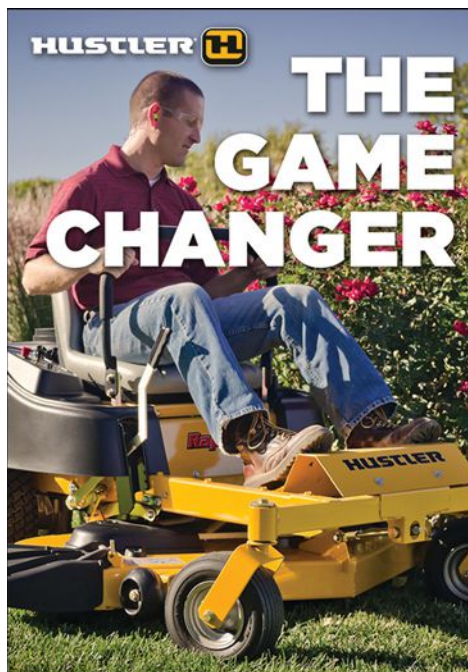
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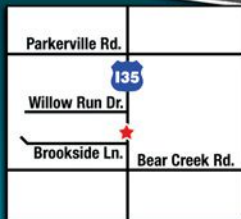
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Making *Her* Move

At Home With Linda Frazier

—By Angel Morris



Red Oak was considered the “big city” to Linda Frazier, who, growing up in the neighboring small town of Bristol, ran track and was a cheerleader for Ferris High School. Graduating in 1969, Linda married her husband, Stephen, that same year. Fast forward more than three decades to 2002 when Linda made the move to Red Oak. Today, she can’t imagine calling anywhere else home.

“I grew up in the country and lived there most of my life,” Linda recalled. “When I moved here I didn’t know anyone. I bought the house knowing if I didn’t like living in the area, it would have great resale value because of its location and the fact that it has four bedrooms.”

Ultimately, it became clear the move was a good one. “I bought this larger home so my mother could live with me in her later years,” Linda explained. “Also, to have friends and family stay with me whenever they wish was a consideration. Both my son and daughter have lived with me at one time or another, and

I have loved having them here.”

The house’s pink-tone brick and inset porch, framed by 10 trees around the yard and professional landscaping, welcome guests. A tiled entry features decorative pieces collected by Linda through the years, with formal living and dining rooms to the right of the foyer. An etched glass front door allows sunshine to pour in, highlighting a six-seat cherry dining room table and matching hutch where pieces from various relatives sit, such as her mother’s antique platter and tea pitcher, and salt and pepper shakers.

Linda uses family mementos to make the house a home, including her mother’s antique sewing kit, along with her father’s weathered cowboy hat and a playbill from her daughter’s time in high school theater.

“The picture above my fireplace in the family room was my grandmother’s,” Linda said of another cherished piece. “It was purchased by my grandmother the year I was born and hung on her wall until her death. Now I’m proud to display it in my own home.”

Offsetting the dark wood look of the family room’s Pergo flooring, the kitchen is tiled and boasts blond cabinets with space at the top for decor items. A center island offers additional



storage, while a breakfast nook and bar look back into the family room.

A front bedroom serves as Linda's office, but the fourth bedroom is where she really works — creating routines for the Jazzercise classes she leads at Empowering Word Christian Center. Though a fitness student for 26 years, it wasn't until her career as a field representative for Elk Corporation ended that she decided to teach others the joys of exercise.

"I was traveling the U.S., working on warranty claims and giving seminars to contractors, roofers, builders, etc., and was laid off after 24 years," Linda recalled. "I worked elsewhere for a year-and-a-half, then decided to go with my passion."

Today, another of Linda's passions is babysitting her grandson several days a week. Being certified to perform CPR

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and having training in nutrition make her one well-qualified grandmother. Good physical and mental well-being are also key to keeping up with the grandchildren, she said.

Linda also stays on the go giving back to the community that embraced her after the 2001 loss of her husband following his three-year battle with colon cancer. "I gained a whole new circle of friends with the women I met in Red Oak when I moved here just a year after Stephen's

death," Linda recalled.

From Red Oak Rehabilitation Center to the city's Founder's Day Parade, Linda can often be found visiting and volunteering. Those who know her look forward to new experiences Linda organizes, such as safety awareness and self-defense programs via local service groups. "I organized the Ovilla Police Department and Ellis County Civil Defense groups to share lessons, and they were very well-received. I can't wait

to do that again," Linda said.

Linda also makes time to volunteer with the Chamber of Commerce and area Meals on Wheels. She enjoys time with her grown children and grandchildren, and feels blessed to have found her purpose in life. After a busy day, she enjoys coming home to her relaxing master bedroom.

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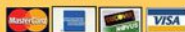
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it when we first married," Linda said. "I have two armoires in this bedroom. I guess I must love armoires, because I have another in the third bedroom and two in the garage that I use for storage!"

In her free time, Linda enjoys events with a group of Red Oakians who have become like family. They have an annual Christmas party and attend Cedar Valley College plays in fall and summer. They play Bunko monthly and often meet at a local eatery just to catch up on life. Several also attend the Cowboy Church of Ellis County together, and Linda's home is the site of a regular Bible group.

"We are like one big family," Linda observed. "If someone has to move or their job time changes and we don't see them as often, they are still considered one of the group!"

Although settling into "big city" life took some getting used to for this small-town native, Linda is happy she made Red Oak home a dozen years ago. "I was used to commuting 28 miles one way and 28 miles back home," Linda recalled. "I



only went to the store twice a month, because it was so far away. I still have to remind myself I'm just five minutes away from everything I need now!"

With fulfilling work and a warm, welcoming home, Linda Frazier said she is living proof you can always begin again. "I tell people that no matter their age, they can start something to improve their lives. And once they do, they are going to feel better and have more energy and enjoy life more," Linda said. "As for me, I plan to be busy until I fall into the grave, and I plan to be in Red Oak the rest of my life. I love the city and my neighborhood, and I wouldn't want to leave all the wonderful friends I've made — plus I'd miss my trees!" **NOW**

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A CLASSY HOOD

— By Jill Rose

When it comes to home improvement, most people believe you have to spend a large amount of money to make much difference. The reality is, some of the projects with the most impact on your home have the least impact on your wallet. One such project around my house involved replacing an over-the-stove microwave cabinet with a custom hood for the range for less than \$50.

The inspiration for this project came from a beautiful range hood I saw online. As beautiful as this range hood was, the price was not. The cost of this particular range hood was around \$700. With a few materials, you can create a similar hood for a fraction of the cost.



What you need based on a 16-inch range hood:

- 1 4 ft. x 8 ft. birch plywood panel: **\$10.67**
 - 1 1 in. x 2 in. x 8 ft. support board: **\$2.61**
 - 1 1 in. x 3 in. x 8 ft. pine board (for top front facing): **\$5.43**
 - 1 1 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pine board (for bottom front facing): **\$8.64**
 - 2 8 ft. lattice pieces: **\$7.28**
 - LIQUID NAILS construction adhesive: **\$2.52**
 - 8 ft. trim pieces (quantity and style based on personal preference): **\$8.52**
- Vent: N/A

Total: \$45.67!

Note: The cost of the vent is not included in the project costs as it varies by make and model. Also, this cost doesn't include the crown molding. I was replacing all of that on my cabinets anyway, so I already had it on hand.



Step 1: Determine and purchase the type of vent you need.

Depending on the type of venting currently provided by your microwave, you will either need a recirculating vent or an external vent. A recirculating vent takes air, steam or other materials, passes them through a filter and reintroduces them into the room as fresh air. An external vent takes these same materials and removes them to the outside of your home using a venting system. For my particular situation, I needed a recirculating vent. To determine the correct size, measure the width and depth of your space, subtract approximately 4 inches from the depth and width and use that number as a guide.

Note: You do not want a vent the width of your cabinet, because you will be unable to build a box to hold it.





Step 2: Remove the existing microwave and cabinet structure.

Note: Before beginning this project, move your stove so it does not get damaged.

After removing the microwave, remove the cabinet doors. Next, remove the bottom of the cabinet, as well as the front support piece. If your cabinets are individual units, you can simply take the cabinet off the wall. In my situation, the

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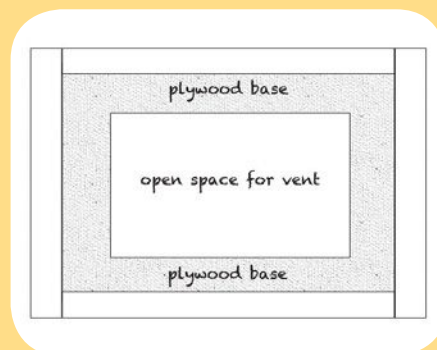
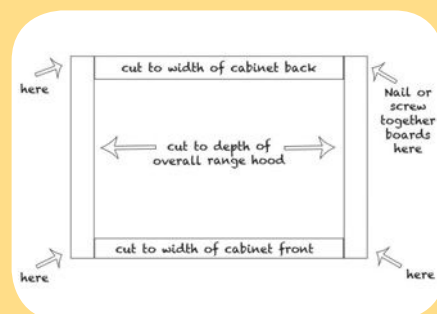
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middle cabinet was a part of a single cabinet unit.

Step 3: Determine the depth of your range hood.

Most range hoods have a depth between 16 and 24 inches. The size you pick will be based upon your preference, but generally you want to make sure it extends far enough to partially cover your front burner.

Step 4: Build a box for your vent.



Measure the width of your cabinets in the front and the back. (They should be the same, but can be off by about 1/2 inch.) Cut two support beams to this width. Next, cut two support beams to the overall depth you decided on for the range hood. (For me it was 16 inches.) Attach the supports together, creating a box frame. Do this outside of the cabinet space (in your workshop).

Next, cut a 3/4-inch thick piece of plywood to the overall width and length of the finished box frame. Set the vent on top of the plywood and draw an outline. Cut out the outlined section. Attach the plywood to the bottom of the box frame.

Step 5: Attach the vent.

Attach the box frame to the cabinet. Attach the vent to the supports. (Your user's manual should suggest the best way to do this.) Install the vent, i.e. plug it in, attach the outside venting, if needed, etc.)

Step 6: Create the front facings and supports.



Using the 1 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pine board, create the front facing for the bottom support. The front facing should be roughly 1/2 inch longer than the support and should be mitered to 45 degrees on both ends. Next, measure the amount of exposed supports on the side and cut front facing for each side (continuing to use the 1 in. x 4 in. x 8 ft. pine board). Miter the edges. Attach the facing to the support using a nail gun.

Using the 1 in. x 3 in. x 8 ft. pine board, create the top front facing for your cabinet frame. (The top face front should be the same length as the bottom face front and should also be mitered at the ends.) Depending on how far the top face front sticks out, you will need to cut side face fronts for the upper section as well using the remaining 1 in. x 3 in. x 8 ft. pine board. Attach the facing to the support using a nail gun.

Measure the length between the top and bottom face front, and cut three support beams to that size using the 1 in. x 2 in. x 8 ft. support board. Attach them to the back of the face fronts using a nail gun. (I mitered the ends of the boards, so they can be attached just behind the face fronts.)

After adding the supports, measure the open area from the outside of the left support to the outside of the right support and from the top face front to



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the bottom. Using these measurements, cut out a plywood square. Attach the plywood to the supports using a nail gun. Because the hood is slanted, the plywood should sit right behind both the upper and lower face fronts.

Next, determine the angle of the side pieces. For lack of a better option, I folded a piece of cardboard over the side and then cut the cardboard to size. Trace out the pattern on a piece of plywood and cut. Attach side pieces to the supports using a nail gun.

Step 7: Add the finishing touches.



After attaching the sides, sand the entire range hood. Next, cut two pieces of lattice to the width of the center plywood area, making sure to miter them on the edges.

Measure the length between the upper and lower lattice pieces and cut five pieces of lattice to this length. Attach in equally spaced segments across the front of the plywood. Make sure you have a piece of lattice on each edge — this will help disguise those imperfect side pieces.

After caulking and filling in the nail holes, sand, prime and paint. That's it! Total time, start to finish was about four hours. **NOW**

Editor's note: For more information, please visit: www.therozyhome.com/2013/09/26/custom-range-hood-for-less-than-50/.



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— By Angel Morris

Marking its 50th anniversary in 2013, Walker Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. has been a family-owned business from the start. Three Walker generations know the business inside and out, meeting Ellis County and surrounding communities' air conditioning and heating needs both commercially and residentially. Whether it's a new installation, routine maintenance or immediate repairs, Walker Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. can satisfy your every HVAC need.

"We pay attention to details, because it's our family name on the line," owner Ricky Walker said. "Our goal is to offer the most responsive service and give the best indoor air quality to all our customers. Our goal is 100 percent customer

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Whether a client needs to upgrade an existing A/C unit, repair a furnace or put in a completely new system in a new home, Walker AC installs all makes and models including: TRANE, Lennox, Carrier, Rheem and more. The company specializes in high-efficiency equipment, variable speed equipment and programmable Wi-Fi thermostats.

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"We pay attention to details, because it's our family name on the line. Our goal is to offer the most responsive service and give the best indoor air quality to all our customers."

Walker Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. knows the importance of indoor air quality beyond keeping its customers' homes cool. HVAC units can improve the air people breathe, and the business inspects systems to determine where air quality can be improved. "We can look at ways to increase airflow and eliminate common pollutants," Ricky pointed out. "We offer a wide range of air filtration systems and air balance systems to maximize your indoor air quality."

Besides installations, repairs and quality checks, Walker Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc. offers duct cleaning and zone systems. Proper maintenance agreements can extend the life of HVAC units, and zone systems allow customers to control temperatures room by room. Both options can save customers money in the long run.

These are just some of the ways Walker AC takes care of their residential and commercial customers. "We also specialize in rooftop units and package units, as well as the maintenance and repairs for new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems," Ricky said. "Whatever your HVAC needs, whether it's for your home or business, your comfort is our No. 1 goal." **NOW**



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Kayla Brock, Taylor Lynch and Chloe Davis pose during the Countdown to Graduation 2014 Project Graduation party.



Red Oak Volunteers in Policing receive training from Investigator Brian Ingram on the safety of social media and how to keep kids safe on the Internet.



School board members Mark Stanfill and Henry Lozano and their wives, Karen and Leigh Ann, support the ROISD Education Foundation.



Ellis County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ken Hatcher and Red Oak Officer Nathan Bickerstaff raise Special Olympics' funds via Red Robin's Tip A Cop program.



Red Oak Junior High award-winning One-Act Play participants and their trophies.



Justuff Creations owners Cindy Iverson and Maya Culwell are presented their Chamber membership plaque by Chamber Board President Doug Hunt.



Red Oak's Madison Chilcutt gets a surprise delivery of roses at school from her biggest fan — her dad.



Theron Brown of Glenn Heights shows he's ready for spring as his school prepares flower beds for gardening.

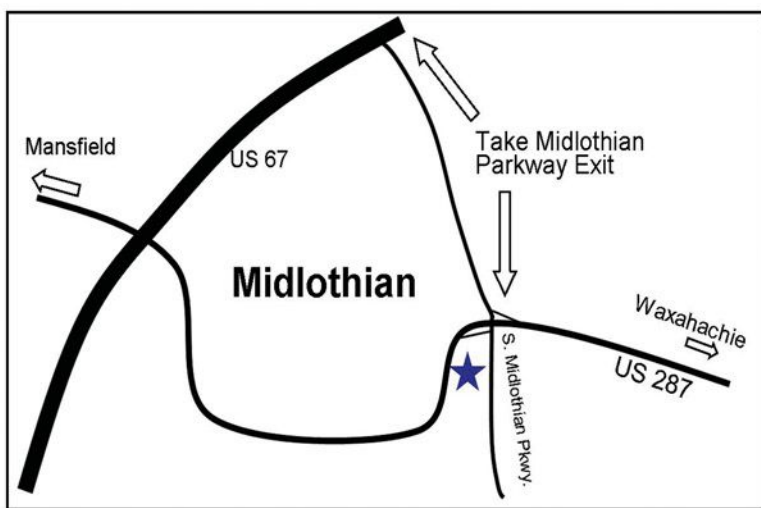


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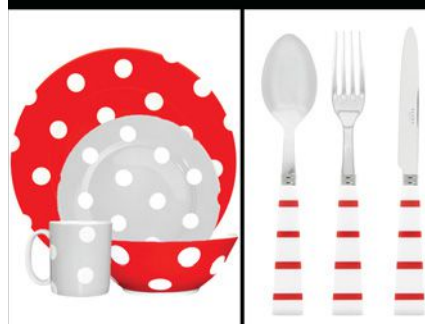
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April 4, 5

Spring Cleanup: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., 2118 S. Uhl Rd. (near water tower), Glenn Heights. Containers available for residents to dispose of household trash and debris at no charge. A brush chipper and secure sensitive document paper shredder available onsite **Saturday**, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (972) 223-3478.

April 5

Clean Up Day: 8:00 a.m.-noon, city hall, 301 Locust Dr., Oak Leaf. Dumpsters for household trash, debris and bulky items (no overly large items allowed). Brush — free of nails and debris and no larger than six inches in diameter — will be piled for mulch chipping. (972) 617-2660 for more guidelines.

Second Annual Business & Home

Improvement Expo: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Red Oak High School Cafeteria, 122 SH 342. Vendors, giveaways, prizes, food. Free admission with a canned good donation. redoakchamber.com.

April 12

Earth Day Cleanup: All day, Mutz Park, 201 E 10th St., Ferris. Park Board, ISD, Boy Scouts and Waste management Services coordinate

a creek cleanup, mulch making event, tree planting and Earth Day booth exhibits for the entire family. (972) 842-2923 or cityofferristexas.org to volunteer or learn more.

Church Garage Sale: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Ovilla United Methodist Church. All proceeds go to fund the mission work at OUMC. Contact Marcie Mayer at (972) 617-0347 regarding donating items.

Egg Scramble: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Heritage Park, 400 E. Bear Creek Rd., Glenn Heights. Sponsored by Glenn Heights police and fire departments, this children's egg hunt features free train rides and, of course, the Easter Bunny.

April 13 — 20

Holy Week: Times vary by day, Ovilla United Methodist Church, 1403 Red Oak Creek Rd. Activities throughout week leading to Easter, beginning Palm Sunday, April 13, with services and Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45 a.m. Seder Meal, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday events are set, along with a prayer vigil the night before Easter. Easter sunrise and two more worship services. ovillaumc.org.

April 18

Hunt & Sip Easter Egg Hunt: 4:00-6:00 p.m., Sugar Ridge Winery, 353 Sugar Ridge Rd., Bristol. Bring a dozen eggs for your child to hunt. Eggs will be combined together for all to share. (972) 666-2888 or sugarridgewinery.com.

April 25

Annual Cleanup Day: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Westlawn at Cockrell Hill vacant lot north of City Hall, Ovilla. Proof of residency required. Identification must be presented at the gate. Driver's license and/or city of Ovilla water bill are the accepted forms of ID. (972) 617-7262 or bpiland@cityofovilla.org.

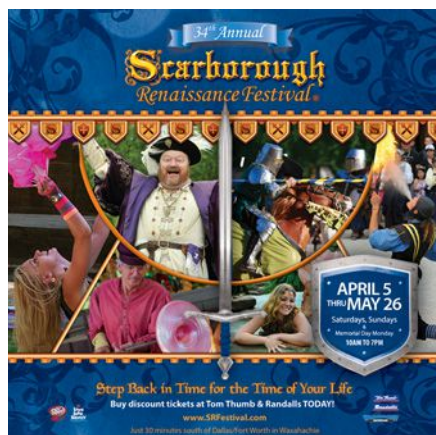
April 26

DIA: Diversity in Action: 3:00-5:00 p.m., Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Library and ROISD host multicultural storyteller, cultural games and activities, food samples, book giveaways, door prizes and performances. (469) 218-1230.

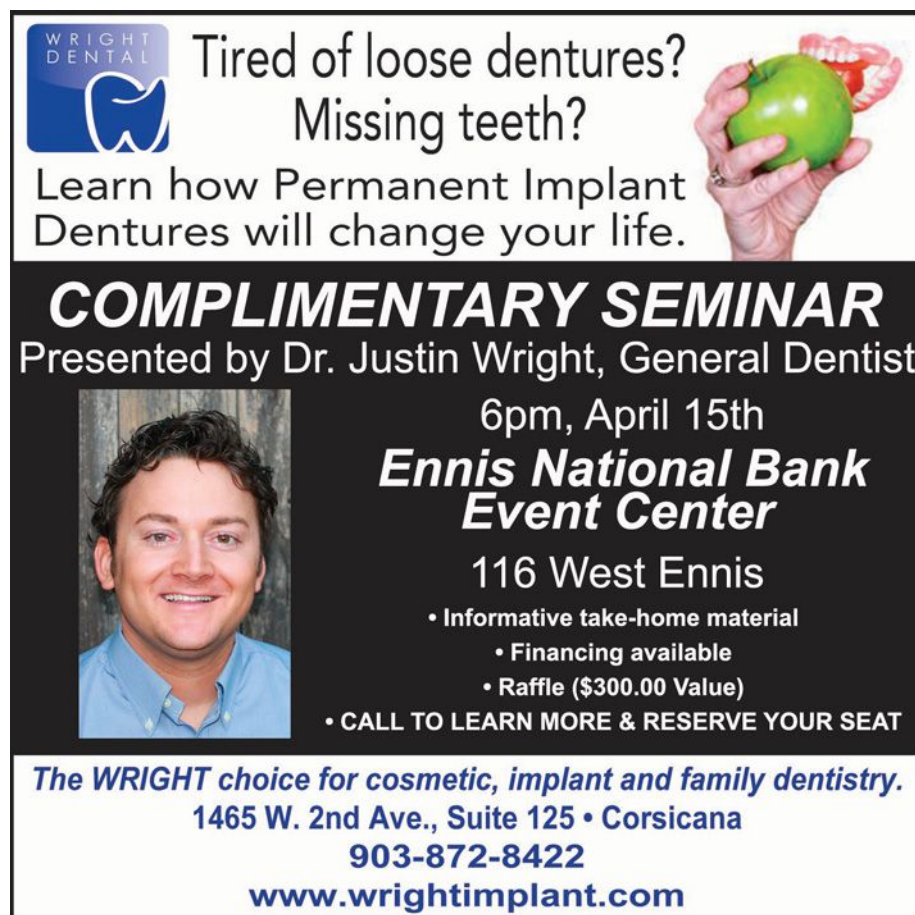
Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to angel.morris@nowmagazines.com.



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In the Kitchen With Joe Bob and Gayle Gray

— By Angel Morris

As empty nesters, Joe Bob and Gayle Gray like “putting on the feedbag” for guests. “Both our parents and grandparents always had food prepared and insisted visitors eat!” Gayle recalled. Former owners of Joe Bob’s Grill in Ferris, Joe Bob enjoys smoking meats while Gayle makes the sides.

They tweak new recipes but stand by family favorites. “I have my mother’s metal card tin of recipes,” Gayle said. “We have cookbooks featuring Joe Bob’s aunt’s recipes.”

When not traveling or enjoying fellowship at First Baptist CenterPoint Church, the Grays share their love of cooking. “Both our children are good cooks, and I’d like to think I had a little influence on them,” Gayle said. “I’ve had cooking sessions with grandchildren and nieces, too?” **NOW**

Banana Nut and Cream Cheese Muffins

Yields 24 muffins.

- 3/4 cup butter, softened**
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 2 large eggs**
- 3 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder**
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 1/2 cups mashed bananas (about 4 medium bananas)**
- 1 cup chopped pecans, toasted**
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract**

- 1.** Beat butter and cream cheese at medium speed with electric mixer until creamy. Gradually add sugar, beating until light and fluffy.
- 2.** Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating after each addition, just until blended.

- 3.** Combine flour and next 3 ingredients; gradually add to butter mixture, beating at low speed just until blended.
- 4.** Stir in bananas, pecans and vanilla. Spoon evenly into 24 paper-lined muffin cups.
- 5.** Bake at 350 F for 25 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes. Remove from pans, and cool completely on wire racks.

Ham and Cheese Quiche

- 4 eggs**
- 1 cup half-and-half cream**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 tsp. pepper**
- 1/4 tsp. nutmeg**
- 6 oz. deli ham, chopped**
- 3/4 cup grated Swiss cheese**
- 1/4 cup canned mushrooms, drained and chopped**
- 2 Tbsp. onion, chopped**

- 1.** In a blender, blend first five ingredients.
- 2.** In a 9-inch unbaked pie shell, add last four ingredients.
- 3.** Pour egg mixture over ham and cheese mixture. Cover edge of crust with foil to prevent over browning, and bake at 350 F for 50-55 minutes.

Grilled Romaine and Dressing

Dressing:

- 6 cloves garlic, peeled**
- 1 tsp. kosher salt**
- 1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice**
- 1 tsp. capers**
- 1 Tbsp. sherry vinegar**
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 1/2 tsp. hot sauce (recommended: Tabasco)**
- 6 anchovy fillets and 1/2 tsp. of their oil**
- 1/2 to 3/4 cup olive oil, plus more for grilling romaine**

Romaine:

- 3 romaine hearts, halved lengthwise, washed and dried**
- Kosher salt, to taste**
- 1 lemon, juiced**
- 20 basil leaves, washed and dried**
- 1 cup crumbled blue cheese, for garnish**

- 1.** Preheat grill to medium.
- 2. For dressing:** In a blender combine garlic, salt, lemon juice, capers and vinegar. Blend until smooth.
- 3.** Add Worcestershire, hot sauce, anchovies and 1/2 cup olive oil and blend until smooth. Taste for seasoning. Add remaining olive oil, if needed. Set aside.
- 4. For Romaine:** In a large bowl, toss 4 romaine halves in a little olive oil and season with salt. Put in a single layer on the grill and cook 3 minutes.
- 5.** Turn and cook other side for 3 additional minutes. Romaine should feel slightly warm and tender.
- 6.** Transfer halves to large platter. Spoon a little dressing on each.
- 7.** On a flat surface, finely chop remaining romaine and add to medium bowl. Add remaining vinaigrette, touch of lemon juice and basil leaves. Toss to coat romaine.
- 8.** Top with some of the chopped, dressed romaine. Garnish with crumbled blue cheese and serve immediately.

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

A close-up photograph of a man and a woman embracing. The woman, in the foreground, has short dark curly hair and is wearing a yellow top and a silver hoop earring. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth. The man's face is partially visible on the left, also smiling. The background is a bright, out-of-focus outdoor scene.

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