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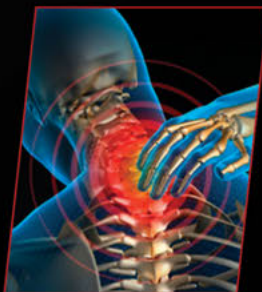
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North Ellis Co. Editor, Jill Martinez

Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong

Editorial Assistant, Rachel Smith

Writers, Debbie Durling

Virginia Riddle . Betty Tryon

Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony

Shannon Pfaff

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla

Artists, Kristin Bato . Morgan Christensen

Martha Macias . Brande Morgan

Anthony Sarmienta

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose

Photography Coordinator, Amy Ramirez

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CONTENTS

April 2017 • Volume 12, Issue 4

8



ON THE COVER



They like to have good, clean fun at the Lone Star Cowboy Church.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

8 A Wild West Vision

This gunfighters' group keeps the cowboy way of life alive.

16 House on the Creek

At Home With John and Windy Zabochnik.

22 Reaching Out, Lifting Up

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is bringing hope to the needy.



28 BusinessNOW

30 Around TownNOW

36 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

What does spring mean to you?

For some, spring means enjoying the myriad flowers that bloom. My personal favorite is the tulip. I try to visit the Dallas Arboretum just about every spring to enjoy their gardens chock-full of blooms. I enjoy our Texas wildflowers as well. If you do, too, make sure to take a trip to Ennis this month and visit the Bluebonnet Trails.

For others, spring means celebrating Easter. Some of us will commemorate it with chocolate and egg hunts, while others will take in religious services. Many of us will enjoy both!

Whatever you choose, I hope that you enjoy springtime. May you resurrect your New Year's resolutions if need be. May you be refreshed and renewed!

Have a wonderful month!

Jill

Jill Martinez

North Ellis Co. NOW Editor

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AWILD



On any given Sunday, when attending the Lone Star Cowboy Church of Red Oak, a unique form of entertainment may follow worship. In fact, Barry Collinsworth and the rest of the gang are committed to worshiping through their talent of bringing the Wild West to life.

About six years ago, a few members of the church formed the Lone Star Cowboy Church Gunfighters. "We were all born a century too late," Barry said with a chuckle. After church or at special events, out they come, ready to brawl, Wild West style. This drama group has become popular in these parts. The towns of Ferris, Red Oak, Glenn Heights, Gun Barrel City, Alvarado and Cleburne have invited them to add to the Cowboy Church atmosphere. Recreating the past so well has also gotten them invited to go out of state to Colorado, Arkansas and Montana.

Taking cues from the mid-1800s, the group is careful to keep costumes and props true to the time period. Barry, an insurance salesman, dresses like a cowboy every day, even for work. He loves to share the Gospel and have fun at the same time. A few years ago, he ventured to Africa on a mission trip. He visited a tribe that was so remote they had never heard the Gospel. The chief received the

— By Debbie Durling

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message and invited Barry back. "This encounter changed my life," he said. "I realized how rewarding it is to share the Good News with others and see their lives changed." Now he is doing the same and using the Wild West and humor to do it.

Carl Smith, who is employed at the Wayne Boze and Midlothian Funeral Homes, plays an undertaker from the 1800s and sometimes Doc Holliday. The casket used in the show for fallen gunfighters is also true to the time period. Billie Edwards plays a gunfighter, and Donald Butler takes the role of a banker, as well as various other needed roles.

Women are part of the team, as well. Stacy Lopez helps the ladies find the things they need to wear, which are also true to the period. They call themselves "The Hussies," but can be dressed as any characters from saloon girls to schoolmarm. They consider themselves the "decoration" for the western scenes. They help draw attention to the show.

The mission statement of the group is: To honor God, keep the cowboy way of life, break trail for the lost, ride for the brand and follow the star — the Lone Star. "Just like our church, we don't turn anyone away," Barry said. Three different people have actually joined the act and then committed their lives to Christ as a result. The group baptized them in a horse trough, as they do in most Cowboy Churches.

Opportunities seem to keep expanding to a diversity of gatherings. A full western town set that can be put together in just a few hours accompanies the group to many of their events. Producing





shows for schools allows children a firsthand look at the American Old West, as well as lessons on gun safety. At times, they have been asked to do salutes for people who have passed away. They have enjoyed being part of the entertainment at weddings, as well as escorting the wedding party with shotguns. Birthdays or any other festive events take on a whole new flare when these guys are involved. Not long ago, Randy Travis heard about the Lone Star Cowboy Church of Red Oak and wanted to come show his support. "The Lone Star Cowboys became his security detail," Barry stated. They also participate in the Ferris Brick Festival and Heritage Days each year.

Last year, they were invited to do a show at the Red Oak Pioneer Days. Billie Dickerson played the town drunk. This 24-year-old did an amazing job of faking his condition. Carrying a jug that had no whiskey, just tea, he ventured into the audience. He sat down with a lady in the audience who began to drink from the jug, too, and get "drunk." It was highly entertaining as no one knew it was his mom, and there was no whiskey.

When they set up the western town set, an authentic outhouse from the time period is always part of the show. "During one show," Barry remembered, "Billy Edwards left the other cowboys playing cards and eating beans and ran into the outhouse. Well, it was part of the show for the outhouse to blow up. However, Billy had a few surprises in mind for everyone." As part of the act, the cowboys kept yelling for him to come out and rejoin the card game. They threw a fake stick of dynamite into the outhouse to encourage him to get out of there. Then he was supposed to trigger the dynamite sound from inside, and the

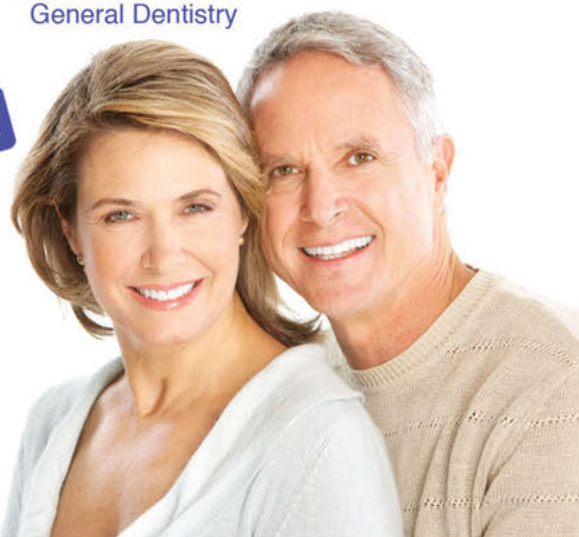
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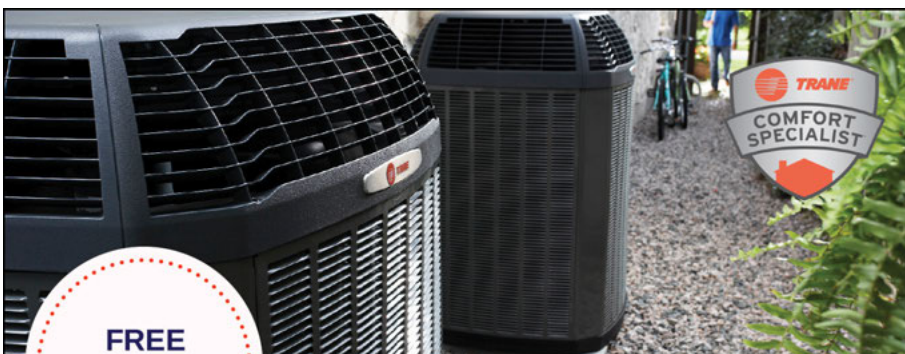
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walls would fall out with smoke rising up. As all this happened, Billy had some candy bars that he threw up in the air, along with a good amount of water. "It really looked as if things were blowing out of the toilet," Barry explained. "The rest of the gang was so shocked and stunned, they were speechless."

Once a fellow church member was going through a difficult time and had been out for a while. He was not talking to anyone and would not answer the phone. So, the Lone Star Gunfighters showed up on his doorstep. They kidnapped him and took him back in time. Around an old-fashioned campfire with a bunch of old cowboys, he was able to share his problems, and they listened. He is now back in church, and the difficulties he was having in his life worked out perfectly as he reconnected with the Lord and with his friends.

The Gunfighters' team has a vision for the future. They want to create a permanent Old West setup on the church property. Barry and his wife, Terry, already serve on the church's Food Pantry ministry, but they would like to make the food pantry part of a western town along with other similar services for the community. They would like to see schools take field trips to walk through the Old West and see what it was like. Gun safety is also something they want to incorporate into their community service in the town they hope to build. With a love of the past and a vision for the future, these men and women are committed to lighting up the church with fun and laughter, as they bring the Old West to life and faith to the heart. **NOW**



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HOUSE ON THE CREEK

— By Virginia Riddle

AT HOME WITH JOHN AND WINDY ZABOJNIK



Howling coyotes, the occasional visiting raccoons and rabbits and native birds of all different species co-inhabit John and Windy Zabojnik's tree-covered lot with its backyard creek. A circular drive leads to the welcoming porch set within the multi-hued brick, English Tudor manor-style home. Diamond-shaped metal grids within the front windows affirm that this home is very different. "When we started looking for a home, it was the house that didn't look like all the rest," Windy remembered.



She grew up in Silverton, Texas, graduated from Texas Tech University and then went to graduate school at West Texas A&M University. But this West Texas girl moved to the Dallas area, and being a fourth generation real estate agent, she became the owner of a home in Keller. Meanwhile, John was growing up in Lancaster, and following his high school graduation, he went to work for Andrews Distributing Company

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working his way up the ladder from driver to general sales manager over the past 25 years. It was their work that brought them together at where else, but an East Dallas liquor store!

Windy's part-time job at the time was in liquor promotions, so she was making a call at the store when John, as a district sales manager, was checking on his account. "We were friends for one-and-a-half years, but then we became engaged after three months of dating and got married six months after that," Windy

said. Their wedding took place at her dad's home in Mission, Texas, eight years ago.

John's bachelor pad in Grapevine sold easily, and after settling into married life in Windy's home, which she put on the market, the couple set out to find a perfect home for themselves and their now 6-year-old daughter, Madeline, and the family dog, Guinness (named for the beer, naturally). Windy, currently a real estate agent with her dad's firm, The Real Estate Company, led the search. "We looked online for a while," John recalled.

"We fell in love with Ovilla, and John loved the trees and creek," Windy said. "I loved this home's fireplace." The family moved into their new home in March 2011, and set about making improvements and updates that were needed since the home was built in 1985. "We've remodeled the master bedroom and bath and done some touch-ups in other rooms. But, we still have a to-do list that includes remodeling the kitchen and the other bath-and-a-half, removing the carpet and putting in hardwood floors and redoing

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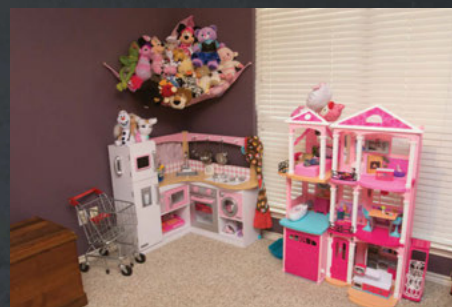
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the deck which overlooks the creek,” Windy explained.

Remodeling takes time and this is a busy family. Windy, who is also a Mary Kay independent beauty consultant, serves as president of the Ovilla Service League; is vice president of the Parent-Teacher Fellowship at Ovilla Christian School, where Madeline is completing her first-grade year; and serves on the Ovilla Parks Board. John serves on the Ovilla Planning and Zoning Commission, but he added, “My volunteering usually has something to do with cooking barbecue for the school or whatever Windy is doing.” John enjoys competing in endurance triathlons, which usually benefit a charity.

John’s cooking is the focus of cookouts that extended family and friends enjoy. “One year, we had about 100 people here for a barbecue cook-off,” John recalled. “We made it an annual event, which kept growing, with 15 to 20 smokers lining the driveway. We had to let the police know what we were doing! We had people that we didn’t even know here.” The annual event continues, but it’s outgrown John and Windy’s home, so it’s been moved to John’s dad’s home and served most recently as a multiple sclerosis fundraiser with barbecue cook-off prizes and raffles. Most of John’s extended family lives in Red Oak while Windy’s sister lives nearby in Midlothian.



“This is our first home together, and we’ve made so many memories raising Madeline in it,” John said. “Our funniest times are spent laughing at Madeline. Our neighbors are great, and Madeline has made friends, so we’re used to a house full of kids on weekends and holidays.”

Their formal dining room table with its window on the world acts, along with the kitchen, as the heart of the home. Madeline does her homework and art projects there. “I like the timed

tests in math; the class hamster, Spice; and art in school,” Madeline said. Her artwork hangs above family photos. The kitchen is decorated in soft gray and white. It features an island and pull-out spice drawer.

“Madeline likes to bake with mom and barbecue with me,” John said. The in-kitchen informal dining room with its turret design and walls of windows offers a beautiful work space for Windy.

The big living room and little living room are divided by the magnificent double sided fireplace. “We use the fireplace a lot in the winter,” Windy said. Comfortable seating, coffee and occasional tables are available in both living areas. Madeline and her friends love to hang blankets in the big living room to create their own imaginative spaces of play. The little living room is also home to the couple’s collection of “everything Texas,” including the saddle Windy received from her dad when a child and the expansive wet bar area. “We use this space as our den/media room,” Windy added.

A door leads to the nearly full-length deck, which overhangs the creek, offering a great view and entertainment space. The master bedroom and bath, redecorated in browns and cream, offer two large, walk-in closets and granite countertops with custom cabinets. “We ripped this whole area out to the studs,” Windy recalled.

Madeline’s bedroom in pink and violet features a play kitchen and Barbie doll house. Figurines line a shelf. “Some of those are from my childhood and some date back to Madeline’s great-grandmothers,” Windy said. Madeline’s collection of stuffed animals, dolls and books complete the room. “She’s the only girl on John’s side of the family,” Windy explained.

A hall bath decorated in green and beige striped wallpaper, a guest bedroom and utility room with Guinness’ crate and a drop-down ironing board complete this wing. Windy pointed out that with the guest bedroom’s door to the deck, there are four doors to the patio they enjoy so much.

“We love Ovilla and Madeline’s school. Everything is so convenient. We’re just three minutes from her school,” Windy said. This family has settled well into their country surroundings by becoming assets to this growing community. **NOW**



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— By Debbie Durling

A beautiful ministry reaches out each week from its present location tucked just behind the Covenant Life Church building on Rogers Street to help the poor or those who are just caught in a difficult time. The ministry — the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Diocesan Council of Dallas, Inc. — is affiliated with St. Joseph's Catholic Church. The Society is currently in the process of securing a new location, so that the good works can continue.

The Society began in Paris in 1833 and exists in over 154 countries, with over 900,000 members reaching out to those in need. It was founded by Frédéric Ozanam and is dedicated to the service of the needy throughout the world. The members of the Society are sent two-by-two into the homes of the poor to respond to their needs. The organization of caring individuals is still much the same as it was then.



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It was in 1992 that St. Joseph's Catholic Church formally organized a conference, which reaches out to the surrounding areas. A group of 20 regular volunteers, known as "Vincetians," come together each week to meet as many needs in the community as the donations provided by parishioners of St. Joseph's and other sources will allow. The students of St. Joseph's Catholic School also get involved by collecting food for the pantry and bringing it to the center. A donation bin sits in the parking lot of the church to collect clothing that the community may want to drop off.


The volunteers consist of all walks of life: professionals, retirees, homemakers and anyone who wants to be part of an outlet for benevolent ministry to the area. They come together on Mondays to sort clothing, restock the pantry and just get the center "in order" for the operations that will occur for the remainder of the week. "This is an area where we really can use help," volunteer Francis Volino said. "It doesn't matter if someone wants to help an hour or a full day. The more hands we have available to us, the quicker we can get the center ready for the needy to come and receive help."

Francis is one of the volunteers who helps with the general operations of the center. Growing up in Holland, she was not raised to share her faith but to keep it more private and let people see her faith by her good deeds. Her parents were very involved in charities, and being involved here has helped her carry on the tradition. She has been truly touched by the people at the center. "They are so open, ready to share about God and always ready to reach out to others," she said. She keeps working faithfully because it's the right thing to do, while also giving her a sense of purpose.


The pantry is open on Thursdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. On Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, the center opens the clothing thrift store from 9:00 a.m.-noon. While they are selling the clothes


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




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to fill another need, the prices stay very low, so anyone can afford them. "One lady came in and needed help buying the clothes," Francis remembered, "so we gave her a voucher to use to purchase the things she needed. She picked out several pairs of jeans and gave back the rest of the money. The center tried to get her to pick out something else, but she refused and told them to please give the rest to someone else who needed it. She only needed the jeans." Francis was so touched. Working at the center has truly built her faith in people.

Financial assistance applications are taken on Thursdays between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Each application is carefully considered, and a home visit is done, just like in the old days, two-by-two. A couple of their volunteers will visit the home and offer encouragement and recommendations to help with whatever situation is being addressed. Many times, they go to help someone and end up leaving with donations of clothes to sell. "Some people may think we just write checks and give them out, but we are so much more," Francis said. "As we steward the parishioners' donations, we are careful to look into all requests and find creative ways to help, besides just monetarily."

Many times, when those seeking help get "back on their feet," they turn around and become donors and/or volunteers. "It's easy to become locked up in misconceptions about the needy in our midst," Lin McNamara, the spiritual advisor of the Society shared. "If you have ever hit a bump in the road and have been the recipient of kind and generous hearts who have been moved to care for a need that you may have or help you through a difficult time, the truth



Martha Gonzalez and Marina Monstanto sort through clothes given by the community.



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that we need each other becomes very real.” Lin knows what it’s like to be raised in a family where hand-me-downs were the norm. Being the second oldest of eight girls definitely had its advantages, whereby, she was the recipient of the dress or jeans before they were worn thin. The biggest gift she remembers ever receiving over the years was the lesson that one man’s trash is another man’s treasure. “Sometimes, we lose sight of this as a people, and as a result, we miss out on the everyday miracles of God in our midst,” Lin admitted.

Lin feels that the Society has blessed her with the opportunity to “pay forward” the benevolence she has received throughout her own life. Many years ago, she stepped out to help sort clothing in the St. Vincent de Paul center. Her main goal was to help the poor. She soon realized she would be the one to receive the greater blessing. The men and women she’s met and spent her time to help have far exceeded any gift of time she’s put forth.

One person the mission helped stands out in the memory of the workers. She was doing fine until a grocery store she worked for began to cut back on hours, so insurance would not be required for all workers. She had three kids to support and wanted to work, but being reduced to a part-time salary was not enough. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul is the hands of the Lord to her and others like her. “The more people join our cause or donate, the more we’re able to help ‘fill the gap’ of hardship, so people can get back on their feet after life throws them a curve,” Francis said.

The volunteers of this Society want people to know they have arms that are open to all those in Waxahachie, Midlothian, Red Oak and the surrounding areas. Everyone can serve, and everyone can come to be served. They will, no doubt, continue to reach out so as to lift others up. **NOW**

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Getting Better With Age

Meeting customer needs with outstanding service is a priority.

— By Jill Martinez

Keith Wolverton's grandfather, H.W. Wolverton, started this family business 78 years ago working on various household appliances in his garage. As technology developed and climate control became popular, he saw an opportunity and switched his priority to air conditioning. All these years later, the Wolverton Air business is still going strong. "We are one of the oldest family-owned and -operated HVAC companies in North Texas because we are dedicated to getting the job done right. We don't sacrifice quality for price, and we make sure our customers are satisfied. That's No. 1 for us," Keith explained.

Having knowledgeable employees is one way the company helps to ensure customer satisfaction. Technicians who work for Wolverton Air are sent to training schools where they

learn the latest techniques for installing and repairing heating, ventilation and air conditioning equipment. "With the EPA's decision to phase out R-22 refrigerant, many existing HVAC systems will become more expensive to maintain and eventually be unserviceable," Keith added. With reputable owners, skilled technicians and a long history of satisfied customers, Wolverton Air is a top-notch company to help homeowners with upgrades.

Wolverton Air offers maintenance contracts to their customers, which gives them a heating and an air conditioning checkup in the respective seasons. Wolverton's skilled technicians, who make sure the equipment is in good working order, inspect HVAC systems. This preventative maintenance

helps to reduce potential repair costs. A detailed list of inclusive services and discounts that accompany a maintenance contract can be found on the company's website.

Homeowners may not realize that Wolverton Air offers a variety of services in addition to general installation and repairs. "We can update thermostat controls, help customers with environmental allergies to improve their air quality, balance humidity levels and even create zoned areas in the house by installing damper systems," Keith said. These are all services that will help to improve comfort levels in the home. Keith often refers to HVAC systems as "comfort systems" because, in his mind, they are designed for exactly that purpose.

Because the company has office locations in Waxahachie and Duncanville, it is able to get service technicians out to homes in a timely manner, making customers happy from the beginning of their experience. The two office locations allow them to service a broad geographical area.

Keith's home base is the Waxahachie office. He works hard to keep himself abreast of the latest HVAC technological trends and building codes for new home construction. In the past, he has held training sessions for home builders in order to help them understand these things. "Things are always changing. We try to stay on top of the latest updates, since we do a lot of work with builders," Keith remarked.

Keith's brother, Matthew, works in the Duncanville location along with their father, Thomas Wolverton, who is still active in the business. Matthew stays current with all the new Wi-Fi thermostats and controls available for today's HVAC systems.

The Wolverton family feels honored to serve so many wonderful people in the area. As a result, they have given back on a number of occasions. "We are members of the area chambers of commerce," Keith informed. "We have sponsored races and advertised on the radio for local sports teams, and we have also worked with Habitat for Humanity and the Duncanville Lions Club." **NOW**

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Ovilla Christian School seniors Destani Warner and Zach Fitch (center) sign college commitment letters to run track at Hardin-Simmons University this fall.



Kyree Rogers, named Co-Defensive Player of the Year, works hard in practices with Coach Derrick Gatson.



Ken Stephenson and his Pekingese, Rusty, go for a ride around Red Oak.



Ferris Library Aide Megan Shaw and Romario Martinez celebrate the 100th day of school at McDonald Elementary.



Arthur Pierot and Hector Alvarez of Guild Mortgage, along with Melissa Sanchez of Cooper Insurers, donates over 100 stuffed animals to The Gingerbread House in Waxahachie.



Mayor Tate (center) joins panel members at the third annual Black History Month program held at Shields Elementary.



Lisa Deese, community development specialist for Meals on Wheels, delivers lunch to Mr. Hermer Babers.



Sandra Crenshaw celebrates her birthday with Elvis at the Red Oak Friends of the Library event.



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Many local citizens attend the annual spaghetti dinner hosted by the Ovilla Service League.

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Head in a Vice

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Whenever someone says, “I have a migraine,” they get instant sympathy. Almost everyone understands that ‘head in a vice’ feeling. Imagine having a severe pounding pain in your head that goes on hour after hour. Life for that person literally comes to a halt. Twelve percent of Americans suffer from migraines. More women than men are likely to be afflicted with this problem.

Not everyone will follow the same pattern or recurrence of these headaches. Some will experience migraines maybe once or twice a year. Others can have migraines almost daily. At its simplest, migraines can be described as having sensory warning signs — increased sensitivity to light and sounds — before excruciating pain. There are four stages identified for a migraine. Not everyone will experience these four stages, and those that do experience them may not have them every time they have a headache. They are prodrome, aura, headache and postdrome.

The prodrome stage has a beginning time span of a few hours or even a couple days before the migraine begins. During the prodrome stage, your emotional state could range from depression to elation and you could experience bowel changes, food cravings and yawning. These first signs could be a signal that a migraine event may be on the way.

Auras are mostly visual disturbances where the person sees flashes of light that may be spots or in a zig zag fashion or maybe even temporary loss of vision. They can also be sensory, motor or verbal

disturbances, such as sensations of tingling or numbing of limbs, difficulty of speech, confusion and odd smells. When the aura begins, the headache is not long behind, although there are incidents of auras without resultant migraine pain. They typically start within one to two hours of the migraine and last from 10 to 60 minutes. They can occur before or during the migraine.

The attack of the headache is the most debilitating part of these stages. Migraines are usually on one side of the head but can become bilateral. Light, sounds, smells or physical activity can make pain worse. The person can experience nausea and vomiting, chills, dizziness and confusion.

Postdrome stage is defined as the time period after the migraine is over. Someone might feel the gamut of emotions, such as euphoria, depression or a sense of being drained over the incident. It may take hours to fully recover from a migraine attack, and you may have difficulty focusing and comprehending.

Ask your physician for a specific plan of action. When medical intervention is necessary, there are a host of health care professionals to help you find relief. **NOW**

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



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April 3

2017 ROISD Bond Election Community Discussion: 6:00 p.m., Watkins Park, Live Oak Rd. This is a public forum. Q&A encouraged. For more information, call (682) 209-7015, email webnotions@yahoo.com, or visit the Red Oak Bond Facebook page.

April 7, 8

Ovilla Christian School's *The Sound of Music*:

April 7: 6:30 p.m. \$10 adults, \$8 children.

April 8: 2:30 p.m., \$5/\$4; 6:30 p.m. dinner, \$20/\$14. Ovilla Christian School. Children 3 and under admitted free (without their own plate at dinner show). Advanced tickets are encouraged for dinner show, as seating is limited. For questions, email joakes@ovillachristianschool.org. To purchase tickets online, visit www.ovillachristianschool.org.

April 8

Journey of Faith Baptist Church's "Sons of Thunder" resurrection production: 6:00 p.m., Eastridge Elementary School. Adults \$20, youth \$15, children \$10, 0-3 years old free. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time or at the door. Call (972) 576-3044 for more information.

April 22

ROISD Foundation's 5K Dash & Birthday Bash: 6:00 p.m., Red Oak High School. Register online at www.redoakisdfoundation.org or at any ROISD campus by **April 6** to guarantee a T-shirt. \$10 fun walk, \$25 5K. Late registration will increase cost. Games and entertainment will be provided.

May 1

Glenn Heights Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament: 7:30 a.m. registration, Golf Club of Dallas, 2200 W. Red Bird Ln., Dallas. Benefiting the City of Glenn Heights Veterans Memorial Fund. For more information, contact James Gaston, III at james.gaston@glennheightstx.gov or (972) 223-1690 Ext 141.

Ongoing:

Third Mondays

Red Oak Book Club: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Red Oak City Hall/Library. For more information, email redoakbookclub@gmail.com.

First and Third Tuesdays

Red Oak Lions Club meeting: **First Tuesdays:** Noon, Cancun's, 273 E. Ovilla Rd.

Third Tuesdays: 7:00 p.m., 207 W. Red Oak Rd. For more information, call (214) 864-8014.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

North Ellis Co. Outreach assistance: 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., 205 S. Main St., Ferris. Assistance is for Red Oak and Ferris residents. For more information, call Denise Butler at (972) 617-7261.

Second Saturdays

Red Oak Opry: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Lone Star Cowboy Church, 1011 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak.

Third Saturdays

Ferris Trades Day: 101 S. Main St., Ferris, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. For more information, call Tina Miller at (817) 992-9204.

Self Defense Class: 9:00-11:00 a.m., 301 Locust Dr., Oak Leaf. Must call (972) 617-2660 to RSVP. Wear loose fitting clothing.

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

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In the Kitchen With Trina Williams

— *By Rachel Smith*

With a creative mind, Trina Williams spends many days putting smiles on people's food-stuffed faces. Her most cherished moment growing up was her grandparents making each of their 20 grandkids a Christmas tin of their favorite kind of cookies. "Granny and Grandpa Rushing knew what each kid loved and spent hours baking and storing them every year," she reminisced.

She also had an interesting experience making custard pies for church. "We were excited — they looked beautiful! But, when everyone ate them, we realized we forgot the sugar and used cinnamon instead of nutmeg," she said. When teaching others her skill, she is clear that it's OK to mess up sometimes. "It's not the end of the world," she said. "Just figure out what went wrong and start again." **NOW**

Frosted Butter Cookies

Cookies:

- 1 cup softened butter**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 egg**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 3-5 cups flour (divided use)**

Frosting:

- 1 cup softened butter**
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- Dash of salt**
- Powdered sugar, to taste**
- Splash of milk (if needed to thin frosting)**
- Food coloring (optional)**
- Cookie decorations (optional)**

1. For cookies: Cream butter and sugar together; add egg and salt, mixing well. Add 1 cup flour at a time until dough is

firm enough to handle. Wrap dough in plastic wrap; chill for an hour (or overnight if needed).

2. Cut dough with a knife or, using flour, roll out about 1/2-inch thick to cut out cookies. Bake at 350 F until lightly brown. Let cool completely before frosting.

3. For frosting: Mix butter, cream cheese, vanilla and salt together. Slowly add powdered sugar to desired consistency. If the frosting is too thick, add milk for thinning. Frosting can be colored or decorated with desired food decorations.

4. Note: Cookies are best served the next day, so cookies will soften and frosting will harden. Store in an airtight container.

Cheeseballs

- 1 pkg. softened cream cheese**
- 2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded**
- 2 cups pepper jack cheese, shredded**

- 1/2 red bell pepper, diced**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- Milk, to taste**
- 10 slices crispy bacon, chopped**
- 1 bunch green onion, chopped**
- 1 cup toasted pecans, chopped**

1. Mix cheeses together; add bell pepper and salt and pepper; mix in some milk if needed for thinning. Mixture should be creamy.

2. Roll into 3 medium or 4 small balls.

3. Mix bacon, green onion and pecans together; roll each ball around in bacon mixture until covered evenly. Store in refrigerator for up to a week.

4. Note: If you need to store in the freezer, do not cover them with bacon mixture until thawed and ready to serve. Cheeseballs can freeze up to a month.

Focaccia Bread

- 1 Tbsp. yeast**
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt (divided use)**
- 1 tsp. sugar**
- 1 tsp. oregano**
- 1 tsp. garlic**
- 1 cup hot water**
- 3 cups flour**
- Coconut or olive oil, to taste**
- 1 Tbsp. butter, melted**
- 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese, shredded**

1. Mix yeast, half of salt, sugar, oregano, garlic and hot water; let set about 5 minutes. Add flour a little at a time until dough forms into a ball.

2. Grease cookie sheet with coconut oil or olive oil. Roll dough in oil and press dough to the corners of the pan. Let rise 10-15 minutes in a warm place. If needed, press again into the corners of the pan.

3. Pour melted butter over top of bread; sprinkle with remaining salt and Parmesan cheese. Bake at 425 F until golden brown.

4. Note: This is a flat bread, so it doesn't have to be thick to be wonderful. This recipe is also good for pizza crusts; bake 2-3 minutes at 400-425 F, then add pizza toppings. Bake no longer than 10-12 minutes.

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

RED OAK ISD BOND ELECTION 2017

5 REASONS TO VOTE YES



1. PREVENT OVERCROWDING



The middle school is currently over capacity and expected to grow by 500 students in five years. Provides a new middle school on the west side where growth is occurring. With increasing numbers of students and the addition of new programs over the last five years, ROHS needs more classroom space. An expansion building will provide more classrooms while saving \$200 per day in transportation costs for students to and from other sites.



2. DISTRICT-WIDE MODERN TECHNOLOGY & LEARNING SPACES

Support the next phase of the Classroom Revolution by expanding technology and specialized furniture to accommodate individual and group teaching and learning.



3. KEEP OUR TEACHERS AND KIDS SAFE

Protect our teachers and students from modern-day threats. Provides new video surveillance cameras, radio upgrades, and access control systems.



4. APPROPRIATE, ENERGY-EFFICIENT REPAIRS & UPGRADES

It's been 10 years since the community's last investment in our schools. Includes much-needed repairs such as roof replacements, exterior lighting and parking upgrades, and transportation facility expansion.



5. ATHLETIC UPGRADES

Increases ADA accessibility and parking at Goodloe Stadium as well as restrooms, concession area, and locker rooms. Expands student practice opportunities by resurfacing the stadium track and adding a new practice track and practice field at ROHS.

VOTE EARLY APRIL 24-29 AND MAY 1-2

RED OAK ISD EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER,
109 W. RED OAK RD.

SHIELDS ELEMENTARY, 223 W. OVILLA RD.

RED OAK HIGH SCHOOL, 220 S. SH 342

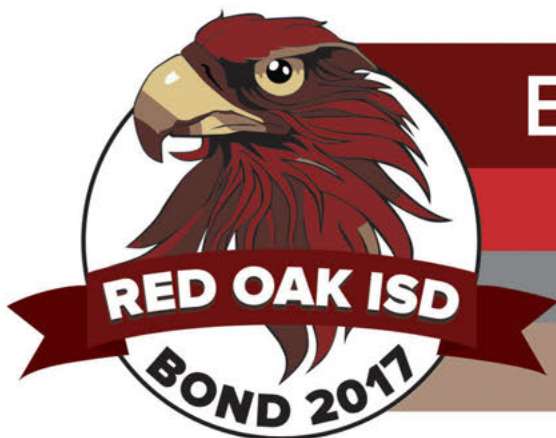
ELECTION DAY MAY 6

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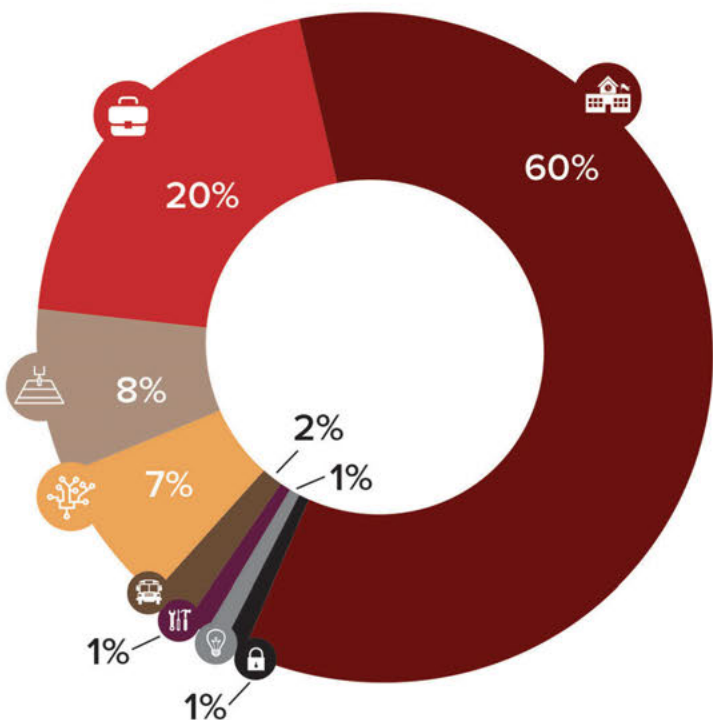


ELECTION DAY MAY 6

EARLY VOTING APRIL 24 - MAY 2

LAST DAY TO REGISTER APRIL 6

To verify your voting registration status, please refer to the Voter Registration Search at www.co.ellis.tx.us.



WE ARE GROWING!

2016 5,750 6,466 maximum capacity

2021 7,327

2026 8,767

RED OAK ISD ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

PROPOSED BOND PROJECTS



NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL



RED OAK HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION



ATHLETIC FACILITIES



CLASSROOM REVOLUTION



TRANSPORTATION



RENOVATIONS/DISTRICT MAINTENANCE



EXTERIOR PARKING & LIGHTING



SAFETY & SECURITY



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PROPOSED BOND AMOUNT: \$74,085,000