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MAY 2012

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husband, Heather
Roberts sealed
her deal.

Pleasant
Memories
At Home With
Carolyn Kerr.

Also Inside:
Fingerprints in
Burleson's History
Little Champion
For More Than Beauty
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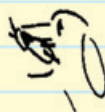
It piNches the SCiaTIC nerve and can hurt in the back & the hip and even go down the leg. EverYboDy thiNks it's a "ruptured disc" but my daD calls it a "NerVE ENtRAPMeNt" witch is a way to say the muscle traps the nerve—like a chuBBY kid tryiNg to wiggle uNder a fENce who gets sTuck and sQueezed. NerVes hAte beiNg squeeZed. They get mad and Shoot pAin all oVer the plAce in your hIp & leg & back!!! My Dad says it's worse than a bAd tOothache!

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On The Cover



Music has always brightened
Heather Roberts' life.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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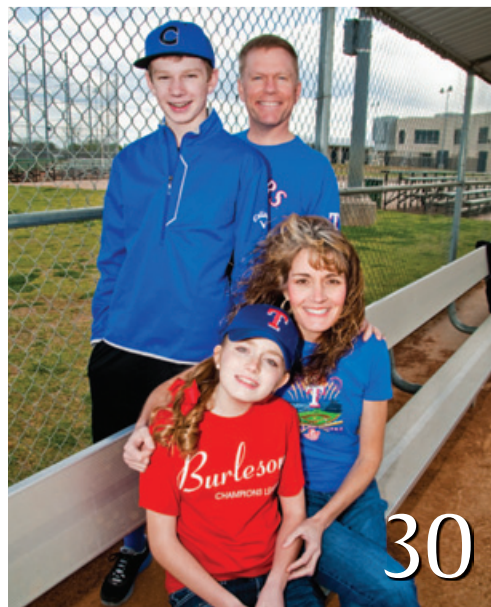


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Editor's Note

Hello, Friends!


Bees are buzzin' in my garden — have been for several months! It's exciting to see them busily pollinating all the beautiful plants we need for shade, food, clean air and nice views. Amazingly, all the work done by these little, hairy, striped aerialists results in something even more precious: honey. I use local raw honey in salad dressings and biscuit toppings to prevent allergies. The sticky, amber stuff is also a key ingredient in the herbal soap I make for soothing and healing skin.

Lo and behold, this miracle stuff has inspired 14 years of fun here in support of Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce activities, which promote the prosperity of our entire community. On Saturday, May 26, bicyclists from counties surrounding Burleson, Crowley and Joshua are meeting up at Centennial High School for our annual Honey Tour. What a healthy hive we have, keeping all our gardens growing!



Melissa

Melissa Rawlins
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Sweet Sounds of Home

— By Carolyn Wills

Odds are, Cisco and Heather Roberts would have met somewhere down the road had they not met and married when they were very young. Theirs is a partnership inspired by purpose and, as evidenced by the commercial bus in their driveway and the trailer sporting a bold logo and the name “Heather Roberts Band,” theirs is clearly a story to be told.

Married for 10 years now, they are parents to beautiful daughters, 7-year-old Tynleigh and 5-year-old Natalie. Cisco works in the natural gas industry, and Heather is a dental assistant in Roanoke and a volunteer at Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth. They live in a large home on the outskirts of Joshua.

Cisco and Heather met the summer before her senior year in high school. She was 17, and he was two years older. “I turned 18 in May,” she smiled, “and we were married in August.”

As newlyweds, their days were filled with promise. “I’ve known Heather since she was almost a kid and so shy,” Cisco said. They were a young couple in love. Cisco was nearing the completion of his time in the Army, and their futures were bright. “We were together for about six months when we got the call,” he said. “We were at the Fort Worth Stock Show Rodeo, and the voice on the phone said to get to Fort Hood immediately.”

“We knew in our hearts what that meant,” Heather shared. The year was 2003, Cisco was promptly deployed to Iraq, and life for the young couple darkened. Cisco would spend seven



"Music has always been in my life, but performing my own songs is truly a blessing."

months working hydraulics on the back lines and running fuel escort missions to the front. Other than mail, he and Heather would have no contact. "The day finally arrived when he was really coming home," she said. "He was 40 pounds lighter and barely recognizable."

"We were two very different people and almost strangers," Cisco said. "We were kids and then adults with no time in-between. We had to fall in love again." Many of his buddies had come home to an empty house, and Cisco knew it was not easy separation and effects also not told Heather

to weather the of war. He had about his fuel escort missions to the front. He knew they would need to deal with that. "I was so young when he left,"



What I loved
Wa Bu Bu
But Running
Ru Campoula
Ru Neon man
Gu Ne Hand Dog
No Ne Ring of fire
Ha Ri Have you ever
Li H Blome
He H Free Fallin
E E main on
F F Zombie
r r
7 7

Love Song
Better someday
Crazy ex Gf
Cheater, cheater
that's alright
For what it's
Coming home

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Confessions
Swingin
Kerosene
I love R-N-E?

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Heather added. "I had not even gone grocery shopping on my own. Hearing that he had protected me from the truth hurt and angered me at first, but I believe it ultimately helped to make our marriage what it is. We had to grow up and, thankfully, we grew together. Because of our experience, I realized there is something bigger to be done in this world."

As they fell in love again, welcomed children, developed careers and settled into their home, destiny carefully and patiently provided them with a new passion. Arriving nearly three years ago, it came with a voice — Heather's voice — and a business challenge — Cisco's challenge. It brought the world as a stage, and Cisco was the first to see or, actually, hear it.

"Heather sang for me one time, and I thought, *Wow, this is what we need to be doing!*" he said. "She has a message, a special talent and the ability to touch people." With daughters in tow, Heather and Cisco set about creating the Heather Roberts "sound." Today, with a solid fan base and growing popularity, the Heather





Roberts Band is in demand at festivals, dance halls and events. Two months ago at the Texas Regional Radio Music Association Awards Show, Heather won New Female Vocalist of the Year. Heather is writing and performing her own songs, as well as songs that she and Cisco create together. She works with a publisher, an impressive list of sponsors and maintains a super-busy schedule.

"Music has always been in my life, but performing my own songs is truly a blessing," she said. "My dad is a musician." As a teenager, she was in middle and high school band and in the church choir, but it took Cisco's encouragement for her to trust the potential of her dream. Cisco manages the band, handles bookings, runs the sound, drives the bus and collaborates on songs. "He's



the backbone of this operation," Heather affirmed. "We have fun, but we respect this as a business, and we've been lucky to find and work with great people and to have a strong support group. The whole dynamic of our family has changed in a good way. I'm excited to show my girls that it's possible to do something from your heart."

Cisco is a strategist, marketer, businessman and creative force. He and Heather team up to write songs. He designed her distinctive double-heart logo and the look of her custom-made guitar. "Cisco and I didn't have a clue what



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we were doing when we started," she smiled. "He encouraged me to do 'open microphone' in the stockyards, and we would have to find someone to play the guitar. I was so nervous, but the whole point was to get the jitters out." It wasn't long before she learned to play her own guitar. "My dad always wanted to teach me. He left for Costa Rica two weeks after I got my guitar, so we didn't have much time. By the time he came back last summer, though, a lot had changed. He went to gigs with us, sat in on rehearsals, and it was a really special time."

Heather describes her music style as Texas Country and credits Texas performer and Crowley native, Joey Green, and nationally known, Miranda Lambert, as major influences. "When I heard Joey Green for the first time, I liked that his music is so down-to-earth. I admire Miranda Lambert because she has something to say, and she's saying it."

Heather's recently released second single, "Coming Home," comes straight from her heart. "Cisco and I wrote it. I always ask audiences to never be afraid to thank a veteran. We need to remember that our freedom is not free." A portion of "Coming Home" sales is being donated to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"Thankfully, my 'coming home' was a happy one," Cisco added. "We know that is not always true. Some people are interpreting our song as a spiritual homecoming. We hope the words 'life goes on, the sun will rise' are bringing them some comfort."

As for the future, the Heather Roberts Band is ready to go. The bus is primed. The heart and talent are there, and Heather has many more things to say. **NOW**



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PLEASANT *Memories*

— By Melissa Rawlins

Feathery fans, antique watch fobs, a beaded evening bag, paper dolls, a folding ruler, a snuff box, a mask and a gilt-edged Bible stand out in the mix of ancestral memorabilia filling the felt-lined shadow box under the glass top of the table Nick Kerr made for his wife, Carolyn. She enjoys several pieces of furniture he built from scraps salvaged when bleachers were pulled from the annex building at Kerr Middle School — named in honor of the

man who served Burleson ISD for 34 years. He was not the only woodworker in Carolyn's family. Her grandfather also produced a toy box and stools, and her father a credenza, all placed strategically throughout Carolyn's home, reminding her of pleasant memories made with her large and loving family. One tiny children's sled holds a special teddy bear Carolyn had made for Nick from scraps of his mother's quilt.

A larger version, from the same quilt, sits amongst heirlooms in the grandmother room. The bed is covered with a yo-yo quilt that Carolyn's mother started while pregnant with her. "After my father passed away, I asked her to finish that bedspread,"

Carolyn said. She can look at a lot of the florets and pick out dresses she wore as a child. Across the room, above her

At Home With
**CAROLYN
KERR**



mother's cedar chest, hang Carolyn's dad's christening gown, Nick's great-grandmother's bonnet and Carolyn's baby dress. This room is used all the time, and when the older grandchildren come to visit they enjoy looking at their grandparents' childhood photos.

Nick and Carolyn were both from Forest Hill. "We never were really introduced. We grew up in the same community. Our grandmothers were close friends, and we were all in the same church," Carolyn remembered. "He was seven years older than me. He went into the Navy when I was in junior high. By the time he got home from the Navy, I was out of high school. Two years later, we started dating." Nick and Carolyn went into education and reared their three children in Burleson, while she taught mostly sixth-graders and he junior high and high schoolers. They built this home in the '70s when their youngest was in second grade.

"Nick wanted to get the children out in the country and have a garden," said Carolyn, as she remembered all the hard work the family did in the sandy dirt west of the house. "We all miss the homegrown vegetables. We never left on a vacation that the night before we were not all sitting around peeling peaches. His three-week vacation was in July, which is when peaches were ripe." Carolyn still has a couple of apple trees that produce a little bit, but now the only person who really appreciates the "farm" is Carolyn's 6-year-old grandson who visits from San Antonio frequently and always enjoys the backyard horse — a tire swing hanging from a tree limb not far from a decorative windmill.

Young Hayden also enjoys Carolyn's clown room. He sleeps in the bright yellow room and during the day plays with the colorful toys arranged invitingly



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on every surface. Here, his grandmother keeps the face-painting equipment, costumes, balloons and puppets she uses when cheering up people. While her husband was alive, she benefited from his jovial personality. As a generally happy person herself, Carolyn believes that humor therapy is healing. "I felt like I wanted to give back those smiles," she said. Carolyn had been collecting clowns long before she started clowning professionally using the name Sugar Lump. "A year or so after Nick passed away, it was kind of a God thing that I

found out about a clown alley (clown club) that met in Fort Worth. I took clowning classes, and have gone to a number of classes, conventions and workshops throughout the years." Now, she teaches clowning.

A clown on canvas, painted by a good clown friend, hangs near Noel, the Muppet puppet that Carolyn's kids gave her. "She's a little bit mischievous, like a choir boy with a black eye," Carolyn said with a wink. "When she fits down into her box, which I call The Realms of Glory, her wings and shoes get

kind of messed up." Because Noel is so large, Carolyn does not usually take her into hospitals. "I take a lot of the smaller plush puppets, like the bunny in the hat who is so bashful, and the duck and the puppy that make you want to sing along."

The angel teddy bear with wings, a gift from another clown, worked a miracle



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with a man at one of the nursing homes. "I would see this gentleman every time I would go," Carolyn recalled. "He had a blank stare, like nobody was home. I always stopped and talked and kind of played around. I was there one Christmas with this angel teddy bear puppet. She used to sing "O Come All Ye Faithful"



while she danced. I was doing my clown thing. The gentleman started singing! He didn't change the expression on his face but sang the whole song! His aide looked at me with shock, and later she told me



he hadn't spoken in over a year, but this angel triggered something in him. Those kinds of things make it all worthwhile."

Hundreds of other clowns hold places of honor throughout Carolyn's home, bringing smiles to guests. She recently



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hosted a meeting of the Eumathian Club, which she served as president in 1971-1972 and 1999-2000. "The Eumathian women do a little service and a little study," Carolyn said. "We were founded by women who felt they needed a little culture."

Carolyn stays involved in the community in many other ways. At

St. Matthew Cumberland Presbyterian Church, she sings in Chancel Choir and Grace Notes and plays in Faith Ringers, the bell choir. As a volunteer for the Burleson Heritage Foundation, she worked on getting the rail car restored and

in place near City Hall. She is an active member of Burleson Area Retired School Employees, started by Dick Nash and Nick Kerr. And to round out her weeks,



she spends Thursdays painting with the Fort Worth Woman's Club in a class with one of her closest friends, Suzie.

"The class is relaxing, and I enjoy the women," Carolyn said. "I've never sold a painting yet. Mine are giveaways to family." Many of her vibrant oil paintings add to her home's nostalgia. She and Nick collected southwestern art while traveling a lot in the years after they retired. Maybe she mixed those memories into her original oil painting, hanging over her bed, of her parents in their courting days, driving a touring car through the rolling hills, straight into the future. **NOW**

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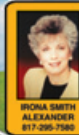
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A photograph of an older man and woman standing in a stable. The man, on the left, is wearing a black cowboy hat, glasses, a bright blue long-sleeved shirt, and blue jeans with a large, ornate silver belt buckle. The woman, on the right, has short brown hair and is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt under a black leather vest, with blue jeans. They are both smiling at the camera. In the background, there are wooden stable stalls with metal bars. A red lead rope is visible on the right.

FINGERPRINTS IN BURLESON'S HISTORY

— By Erin McEndree

The community of Burleson turns 100 years old May 21, and Harold “Putt” Putnam, DVM, has made his mark on its history. Everything in which Dr. Putt has been involved grew because of his concern and tireless efforts. Even in retirement, his consideration for others runs deep.

Dr. Putt wanted to treat sick horses at a very young age and never lost sight of his goal when it looked tough.

His ambitious nature and faith helped him when there seemed to be no way to achieve it. “Doors were opened that should not have been opened,” he said.

Former President Ronald Regan quoted the proverb: “I’ve often said there’s nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse.” Dr. Putt agrees with that statement. “I’ve always had compassion for animals,” he said, “and that is why I went into this business.”

After 51 years as an equine veterinarian, kindness continues



to drive Dr. Putt in many areas of his life. He knew he wanted to be a veterinarian at the age of 5, but he didn't know how he was going to achieve his goal. "My family was very, very poor. My parents did not finish high school. I never thought I would have the opportunity to go to vet school," Dr. Putt said. "But, my mother was passionate about education and pounded the idea into my brother and me."

School was the avenue Dr. Putt had to take to achieve his goal. In ninth grade he wrote a paper about being a vet. "During high school, my interest became how I was going to go to vet school," Dr. Putt explained. A door was opened. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy, taking what seemed like a detour in 1950 and became a vet of a different kind — a veteran. For four years Dr. Putt served in the Navy, and became eligible for the G.I. Bill. "That was my ticket into vet school," he said. "God opens up ways that you never imagine can be opened. The whole time I was in Korea, I never thought about not coming back and becoming a veterinarian." When he was honorably discharged in 1954, he started his education at Arlington State College (now The University of Texas at Arlington).

Dr. Putt received a pre-vet degree, then attended Texas A&M College and received a bachelor's degree in animal science. In 1956, he was accepted into veterinarian school at A&M College. Dr. Putt was attending vet school when A&M College was officially changed to Texas A&M University in 1963.

Barbara, his wife, was by his side for 39 years. "She always thought of others and allowed me to do what I loved. She was the best companion I could have asked for," Dr. Putt said with tears in his eyes. Barbara passed away in 1990 after





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a long battle with cancer. They have two sons, Daryl and Bryan.

After graduation, Dr. Putt worked for Dr. Billy Parker for about a year-and-a-half. Then another door opened, and he had the opportunity to buy the Burleson Vet Clinic. He met many people who influenced him. "I knew the superintendent of Burleson Independent School District. He had cattle. He asked me if I wanted to run for the school board. There were 2,649 on the [population] sign back then. I bet I knew 2,000 of them, so I won," Dr. Putt laughed. He served a total of 14 years

"I want to write about how a poor kid from a poor family can do anything he wants to do."

on the school board between 1964-80. Three of those years he was president. He saw many changes as he helped the school district build and expand, and he was instrumental in tearing down the old teaching philosophies and reorganizing classrooms into what was then a new "open" concept.

Dr. Putt's willingness to serve never waned. He was the organizing director of the First National Bank of Burleson.



He also served as the president of the Burleson Chamber of Commerce in 1986-87. He played a vital role in forming Burleson into the community it is today. "I was so appreciative of my education and what I had that I wanted to give back so much," he shared.

He served in his field of study, too, holding the office of president, treasurer or director of countless organizations, receiving many awards for excellence, initiating the formation of the

Southwestern Veterinary Symposium and being an advocate for equine dentistry issues. On March 23, Dr. Putt was awarded yet another honor — 2012 Outstanding Alumni for Texas A&M University Veterinary School. This award is a culmination of all his achievements. The university qualifies a candidate by how he "exemplifies the ideas, character strengths and principles of conduct that make the veterinary medicine profession one of the highest callings."

During the half century Dr. Putt was in practice, he saw many changes. "I call it the transition years. There is a much higher quality of medicine now," he explained. "We use preventative medicine now. When I started it was either an emergency or a salvage job to clean up what an owner did wrong. The vets coming out of school now are 10 times smarter," Dr. Putt admitted.



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Dr. Putt married Janie in 1991. She has two daughters, Lisa and Kelly, and Dr. Putt and Janie have five grandchildren they enjoy spending time with. In May 2011, Dr. Putt retired. Since retirement, he has been able to spend more time with his family and friends. Retirement has also allowed him and Janie to travel and do some of the things they were not able to previously do. The Putnams enjoy their animals, as well — two mares, Gracie and Bunny, and two Jack Russells named Jack and Jill. The Putnams are members and enjoy attending St. Matthew Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Putt also explained another goal. He wants to finish the book he started. "A lot of vets write about their experiences," he said, "but I want to explain how God has a plan for everyone's life. I want to encourage kids who may not have the resources or help to work hard and achieve what they want to achieve. I want to write about how a poor kid from a poor family can do anything he wants to do," he confessed. "I had to work hard and earn it."

Many people have sympathy for animals, but few spend their whole life making animals their business. Dr. Putt's love for horses and his community shaped what it is today, and he wants to continue to shape future generations as well. **NOW**



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Little CHAMPION

— By Rick Hope

Chloe McRay is one amazing 12-year-old. She loves her parents, her brother and her pets. She enjoys going to school and hanging out with her friends. She likes to cook (especially muffins and potatoes), and when she reaches adulthood, she wants to either be a chef or a zookeeper. In many ways, one may think she's just your typical kid from Burleson, but Chloe is so much more than that. To begin with, Chloe has autism and epilepsy and was diagnosed with cerebral degeneration as an infant. But that's not what makes her extraordinary. Chloe is a star player for the Texas Rangers.

Now, of course, we're not talking about the professional baseball team from Arlington. Rather, we're talking about a team that's part of The Champions League in Burleson and in so many ways, they are similar. According to Chloe's mother, Julie, they began looking for a place for Chloe to play when she asked her parents one simple question that carried a great deal of weight, "Where is *my* team?"

"Chloe asked the question after many years of watching her 15-year-old brother, Collin, compete in different sporting events," Julie said. "Chloe couldn't see why she couldn't also have a team." And neither could Julie or her husband, Tim.

They began to inquire as to whether or not there was such a team where Chloe could participate. They talked to Chloe's third grade Life Skills teacher who told them about The Champions League. It wasn't long before Chloe began to participate on a regular basis in a sport known as Buddy Ball. She even wears a shirt emblazoned with the number 12, which was the same number Collin wore in his athletic endeavors at the time.



Buddy Ball is an event that teams Chloe and her teammates with a partner who does not have the same limitations. The registration is free, and the uniforms (which Chloe loves) are provided by an anonymous donor. Julie sometimes gets to be Chloe's buddy, as do Tim and Collin. However, there are other times that Chloe prefers the help of her peers, like friends Kayleigh and Hannah or her cousins who also live in Burleson.

The team plays a total of 10 games in both the fall and the spring. They play two innings so that each team has a turn at bat. The team has no age limit so anyone can join. According to Julie, the team doesn't have traditional practices because, "we don't need them. We're just that good!"

"I like to hit the ball, and I like to be the pitcher!"

Chloe is coached by Jeff Smith, who had plenty of good things to say about this particular team member. "Chloe has been playing with the Burleson Buddy Ball team for four years, and her indomitable spirit is at the heart of why the program is so vital and so successful. The first time Chloe circled the bases and slid into home, she popped up and smiled, shouting, 'I did it, Mom!' Her exuberance and joy were so genuine that you couldn't help but celebrate with her, especially as her family cheered from the bleachers," Jeff explained with emotion. "Chloe's intelligence, dedication and selflessness are inspiring examples of the virtues we try to teach alongside the sport itself. She is sharp enough to know how to hit the ball exactly where she wants it to go, down the third base line or past

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the pitcher to second, and considerate enough to make sure everybody on the field gets to handle the ball."

"I like to hit the ball, and I like to be the pitcher!" Chloe said.

Jeff said the objective of the league is to teach sportsmanship, cooperation and optimism in an athletic environment of encouragement and achievement. "We believe that all children who want to play ball deserve an opportunity and an environment in which they can have fun, get some exercise and learn just how much they really can accomplish," Jeff shared.

The Champions League is a division of PONY Baseball. PONY stands for Protect Our Nation's Youth. According to its Web site, the mission of The Champions League is "to provide every child regardless of special needs the opportunity to participate in America's favorite pastime of baseball and softball. It is our goal to provide an environment that enhances the participants' self-esteem and physical mobility, and embodies the spirit of teamwork and community."

Tom Collett, who directs The Champions League division in this particular area, said that Chloe and her teammates make working with this league worthwhile. "These kids are so very special, and they share that with everyone they meet," he said. "They don't care if



they win or lose, and the score doesn't matter. These kids do it for the right reason. They do it for the love of the game and for those who play it. Their faces are alive with smiles, and they cheer for one another. Each time I watch them play, I laugh and tell myself that my job is to see how many hugs I can share today. And then I cry, not because I am sad, but because my heart is full. I know these special kids have made my life special again today, and I can't wait until the next time I get to be part of their game."

What does Chloe like about the game? "I like to play in the heat, and I like to play in the cold," she stated. "I like to practice my swing and draw a circle in the sand (for the batter's area) when I'm practicing."

Julie knows that Buddy Ball helps Chloe in other ways as well. "Buddy Ball not only keeps her physically active, but helps her work on her listening skills, following instructions and teamwork," Julie said.

In addition to being on that team, Chloe has been working some with her mom on tennis, and she enjoys playing volleyball at the Spartans Gym with her friend, Leah. But, as mentioned earlier, Chloe really enjoys working with animals and cooking. Chloe takes really good care of their two dogs, Elvis and

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Louis Vuitton. As Julie shared about the dogs, Chloe jumped in to correct her, emphasizing Louis' full registered name is actually "Louis Vuitton, The Classic Designer Always Fashionable." The proud mother could do nothing but laugh and roll her eyes.

Whether Chloe becomes a chef or a zookeeper or something else, she is not afraid of failure and approaches everything with the same exuberant attitude that she does Buddy Ball. Not only that, Chloe has her family, her friends and others always standing ready to back her. Chloe is definitely part of a winning team. **NOW**



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Back row, left to right:

Tuesdee Lynch, stylist; Hannah Keeney, assistant; and Hannah Powell, stylist.

Front row:

Adrianne Lowes, owner of The Ritz Salon and Spa.



FOR *More* THAN BEAUTY

Six days a week, the team at The Ritz Salon offers holistic treatment and pampering to their customers.

— By Melissa Rawlins

With an eye toward wellness, bouncy Adrianne Lowes opened The Ritz Salon and Spa in Old Town Burleson almost two years ago. She said it then, and she says it now, “We are not a beauty salon.” From the four hair stylists to the acupuncturist, chiropractor, two aestheticians and three massage therapists, The Ritz staff treats clients holistically.

“Yes, you can come here for stress relief massage, but 90 percent of our clients come in to have ailments treated,” Adrianne explained. “We do pamper. Yet most of our clients come here to have their bodies put back together. One of our customers used to not even be able to sleep on her side, but now can do whatever she wants after regular treatments with our chiropractor.”

Body care at The Ritz also involves massage, facials and hair care. Skin is fed and moisturized with organic Rhonda Allison products. “Under a microscope, our skin looks like plump grapes

below the surface, and then the cells at the surface look more like raisins unless we moisturize,” Adrianne said. “That’s why hydrating with water from the inside out is so important.” An exciting service on the menu at The Ritz is the Bio Facelift — a facial performed with both an oxygen machine and a micro-current that works out your facial muscles.

Clients coming to the stylists at The Ritz — Adrianne, Hannah Powell, Tuesdee Lynch and Elissa Ellis — will benefit from more than customized hair cuts and styles. Organic Lanza products feed, protect and repair the hair with a flower shield complex and nanoscience that puts keratin, proteins and lipids into the cortex of the hair.

As stylist and salon owner, Adrianne plays two different roles, but in each she sets high expectations for her team. Through professional customer service, each client’s wellness remains

priority. "I've put people on corrective plans, because I know that [our customers represent the type of work we do]," Adrienne said. In like manner, everybody at The Ritz takes responsibility for the business. Both receptionists do whatever it takes to make sure the renovated house is clean and organized. They always offer drinks, candies, mimosas or cupcakes — extras that make coming to The Ritz a special occasion. By passionately servicing every customer, referrals are growing the business, which is then supporting local community efforts.

All year long, The Ritz supports Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce events, like this month's Honey Tour. Adrienne and Kathe Reis created the Burleson Wine Crawl, which takes place in November. "Last year, the Athena Society of Burleson won all our profit

**"PEOPLE ARE SO CONSCIOUS
OF THEIR SKIN, YET
SKIN IS EASIER TO REPAIR
THAN HAIR."**

from the wine crawl," Adrienne said. "I love to help local organizations, like Crazy 8 Ministries and Harvest House. Our primary focus this year has been Save Our Soldiers. We're one of seven participating locations doing a coin drive for SOS."

The Ritz stylists and wellness experts offer fun promotions each month. "Check the *BurlesonNOW* Magazine every month to learn about the special we're offering," Adrienne said. "These are our way of saying thank you to our customers." Their Web site offers detailed product descriptions, pricing and in-depth wellness information.

Knowing that healthy hair makes for happy clients, Adrienne recommends preparing for sun-intensive summer fun by moisturizing and protecting your hair. "Even if you don't color your hair, especially fine hair, you don't want your hair to be like a plump grape that turns into a raisin," Adrienne warned. "People are so conscious of their skin, yet skin is easier to repair than hair. You should take just as much care of your hair as your skin." **NOW**



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Just a few of the heroes honored at Burleson's celebration of Vietnam Veteran's Day: Freddie Reeves, far right; Grant Racine; Ron Tillett; Lorin Storey.



Jackson Braswell and his dad, Barkley, spend the day flying their plane at Bicentennial Park in Crowley.



Lil' Rascals Pre-School students take a morning field trip to Cindy Park.



Johnny Johnson poses with his daughter, Allyson, who received a scholarship from the Joshua Chamber of Commerce.



Sara Pryor, Lisa Miller and Tim and Missy O'Reilly have fun at the Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce Gala.



Fire Chief Loftin gives an emergency preparedness workshop to a crowd at the Crowley Citizen's Center.

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Become Familiar With These Five Key Areas

As an investor, what are your goals? You can probably think of quite a few — but over the course of your lifetime, your objectives typically will fall into five key categories. And once you're familiar with these areas, you can start thinking of what they'll mean to you in terms of your financial and investment strategies. So, let's take a look at each of these areas and see what they might entail for you:

• **Preparing for retirement** — With advances in health care and a greater awareness of healthy living practices, many of us can expect to live two or three decades in an active retirement. To pay for all those years, you'll need to save and invest early and often. So,

while you're working, take full advantage of your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, as well as contribute to a traditional or Roth IRA. After understanding your desired retirement lifestyle, your financial advisor can help you determine how, and how much, to save to provide for your income in retirement.

• **Planning for the unexpected** — You can't see into the future, so you'll need to prepare for anything that comes your way. By building an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, you can possibly avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for things such as a new furnace or a major car

repair. And planning for the unexpected also means having sufficient life insurance to provide for your family in case anything happens to you.

• **Educating your children** — College is already expensive — and college expenses have been rising faster than the overall rate of inflation. If you want to help your children, or grandchildren, pay for school, you may want to invest in a college savings vehicle, such as the 529 plan. You can contribute large amounts to a 529 plan, and earnings have the opportunity to grow tax-free, provided withdrawals are used for higher education. (Withdrawals not used for education are subject to income taxes and a 10-percent penalty.)



Having More Retirement Accounts Is Not The Same As Having More Money

When it comes to the number of retirement accounts you have, the saying "more is better" is not necessarily true. In fact, if you hold multiple accounts with various brokers, it can be difficult to keep track of your investments and to see if you're properly diversified.* At the very least, multiple accounts usually mean multiple fees.

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• **Living in retirement** — Once you reach retirement, your investment emphasis will shift somewhat, from accumulating resources to making them last. By working with a financial advisor, you can develop a withdrawal strategy that can help make sure you don't outlive the income you receive from your 401(k), IRA and other sources. At

By doing your homework, planning ahead and getting the help you need, you can make the journey a pleasant and productive one.

the same time, given the possible length of your retirement, you can't ignore the need to invest for growth, so you may need to consider some growth-oriented vehicles in your portfolio to help your income keep pace with inflation.

• **Transferring your wealth** — When you've worked hard your whole life, you want to be able to leave a legacy — one that allows you to provide financial resources to the next generation and to those charitable organizations you may wish to support. So, when it's time to think about transferring your wealth, you'll want to consult with your financial and legal advisors to create an estate plan that's appropriate for your needs. And because these plans can take significant time to create, you won't want to wait too long to start.

So, there you have them: five key financial areas on which to focus as you travel through life. By doing your homework, planning ahead and getting the help you need, you can make the journey a pleasant and productive one. **NOW**

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

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Calendar

MAY 2012

May 3

National Day of Prayer in Burleson: 6:30 a.m., First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 317 W. Ellison Street; Noon, City Hall, 141 W. Renfro (parking on Ellison). Contact Charles Dorsett at (817) 271-5433 or cdorsetts@aol.com.

May 4

Cinco de Mayo: 6:00-11:00 p.m., in the parking lot between Eldred Street and Ellison Street. The city of Burleson and La Buena Vida de Burleson host the annual Cinco de Mayo festival. Call (817) 426-9291.

Spring Concert Series: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Bicentennial Park Stage, Crowley. City of Crowley presents "Walk the Line," a tribute to Johnny Cash. Call Kelly Harris at (817) 297-2201.

May 5

Be Healthy Community 5K and Fun Walk: 8:30 a.m., Bartlett Park Sports Complex. Register online at <http://behealthy.athlete360.com> or contact Victoria Sykes at Huguley at (817) 568-5497.

May 8

Business After Hours Networking: 5:30-7:30

p.m., The Ritz Salon and Spa, 136 W. Bufford Street. Free for Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce members and only \$10 for non-members. Call Sara Pryor at (817) 999-0823 or Allan Tidwell at (817) 798-5008.

May 12

Burleson Rotary Club Blood Drive: 7:00-9:00 a.m., Hill College Burleson Campus; 2:00-7:00 p.m., First National Bank on Alsbury. Visit www.burlesonrotary.org.

May 14

Metro Beekeepers meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Charity Lutheran Church, 1101 Southwest Wilshire Ave. Contact Stan Key at (682) 459-1737 or visit www.metrobeekeepers.net.

May 18

Power of Heels: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., BRiCK, 550 N.W. Summercrest Blvd. Teresa Nelson will introduce members of the community to Support Our Soldiers. Cost: \$20 (\$15 for members of the Burleson Chamber of Commerce). RSVP at (817) 295-6121.

Be Healthy Community Health Fair: 3:00-7:00 p.m., Hidden Creek Golf Course. Free screenings, giveaways and health information.

Contact city of Burleson at (817) 426-9680.

May 25

Virtual Dementia Tour: 1:00-4:00 p.m., Heritage Place Retirement Community, 300 Huguley Blvd. To develop a deeper understanding of the world some of our elderly friends and family live in, reserve your 30-minute tour by calling (817) 645-0785.

May 26

14th Annual Burleson Honey Tour Bike Ride: Staggered starts beginning at 8:00 a.m., Burleson Centennial High School, 201 South Hurst Road. See course information at <http://honeytour.athlete360.com>. Call BACC at (817) 295-6121.

Parents Night Out: 5:00-7:00 p.m., Alsbury Baptist Church. An evening of rest, relief and rejuvenation for parents caring for special needs children and their siblings, ages 6 months to 12 years. Reservations required. Contact Keara Sharman at (817) 881-5028 or Kearasharman@att.net.

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



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In The Kitchen With Varina Denman

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Her current muses are her five children, yet much of Varina Denman's culinary inspiration has come from watching the women in her life. Her mother taught important lessons. While they made brownies — and against all warnings — 5-year-old Varina tasted the melted baker's chocolate and discovered its bitterness. "It's a fun memory, now that each of my children have done the same thing," Varina said.

When she was 6, Varina and her sister followed almost every recipe in a Betty Crocker children's cookbook. In high school, her decorated cake earned reserve grand champion in the Johnson County Youth Fair. Lately, she has admired her mother-in-law's ability to make everyone feel good while she entertains. Here, Varina shares recipes her whole family will enjoy this Cinco de Mayo. **NOW**

Green Chili Chicken Enchiladas

1 lb. cooked, shredded chicken
1/2 cup sautéed onions
1 Tbsp. chili powder
8 oz. Monterey Jack cheese
Salt and pepper, to taste
8 to 10 flour tortillas
1 10.75-oz. can cream of chicken soup
8 oz. sour cream
1 7-oz. can chopped green chilies

1. Mix chicken, onions, chili powder, grated cheese, salt and pepper.
2. Wrap mixture in flour tortillas and place in greased baking dish.
3. Cover with a sauce made by mixing soup, sour cream and chilies.
4. Top with more grated cheese. Bake at 400 F for 20 minutes.

Roast and Beans

1 3- or 4-lb. chuck roast
1 onion, chopped
1 lb. pinto beans, dry
Salt and pepper, to taste
3 Tbsp. chili powder or chili blend
1 10-oz. can diced tomatoes and green chilies
Chips or tortillas
8 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, grated
Hot sauce (your favorite kind)
8 oz. sour cream

1. Place roast, onion, beans, seasonings and tomatoes in roasting pan.
2. Cover completely with water. Cook at 250 F for 12 hours.
3. Pull meat apart and stir into beans.
4. Serve on chips or tortillas. Garnish with grated cheese, hot sauce and sour cream.

Gridiron Guacamole

3 avocados
3 Tbsp. lime juice
1 tsp. minced garlic
1/2 cup diced tomatoes
3 Tbsp. red onion, diced
2 Tbsp. fresh cilantro or parsley, chopped
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Puree one avocado with lime juice and garlic.
2. Coarsely mash the remaining avocados.
3. Combine all with the diced tomatoes, onion and cilantro. Season with salt and pepper.

Sopapillas

1 1/2 tsp. yeast
1/4 cup warm water
1/3 cup milk
2 Tbsp. oil
1 Tbsp. honey or sugar
1 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1 quart vegetable oil, for frying
1/2 cup cinnamon sugar or honey

1. Dissolve yeast in warm water. Let stand for 10 minutes.
2. Combine milk, oil and honey or sugar in a small bowl and warm to room temperature in microwave. Add the yeast mixture.
3. In a medium mixing bowl, combine flour, salt and baking powder.
4. Form a well in the center of the dry ingredients, and pour in the liquid ingredients, mixing until a soft dough forms. Add more flour if necessary to handle the dough. Knead until the dough is smooth, about five minutes. Cover with a towel and set aside for 20 minutes.
5. Heat 1 quart vegetable oil to 400 F.
6. Roll the dough 1/4-inch thick and cut into triangles, or squares, 3 inches on a side. Gently place squares in oil, turning occasionally. As they brown, baste sopapillas with hot oil to help them puff.
7. Drain on paper towels.
8. Dust with cinnamon sugar, or dip in honey.

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