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*Band directors at Crowley High School influenced Brandon McCormick's career decisions.*

*Photo by Jennifer Spears*

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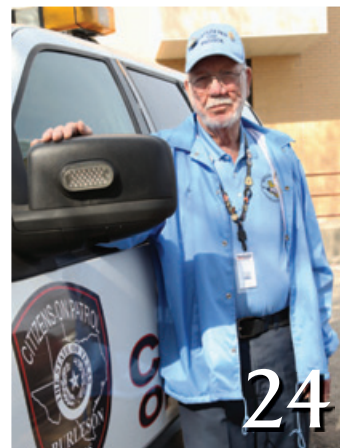
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## Editor's Note

*Hello Burleson, Crowley and Joshua!*

What would mothers do if we did not set aside a special day to honor them? Would they whine about how little appreciation they get? Would they mope and hope and mope some more? Some of the most impossibly burdened women I know would not stop giving even if they got no thanks. I'm not always good at ignoring my business to call my mother, but I'm learning to dial more frequently — in happy times as well as sad. And I hear the smile in her

voice, because she knows I am glad she will always be my mom.

Our hearts and hands go out to the families of all those affected by the West, Texas, explosion. The Chisholm Trail 100 Club has started a fund that will be used specifically for supporting the families of West's fallen First Responders. If you would like to help, visit [www.ct100.org](http://www.ct100.org).

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At that moment he  
knew he wanted to  
play trombone for the  
rest of his life.





# *Trombonist* with a **FUTURE**

— By Lisa Bell



*Brandon stepped off the football field as a freshman in high school. Exhausted and sweating from almost eight minutes of a half-time performance, he turned, faced the field, and realized everything he'd done that entire month suddenly made sense. At that moment he knew he wanted to play trombone for the rest of his life.*

Those intense moments of love for music reappeared many times. Eventually, he decided playing the trombone meant more to him than simply continuing through high school. He began thinking of music as a career.

Rudy Salazar and the band directors at Crowley High School influenced much of his decision to pursue a music degree, especially Kenneth Iyescas. Beyond teaching students how to play an instrument, he taught them about the piece itself. Explaining the story behind the music helped the band understand the feel of the composition, bringing depth as they played and captured the composer's emotions. "Mr. Iyescas made it fun," Brandon said.

The trombone is the only brass instrument that uses a slide. Originally called a sackbut, a trombonist moves the slide to one of seven different positions to play the correct note. As with any brass instrument, the ability to buzz the lips with a strong embouchure brings the sound to life. By moving the slide, the musician lengthens or shortens the tubing, producing lower and higher sounds.

Playing the trombone is a challenge for younger students with

shorter arms. Most kids grow into the instrument as they get older and their reach expands. Brandon recalls the difficulty he had as a new player in the seventh grade.

"When I first started playing I could not reach seventh position," he said. "You have to get your arm all the way out. Even today, I'm fully grown and have to stretch and use my fingertips to reach it."

The soprano trombone, slightly smaller with a higher sound, is an instrument of a different key than the tenor version Brandon plays. While most brass musicians read music from the bass clef, the soprano trombone must play notes from the treble clef. It often requires the trombonist to transpose music, requiring additional work and skill. Brandon hopes to learn the soprano trombone someday, in addition to the one he already plays.

A successful trombonist practices buzzing his or her lips, but having a long arm helps too. Many hours of practice improve the quality of not only hitting notes, but also the sound. Brandon spends an average of two hours every day practicing songs and basic fundamentals.

He first learned about trombones when high school students came to his school and played, trying to spur interest in band. He thought the trombone looked cool. When he tried out for band in seventh grade, they allowed the students to choose five instruments and provided testing to see which fit best. On a scale of one to 10, Brandon scored 10 on all of his choices. Torn between French horn and trombone, it finally came down to a coin toss — and ultimately deciding which looked coolest.

The trombone proved a wise choice, as he immediately began winning UIL (University Interscholastic League) competitions. His first year, he chose a class 3 solo, the easiest level, and ranked



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a one — the best he could score. By the time he reached his freshman year, Brandon tried out with a class 1 solo for the first time. Although he made a one again, he hadn't memorized the solo, so he was ineligible for state competition. During his junior year in high school, Brandon memorized the solo and advanced to state.

Playing the trombone isn't Brandon's only talent. He also plays the piano and sings. Seeking an outlet for singing, he performed in school musicals. His friends told him, "You should join choir." For years, he resisted the idea, but as he moved into his senior year, he agreed. As a part of choir, he had the option to enter the UIL solo competition. At this competition, he received the prestigious Outstanding Soloist award, given to only 2 percent of students competing.

That year, he made fifth chair in the Region Choir. Advancing to state competition, Brandon earned a fourth-chair seat. With the vocal accomplishment, he completed the UIL trifecta, a rare achievement. He made first chair in the Region Concert Band and fourth chair in the Region Jazz Band with his trombone.

After graduation, Brandon registered at Hill College as a dual music major. "I cannot choose between choir and band. I love them both," he said. Applying for the Clara Freshour Nelson Scholarship, given by the Texas Association of Music Schools, required





producing a 10-minute CD displaying his ability as a solo trombonist.

He picked up a solo he had performed before and started practicing, sometimes seeing 4:00 in the morning while working on it. Mr. Lowe, his band director, timed the solo. With three minutes left, he asked if Brandon wanted to include

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something vocally on the CD. He chose to add the solo he had performed at state UIL competition his senior year.

An agonizing summer of anticipation ensued, waiting for a decision. One day he got the call saying he won the scholarship. “It was amazing,” Brandon said, “one of the coolest moments of my life. I’d honestly never done anything bigger than that.” Winning the scholarship represents the greatest thing this young man has done. Not satisfied, he wants to keep getting better.

While his parents always supported Brandon and somehow found money for band trips, the scholarship will help him fulfill his dream of attending the University of North Texas (UNT).



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He will soon transfer, where he plans to obtain a Bachelor of Music as a trombonist with a secondary in vocal studies. He will continue and earn a master's degree. Then, following Mr. Iyescas footsteps, he hopes to spend several years teaching at a high school or perhaps college level before returning in pursuit of a doctorate. "It's one thing to study things and learn from books," Brandon stated. "But you're not gonna have all you need to be a teacher without experience." He wants to sit back, conduct and do what he loves to do for as long as it takes.

Brandon and some friends have a jazz trio and play locally. He always spots one kid, mesmerized by the instruments, moving past only because his mom pulls him along. He remembers feeling that way. Someday that child may grow up to be a great musician or just love music because of a band director. "I was one of those students — I want to be one of those teachers," he said. "One of my favorite quotes says, 'Find a job you love, and you'll never work a day in your life.'" Teaching music will undoubtedly be the job he loves. **NOW**



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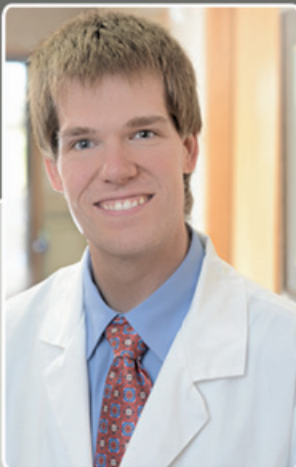




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# Meaningful MEMORIES



AT HOME WITH  
RAY & CAROLYN  
CUNNINGHAM

— By Sarah Anderson

*When Ray and Carolyn Cunningham moved into their cozy three-bedroom house on Crowley's Main Street, they drove up on a gravel road covered in a thin layer of hot top. That was on a Thanksgiving Day in the early 1960s, and the young couple needed more room for their three growing children. It was their third house as a married couple and situated next door to Carolyn's childhood home, where the two married in 1952. "There was some discussion about living so close to Mamma and Daddy, but it never caused a problem," Carolyn said. "I can still stand at the back door and see Daddy walking across the yard. He would just waltz out his door and stroll over here to chat or spend time with one of the children."*



Before long their children were teenagers, and they needed even more room. So Ray built another 800-square-foot room on the back of the house. He removed the 8-foot sliding door that served as the doorway to the home's roomy backyard. Then he expanded out from the rear wall.

When the addition was finished, he replaced the door on the side of the new room, where it could again be the home's back door, this time leading to a spacious patio. "The den was actually built so our kids could have their friends over, and we could turn them loose back here," Carolyn said. "We used to have a band in here. One played the drums, which the neighbors loved. We had a couple of guitars and even a trumpet."

Soon the Cunningham house became the favorite post-ballgame hangout and not only for teenagers. "After football games or basketball games, the parents would come over," Ray said. "They would sit and talk around the table while the kids would entertain themselves back here with the pool table or whatever else they could cook up."

Nearly 50 years later, the den is still the Cunningham's favorite room. Both Ray and Carolyn have cozy armchairs facing the room's large stone hearth surrounded by meaningful antiques and sentimental decor. "This is where we spend our time. It's still where everyone goes when they come over," Carolyn said. "It's the warmth of the room more than anything that makes it so comfortable. To me, when you walk in our front door, it's a warm house."

Each item thoughtfully placed throughout the den holds a special memory. Many things, like the colorful painting of wild turkeys and the patchwork quilt, are from The Lord's Acre, their church's annual auction. Others were gifts or heirlooms — like the rocking chair that once belonged to Carolyn's grandfather or the old crank Victrola, which dates back more than a century and is complete with the authentic thick records of its time.

"A man who owned four buildings in Crowley at one time, Mr. Bogle, gave that Victrola to me," Carolyn said. "He and his family really took me and my family under their wing. They gave me some of the antiques I have." It was the same Mr.

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Bogle's daughter who took Carolyn to the Cunningham's house for the first time when she was 5 and Ray was 8.

"I was like her little sister, and she took me everywhere. So when she went to visit Ray's older sister one day, there I was," Carolyn said. That same afternoon, Ray's mother found Carolyn crying in a closet.

"Who knows why, but being the mischievous boy I was, I locked her in there," Ray chuckled remembering one of their first encounters.

That day started a long line of attempts to get his future wife's attention



— from crashing her 12th birthday party at Forrest Park to persistently offering Carolyn a ride home from the skating rink. "I knew better than to get in the car with him," she laughed. "My mother would have cremated me." When Carolyn started coming to his church youth nights at the Crowley First Methodist Church, Ray eventually succeeded. They are both still members of that church, Ray for 74 years now, and Carolyn for nearly 61 years.

The Cunningham's rich history with Crowley is evident in every room of their house. After a lifetime of calling Crowley home, Carolyn has collected countless pieces of its heritage. She even has an old-fashioned desk from Crowley's very first school built in the early 1900s. "My daddy went to that school," she said. "It was the first schoolhouse before it burned. I have a picture of him as just a little toot sitting out front."

She also cherishes items like a small

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teacup her mother received for her first birthday in 1906 and other gifts like the elegant Japanese china set Ray's brother brought home from overseas as a wedding present. Those gifts and more are safely displayed in the dining room's elegant glass cabinets, which are also attached to years of memories and surround the family's second favorite gathering place, the dining room table.

"It was a hideous, round, yellow game table when we got it years ago," Carolyn said. "Then a friend's son stripped it for us, and it's just been a jewel." Now, with all of the leaves in place, the Cunningham's three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren can share a meal around it.

The adjacent kitchen is also full of jewels. It features its original pale green tiled backsplash and countertops. Ray built the shelves where Carolyn displays timeless antique collectibles passed down the family tree.

A few antiques especially dear to Carolyn's heart are found down the hall in the guest bedroom, which is furnished with her childhood bedroom suite bought in 1943 from Leonard's Department Store in downtown Fort Worth. A four-poster bed, nightstand, chest of drawers and a dresser with an elegant round mirror and stool are all of carved oak. "I just loved it," she said. "I used it, our daughter used it, and it's still in wonderful




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condition.” One of Carolyn’s cherished quilts covers the mattress.

Carolyn keeps the rest of her treasured quilts, some family heirlooms passed down by their mothers, in a large and inviting wooden armoire in the living room — the same living room where Carolyn occasionally welcomed neighbors coming by to pay their water bill when she worked for the city’s first water department over 50 years ago.

Ray was also active in local government. He served 10 years as fire chief, five years as building and plumbing inspector, 18 years on the Crowley City Council and has been president of the Crowley Cemetery Association for 11 years. “We love Crowley, and we are proud of our house even as old as it is,” Carolyn said. “There’s just no place like home.” **NOW**



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*Beth Blair*

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# Listening for the CALL

— By Melissa Rawlins

*When CM Sanders moved from a farm in Alvarado to the big city of Burleson, in 1941, he was only 10 years old, and Old Town was the town. Farms surrounded the community. In fact, Kerr Middle School now sits on land where the Warren family farmed cotton and grain during CM Sanders' childhood. Brush fires were not infrequent. Since 1912, the police were citizens considered night watchmen, or officers of the peace, who stood ready to take care of whatever problems might arise — including fires that broke out in town or out in the country.*

Watching Burleson grow from 573 people to over 39,000, CM noted there will always be calls for help. "Back then, the fire department operated out of a trailer with 400 feet of hose in it that they pulled behind a car," CM said. "The communications system consisted of three phones — one at the bank, one at the city office and one in the fire chief's house — and a city siren. The siren would blare a certain number of times depending upon which quadrant of the city had the fire." Crowley used the siren system, also, for a number of years.





CM has always been a man who recognized what was needed and then did what he could to fill that need. Even as he entered his teens, CM saw the need to work in order to ease the load on his family. Burleson was a small town where children walked to school and bicycles were treasured possessions. CM found work at a manufacturing plant in south Fort Worth during his last three years in high school.

"Kids sometimes asked me why I was working. I said, 'So Mother and Daddy don't have to give me any money.' The first clothes my daddy bought me during those three years was my suit for graduation," CM said. He wore blue jeans to work, with a 30-inch waist and a 36-inch inseam, and the only place he could find them was Leonard's in downtown Fort Worth. "They kept my size under the counter in a drawer for me."

In 1954, CM was 25 and married to Louise Sanders. He worked full time for Convair while volunteering full time for Burleson's fire department, which was reorganized that year to begin operating with two trucks. By 1958, the city recognized a need for an organized police department, which became an official entity on March 11, 1960. The city's first chief of police was Eldon Collins. Forty years and eight men later, Tom Cowan became chief of police and continues to lead the 72 men and women on the force.

Chief Cowan helped establish a fairly new and quite vital element of Burleson's modern police department: Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (CPAAA) and Citizens on Patrol (COPS). At the end of the '90s, CM had recently retired from over 40 years of dedicated service to the fire department and began active membership in both police auxiliaries. Through CPAAA, volunteers



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help the police department financially — they recently bought dress uniforms for the police honor guard, spikes for their cars and bicycles for the bike patrol — and through the COPS program, volunteers can handle the more mundane tasks that would otherwise keep the police from patrolling the streets.

CM lost Louise in 1999 to a heart attack. They had been married 47 years and two days, and their four children, seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren were a comfort to him. So was his sister Patsy, who not only joined him in CPAAA and COPS, but also invited him to help her with Heart for the Kids, a nonprofit organization founded to provide back-to-school supplies and Christmas presents for children in Burleson ISD. CM is the card-carrying “go for,” picking up toys and running other errands.

He balances this with active membership in Burleson's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), coordinated through Department of Homeland Security and Fire Marshal Stacy Singleton. CERT is ready to call on volunteers from COPS to help with emergencies, like searching for lost children.

Compared to the old days, CM has noticed nights are no longer quiet in Burleson. He keeps a scanner in his living room, always tuned in to the police and fire departments' frequencies. This is no new habit. During his 40-year career with Convair (later General Dynamics and, later, Lockheed Martin) he also was on call with the fire department as





**“We have less crime than other cities because of our great police department.”**

a volunteer, only missing two days of work during his entire career because of fires he helped fight in Burleson and surrounding cities.

“Out of all those years I was on active, Cleburne had four fires, and I made two of the four,” CM recalled, adding that Burleson’s firefighters helped Briar Oaks and Joshua get their volunteer fire departments started. “They were strictly volunteers like we were. By 1958, we used 24 phones, and then our force got larger. Once the police department was organized, firefighters could radio from one truck, and the chief’s car, and then our police department could communicate with us volunteers via pagers.”

He bought his second scanner in the ’70s. By then he and Louise had four children attending Burleson public

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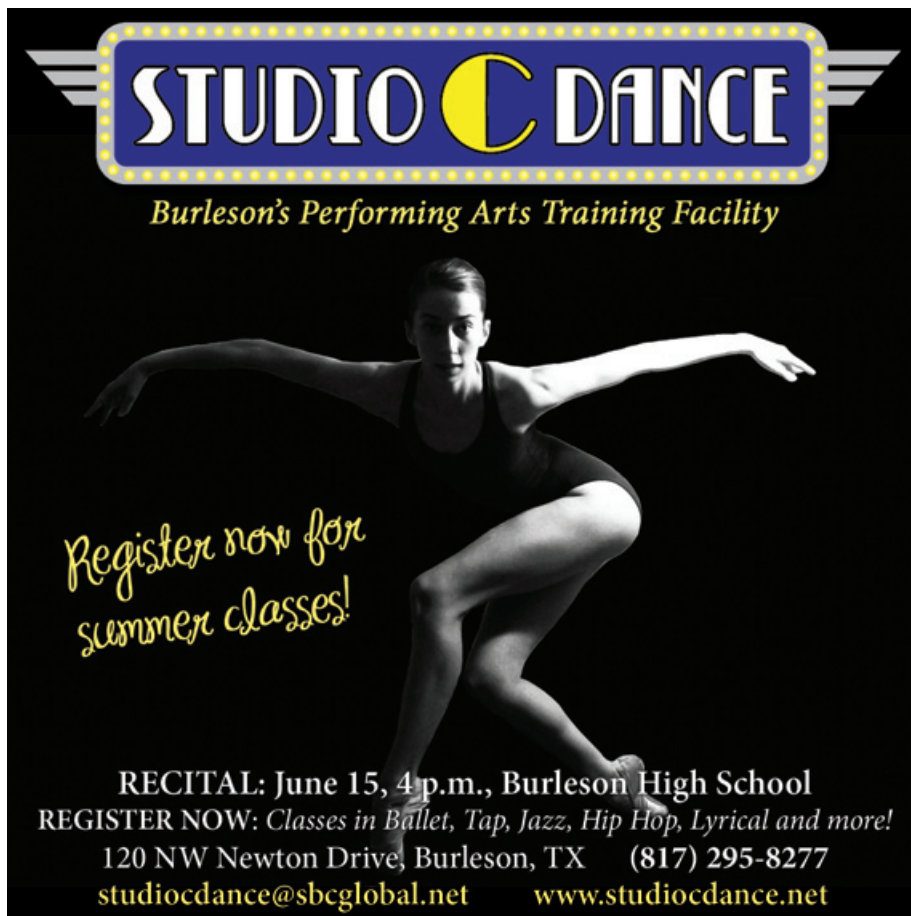
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schools. "I put one scanner in the barn and kept one in the house. Wherever I was I could listen so I would know what's going on. Even now, whenever they start talking I can tell you exactly what they're doing. We don't have as big a crime rate as in some big cities, but we have lots of mischief, misdemeanor crimes and speeding tickets," CM explained. "We have less crime than other cities because of our great police department."

At this month's Police Appreciation Open House, CM and other members of CPAAA and COPS put out brochures about membership, hoping to get fresh volunteers. "We keep the police officers on the street, so they can continue focusing on patrolling. Meanwhile, we are doing things like writing tickets on handicapped parking or using radar guns in neighborhoods when residents complain people are running their stop signs or speeding through the neighborhood streets," said CM, who is proud of the COPS' new, retrofitted SUV that provides volunteers a radio to use instead of their cell phones.

Enjoying the ride while the decades brought change after change, CM keeps one ear always tuned to his scanner. This man, who has trained many former volunteers who are now fulltime firefighters, still visits all the fire stations to check in with the first responders. When they call for help, CM and others with a heart like his, stand ready and willing. **NOW**

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# READY TO *RIDE*

— By Erin McEndree

*Life is good for Wanita Lovell. "It's busy, but good," she said. Even at 60-something, she stays active — working nine hours a day, belly dancing for exercise and finding time to be a fun grandma. One of her favorite activities involves volunteering every May to set up a rest stop along the route of the Honey Tour scenic bike ride for the participating cyclists. Wanita's daughter, Joy, an avid biker and runner, rode in the tour for several years, and when she learned in 2001 that a rest stop was to be set up a mile from her house, she encouraged her mom to help.*

**"I DON'T  
COMPLAIN."**



Wanita was assigned a rest stop at Barnesville Cemetery in 2003 and has served there ever since. She has a faithful team of volunteers who return every year, just because it's a lot of fun. "Diane's going on three years, and mother-daughter pair, Carol and Cindy, have been with me since 2006. I don't have trouble finding people to help," Wanita said. "Cindy is the cheerleader from the first rider to the last." The most recent volunteers are Shanna and her three children, Lukas, Emma and Kirstyn. "Shanna helps her kids learn about and appreciate volunteering by helping at the rest stop," Wanita said. "I encourage everyone to get involved and be a part of the tour by rallying the cyclists on May 25."

The bike ride starts and ends at Centennial High where food, exhibits and shopping can be found. Four bike routes — 65, 46, 28 and 7 miles — are available. They are clearly marked for different skill levels. The routes take in the scenic landscape from Burleson to Grandview and back. Rest stops are stationed about every 10 miles, where participants can find cold water and fresh fruit supplied by the Chamber of Commerce. Encouragement is plentiful along the trail, and participants comment about how friendly the volunteers are and how well the rest stops are stocked. One participant said, "They had honey, pickles and mustard. I never knew that mustard had anti-cramping benefits, but evidently that's the thing."

When Wanita first started working the Honey Tour, she tried different themes at her rest area, including red hats and valentines. "Now we do a memorial theme that is liked by all," she said.

For the past 32 years, Wanita has worked at Trinity Industries. They make and sell all kinds of railroad cars, barges and tanks, as well as supplying parts for each. Her job allows her to use the scrap material and equipment to make encouraging signs and caution signs for the cyclists to read as they approach.

"I do so much more than the Honey Tour. I wear safety glasses and hard hats, and I drive a fork lift," Wanita explained. "I've always been in a male-dominated environment, but I don't complain." Her

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employer was very supportive when she had to leave for 14 months to fulfill her commitment to the Texas Army National Guard.

While serving in the National Guard for 23 years, Wanita was on duty one weekend a month and two weeks per year. "I was encouraged to take some classes to move up in rank. I spent 13 years in maintenance and, because of those classes, I was transferred to communications. I was called to active duty for 14 months. I spent nine months overseas in Bosnia-Herzegovina providing communications for the SFOR7 (Stabilization Force Seven) peacekeeping mission. We worked with many nations to provide the local population a sense of security, so they



**"I was called to active duty for 14 months."**

could continue normal living. Our communications covered Bosnia, Hungary and local areas. We were the 'Ma Bell' for the Army," said Wanita, who is very proud of her service and glad she was a part of the Army.

The military has been a strong influence on Wanita's family. Wanita's husband, Randy, is a former Marine. Her dad served in New Guinea in the Army during WWII. Her older brother was a First Sergeant with the Big Red One, and her little brother was also a Marine. Two of her uncles served in the Air Force and Navy.

Tracing her family's genealogy has become another passion for Wanita. "My daughter, Chris, asked where she came from," Wanita said. "So we are researching our past." Wanita's dad's family came from England in 1635, arriving in Virginia. Her grandmother came from Östergötland, Sweden, in 1901. Upon arriving in

Boston, she signed papers denouncing King Gustov, and Wanita has the papers her grandmother signed. She finds the papers interesting documentation of her family's history.

Wanita has a close family. Two of her three daughters live nearby, and she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, Adrian, Erin and Nerissa, involving herself with them as much as possible. They roller-skate, bowl or go to the lake together. She also visits her brothers and sisters in Kansas when she has the opportunity.

Wanita's hobbies include trying to grow blackberries every year, riding on the back seat of her husband's Harley motorcycle and belly dancing. "I started dancing in the '80s for fun and got

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serious after 2001. I danced at May Fest, Arbor Days and nursing homes and even in Austin," Wanita shared. "There was always a show going on somewhere for dancers in the local area. I haven't danced in public for many years. I do it now just for exercise." The Rose Marine Theatre hosts belly dance performances all year long. Participants from around the world — places like Egypt and Turkey — come share the exotic art of belly dancing. Audiences see swords, swirling skirts and veils at the historic theater that has been a part of downtown Fort Worth since the 1920s. It's the only active Hispanic theater in town.

Wanita would like to slow down a little, but isn't yet eligible to retire. For now, she will keep working and enjoying her family and her cats. She still encourages people to come out to a rest stop on the Honey Tour route and rally the 700-800 cyclists on the course, which makes for a very rewarding day. Life is great for Wanita. **NOW**



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Christopher, Phillip and Antonio are part of the crew who help Lisa Perkins fulfill customers' needs for residential and light business remodeling.



# **Blessed to Bless**

*Businesswoman Lisa Perkins runs J3 Construction & Consulting with integrity.*

*— By Melissa Rawlins*

Satisfied customers in homes and businesses remodeled by J3 Construction & Consulting professionals say the completed job is as pleasing as the way it was handled. Remodeling is a dirty business, but owner Lisa Perkins' trustworthy crew clean up on a daily basis. After inspections and punch lists are fulfilled to Lisa's satisfaction, her maid service cleans thoroughly. She provides such service for the integrity of the project, her company and herself.

"I have been doing this for so long that I'm not trying to sell to people, I'm trying to help them," Lisa said. She learned these ethics from her father, who started the business in the late '70s. Lisa took it over from her brother in 2001. "J3 is named for my

kids: Jacob, Joel and Jordan. If they want to, they'll inherit the business," she said. "And my stepson, Rylan, may want to be part of the business too!

"My dad was a roofer, well known for being a little bit higher than some of the other roofers in town. But he used five to seven nails on a shingle, rather than staples," Lisa recalled. "After a tornado came through and destroyed the shingles on roofs which had been stapled, he got a ton of calls from builders who noticed that roofs he had shingled with nails had weathered the storm."

Through years of helping her father, Lisa gained experience in residential and light commercial remodeling — from



## Business **NOW**

foundations to roofs to everything in-between — as well as catastrophe cleanups. She also worked with insurance companies. It did not take long for her to figure out that this line of business provided a two-way blessing. Customers received a finished product that served their needs, while Lisa and her crews received fair rewards from satisfied clients.

"I help people stay in the realm of what they can afford, and if we don't use [all] the money budgeted I give my client back the difference," she said. "My clients love that return on their investment."

Her Burleson-based company performs small and large projects, from individual homes to corporate buildings, like the Wendy's restaurant in Decatur. They recently remodeled a home in Crowley for a television episode of the series *Catastrophe Inc.*, on HGTV. In Burleson, the handiwork of J3's crews is apparent in the new floor of Beautiful Evolutions, as well as in the HVAC and plumbing of Serendipity Salon.

When her commercial jobs involve underground utilities or new development, she will refer her clients to other contractors she has known for years. Then her crews finish the job. More than anything, J3 Construction & Consulting is asked to remodel kitchens and bathrooms.

"My guys have been with me between three to seven years," Lisa said. "They're great. All are specialized in their own areas. And I get compliments from folks all the time saying it's a joy that they can trust these guys."

Lisa stays booked about a month or two in advance. "But I always try to make room for people like the grandma who called me the other day," Lisa said. "She just needed a little painting and a doggie door. I know it's small, but I want to help people. That is what makes it fun." Her clients love Lisa and the service given by the crews of J3 Construction. "And I continue to get calls. It's my little blessing." **NOW**



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*The Crowley Chamber holds a ribbon cutting for Parents Defeating Autism.*



*LTC John Weeks, a Burleson native on leave from duty in Afghanistan, testifies on behalf of Teresa Nelson's organization, Support Our Soldiers.*



*Weston Foster, Smoothie Master at Texas Health Burleson Fitness Center, serves up nutrition with a smile.*



*Lu and Ken Kepple, of Big J Auto, visit with Robin Witt, of Witt Plumbing, at Joshua Chamber of Commerce awards banquet.*



*Linda Brown and Stanford, from A Wizard's Spell Ranch, pose for a photo before the Gypsy Horse World Show in John Justin Arena.*



*BACC hosts a ribbon cutting for Vision Plaza.*



*Stephanie Stovall, Bri Christopher and Sesty Scott step up and walk for autism.*



*Justin Everitt celebrates his grandmother, Beth Smith, a cancer survivor first diagnosed in 2008, at Relay for Life.*



*Mascots for the Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo get hugs from Mound Elementary student Alaysia Batey.*



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# Don't Let April Showers Leave You Soaked

*What you need to know about flood insurance.*

"April showers bring May flowers," isn't just a cute springtime saying. We experience heavier rain during these months, and this increase in precipitation raises water levels and can lead to flooding. One way to prepare for wetter weather is to purchase flood insurance.

## Flood insurance 101

- Flood insurance is offered through the Federal Government's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). You can obtain flood insurance through local insurance companies.
- A standard flood policy covers the building and contents. Building Coverage protects the structure of your home or business. Contents Coverage protects your personal property, such as clothing and furniture.

## Know the risks

- Floods and flash floods occur in all 50 states, including Texas.
- According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), roughly 25 percent of all claims paid by the NFIP



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are for policies in low- to moderate-risk communities.

- Flash floods may occur without warning when a large volume of water falls in a short time.
- After fires, floods are the most common natural disaster in the U.S.
- Consumers should be aware that most homeowners, condominium, manufactured home, renters and business insurance policies do not cover flood damage. Property owners may need separate flood insurance coverage to protect against losses from floods during hurricanes, thunderstorms or any time of the year.

## Getting coverage


- Consumers can request flood insurance through their insurance agent.
- Depending on where you live, the average cost of a \$50,000 flood insurance policy is about 56 cents per day, while a \$100,000 policy is about \$500 annually, or \$1.37 per day.
- In general, a flood policy does not take effect until 30 days after you purchase flood insurance. So, if the weather forecast announces a flood alert for your area and you go to purchase coverage, it's already too late. You will not be insured if you buy a policy a few days before a flood.

## Costly consequences

- If a consumer is impacted by flooding and they do not have flood insurance, the cost to rebuild their life could be in the tens of thousands of dollars.
- Flooding is the most costly natural disaster in the U.S., causing more than \$2 billion of property damage each year.
- Just one foot of water can destroy up to 60 percent of a home's contents.

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*Mark Jameson is a licensed Allstate sales associate based in Burleson.*



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### May 3

Cinco de Mayo Festival: 6:00-11:00 p.m., Old Town Burleson, near First Baptist Church, 317 W. Ellison St. The City of Burleson and La Buena Vida de Burleson help the community celebrate with entertainment, carnival rides and great food. For more information, call Manuel Trevino at (817) 733-8700.

### May 3, 10

City of Crowley Spring Concert Series: 7:30 p.m., Stage Pavilion, 900 E. Glendale St. **May 3**, Jeff Burns Band; **May 10**, Mike Wissel & The Pawn Shop Pistols. There will be a food vendor on site. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, friends and family. Call (817) 297-2201.

### May 4

Don't Stop Believin - An '80s Gala Blast: 6:30-11:00 p.m., Mimosa Hall. Dinner, live music, live auction, raffle, Big Spenders and the ever popular Diamond Dip by Woolard's Custom Jewelers. Sponsored by H-E-B, Your New Neighborhood and Huguley Memorial Medical Center, seating is limited. \$50. Make reservations through BACC, (817) 295-6121.

### May 6, 13, 20, 27

Joshua Young Life meeting: 7:29 p.m., the "old gym" at Joshua High School. Young Life brings the good news of Jesus Christ into the lives of adolescents. For more information, contact Brandi Carswell at (817) 933-1934 or brandi\_carswell@hotmail.com or visit us at www.younglife.org.

### May 17

Burleson Community Health Fair: 3:00-6:00 p.m., Hidden Creek Golf Course. Free. Interested vendors contact behealthy@burlesontx.com.

### May 22

Joshua Area Chamber Quarterly Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., NorthPointe Baptist Church, 2450 S.W. Wilshire Blvd. Presentation on the progress of the Chisholm Trail Parkway. \$15 with reservation; \$18 without. RSVP to Kim Henderson, (817) 253-7233.

### May 25

Honey Tour Bike Ride: 8:00 a.m., Centennial High School, 201 S. Hurst Rd. Support Burleson Area Chamber of

Commerce while riding over Johnson County roads for 7, 28, 46 or even 62 miles. Register before **May 17** through <http://honeytour.athlete360.com>.

### May 27

Lynn Smith's Memorial Day Car Show: Noon-4:00 p.m., 925 N. Burleson Blvd. Register for only \$10. Free to the public. Profits go to D&D Christmas for Kids 2013 Project. Hosted by D&D Rockin' Rods Classic Car Shows. Call (817) 797-1197.

### June 1

Freedom Ball: 5:30-11:00 p.m., Fort Worth Hilton Crystal Ballroom, 815 Main St. A night of pride, patriotism and pageantry. Dance alongside our heroes, enjoy a delicious dinner with music and support our soldiers through the live auction. Call (817) 551-2908.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*



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## In The Kitchen With Casey Jacocks

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

A little more than a year ago, Casey Jacocks married Jennifer Foster, a woman he'd first met when they both attended Crowley High School. The couple enjoys Burleson's quality of life surrounded by appreciative family and friends. "My family has always been blessed with good cooks," Casey said. "I grew up watching my mom, aunt, grandmother and great-grandmother prepare Thanksgiving Dinner for the family at my grandmother's house in Burleson. And Nana, Dad's mom, is legendary for her baking skills." Casey's inventiveness in the kitchen has earned trophies for his chili recipe. Using the Big Green Egg grill/smoker Jennifer bought for him as a wedding present, Casey has adopted several techniques for slow-smoking ribs or chicken and for cooking dynamite steaks. **NOW**

### Wing Sauce Dip

**2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese**  
**3 large chicken breasts, cooked and shredded**  
**1 pkg. ranch seasoning**  
**1/2 cup Frank's Buffalo Wing Sauce, or to taste**  
**1 8-oz. pkg. Sargento's Mexican Spice Mix Shredded Cheese**

**1.** Mix all ingredients and bake at 375 F until bubbly and slightly browned. Serve with Fritos or potato chips.

### Seasoned and Seared Rib Eye Steaks

**4 prime boneless rib eye steaks**  
**1/2 cup French's Worcestershire sauce**  
**1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil**  
**1 Tbsp. cracked black pepper**  
**1 Tbsp. coarse-ground sea salt**

**1 Tbsp. garlic powder**  
**4 Tbsp. unsalted butter**  
**Minced garlic, if desired**

**1.** Bring steaks to room temperature an hour before preparing.  
**2.** Mix Worcestershire sauce, oil, pepper, salt and garlic powder together. Pour marinade over steaks; let set for 1 hour, covered.  
**3.** Heat clean, oiled grill to 500 F. Cook steaks for approximately 2 1/2 minutes per side, or until internal steak temperature reaches 130 degrees (for medium). While cooking, turn clockwise once for grill marks.  
**4.** Pull from grill. Put a pat of butter and minced garlic on each steak. Cover and rest for 5 minutes.

### Homemade Potato Salad

*Serves approximately 20*

**5 lbs. white potatoes**  
**6 eggs, hard boiled**  
**2 1/2 Tbsp. salt**

**1 Tbsp. black pepper**  
**3 cups Hellman's mayonnaise**  
**2 Tbsp. yellow mustard**  
**10 oz. Best Maid sweet pickle relish**

**1.** Boil potatoes, skin on, until they split. Drain and cool.  
**2.** Peel potatoes. Cut into chunks into bowl.  
**3.** Dice eggs into same bowl.  
**4.** Add mayonnaise, mustard, pickle relish, salt and pepper. Stir together.  
**5.** Refrigerate overnight, if possible. Serve chilled.

### Harold's Texas Cheese Grits

**6 cups boiling water**  
**1 1/2 cups Quaker quick grits**  
**1 1/2 sticks butter**  
**1 lb. sharp Cheddar cheese, grated**  
**3 eggs, beaten**  
**1 tsp. salt**  
**1 tsp. seasoning salt**  
**5 – 15 shakes Tabasco**  
**2 tsp. paprika**

**1.** Boil water. Add grits. Cook for 5 minutes or until thick. Turn off heat but leave pan on burner.  
**2.** Add butter and mix until melted. Add grated cheese. Mix until cheese is melted.  
**3.** Add eggs and mix very well. Add remaining ingredients; mix well.  
**4.** Pour into well greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Sprinkle paprika on top. Bake at 250 F for 1 hour.

### Nana's Cocoa Cinnamon Pound Cake

**1 cup butter**  
**2 1/2 cups sugar**  
**5 eggs**  
**3 cups sifted flour**  
**1/2 tsp. salt**  
**1/2 tsp. baking powder**  
**1/2 cup cocoa**  
**1 tsp. cinnamon**  
**1 cup milk**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**

**1.** Cream butter until light and fluffy. Add sugar gradually, creaming well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.  
**2.** Sift dry ingredients together. Mix into creamed mixture, alternately with milk, beating just to blend. Add vanilla.  
**3.** Pour into greased and floured 10-inch tube pan. Bake in 325 F oven for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.  
**4.** Cool for 15 minutes; remove from pan. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.





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