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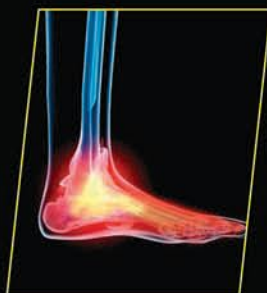
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## ON THE COVER



*Grant Waldeck and Don Rutledge are proud of what they've accomplished in film class.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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## Editor's Note

*Happy Mother's Day!*

May is a busy month. There's the Partners in Education Luncheon on the 6th, the grand celebration of Mother's Day on the 10th and birthdays and anniversaries throughout the month. Mother's Day causes me to reflect on what it means to be a mother. Motherhood is probably one of the most challenging jobs known to humankind. The emotional rollercoaster that comes with the label of mom is filled with sharp curves, high peaks, low valleys and everything imaginable in between.

Although I'm not perfect, I think I've done a good job with the sons God blessed me with so many years ago. The rewards have far outweighed the ups and downs that come with being someone's mother. Kissing my grandsons this Mother's Day will be like icing on the celebratory cake. As a mother and grandmother, this Granny can't get enough of their sweetness!

*Sandra*

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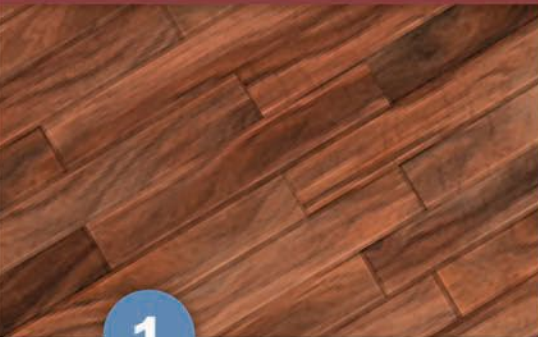
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# DOCUMENTA



*The art of movie making can spellbind, educate and entertain, as storytellers weave magic lands of mystery, comedy, adventure, science fiction and more, affecting the hearts and minds of viewers. The art of documentary making takes even more dedication and passion. For students at Waxahachie Global High School, this has become both an educational and artistic experience, as they work to make an impact on a national stage.*

As a nationally recognized STEM school, Global High is known for its creative teachers and students in science, engineering, technology and math. That creativity extends to their extracurricular endeavors, as junior Don Rutledge and sophomore Grant Waldeck are going above and beyond with a documentary project first suggested to them by computer science instructor Tanya Snook. From writing and filming, narrating and editing, interviewing and traveling, the two have set themselves on a course for competition they didn't foresee.

A few years ago, Global High offered a film class through their partnership with Navarro College. When the instructor left, many students wanted to start a film club to continue pursuing their passion. Then, in January 2014, Tanya asked Don and Grant if they were interested in making a documentary for Remember Me Retired Racehorse Rescue in Burleson. The focus would be on the rehabilitation of racehorses after they are retired from the track and the lives they could still have. "I knew all the students had an interest in film, but I told them, 'It has to be good, because this is for a national campaign,'" Tanya said. "It's an educational tool, and we will also be entering it in competition on the side." Although the students might not have known each other well, they quickly became a team.





# RY DEDICATION

— By Melissa Swedski





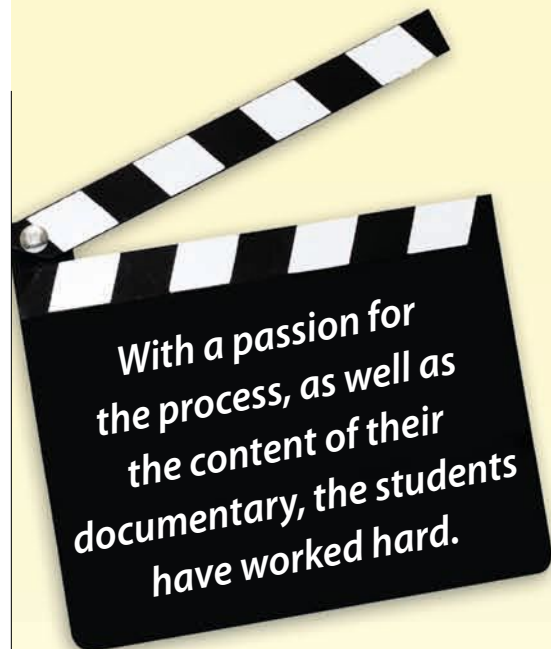
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"We weren't looking for a film course, per se, but I thought it would be awesome to make documentaries," explained Grant, who has watched many through the years. As a photographer since the age of 8, it was a natural fit for him to take over cinematographer duties, even using his personal equipment in the early days of shooting.

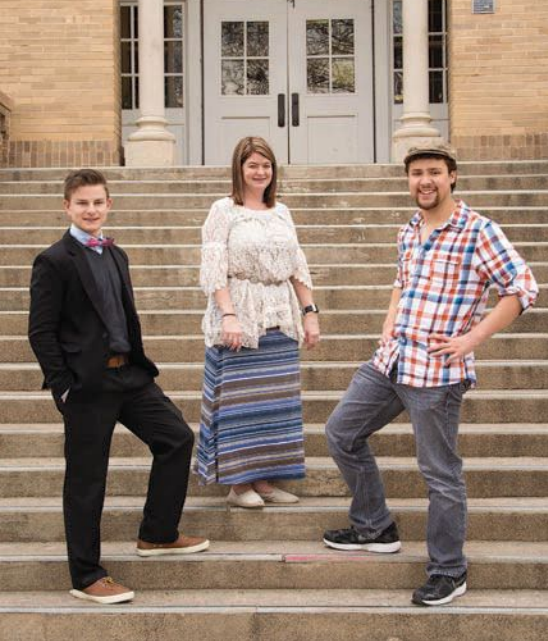
Don's skill is socializing, and he is both narrator and script writer. The thought of making a documentary that might have a national impact was a selling point. "I love making change," he said. "If there is a problem no one is addressing, I want to get into it. I'm all about instilling change."

The team mapped out an action plan, practicing the project-based learning Global promotes. They listed places they wanted to visit, people they needed to interview, and created a storyboard for the flow of the documentary. They agreed the deadline for their 60- to 90-minute film was December 2015, so there would be time to send to festivals and competitions and reach a wider audience. "We have really had a crash course in learning how to do filming, fundraising, creating a budget and business plan and then promoting it," Grant explained.

"We have a strategy," Don added.

The first visit was to the Remember Me Rescue stables, where they met the retired racehorses, many of whom were being rehabilitated. They interviewed owners Dallas and Donna Keen and filmed video of the operation. In March, they attended the Battle of the X's,





The OTTB Trainer Challenge at Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth, and shot footage of the thoroughbreds' versatility in a competitive environment. They also interviewed Jack Van Berg, who trained horses that won the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and Breeders' Cup.

The footage from the Battle of the X's became their first video, a teaser trailer they premiered at the Remember Me Rescue Gala at Lone Star Park in April. Not only was the trailer a hit with the guests, the students seized the opportunity to interview retired jockey Pat Day, who was inducted into the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in 1991.

In June, the project moved into high gear, when the students began fundraising to purchase professional equipment. They used Twitter, Facebook and YouTube accounts to spread the word and conducted interviews with local media outlets. Additionally, they went to local businesses and individuals to pitch the film, with Don and Grant doing odd jobs and raking leaves. They were able to raise \$1,000. In late October, the students filmed a video explaining the goals,



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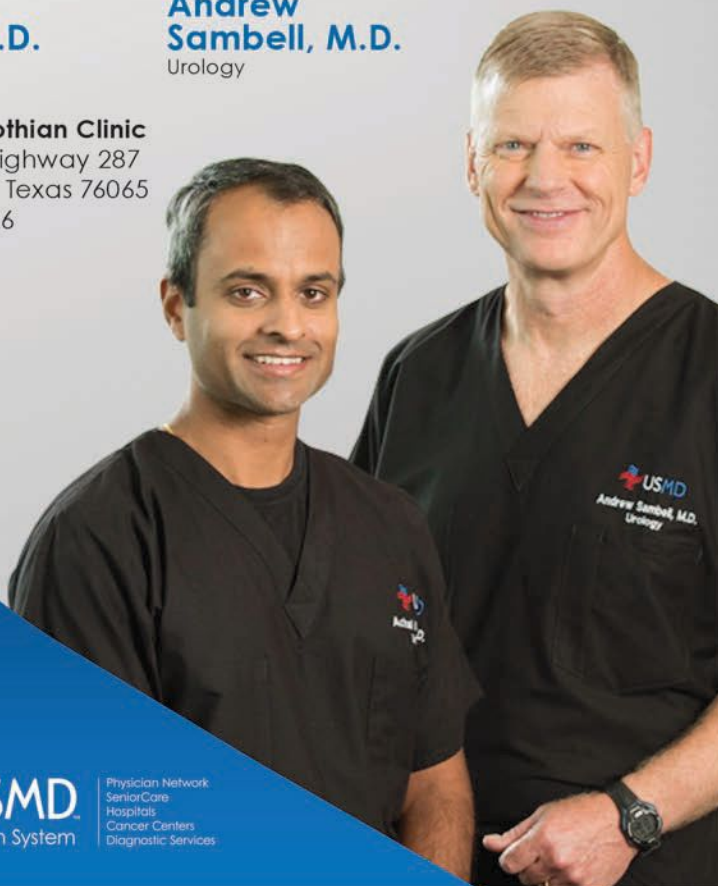
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risks and challenges of their planned documentary, which they debuted with the opening of their online Kickstarter fundraising campaign. The crew wanted to purchase a Blackmagic Cinema Camera and sound and lighting equipment. By November 25, they had reached their goal of \$3,500.

The group continued gathering information for the documentary, visiting horse therapy centers Serendipity Equine Haven in Fort Worth and Campfire Creek in Waxahachie. In December, they met Russell Thompson, a film producer who mentored them on live action shooting, final editing and getting into film competitions. On Russell's suggestion, Don and Grant created a "sizzle reel," a short, fast-paced creative pitch, which debuted in February on their YouTube channel. "He suggested we send it to companies who would help with a film on this topic," Don said. "We still have some camera needs, plus our travel and other support expenses."

New equipment arrived earlier this year, with lights, camera rig, microphones, audio setups, lenses, a slate and a gyro for stabilization — just what the students needed to move to the next step. "We'll finish filming at the end of this month, right around the end of the school year," Don said. "We plan on interviewing experts at Texas A&M University, major figures in the industry, jockeys, trainers, veterinarians and equine health experts, anyone who can talk to us about what retired racehorses can do." Most of the filming will be done in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, followed by final editing and post-production work, which means the documentary team still needs donations. All equipment purchased will be donated back to GHS. Because the students formed a nonprofit 501(c)(3), all donations are tax deductible.





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With a passion for the process, as well as the content of their documentary, the students have worked hard, moving around jam-packed schedules filled with rigorous classes, homework and projects — all of which has not gone unnoticed. “The community support has been wonderful,” Tanya said. “Other Global students gave, because they want to see fellow students do well. Teachers donated, too. Our kids give back a lot in the community, so others give when they ask.” Tanya just beamed with pride as she thought about Don and Grant. “Don is the big picture person, and Grant makes it all happen. Together they do everything, and they will make a great thing.” **NOW**

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# A Nurse's Touch

— By Lisa Bell

*As a little girl, Jenette Crabb knew what she wanted to be when she grew up. At least she thought she knew. “A missionary medical doctor,” she would say when asked.*

“How cute. But don’t you mean a missionary nurse?” they would ask. Their response made her furious. She planned on becoming a doctor, serving in mission fields.

After graduating from high school, Jenette enrolled in premed. Her parents



“My naval career is a huge badge I wear with great pride.”

weren’t contributing to her college fund, and before long, she ran out of money. She stumbled upon a military recruiter, who explained she could earn her nursing





degree while serving. Jenette didn't know anything about the military or any women in the military, but she joined the Navy anyway.

Entering as a medical corpsman, Jenette loved every minute. Watching the young doctors quickly changed her mind. They never saw their babies, and seldom saw their spouses. Besides, she figured doctors weren't the real healers. The nurses made the patients well. Nurses had the special touch. They encouraged and cried with patients and helped them through uncertainties.

Nursing really was what she wanted after all. As a strong Christian, Jenette believes God has a hand in the happenings of life. "If you're a Christian and belong to Him, then He's intervening



Jenette with a patient (Yoshira Gray).

every day," she said. "Too many times we chalk it up to coincidence. We don't acknowledge His hand."

From a young age, she believed God had a plan for her life. In the circumstances of her early career, she saw His hand moving. "My naval career is a huge badge I wear with great pride," she said. The Navy introduced her to a medical career and took her many places in the world, both geographically and professionally. "I 'grew up' in Navy medicine, and I feel it has made me the nurse I am," she added. The Navy



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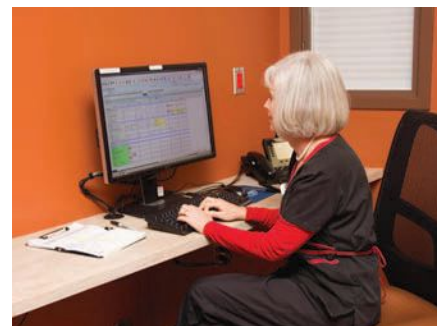
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provided confidence in new, unfamiliar situations and an ability to jump in quickly as part of a team.

In the Navy, nurses were given huge amounts of responsibility on day one, and with it came accountability. The experience taught her accountability goes hand-in-hand with any decision made.



"I must be willing to stand behind my decisions instead of making excuses for them," she said. After four years of active duty, Jenette remained in the Navy Reserve, but headed to Dallas Bible College, intent on pursuing mission work. Very content with going as a nurse, she still longed to serve God.

Jenette met her future husband, Rick, at a singles group Bible study. She had already signed up for a mission trip to Africa. She certainly wasn't looking for a husband. But the love of her life stayed around no matter how many times she tried brushing him off. The dilemma posed a question she had to answer. Why did she want to be a missionary?





With no family in the area and few friends, she came out of the Navy focused on school and herself. An emptiness settled over her. She realized God had given her a gift to serve others. The empty feeling came from lack of service. With no patients, family or friends, she started baking cookies for others — a simple solution, but the small act restored her fulfillment. Ultimately, she decided nursing provided the perfect way to serve others. She also determined being a wife and mother in a time when many said she was wasting her potential was the absolute best way to serve.

While finishing her nursing degree, she remained in the Navy Reserve. When

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Rick's job transferred him to California, she went back on active duty, continuing her nursing career. With a military background and pay grade, the choice made sense.

Rick eventually joined the Navy. They chose to homeschool their two sons, so she worked for temporary agencies on days when Rick could be home early. Even as a civilian, most of the jobs she worked involved military hospitals.

When Rick retired in 2005, they decided to move back to Waxahachie, near his hometown of Midlothian. His family still lived there at the time, although they're no longer in the area. Her mother and sister, who both had physical disabilities, lived in Round Rock at the time. They moved in, and Jenette became the primary caregiver for her sister, until she passed in Oct. 2014. Her mother's health was good, and other than having bad knees, she was very capable. Following knee surgery that went very wrong, she needed Jenette more than ever. Today, she lives with Rick and Jenette, helping as much as possible. "She isn't demanding, expectant of special treatment or bitter," Jenette said. Rick helps care for her when Jenette is out of the house.

Besides caring for her mother, Jenette works in the nursing pool for Baylor Scott and White in Waxahachie. As part of the pool, she tells them what days she is available, and they assign her to different units, as needed. She is the only nurse who works every unit in the hospital. She loves the ER, but prefers working in all areas. Blessed with not having to work, she still loves nursing.

"I get to change lives through nursing," she said. The impact may be forever or for an hour. She interacts with patients and families who need her knowledge or shared tears. She gets to mentor younger nurses or help a seasoned colleague refocus. All of it brings her joy, pride and a sense of fulfillment from knowing she contributes a lot even without working every day.

When someone wrote about her and submitted it to the board for the Great 100 Nurses Award, she welcomed the validation of her contribution. "It would have been enough, just being submitted," she said. "Winning the award was incredible." She plans to support winners in the future by taking a group from Baylor



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to the ceremony and cheering for them.

Work and caring for her mother leaves Jenette little time for volunteer work, but she and Rick both serve with Patriot Guard Riders, supporting families of fallen soldiers and first responders. They are also active in their church and




Jenette with her mom.



Rick and Jenette Crabb.


a few other volunteer opportunities. She especially looks forward to Snowball Express, a weekend event of fun for children of fallen heroes. It's the annual highlight for the couple who still madly love each other after more than 34 years of marriage. She calls Rick her boyfriend. They sometimes meet in a public place where she flirts in a way that has special meaning for him alone.

Jenette altered a Charles Dickens quote, offering it up as a prayer. "Oh Lord, give me a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires and a touch that never hurts." God surely hears her prayer, keeping His hand on her while she serves others — and Him. **NOW**




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# LOTS OF LOVE AND Laughter

— By Sandra Strong

*Patrick and Holly Reid's married life began nine years ago this August in College Station, but as soon as they became pregnant with their first child, family brought them to Waxahachie. "Holly's mom said she'd babysit if we moved within 30 minutes of her home," Patrick remembered. "We loved*



## At Home With PATRICK AND HOLLY REID



*the small-town feeling Waxahachie offered, and it was convenient and close to family." The move proved to be a win-win for all concerned.*

"Wow! Nine years," Holly added with a smile. "That's crazy!"

Holly recalls life quickly moving into fast-forward once Georgia, now 5, was born. Not long after Georgia's birth, Patrick and Holly received the news they were once again expecting — this time with twins. Mary and Olivia, now 4 — although Mary will tell you she's the oldest by one minute — were born just 16 months after Georgia. In the beginning, the three-bedroom, two-bath home seemed large to Patrick and Holly, but that obviously didn't last long. Now, the home is a perfect fit for this family of five, plus one rescue Pit Bull named Chance, one adopted cat named Leaf and a betta fish whose name changes from week-to-week.

Patrick and Holly are both educators. He has been at the Waxahachie Ninth Grade Academy for the past six years, while Holly took her teaching skills from Waxahachie to Ennis ISD last year as an instructional coach. They agree teaching has helped them be better parents, and parenting has helped them be better teachers. "We asked ourselves how we would want our girls treated in the classroom," Holly explained. "We are the teachers we want them to have." And as teachers, Patrick and Holly have learned the value found in patience once they return home in the evening. These



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ideals are being put to the test, as Georgia attends Clift Elementary and the twins attend an in-home daycare and drop-in speech classes, also at Clift.

In the classroom, Patrick and Holly are mirror images of one another as educators. They want the best from their students, so they do all they can to bring out the best in them. At home, it's somewhat of a different story. "The kids expect Patrick to perform in class, but

when he's home, he is more laid-back," Holly stated. "Once we get home, I'm the one with the most energy."

The home is comfortable, quaint and decorated with children in mind. The biggest selling point for Patrick and Holly was the open kitchen. The openness that lends to an ease of entertaining is what they were looking for when house hunting. Holly has six friends from college who come to visit with their

families several times throughout the year. "With 11 kids between us, we have a blast," she said.

The room the twins share used to be, albeit only for a short time, Georgia's room. By the time the twins came home from the hospital, Holly had transformed the extra room into something quite special for Georgia. "We wanted Georgia to have something new," Holly said. "We wanted her to have her own room."





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Georgia's room is her favorite color — purple. The giant cupcake was created with magnetic paint. The matching swirl border is playful and fun. Almost every night, Georgia climbs into bed to watch one of her many movies. “*Frozen* is my favorite,” Georgia chimed in.

Mary and Olivia's room still has the telltale signs of the wall art Holly had created when Georgia was a newborn. The walls are tan with a nature theme. The bedspreads on the bunk beds have a creek running through them to add to the woodsy feeling of the room. “I added to the wall art already in place to make it their room,” Holly shared. “They seem to love it!”

The master bedroom provides a peaceful haven for Patrick and Holly, with walls of soft blue and black accent furniture. The couple's favorite song inspired the art displayed at the head of their bed — more artwork that Holly created.

Patrick and Holly find the hand-me-downs they enjoy give their home a sense of family. The rocking chair in the twins' room once belonged to Holly's parents. The hope chest that serves as a toy box in the twins' room was handed down from Holly's paternal grandfather, while the kitchen table once belonged to her maternal grandmother. “The memories from the hand-me-downs are important to us as a family,” Patrick said.

Although close in age, the girls all have their favorite things to do. Georgia loves being involved in Girl Scouts, so much so that Holly became a troop leader. Mary, sensitive to many things, enjoys her stuffed animals, of which she has many. Olivia can find enjoyment playing alone, as evidenced by the jigsaw puzzles she pieces together on a regular basis at the living room table.

But as a family, they love to cuddle up and read on the couch in the living room, ride their new bicycles out front,



which they got for Christmas, and play in the backyard all year long, when weather permits. "They play Rapunzel in their backyard playground tower," Patrick said, adding that the back porch is his favorite place to hang out. "Back porch dates start with the whole family. After the girls have gone to bed, Holly and I extend the date. We talk about our day and decompress." Shade and brilliant color is provided by the nine crape myrtles that line the backyard. "The girls love them because they are pink," Patrick added.

Holly's favorite room is the living room because of its wonderful fireplace with black accents and selection of family photographs. "I love this room, especially when it's cold," she admitted. "I move a section of the couch in front of the



fireplace. I get my hot cocoa and just enjoy relaxing and keeping warm in front of the fire."

As they reminisce about their life together, Patrick and Holly laugh at how it all began. They dated some during high school but lost touch after graduation. The pair didn't meet up again until four years later. "We met again at a mutual friend's wedding," Holly said. "It was fate."

Patrick and Holly understand the unpredictability of life. "We planned on two pregnancies with a couple years between the two," Holly confessed. "We are so glad that God had something different in mind. We really like the way things are, and we definitely wouldn't change anything."

The energy in the Reid home is abundant. Eleven years later, they are a family that shares lots of love and laughter. The laughter is found in the giggles of three very close-knit sisters, while the love is evident in the artwork showcased on the refrigerator, along with more family photos. **NOW**

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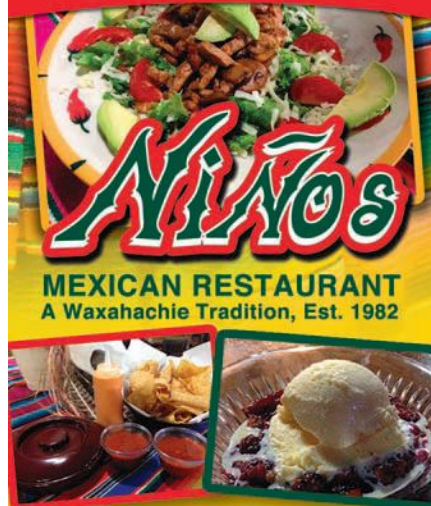
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# Heavenly Music & a Curious Mystery

— By Carolyn Wills



For many years, organist and pianist, Fred Stroop, played the melodies of worship and weddings, of musicals, parties, meetings and final farewells. While bringing joy and comfort to others, he fine-tuned his musical gifts and served his faith and community. Today, Fred is unquestionably a Waxahachie treasure. His is the story of a quiet, unassuming man blessed with talent, grace and humor. His is also the tale of a rather curious mystery.

At age 3, Fred moved with his parents from Temple, Texas, to a 116-acre farm about a mile from Waxahachie. In Temple, his mother had taught high school and junior college English, and his father had been a business manager at Scott & White Medical Center. His family owned land in Temple, Abilene and East Texas, and the move to Waxahachie allowed his father to focus on farming and his mother to stay home with their son. "I liked farm life," Fred smiled. "I remember how Sundays were our cows' favorite times to get out, and my father and I would hurry to round them up before Sunday school."





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Fred began piano lessons as a kindergartener and organ lessons in high school. Interestingly, by the time he was 15, he had also developed an affinity for typing. So much so, that he took top honors at the University Interscholastic League annual competition typing division. The year was 1949. He was a senior at Waxahachie High School. "That was 67 years ago," he grinned. "I don't recall a whole lot except that I enjoyed typing." Clearly, typing liked him. He placed first at the district level in Waco, second in regionals at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and, ultimately, first at the state level in Austin. "I remember someone saying that my





piano playing probably helped, but then, one of the officials said, 'Sometimes it helps, and sometimes it harms.' So it stayed a mystery."

As it happened, Fred soon encountered another mystery. He was to receive a special plaque for his UIL achievement, yet for reasons unknown, the award never materialized. As high school graduation came and went, Fred was soon on his way to North Texas State College in Denton (now University of North Texas) to earn a bachelor's degree in music, with a major in organ music. The mystery and importance of the UIL plaque faded to a small degree.

With undergraduate work behind him, Fred made the brave and bold decision to head east to earn a master's degree in sacred music, with a major in organ music at the Union Theological Seminary in New York City. "I picked New York City because of its sights and programs," he shared. "It was quite a jump for me." As it turned out, his experience was so productive that he spread his classes over three years.

After earning his master's degree, Fred's first job was with First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls. Not only was it an opportunity to be back in Texas, but it was a chance to play a state-of-the-art pipe organ. "The church had owned the organ for a few years, but it was still new and the biggest one I've ever played," he smiled. While he enjoyed his work, the climate in Wichita Falls was challenging, and after a year of sinus and ear troubles, Fred eagerly returned to Waxahachie.

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His remarkable musical journey was underway. Other than a break to attend Drone's Business College in Dallas and six years with the Small Business Administration, Fred's career has been dedicated to music. "I've always been fascinated by the different organs and organists," he said. "As a boy, I loved to listen and watch and am still drawn to the mechanics and sound."



For 15 years, he was organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, and lastly, he was a pianist at the Bardwell United Methodist Church for 10 years. In and around those periods, he served a number of Waxahachie churches, including First Presbyterian on Main Street where he had first played as a high school student and, also, at Central Presbyterian. Fred was the organist at First United Methodist Church in Waxahachie for many years and spent three-and-a-half years at Waxahachie's First Christian Church.

"When I started, there weren't as many churches as there are now, so I think I played weddings at most all of them," he smiled. He was also popular at local club meetings and served as a member of the Rotary Club of Waxahachie for eight years. He was editor of the Rotary newsletter for over three years and named Rotarian of the Year in 1984-85.

A devoted resident of Waxahachie, Fred has lived in the same in-town apartment complex for the past 40 years. Twenty-six years ago, he was blessed by a new connection which has filled his days with abundant joy and friendship. Ultimately, this became the link to the old mystery. While playing at a service at Boze-Mitchell McKibbin Funeral Home, Fred was introduced to Pastor Bruce Zimmerman of Waxahachie Bible Church. "I was conducting the service,"

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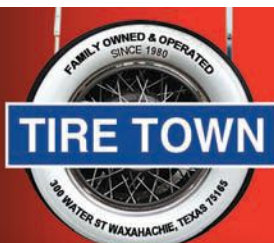
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Bruce said. Sometime later, he and Fred happened to pass each other on Brown Street. "My wife, Sheila, and I had just had our first baby," Bruce explained. "We were taking a walk with him when we saw Fred."

"Bruce motioned for me to come and see his boy," Fred grinned. "Then, he and Sheila had me over for dinner a time or two, and things just went from there."

"He is family," Bruce smiled. "Sheila and I have four boys. The twins, Andrew and James, are now 22, Robert, 24, and William, 26. 'Uncle Fred' has been part of our family since William was a baby."

Eerily, surprisingly or simply serendipitously, Bruce at last solved the mystery of the missing UIL Championship plaque a few months ago. "Long ago, Fred and I had talked about the typing competition, and I knew he had never received his award," he said. "I was leaving the school administration building when I glimpsed an old plaque lying flat on a table in the hallway. I picked it up, read Fred's name and realized it was the award he had never seen. Why it was there, alone and on the table is a newer mystery, but I took a picture and rushed to tell Fred."

"Bruce came and got me, and we went back to look at it," Fred said. Today, the plaque is in its rightful place at home with its winner, at last. A 67-year-old mystery was solved because of a 26-year-old friendship, with perhaps a bit of divine intervention. **NOW**



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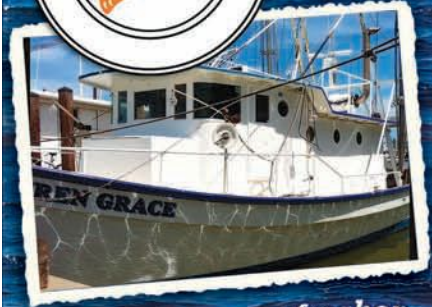
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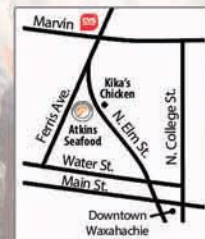
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# Summer Fun! — By Amber D. Browne

*Summer is just around the corner! Parents will be searching for activities to keep their children busy, other than playing the newest video game or watching their favorite television shows. Choices for summer camps are abundant in the local area. Full-day or overnight Camp Fire programs can be reserved, and many school districts sponsor sports and cheerleading camps. Museum, library, cooking and art, and other day or weeklong camps for kids are offered through various nonprofits, community centers or business-related groups.*

If you are looking for some fun in the sun for the entire family, a variety of activities are available locally. You can visit state and local parks, historic sites and zoos for hours of fun. Water parks, lakes and community pools provide for many fun-filled afternoons.

## Nature Activities

With all the hustle and bustle of today's world, technological distractions and busy schedules of adults and children, sometimes we forget to enjoy the outdoors. This summer, why not make time to get back to nature? Multiple state parks are within driving distance







and offer a variety of activities to enjoy. From hiking trails and bird watching adventures to star gazing and overnight camping, families can soak up what Mother Nature has to offer. You can visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov) for state park locations and a calendar of events.

If you want to stay close to home, city parks provide a great place to picnic and enjoy the outdoors. Many include playgrounds for children to exert that extra energy. Your own backyard can provide an afternoon of fun. Why not have the children search for rocks and then paint them for family members and friends? Parents can put together a

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If you and your children plan to spend time outdoors either at overnight camps or hiking the nature trails, please keep in mind the following safety tips. Keep an eye out for poison oak and poison ivy. Both of these plants can cause an itchy rash that will stick around for up to three weeks. Calamine lotion can help relieve the itchiness. Remind children not to eat wild berries they may come across on the trails. If you're out in the sun, don't forget to slather on the sunscreen!



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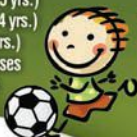
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## Water Activities

The State of Texas is full of beautiful waterways that provide ample opportunities for some fun in the sun. Families can enjoy canoeing or tubing down winding rivers and boating in refreshing lakes. Fishing is also a favorite pastime for many. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website, residents who fish in the state's public waters are required to have a fishing license. However, there are several exceptions to this rule. No fishing license is required if the resident is under 17 years of age.



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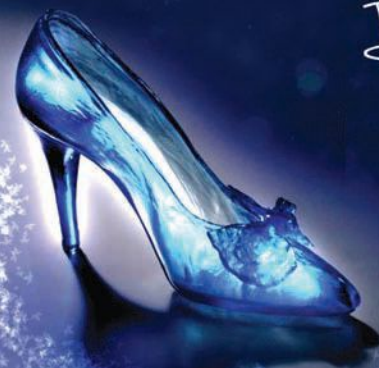
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Taking a dip in a community or backyard swimming pool is always a good choice for some fun in the sun. With swirly slides, wave pools and more, water parks bring out the kid in all of us. Swimming lessons are available at the YMCA, at some city pools or even at a community member's private pool.

Boat enthusiasts are out enjoying the warmer temperatures. Local lakes offer open water to ski, wake board, tube or just relax on the boat deck. Many lake businesses offer rentals for jet skis and other personal watercrafts. Read all instructions before getting onboard watercraft and keep safety in mind.

### *Water Safety Tips*

The week of May 16-22 is designated as National Safe Boating Week. When boating, life jackets are a must. According to the TPWD, children under 13 years old must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device in a boat under 26-feet in length. Every occupant on a personal watercraft is required to wear a life jacket.

Sunscreen is also a necessity when out on the water. The American Academy of Dermatology suggests applying sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to all bare skin at least 15 minutes before heading outdoors. The sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours.



## **More Family Fun**

Warmer weather entices people to get outdoors and soak up the rays. For those rainy days or if you prefer a few hours of indoor entertainment, the local area has plenty of places to share the day together. Children can learn while having fun at the Dallas World Aquarium, Dallas Zoo,



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Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Fort Worth is home to numerous museums, the Fort Worth Zoo and the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. Families can learn about wildlife at the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, hand over a few treats to exotic animals at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center or spend the afternoon checking out prehistoric creatures at Dinosaur World in Glen Rose.



Do you want to check out the latest blockbuster? Many movie theaters now serve a variety of food and drink items on their menus. Drive-in movie theaters are an option for a night out under the stars. Most theaters offer convenient online ticket reservations. Or if live entertainment is more to your liking, you might consider attending a performance at Winspear Opera House in Dallas or the Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth.

With nearly three months of summer ahead of us, parents and children can take advantage of many of the options available to them. Whatever you and your family choose to do this summer, keep safety in mind and don't forget to have fun! **NOW**



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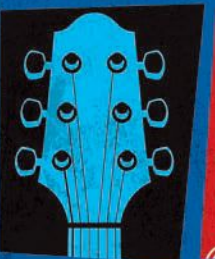
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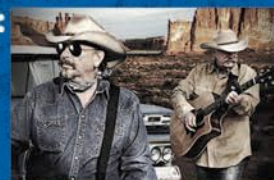
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Michael Pearman, Patti Junkin, Nola Pearman and Monica Wilson feel blessed to have lived, worked and raised their families in Waxahachie.



# TRULY BLESSED

*The family value philosophy that started the company remains in place today.*

— By Sandra Strong

Pearman Oil & LP Gas, Inc. will soon celebrate 53 years of continued service to the community. Bill Pearman graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1951 and soon thereafter began his career with Phillips Petroleum Company in Kansas City, Kansas. Later, he was transferred to their sales office in Houston, Texas. Bill was working for Phillips in 1962 when he and his wife, Nola, decided to go into the oil and gas business themselves, purchasing the Phillips 66 distributorship in Waxahachie. Bill, Nola and their four children made Waxahachie their home.

Ten years came and went before Bill and Nola purchased Culbertson Oil Company from Warren Culbertson, and the

two companies merged to form what is still currently known as Pearman Oil & LP Gas, Inc. "We have been serving Waxahachie and Ellis County with petroleum products, lubricants and propane gas for over 50 years," said Patti Pearman Junkin, president of Pearman Oil & LP Gas. "My father always believed in providing customers with good products and excellent service."

All four children have been active in the business at one time or another. After Bill's passing in 2009, three of the four took over the operations at Pearman Oil & LP Gas. Patti is the president. Michael Pearman serves as vice president. Monica Pearman Wilson serves as the company's



secretary/treasurer. Nola is still active in the company, too. "My mom, Nola, turned 84 in February, and she still works three days a week," Patti shared with a smile. "Instead of letting her retire, we gave her two days off each week."

Pearman Oil & LP Gas employs 14 individuals, four of whom have been with the company for more than 30 years and several for over 20 years. This in and of itself says a lot about the company. "We have all been truly blessed," Patti admitted. "Waxahachie has been a wonderful place to live, work and raise our families."

The first office was located on E. Main Street, while the fuel warehouse was situated on the railroad tracks east of Richards Park. In 1972, when Bill and Nola purchased Culbertson Oil and merged the two companies, they moved to a second location on S. Elm Street. In 1980, construction began when the Coin Op Car Wash was torn down, and by May 1981, Pearman Oil & LP Gas, Inc. moved into their new 6,000-square-foot office/warehouse facility just south of downtown and across the viaduct on Hwy. 77.

Changes have come and gone throughout the years. Pearman Oil & LP Gas, Inc. is the Shell and Chevron Lubricant distributor for the area. "The majority of our industries use hydraulic and gear oil in bulk," Patti stated. "We carry a large inventory of bulk oils, drum oils, pails, cases and greases in all quantities. Pearman Oil supplies many farmers, construction companies, the steel mill and other industrial plants in Ellis County with off-road diesel fuel, gasoline and lubricants."

Although many things have changed throughout the years, with added regulations and more detailed record keeping, the "family value philosophy" the company started with has remained the same. They still believe in top quality products and customer service. "Our father built this business by hard work, honesty and good service," Patti explained. "We are proud to say our customers are not just customers. They are our friends, and we appreciate being able to serve them." **NOW**

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*Yamilet Garza, 4, smiles while getting a bug from the Easter bunny before the Easter egg hunt at Sims Library.*



*Citizens National Bank presents a \$10,000 check to Jeanee Smiles, director of the Waxahachie Senior Activity Center.*



*Twins Olivia and Mary Reid have a fun time hunting eggs during the annual Sims Library Easter Egg Hunt.*



*A large crowd gathers to celebrate the 10-year anniversary celebration for FirstLook, the 2014 Nonprofit of the Year winners.*



*Shana Wright, Lori Peebles, Sandie McKinney and Marlee Parker celebrate Easter with the family.*



*The Nifty Needlers enjoy knitting, crocheting and fellowship as they gather on a regular basis at the Senior Center.*



*Suzanne Walker, with Ellis County Texas AgriLife Extension Service, learns how to craft a good bug house from Karen Lawton, Texas Master Naturalist, during the Lawn and Garden Expo.*



*Josey Gustin rearranges the t-shirt section at Multitudes.*



*A ribbon cutting is held for John Houston Custom Homes at the newest custom model opening at Springfield Lakes Subdivision.*



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## Four Ways to Help Teens Establish Credit



Even before they're old enough to get a credit card or apply for a loan, teenagers can get a head start on developing a strong credit history. Here's how to help your teen get started.

**Encourage your teenager to get a job.** Your teen will be more invested in managing his or her money if it's hard-earned. And holding down a job reflects favorably on your teen's responsibility.

**Open checking and savings accounts.** Responsibly managing and maintaining these basic accounts will show a financial institution that your teen can handle money. If the

account comes with a debit card, your teen will get a feel for using a card for transactions.

**Consider putting one of your household bills in your teen's name.** Have him or her pay the bill. Even if you're helping to supplement the payment, having the bill in your teen's name establishes a payment record. You also can add your teen as an authorized user on your credit card. Your teen receives a card in his or her name, and any purchases go on your account, which allows you to closely monitor spending habits. And, purchases and payments made under your teen's name will be recognized on his or her credit report.

**Obtain a secured credit card.** These cards can be put in your teen's name. Make the initial deposit together, which is the credit limit for the account. Then he or she uses the card to demonstrate expenses can be handled and payments made on time.

Monitor your teen's activities as he or she gets into the credit habit, allowing more flexibility as responsibility is demonstrated. Once several months of purchases and payments are under your teen's belt, access his or her credit report and review it together to make sure everything is correct. Learn more teen money management tips from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. **NOW**

*Adam Rope is a State Farm agent based in Waxahachie.*

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### May 1 — 3

Waxahachie Community Theatre presents *Hello, Dolly!* **Friday** and **Saturday**, 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday**, 2:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Tickets are \$12 for seniors and students and \$15 for adults. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com). Tickets are also available at the Chamber of Commerce, the Ellis County Museum and the offices of Jerry Ellis, DDS, in Midlothian. For more information, contact the WCT box office at (972) 646-1050 or email [wct.texas@gmail.com](mailto:wct.texas@gmail.com).

### May 2

Cinco de Mayo Celebration: 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. For more information, call (972) 937-2392 or visit [www.waxahachiechamber.com](http://www.waxahachiechamber.com).

St. Joseph Spring Fiesta: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church. Cash or credit event. For more information, call (972) 938-1953 or visit [www.springfiesta.net](http://www.springfiesta.net).

### May 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25

Scarborough Renaissance Festival: For more

information, call (972) 938-3247 or visit [www.srfestival.com](http://www.srfestival.com).

### May 5 — 9

Spring Sparkle: Citizen's Convenience Station, 499 Lions Park Rd. Free disposal days offered by the City of Waxahachie. For specific details, call (469) 309-4132 or (972) 937-3367.

### May 16

Huge Yard Sale Fundraiser: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Eastridge Baptist Church, 732 E. Ovilla Rd., Red Oak. All proceeds go to Our Sunflower Friends.

### May 24

First Ever Gingerbread House Bake-Off: 2:00-5:00 p.m., entries will be received during this time at the Ellis County Museum where they will be displayed until **June 7**, Gingerbread Trail weekend. Entry divisions are ages 2-10, 11-17 and 18 and up. A cash grand prize of \$100 will be awarded to the winner of Best in Show. For more information, call Heidi Perkins at (214) 244-2854.

### May 26

Girl Scout Monthly Volunteer meeting:

7:00-8:30 p.m., Brown Street Church of Christ, 2471 Brown St. Visit [www.joinus@gssu251.org](mailto:www.joinus@gssu251.org).

### May 29, 30

Waxahachie's Old Fashioned Singing Project presents "Heaven's Front Porch": **Friday**, 8:00 p.m., **Saturday**, 3:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Tickets will be available at the door. For more information, visit [www.waxaofs.com](http://www.waxaofs.com).

### May 30

Our Sunflower Friends Golf Tournament: 8:00 a.m., Mansfield National Golf Club, 3750 National Pkwy., Mansfield. Call Vicki at (469) 226-3080 for more details and to sign up.

### June 6

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-in: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. Free parking. Public invited. Breakfast tickets: adults and children 8 and above: \$6. Children under 8: \$3. For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.com).

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com](mailto:sandra.strong@nowmagazines.com).*

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# Gum Disease Can Kill More Than Your Smile

Half of American adults over the age of 30 have some degree of periodontal (gum) disease, according to recent findings from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Multiple studies estimate that between 48 and 50 percent, or approximately 65 million American adults, have mild, moderate or severe periodontitis, the more advanced form of periodontal disease. In adults 65 and older, prevalence rates increase to 70 percent. Literally millions of teeth every year are unnecessarily lost to gum disease.

Periodontal disease is caused by bacterial infections that attack gums, ligaments and bone caused by plaque below the gum line. The bacteria (plaque) create toxins which irritate the gums and bone and can eventually lead to tooth loss. More sobering, the bacteria and toxins that build up under the gum can enter the blood stream, travel throughout the body and cause serious health problems including: stroke, respiratory diseases, heart disease, diabetes, stomach ulcers, osteoporosis, arthritis, infertility, prostatitis and pre-term births.

Besides simply affecting your mouth, causing bad breath, tooth loss and embarrassment, periodontal disease can have wider reaching effects on the body. Women who are pregnant are especially at risk. Periodontal disease can lead to premature delivery, and worse, the potential for a stillborn baby. There is an old wives tale that you lose a tooth for each baby. This may or may not be true in every case, but the point is that pregnancy can cause an underlying condition to worsen. Seventy-five percent of women experience some level of gingival bleeding while carrying a child. In more severe cases, bacteria from periodontal disease can travel through the bloodstream, cross the placenta, enter the amniotic fluid and cause a neonatal infection. This infection can be what triggers a premature delivery or stillbirth.

In an Australian study conducted in 2011 that involved 3,416 women, the 26 percent of women with periodontal disease were not able to conceive a child for seven months, while the group without gum disease took an average of two months to become pregnant. Research is ongoing, but these results were definitely interesting. Periodontal disease can affect the ability to conceive.

For men with periodontal disease, a recent study published in the *Journal of Periodontology* found a significant connection between periodontal disease and inflammation of the prostate (prostatitis). Also, the National Cancer Institute states that men with gum disease have a 60-percent higher chance of being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

For both men and women, periodontal disease can cause faster progression of arterial disease due to systemic inflammation and heightened immune system response. Inflammation has been shown to prematurely break down arterial walls, leading to the plaque buildup that reduces blood flow, causing many associated diseases.

Some of the warning signs of periodontal disease are gums that bleed easily, red, swollen or tender gums, bad breath, gums that have pulled away from the teeth, loose teeth, and changes in the fit of partial dentures. With all of this bad news, is there any hope? Yes! Periodontal disease can be very effectively managed. Management starts with regular dental visits. Your dentist will do a thorough exam, diagnose your condition, prescribe the appropriate treatment and educate you on home care. Your health is worth it! **NOW**

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## In the Kitchen With Janet Smith

— *By Sandra Strong*

Janet Smith's cooking enjoyment came from her grandmother and mother at the tender age of 8 while the family was living in East Texas. "The inspiration and love came as I watched them cook in the kitchen during the holidays," Janet fondly reminisced. "My ethnic background and family heritage has definitely influenced my love of cooking."

As she has matured in her cooking, Janet likes trying new dishes and spices. "I like to mix rosemary and nutmeg on beef. The taste is so awesome," she admitted, "but I enjoy baking most of all." Most of her dishes come from family recipes and very old cookbooks handed down from her great-grandmother. "There's nothing like good foods, desserts and summer drinks to make memories of good times." **NOW**

### Mother's Pecan Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 2 sticks unsalted butter**
- 2/3 cup Skippy Creamy Peanut Butter**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 cup light brown sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 12-oz. bag chocolate chunk chips or 1 cup milk chocolate and white chocolate chips**
- 1 1/4 cups pecans, coarsely chopped**

**1.** Preheat oven to 325 F. Combine flour, baking soda and salt in a medium-sized mixing bowl.

- 2.** Beat butter, peanut butter and sugars together in a large bowl until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs and vanilla until blended. Stir in flour mixture until blended and dough forms.
- 3.** Stir in the chocolate or chocolate chips and pecans. Drop cookies by the teaspoonful onto a cookie sheet. Bake for 15-17 minutes or until golden brown around the edges and lightly browned on top.

### Bread Pudding With Whiskey Sauce

*Serves 10-12.*

- 1 16-oz. loaf French bread**
- 2 cups milk**
- 1 cup cream sherry**
- 3 large eggs, lightly beaten**
- 2 cups sugar**

- 1 cup raisins**
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted (divided use)**
- 2 Tbsp. vanilla extract**
- 1/2 cup honey**

**1.** Break bread into small chunks. Place in a large bowl. Add milk and sherry; stir well. Let stand for 10 minutes.

**2.** Combine eggs, sugar, raisins, 2 Tbsp. butter and vanilla. Add to bread mixture; stir well. Spoon mixture into a lightly greased 13x9x2-inch baking dish. Combine honey and remaining butter. Pour over bread mixture.

**3.** Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes or until set and lightly browned. Serve with Whiskey Sauce. See recipe below.

### Whiskey Sauce

*Yields 3 cups.*

- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 cup milk**
- 1/2 cup butter**
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch**
- 1/4 cup cold water**
- 3/4 cup bourbon**

**1.** Combine the first 3 ingredients in a heavy saucepan. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently until sugar dissolves and butter melts.

**2.** Combine cornstarch and water. Add cornstarch mixture and bourbon to milk mixture; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook for 1 minute, stirring occasionally.

### Peach Cooler

*Serves 4.*

- 1 12-oz. bottle lemon-lime carbonated beverage**
- 2 8-oz. cans peach halves**
- 1 tsp. fresh lemon juice**
- 2 scoops vanilla ice cream**
- 1/4 cup crushed ice**

**1.** In a blender, combine first three ingredients until smooth. Serve as a topper over ice cream or in a glass of ice.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).**



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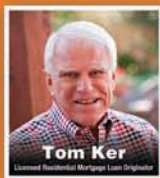
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