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MAY 2016



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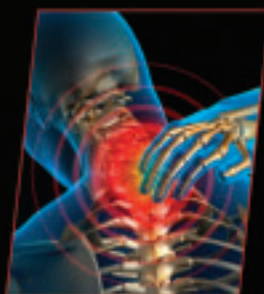
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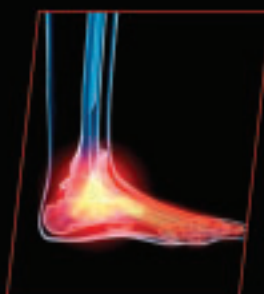
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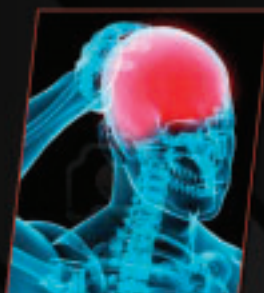
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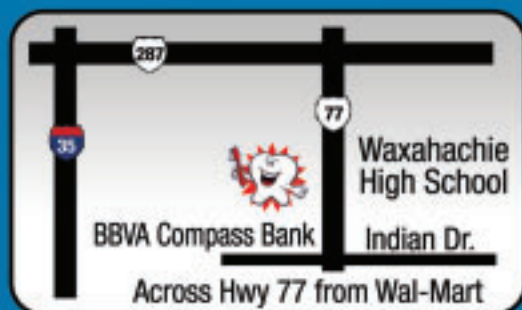
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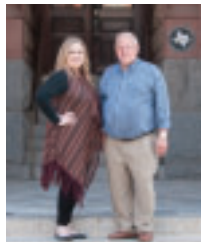
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## ON THE COVER



*Amy Hollywood and  
Larry Felty celebrate films  
with a Texas connection.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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## Editor's Note

*Happy Mother's Day!*

Lately, I've had several people ask me what it's like being a mom. It's the most rewarding job title I've had thus far, but it's also the most difficult, with all the ups and downs. The word *mom* should be listed as a synonym beside almost every emotion and job title in the dictionary because of all moms do for their children from birth on.

We laugh and cry. We are proud and disappointed. We're the cook, the maid, the taxi cab driver and their most enthusiastic cheerleader. We're the voice of reason when they need to be redirected. We're the shoulder they cry on. We are all this and more. I know this to be true because my mom was all these things to me, and I still need her voice of reason, as I cry on her shoulder. Moms are rocks of the strongest kind, and I'm thankful beyond words for mine.

Hug your rock today! I know I'm going to hug mine!

*Sandra*

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# THE TEXAS CONNECTION

— By Sandra Strong

*So many events we enjoy are born from a dream someone envisioned. As the dream becomes reality, events like the Crossroads of Texas Film Festival come to fruition. With plans for this year's festival in full swing, festival director, Amy Hollywood, and committee chair, Larry Felty, reflect on Waxahachie's rich film history. Larry's father, the late L.T. Felty, was instrumental in bringing films to the area in the early 1980s. "Following his retirement from Waxahachie ISD, my father was working at one of the banks here in town," Larry said, remembering his dad with pride in his voice. "He served as one of the bank's ambassadors to several different groups."*

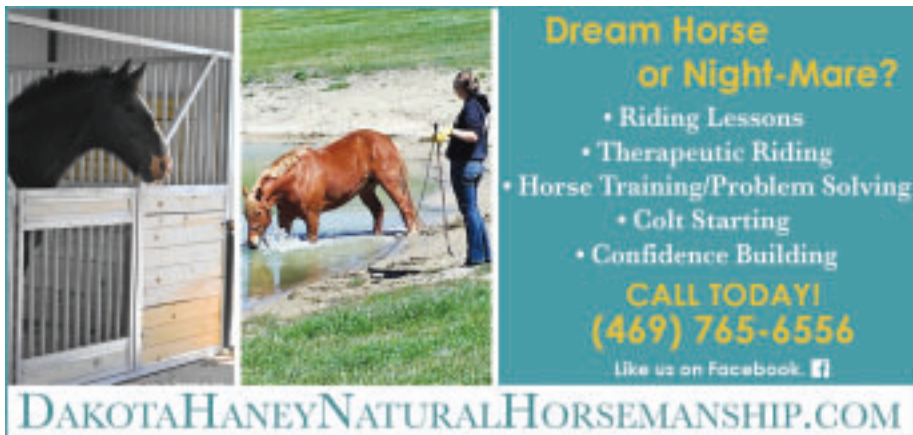
As an ambassador, L.T. became the local liaison for film industry professionals who were interested in the history and beauty of the community as a backdrop to films, television and commercials. "He helped find locations, set up housing for stars, and even helped get extras that were needed from the local community, many times using family members to fill those parts," Larry said.



The Crossroads of Texas Film Festival  
exposes people to movies they might  
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As L.T. continued to promote the city he loved, people from the film industry began to contact him directly. Soon, Waxahachie was home to several large feature films, including Academy Award winners *Tender Mercies*, *The Trip to Bountiful* and *Places in the Heart*. Several years ago, with the 30th anniversary of *Places in the Heart* coming up, the idea was born to hold an anniversary celebration. "During the planning, the event grew into a full-fledged film festival," Amy explained. "It seemed a natural fit to make the festival a celebration of Texas-made films. Our stories are so rich and memorable, and combine that with a really wonderful talent base in Texas, it's the recipe for some fantastic films." In 2014, the first Crossroads of Texas Film Festival was held on the 30th anniversary of *Places in the Heart*. L.T.'s dream had come to life thanks to his love for his hometown and the tireless efforts of so many.

In the planning of the first festival, committee members Larry, Amy, Laurie Mosely, Elizabeth Tull, Julie Webb, Janis Burkland, Adam Donaghey, Cindy Burch and Lovita Irby found out just how big the talent base in Texas really was, and still is today. They also realized how many films have been shot within the state of Texas. "We find out about new films every day," Amy said. "The festival is a



fun, laid-back, down-to-earth celebration. We have a red carpet, but everyone wears boots and jeans.”

The name, Crossroads of Texas Film Festival, was decided upon based on Waxahachie’s map placement. Highway 287 and Interstate 35 meet in what committee members believe to be the “heart of everything.” “The film festival is economic development at its best,” Amy stated. “We will continue to foster relationships with those in the film industry, while promoting tourism, exposing the community to the arts and keeping Waxahachie’s rich history alive.”

Other movies included in the inaugural year included *Hope Floats*, *Bernie* and *Bonnie and Clyde*. “The feedback after the first year was overwhelming,” Larry shared. “We began building a reputation as an event people really enjoy and want to be a part of.”

Some of the movies selected for the second year’s event included *Lonesome Dove*, *The Trip to Bountiful* and *Urban Cowboy*. Each year, the list of featured guests changes, but the experience of getting to meet actors, directors and producers is still a highlight for those in attendance. In the first two years, special guests to Waxahachie have included Robert Benton, Wilford Brimley, Betty Buckley, Barry Tubb and so many others who have made Texas films memorable. “This is the legacy dad left behind,” Larry said. “His dream, combined with the hard work of himself and others, has left us something great to celebrate.” L.T. was passionate about his community, and so are all those on the festival committee. “We really enjoy what we’re doing,” Larry added. “We’re celebrating Texas while showing Waxahachie off.”



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The third year promises to be just as memorable. The four days include screenings, panel discussions, music, food, parties and more. A panel discussion on music in film with Bruce Robison and Joe Ely is scheduled. Screenings include *Selena*, *Sir Doug and the Genuine Texas Cosmic Groove*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Three Burials of Melquiades Estrada*, *True Stories*, *Pure Country*, *Two Step*, *Secondhand Lions* and *Tin Cup*.

Saturday night activities will bring the festival to a close, as attendees enjoy food trucks, downtown carriage rides, a petting zoo, pony rides, cow patty bingo and a screening of *Grand Champion*, downtown under the stars. "We are celebrating the art of film, and everything you love about Texas," Amy said with a smile. "We are thankful that Mr. Felty was so proactive when it came to actively seeking out the opportunities we all are still enjoying today."

Larry has enjoyed watching his dad play bit parts in many of the films he was instrumental in bringing to Waxahachie. "The festival and movies have affected my whole family," Larry admitted, mentioning that his son, Bryan Felty, earned his master's degree at the American Film Institute. "Bryan was inspired as a young extra."

The film festival has also created a way to permanently honor people with Ellis County ties who have made a mark in the entertainment industry. The Downtown



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Walk of Fame members are nominated by others and then voted on by the festival committee. Recipients have their name engraved on a star that is placed on the sidewalk in downtown Waxahachie. Writer and director Robert Benton (*Places in the Heart*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*) and actor Frederic Forrest (*Lonesome Dove*) were the 2014 recipients. Second-year honorees were L.T. Felty, *Tender Mercies* screenwriter Horton Foote and *Texas Country Reporter* Bob Phillips. Those taking the spotlight this year are musical talents Ronnie Dawson and Ernest Tubb. “Nominations come in from all over the state,” Amy said. “This year, like in years past, we had so many worthy nominations, but we wanted to remain focused on the entertainment industry.”

As final preparations are being made, the festival committee is feeling the excitement. The Crossroads of Texas Film Festival is one of the only tribute festivals of its kind. “We celebrate films that could be 2 years old or 60 years old,” Amy said. “The only criteria — they must have a Texas connection.”

The Crossroads of Texas Film Festival exposes people to movies they might not see otherwise. The festival allows Texas movie lovers the opportunity to enjoy a part of history in Waxahachie — also known in the film industry as the Hollywood of Texas. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information and a full schedule of events, visit [www.crossroadsoftx.com](http://www.crossroadsoftx.com).*



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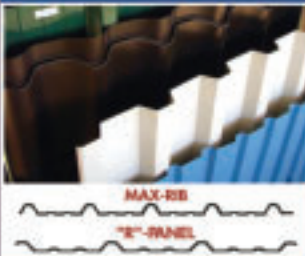
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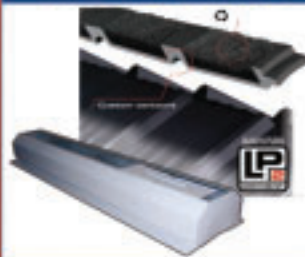
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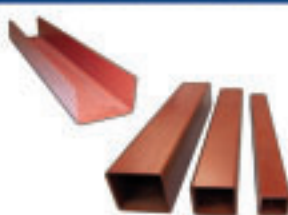


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# MORE THAN A PARTY

— By Donnielle Tyner

*When people hear Cinco de Mayo, the first things that may come to mind are music and dancing, but the Ellis County Hispanic Organization wants the popular Hispanic holiday to be more than a party. They want Cinco de Mayo to be a celebration of community. “We want to bridge the gap in our community,” Linda Alvarez, president of ECHO declared. “We want everyone to come out and celebrate with us.” This year’s Cinco de Mayo festival will begin with a movie night in downtown Waxahachie at Pocket Park on May 5, followed by two days of celebration at Singleton Plaza filled with family fun and entertainment.*





Cinco de Mayo, or the fifth of May, is a celebration that memorializes the Mexican Army's victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War, which came 52 years after Mexico declared its independence in 1810. Although the holiday is a minor one in Mexico, primarily observed in Puebla, it has grown to encompass an entire heritage in the United States, particularly in areas with substantial



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Mexican-American populations. It is a celebration of Mexican culture. Cinco de Mayo offers a day each year for likeminded people to come together with parades, Mariachi musical performances and all-day festivals. In Ellis County, it's evolved over the years into a celebration of Mexican heritage. "Waxahachie's original Cinco de Mayo celebration started in 2008 under the guidance of Andrew Santos. After its success, the community decided to form ECHO to venture out to include all of Ellis County, offering scholarships and working with the community," explained ECHO's vice president, Cynthia Herrera.



Rachel Chavariaz (middle) is a proud recipient of an ECHO scholarship.

As the Cinco de Mayo festivals grew larger each year, the members of ECHO saw how the needs of the community were growing beyond celebrating the Hispanic culture. From students who were in need of financial help to further their educations to assisting other nonprofit organizations, such as Hope Clinic, ECHO soon saw many ways to reach out to others in Ellis County. "As the needs kept getting bigger and bigger, we had to bring in more sponsors to help," said Julisa Martinez, board member and ECHO historian.

Sponsors have been the backbone of ECHO since the very beginning. Whether individuals, small businesses or large corporations, every sponsor is important to the organization. Without their financial support, ECHO wouldn't be able to do what they do in their efforts to help others. "Our community has so much heart, and we want to give back," Julisa gushed. "As we grow, we are finding more opportunities to help people and bring more people and possibilities from the outside in to enjoy our culture." This

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Renee McNeal and Emily Olveda present Judd McCutchen with the winning plaque for the hot salsa contest at last year's celebration.

year, ECHO is hoping for more sponsors to sign up, so students may receive more scholarship money.

Scholarships are one of the major ways the organization gives back. Through the years, ECHO has given scholarships to wrestlers, students who wanted to become nurses and others with an interest in becoming engineers. Their most recent scholarship winner was a young girl whose mother passed away from cancer. Since they started the scholarship program, they've had the honor of awarding four scholarships to young people in Ellis County. ECHO's goal is to continue growing, so they can pass the wealth of such growth on to others in the communities within the county they serve.

ECHO has also helped the local communities in many other ways. In the early years, Julisa assisted in the planning



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of a quinceañera for a local foster child. The event was filled with ECHO members and other people who came to give the child a family. More recently, the organization has helped at the Hope Clinic, gathered volunteers to go out and paint, and hosted two toy drives through the Ellis County Sheriff's Department and Citizens National Bank. "We don't just involve the adults. We get our kids involved because we want the children to see how important community really is when looking at the bigger picture. Not to take, but to give back," Linda stated with pride.

That "give back" attitude makes the Cinco de Mayo festival more than just a day to party. It's a day to celebrate family and Hispanic culture. It's also a time to share the Hispanic culture with the rest of the community. "People have been really receptive. I think it's because this is a homegrown, small festival that's community based," Cynthia affirmed. "Unlike bigger Cinco de Mayo festivals throughout the United States, this one is free. We don't charge admission or a parking fee."

In past festivals, they have had everything from mariachi bands and comedians to car shows. However, this year's festival is set to be the organization's biggest one yet. Their three-day celebration — or trifecta —





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By the time the annual festival is complete, the members of ECHO are exhausted, but every one of them believes strongly in what they are trying to accomplish. Giving time, energy and resources comes naturally for members of the organization. Giving brings the group immense joy. “We’re all here for Ellis County. We’re all citizens of Ellis County. We are here to bridge the gap between cultures and to celebrate together,” Julisa admitted. “We can become a much more cohesive and stronger community.” **NOW**



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They know a lot about country living. "We love it here," Stacey said. "I was born in Waxahachie and, especially for a family with kids, living on the outskirts has great advantages from both the city and the country."





Stacey bought the 4 acres and 1,670-square-foot home as a foreclosure in 2007. "The house was built in 2006, and although it was practically new, it was definitely not walk-in, put your feet up and stay awhile ready," she grinned. "There was a lot of work to do."

Fortunately, she had met Oklahoma native, John Loftis. They fell in love, blended their families, and today, their home shows what happens when a fun-loving family works together and shares each other's dreams. No longer does the modular home sit alone on bare acreage. Today, it's a beautiful haven for a hardworking couple, four talented teenagers and the most amazing menagerie of animals.

Currently, John and Stacey have five horses, four dogs, three cats, two snakes and five goats. That's a total of 19, and most of them are rescues. The family's love for animals (particularly Stacey's) won the attention of a local television show about people and their pets called *Pawsitive Entertainment*. "We had adopted a pygmy goat and named him Pokey," Stacey smiled. It seems Pokey had been rejected by his mother and bullied by bigger goats. Cared for by Stacey, he grew so attached that he followed her everywhere and even enjoyed walking on a leash, accompanying her to the feed store and going for horseback rides.

Each weekday, John and Stacey head off to work in different directions. John is a tool engineer at Fort Worth's Lockheed Martin, and Stacey is the office manager for a pain management doctor in Dallas. At the same time, they parent four teenagers, maintain property, care for 19 animals and, somehow, continually update and upgrade their home.

The layout of their three-bedroom, two-bath home is ideal for this blended family. The front door opens to a big living room with newly installed wood-grained laminate floors, updated lighting



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and freshly painted terra-cotta colored walls. Near the entrance is a standing cross made of barn wood. "John made it," Stacey smiled. "It's a wonderful statement of how important faith is in our lives." Two comfortable sofas and ample seating for family, guests and, of course, two inside cats are accompanied by a coffee table and side tables.

"My grandmother owned Byars Interior and Exterior Painting, and my grandfather owned Byars Construction," Stacey shared. "The shelf above the main sofa came from her store."

Anchoring the room is a large wood-burning fireplace accented by a black-tiled hearth and wood surround. Next to the fireplace is a magnificent armoire made from old farm gates. "It's one of my favorite pieces," Stacey said. "It's so solid and heavy that three or four people are needed to move it."

To the right of the living room, toward the front of the home, a long, galley kitchen features a multileveled breakfast bar/island and sink. The island is bordered on one side by front windows and the other by a bank of cabinetry and





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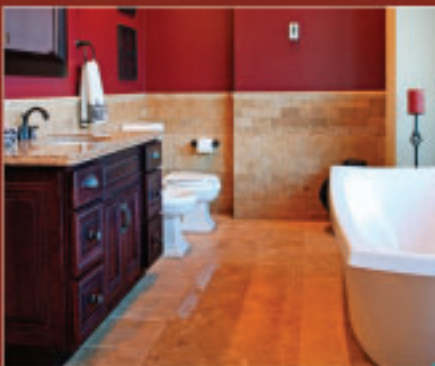
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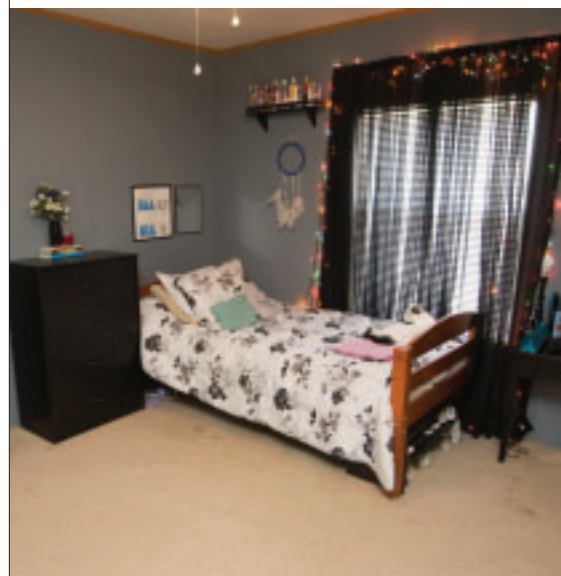
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stainless steel appliances. Any place more inviting for this family to hang out during mealtimes is tough to imagine. For more formal meals, though, a large dining table accented by a mirrored wall at the far end of the room is available. A convenient laundry room, complete with a tanning bed, is secluded beyond the dining area.

In many ways, it feels like the floorplan was actually designed for the Loftis family. A hallway to the right of and beyond the kitchen leads to two bedrooms and a bath, which serve as ideal boy and girl “dorms.”

The far bedroom belongs to 16-year-old Jaydon and 15-year-old Dylan and, as evidenced by sports medals, is clearly home to two active, sports-minded Waxahachie High School young men. “Jaydon is the only freshman on the varsity powerlifting team,” Stacey smiled. Dylan enjoys sports, too, but is also interested in construction and agriculture. “He’s made four tables as construction projects,” she explained. “One of his tables is in the living room.”



Jaydon is considering a future in radiology or as a personal trainer, while Dylan might like working as a farrier. Oh, and not to forget, the boys share their room with a giant aquarium serving as home to two 6-year-old female ball pythons.

The other bedroom, with a black and white theme and deep gray/green walls, definitely belongs to 17-year-old Shelby and 14-year-old Chelsie. "The girls are the decorators in the family," Stacey grinned. Shelby is considering cosmetology or a career in medical billing, while Chelsie wants to pursue psychology.

"The kids are always busy with school, sports and friends," Stacey explained. "They help out at home, too, and every spring for six weeks, they work in food and beverage at Scarborough Faire, where they dress in Renaissance costumes and talk with English accents."

"They're great kids," John smiled.

The master suite, located to the far right of the house, is the perfect retreat. The dark wood, four-poster, king-sized bed, matching furniture and items like the mirror and hope chest, which were gifts from Stacey's grandmother, lend comfort and warmth. On display, too, is Stacey's collection of roses made from a variety of materials like metal, glass, feathers and wood.

"We've done so much to the inside and out," John said. "The three-stall barn and tack room are almost complete, the fencing and round pen were added, and someday, I hope to add a front porch."

"We enjoy being outdoors," Stacey added. "The kids like to hike and play basketball, and our property backs up to a creek, so we love to saddle the horses and go for trail rides." John and Dylan also plant an annual vegetable garden, which has been known to explode with okra, yellow squash and zucchini.

This is a family that works and plays together and value's each other's dreams. At its heart, a man and woman remain dedicated to honoring their relationship with a very special tradition. John and Stacey first committed to each other on September 20, 2013, while visiting Las Vegas. Their marriage was then witnessed by 70 family members and friends at the Waxahachie Country Club on September 20, 2014. Again, in Las Vegas, they renewed their commitment on September 20, 2015. And, according to John, "It's become an annual celebration now." **NOW**



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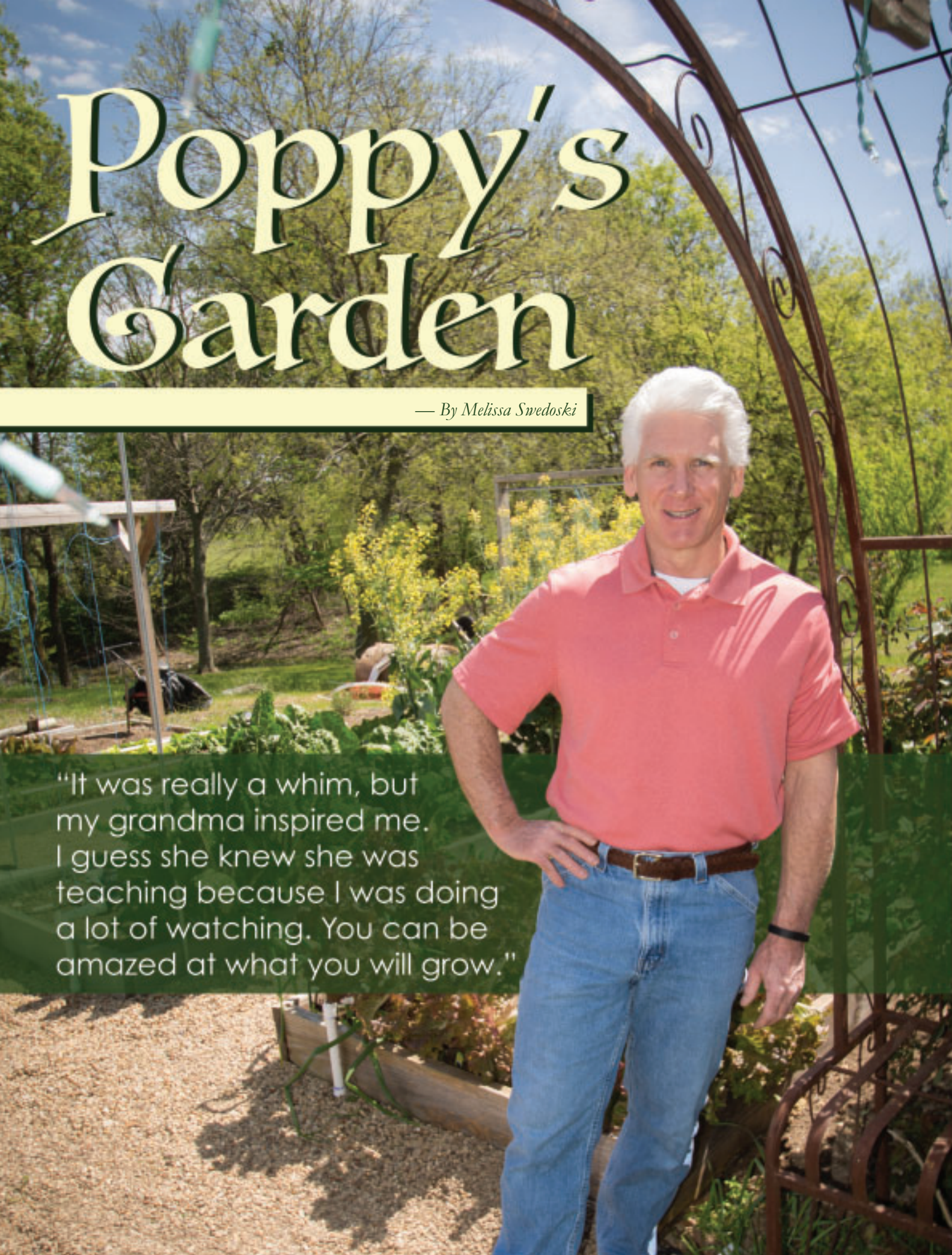
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# Poppy's Garden

— By Melissa Swedoski



"It was really a whim, but my grandma inspired me. I guess she knew she was teaching because I was doing a lot of watching. You can be amazed at what you will grow."



*In literature, gardens are known for their magical essence — from secret gardens or the flora and fauna in Shakespeare's works to the vegetable gardens of Peter Rabbit and Winnie the Pooh. Tilling the earth for its treasures has been a favorite pastime for centuries. For Chuck Harris, gardening is full of family memories, built on a whim and cultivated with experiments, as he has learned patience and experienced exuberance from each day's harvest.*

A metal archway marks the entrance to Chuck's garden and a small sign designates the place, "Poppy's Garden," a nickname given by his 6-year-old granddaughter, who also loves to feel the dirt between her fingers. Since the garden began with the history of Chuck's childhood in his mind, it was most appropriate that his own children helped him begin the raised bed garden in 2009. "On a whim, I decided I would like to be doing a garden," he recalled. "Growing up, my dad had a big field garden, and my grandmother did it, as well."

Surveying his current garden layout, with six raised beds and four 30-foot beds being constructed, Chuck said, "It did not look like this in 2009. We had a lot of smaller boxes, around 6-foot-by-4-foot. The kids helped build it." He admitted he only planned on doing one or two seasons, but the more he planted,



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*The Browns have bonded and made many friends through socialization with other residents, rehabilitation and being active in events and activities. They exhibit a very strong spiritual background and take advantage of Bible studies, gospel singing, sharing God's word and uplifting others. They share a taste of the nursing and rehabilitation center and state "they wouldn't ask for any better."*

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the more he wanted. "I like to experiment with things that I've never grown," he explained. "Almost everything here started from seed. I tend to grow a lot of what I like, and it's my goal to keep something going year-round." To that end, he has two 4-foot-by-12-foot raised beds that have lettuce, spinach, Swiss chard (two varieties), white onions and garlic.

When itemizing the garden's contents, Chuck has a story for every plant in it, and the amount of work he has done becomes abundantly clear. Last year, the family had 25 tomato plants that yielded 600 pounds of tomatoes. Through canning, they made spaghetti sauce and salsa, and gave some to friends and neighbors. There's the cabbage that was given to him from a third grade class at Shackelford Elementary, next to tall, leafy Southern collard greens. "I've really been trying to save my own seeds for all of these," he said, "and I've had some success. I start a lot on the back porch, and then move them out to the garden."

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The vegetable portion of the garden is put to daily use in Chuck's home, as his wife and children enjoy his experimentation. "I come out about every two days to pick chard, so I decided to sauté the Swiss chard to go with my eggs," he said. "I liked it. My daughter tried it, and she liked it. We just eat out of the garden." He said that his current favorite is to make a smoothie with cabbage, collard greens, spinach, Swiss chard and some yogurt.

Experimentation hasn't always gone as expected, however. He began raising Detroit red beets because he loves them when pickled. He knows how to can them for year-round enjoyment, but one day, he decided to roast them. He soon found out they were not a palate pleaser when prepared in that fashion. There's spaghetti squash, Italian squash, zucchini, acorn, butternut and yellow crookneck squash, but he discovered he didn't like pan squash. His failures include celery and fall potatoes. "They just didn't work," he said, but added, "I'll figure it out." He tried a different kind of melon, similar to a cantaloupe. "I'd been watching one for days because I knew it was close," he recalled. "I had decided to pick it one morning and came out, and found it was all eaten. But you've got to feed the wildlife," he added with a smile.

Chuck's planted radishes and baby kale, adding in eight pounds of potatoes, estimating a 45-pound return. He installed an automated water system and covers the plants when the weather gets rough, explaining, "Food, water, light. They like to be warm. That's all they need." He plans to experiment with shade this year, including certain varieties of lettuce, squash and black-eyed peas.



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Chuck admits that the entire growing process is exciting because “you watch and watch and one day, it appears.”

Saving the seeds for planting has proven to be the greatest challenge. “Seeds sometimes don’t look as healthy as you hope, so you have to figure out how to keep them viable,” he said. He has learned to keep them cool but not frozen, enclosed in an airtight container and, most importantly, to “treat them as judiciously as possible.” As for taking care of the plants once they appear, Chuck avoids pesticides and rotates plant placement, primarily to avoid disease, and he’s working on companion planting — putting marigolds with squash to repel bugs. In a nod to the magical qualities of gardens, there is a wine bottle tree, “to keep the bad garden spirits out,” he said. “They get caught in the bottle, and then they’re trapped.”

For novice gardeners, Chuck has a few suggestions. “Start small. Go with what you can handle, and don’t get discouraged.” His second piece of advice is to plant what you will eat, but don’t overplant, either. He recalled one box he had filled with lettuce, and he realized, “We couldn’t eat it all. We gave it away, but we were still picking every day.” He encourages newbies not to get overwhelmed or carried away with their



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first plantings. "Most of all," he shared, "you should just enjoy it and relax."

Although Chuck uses different sizes of raised beds, his goal is to have all 30-foot boxes. "We can plant green beans and get 64 pounds, then add the tomatoes with them," he said. However, he doesn't like to imply that only the large boxes work. "Use the space you have," he said. "We used raised beds because of the poor soil, but I have a friend who created a long, narrow strip along his fence line, about 2 feet wide. He puts it all in there."

This past spring, dirt became the grand experiment, as he mixed compost and sand, or peat moss and sand. "It's a work in progress," Chuck admitted. "I'm never satisfied, but I never get bored." His favorite time of day in the garden is early morning, when he can see what's growing and, occasionally, rabbits. "It was really a whim," he said with a smile, "but my grandma inspired me. I guess she knew she was teaching because I was doing a lot of watching. You can be amazed at what you will grow." **NOW**



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# IT'S A-BOAT TIME

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*Summer is here! With Texas' cool days vanishing rapidly, this month marks the beginning of the summer season. One of the best parts of Texas summer is going to the lake. Before you head out to hit the waters, there are some important things to remember to ensure you experience a fun-filled day.*

## BEFORE YOUR TRIP

- *Safety starts at home:*

Boating is exciting, but there are many things you should know before getting on the water. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department teaches safety classes throughout the year, as well as offering an online version of its course. For anyone born after August 1993, the safety course is required in order to operate a powered vessel.

- *Know your equipment:*

In addition to knowing the safety standards for your boat or personal watercraft (PWC, also commonly called a Jet Ski), you need to ensure you know the equipment itself. If you are renting

a vessel, familiarize yourself with controls and features. If you own your own boat or PWC, check the oil and fluid levels the same way you would a car.

- *As you are planning:*

While Texas is somewhat lacking in natural lakes, there are a plethora of manmade spots to enjoy. For a perfect sunny day on the water, a local lake might be the place for you. But if you're thinking about a longer trip, you might want to consider traveling up north to Lake Texoma or exploring a lake in the Austin or Houston areas.

- *When you pack:*

Because you are constantly getting hit by the cool mist coming off the boat, you might forget to apply sunscreen or drink





enough water. Bring plenty of liquids and sunscreen to take care of your body's needs, inside and out. You want to remember your trip for the first time you waterskied, not the wicked sunburn you got spending 10 hours in the heat.

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a small fee, with all but a guarantee of a successful day baiting and luring. If your desires are more for speed and thrills, make sure to find a location free of heavy traffic or shallow water. Choppy waves are great for PWC use, and can be fun for general boating, but for waterskiing and wakeboarding, you will want flatter waters. One trick is to make passes about 20 yards away from, but parallel to, manmade shorelines that act as a natural wind blocker.





• *Equip yourself:*

Make sure you wear life jackets. Legally, adult boaters only have to have a life vest available, not necessarily on. But tragic, avoidable deaths happen every year because someone failed to use a life jacket. Children under 13 are required to wear life jackets, and they should also be closely monitored while the boat is underway. It is also prudent to take a wallet and phone on the lake in case



  
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(972) 878-4748    [nationalpolkafestival.com](http://nationalpolkafestival.com)  
 in Ennis, Texas



you have any mechanical or user-error problems on the water.

• *Boat safely:*

You should always pass other vessels on the left, or port side. When you pass another vessel, a person or an object of any type, you must be more than 50 feet away or slow to idle speed. Boats are allowed on the water at night if they have lights, but PWCs must be off the lake 30 minutes before dusk for everyone's safety.

• *Know your limits:*

PWCs are fun and relatively simple to learn to use, but operating larger boats is much more involved, so do not try to take out more boat than you can handle. When it comes to getting maximum speed, or trying tricks on skis and boards, make sure you have someone who can help you if you overdo it.

• *Keep your ears and eyes open:*

You want a full day at the lake, but if waters are too choppy for skiing, or if storms are coming, it is best to be safe. Someone waving hello and someone waving for help looks similar from 60 feet away, so be sure to look for signs indicating that a fellow boater needs help. The Texas Wildlife Department has wardens patrolling the lake for everyone's benefit, so afford them the same courtesy and respect that you show highway patrolmen.





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# Liberty Cheer

## LCA Gymnastics & Dance

### LIBERTY CHEER ALL-STAR EVALUATIONS

**Mon. - Tues. May 9th - 10th: All-Star Open Practice with LCA Coaches from 6:30PM - 8PM (optional but free and helpful)**

**Wed. - Thurs. May 11th - 12th: All-Star Open Flyers Evaluation from 6:30PM - 8PM**

**Saturday - May 14th: Season 11 Liberty Cheer All-Star Evaluation-Placements: \$30 with a FREE Liberty T-Shirt!**

**Athletes should use their age as of August 31, 2016**

- 10AM - 11AM: 6-yrs old & younger
- 11AM - 1PM: 7-yrs old to 8-yrs old
- 1PM - 3PM: 9-yrs old to 11-yrs old
- 3PM - 5PM: 12-yrs old to 14-yrs old
- 5PM - 7PM: 15-yrs old to 18-yrs old

We will be evaluating tumbling and jumps at this time. Teams will not be set until July 1st and you will practice with practice groups that will be posted on Monday, May 16th. We will have All-Star Levels 1 - 5, All-Star Prep Teams and Show Teams!

**There is a place for your child at Liberty!**

Any questions email [carrie@libertycheerallstars.com](mailto:carrie@libertycheerallstars.com) or [lyndsey@libertycheerallstars.com](mailto:lyndsey@libertycheerallstars.com) or text Carrie at (972) 322-8363 for immediate assistance.

**3390 N. Hwy 67 • Midlothian**  
**(469) 285-1186 • (972) 775-5323**  
**[www.libertycheerallstars.com](http://www.libertycheerallstars.com)**



## BEFORE HEADING HOME

### • *Recheck your hitch:*

Be careful to make sure your boat is securely hitched if pulling or secured on the lift if it stays at the lake. For a lift, make sure to raise the boat based on the highest possible water level, not necessarily the current level. Every year, boats fall off lifts and sink during storms because they were not lifted high enough off the lake level.

### • *Cleaning up:*

There are organisms and bacteria in some water that will eat away at the veneer on a boat if left untouched, so make sure to give it a quick wash when your day is complete. If you travel from one body of water to another, make extra sure to clean the boat, as some organisms in one lake will attack those in another if they are allowed to spread.

It may seem as though there are a lot of rules to follow just to have a relaxing day on the water. But following these guidelines will help you be prepared for your day at the lake, as well as keep you and your loved ones safe. **NOW**

*Editor's Note: More laws, safety standards and general boating information are available on the Texas Parks & Wildlife Boating Page at [www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/boat/).*





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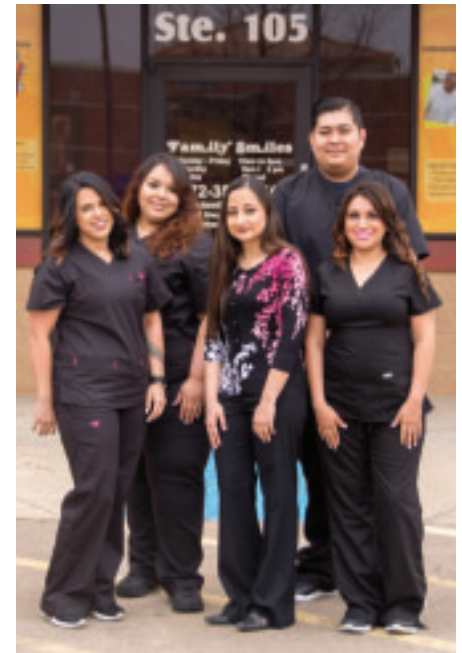


### Family Smiles

1011 N. Hwy. 77  
Suite 105  
Waxahachie, TX 75165  
(972) 351-9110  
¡Hablamos Español!

### Hours:

Monday-Friday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.



Dr. Amandeep Basrai and her dedicated staff stand ready to give specialized care to the Family Smiles patients.

# Moving Forward

*Start each day off with a great smile at Family Smiles. — By Sandra Strong*

Family Smiles offers general dentistry for the whole family under the leadership of Dr. Amandeep Basrai. Dr. Basrai graduated in 2007, earning her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from NYU College of Dentistry, while working in Washington State for three years prior to relocating to Texas. “The experience provided me with advanced training in all the specialties of general dentistry,” she shared. Before becoming the proud owner of Family Smiles, Dr. Basrai worked as an associate dentist at another dental office in Texas.

Dr. Basrai opened Family Smiles in July 2010. She still enjoys the challenges that come with providing quality conservative family dentistry in a comfortable and friendly setting. General dental services are offered to patients ranging in age from 6 months to senior adults. On their initial visit, each patient is

assessed by Dr. Basrai as she looks for the possibility of cavities, tooth decay and gum disease while conducting the assessments. “We offer general dentistry at Family Smiles,” Dr. Basrai said. “We see patients for teeth cleaning, as well as deep cleaning.”

Family Smiles also does fillings, simple and surgical extractions, complete and partial dentures, root canal treatments, fix and repair prosthetics, cosmetic dentistry and check the entire mouth, including the tongue, soft palate and lips, to make sure all is well. “Sometimes, we refer patients elsewhere for pain relief or when more specialized care is needed,” Dr. Basrai added.

Dr. Basrai has enjoyed a steady growth in business for the last six years, due to the comfort found throughout the offices, the specialized care given to each patient and the hospitality received from dental assistants and the front desk staff. A convenient



location with ample parking and extended hours of service has also played a role in the steady growth. Payment plans for cash patients are available and most all insurances, Medicaid, CHIP and PPOs are also accepted, making it convenient for patients to get the proper care they need.

*Family Smiles* is committed to making *beautiful smiles* for the whole family, and they believe in the importance of starting each *new day* off with a smile.

Long range goals include increasing the overall patient base. Dr. Basrai wants to keep moving forward into the future. "I want to continue planting roots in the community I serve," she admitted.

The expectations between Dr. Basrai and her patients are centered on knowledge. She wants to know all she can about her patients, so they can make well-informed decisions on their dental care. Dr. Basrai also wants patients to be knowledgeable about the plan of treatment beforehand, so they are more comfortable during their visit to Family Smiles. "I want them to know what the treatment plan is going to cost, while also giving them a detailed explanation of the options they have," she stated. The pros and cons are explained in detail in an attempt to help patients make educated decisions, but ultimately, the final decision belongs to the patient.

"We welcome their questions," Dr. Basrai continued. "We want patients to be able to make educated decisions on their dental care. We want them to know what's going on in their mouths."

Dr. Basrai is a member of the ADA, the District Dental Society and the Texas Dental Association. She, along with her staff, are committed to making beautiful smiles for the whole family, and they believe in the importance of starting each new day off with a smile. **NOW**



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*Sarah Edwards helps Peyton French complete a flower made from tissue paper in the children's area during the Lawn & Garden Expo.*



*Several residents of Grand Reserve Senior Apartments enjoy a St. Patrick's Day party on the open patio.*



*Angel Schiffer of Bittersweet Bakery celebrates with yummy cupcakes after accepting their Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce plaque.*



*The friendly Farmer's Insurance Team at the David Zabochnik Agency.*



*Elizabeth Stripland of HEB passes out goodies during the grand opening of Gold's Gym.*



*James and Sherri Montrois, Lynn Ferstler and Andrew Newcomb celebrate Sherri's 50th birthday at Osuba Japanese Restaurant.*



*Waxahachie CARE staff and volunteers offer goodies during the Lawn & Garden Expo held at the Waxahachie Civic Center.*



*Twisted iPhone celebrates their grand opening with a Chamber ribbon cutting.*



*Brandon at Jerry's Tires & Wheels takes a lunch break before the afternoon rush begins.*



# Dining DEALS



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**Limit what you carry.** More cards can mean more financial losses. On an average day, you may only need your driver's license, cash and a credit card for emergencies.

**Contact your financial institutions.** Call your bank and credit card companies to stop any transactions and order new cards with new account numbers. After the theft, carefully review your account statements to keep an eye out for unauthorized purchases. Your credit card company may reimburse them.

**File a police report.** This offers a chance to recover your wallet and provides some protection against identity theft. It's also a good way to catalog your wallet's contents. Request a copy of the report for your records.

**Get a new license.** Contact your local Department of Motor Vehicles to learn how. Some offices offer online replacement services, while others require you to appear in person.

**Update your home security.** With your driver's license in hand, the thief has your home address. (They may have your keys, too.) Protect against further theft by changing locks and taking other appropriate measures.

**Take additional precautions.** What if the following were in your purse or wallet too?

- **Social Security card:** The U.S. Social Security Administration offers clear steps for replacing your Social Security card. Additionally, request a copy of your Personal Earnings and Benefits Estimate Statement after filing taxes to check for inaccuracies. Moving forward, avoid carrying your Social Security card in your wallet.
- **Auto and health insurance information:** Notify your insurance carriers and ask for new policy numbers. **NOW**

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

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## Fibromyalgia Help

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Fibromyalgia was a perplexing illness. Those afflicted complained of chronic fatigue and debilitating pain deep inside their bodies. There was no lab test to point to a specific illness, so sometimes, it was all chalked up to one of two things — either the patient was faking, or it was all in their head. Although the symptoms of fibromyalgia syndrome were identified as early as the 1820s, it was not until the late 1970s that the term *fibromyalgia* was given to the condition.

The most common symptom of fibromyalgia is pain in muscle tissue. According to the Arthritis Foundation, “Fibromyalgia pain has been described in a variety of ways, such as burning, aching, stiffness or soreness. It often varies according to the time of day, activity level, weather, sleep patterns and stress. Many people with fibromyalgia say that some degree of pain is always present, although the pain can come and go. For some people, the pain may be quite severe.” Distinctive to fibromyalgia are specific tender pressure points located all over the body. Having at least 11 of these pressure points usually points to fibromyalgia.

Along with pain, sleep problems, fatigue, anxiety and depression are familiar complaints. The fatigue experienced with fibromyalgia is different. It can be overwhelming, limiting and chronic. A night’s rest doesn’t help. Sleep problems could include difficulty in falling asleep and a disruption in the sleep phase called deep sleep, where the body’s restorative operations take place. Anxiety and depression are common

bedfellows with illnesses that can be debilitating in activity and pain.

There is no definitive laboratory test or X-ray one can take to diagnose this syndrome. Diagnosis is made from your presenting symptoms, medical history and ruling out other diseases that could cause the same symptoms you experience. There is no cure for fibromyalgia. A person will always have this, and there will be good days and bad days. To enjoy life is to maximize the good days.

On those days when life is too difficult, it is beneficial to already have a plan in place. Mobilize your support system for meals and chores. These can be family members, volunteers or paid help — even after-school help from a teen. Take the time to indulge yourself with a comedy or a book you’ve been meaning to read. Avoid online chat groups that focus on the pain and suffering of your condition. Utilize those who have a positive bent and encourage coping techniques. Try yoga’s deep breathing and stretching practices. People of faith may find comfort in prayer. If you have fibromyalgia, difficult days are unavoidable, so master your coping strategies to get through the day. **NOW**

Source: <http://www.arthritis.org/about-arthritis/types/fibromyalgia/symptoms.php>.

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



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### May 5 — 7

Waxahachie Cinco de Mayo Festival: Singleton Plaza in historic downtown Waxahachie. The event is hosted by ECHO.

### May 6 — 8

*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor*

*Dreamcoat: Friday and Saturday, 7:30*

p.m.; **Sunday, 2:30 p.m.**, Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park. Presented by the Waxahachie Community Theatre. Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students. For more information, call Terri Roberts at (972) 825-4814 or visit [www.wxahachiecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.wxahachiecommunitytheatre.com).

### May 7

2nd Hachie 50: Getzendaner Park. 50 mile/50 mile relay/ 50K/ marathon presented by the Waxahachie Lions Club and the Waxahachie Running Club. For more information, visit [www.waxahachielionsclub.org](http://www.waxahachielionsclub.org).

St. Joseph Spring Fiesta: 10:00 a.m. Activities will include raffle drawings, food and much more. For more information, call (972) 938-1953.

Texas Arrowhead Show: 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St., Midlothian. Set up from 6:30-8:00 a.m. Admission: \$5, children 12 and under are free. Table prices are: \$35 for a 6-foot table. For more information, contact Harold Hughes at (972) 921-8555 or email [haroldhughes@skybeammail.com](mailto:haroldhughes@skybeammail.com).

Fifth Annual Race for the King 5KRun/Walk and Kids' Fun Run: 8:00 a.m., Ferris Junior High, 1002 E. 8th St., Ferris. Race begins and ends at Ferris ISD Yellowjacket Stadium. The race benefits the Kyle King Scholarship Fund. To make payments and for additional race information, contact Traci Rodriquez at (972) 544-2279 or [tdrodrig@ferrisisd.org](mailto:tdrodrig@ferrisisd.org). You can also access the school's website to get a registration form.

Midlothian Wine & Arts Festival: 4:00-8:00 p.m., 8th St. and Ave. in downtown Midlothian. Tickets: pre-sale, \$20; day of event, \$25. Tickets include sample tastings, a wine glass and tote bag.

### May 10, 24

Ellis County HEALS support group meeting: 6:30 p.m., 408 Water St. For more information, email [elliscountyheals@gmail.com](mailto:elliscountyheals@gmail.com) or follow them on Facebook.

### May 12

2nd Thursday Ladies Night Out: 5:00-8:00 p.m., participating downtown merchants.

### May 14

Campfire Creek Fundraising Event: 3:30 p.m., preview begins; 5:00 p.m., complimentary dinner; 6:00 p.m., live auction. For more details and information, call Cheryl Chambers at (972) 935-6743 or the CCTRC office at (972) 937-7265.

Bristol Volunteer Fire Department Dinner & Dance: 5:30-11:00 p.m., Bristol Firehouse, 100 S. Old Walnut, Bristol. Event includes live and silent auctions, bounce house for the kids and a BBQ dinner served from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Adults, \$10; kids, \$6. Live music by Ira Bradford & Bustin'loose.

### May 14, 15

Free Sports Nutrition Event sponsored by HEB: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. The event begins Saturday with outdoor vendors showcasing healthy activities and a blood drive by Carter Bloodcare. Throughout the store on both days, the store will offer ins-store sampling and demonstrations of healthy recipes and products.

### May 14 — 22

Paint Historic Waxahachie – The Premier North Texas Paint Out: For more information, visit [www.elliscountyart.net](http://www.elliscountyart.net).

### May 18 — 21

Crossroads of Texas Film Festival: The theme of this year's event is "Music in Film" and will include favorite Texas films and some well-known Texas musicians. Ticket options include VIP passes or individual screening tickets. VIP passes include 10 screenings, parties with refreshments, music and panel discussions. For more information or to order passes and/or tickets, visit [www.crossroadsoftxiff.com](http://www.crossroadsoftxiff.com).

### May 19

Waxahachie Auction: 7:00 p.m., 212 S. Rogers St. For more information, visit [www.waxauction.com](http://www.waxauction.com).

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center, 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.wd5ddh.org](http://www.wd5ddh.org).

### May 20, 21

Waxahachie Old-Fashioned Singing: 7:00 p.m., **Saturday**; 3:00 p.m., **Sunday**, Chautauqua Auditorium.

### June 4

Mid-Way Regional Airport Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-In: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. Breakfast tickets: adults and children 8 and over, \$6; children under

8, \$3. The event features classic airplanes, helicopter and airplane rides, fly-overs, live music, children's activities, Midlothian Classic Wheels and Gold Wing Road Riders. Parking is free. Public is invited. For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.com).

Downtown Gives Back: downtown Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.downtownwaxahachie.com](http://www.downtownwaxahachie.com).

### June 4, 5

Gingerbread Trail Home Tour, Arts & Crafts Show and Antique Mall: sponsored by the Ellis County Museum. For featured homes and more detailed information, call (972) 937-0681 or visit [www.gingerbreadtrail.net](http://www.gingerbreadtrail.net).

### Ongoing:

#### Mondays

Celebrate Recovery: 7:00-9:00 p.m., The Avenue Church, 1761 Hwy 77. For more information, call (972) 937-5301.

#### First Mondays

Friends of Sims Library meeting: 10:00-11:00 a.m., library meeting room, 515 W. Main St. Newcomers are always welcome.

#### First and Fourth Mondays

Avenue Moms: 10:00 a.m.-noon, The Avenue Church, 1761 N. Hwy. 77. Register online at [www.events.theavenuechurch.com](http://www.events.theavenuechurch.com) or call the church office at (972) 937-5301 for more information.

#### Second Tuesdays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:30 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

#### Thursdays

Buckout Arena Ministry: 7:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 2374 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass. For more information, call (972) 935-9801.

#### Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

*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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## In the Kitchen With Kim Drennan

— *By Sandra Strong*

Kim Drennan's mother taught her and her two sisters how to cook. "My mom would say, 'If you can read a recipe, then you can cook,'" Kim remembered. "My mom taught us girls to always cook from scratch." Many of her recipes are "tried and true" family recipes, but Kim also enjoys looking in cookbooks and on social media to find new and interesting dishes to try.

Time spent in the kitchen is therapeutic for Kim. She enjoys watching others enjoy what she's created. "I love cooking for others, and taking a meal to someone who is under the weather or in need," she said. Sharing her love of cooking and baking with others brings Kim joy, especially when they say what she's prepared is "the bomb!" **NOW**

### Smothered Chicken Breasts

- 4 6-oz. skinless, boneless chicken breast halves**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**
- 1/4 tsp. lemon pepper seasoning**
- 1 Tbsp. vegetable oil**
- 8 bacon strips**
- 1 medium onion, sliced**
- 1/4 cup brown sugar, packed**
- 1/2 cup Colby-Monterrey Jack cheese, shredded**

- 1.** Sprinkle chicken with salt and lemon pepper. In a large skillet, cook chicken in oil for 13-15 minutes, or until juices run clear. Remove and keep warm.
- 2.** In the same skillet, cook bacon over medium heat until crisp. Using a slotted spoon, remove bacon and drain on paper towels. Reserve 2 Tbsp. of the bacon drippings. In the drippings, sauté the onion and brown sugar until onion is golden.
- 3.** Place two bacon strips on each chicken

breast half. Top with caramelized onions and cheese.

### Baked Squash

- 2-3 yellow squash**
- 1 white onion**
- 2-3 medium tomatoes**
- 1/2 stick butter**
- Lawry's Garlic Salt, to taste (the one with the green lid)**
- Black pepper, to taste**

- 1.** Slice the squash, onion and tomatoes. Dot the bottom of a small casserole dish with butter.
- 2.** Put an equal layer of squash, onions and tomatoes, one on top of the other. Sprinkle with garlic salt and pepper. Add 5-6 dots of butter. Repeat until all vegetables have been placed in the casserole dish.
- 3.** Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes to an hour, or until squash is tender.

### Chicken/Steak Marinade

*Yields 4 cups; can refrigerate unused portion.*

- 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil**
- 3/4 cup soy sauce**
- 1/2 cup Worcestershire sauce**
- 1/2 cup red wine vinegar**
- 1/3 cup lemon juice**
- 2 Tbsp. dry mustard**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 Tbsp. black pepper**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. parsley, freshly chopped (optional)**

- 1.** Combine all ingredients with a whisk. Pour over meat. Let the meat marinate for at least 2-4 hours, but it's best to marinate overnight. The longer you allow meat to marinate, the richer the flavor will be.
- 2.** This recipe will marinate enough meat for 30 people.

### Mom's Chocolate Cake

- 2 cups flour**
- 2 cups sugar**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 stick butter**
- 3 Tbsp. cocoa**
- 1 cup water**
- 1/2 cup Crisco**
- 1/2 cup buttermilk**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 400 F. Grease and flour pan; set aside. Sift together the flour, sugar and baking soda. Place in a large bowl.
- 2.** Bring butter, cocoa, water and Crisco to a boil. Pour over flour mixture, stirring well. Add remaining ingredients. Stir until well blended.
- 3.** Pour cake mixture into pan. Bake for 20 minutes.

### Fudge Icing

- 1 stick butter**
- 3 Tbsp. cocoa**
- 1/3 cup milk**
- 1 16-oz. box powdered sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 cup chopped pecans (optional)**

- 1.** Heat butter, cocoa and milk in a pan until mixture thickens like pudding. Add powdered sugar a little at a time, stirring well. Add vanilla; stir. Mix in pecans, if desired. Pour over cooled cake and enjoy.



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# WAXAHACHIE AUTOPLEX



**Friday, April 29-Sunday, May 1: Waxahachie Autoplex Invitational Soccer Tournament Title Sponsor**

**Friday, May 6: 1st Annual Lofland/Siebert Memorial Gold Tournament \$25,000 Hole-in-one Sponsor** benefiting the Waxahachie Golf Program

**Saturday, May 7: Hach 50 Gold Sponsor**

**Friday, May 13: Strive-to-drive Car Giveaway at Red Oak HS at 10:20am**

**Wednesday, May 11:**

The Ford Driving Dreams Scholarship Celebration at Cowboys Stadium. This year, Waxahachie Ford will be awarding one student from each of these four schools: Waxahachie HS, Waxahachie Global, Red Oak HS and Midlothian HS.

**Saturday, May 14: Sunflower Friends Golf Tournament \$25,000 Hole-in-one Sponsor** benefiting Ellis County families with critical financial needs due to the life-threatening illness or life-altering injury of a child.

**Saturday, May 14: CrossRoads Texas Film Festival Ticket Hit with 99.5 The Wolf from 12-2.**  
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**Monday, May 16: Strive-to-drive Car Giveaway at Italy HS at 12pm**

**Wednesday, May 18: Strive-to-drive Car Giveaway at Midlothian HS 9am**

**Friday, May 20: Waxahachie Local 3010 Annual Golf Tournament \$25,000 Hole-in-one Sponsor** benefiting our local firefighters benevolent fund

**Friday, May 20: Strive-to-drive Car Giveaway at Lumpkins Stadium, Waxahachie 9:30am**

**Saturday, May 28-31: Cross Roads TX Film Festival and Presenting Sponsor of 99.5 The Wolf!**

**Monday, May 30: Strive-to-drive Car Giveaway at Argyle HS at 3pm.**

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