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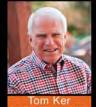
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ON THE COVER



This Billboard No. 1 Praise & Worship album features local pastor, Clayton Brooks.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

A long time coming ...

Although it's one of four months with just 30 days, June is reported to offer the longest daylight hours of the year in our hemisphere. How apropos that the month in which we most allow ourselves to kick back and relax is the same one giving us the most sunshine to do just that.

Sure, we grown-ups still have work, but June is famous for the start of summer, the end of school for students and the favorite month in which to vacation. What a blessing that days are longer this month! Even if you have nothing

particular planned, I hope the greater amount of sunshine, at least, gives you more opportunity to get out and enjoy something you love on as many of these 30 long days as possible!

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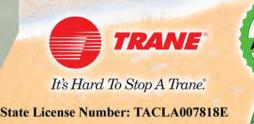
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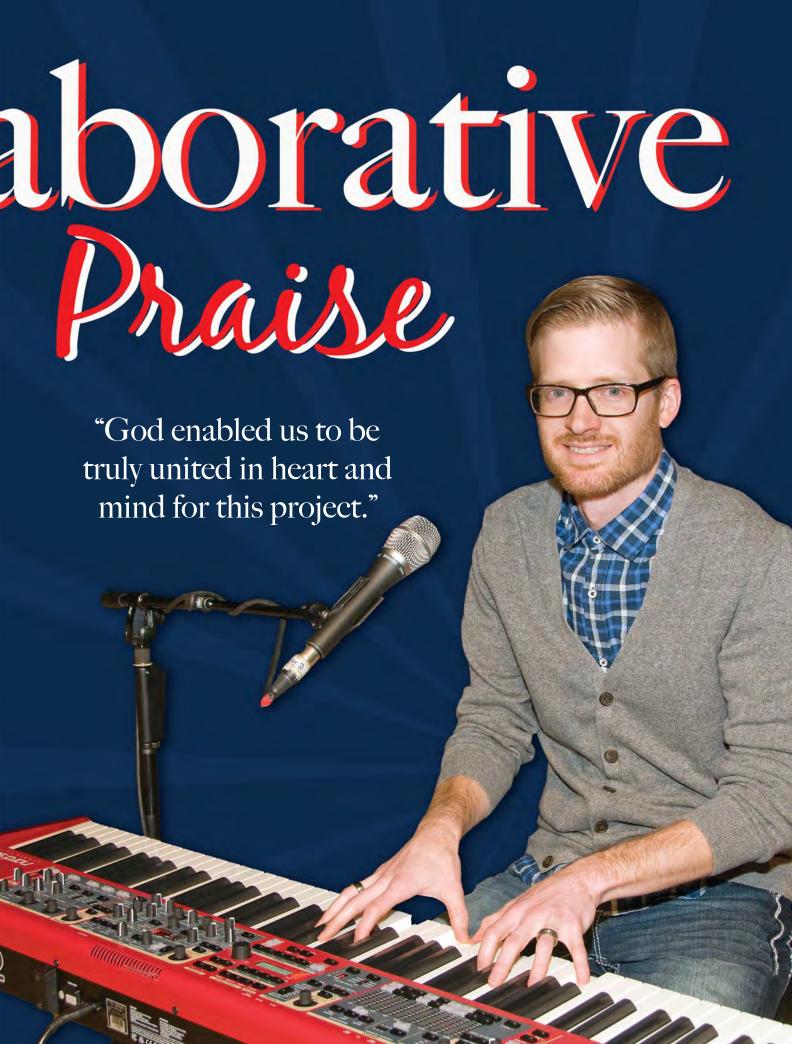
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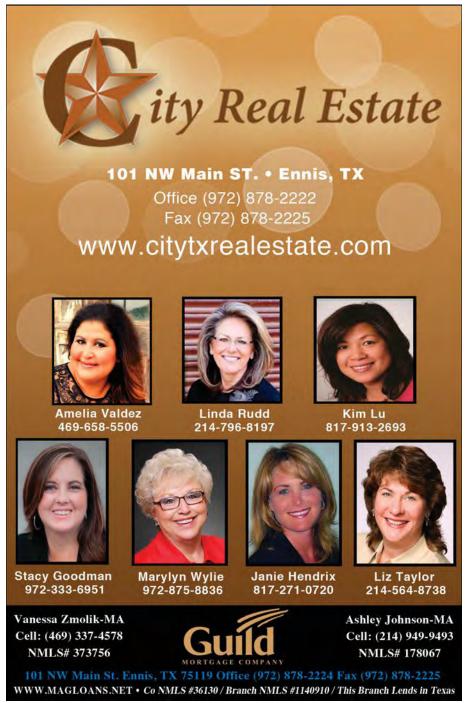
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Justin Lathrop invited him to be part of the Integrity Music label CD One: A Worship Collective. The worship album includes 11 live performances produced by John Hartley (who has worked with the likes of Leigh Nash, Aaron Keyes, Twila Paris and Chris McClarney).

Co-sponsored by Integrity Music and the Assemblies of God, the CD features Clayton as lead vocalist and one of the writers, along with two other music



ministers. The project was produced in partnership with Influence Resources. "We each brought two original songs and collaborated on three more," Clayton noted of his work with musicians Ryan Williams from River Valley Church in Minnesota, and Kurtis Parks of National Community Church in Washington, D.C.

One of their collaborations, "To Honor You," was quickly picked up by churches across the country. "It's definitely one of my favorite pieces, because of how it was created," Clayton observed. "There were five musicians in a room wanting to write a song to honor the Lord, and in about 30 minutes we had it." Its theme is simple yet profound, and he said he'll never forget the moment the



group finished the song. "It was a really beautiful moment," Clayton said. "I think we all could feel God smiling."

Clayton was all smiles when he and his collaborators were invited to lead the Seven: Fourteen Prayer Conference at Southwestern Assemblies of God University last year in Waxahachie where the One album was recorded. "It was a huge surprise to be invited and an honor to lead such a large group of

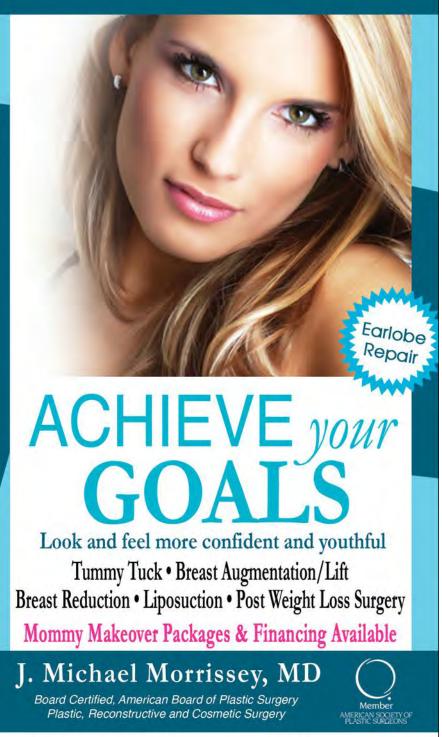
> ministers, missionaries and students in worship — something I will never forget!" Clayton enthused.

The album went on to premiere at the General Council of the Assemblies of God, in Orlando, Florida, last August. In its debut week of sales, One became Billboard's No. 1 Praise & Worship album, and reached No. 2 on the iTunes Christian and Gospel

charts. According to Influence Resources, the purpose of One: A Worship Collective was to "harvest homegrown songs from local ministries for the global church." Ultimately a success, the project wasn't without difficulties.

"I think the biggest challenge for me was trying to stay in the moment and be an effective worship leader for the prayer conference while, at the same time, going through all of the mental processes of making a live recording," Clayton admitted. Of course, he credits his faith in God for overcoming the challenge and for the relationships that were formed.

He doesn't know if he'll be involved in any more projects with the other worship leaders, but he's grateful for the



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connection they made through the album. "We didn't know each other at all before we began working on it," Clayton related, "but God enabled us to be truly united in heart and mind for this project."

Although it's not part of the CD, Clayton gives thanks for another favorite song, "Heart of Worship." "It reminds us that life is not about the songs we sing," he mused. "It's about the One who created us and rescued us. I'll take that reminder every day as a songwriter — to keep me more focused on Jesus than on the music."

Still, Clayton admits music is a powerful way to reach people. "Music has the ability to uplift a person's spirit and to bring it down," he commented. "It stirs emotions and can evoke physical responses. It allows authentic expression, especially when you create it from scratch. It's one of the things the Bible says is happening in heaven. Music is definitely incredibly powerful."

One: A Worship Collective is the first in a series of albums set to feature musical movements in churches today. Available through Christian retailers and online, the CD has been described as, "A great mix of solemn worship melodies as well as upbeat ones."

Ironically, Clayton Brooks could be described in much the same way. He recognizes his role as worship minister more solemnly, all the while infusing the upbeat message of God's love through music. "I consider my successful marriage and supporting a successful pastor great accomplishments," Clayton concluded, "along with the fact that I just genuinely love to serve the Lord. As long as whatever we do with our lives is in service to Him, whatever we do is a success." NOW



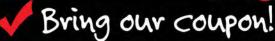
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Robert and Bette Hand Built in 1985, the 3,000-square-foot house of Robert and Bette Hand has been an ongoing makeover project. Bringing it up to date has been a labor of love for the Ovilla couple since they purchased the four-bedroom, three-and-a-half-bath home in 1994. A two-year search brought the Hands from

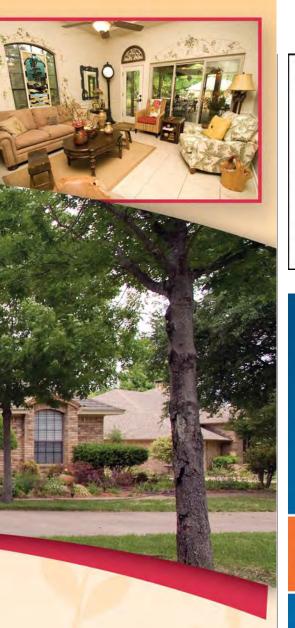
"We chose this area because there are no apartments, it's not too far from NorthPark Center and restaurants in Dallas, but there's a whole lot less traffic!" Bette said.

Grand Prairie to Ovilla two decades ago, when they

found their dream home in Ellis County.

While they dislike traffic, cars actually play a vital role in the Hands' lives. Robert has a restoration shop in Grand Prairie, and had a 1,200-square-foot garage added behind their home to house his hobby. He has shown cars at the Concours d' Elegance shows in Pebble Beach, California, Amelia Island, Florida, and Meadowbrook, Michigan.

Concours d' Elegance events are judged competitions in



which automobiles are ranked based on their appearance. Only cars rated as being in mint condition are eligible for awards.

"Robert's customers are from one-car collectors to multimillion dollar collectors — some rather famous. So, to say vintage automobiles are a hobby would be an understatement," Bette explained. "I don't get into car shows much, but I like to tag along for the shopping!"

Even the Hands' wedding paid homage to Robert's love of cars. After meeting through a co-worker, Robert and Bette dated and eventually decided to marry at the Aldredge House on Swiss Avenue in Dallas in June 1984. "Aldredge House was built in 1915 and really had a vintage feel to it. We left our reception in a 1930 Chevrolet that I restored for the wedding," Robert said.

A mutual friend took a photo of the Chevy and the hotel, and put them



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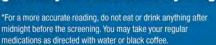
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together in a painting that hangs in the Hands entryway. The car was purchased by Robert years earlier while in high school. "Everyone was driving Mustangs and Camaros, but I drove my little unrestored Chevy with chicken wire in the top," Robert recalled. His decision to restore the vehicle ignited a passion that turned from hobby to business and even plays a role in the Hands' home decor.

"I really don't collect anything specific, but I love furniture. Robert,

on the other hand, loves vintage things. He has Victrolas, his grandfather's axe sharpening stone and a little brown bear from his childhood based on the 1940's book by that name," Bette said.

Robert's Victrolas are exclusively Victor Victrolas and his radios, Zenith brand, are all in working order. They are sprinkled throughout the home along with his other collectibles, including some 500 albums for the antique music machines.

A well top carved of stone by Bette's great-grandfather is one vintage contribution she makes to the home. Robert transported the 800-pound piece from Arkansas and hoisted it into the couple's backyard where several other rocks from Bette's family farm also lay.

The landscape is Bette's pride and joy, where her flower gardens are a showpiece of the neighborhood. She averages two to three hours of yard work per day when weather permits. "It's relaxing for me. Just watering my plants is soothing," she said.

While the traditional-style home's exterior is currently brick, Bette said they might someday prefer a more Mediterranean facade of stucco. For now,







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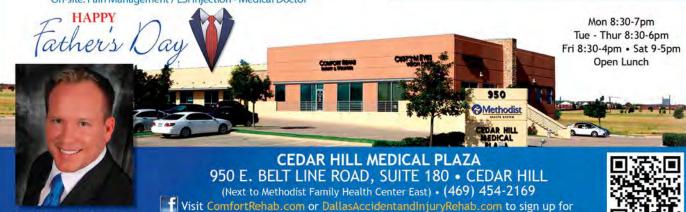
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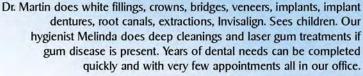


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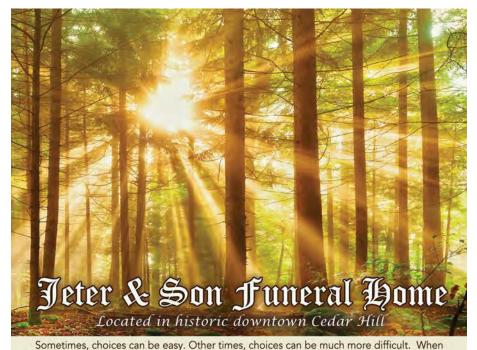
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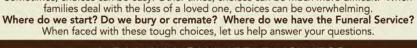
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however, the focus is inside the home. "We've been redoing the house and the yard ever since we moved here. The challenge is getting rid of the '80s look and bringing it into the new millennium," Robert said.

A kitchen update and replacing older countertops with granite in the late 1990s has proved to be the biggest decorating challenge to date. "We wanted a hand-chiseled edge on the island. It was quite a challenge since most granite companies don't like to do this," Robert recalled. "Finally after the third time, they got it right."

Other updates include painting wood-stained trim, paneling and cabinetry throughout the home, updating all lights and fixtures and replacing flooring throughout. "Even though it needed a lot of work when we found it, we knew it was the home we wanted," Robert said. "We had always looked at houses. It's just something we both enjoyed, so by the time we found this one, we were sure."

The home seemed destined to be theirs, considering it was about to go into foreclosure. "It took four months to track paperwork between banks in different states, and usually Bette would get to the next bank before they even knew the paperwork was coming to them," Robert recalled. "But she was determined, and once the foreclosure was completed, our closing went very quickly."

Because it was a foreclosure, the bank was responsible for bringing the home up to code, which saved the Hands a lot of



money. "A friend of Bette's brother just happened to be in the mortgage business and informed us of the preservation clause, or we wouldn't have known that we didn't have to make all the repairs," Robert said.

"We were very fortunate to have a friend point this out to us," Bette said. "But we've been blessed our whole lives together."

Currently the Hands are having an upstairs bathroom renovated. A master bath remodel from 1999 is about ready for another overhaul, too. While each room has been decorated to their own taste and satisfaction — including custom wall treatments and furniture from estate sales as well as Robert's mother's furniture store — the Hands most appreciate what they call their "peace and quiet" room. "It's where we go to read or enjoy the backyard. And, of course, to nap," Bette said.

Always on the go, Bette rarely takes advantage of napping, however. "Our house is nice and peaceful to come home to. We enjoy sitting outside and drinking tea after work or on weekends," she said. "I never sit for long, so those times are a real luxury!"

Their 1-acre-plus lot is surrounded by well-established trees in their somewhat secluded neighborhood, which suits the Hands just fine. "I like the rolling hills and no sidewalks. It's quiet here, and we love all of our neighbors," Bette said. "We enjoy the home, the yard, the quaint atmosphere of Ovilla — what more could you ask for?" NOW





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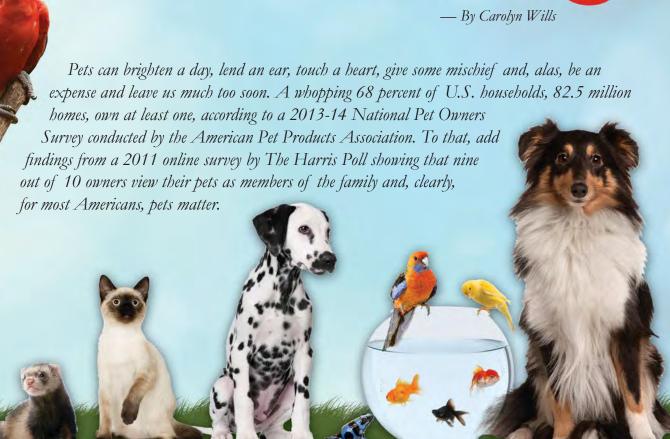
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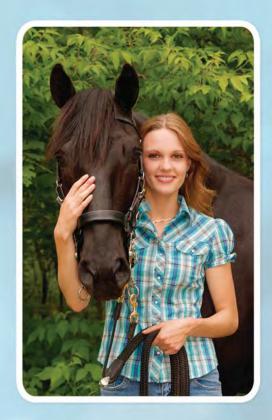


Anyone who has marveled at a cat, enjoyed the perfect horseback ride or looked into the eyes of an old dog knows the special language between human and animal. On the simplest level, pets are our companions, but they can also be conduits to physical, competitive and/or social outlets. Today, labels like "horse people" and "dog people" are familiar, and clubs, training facilities and activities exist for just about every breed, talent and interest.

Remarkably, Americans care for an estimated 20.6 million birds, 95.6 million cats, 83.3 million dogs, 8.3 million horses, 158.6 million fish, 11.5 million reptiles and 18.1 million small animals. That's a lot of millions supporting pets, particularly against the realities of their expense and shorter life expectancy.

What, then, draws us to become "pet parents"?

1. Having a pet is an opportunity to care for something outside of ourselves. Pets personify unconditional love and a wondrous connection to nature. They're also great entertainers,





and as creatures of habit, can serve as a grounding force in our lives.

- **2.** Health and welfare benefits can be found in pet ownership, too. APPA cites several studies supporting the pet connection as being good for us:
- People with hypertension who adopted a cat or dog were found to have lower blood pressure readings in stressful situations than those who did not own pets. (Dr. Karen Allen, State University of New York at Buffalo.)
- Pets have also been found to be effective at reducing human stress and anger. Walking a dog, riding a horse, petting a cat or any number of











APPA also notes that autistic children tend to be more responsive when a pet is in the area, and children who have pets often perform better in school.

Senior citizens and dementia patients have shown a tendency to react more positively around pets. Baby boomers have the largest instances of pet ownership, and as they transition to empty nesting are keeping pets longer.

These benefits and privileges come with responsibilities. Truly there is no such thing as a free puppy, and although according to the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPPSP), about 65 percent of pets are acquired from friends and family for free or at low cost, pet owners must provide medical care and prevention for their pets.





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has been learned about the importance
of dental maintenance.

Currently APPA estimates that, at most, 3 percent of dogs and 1 percent of cats are insured. Investing in pet insurance is on the increase, though, at an expected annual rate of 10 percent and may especially be pertinent for horse owners considering the cost of equine surgery. Annual medical expenses for a dog are generally just under \$1,000 and for a cat around \$650.

Annual costs of pet food, including treats, begin at around \$300. Where this investment ends depends on the sizes and quantity of pets in a household.

Grooming is also essential. Horses need farriers. Dogs and cats require regular grooming and nail clipping and some breeds are best groomed by a professional.

A growing population of pets, awareness of their needs and the many options for activities have













spurred development in America's pet industry. In 2014, an estimated \$58.51 billion will be spent on pets in the U.S., and that's a lot of billions. Today's pets are being treated to orthopedic dog beds, designer clothing, IQ-raising toys, seat belt systems, automatic water and food dispensers plus a myriad of foods from basic to breed-specific to organic. Travel-related pet services, after-care (burial) services, pet day care, dog parks, pet portraits and products are all in demand.

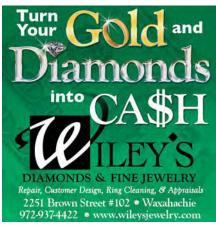


More than at any time, people have access to pet-specific information via specialized broadcast programming, publications, social media, clinics and events, breed associations, veterinary journals and pet industry studies.

Individual pets have gained fame as social media "stars" with their own Facebook pages, Twitter accounts and blogs. As the industry grows and people increasingly grasp the peril of unwanted animals and unscrupulous/uneducated breeders, more rescue operations and organizations are forming and tolerance is lessening toward all abuse of animals.

Thankfully, for those puppies, guppies, kittens, ponies, parakeets, hedgehogs, hamsters or gerbils, bunnies, ferrets, turtles or others fortunate to be adoptees of responsible and devoted pet parents, life in America is good.









Business NOW







North Texas Fitness & Therapy Center, PLLC

201 W. 5th Street Ferris, TX 75125 Phone: (469) 373-2967 Fax: 1 (800) 614-1885

Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



Dr. Marcy Maines offers old-school quality customer service at North Texas Fitness & Therapy Center, PLLC in Ferris.

THERAPY AND FITNESS FOR FERRIS

Dr. Marcy Maines continues the longstanding tradition of care at North Texas Fitness & Therapy Center, PLLC.

— By Angel Morris

Marking her one-year anniversary in April, Dr. Marcy Maines is a physical therapist and new owner of North Texas Fitness & Therapy Center, PLLC, a business she purchased because of its successful history. "I chose this location, because it was already established by a fantastic doctor, Dr. Robert Megna, who has been here in Ferris for over 25 years," Dr. Maines said. "It was also close to home and to former patients."

A physical therapist for 14 years, Dr. Maines' background is in outpatient care. "I dedicated my career to serving others in either an outpatient hospital setting, home health setting or a doctor-owned private practice setting. But it has always been a goal of mine to get to the point where I could open my own physical therapy clinic," Dr. Maines explained. "When the opportunity

arose to take over this clinic, I was excited to run a business that I could call my own. I wanted a business I could operate with integrity and compassion the way I feel my patients deserve."

North Texas Fitness & Therapy Center provides outpatient physical therapy services for both orthopedic and neurologic diseases and diagnoses, including post-surgical patients. It also offers a wellness program to former patients and the general public for a small monthly fee.

"I adhere to old-school quality customer service. People want to feel like their time is valuable and that you genuinely care about them. They want to be contacted quickly to be scheduled, and they want to be seen at their scheduled appointment time and not have to wait because you're overbooked," Dr. Maines

Business NOW

noted. "They want to talk to a live person and have questions and phone calls answered timely. They want you to do what you say you are going to do."

Dr. Maines said customers get all those aspects and more from her clinic. "I don't ever want to get too big I can't give that kind of service, because the favorite part of my business is my patients," she said. "They become a part of my extended family, because I see them not only in the clinic, but I see them in the community at my kids' activities, at church and at the grocery store."

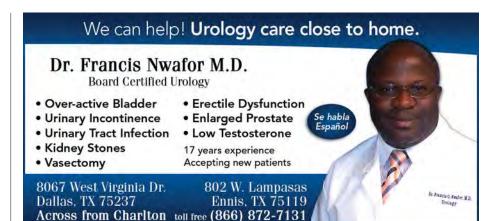
"I WANTED A BUSINESS I COULD OPERATE WITH INTEGRITY AND COMPASSION THE WAY I FEEL MY PATIENTS DESERVE."

Dr. Maines and her husband, Joe, a Dallas police officer with 25 years on the force, have five children: Conner, Kaiden, Makinen, Maddox and Morgynn. The family lives "right down the road" from her Ferris clinic in Red Oak, making her accessible to her patients all the time.

"God has blessed me with the ability to help others. My goal is to continue to do that through this small private practice in Ferris with future hopes to expand to another town in Ellis County as business grows," Dr. Maines said.

Her continued success relies on the effectiveness of her staff, which includes physical therapy technicians Kandise Ness and Jessica O'Neal who help with scheduling, patient treatment and everything else around the clinic. "They are awesome and extremely important to this clinic," Dr. Maines stated.

Dr. Maines encouraged those in communities beyond Ferris and Red Oak to give her clinic a try. "If they want great quality physical therapy service, traveling a few more miles down the road is worth the drive!" **NOW**





Around Town NOW



Ovilla's Olivia Graham demonstrates a homemade French horn as the Dallas Symphony Orchestra brass quintet performs at her school.



Community National Bank & Trust meets McGruff the Crime Dog at the Red Oak Business Expo.



Christian Acevedo shows off his medals earned during Special Olympics competitions hosted in Red Oak.



Kynnedi Castillo enjoys a treat from The Snow Cone Stand.



Fresh finds are unloaded at G&E General Store, a Red Oak resale shop.



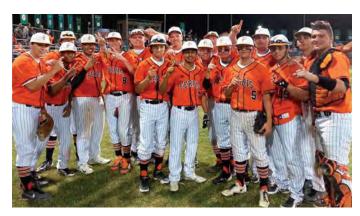
Supranee Lekchaum, Christy Davila and Chelcie Brown perform their winning trio at Star Systems regionals representing Glenn Height's Boogie Shoes School of Dance.



everything from home decor to lightweight scarves.



Red Oak Police Cadets Gary McIntosh, John Determan and Michael Fitzgerald attend the North Texas Regional Police Academy in Arlington.

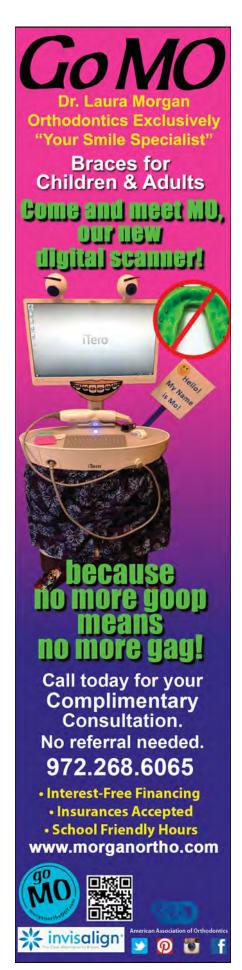


Ferris Jackets baseballers celebrate another victory.

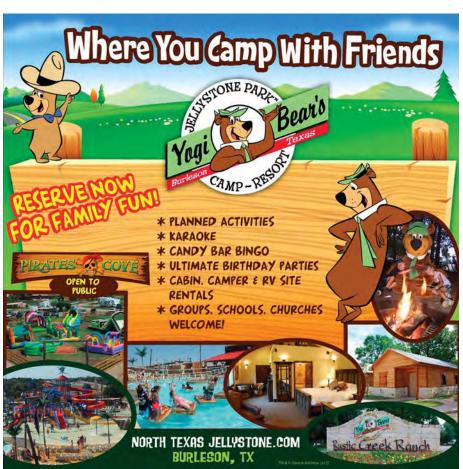














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June 2 — July 17

Summer Camps at Canterbury!: Hours vary by camp, Canterbury Episcopal School, 1708 N. Westmoreland Rd., DeSoto, near Glenn Heights and Red Oak. Open to kindergarten through ninth grades depending on camp. Open to the public. Visit www.thecanterburyschool.org.

June 5

Synergy Red Oak: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 342 Bar & Grill, 205 S. Main St. Networking opportunity for those in attendance. Call (972) 576-3420.

June 7

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-in: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, off of Hwy. 287 between Waxahachie and Midlothian. Features classic airplanes, open cockpit biplane rides, simulator instructional flights, helicopter rides, fly-overs, live music, children's activities and more. Visit www.mid-wayregional.com.

Brunch With My Daddy & Dad With His Little Princess: 9:00 a.m.-noon, Ryan's Grill Buffet and Bakery, 1400 N. Hwy 77, Waxahachie. Event is presented by Kingdom Event Planning. Limited seating available for girls ages 5-18 and their dads. \$10 per

person. For tickets, call (972) 748-4026 or (972) 748-4026.

June 9 — July 23

Summer Golf & Wellness Camps: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 Hwy. 287 Bypass W, Waxahachie. June 9-11, beginner/ intermediate; June 23-25, beginner/ intermediate; July 7-9, beginner/intermediate; July 21-23, advanced. Price of \$140 includes lunch. Contact Laura Hargrove at (817) 673-0356 or laurahargrovegolf@gmail.com.

June 12

Summer Reading Club: Fizz, Boom, Read!: 7:00 p.m., Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Summer Reading Club kickoff with daily reading log distribution and a look at activities and performances set for the summer.

June 13

Movies on the Square: 8:30-11:30 p.m., downtown Ferris. Bring your chairs and blankets for this community showing of Charlotte's Web.

June 16

Book Club: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Red Oak

Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Email sandyg@aircanopy.net for this month's book selection.

June 16 - 20

Horsin' Around Camp: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5431 Montgomery Rd., Midlothian. Ages 7 to 15. Cost is \$225. Volunteer counselors are also needed. Visit pawsforreflection@att.net.

June 23 — 27

Vacation Bible School: 5:30 p.m. nightly, Ovilla United Methodist Church, 1403 Red Oak Creek Rd. Free, including dinner, and open to ages 3-11. Call (972) 617-8840 or email ovillaumc@sbcglobal.net.

June 28

Third Annual Red Oak White and Blue Fun Run and Festivities: All day, Pearson Park, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Fun Run and Chipped-timed race, along with a celebration of America's independence with area vendors and a fireworks display. Learn more at www.eteamz.com/cityofredoakparksrecreation.

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







Cooking NOW



In the Kitchen With Alexander Middleton

— By Angel Morris

Alexander Middleton has come a long way from making boxed mac and cheese. Cooking since age 10, he will attend Johnson & Wales University's College of Culinary Arts this fall. "I plan to be a cruise ship chef, travel the world and eventually open my own restaurant," Alexander said.

Taught by his mom, grandmom and great-grandmom, Alexander is often asked to cook for family friends and has a monthly potluck where he's required to share his famous fried buffalo chicken tenders. "I like the spontaneous nature of cooking — being able to throw in a pinch of this or dash of that to make a dish absolutely delectable," he said. "Above all, I love making people smile, and that's easy to do with a delicious meal!" NOW

Fried Buffalo Chicken Tenders

Oil (enough to just cover bottom of skillet)

1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour

2 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. ground black pepper

1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper

1/4 tsp. garlic powder

1/2 tsp. paprika

1 egg

1 cup milk

3 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into 1/2-inch strips

1/4 cup hot pepper sauce

1 Tbsp. butter

I. Heat oil to 375 F. Combine next 6 ingredients in a large bowl.

2. Whisk egg and milk in a small bowl. Dip chicken strips in mixture and roll in flour blend, so that each strip is double coated. Refrigerate 20 minutes.

3. Fry in hot oil, in batches. Cook until

exterior is nicely browned and juices run clear, 5 to 6 minutes per batch.

4. Combine hot sauce and butter in a small bowl. Microwave on high until melted, 20 to 30 seconds. Pour sauce over cooked chicken: mix to coat.

Tortilla Soup

6 Tbsp. cooking oil

8 6-inch corn tortillas, halved and cut into 1/4-inch strips

I small onion, chopped (about I cup)

4 large cloves garlic, smashed

1 Tbsp. paprika

2 tsp. ground cumin

I tsp. ground coriander

1 tsp. chili powder

1/4 tsp. cayenne

1 1/2 quarts canned low-sodium chicken broth or homemade stock

3 cups canned crushed tomatoes in thick puree

2 bay leaves

2 1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 cup lightly-packed cilantro leaves plus 3 tsp. chopped cilantro (optional)

1 3/4 lbs. boneless/skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4-inch pieces 1 avocado, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

1/4 lb. cheddar, grated

Lime wedges

1. Heat oil over moderately high heat. Add half of tortilla strips and cook, stirring, until pale golden, about 1 minute. Remove with slotted spoon, draining on paper towels. Repeat with remaining tortilla strips.

2. Reduce heat to moderately low. Add onion, garlic and spices; cook, stirring, 5 minutes.

3. Add broth, tomatoes, bay leaves, salt, cilantro (if using), and 1/3 tortilla strips. Bring to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, for 30 minutes; remove bay leaves.

4. In a blender, puree soup in batches; pour back into pot. Add chicken, bring back to a simmer until just cooked through, about 10 minutes. Stir in avocado.

5. To serve, put remaining tortilla strips in bowls, top with cheese, and pour in soup. Sprinkle with chopped cilantro and serve with lime wedges.

Pound Cake

1 1/2 cups butter, softened

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened

3 cups sugar

6 large eggs

1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

3 cups all-purpose flour

1/8 tsp. salt

2 cups water

1. Preheat oven to 300 F Mix butter and cream cheese with electric mixer until creamy.

2. Gradually add sugar and beat 5 minutes, then add eggs one at a time, allowing each to incorporate before adding more. Stir in vanilla.

3. Sift flour and salt and gradually add to mixture, beating until well-blended.

4. Pour batter into greased and floured Bundt or tube cake pan.

5. Place water in ovenproof container on rack in oven next to cake.

6. Bake 1 hour and 45 minutes, or until toothpick can be removed cleanly.

7. Cool on wire rack for 15 minutes, then remove from pan and complete cooling on wire rack.

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