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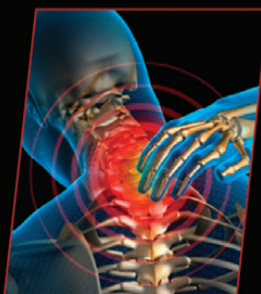
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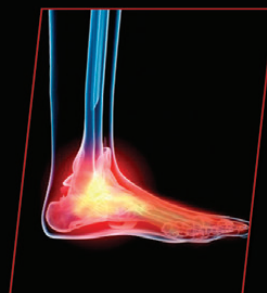
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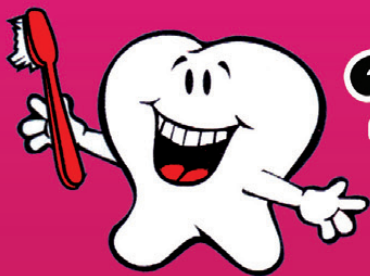
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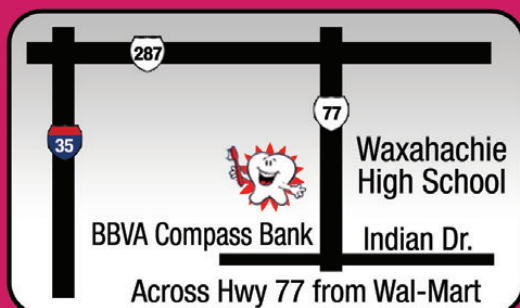
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## ON THE COVER



*The Bellers live in a home that deserves to be preserved.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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## Editor's Note

*Happy Father's Day!*

As a young teenager, my mom had taken me from our home in Palmer to Waxahachie for one special item — a pair of black, knee-high go-go boots. Upon our return home, I took off running across the yard to show my dad and grandpa. They both began to frantically wave and yell words I could not make out. As soon as I hit the electric barbed wire fence, I painfully realized they hadn't been excited to see me at all.

Once untangled from the "new fence" that wasn't in place when we left, I saw I had scratches on my arms, a big gash in one leg and boots that were no longer cute. They had tried their best to stop me before the damage was done. As I've gotten older, I realize that's all dads ever try to do — stop us before the damage is done. I miss my dad daily, but I'm thankful for the memories I have that make me smile and cry all at the same time.

You won't regret making a new memory with your dad today!

*Sandra*

Sandra Strong  
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*At a young age, Ann Sillavan learned to crochet her first chain stitch sitting at the knee of her paternal grandmother. That chain stitch with yarn grew into thread crocheting, knitting, smocking, macramé, heirloom sewing, tatting and, most recently, embellished concrete stepping stones. “My maternal grandmother’s love for me and the song she sang to me about ladybugs was the inspiration for my ladybug brand,” Ann said.*

Ann’s mother inspired her love for all things crafty. “My mom was a true artist,” she said. “She made my younger sister and I matching red coats and embroidered a state bird quilt.” The lady bug, which brings back so many fond memories, is incorporated in the stones Ann makes today for herself, and many times for others.

Her love for stepping stones began when she signed up for a class offered at the Waxahachie Senior Activity Center. Being a student first helped prepare her for the role of teacher. “After I had made a few stones, I started helping out where I could,” she explained. As a teacher, she took over the morning stained glass class at the center first. The Tuesday afternoon stone class taught by Betty Howard had grown to warrant the need for a second instructor, thus prompting the morning class. “Jeanee Smiles, the center’s director, wanted the beginner students to have more one-on-one time, so I came on board to help.”

Following a year’s worth of time and experience, Ann became the teacher of the center’s class for beginners, which is held every Tuesday from 9:00-11:00 a.m. She also aids Betty in the advanced stone class from 12:15-2:00 p.m. As soon as the advanced class comes to a close, she switches gears to oversee the stained glass class from 2:00-4:00 p.m. “Tuesdays are long days,” she admitted, “but I love them.”

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— By Sandra Strong





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One of the key things new students learn when they attend class for the first time is how to “score the glass” properly and safely. They are required to put on a pair of safety glasses, so they can learn the delicate art of scoring and breaking the glass. “We really don’t cut the glass,” Ann stated. “We score it with a glass cutter. Scoring the glass puts a light scratch on the glass that causes it to be weak in that spot. That weak spot allows us to break the glass into the shape we need for our projects.”

New students practice “scoring and breaking” by using window pane glass, so hopefully they won’t be intimidated when it comes time to break the stained glass for their chosen project. Needless to say, no matter how much experience someone has in breaking glass, sometimes pieces will crack, improperly break or shatter, depending on the temperament of the glass.

After they feel comfortable breaking the window glass, students are then encouraged to find a pattern from the many they have available at the center, or in some cases, put the idea they have in mind down on paper. Once the pattern is decided upon, it’s on to the size of



Ann Sillavan preps materials for a new project.





Patti Boswell and Susie Etheridge share conversation while making their stepping stones.



the stepping stone desired and the type and colors of glass needed to create the pattern previously chosen. There are basically two types of glass — cathedral and opalescent. The transparency of cathedral glass allows for the transmission of light. Opalescent glass is opaque glass which allows very little light transmission. Usually, you can't see through the opalescent glass.

The tools of breaking glass are as few or as many as the crafter is comfortable using. There are pen and pistol type cutters that score the glass. Mosaic cutters are plier-like tools that are similar to nippers. Breaking the glass once it has been scored can be done by hand or by the use of running pliers. Any and/or all of the aforementioned tools can be used, depending on the size of the pieces needed for the design. "A large part of the beginner's class is to learn the best use of tools to break the glass," Ann shared. "Each person finds what is most comfortable for them."

Any design, thought or idea can be incorporated into a stepping stone. "We have sunflowers, hearts, horses, birds, flowers and so much more. Some are patterns we have here, while others are patterns students have hand-drawn themselves," Ann said. "The artist is only limited by the size of the mold."

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Every shape imaginable is used in the stepping stones. Although students learn to break glass by using a cork-backed ruler to score a straight line, they soon move on to more difficult breaks that include curves, circles and all those specialized patterns found in stain glass artwork. After pieces are broken and grinded to fit the pattern, it's time to get the glass into the mold. If you want the artwork to be on the front side of the stone, the pattern has to be reversed before putting it into the mold. To reverse, Ann uses clear contact



paper cut to fit the mold perfectly. The pattern is built in reverse onto the sticky side of the contact paper. The pattern will dictate how many pieces you have to work with. The contact paper with reversed pattern is placed glass-side up. A smooth cement layer is poured against the glass. Then a layer of chicken wire is added for stability. The final layer of cement is poured to fill the mold. The stepping stone is set aside to firmly dry, taking 28 days to completely cure. Stained glass is laid directly onto the wet cement for those who choose not to reverse their pattern onto contact paper.

One student in Ann's class for beginners may be just learning how to score and break class, while another





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Linda Wilson, Carla White, Ann Sillavan and Margo Capps admire their finished pieces.

student across the room works on a stepping stone with three cats. There's a black cat, a white cat and an intricately designed calico cat. Each cat represents one of her three sons. "There are so many pattern ideas. The smaller the pattern pieces, the more precise the scores and breaks will need to be," Ann said. "Some students will add stone embellishments, while others will paint fine details. Whatever the heart and artful eye sees, it creates."



Many of the ideas shared in class have come from Pinterest, only to be tweaked as they are mentioned in class. "We bounce the ideas off each other to see how we can make them our own," Ann admitted.

The idea of garden gazing balls from old, discarded bowling balls and scrap stained glass is the latest idea that's come up in class. "We are recycling bowling balls and getting rid of lots of scrap glass at the same time," she said. "Once the gazing ball is complete, students will have also learned the art of mosaic." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information on classes offered at the Waxahachie Senior Activity Center, call (469) 309-4280.*

## Collars up ... *Twenty years later!*

It used to be, in the plant nursery business, that all you really needed to be a great ambassador for any local nursery was to be a good listener with great people skills and a love for all things botany. In fact, this is just what brought Roland together with Jenny Cagle in 1996. While working at a local nursery, before Roland's Nursery & Landscape was founded, Roland Hernandez had a good ear and a genuine love for caring about the earth and all that is planted beneath it. Jenny became a loyal customer of that nursery and of Roland's. This is what began their relationship.

"She was always super friendly and had a great knowledge about plants," Roland recalled. "But what I really remember about Jenny, is that every time she came in, she always had on a collared shirt with the collar flipped up. It was just *her* way and I related her to this look. And to this day," he added, "she *still* wears her collar up!" He admitted that oftentimes, when she's around, he flips his collar up, too, as kind of a whimsical show of kindred botanical affection.

When Roland's Nursery opened in 2004, it was only fitting that Jenny became a customer of the new nursery. Over the years, the two developed a respect for each other as one earth steward would for another! After Jenny retired last year, Roland suggested she come to help him at his nursery. "She has a great smile and a contagious cheerful demeanor and I knew she would be a great asset to the nursery," he said. "She is a long-time resident of Waxahachie and really knows her stuff when it comes to this industry." Jenny thought it would be a good way to spend part of her early retirement time, and so she came on board. She helps with the nursery inventory and, of course, imparts charm and cheer to customers discovering what Roland's has to offer.

And as it turns out, 20 years later, being a good listener with great people skills and a love for all things botany is still all Jenny Cagle really needs to be a great ambassador for any local nursery. Come see what great customer service looks like. Come see Jenny at Roland's Nursery!



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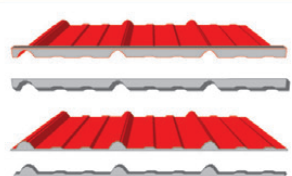
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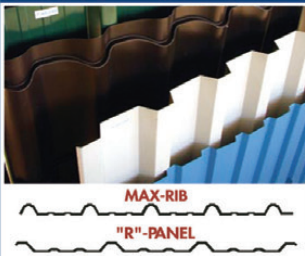
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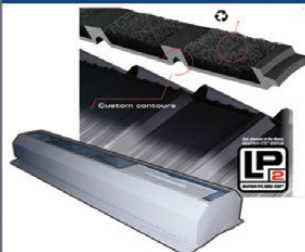
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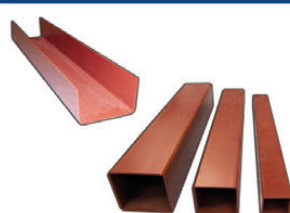


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One warm evening at Richards Park, baseball players were cracking the bats, while younger children either watched from the stands or ran the grounds. Watching the action, Greg recalled playing cup baseball — a game played in the past with two waxed soda cups from the concession stand and the players' bare hands — in the same spot as a kid, and then pointed to the championship board, noting that he was on the 1988 team that went to state. On top of that, his father-in-law was on the 1965 state championship team,



# ENCE

— By Melissa Swedoski

“As an athletic department, we want to provide a first-class experience for any student who wants to play sports.”

his dad won the gold medal in tennis for Waxahachie, and, “He was on the 1958 state basketball team. I always say he has more golds, but I have more medals.”

Greg is a Waxahachie native, participating in track, baseball and football for his hometown. After graduating from Stephen F. Austin State University, Greg returned to Waxahachie, where he started substitute teaching at the high school. He was a full-time substitute for a semester when Junior High Athletic Coordinator Ron Siebert



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1919 NORTH TEXAS CHAMPIONS	1961 REGIONAL FINALIST
1920 TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONS	1962 DISTRICT TRI-CHAMPIONS
1921 TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONS	1964 REGIONAL FINALIST
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1923 LOUISIANA/OKLAHOMA CHAMPIONS	1966 STATE SEMI-FINALIST
1924 TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONS	1969 DISTRICT NORTH ZONE CHAMPIONS
1925 TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONS	1973 REGIONAL FINALIST
1926 TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONS	1974 REGIONAL FINALIST
1927 TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONS	1975 DISTRICT NORTH ZONE CHAMPIONS
1945 STATE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT	1976 BI-DISTRICT FINALIST



asked if he wanted to teach at the junior high and also coach. His response was emphatic. "No, not at all what I had in mind to do," he said with a grin. "I thought I wanted to go to law school, but evidently that wasn't my plan. Someone prayed me right out."

Greg spent nine years with Waxahachie, the last of those as defensive back coach, until he was hired as defensive coordinator by Highland Park ISD for three years, including the Scots' 2005 state championship. In 2006, he returned to Waxahachie after former head football coach and men's athletic director, David Ream, hired him as defensive coordinator for the Indians. "It might have seemed a lateral move to some," Greg reflected, "but sometimes you have to leave to be seen differently." He told David he wanted the head coach/AD job one day, but fate had a different plan in mind.





In February 2015, after David's retirement, the AD and head football coach jobs were split, with Jon Kitna hired as coach and Greg named as the new athletic director, a decision that he hasn't regretted. "The hours are no different, but there's a little more flexibility," he said. "I'm together with my family. I can have lunch with my parents across town. From age 4 to 44, I was a slave to a bell. Now, I'm a slave to the calendar." Greg said his first year was all about learning the organization and structure of WHS athletics, noting, "As an athletic department, we want to provide a first-class experience for any student who wants to play sports." Greg promotes a strong value system for all athletics, encapsulated in five points: stewardship, unity, competitive greatness, sportsmanship and character. "It adds value to what you're doing when you state that," he said.

Standing completely in line with the mission and values of the school district, Greg said athletics and academics are "one big body moving together. We take the experience seriously." With 60 coaches covering grades seven through 12, the complexity of the program isn't lost on Greg. "I knew all our head coaches are good, but I don't think I knew how well they all handled their business," he said. "I hope we're lucky enough to keep them. I hope to provide an experience, so they want to stay. They are valued." In fact, Greg noted that when they do have openings on the coaching staff, the first qualification is

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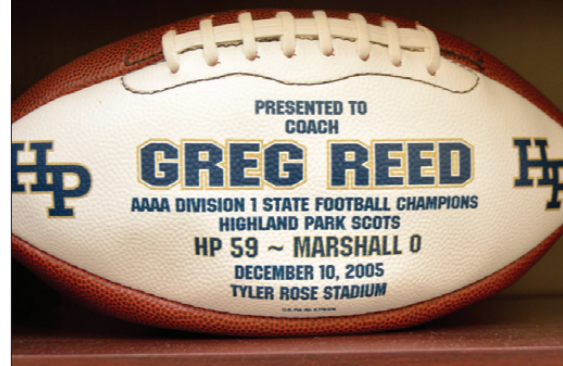


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character. "If you're not a person of high quality, high character, then Waxahachie probably isn't the place for you," he said.

Three months after becoming athletic director, the community passed a bond for a new Waxahachie High School, which includes new sports facilities. "They'll be doing everything on one campus, so we need to practice there as well," he said. Plans include three practice fields; a turf field for softball; a small competition stadium, complete with track; a sub-varsity baseball practice field; a tennis center with eight courts; a competition gym with two auxiliary gyms; and a smaller indoor turf practice area, with items that will drop down out of the ceiling. Greg said that the value of the facilities for the students as well as the coaches comes from the support of the school district's residents. "People in our community want their kids to have opportunities," he said. "They want kids to have a first-class experience. We can train them up from when they're young, and hopefully from there, they will get more opportunities."

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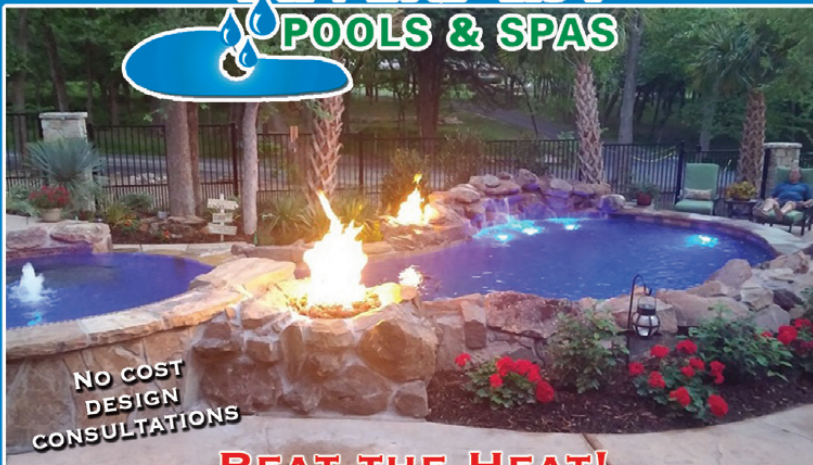
of Indian sports is the promotion of multisport athletes. "We want kids to play as much as they can play," he said. "There is a lot of value in that, especially with the overuse injuries kids have from playing only one sport. A multisport athlete makes for a healthier, more diverse athlete." Additionally, Greg wants to emphasize the developmental importance of the off-season, because "we are in a very competitive district, and we have someone who can compete at the state level in every sport. We want our kids to be Waxahachie Indians first."

Greg's office is in Lumpkins Stadium, and he said that "walking up the steps and knowing every day this is what I get to do is one of the best parts of my job." He noted that many people tell him they want a good program, but uppermost for him is "serving the coaches and giving a first-class program. For 19 years, the kids were my first priority, so I want to be sure we have the right people in those positions, and they know their attitude influences the kids."

He admitted missing the interaction with players, as well as his classroom students every day, but said, "It was the right decision at the right time. I work with great people — all the administrators and directors. When you feel supported and have the resources you need, it makes things much more fluid — like a night at the ballpark, when the balls made from waxed cups fall just where you want them to fall when batted with bare hands." **NOW**

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# Grand -and- Great

— By Carolyn Wills

At Home With  
*Jim and Linda Beller*



*The house wasn't easy to find. Winding roads, turns, a narrow bridge and, at last, an iron gate, graveled road and, then, the breathtaking 6,012-square-foot hidden treasure. "I could see it was a grand house," Linda Beller said. That was 11 years ago. Linda and her husband, Jim, had been living happily in a home they had built more than 30 years earlier. They loved their Waxabachie home and the neighborhood where their daughter, Lori, and sons, Greg and Kyle, had grown up.*





"We had even recently remodeled and had no intentions of moving," Linda smiled. Then, a friend called. Familiar with the owners and history of a home on 30 acres between Waxahachie and Maypearl, she felt it was something the Bellers would want to see.

She was right. Jim and Linda were moved, figuratively and actually, by this special home. "It deserved to be preserved," Jim said. Eleven years later, the results are truly inspiring.

This unique home, in a style reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright, was custom-built for George and Wilma Jean Caddel in 1976. "The Caddels traveled extensively, collecting architectural pieces and antiques along the way," Linda explained. Many pieces were ultimately incorporated into the home. "Mrs. Caddel was ahead of her time in many ways," she added. "Some details are so innovative we would never dream of changing them."

Multileveled, with large windows and open interior spaces, the home was designed to capture views of pastures and barns, a grove of pecan trees and the pristine lake teeming with healthy black bass. "The house was featured in one of the first Gingerbread Trail tours," Jim added. "We think it was in 1977, and they had to bus people out here to see it."

A wide, covered driveway presents the most amazing front entrance. "One of the things the Caddels had stored until the house was built was glasswork from an old bank in Kansas," Jim explained. That wall of glasswork surrounds the front door.

From its spacious foyer, the main floor, or perhaps more accurately the "great hall," is like one glorious painting, so magnificent it takes a moment to absorb. "There was a wall separating the foyer," Linda said. "We had it removed so the main space could be seen all at once." The impressive scope of the



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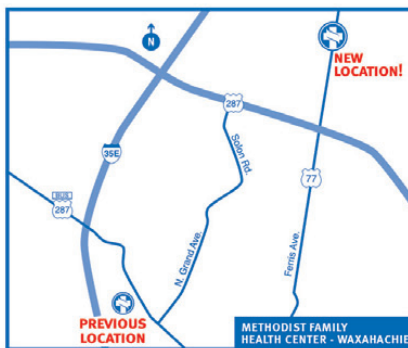
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central area is aided by two floor levels defined by iron railings, plus tall, 18-foot steel-beamed ceilings and large windows.

"Floors and windows needed replacing," Jim explained. Slate floors were selected for the bathrooms, carpet for the master bedroom and, then, wood floors throughout the house. "We hauled in five truckloads of flooring salvaged from an old gymnasium in Dallas," he said.

Straight from the foyer is a Steinway grand piano. Its shape is square, and it has been finely polished to a rich finish. "We purchased some of the Caddells' furniture, including the piano and dining room table and chairs," Linda explained. The piano is on the main upper level. Beyond it is

an iron railing, and then, the central lower level is beautifully furnished with seating in front of a great wood-burning fireplace faced with native Texas stone.

The left corner of the room, reserved for entertainment, offers additional seating and a most interesting piece of furniture. "I believe it was a chemist's cabinet," Linda smiled. "It was downstairs in Jim's workshop." When she realized it was big enough to hold a sizeable TV, with ample room to display their collection of film memorabilia and old cameras, the chemist's-cabinet-turned-tool-cabinet became the perfect media cabinet.

"Also, we liked having a sitting room in our previous house, so we used the top

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left level for that, with open access to the media space," she explained. Added to areas dedicated to music, conversation, media and enjoying a warm fire is a spectacular place for formal dining.

"Linda designed everything," Jim smiled. "She and her friends did all of the decorating." Light-filled spaces with gorgeous views, luxurious furnishings and accessories, rugs, textures and shades of burgundy, yellow, cream, soft blues, greens and rich wood floors are such a magnificent statement, it's tough to imagine there could be more to this home, yet there is.

On the far end of the great room, doors once belonging to a bank vault open to a favorite place for Jim and the Bellers' four grandkids. It's the game room, complete with brick floor, pool table, TV, spotting telescope for sighting animals and a long bar stocked with treats.

There's also an amazing library. Warm and cozy and straight out of *Harry Potter*, this magical room has floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, a hidden periodical section, a ladder on wheels, an antique reading table and lamp, comfy chairs and, yes, even a windowed nook with a daybed.

There's the big kitchen with two islands, tons of storage, lighted pantry, granite counters and a built-in cooktop surrounded by a wall of brick. "We kept the lower cabinets because they are so special," Linda said. "Mrs. Caddel had conveniences built in like pull-out steps for reaching upper cabinets."



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Throughout the home, Linda's design skills excel. "It's really about scale and balance," she smiled. Happily, that balance includes a touch of whimsy and, also, embracing things that say, "This is home." There's the colorful ceramic Chef Pig standing by the kitchen, a collection of antique wire baskets on the wall, an old card catalog used to hold cloth napkins and the occasional cow or rooster discretely displayed. "I love my cows and roosters," she grinned.

There are four bedrooms and four-and-a-half bathrooms. The guest room and a large bedroom, now used as Jim's office, are upstairs. For the Bellers' four grandchildren, ranging in age from 6 to



18, the downstairs "dorm" is especially delightful. It's huge and bright and big enough to accommodate bunk beds, a full bed, lots of storage and their own bathroom.

"I especially love the master bedroom," Linda said. "The bed is on one level, and there's a lower seating level. The carpet under the bed is really the only carpet in the house, except for rugs." There's also a fireplace and, most importantly, a special bed for 8-year-old Ozzie, the Bellers' beloved Cairn Terrier.

The master bath is equally impressive. From its major remodel, it gained a glass wall for the gorgeous view, custom trim and moldings, beaded ceiling and the amenities of a luxury spa.

Jim and Linda have been married for 52 years. They raised a loving family and worked together for 25 years to build a successful bookkeeping and tax service in Waxahachie. Today, tucked away in the countryside, hidden by nature and acreage, is their remarkable home. First created by kindred spirits, and now remodeled by the Bellers, it is grand and great again. **NOW**

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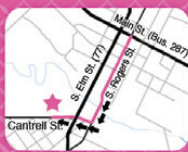
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# Bountiful Harvest

— By Melissa Swedoski

*The bounty of fresh fruits and vegetables during the summer is one of the great delights of the season. With a little effort and planning, you can enjoy flavorful fare at meals all year long with canning, which is fun and economical, but there are a few things to know to prepare for the process.*

## Acidity Levels and Canning

Knowing the difference between high- and low-acid foods determines the canning process used. Low-acid foods include meats and vegetables, with the exception of acidified tomatoes and pickled products. High-acid foods include fruits, pickled vegetables, relishes, salsa, pickles and sauerkraut.

Canning requires extreme heat to kill mold, yeast, bacteria or other organisms that cause spoilage. Low-acid foods require pressure canning to destroy the bacteria in temperatures that reach 240 F or higher. High-acid foods can be safely processed by boiling water canning. In general, boiling water canners take less time than pressure canners.





## Choosing Produce

Fresh produce is best from a backyard garden, but scouring the local farmers market can yield real gems. Overripe fruit isn't recommended, but if the fruit is fresh, small bruises can be removed and discarded.

- **Fruit** – It is generally better to hot-pack fruit, including apples, pears, apricots, nectarines and peaches. Unless you are making a jam or jelly, berries should be frozen. Tomatoes are a popular item to can and should be cooked before canning.
- **Vegetables** – Asparagus, beets, carrots, green beans, okra, peas, peppers and potatoes are eligible for canning, along with cucumbers, beets, beans, turnips or bell peppers. Tender lettuces, however, can't stand up to preservation techniques.



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## Jars and Lids

Mason jars are the best choice for home canning, since they come in pint and quart sizes and, if used properly, can be reused in future seasons. To pack whole fruit and vegetables, use a wide-mouth jar, which makes the process easier.



Two-part lids are necessary, as the screw band will secure the canning lid to the jar during processing. Screw bands can be reused as long as they aren't bent or rusty, but lids are designed for a one-time use since the sealing compound can lose effectiveness over time.

Jar lifters are good for moving hot jars, while jar funnels will help reduce spills during filling. A magnetic lid wand allows you to drop lids and bands into the hot water of the canner to sterilize them and soften the sealing compound, combining two steps in one.

## General Guidelines

Make sure the food is thoroughly washed and trimmed and practice arranging produce in a jar. Once you've cleaned all the tools and sliced and diced the produce, use a large spoon or ladle to put the produce loosely into jars. Fill the jars with boiling water, pickling solution or sweet syrup. Use white grape juice for fruit.







Use proper headspace to ensure that all the contents reach the appropriate temperature for safety and sealing. Juices, jams, jellies and relishes need 1/4 inch. Fruits, tomatoes and pickles need 1/2 inch. Meats and vegetables need 1 to 1 1/2 inches.

Remove air bubbles with a nonmetal utensil, frequently found in a canning kit, by working down the jar sides. If the headspace changes as bubbles release, add more hot food or liquid to maintain the balance. Clean the jar's rim, put the lid on, screw the band on and tighten. Place the jars into the canner and position so they are not touching.

A boiling water canner resembles a big pot with a lid and a rack in the bottom. Fill the pot halfway with water and preheat to 140 F, for raw-packed foods, or 180 F, for hot-packed foods. Insert the canning rack and jars, cover and bring water to a slow, steady boil. Allow to process for the designated time.

Pressure canners use a heavy pot with a rack, tight-fitting lid with a vent, dial or weighted pressure gauge and a safety fuse. Heat foods to 240-250 F and hold that temperature for as long as necessary. Put 2 to 3 inches of water in the bottom, insert the jars, put the lid on and increase the pressure. When processing is finished, let the pressure drop before opening the canner.

### Canning Shelf Life

Some foods don't require canning, including carrots, turnips and rutabagas, while green or lima beans, peas, okra,



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Generally, canned items are good for a year and are best stored in a cool, dry place, ideally at 50-70 F. Items should also



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be stored in the dark, so if closed cabinets aren't available, jars can be stored in boxes. Always double check for any signs of spoilage before eating your canned items. Things to check for include:

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Salesman, Ralph Koch, and owners, Marla and Mike Lyle, stand behind the products they offer at Landmark Equipment, as they forge friendships along the way.

# RELATIONSHIP DRIVEN

*At Landmark Equipment, customer service is all about building good relationships.*

— By Sandra Strong

Landmark Equipment started out in Dallas, Texas, when Mike Lyle bought out Ben Griffin Tractor in 1989. In the 27 years that have followed, the family-owned business moved its main office to Irving and grew to include three more locations — McKinney, Ft. Worth and Waxahachie. President Mike Lyle grew up in Waxahachie in the farm/ranch equipment business working alongside his father, Jim Lyle. When his dad sold the company in 1985, Mike gained more experience working for another company before making the decision to step out on his own. “We opened the Waxahachie location in 2005,” Mike said. “As the need grew, it only made sense to open a fourth location in the town where I grew up.”

Mike’s family works in the business, as well. His brother, Gary Lyle, joined the business in 1994 and handles government and municipal sales out of the corporate office in Irving. Mike’s wife, Marla, also joined the company in 1999 as the human resource manager, after leaving a corporate career to raise the couple’s two children — Blake and Lauren.

Upon moving back to the area, Mike quickly realized the town he grew up in had not lost its charm. In fact, the population/business growth had only added to the hometown feel he remembered. Mike and his staff enjoy meeting and working with the customers — both new and generational — they continually come in contact with. “I enjoy hearing the stories they have to



## Business **NOW**

tell,” Mike explained. “Each new day has its challenges, but meeting the customers really is the easiest part of the day for me.”

Landmark Equipment is relationship driven, so nurturing the customers and meeting their needs is on the top of the customer service list. “Mike knows lots of people in and around the area,” Marla shared.

**The goal is to have a broad range of equipment to meet customer needs.**

Currently, their customer base includes homeowners, those who own “ranchettes,” local municipalities and those in the construction and landscaping business. “Spring and summer months are our big maintenance and service months,” Mike explained.

The company has dads covered this Father’s Day with their large selection of mowers, weed eaters and chainsaws. They carry many major product brands for agricultural and construction equipment including New Holland, Mahindra, SANY, Takeuchi, Bad Boy, Hustler, Cub Cadet and Stihl. A complete fleet of contractor rentals is also available. The goal at Landmark Equipment is to have a broad range of equipment to meet customer needs.

Landmark Equipment received high praise at the latest Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce Banquet, as they were named the 2015 Outstanding Industry of the Year, thus putting them “even further on the map.” “That was such a rewarding evening,” Mike said, as Marla nodded her head in agreement. “It was special because we were selected by our peers and members of our community.”

Mike and Marla are active members of First Baptist Church. Marla enjoys volunteering with WISD booster clubs, while Mike unwinds playing a round or two of golf. But, regardless of where you find them, you can be assured they stand behind their products. “Customer service,” Mike stated, “is all about building good relationships.” **NOW**

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*Jason and Money Salmon, owners of The Vault BBQ, celebrate their Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting ceremony.*



*Several WISD Partners in Education board members rally together to decorate for the annual luncheon celebrating many wonderful volunteers.*



*Waxahachie's Ella Etter enjoys her first Color Run at Ovilla Christian School.*



*Debbie Durling and Karla Cox happily help customers during Belk's Charity Sale.*



*Steve Simmons enjoys a night out with the guys at the annual Ducks Unlimited Banquet.*



*Customers at the grand opening of McAlister's Deli enjoy good food served with a smile.*



*Sandra Strong, WaxahachieNOW community editor, stops playing on the new playground equipment at Clift Elementary to share in a photo with the students in her third-grade Adopt-a-Class.*



*Terry Green accepts membership in the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce at Faith Armory's two-day grand opening celebration.*



*Monica Prater and Alexia Santana dip yummy strawberries in creamy chocolate for Mother's Day offerings for H-E-B customers.*



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## How to Afford Long-term Care

It's likely that at some point in your life you will need assistance with your daily activities. In fact, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 70 percent of people over age 65 will eventually need long-term care, whether in a home setting, a senior living community or a nursing home.

Long-term care insurance can help cover the costs of these services and may help you preserve your financial resources. Keep these factors in mind if you're thinking about purchasing coverage:

- **Age.** Look at long-term care insurance well before you need it. The older you are, the more you can expect to pay for your plan. Also, if you wait, it's more likely you'll have developed a health condition that may disqualify you from getting coverage. While there's no "right" age to buy, the American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance estimates more than half of long-term care policies are purchased by people ages 55 to 64.

- **Affordability.** Coverage and cost vary, so shop around for a plan that will be reasonably affordable rather than choosing one that breaks your budget. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners recommends spending no more than 5 percent of your income on a long-term care policy.

- **Features.** It's not easy to evaluate different plans. Be sure to compare these key features:

*Benefit trigger.* The criteria or event the insurer uses to determine when your policy will go into effect.

*Elimination period.* The number of days you'll pay for care out of your own pocket before you begin receiving benefits. Thirty days is the minimum elimination period for many long-term care plans.

*Daily benefits.* The amount the policy will pay on a daily basis. Some plans pay benefits based on the hours of service, such as the number of hours a home health aide visits your home.

*Inflation adjustment.* A feature that helps your benefits keep pace with rising costs.

*Types of services.* A description of what's covered under each plan and where you may receive this care — at home or in an assisted living residence, adult day care facility, nursing home or other setting.

*Duration of benefits.* The length of time you'll receive benefits, from a few years to as long as you live.

*Exclusions.* Stipulated conditions or acts that the benefits won't cover. These could include conditions caused by alcoholism or dangerous behaviors.

Learn more about long-term care insurance from the HHS National Clearinghouse for Long-Term Care Information. Contact your insurance agent to discuss policy options that may be available to you. **NOW**

*The information in this article was obtained from various sources. While we believe it to be reliable and accurate, we do not warrant the accuracy or reliability of the information. These suggestions are not a complete list of every loss-control measure. The information is not intended to replace manuals or instructions provided by the manufacturer or the advice of a qualified professional. Nor is it intended to affect coverage under any policy. State Farm makes no guarantees of results from use of this information. We assume no liability in connection with the information nor the suggestions made.*

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

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## Central Vision Black Out

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Slowly, but surely, the small fuzzy spots of visual loss grew larger and merged into one giant blind spot in the central visual field of the eye. This description is representative of the vision one sees in macular degeneration. Macular degeneration is an incurable eye disease. Another term for the disease is age-related macular degeneration, or AMD. Because of the large numbers of Americans over the age of 65, AMD is a growing problem in the populace.

It begins in the macula, which is located in the middle of the retina and affects central vision. The macula's job is to collect images and send them by the optic nerve to the brain. If the macula starts to deteriorate, the information it collects is flawed and vision is negatively impacted. The more the macula degenerates, the greater the loss of vision. This is the leading cause of vision loss in America.

There are two types of AMD — dry and wet. Dry macular degeneration is the more common of the two diseases. It progresses slowly and may take years before there is substantial central vision loss. Dry AMD can advance to wet AMD when blood vessels grow under the retina and start to leak. This is the most serious type of the disease, and vision loss could be devastatingly rapid.

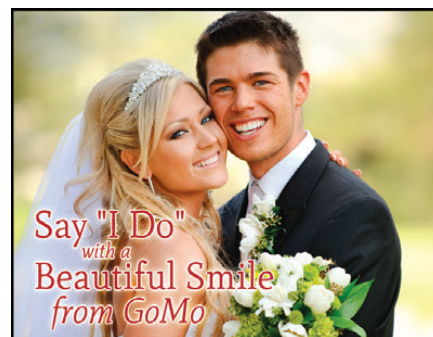
The first symptom that something is wrong is your central vision starts to become blurred. Straight lines become distorted. Color may be less intense. As the

disease progresses, skills such as reading and driving may become so difficult that you are no longer able to do them. Over time, your central vision is completely eliminated. See your health care specialist or ophthalmologist as soon as you experience any of these symptoms.

Researchers have not been able to definitively say what causes macular degeneration. Some studies have suggested that heredity and environment play a part. They have found some genetic components, which point to the development of this disease. Other risk factors are being over the age of 65, being Caucasian or Chinese, smoking or being exposed to smoking. Obesity increases your chances of developing the more severe form of the disease.

Some evidence exists that some nutritional supplements or a diet rich in these elements — vitamins A, C, E, lutein and zeaxanthin — may slow progression of the disease. An occupational therapist can help with improving your quality of life. There is no cure, but you do have options — some of which are very promising, offering some hope of either slowing down the disease and/or regaining some vision. Just don't give up! **NOW**

*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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### 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. Parking is free. Public is invited. For more information, call (972) 923-0080 or visit [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.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).

### June 5

Muscle Car Club Challenge: Texas Motorplex. For more details, visit [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com).

### June 7, 21

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.

### June 10

Summer Moonlight Movies presents *Minions*: 9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Admission is free. Bring lawn chair, blankets and your favorite bug repellent. For more information, call (469) 309-4111.

### June 10 — 12

11th Annual North Texas Lakes Rally featuring vintage scooters: Lake Waxahachie. For more details, visit [www.northtexaslakesrally.com](http://www.northtexaslakesrally.com).

### June 11

Trucks and Tunes: 6:00-10:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

### June 16

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

### June 17 — 19

Waxahachie Gun and Knife Show: Waxahachie Civic Center.

### June 18

Waxahachie Symphony Orchestra – Music

Under the Oaks featuring the Classic Swing Band: 7:00 p.m., on the lawn at Nicholas P. Sims Library. Free to the public.

### June 19

Waxahachie Juneteenth Parade & Celebration: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Lee Penn Park.

### June 25

Waxahachie Cow Creek Country Classic Bike Ride: The event is sponsored by the Waxahachie Rotary Club. For more information, visit [www.cowcreekcountryclassic.org](http://www.cowcreekcountryclassic.org).

### Ongoing:

### 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.

*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 Al Kuykendall

— By Sandra Strong

Al Kuykendall was one of nine children. He vividly remembers that one summer when he learned to cook. “My mother was pretty much on bedrest that entire summer,” Al said. “I was 14 at the time, and she told me I had to do all the cooking for the family.” He learned to cook as his mother, who never used a recipe, told him to “add a pinch of this” and “a dab of that.”

He’s perfected those early skills by cooking and baking for family, friends and co-workers. He finds recipes wherever he goes. “If you should see a page missing in a magazine at the doctor’s office,” he shared with a smile, “it might be I’ve taken it home and tried it out!” **NOW**

### Al’s Best Bread Pudding With Lemon Sauce

*Pudding:*

- 5 cups day-old bread**
- 4 eggs**
- 2 Tbsp. oleo, melted**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 2 cups half-and-half**
- 1/2 cup raisins**

*Lemon Sauce:*

- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 1 Tbsp. corn starch**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**
- 1 cup boiling water**
- 1 tsp. lemon zest**
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice**
- 1 Tbsp. butter**

**1.** For pudding: Put all ingredients in a large bowl and allow to sit for 30 minutes. Pour

mixture into a greased 9x12-inch pan. Cook at 350 F for 45 minutes.

**2.** For lemon sauce: Mix sugar, corn starch, salt and water in a pan. Whisk while heating (about 2 minutes) until the mixture is thick and clear.

**3.** Stir in the remaining ingredients. Cook until thick (approximately 2-3 minutes).

**4.** Drizzle sauce over each serving of bread pudding.

### Ranch Chicken

- 4 boneless chicken breasts**
- 8-ct. pkg. corn tortillas**
- 1 onion, chopped**
- 1 10-oz. can cream of chicken soup**
- 1 10-oz. can cream of mushroom soup**
- 1/2 cup chicken broth**
- 1 10-oz. can diced tomatoes with green chilies**
- 1 6-oz. can green chilies**
- 1 10-oz. pkg. cheddar cheese, grated**

**1.** Arrange chicken in a 9x13-inch baking dish. Cut each tortilla into 6 pieces. Cover the chicken with the cut tortillas and onions.

**2.** In a separate bowl, mix the soups, broth, tomatoes and chilies. Pour mixture over the chicken. Top off with cheese.

**3.** Bake at 350 F for 1 hour.

### Pork Chop Dinner

- 4-6 pork chops, bone-in**
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil (divided use)**
- 2 3/8-oz. envelopes of Regular Lipton Soup Mix**
- 2 1/2 cups water**
- 1 cup rice, white or brown**
- 1 green pepper, chopped**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

**1.** Brown both sides of pork chops in 1 Tbsp. oil. Remove and add the remaining oil to the pan.

**2.** Add soup mix and water to pan. Bring to a boil.

**3.** Place rice and pepper in a 2-qt. casserole dish. Top with pork chops. Pour soup mixture over the chops.

**4.** Bake at 350 F for 1 hour. Salt and pepper to taste prior to serving.

### Roasted New Potatoes

- 10 new red potatoes, halved, if small, quartered, if large**
- 1 tsp. basil**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. garlic, or 2 cloves, mashed**
- 1 tsp. rosemary, crushed**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil**
- Smoked sausage (optional)**
- Onions (optional)**

**1.** Place all ingredients into a gallon baggie. Turn bag over in 1 hour, allowing ingredients to marinate for a total of 2 hours.

**2.** Pour potatoes into a baking pan. Bake at 400 F for about 30 minutes.

**3.** For an extra treat, you can add smoked sausage and onions.

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



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