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JULY 2015

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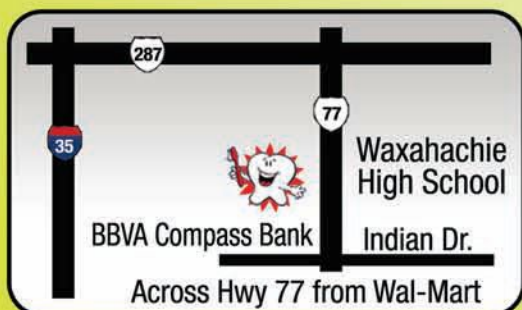
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ON THE COVER



Coach Jason Duvall finds great rewards while coaching his daughter, Savanna.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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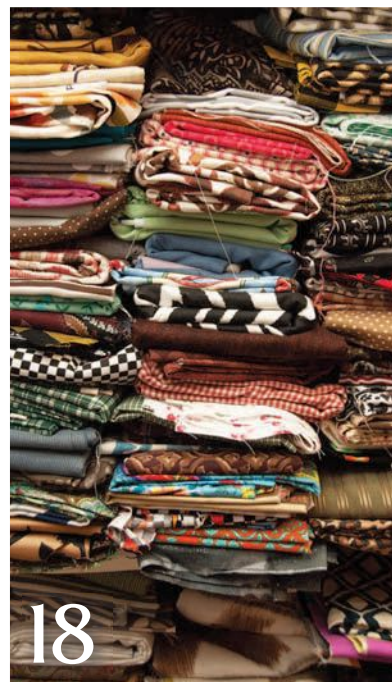
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Editor's Note

Happy Independence Day!

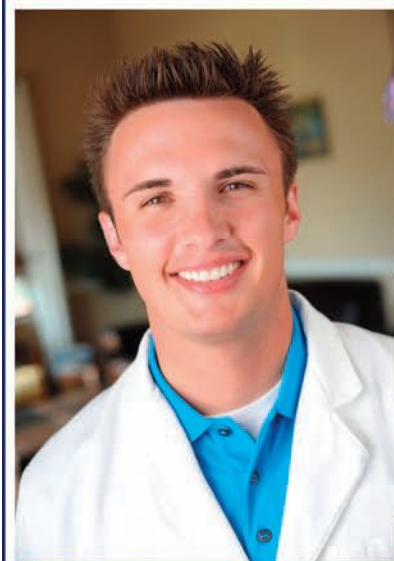
I've been counting the many ways my life is blessed because of the many freedoms I enjoy. If I get too hot in this July heat, I'm free to lower the thermostat. If my tummy starts to growl, I can order pizza or toss a couple steaks on the grill. If I'm thirsty, I have my choice of faucet water, water from the hose or iced bottled water with a shot of lemon juice.

I'm free to lend a hand to those in need or simply smile at the person I pass on the street. As I continue to think about my blessings, I have to give credit to the real heroes — the men and women who serve this country and her grand old flag. Without them, we'd have no freedoms. They are my heroes, and I honor them this Independence Day!

Sandra

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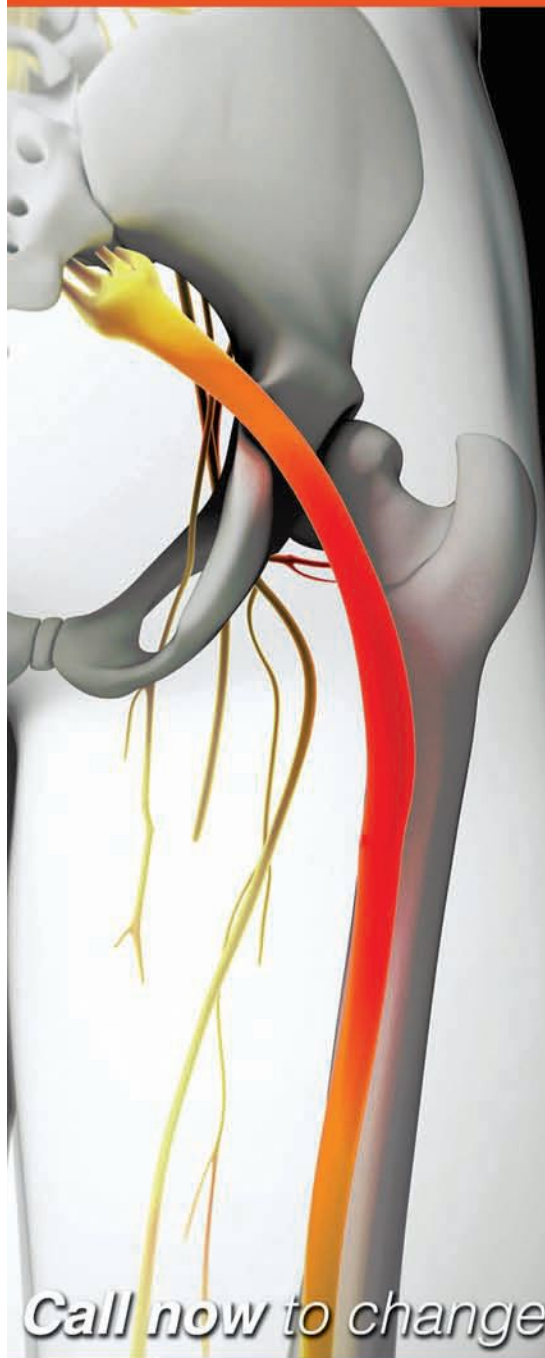
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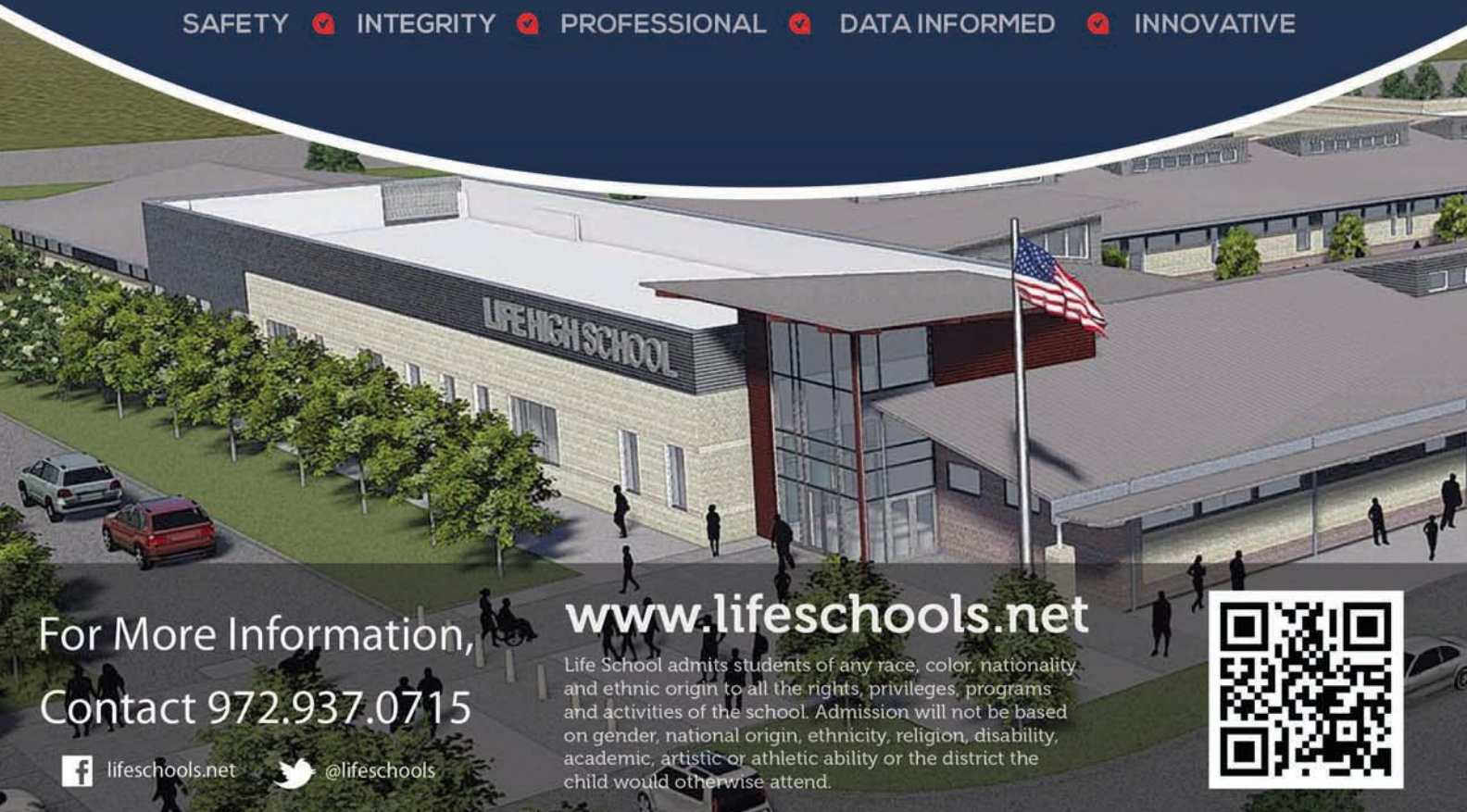
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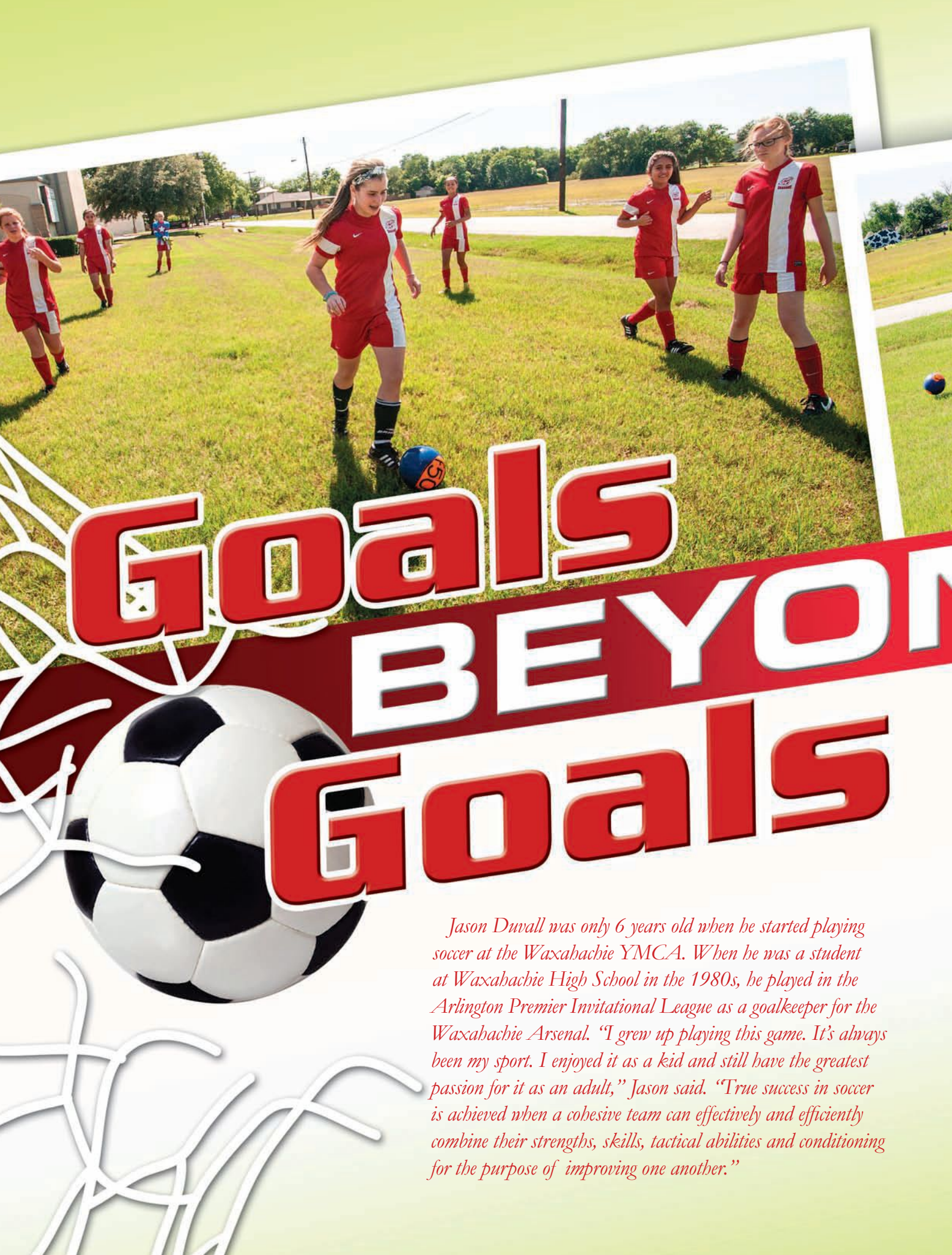
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Goals BEYOND Goals

Jason Duvall was only 6 years old when he started playing soccer at the Waxahachie YMCA. When he was a student at Waxahachie High School in the 1980s, he played in the Arlington Premier Invitational League as a goalkeeper for the Waxahachie Arsenal. "I grew up playing this game. It's always been my sport. I enjoyed it as a kid and still have the greatest passion for it as an adult," Jason said. "True success in soccer is achieved when a cohesive team can effectively and efficiently combine their strengths, skills, tactical abilities and conditioning for the purpose of improving one another."

Jason's greatest hope is that he can leave a lasting **impression** on his **players.**



ND

— By Callie Revell

As a young adult, Jason missed being involved with soccer. When his daughter, Savanna, became old enough to play, he began coaching her team, the Waxahachie Dragons. "The passion all came back," Jason said. "This game created something special for me and Savanna to share."

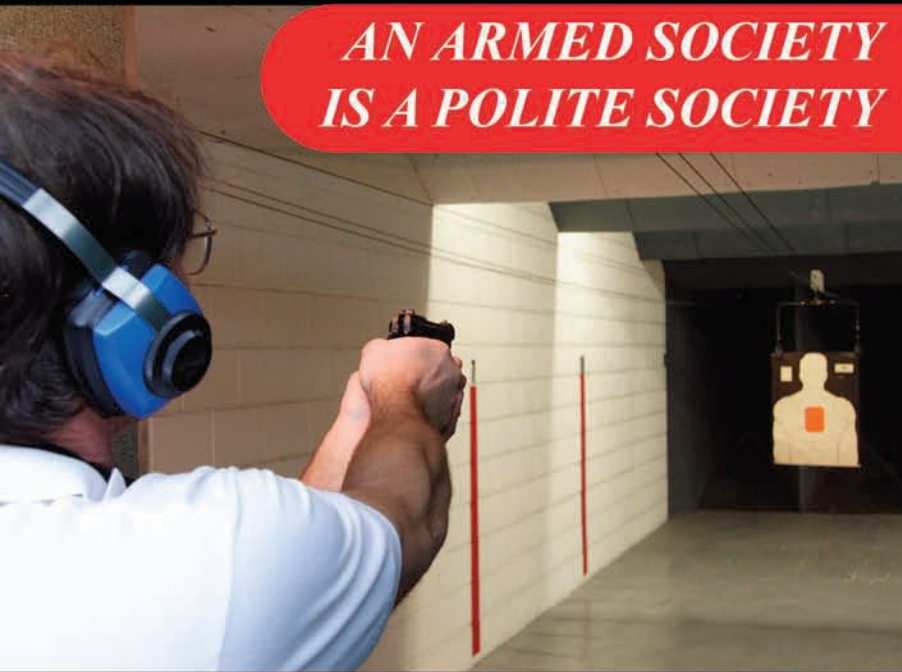
Jason didn't know how the girls would react to playing the game. "I decided if I could keep a team together for several seasons, they could potentially be as talented as any team in their league. The longer you keep them together, the better they'll be." The girls were between 5 and 7 years old when the team formed, and they had a lot to learn about the game and playing together. "When they started playing, most of them didn't even know how to kick the ball," Jason remembered. "They looked like a pile of ants running across the field. The first three or four seasons were about finding their strengths and weaknesses." Eventually, in 2010, the team joined the Waxahachie Soccer Association.

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is finding the right players. In 2011, Jason combined his team with another team led by one of his current assistant coaches, Herbie Aydelott. Seven of the current players have been with Jason since his first game as a coach. He refers to them as his “core seven” players: Savanna Duvall (his daughter), Sarah Bell, Victoria Falcon, Katlyn Winford, Eleigh Lopez Warren, Madelynn James and Sophie Melick. Herbie brought Courtney Aydelott (his daughter), Haylie Beard and Alex March to the team in 2011. In 2012, Grayce Davis, Amy Clements and Sabrina Cruz joined them, followed by another assistant coach, Daniel Ward, his daughter, Morgan Ward, and sisters Jazmin and Jayme Esparza in 2013. Julia Forsythe joined the team in 2014 to complete the current roster.

According to Jason, the team has been successful for three reasons. First, they have a long history. “They’ve been together long enough to know each other’s strengths and weaknesses,” Jason said. “They know how to read one another.” Second, the team trains rigorously and plays all year long. “They practice three to four times per week and compete weekly.



They understand the importance of being dedicated,” Jason said. Third, the team is a close-knit group. “They respect and love one another,” Jason said. Through soccer, the girls, now 13 and 14, are learning virtues like teamwork, diligence and responsibility. “They have a good foundation and understanding of what they can do together,” Jason said. “You can be the greatest player in the world, but if you can’t work with your team, you won’t succeed.”


Since the current team formed in the fall of 2011, the Dragons have played a mixture of indoor and outdoor games. Their combined regular season and tournament outdoor record is 120 wins, 25 losses and 8 ties. This equates to an



84-percent record of success over eight seasons. “What’s impressive about this is that we have never lost to an outdoor team that we didn’t beat at least once,” Jason said.

They play indoor soccer to help them condition during the off-season. “Playing indoor soccer has helped us stay ahead of our outdoor competition, because it allows the girls to improve their skills year-round






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with very few breaks," Jason said. "Most teams don't do this, but it's been part of our winning strategy." Their combined outdoor and indoor record is 200 wins, 47 losses and 18 ties, which equates to an 82-percent success record.

The Dragons compete in the Best Southwest region, which falls under North Texas Soccer Association and includes teams from all over southwest Dallas. "Our biggest and most fierce competitor



for the past several years has been the DeSoto Elite," Jason said. They met DeSoto Elite again in the final game of the Tournament of Champions late last year. "Boy, was that a good rival," Jason said. "It may be the best competition I've ever seen in recreational soccer." The Dragons defeated DeSoto in the championship game by a score of 1-0. In the Tournament of Champions, the Dragons beat out 130 Texas teams and didn't let anyone score against them the entire weekend. "That tournament defines the best recreational team in the state of Texas," Jason said. "It's the best recognition you can get." In April 2015, the team continued its streak of success by winning the 30th Waxahachie Invitational tournament, a first for them.

Jason's role as a coach has allowed him to mentor his players in ways he never expected. "In the beginning, when they were little girls, the challenge of coaching was just about the game itself," Jason said.

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“As they grow older, I continually see new challenges and struggles associated with growing up.” The success of the Dragons goes far beyond drills and games. “Coaching is the easy part, but building a true team like the Dragons requires much more than teaching skills and tactics. Passion and a love for the kids and the game is what builds and keeps strong teams together.”

The team has formed a bond with their coach and with each other that surpasses friendship. “These girls are like my own kids in many ways,” Jason said. “I’ve known them for the majority of their lives.” Jason prefers the term soccer family over soccer team. “We are more than a team. We are a family,” he said. “Our family is made up of loyal and supportive parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, friends, dedicated coaches, a wonderful association of board members



and referees, and an outstanding and amazing group of young ladies.”

Jason’s greatest hope is that he can leave a lasting impression on his players. He fosters a legacy of dedication. “I’m sure there are times they feel I’m not their friend, with the expectations I put in place,” he said. “I just hope one day they will look back and say, ‘You know, Coach Jason was tough on us, but he had our best interests in mind. He loved us and wanted us to be the best we could be.’” Jason wants his players to remember one thing: “You will never be able to experience your full capabilities if you fear and avoid what exists at the next level.” **NOW**

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Her Purse Passion

— By Sandra Strong

After going to college for six years, Debbie Fitzhugh found herself without a job before she was even able to take the skills she'd learned and put them to use in the workplace. Life for Debbie certainly has changed in the past three years. "When I lost my job, I was devastated," she remembered.

"I cleaned every closet, painted every room and cleaned my husband, Chuck's, garage and shed. Then I sat down and wondered what I should do next."

Debbie spent many hours in her backyard swing conversing with God. Sometimes, she just sat there and cried. Other times, she boldly told God, "I don't get you!" She felt lost and just a bit helpless, but after she'd taken the time she felt was necessary to pout, gripe and dwell on all the negatives in her life that seemed to be overwhelming her every move, she decided to throw in the proverbial white towel and surrender. "I told God if this is what He wanted for me, I'm done,"





she shared. "I accepted my life right where I was. I surrendered."

In October 2013, Debbie was rummaging around in her closet when she came across a sewing machine that her children had purchased for her nearly 16 years prior. Over the years, the machine had only been used for basic mending. Her daughter, Valerie, had bought an apron for her as a Christmas gift the year before. Debbie thought to herself, *Why not try making an apron.* She wasn't a seamstress, but that day she made her first apron. "It [the apron] turned out pretty doggone good," she smiled. "My daughter, Jamie, had bought me a really neat handbag at a thrift store. *Umm*, I wondered if I could make one of those." Debbie sat back down and made a duplicate handbag that matched the one she'd been given. "It wasn't too bad," she admitted, "and I absolutely loved every minute of it."

Her heart for handbags was born. In fact, her passion for purses took flight, and she's not had a chance to look back since. Mamma Debbie had a brand new bag, as well as a brand new outlook on life. "Once I surrendered it all to God," Debbie said, "He gave me the life He had for me — one I would have never considered for myself. It's awesome!"

Following the completion of that first hobo-like bag, Debbie took full advantage of today's technology and started taking tutorials from the information she found while searching



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the Internet. She educated herself and took what she wanted to use in her creations. As one creation led to another, Debbie found she had a natural, God-given ability when it came to matching material and picking out just the right hardware and embellishments to make each bag unique, as well as functional.



Debbie transformed an extra bedroom into her sewing studio where the one-of-a-kind masterpieces are created on a daily basis, Monday through Friday. She wakes at 4:00 a.m., because she loves getting started early. "I have my quiet time with the Lord first," she explained. "Then I turn my Christian music on and begin my work day." She works diligently until lunchtime when she takes a break to eat and go for a short walk that rejuvenates her for the afternoon of sewing. "I shut down around 2:30 p.m., just in time to cook supper," she said. Debbie only sews on the weekends if she is home alone



for the biggest part of the day. Otherwise, she spends Saturday and Sunday with Chuck, her biggest fan and support system.

The sewing studio is equipped with everything she needs to create a handbag. First, Debbie will cull through several stacks of material to look for fabrics that match and are complementary of one another. She will usually make three selections that are sewn in a manner that allows each selection to be seen both on the outside, as well as the inside. The inside is just as detailed and noteworthy as the outside. "I am very picky about my work," she confessed in all honesty. "Each bag has to be as near perfect as



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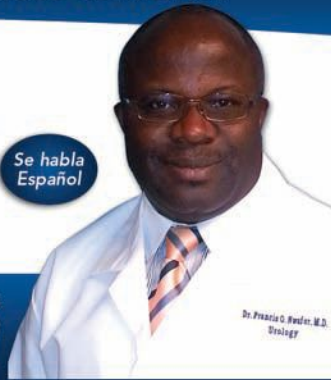
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Two years and more than 200 completed purses later, nothing is difficult for Debbie anymore. The initial struggle she had after mastering box corners was found in the linings. "I wanted them to fit as snug and tight as possible," she said. She learned that the secret is found in how she cuts the fabric for the lining. "I lay the outer bag material on top of the lining and cut as close to the bag material as I can." She also started using a ruler, something she didn't actually do a lot of when this venture began. The ruler makes the process of cutting more exact.

The bags and accessory items Debbie makes are special, because no two are alike. One piece of outer material may match one piece on another purse, but the way she creates the outer pockets, the complementary fabric used and the wonderful embellishments that are chosen from a wealth of stock will make the handbag a Designs by Debbie original. "I love taking old jewelry, belts and hardware and turning them into purses people will love," Debbie said. "I really do love what I do!"

She finds most of her fabric through an interior designer she's gotten to know, but she still loves thrift store shopping sprees, too. "I found a belt recently that had 10 silver conchos on it," she shared. "When I saw them, I knew they could be a new purse."

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And each of her creations has its own name. Some of the most recent bags include names such as Show-off, Summer in the Hamptons, Blue Horizon, Route 66 and Master Plan. The names come to mind once the bag is complete, much like naming a new addition to the family. Debbie's bubbly, positive personality comes through in her handbags. The attention to Debbie's need for rich detail and near-perfection is found in every pocket, zipper pull, snap and/or embellishment.

Debbie still has the first apron and hobo bag that served as the inspirations that created the seamstress found in her today. The friendships she's made over the past several years have also brought her a newfound confidence she didn't know she had. "The late Beverly Worthington came by one day to see my purses. She instantly became my mentor as she excitedly shared creative ideas with me," Debbie said with emotion. "Her words and comments were always encouraging and in support of my work."

For Debbie, it took the loss of her job to realize she needed to be doing something different. Debbie's glad she stopped long enough to listen. "God stabilized my life," she confessed. "He met me right where I was." **NOW**



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AT HOME WITH WESTON AND PAT HEBERT

Nestled comfortably in a tree-shaded yard, Weston and Pat Hebert's home is a welcoming site, with its broad steps leading to a full-length front summer porch supported by white columns and backed by the white shutters at the windows and a Victorian-era front door. "When we started looking for a home in Waxahachie, we thought, Old house — old, built-in problems. But on our first drive by, we noticed this home had lots of curb appeal," Weston remembered.

Built in 1920, Weston and Pat's home had recently been completely remodeled with a pool and landscaping added that made it irresistible to this couple who were looking to downsize from their sizable home in nearby Ovilla. They purchased the house and made the move in November 2014. "I wanted different colors, so we repainted the entire home just after we moved into it. It was a challenge going from 4,400 to the 1,500 square feet that's on the first floor," Pat remembered. A second floor gives the couple approximately 700 additional square feet. "We had never owned a pool before, so it's like getting a whole new life," she added.

The couple loves small-town living, especially now that they are close to downtown Waxahachie where so many events take





place. "We don't have to worry about parking anymore, we can just walk to town," Weston said. "When we lived in Ovilla, everyone just came home from work, closed their garage doors, and we rarely saw our neighbors. Here, there are a lot of people sitting on their front porches, and there is so much charm. The neighbors are very tight-knit. Everyone watches out for each other. When the power has gone out, we've met in the street and had a block party," he recalled.

Pat agreed, "Everyone is so neighborly and has made us feel so welcomed."

Sitting on the front porch, it's not hard to imagine Waxahachie in 1920. The population was 7,958, and the area was taking advantage of America's era of prosperity that followed the end of WWI on November 11, 1918. There were over 200 businesses in town including three banks, three cottonseed oil mills, five cotton gins, two daily newspapers and two weekly newspapers. Trinity University and the public schools were providing an educated populace. People were moving from the farms to the city, following a trend in America that for

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the first time in history saw more people living in cities than on farms. Wealth in America more than doubled during 1920-1929, and Waxahachie still shows that the city of yesteryear enjoyed its share of that wealth.

The living room is proof of that era's prosperity. The crown moldings are a work of art, and the fireplace and mantel are equally beautiful. Pat's abilities in needle crafting, gardening and decorating are evident throughout the home and gardens. "She can do almost anything,"

Weston revealed. "She's even once built a greenhouse!"

A crystal chandelier adds elegance to the formal dining room table. The cabinet that used to hold goods at Pat's parents' store, now holds her collection of blue and white pottery. Nearby, there stands a law library bookcase that has been repurposed as a bar — something that wouldn't have been allowed after the Prohibition Act passed into law in 1919!

The kitchen offers white cabinets, which serve as a background to Pat's

collection of decorative but functional pitchers, antiques, copper pots and pottery. "Pat has collected a lot of things over the years," Weston said. Built-in storage bins for veggies top a shelf filled with Pat's collection of cookbooks. Brass and glass doorknobs on the various doors entering the kitchen indicate this is the hub of the home. French doors take the couple out to a deck on which they enjoy their morning coffee or evening sip of wine. The hanging baskets and side garden add color to the black, decorative iron

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fencing, which surrounds the carport.

Stairs going to the second story are accessed in the kitchen. An adjacent bedroom provides another portal, through French doors, to a backyard deck and provides a view of the pool and beautifully landscaped backyard. A cabana hosting a full kitchen, gazebo, pool and hot tub and an abundance of outdoor seating areas provides Weston and Pat plenty of opportunities to entertain. Brick paths and a walking bridge provide meandering access under a canopy of trees. For color, Pat has added potted plants and planted annuals in the gardens. An exterior stairwell leads to the



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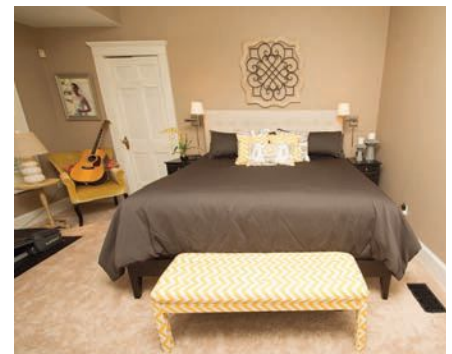
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second floor. "We liked the house. Then we walked out here and went, 'Wow!'" Weston said. The yard and pool have become favorite gathering areas for the couple's two dogs, McKinsey and Cosmo; their cat, Max; three grown daughters, Amy, Amanda and Lauren; and most importantly, the five grandchildren.

"The grandkids are just amazing," Pat said proudly.

Weston grew up in Louisiana and graduated with an accounting degree

from what is now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He worked for a brief time in Lafayette before moving to Dallas. His current position is accountant with Southern Methodist University's treasurer's office. Pat is a native of Odessa, Texas. She moved to Dallas and worked in banks, retiring from Chase Bank in 2008. "I carpooled from DeSoto with the same group of ladies for over 20 years. We raised our kids together and still get together for lunch. I have 10 friends I've known for 40 years, and they give perspective to my life," she said.

Weston and Pat have been married for 33 years, after being introduced by a cousin of Pat's first husband, who was deceased. Widowed and with two girls, Pat called Weston first. A year later, they were married. Weston's work has taken him to Japan, Canada and Europe, but the couple enjoys traveling together, as well. To date, they have been to the beaches of Cozumel and Cancun and the Dominican Republic, as well as



Las Vegas, New England and Florida. Whether at home or vacationing, Weston is armed with his camera and acoustic guitar. "I collect music, and I try to take one good photo a day," he stated. During the construction of the Bush Library on the SMU campus, Weston documented the progress with a photo a day.

"We haven't looked back for one moment toward our home we built in Ovilla," Pat related. "We are busy making new memories. Our home is so inviting that it already feels like home to us." **NOW**

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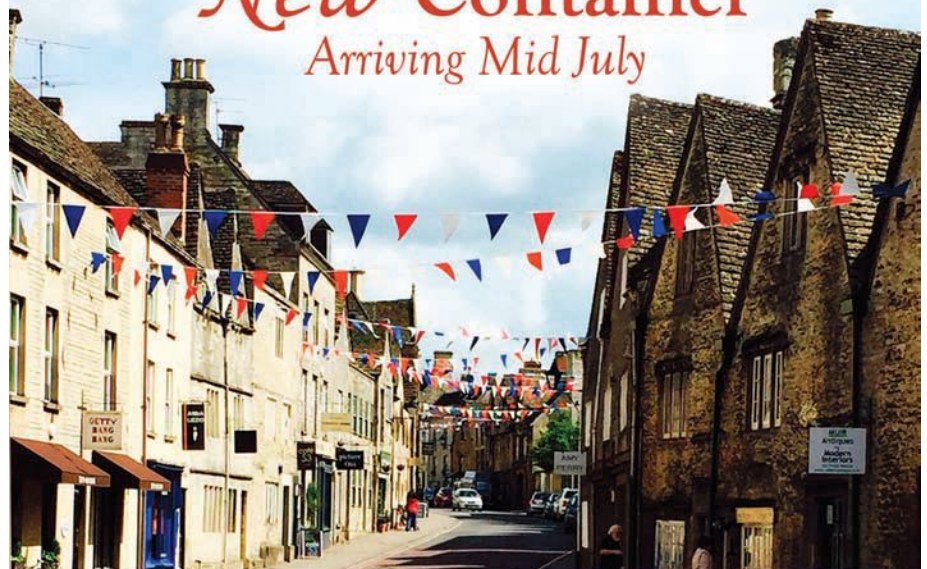
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Brown Bagging History

— By Melissa Swedoski

Spreading its wings across the expanse of soil in Ellis County, history isn't just words on paper or pictures in books. It's the collected stories, events and lives of thousands, from farmers and ranchers to reclusive artists and bank robbers, with railroad men and teachers building the communities spread far and wide. Sharing and celebrating the flavor of that diversity is the goal of the Brown Bag Speaker Series at the Ellis County Museum.

With a perfect spot on the southeast corner of the square in downtown Waxahachie, the Ellis County Museum serves as a hub for fascinating exhibits, including ones on the Civil War, baseball and the intricacy of dolls and doll furniture. Undoubtedly, the most compelling part of the county's history is the people who built it through their scientific, technological, artistic, social, political, educational, natural, economic and cultural endeavors. Sharing those stories is what the Brown Bag Speaker Series is all about, with a new season of speakers covering a wide variety of interests beginning in September.

First conceived and initiated by Julie Webb in June 2002, the program explored topics including the Czech history of Ennis, Hawkins Spring in



Midlothian, politics in Ferris and more. Rather than relying on out-of-towners to tell the stories, the Brown Bag Series found its speakers in the population of Ellis County, with residents who brought information and, occasionally, firsthand knowledge of a topic to attendees. With conversations on cotton, birds, rodeo arenas, organizations and the prehistory of the county, attendees were not only educated but entertained.

The program went on hiatus in March 2004 but lived on in the hearts of many, including Beth Price, current museum board member and former board president. "I always thought it was a great program," Beth explained. "They had such interesting topics. For several years, I had been driving to SMU for a lecture luncheon series, and I thought it was so nice to offer." The longer she thought about it, she realized it was a program the



"It's good to know our own history, and we've learned a lot and found a lot of experts in different fields."



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Sylvia Smith, Beth Price and Marie Jones share a passion for Ellis County history.

museum could do for the county. "I really felt like it was a contribution I could make," she said. "The education aspect really was important."

In September 2009, the Brown Bag Speaker Series resumed with Shirley Williams talking about Ellis County artist Ina Bess Lumpkins, who was one of the original members of the county's art association. After five years, that presentation is still one of Beth's favorites. "That was one of the most fun ones, I think," she said. "Dr. Dave Williams brought their collection of 25 to 30 paintings to the museum. Shirley told the best stories of finding the artist, how the artist told her not to come to the house, how she went to the artist's home and how some of the paintings were under the bed. It was wonderful."

Beth readily admits to being an arts advocate, as she and her husband love to visit the Meadows Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art and museums in Austin, where their daughter and grandchildren live. "If it were up to me, I'd do more art programs," she said with a grin, "but we try to keep the topics about the towns or on local interests." In addition to formulating topic ideas, Beth said that current board Vice President Sylvia Smith and Museum Curator Shannon Simpson

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are fundamental to finding speakers and ensuring they have the proper equipment for their presentations. "The museum has a huge collection of historical properties and things about Ellis County," she said. "It provides plenty of material for the speakers."

One of the ongoing topics is the communities that provide the backbone of the county, both the existing towns as well as the ones that now only exist in history books. "In March, we had Sharan Farmer, who did a presentation on Bardwell," Beth said. "She had married a Bardwell native and was a former



Shannon Simpson, curator; the Reverend Polly Williams; and Jim Goss believe it is good to know our history.

librarian, so she researched thoroughly on the town." There was Karen Carreon, who spoke about Ferris in February of this year. "She had been a teacher in Dallas and moved to Ferris," Beth explained. "She bought a historic home, and then started the Ferris Historical Society." When asked if the speakers for the Brown Bag Series are experts in their field, Beth noted, "Everyone is definitely an expert, because they love their topic."

The speaker series isn't just limited to geography. David Smith talked about the cattle drives of Texas, while Chad Hicks gave insight on the calaboose and

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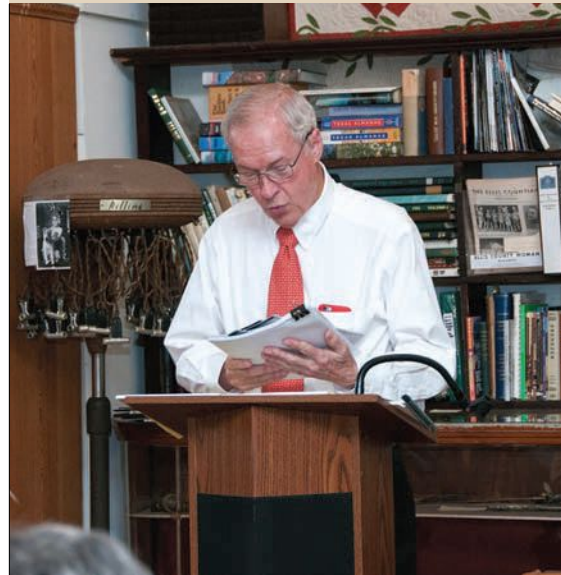


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Wyatt Real Estate Office, a month after Jim Chapman discussed the restoration of the M-K-T Depot. There have been conversations on trench art and folk art, parks, baseball, cemeteries and nature photography. There's the Ellis County connection to Bonnie and Clyde and a tasty talk about Burleson Honey. "We have all kinds of programs, which I love," Beth said. "It's wonderful to show the culture and development of the county. It's hard to get to Dallas to see everything, and a friend of mine told me, 'You just need to bring them to Waxahachie.' We have so many great people here in town to add to the series. It just works."

The Brown Bag Speaker Series takes place from noon to 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of September and October and January through April. It is free to the public. The museum welcomes topic suggestions, and they would like to have a program on the discovery of the prehistoric Columbian Mammoth found in Ellis County. "We're hoping that David

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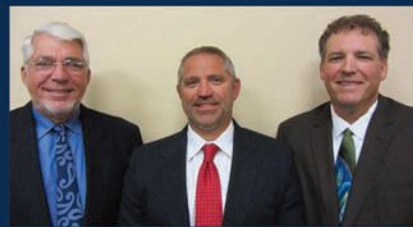
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Smith will have time to come with his program on the stained glass windows of churches in Waxahachie," Beth said, "and we need to have one on the Interurban that went from Dallas to Waco, with a stop in Waxahachie." The presenters talk for 35-40 minutes, followed by time for questions and looking at artifacts the speakers bring with them. Attendees are welcome to bring their lunch.

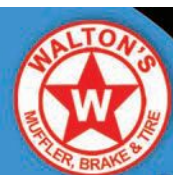
"It's good to know our own history, and we've learned a lot and found a lot of experts in different fields," Beth said of the benefit of the Brown Bag Speaker Series. "It's socialization, as well as education. Those attending get to know each other, because they see many of the same people each month. The speaker from Bardwell brought friends with her that may have never even been to the museum. There's definitely a growing interest, and the quality of speakers helps. Plus, you can hear the courthouse bells," she added with a smile. Since the historic courthouse draws people to Ellis County from everywhere, the bells offer the perfect invitation. **NOW**

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Revamping the Kid's Room

— By Sara Edgell

The decor of a house is a direct reflection of the family that resides within, and the same is true of a child's bedroom. As children grow, their interests, hobbies and tastes change. What they find appealing from ages 4 to 7 will very likely be different from an 8- to 12-year-old and definitely different from a teen. Luckily, remodeling, redesigning and redecorating their personal space to encompass the things they love doesn't have to be an expensive undertaking.



Getting Started

Use the experience as an opportunity to work on the project together and bond. The very first thing to do is talk about the things your child would like to see in the space. Discuss current likes and dislikes, favorite colors, interests, hobbies and needs.

A wonderful place to start is with a theme, as this can determine color palette, accessories, bedding and even furniture. For example, if a 12-year-old girl is dreaming of a shabby-chic, vintage cottage bedroom, the colors will likely be soft pastels. The decor will include lots of floral fabrics and refurbished furniture pieces, such as a whitewashed, vintage vanity and nightstand. Repurposed picket fence planks could also be used to build a headboard and/or shelving units, or they



could be used to line the walls, starting at the baseboard and coming half way up the wall.

Assessing the project and what it will entail before developing a plan is important. Make a list of items to be purchased, as well as those that can be repurposed, determine “do it yourself” projects versus those requiring the expertise of professionals and, lastly, decide a budget and stick to it. Then, you are ready to begin.

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of hours. Because color can greatly influence mood, and since children are typically drawn to bright, bold colors, compromising on paint selections is crucial.

Take into consideration the size of the room. Lighter shades of blue, teal, purple and green can open up a smaller space, whereas darker, richer tones like plum, magenta, burnt orange and ruby can be overpowering, making the space feel even smaller and cramped. Lighting is another factor to consider. Natural light will show the truest color, whereas incandescent and florescent lighting will cast hues on the color, altering its appearance. Give your child the freedom to pick their paint color, with a bit of compromise considering these factors.

Personal Touches

Decorative painting techniques are also an option. Many craft stores carry a variety of stencils that could be used to create a slew of personalized wall graphics. You can also make your own stencil using a piece of cardboard, pencil and box cutter. Simply draw the design on the cardboard and carefully cut it out. From the popular chevron pattern to more specific designs like sailboats and anchors, cheetah print or a favorite quote, stencils — whether store-bought or homemade — make the job a breeze.

While stencils are helpful, they will not enable you to create the whimsical ambience only a custom-painted mural can deliver. From magical fairytale forests to vibrant cityscapes, nothing can top the work of a local artist or painter. These individuals are easy to find and can bring your child's vision to life like no one else can do.

Furniture, Storage and Lighting

Storage and functionality are two areas to consider. Understanding the activities the space will accommodate is key. For



example, is a desk needed for homework? Will a television and gaming system be kept in the room? Are there lots of toys or books requiring storage? All of these factors must be determined in order to decide the specific types of furniture the room will need.

You may be able to carry over large pieces of furniture, such as a bed or dresser, into the new room or update them with paint to fit the theme your child has chosen. However, in some cases, purchasing new furniture may be necessary. If your child wants a super-cool and highly functional loft bed complete with a shelving unit and desk underneath, or maybe they desire their own hidey-hole built into the window frame, hiring a carpenter is in order. These professionals can build custom pieces of furniture, shelving and closet organization, or even change the layout of a room by removing or building new walls.

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Accessories

Additional personal touches can be added to the space with specialized accessories. These specialty items can be found anywhere and can be anything. For instance, a 7-year-old boy may want a sports-themed bedroom, complete with a basketball goal and scoreboard, a football field floor and custom-painted stadium wall.



To complement these major room components, posters can be framed and hung on the wall. Sports cards could be used to decoupage the surface of a desk or the back of a shelf. Old baseball bats could be repurposed into a bed frame

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or curtain rods. Jerseys could easily be transformed into curtain panels or bedding. The trick is to be creative and allow your child the power of choice when picking accessories for their new space.

In the end, a room redo is all about updating the space to be a true reflection of the child who occupies it. By revamping your child's room to fit their



current interests and personality, you are not only acknowledging them as an individual but also providing them with a space all their own. **NOW**



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Tesha Ansley, Gloria Morgan and Nicky Evans stand ready and waiting to offer a divine experience to each and every customer.



Making Lasting Connections

When customers call, Divine Flowers delivers more than floral arrangements.

— By Sandra Strong

The mother and daughter team of Gloria Morgan and Tesha Ansley have been working closely together to grow Divine Flowers, the floral shop that bloomed for them six years ago. Tesha has worked in the floral industry for over 20 years. Gloria had always worked in manufacturing and, at the time, was looking to make a career change. “We talked about it and decided we’d try going into business together,” Tesha explained. “I think we make a great team!”

“Tesha had the knowledge and ability to design,” Gloria added, “while I had the customer service background. My husband, Johnny, is our bookkeeper and my major supporter.”

The name of the shop came about during one of their many daily mother/daughter conversations. “One Sunday, we were on the phone talking. We still hadn’t come up with a name for the

shop,” Gloria shared. “As I thumbed through the dictionary, I came across the word *divine*. I read the definition to Tesha, and the decision for Divine Flowers was made.”

Webster’s defines *divine* as supremely good; always proceeding directly from God, and a divine experience is exactly what Divine Flowers offers each and every customer. “We wanted the whole process, from order to delivery, to be divine,” Tesha said, “or at least that’s how *we* think it should be.”

The main focus at Divine Flowers is to make sure customers are treated well and leave feeling special. The family business offers something for everyone, from fresh flowers and silk arrangements to gift baskets and potted plants. The snack baskets make great gifts for the men, while the candy baskets topped with a balloon are popular with the younger recipients.

"We didn't want to be a gift shop," Tesha stated. "When people walk in, we want them to see a floral shop."

"And that's exactly what it is," Gloria said. "Anything available in the shop can be used in a floral arrangement."

As the years have come and gone, Gloria and Tesha realized they have a very special bond, in *and* out of the shop. On June 16, 2014, they quickly understood just how far family reached within the community they serve. "That day we experienced a huge emotional setback," Tesha remembered. "Mom was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer, and

"We wanted the whole process, from order to delivery, to be *divine*."

there is no chance for remission. All I wanted to do was stay with her."

Shop employees rallied together to let Tesha spend that needed time with her mom during radiation and chemo treatments. "Nicky Evans, a longtime trusted employee, and the other staff members held the shop together during this time," Gloria recalled. "They are a part of our family."

Needless to say, every day since June 16, 2014, is a precious day for Gloria, Tesha and all those who have come to love them. "Customers stop by to check on me, to tell me they've been praying for me," Gloria admitted. "I was devastated, but I'm learning that a good attitude really can make a bad day better."

Even through the personal heartache, this mother/daughter floral team continues to build relationships. They are going generational. "The relationship begins with prom," Tesha said. "Prom leads to a wedding. Wedding leads to the birth of a new baby. It's all about connecting with others." At Divine Flowers, "you call, we deliver." **NOW**

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Sara and Georgia Bateman are all smiles while eating dinner at Braums.



Debi Mangan shares the newest scents that Scentsty has to offer at the Lifestyle Expo.



NOW Magazines' community editors Beverly Shay, Betty Tryon and Melissa Rawlins have a smiling good time before the start of a monthly staff meeting.



A table of Texas Holdem card players take time out to smile for the camera.



NOW Magazines' Joyce Sebesta and Bryan Frye take a selfie in the field of flowers!



Judge Bob Carroll prays for the nation's leaders during the National Day of Prayer.



Jason and Luke Tabak share a birthday hug with their great-grandfather, Pappy Kite, during his 95th surprise birthday bash held at Covenant Place.



Richard and Donna Lonon, owners of Hilltop Lanes, set up for the Tuesday morning senior bowling league.



The Waxahachie Dragons win first place in the U14 girls division at the 30th Annual Waxahachie Tournament.



Several Pettigrew Academy students enjoy Family Game Night activities.

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Watch for These Credit Score Myths

Your credit score is complex, but your understanding doesn't have to be. Take note of these six common credit score myths, so you can work to improve your rating, not hurt it.

Myth #1: It's impossible to improve your credit score.

The truth: You can rebuild credit over time with patience and good debt management. As you consistently make prompt payments, lenders will notice the negative marks on your credit history less. Learn more from your financial advisor about improving your credit score.

Myth #2: Checking your credit can hurt your credit score.

The truth: Pulling your own credit report, also known as a "soft inquiry," doesn't affect your credit score. In fact, regularly checking your credit report is a responsible financial practice. You are entitled by law to one free report from each of the three reporting bureaus every 12 months. Keep in mind: If a lender pulls your score to approve a new line of credit, it is a "hard inquiry" and can lower your credit score. You typically have to authorize this process.

Myth #3: Closing old accounts can boost your credit score.

The truth: Closing an account lowers your available credit — which can raise your debt-to-credit ratio and therefore lower your score, especially if you carry balances on other cards.

Myth #4: Closing old accounts can shorten your credit history.

The truth: Accounts with no negative marks that are paid in full will remain on your report for 10 years after being closed.



Myth #5: Cosigning for a loan or credit card won't affect your credit score.

The truth: You are just as responsible if the borrower misses a payment or exceeds his or her limit — and your credit score will be penalized.

Myth #6: Paying cash is the best thing you can do for your credit score.

The truth: A good credit score means a solid credit history — which can't be built or maintained by paying for everything with cash. **NOW**

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The Space Place

— By Angel Morris

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's center for human spaceflight activities has a big name to encompass a big mission — the study of space research and travel. Better known as NASA Space Center, the facility is located in Houston and is the official visitor center of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center.

For children who love all things outer space and adults interested in spaceflight, the Space Center Houston is a day of educational fun. Encompassing 1,620 acres of NASA efforts, the center includes exhibits and activities simulating astronauts' out-of-this-world experiences. Besides navigating miniature remote-controlled space equipment, patrons can land a shuttle and experience first-hand, anti-gravitational moon walking. In the Space Center Theater — the largest screen in Texas — viewers can watch the evolution of astronaut training and equipment, while a second theater simulates the sensation of a blast-off.

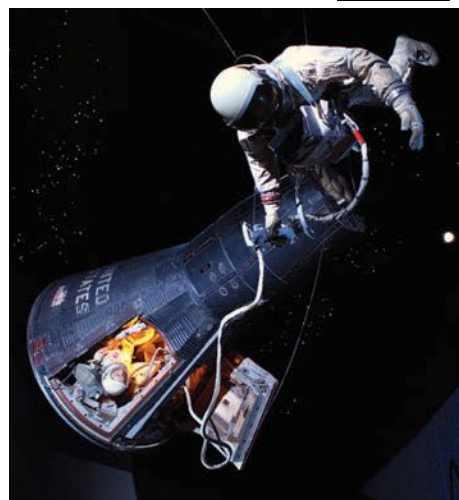
Among other presentations are the Stellar Science Show, Living in Space, the Gallery Wall (crew photos of every astronaut to have flown in space), as well as actual space suits and equipment exhibits. A popular attraction is the NASA Tram Tour, a guided ride around the center featuring recorded voices of astronauts telling their own stories of space exploration. Tour participants visit Historic Mission Control and Building 9, where astronauts train for the next trip to the International Space Station. The tour also includes a stop at the new Saturn V Complex at Rocket Park.

Perhaps most memorable is the tour's pause at the Space Center's Memorial Garden, where trees are planted to honor fallen astronauts, as well as researchers who have dedicated their careers to space exploration. Guests might also be interested in scheduling

Lunch With an Astronaut — a casual dining event with a NASA astronaut sharing firsthand stories over a “cosmic” catered lunch. The cost of lunch includes Space Center admission and a personalized lithograph from the guest astronaut.

For ages 5 and up, the 30-minute film *Destination Station: The International Space Station* offers a glimpse of the future of space research. The film explores the seemingly impossible partnership between the U.S. and Russia in forming a long-term outer space outpost and forecasts where the science of today will lead space exploration tomorrow. And if that topic seems a little weighty for younger viewers, you can recapture their attention in the Angry Birds area, where creatures from the popular app game experience space exploration in a variety of ways!

Space enthusiasts of all ages can wrap up their visit with a trip to the Space Center gift shop, where moon rocks, dried ice cream (like the astronauts eat) and replica space gear is available for purchase. For families visiting the area, Space Center Houston is a must-see attraction offering insight from the real space pioneers who made the dream a reality and perhaps inspiring the new frontiersmen and women of tomorrow. **NOW**



July 3

Crape Myrtle Festival Concert and Fireworks: gates open at 5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Sports Complex. Bring lawn chairs and barbecue grills so you can cook out before and/or during the show. Free to the public.

July 4

Pettigrew Academy's Free Ice-cream Social: 9:00 a.m.-noon, 806 E. Marvin Ave. The Settles Nature and Science Center will be open for trades during this time, too. For more information, visit www.pettigrewacademy.com.

Patriotic Parade: 10:00 a.m., down Main Street lined with crape myrtles in full bloom. Free hotdogs, provided by Remedy Church, will be served following the parade in Getzendaner Park.

July 8

Teen Gaming Tournament: 4:00-5:00 p.m., Sims Library. Teens are invited to gather in the Teen Lair for an hour of gaming fun. Play games on Wii and Xbox 360. Bring your own games with ratings of T and under or play games available at the library. Teens may also play board and card games.

July 9

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

July 10

Pipdilly's present "Escape from Coach Potato Land: A Healthy Living Musical Comedy": 10:00 a.m., Sims Library. This is a fantastic, interactive and hilariously educational show with original songs, imagination games, magic and juggling that will show kids it is "cool" to lead healthy lives.

July 11

Junk in the Trunk: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

Trucks 'N Tunes: downtown Waxahachie.

Summer Moonlight Movies: *The Sandlot*: 9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Concession stand on-site. Free admission to the movie sponsored by the City of Waxahachie Main Street Program. For more information, call (469) 309-4111.

July 15

Critterman: 10:00 a.m., Sims Library. The Critterman returns to showcase furry animals. He will have a hedgehog, ferret, sugar glider and many others this year. This event is for children of all ages.

July 17 — 19

Virtual Tournament Directory National Girls Softball Tournament: Waxahachie Sports Complex.

July 22

Talent Show: 10:00 a.m., Sims Library Lyceum. Talent will include singing, dancing and musical routines. Need to sign-up to share your talent.

July 24 — 26

Kid's Summer Showcase: *The Girl With the Golden Locks*: Gateway Church, Midlothian. For more details, visit www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com.

July 25

Boomerang Lunchtime Cinema: Books on Film: Noon, Sims Library. Adults are encouraged to bring their own lunch and join others at the library for a midday movie. Movies shown will represent books that have been made into cinematic features. Call the library at (972) 937-2671 for the title and rating of each month's cinema showing.

Ongoing:

Mondays

English as a Second Language class: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Sims Library. Learn English or come to brush up on your English-speaking skills. Free to the public.

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

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

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 or call the church office at (972) 937-5301 for more information.

Third Mondays

Ellis County Aggie Moms meeting: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin. For more information, visit www.elliscountyaggiecoms.org.

Mondays and Thursdays

Fitness Revolution: 6:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 620 Farley St. Work out to fun aerobics choreographed to upbeat Christian and wholesome music. \$15 per month. Call (214) 477-1164 for more information.

Tuesdays

Waxahachie Toastmasters meeting: 6:30 p.m., Lyceum at Sims Library. For more information, call (469) 245-8681.

GriefShare meetings: 6:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County in the sanctuary Youth Inc. room. For more information, call (972) 935-9801 or visit www.cowboychurchofelliscounty.org.

Fourth Tuesdays

Ellis County Technology (ECT) meeting: 6:30 p.m., LaQuinta. For more information, call Wendy Merritt at (469) 256-8989.

Thursdays

Genealogy Research Assistance: 2:00-4:00 p.m. The Genealogy and Reference Department will be offering the tools needed to search for your ancestors. Attendees will be able to exchange information, share creative solutions, generate resources and solve these mysteries.

Junior Master Gardeners Club: 3:45-4:45 p.m., Sims Library. Club is for children ages 5-12. If you have an interest in gardening, come for gardening related activities and help maintain the Sims Library garden.

Fridays

Business Networking International meeting: 8:00-9:30 a.m., LaQuinta, 311 Stadium Dr. For more information, call (469) 222-9160.

Third Saturdays

Waxahachie Jamboree: 7:00-9:15 p.m., Women's Building, 407 W. Jefferson St. Reserve tickets are \$10. When still available, tickets can be purchased at the door for \$7.50. For more information, call Hoyt Patterson at (214) 535-3473 or Gary Kirchmeier at (214) 707-7826.

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



Urinary Incontinence

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Actresses Kirstie Alley and Whoopi Goldberg, using their comedic talents, have helped to make bladder leakage an acceptable topic for conversation. However, if you have urinary incontinence, it's no laughing matter. Urinary incontinence is the involuntary loss of bladder control. This inability to control the leakage of urine could be as minor as a small amount of leakage of urine escaping with a sneeze or cough to an uncontrollable urge to urinate and not be able to make it to the bathroom in time.

Depending upon the cause, this condition might be temporary or chronic. It can also occur from several sources at the same time. Some of the more common causes are pregnancy, prostate concerns, neurological disorders, age and weight. Hormones from pregnancy can weaken the pelvic floor support and cause the muscles to weaken. As the uterus grows, it will press against the bladder. If the sphincter muscles which hold the urine in are weak, leakage can occur. Treatment from prostate cancer can affect the ability to control urination. With neurological disorders, there can be a disruption of the nerves that control bladder function. Age-related changes could be attributed to a decline in the function of the bladder muscle. It's important to note that age does not cause incontinence but can predispose one to the condition. Extra weight can press down on the bladder, causing urine to leak with a sudden forced movement such as a sneeze, cough or laughter. Urinary incontinence can also

be affected by some drinks and medications, such as caffeinated drinks and diuretics.

If you suffer from urinary incontinence, it is important to keep yourself as clean and dry as possible to avoid rashes, open wounds and infections. Use barrier creams or ointments such as Vaseline, Desitin, cocoa butter or something similar to protect your skin from urine. If incontinence cannot be completely contained by medical or pharmaceutical means, protective gear such as pads or the use of catheters may be used.

Diagnosis and treatment will depend on what type of incontinence you have. Stress incontinence occurs with pressure on the abdomen. Urge incontinence, or overactive bladder, is when there is a strong urge to urinate followed by loss of bladder control. Overflow incontinence is a bladder that doesn't empty properly, resulting in dribbling of urine. If you are unable to get to the toilet because of physical or mental impairment, you have functional incontinence.

Urinary incontinence can be very distressing on one's social and personal life. However, check with your doctor to eliminate any underlying conditions that may precipitate the problem and ease your distress. **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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In the Kitchen With Theresa Burkhalter

— *By Sandra Strong*

For as long as she can remember, Theresa Burkhalter has been cooking. “I began to cook and bake as soon as I could stand on the stool in my mom’s kitchen,” Theresa admitted. “My kids, Sam and Stephen, have been cooking since they were old enough to stand next to me.” Theresa likes including them, because it helps them be more willing to try new things as they are presented to them at mealtime.

Cooking and baking have always been a way for Theresa to de-stress. Although her style of cooking is eclectic, she’s comfortable preparing almost any style of food. Her best advice when cooking is simple. “Be fearless and use the recipe as a guide, not an absolute,” she shared. “When baking, however, be exact with measurements.” **NOW**

Friday Night Pizza

12 oz. very warm water
3 tsp. fast-rise yeast
4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. sugar or honey
1 tsp. salt
4 Tbsp. vegetable or olive oil
1 8-oz. jar pizza sauce
Favorite toppings: cheeses, Italian sausage, pepperoni, etc.

- 1.** Combine the water and yeast. Stir and set aside.
- 2.** Combine dry ingredients in a plastic mixing bowl. The dough rises better in a plastic bowl.
- 3.** Add oil and water/yeast mixture to the plastic bowl. Mix all ingredients until well-blended. Dough will be somewhat sticky.
- 4.** Place a towel over the top of the dough. Allow dough to rise for 60-90 minutes. Punch down the dough and place on the pizza pan. Knead dough several times to form a ball. Preheat oven to 425 F

- 5.** Shape dough to fit the pan or into the pizza shape you like. Ideally, you would allow the dough to rest here for 20-25 minutes.
- 6.** Spread pizza sauce over the dough, then top with desired toppings.
- 7.** Bake for 15 minutes, or until pizza is nicely browned.

Best Peanut Butter Cookies

1 cup peanut butter, smooth or crunchy
1 egg
1 1/4 cups sugar, granulated or brown (divided use)
1 cup chocolate chips, optional

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix peanut butter, egg, 1 cup sugar and chocolate chips in a bowl. Form dough into balls and roll in remaining sugar.
- 2.** Create a cross-hatch pattern on the cookies with a fork. Bake for 8-10 minutes.
- 3.** The granulated sugar makes a cookie with a sandy texture, while the brown sugar makes a chewy cookie.

ABC Cookies

1 box cake mix, flavor of your choice
2 eggs
1/2 cup oil
1 cup special extras: chocolate chips, nuts, M&Ms, etc.

- 1.** Pour cake mix into a bowl. Add eggs and oil; mix well. Add any special extras you choose.
- 2.** Using a cookie scoop, place cookies on a cookie sheet. Bake at 350 F for 8-10 minutes. They are done when the tops have cracked open.
- 3.** Some combinations are: red velvet cake with white chocolate chips, banana cake with butterscotch chips, yellow cake with M&Ms and lemon cake with coconut.

Weeknight Chicken Tortilla Soup

Serves 8-10.

2 Tbsp. butter
1 stalk celery
2 cloves garlic
1 16-oz. container H-E-B Mild Pico de Gallo
1 Tbsp. fresh cilantro, chopped
6 corn tortillas, torn into pieces
1 6-oz. can tomato paste
1 Tbsp. ground cumin
1 15-oz. can Mexican
1 qt. chicken broth
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 whole rotisserie chicken, meat shredded
Garnish options: tortilla chips, shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream, lime, avocado

- 1.** Combine and sauté butter, celery, garlic, pico de gallo and cilantro.
- 2.** Add tortillas, tomato paste, cumin and Mexican; heat.
- 3.** Add broth; bring mixture to a boil. Reduce heat. Simmer for 30 minutes to allow flavors to mix well. Add salt and pepper.
- 4.** In bowls, add chicken, chips and desired garnishes. Ladle soup over the chicken and tortillas.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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737 Stevens, Waxahachie

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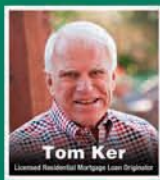
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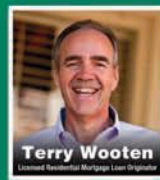
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