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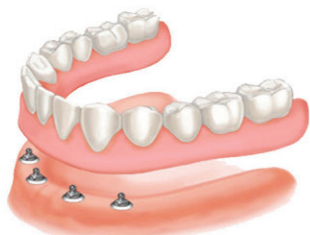
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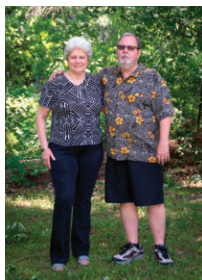
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Editor's Note

Hello, Everyone!

July is the month of many celebrations. We the people will gather to celebrate our nation's history and independence. As a journalist with a degree in constitutional law, I love celebrating our freedoms. I recently enjoyed watching journalist and traveling chef, Anthony Bourdain, host a program called *Parts Unknown*.

This is a favorite of mine because he shares the culture of other countries past and present and concludes with asking, "What is in the future?"

Recently, he featured Libya, reporting on the country's past struggles for freedom. He shared the traditional culinary culture, while touring the demolished cities and discussing the uncertainties of their future. People expressed their appreciation for their newfound freedoms.

Bourdain's guide stated, while eating fried chicken from a place similar to America's Kentucky Fried Chicken, "Freedom tastes good. Yes, freedom tastes good!" So, once again I am reminded how thankful we should be for our freedoms and for those who serve and protect our right to be "one nation under God." Have a wonderful and celebratory July!

From my heart and pen,

Jo

Jo Monroe

North Ellis Co. NOW Editor

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Ingram Elementary Teacher of the year Terri Loney! Pictured with Principal Steve Freeman and Assistant Principal Dorcas Lotspiech.

"Her students excel in academic areas through music, art, physical activities and even gardening. You would not believe what she can do with a can of shaving cream and a box of Cheerios! She has a young heart but more importantly, a real heart for our kids. Terri likes to motivate her students and also our staff. She has become a vital part of our staff, district and community because of her love and dedication to our students, families and this town. She is retiring and moving back to Iowa to be near her family and will not be at Ingram next year. She will be missed very, very much..."



Ferris Junior High Teacher of the Year recipient Bobbi Cook! Pictured with Principal Rhonda Renner and Assistant Principal Chris Hawkins.

Mrs. Cook was also chosen as the Ferris ISD Secondary Teacher of the Year and will go on to compete against other worthy teachers for Region 10's Secondary Teacher of the Year Honors.



Ferris High School Teacher of the Year recipient is Mrs. Kimberly Rafalski! Pictured with Principal Kevin Dixon, Assistant Principal Mrs. Shnell Jackson, and Assistant Principal Mack McCleskey.



McDonald Elementary Teacher of the Year recipient is Mrs. Laurie Fouts! Pictured with Principal Marla Laudan and Assistant Principal Melissa Tovar.

Mrs. Fouts was also chosen as the Ferris ISD Elementary Teacher of the Year and will go on to compete against other worthy teachers for Region 10's Elementary Teacher of the Year Honors.



Ferris Intermediate Teacher of the Year recipient Lynsey Odom! Pictured with Principal Gajdica and Counselor Shirley Floyd.



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"I went to my first race when I was 15. It's been in my blood ever since," Oak Leaf resident, Olan Gotcher, reflected. A good friend, Bob Cameron, who was about a year older than Olan, invited him to attend a race, and he was permanently hooked. He spent the remainder of his teen years attending races. He especially liked going to the Lion's Race Track in Long Beach, California. In the '60s, he went to Pomona, California, every year for the Winter Nationals.



Olan and his wife, Judy, have made racing a part of their entire married lives. "On our honeymoon, he went to Bristol, Tennessee, to race, and I went to Galveston," Judy laughed. Olan had the first 9-second pass ever in a stock class car race at that event. He only raced for three years. He left the sport to make a living, and Judy went to college, eventually becoming a teacher, then a school counselor.

At only 23, Olan was the youngest foreman ever at LTV (now Vought), leading a team of 90 people. When layoffs came to the aerospace industry, he went to work for Hormel Foods.

He worked as a dispatcher setting up the truck routes. He did this for 17 years until 1984, when he bought Gingerbread Press in Waxahachie, which he managed until 2001.

From 1971 through 1986, he quit racing altogether. Then, one day in 1986, he got a call from the Texas Motorplex in Ennis. They were having a computer problem. Olan gladly went to help out. He got the computer up and running, so they could race, and he's been back in racing ever since. However, his work is more on the technical side. He began working for the National Hot Rod Association in 1991. His work

Lifelong Love

— By Debbie Durling



experience in dispatching served him well, as he became the tower coordinator at the races. He makes sure the computers and schedules run smoothly, so the races will also run smoothly.

Of course, he could not get back into the racing atmosphere without racing a car himself. While he owned the printing business, he was able to make a trade of printing materials for a 1977 Chevrolet Nova. This is the same car he has now. He took the vehicle, rebuilt the engine, painted the outside and found a driver. Greg Parson began driving for Olan in 2005.



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As he recalled the first time Greg drove for him, he could not help but laugh. Greg had quit racing for his wife, because it can be dangerous at times. He told her he was just going to watch a race, when actually he was driving in it. He won the race, and the results were on local television news. Not wanting to go home alone, he made one of the other guys go home with him to break the news. He has been driving for the Gotcher crew ever since.

Working the NHRA events has taken the Gotchers across the country and to Monterrey, Mexico. Once, as they were crossing the border into Mexico and going through customs with his race car, he remembered being so worried about getting the car across, but it was his pipe tobacco they confiscated!

Olan explained that his racing is very different from NASCAR. He races on drag strips. It is a race of acceleration. A typical car accelerates from 0-100 miles an hour in the distance of 60 feet. The NHRA was started in California by Wally Parks, who wanted to get kids off the street and onto a track when racing their cars for speed. This would make racing safer for them and for the other people on the street. Drag racing has become a race of skill as well as speed.

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mile (1,320 feet). The Gotchers' car goes about 150 miles an hour and competes in a race that is called the Super Street Index Class. It's a filler race that happens between the top-class races. Rather than race for top speed, the cars have a bulls-eye to meet. The car must reach the finish line in exactly 10.9 seconds or as close to this as possible. The cars have to be fine-tuned to not overdo nor underdo the set expectation.

Drag racing is a sport of traction that can be dangerous. The Gotchers' race car has racing slicks/tires. If anything goes wrong or does not work properly, there is no predicting how the car will react while driving upwards of 100 miles an hour. Once a guy from Brazil crashed his car in Houston. It was a tremendous crash, which sent the car 30 feet in the air. It kept turning over and over. Olan and Judy recall expecting a real tragedy, however, because of all the safety precautions in the car and luck, the man only suffered a broken arm.

Besides racing and getting to make sure the racing events run smoothly, the couple loves the people they get to meet and spend time with. "A year ago, in Topeka, Kansas, my car had a flat tire in the semifinals," Olan recalled. "Before I knew it, 10 or 12 people were around my car helping get my tire fixed, so we could get on with the race."





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The people who get together at these events feel like family. "You could have just lost a race to someone, but you are out there helping them for the next round if they are having a problem," Judy explained. Many times, someone will need a part they did not bring, so they will make an announcement from the tower and within a few minutes another person comes and shares what they have, and the race goes on. "The good-heartedness of the people is unbelievable," Olan said warmly. We have prayer and the national anthem at every race, and we also have a chaplain who comes and does a nondenominational service on Sundays, so the racers will not miss worship to be at the race.

All around their home, the Gotchers have trophies to remember the races and victories throughout the years. Their driver is the only one who has won Division 4, four times in his class. There are 13 trophies that adorn the window boxes and office shelves. Racing has been part of their lives for 30 years and has become a family event. It has been said, "When you go to a Division 4 event, you are going to a family reunion and a race breaks out. People from all over come to our races," Olan stated, "and we have a good time." **NOW**



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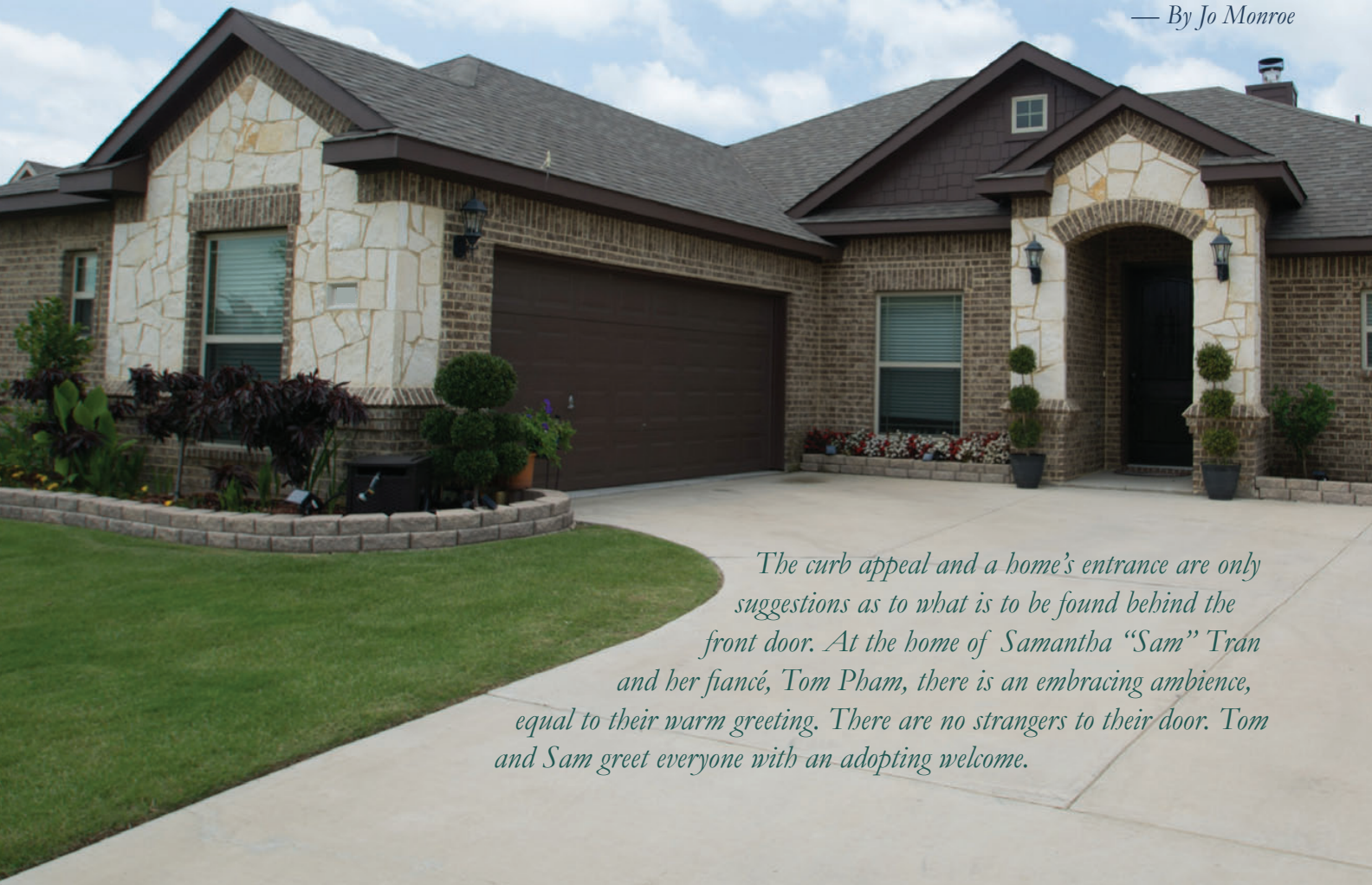




AT HOME WITH TOM PHAM & SAMANTHA TRAN

BRICK UPON BRICK

— By Jo Monroe



The curb appeal and a home's entrance are only suggestions as to what is to be found behind the front door. At the home of Samantha "Sam" Tran and her fiancé, Tom Pham, there is an embracing ambience, equal to their warm greeting. There are no strangers to their door. Tom and Sam greet everyone with an adopting welcome.

The foyer is dutiful and guides guests to the family room. But before they step all the way in, guests will notice three figurines waiting on the small wall shelf to bless them. The statues represent wealth, health and happiness. The miniature figures are stationed between two exquisite jade dragons.

To the left is a small photo gallery and collage of Sam's sisters, family and friends. The faces are assembled tightly together, as though they are hugging each other in the attempt to take center stage in the frame. The wall is interrupted with an archway leading to the master bedroom. The domain is dramatic, with a striking black headboard and patterned linens of black and white. The bedroom is highlighted with touches of silver. Sam prides herself in finding practical furniture with expressive, decorative designs.

The bedroom's walk-in closet makes a statement of its own. It is essentially concealed at the end of a walk through, and exemplifies Sam's character. There are vivid Asian and Vietnamese's dresses reserved for traditional celebrations, as well as Sam's American sports clothes and shelves of shoes, each denoting her heritage and artistic character. On the way to the closet there is an awesome glass display.

After exiting the closet and bedroom and returning to the foyer area and living room, eyes are drawn to the





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wall behind a substantially sized, smoke gray sectional sofa. Behind the sofa, placed upon the wall, are three thinly framed shadow boxes. Each box houses a girlish figure, adorned in traditional Chinese costume. Sam revealed they represent herself and her two sisters. "They are from the Tran dynasty," Tom said jokingly. They both laughed.

The living room is the central gathering place of the home. A beautiful, yellow-and-burgundy-speckled orchid, sits sentry at the end of the sofa. Glancing toward the dining area, all eyes are captured by a majestic, lavender orchid centered on the dining table.

Sam's eclectic collection of varied miniature items is securely displayed in a cubical of glass, placed in the dining cove. Butterfly tea cups, espresso coffee cups, glassware and miniature figures fill the display case and hold a visitor's attention. Tom laughed, sharing that Sam has eclectic tastes and has collected Asian dolls, hombres from Mexico and whatever else captured her admiration and interest.

The dining cove and windowed bay is the family gathering place. There are a number of nieces and nephews, family members and neighbors who will often stop by for dinner. Sam has placed

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multiple colored light bulbs in the fixture over the table. "It's for the kids," she shared. Colorful joy is also added to the eating area with the addition of jade blue bar stools. In contrast, there is a serious statement to the kitchen. Designed with an open space and lots of counter space, the granite countertops flow beneath rich mahogany cabinets.

This four-bedroom, two-bath home has a curved main hall, where square leaf prints and a matching textured vase are set within an arched cove. Family and guests round the hallway to the bedroom reserved for their rest.

Farther down the hall is Sam's son, Dylan's, bedroom. This is his domain, and it is truly designed for this creative, achieving young man. Against one wall is an upper bunk bed and lower workspace with desk. Posters include a Lamborghini, and the amazing Avengers. Football jerseys are displayed of his favorite Cowboys numbers. In addition, the walls and shelves hold his keepsakes and awards.

The last bedroom is Tom's home office and designated space for tutoring Dylan in his studies. Hanging on the wall adjacent to Tom's desk is a calendar, where an amazing little face beams with joy. This beautiful little cherub, is the youngest of Sam's nieces.

Sam's own joy is also expressed in the great kindness she generously gives



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to so many others. Having battled her way through hard times to become a cosmetologist and the owner of the Red Oak Salon, Sam has had many obstacles to overcome in life. Born in Quy Nhon, Sam escaped from Vietnam and an abusive father. Overcoming the past, she remembers how her mother cared for her and her siblings. As Tom shared, "Sam has walked through an amazing journey, from an arranged marriage and a father's cruelty, but she always walked with hope and courage from her amazing mother, who simply would not give up."

"The house is a refugee camp," Tom laughed. "Not because of the condition, but because of everyone who comes here." They come because they are welcome and loved. Some people face difficulties in their life and let them overtake them. Tom and Sam have both survived childhood traumas, but they have succeeded in finding their destiny and love. Samantha's inner strength and her mother's love is now being passed on to her son and his friends. Her appreciation of life gives great joy to so many others.

In September, wedding bells will ring out for Tom and Sam. Tom has already given her a wedding gift of his love and admiration. He has stepped in as a father to Dylan, a partner and as her best friend. His love and admiration of Sam is amazing. Tom openly shares how in awe of her he is and how proudly he walks beside her. Their home is an expression of their love for each other, for family and for life.

Tom recently landscaped and terraced the backyard for Sam. He intricately calculated the spacing of each brick and created a geometric design, which seems to exemplify their life together. Tom purposefully placed each brick one at a time as part of the design. So was their finding each other and coming together. It was as though it were according to a grand plan, and every step for Tom and Sam was painstakingly made.

Some people work at taking a house and making it a home. Tom and Sam are building their life together, like Tom's meticulous landscaping, brick upon brick. Upon arrival at their home, there is no cliché greeting, but a genuine, warm welcome. Their journey has brought them home to Red Oak. **NOW**

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When the Curtain Calls

— By Mira Rollins

James Vinson has been described as quiet and reserved. That is until his alter stage ego shows up. Once the stage curtain opens, James instantly takes on the life of each character he portrays with precision and near perfection. “At 3 years old, I knew he would be an actor. I have countless videos of him singing and reciting scenes from movies,” his mom, Shannon, joyfully recounted. “He was obsessed with The Wizard of Oz. He literally knew every word of every character of the entire movie.”

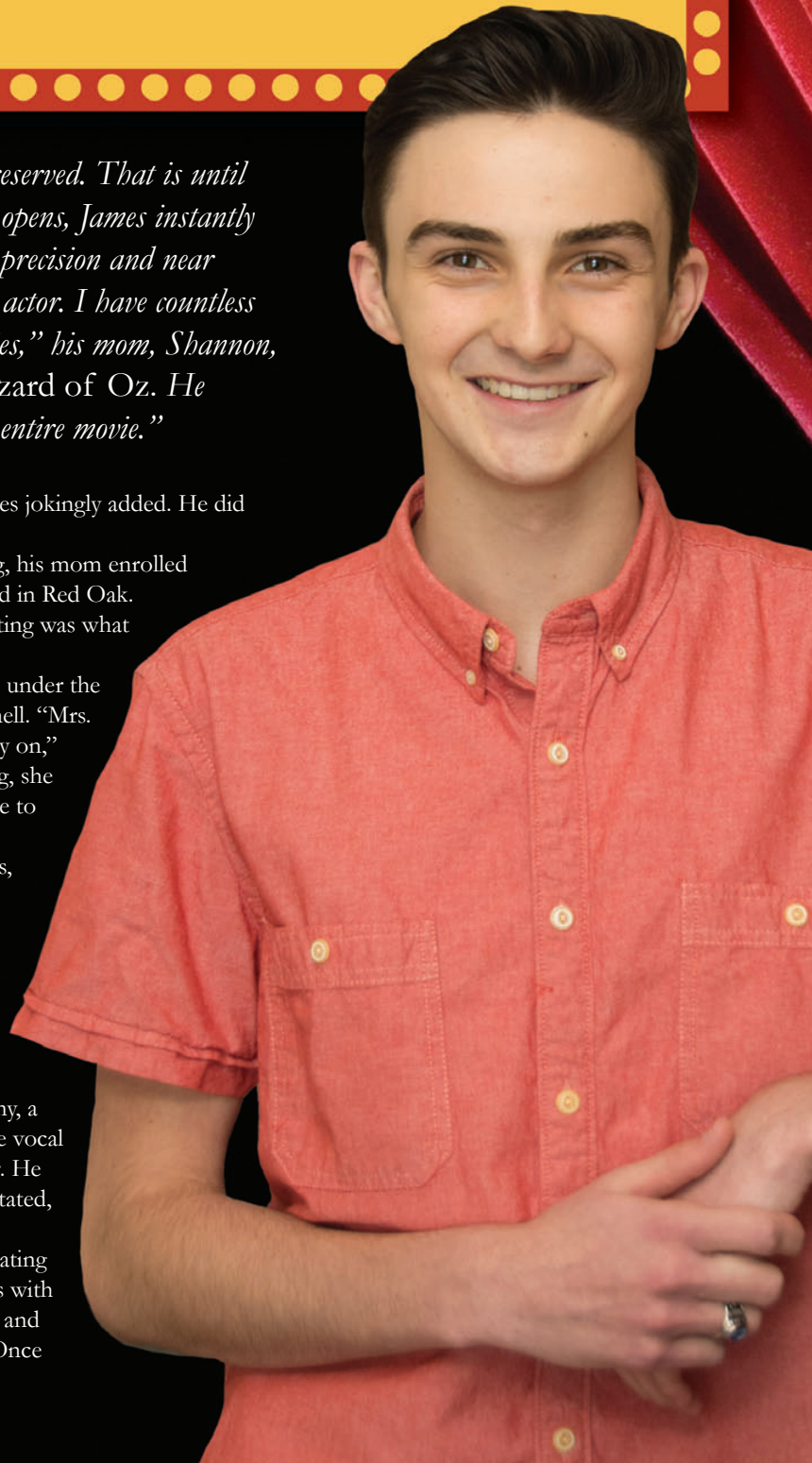
“Then I learned *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*,” James jokingly added. He did not merely watch movies. He studied and imitated them.

Seeking to encourage his early and obvious love of acting, his mom enrolled him in Epic Kids, a community acting school and troop based in Red Oak. “The moment I stepped on stage for my first play, I knew acting was what I wanted to do,” James affirmed.

He continued with Epic Kids, under the instruction of owner, Darla Bicknell. “Mrs. Bicknell recognized my talent early on,” James stated. “From the beginning, she has encouraged and challenged me to perfect my craft.”

Branching out from Epic Kids, he began work with the Family Music Theater at Cedar Valley College. His first role was ironically cast in their depiction of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. He continued with this theater group, establishing a great mentorship with Dr. Sam Germany, a Cedar Valley professor and private vocal coach. “He is an amazing director. He has inspired me to grow,” James stated, referring to Dr. Germany.

From there, he began participating in community theater productions with Uptown Theater in Grand Prairie and Ellis County Children’s Theater. Once





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entering middle school, he continued his vocal and theater training. There he met Mrs. Keener, the middle school theater teacher. “She has pushed me and inspired me to give it my all,” James gratefully expressed.

As he pursued his love of theater into high school, the irony of his acting evolution continued. His first role at the high school level was the Scarecrow in *The Wizard of Oz*. “Portraying the Scarecrow has been my favorite role,” he confessed. “Since I was 3, it has been my dream to play this character.”

His sister, Abigail, is also following the theater spotlight. Though she enjoys athletics, she also shares her brother’s love of acting and singing. “She has a beautiful voice,” James complimented. They have shared their talent with audiences several times together, including productions of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Beauty Is a Beast*.

James’ passion for singing has been fostered through his consistent participation in the school choir. As a high school freshman, he joined the a capella choir — a testament to his voice quality and training, as this is a varsity level choir. In January of this year, James received further validation of his talent at the All State choir auditions. He placed as first alternate, which ranked him as one of the top 15 percent of choir students in Texas. In April, James and the Red Oak High School a capella choir won the prestigious honor of Sweepstakes at the annual UIL competition.

As James, a member of the National Honor Society at Red Oak High School,

began to consider his college options, Juilliard was undoubtedly at the top of his list. However, unable to make a choice between voice and acting (as required by Juilliard), he made the difficult decision to consider a wider range of college options. One of the top contenders is the University of Oklahoma. He will soon be making a trip to visit the campus, observe classes and attend a production. "The competition to get into a good theater school is very stiff. Most schools only accept 10 out of thousands of applicants," James explained.

However, he is confident that his combination of passion and hard work for more than nine years will pay off. James outlined a comprehensive process in which students are able to audition in front of several colleges at once. These auditions normally take place in Chicago and New York. "I have gotten great feedback from several local college audition workshops," he added.

After conquering the challenge of college acceptance, James plans to strive to receive talent scholarships. This summer, he is diligently working on applications and auditions. James and his friend, Haley Glover, along with two other students, also from Red Oak High School's Theatre Department, will be heading to Nebraska this summer to compete in the National Thespian Festival, where they will compete with other students from around the nation.

After college, he has his eyes set straight on Broadway. His dream would be to star in a Broadway production of *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Newsies*. He also aspires to direct productions and teach fellow actors as part of his theater journey.



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When James is not performing, he admits he is thinking about performing. "Whenever I manage to pull myself away from singing or acting, I enjoy spending time with my family," he said. He expressed his close and unique relationship with each of his grandmothers. "My grandmothers balance my free time out. One grandmother takes me to the theater, and the other manages to lure me away with fishing and camping," he explained with a smile.

James has shown excellence in character, both on and off the stage. "It's been a joy to watch him do what he loves and watch him grow. He is not just a great actor and singer, but he is just an all-around great kid," his mom proudly stated. "He is so motivated, so talented and so humble."

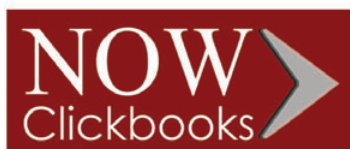
Chris, his father, shares those sentiments. "He is a very proud dad. I enjoy watching my husband watch our son perform," Shannon stated. "You can see the love and pride in his eyes."

Music has been making James' world go 'round his entire life. Now, his desire to make his passion his paycheck will likely take him all over the world. The perfect dose of talent, dedication and character will be bringing James to a theater near you soon. **NOW**

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April Warren's genuine love for animals has brought her great and many happy customers.

Pampered Pets

Dog and cat lovers smile when their furry friends' fur and teeth shine. — By Virginia Riddle

A love of animals brought April Warren to her profession as dog groomer and business owner. Starting at an early age, she was entrusted to groom her grandmother's Pomeranian. This young entrepreneur apprenticed as a groomer and learned the business. "Then it was time to branch out on my own and be my own boss," April said. "I worked out of my home for a year, but the business grew, so we opened in this location in 2010."

Pets are welcome to stay for a day of pampering or drop in for just a nail trim. The business provides to dogs and cats full grooming services, including bathing, nail trimming, teeth cleaning, flea baths and the cleaning of ears. "We're unique, since we do take cats, all dog and cat breeds and difficult animals. We can do any type of haircut and handle pets' sensitive areas. We're totally

family-owned and -operated," April said. Her husband, Thomas, is the business manager, and the couple's two mothers, Peggy and Barbara, are April's assistants. "We take pride in what we do, since my name is on the door."

April's services also allow for flexibility to accommodate pet parents' personal needs. "We are here for early drop-offs and late pickups by prior appointment, and we will pickup and deliver pets at their owners' workplace, home or virtually anywhere within our service area, which includes Red Oak, Waxahachie, Midlothian, Ovilla, Glenn Heights, DeSoto, Duncanville, Lancaster, Ferris and Ennis. This service has been great for busy people, senior citizens and homebound individuals," April explained.

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Satisfied and smiling pet owners who become long-term customers are what April and her staff really accomplish. One such customer of nearly seven years is Pat Cleveland, owner of two Shih Tzus, Prissie and Sadie. "April and her staff treat my two dogs like they were their own. April's knowledge of dogs makes her aware of things, and she is quick to inform and advise me to take them to their vet. As a new dog owner, I was unaware of problem signs. April has a love for animals that shows not only in her grooming practices, but also in finding homes for pets. That's how I got my Sadie," Pat said.

"We take pride in what we do, since my name is on the door."

Richard Caviness, another long-term customer, shared, "My pet, Lulu, only trusts April to take care of her."

April has worked with the Lancaster Animal Shelter and East Lancaster Animal Hospital in helping to find homes for dogs in need. "Dogs and cats sometimes come in here muddy and matted, and we're able to really make a difference," April said. Foster dog, Libby, has become the shop's dog until her forever home is found.

Born in Sherman, Texas, April moved to North Ellis County about 20 years ago. She and Thomas have four children — Christopher (16), Sean (15), Haley (12) and Jase (1). Additionally, they have seven dogs. "On weekends and after work, our life revolves around the kids and dogs. Family and work are my life, and I couldn't be happier with what I've accomplished in both!

"We like Ellis County folks and the small-town atmosphere even though the area is growing," April continued. "We get to meet new people moving here, and regular customers become friends who share their pets with us." **NOW**



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Red Oak Elementary kindergarten students are in their cave reading to their stuffed animals about hibernation.



Bunco committee members have fun at their fundraiser for the Red Oak Library.



Many friends, customers and coworkers join Jerry Watson, president of the Red Oak Community National Bank's open house celebration.



Melissa Gonzalez, finance director with City of Ferris, stops for a quick photo on a recent Friday morning at her office.



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July 2

10th Annual Red Oak White & Blue: 5:00-10:00 p.m., Old Town Park, 777 S. 135E, Red Oak. Live bands, food, games, bounce houses and fireworks. For more information, call (469) 218-1202.

July 3, 4

19th Annual Crape Myrtle Festival, Pink Petals and Patriotism: **July 3**, Waxahachie Sports Complex: 5:00 p.m., tailgate party; 7:30 p.m., Tejas Brothers perform; 9:00 p.m., fireworks; **July 4**, downtown Waxahachie: 10:00 a.m., parade begins on College Street and ends with a picnic in the park at Getzender Park. Free admission. For more information, visit www.waxahachiecvb.com or call (469) 309-4040.

July 5, 19

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

July 11

ESL Classes: 6:00-8:30 p.m., ATCO, 601 N. 145, Ferris. Contact Yolanda Garcia at (972) 992-9527.

July 15

Summer Moonlight Movies presents *JAWS*: 9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Admission is free. For more information, call (469) 309-4111.

July 16, 17

Lone Star Cowboy Church of Ellis County 10th anniversary celebration: The event will offer many family activities, a ranch rodeo and a musical, "The Cowboy Ain't Dead Yet!" beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday. For more details, call (972) 576-0900 or visit www.LoneStarCC.org.

July 29 — 31

Rumpelstiltskin Private Eye presented by the Waxahachie Community Theatre's Kid Showcase: Venue TBD. Tickets and the most recent venue information can be found by visiting www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com.

Ongoing:

Tuesdays

Writing for Enjoyment Group meeting: 12:30-1:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Red Oak, 60 Daubitz Dr. For more information, call (469) 383-5365 or email joanpomero@att.net.

Vets Net Group: 5:00 p.m., Ryan's Steak House, Hwy. 77 N. off Hwy 287, Waxahachie. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378 or email vetsnetgrp@att.net.

Tuesdays — Thursdays

Story Time: 11:00 a.m., Ferris Public Library. Pre-school children and their caregivers invited for stories. For more information, call (972) 544-3699.

Wednesdays and Thursdays

The Red Oak Senior Citizens Group: 8:30 a.m.-noon, Lions Club Building, 207 W. Red Oak Rd., Red Oak. For more information, contact Becky Ives at (214) 502-9747.

Third Thursdays

Matthew 7:7 Riders Motorcycle Ministry. For the next meeting and ride, visit www.facebook.com/Matthew77RidersMotorcycleMinistry or contact Mark Rose at (972) 748-4076.

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

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In the Kitchen With Kay Harris

— *By Rachel Smith*

When learning from great women like her mother, mother-in-law and grandmothers, Kay Harris learned to become a gracious cook in the kitchen. She was inspired to cook through quality time with family. “Both of us work full time and over time,” Kay shared, referring to her husband, Mike. “So when we have time to entertain and visit, it is always centered around a good, home-cooked meal.”

With different styles of cooking, she and Mike complement each other. “Mike is the grill and smoke master,” she said. “He is actually better at baking than I am. I’m a bit of a country gourmet cook.” She always smiles when people ask to take their food home. “Don’t be offended if they ask for food to go,” she said. “It’s a compliment.” **NOW**

Grilled Tilapia With Crab Cream Sauce

Tilapia:

- 2 tilapia loins**
- Drizzle olive oil**
- 1 pkg. Tony Chachere’s Original Creole Seasoning**
- 1 lemon, halved (divided use)**

Crab Cream Sauce:

- 1 1/2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour**
- 3/4 cup white wine (divided use)**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**
- 1 cup heavy cream**
- 1 6-oz. can crab meat**

- 1. For tilapia:** Place each tilapia in the center of nonstick foil. Drizzle with oil; season with creole seasoning.
- 2.** Take one of the lemon halves and cut it into two quarter-size pieces; squeeze one quarter-size piece onto each tilapia. Slice the

other lemon half into four slices; place two slices on each tilapia. Fold edges of foil to firmly seal (use more foil if needed to ensure no steam releases.)

- 3.** Place foil packets on grill; close grill cover for 15 minutes (20-25 minutes if frozen.) Make sure fish is opaque before serving.
- 4. For sauce:** In a saucepan, add flour and half the wine; whisk well to combine. Add remaining wine and cook on medium heat.
- 5.** Add salt, pepper and cream; bring to medium boil for a minute. Reduce heat and let simmer until cream thickens. Drain crab meat; add to sauce. Simmer another 5-7 minutes.

Cheddar Crawfish Crisp

Crawfish:

- 3/4 cup butter, melted**
- 1 large onion, chopped**
- 1 clove garlic, chopped**
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour**

- 2 Tbsp. canned tomato sauce**
- 1 cup water, or to taste**
- 1 lb. crawfish tails**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. Tony Chachere’s Creole Seasoning, or to taste**
- Salt and pepper, to taste**

Crisp:

- 1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1/4 cup cornmeal**
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 tsp. sugar**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 cup cold butter or margarine**
- 1 1/2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese**
- 1/2 cup cold water**
- 2 tsp. vinegar**

- 1. For crawfish:** In a large skillet, add butter and onion; sauté until onion is transparent. Mix in garlic and flour; let cook for a minute.
- 2.** Gradually stir in tomato sauce and water; add crawfish tails and simmer. Add seasonings; simmer 5-10 minutes, until crawfish is cooked.
- 3. For crisp:** In a large bowl, combine first five ingredients. Crumble butter; stir in cheese. Sprinkle with water and vinegar. Toss with a fork until a ball forms. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap; refrigerate for an hour or until dough is firm. Divide into six portions.
- 4.** On a lightly floured surface, roll each portion of dough into an 8-inch circle. Cut out eight wedges; place on greased baking sheets. Bake at 375 F for 10-14 minutes, until golden brown and crisp.
- 5.** Place cheddar crisp on serving platter; cover with crawfish mixture. Sprinkle a little extra cheese on top if desired.

Alean’s Egg Pie

Grandmother’s recipe.

- 1 unbaked crust**
- 4 eggs, beaten**
- 1 1/2 cups sugar**
- 1 can condensed milk**
- 1 cup whole milk**
- 1/2 stick butter**

- 1.** Combine all ingredients. Cook at 350 F for 30 minutes. Check the center with a toothpick until it comes out clean. Let cool before serving.

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

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