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Their accidental meeting was a homerun for both Kirk Conger and Elizabeth Sullivan.

Photo by SRC Photography.

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Editor's Note

Hello Burleson, Crowley and Joshua!

This year, the Fourth of July falls on a Tuesday. How strange, to interrupt work in order to celebrate freedom during parades, parties and fireworks exhibits. The beauty is, we can.

We are a culture that values the freedom earned by warriors throughout the last 241 years. Some of those valiant men carried arms to battle against other men, no matter the elements. A great many women of valor volunteered to help, whether cleaning the men's wounds or sewing their flags or uniforms.

Some of those warriors wore suits — and their weapons were pens that left indelible marks on paper before lodging irrevocable ideas in hearts making them more alive than ever. Free to find ways to live in harmony with dreams for their future, generations of Americans have stood on a firm foundation because of the men and women who took part in shaping their own communities inside their own states, inside their own nation.

Happy Fourth of July!

Melissa

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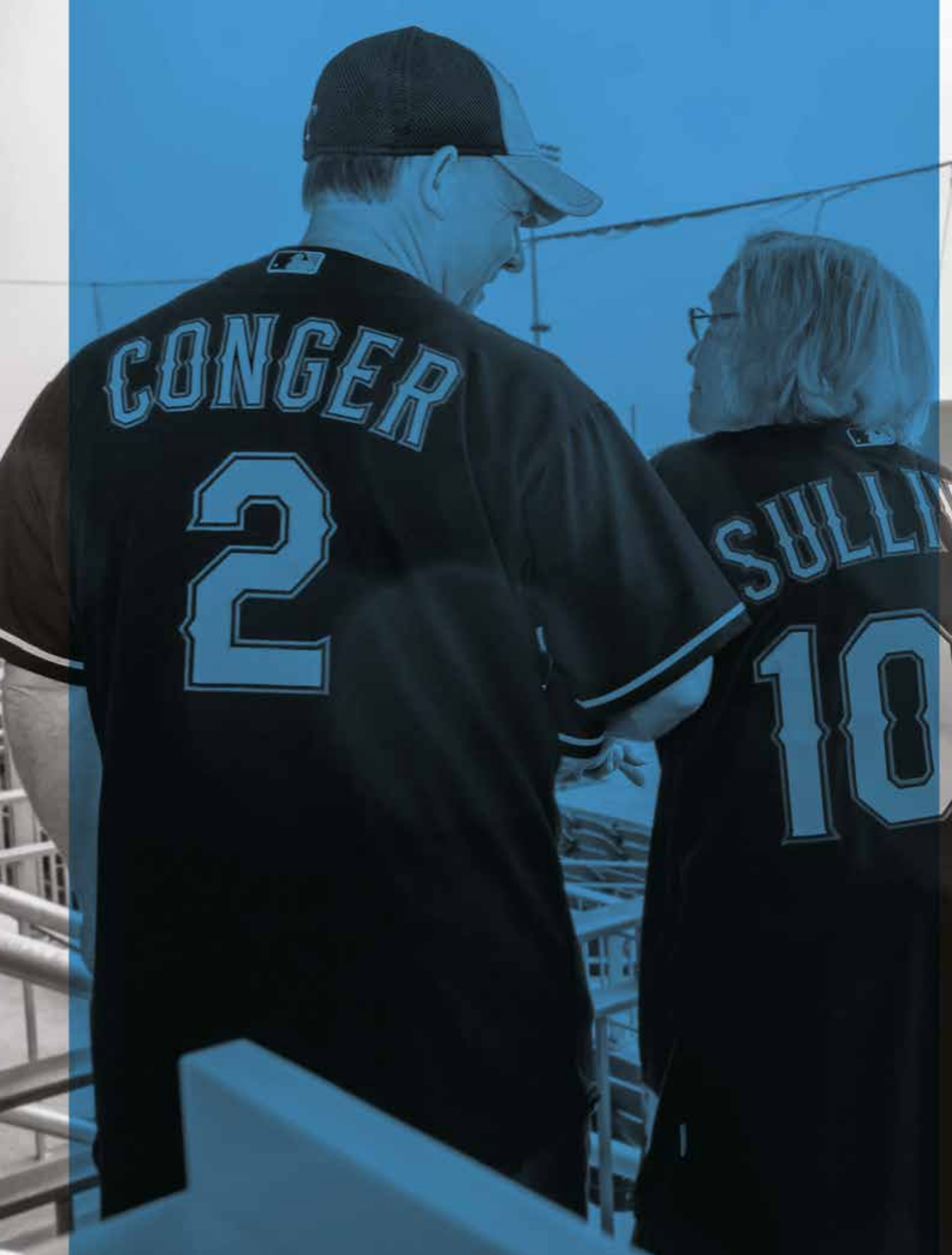
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Celebrating EXTRA INNINGS

— By Erin McEndree

Kirk Conger never knew the love of soda and baseball would result in so much fanfare, joy and delight, as well as a relationship that could only be explained with the word family. Elizabeth Sullivan is 106 and has been given some extra innings in life to enjoy her two favorite things — the Texas Rangers and Dr Pepper. Kirk is a business development manager for Dr Pepper and has many connections with the Texas Rangers to help Elizabeth enjoy games at the ballpark. Their accidental meeting was a homerun for both of them, as well as Kirk's wife, Shari, and their daughter, Katey. They have adopted Elizabeth into their family and consider her another grandmother.

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Kirk had been a distributor for Dr Pepper for 20 years. When he was asked to take the soft drinks to an elderly lady's birthday party, he did not balk because he's always been a people person. "I didn't know what I was getting myself into. When I showed up, there was a news crew, cameras and a cake," Kirk said. "They were doing a story about Elizabeth and celebrating her 104th birthday."

A major connection was created on the spot. "I fell in love with her, and now she is part of my family," Kirk said. He has helped Elizabeth not only watch the Texas Rangers in the Dr Pepper suite behind home plate but experience what it is like on the pitcher's mound in front of thousands of screaming fans.

"I haven't missed a game on the television in about 20 years. I only went to one game my entire life before I was 104 years old," Elizabeth said. "Now, I go to about four games a year and sit in a beautiful room with a kitchen." Elizabeth likes to sit outside the suite in the stadium seats. When a left-handed hitter comes to bat, Kirk said he always stands in front of Elizabeth because he doesn't want her to get hit by a foul ball. At one game, Elizabeth mentioned that the person throwing the first pitch must be really important. That gave Kirk the idea to get Elizabeth on the mound. He asked John Blake, head of relations, if Elizabeth could be put on the schedule to throw out the first pitch, and John agreed.

Since Elizabeth is in very good health, taking no medications, Kirk knew she would be strong and spunky enough to throw a pitch. When he told her she would be able to do it, she threw her hands and legs up in the air and squealed with joy. Kirk and Elizabeth practiced throwing in her front yard for the big day as another news crew took some footage. Things have a way of falling into place perfectly. Elizabeth was 105, and the game she opened started at 1:05 p.m. "I threw

it over hand, too," Elizabeth beamed. "When I was growing up, we didn't do it that way."

"It turned into a media circus. John said over 30 media outlets were calling to get an interview with Elizabeth," Kirk remembered. "We took her to the media room after the throw for photos and questions, and we never do that." Even Pudge Rodriguez, Elizabeth's favorite catcher, made it to the suite and talked to her for over an hour. "I have lots of friends, and they have all fallen in love with Elizabeth," Kirk said. Kirk's family took her under their wing, and they check on her weekly. "We see her every holiday, even if that means cutting another get-together short," Kirk said.

Many changes have occurred in Elizabeth's lifetime. When she graduated high school in 1929, gas was 20 cents, a movie was 35 cents, insurance was \$7 a month and yearly income was about \$500. Elizabeth lived in Burleson until her husband became ill, and they moved to Fort Worth. "They called him Sully. He was a chemist at the Fort Worth water department, and he was one smart cookie," Elizabeth said. "We had a farm with cattle and chickens, and my kids still have the land.

"I went to college at The University of Texas when girls only went two years," Elizabeth shared. "That is what my parents said anyway."

She was a homemaker most of her life. "When my youngest son was in junior high, I began substitute teaching," Elizabeth said. "They found out I could teach math, and they hired me as a math teacher at Pascal High School. I taught for 15 years." She retired at age 65 and went abroad to London with three other ladies.




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"We toured castles, rode big busses and ate at pubs," Elizabeth remembered.

Proudly displayed in a triangle box is a United States flag flown over the Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Elizabeth's 100th birthday. "I'm not sure what the secret to living a long time is, but I drink three Dr Peppers a day," Elizabeth explained. "My doctor said I would die if I drank that many, but, you know, that doctor died first. I must have great genes." In her 80s, she became a lifetime member of the Women's Club of Fort Worth. "I bet they didn't expect me to live so long," she laughed. "I've been a free member for over 30 years, and I drove up until I was 100." Elizabeth also enjoys reading and has a great many books from a variety of authors.

In May, Kirk again scheduled Elizabeth to throw out the first pitch — this time at a Cleburne Railroaders game. The Railroaders began playing in the American Association of Independent Professional Baseball League this year. They play their games at the Depot at Cleburne Station.

Kirk still stops by once a week and stocks Elizabeth's refrigerator. "Everyone gets a Dr Pepper, if they want one when they visit, and a good story," he said. "Elizabeth has a great sense of humor. I would not trade this lady for a million dollars. She is like my grandma, and she corrects me and says, 'I could be your great-grandma.'"

Blessings come when they are not expected and, sometimes, show up in the most unexpected ways. Kirk is grateful that soda brought him and another baseball enthusiast together. The Conger family will be there just like family to celebrate Elizabeth's extra innings in life. They will support her with her needs, and she is going to enjoy baseball and three sodas a day as long as possible. "It is so kind of them to take care of someone my age," Elizabeth said. "Not many people would do what they do." **NOW**

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— By Melissa Rawlins

KNOWN AND LOVED

AT HOME WITH PEGGY MAXFIELD



When she was growing up in a big family in Paducah, Texas, Peggy Maxfield felt loved. "We did not have a fancy home, but it was a place to gather and celebrate," she said, recalling that until rural electric service became available, she lived without the utilitarian conveniences commonplace now. Her childhood friend, Jimmy Dale "Butch" Maxfield, shared the same experiences, and the two worked hard and well over the course of their 47-year marriage to provide a safe, happy home for their children. Upon moving to this area in 1964, Butch was in the business of making charge cases for oil fields, while Peggy worked in Fort Worth and learned to be a bookkeeper. "After Butch thought he was free of cancer, we built our own machine shop in Godley, and our sons and I run it. Oil field work has been down, but now it's coming back, so we're getting busy. Butch was very successful and took care of me and left me well."

They built their 2,000-square-foot home in Joshua in 1986. When they remodeled in 2005, it increased by 100 square feet. Raising the front porch ceiling and adding rock to the brick exterior, they gracefully transformed the outside, while the kitchen add-on gave more room for entertaining.

The Maxfield home is a place where Peggy gathers other community supporters to thank them for their work. "I do have a big to-do at Christmas just for women," she said, blushing a bit at the thought that guests can't stop talking about the fabulous decorations filling every available nook and cranny of her elegant home.

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Both she and her husband have, at different times, been selected Citizen of the Year by Joshua Area Chamber of Commerce members. That could be, in part, a result of the couple's great concern for local first responders. "I just try to carry on what Butch wanted, to help any needy family amongst Joshua's first responders," said Peggy, who is a member of the Joshua Citizens Police Association. Its members come, along with all the police and firemen and their families, to the appreciation dinner she hosts every September. Their children swim in the pool she and Butch installed in 1997 and covered in 2000 with a mighty strong bug-, UV- and leaf-repellant screen. The adults enjoy the shade of the covered patio or an air-conditioned view of all the fun through a row of vertical windows.

In the bay dining area adjacent to the kitchen, there are seven windows — each framed with wide, carved wood

trim punctuated by circular medallions in the corners. The effect is of pedestals holding up the rotunda-shaped ceiling. In the center of its floor, the pedestal table is placed atop a round Persian rug. Crocodile leather-backed armchairs surrounding the table inspire long conversations during and after the meal.

This kitchen, designed by Dan and Bambi Offield, is perfect for entertaining. Its wide marble counters surround an island containing a 12-inch copper sink for washing hands, while cooking at the large glass-topped electric range. Across the kitchen is a larger sink with a huge



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picture window, allowing for a pleasant view of the oak forest outside. Fruit and birds, in the form of pottery and glass, nestle against glass bricks that let light into the kitchen all day long.

The Tuscan feeling here is produced by high ceilings and hand-carved crown molding. "My son, Brad Maxfield, built all the cabinets 12 years ago," Peggy said. "He was not a trim man, so a man named Julio cut all this solid wood molding, some at least 3 inches thick, that came in 20-foot-long boxes. Julio had to measure and cut, and of course, he was a nervous wreck about not wanting to waste this wood that came all the way from Indiana." Brad pieced together the arched vent-a-hood, and it looks almost like the top of a fancy organ. Dan and Bambi gave Peggy drawers twice the size as normal, to organize her silverware, and took part of her garage to create a laundry room hidden behind a sliding glass door labeled Pantry.

Dan also suggested trimming the raised ceiling in the dining area. He created the built-in, marble-topped buffet with remnants from a California church he was remodeling. The opposite wall contains another row of seven vertical windows extending beyond the dining room to the other side of the living room. "The floor-to-ceiling Pella windows allow the outdoors in, even in mid-winter," Peggy said. "Dan was big on trim. He did not just put in windows. When he got through, he put a shelf on top and made everything seem homey." He even paneled the formerly brick fireplace. Brad made the built-in entertainment center. At Hemispheres, Butch and Peggy found furniture and accents in browns, deep rich burgundy and copper — as well as a collection of pillows embroidered with peacocks.

The Bible that originally belonged to Peggy's daddy, a Primitive Baptist



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preacher, is encased in glass under a painting of roses in the corner of this comfortable living room. "My husband said he'd never known any man but my daddy who walked and talked pure religion. The morning my husband passed away, he was seated in the living room and wouldn't quit staring at that Bible," she recalled.

Her bedroom, with its raised ceilings and corner reading nook, invites cozy relaxing. It also contains more memories in a handmade shadow box: Butch's handkerchief, his original Social Security card, awards given when he was named Citizen of the Year and Republican of the Year. Looking back, Peggy recalled, "When we were young, he could see me plowing a field while he was plowing a neighboring field, and he'd get away for a short visit before going back to work. When we married, you didn't send out invitations. You just put it in the Paducah Post. Our life story spanned decades. It started in 1949 and went until his death in 2010. Marriage *can* work!"

When Peggy prepares for her days, she sits in a gray and cream upholstered chair in her stunning master bathroom, remodeled in 2014 by Dusty Rumfeld. While doing her makeup, Peggy keeps track of the time by a round clock chosen by decorator Andrea Campbell. Her tasteful advice helped recreate Peggy's guest room, with pale green walls highlighting the teal and gold cornices and bedside lamps with shades embroidered with peacock feathers.

Such a beautiful house is just one of the legacies left to Peggy by her husband. "I could never leave here," she said, "because my husband and my sons and I built this house, and this is where I know Butch." And always, for her sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren, the Maxfield home is a place where everyone knows Peggy and her love. **NOW**

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Toe. Tappin', Tunes

— By Erin McEndree

Music is good for the soul. "Music is like opening a door and letting memories relive themselves all over," David McDowell stated. David has been opening the souls of many over the past two-and-a-half decades by offering a concert series for all to enjoy. The Hot Sounds of Summer in Old Town Burleson was created for that exact purpose. "We bring families together to enjoy music of all genres in a safe, family-friendly atmosphere," he added.



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David began his journey with the city of Lancaster in 1988, as a recreation coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department. "Just like today, we wanted to create something that the whole family could come to, including grandparents," he explained. This was during the time that David and his supervisor, Brad Griggs, came up with the idea of a consistent weekly series of concerts under the gazebo in the park. The music selected brought back memories, while also creating new ones. "Back then," David said, "we didn't have Internet. We had to go out and listen to the bands live to see if they would work. Sometimes they were good, and sometimes they were just awful."

In 1997, David became the recreation manager for the city of Burleson. He began the Summer Concert Series two years later, on the steps of City Hall. Like every new endeavor, it started slowly, but over the years, it has grown into one of the largest events in the Old Town area. In time, as interest began to grow, the concerts drew more sponsors like The Ranch and City Market. "The next year, we had over 1,000 people enjoying the music and dancing," David said. "I love seeing parents and grandparents dancing with their kids and grandkids."

In 2008, the city bought a stage and sound system. "We use the stage about 15 times a year for events including the Boo Bash, Santa Breakfast and Battle of the Bands," David said. "Hydraulics



lift the stage up and set a canopy over the stage and performers, protecting them from the elements.

"When it started, no one wanted to play," David said. "But now, we draw 3,000-6,000 people [consistently], and everyone wants to play." David spends some of his time listening to bands who send him their CDs. "Some are from mamas who all think their kid has the best garage band around," he laughed. Some bands draw close to 8,000 attendees like Le Freak, the disco group, and some tribute bands who play Elvis and Jimmy Buffett songs.

Popular genres that David continues to select include traditional country, soul, western swing, blues and disco. Some popular bands have been involved in the concert series, such as Bill Tillman, Jr. Brown, Charlie Robison and several tribute bands. "Most of the bands are great and stay after the concert to greet their fans and sign autographs," David said. "Charlie Robison stayed for two hours to visit with fans and Asleep at the Wheel allowed the mayor to get on stage with them and play fiddle. The crowd loved that."

The six blocks of Old Town are growing like crazy with businesses and restaurants. It is becoming a place that visitors and locals don't want to miss, with its abundant shopping, dining and nightlife. During the concerts, every Friday at the end of May until the Fourth of July, restaurants and businesses are open to accommodate the crowds before and after the show. "People start setting up at 4:30 p.m. to get a good seat and then go eat or have a picnic," David said.



Colton Carnes, Marc Whitten and David McDowell work together to make the Hot Sounds of Summer successful.



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“We block off streets and always take the band members to eat before the concert at one of the local restaurants.” The police and fire departments are involved to provide more safety measures for the growing crowds and the fireworks that were added in 2000, on the Fourth of July.

All the concerts on Friday nights lead up to the Hot Sounds of Summer grand finale on July Fourth. This event draws the largest crowd, with close to 10,000 in attendance. This year's concert features a ZZ Top tribute band at Chisenhall Fields Sports Complex, which is a larger venue, in order to accommodate the largest crowd of the year. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m., with a fireworks show following at 9:30 p.m. “The fireworks show will be choreographed with patriotic music from various artists,” David said.

Although David's wife, B.J., and their two children, Michael and Dayton, don't attend the concert series with David, they are still very supportive of his musical endeavors. B.J. is a teacher in Meridian, where the family lives on a farm with cattle and enjoys that the neighbors are just right next door. As a family, they stay busy with football, band and baseball, like every set of parents with teenagers.

Since the idea was first conceived in Lancaster, it has given birth in multiple communities around the area. David is proud that his vision has outgrown anything he thought was possible. Since he first started the summer concert series in Lancaster, he brought the concerts to Burleson. His former colleagues continued the idea, as well. Steve Meadows began a concert series in Cedar Hill and Brad Griggs took it to Rockwall. “I'm glad to be a part of the early planning stages and ground floor of the concert series,” David said. “It means a lot that it has branched out to other cities and expanded with fireworks and bigger venues.” The concerts have become better and more popular each year and will, no doubt, continue with David's large vision. **NOW**



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Dr. Neha Sinha (center) serves patients with the team of Solis Mammography: Stacey Taylor, Laurie Abair, Andrea Saenz and Diana Salis.

The Way of Wellness

Solis Mammography is passionate about providing your Peace of Mind Mammogram. — By Melissa Rawlins

After 29 years serving women, Solis Mammography noticed a need in Burleson for a dedicated women's breast health clinic. The center opened two years ago and is one of the newest of the 40 centers that Solis operates in six major markets across the United States. "It was added to serve a growing market requiring a unique level of expertise catering to women, providing them privacy and comfort," Dr. Neha Sinha said.

As the radiologist in the Burleson office, Dr. Sinha serves and is supported by the team made up of Stacey Taylor, Laurie Abair, Diana Salas and Center Director Andrea Saenz. "Our team is specialized in breast imaging, which means they know

how much compression is enough to get a good picture, but not too much to cause unnecessary discomfort," Dr. Sinha said. "Eight to 9 percent of our patients report little to no discomfort during their mammogram."

The quality of Solis Mammography's technologists goes hand-in-hand with the company's early adoption of innovative technology, such as 3-D breast imaging, which is described in detail on the company's website. "Research shows 3-D mammography to be significantly better," Connie Oliver, vice president of marketing and communications, said. "Studies have shown it offers 54 percent greater accuracy and 37 percent fewer

Business **NOW**

unnecessary recalls. This saves women time, money and unneeded stress.”

Their commitment to quality, efficiency, comfort and convenience is evident when a woman chooses Solis Mammography. “We work hard to make every step of the process as easy as possible,” the center director said, “including offering online scheduling, free parking, iPad registration tablets and fast results — usually within 24 to 48 hours.”

The waiting rooms inside the Burleson center are comfortably decorated with a sage green and silver color scheme, adding a spa-like feeling of calm to the mammography experience. “We recognize that breast imaging is a very different kind of test. Even though it’s all about patient care, this test has a unique anxiety associated with it,” Andrea said. Her patient services team members greet each woman with warmth and compassion, and from the initial scheduling contact through final billing, all staff are highly trained in caring for patients.

Solis Mammography offers a full range of breast imaging services, including ultrasounds, biopsies and bone density tests, as well as annual screenings and diagnostic mammograms. For a regular screening mammogram, when a woman is symptom-free, no physician’s order is needed. Women who have symptoms, or a history of breast cancer in the family, do need to get a physician’s referral for a diagnostic mammogram. Should the results of any imaging or biopsy suggest further treatment is needed, Dr. Sinha can make recommendations for an oncologist, surgeon or other specialist for appropriate care.

In breast health, the way to wellness is all in early detection. “We help women look forward, which is all about getting any needed treatment as early as possible,” Dr. Sinha said. The majority of women leave Solis Mammography with an “all clear” status. “For the minority who have an area of concern, they get the peace of mind that comes from finding it early and having better and easier treatment options.” Either way, the Solis team is committed to helping women find and achieve peace of mind for their breast health. **NOW**



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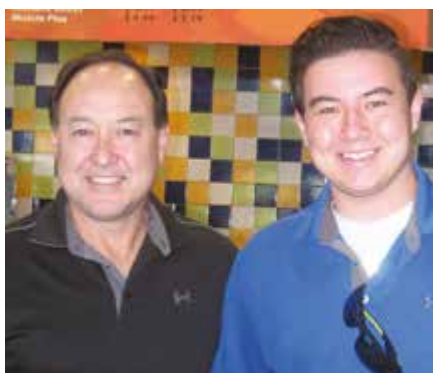
Emma and her dad, Robert Kornegay, visit the American Eagle replica on display in the lobby of Burleson City Hall.



Siblings Henry and Keller Pope enjoy bonding over chips, salsa and queso.



Jan Seaton, Alyssa Jackson, Erin McFrittridge and Helen White from The Veterans of Foreign Wars help make Mustang Creek Estates' Veteran and Memorial Appreciation Cook-Out and Flag Ceremony extra special.



John and Case Osborn fuel up at Tiger Farms Deli before heading out for a day of car shopping.



Casen Cobb, 1st base, and Breckan Hargrove, 3rd base, who are also pitchers for the Texas Boom Fidget Spinners, raise money for their team.



Scott Peterson, proud owner of the new Roots Nursery on East Renfro, talks plants with healthy lifestyles coach Denise Feigum.



Two mayors, Joe Hollarn of Joshua and Scott Cain of Cleburne, celebrate opening season of The Cleburne Railroaders.



Johnson County Sheriff Adam King joins Joshua Chief of Police Shaun Short and JPD Captain Josh Lyon at a recent Joshua Area Chamber of Commerce meeting.



Students and Joshua ISD administrators are excited about the on-schedule opening of the Tom and Nita Nichols Middle School.



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We're getting close to the Fourth of July, when we celebrate the freedoms we enjoy in this country. The U.S. Constitution grants us many of these liberties, but we have to earn others, such as our financial freedom. What steps can you take to achieve the financial independence you need to reach your long-term goals?

For starters, always work to build your resources. Contribute as much as you can afford to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. At a minimum, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. If you don't take advantage of this match, you are essentially leaving money on the table.

While how much you invest is an essential factor in gaining your financial freedom, how you invest your money is equally important. So make sure you have sufficient growth potential in all your accounts. While growth-oriented investments, such as stocks and stock-based vehicles, carry investment risk, you can help moderate this risk by also including other investments, such as bonds.

Another way to gain your financial independence is to liberate yourself from the shackles of debt. This isn't always easy, of course. Most of us have experienced times when our cash flow simply wasn't sufficient to meet our expenses, so



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we had to take on some type of debt, either through a credit card or a loan. But the more you can control your debts, the more money you'll have to save and invest for your future.

One way to manage your debt load is to build an emergency fund, containing three to six months' worth of living expenses, which you can use to pay unexpected costs, such as a major car repair or a large medical bill. Ideally, you should keep this money in a liquid, low-risk account, so you can access the funds quickly and without penalty. Aside from possibly helping you control your debts, an emergency fund also may enable you to avoid dipping into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs.

Thus far, we've only discussed achieving your financial freedom through methods of saving and investing. But you also need to consider your protection needs, too. If you were to become ill or suffer a serious injury, and you could not work for a while, your financial security could be jeopardized. Your employer might offer you disability insurance as an employee benefit, but it may not be enough for your needs, so you might need to purchase some additional coverage on your own. And to help ensure your family's financial security, you'll also need sufficient life insurance.

You also might want to protect yourself from the catastrophic costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay. The average annual cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$92,000, according to the 2016 Cost of Care Study issued by the insurance company, Genworth. And Medicare generally covers only a small percentage of these expenses. You may want to consult with a financial professional to learn about ways you can protect yourself from the long-term care burden.

By following these suggestions, you can go a long way toward declaring your own financial independence. Consider taking action soon. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Lynn H. Bates is an Edward Jones representative based in Burlenon.

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July 4

4th of July Parade: 9:00-11:00 a.m., Old Town Burleson, from Kerr Middle School on Johnson Avenue to Babe's Chicken Dinner House. Purple Hearts lead the Burleson Lions Club 13th Annual parade of community groups and individuals honoring heroes and veterans.
www.burlesonlions.org.

Hot Sounds of Summer July 4th Celebration: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Chisenhall Sports Complex, 500 W. Hidden Creek Pkwy. City of Burleson opens the gates at 5:00 p.m., and then at 7:30 p.m. a ZZ Top cover band called Trio Grande plays a fabulous, free 90-minute concert followed by fireworks show. Call (817) 426-9112.

July 6

Shop for a Cause: 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Old Town Burleson. Join the Old Town Burleson Association to donate to Support Our Soldiers. Participating businesses are The Market Emporium, The Cottage Market, Bricoleur Vintage Home, Gypsy Trunk, Rebecca's Boutique (Ranch), Accents of Burleson, Geek Out, Old Texas Brewing Co. and Painting With a Twist.

July 7

Dive-in Movie: 6:30-9:00 p.m., The BRiCk,

550 N.W. Summercrest Blvd. \$7 per person. Challenge yourself to eat \$1-per-bag popcorn without getting wet. Wear your swimsuit, bring your Coast Guard-approved float and watch Disney's *Moana* on an 18-foot screen. Contact (817) 426-9104.

July 8

Old Town Summer Sweep: 8:00-10:00 a.m., City Hall. Come help clean up the streets of Old Town Burleson, and then stop in at your favorite restaurant for a pick-me-up. Contact dpennywell@burlesontx.com.

Celebration of Freedom: 10:00 a.m., patriotic parade down Crowley's Main Street; 5:00-9:00 p.m., Bicentennial Park, 900 E. Glendale St., Crowley. Festivities hosted by the City of Crowley include live bands, food, a baby contest and fireworks at dark. Make use of their free bus shuttle service, available from HF Stevens Middle School beginning at 4:00 p.m. Visit www.ci.crowley.tx.us for more information. (817) 297-2201, x4300.

July 16

Craft Fair: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Senior Activity Center, 216 S.W. Johnson Ave. Handmade items by local vendors on sale. (817) 295-6611.

July 28

Power of Heels Runway Fashion Show and Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., The Oaks Event Center at Southern Oaks Golf Course. \$20 for BACC members before **July 26**; \$25 for non-members. For more information, contact the Burleson Area Chamber of Commerce, (817) 295-6121.

July 29

Masonic Lodge Pancake Breakfast: 7:00-10:00 a.m., 209 N. Magnolia St., Crowley. For more information, contact Jim Hirth, (817) 297-1942.

Ongoing:

Saturdays

Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-noon, 217 W. Renfro St. Handmade crafts, homemade pickles, jams, jellies and breads as well as fresh produce from two local farmers. www.burlesonfarmersmarket.com.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com.

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In the Kitchen With Leeann Hieger

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

An MRI technologist by occupation, Leeann Hieger began cooking at the age of 10. Culinary skills run in her family. She and her husband, Phil, moved to Burleson in 1998. Their son graduated from the culinary program at The Art Institute of Dallas, and their daughters love baking and cooking. Phil's mother, Estelle Galloucis Hieger, taught Leeann to cook the Greek way.

The family attends St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Fort Worth, and Leeann has learned from its members, too. They published their first parish cookbook almost two years ago. "Every November, when I work at the church's festival, I am amazed how many people love Greek food and want recipes," said Leeann, who offers fruit for dessert after most evening meals but believes in splurging on birthdays and holidays. **NOW**

Keftedes (Greek Meat Balls)

- 1 1/2 lbs. ground beef, or a mixture of ground beef and lamb**
- 1 medium onion, minced or finely chopped**
- 1 cup breadcrumbs**
- 2 eggs**
- 2 Tbsp. vinegar**
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped**
- 1/2 tsp. pepper**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 1/2 tsp. mint**
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon**
- 2 tsp. oregano**
- 1/4 cup flour, for dusting**
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil**

1. Mix all ingredients together, except the flour and olive oil. Roll into cocktail-size balls.

- 2. Dust lightly with flour; cook in oil until done, watching carefully so they do not burn. Add more oil to pan for each batch, as needed.

Koulouria

Traditional Easter cookie that is good with coffee year-round. Makes 5-6 dozen cookies.

- 3 eggs (divided use)**
- 1 lb. butter, softened**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1/4 cup milk**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1/2 tsp. anise seed or liquid anise**
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg**
- 1/2 tsp. orange peel**
- 1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon**
- 2 Tbsp. orange juice**

- 5 cups flour**
- 3 tsp. baking powder**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- Sesame seeds**

1. Separate one egg, reserving the egg white for the glaze.
2. Whisk remaining egg yolk with the other two whole eggs.
3. Beat butter until light and fluffy; add the eggs, sugar, milk and vanilla.
4. Mix in the next 5 ingredients.
5. Add the flour, baking powder and salt. Knead until blended.
6. Pinch off enough dough to form a 2-inch ball. Roll tightly, and then roll the ball out to form a thin log. Shape into a circle, an S-shape or fold the log in half and give it a twist.
7. Place the cookies on a parchment paper-lined cookie sheet. Brush egg white over each one and sprinkle with sesame seeds.
8. Bake at 325 F or 350 F, depending on your oven, for 15-20 minutes. Watch carefully. Cookies should be light tan on the bottom. Continue until finished with dough.

Spanakopita

- 6 eggs, beaten**
- 1 1/2 lbs. feta cheese**
- 1/2 lb. Parmesan cheese**
- 1/2 medium onion, chopped**
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 2 pkgs. frozen chopped spinach, drained**
- 1 lb. butter**
- 1 lb. filo, thawed**

1. Mix eggs with the cheeses.
2. Sauté onion in olive oil, and then cool by mixing with the drained spinach. Combine with the egg-and-cheese mixture.
3. Melt butter over low heat. Brush the bottom of a 9x13-inch pan with butter, coating the sides, too. Place one sheet of filo in the pan; brush with butter. Continue this process until half the filo sheets are used.
4. Spread all of the spinach mixture across the foundation of buttered filo.
5. Place a filo sheet on top of spinach, butter the filo and continue layering until all the spinach is covered or until all filo sheets are used. You may have an overlay of filo dough roll toward the center of the pan all the way around.
6. Bake at 350 F for approximately 45 minutes, or until golden brown.

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



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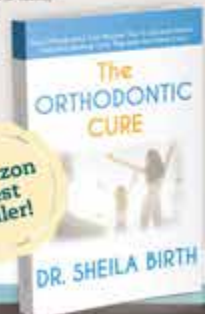


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