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On The Cover



A new reality series showcases a local businessman's auto restoration skills.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Time to get back in the zone, Red Oak!

School zone, that is! As happens every year, summer draws to a close and kiddos kick off a new year of learning. While we may rush until settled into the new routine, let's be sure to at least slow down in school zones along the way.

ROISD has kids covered when it comes to returning to class on August 22. From 8:00 a.m.-noon, August 6, the Back-to-School Fair is the place to find gently worn uniform gear donated by other parents. If you have dress code-approved pieces to give, you can exchange them August 3-4 and receive vouchers for other clothing at the fair.

In addition to the uniform exchange/sale, students can receive free dental and vision screenings, immunizations and even haircuts, all at Red Oak Intermediate School, 401 E. Ovilla Road, Glenn Heights. See our calendar for more details, and join us as we get back in the zone!



Angel

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It began in a garage. More hobby than career goal, this inventive mind spent countless hours working, tinkering and creating. After many trials and many errors, he has learned the secret to making beautiful works of art from the refuse others have left behind. Four decades later, the hobby that most guys wish they had has turned into a chance for him to be in the national spotlight. Say hello to Carl Meredith, the star of a new TV series, Reality Rides.



Res



Carl started working on cars, unprofessionally, as an 8-year-old child in his uncle's hot rod shop. Ten years later, while working for a Chevrolet dealership, Carl would work on his friends' cars on the weekends to support his drag racing hobby. All that experience parlayed into the custom car industry. Since 1993, Carl and his crews have built and restored hot rods of all makes, models and vintages. With a series that takes the viewer through the process of restoring a classic car, Carl is in the center of a show coming to a TV near you soon.

Living and working in the same small town for two decades has helped Carl become the man that he is. "I've seen

Restoring Reality

— By Zachary R. Urquhart



Lisa Wise, Rich Kubitz, Bradley Meredith (Carl's son), Kenney Nowak, Carl Meredith, J.T. Tyska, Curt McKamie, Bill Hamilton and John Olivarez

Red Oak grow up, and I've grown up with it," Carl explained. Having this connection with the town means that Carl's name is known in the local hot rod scene. *Reality Rides* was not his creation, but it's his name recognition that landed Carl a starring role in the new show.

One evening, while enjoying a car exhibition at an Arlington-area Albertson's, Brian Greene got an idea for a new TV show. Fortunately, Brian is CEO and one of the lead producers for Greene HD, a production company that has specialized in reality-based TV series. Brian started looking for a local car restoration and hot rod building shop, and was quickly introduced to Carl.

Almost immediately, the two started collaborating for *Reality Rides*.

TV shows that are labeled "reality" these days are rarely that. Those that are not clearly scripted are often at least influenced by the producers. The producers for *Reality Rides* have made sure not to fall into the cliché traps of similar programs. Carl and his crew "focus on the car itself," while filming each episode. The show is unscripted, and there is no choreographed drama. Though problems come up in the building process, *Reality Rides* refrains from including personal spectacle and does not follow Carl or his crew around to display their personal lives. The show focuses on the step-

by-step process needed to rebuild a classic from scratch and even includes some how-to segments. "Anyone can do some of these things themselves," Carl explained, "so there's an instructional element to the show."

Before building and filming, Carl's shop had to be turned into a production set. It was fitted with spotlights, while windows were blacked out to prevent unwanted exterior brightness. The big lights and big cameras were easy to perform around, "but there were some smaller specialty cameras that we had to be careful working around." Though Carl and his restoration crew spent countless hours on the show, Carl had to retain

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normalcy for the shop. He has always divided his crews between restore and repair work, so the challenge was not splitting time.

The show did create some new issues though, such as working in a very deliberate manner to keep background shots consistent. "Actually, some guys would bring their car in just to be in the background of the show," Carl said.

Getting the stage set was only part of the lead-up to actual production. All of Carl's crew had to be ready for substantial camera time, including Carl himself. Though he looks very comfortable on the show, Carl admitted, "It was a little scary the first time, and I still get nervous each time." Most of the footage is during the actual restoring, but there are some interviews with the crew and the car owners as well. Carl also does voice-overs, where he watches previously filmed material and essentially narrates the action as it happens. Though the cameras do not delve into Carl's personal life, *Reality Rides* includes plenty of off-site footage. For the first season, the producers saw fit to include trips to upholsterers, air conditioning experts, plating specialists and other consultants for the job.

Carl, unfortunately, has not had much input into what car the crew would restore, though his dream would be a '55 Chevy. For the inaugural episodes, the producers made a list of criteria that excluded muscle cars — Fords and Chevys — as being too common. They knew they wanted something from the mid-1950s, and they settled on a 1955

Buick. The uniqueness of the car equaled extra challenge for Carl and his crew, as parts for a less common car were difficult to find. Carl also had to work around the challenge of re-filming, which meant doing the actual work over again.

Each 30-minute episode, which is actually just over 20 minutes to allow for future inclusion of commercials, took several days to film. One scene required the crew to “move slowly but never stop,” while a stop-motion camera filmed all day to capture what would be a one-minute introduction for the series.

The second season, parts of which just became available on the Greene HD Web site, takes on an even bigger challenge in its project. Carl flew to Denver, Colorado, with the production team to close negotiations on restoring a 1942 Dodge Command Car from World War II. Carl and his crew rebuilt this rare model for the owner of a California winery, so Carl flew to Healdsburg at the end of the project. That has been one of his favorite things about the whole experience. “I’ve



gotten a chance to fly and drive around the country with all of this,” he said.

Reality Rides has been a highly regarded Internet series. “A lot of people have told me it’s better than what they see on TV right now,” Carl said. His producers with Greene HD, who kept stressing the old adage, “It’s not if; it’s when,” have recently sold the show for airing on TV beginning January 2012 on the new Discovery HD Channel, Velocity. Season three will commence filming soon, but Carl has longer term goals for the show. He would love to be filming season eight, nine or more in the future. Maybe then he will get to restore that dream car — the ‘55 Chevy. **NOW**

Carl Meredith is owner of Carl's Automotive in Red Oak, Texas.

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Cutting-Edge

EDUCATOR

— By Julie B. Cosgrove

Newly re-elected school board member, Barb Vogler, sees both sides of education and its future. She has also been active in the Red Oak PTA for almost two decades. Her teaching career began in Tampa, Florida, after being a computer programmer in the 1980s. She met her husband, David, and began to work for GTE. When they first moved to Texas, they chose Red Oak for one reason

— the school district. “We vowed when we had kids, we’d become involved in the schools, too,” Barb said. “Red Oak ISD is exceptional. We wanted the smaller town influence. Country life 30 minutes from Dallas is perfect.”

Barb was able to retire, so to speak, from GTE and become a stay-at-home-mom with her children, Daniel and Laura. She knew immediately she had to get involved with the PTA. “You want to

know the power of PTA moms? At the time, Red Oak didn’t have a McDonalds. When we heard one was being built, we passed around a petition for an indoor playground, not an outdoor one like they had down the road. Here we were, young moms heading for the headquarters in Las Colinas armed with our petition and a plate of homemade chocolate chip cookies,” Barb smiled victoriously as she sat back in her chair. “McDonalds changed their design. That’s power. Never underestimate the PTA.”

This year was Barb’s last year as a PTA mom. Daniel graduated from Red Oak High School (ROHS) several years ago and is now



a junior at Texas Tech. Laura graduated this past school year. That doesn't mean Barb is through with PTA though. "They coaxed me into serving on the Council of PTAs. I will be in publicity, so I'll be in touch with each PTA in the district."

Barb returned to teaching at one point. "I taught at Red Oak Junior High (ROJH) for a few years," she stated, followed by a grin. "Then I graduated. I began as an assistant professor in mathematics at

"I bring a different perspective, having seen education from both sides."

Northwood University in Cedar Hill. I was on campus for seven years." While on campus, she received the Northwood Faculty Excellence Award for 2006-07. "That was an honor. I was voted in by my peers. It was something." Barb was also



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in *Who's Who in America's Teachers* while at ROJH. "I never knew who submitted my name," she said.

She left Northwood's campus to become a statistician for the Census Bureau, a job she said she couldn't turn down. But that didn't mean she left Northwood entirely. For the past several years, she has been teaching math solely online from the comfort of her dining room table with her laptop. "There are two types of online courses. The first is called hybrid, where the student spends



some time on campus in the classroom and some online. Many universities have that. They have to hand in their assignments online and things like that. The other," she continued, "is totally online. The student rarely, if ever, steps foot in a classroom."

When asked to compare online teaching versus the classroom, Barb admitted, "There are similarities. The first year of teaching you just want to make it through the year and cover everything. The second year you begin to tweak it. By the third year you've pretty much got it down and are perfecting the course. That much is the same." But this is where, Barb explained, the cyberspace class becomes different. "I have an average of 20-25 students. They're from all over, even overseas. So you have to adjust and be conscious of their time zones. It's not like being in a classroom setting."

Most of her online students are older and already have jobs. They are committed to earning their degree and take it very seriously. "The goal is to give

them the same amount of computer time as the time they would have in the classroom. The main campus I deal with is actually in Midland, Michigan.” Barb stressed that an online professor must be flexible. “Because these students are in the Adult Degree Program, they have work, families and lives. I try to accommodate them and work with them. I often renegotiate deadlines because I know they are serious about bettering themselves. Kids get sick, bosses demand overtime or travel — things like that.”

Barb views education from another angle as a third-term member on the Red Oak School Board. “I bring a different perspective, having seen education from both sides,” she said. “We have a good team, different backgrounds, but no hidden agendas. Everyone just wants what’s best for the kids.”

As a teacher, Barb worries about state budget cuts for school districts in the Metroplex and for teachers who do not know if they’ll have a job in the fall. She was quick to add, however, that was not the case for ROISD. The teachers’ jobs in Red Oak are secure. “But, here in Red Oak we have a superb superintendent. We are financially sound and have been towing the line fiscally.”

There are two challenges the school board in Red Oak faces, as Barb sees it. The first is what to do with old buildings now that the new high school is completed. “The junior high moves to the new high school, but what do we do with the old junior high? We are looking at all the angles.”

The second is the future of cyberspace classrooms. “We need to begin to prepare these kids for what hybrid university will be like. These kids learn on Wii and video games. It’s their reality already. We need to teach them time management and how to prioritize. The school board and administrators have discussed an online pilot program, but many details must be worked out,” Barb added.

“We have to train the teachers as well. It’s the future here and now. Northwood and other universities are willing to help,” Barb said. And she is one cyber-professor poised to move the district to the next level. “Just think. No more downtime for ice days. All their books will be on an iPad. No paper waste. It’s coming. We need to be ready, for the kids’ sakes.” **NOW**



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Past Present *and* Future

— By Angel Morris

A shared history and an eye to the future makes Tatum and Casi Thorne's house a home. While they officially met in high school, their families were friends long before Tatum and Casi became a couple.

"Our parents knew each other from the time we were babies. Tatum's mother owned a clothing store in DeSoto and my mother would buy my clothes there. It was at DeSoto High School when we actually met as we sat next to each other in U.S. history," Casi recalled.

The two began dating the following year, September 1990, and have been

together ever since. After high school graduation, they attended Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) and both majored in kinesiology and special education with a desire to teach and coach.

Casi graduated a year earlier than Tatum and took a job in the East Texas town of Eustace teaching physical education and sixth grade social studies,

while coaching volleyball, basketball, track and cheerleading. Tatum finished undergraduate work at SFASU, and then the couple married July 12, 1997. Casi applied to teach in Red Oak ISD that summer.

"I was hired by Eastridge Elementary to teach special education resource, reading, language arts and math at the time. I have been teaching at Eastridge ever since and recently graduated with my master's in counseling," Casi said.



*At Home
With Tatum and
Casi Thorne*





Initially, Tatum took a job with Nations Rent and the duo moved to Midlothian where they built their first house. In 2004, they decided to move to Red Oak and ventured out to build home No. 2. "We built it from the ground up, with every detail coming directly from us," Tatum noted.

Bringing their love of outdoors inside, the home is best described as rustic, with a front entry lined with large cedar beams. "As you enter our house, you see a Texas star embedded in the front door and then immediately pass through a small entryway alongside stairs with iron and wood fixtures to see a 20-foot Austin Stone fireplace that reaches to the top of the vaulted ceiling in our living room," Casi described.

Before the move to Red Oak, Tatum took a job teaching behavior adjustment with Midlothian ISD (MISD) in 1999, which started his career in education and a love for teaching. The same year, June 7, 1999, the Thornes welcomed their first child, Kennedy, who is now 12 years

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And what athlete can live without a man cave? The stairs of the current Thorne home lead to Tatum's favorite room, which serves as the family's theater room. With a 110-inch TV screen, the family enjoys movies, while Tatum thinks there is nothing better than a Texas Rangers game or Dallas Mavericks action in larger-than-life cinema.

old. "Kennedy is your typical preteen who loves hanging out with her friends and cousins. She actually decorated and painted her own room to her particular style," Casi said. She calls her room "sophisticated but still fun," where her love of playing for the Ellis County Juniors National Volleyball Team shines through.

After MISD, Tatum spent five years at Red Oak's Shields Elementary teaching resource English, math and reading. "I also spent a year at Red Oak Intermediate," Tatum recalled. "During my first seven years in education, I also umpired high school and college baseball in the Dallas area to get my athletic fix."

After several years of teaching and umpiring, Tatum's love of all things athletic confirmed he wanted to coach, and he went to Palmer ISD to answer that calling in volleyball and softball. He also served as special education coordinator, content mastery teacher for the high school, truancy officer and district crisis coordinator — eventually becoming an administrator over behavior adjustment.

In the meantime, the Thornes' family continued to grow, and on November 22, 2004, their second child, Kash, was born. "Kash is an active 6-year-old who loves baseball and playing outside," Casi said. The kindergarten graduate's style shows



in a room of baseball memorabilia and artwork, little boy toys and every kind of ball imaginable.

"With two children constantly running around and two parents as



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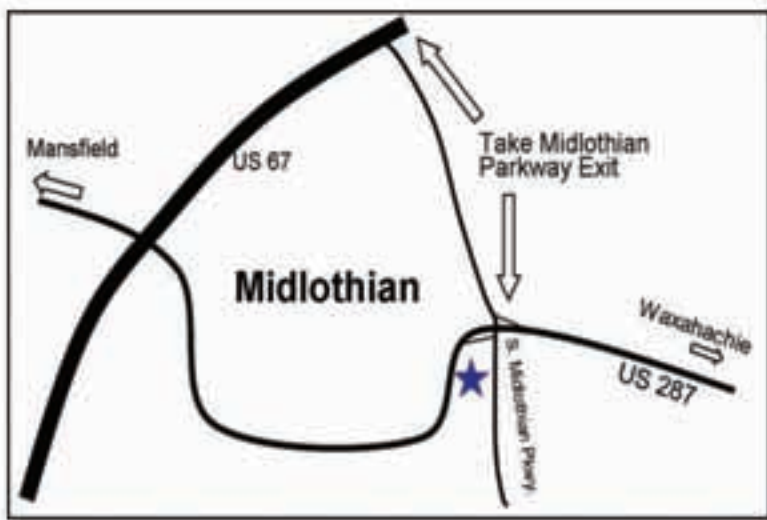


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teachers, I guess you could say our house is very kid friendly," Casi said.

Before building their current home, Tatum stayed in Palmer for four years, then decided he wanted to try a head coaching post. He was hired by Mike Burns as the Red Oak High School head softball and cross country coach and junior high health teacher for the 2010-11 school year. This fall, Tatum will serve as an assistant coach for Red Oak volleyball.

Most of their family lives in Ellis County, and a sister-in-law and cousin teach at the same school with Casi. Family togetherness was key in the Thornes' decision to build their second home, which they define as "very laid-back."

"We built our home with the mindset that this would be the home our children would grow up in," Casi said. "Land was important to us. We wanted plenty of room for our children to be able to play and practice sports."

To that end, the Thornes purchased 1.3 acres that back up to an 80-acre tract of land. Outdoors, Tatum has taken pride in doing all the landscape himself, and a batting cage and volleyball set give a nod to the family's sports enthusiasm.



Togetherness is also an obvious priority, capitalized upon with the home's open floor plan and a breakfast area of knotty alder cabinets and cobblestone tile. "The kitchen is perfect for all our family meals together," Casi said.

Of course, two educators couldn't be without a designated study area, and their home features a built-in wall of shelves for displaying books, diplomas and family photos.

For their rare bit of downtime, Casi and Tatum created a "warm" master bedroom with deep mahogany furniture and French doors leading to the master bath. The large jetted tub, separate shower and huge master closet give the Thornes their own spa retreat.

Settled into Red Oak for the long haul, the Thornes are thankful their past includes a shared history and an agreement on the perfect place for their future. "We both grew up in DeSoto, and Red Oak always seemed so far away and country," Casi said. "But we ultimately chose Red Oak as our home because of the fabulous school system and the unique quality of the town. We are very glad to be here!" **NOW**



How many parents have current and up-to-date records on their children? Do you know what immunizations are required for entry into most public schools? How many times have the immunization records been misplaced and now you have 2 or 3 separate immunization records? Texas Department of State Health Services has a program called *ImmTrac*. It's a registry that, with the parent's or guardian's consent, immunizations can be collected and kept in an electronic format. Your privacy is protected. Only healthcare providers, public health providers, childcare facilities and schools that are registered with *ImmTrac* (registered meaning an ID number and password have been issued to specific entities) may view your child's information. You can also request a print out a immunization record for your child for school, daycare, after school facilities or camp from registered *ImmTrac* users. We welcome you to contact our offices and pick up a copy of the 2011 immunization schedule for children.



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Dr. Jack Nunn prides himself on a relaxed chiropractic clinic where flat fees put customers at ease. Even furry friends are welcomed by Jack's dog, Bones.

HE'S GOT YOUR BACK!

Dr. Jack offers modern chiropractic care at old-fashioned prices. — By Angel Morris

For Dr. Jack Nunn, his business slogan “We’ve Got Your Back” has a dual meaning. The man behind The Joint @ Red Oak ... A Chiropractic Place, has gained a faithful client base because of a genuine concern for patients. And care at old-fashioned costs doesn’t hurt either!

“The people are the greatest thing about being a chiropractor. I’ve gotten to meet and become friends with a lot of people since opening this office. And when you can help someone either through a chiropractic treatment, nutritional or dietary recommendations, or just by being a good listener — well, that’s hard to beat,” Dr. Jack said.

A chiropractor since 1985, Dr. Jack has seen health care in the U.S. go through many transformations. Through them all, his

goal has been to keep chiropractic care affordable for everyday people.

“Because of the rising cost of health care in this country, at The Joint we’ve lowered our overhead, which has allowed us to give more cost-affordable treatments. The most you will spend per chiropractic adjustment is \$20,” Dr. Jack said. “We also have monthly Individual and Family Plans that make the cost per treatment even more affordable.”

Dr. Jack isn’t kidding. The \$20 fee stands for any patient walking through his office doors, where The Joint offers hands-on, full-spine chiropractic adjustments. Even more unique, perhaps, is his “no appointment necessary” policy.

“The biggest difference our office offers is the price you pay

Business **NOW**

for quality healthcare, but the fact that walk-ins are welcomed and encouraged is another huge difference,” Dr. Jack said. “This makes it very convenient for our existing and future patients to get the care they need anytime.”

Along with chiropractic care, The Joint offers whole food nutritional supplement recommendations. “My No. 1 goal is to educate people about health by helping them through both chiropractic and



nutrition. We recommend and sell the Standard Process and MediHerb brands, which are very high-quality products,” Dr. Jack said.

At his current location since September 2008, Dr. Jack said he enjoys the small town atmosphere and friendly people of Red Oak. With customers from Red Oak and surrounding communities, he encourages folks to stop in and get a feel for his office before deciding if they would like to try chiropractic care.

“Come in and see the office anytime. You can meet Bones while you’re here. He’s a very friendly, male Havanese dog who has been “working” here since he was 9 weeks old,” Dr. Jack said, underscoring his office’s relaxed environment. “Ask any questions you might have, and Bones and I both look forward to seeing you.” **NOW**

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New Hope Fellowship Pastor Mike Sockman presents Ashley Moore with the church's first \$500 scholarship award.



Hayden Gomez, 2, and dad, Billy Gomez, enjoy the pony rides at Red Oak, White and Blue.



Helen Johnson, a resident of Red Oak Senior Care Center, enjoys learning about local motor officer patrol.



The Red Oak pool of Scarlett McGraw gets a huge splash from a group of sixth-grade girls celebrating summer.



Red Oak NOW editor, Angel Morris, and son, Samuel, await fireworks at Red Oak's Pearson Park.

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Mortgage Decisions Can Make a Big Difference in Achieving Financial Goals

If you're purchasing a new home or refinancing your existing one, you've got some mortgage-related decisions to consider. And since your mortgage may well be the biggest financial transaction you ever make — and one that can affect your long-term financial goals, such as retirement — you'll want to weigh your options carefully.

What types of choices might you face? Here are some of the most important ones:

- **Fixed or adjustable?** With a fixed-rate mortgage, your payment will remain the same throughout the life of your loan. However, if interest rates drop significantly below your mortgage rate, you may then be paying too much for your loan and will have to go through the time, effort and expense of refinancing. With an adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM), your initial rate is likely quite low, so you can afford a bigger mortgage. This could be an advantage if you know your income will be rising or you are confident you'll sell your house within the next five years. However, your ARM payment and interest rate can rise substantially, even with caps in place, and these adjustments can affect your cash flow. So, before taking out an ARM, make sure you understand the terms involved and how they will affect you down the road.

- **15-year or 30-year?** These aren't the only mortgage lengths available, but they are among the most common. The advantage of a 15-year mortgage is that you'll pay it off quicker and, in the process, potentially save thousands of dollars in interest. The disadvantage, of course, is that you'll likely need to come up with much bigger monthly payments than if you took out a 30-year mortgage. And since your mortgage payments will be lower with a 30-year loan, you'll have more money available each month to invest for the future.

Over time, these extra investments can really add up. Suppose, for example, that you invested \$100 a month to a tax-deferred vehicle, such as a traditional IRA, that earned a hypothetical seven-percent average annual return. After 30 years, you'd end up with a little more than \$117,000, before you started paying taxes on withdrawals. But if your 30-year mortgage freed up enough cash for you to contribute \$300 a month to that same IRA, earning that same seven-percent average annual return, you'd accumulate more than \$350,000 after 30 years, before taxes. That's a big difference — and the extra money could perk up your retirement lifestyle considerably. Keep in mind, of course, that these examples don't reflect the performance of any available investments. Also, you will have to pay taxes when you start taking withdrawals from a traditional IRA, and any withdrawals you make before you turn age 59 1/2 might be subject to a ten-percent penalty.

- **Larger or smaller down payment?**

The bigger your down payment, the smaller your monthly payments, and the more you may have available to invest each month. But if you go with a smaller down payment, you most likely will initially have more money available for other purposes, such as paying down debt or purchasing investments. You'll have to compare the alternatives carefully.

In fact, you'll have to compare the options for each question we've looked at because mortgage issues have an emotional component as well as a financial one, and only you can make the decisions that fit your situation. So think about your choices today, as they can have a big impact on your life tomorrow. **NOW**

Michael Ewing is an Edward Jones representative based in Red Oak.

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Thirty-year Reunion Registration/ROHS Class of 1981: Ticket purchase deadline is September 2. Cost: \$35/person or \$50/couple in advance; \$40 at the door from 6:00-11:00 p.m. September 10 at The Studio at Las Colinas, 350 E. Royal Ln., Suite 121. Contact: reneewood1963@yahoo.com or (972) 937-1497 or (469) 297-0216 or njhdrake@yahoo.com or (972) 989-3060.

Teen Club: Begins this fall at the Red Oak Public Library, 200 Lakeview Parkway. Teens 13 and older can sign up at the library to be notified of teen club events. Please call (469) 218-1230.

August 6

ROISD Back-to-School Fair: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Red Oak Intermediate School, 401 E. Ovilla Road, Glenn Heights. Uniform exchange/sale, free dental/vision screenings, immunizations and haircuts. Uniform donations accepted during designated times at ROI Aug. 3-4. Vouchers awarded for use at sale. Call (214) 476-7972 or (972) 617-5895.

Introduction to Tennis: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Red Oak High School courts, 122 N. SH 342. For kindergarten through sixth-graders, \$10.

E-mail Dainta.Calhoun@redoakisd.org or call (469) 337-8738.

Soccer sign-ups: 10:00 a.m.-noon, Shields Elementary, 223 W. Ovilla Rd., Glenn Heights. Red Oak/Glenn Heights Soccer Association late enrollment date for children ages 3 and up as of July 31. Visit www.redoaksoccer.com.

August 10-11

Open House: 4:00-5:00 p.m., Little Hawks Learning Center, 205 E. Ovilla Rd., Glenn Heights. Call (972) 617-4660.

August 13

Ellis County SPCA New Volunteer Orientation: Noon-1:00 p.m., 570 FM 878 Waxahachie. Meeting for new volunteers with the Ellis County SPCA or current volunteers who would like to be more involved with the organization. E-mail Kari at spcaevents@gmail.com.

Red Oak Opry: 6:30 p.m., doors open; 7:00 p.m., concert begins. Lone Star Cowboy Church, 1011 E. Ovilla Rd. Live performance of the Opry Band. Visit www.redoakopry.com.

August 21

Open House: 2:00-3:00 p.m., Red Oak Junior High School, 154 Louise Ritter Blvd. Ribbon

cutting and open house for the new junior high locale. Visit www.Redoakisd.org.

August 22

Red Oak ISD classes resume. Visit www.redoakisd.org for specific campus start times.

August 24

Red Oak Chamber of Commerce Luncheon: Noon-1:00 p.m., Red Oak Municipal Center, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Cost: \$12 with reservation; \$15 at door; \$20 for nonmembers. Contact admin@redoakareachamber.org.

August 27

Ice Cream Social: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Ovilla United Methodist Church, 1403 Red Oak Creek Dr., Red Oak. Call (972) 617-8840 or visit www.ovillaumc.org.

September 17

33rd Annual Founder's Day and Homecoming Celebration: 9:00 a.m. parade kick off, Red Oak High School, 122 State Highway 342. Hawk Hustle 5k Run, booths, exhibitions, games, food. Call (972) 617-0906 or e-mail admin@redoakareachamber.org.

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



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In The Kitchen With Teresa Leutwyler

— By Angel Morris

Teresa enjoys cooking and remembers learning at a young age from both her parents. “They both cooked and were very good at it,” she recalled. “My sister and I took turns making dinner for our family a few times a week, till we were old enough to take it over; then we did most of the cooking.” Teresa cherishes special hand-me-down recipes for holidays. “My mom would make them when I was a girl at home, and her mother made the same ones for her when she was young.”

Teresa doesn’t cook as much these days, except when her sons, Shaun and Greg, are home from college. Since her husband and sons enjoy cooking, she said getting help is never a problem. “It’s the cleanup that none of us care for very much!” **NOW**

Baked Potato Soup

- 1/8 cup oil**
- 1/2 cup yellow onions, diced**
- 1/3 cup flour**
- 3 cups chicken stock, heated (large box of broth works well)**
- 2 cups potatoes, peeled and diced**
- 1 cup evaporated milk**
- 1/8 cup fresh parsley or 1 tsp. dried parsley**
- 3/4 tsp. garlic powder**
- 3/4 tsp. dried basil**
- 3/4 tsp. red pepper sauce (I like Tabasco.)**
- 3/4 tsp. coarse black pepper**
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated**
- 1/3 cup bacon bits**
- Sour cream (optional)**
- Chives (optional)**

- 1.** In a large stock pot, heat oil and cook onions over medium high heat, until tender.
- 2.** Add flour, stirring to prevent lumps.

- 3.** Cook until mixture is golden brown, then cook an additional 3 to 5 minutes. Gradually add chicken stock, whisking to prevent lumps, and cook until mixture thickens.
- 4.** Once thickened, reduce heat to simmer and add potatoes, canned milk, parsley, garlic powder, basil, red pepper sauce and black pepper.
- 5.** Simmer 5 to 10 minutes, but do not let it boil.
- 6.** Ladle into bowls and top each serving with cheese, bacon bits and sour cream and chives, if desired.

The Boys’ Favorite Stuffed Pizza Creation

This was created by, and feeds, about six very hungry college boys. When I make it for the family, I cut almost everything in half.

- 1 lb. bacon (cooked crispy)**
- 1/3 lb. pepperoni from the deli (thin sliced)**
- 3 lbs. hamburger (I like 1/2 hamburger**

- and 1/2 sausage.)**
- 2 cans Pillsbury pizza crust**
- 2 jars pizza sauce**
- 4 cups mozzarella cheese, grated**

- 1.** In a skillet, cook meats till done.
- 2.** Roll one can of pizza dough onto a pizza pan or a large cookie sheet.
- 3.** Spread 3/4 to 1 jar of pizza sauce over dough and add meats, one layer at a time, leaving about 1 inch around edges.
- 4.** Spread cheese evenly over meat.
- 5.** Top with second can of pizza dough, folding bottom dough over top and pinching together.
- 6.** Cook according to pizza dough directions until golden brown.
- 7.** Use second jar of sauce for dipping.

Pork Roast With Ginger Peach Glaze

- 2 tsp. seasoned salt**
- 1 tsp. ground thyme**
- 2 lbs. boneless pork loin roast**
- 1/2 cup peach preserves**
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce**
- 3/4 tsp. ground ginger**

- 1.** In a small bowl, combine seasoned salt and thyme.
- 2.** Rub on all sides of roast.
- 3.** Bake 1 1/2 hours at 350 F or until done (160 F on a meat thermometer).
- 4.** In a small bowl, combine preserves, Worcestershire sauce and ginger.
- 5.** Coat roast with preserve mixture during the last 10 minutes of cooking.

Chocolate Chip Cheese Bars

- Cooking spray**
- 2 tubes (18 oz.) or 2 cups refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough**
- 16 oz. cream cheese, softened to room temperature**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 eggs**

- 1.** Grease jelly roll pan with cooking spray and press one tube of cookie dough over pan.
- 2.** Beat cream cheese, sugar and eggs until smooth.
- 3.** Spread over crust.
- 4.** Crumble remaining dough over top.
- 5.** Bake at 350 F for 35 to 40 minutes, or until toothpick comes out clean.
- 6.** Cool before cutting. Refrigerate leftovers.

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To schedule your mammogram or for more information about cancer care services, call **1.800.4BAYLOR** or visit us online at BaylorHealth.com/WaxCancer.

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