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AUGUST 2012

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Roots and Wings

At Home With John & Karen Anderson

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2012-2013 Student Schedules

Red Oak ISD has announced the dates and times students will be able to pick up their schedules for the 2012-2013 school year.

Red Oak High School (grades 9-12)

Aug. 15 & 16 9am-6pm

Red Oak Junior High School

Aug. 22 - 7th grade 5-7pm

Aug. 23 - 8th grade 5-7pm

Red Oak Intermediate School

Aug. 20 - 5th grade 6pm-8pm

Aug. 21 - 6th grade 6pm-8pm

Meet the Teacher Night (Elementary):

Aug. 23

Shields Elementary 6:30-7:30pm

Wooden Elementary 6-7:30pm

Red Oak Elementary 6-6:45pm (1st & 2nd)
7-7:45pm (3rd & 4th)

Aug. 24

Red Oak Elementary 6-6:45pm (PK-K)

East Ridge Elementary 5-7pm



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On The Cover



This Red Oak graduate is ready to juggle education and extracurriculars at college this fall.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Can you smell the school supplies?

I'll admit, I was a weird kid. I loved school. I lived for back-to-school shopping, finding great joy in sorting through choices of pencils, folders and notebooks every August. I spent summers playing classroom, where I was the teacher with stuffed animal students — making me multicultural before multicultural was cool. Still, I was never, ever too cool for school.

As I aged, back-to-school became more about fashion than folders, but then I aged some more and became the nerdy grown-up who went back to college for even more schooling. Truth is, I'm never happier than when I'm learning — except maybe when I'm teaching.

May you learn something new every day this month, or, better still, may you teach someone a life lesson they'll cherish. Stop and smell the school supplies — and thank a teacher along the way!

Angel

Angel Morris
Red OakNOW Editor
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Remarkable UNDER PRESSURE

— By Katie Almond

Like the Remarkable Farkle McBride, Will Temple is most notable for the breadth and scope of his talent and achievements. Academics, performing arts, sports and community service are just some of the areas in which he excels. "I think I work better under pressure," Will explained. "I'd rather be busy."



Will's recent achievements are as varied as they are many. Co-captain of the varsity tennis team, vice president of the varsity a cappella choir, president of the National Honor Society, parliamentarian of student council and a lead role in the musical *Singin' in the Rain* just to name a few. He also graduated number four in his class of more than 400 students, was named a Texas Music Scholar and was chosen for the Texas All State Choir. When you're juggling this many activities, you have to carefully consider which choices you make. "I had to stop playing tennis my junior year to do the musical and more choir things because I just felt that I wanted to excel more at that and focus more time on it," Will said.

Will kept track of his jam-packed schedule the old fashioned way. "My parents helped a lot. But, I made a lot of to-do lists. Every night I made a list, and I'd just check everything off as I went, and maybe put a reminder on my phone

or on the paper, whatever I thought would make me notice it," Will said.

He loves to sing and cites being named to the Texas All State Choir as one of his proudest achievements. About his performance as Don Lockwood in *Singin' in the Rain*, Will confessed that while he really enjoyed the singing and acting involved in the show, the dancing was a completely different story. "I don't feel like I have that much natural ability. I'm not really comfortable doing it," Will stated. "But, I think it's good to get out of your comfort zone sometimes and do things just to do them."

Will is headed to Baylor University in Waco this fall to major in business. He's also hoping to do some singing while he's there. "I want to join the choir, but it's by audition only, so we'll just have to wait and see. Hopefully, I'll be in the men's choir," Will admitted. He's also interested in playing intramural tennis and wants to get involved in Waco. "I'm interested





in community service organizations. Just getting out and helping, finding a church, too,” Will continued. “I’m looking forward to the Christian atmosphere and being a part of something bigger than just me.”

He’s taking quite a few scholarships along with him. Two are Baylor-specific academic scholarships: the Anita and Dale Jones Scholarship from the Baylor University Women’s Council of Dallas and the President’s Gold Scholarship from Baylor University. He also received scholarships from the National Honor Society, Red Oak High School PTA, Shield’s Elementary PTA, Red Oak Council of PTAs, Prosperity Bank, Citizen’s National Bank and one of two Laura Autrey Scholarships. These scholarships are a testament to his outstanding academic and community

service record.

When Will completes his bachelor’s degree, he plans to pursue a master’s degree in health care administration. “With health care administration, you have to have a business background, and I’ve always been interested in the money side of things,” Will admitted. Starting at a very young age, Will learned about finances and handling money from his parents. “My dad’s an accountant, so I’m sure that just seeped in. He’s always taught me fiscal responsibility,” Will explained. “I got my first bank account, and my parents encouraged me to save, I think I was in second grade,” Will grinned. He’s always



been a hard worker who likes to stay busy. As soon as he was old enough, he started pursuing job opportunities. “I’ve mowed yards for forever it seems, so I’ve always been making flyers and keeping up



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with the money. I also do house sitting and dog sitting.”

Will’s dream is to work in the field of elderly care. “I’ve just had a lot of family members go through nursing homes and rehab centers, so hopefully, I can make a difference there,” Will stated. “I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to do, but during your senior year you start thinking about it more. And I just thought, ‘Maybe this is where I can make the most difference.’”

His face lights up, and he speaks with passion when he talks about this dream. “I feel like helping the elderly is

**“I’M LOOKING FORWARD
TO THE CHRISTIAN
ATMOSPHERE AND BEING A
PART OF SOMETHING
BIGGER THAN JUST ME.”**

what I was put here to do. I really feel a connection with them more than with kids or younger adults. I just enjoy them,” Will stated. “My grandparents influenced me. They were some of my best friends. I guess I just love the wisdom and just thinking of the past. I’m kind of a history person, and I enjoy the stories.”

Will would like to return to Red Oak to work somewhere close to home when he completes college. “I’ve always liked the Dallas area, and I’m very close to my family, so I want to stay near them,” Will said, “We joke a lot and laugh with one another, just a lot of love, really. I’m a

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Ms. Lantz was Will's AP Government and AP Economics teacher.

family person. I would really miss that.”

Relationships are extremely important to Will. His idea of a great time is to hang out with his friends, maybe go to a movie or out to eat. He likes to just sit around talking and laughing with his buddies. Like others, he has a favorite high school memory. “Really, just being with friends. I know it’s kind of cliché in a way, but that’s probably what I will cherish the most.” Although Will and his friends will go their separate ways after this summer, they’ve made plans to get together whenever they’re home for holidays. “I know certain friends I



have, we won’t ever lose touch. We know it won’t be the same as it was in high school. We won’t see each other every day, but we’ll stay connected,” Will said.

Will’s advice for students who want to excel is to find a balance between academics and extracurricular activities, but always give school work priority. He knows that he’s been blessed throughout his school years. “I just have such a great support system through my church, parents, teachers and friends.” **NOW**

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Reading the Room

— By Randy Bigham

June Rosdahl loves her job and it shows. The students and faculty of Life School of Red Oak, where she teaches remedial reading, are the benefactors of her dedication and passion. A former Teacher of the Year, June is small in stature but big in spirit. She's modest about her own accomplishments, choosing instead to brag on the school she has proudly served since its inception nine years ago. "The experience I have had with Life School can be summed up in one word: community," she said. "Every stakeholder, from principal to parent, teacher to volunteer plays an important role in helping our students succeed. Our founder, Dr. Tom Wilson, who is retiring this year, set a standard of community support across this district."



Although the San Antonio-born teacher with an energetic personality gives praise to co-workers for making Life School a leader in the local educational landscape, her achievements have contributed to its triumph. June's desire to teach, and in particular to teach reading, began as a child. "Reading was difficult for me," she recalled. "Eventually, I learned to use sounds to figure out words, and I built a working knowledge of literacy, but not without tears and struggles. This experience has since helped me to connect with my students."

While living in Washington with her husband, Dr. Bruce Rosdahl, June decided to take up teaching as a profession. "I had my first experience there as a teacher's aide under a model educator," she said. "Thereafter, I taught a split first and second grade class for four years at a small private school." Now with a master's degree in education from Waxahachie's Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU), where Bruce is professor of Bible and theology, June



is still pursuing her own education. Currently a doctoral student at Texas Woman's University (TWU), she applies the knowledge she's gained to her own Life School classroom, teaching reading to first grade through middle school students. "As a graduate student, I devote much effort to current reading research and prevailing theories in reading education," she said. "Moreover, I am able to implement reading strategies immediately into practice."

June's compassion has been as instrumental as her education in raising the bar on learning at Life School of Red Oak. When she began teaching there in 2003, she felt validated, not only by fellow instructors and administrators, but by her students' parents, and she responded by taking her position even more to heart. "There was an immediate bond of love

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and trust,” she pointed out. “And the sweet faces of those first students are still pressed in my memory. They were the motivation behind my drive to be a quality teacher,” June said.

Realizing many students were having difficulty reading, she decided to further her studies to become a specialist in the field. “As an educator, I knew it was my responsibility to give my students all the tools for a thriving academic career, which included a strong foundation in literacy,” June explained.

Her experiences include working with children with language and learning difficulties, including dyslexia. The positive outcome of her one-on-one approach has motivated June in her quest to improve the educational lives of her students. Two memorable cases spurred her on. One young girl whom



June taught early in her career was lacking skills that June was unable to hone due to her unfamiliarity with the child’s specific needs. “I cried at my failure, but I had no clue what I might have done differently,” she remembered. “So I determined to broaden my understanding of reading pedagogy, and I have spent the rest of my career in developing sound practices.” In another instance, a boy with problems in reading and socialization posed a special challenge, but by tailoring learning strategies to his needs June was able to help him thrive in literacy and in making friends.

“Having a child-centered approach to teaching reading brings the real world into the classroom,” she said. “Students can select their own reading material, read at their own pace, and talk to others about what they’ve read.” June believes in meeting the child where they are educationally and building on their natural strengths. “Every student is at a different stage of learning when it comes to literacy,” she said. “There are many things




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to consider for remediation, such as comprehension, writing, spelling, fluency, vocabulary, phonological awareness, etc. The only way to know where a student stands in a literacy continuum, and how to target their needs, is to identify what they know and what they don't know."

Despite June's devotion to her work and education, she finds respite in vacations with her husband. "We have an RV and love being on the road," she said. "Bruce and I go RVing any chance we can," June remarked. The couple doesn't enjoy roughing it, however. "We have a portable apartment with all the conveniences of home. No motels and no tents!"

Bruce and June appreciate the gorgeous countryside on their trips, which include visits to state and national parks. "My cherished memories are the encounters we have had with wildlife, even with a brown bear at Yellowstone National Park," June recalled. Hiking, canoeing, sightseeing, shopping and visiting friends and relatives are all part of the Rosdahls' RV experience.

Reading for pleasure is another pastime for June. Not surprisingly, she most enjoys reading and evaluating literature for children. "I love children's picture books and young adult literature. Some of my favorite authors are Maurice Sendak, Dr. Seuss, J. R. R. Tolkien and Louisa May Alcott. I read whenever I get a chance, especially when I'm RVing."

The Rosdahls recently moved to Midlothian, but they don't mind the commute to Waxahachie and Red Oak at all. "We love the wide-open spaces of this area," June said. "We feel like we are out in the country with the full amenities of city life."

June looks forward to many more years of teaching at Life School of Red Oak. "Aside from watching students blossom in reading, the most fulfilling facet of my job is creating relationships with my students through confidence building, encouragement, support, guidance, love, trust, honesty and respect. I have found that students quickly align themselves with teachers when they sense you truly care about them." But June insists educating children is a team effort, a happy coalescing of teachers, administrators, parents and the children themselves. "No one is alone in this. Only by working together can we make it work." **NOW**



Jeremy Vaughan, MD, PA

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ROOTS and Wings

— By Angel Morris



AT HOME WITH
John & Karen Anderson



It is said the two most important things parents can offer children are roots to grow and wings to fly. Red Oak natives John and Karen Anderson are providing both, based on a shared history in their hometown and a vision for its future. "We hope that when our kids see us active in the local schools, they will one day grow up and give back to their communities, too," John, a 10-year Red Oak ISD School Board trustee, said.

Anyone familiar with Red Oak may know the Andersons either directly or indirectly. Karen's family moved to town in the middle of the school year during her first grade year, and John's family moved to Red Oak while John was in second grade. John graduated Red Oak High School in 1983, followed by Karen in 1984. "We met in high school when I was a freshman and he was a sophomore," Karen said. "We dated throughout high school and after graduation, although we went to different colleges."

After Karen graduated from Stephen F. Austin State University and John from Navarro College then Dallas Baptist University, the couple married and moved to Virginia Beach, Virginia, where John served in the U.S. Navy. It wasn't long, however, until Red Oak called them home. "Staying in Virginia or going to New York were both options, but we wanted to be back in Texas," John said. John's job in North Dallas and DeSoto



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as a recruiter for the Marines landed the couple in Red Oak in 1992, where they built their current home.

"The neighborhood was mostly empty with only five or six other homes. We wanted some land, but not too much," John said of building their three-bedroom, two-bath home situated on just less than one acre of land.

Today, they use their home to welcome youth from Eastridge Baptist Church, where John and Karen are longtime members and Sunday school teachers, as well as welcoming friends of daughters

Taylor, 16, and Abby, 9. "It's not the biggest or fanciest house, but it's comfortable and fun, and you're welcome to whatever we have," John said.

Though they love being at home, John's career as an engineer for Applied Materials, Inc. in the semiconductor industry allows the family to travel, and

John has been all over the world. Karen, who is the executive director of the Red Oak Independent School District (ISD) Education Foundation, once worked in the travel industry and found the family deals on many great trips. "We had a lot of fun traveling before our kids were born!" Karen joked,

and admitted their daughters actually get along better when traveling than at home.

For the time being, however, trips are fewer as the family constantly has church, school and athletic commitments. John has served on the school board since 2002, and Karen has been involved with the Foundation since 2003 in volunteer and staff positions. They have both served on several PTA boards, John headed the Watch D.O.G. program for dads at Eastridge Elementary, and both support the Red Oak Lady Hawk Volleyball Booster Club. "Most of our time is spent with church, school and sporting activities. A lot of time in gyms



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Our youngest son, Brent, is the only left-handed son and grandson in our family. While some people are left handed, only few people are 100% left-handed, he is one of those few. Approximately, only 15% of the population is left-handed and of that 15%, men are twice as likely to be left-handed than women. The gene LRRTM1 seems to be a strong contributing factor for being left-handed. Scientists discovered this gene during a study of dyslexic children and they believe it is an inherited factor from the father. The world is pretty much built for those of us who are right-handed. Try looking for school supplies for left-handed children! Parents may want to go online and look for notebooks and spirals for your left-handed students. Most stores don't carry these novelty items. MENSA reports that 20% of their members are left-handed. So, to Brent and all of our Left-Handed patients, thanks for your patience with us in a right-handed-dominate world. You lefties are the only ones in your right mind!

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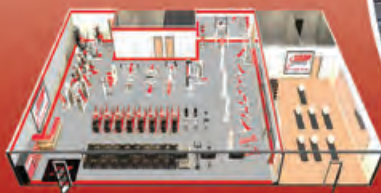
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with Taylor playing volleyball — school and club level — and the soccer field with Abby,” Karen said. “Faith, family and friends — that is where our heart is; therefore, that is where our time is.”

While both daughters are athletes, their bedrooms reflect their own girly style. Abby’s room is pretty in pink — although she is expecting a change to Justin Beiber’s signature color purple, soon. She has countless dolls and Barbies, stacks of favorite books and a snow globe collection her dad adds to from every business trip.

Taylor — older but quieter than her younger sibling — put in extra hours training for volleyball to earn money for her current bedroom decor. “Her grandmother told her if she trained so many hours, she’d give her the money for the comforter set she wanted,” Karen noted. The result is a trendy black, white and turquoise color scheme with bird silhouettes accenting bedding and walls. A sparkling black prom dress hanging from the closet hints at Taylor’s softer side. “Everyone always sees her at school after morning workouts so they were pretty shocked when they saw the dressy side of her at prom,” Karen said.

John and Karen have a comfy master bedroom and bath of earth tones that match the living room’s colors grounded by leather sofas. The kitchen is dark green with warm hardwood floors and an eat-in bar overlooking the breakfast nook. Photos sprinkled throughout the home are reminders of the roots so cherished by the Andersons — including a display of antique photos and mementos in the hallway, and a tri-fold changing screen featuring black and white family pictures spanning generations. “I’m not a big collector of things, but I do love photos. I have them everywhere,” Karen said.

John touts just one decorative

collection, autographed athletic balls from various Red Oak sports teams. "It started when the volleyball team won state and gave the board members signed volleyballs. Then the soccer team did the same when it won state," John said. He is the proud owner of the first baseball thrown in the new Red Oak stadium, and bids every year on autographed athletic gear during the Red Oak Chamber of Commerce's annual fundraiser auction.

Pride in this collection is only matched by John's enthusiasm for his latest endeavor — a vegetable garden. "This is my first time to have a garden. Next year it's going to be across the entire back yard," he joked.



The Anderson home suits their current needs, but John hopes to upsize when some couple's typically consider downsizing. "If our daughters choose to get married and have children, I want a home for everyone. A place for all of us and their families to be able to spend time together," he said.

Karen can't really imagine being anywhere but Red Oak. "John and I had such a wonderful experience growing up here, and we wanted that for our daughters," she said. "We've watched the city grow, and change and we love being part of that continued growth."

So the Andersons will continue to volunteer and support their church and the local public school district in an effort to give roots and wings to not only their children, but to all Red Oak kids. "The way I look at it is, someone volunteered to make things better when I was a kid," John said. "It's my job to do that for the kids here now." **NOW**

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Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



Dr. Rebecca Piantini, Dr. Ferne Cummings and their friendly, caring staff welcome patients of all ages to Red Oak Family and Pediatric Clinic.



PARTNERING WITH PATIENTS

Doctor duo serves patients from young to old.

— *By Angel Morris*

Red Oak Family and Pediatric Clinic is a purposeful union of two physicians committed to serving the family medicine needs of the Red Oak community. Dr. Ferne Cummings and her seasoned staff have provided healthcare in Red Oak for the last six years and apply a comprehensive approach to addressing the everyday needs of their patient family.

In addition, Dr. Cummings enjoys partnering with patients in regard to ongoing issues and healthcare problems in order to facilitate the best possible relationships and outcomes for those patients. “My goal is to develop an active partnership with my

patients as we manage their healthcare,” Dr. Cummings said. “I want to assist the patient in taking an active role in their well-being.”

With Red Oak’s rapid growth, it was natural to also care for the pediatric population. As a result, Dr. Rebecca Piantini joined the practice a little more than two years ago. “Dr. Piantini and her staff are committed to addressing the changing and growing needs of the children in the area,” Dr. Cummings noted.

Dr. Piantini also has a special interest in relationship building with parents and enjoys sharing her philosophy of healthy growth and development. “All children should have

the opportunity to grow healthy, be encouraged to play and be stimulated to learn,” Dr. Piantini said.

Before coming to the clinic, Dr. Piantini practiced at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Prior to her UT Southwestern career, she practiced medicine in California for 17 years. At Red Oak Family and Pediatric Clinic, Dr. Piantini sees children from birth to 18 years old.

Both physicians are board-certified — Dr. Cummings in family practice and Dr. Piantini in pediatrics — and both doctors enjoy being a part of a growing, vibrant community. “Although located very close to Dallas, Red Oak still has a small-town

“My goal is to develop an active partnership with my patients as we manage their healthcare.”

feel with community cohesiveness and the caring nature of a close-knit circle of friends and neighbors,” Dr. Cummings said.

A longstanding member of the local chamber of commerce, Red Oak Family and Pediatric Clinic touts a bilingual staff, flexible business hours to meet family needs and accepts most insurance including Medicaid. The facility provides well exams, preventative visits, vaccines for adults and children and has same-day appointments available.

Their practice manager, Janice Jones, will greet you with a smile when you visit Red Oak Family and Pediatric Clinic. “All ages, all needs, we’re here to help our Red Oak patients,” Dr. Cummings said. “We’d love for you to stop in and meet our warm and caring staff any time!” **NOW**

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Through August 17

Summer Food Service Program (under age 18): Monday-Friday breakfast: 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.; lunch: 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 600 Daubitz Dr. Playground, coloring and fun movies will be provided in a safe environment. For more information, contact Tennia Smith: (972) 743-0771.

Through August 24

Summer Food Service Program (under age 18 or for others who are physically or mentally disabled): Monday-Friday breakfast: 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; lunch: noon-1:00 p.m., Heritage Community Park, 400 E. Bear Creek Rd., Glenn Heights. Contact Kracynthia Gerald: (214) 207-1176 or (972) 298-8556.

August 2

Local Author Group: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Museum Room, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. A discussion/critique group run by author Donald Horne. Open to the public.

August 4

Back to School Fair: 8:00 a.m.-noon., Red Oak Intermediate School, 401 Ovilla Rd. Uniform exchange and sale, free school immunizations, free dental and vision screenings and haircuts

for ROISD students. Visit RedOakISD.org for details on advance uniform donations and vouchers, as well as day-of event information.

August 7

PrimeTimers Senior Group: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Oaks Fellowship North Auditorium, 777 S. I-35 East, Red Oak. Open to senior citizens for fun, food and fellowship. RSVP: (214) 376-8208.

August 8

Financial workshop for educators: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Red Oak Municipal Building, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Guest speakers: Michael Ewing, of Edward Jones, presenting "Investment Perspectives," and Tim Frost, of Invesco, presenting "New Retire Mentality." Includes lunch and free school supplies. RSVP: Marilyn Knapp: (972) 576-8536.

August 11

Ellis County SPCA Volunteer Training: 11:00 a.m., 2570 FM 878, Waxahachie. Meeting is for new volunteers with the ECSPCA or current volunteers wanting to be more involved with the organization. Dog adoption events are set for **August 11-12** and **25-26** and volunteers are needed to assist. E-mail coordinator@elliscountyspca.org.

August 14

342 Networking Group: 7:30 a.m., Red Door Boutique, 211 N. Hwy. 342. Networking opportunity is open to all area business owners. RSVP: (214) 244-2829.

August 22

Red Oak Chamber luncheon: Noon-1:00 p.m., Red Oak Municipal Center, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Cost: members with reservations: \$12; members without reservations: \$15; nonmembers: \$20. RSVP for this catered networking event: katherine@redoakareachamber.org.

August 23

Bullying Awareness Seminar: 7:00-8:00 p.m., Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. A free workshop on the Five E's of Bullying, open to the public. ROISD students earn extra credit points for attending this anti-bullying event. Call (469) 218-1230 or e-mail rbetru@redoaktx.org for more details.

August 27

First day of school for Red Oak ISD.

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In The Kitchen With Missi Henry

— *By Angel Morris*

Missi Henry credits her grandparents for her cooking skills. “Grandpa was the man if you wanted sweets, and Grandma was a legendary cook for church youth camps!” Missi recalled. “Both encouraged me to cook as a child, trying lots of scary foods I created.”

As a Pampered Chef consultant, Missi favors quick, nutritious meals. “I get to cook for all sorts of people, and introduce new techniques and helpful kitchen gadgets,” Missi said.

Besides a secret family recipe for chocolate chip cookies, Missi’s best work comes from a deep covered baker in which she cooks anything from baked chicken to meatloaf — in the microwave. “It does not taste like microwave food. It’s delicious and fast!” **NOW**

Southwest Meatloaf

- 1 cup ketchup**
- 2 tbsp. Chipotle Rub**
- 1 cup poblano or green bell pepper, finely chopped**
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped**
- 1/2 cup tortilla chips, finely crushed**
- 1 1/2 lbs. 85% lean ground beef**
- 1 egg**
- 1 1/2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded (divided use)**
- Fresh cilantro, chopped (optional)**

1. Combine ketchup and rub in a bowl.

- 2.** In a different bowl, combine pepper, onion, tortilla chip crumbs, 3/4 cup of ketchup mixture, beef, egg and 1 cup of cheese; mix well.
- 3.** Place meat mixture in deep covered baker; form into loaf. Microwave, covered, on high 14-17 minutes or until thermometer inserted in center of meatloaf registers 145 F.
- 4.** Remove baker from microwave. Brush remaining ketchup mixture over meat loaf. Cover; microwave on high 3-5 minutes, or until internal temperature reaches 160 F in the center.
- 5.** Sprinkle remaining cheese over meatloaf; cover and let stand 10 minutes before slicing.

Sprinkle cilantro over meatloaf, if desired.

King Ranch Chicken

- 1/2 large onion, diced**
- 2 stalks celery, diced**
- 1 large (family size) can cream of chicken soup**
- 1 can Ro-Tel**
- 1 Tbsp. cumin (or to taste)**
- 1 small package corn tortillas**
- 2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cooked and shredded**
- 1 package cheddar cheese, shredded**

- 1.** In a large pan (Dutch oven size), sauté onion and celery in butter until onions are clear.
- 2.** Add soup and Ro-Tel, stirring until well blended. Add cumin; heat until just bubbling.
- 3.** Cut tortillas into small pieces; add to mixture along with shredded chicken.
- 4.** Spray 9x13-inch cake pan with cooking spray. Spread chicken/sauce mixture on the bottom.
- 5.** Add layer of cheddar cheese then another layer of the chicken/sauce mixture, finishing up with a layer of cheese.
- 6.** Bake at 350 F for about 25 minutes, or until cheese has browned. If freezing, don’t bake it first.

Easy BBQ Pulled Pork

- 1 5-7-lb. pork shoulder, bone in or out**
- 1 2-liter bottle root beer**
- 1 large bottle KC Masterpiece Brown Sugar BBQ sauce**

- 1.** Place pork shoulder in large Crock-Pot and pour root beer over pork.
- 2.** Turn Crock-Pot on low setting; cook for 10 hours.
- 3.** After 10 hours, drain root beer and remove bone and excess fat from pork.
- 4.** Return pork to Crock-Pot and shred using 2 forks — pork will shred easily.
- 5.** Add in BBQ sauce to taste; cook on low for 2 hours.
- 6.** Serve on large soft burger buns or use dollar-size rolls for finger foods.

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

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