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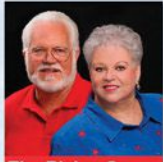
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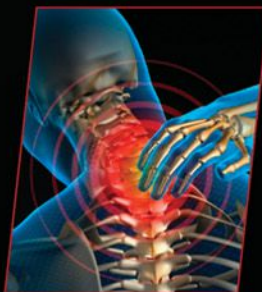
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Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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## Editor's Note

*au•gust, av-guhst/, adjective ...*

Honestly, I had no idea that the name of this month was so prestigious, meaning *respected and impressive* as in: "She was in *august* company." How suitable, not only this month, but every month, when I get to share just a few stories of the superb people found here in Red Oak, Ferris and surrounding communities.

I fancy myself someone who can make herself at home most any place, a people watcher more than the life of the party, however. Needless to say, "fitting in" is always easier amongst friendly folk. Thank you for letting me into your businesses, your homes, your lives and for proving to be august company January through December!

*Angel*

Angel Morris  
North Ellis Co. NOW Editor  
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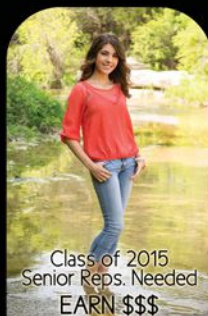
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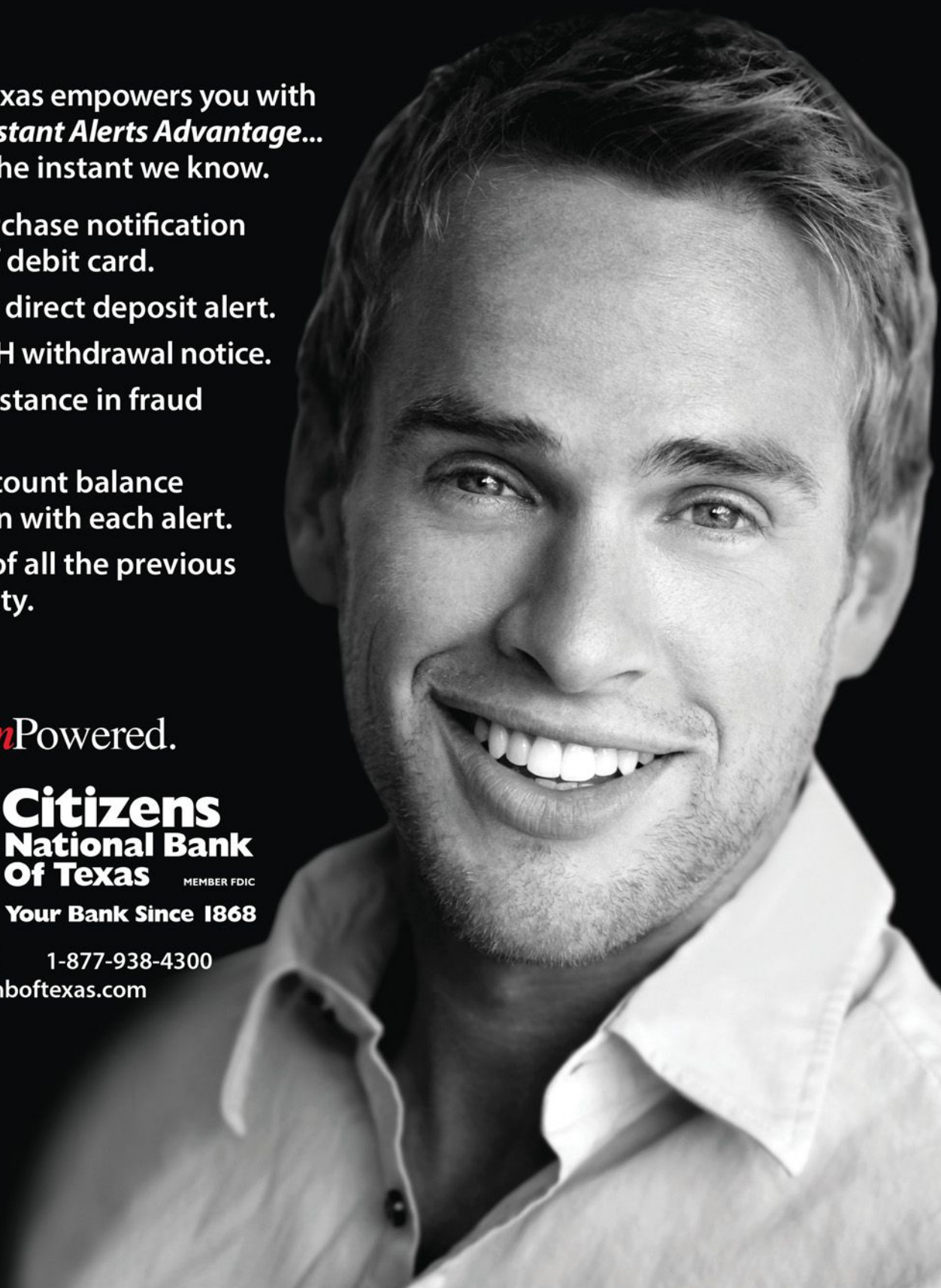
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# Go Ski

— By Sara Edgell

*There is a special place in April Graham's heart for technical workers. Her father was an electrician for most of his working life, and because of that, he was able to provide his family with stability and opportunity they otherwise would not have had the privilege to enjoy. As the vice president of instruction for the Texas State Technical College North Texas campus, April's career allows her to honor her father and other skilled workers by promoting and offering the people in the community the same opportunity to provide for their families by way of honest and in-demand work. "It's not about what you know, but what you can do with what you know," April stated.*



# t his?

**“I’ll do whatever I can to help TSTC serve the people of the state of Texas.”**

April began working with TSTC in 2007 after having worked in public schools for about 18 years. Previously, she taught English at both the high school and community college levels, but also worked at a college tutoring center, which is where she discovered her love and aptitude for administration-focused work. Her first position with TSTC was that of associate dean of learning success and then associate vice president, both of which allowed her to exercise and explore her administrative leadership skills close to home. Accepting this current position, consequently, meant relocating from East Texas, where she had lived her entire life, to Red Oak. Once April landed in Red Oak, she felt immediately at home. “This is such a supportive community! I just love it here,” she said.

When the opportunity with TSTC presented itself, April was thrilled to come on board. She has always maintained a can-do attitude pertaining to the relevant and useful education of not just



Stephen Pape, April Graham and LeRoy White look over the building plans.





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April Graham poses with her father, James Burgin.

children and young adults, but adults as well. "I'll do whatever I can to help TSTC serve the people of the state of Texas," she said. Thanks to the instrumental legislative work of State Representative Jim Pitts and Senator Brian Birdwell, the partnership between TSTC and Red Oak ISD was established last year.

The goal was to bring technical certificate and associate degree programs pertinent to the surrounding industrial and commercial companies to Ellis County. Considering the recent changes in House Bill 5, which emphasize, career and technical education, the timing of this educational partnership couldn't have been more perfect. Ultimately, students who successfully complete certificate and degree programs with TSTC will gain in-demand knowledge and skills that will make them valued and sought-after in the local job market. Therefore, April's first task on the job was to get a firm grasp of the business industry in the area.

Based on TSTC findings, when the campus opened its doors in January of this year, students were able to choose from a small variety of programs including: Cyber Security, Computer Systems Network Administration, Computer Systems Desktop Support and Computer Aided Drafting. However, the number of programs offered increased significantly in diversity this summer. Students now enjoy choices including HVAC, Welding Technology and Industrial Maintenance. In the fall, Computer Aided Manufacturing, Diesel Technology, Logistics Technology and High Voltage Electrical will be added to the list. "TSTC's primary mission is to help the state leverage a highly skilled workforce, applicable to high-demand skills and emerging technologies," April said.

Although it may seem like a tall order, April is more than prepared to take care of business and make it happen. Personally, she hopes to see students from Red Oak High School and the



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surrounding areas move fluidly from their high school endorsement to a technical program with TSTC and then into jobs within the community.

As an institution, TSTC has an interesting history with beginnings rooted at Texas A&M University. Initially, it began as the James Connally Technical Institute in 1965, but eventually separated from A&M to become an independent state system in 1969. Today, there are



11 different Texas campuses located in Red Oak, Marshall, Breckenridge, Hutto, Abilene, Brownwood, Richmond, Harlingen, Sweetwater, Waco and Ingleside. Each campus offers an array of programs specific to their local business environment. Interestingly, TSTC is the only technical college system in Texas that is state-supported and is currently one of the top institutions statewide in technical education and training. Their primary focus is to meet students' needs by offering education and training relevant to local businesses' needs. Essentially, it's a win-win situation. The high-tech approach to real-world career training is one April supports wholeheartedly. "I'm excited about our educational model," April said. "I firmly believe it works for the majority of the population. It's truly effective."

The TSTC North Texas campus has been meeting in the town's junior high school career and technology building, while the new, state-of-the-art TSTC building has been under construction. The new 102,000-square-foot technical educational facility is located adjacent to ROHS and will feature cutting-edge technology including classrooms equipped with relevant devices and software, lab environments that simulate the real-world work environments, virtual learning opportunities and both online and traditional face-to-face class options. Classes will be offered at a variety of times during the day and evening.

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Brent Berry and April Graham envision the finished campus.

As the student population increases in the coming years, more programs will be offered, as well as classroom and facility additions. In the near future, April anticipates the new TSTC campus will significantly impact the surrounding workforce, because technical and vocational training will essentially be offered right in Red Oak's backyard. The skills the school will offer students will be directly linked to the jobs the specific area demands. The potential for individuals to mature with this growing institution is open to anyone who has the desire to learn an applicable real-world skill in a technical field. "We care about our students," April explained. "We want to guide them and give them the best opportunity for success in the working world. The talented men and women coming into TSTC today will have great opportunities to be valued contributors in the workforce. Their skills will provide them stability and dignity — something to be proud of."

This endeavor was an exciting one for April, who jumped at the chance to be part of the unique partnership between TSTC and Red Oak ISD. From the initial planning stage, April has been involved with structuring the framework of the advanced technical educational system the institution is offering to the public. To be able to honor her father by perpetuating that sense of pride and dignity in the younger generations is what it's all about for April. **NOW**



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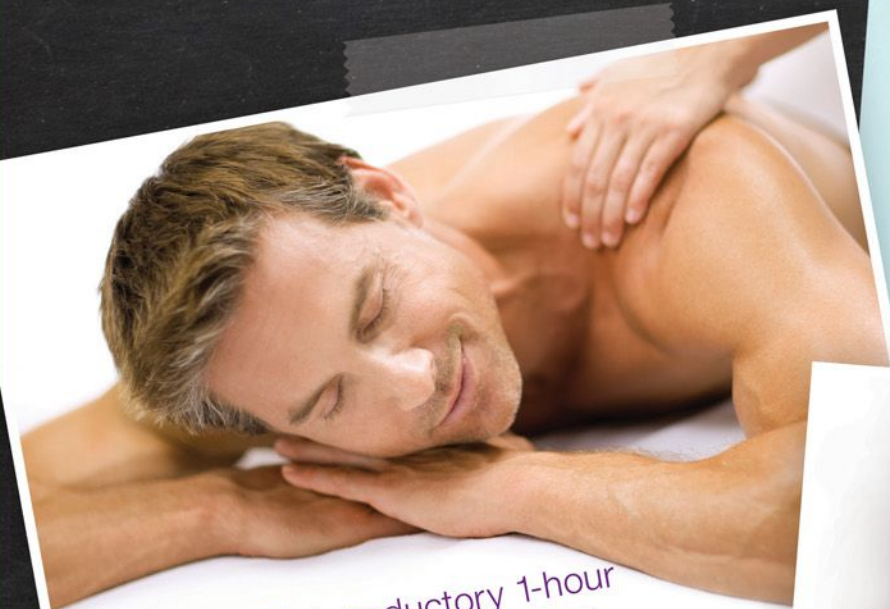
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# Building a FAMILY

— By Angel Morris

*When Mike and Pam Bartis decided to make their home in Ferris, they didn't just build a house — they built a family. For this Ferris couple, being close to extended kin in the city where Pam grew up was an important way to ensure their own children had a support system for life.*

"Pam was born and raised in Ferris. I, on the other hand, have lived in several areas, the result of being the son of a

salesman," Mike explained. "Settling down and being so near family all the time was a bit of an adjustment, but now I cherish it."

Mike came to Dallas in 1983 from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to become a police officer. A fellow officer introduced him to Pam, whose father was a sergeant with Dallas Police Department at the time.

The couple married in 1985 in the church Pam grew up in — First Baptist Church Centerpoint — where they remain active today, with Mike serving as a deacon and church treasurer. They lived briefly in Dallas, but soon agreed it was time to put down their roots.

"I was used to being in the country, and Mike was nice enough to indulge me. So we began to look for land," Pam explained. "Mike wanted rolling hills and a babbling brook, but he got a pasture instead."

When Mike and Pam met with an architect in 1996, they threw at him all of the things they were looking for in a house, and this is what they ended up with. Mike served as general contractor on the home, which features four bedrooms, three baths and about 2,500 square feet of living space.

"The home was completed in 1997. We did a lot of the







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childhood and their now-grown daughters' dolls, as well as other special mementos. The dining table they found in Canton compliments an antique running board and stained-glass window pane hung on the wall. "Everything doesn't have

work ourselves, with help from some family members. Pam stained the kitchen cabinets herself," Mike noted. "We both like openness, so all of our common areas have tall ceilings. We also love wood antiques, so those can be found throughout our home," Mike said.

Sitting on a beautifully landscaped 1.25-acre plot, the Bartis' home welcomes guests with dining and living areas directly off the foyer. In the entry, a special glass case houses ceramic casts of their two daughters' hands made at different stages of their lives, along with other keepsakes.

The dining room features another curio holding a stuffed animal from Mike's



to match. We just choose things we fall in love with," Mike said.

Wood floors throughout the home tie rooms together, and antique pieces — from refinished trunks to a shovel used by Mike's grandfather in a World War II-era gunpowder factory — give the home a traditional feel.

The master bedroom is a blend of antique furniture, heirloom quilts and a hand-stitched prayer from a childhood Sunday school teacher, along with other special family photos. An office showcases a large rolltop desk and other special keepsakes, which include a framed flag that was in a plane their nephew flew over Iraq during combat. Silhouettes of Pam and daughters Megan and Malorie,



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all traced by their respective second-grade teachers in Ferris schools adorn one wall.

Updated kitchen counters are a more recent addition, matching the outdoor cooking station that houses Mike's grill — The Big Green Egg. The home's exterior is always a work in progress, with a 1,400-square-foot stone patio and several water features out back.

"This area is really special to us. We have family right next door and down the street, and the patio is where we come together for community dinners," Mike said.

Pam has worked for Oncor for 12 years and loves her job. Prior to that, she worked in the telecom industry and for the Canadian Consulate in Dallas. Mike has served DPD more than 31 years in several areas — patrol, detective, fugitive apprehension and currently serves in traffic enforcement as a motorcycle officer. Their daughters, Megan and Malorie, are both nurses.

Mike's latest role with DPD sparked a new hobby for the couple: motorcycle travel.

"We waited until our girls were mostly grown, but now we love traveling on motorcycles — well, Mike drives, and I ride," Pam said. "We ride with a motorcycle group in Duncanville. We have been to the Hill Country several times, as well as Colorado, Georgia and Arkansas, and we look forward to more travel once we retire."

In the meantime, Pam will continue as secretary for the local cemetery board of Ferris Memorial Park, a position she has held for 20-plus years, and remain busy assisting Malorie to prepare for an October wedding. Malorie and her future husband plan to make their home in Ferris, and Megan is not far away in Palmer.

"Family is important to us, so we live next door to Pam's sister and her husband



and their two kids. We also live down the street from her mother and father's house, as well as an aunt, uncle and cousins," Mike said.

A wall of family photos, particularly those featuring Pam's father while he was still alive, serves as a reminder of exactly why the Bartises decided to put down



roots near so many relatives. "When my dad was diagnosed with cancer, Malorie really wanted to have photos made with the whole family. It is special to have these pictures from when Dad was still feeling well and we were all together," Pam said.

Still recovering from the family patriarch's death last November,

the Bartises have found solace in one another's company. "Their grandfather's death opened their eyes to the importance of family bonds and the significance of spending time together," Mike said.

"Now, no matter where their lives may lead them, I think this will always be home base — the city where they grew up and went to school. A place where everyone looked out for one another," Mike added.

And while they have an ongoing list of things to spruce up around the house, Pam and Mike are pleased with the home and family they have built. "When all is said and done, this land and this house, sure it's pretty and it's nice, but it doesn't really matter if your home is a castle or a lot less. What matters is that you build it around family," Mike said. "What matters is that you make a lot of good memories — and we have here." **NOW**

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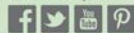
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# AQUATIC ADVENTURE

— By Randy Bigham

*Nature lovers know the peace that water brings to any pastoral setting, whether it's the babbling brook of the wilderness or the trickling mini-waterfall of a terrace garden. But what can be more soothing or fascinating than a koi pond? With its colorful varieties of Japanese carp darting among rocks and plants, this touch of nature transforms any backyard into an oasis.*



"Ponds have become increasingly popular recently," acknowledges letsbekoi.com, the online face for this Waxahachie-based fish and pond supplier. "They can be preformed, hand-dug, made from stock tanks, on your patio, even indoors. With so many options, you can make yours as simple or elaborate as you wish."

Koi ponds, as an addition to your water garden, not only create a tranquil environment but ensure years of refreshing enjoyment for the whole family. There are how-to guides for installing koi ponds, available in print and online, and serious garden lovers prefer the do-it-yourself approach. But if you're like most homeowners, you're not a landscape designer or even a seasoned gardener. You will, therefore, likely opt to buy ready-made pond and waterfall kits. It's an expedient route to a beautiful result, yet it pays to be informed.

Whether choosing a local contractor or a national chain to implement the water garden of your dreams, you should acquaint yourself with the process. You should also know how best to address issues from building ordinances that might impede your project to the proper maintenance of the pond, its plants and fish.







## Do you really want a pond?

Before making a decision between a pond or water feature, consider the significant difference. A koi pond will require dedication to upkeep, which a water feature won't. "Ponds are miniature ecosystems with plants, animals and microorganisms working in harmony to achieve balance," explains a how-to

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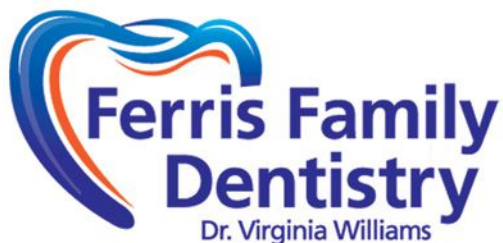
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page at Lowes.com. "Ponds are alive and require different care; all need to be circulated in the summer and aerated in the winter."

By contrast, a water feature merely sets off the water with decorative elements like a fountain or a lighted waterfall. They are as low-maintenance as a gardener can get. You just switch it on or off.

### **What to know before you build.**

Before your landscaper or contractor lays out your koi pond, consult the local code enforcement department. There may be laws restricting the depth of your pond or access to it, and you'll need to be prepared to meet those or other requirements. Ordinances may also mandate fencing types, a building permit or an inspection of the site before and after construction. Finally, call 811 free of charge to request that all gas, electric, phone and cable lines be mapped out for your safety.

### **Collaborate with your builder.**

You may want to hire either a landscape designer who specializes in gardens and pools or an independent contractor. But you can also pick one of many construction companies that now perform the excavation and initial cultivation of koi ponds.

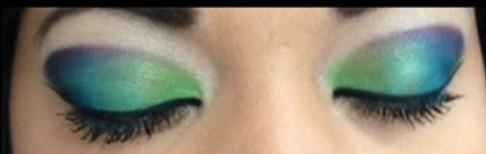


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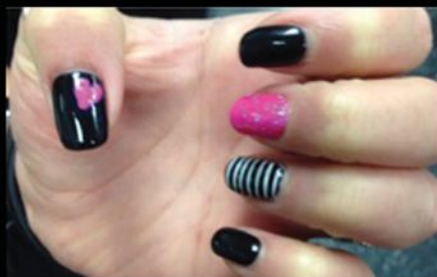
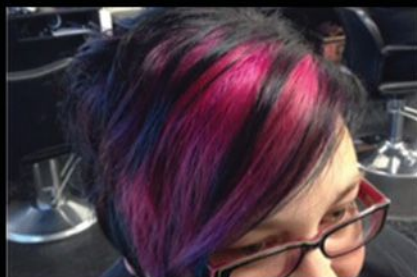
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Work from architectural drawings or images of your builder's former projects or provide your own vision for the size and layout of the pond. Incorporate highlights of your existing garden, for instance a gazebo or arbor, into the scheme. Decide with your builder on the kind of stone to be used for pathways around your pond.

Perhaps you'll want a small, rustic terrace constructed nearby so guests can admire the carp whizzing to and fro. A grotto or other forms of recessed seating along the path to the pond are attractive ideas for individualizing the addition of a koi pond to your garden.

## Select the location.

Choosing the perfect site for a koi pond is key to reducing maintenance while optimizing safety and enjoyment. Make sure the pond is built lower in the surrounding landscape, but not so low that runoff threatens the pond with fertilizer or other lawn chemicals. The pond should sit in an area that receives four to six hours of sunlight. A location fully exposed to the sun will cause issues of overheating and algae accumulation. Placement in full shade will prevent water lilies and other plant life from prospering.

Your builder will need to network with a licensed electrician to ensure safe placement and service for a pump and filters, decorative lighting and other amenities. The pond should also be constructed within access of water hoses and sprinkler lines.

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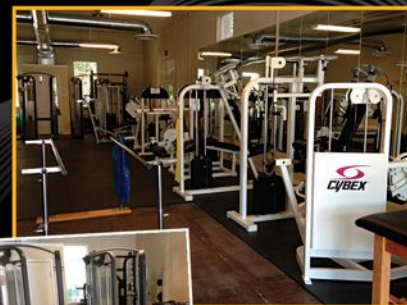
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## Protect your fish.

The bright colors of koi that attract the admiration of garden lovers also draw predators like cats, raccoons and birds. Ponds should have a section deep enough for koi to hide in and ledges that are high enough from the surface to prevent animals from attacking. Nets covering the pond are sometimes suggested to keep away predators.

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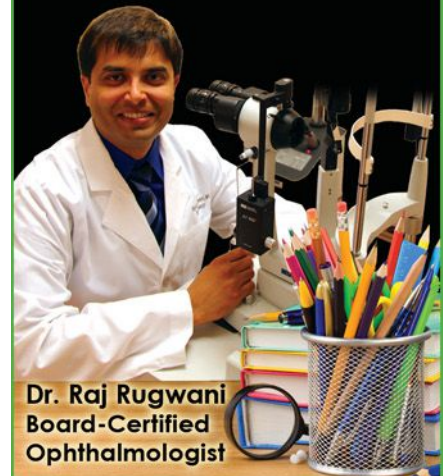
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## More Than Just Stuff

*Owners mesh faith and love to build their dream business.*

— By Angel Morris

Unique custom furnishings, home decor and gift items barely describe the inventory of Red Oak's JuStuff Creations, where customers find "an eclectic mix of rescued and repurposed items." Much like the owners, JuStuff's stock inspires enthusiasm and creativity. "We look for finds we love, bring them here for some TLC and share them with people we hope love them as much as we do," co-owner Maya Culwell explained. "Our goal is to succeed, but not by way of a big paycheck. Our goal is to bring value to the life of each person who walks through our doors."

Maya and her co-owner, Cindy Iverson, are self-proclaimed workaholics, but find joy in that drive. A move from the

corporate world to becoming shop owners has been a growth process. "In March 2013, we both found ourselves unemployed. What was at first devastating has turned out to be the best day of our lives," Cindy explained.

Just shy of one year after being laid off, Maya and Cindy "stepped out on faith" and opened JuStuff Creations. "We wanted freedom over our time. We wanted to use our creativity. We just couldn't see ourselves going back to our old lives," Maya said.

Cindy had 25-plus years of experience in accounting, and Maya 20 years in all aspects of education. In hindsight, they agree they wasted too much time on their jobs.



"We let work consume us and missed out on a lot with our families. When we ignored God's little nudges, He took the matter into His own hands and shoved us in a new direction," Maya said.

Six months into their new business venture, the ladies know self-employment also requires an incredible amount of time. But this career path, they believe, is one with greater purpose. "I have learned that His design for life is not in how many hours I work, but in the relationships I'm building while I'm here, and how everything I do is a reflection of His love," Cindy said.

Cindy primarily oversees restoration or refinishing of furniture with colorful paint jobs, while Maya hunts treasures to repurpose. Books, candles, collectibles, frames, jewelry and "a little bit of everything else" fill the store. The latest trends in anti-aging products from Nerium are also sold here.

"Cindy paints things in colors she likes or will take custom orders. We're also available to paint and design on location," Maya noted. "I do some painting, custom jewelry, gift baskets, and I move things around in our displays constantly."

While Cindy and her husband have lived in the area for 12 years, Maya and her family moved to Red Oak two years ago. Maya was the one who stumbled on the space that would house their business. "I had been praying for the Lord to lead our steps, open a door and let us recognize that door. I drove by this place, called about it and discovered it was within our means," Maya said.

Close to schools and new businesses coming to town, the location seemed logical, and Cindy and Maya jumped at the chance to begin their dream job. Today, they invite you to come in and experience the happiness that radiates between the love of their work and their wares.

"We have many new items, but we also love repurposing things others might think have no value," Cindy added. "We simply don't see junk — we see what could be and how beautiful something might become!" **NOW**

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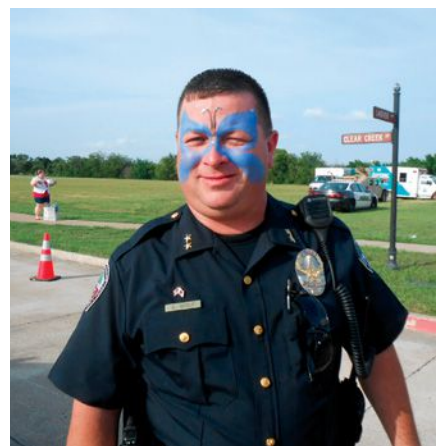
Aaron Wilson, of Tracey's Resale Shop, displays some of the store's Texas treasures.



The flower girl and maid of honor strike a patriotic pose following the Ellis County wedding of Tony and Crystal Garcia.



Charity Jenkins crosses the finish line of Red Oak's White & Blue 10K Run.



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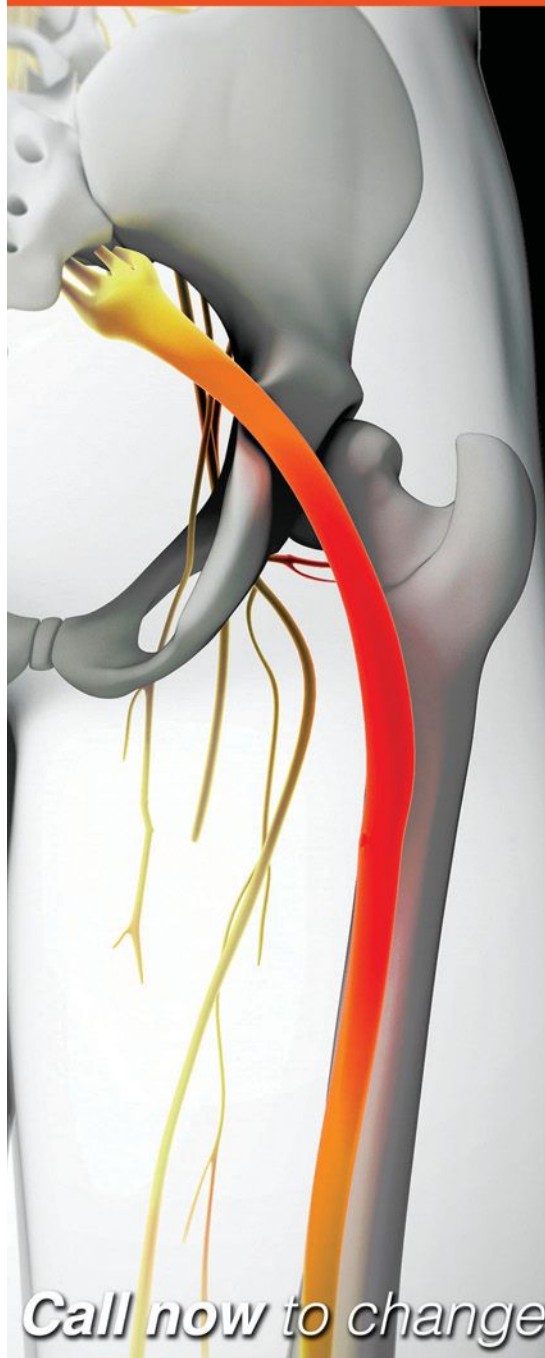


The Frazier family takes on Times Square during their summer vacation to New York.



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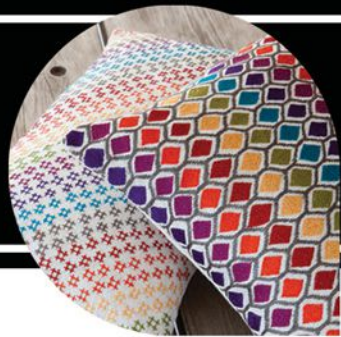
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# Mass Trouble

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

We are so scientifically advanced that we can now tell by a simple mathematical formula how overweight we are. A look in the mirror doesn't quite tell the entire story. The body mass index (BMI) measures body fat based on your height and weight. The score can be used as a screening tool to determine weight categories that may indicate your risks of developing diseases and conditions associated with being overweight or obese, such as premature heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, type 2 diabetes, gallbladder disease with gallstones, breathing problems, high LDL cholesterol, osteoarthritis and some cancers. BMI discussed here is regarding adults. The criterion used for children and teenagers is age and sex specific for them. The BMI for adults does not use age or sex.

The BMI formula is weight in pounds divided by height in inches squared x 703 or weight (lbs.) / height (in.) x height (in.) x 703. If the formula is a bit complicated for you to calculate, you can go online and any number of websites will do it for you. A safe website operated by the National Institutes of Health that will safely calculate your BMI is [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/BMI/bmicalc.htm](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/guidelines/obesity/BMI/bmicalc.htm).

## Your BMI categories:

18.5 or less	Underweight
18.5 to 24.99	Normal Weight
25 to 29.99	Overweight
30 to 39.99	Obesity

In interpreting your score, the higher the number, the more elevated your risks are for health problems. Here are some things to consider when taking note of your number: The BMI weight measurement consists of body fat and muscle. This can skew the results for some people. Usually older adults have a greater concentration of body fat than younger adults. Women, on average, have more body fat than men. Athletes have more muscle mass, whereas sedentary individuals have less muscle mass. Because of the increased muscle mass, trained athletes will have a higher BMI.

Since a look in the mirror and only one test on body mass cannot give you the whole story, it is wise to consult with your physician for guidance in these matters. However, if you are overweight, you can avoid many of the diseases by simply losing weight. Again, your doctor can assist you in the best plan for your health. Weight is only one part of so many debilitating diseases and disorders that interfere with the quality of life. Your physician will perform tests specific to you and order other tests as he deems appropriate to accurately determine your risk. **NOW**

*This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.*

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### Through August 22

Glenn Heights Youth Summer Food Program: 8:45-10:00 a.m. (breakfast) and 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (lunch), Heritage Community Park, 400 E. Bear Creek Rd.; 8:30-9:45 a.m. (breakfast) and 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (lunch), Gateway Park, 1900 Gateway Blvd. Future Leaders, Inc. provides free, nutritious meals to children 18 years old and younger or to the physically or mentally disabled **Monday through Friday**. Contact Stephanie Hale at (214) 315-6559.

### August 4, 11, 18, 25

Mommy and Me: 10:30-11:30 a.m., Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. An organized time of music and instrumental play for toddlers and their parents.

Hot Yoga Community Class: 5:45-6:45 p.m., Dynamic Yoga for Love Studio, 558 Bluebird Ln., Red Oak. Beginner to advanced levels welcome; modifications offered for various body types and ages. Donations accepted. Visit [yoga4love.net](http://yoga4love.net).

### August 7

Local Author Group: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Museum Room, Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. A discussion/critique group run by local author Donald Horne.

### August 8

Movies on the Square: 8:30-11:30 p.m., downtown Ferris. Bring your chairs and blankets for this community show.

### August 9

Uniform Exchange/Sale: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Red Oak Intermediate, 401 E. Ovilla Rd., Glenn Heights. Exchange items should meet Red Oak ISD dress code and be in good condition. Items exchanged one-for-one or purchased at \$2 each. ROISD Student Nutrition, Transportation and After the Bell representatives will be on-site. Haircuts, school immunizations, and dental and vision screenings available. An ID is required to receive services. Contact Donna Knight at (972) 617-4658.

### August 10

Pit Stop Friday: 7:00-10:00 p.m., Pit Stop BBQ, 3921 S. Hwy. 287, Waxahachie. Call (214) 949-3817 or email [aofabc\\_musicfest@yahoo.com](mailto:aofabc_musicfest@yahoo.com).

### August 14

Ovilla Christian School First Day of Classes: Visit [ovillachristianschool.org](http://ovillachristianschool.org) for start/dismissal times by grade level.

### August 18

Book Club: 7:00-8:30 p.m., Red Oak Library, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Email [sandyg@aircanopy.net](mailto:sandyg@aircanopy.net) for this month's book selection.

### August 25

Ferris and Red Oak ISD First Day of School: Visit your campus website for start/dismissal times via [ferrisisd.org](http://ferrisisd.org) or [redoakisd.org](http://redoakisd.org).

### August 27

Chamber Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Networking opportunity for businesses. Members with reservations \$12; members without reservations \$15; non-members \$20. Contact [chamberassist@redoakareachamber.org](mailto:chamberassist@redoakareachamber.org).

### August 30

Back-to-School Extravaganza: 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Harvest of Praise Ministry, 2603 S. Hampton Rd., Glenn Heights. Live deeJay, games, food and drinks, and free school supplies. Certain identification required. Contact Alfrida McCoy at (972) 230-1154.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [angel.morris@nowmagazines.com](mailto:angel.morris@nowmagazines.com).*

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## In the Kitchen With Heather Francis

— By Angel Morris

Feeding people is Heather Francis' love language. "I joke at work that if I've fed you, I love you. My girls have picked up on that and love to bake for others, too," Heather explained.

With five children, Heather always has assistance. "We have a lot of fun in the kitchen. I especially enjoy baking for my students and team at Southwestern Assemblies of God University and for our junior high group at The Oaks Fellowship," Heather noted.

The Francises also assist at Royal Family Kids Camp for foster children. "We help with a giant birthday party and make seven or more cakes a year," Heather said. "It is wonderful working together in the kitchen for such a great cause!" **NOW**

### Great-grandma Kinder's Pumpkin Bread

*Clipped from a newspaper so long ago, this recipe calls for the bread to be baked in an old coffee tin!*

- 3 1/2 cups flour**
- 2 tsp. baking soda**
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 3 cups sugar**
- 2 cups pumpkin, packed**
- 1 cup corn oil**
- 2/3 cup water**
- 1 tsp. nutmeg**
- 4 eggs**

- 1.** Grease and flour 2 bread pans.
- 2.** Mix first 3 ingredients; add sugar.
- 3.** Gently beat the pumpkin, corn oil, water and nutmeg. Add eggs, one at a time.
- 4.** Make a well in the flour mixture; pour in liquid. Stir by hand until moistened.
- 5.** Bake at 350 F for 1 hour.

### Pecan Halves

- 1 egg white**
- 1 Tbsp. water**
- 1 lb. pecan halves**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**

- 1.** Beat egg white and water till fluffy; stir in pecans.
- 2.** Combine sugar, salt and cinnamon; pour over nuts.
- 3.** Pour mixture onto greased cookie sheet; bake at 300 F for 35-40 minutes.
- 4.** Mix nuts around cookie sheet every 10 minutes until cooking time is complete.

### Pecan or Raisin Tarts

- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 eggs, beaten**
- 1/2 cup butter, softened**

- 1 tsp. cornstarch**
- 1 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1 cup raisins or pecans**
- 1 pie crust**

- 1.** Mix first 5 ingredients together; add raisins or pecans.
- 2.** Grease muffin tins.
- 3.** Roll out pie crust; cut into small circles to fit muffin pan. Line muffin pans with pie crust; fill each muffin halfway with mixture.
- 4.** Bake at 350 F for 20-25 minutes.

### Mini Cheesecakes

*Cheesecake:*

- 3 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened**
- 5 eggs**
- 1 cup sugar**

*Topping:*

- 8 oz. sour cream**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1/4 cup sugar**

*Optional Garnishes:*

**Cherries, strawberries or cherry pie filling**

- 1.** For cheesecake: Mix all ingredients together. Line muffin pan with cupcake papers; fill each muffin cup halfway. Bake at 350 F for 20 minutes.
- 2.** For topping: Mix together all topping ingredients; top each cheesecake with 1 tsp. topping. Bake for another 5 minutes.
- 3.** Garnish with cherries, strawberries or cherry pie filling if desired.

### Goopy Butter Cookies

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted**
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened**
- 1 egg**
- 1/4 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 yellow cake mix**
- Powdered sugar**

- 1.** Heat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** In a medium bowl, cream butter and cream cheese. Stir in egg and vanilla. Stir in cake mix.
- 3.** Roll mixture into balls; roll balls in powdered sugar.
- 4.** Place balls on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10-13 minutes.
- 5.** Transfer to a cooling rack and sprinkle with additional powdered sugar.



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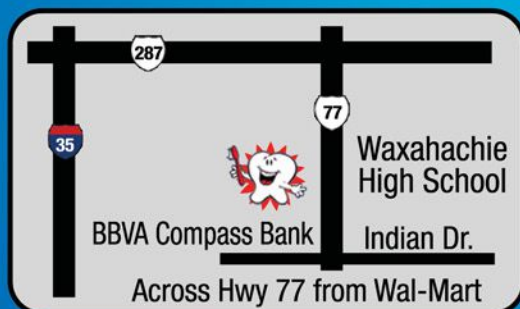
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