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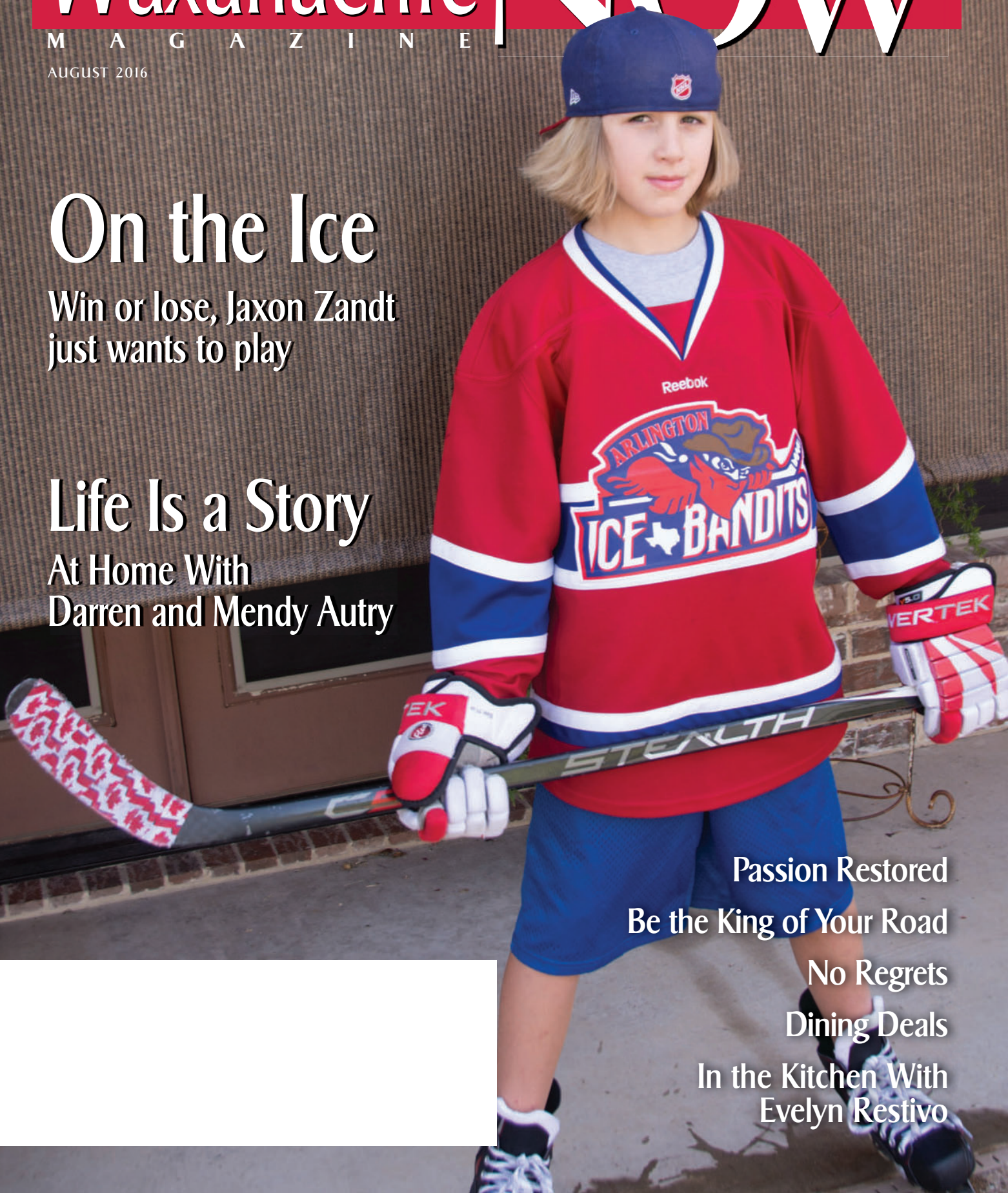
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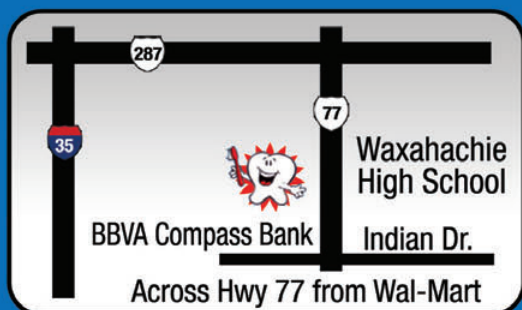
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Betty Tryon . Donnielle Tyner  
Zachary R. Urquhart  
Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony

## GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

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Artists, Kristin Bato . Morgan Christensen  
Martha Macias . Brande Morgan  
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## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose  
Photography Coordinator, Amy Ramirez

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## ON THE COVER



*Jaxon Zandt is  
always ready to skate!*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).





## Editor's Note

*Let the school bells ring!*

As schools across the city resume for classes later this month, we need to be mindful of the crosswalks, the dedicated crossing guards and the students who will be returning for another year of valuable education. If you're anything like me, I tend to be a bit more relaxed in the school zones during the summer months than any other time throughout the year. But, I quickly whip myself back into compliance as soon as I see the school buses and the students with their heavily loaded backpacks.

This year, my oldest grandson will be starting pre-K. As his granny, I have mixed emotions. I am proud of how excited he is to be a "big boy" starting school, but I'm sad at how fast my "little monkey" grew up in what seems to be a blink of an eye. As he embarks on his educational journey, I look forward to hearing about all the new friends he's going to make, as well as the new stories he will, no doubt, share.

Enjoy learning as you go!

*Sandra*

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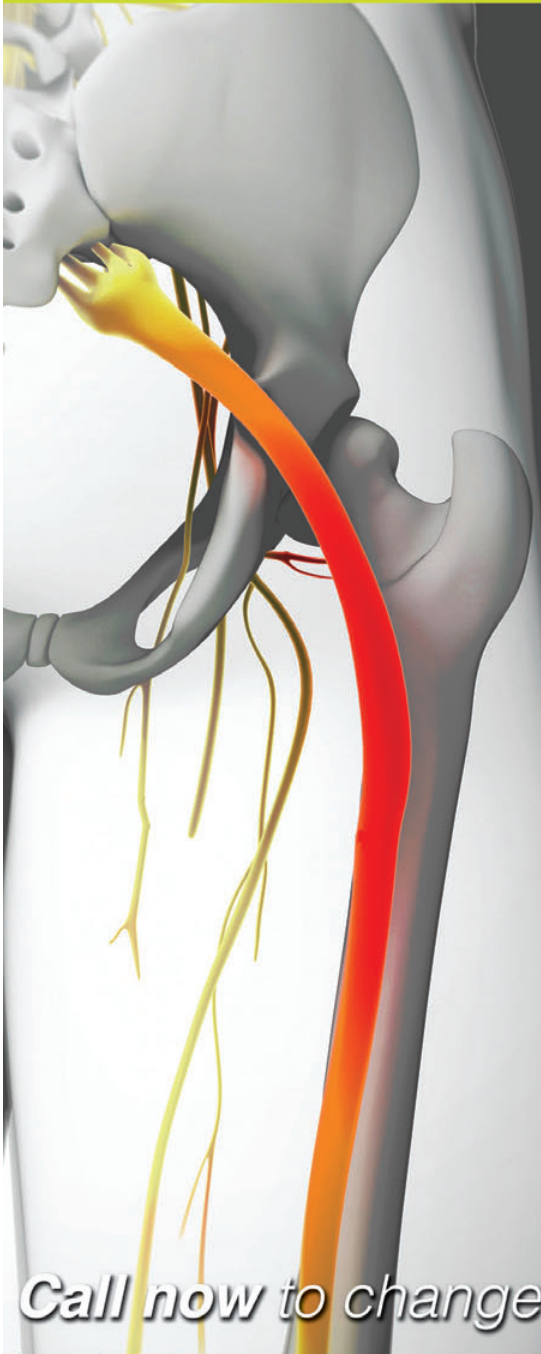
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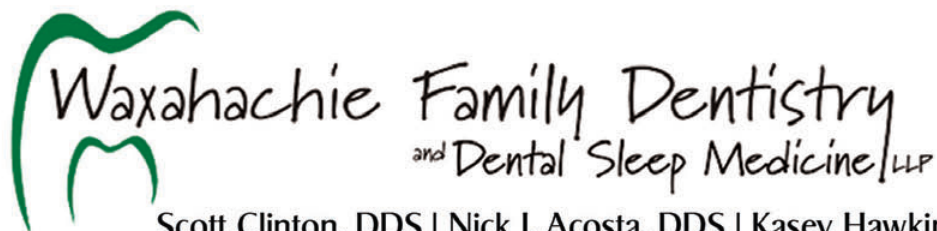
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# ON THE ICE

— By Sandra Strong

*For 10 years, Jaxon Zandt has been packing everything he can into life. Like most young boys, and much to his father's delight, he started playing baseball at a very young age. In fact, baseball was his sport of choice until he attended his first Dallas Stars hockey game. "My grandmother, MeMe Tibbits, gave me tickets for my birthday. We had seats right on the glass," Jaxon said with excitement. "I knew before the game was over that I wanted to try ice hockey."*

On the way home that evening, all Jaxon talked about was being able to try. When he returned home, his dad, Erick Zandt, turned the TV on so they could watch the game they had just seen in person. "Since we were so close to the action, we were looking to see if we had been captured on camera," Erick said. "While watching, a commercial for the Dallas Stars Little Rookies Program came across the screen. The four-week program was free, and they provided all the equipment — the skates, the pads and the hockey sticks — all the gear we did not have at the time."

Jaxon quickly signed up for the program and, just as quickly, realized ice hockey was the sport for him. The Plano organization, where he first took to the ice, said he would need to complete further skating classes in order to master the sport. Following his short time in Plano, his mom, Jennifer Zandt, signed him up for an ice hockey

camp at The Parks Mall in Arlington. "The coaches in Arlington saw Jaxon's abilities the first time they saw him take the ice," Erick recalled. "They wanted him as is. He started playing with the Arlington Ice Bandits at the age of 7." The Arlington Ice Bandits is a team within the Dallas Stars Metro Hockey League.

That first year, as Jaxon took to the ice as an Ice Bandit, the team lost all their games but one. Jaxon didn't care. He loved to play, and all he wanted to do, win or lose, was to be on the ice. "I fell in love with it," he said. "I don't even mind the practices. I could stay on the ice all day if my parents would let me."

The camp and the encouragement from his family and the Arlington coaches took Jaxon's natural abilities to the next level. From age 7 to 9, Jennifer was the taxi cab that took him to and from practices each week. In March 2016, Erick took over. "In





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the beginning, it was hard for me to transition from baseball to ice hockey,” Erick admitted. “Not so anymore!”

The stats show Jaxon’s steady improvement over the years. At the end of the 2015 spring season with the Ice Bandits, he had scored 18 goals and had 42 assists. Not bad for a young boy not yet 10. Jaxon also plays with a traveling select team, The Wichita Falls Wildcats. “I don’t practice with them,” he explained. “I practice and work out on my own. I just show up to play in tournaments with them.” The first tournament was in February in Odessa, Texas. The team took the championship.

Jaxon loves winning, but he also enjoys being on the traveling team,





## "MY PASSION IS ICE HOCKEY."

because he considers the games he plays with them to be "mini vacations." "He likes to stay in hotels and eat out," Erick added with a smile.

Being flexible and able to take direction from the coaching staff is important in any sport. Being flexible in ice hockey can make a player a commodity, as is the case with Jaxon. He has the ability to play all of the positions — left wing, right wing, center, left defensive man, right defensive man and goalie. "I spend most of my time on the ice playing defense," he admitted, "but I have played them all."

"He is comfortable bringing the puck up the ice," Erick said. "He sets it to one of the offensive players for an assist, but many times, he will make the score."

Thinking back on the most recent season, Erick and Jaxon looked at one another and started laughing. The story



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they recalled was one of sweet justice. “We were playing a game in Plano against the coaches who said Jaxon wasn’t ready,” Erick explained. The first time the Ice Bandits played the boys from Plano, they lost 46-0. This particular game was for the always coveted Mites Level Stanley Cup. “They won the championship after beating the Plano team 8-3. It was sweet redemption!”

Jaxon will never forget how good the game really was. “The first time we played them, they just kept scoring points and scoring points,” he stated. “With about 8 minutes left in the championship game the score was 3-3. The Plano team seemed to give up, and we took over.” When the Mites Level Stanley Cup was passed around among the teammates, Jaxon gave it a long hug, and he has the photos to prove just how elated he and the rest of them were with the win.

There are many seasons in ice hockey, regardless of whether Jaxon is suiting up for the Ice Bandits or traveling near and far with the Wildcats. May through July is considered the spring season. The fall season, from September through April, is longer and provides more games, thus more competition. In the off months, Jaxon can still be found practicing on the ice in Arlington or in the street near his home.

He even got to take to the ice in New York City during the family’s Christmas vacation in 2015. They had gone to Madison Square Gardens to watch the

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game between the New York Rangers and the Ottawa Senators. Each time someone scored, the outside of the arena would light up, letting those outside know who had scored a goal. Each seat in the section Jaxon and his family were sitting in had its own personal TV screen, bringing them as close to the action as possible. For Jaxon, this and skating at Rockefeller Center were dreams come true.

He will always remember what his baseball coach told him years ago when he was faced with the decision to play or not play multiple sports. "During a team meeting, he told me to find my passion," Jaxon said. "My passion is ice hockey."

Jaxon, now 10, started his ice hockey journey with nothing but a strong desire. Now, he has all the equipment necessary to handle his nickname: The Enforcer. He plays on two teams, and each team has two uniforms. His awards are many, but he doesn't skate for the awards and the notoriety. "The game is all about the team and my time on the ice," he confessed. "There's nothing that I don't like about it." **NOW**

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"Let's go!"  
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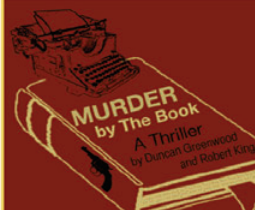
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# PASS RESTO

— By Debbie Durling





*Award-winning, community theater actress Brianna Roberts has found a home in Waxahachie. Her success in securing roles in the surrounding community theaters has only solidified her determination to pursue her dreams.*

Growing up in Houston, Brianna was surrounded by farmland, horses and the great outdoors. She can recall the long horseback rides through the many trails dividing the various properties that surrounded her home. Nature was her audience, as the breeze carried her songs through the pastures. As long as she can remember, singing in church was part of her life. A member of her church loved her sound and recorded a demo CD for her to use for auditions. Acting in the plays was also an activity that developed her love for theater. "I was a whimsical



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kid,” Brianna said. “I would put on a Frodo cloak and become other characters.” She knew she wanted to do something on stage somewhere, and her parents were always supportive of her dreams.

Late in her teen years, she decided to embark on an adventure that took her to a foreign country to do missions work. What was supposed to be an experience that would reinforce her sense of adventure and desire to be a blessing to others became an ordeal that tried to rob every ounce of confidence from her being. After a year of trying to get through a difficult and depressing situation, Brianna finally returned home to the support of her family and friends. However, performing on a stage was far from her goals, as she was simply trying to recover from the blow to her self-esteem.





Enrolling in Southwestern Assemblies of God University brought her to Waxahachie. This was the beginning of her "confidence comeback." She took a second missions trip with the university and had a wonderful experience. Being chosen as a Residential Assistant in the dormitory gave her an opportunity to work with other women who were either going through difficulties or just needed someone to counsel them through the daily trials of life. She performed in short skits, and began to be comfortable on stage again. All of these experiences helped get her on the road to recovery from the difficult year she spent abroad. It was also here that she met her husband, who is extremely supportive as she pursues the dreams in her heart.

Then, in 2013, she found Waxahachie Community Theatre and auditioned for a role in *Cinderella*. It was a big step, but she conquered her insecurities and was cast in the role as a stepsister, which she auditioned for. She met many wonderful people who encouraged her and helped her grow. Again, her passion for the performing arts was ignited. She was awarded the WCT Spotlight Award for Best Supporting Actress for her performance, but most of all, she gained friends and coaches who would continue to enrich her life and talents.

That same year, she was cast in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and, later, got the lead role in *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*. "Waxahachie Community Theatre had made such an impact on me that I wanted to stay here and make this my home town," Brianna recalled. The theater has really made her feel connected and introduced her to people who have become some of her dearest friends. She has now branched out to other theaters

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in the area including those in Ennis. Her most recent role was in Theatre Rocks! performance of *Cabin Fever*, a tragicomedy about a family's disastrous Memorial Day weekend at a cabin in the Texas Hill Country.

Brianna smiled as she recalled some of her more challenging roles. She was cast as a woman who was recovering from a nervous breakdown in *I'll Be Back Before Midnight*. Most of her roles have been musical and whimsical. This role took on a more serious nature in which she really had to reach for the melancholy side of life. *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward took a lot of determination and mental focus, as she memorized the wordy British script.

Her most cherished role was when she was cast in *Ruthless* at the Ennis Public Theatre. It was a musical that featured five women. She was cast as a 1950s housewife who discovers she's got talent and transitions into a Broadway diva. "The five of us really connected and became close friends. It was sad when the show ended," Brianna added.

After graduating with a degree in digital media arts, she worked as part of a production team. It was challenging, and she learned a lot. However, she realized she was not passionate about it. So, she began interviewing to work at talent agencies in Dallas. Before long, she found herself in an interview with Linda McAlister Talent, an agency based out of Waxahachie. Brianna heads up the film and television department at the agency and represents actors based in Texas. As she began to work with actors and find them roles, she realized a true passion that had been there all along. She finds fulfillment in helping others pursue their dreams.





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Brianna is so glad she “stepped out” and did *Cinderella* back in 2013. “I would encourage anyone who has ever had even a little inclination to try out for community theater to go for it, no matter how unqualified or ‘normal’ you may think you are.” She added that it’s easy to look at other people and think, *Wow, their life is amazing. I wish I could be/do what they are doing*, but when you are looking at people in a spotlight, whether on social media, in a magazine article or in a literal spotlight on a stage, you are only seeing a highlight of their life. “We are all normal human beings who struggle with confidence and finding who we are,” she admitted. That is the thing she likes most about being in media and community theater — people are from all walks of life, and they are in the process, many times, of discovering who they are. “Putting yourself out there and working together with other people for one goal will build lasting memories and friendships,” she advised, “but you might just find a little piece of yourself along the way.”

It’s easy to see that Brianna has a passion for more than theater. What could have been a situation to end her influence and charisma turned out to be just a detour that has inspired more zeal, as she seeks out the best in others and helps catapult them into their dreams, while still pursuing her own. “I know God gave me these abilities and passions for a reason,” she said, “so I’m striving for how I can use them for Him in the process.” **NOW**

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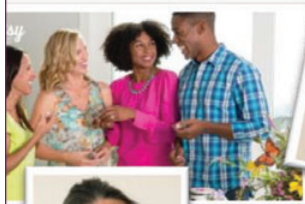
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# Life Is a Story

— By Donnielle Tyner



*At Home With  
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*Each choice and every action writes a sentence in our life story. For Darren and Mendy Autry, their romance began with a lost key. After dropping off their belongings in the dorms, Mendy and her roommate went to play welcome games at Dallas Baptist University. During one of the games, they realized their key had gone missing and approached a classmate for help. He directed the girls to another upperclassman who was assigned to work the event. "That man eventually became my husband," Mendy gushed, with a great smile. "The poor man has been taking care of me ever since."*





Darren and Mendy, as well as their daughter, Emi, believe their deep family history is an integral part of their lives and home. This deep history is a large part of their story. Spread throughout the home are past memories of lives well-lived and memories still in the making. Their Craftsman-style home with Tudor influences was built in 1926, and since then, the floorplan has been expanded twice. Throughout each renovation, the owners have kept the historic charm intact.

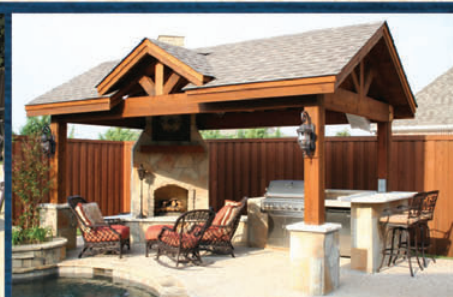
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original to the home, creak with age, and the decor sets the tone and atmosphere for the rest of the abode. With furniture dating back to the early 1900s, which Mendy's great-grandmother bought after she first married; a baby dress displayed on the wall that was handmade by her grandfather's mother; and little treasures shown throughout the room — there is an obvious reverence for history that nobody can ignore.

One such treasure, so small it could be overlooked, is a slip of paper no bigger than a dollar bill, but to Mendy it holds a dear story. One day while she was cleaning out a box, she found a handful

of railroad bonds, a type of tax for the citizens of Kentucky, which her mother's parents had kept. "My family keeps everything. They know I save everything, too, so they bring me their treasures," Mendy confided.

The upstairs portion, added in the '60s, contains a guestroom decorated with family hats and chairs hand-stitched by Mendy's great-grandmother; a small bathroom, which features a child-sized bathtub from the Kohler's "mommy and me" fixtures; and a study with many treasures of its own. Both Darren and Mendy use the study — Darren, as a home office, and Mendy, as a home

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library complete with properly shelved books, many of which were gifts from family members. A folded Arkansas state flag takes up a significant section of the shelving unit. The flag was a gift the state gave Mendy's great-grandmother on her 98th birthday. Tucked away in another corner is a typewriter from her grandfather's college days. A framed copy of Darren's family's induction into the Texas First Families list takes its place of honor next to the desk. But Mendy's favorite spot — the window nook — holds memories of her 11 nieces and nephews as they "borrowed books" and climbed up onto the shelf to read.

Downstairs, the dining room holds another special piece from Mendy's family story — a sparkling silver tea service. In the 1950s, her grandparents, while visiting New York City, signed up to be guests on a game show and got picked. Her grandmother won the silver tea service, as well as furniture and a canoe. "They eventually traded the canoe for a house," Emi added.

When the Autrys moved into their home, they wanted to apply for a historical marker, but the home's construction date was unknown. With no history on file, Mendy learned to research documents on their property. "I ended up finding the original deed and the mechanics lien detailing where the materials came from and their cost. I was surprised to learn that it was the wife who had originally bought the plot. That is so unusual for the time, and I often wonder why. It's so fascinating," Mendy stated with reverence. Now Historic Waxahachie offers direction to researchers.

Since purchasing the home, the Autrys have restored some areas and have added







on a new section in the back. With each addition, they tried to use as many reclaimed period pieces as possible to keep the home historically accurate. In the kitchen, the original 1920s design didn't have any cabinets, so the couple looked at another house from the era and installed historically accurate counters.

The upstairs TV room, or what Mendy calls "the great compromise," is a part of the new addition. "She wanted a large master closet, and I wanted a TV room," Darren explained. Although this room isn't original to the house, it holds its own share of stories. Mendy's grandfather used to take her antiques, and tucked away in one corner of the room is one of the first items she ever bought — a trunk. "My grandfather told me that I could take home anything I bought as long as I didn't pay what they were asking. I had to go with my money and haggle for it. I learned a big life skill," she reminisced.

In the 1930s there was an empty lot sitting between the Autry's home and the neighbors. Eventually, it was split between the two homes, giving them a large backyard ready to be made into a family oasis. With the new remodel, they added a pool, a stone patio and a fire pit. Although the new additions are modern, the Autrys took extra care to make sure that the great pomegranate tree, almost as old as the house itself, was included in the plans. They purposely built the addition and the outdoor patio area to encompass the beautiful tree.

"Everything in our home has a story," Mendy stated. "I love being surrounded by the richness of history." Darren, Mendy and Emi share the story of their history in every room of their home, and each day they write a little of their own family history to share with future generations. **NOW**



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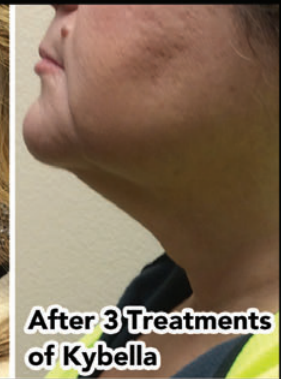
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— By Zachary R. Urquhart



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## The Manual

• *Read it.* While your owner's manual may not be an exciting read, it is important to have a general idea of what it says. The manual will tell you what type of bulbs, fluids, tires and components to use for many of the jobs you can do on your own. It includes when to perform oil changes and other routine maintenance.

• *More than oil.* The manual will also list intervals for things like changing spark plugs, timing belts and other maintenance that often goes overlooked. Though you could neglect them and never have problems, these services are highly recommended and will help ensure your vehicle performs at its best.



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• *When to change oil.* Car lube stations put a little sticker on your car's front window to encourage you to change your oil every 3,000 miles, but that is probably more



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frequent than your car actually needs. Most vehicles today can run at least 5,000 miles without needing a change, and some can go well over 10,000 miles before they need oil, so you should check your manual for the specific mileage.

• *Know your driving habits.* Make sure you are changing your oil based on the type of use your car gets. Stop-and-go driving, as well as driving in dirty or dusty areas, will mean you need to change the oil more frequently than optimized, highway driving requires.



• *“W” means winter.* The numbers that identify oil indicate how viscous the oil is, and how well it flows in cold and warm temperature tests. 10W-30 is considered the standard oil, but many modern vehicles require oil with alternate viscosity levels. Verify your car’s preference in the manual, and then tell the shop. Otherwise, they will probably just use 10W-30.

• *Weigh the cost.* Synthetic oil holds up better, but it is costlier. Most oil companies offer blends, especially for higher-mileage vehicles, at a cost that may or may not be worth it. If you are not sure whether the extra cost is worth it, there are online forums for almost any specific make and model of car, where you can read the experiences of people with your same car.



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## Caring for and Changing Your Tires

- *Check the pressure.* Changes in temperature will almost assuredly change your air pressure, as will any time you hit a curb or pothole. Even a car sitting for an extended period in the garage may lose enough pressure to need more air. Conversely, your tires may increase in pressure in the hotter months, so be ready to take air out as well. A tire lacking in air often looks flat, but a tire that is overinflated looks a lot like a normal tire, so always use a gauge, not just your eyeball.

- *Look with your hands and eyes.* If you notice any deviation in what should be a smooth, round shape, you might need a new tire. Tires start with a depth of 11mm, and need to be replaced when they reach 3 mm. But when checking depth, make sure to check the inner portion of the tire, which is often much more worn than the outer edge.



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- *Rotating is essential.* Your tires need to be rotated every 6,000 to 8,000 miles. This is possible to do yourself if you have the proper equipment, but there are plenty of inexpensive locations where you can have your tires balanced and rotated. Most tire shops will include lifetime tire rotations, either free or for a nominal fee, when purchasing new tires. And if you happen to be installing two new tires instead of four, make sure the new tires are in the rear of the vehicle, which gives the most stability, especially in wet conditions.



## Taking Care of Your Brakes

- *Pay attention to warning signs.* Unless something catastrophic happens, your brakes are not likely to stop working completely, but many components in your braking system wear down over time. If you hear your brakes making a squealing, grinding or any sound that is loud enough to hear over the engine, you may have an issue. In addition to sounds, you may notice your car wobble or shake when braking. In any of these instances, your best bet is to take your car into a shop to check components. It is wise to use an ASE-certified mechanic. Look for the blue seal indicating automotive service excellence before having work done on your vehicle.



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## *New Manager Steve Fuller transforms Kwik Kar Ennis into a complete auto repair facility.*

Professional, convenient vehicle maintenance services have been the hallmark of Kwik Kar Ennis. Lately, customers are turning to Kwik Kar for the inevitable repairs every car requires. When Steve Fuller began managing the store this summer, he and owner Ray Dikun dedicated Kwik Kar to providing Ennis with outstanding automotive care performed by honest people at fair prices.

Steve manages a crew of ten who work on vehicles in four ultra-clean bays that are double deep. Half of those eight bays are dedicated towards maintenance, the other half toward repair. "My goal is to make each and every car that comes through here safe and well maintained," Steve said. His team will advise the customer when they see a problem while giving a health report card on your vehicle." When you leave here, your car will be ready for the highway, or you'll at least know what repair it requires."

Within the professional atmosphere at Kwik Kar Ennis, people relax while all repairs and maintenance are performed by men with expertise in various skill sets. Lead Technician Jeremy Featherston brings 17 years' experience to every vehicle he touches. Each hood tech has between 2 and 9 years of experience.

Steve is upping the ante, building on his team's strengths and encouraging prompt attention to each customer. He's developed a system so the service can flow. Speed is one thing Steve wants, but his main goal is for the team to notice everything about each vehicle. His 37 years' experience in this industry means he knows how to prioritize each customer's repair and maintenance decisions.

Thirty-nine years ago, Steve was an Ennis High School student and local football hero. He decided to take auto mechanics at Ennis High School to learn to fix his own car. His teacher, Phil Hughes, was a master certified GM technician. "I learned a whole lot and found I enjoyed fixing things," Steve recalled. "In my second year of auto mechanics, Phil said to me, 'I got a bunch of guys in this class, and if I gotta lay my money on anybody it's you. Are you going to go to college or turn this into a profession?' He helped me get my first job, at the Ford dealership here in Ennis."

Since then, Steve has worked for numerous dealerships in the DFW Metroplex. He's master certified, and brings to Kwik Kar a mellow, cheerful approach to dealing with people. Steve turns negatives into positives, keeping safety top of mind and explaining the preventive benefit of any repair he recommends. "I can explain every situation, if you want to listen," Steve said. "I can answer all your questions."

Staying level headed, promoting confidence in his customers, Steve has found that stress doesn't fix cars. He believes good health is one of the most important things a person can have in life. "I try to take care of myself, to eat right and exercise. I do a full physical every year," Steve said. He has found that just like our bodies, vehicles need comprehensive checks, as well.

Ennis can count on Steve's team to find issues before they become problems. You can rest assured that the clean, safe, family-owned Kwik Kar of Ennis will keep your car running right.



Steve Fuller, Manager; Jeremy Featherston, Lead Auto Technician; Nate Beazel, Assistant Manager Phillip Nobles, Hood Technician; Ray Dikun, Owner Kim Prachyl, State Inspector



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• *Deciphering the system.* The state of Texas has switched to a single sticker to track your car's registration and its safety inspection. While there are long-term benefits for the state and its residents, these first few years of implementation are proving to be slightly confusing. You will get your single sticker, if you have not already, when you register with the local tax office. In order to do that, you have to have a current inspection on file. Most counties will allow you to renew your registration online for an extra \$2, and the system will recognize whether your inspection is up to date. If you have not switched to the single sticker yet, just make sure to get a new inspection no more than 90 days before your next registration date.

You can never prepare for every situation you might face while driving your car. Following these tips, however, should prevent some issues and keep you and your family safe on the road. **NOW**

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Chris and Holly Oliver bring nearly 15 years of combined experience to the real estate business. They love what they do.



# No Regrets

*You get two trustworthy Realtors with The Oliver Team. — By Sandra Strong*

Are you thinking about buying your first home, or are you ready to put your existing home on the market? Whether you're buying or selling, The Oliver Team can be your most important asset. The husband and wife team of Chris and Holly Oliver bring nearly 15 years of combined real estate experience to the table, thus making them invaluable when it comes to helping others decide upon one of the largest expenditures of a lifetime.

Chris was already established in the real estate business when he met and married Holly. At the time, she was an educator who soon learned that changes needed to be made if they were ever going to get to share the quality time together they both desired. "We took a leap of faith," she said as Chris smiled at her and nodded his head in agreement knowing that their strong faith in

God was what prompted the leap. "The partnership at work and at home has worked out for us from the start because God has been in the center of both."

"Yes, we are incredibly blessed," Chris added. "We do everything together. We are as busy as we want to be."

As a self-proclaimed 24/7 team, Chris and Holly readily admit they love what they do. What they accomplish as a team brings two trustworthy agents to the table on each and every transaction, whether it be a walk-through for an appraisal or for the final meeting where papers are signed and home ownership begins. "We've met so many different people," Holly said. "There's been a professional comedian, as well as many local and out-of-state people."



"We work with clients from all walks of life, both in the buying and selling processes," Chris added. "Younger couples are starting a new chapter in life, while older couples are in the market to downsize after retirement."

Chris and Holly agree they are currently working in a "seller's market." In Ellis County, January 2016 had the highest median sales price at \$216,000 and the lowest number of days on the market for a property at 32 days, which was the best in over 10 years. "The values of homes have increased," Chris explained further. "This increase makes it a seller's market." But, it also still looks good for those shopping for a home, as interest rates have remained at a low.

*"We've made some really great friends, but it's really all about building lasting relationships."*

Working together as husband and wife is unique in any field, but as a real estate team, Chris and Holly are able to bring both perspectives to the table. They each have their point of view on all aspects of the real estate profession. Clients are able to listen to both in order to make educated decisions. At the end of the day, Chris and Holly know they have been able to kick several ideas around in order to help their clients make the best decisions. "We never want the client to leave with what we call 'money on the table' or to feel like they didn't get the best deal," Chris stated. "We don't want them to have any regrets at the closing table."

The most rewarding aspect of what The Oliver Team does involves people — people who become friends by the time the buying or selling process ends. "Clients leave such positive, lasting impressions on us, and at the end of the day, we pray we are able to do the same for them," Holly shared.

Chris agrees wholeheartedly. "We've made some really great friends, but it's really all about building lasting relationships." **NOW**

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*Sandra and David Yowell and Harper, Russell and Ashli Clark pose for the camera as they wait for the fireworks show to begin.*



*Cassandra, Amber, Rebecca and Dablia Gomez pose with Violet the goat at the Farmers Market.*



*The Chautauque Assembly float is a crowd favorite during the annual Independence Day Parade.*



*McKayla Woodward, Maisyn Palmer, Jordan Palmer and Curtis Palmer enjoy family time and a meal at Cotton Patch.*



*Lola Mackey serves granola with sauteed pecans and plums to her afternoon customers.*



*George Bowden and his grandson show off George's hot rod while stopping by Jerry's Tires & Wheels.*



*Glenn Smith celebrates his 85th birthday with his son, David Smith, KBEC radio personalities, friends and well wishers.*



*Tina Bohlman and Shawn Davis, both with the Ellis County Art Association, serve attendees during the Sip and Stroll event held in historic downtown.*



*Meg Fisher recently celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends.*



*Sherry Dyess was crowned the Crape Myrtle Queen for 2016. She is pictured with several of the past queens and others in attendance during the annual luncheon.*



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## Teaching Children to Save and Invest



Teaching children a few simple lessons about saving and investing can get them off to a great start toward a secure financial future.

### The Importance of Savings

The lesson is simple — if you want something, you have to save for it. Talk to your child to find out what it is that he or she wants, then work with your child on how to save for it.

Give options for reaching a goal. If your child receives an allowance, talk about saving all of the allowance for a certain number of weeks versus saving half of it for twice as long. This teaches your child to view his or her options and make informed decisions about how to manage money.

### The Value of Investing

Once your child has learned how to save money to achieve his or her goals, it's time to talk about how to earn money through interest accumulation. Learning about the benefits of compound

interest should encourage children to invest their money in income-producing securities.

A good first step to moving from the piggy bank to the stock market is a simple savings account. As your child's savings grow with money from babysitting or other first jobs, you may want to introduce other investment vehicles, such as mutual funds. Consider opening a custodial account for your child under the Uniform Gift to Minors Act (UGMA) or the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) or start a matching program, similar to a 401(k) plan where you match every dollar your child invests. Don't forget the importance of educating children about the market risk involved when investing in mutual funds, including possible loss of principal.

### Staying Involved in the Process

Most children look to their parents as a primary source of financial information. This makes it important for you to stay involved with your child throughout the learning experience with investments.

Take the time to go over your child's bank or mutual fund statements with him or her. If investing in a mutual fund account, show your child how to look up the value of his or her funds online.

### Being a Good Role Model

You can talk to your child about investing until you're blue in the face, but chances are good that he or she will not pay close attention to the subject unless you're following your own advice. Take a moment to speak to your child about investing in the future. Then, contact your local finance agent to create a financial plan that is right for you and your child. **NOW**

*Adam Rope is a State Farm agent based in Waxahachie.*

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## A Sick Tooth

— By Betty Tryon

With your hand gingerly laid across your cheek and a grimace of pain on your face, you've just made the universal signal of a toothache. In the course of a lifetime, most of us experience a toothache at one time or another, whether the pain is from early childhood when teeth are growing, sensitive teeth in adulthood, foreign matter lodged in teeth, trauma to a tooth and/or an abscessed tooth. One thing is for sure: an aching tooth will not be ignored!

If the origin of the pain is from growing teeth or objects that become stuck between them, the situation can usually be resolved without medical intervention. However, an infection or periapical abscess that occurs at the root of the tooth needs the attention of a professional. An abscessed tooth is an infected tooth caused by a bacterial infection. Tooth decay is a major cause of the infection. Gum disease or some type of trauma to the tooth can set up the scenario for an infection to develop.

The most overwhelming symptom is pain. The pain can be sharp, throbbing or persistent and gnawing. There can be swelling of the face, fever, a foul taste in the mouth, sensitivity to the touch on the outside of the face and a feeling of malaise. If you have any of these symptoms, you need to be treated. If you begin to have difficulty breathing or swallowing, go to an emergency room right away. An infection in your mouth needs to be treated,

or it will just get worse and cause additional problems — even death. According to *Journal of Endodontics*, over 400,000 people have visited emergency departments because of infections in their teeth.

The first step in lessening the pain and beginning eradication of the infection is to drain the pus or the abscess. If the tooth can be saved, a root canal or endodontic surgery will be performed. If the tooth cannot be saved, it will be pulled. You may also be prescribed antibiotics for the infection.

Neglecting your teeth increases your chances of not only dental abscess but gum disease. Limit your intake of sugary foods and drinks and in-between meal snacks. Brush your teeth twice a day, and don't forget to floss! Replace that frayed toothbrush every three months. An old toothbrush cannot do the proper job of cleaning. A fluoride and/or antiseptic mouthwash may aid in giving you extra protection. Above all, visit your dentist regularly. It may add to your expenses, but having your teeth cleaned is a lot cheaper than treating an abscess and restoring your tooth. **NOW**

### Sources:

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0099239910007971>

*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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### August 2, 16, 30

Ellis County HEALS support group meeting: 6:30 p.m., 408 Water St. The group hopes to connect with survivors of suicide loss in Ellis County, while giving them a safe place to share their struggle and pain. For more information, email [elliscountyheals@gmail.com](mailto:elliscountyheals@gmail.com) or follow them on Facebook.

### August 6

Downtown Sidewalk Sale (Tax Free Weekend/Back to School): downtown Waxahachie.

Dallas Patriots Fall Baseball Tryouts: 10:00 a.m., 7U-13U; 12:30 p.m., 14U-18U. For more information or to register, visit [www.dallaspatriots.com](http://www.dallaspatriots.com).

Mt. Peak Cemetery Annual Ice Cream Supper/Fundraiser: 6:00 p.m., cemetery grounds, FM 875, Mt. Peak. Ice cream, hot dogs and cold drinks will be sold during the event. Attendees are encouraged to bring a cake or baked good for the auction that begins at 7:00 p.m. There will be activities for the whole family.

### August 7

Dallas Patriots Fall Baseball Tryouts: 12:30 p.m., 7U-13U; 3:00 p.m., 14U-18U. For more information or to register, visit [www.dallaspatriots.com](http://www.dallaspatriots.com).

### August 10

100th Birthday Bash Celebration for Meg Fisher: 11:30 a.m., Grand Reserve Senior Living Apartments, 133 Park Hills Dr. Everyone attending is encouraged to bring a "potluck" dish. The management will be providing the birthday cake. For more information, call the office at (972) 937-1037.

### August 11

2nd Thursday Ladies Night Out: 5:00-8:00 p.m. Every month in downtown Waxahachie with participating merchants.

### August 12

Summer Moonlight Movies presents *Charlotte's Web*: 9:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie. Admission is free. Bring lawn chairs, blankets and bug spray. Concession stand on-site. For more information, call (469) 309-4111.

### August 13

Midlothian Texas Arrowhead Show: 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center. Admission: \$5, children 12 and under are free. For more information on vendor table prices, set-up times and lodging accommodations, call Harold Hughes at (972) 921-8555.

Trucks 'N Tunes: 6:00-10:00 p.m., downtown Waxahachie.

### August 18

Waxahachie Auction: 7:00 p.m., 212 S. Rogers St. For more details, visit [www.waxauction.com](http://www.waxauction.com).

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center, 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.wd5ddh.org](http://www.wd5ddh.org).

### August 27

Paws in Paradise: 6:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, Midlothian. Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased online, at the Ellis County SPCA shelter or at Grant and Weedon, CPA's office. Tropical attire is encouraged. Event includes a diner and silent and live auctions. Proceeds will go to benefit the Ellis County SPCA.

### September 13, 27

Ellis County HEALS support group meeting: 6:30 p.m., 408 Water St. The group hopes to connect with survivors of suicide loss in Ellis County, while giving them a safe place to share their struggle and pain. For more information, email [elliscountyheals@gmail.com](mailto:elliscountyheals@gmail.com) or follow them on Facebook.

### September 15

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center, 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. For more information, visit [www.wd5ddh.org](http://www.wd5ddh.org).

### September 17

Imperial Brass Pops Concert: 7:00 p.m., SAGU Hagee Center. Back by popular demand. For further details, visit [www.waxahachiesymphony.org](http://www.waxahachiesymphony.org).

### September 18

Bridal Extravaganza Market: Noon-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln. Admission: \$3. For more details, call (469) 309-4040 or visit [waxahachieciviccenter.org](http://waxahachieciviccenter.org).

### Ongoing:

#### Mondays

English as a Second Language class: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Sims Library. Learn English or come to brush up on your English-speaking skills. Free to the public.

Celebrate Recovery: 7:00-9:00 p.m., The Avenue Church, 1761 Hwy 77. For more information, call (972) 937-5301.

Celebrate Recovery: 6:30 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 2374 Hwy. 287 Bypass W. For more information, call (972) 935-9801.

#### First Mondays

Friends of Sims Library meeting: 10:00-11:00 a.m., library meeting room, 515 W. Main St. Newcomers are always welcome.

#### First and Fourth Mondays

Avenue Moms: 10:00 a.m.-noon, The Avenue Church, 1761 N. Hwy. 77. Register online at [www.events.theavenuechurch.com](http://www.events.theavenuechurch.com) or call the church office at (972) 937-5301 for more information.

#### Fourth Mondays

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 Grand Ave.

#### Second Tuesdays

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:30 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

#### Thursdays

Genealogy Research Assistance: 2:00-4:00 p.m., The Genealogy and Reference Department will be offering the tools needed to search for your ancestors. Attendees will be able to exchange information, share creative solutions, generate resources and solve these mysteries.

Junior Master Gardeners Club: 3:45-4:45 p.m., Sims Library. Club is for children ages 5-12. If you have an interest in gardening, come for gardening related activities and help maintain the Sims Library garden.

Buckout Arena Ministry: 7:00 p.m., Cowboy Church of Ellis County, 2374 W. Hwy. 287 Bypass. For more information, call (972) 935-9801.

#### Fourth Saturdays

Bristol Opry: 7:00 p.m., featuring local singers and musicians. For more information, contact Jim Gatlin at (972) 846-2211.

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



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## In the Kitchen With Evelyn Restivo

— *By Sandra Strong*

Evelyn Restivo grew up on a wheat farm on the plains of Oklahoma, so baking just comes naturally. Today, she enjoys experimenting with recipes and ingredients in the kitchen. “As a science teacher at Global High, I often find parallels in cooking and the chemistry lab. Many of the items I make now are modifications of family recipes I have developed through experimentation.”

While she lived in Tennessee, Evelyn taught short courses in cooking and cake decorating, and while in Georgia, she shared her baking and cake decorating skills at the church she attended. “I don’t remember a time when I wasn’t in the kitchen,” she admitted. “My earliest memories start with measuring — a handful of this, a finger of butter and a pinch of something else.” **NOW**

### German Beef Stew

- 1 1/2 lbs. beef stew meat, cut into 1-inch cubes**
- 1/2 cup butter (divided use)**
- 2 cups beef broth**
- 2 apples, peeled and shredded**
- 6 carrots, peeled and sliced into thin strips**
- 1/4 cup onion, diced**
- 1/2 cup sweet red wine**
- 1/2 cup plum or grape jelly**
- 1 24-oz. pkg. wide pasta noodles, cooked**
- Poppy seeds, to taste**

- 1.** In a large skillet, brown meat in 1/4 cup of hot butter. Add all remaining ingredients, except noodles and poppy seeds.
- 2.** Cover and cook for 1 1/2-2 hours, until tender. Thicken with cornstarch, if needed.
- 3.** Serve over hot and tender noodles that have

been tossed in the remaining melted butter. Sprinkle with poppy seeds to taste.

### Italian Pot Roast

- 1 2-3 lb. pot roast, 3-4 inches thick**
- 2 cloves garlic, quartered**
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil**
- 2 Tbsp. butter**
- 2 Tbsp. fresh, minced garlic**
- 1/4 cup onion, chopped**
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning**
- 1/2 tsp. thyme**
- 1/2 tsp. basil**
- 1/2 tsp. oregano**
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 tsp. pepper**
- 1 Tbsp. sugar**
- 4 6-oz. cans tomato paste**

- 3 cups water**
- 1 1-lb. pkg. angel hair pasta**
- 1 cup each Parmesan and Romano cheese, grated**

- 1.** Make slits in the top and bottom of the roast. Insert garlic quarters. Heat olive oil and butter in a large, deep pan. When oil is hot, brown roast on all sides.
- 2.** Remove roast, reduce heat and add minced garlic, onion and all the seasonings to the hot oil. Cook gently for about 5 minutes. Return roast to pan. Mix tomato paste with water. Pour over roast and bring to a full boil. Lower heat, cover loosely and simmer 2-3 hours until desired tenderness, making sure to turn roast occasionally.
- 3.** When meat and sauce are thickened, cook the pasta. Remove and slice roast, placing it on a serving tray. Drain pasta and place in a shallow dish. Cover with half of the sauce. Take a fork in each hand and lift the pasta several times, so the sauce runs through and coats it.
- 4.** Place the pasta around the roast. Pour remaining sauce over the pasta and roast. Sprinkle with cheese and serve.

### Dark Beer Steak Sandwich

*Serves 4-6.*

- 1 lb. flank steak, thinly sliced**
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**
- 1 cup dark beer or ale**
- 1/2 cup butter**
- 2-4 large center slices of onion**
- Comstarch, if needed**
- 1 Tbsp. creamy horseradish**
- 1 cup sour cream**
- Sour dough or dark rye bread, thickly sliced**
- Paprika, to taste**

- 1.** Place steak in shallow dish. Coat with spices and cover with beer. Allow to marinate 1 hour at room temperature or overnight in the refrigerator.
- 2.** Remove meat from marinade. In a skillet, brown on all sides with melted butter. Pour marinade over browned meat.
- 3.** Add onion slices. Cover and simmer until meat is tender and marinade becomes somewhat thick, or thicken with comstarch, if needed.
- 4.** Mix the horseradish with the sour cream. Place some of the meat and thickened marinade on a slice of bread. Top with sour cream mixture. Sprinkle with paprika. The sandwich can be open-faced or a second slice of bread can be used to make a traditional sandwich. Bread may also be buttered and/or toasted.



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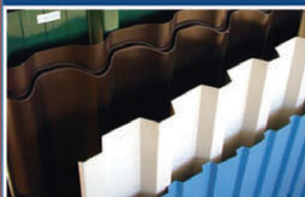
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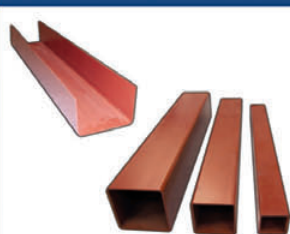


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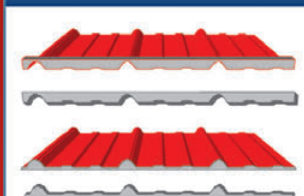


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