

# Waxahachie NOW

M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 2011

## AFTER THE STORM

Emergency response personnel devote themselves to aiding Ellis County families.

### Also Inside

Just a Little Love

Game On

Quality of Life

In the Kitchen

With Penny Haney

Giving Their  
Lion's Share

Pieces of  
Porcelain  
Dreams

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Judd and Jedd DeJong  
share in some  
backyard fun.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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## Editor's Note

*Go Indians!*

All summer long, we've watched and wondered. All summer long, we've been directed to slow down through the construction. It's been a long time coming and now that it's complete, I can honestly say it's been well worth the wait. What am I referring to? I'm talking about Stuart B. Lumpkin Stadium, the new state-of-the-art facility that can now be seen as a beacon throughout the community. It's the new home of the Waxahachie Indians football team; a home they're very proud of indeed.

As we celebrate the Indians, we also need to celebrate the promise of cooler weather as the first day of autumn makes its appearance on September 23. I don't know about you, but I'm ready for the cooler temperatures that don't zap my energy and burn up my flowerbeds. Cooler temps also mean a decreased electric bill — how many of us won't say "yahoo" to that?

*Sandra*

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# After The Storm

— By Randy Bigham

*As the Dallas division of the American Red Cross celebrates its centenary in 2011, the Waxahachie affiliate's busy staff and volunteers pause to reflect on their own contributions to providing disaster relief to communities near and far. Locally, the Red Cross aided victims of the January fire that destroyed three historic downtown structures, and has helped families recover from the July fire that devastated 300 acres of north Ellis County. But the office has also responded nationally, supplying emergency personnel to tornado-ravaged Alabama and Missouri. "It's been overwhelming this year," admitted Shelly Campbell, manager of the Red Cross' Ellis County branch. "From the [spring] storms to the flooding in Mississippi, we've been meeting the physical*

*needs of those who lost their homes and loved ones, while looking after the emotional needs of our workers who have witnessed the devastation."*

Jeannie McCarty, emergency services specialist for the Red Cross in Waxahachie and Corsicana said the group could not have performed its role without the over 70 area volunteers, who devote themselves to comforting those affected by tragedy, whether at home or out-of-state. "Our volunteers are the best, both here and throughout the organization," she said, "from the highest leadership levels to boots in the field."

Shelly agreed. "About 93 percent of the Red Cross is made up of volunteers. The crux of the whole organization is volunteerism."

This year marks another milestone for the Red Cross — the tenth anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. "Waxahachie volunteers will be part of the nationwide event to recognize and honor our first responders," Shelly said. "We have plans to present a new collectors' pin to honor those affected and those who served



“It’s very emotional  
helping families  
who have suffered,  
but it’s so rewarding.”







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on 9/11." A dedication to recognize the responders who played a role on 9/11 will be held at the Red Cross' 4800 Harry Hines command center.

"I was compelled on 9/11 to be a part of helping people cope and recover from disaster," Shelly explained. "I volunteered that week and started training." On that infamous morning, Shelly was at home in Rockett, safe and sound, but four



members of her family were on national flights. Her husband was traveling on business, her mother- and father-in-law had just left on vacation, and her brother-in-law was piloting the family Cessna. "They were all grounded across the country," Shelly recalled. "It took my husband four days to get home. So September 11 was a very scary day for me."

Working for the Red Cross restored her confidence. "The Red Cross is prepared," she said, "and being prepared relieves anxiety. We know where we are going to shelter people, how we are going to bring food in, and we meet quarterly to determine how to effectively deliver other disaster services."

Jeannie's involvement with the Red Cross is also a testament to its



efficiency. "I am a volunteer firefighter in Chatfield," Jeannie said. "It's an awful thing when the fire is over and you have to leave a family standing on the curb. That's where the American Red Cross steps in, and seeing that motivated me to join."

Shelly and Jeannie have been to hundreds of fires and other disaster sites over the years, and have learned to deal with each crisis on their feet, marshaling volunteers and supplies while quickly directing the 130-cot shelter trailer to wherever it's required. "It's very emotional helping families who have suffered," Shelly confessed. "But it's so rewarding."

That's particularly true in a season that has been so demanding for the Red Cross – currently over 40 disaster relief operations are ongoing nationwide. "Not since September 11 have there been so many," Shelly pointed out. With shocking losses on the home front, like Waxahachie's fire, work has only intensified. "That was a very traumatic fire," Shelly said. "We were on the square all day, providing breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as water and Gatorade, to the many first responders."


Jeannie and Shelly agree that peace of mind also comes from knowing they can rely on a solid network of other relief agencies in Ellis County through VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) — a partnering team made



up of RACES/ARES amateur radio, Salvation Army, Mark 9 Search and Rescue, Texas Baptist Men, Ellis County Christian Disaster Relief, Victims Relief, Texas Civil Defense and the Office of Emergency Management.


The women are proud of the work the Red Cross has accomplished over the decades, but especially during 2011, a record year for disasters internationally. Since March, on an anticipated budget of \$51 million, the Red Cross has launched 42 disaster-relief operations across 29

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### Chautauqua Assembly-September 24, 2011

- 12:30 PM Opening Ceremony
- 1:00 PM Ken Morgan, Ph.D. Director of Energy Institute at TCU  
Geology of Ellis County and Surrounding Area
- 1:50 PM WHS Jazz Band
- 2:15 PM Tommy Stringer, Ph.D. Navarro College  
A Short History of Oil and Gas in Our Region
- 3:15 PM Old Fashioned Singers
- 3:45 PM Nowell Donovan, Dean of Academic Affairs TCU  
Geology of our Region
- 4:30 PM Waxahachie Community Theater  
Mischief in the Magnolias  
by P.B. Rogerson
- 5:15 PM Panel Discussion on the pros and cons of the oil industry
- 6:15 PM Dinner Break
- 6:45 PM SAGU Jazz Band Performance

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Proceeds from this event will be used to install new exterior lighting which will enhance events held at the Chautauqua Auditorium.



states, has served 2.8 million meals, opened 260 shelters, funded 29,000 overnight stays, arranged 64,000 mental health consultations, distributed 1.3 million comfort kits and deployed 12,000 disaster relief workers from all 50 states.

Volunteerism is the focus of the Dallas chapter of the Red Cross' centenary theme "History Builds Tomorrow," and Shelly and Jeannie encourage residents to join the Red Cross and receive training at Navarro College for a variety of positions with the organization. "We have volunteers for every job," Jeannie said. "Volunteers can be part of the on-call team that responds to every single family that suffers a fire, storm or is displaced by disaster. They can be a volunteer instructor, coordinator or trainer, or they can be assessors who survey damages in the field and report back." Volunteers can also take CPR, First Aid and other lifesaving courses.

Donations are equally important, the women stress. "The most common misunderstanding is that the American Red Cross is a government agency," Shelly said. "We're not. We're 100-percent dependent on donations." Although guided by a Congressional charter, the Red Cross does not receive federal or state funds.

A special feature of the 2011 pledge drive is geared toward children and stars Piper the Puppy, the stuffed animal mascot for the Red Cross. "Kids often lose the most in a disaster," Shelly said. "And Piper can help. For a \$100 donation people can sponsor a child and their family as they recover from a disaster." Donations ensure the child has food, a cot, a comfort kit (containing toiletries), a blanket and a Piper to cuddle. Jeannie noted that those sponsoring the kids' drive will be notified when their Piper is delivered to a child who has suffered from a disaster.

"Whatever the need in an emergency, the American Red Cross is ready to help," Shelly concluded. A lifeline for people in the Dallas area since 1911, the Red Cross, with the continued help of volunteers and donors, will remain a vital player in making the best out of the worst for another hundred years. **NOW**

For more information on how you can help or volunteer visit [www.redcrossdallas.org](http://www.redcrossdallas.org) or call (903) 874-4551.





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Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>  
Howard Junior High  
7:00 p.m.

### HOMECOMING PARADE

Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>  
Downtown Waxahachie  
3:00 p.m.

### HOMECOMING GAME

Waxahachie Indians vs. Corsicana Tigers  
Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>  
Stuart B. Lumpkins Stadium  
7:30 p.m.

### EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON

Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Waxahachie Ninth Grade Academy  
11:30 a.m.

For ticket information, contact the  
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## Pink Out 2011: Indians Care Enough to Wear Pink

Waxahachie Indians vs. Lancaster Tigers  
Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>

Stop by any Waxahachie Fire Station and purchase your Pink Out 2011 shirt for \$12. Proceeds benefit the Dinah Weable Foundation and Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

Be sure to wear your shirt all day long and to the football game on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>! The City of Waxahachie has proclaimed Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> as "Pink Out Day!"







# Giving *Their* Lion's Share

— By Wendy Frazer

*A group of people are gathered for a light supper in the back of a bustling restaurant. On any other night, the casual diner might look over and see this group of mostly women laughing or busily writing notes in their day planners and surmise that they are gathering for a happy hour bite or possibly a girls night out. That would not be*

*the case here, because this group is on a mission.*

Jeanie Blake, the president of the Waxahachie Sunset Lions Club makes it known that her club is unique. "We are (on average) younger than most groups out there; we meet in the evenings, which gives our members another option; and the majority of our members are women." Since the Lions Club only began allowing female members in 1987, this statistic is significant. "I remember watching the president of the bank I

worked at leaving for meetings during the day," she recalled. "It was 'the man' thing to do."

The Lions Club was founded in 1917 by a businessman, Melvin Jones. This Chicago businessman saw a need for more service in his community and the world. His desire was to encourage other businessmen to see his vision. Within three years, Mr. Jones left his insurance company to devote his time to growing the organization he founded. Once the "Association of Lions Clubs" was in full force, a speaker at their 1925 convention





in Cedar Point, Ohio, challenged the Lions to become “knights for the blind in the crusade against darkness.” That speaker was Helen Keller. Since that day, the Lions have “worked tirelessly to aid the blind and visually impaired.”

The Waxahachie Sunset Lions, however, came together out of necessity. Charter members and founders, include Jeanie, Karen Butner and Misty and Cody McAskill. “There are so many of us

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who are unable to attend the noon club meetings. We had our core. Then Alicia Taylor joined and immediately brought in two more members, earning her the position 'membership committee.'" With the help of their "guiding lions," John Landrum and Dennis Anderson, both members of the noon club, and sponsors of the Waxahachie Sunset Lions, their group was officially chartered on August 23, 2010. Once the charter was in place, the founding members stepped into their rolls.

To ask Jeanie how she became president of their charter brings a chuckle to the table. "Oh ... well ... it's kind of like we just needed one ..."

Karen, the current secretary/treasurer, added, "Has your arm ever gotten untwisted from that one?" Everyone laughed warmly.

"We just needed a president, and everyone has a position that they do," Jeanie explained. "They needed someone to step up to the plate. Karen was actually doing so much ... everything."

To which Karen replied, "In *theory*," which brought a new round of laughter.

Every Tuesday, Jeanie and the members of the Sunset Lions meet at Cancun's restaurant in Waxahachie to strategize over where they will focus their





time and energy in the upcoming months. Their goal is simple – to plan one service project each month for their community. “This goal is not just reflecting of the Sunset Lions as a group, but as the Lions Club organization as a whole,” Karen explained. “We are very concerned with service at the community level. As Lions, we are part of Lions Club International, so we have service from state to national to international levels, but we are focused on our community. All service projects are very locally based in the Waxahachie and Ellis County areas.”

“We were challenged, at our charter night celebration, to work primarily with the elderly in our community,” Jeanie shared. This challenge has brought Jeanie and the other Lions in the Sunset Club to collect and distribute donated lap blankets and books for the elderly living in nursing homes. They also planned a blood drive in May and a lemonade and ice cream social in July. But their service is not just focused around the needs of the elderly.

Children hold a special place in their hearts, too. The Sunset Lions join forces with the Lions Club to volunteer for the annual Sports Extravaganza. This year it is being held the weekend of October 22 and 23 at Nimitz High School in Irving,

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Texas. "Since the Special Olympics exclude visually impaired and blind contestants," Jeanie explained, "the Lions Club holds their own sporting event specifically for the visually impaired and blind athletes." They are actively looking for volunteers for this event. Along with the Sports Extravaganza, the Lions collect coats in the fall for students who might not be able to afford them. They also collect school supplies during the month of August to help those children have a positive start to their school year.

The Lions Club's biggest community service is also part of their mission. Quarterly, they hold an eyeglass clinic to collect donated eyeglasses for redistribution to children and adults. Many people benefit from this service, and the Lions rely on these donated glasses to help with their "mission of providing vision for all." Their organization works from a community level all the way through an international level in conjunction with a program called SightFirst. The mission of SightFirst is to eradicate blindness in children and adults. Jeanie mentions there are many places where these donation boxes can be found: optometrist's offices, libraries, schools, community centers and churches or worship centers. Specific locations can be found by contacting the Sunset Lions or at the Lions Club's official Web site.

When speaking about the members of the Sunset Lions Club, Jeanie is appreciative and doting. "Everybody has contributed so much. I could not have done it by myself. I like the energy level we have here, too. It's a good age group." When asked how big she wanted her group to be, she answered without hesitation, "I want it to be very big. We are only a few months old and there are, definitely, great things to come. We have vision, and there is opportunity." With the amount of work, service time and dedication this group has, it is no wonder they are called Lions. Their spirit and drive is infectious; their level of commitment is inspiring; and their mission is honorable. **NOW**

For more information about the Waxahachie Sunset Lions, contact Jeanie Blake at (214) 773-7512 or membership committee chairwoman, Alicia Taylor, at [alicia.taylor69@yahoo.com](mailto:alicia.taylor69@yahoo.com). For further information about the Lions Club, visit their official Web site at [www.lionsclub.org](http://www.lionsclub.org).



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# Praying, Trusting and Believing

— By Sandra Strong



AT HOME WITH  
*DJ and Wendi  
DeJong*

*Although they both attended Southwestern Assemblies of God University in the late 80s, it wasn't until they took positions at the Presbyterian Children's Home that DJ and Wendi DeJong met. "Mutual friends set us up," they both said, almost in unison.*

Six months into their marriage, the couple opened their first home to eight foster children. "We had four boys and four girls," DJ fondly remembered.

"And they were all teenagers," Wendi added.

DJ and Wendi were actually married 10 years before they decided to have children of their own. After their two boys, Judd and Jedd (now 6 and 4, respectively), were born, upsizing seemed the most logical thing for the young

family to do. "But, I didn't really want to move," Wendi admitted. "I loved my home and my neighborhood." Even though she was adamant in her views about relocating, the family began to look at available homes. DJ and the boys came across what the boys considered the "perfect" home on one of these house-hunting excursions. "Judd started praying that we'd get the house with the playroom," Wendi said with a smile.

Soon Wendi agreed to put their first home on the market. "I finally had to admit that we needed a bigger home, so we priced the house as high as we could," she confessed, all the while hoping that no one would be interested in buying it. We all know how that story goes — it sold within three months.

When it came to looking for a new home, one thing Wendi desired most was the same kind of neighborhood she had grown accustomed to. "I wanted the neighborhood to be settled and stable,"





# dEJONG

she explained. "I like the idea that we've always lived in a neighborhood with a lot of retired couples." Now settled, they're happy to say they successfully found the neighborhood they were looking for when they decided on the home with the playroom. For Judd and Jed, it's been answered prayer — an answer they continue to enjoy every day.

Final papers were signed on the couple's second home in June of 2008, but the DeJongs didn't actually move in until three months later when the massive renovations were complete. "My parents had just moved here from Iowa," DJ said. "We moved in with them until we were able to move into the new home."

"Yes," Wendi laughed aloud as she remembered, "that was almost enough to cause them to return to Iowa."

DJ and Wendi's schedules for those three months were hectic, to say the least. After they returned from their full-time jobs each day and on most every weekend, they would work into the night trying to bring their new two-story, four-bedroom, three-bath home into the 21st century. With the tireless help of the 180 Center, the men's recovery group from the couple's church, Foundation of Life, new paint, crown molding and laminate wood floors took the place of dated wallpaper, carpet and linoleum. The fireplace was refaced and new colors were added to the home's exterior. Once a few walls were removed and additional



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counter space was added to the kitchen, the couple got the “great” room feel they desired when the renovations first began.

The second floor master suite, which was built by the previous owners, was also gutted and remodeled to meet the tastes of the DeJongs. A new coat of paint, new plush carpet and a balcony that allows Wendi a bird’s eye view to the boys’ outside play area below were added. “We had lots of blue in the old house,” Wendi said. “Since most of the downstairs is either a shade of green or a neutral color, I decided we had to have some blue in the master bedroom.”

Wendi, the self-proclaimed “bargain shopper,” is proud to say she gets a lot for a little, no matter what she’s shopping for. The laminate flooring and almost all the light fixtures were purchased at the Habitat for Humanity stores in Dallas and Garland. “I paid \$12.50 for that one,” she said, pointing to the glass and black wrought iron fixture in the kitchen. “I don’t pay retail for anything. I love garage sales, and Canton is my favorite place to shop.”

The dining table, the oversized table in the playroom and a United States flag from Iowa found their rightful place in the DeJong home. “DJ’s from Iowa,” Wendi explained. “These three items came from North Mahaska Elementary School, the school DJ attended.” DJ and Wendi heard about an auction the school was having, so they decided to make the trip and see what treasures they could find. “It was a 13-hour drive to Iowa,” DJ remembered. “We spent very little on the three items, but it cost a lot to have it all shipped back to Texas.” The stand the flag rests on was once a hat rack DJ made in

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his seventh-grade woodshop class at the  
same elementary school.

The one commonality found  
throughout the home is Wendi's use  
of black. The majority of the furniture  
in the dining area, the kitchen and the  
master bedroom is black. At first glance,  
it seems as if all the pieces come from  
the same set, but that's not the case. "I  
find what I like, bring it home and make  
it my own," Wendi said. "Black covers  
a multitude of sins." Black and white  
photographs are displayed, as well. They  
add a classic feel to the overall vintage  
style of the home's interior.

Judd and Jedd have rooms fit for the  
active athletes they are. The most special  
sign in Wendi's collection is found in the  
boys' bathroom. It's a street sign that  
reads, Clark and Addison. "I've always  
been a Chicago Cubs fan," DJ said.  
"Clark and Addison streets intersect at  
home plate at Wrigley Field in Chicago."  
DJ loved baseball so much that he named  
his boys after the street sign. "It's Judd  
Clark and Jedd Addison," Wendi added  
with a grin.

This past June, the family traveled to  
Chicago so the boys could actually see





their namesake. It was a great vacation. The boys were ready for school long before it started with their Chicago Cubs backpacks. It was also a time for DJ and Wendi to reminisce about their honeymoon. "We spent our honeymoon at Wrigley Field," Wendi stated.

"Hey, don't forget," DJ added, "you got to see Oprah!"

Praying, trusting and believing are important to the DeJong family. These three concepts have definitely worked for them. Just ask Judd and Jedd. They have the playroom to prove it, and given the opportunity, they'll tell you all about it. **NOW**



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# Pieces of Porcelain DREAMS

— By Sydni Thomas

*Ted Purcell was worried his wife would not do anything once she retired, but Charlotte already had plans to be busier than she'd ever been in her life. As a child she dreamed of a time when she would be able to fill her days with creating art. Before, retirement, work and family took up most of her time, but now her days are spent creating and teaching out of her home studio — when she isn't travelling like some jetsetter across the world to learn from other artists.*

Traveling is nothing new to Charlotte. Just a few years after their daughter, Mollie, was born, Texas Instruments transferred Ted and the family to Brazil. After a year of working there, they decided to stay another nine years as missionaries. Once they came home Ted encouraged Charlotte to finish her degree. She attended The University of Texas of the Permian Basin and earned a degree in art education. Certified to teach grades kindergarten through 12th, Charlotte began her long career as an educator. In 1998, Ted became the superintendent of Faith Family Academy (FFA), an art-focused charter school in Oak Cliff and Waxahachie. Charlotte also joined the family at FFA and taught art on both campuses in all grade levels. "Some people dislike their jobs, and they leave work at work when they go home," Charlotte said. "I loved what I did, and it always came home with me. It's a part of me. Even though I am retired, I'm still around to teach whoever wants to be taught."

As soon as she retired, Charlotte began planning trips. While she was away on one, Ted built her dream studio. He kept her up-to-date with regular blog entries about the struggles and triumphs he faced during the project. When she got home, she finally had a studio larger than their guest bedroom. Ted did





not hold back and installed everything she could possibly need for an artistic environment. He built an office, storage room and two bathrooms to accommodate the many guest artists Charlotte was scheduled to host. The main studio room overlooks the back of the property and is made almost entirely of large paneled windows. The view does not fail to inspire, and on the rare evening or weekend when it is just Ted and Charlotte, they prefer to work in the studio together. Charlotte pulls out her paints, and Ted types away on the computer on his latest piece of creative writing.



Many of the artists who visit the studio to teach are not local. Charlotte and Ted built an apartment where they house the artists during their stay. This summer, Charlotte had a full schedule of visiting artists including other porcelain artists and watercolor artists. "It's just a country place out here," Charlotte said. "We are at the end of the road and have no houses behind ours. It's kind of like an oasis compared to West Texas, where I came from."

Prior to 2006, Charlotte had not worked with porcelain painting. She worked with watercolors, pencil drawings and clay. Once she realized there was more to porcelain art than painting flowers on dishes, Charlotte became mesmerized with it. The Purcell home is filled with portraits Charlotte has been inspired to paint. Several large tiles are displayed in the entryway on a table

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and show off Charlotte's impeccable attention to fine details. A mother and baby panda look as lifelike as a photograph, the colors of the parrot portrait are as vivid as they are in the wild, and the water lilies radiate the warm



light of the sun reflecting off of them. "I love big art," Charlotte said. "When I found these tiles on a trip, I had them shipped back because I had not seen [any like] them before."

During a portrait class, Charlotte met world famous porcelain artist and Brazilian native, Filipe Pereira. She was one of only a few in attendance who could speak Portuguese, thanks to Charlotte's decade-long stay in Brazil





with her family. Her ability led to a lifelong friendship and mentorship. Later this year, Charlotte will be traveling to Portugal to celebrate Filipe's 50th birthday. "Working with Filipe is like working with Michael Angelo," Charlotte



said. "I am the apprentice. I put all of the color in the right places, and he [Filipe] comes back and does the finer details. He is fantastic!"

After meeting Filipe, Charlotte knew he needed to come teach at her studio. To get him there, she had to book him four years in advance. Once booked, she began planning her retirement around his visit. Students came from all over to hear Filipe and participate in the once in a lifetime event. During a four-day period, they painted over 50 pieces. Most spent at least four to eight hours a day in the studio working.

Charlotte has traveled outside of the United States twice since retiring to study under other artists. In March of 2010, she visited the art studio of her friend, Elena Caputo, in France. Then in June she went to Portugal, where she visited porcelain factories and took classes at Filipe's studio.

The subjects of Charlotte's paintings are usually someone she knows or a friend of a friend. She paints from photographs that inspire her. She has a cabinet filled with photographs and magazines in the studio just waiting to be transposed onto a piece of porcelain.

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"When I'm painting, I feel like the famous Vincent van Gogh quote that hangs in my studio.

*'I dream of painting and then I paint my dream.'*"

When painting people, she always starts with the eyes. For her, they make or break the artwork. They have to be lifelike and reflect the light.

Locally, Charlotte is active in the Ellis County Porcelain Art Club and the Dallas Porcelain Art Guild. She donates a lot of pieces to help raise money. In an effort to aid the Japan disaster relief, Charlotte donated several pieces to an art organization in the Deep Ellum art district in downtown Dallas.

Even with her own studio and classes she teaches, Charlotte still makes time to learn. Right now she is studying different mediums and the effects they create in porcelain painting. She is also studying the mixing of colors and how they change once they are fired in the kiln. For Charlotte, there is no time to slow down during her days of retirement. Each day is filled with newfound inspiration, gaining knowledge of new techniques and sharing her dreams through paint. "When I'm painting, I feel like the famous Vincent van Gogh quote that hangs in my studio," Charlotte admitted. "He said 'I dream of painting and then I paint my dream.' I say that I'm a teacher, but honestly, I'm still learning. Learning is something you never quit doing, especially when it's something you love." **NOW**



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# Just a Little LOVE

— By Randy Bigham

*A Southwestern Assemblies of God University (SAGU) professor is a family man in more ways than one. Married with three children, Darren Daugherty and his wife, Wendy, also have three foster children now. A total of 13 have been in their home, and he's currently adding several dozen to the mix through a program he has spearheaded to bring a sense of belonging to children who need*

*it most.*

*When Darren relocated to Waxahachie from Minnesota six years ago to teach courses in children and family topics at SAGU, he had a goal beyond preparing students for future employment. He wanted to give students the opportunity to be involved in impacting the lives of children who have been abused and neglected. Darren has been*

*and still is a volunteer for Royal Family Kids, a national, faith-based network dedicated to creating positive memories in the lives of abused, neglected and abandoned children through a week-long residential camp. "It was my dream to start a local Royal Family Kids Camp (RFKC)," Darren said. "And now we have one, thanks to the university and Trinity Church in Cedar Hill. It's*





been a wonderful partnership, and so many generous people have contributed to making this happen."

This summer, the group's first camp, made up of area children ranging in age from 6 to 12, was held on SAGU premises, and



the reception was euphoric. "They received a rock star welcome," Darren explained. "When they stepped off the bus, we had people cheering and waving big signs with the boys' and girls' names on them. The kids were so excited, since many of them have never been the center of attention like that before."

Besides conducting this annual camp, Darren hopes to see the addition of Royal Family Kids Clubs in the next two



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years. This would include other events for them in between the annual camps. "It will be a way to connect with our kids throughout the year," he said. "We'll be able to get together every month and watch their progress."



Right now, Darren is still counting his blessings that his ambition of bringing the organization to Waxahachie has come to fruition. He credits the university's Student Mission Association (SMA) with getting the ball rolling. "The SMA picks a project to raise funds for every year," he said, "and after I presented the idea last fall they said they'd take it on." And they did, presenting an initial check of \$17,500 to the burgeoning group in January. Already the local camp is making history. The Royal Family Kids Camp's South Dallas charter is the first to be established on the Dallas side of the Metroplex, and is the only branch backed jointly by a school and church. "We're a totally different model than the others," Darren enthused. "All other Royal Family Kids Camps are sponsored by a church only. To have SAGU involved is really special."

With a staff of 70 adult volunteers and counselors, the week-long camp got off to an emotional start in July when the first busload of 38 boys and girls from across Ellis, Navarro and Dallas counties pulled onto the SAGU campus. "It was touching to see the kids' reactions to





receiving a celebrity welcome,” Darren said. “They haven’t had much stability in their lives, and some have been in extremely difficult situations of abuse. This is why every child had his or her very own camp counselor throughout the week.”

After their high-energy welcome, the kids took part in activities that included games and crafts before assembling for a pep-rally style meeting called “Adventure Club,” during which positive messages were shared through puppet shows and skits. “The benefit of these gatherings for the kids,” Darren pointed out, “is they realize that even though they have felt very alone in their lives, there are a lot of other kids in the same situation and a lot of people who love them. It’s like a family.”

He stressed that for many of the youth the camp is the first time they have had the opportunity to feel like part of a family. As an example, volunteer “grandparents, aunts and uncles” supplemented trained counselors throughout the week, stepping in to demonstrate love in many different ways, including reading a book to a child or to tucking them in at night, experiences many have never had.

Other events enjoyed by the kids were a Fourth of July carnival and a talent show, but the biggest surprise for them was being whisked off to a Texas Rangers game. “It was fun to pull that one off,” Darren said. “We marched them outside, and they saw three limousines lined up, waiting to take them to the stadium. There was a pink limo for the girls and two white hummers for the boys. So they went to see the Rangers in style.”

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the baseball game was a surprise birthday party, thrown on the final night of camp. "We told the kids that since we wouldn't be with them on their actual birthday we wanted to help them celebrate it today." And celebrate they did. Walking into a beautifully decorated room with cake and an entertainer, kids each received gifts



distributed by the counselors. Despite the excitement of the moment, staff and volunteers were struck by the gratitude and surprise they encountered. Some of the youth, they discovered, had never had a birthday party or been given a present before.

All of these great memories were captured throughout the week by two camp photographers whose work was compiled into one more surprise for the children. On the last day of camp, each child received their very own photo album of their week at camp. This included their camp counselor, camp grandparents and many other people and events that formed an exciting week. As RFKC is aimed at creating positive memories for children in foster care, the photo album helps those memories to be preserved.

The new Royal Family Kids Camp's inaugural triumph has bolstered Darren's hope for continued success, and emboldened him to answer critics who say groups like his provide false hope. "My response to that line of thinking," Darren countered, "is summed up in something a friend told me. He said, 'If you were blind, how much would a week of sight mean to you for the rest of your life?'" "This most rewarding thing I've ever been a part of," he admitted. "We have learned these kids' stories. We've seen their struggles, and we know we've shown them a light we hope will carry them throughout their lives." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information, visit [www.southdallas.rfkc.org](http://www.southdallas.rfkc.org).*

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# GAME ON

— By Alex  
Allred



*The rules of paintball are much like those in life. Establish your boundaries. Know the game objective. In paintball, there are games of elimination or capture the flag, but it's essential to know the rules. When teams are drawn up, they should be equal. More experienced players should team up with those new to the game. Once all the players are on the field, a judge calls out, "Players ready?" With thumbs up from all players, the head referee then calls out, "Game on!"*

"Everything about paintball relates to real life," J.D. Lukau smiled. On this particular day, the man who is responsible for bringing paintball to Waxahachie on a professional level, the man who has hosted countless tournaments and won even more was the main focus of a fundraiser. When J.D. was diagnosed with squamous cell carcinoma cancer, the paintball community rallied, drawing hundreds of people to a car and truck show on





a Sunday afternoon in Waxahachie as just the first of several fundraisers.

For competitive paintballer Smiley Equia, the huge turnout was not a surprise. "J.D. has always stressed the importance of playing as a team," Smiley admitted. In 1996, Smiley first discovered competitive paintball while watching ESPN. When he began to look around for a team, he found J.D. "That's the best thing that could have happened to me," he said. "He's all about family, friends and paintball."

Even before that, J.D. had a strong sense of family. In 1990, he married Sarah, the girl he loved since he was 14 years old, and together they have three boys — Johnny, 18; Brody, 15; and Colt, 11.

"They are the most loving couple you've ever seen," Noel Saldivar said. "They're always holding hands. He loves her so much. You can see that. In fact, J.D. and Sarah are the reason my wife and

## "Everything about paintball relates to real life."

I are still together." Described as a man who never met anyone he could not hug, J.D. is open, sincere and kind, but is also a prankster. He's a man who so appreciates a good joke, he even enjoys them when he's the target.

Perhaps this is why J.D. loves the sport of paintball so much. It's lively and adventurous with an added touch of danger. Adrenaline pumping, he and his team duck and weave through obstacles, crawl through mud and dodge paintballs that can travel as fast as 300 feet per second or 180 miles per hour. Many of the guns can fire off 20 balls per second, leaving little room for error or escape. The competition is fierce, and the bullets can leave significant welts and bruising. "But the best part is afterward," Smiley said. "We all sit around and swap stories! J.D. is hilarious with his impersonations."



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"But at some point," Sarah Lukau laughed, "I added up the cost of all these tournaments and said, 'Are you kidding me? We've got to cut back.'" While she loved playing the game with her husband, the costs were mounting. So, J.D. and Sarah became sponsors so others could play, including their eldest son, Johnny.

**"When you're on the field, all your problems go away, and it feels like you and your team are the **only people in the world.**"**



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By the time he was in middle school, Johnny had been invited to play on a semi-pro traveling team. The Lukaus said "no," but entered Johnny in as many tournaments as possible, allowing him to win some of the most notable awards found in the sport, including the Texas Cup. Like his father, Johnny feels that everything in life relates to paintball.

You need to know your boundaries and the rules of the game. More importantly, pick a team you can rely on. "This is the story of J.D.," said Adam Bullard, who set up the J.D. Lukau





Foundation to raise funds for his former teammate and good friend. "You see all these people here today! They're all here for J.D. and his family. But we're all one big family. If you talk to people who know J.D., they will always introduce themselves as J.D.'s good friend. He's a good friend to everyone."

In addition to those in the paintball community, J.D. has become a good friend to the Gryphons Motorcycle Club. When not hosting paintball events, J.D. has a real job as owner and proprietor of Elf Boot and Shoe Repair in Waxahachie, where he repairs shoes, sells paintball and skateboard supplies and shoots the breeze with anyone who walks through the front door. "When you receive a patch [to the club], you have within 24 hours to get the patch sewn on your jacket," Eric Floyd explained of the Gryphon Motorcycle Club rules. "Take it to J.D. and it's a done deal. He knows how important it is to us, so he makes it happen. He treats us like family."

But also in the sport of paintball come the hits. The paintball leaves a solid, quarter-sized mark on a player's body. Sometimes a player is not sure if he has been hit. If hit, the player is supposed to raise the gun over his head, shout that he is hit and leave the field. The player might feel a hit, but if the ball did not break, it is still, "Game on!" The player is

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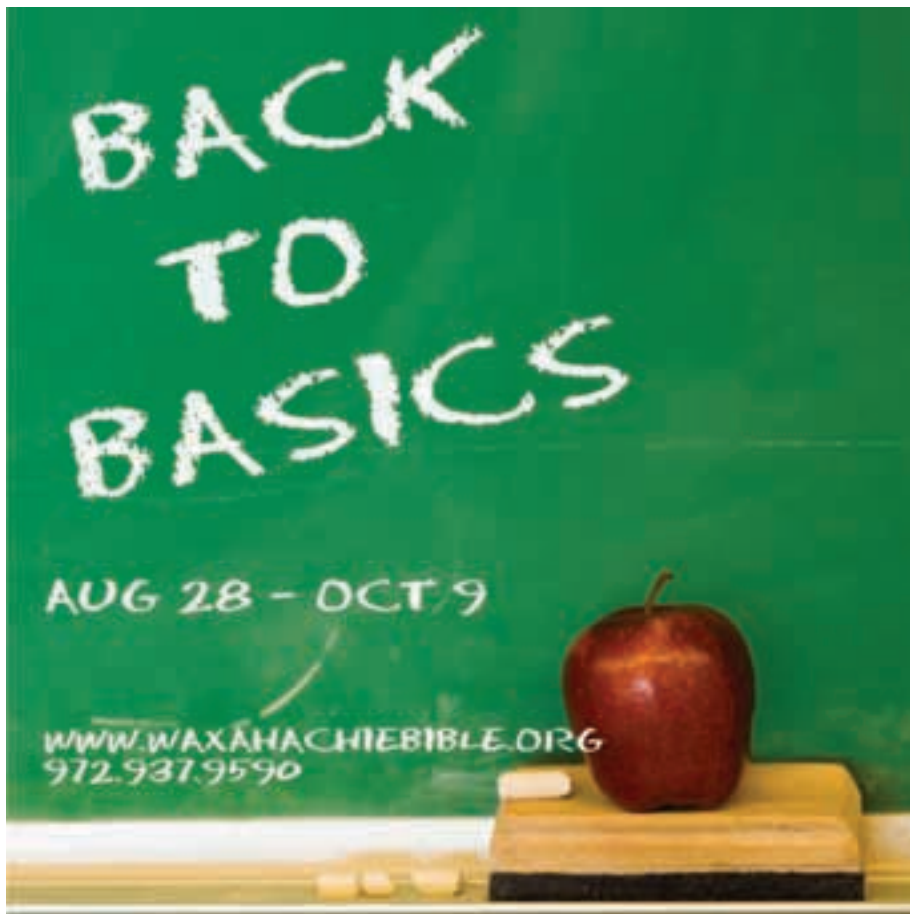
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still in the game. Finally, when one team has completed the game's objectives, it is "game over," and the team with players standing or the team who captures and hangs the flag wins.

When a lump first appeared on the side of J.D.'s neck, he was not terribly alarmed. Still, to humor Sarah, he went to the doctor. This was his first hit. But for the man who so carefully selected his team, groomed them not only on skill and ability but also in compassion and



empathy, even he was surprised by his team's reaction to his news. "He's down, but he ain't out," Eric Floyd said, echoing the sentiment of the entire motorcycle and paintball community.

"When you're on the field," Noel once described the game of paintball, "all your problems go away, and it feels like you and your team are the only people in the world." Players ready?

If paintball indeed emulates life, there is no way J.D. can lose. He is a fierce competitor, never backing down on the field and always positive in his actions. "I love you all! I love Waxahachie!" he said. "When Sarah picked this town over 20 years ago, I knew she picked the right place. We set down our roots, and I've never regretted it. I love this town!"

Needless to say, the game for J.D. is "still on!" **NOW**



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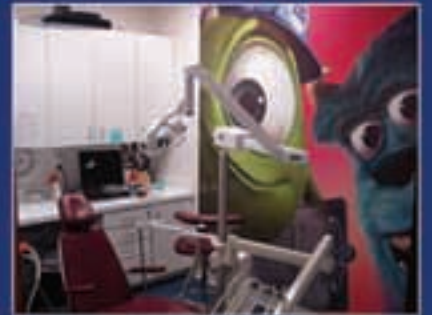
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## *Quality of Life*

*Dr. Paul Kare and his compassionate staff are helping patients feel good about themselves.*

— By Sandra Strong

R. Paul Kare, M.D. is no newcomer to the area. Although he was born in the Philippines, he's called Texas home since he was a small child. His education was also obtained right here in the Lone Star State. After high school, he graduated from the University of Dallas. Then he went on to attend The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, graduating with a medical degree in 1997. His residency at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen, Texas was completed in 2000.

Dr. Kare's list of accomplishments is lengthy. He's a member of the Texas and the National Academy of Family Physicians, the Texas and the American Medical Associations and was voted the best physician in Ellis County five times, with the last three years being consecutive. "He's also board certified with the

American Board of Family Medicine," office manager, Darla Wood, added.

Dr. Kare has been serving Waxahachie and its surrounding communities since 2001. "I came to Waxahachie because I liked the smaller community atmosphere," he said. "I like the idea of helping people in the community. My patients are my neighbors, and that's important to me."

In 2004, Dr. Kare became somewhat of a local pioneer when he began offering laser hair removal. He traveled and researched lasers before making his decisions on equipment. His approach to this new venture was proactive and hands-on. "I wanted to learn all I could about the technology," he explained.

"Looking back," Darla added, "he probably was the first



medical physician in Waxahachie to offer laser hair removal.”

As the demand for laser and medical aesthetics grew, Dr. Kare realized he needed to merge both practices, which he successfully did in February of 2008. The Millennium office is located right next door to Kare Family Clinic. “Healthwise, I make them well,” Dr. Kare stated, “but I also wanted my patients to ‘feel’ good about themselves on the outside. What we offer at Millennium Laser & Medical Aesthetics is an extension of the family practice. My goal is to create a wellness center to treat the whole person both inside and out. A better quality of life is something all my patients deserve.”

Botox is the number one requested procedure, with permanent laser hair removal running at a very close second. The newest procedure being offered is bioidentical hormone replacement

*“Healthwise, I make them well, but I also wanted my patients to ‘feel’ good about themselves on the outside.”*

Therapy. “When patients complain of excessive fatigue and a lack of energy, along with other symptoms, saliva testing is recommended,” Dr. Kare said. “A series of testing can be done using saliva hormone testing. These tests are much more accurate than blood testing when determining what hormones the body is lacking.”

Hormonal imbalances affect both men and women. Hormone replacement therapy can help reduce the adverse effects caused from low or high testosterone, low or high cortisol and the “hot flashes,” stress and fatigue common with menopause, to name only a few of the problems patients present when they are suffering from a hormone imbalance. “Quality of life is so important,” Dr. Kare said. “Our goal is to ensure our patients feel the very best they can.” **NOW**



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*A groundbreaking is held for the future home of Adam Rope's State Farm Insurance building.*



*Eight-year-old Miranda Ramirez sings a song at the Old Waxahachie Courthouse.*



*Crystal Collier and Jose Gonzales pose during the Grand Reopening of Pleasant Manor.*



*Rhetta from Family Care of Texas prepares to play balloon volleyball with Sterling House residents Martha, Geneta and Georgia.*



*Tori Sanchez, Juliana Nigo and Juliet Nigo get ready for their softball game.*

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# My Stomach Hurts!

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

High stress levels used to be considered one of the culprits in the formation of gastric ulcers. While stress does have a role to play in the formation of ulcers, there are other factors in their formation, such as: smoking, diet and drinks containing caffeine. Research, however, shows that the most common cause of gastric ulcers is a bacterium called *Helicobacter pylori* (H. pylori).

H. pylori is a bacterium that inhabits the stomach and causes inflammation. Many people with the bacteria do not know they have it until they experience symptoms and their doctor specifically tests for it. Some of the symptoms of a peptic ulcer indicative of an H. pylori infection are a burning or dull pain in the abdomen, nausea, vomiting, burping and weight loss. The pain in the abdomen is more pronounced on an empty stomach and can be temporarily eased by eating. Although, H. pylori is the No. 1 cause of stomach ulcers, eating spicy foods, smoking, alcohol consumption and stress can make the symptoms worse.

Blood, breath tests and stool samples are used for diagnosis purposes. The most accurate test for diagnosis is an endoscopy or upper gastrointestinal

(GI) series. Because the endoscopy and GI series are invasive procedures, the physician will use discretion before ordering them since the diagnosis can be made with less invasive procedures.

Treatment goals focus on eradicating the bacteria, reducing gastric acid and protecting the lining of the stomach. One to two different types of antibiotics are used. In certain parts of the world, there exist H. pylori bacteria that are resistant to certain antibiotics. Because these bacteria can be difficult to eradicate and because of the possibility of becoming antibiotic resistant, it is crucial that when prescribed medication for this disease, all of the medication is taken as prescribed. Sometimes several courses of antibiotics are necessary to kill the bacteria.

In reducing gastric acids, medications such as proton pump inhibitors like Nexium or Prilosec and histamine receptor blockers (H2 blockers) are often prescribed. Examples of H2 blocker drugs are cimetidine and ranitidine. By helping to reduce stomach acid and its pain, they help to promote healing. Bismuth subsalicylate (Pepto-Bismol) used in conjunction with antibiotics helps protect the lining of the stomach by



coating the ulcers and protecting them from acid. This speeds up the healing process.

If you have been suffering with the symptoms of H. pylori, contact your health care provider. There is no need for endless suffering if the problem can be alleviated in a few weeks' time. **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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# Safe at Home

— By Nancy Fenton

Most of the time, we don't worry about the plants in our yards and homes as long as they look the way we hope. Unfortunately with pets and children around, our choices need a bit more thought. A number of the plants we commonly use are deadly to smaller pets and children. Animal Poison Control Center has a list of plants that are poisonous if ingested, but are common in North Central Texas. They include: aloe, amaryllis, Asian lily, asparagus, azalea, bamboo, caladium, calla lily, cyclamen, daffodil, daylily, Easter lily, elephant ear, English ivy, honeysuckle, hyacinth, hydrangea, iris, lantana, lupine, morning glory, narcissus, poinsettia, oleander, peace lily, privet, tulip, wisteria and yucca.

Animals will often snack on grass and plants if they have a digestive upset, and then throw it up if it is one of the more toxic ones. When in doubt, call the Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435 for emergency information.

Toddlers are prone to put anything and everything in their mouths so careful watching is appropriate. The Poison Control number for bipeds is 1-800-222-1222. There is even an app for



your smartphones that will connect you straight to the poison center. Look for it on your phone under poison control.

Don't let this make you throw your plants out, but do be aware of potential hazards for visiting grandchildren and pets! For more information, contact the Ellis County Master Gardeners at (972) 825-5175. **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener.*




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Evette Ramirez, DPT    Mr. P    Dorothy Pustejovsky    Stacy McCrory, CDT

What started back in August 2010 ended happily in April 2011 for Mr. James Pustejovsky. Mr. James Pustejovsky came to Legend Oaks in January 2011 from Baylor Specialty Hospital in Dallas. He had various complications resulting from lung removal surgery, being in and out of the hospital since August 2010. He weighed a mere 98 pounds, had a tracheostomy, and was unable to walk independently.

The therapy and nursing teams at Legend Oaks quickly started assisting Mr. "P" as he was affectionately called. His wife, Dorothy, came daily and was seeing progress slowly but surely. After a month his trach was removed and he regained his appetite. Eventually Mr. "P" and his wife set a goal to be home for Easter.

Mr. "P" said, "The therapy department was unbelievable! They were so patient with me through this long process."

So, after approximately 12 weeks of hard work and determination, the day finally arrived and on April 21, 2011 he went home to be with his family for Easter. At that point, he was up to 131 pounds and he walked out strong and proud. Mr. "P" gladly returned to the farm, getting back to mowing the grass and tending to the cows.

"I wish I would have come to Legend Oaks sooner because I did so much better here." Mrs. Pustejovsky quickly chimed in, "The care and concern was great. We couldn't have asked for more. I would highly recommend Legend Oaks."

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# Universal Life or Whole Life?

## You have choices in life.

— By Adam Rope

When looking for a new car, you have choices between numerous models, manufacturers and colors. The same can be said for life insurance. Your selection will depend on a number of factors, but there is more than likely an option to fit your needs.

Two life insurance products you may consider are Universal Life and Whole Life. Each offers the protection of a death benefit that will pass along to your loved ones tax-free. But beyond that, each policy also allows for tax-deferred growth over your lifetime.

The cash value of these policies can be an important source of supplemental cash for a variety of needs. While any withdrawals will reduce the cash value or death benefit of your policy and should be done only after careful consideration, there are no restrictions on how proceeds may be used. But, before you start thinking these products are the same, you will find some important differences between them. Any comparisons between Universal and Whole Life policies should include discussions about premium and benefits.

The premiums for each policy differ in that Whole Life offers a premium amount that will not change throughout your lifetime. A Universal Life premium has some flexibility after an initial minimum amount is paid. Universal Life premiums can change to fit various financial situations, but the policy does not have the same premium guarantees found in a Whole Life policy.



A Universal Life policy offers a death benefit that may be increased or decreased depending on your needs. The death benefit of a Whole Life policy is fixed and guaranteed as long as premiums are paid, so you won't need to worry about the death benefit for your beneficiaries.

Whether you are looking for the flexibility of a Universal Life policy or the guarantees offered by Whole Life, you have options to suit your needs. Talk to your insurance agent to find a policy with the features you want. **NOW**

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

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# Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2011

### September 9

Dedication of Stuart B. Lumpkin Stadium: 8:00 p.m. For more information on how you as alumni can be part of this event, contact Nicole Mansell at (972) 923-4631 or by e-mail at nmansell@wisd.org.

### September 10

Ellis County SPCA Volunteer Training: Noon-1:00 p.m., 2570 FM 878 Waxahachie. Meeting for new volunteers with the ECSPCA or current volunteers who would like to be more involved with the organization. For more information, please e-mail coordinator@elliscountyspca.org.

### September 16-18

Antique Alley Texas and 25 Miles of Sales: 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., downtown Grandview. There will be a parade, antique tractor show, collectibles, fried pies, ice cream, quilts and much more. Call (817) 240-4948 or visit the e-mail address at info@antiquealleytexas.com

### September 17

Waxahachie Oktoberfest: 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center: free admission and parking. Kinderfest offers games for all ages. Washer tournaments: 1:00

p.m. Karaoke for Kids: 3:00 p.m. Casual-style Biergarten is open all day. The event includes silent and live auctions, great raffle prizes and shopping galore. Call (972) 207-2380.

Annual Girl Scout Membership Drive: 2:00-4:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Avenue. Visit [www.gssu251.org](http://www.gssu251.org) or e-mail [joinus@gssu251.org](mailto:joinus@gssu251.org).

### September 24

Chautauqua Preservation Society Annual Assembly: 12:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium at Getzendaner Park. This year's theme is "Energy – Oil and Gas." Visit [www.discoverculture.org](http://www.discoverculture.org).

*Mischief in the Magnolias* presented by the Waxahachie Community Theatre, starring Gary Clark as Colonel Beauregard "Lucky" Sweetwater and Sara Craig as his wife, Merry May: 4:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium. This single performance is held in conjunction with the Assembly activities. Admission price is included with an all-day ticket for the Chautauqua Assembly or tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5. Call the box office at (972) 646-1050 or e-mail [wct.texas@gmail.com](mailto:wct.texas@gmail.com).

Sims Library Summer Reading Carnival: 10:00 a.m.-noon. The event was rescheduled due to excessive heat. Call (972) 937-2671 or e-mail [children@simslib.org](mailto:children@simslib.org).

### September 26

Lighthouse for Learning education classes begin. Contact Melissa Cobb at (972) 923-4631 or at [mcobb@wisd.org](mailto:mcobb@wisd.org).

### September 27

Girl Scout Volunteer Sign-ups: 7:00-8:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin Avenue. E-mail the organization at [joinus@gssu251.org](mailto:joinus@gssu251.org).

### November 4-5

Heart of Texas Arts and Craft Show: November 4: 2:00-8:00 p.m., November 5: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Admission: adults \$4; children 12 and under are free. Visit [www.heartoftexasshow.com](http://www.heartoftexasshow.com).

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sskoda.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*

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## In The Kitchen With Penny Haney

— By Sandra Strong

Life has been good for Penny Haney. She's married to Bobby, the love of her life. She's the proud mother of Dakota, horsewoman extraordinaire. Penny also finds great fulfillment in volunteering. "By volunteering, I believe I'm using my number one spiritual gift," she explained. "I'm definitely a 'Martha' who is working on adding a little Mary to the mix."

Penny's mom taught her how to cook. "Mom was raised on a farm so we ate a lot of down-home cooking," she admitted. "I'm a confessed 'butter-holic.' I know it's not healthy, but I just love cooking with 'budda,' and my favorite spice is cinnamon. I always use more than the recipe calls for." **NOW**

### Garden Harvest Muffins

**4 cups flour**  
**2 1/2 cups sugar**  
**4 tsp. baking soda**  
**4 tsp. cinnamon**  
**1 tsp. salt**  
**2 cups carrots, grated**  
**2 cups zucchini, grated**  
**1 cup raisins**  
**1 cup pecans, chopped**  
**1 cup coconut**  
**2 large, tart apples, peeled and grated**  
**6 large eggs**  
**1 cup vegetable oil**  
**1 cup buttermilk**  
**2 tsp. vanilla**

**1.** Preheat oven to 375 F. In a large bowl, sift together flour, sugar, baking soda, cinnamon and salt. Stir in carrots, zucchini, raisins, pecans, coconuts and apples.

**2.** In another bowl, whisk together the remaining ingredients and add to the flour-vegetable mixture. Stir the batter until just blended.

**3.** Spoon the batter into well-buttered muffin tins, or use paper liners. Bake on middle rack of oven for 25-30 minutes or until muffins are springy to the touch.

**4.** Let the muffins cool in the tins for 5 minutes, then turn them out onto a cooling rack.

### Daddy's Favorite Cheesecake

#### Crust:

**10 full-size graham crackers, crushed**  
**1/4 cup sugar**  
**2-3 Tbsp. butter, softened**

#### Filling:

**2 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**  
**4 large eggs**  
**1/2 cup granulated sugar**  
**1 tsp. vanilla**  
**1 Tbsp. lemon juice**  
**Pinch of salt**

#### Topping:

**1 pint sour cream**  
**1/2 cup sugar**

#### 1 tsp. vanilla

#### Cherry or strawberry topping

**1.** For crust: Preheat oven to 375 F. Mix graham crackers and sugar in food processor until finely ground. Butter the bottom and side of a spring-release pan very generously. Then coat generously with graham crackers. Pour off excess, but do not tap pan. Set aside.

**2.** For filling: In food processor, mix cheese and eggs thoroughly. Add sugar, a little at a time. Then add vanilla, lemon juice and salt. Blend for a little while as it is most important that all sugar is dissolved. If you like sweeter cheesecake, you can add more sugar at this point. Bake for 20-30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool for 5 minutes.

**3.** For topping: Beat all ingredients thoroughly while cake is cooking until all sugar is dissolved. Pour over cake and bake for 10-15 more minutes. Remove from oven and cool for 1 hour, then place in refrigerator. Serve with cherry or strawberry toppings.

### Everyone's Favorite Sandwich

**1 pkg. King's Original Hawaiian Bread**  
**1 bottle Ken's Thousand Island dressing**  
**Lettuce leaves or shredded lettuce**  
**1/2 lb. smoked turkey, deli sliced thin**  
**6 slices American cheese**  
**1/2 lb. roast beef, deli sliced thin**  
**1 large tomato, thinly sliced**  
**6 slices Swiss cheese**  
**1/2 lb. honey ham, deli sliced thin**

**1.** Leave bread in the aluminum pan that it comes in. Slice bread horizontally, almost half way, but make the bottom portion a little thicker than the top. Set top aside.

**2.** Carefully scoop out the center of the bread on the bottom portion to make room for all the ingredients. Make sure you leave enough bread on the bottom and side to support the sandwich.

**3.** Spread dressing on the bottom and up the sides. Enough for flavor, but not so much that you make the sandwich soggy.

**4.** Begin layering ingredients as follows: lettuce, turkey, American cheese, roast beef, tomato slices, a thin coating of dressing, Swiss cheese, ham and lettuce.

**5.** Spread dressing on inside of top portion of the bread that was set aside. Place on top of other ingredients.

**6.** Slice sandwich into 8 pieces, just like you would a pie. It can then be returned to the plastic bag it came in and stored in the refrigerator until ready to serve.



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