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Alan Thomas has designed sounds for such prestigious groups as The National Geographic Society, PBS and others.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

September to remember ...

For children and grownups alike, September in the South is about settling in for a new season. For many this means school classes are underway, football games kick into gear and perhaps the loveliest weather of the year draws near.

Activist and author, Helen Hunt Jackson, may have best described this time in her poem, "September," a portion of which reads: "By all these lovely tokens September days are here/With summer's best of

weather/And autumn's best of cheer."

What do you love most about September? The changing leaves and cooling weather? The return to routine as school bells ring? Labor Day when we officially get to relax from work or Patriot's Day when we take time to reflect on 9/11?

This month, may you find time to embrace whatever about September it is you choose to remember!

Angel

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**“People
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audio today.”**

Alan Thomas speaks two languages: English and music. As a precocious preschooler, he learned to read both of these at the same time. His parents were both professional musicians, and he grew up listening to his father teach private lessons in their home. From that foundation, Alan grew into an award-winning composer and sound designer, who makes his home in Red Oak.

“By eighth grade, I was playing in the local college orchestra and arranging music on paper for full orchestra. The first public performance of one of my compositions was my junior year in high school when the 107-voice school choir performed a work for eight-part mixed choir, piano and flutes from piccolo to bass,” Alan recalled.

A San Diego native, Alan managed to partner his love of music with a military career. In 1982 he joined the U.S. Navy and graduated from the U.S. Armed Forces School of Music to begin his professional career. “I was assigned to

music manipulation

—By *Angei Morris*

Navy Band San Diego. I bought my first synthesizer that year,” Alan said.

In 1983 Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) was released. MIDI is an electronic musical instrument enabling a variety of digital instruments, computers and other related devices to connect and communicate with one another. “It was obvious at the time that MIDI and digital sequencing would change the face of music production, so I jumped on board,” Alan said.

Alan was transferred to the CINCPAC (Commander in Chief Pacific) fleet band in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1986. “In the Navy, we were expected to be able to make music in any style. I arranged music for, and gave over 300 performances a year playing French horn, keyboards, vocals, harmonica, percussion, bass recorder, or just about anything else I could make noise on. In bands ranging from ’40s-style big bands, to Renaissance chamber ensembles, to variety showbands.”

In 1989, Alan partnered with the top audio post production company in Honolulu as composer and

music director, and formed Designer Music. “At the time, we were pretty much tape-based, but we were the very first to have a sound card for a computer that could do CD quality sound and editing in Hawaii,” Alan noted. “Later, we were accepted as beta testers for the

first multitrack audio editor, and still the industry standard today, Pro Tools. We pioneered the idea of sending sound files via modem in minutes instead of hours or days, pre Internet. Since then, I have remained a high-tech audio production company.”

After living in Hawaii for 12 years, Alan moved his family – including his wife,

Jennifer, and son, Cameron, to Waxahachie in 1998 – and took a job as an audio engineer/producer/instructor at the Dallas Sound Lab School for the Recording Arts (now MediaTech in Las Colinas).

“I got involved with the Waxahachie music program while my son was a student at Waxahachie High School. I’ve been doing a lot of teaching since then, while keeping up the business of sound design,” Alan said. Four years ago, Alan discovered Red Oak. “We found

a great price on a great home with land and the permission to build a 1,200-square-foot recording facility in the back,” he said.

Today Alan handles audio production on a variety of projects. “A film project, for example, includes things like dialog

cleanup, replacement of lines, audio processing, along with sound effects, foley, music composition and production, which followed by mix and layback to film. Straight music projects, or voice overs, are a little different,” Alan noted. “I wear all of the hats, so some days I am doing production, some days sales and promotion, some days teaching.”



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While classically trained, Alan admits to enjoying all types of music. His diverse taste and impressive talent have earned him three Silver Telly Awards and the Summit International Award. Telly honors the best in TV commercials



and programs, as well as video and film productions. Summit International Awards recognize excellence in the communications industry.

Despite these honors, Alan's favorite of his work is the score for a magic show in Waikiki called the *Magic of Polynesia*. "That show was the top attended show in Waikiki for three years while my score was being played. I think they may still be using some of it," Alan said.



Ironically, of all his prestigious sound work with groups like The National Geographic Society, PBS and Japanese radio, Alan said his most recognizable project is a bit less upscale. "Unfortunately, the project with the largest distribution was a singing fish called Big Mouth Billy Bass that I spent all of about 15 minutes on."

A far cry from the singing fish on a plaque is Alan's first solo album project, *Quirk*, which appropriately dropped April 1 this year. "It's an eclectic collection of my compositions in various styles," Alan explained.

Now available on disk or download, music enthusiasts can listen to the album at www.althomasonline.com/quirk. With more than 20 years of experience writing custom music for TV, radio, stage or just about anywhere there is recorded sound, Alan anticipates his future in the ever changing, competitive field. Especially working from his own home.

Be it a kitschy singing fish or more classical sounds, Alan manipulates both the languages he loves into the music of success. His next evolution is to build a new facility designed for sound from the ground up.

"The audio boutique combines the audio tools of the corporate studio with the relatively low overhead of the home studio — a professional engineer with professional equipment in an excellent listening environment," Alan explained. "People would be amazed at the ability to manipulate audio today. I have some pretty amazing tools!" **NOW**

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Servant Leader



Best Principal in a Supporting Role goes to Cristi Watts at Red Oak Junior High. The 2011-12 school year was filled with new challenges for the staff and students at the junior high school. They moved into the newly renovated, former high school building, and they got a new principal. But, this new principal is a little bit different. "I very much believe that I'm the least important person in the building," Cristi stated.

Cristi came to Red Oak in 1997 immediately after completing graduate school at the University of Louisville. She is originally from Arkansas and received her bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist University. She began her career here as the band director at Red Oak Intermediate School. "When you're from Arkansas everybody knows the place to go for the really good band programs is Texas," Cristi said.

Working for Red Oak ISD has proven to be an interesting ride for Cristi. She served as the intermediate

mt der

By Katie Almond

school band director for two years, then as head band director at the junior high for three years. Cristi transferred back to the intermediate school when she became pregnant with her first child while working on a master's degree in administration. She spent a year at the intermediate school splitting her time 50-50 between band director and assistant principal, served as principal there for five years, then came over to the junior high just in time for the move.

Cristi arrived at the junior high on July 16, 2011, just about a month before students would come through the front door. The major renovations were complete, all the staff knew where they'd be located within the building, but the physical moving of classroom furniture and equipment was still in full swing. "It was pretty much 'Let's see where we are and race to the beginning of school so we are ready for kids.' And it was a race," Cristi admitted.

The incoming seventh graders lent an air of familiarity to the hallways for her. "I was with them at the intermediate school. It was really nice to follow them over," Cristi explained. It was the eighth-grade students who were expected to set the tone, though. There were several sets of meetings with the eighth graders. "We met during their social studies classes to talk about expectations and to hear what they had to say. Then we streamlined the process down to our student council. We have an actual leadership class here made up mostly from our student council, and

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On September 2, 1945, the articles of surrender were signed aboard the USS Missouri, in Tokyo Bay, and this marked the official end of World War II. President Harry Truman declared that this date be "VJ Day" or "Victory over Japan Day". When the Japanese came aboard the USS Missouri, General MacArthur directed the representatives of Japan to sign the two Instruments of Surrender, one each for the Allied and Japanese governments. At 9:04 AM, Foreign Minister Shigemitsu signed, followed two minutes later by General Umezu. General MacArthur then led the Allied delegations in signing, first Fleet Admiral Nimitz as United States Representative, then the representatives of China, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Australia, Canada, France, The Netherlands and New Zealand. All signatures were in place by 9:22. Following a few brief remarks by MacArthur, the ceremonies concluded at 9:25. The number of minutes it took officially ending World War II was 21 minutes. World War II started September 1, 1939 (almost 6 years, exactly from beginning to end). One interesting fact we learned about this ceremony was General MacArthur had men, 6 foot in height and/or taller, be on the main deck next to the Japanese delegates. Therefore, the petite Japanese were surrounded by tall, statuesque American men. Also, since 1948, VJ Day is a legal state holiday only in the state of Rhode Island. What can you do with 21 minutes? Spend time with one of our practitioners! We all greatly appreciate what all servicemen and servicewomen have given up so we can make choices freely.



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they took the reins from there," Cristi said. Out of that class, a new junior high tradition was born: a decorated parking space that every eighth grader signed. It's a great way to provide continuity and connection for subsequent classes.

One of Cristi's biggest challenges was to develop a relationship with school personnel. "My very first challenge was to get to know the staff and build trust," Cristi said. "I believe that the teachers in the classrooms are the ones who make the difference with the kids. My most important job is selecting and supporting those teachers and paraprofessionals. Sure, I get to be involved and interact with the kids, but it is the teachers who inspire them to do whatever they're going to do in the future."

During staff meetings, Cristi used charting as a means of communication. "Every time we're together, we write what we think. I constantly surround myself with their thoughts throughout the whole year. I don't want to lose sight of our focus and our direction," Cristi declared. The main goal was student success. The means to achieving that goal were developing a family connection at



the junior high and growing the students both academically and personally.

As the year progressed, Cristi saw both staff and students relax and start to enjoy the teaching/learning process. Several parents commented that things were moving in the right direction. The theme for 2012-13 is Teaching with Heart. "We're getting a really great staff development called Capturing Kids' Hearts [a training session, which provides multiple tools]," she explained. "I'm training the entire staff, and we're just going to dive right in. Developing that relationship with a child, is the most important aspect of our jobs. Once the relationship and trust is in place, it allows teachers to teach."

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making things easier for both students and staff. With around 900 students, the old campus was just too crowded. "It's a beautiful facility," Cristi said. "The athletic facilities have made a huge difference, because they have access to multiple gyms and the football field." Cristi is also a big fan of the location. She sees the proximity to the high school and administration building as a huge advantage. "Some students go over to take classes on that campus because we have so many advanced students at this point. We're also connected to the career and technology building, so there are students from the high school over here, as well. It's really like an expanded learning community," Cristi stated. "That's the plus."

Cristi's next goal is to improve the junior high's Acceptable TEA (Texas Education Agency) rating. "We're going to be a TEA Recognized campus. With the implementation of the new STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) testing system, TEA is transitioning to a new accountability rating system. Our goal is to be the equivalent of the former TAKS system's Recognized rating. Whatever TEA is going to call it next, that's what we're going to be," Cristi asserted.

Another item on her wish list is to add a physical education option — a martial arts program, which is designed to build strong moral character in youth through martial arts. Cristi sees it as an opportunity to reach kids who haven't found their niche. "There are kids we can't seem to hang on to," Cristi explained. "The pursuit of those kids is always what I'd like to connect with."

When she looks back over her first year as a junior high principal, Cristi is struck by the difference between her expectations and the reality. "It was a lot harder than I thought it would be," she said. "One thing I've grown to appreciate and value is the relationship with the staff at ROJH."

She also believes that the credit for a successful year belongs to the staff, teachers and paraprofessionals at ROJH. "I'm the facilitator. My job is to support them," Cristi stated. She likes being part of something bigger. "I just know I want to be part of a team that's committed to student success. That's what keeps me here in Red Oak." **NOW**



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The Game of Life

— By Randy Bigham

A Red Oak family may be one of the busiest in the city, and when the day closes on a full schedule they're happy to rest body and soul in a house they love. Dr. John Wesley Wilson III and his wife, Sherry, are the proud, if sometimes exhausted, parents of five athletic sons, four of whom play tennis competitively at state and out-of-state events.



AT HOME WITH
*John and
Sherry Wilson*



But when it's time to relax, this big family knows just how to do it in their 4,700-square-foot, five-bedroom custom home. On four acres of picturesque land, the brick abode offered the peace and solitude the Wilsons had dreamed of as the ideal place to rear their children.

"We were attracted to Red Oak for the freedom of the open spaces you get by living in the country," said Sherry, an attorney for the Environmental Protection Agency.

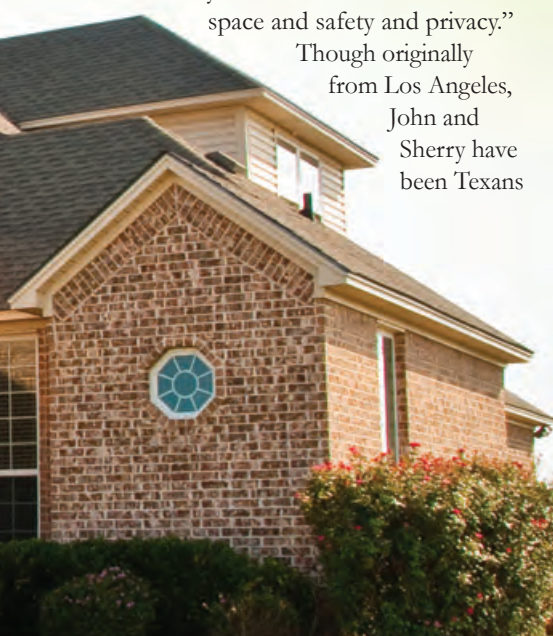


"We were living in Dallas in a high-traffic area, which wasn't conducive to the kids playing outside," added John, senior pastor for the First Christian Methodist Evangelistic Church.

"Our backyard faced a busy street where there were frequent accidents,"

Sherry elaborated. "Now we have space and safety and privacy."

Though originally from Los Angeles, John and Sherry have been Texans



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long enough to love the Lone Star State and its reputation for sanctioning all things big. The house they purchased in 2005 was that and more. "There were many amenities we wanted," John said. "For instance, energy efficiency was important, and we have that, from the ceiling beams to the windows to the solar panels in the attic."

Nothing less than a large home would do for a family with five sons whose talent for sports is on an equal scale.

John IV, age 16; Joshua, 14; Jordan, 13; Jered, 10; and Justus, 6, all love the game and have made their parents proud with their considerable accomplishments on the court. "All our boys play tennis," Sherry enthused. "One plays family tennis and four play with the United States Tennis Association at sectional and national events. The older boys have won sectional championships and also placed high in national tournaments." John IV recently won the district championship in



varsity tennis for Red Oak High School. Each of the boys came by their interest in tennis naturally: their late paternal grandfather was an avid player and both their parents enjoy the game.

The interiors of the home reflect this active family's need for comfort after busy days of training and travel. Yet John and Sherry believe in running a tight ship, and their focus on organization and discipline, essential with five boys, also permeates the home. From the mud

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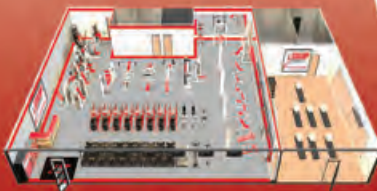
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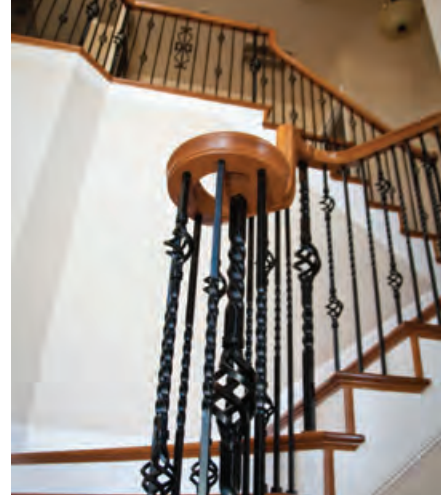
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room, where each child is designated their own partition for storing shoes and hanging coats, to a common room upstairs where the boys study at their own desks, tidiness is the order of the Wilson day. "Of course, we're talking about boys," laughed their mother. "So they're not always neat. But they're pretty good most of the time."

In keeping with the spacious views that attracted the couple to their Red Oak home, the living room is large and airy with high windows overlooking a broad expanse of back yard. "It's a big place to mow," John admitted. "But the older boys and I handle it and the front yard, too." No one in this family is averse to hard work and they enjoy maintaining the property themselves.

Inside the room, a warm-hued leather sectional sofa and matching chair are both practical and beautiful, while framed artwork, depicting African-American cultural and historical themes, add elegance and character to the assemblage. An aerial photo of the home is also framed in the living room. "That was taken when our house was new," John III explained. "We're going to have another one made later to show how the area has changed since then."

The kitchen, with its rich maple cabinetry is equally roomy, and there's a pantry almost as big. "I wanted a walk-in pantry," Sherry said. "No more squeezing in!" Creamy yellow walls with white wood trim mark the adjacent breakfast nook where a period-looking modern table accommodates all. The dining room, opening off the kitchen into a spacious area shared with the living room, features a combination of modern and vintage pieces, including an early 1900s upright piano.

Across the foyer is John's office, a



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bright place to write and read with a French door, gabled window and built-in bookshelves. Nearby is a guest room, favored by John and Sherry's mothers on their visits. Outfitted simply but attractively, the room has its own bath, complete with a shower seat installed for Mom's convenience and safety.

Located on the other side of the ground floor is the master bedroom and bath, prettily decorated with a stately bed facing a fireplace over which hangs the Wilsons' wedding portrait. A feature of this space is a recessed area that is specially laid out as a workout room full of training equipment. While the machines don't gather dust, the man of the house confesses that finding the time and willpower for exercise can be a challenge. "I do my best," John laughed. The master bath contains a walk-in double shower, and the most distinctive feature of this room is a panel of decorative glass covering the central window behind the tub.

Up the winding staircase in the entrance hall, the home's second story includes another guest bedroom and bath. But for the Wilson boys, the hub of their indoor work and play is a common room or study area where computers vie with evidence of their athletic prowess — rows and rows of trophies and medals. "When we bought the house, we had only four kids so the counters along the wall were made for that many," Sherry pointed out. "But we have made room for our fifth son now." The boys' bedrooms are located along a center hallway at the end of which is the TV and game room.

"We want the boys to concentrate on their studies so there are no TVs in the bedrooms," John said. Sherry added that she and John are careful about the exposure of their sons to the distraction of too much media during the week. But on weekends the boys enjoy time spent in the game room watching their favorite shows and playing on their Xboxes.

Whether at home, at church or on the road to tournaments, the family is grateful for the time they spend together. "We really love living here," Sherry said. "We have the best of both worlds — a country place that's handy to the city. Red Oak has been the answer to our dreams of the perfect home for our family." **NOW**

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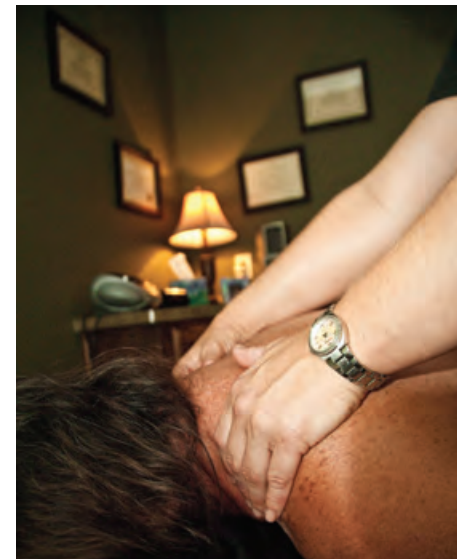


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From left:

Mindy Goodner, Charity Jenkins (front center), Dr. Brenda Ross (center back row), Pam Thomson on right.



The *Healing Touch* of Home

Chiropractic facility provides health and education in a caring environment.

— By Angel Morris

Most people agree home is the place to be when you're hurting. If you have to see a doctor, isn't it nice to find a place where you feel at home? Red Oak Chiropractic & Therapy has achieved just that, a home away from home for clients, serving Red Oak and surrounding communities since 2007. "We serve clients by providing quality healthcare in a comfortable and caring environment. Our clinic looks and feels more like a home than a medical facility," said Dr. Mark Zuber, one of the owners along with Dr. Bob Hollander.

In May of this year, Dr. Brenda Ross, known simply as Dr. Brenda, joined Red Oak Chiropractic & Therapy to help patients get back their health and return to a greater quality of life. Dr. Brenda has been working with families in the Metroplex for

more than 16 years. "The youngest patient I adjusted was 2 hours old and the oldest was 97. I've adjusted all ages and care a lot about all my patients." Dr. Ross received her doctor of chiropractic degree from Parker University in Dallas, but she's not originally from Texas. "Don't hold that against me, I got to Texas as soon as I could," Dr. Brenda joked. "My husband, Ken, who's from England, and I are looking forward to finding just the right home in Red Oak and becoming active in the community."

Dr. Brenda and her staff, Pam Thomson, Charity Jenkins and Mindy Goodner, excel at making people feel welcome. Charity, front desk coordinator, immediately offers a warm and charming smile. Pam, who has been with the clinic since

it opened, assists with understanding insurance coverage, cost of care and helps administer therapies. "We can get you all stretched out and make you laugh at the same time," Charity said. "We want our patients to enjoy coming in."

Initially, Dr. Brenda does a consultation and complete physical, orthopedic, neurological and chiropractic exam. Patients then receive an easy-to-understand report of findings and a recommendation of care that will quickly and affordably allow them to resume normal activities.

"We can get you all stretched out and make you laugh at the same time."

Another facet of care at Red Oak Chiropractic & Therapy is therapeutic massage. Mindy is always ready to help by rendering a deep tissue massage to aid a patient's return to better quality of life. "I believe everyone deserves to feel better, and I try to do my part," Mindy said. Patients become part of the Red Oak Chiropractic & Therapy family.

Many people are unaware of just how much chiropractic care can help. "There have been many patients who came in for neck or back issues, who have told me they noticed relief from their migraines, allergies, asthma, bedwetting, digestive problems and much more. When interference of the nervous system is removed the way chiropractic adjustments do it, the body heals itself," Dr. Brenda noted.

According to Pam and Charity, the staff and the ambiance of the clinic make Red Oak Chiropractic & Therapy stand out. "I look forward to each patient visit because I'm not just seeing patients, I'm catching up with friends! I absolutely love the relationships I've formed with each and every one of them," Charity said. Pam added, "We try to treat everyone as we would like to be treated. We really do follow the Golden Rule!"

So whether new to chiropractic care or searching for a clinic that makes you feel most comfortable, Red Oak Chiropractic & Therapy may just be your home away from home. **NOW**

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Mary Horn and Denise Alfred enjoy lunch at Amaya's Mexican Grill.



Jordan Holmes and Gracie Ellard spend an afternoon hanging out on the monkey bars.



Mama's Doughnuts employee, Jong Park, serves up the sweets for Frank Allison.



Members of the Red Oak Stars softball team wash cars to raise money for the team.



Ethan Ellard and Joseph Hames fish for the big one at Pearson Park.



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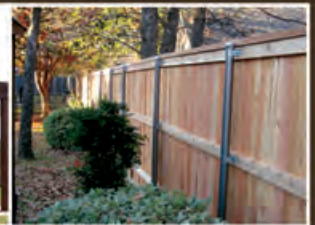
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September 3

6th Annual Free Day of Yoga, Dynamic Yoga 4 Love Studio, 558 Bluebird Ln. www.yoga4love.net.

September 4

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

September 6

Local author group meeting: 6:00-7:30 p.m., Museum Room, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Public discussion/critique group run by author Donald Horne.

September 7

New Girl Scout Recruiting Night: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Red Oak First United Methodist Church, 600 Daubitz Drive. (214) 926-6849.

September 8

Community Garage Sale: 7:00 a.m.-noon, 200 Live Oak Rd. Proceeds benefit Red Oak High School Class of 2013 for the year's special senior class events.

September 11

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

September 15

Founder's Day: Parade: 9:00 a.m.; homecoming football game: 7:00 p.m., Red Oak High School, 122 S.H. 342. Booths, concessions and entertainment all day, celebrating the founding of Red Oak and the 100th anniversary of Red Oak ISD. (972) 617-0906.

September 22

Heritage Day: Day-long activities celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Ovilla, with booths and vendor displays, plus live local talent. The event will be held at 105 S. Cockrell Hill Road behind the Ovilla Fire Station. (972) 617-7262.

September 26

Red Oak Chamber Luncheon: Noon-1:00 p.m.,

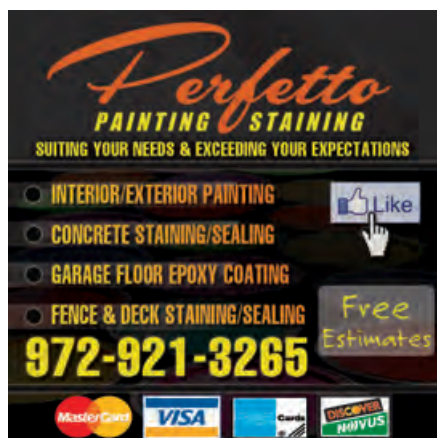
Red Oak Municipal Center, 200 Lakeview Pkwy. Members with reservations: \$12. Members without reservations: \$15. Nonmembers: \$20. RSVP for this catered networking event by e-mailing katherine@redoakareachamber.org.

September 29

Hike for Life, 5K Charity Walk: 8:00-11:30 a.m., Hike and Bike Trail in Getzenderan/Lions Park behind Baylor Hospital, Waxahachie. Knights of Columbus event benefits Christian pregnancy assistance centers. Free refreshments. www.hikeforlifetexas.org.

The Green Garden Club Garden Tea Tour: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Guests will enjoy five beautiful gardens and a complimentary progressive tea throughout the tour. The event will feature three chefs and an artist from the Ellis County Art Association will be painting en plein air at each location. Tickets are \$50 per person, and are available online at www.greengardenclub.org. Proceeds benefit Green Garden Club, an organic garden club in Ellis County. For more information, call Carolyn Mixon at (214) 914-6030.

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In The Kitchen With Sandra Scott

— *By Angel Morris*

Sandra Scott always loved to eat but didn't care to cook until she moved out of her parents' home. "The necessity of cooking became a passion, especially baking desserts," Sandra said.

With a mom and paternal grandmother who always fed the family, Sandra felt a little of their talent rubbed off. "I'm nowhere near the awesome cook my mom or older sisters are, but I get better with each attempt!" Sandra said.

As a picky eater, Sandra sticks to simple meals that can be tailored to the tastes of others by adding or subtracting ingredients. "I really enjoy trying new recipes and sharing my creations with family and co-workers," Sandra said. "Usually the more butter and cheesier, the better!" **NOW**

Brownies

1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
4 Tbsp. cocoa
1/2 cup self-rising flour
1/4 cup walnuts, chopped
Caramel topping (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Beat butter, sugar, egg and vanilla extract together.
2. In a separate bowl, mix cocoa and flour

together and then add to first mixture slowly.
3. Add walnuts in mixture and/or on top. I like to add caramel topping before baking or when brownies are fresh out of oven.
4. Bake in greased 8x8-inch pan for about 30 minutes or until set (toothpick test if needed).

Chocolate Chip Cookie Bars

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking soda
1/2 to 1 tsp. salt
1 cup butter or margarine, softened

3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup brown sugar
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 large eggs
1 3/4 cups (11.5-oz. pkg.) chocolate chips
1 cup nuts (pecans or walnuts)

1. Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine flour, baking soda and salt in small bowl.
2. Beat butter, sugar, brown sugar and vanilla extract in large bowl until creamy.
3. One at a time, beat eggs into butter mixture. Gradually add in flour mixture. Stir in nuts and chips.
4. Grease 15x10-inch pan or line with parchment paper. Press dough into pan evenly. Bake about 25 minutes or until golden brown (I like softer/chewy cookie bars).

Chess Cake

Regular box of white cake mix
1 stick of butter, softened or melted
1 cup pecans, chopped
3 eggs
1 16-oz. box powdered sugar
1 8-oz. block cream cheese, room temperature

1. Mix cake mix, butter, pecans and 1 egg together and layer bottom of 9x13-inch baking dish (or slightly smaller).
2. Mix powdered sugar, cream cheese and 2 eggs until smooth and pour over bottom layer.
3. Bake at 350 F for about 40 minutes until top layer is golden and set (not gooey).

Quiche

6 eggs, beaten
1 1/2 cups heavy cream
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 lb. cooked, drained and crumbled bacon (I use 1/2 lb. crumbled maple sausage and 1/2 lb. bacon)
1 1/2 cups Swiss cheese, shredded
Mushrooms, chopped, or baby spinach, if desired
1 deep dish 9-inch refrigerated pie crust

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Combine eggs, cream, salt and pepper in blender or processor.
2. Layer bacon and cheese, mushrooms and/or spinach if desired in bottom of pie crust then pour egg mix on top.
3. Bake for 35-45 minutes until egg mixture is set.



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