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taught her how to love

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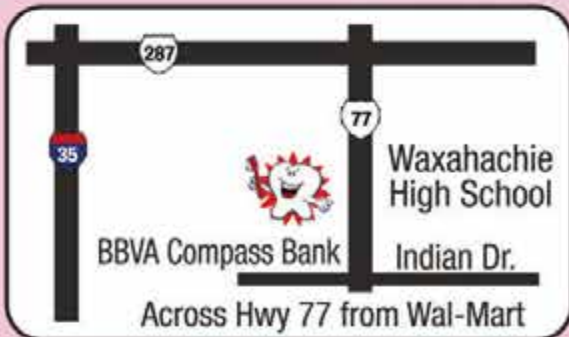
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ON THE COVER

Big things come from a single wish to help others.

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Susan

Susan Simmons
WaxahachieNOW Editor
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Nature's choir bequeaths joy upon my soul ...

The mornings are such a splendid time to be outside with the songbirds serenading their sweethearts and my eyes feasting upon the beauty of a new day awakening. The flora, after a night of relief from the sunshine, beckon their pollinators to come and enjoy a taste of their precious pollen. If I am lucky, a bright green tree frog or a spiny lizard, will zoom across the walkway as they busily attend to their morning's business. An overwhelming feeling that God is near permeates my morning moments, and time spent in grateful celebration encourages my spirit.

The middle of the day has its own brand of beauty. The warm sunshine energizes my mood as it beams down on my body, while I busily accomplish my day's tasks. Each new leaf that appears on a houseplant, a garden vegetable or in a flower bed is a celebration of nature working together — the sunshine, the water, the soil and the human who makes sure everyone gets their needs met. Even inside the house, the sun shining brightly through the windows offers a feeling that anything is possible and everything is going to be alright.

As evening falls and the stars twinkle brightly overhead, reflection and inspiration fill my heart with a profound love for all God has bestowed. I reflect on all the experiences I have lived, of ways I have done well and ways I can do better, and I'm filled with inspiration for ways I will try in the future. Nighttime offers relaxation and contentment in preparation for tomorrow's adventures.

Enjoy your moments, my fellow Waxahachians!



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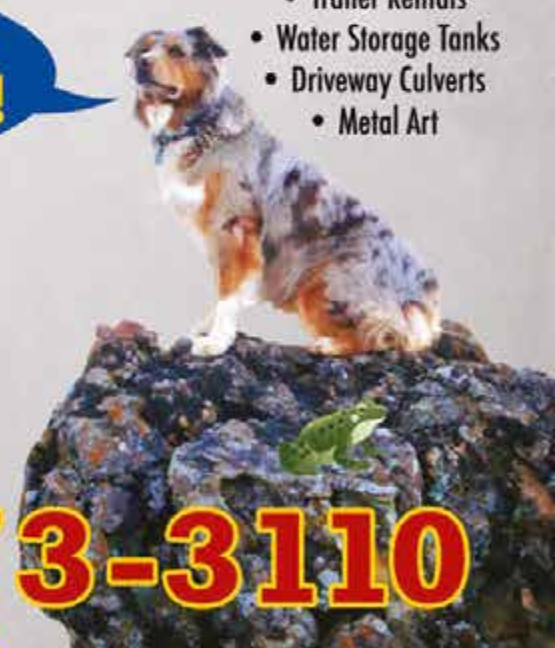
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*"It was such a blessing to see their eyes
light up looking at their new shoes."*

MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

— By Susan Simmons

Melveene Dixon has always had a special admiration for her father, Buddy Gibson, and his desire to help people. "My daddy was a mechanic and a cattle rancher. He was born near Saint Jo at Red River, between Gainesville and Wichita Falls, where he lived through the Great Depression," Melveene explained. "He wasn't an educated man, but he taught me how to love, often without saying a word. I remember him saying many times how he wished he had the means to buy shoes for the children who went barefoot because their families had no money."

For 25 years, Melveene worked in the office at First Baptist Church. In 2010, she and her husband, Bill, decided to make her late father's dream come true and began a ministry in Waxahachie, which they named after him, calling it Shoe Buddy. "I didn't know a thing about shoes except for what they looked like on my feet!" Melveene laughed. "Then one day, I had a light bulb moment and realized two of the men in my Sunday School class, Jim Jordan and David Carroll, were retired shoe salesmen. I thought they would think I was crazy, but they didn't. They jumped in, and we all brainstormed on how to do a shoe drive for disadvantaged children. That is how Shoe Buddy was created."

At the beginning, the Dixons used their own money, asking very little of other people. "I try to always keep in mind what Jesus said, in Matthew 25:40, 'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters, you did for me,'" Melveene shared. The first year, Jim and David measured the feet of 25 children who attended Common Ground Ministries, and later returned with new shoes that fit properly. "Many of the children had only worn hand-me-down shoes or shoes from a thrift store," Melveene recalled. "It was such a blessing to see their eyes light up looking at their new shoes."



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Each year since, the Shoe Buddy ministry has grown. In 2019, their biggest year, 275 children in Waxahachie received a pair of new shoes. The growth required a new financial and logistical plan. Melveene reached out to Famous Footwear in Waxahachie and now collaborates with their corporate office in St. Louis, Missouri. "It just isn't possible for us to go into neighborhoods and measure 275 kids' feet," Melveene said. "So, we created Shopping Week, where each child can go to Famous Footwear and get measured, pick out their favorite pair, and then pay for it with a voucher we provide."

That may sound easy, but Shopping Week requires a logistical plan that coordinates 275 kids and their families with 60 volunteers. Melveene manages this monumental task. "Each day of Shopping Week, Monday through Thursday, 10:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., about 70 Shoe Buddy families visit Famous Footwear. The employees of the store cannot handle all this extra business, along with tending to their regular customers, so we have volunteers who meet with each family and help each child find his/her perfectly fitting shoes," Melveene explained. "Most volunteers stay for two-hour shifts, and I coordinate their coming and going, along with matching them up with the families they assist. Everyone is so caring and appreciative. In 2019, the children from Presbyterian Children's Home baked us cookies, and Chick-fil-A brought lunch for all the volunteers. It was so rewarding, but we were all exhausted."





Shoe Buddy has bestowed many unforgettable moments on Melveene and Bill. "I will never forget a young boy Jim was helping find shoes," Melveene said. "Jim measured him at a size 8, but the boy insisted he wanted a size 12. He explained to Jim that he might never get another pair of new shoes, and he wanted to have room to grow into them. Jim told him, 'Get a pair that fit, and we will see that you get another pair when your feet grow.' Another memorable moment was when a little 6-year-old boy began to take his new shoes off when he and his mother were ready to leave the store because he didn't realize that he could take them home and that they were his shoes to keep."

As the ministry grew, Melveene established partnerships with local nonprofits and organizations that assist in locating children in need of shoes. Local people, businesses and churches have also joined in to help. "Early on, First Baptist Church jumped right in and helped us with the books and the accounting," Melveene recalled. "Now we have a nonprofit account at Citizens National Bank where anyone can donate." Today, fundraising is a big part of the work for Shoe Buddy. "Some churches have used Shoe Buddy as their vacation Bible school mission project," Melveene said. "It is such a great tool to teach children about the joys and duty of giving. Children can really relate to another child who does not have shoes."

Melveene and Bill Dixon followed through on their dream of helping others. "Her daddy, Buddy Gibson, dreamed of putting shoes on kids who didn't have any," Bill said contentedly, "and now he is doing it." **NOW**

Editor's Note: To donate, visit Citizens National Bank or mail your donation to Shoe Buddy, 107 Cattail Court, Waxahachie, TX 75165.

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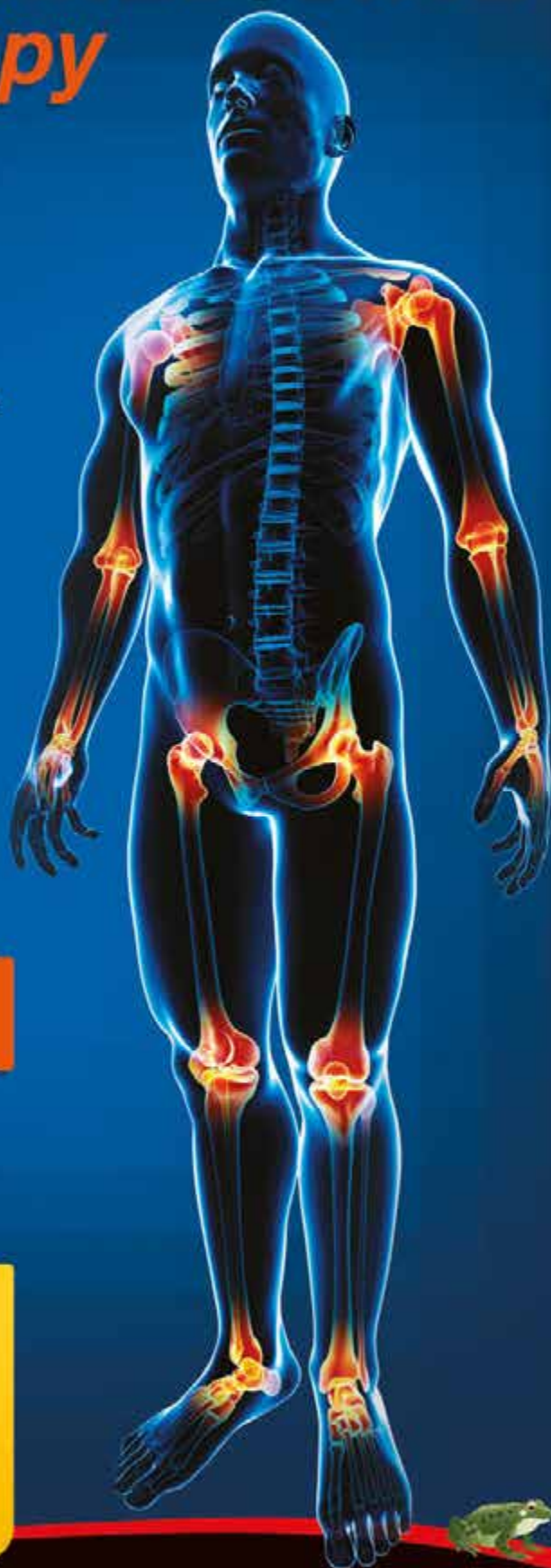
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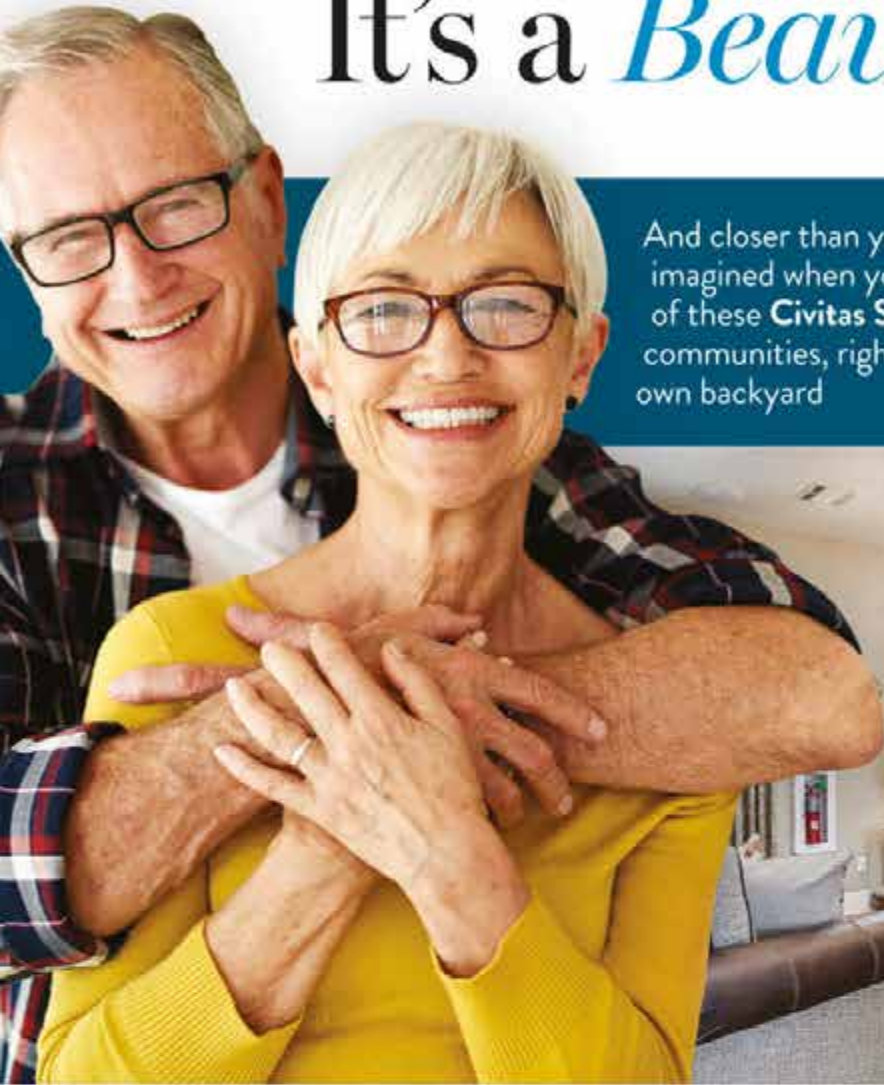
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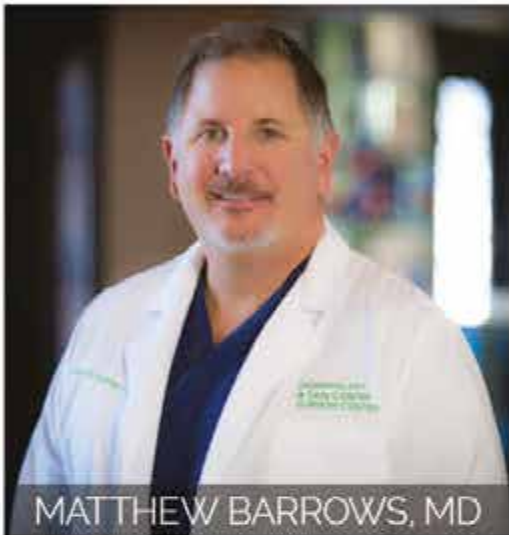
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BusinessNOW

Envy Aesthetics

— By Susan Simmons

Envy Aesthetics

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In March 2019, Jennifer Grimes opened her own business, Envy Aesthetics. “I have always been intrigued with aesthetics, and after many years treating serious and chronic disease, I decided to make a complete switch. I resigned and “semi” retired from nursing, but with the push from my husband, I decided to get trained in BOTOX. I was instantly hooked!” Jennifer exclaimed. “Having my own business also affords me more time to spend with my young daughter, Lillie.”

Jennifer worked in nursing for more than 15 years as an RN and an adult nurse practitioner. She worked in various settings of health care, including hospital and outpatient cardiology. “It is a

very stressful environment, and I was ready for something more cheerful. Aesthetics was the perfect choice,” she explained.

Jennifer graduated from Midlothian High School in 2000 and married her high school sweetheart a few years later. Since there was a lack of aesthetics in Midlothian, it was the perfect place to start her own boutique-style clinic. “I started with zero clients. I purchased the products and practiced a ton on my family and friends. I did lots of networking to get the word out, but most of my patients come from word-of-mouth. The best advertising is when a friend sees another friend, notices how great she looks, and then hears about my magic and how easy and affordable it is,” Jennifer shared. The treatments are performed by Jennifer in her small, intimate clinic. Everything is very personalized, even making appointments or discussing treatment options by texting Jennifer on her cell phone.

Envy Aesthetics offers BOTOX anti-wrinkle treatment, dermal fillers, chemical peels, microneedling, B-12 shots and medical-grade skincare. In the near future, PRP (platelet rich plasma) will be added to Jennifer’s repertoire of services.

“I love making people feel more confident about themselves,” Jennifer shared. “My motto is: Refreshed not frozen. The true art of aesthetics is to achieve a natural look. To affect a more youthful appearance with a refreshed face and glowing skin can be a self-esteem booster for so many people. It is such a pleasure offering these services to my friends, neighbors and all the members of our lovely community.”

“THE MOST REWARDING PART OF WHAT I DO IS WHEN A PATIENT CALLS ME BACK A COUPLE DAYS LATER AND TELLS ME HOW GREAT SHE LOOKS AND FEELS.”

Having a family of her own, Jennifer understands the challenges of finding the time to maintain a self-care routine, as well as the importance of looking and feeling good about oneself. She caters to these needs by having very flexible hours to accommodate even the most hectic schedules. She also respects the extraordinary commitment involved in being a teacher or a nurse, and she gives those professionals a discounted price.

For people who are queasy about needles, Jennifer has developed her own methods of distraction that work wonders for relaxing patients. She also uses a strong numbing cream and ice for certain procedures. “Many people are very surprised just how little pain is involved in aesthetics,” she said. “The most rewarding part of what I do is when a patient calls me back a couple days later and tells me how great she looks and feels. Sometimes, it seems even their voice has a new little spark to it!

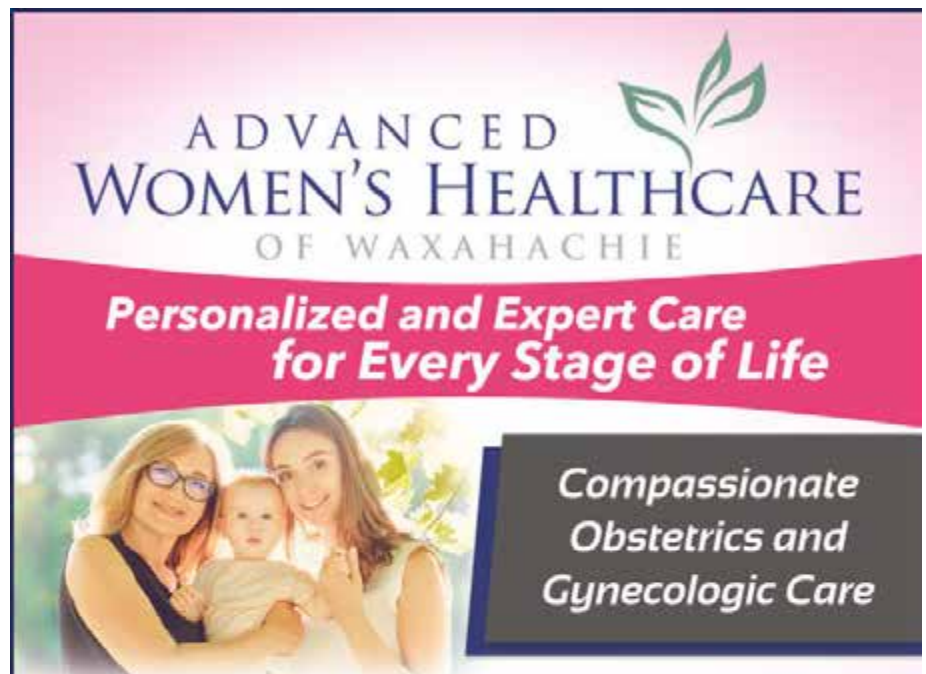
“Anyone who has considered taking advantage of aesthetics, should definitely give me a call, and we can discuss all of your options,” Jennifer said. “My clinic is very peaceful and private, and your experience will be pleasurable and fun.” **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Dana Scott

By Susan Simmons

Dana Scott was awarded the Waxahachie High School Teacher of the Year Award for 2021. She has taught English and coached girls track for 26 years in WISD during her 31-year career as an educator. “I feel so blessed to work with such great people who genuinely care about the students, and I am especially blessed to get to spend my days with so many amazing and wonderful kids,” Dana shared. “Being a member of a sports team is a great asset to students. This past year, so many of their families have experienced financial troubles, sickness and death, and even domestic violence, and I have seen how sports allows them to get out and have fun and not think about their worries — at least for a little while.”



Ronnie Ward loads birdseed for his customers.



Mark and Kathleen Bowen enjoy their front yard on a beautiful spring day!



Erica Brown, Jennifer Pope and Angie McClain have fun attending an alumni game at Richard's Park!



Josephina Medina, her daughter, Vanessa, and her doggie daughter, Elsa, enjoy their daily walk at the park!



Lilly Salazar celebrates her birthday with her daddy, Rafael; uncle, Julio; and brothers, Leo and Miguel.



Clifford Jingles and John Poston are happy about all the people who supported Poston Tulip Gardens!



Two handsome firefighters, Loss Horn and Jared Ussey, picnic at the park with their families.



Marissa Toussaint and Bryan Constable take donations for antibullying organization, Stand for the Silent.

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CookingNOW
In the Kitchen With
JANE ANN SHIPP

— By Susan Simmons

Jane Ann Shipp enjoys preparing down-home cooking for her family and friends. “There’s nothing better than a pot of pinto beans, that have slow cooked all day, served with cornbread,” Jane Ann shared. “I also love to try new recipes that I find on Pinterest and taking them to potluck dinners and socials.”

As a child, Jane Ann spent many days and nights on the family farm in Italy, Texas, watching her mother and aunts cook up feasts for their family. “I come from a family of cooks, and I married into a family of cooks as well,” she explained. “I am Audrey Washington’s daughter-in-law, and I have several of her cookbooks.” Audrey Washington was the owner of the legendary bakery in Waxahachie during the ’70s and ’80s called The Bake Shop. **NOW**

them with the oil mixture, tossing until they are completely coated.
3. Keep the pretzels fresh by storing them in large, Ziploc bags.

Mandarin Orange Cake

This cake was served at The Durham House in Waxahachie, which was a fancy restaurant, whose customers came from all over the world.

- 1 box Duncan Hinds Butter Cake Mix**
- 1 stick butter, softened**
- 4 eggs**
- 1 small can mandarin oranges, juice and all**

Icing:

- 1 small pkg. instant vanilla pudding**
- 1 16-oz. container Cool Whip**
- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained**

- 1.** Beat the cake mix and butter together.
- 2.** Add the eggs one at a time; beat after each addition.
- 3.** Fold in the oranges.
- 4.** Pour the batter into 2 round 9-inch, well-greased cake pans.

United Methodist Women’s Famous Lenten Lunch BBQ

Makes about 12 servings.

- 1 3-lb. pork sirloin**
- 1 16-oz. barbecue sauce**
(I like Sweet Baby Ray’s.)
- 1 14-oz. can whole cranberry sauce**

- 1.** Put all the ingredients in a Crock-Pot; let cook on low for 6-8 hours.
- 2.** Pull the pork apart; serve on buns.

Party Pretzels

- 8 oz. vegetable or canola oil**
- 4 Tbsp. butter, melted**
- 2 tsp. dill**
- 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch dressing**
- 1 Tbsp. red pepper flakes**
- 2 1-lb. bags pretzel twists**

- 1.** Mix the oil, butter, dill, ranch dressing and red pepper flakes together with a whisk.
- 2.** Pour the pretzels into a large bowl; cover

5. Bake for 30 minutes.
6. *For icing:* Mix the pudding and Cool Whip together.
7. Fold in the pineapple.
8. Frost the cake. Keep refrigerated.

Gingerbread Boys

Thousands of these were sold at the bakery, especially during the Gingerbread Trail.

- 1/3 cup soft shortening
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups dark molasses
- 1/2 cup, plus 3 Tbsp. cold water (divided use)
- 7 cups sifted flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. allspice
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. baking soda


1. Mix the shortening, brown sugar and molasses thoroughly.
2. Stir in 1/2 cup water; set aside.
3. In a separate mixing bowl, sift together the flour, salt, allspice, ginger, cloves and cinnamon; stir.
4. Dissolve the baking soda in 3 Tbsp. of cold water.
5. Mix the ingredients of both bowls together, using the soda water to knead the dough together. The dough will be thick.
6. Chill the dough for a bit for easier rolling.
7. Roll out very thick; cut the dough with a gingerbread boy cutter or round biscuit cutter.
8. Bake at 350 F for 15-18 minutes.

Chocolate Revel Bars

This was one of the best sellers at Audrey's Bake Shop.

- 1 cup butter
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3 tsp. vanilla (divided use)
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 3 cups quick cooking oats, uncooked
- 1 12-oz. pkg. chocolate chips
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1 cup nuts
- 1 15-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- 1/4 tsp. salt

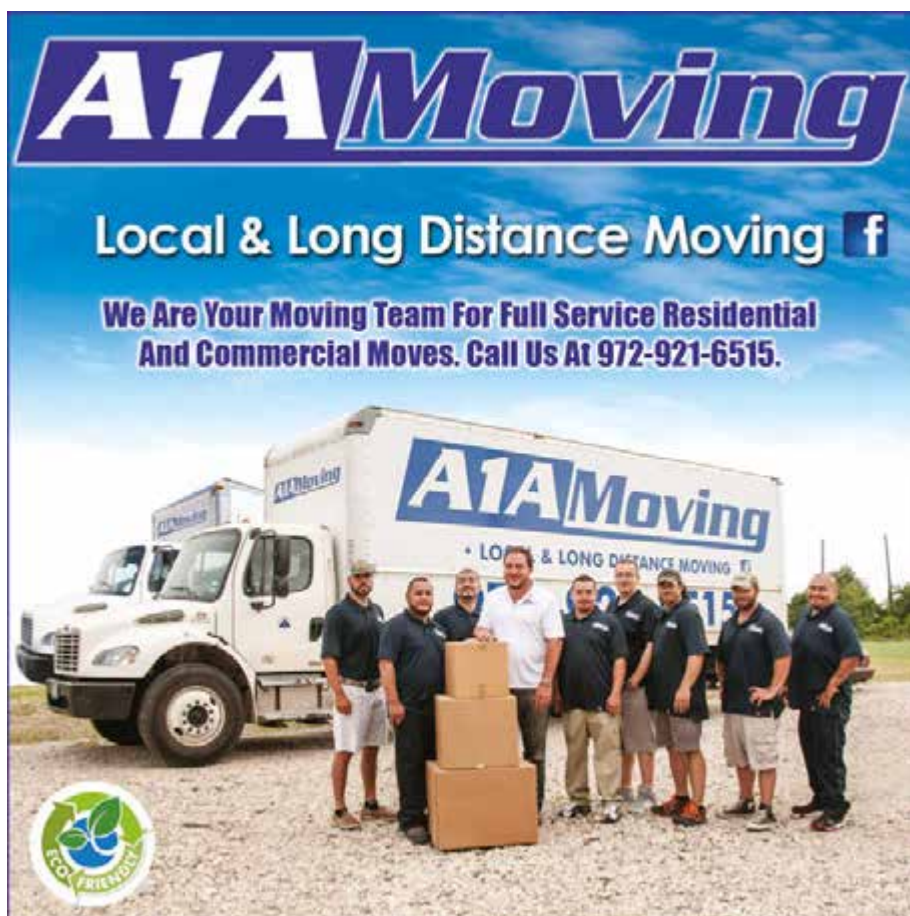
1. Cream together the butter, brown sugar and eggs.
2. Add 2 tsp. vanilla, flour, baking soda and salt; add the oats.
3. Pour the mixture into a greased and floured sheet pan; set aside.



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- Mix the chocolate chips, butter, nuts, milk, salt and remaining vanilla. Melt together in a heavy saucepan over low heat. Pour over the first mixture.
- Bake for 25-30 minutes at 350 F.

Pecan Pie

- 1 cup Karo syrup
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. melted butter
- 1 cup pecans

- Mix together the syrup, eggs, salt, vanilla, sugar and butter; add the pecans.



Mandarin Orange Cake

- Pour the mixture into an unbaked pie shell.
- Bake in a preheated 400 F oven for 15 minutes. Reduce the heat to 300 F; bake 30-35 minutes longer. The middle of the pie should be firm, yet slightly soft.

Coconut Pie

Custard:

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup flour
- 3/4 cup coconut
- Pinch of salt
- 3 egg yolks
- 2 cups milk
- 2 Tbsp. butter or margarine
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Meringue:

- 4 egg whites
- 8 Tbsp. sugar
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar

- For custard: Mix the sugar, flour, coconut and salt.
- Add the egg yolks one at a time; beat well.
- Gradually add the milk; cook on the stovetop until thickened.
- Remove from heat; add the butter and vanilla.

- Pour the mixture into a baked pie shell. Let stand and cool a little.
- For meringue: Mix all ingredients together. Beat until peaks form.
- Put on baked pie; cook in the oven for about 10 minutes at 350 F, until the peaks begin to brown.

Pecan Chews

Chews:

- 1 stick butter
- 2 cups light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

Glaze:

- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1 tsp. orange extract
- 1-2 tsp. water

- For chews: Combine all of the ingredients.
- Pour mixture into a greased and floured 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350 F for 20 minutes. Cool until slightly warm.
- For glaze: Combine the powdered sugar and orange extract with just enough water to make a glaze.
- Pour the glaze over the warm chews.



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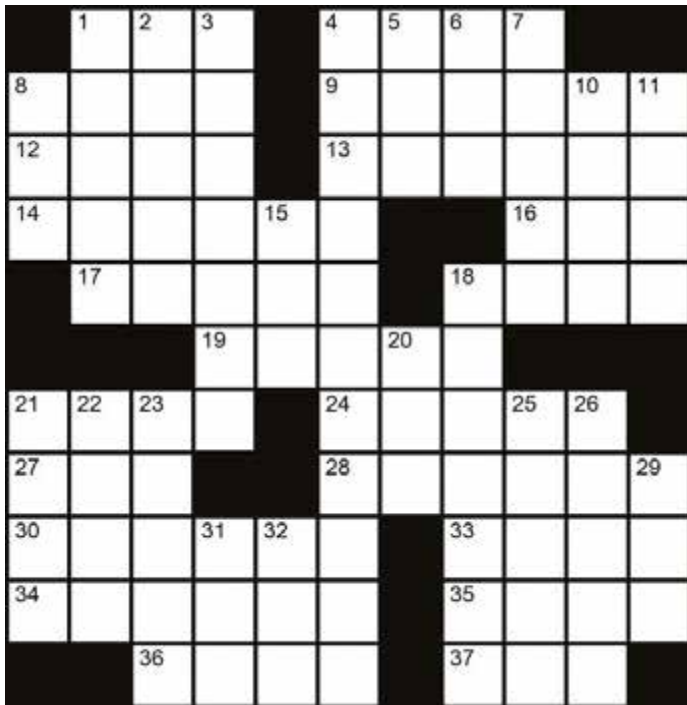
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Across

- 1 London radio and TV network
- 4 "As --- alone, by blue Ontario's shores" (Whitman)
- 8 Miles of "Psycho"
- 9 Incendiary gel
- 12 Wide smile
- 13 Oscar winner --- Loren
- 14 Brush expert
- 16 Surgical procedures
- 17 Up and about
- 18 Assay
- 19 --- Hauptmann, the Lindbergh kidnapper
- 21 Twenty-four were baked in it
- 24 Overtake
- 27 Neuman's mag
- 28 Bay State capital's nickname
- 30 Native American village
- 33 Partiality
- 34 Executioner
- 35 Formerly, one sixteenth of a rupee
- 36 Woodpile
- 37 Stage joke

Down

- 1 He coined the comment: "A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore"
- 2 Cockneys, Liverpoolians et al.
- 3 Incredulous response
- 4 Trainers
- 5 Portuguese holy one
- 6 Software program, briefly
- 7 California border lake
- 8 Computer monitor letters
- 10 Hot --- (M A S H role)
- 11 Nuts
- 15 Respectful form of address
- 18 Carryall
- 20 "Forget it!"
- 21 Current units
- 22 Reverse or Robeson
- 23 Best possible
- 25 Crockery
- 26 --- He (Chinese river)
- 29 Youth org.
- 31 Letters on some party invitations
- 32 Section of a race

Solutions on page 44

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				8	9			2
			1					
2		3						9
			5	3		8		
		4		6				
	4							2
				2	8			9
		2		7				1

Medium

		6			5			
5		2	8	6				3
				1				
	4					7	6	
	5	1	2					8
9				7	8			
			7					
8		9	5	4				
	1			8				2

Solutions on page 44

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WaxahachieNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden Frogs

in 5 different ads in this issue (not counting the one above).

Email the page numbers and specific ads where they are found, plus your contact information and phone number, by May 15th.

To ensure your Scavenger Hunt answers go in the drawing, you must use the

Scavenger Hunt Email

scavenger.wax@nowmagazines.com

One entry per person.



\$50 Cash Prize

Courtesy of:
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scavenger.wax@nowmagazines.com

Winner must pick up prizes within 30 days of drawing.

Birds were found on pages 10, 14, 19, 28 and 31

April winner is:
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Due to COVID-19, some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press. Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

MAY

5/1

ADRL Dragalooza:

Texas Motorplex,
7500 U.S. Hwy. 287, Ennis.
For more information visit
www.texasmotorplex.com.

5/1-5/31

Scarborough

Renaissance Festival:

Held on **Saturdays and Sundays, plus Memorial Day Monday.** Adults \$37; kids 5-15: \$17. Discounts available online at SRFestival.com. 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., 2511 FM 66. (972) 938-3247. www.srfestival.com.

5/8

Waxahachie Farmers Market:

First day of the market, and it has changed locations! 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 701 Howard Rd. For more information, call (469) 309-4111 or email asimpson@waxahachie.com.

Fort Worth

Symphony Orchestra:

Presented by the Waxahachie Symphony Association. This performance is to replace the one originally scheduled for 2020. No tickets will be sold. All previously purchased tickets will be honored. 7:00 p.m., Hagee Center, 2000 Sycamore. www.waxahachiesymphony.org/concerts.

5/8 and 5/15

Virtual LEGO Club:

Challenges will be issued at

the beginning of the week and creations will be shared at the meetings. Free. 11:00 a.m. Book online at <https://www.simslib.org/bookings-checkout/virtual-lego-club>. For more information, contact Sims Library at (972) 937-2671 or adult@simslib.org.

5/28

Last day of school for Waxahachie ISD.

Mondays-Thursdays

Waxahachie Care Food Pantry:

We are taking precautions for food distribution. When you arrive, remain in your vehicle, and communicate with Donna in the parking lot about your needs. Please stay in your vehicle until your food is placed on the designated table. For assistance other than food, please fill out the online CARE application at <https://www.waxahachiecare.org/>. 1208 Ferris Avenue. For more information, call (972) 923-2273,

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

Salvation Army Food Pantry:

We are operating a drive-through. Please have space cleared in your trunk or

backseat. Available to all in need. No paperwork necessary. 9:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-4:00 p.m., as supplies last.

Mondays-Fridays

Waxahachie Care Donation Drop-off:

Waxahachie Care has an immediate need for baby diapers, baby wipes, adult diapers, adult bed pads and boxed meals (such as Hamburger or Tuna Helper and Pasta Salad meals).

Drop-off times are **Monday-Thursdays:**

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. and

Friday: 8:00 a.m.-noon. 1208 Ferris Avenue.

Virtual I on I Genealogy:

Appointment required. Free. 10:00 a.m.-noon. Email ESL@simslib.org or register at <https://www.simslib.org/register>.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Salvation Army Emergency Financial Assistance

(Utility Assistance):

Call (972) 937-7727 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment.

Wednesdays

Hora De Cuento — Bilingual Story Time:

Join us for a time of Spanish/English stories and songs. Ages

0-5. Free. 11:00 a.m., book at <https://www.simslib.org/register>.

Thursdays

Fine Art Adventure After School Class:

Children's art class focusing on learning about well-known artists such as Matisse, Monet, Rousseau and Cézanne and creating artwork inspired by them using a variety of mediums and projects. All supplies are provided. Ages 6-12. \$25 per class. 4:00-5:30 p.m.,

Art on the Square Gallery Classroom, 113 W. Franklin St.

For more information, contact Barbara Woods at (972) 937-3414.

Fridays

Virtual Preschool Storytime:

Storytime for ages 3-5. Free. 10:00 a.m., book at <https://www.simslib.org/register>.

Saturdays

Red Maple Riders Cycling Group:

Local family-friendly cycling group that rides every weekend for beginners through advanced. Free. 213 Pecan Tree Rd. For more information visit their Facebook page: Red Maple Riders.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to susan.simmons@nowmagazines.com.

FRIDAY, MAY 28

King & Queen Dance Contest

SATURDAY, MAY 29

Parade, Arts & Crafts, Kolache Eating Contest,
Live Polka Bands including Brave Combo,
& Jon Wolfe/Jesse Jennings Country Concert



SUNDAY, MAY 30

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