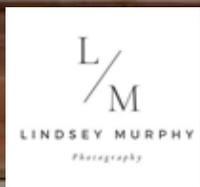


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We are always looking for residents to feature in the magazine, find great stories and send us ideas. Let's celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please email jason.smith@n2pub.com with your pictures, suggestions, or requests.

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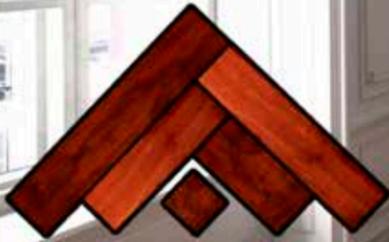


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Hello Dominion! We appreciate your feedback on how different this magazine is and that it is the personal neighborhood magazine of the community. I thought I would highlight why it stands apart from anything else you'll find in your mailbox.

Unlike traditional magazines that feel distant or generic, Stroll Dominion is crafted specifically for our neighborhood. It's designed to reflect the unique stories, events, and people that make our community one of the most special places to call home and truly San Antonio's premier community! If social media is the place where we connect digitally, consider this magazine "Facebook on Paper"—a tangible, beautifully curated experience that keeps you informed, engaged, and connected with your neighbors.

What sets us apart is our hyper-local focus. Every feature, every spotlight, and every story in these pages is about The Dominion, for The Dominion, and by The Dominion. We highlight the families that make up our vibrant community, the local businesses that serve us, and the events that bring us together.

Our magazine is not mass-distributed—it's exclusive. It's delivered directly into the homes of Dominion residents, ensuring that our content reaches those who truly find value in it. Unlike mainstream publications that compete for attention with sensational headlines and impersonal content, we focus on meaningful stories that celebrate our community. In a world overwhelmed with digital noise, there's something refreshing about sitting down with a high-quality, thoughtfully produced magazine dedicated entirely to the place you call home.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible businesses that support this publication. Our business partners are not just advertisers—they are fellow community members, dedicated to serving The Dominion. Whether they provide professional services, health and wellness expertise, home improvement solutions, or fine dining experiences, these businesses invest in our community and make this magazine a reality. Their support allows us to continue delivering

engaging, high-quality content at no cost to you or the community.

So, as you flip through these pages, I encourage you to take note of the businesses featured within. These are the companies that believe in community over competition, that see the value in fostering real, local connections, and that are invested in making The Dominion an even better place to live. When you support them, you're not just doing business—you're strengthening the very fabric of our neighborhood.

Thank you for being a part of Stroll Dominion. Whether you've been here for years or you're new to the neighborhood, we hope this magazine serves as a source of connection, inspiration, and local pride. If you have a story to share or an idea for an upcoming issue, we'd love to hear from you!

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VERNON & GAIL REASER



The year 1970 had just begun, and Vernon “Scooter” Reaser was dressed in a flowery long-sleeve shirt, leather bell bottoms and a leather headband, all equipped with enough fringe to make Jimi Hendrix jealous. He parked his Cadillac and sauntered up to a complex near the Greenway Plaza in Houston where he knocked on an apartment door. His outfit was a far cry from his usual suit and tie, standard lawyer attire, but he’d been informed that his date that night was a real “hippie chick”, so Scooter wanted to look the part. He adjusted his headband once more as the knob twisted and the door opened to reveal Gail in a little black dress, her hair elegantly coiffed. As Scooter recounts in a short story he wrote about their fateful introduction, “she was the most enchanting, gorgeous girl/woman I’d ever seen in my life.” Gail stood there, astonished by the man on her doorstep. “You’re a lawyer?!” she nearly shouted in surprise. “You’re a hippie chick?!” Scooter gasped in reply.

Both hailing from Victoria, Texas, Gail and Vernon were raised by driven parents who instilled in them a strong work ethic from the very beginning. Vernon, an only child, often spent his days bouncing between school and his parents’ various businesses around the city. The son of entrepreneurs, Vernon grew up around the spirit of striving for something greater and a willingness to “go for it”, which suited him well throughout his life. Gail grew up in Venezuela where her father worked in the oil business. At 6, she returned to the States to begin school, but soon after, her parents split and from then on she was raised by a single mother. As a single mom in the early 50s, Gail witnessed her mother overcome obstacle after obstacle while working three jobs to provide for them. Eventually, Gail’s mom and her sister moved in together to raise their daughters while Gail’s grandmother ran the household. It was a home filled with impressive women.

As most from a small town do, Vernon and Gail left Victoria after high school

to pursue their ambitions in the big city. Vernon, however, did have a stint prior to city life when, at 17, he went to Eagle Pass along the Mexican border to help run a cattle ranch. There, he met the man who invented nachos, but that’s a different story... or book (Vernon recalls his exploits and much more in his novel, *Tales of the Vegas: Or I Was There When They Invented Nachos*). From there, he enrolled at Trinity University in San Antonio, then transferred to the University of Houston before continuing on to the South Texas College of Law. In 1969, he was admitted to the Texas Bar.

Gail pursued higher education at the University of Houston immediately following high school. While still a student, she began working for a large chemical corporation, her first real exposure to the corporate world. With a commanding presence and a tireless work ethic, she found success both academically and professionally in the big city.

As Vernon put it, “if you were from a small town in Texas you would migrate

to a large town, and eventually meet other new acquaintances from your hometown,” and so it was for him and Gail. Through a mutual acquaintance, who was also a transplant from Victoria, Gail and Vernon became aware of one another and were set up on a date. Having been told on several occasions that he looked like “a narc”, Vernon took it upon himself to adorn a more free-spirited ensemble, while Gail went in a classier direction. When they first met face-to-face on Gail’s doorstep, the ice was immediately broken as they beheld the brilliantly unexpected. Hopping into his Caddy, they drove to Vernon’s office where he could change back into a proper suit. When Vernon emerged looking much more himself, Gail smiled and said, “now that’s better”, as she straightened his tie. The rest of the evening was spent at Glen McCarthy’s Cork Club where they had drinks, hors d’oeuvres, and danced to the sweet melodies of band with a one-armed trumpet player. Within weeks they were engaged, and on March 14, 1970, they were married in the Chapel at the First Methodist Church in Houston.

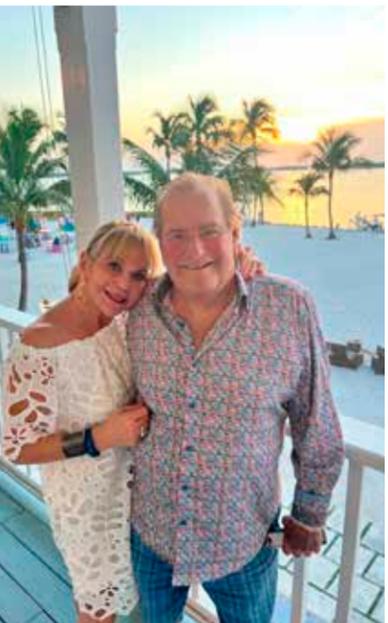
Life then took on a beautiful rhythm of its own as they grew together and in their professional lives. Inspired by Vernon’s father, who bought and sold real estate and told her that it was one of the few industries where a woman could truly compete, Gail began to study for her real estate license. They returned to Victoria where Vernon opened his own law office and continued to build upon his already impeccable reputation. After earning her real estate license and obtaining her hours, Gail sat for the broker’s exam in a room mostly comprised of men at least a decade older than herself. At the time of her exam, she was the youngest soon-to-be brokers in the entire state of Texas.

Vernon went on to ascend to the top of his field, practicing general business, tort, oil and gas, and antitrust law in both state and federal courts. He was instrumental in the formation of business in, and doing business in,

Mexico, and tried over one-hundred cases over the course of his illustrious career. He was admitted to practice before the Fifth and Eleventh Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court, and the Southern District of Texas. He became a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Texas, and the Victoria County Bar Association where he reigned as President in 1980. Still, with all the success he found practicing law, Vernon feels that his biggest accomplishment was his role in bringing class action lawsuits against companies violating fair trade laws and holding large corporations accountable.

Simultaneously, Gail was making a mark of her own. She graduated from the Lincoln Graduate Center School, earning the Graduate of Realtors Institute designation. She earned certifications as a Master Senior Appraiser, Master Farm & Land Appraiser, and Certified Relocation Professional. She became a member of the Texas Association of Realtors, the National Association of Realtors, and the Victoria Area Association of Realtors where she served as President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Director, and Chair of the Professional Standards Committee. As Gail says of the industry before the age of cellphones, “I was selling real estate in high heels and rolls of quarters.” Her prowess and expertise were recognized when she earned the prestigious Realtor of the Year Award in 1989 and, more recently, the Realtor Emeritus designation from the Texas Association of Realtors. After 50 years in the industry, Gail can honestly say that the most gratifying part of her journey was becoming part of the families she helped along the way. “Often a young couple would come in with a small child and, years later, that same baby, now grown up, would come





to see me," says Gail in pleasant reflection, "Over time, I'd be helping a family for three or four generations. That's a very rewarding feeling."

While living in Victoria, Gail and Vernon became good friends with a couple, Richard and Lorene Bothe, who were originally from San Antonio and had since returned to their roots and settled in the Dominion. On a visit to see the Bothes, both Gail and Vernon were dazzled by the terrain and the atmosphere of the Dominion and, one day during their stay, Vernon blurted out of the blue, "We're moving to the Dominion!" And shortly after, in 2019, they did.

Now retired, life for Vernon and Gail has once again taken on a different rhythm, though they're still the busy bodies they've always been. They've loved life in the Dominion since day one and, although COVID slowed their initial transition into the community, it certainly didn't hold them back, enjoying "curb parties" as a way to get acquainted with their neighbors from a "safe distance". When restrictions were lifted, they attended mixers for new arrivals where they met several couples who'd arrived around the time they did and became fast friends. They also joined the Country Club where they've made many more.

"This is a unique and wonderful place," says Vernon. "You never meet a stranger. It's a community of really nice people."

"San Antonio itself is like that," Gail seconds. "The people are joyful and positive. It's thriving here. We were also fortunate that our neighbor, Renee Vasquez, was soon to be La Reina de la Flores of Rey Feo for. Serving on her committee was such an honor and introduced us to the fabulous pageantry and good will of San Antonio's Fiesta."

When they're not enjoying the community, Gail and Vernon enjoy traveling abroad, boating, cruising and fishing. They love to spend time at their home in Santa Fe where they've become acquainted with many of the local artists and Gail has found a passion for blowing glass. Her newest hobby is race horses and, after collaborating in the acquisition of race horse shares, enjoyed a banner 2024 with one of her horses winning three big races and the Eclipse Award for the 2024 Horseracing Moment of the Year with its thrilling Preakness win. "The winner's circle is pretty fun," Gail says with a wink. When able, Vernon, who's a lifelong writer and storyteller at heart, has been working on his next book. They have two sons and five amazing grandchildren..

If Vernon and Gail had to pick a credo, it would be "Why Not?". Why not move from their small town to the big city? Why not dress the part to win over the woman of your dreams? Why not pursue a career, regardless of age or sex? Why not move to the Dominion? Why not leave a lasting impression? Why not live the most enchanting life imaginable?

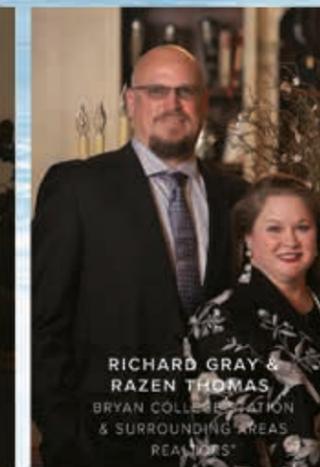
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SPRING DETOX

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As winter melts away, our bodies innately crave a reset — one that feels intuitive, nourishing and aligned with the season. In nature, springtime is not about deprivation or scarcity but about renewal, gentle awakening and supporting the body's natural rhythms. As warm weather arrives, skip the restrictive cleanses and focus on colorful, hydrating foods, mindful movement and graceful shifts that help your system do what it was designed to do.

BY SHAUNA OSBORNE, NATIONAL EDITOR



1. Start your morning with hydration. One of the easiest ways to refresh your system is to start the day with warm lemon water. This simple ritual helps kickstart digestion, replenishes hydration after a night's rest and delivers a healthy dose of vitamin C to brighten both skin and energy levels. Add a pinch of high-quality, mineral-rich sea salt to support electrolyte balance for an extra boost.

2. Support your liver naturally. The liver is the body's powerhouse when it comes to detoxification. Nourish it with foods that enhance its natural function. Bitter greens like dandelion, mustard and arugula stimulate digestion, while cruciferous vegetables — such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower — contain glucosinolates that support liver enzyme activity.

3. Move and breathe for circulation. Lymphatic flow is essential for clearing waste from the body, and movement, such as gentle morning stretches or a brisk walk outside, helps keep it flowing. Deep (belly) breathing is another powerful tool, promoting detoxification while regulating stress hormones and enhancing circulation, according to the Mayo Clinic. By increasing oxygen flow and nutrient delivery to cells, deep breathing can boost energy, strengthen the immune system and support digestion by gently massaging internal organs with each breath.

4. Eat with the season. Springtime offers an abundance of naturally purifying foods. Asparagus supports kidney function, citrus fruits provide potent antioxidants, and fresh herbs like parsley and cilantro help flush out superfluous heavy metals. Prioritizing seasonal produce and whole foods gives the body the nutrients it needs to cleanse itself — no extreme measures required.

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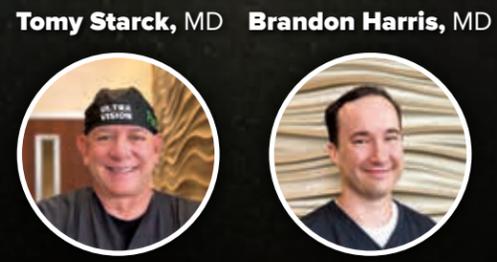
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HABIBI



Age:
14 years

Family members names:
Scooter & Gail. I am an only child.

Type:
a very fluffy big grey/white cat with big blue crossed eyes
Female

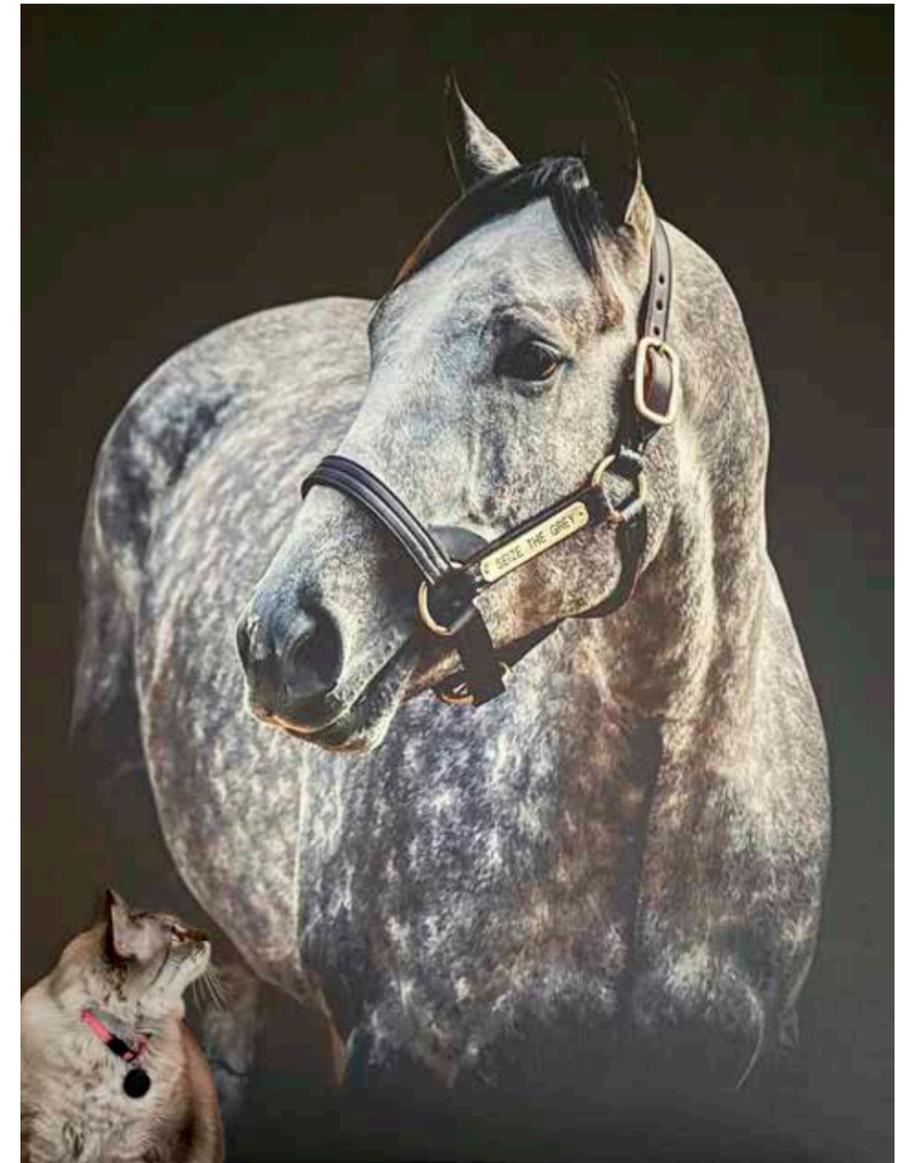
Explain the story of her name:
Inspired by a boat trip up the Nile. Our guide referred to us as “Habibi” explaining the meaning as “dear one”. We came back and named our cat Habibi!

Explain how you met Habibi:
She is truly a “rescued cat”. A ranch hand was about to flood an armadillo hole under a large oak tree when I suggested we check the hole first. He stuck his hand in and instead of the expected armadillo - out limped a fluffy timid little kitten. Love at first sight!

She had been mauled and seriously injured. After a week at the Vet’s and 6 weeks living in a special box to keep her activities to zero, she healed and that was 14 years ago.

Funny habits:
She likes her food fluffed several times a day and brushing as many times as we can. She jumps into bed several times at night, taps me on the face to let her go out and explore or a food bowel needs attention, or more often its time for some ear scratches.

How has she enriched your family:
Her affection and knowing she is not far. She follows us around the house, has her special chair in the office, pillow to watch TV and her favorite nap place is on an old Orvis suitcase, as if to say “I’m ready, where are we going.





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Reina de la Feria de las Flores

London Powell

London Powell is a prime example of what makes Fiesta such a special event, and the Reina de la Feria de las Flores such a role. London's kind heart and love for her community is evident in the way she carries herself and communicates, making it clear why she's one of the youngest ever chosen to wear the crown. Her journey to the throne, however, was over a decade in the making.

London was making breakfast for her younger siblings as she simultaneously spoke to me over the phone for our interview. Appointed as one of the six official royalty this past October, being the Reina de la Feria de las Flores, a tradition that began in 1947, is a title she takes extremely seriously and is honored to have. "In 2014, I got to ride on one of the floats during Fiesta," London pleasantly recalls, "and I was so enamored by the queen and remember thinking, 'I'm going to do that one day.'" With her enduring enthusiasm, she called the board during her sophomore year to express her interest and, the next thing she knew, she was signing the contract. Being that she was still a sophomore at the time, she was sworn to secrecy, holding onto her exciting news until it was officially announced in late 2024.

Though the Fiesta celebration only spans two weeks from April 24th-May 4th, her reign as queen is a year-long responsibility. Each queen is tasked to raise a minimum of \$75,000 and embarks on a mission of advocacy for education. Understanding the transformative power that education can



have, London takes great pride in her role. Through events and the community outreach she does with Rey Feo, she's been spreading awareness for the little known Tom Morton Sandoval Parent/Child Scholarship, an incredible, multi-generational opportunity. Any parent with a child age 6 or younger who is interested in returning to school to earn their associates degree, certificate, or complete a trade school or transfer program within 4 years is eligible. After the parent completes their obligation, their child will be awarded a 2-year in-district tuition scholarship. The beauty of this opportunity, and the reason London is proud to be advocating for it, is that it improves and empowers two lives through education and allows the parent to truly lead by example. "And personally, I couldn't have done any of this without my loving parents and my caring brother and sister," she says, "Family is so important."

Throughout her reign, London's found visiting local schools to be the most rewarding part of her experience. "I love being able to meet the kids and see their faces light up," she says, "To them, I'm a real queen. At one of the schools, 34% of the students lived at Haven for Hope. I was able to let those underprivileged children know that I see them and that they too can aspire to be the next queen or Rey Feo."

A senior in high school, London is plenty busy balancing her responsibilities as the Reina de la Feria de las Flores, as a student, and as a member of her family, but she wouldn't have it any other way. Not only is she driven, she's capable; exactly the type of queen we could only hope for. Born and raised in San Antonio, it's her honor to wear the crown for the city that will always have her heart. "San Antonio has always been so welcoming and loving," London says, "It's a place where everybody knows everybody. It's family. And it will always be my home."



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NEED THE PERFECT GRADUATION GIFT? GIVE YOUR GRAD A FINANCIAL PLAN

BY MARCO RODRIGUEZ, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FROST

Graduation marks a meaningful milestone – a transition from student life to newfound independence, often accompanied by financial uncertainty. Many young adults lack formal financial education and face an overload of unreliable advice, and even those with significant resources could make costly mistakes. As a parent or loved one, you can help set them up for long-term financial confidence.

Perhaps the most valuable gift you can give is connecting your grad with a financial advisor. At this pivotal moment, a financial planning meeting can help them set clear goals, navigate major purchases or inheritances and make informed decisions about investing and retirement accounts – equipping them with a roadmap to self-sufficiency and long-term financial security.

HERE'S HOW TO GO ABOUT IT:

- Find an advisor you trust. Whether you introduce them to your own wealth advisor – who understands your family’s financial philosophy – or someone new, choose an advisor you can trust who will offer objective guidance. A great advisor won’t just give advice – they’ll provide education on key concepts like the power

of compounding, risk tolerance and the role of tax-advantaged accounts in building wealth.

- Bring a financial snapshot. To maximize their meeting, the recent graduate should organize key financial details: income, savings and investments, debts, insurance, assets and any other relevant information.
- Clarify goals. Ensure the young adult has at least some understanding of their long- and short-term goals – whether it’s planning for future expenses like a car or apartment, getting started with investing or something in between. Financial advisors may ask about life goals for the next five, ten or twenty plus years, so thinking critically about goals, knowledge gaps and key questions will help make this conversation more productive.
- Leave with a to-do list. The meeting should result in a clear plan with some concrete steps, such as “bucketing” income to cover monthly bills, pay down debt, save for emergencies, invest for retirement and pay for other personal wants and needs.
- Follow up. A one-and-done meeting with a financial planner is better than nothing, but an ongoing relationship can be incredibly valuable over time. Encourage your loved one to revisit their financial plan about once per year, or in conjunction with any major purchases (a car or house) or life events (changing jobs, getting married, etc.).

Starting the journey of financial planning can feel intimidating, especially for younger adults. But by connecting your recent graduate with an approachable, knowledgeable advisor and ensuring they’re well prepared, you’ll set them on a path for lasting financial security.

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Ruth's Famous Cookie

BY CHEF ELAINE PERUSQUIA



Those who thrive on the creativity of cooking without a recipe understand and respect that baking is truly a science requiring exact measurements and instructions. Some of the funniest misadventures I recall from culinary school arose from baking & pastry students taking culinary fundamentals, and likewise, culinary students doing their required time in pastry class. The pastry students' quizzical looks when asking the instructor "how long will this cook?" (only to be answered by a very French chef: "Until eet ees done!") were pure gold. The utterly dismayed and deflated faces of culinary students trying to decipher why their loaves of whole wheat bread were small and dense enough to brick a house were equally hilarious. Truly, pastry and culinary chefs are two completely different animals!

While definitely more comfortable in the savory world, I can be seen baking on occasion. Results are often disastrous, I suspect, because I find it hard to trust a recipe. Adding a pinch of this or a bit of that is how savory chefs roll, after all. Suffice it to say that I am a notoriously incompetent baker, a well-known fact among family and friends. One day in pastry class, however, I made a truly beautiful sponge cake wrapped in scratch-cooked lady fingers, filled with pastry cream, and topped with glazed berries. It was perfect. The angels wept. Knowing my reputation for lack of baking prowess, I proudly texted a picture of my creation to my two daughters, to which they flatly replied, "You did not make that."

Baking challenges aside, there are a few confections I find easy enough to prepare well. Among them I would count cheesecake, certain pies, and cookies. I say it often, but a well-executed staple makes for a prepared and versatile cook. Something as seemingly simple as a chocolate chip cookie, when done well, can be glorious. The chocolate chip cookie is actually rumored to have been a happy accident. In my culinary career thus far, I have stumbled upon exactly zero happy accidents in baking, so hats off to Ruth Wakefield.

Ruth Wakefield was the owner of the Toll House Inn in Whitman, Massachusetts in the late 1930's. Well-known for her baking skill, the chocolate chip cookie was more likely the result of some diligent recipe testing versus a true accident. Adding chopped chocolate to her original butter cookie recipe, the story goes that Ruth supposed once the chocolate melted in the oven, the result would be a homogenously chocolate cookie. Melt it did, but the chocolate bits stayed put, and the chocolate chip cookie was born. The original recipe first appeared in Ruth's 1938 cookbook *Tried and True*, and was, according to her, completely intentional. In 1939, she sold the rights to use the Tollhouse name and her recipe to Nestle for a lifetime supply of chocolate.

This month's recipe is not of the Tollhouse variety, but rather, a thin and crispy cookie that is a bit of an ugly duckling. I did tinker with the recipe a bit when I discovered I was running low on chocolate chips but needed a cookie fix. I crushed some sea salted dark chocolate covered almonds in the blender, and the result was as successful as any baking experiment I've ever tried.

So there you have it! These cookies are crispy, chewy, and almost toffee-like due to a higher-than-usual amount of sugar. They are meant to be flat, and finished with a little kosher salt, they are addictive. Their depth of flavor more than makes up for their humble appearance.

Admittedly, I am no Ruth Wakefield, but I'll keep trying when it comes to baking. I tip my toque to those of you who can bake; you have my admiration. Happy cooking (baking), everyone!

SALTED ALMOND CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt (plus more for finishing)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 sticks unsalted butter (at room temp)
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 ½ cups light brown sugar
- 2-3 teaspoons pure vanilla extract (Mexican vanilla if you have it)
- 1 ½ cups dark chocolate sea salt almonds, crushed**
- ½ cup mini chocolate chips
- ½ cup pecans, chopped

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine dry ingredients in a small bowl and set aside. In the bowl of a stand mixer, beat the butter and sugars until fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add vanilla and scrape down sides of bowl. Beat in the eggs one at a time. Add flour mixture until just combined. Fold in the crushed dark chocolate covered almonds, chocolate chips, and pecans.

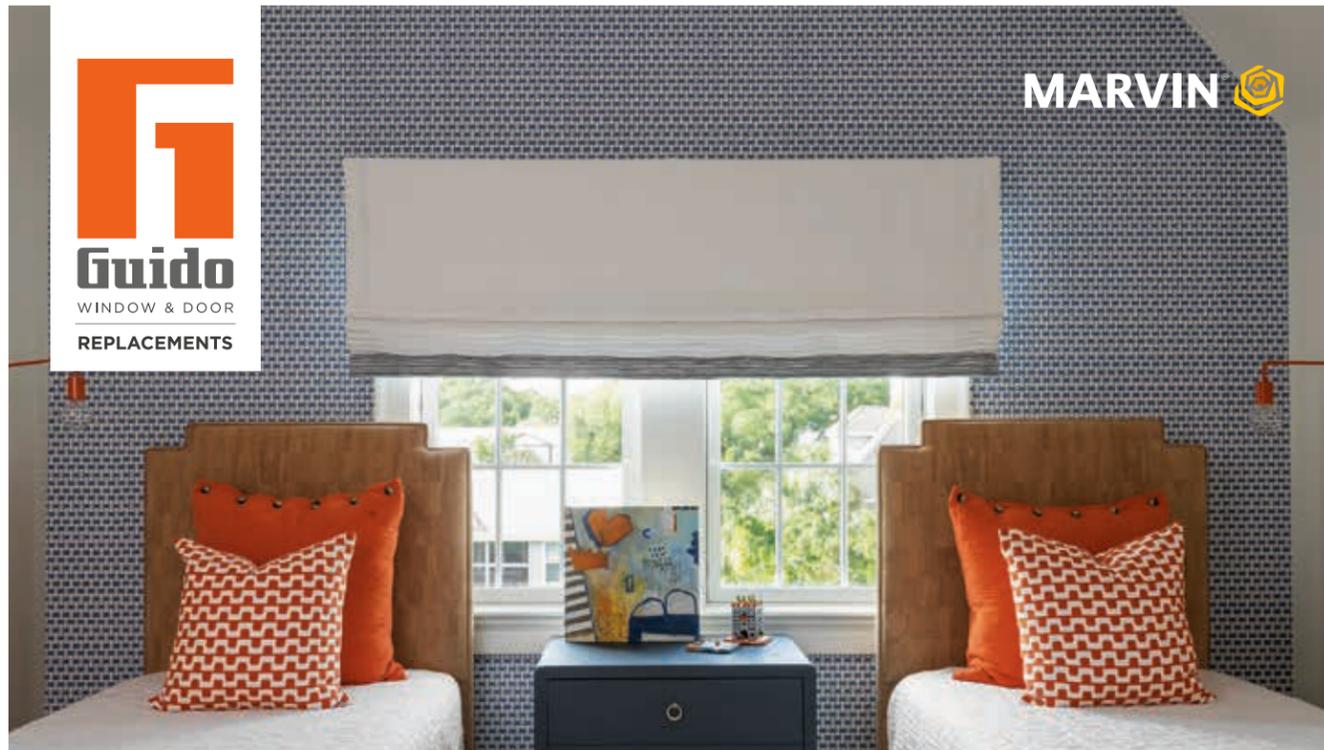
2. Line sheet pans with parchment and drop about 2 tablespoons of dough 2 inches apart for each cookie (they will spread). Bake for 10-12 minutes, or until golden and crisp. Remove from oven and immediately sprinkle cookies with a little kosher salt or finishing salt (if desired - the salt really balances the extra sugar in these cookies). Cool on a wire rack.

3. There is no need to refrigerate this dough before baking, as it is expected to spread. The goal is a thin, crispy cookie that is almost toffee-like.



*a blender or food processor works well

Chef Elaine Perusquia is the mother of two and a graduate of The Culinary Institute of America. A long-time food enthusiast, she is a private chef, food writer, and culinary expert for the Skillr app for iPhone. Follow her on Instagram at [chefelaine.culinarycrossroads](https://www.instagram.com/chefelaine.culinarycrossroads) to see what's cooking between issues.



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What an amazing afternoon we had at La Fogata, where the Dominion Women's Forum hosted a fabulous luncheon with our incredible vendors! The atmosphere was warm and inviting, with delicious food that perfectly complemented the lively conversation.

The event was a fantastic opportunity to connect with local vendors, share insights, and discover new friendships. From mouthwatering appetizers to the flavorful main courses, La Fogata's hospitality set the perfect tone for the afternoon. Everyone enjoyed themselves while savoring the vibrant dishes that showcased the rich flavors of San Antonio.

A big thank you to all the vendors who participated and helped make this event such a success. We're grateful for the continued support and collaboration, and we're already looking forward to future gatherings that foster such meaningful connections.

Here's to many more wonderful moments like this one!



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French's Custom Outdoor Concepts



Whether it's creating curved composite, using heat modification, or steam bending beams and rails to give your handrails and arbors a specific and precise curvature, the more odd the job, the more Chris says it's up their alley.

"He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hand and his head and his heart is an artist."

Christopher French dedicated this poem by Saint Francis of Assisi to his late grandfather who ran a cabinet shop that stood proudly along Basse Road in San Antonio for over 50 years. In honor of his grandfather's memory and his own dedication to his craft and artistry, Chris had the words commemoratively tattooed on his arm.

Born and raised in San Antonio, Chris grew up in construction. As a youngin', he'd spend countless hours in his grandfather's shop. Growing up, his family did all their own home renovations. As Chris likes to say, "I have sawdust in my blood."

Though Chris didn't follow the same professional path initially, in 2006 he found himself bored working in the same mundane corporate role, so he decided to respond to a hiring ad for a brand new outdoor living company. For the following six years, he made his way up the company ladder until he left in 2012. Using his

tax return, he opened French's Custom Outdoor Concepts in 2013.

In the beginning, French's handled only what was in Chris's wheelhouse- carpentry work, custom decks, patio covers, and sun arbors, but as the company has grown in reputation and size, so has their ability. What began as a mobile unit now stands as a brick and mortar shop with the capability to complete large scale jobs to include concrete, masonry, landscaping, and lighting, as well as any custom metal fabrication. Using 3D software, Chris designs a complete image of any finished exterior, which extends beyond their custom builds, and then works tirelessly to flawlessly match that design. "We aim to leave it 'picture perfect' when we're done," says Chris.

Every project the company takes on is unique, and Chris enjoys the artistry and creativity that goes into every build. "You have a specific taste and you decorate your interior accordingly," he says, "Well, that shouldn't stop when you step outdoors." Whether it's creating curved composite, using heat modification, or steam bending beams and rails to give your handrails

"He who works with his hands is a laborer. He who works with his hands and his head is a craftsman. He who works with his hand and his head and his heart is an artist."



and arbors a specific and precise curvature, the more odd the job, the more Chris says it's up their alley.

For their work, French's Custom Outdoor Concepts has been recognized and won several awards through the North American Deck and Railing Association (NADRA), which is an honor and testament to their ability. They've also been named specialist of the year by Deck Specialist Magazine and featured in the publication. No surprise there though, just one glimpse at @frenchs.outdoor, their instagram page, and it's hard not to be impressed.

Ultimately, the biggest blessing in Chris's journey is that he's able to contribute to the city he holds dear. Every custom job will inevitably increase the home's value, and every satisfied customer is simply another happy neighbor. He gets to spend his days working outdoors, enjoying the breeze and the sunshine, and doing what's long been in his DNA. He's constantly developing his artistry, learning from the brilliant minds who've joined his team along the way. He's built an

impeccable reputation for the French name that, I think it's safe to say, would make his grandfather proud.

Whether you're looking for a one of a kind deck or a complete backyard makeover, French's has the technical mastery to get the job done. To learn more or set up an appointment, visit www.frenchscustomconcepts.com



LINDA DOUBRAVA



Why do you love golf?

I love golf because it gives me an opportunity to spend time with like minded individuals, form long lasting friendships and playing at amazing courses all over the world!

When did you first learn to play?

I learned to play golf when I was 35 (5 years ago hahahaha). Who taught you? I've only had a handful of lessons and definitely need more lessons so I sort of taught myself.

What are your most treasured memories of playing golf?

Playing golf in Hawaii and Mexico with amazing friends, and joining fun events like "The Big Chill" and playing in events that benefit some amazing not -for-profits that support initiatives.

What golfers do you most admire and why?

I still admire former LPGA golfer, Nancy Lopez because she came from Roswell NM which is 70 miles from my hometown and she pegged the way for Hispanic female golfers. I also admire Stacy Lewis because she is so professional, doesn't have a big ego and takes the time to say hi to her fans!

What course is your favorite to play?

Cabo del Sol in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico Why? It is just so so beautiful, it takes your breath away.

What is your handicap or what do you normally shoot?

My handicap is golf

Ever get a hole-in-one? Tell us about the course, the hole, and your strategy.

Yes, on November 23rd, 2021 at the former Palmer Course. Used a 9 iron and hit it 98 yards into the cup over water using a really crappy ball as I thought it would go into the water.

Any other thoughts about your love of the game?

It is just fun and can be played all your life and is a great way to make friends for life!

What have you learned from the game of golf?

Just like life, there will be good days and bad days!

If you could change one thing to make golf more fun, what would it be?

Nothing! Because it's not so much that the game is fun as it is the people you play with.

What advice would you give someone that wants to get started playing golf?

Be patient!!!

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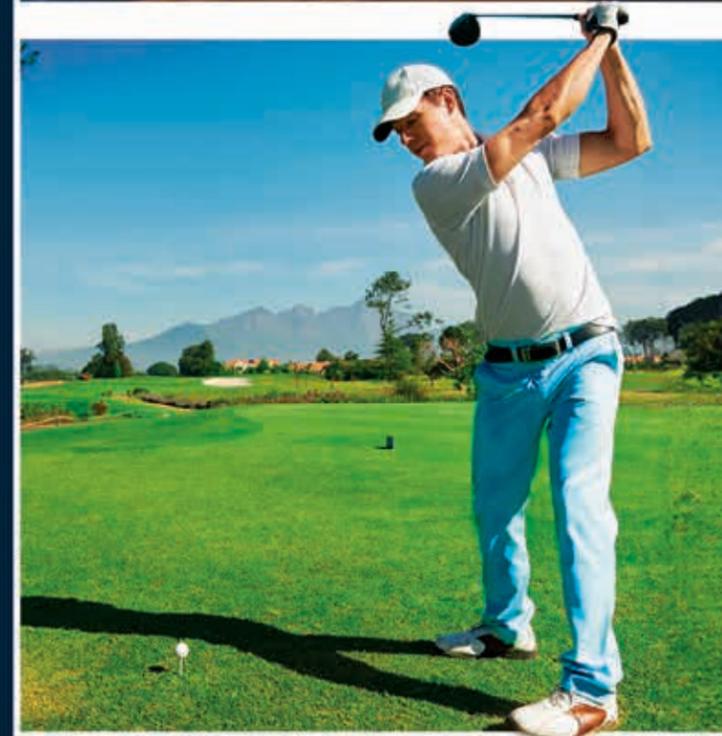
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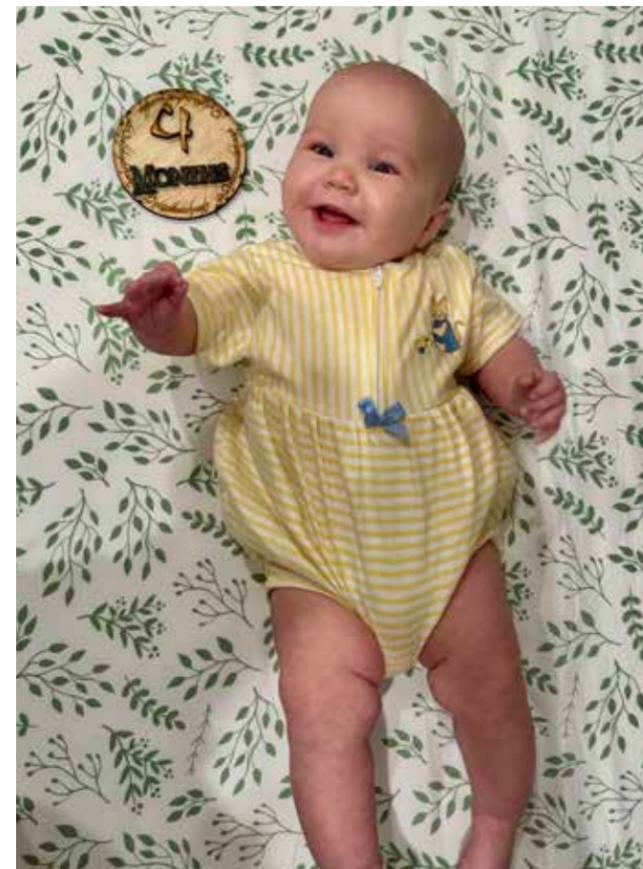
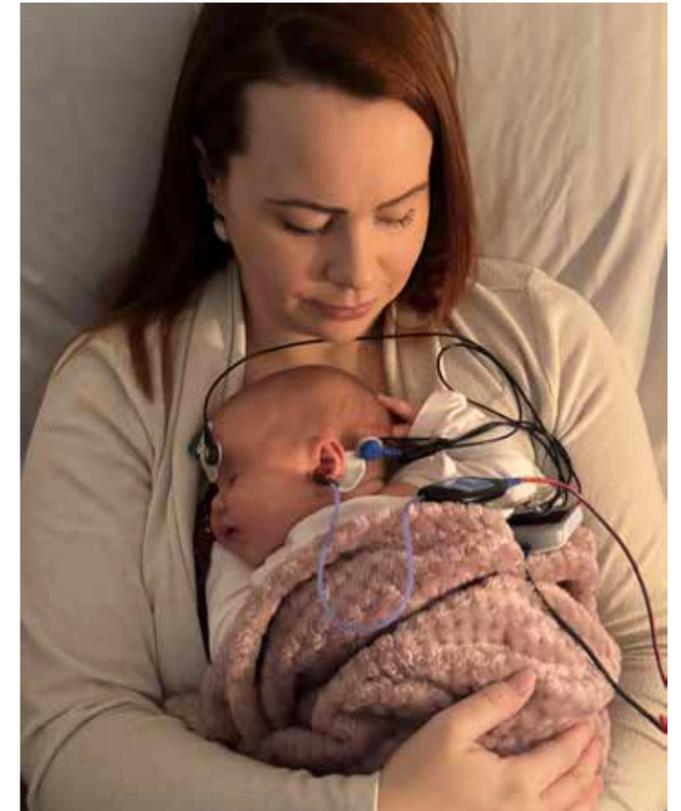
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6lbs 6oz
19 1/2in



Our sweet daughter Eleanor Julia Lewis is a treasured blessing from the Lord. She was due on October 14, 2024 but in God's providence arrived early on September 26, 2024 at 6lbs 6 oz. She is the youngest of three girls and we rejoice how the Lord continues to grow and bless our family. Her first name is a testament to her strong Southern heritage while her middle name honors her maternal grandmother. Eleanor is deeply loved and well-tended by her family, to include her elder sisters Annabelle and Madilyn. The three share a loving bond and ever-strengthening fellowship that, as parents, is a joy to see. Our greatest desire for Eleanor is that she come to know the Lord Jesus Christ; through repentance and true saving faith. We love this baby girl deeply and prayerfully seek God's protection for her and wisdom as parents in her rearing.



ANNABELLE LEWIS

Kid's Name:
Annabelle Lewis

Age:
6

Grade:
Kindergarten

School:
Geneva School of Boerne

Sports I Play:
Dance

Musical Instrument I Play:
Drums

Something Unique About Me:
"I have many Bible verses memorized including all of Exodus 20:1-17"

When I Grow Up I'm Going to Be:
"I want to be a mom"

Activities/Hobbies:
Riding my scooter with my friends.

Favorite Animal:
Zebra

Favorite Color:
Rainbow

Favorite Food or Place to Eat:
Chuy's

Favorite Movie:
Spirit

Favorite Music:
Troll's the motion picture soundtrack

Favorite Vacation:
Going to Gram's house and playing with her chickens and bunnies.



MADILYN LEWIS

Kid's Name:
Madilyn Lewis

Age:
4

Grade:
Preschool

School:
Homeschool with mom and dad!

Sports I Play:
Gymnastics

Musical Instrument I Play:
None yet but wants to learn piano

Something Unique About Me:
I walk on my toes everywhere I go just like a Ballerina!

When I Grow Up I'm Going to Be:
I'm going to be a doctor!

Activities/Hobbies:
I love playing with my friends!

Favorite Animal:
Giraffes

Favorite Color:
Pink

Favorite Food or Place to Eat:
Chick-fil-a

Favorite Movie:
Hook

Favorite Music:
Trolls Movie the Motion Picture Soundtrack

Favorite Vacation:
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“Good Manners Will Open Any Door”

And other nuggets of wisdom from a more congenial age

BY DAN JOHNSTON, DOMINION RESIDENT



- “Thank you” and “How can I help?” are phrases to be used often.
- Keep your fears to yourself and share your courage with others.
- Never lose your composure and always control your emotions.

Does reading these bring back memories of a different time? Adhere to them consistently and pass them on. We might observe some of the societal changes for which we long.

Hope to see you at our next History Club meeting, where history is fun!



Colonel Dan Johnston was a career Army officer of 25 years service and a combat veteran of the Vietnam War. Following retirement from the service, he taught World History to high school sophomores for 15 years. He and his wife of over 50 years, Pam, are blessed with four children and ten grandchildren.

Those of us at a somewhat advanced age remember that in our youth we were subject to instruction by elderly loved ones on the common courtesies that we were expected to display while in the public eye. Violation of these precepts, we were told, would result in our being cast out from polite society, being labeled as an incorrigible lout, and being the cause of our family to be never welcomed into the homes of decent folks for the rest of eternity.

Here are some of those nuggets, almost all of which we would do well to pass on to our kids and grandkids today.

- Never shake an offered hand while sitting.
- Never criticize the food when you are the guest.
- Do not eat the last piece of something that you did not buy.
- When eating in a restaurant as a guest, never order something more expensive than what the host orders.
- Do not take credit for work that you did not do.
- Dress well, no matter what the occasion (clothes make the man).
- Be honest: say what you think and mean what you say.
- In any conversation, listen more than you speak.
- Leave the profane and obscene language to the less educated.
- Listen, smile, and, most of all, make eye contact.
- If you are not invited, do not ask to go.
- Never be ashamed of your background or where you come from.
- No matter what or where it is, leave it cleaner than you found it.

- Be respectful of everyone with whom you have contact.
- Pick up trash and stay off other people’s grass.
- Good hygiene is a must (take showers, brush your teeth and floss, and use deodorant).
- Never talk with food in your mouth and chew with your mouth closed.
- Hold doors open for people.
- Family comes first.
- Always be on time.
- Never show off your wealth.
- Anything worth having is worth working hard for.
- Be the first to arrive at work and the last to leave.
- A gentleman never tells.
- Remove your hat when indoors, shaking hands with someone, meeting a lady, and respecting our flag.
- RSVP to an invitation within 48 hours of its receipt.
- Offer your seat to an older or more infirm person.
- Offer a firm handshake while making eye contact.
- When in the company of a lady, a gentleman walks closer to the curb, precedes her when going down stairs, and trails her when going up stairs (it has been a disappointment to me over the years of having kept to these precepts to have never saved a lady from a runaway horse or from a fall down the stairs).
- Always rise when the senior member of your party enters the room.
- A gentleman always gets her safely to her door and always greets her at her door when meeting for a social engagement.

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“Just Lunch!” is a ladies luncheon for Dominion Country Club members AND Dominion residents (who are not club members), and would enjoy the opportunity

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SPECIFICS:
 Luncheons will be held once a month, on the second Tuesday, October through May. At this time, we are scheduled for the Gourmet

Room, 11:30-1:30 pm in the Gourmet Room. Cost is \$25 per person.

Reservations need to be made by calling the DCC main number, 210-698-3364, at least 1 week in advance of each luncheon. Payment is by Debit or Credit Card, or Club member's account.

Club members and Dominion residents may invite guests. There are no meetings, programs, or dues. **JUST LUNCH!**

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Bear and the Thorns

An Easter allegory

BY STEPHANIE MCFARLIN, STROLL THE DOMINION CONTRIBUTOR



Once upon a time, there was a little brown bunny. Her name was Clover, and she had chocolatey brown eyes, long legs that were great for thumping, and a fluffy white tail. She lived in a wonderful forest where everything was safe and sweet.

One day as she was hopping along the stream, her excellent ears heard a strange sound.

Sniffle, sniffle.

Clover froze. She had never heard this sound before! It was ... sad! She'd never felt sadness until now, and the empty feeling of it frightened her. Bravely, she peered toward the sound.

A soft gray bunny was crouched in the bushes, trembling. Clover hopped over slowly.

"Willow? Are you ok?" she asked her friend.

Willow shook her head, her ears flopping from side to side. "No," she whimpered. "Badger tried to take these berries from me, so I kicked him really hard! I've never done anything like that before, Clover. He was mean, but I was mean back, and now I feel

terrible! And then... this happened," she said, horrified. She looked down at her feet. Clover looked, too.

A terrible tangle of thorns had wrapped around Willow's paws. She was bleeding, but every time she tried to get loose, the thorns only cut her deeper.

Suddenly, Clover heard another awful noise. Her ears pricked in the direction of the sound. Today was a day of new noises, and she didn't like any of them.

"That's Badger," Willow explained. "He's over there and he...I think he's tangled up, too." Willow's voice trembled.

Clover peered gingerly out from under the bushes to see Badger, not far away, also wrapped up in the same terrible tangle of thorns that had captured Willow. His big bristly face was wet with tears. Anger still clouded his eyes.

"I know what to do!" Clover declared. "I'll go get Bear."

Bear was the great king of the forest, and He loved His animals very much. Clover knew she could trust Him to fix this. She bounded off to find Him. BAM! She ran smack into something large and furry.

"Bear!" she exclaimed, looking up at Him. She should have known He would already be on His way to help.

Bear scooped Clover up into His arms. "A terrible thing has happened, Clover," He said. "You were all meant to love and to be loved, but what happened with Badger and Willow...that was not love. That's why the thorns came in. Look around, Clover," He told her.

She did, and saw to her horror that the entire forest floor was now covered in the awful thorns! Her paws prickled. In her haste to find Bear, she hadn't even noticed that she'd been sliced by the thorns, too.

"Oh, Bear," she sobbed. "What do we do now?"

"You can't fix this, little one. Only I can. And I will. But you have to trust Me."

Clover nodded. With a gentle plop, He placed Clover on his back to keep her from the thorny ground. Bear began to make His way over to Willow, wincing with every painful step. He bent down to reach under the bushes, His knees now pierced with thorns, too. Bending low, He carefully sliced the brambles off the trembling rabbit.

"Come on, Willow," He said. "You're free now, but you have to trust Me."

Terrified by the thorny branches continuing to grow around her, Willow looked at His outstretched paw. She hopped on, and Bear drew her in close, sliding her next to Clover on His massive back.

"And now for Badger," Bear said, stepping courageously through the awful brambles.

"Badger," Bear said. "I'm going to take your thorns for you."

Badger snarled. He was still jealous of Willow's berries and mad at her for kicking him. The thorns were just another thing ruining his day and keeping him from getting what he wanted. Bear began working on Badger's thorns anyway, needing both teeth and claws to disentangle him. Bear's dear face held deep scrapes now, but soon Badger was untangled. He stared angrily at the thorns still covering the ground. There was nowhere to go.

Bear bent toward him. "These thorns grew around you because of your selfishness, Badger. The only way out is by admitting you need My help, and letting Me carry you."

Badger took in Bear's words. Suddenly, he realized what he'd done. "I'm so sorry, Bear!" he gasped. "Thank you for rescuing me from my own awful choice!" And with a great leap, he soared onto Bear's back next to Willow and Clover.

Bear smiled, so glad that Badger had accepted His rescue. He looked at the thorns still spread across the ground. He would get His beloved creatures out of danger, but it would cost Him greatly. With a deep breath, He made His way across the vast thorny floor. Eventually he reached the edge of the thorns, and collapsed. The animals slid off him, sobbing to see their beloved King Bear in such an awful state. Brambles had lodged themselves over His ears, making a thorny crown on His great head. Bear didn't blink, or move.

"Bear," Willow cried. He had saved them, but the thorns had taken His life. His love for them had been so big that He had given up everything...even Himself! The animals couldn't believe it. Sadness sank deep into their hearts, and they realized that life in the forest wouldn't be life at all, without Bear there.

Suddenly, a large, furry ear twitched. Giant brown eyes fluttered. Bear was alive!

He sat up, and as He did so, the enormous sea of thorns behind them shriveled, disappearing into nothingness. The animals stared in shock.

"Don't be afraid," Bear said. "I am with you always, even to the end of time." And with that, He gathered them into an enormous, furry hug.

This story of Bear helps us understand Jesus! Bear gives a story example of what Jesus did in real life to save us from our own thorny mistakes. Just like the animals couldn't be safe from the thorns until they believed Bear and trusted Him, we have to trust in Jesus to be safe from our wrongs! He loves you so much that He died for you, and He rose again so that you can live with Him in heaven forever! Do you want to put your trust in Jesus today, like the animals did with Bear? If you do, you can pray something like this:

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me that much. I am sorry for doing wrong. I need you to save me. Please be the King of my heart. In Jesus' name, amen.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR LITTLE ONE:

Which of these animals do you feel like sometimes?

When we do something wrong, does it hurt us on the inside? Does it hurt us on the outside sometimes, too?

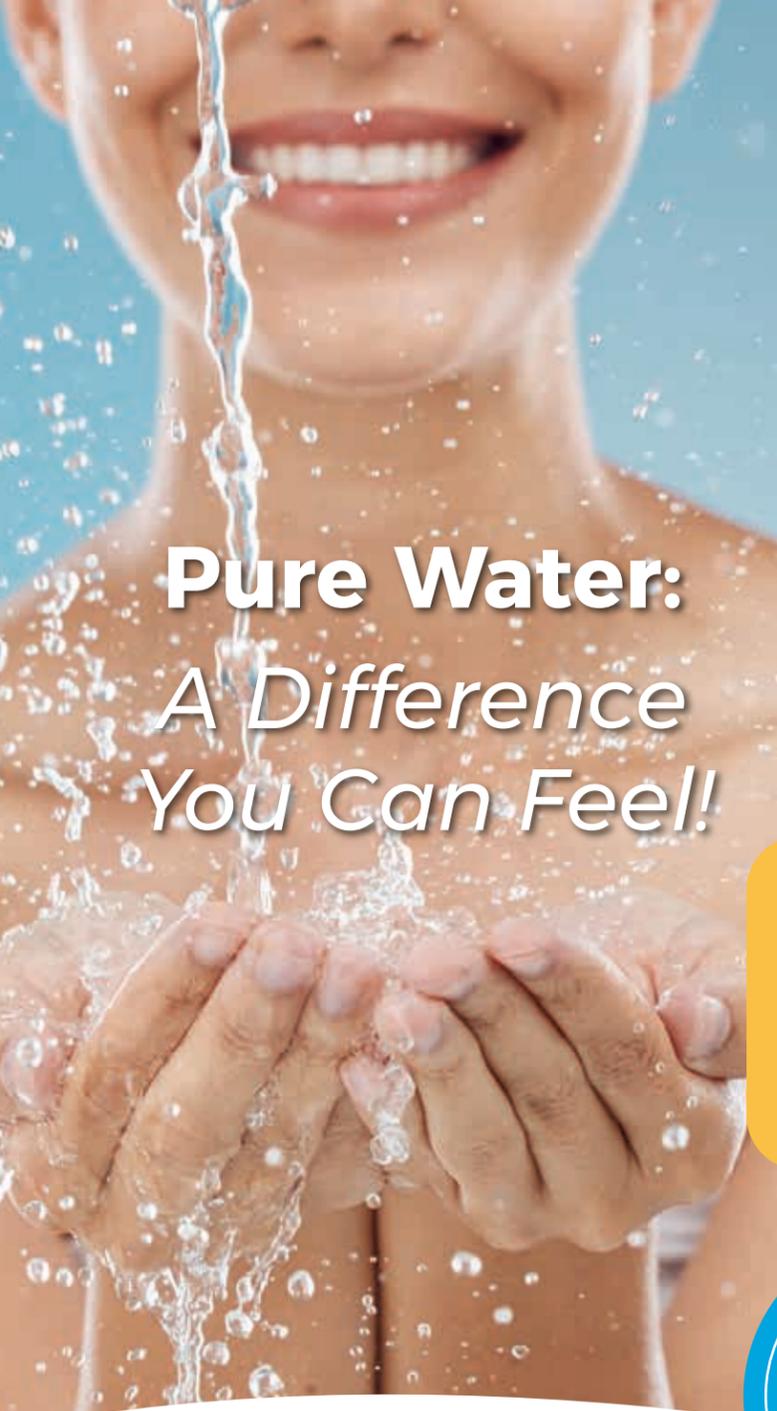
Do you know which animal in this story helps show us Jesus?

Why do you think Bear did that for the animals, even though it hurt Him so much?

Bear was on a mission to save the animals, but what did the animals have to do to be rescued?



Stephanie is mama of two and a fervent follower of Jesus, Who has taken her emptiness and given her life to the full! She is always amazed that God wants to be near her, and is constantly re-learning that His grace covers everything, even the dog hair on her clothes and the dishes in her sink.



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