

Women are taking over the world...one community at a time

By Melissa Missildine

There were "soccer-moms" even before the invention of the mini-van. Hauling your kids from one event or practice to another is just one small part of being a mom. It used to be that, once you got your kids there, your job was to continue to be mom. You cheered them on, provided snacks, band-aids, and moral support. These days, it goes

a lot further than that. I have noticed lately that what used to be male dominated roles in the community, have become female occupied.

Take Little Dribblers basketball for instance, here in Oakwood, it is run by Traci Bynum, a beautiful, young, perky, petite, blond bundle of energy. She's not just making flyers and schedules, she running the whole program.

She's on the court at practices and at the games too. If it's related to Little Dribblers, she's your "go to guy".

What about the leadership of our town? Throughout Oakwood's history, there have been women on the city council and that served as mayor. Did you know that the last four mayors have been women? Yep. That is right. Women. Ruby Johnson was

mayor when Dorothy Bell was on the city council. After Bell had been on the council for two years, Johnson stepped down. Bell took over and was mayor for 11 years. She has been on the council now an additional five years and counting. Then, Theresa Brewer was mayor for a two year term. Currently, Vicki Stroud has been doing us proud for three years as the

mayor of Oakwood. She has another year to go before her second term is up. Councilwoman Bobbye Bullock has been serving on the Oakwood city council since Bell came onto the council.

Women can be found at the schools in other than traditional rolls as well. Winnie Hodges has been a fixture on the Oakwood school board for nine years. Will she run again this year? She has decided to keep us in suspense for a little while longer. There have been many different women who have served on the school board over the years. We even had a female principal a few years ago.

The ladies EE Club (Education Extension League) is a busy, powerful group of women. Their determination to keep things running in Oakwood is amazing. They have city beautification projects in place and they have many classes throughout the year on everything from health to gardening issues. The ladies work hard to help the students of O.I.S.D. receive continuing

education services as well.

Things have even changed in the world of Scouting. I hear it all the time from men and women who have grown children, "Can you even be a Cubmaster if you are a woman? Back in my day, all you could do is be a den mother." As a den mother, you were recruited to do arts and crafts, sing songs, and make snacks. Basically, you were asked to do all the stuff that was not, "manly". Well, I am here to tell you that yes a woman can be the Cubmaster. I have been for nearly five years now. I may take some flack for this but I sure do wish I had a man willing to step up and help me out with some of the more "manly" projects. Building bird houses, hiking through the woods, and playing sports, is not my thing. That does not mean I cannot do it. It is just a little more difficult for me than it might be for someone else. More than anything, I wish there were a male role

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Woman's Work

'em to Little Dribblers/soccer/Little League practice or their scouts or 4H meeting. Feed 'em supper then be sure they feed their project animals, do their homework, wear their retainer and wash behind their ears. Now scrounge up (a) a clean uniform for tomorrow's game, (b) cupcakes for the class party, and (c) enough lunch money to go around. Got the kids in bed at a decent hour? Pull your own stuff together to hit it hard tomorrow.

The working mother

adds a 40-hour work week to this load. And the single mom -- Bless Her Heart! -- is juggling all of the above and carries the stress and worries of the finances/car problems/health emergencies all alone. I don't know how you do it, but my hat is off to you.

Wonder Woman, in my mind, is not the gal with the red, white and blue bustier, knee high boots and gold tiara who flies an invisible plane. She is the single mother who manages to keep her family going and hang on to her san-

ity. She is the widow who is holding two jobs at the point in her life when she hoped to be enjoying retirement with her beloved husband. She is the divorcee who manages to keep her self respect and a sense of humor in a small town where everybody knows your business. Super Woman is the primary caregiver who, day in and day out, cares for a special needs child or a parent or spouse suffering from the ravages of Alzheimers. She is the grandmother who has taken on the responsibility of

raising her grandchildren and is doing it all. Again.

Indeed, a woman's work is never done, and it takes all of our energy and all of our senses to do the "jobs" that we love, and that give our lives meaning. We TASTE the agony of our husband's job struggles, our son's strike-out or our daughter's first heartbreak. We keep an EYE on our neighbors and an EAR out for the baby's cough. We FEEL for a hurting friend and SMELL... well, maybe the almonds burning.

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BoBo's

perature in the greenhouses must be carefully controlled. The air can reach 100+ degrees on a sunny day, and windows must be opened and fans employed to draw cooler air through. Conversely, during severe winter weather the heaters must be checked throughout the night, since a loss of power could result in the loss of the entire inventory. Backup generators stand ready for that emergency. Spring is busy, of course, but in the fall "the poinsettias come in and you really have to baby them." There is never a slack time. Ginger pointed out, too, that caring for living plants is a seven-day-a-week job. "It's not for everybody... It's demanding and takes a commitment."

Cheryl is over the florist shop. As a school girl, she worked for Sandra Mullenax at Buffalo Flower Shop and learned to make arrangements. Nowadays, when

they need extra help, Sandra comes in to assist and Anna also loves to help out. Seasonally, the florist shop can be very busy with Valentines, Mother's Day or prom courages. Cheryl prepares arrangements for weddings too, and, unfortunately, there are always funerals. Since they have been in business in one location for five decades, Anna, Ginger and Cheryl have served several generations of customers, and feel they know 90% of the people in the area. Anna explained, "There've been a lot of tragedies in Leon County. We either know them or their mother, grandparents or kids. As Cheryl says, what we do is not just a job -- it's a real ministry for the Lord, and we don't take it lightly." Pausing, she added, "We grieve with our customers, whether they know it or not."

Most of the time, though, BoBo's is a happy place where

folks come year after year to add beauty to their homes. Regular customers know that, in addition to carrying a wide assortment of healthy plants, these ladies have the answers to almost any question on plants for this area. After so many years in the business, they have knowledge gained both from books and personal experience. In years past Anna spoke at garden clubs and schools, lecturing on landscaping, planting hanging baskets, etc. More recently, Ginger has taken over that aspect of the business, and is in demand as a guest lecturer, booking her speaking engagements six months in advance. She works closely with Leon County Extension Agents Tommy and Wendy Neyland, and just last week BoBo's hosted a luncheon seminar/tour for over seventy Master Gardeners. ("She's big with the Master Gardeners!" Ginger's mother boasts proudly.)

Tours for school children are another way the ladies of BoBo's serve the county -- planting the seeds of interest that help ensure that the next generation will enjoy gardening, as well.

Visiting BoBo's, you can't help but get excited about plants. You go in for a few annuals for a pot on the porch, and soon find yourself filling a green wagon as you spot something new and unique, or spy an old favorite. They sell a kalanchoe called the Old Man's Felt Hat which Anna referred to as "our family plant". Anna's mother-in-law, Verna Melasky, brought her a small plant in 1963 as a gift. Through the years they have propagated, grown and sold many, many plants from that single starter.

Longevity at Bobo's is not limited to plants. Four-footed residents at the nursery include an 18-year-old cat, Bright Eyes, and a 17-year-

old dog, Honey. Ginger's two schnauzers, Pepper and Cleo, and Cheryl's cockateel, Pretty Boy, round out the BoBo's menagerie.

Outside of their business, the ladies of BoBo's are active in their churches. Anna and Jerry are members at Calvary Christian Center, and Ginger's and Cheryl's families attend Miracle Christian Center, where Cheryl is the pianist. They are open and enthusiastic about their faith, and Cheryl jokingly explained, "We get lots of practice praying here -- with plastic roofs!" A freak hail storm on July 19, 2009 totally demolished the roof of every greenhouse, and baseball-sized hail covered the floors. New plastic replaced old and the nursery carried on.

Carrying on, indeed, seems to be what these ladies do so well. Cheryl was very ill just last year, and Anna is facing shoulder surgery next

week. As soon as physically possible, however, they are back at BoBo's, doing what they love with the people they are closest to. These ladies seem to have genuinely pulled off the tricky task of working daily with family members and managing to stay close. Anna explained, "We get to see each other every day and love it. We do it as teamwork." Ginger chimed in, "It's more than just teamwork -- your work should be your friend," and Cheryl confirmed, "It helps that Ginger and I are best friends." Summing up, Anna concluded, "We love each other, and we enjoy what we do. It's been a blessing to us and we hope to others. We know that people could go anywhere else, so we're pleased and honored that they trade with us."

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ABC PRINTING



Reitha Hullum

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903-322-4929

We bought the existing print shop here in Buffalo in July of 2007 and officially opened for business on August 1st, 2007. Since that time, we have had a wonderful time meeting new friends and extending our relationships with old friends. Buffalo and surrounding area is a hodge-podge of diverse peoples from different backgrounds and cultures and each one is unique and interesting. I enjoy helping the business community by printing their business forms, business cards, envelopes, etc., but I also enjoy helping the individuals with the smaller jobs, such as baby shower invitations, church bulletins, flyers, or small run business cards for the new entrepreneurs just starting their ventures. I like seeing the idea scribbled on a piece of paper and then bringing it to the finished product. We also offer public copying and faxing service. We strive to do our very best on each job, no matter how large or how small, because every one of our customers is important to us. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to say "Thanks" to each one of our customers for keeping us in this business. Hopefully, we will continue to serve this community for several years to come.

Kowboy ★ Steakhouse



Tonya Champion and Judy Mizell

Kowboy Steakhouse, a brand new restaurant with choice steaks and fresh shrimp has recently opened on Highway 75. Two local ladies, Judy Mizell and Tonya Champion are co-owners, along with their husbands, Dennis and Bob. Judy and Tonya are very compatible sisters-in-law working together in the Cattle Country family business as well as the restaurant. Kowboy Steakhouse opened on December 18, 2009 and serves dinner every Friday and Saturday night from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The steaks are top quality and the shrimp comes straight from the coast; and be sure to save room for the homemade bread pudding and banana pudding.

8183 Hwy. 75 North • Buffalo, Texas
903-322-1669

DAVIS COUNTRY STORE

Jeannie Davis



In 1974 Jeannie Davis moved back to Buffalo with a college degree and planned on being a wife and mother to her husband Thomas and two children, Tommy and Christie. Then after Sara and Carrie were born she was asked to be a long term sub at school and ended up teaching for a few years before she and Thomas bought what is now Davis Feed & Fertilizer. The expansion of Davis Country Store was something Jeannie had wanted to do for a long time. It opened in 2008 and she has been able to add gifts, clothing and lots of cute baby items, along with a variety of other items that would not have been possible in the old store. This past year has been some long hours, but with the help of all her family it has been a success. Thomas and Bobby, her son-in-law work at the store, and she says without their help, there would be some things that just would not get done. Thomas and Jean also enjoy their five grandchildren. They all live close and they are able to see them quiet often. They are Jacob and Jarrett Fishbeck, Gracie and Reese Davis, and Clayton Cromeens.



Kendra Thornton, Owner



Kendra Thornton has four children and has raised them to be pretty independant. So much so, that when she would take them to the movies she would sit in a theatre by her lonesome. The gifts she makes personally and gives away have always been admired. She took that and her desire to shop for the cutest things and opened Photolicious Scrapin & Gifts about one year ago. Tues.-Sat. 10-6 p.m.

Photolicious Scrapin & Gifts
520 W. Commerce (Across from Gilliam's)
903-322-1973 www.myphtoliciousgifts.com