

MOMMTM MAGAZINE

REAL | LOCAL | MOMS

Lane County | April/May 2016 | FREE



COVER MOM

ROBYN LaVASSAUR

KID'S ROOM

DECORATING

LET'S DO BRUNCH

RECIPES



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It's what's inside that counts



Decor 18



Kids' art 24



Brunch 26

Meet the Experts 4 <i>They know what they're talking about</i>	Cover MOM: Robyn LaVassaur 10 <i>This mom gets real</i>	But mom... I made that..... 24 <i>Creative ways to display your child's masterpieces</i>
Because I said so 5 <i>A message from MOM</i>	Confessions of a junk store junkie 16 <i>Decorating with second-hand finds</i>	Let's do brunch..... 26 <i>Brunch recipes for any occasion</i>
Vacation MOM™ 6 <i>Tips for smart packing from Eugene Airport</i>	A room to grow 18 <i>Tips for decorating your child's room</i>	Meet Kia Jones..... 30 <i>The newest addition to the MOM Magazine team</i>
On the Road™ 9 <i>How to keep your car clean(ish) from Kendall Subaru</i>		

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Cover MOM 10
Photos by Sheri Hubbs Photography



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meet the MOM^{MAGAZINE} experts

[They know what they're talking about]



Vacation MOM™

with Donnita Bassinger
page 6



On the Road™

with Amy Newport
page 9

"Sometimes I open my mouth and my mother comes out."

~ Anonymous

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Because I said so!

Get away!

Recently, my husband and I celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary. Normally we don't celebrate anniversaries, at least not in a big way, but since we made it through our first decade we thought we'd treat ourselves to a mini getaway—without kids!

As a busy mom I know all too well how difficult it can be to plan one-on-one time with your spouse; heck, it's tough enough to squeeze in a shower some days. But investing in each other is essential.

Here's what I learned on my mini-getaway with my husband:

- I love my husband. Of course, I already knew this, but it's nice to rekindle the spark.
- I am very lucky. Bless this man who tolerates (and even loves) my obsessive, neurotic ways.
- Without interruptions every five seconds, we have a lot to talk about and are quite interesting people (at least we think so).
- When no one uses our clothes as napkins or handkerchiefs, we look pretty good, and we feel even better.
- It is still possible to stay awake past 9 p.m. and sleep past 6 a.m.
- Our children benefit when we celebrate and nurture our relationship.

Of course, it wasn't easy to get away. Just before our weekend my calendar exploded with meetings and the kids exploded with stomach flu. But I would not be dissuaded. It's never a good time, so off we went. Dinner, drinks, a Broadway show and a night at a posh, boutique hotel were just the tonic we needed after our crazy week. We came home renewed and ready for another ten years.

So be sure to carve out time to celebrate that special relationship in your life.

Why? Because I said so!



Angela Hibbard
MOM Magazine Editor-in-Chief



Angela and her husband, Paul, on their wedding day.

Smart packing

by *Donnita Bassinger*

The chore of packing for a family trip usually falls on mom. It's not easy, but packing well will save you time, money and frustration. Here are my secrets to packing all the essentials in as few bags as possible.

The temptation is to pack everything you might need, but you can eliminate the guesswork by planning ahead.

- Make a list of activities you will be doing each day, with specific items required.
- Plan outfits for each member of your family for each day, based on that list.
- Pack an entire kid's outfit into a zipper bag and write their name and the activity on the bag.
- Plan ahead. If you know what to expect, you can plan for almost anything.
- Look up expected day and night temperatures for your destination and plan accordingly.
- Be comfortable. The temperature in airports and on planes can fluctuate dramatically. I dress my kids in T-shirts, running suits and tennis shoes so they are comfy for the flights and can adapt to any weather. Bring a light jacket or sweater, no matter where you are going.
- Lay out head-to-toe "traveling clothes" for each family member, especially for early flights.
- Are laundry facilities available at your hotel? If so, reduce the amount of clothing by half.
- Make sure everything fits and check for stains or tears.
- Dress everyone in the same color shirts or hats to keep track of each other in crowded places.

- Choose only necessities and multi-purpose items. Shoes take up the most room so get multi-purpose shoes such as Keen sandals. Cargo pants with zip-off legs are great.
- Airline rules have changed. Look up current rules for each airline you are flying on and note weight and size limits for checked and carry-on bags. Weigh and measure all bags.
- Limit your bags. Decide how many suitcases you need and keep eliminating items until they are zipped. Check with your airline to see if there is a discount for pre-paying luggage fees.
- All airlines allow a free personal item. Use a beach bag or other large tote as your "personal item." Put a small purse and other items you need onboard in this bag. Kids can bring a small backpack with their snacks and toys for the flight.
- Don't check anything you can't replace. Keep all important items such as medications with you. Split each person's clothing between bags in case one bag gets lost.
- If you are only bringing carry-on items, make sure any liquids are in a quart size zipper bag with no container larger than 3.4 oz. See details on the TSA website, www.tsa.gov/travel.
- Tape a card with your name and cell number inside each piece of luggage.
- On your luggage tags, only put your name and cell number. Do not put your home address.

After you do all of this, make sure you have one outfit for each family member that is coordinated so you can get a nice family photo; you will be happy to have a picture to remember your travel adventure!

Packing essentials

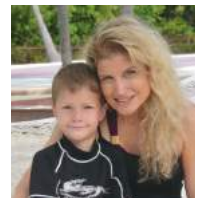
- Plastic zipper bags of all sizes
- Black marker and ink pens
- Small scissors (in checked bag)
- Tape and sticky notes
- Medical kit with small amounts of medicine, tweezers and band-aids
- Clothes pins (clip wet swimsuits to chairs to dry, close drapes etc.)
- Anti-bacterial wipes and tissues
- Sunglasses, sunscreen and bug spray (liquids go in a plastic bag in checked luggage)
- Chargers, extra batteries and memory cards for all electronics
- Night-light and small flashlight
- Passports and copies if leaving the USA

Vacation MOM is brought to you in partnership with Eugene Airport. See ad on page 29.



Meet Vacation MOM™

Donnita Bassinger is mom to three children and lives in Eugene with her husband. She is active in Scouting, school PTO's and local charities. Donnita has



been a travel agent for 30 years and is the owner of VIP Vacations, Inc. Let her help you plan your vacation at 541-688-7473. You can find more information on Facebook under "Vacation MOM Page".



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Keep your car mess in check

Spring is a time of renewal, a fresh start. So why not give your car a fresh start with a spring cleaning? We'll tell you why; because two minutes after you clean your car one of your darling children is likely to wedge PB&J between the seat cushions or leave a banana peel under their car seat until the smell alerts the neighbors. But it doesn't have to be that way. Check out these tips for keeping your car organized and clean(ish).

Put a lid on it: Without a designated trash container in your car you're bound to have fossilized orange peels and raisin boxes rolling around your ride. So be sure to have trash bags in your car at all times for quick garbage collection. Even better, put the bag inside one of those Tupperware or Rubbermaid cereal boxes, then you can close the lid on spills and messes.

Fill up, clean out: Make a habit of doing a quick clean up when you stop for gas. There's always a trashcan to throw away empty snack wrappers, juice boxes and other minor garbage that didn't

make it into your designated trash container. Use the paper towels and washing fluid to mop up any spills.

Stash toys and games: Repurpose an over-the-door shoe holder by fixing it to the back of your car seat to store kids' toys and games. Or, even better, invest in a seatback organizer with closable or zip pouches, so there's no concern about flying objects if you have to make a sudden stop.

Suck it up: Keep a portable vacuum in the garage and let the kids go to work. You'll be surprised how much fun they have sucking up dirt.

Don't forget the basics: Every car needs wipes, hand sanitizer, plastic bags for wet or soiled clothes (stuff happens) and, for little ones, a supply of diapers. A towel comes in handy too.

If your car needs a deeper clean—treat yourself. Call Kendall Subaru to schedule a professional car detail.

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Amy Newport lives in Eugene with her husband and four boys. She is the Community Outreach Specialist for Kendall of Eugene.





*interview by Angela Hibbard
photos by Sheri Hubbs Photography*

Robyn LaVassaur

Gets real!

As a busy mother of five, including triplets, Cover MOM, Robyn LaVassaur, reminds us to embrace the moment, ask for help and order pizza.

Family comes first.

Tell us about your family.

My husband, John, and I married in 1999. Griffin is 16 years old; Allison, Calvin and Payton are 13 year-old triplets. Andrew is John's nephew who we had all through high school and consider to be our kiddo. He is now 24 years old and on his own. RJ is our old lab and Macy Mae is our new French bulldog.

Tell us about one of your proudest mom moments?

There are so many. John and I made the decision day one to be working parents. I know that this shorts the kids in some areas because we aren't home all the time. We were at parent/teacher conferences one night and I was apologizing that we weren't able to help with the last school event. The teacher quickly stopped me and said "First of all, we understand and, second of all, do you know that when your kids talk about the two of you they always say in a very proud manner how hard you both work?" It's nice to know they are understanding and proud of our careers.

Now tell us about one of your most humbling mom moments?

A mom once called me and said Griffin had done something naughty to another student, essentially "cussing" at them at a young age. I was mortified and defended Griffin to the parent and in my own head/heart thought it was impossible. After confronting Griffin I could see him squirm

and, sure enough, he had done it. My heart sank, my ego was checked at the door and I realized our kids are just like us; they will make poor choices and it doesn't make us bad parents. We talked about making better choices, not lying about it and, ultimately, I had a talk with myself that our kids are capable of good and bad, they are feeling life out, pushing limits and testing waters.

Describe that moment when you want to stop time and freeze your kids just the way they are.

I made a decision long ago to say every stage is the best stage. We as human beings are always changing and growing, guiding our children through each stage is my favorite thing. I love how they are all so different. They grow at different rates, both emotionally and physically, they have sweet stages, ornery stages, confused stages, etc. John and I work so hard to be their sounding boards, their guidance, their love and their stability. We challenge one another, learn from one another and love one another, our family unit is so precious to all of us.

What is something you swore you would never do before kids that you now do?

I swore we would cook meals and eat dinner as a family every week night. Boy was I ever wrong.

If you could outsource just one household responsibility, what would it be?

Laundry! We can handle the changing of it, but the folding and putting away is the worst part for everyone.

Tell us about one of the funniest things one of your kids has said that you threaten to retell on their prom or wedding night.

After the triplets were born John and Griffin were driving down the road. Griffin was 3 years-old and looked up at John and said "Dad, do you ever wonder what it would be like with me, you, Mom and just one baby?" John smiled and replied "I try not to buddy."

Your biggest wish for your kids is...

To be joyful. I think happy is a great feeling but it's a temporary feeling. To have true joy it comes from deep within you and carries on throughout your entire life.

No one works harder than mom.

We know that being a mom is a full-time job. Tell us about your work or volunteerism outside of the home.

I have always worked full-time out of the home. I am a mortgage loan officer and love what I do. I work with amazing people and have a wonderful career. As much as it keeps my plate full, it also provides a beautiful balance to our life.

How do you manage it all, and what usually falls through the cracks?

John! My husband is honestly a saint. Ok not every day, but most of the time. He keeps me grounded, we have a wonderful partnership and he doesn't sweat the small stuff like I do. Our family, friends and community have helped us manage four active kids and being in several places at once. It really does take a village.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A mom was always on the top of my list, otherwise a performer on *Star Search* or, essentially, on stage somewhere making people happy.

Continued on page 14





Who is MOM?

Community/hometown: Eugene, OR.

Family: Husband, John LaVassaur, carpenter and children: Andrew, age 24; Griffin, age 16; and Allison, Calvin and Payton, age 13.

Profession: Mortgage Loan Officer, Summit Funding Inc.

MOM's favorite

Tell us about your favorite...

...pastimes: Soccer, karaoke, family gatherings and kids' activities.

...words to live by: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

"Be the change you wish to see in the world."
Both by Ghandi.

...discipline tactic that keeps everyone in line: Communication, I literally talk through everything. When all else fails I take away their phones.

...way to get out of making dinner: Pizza!
Way too often.



Continued from page 11

What was your first job and what did you learn from it?

Babysitting was my first job and I learned so much from taking care of kids and their home while their parents were away. I loved being the favorite babysitter for families and being part of their lives.

What was your worst job and what did you learn from it?

I actually don't have a "worst." I loved all of my jobs from ice cream scooper, to coffee cart girl, to grocery checker, to phone operator. I have always enjoyed work (weird I know).

If you could have any job for just one day, what would it be?

I would love to be a youth mentor or an OB/GYN in a delivery room. Watching a new baby being born is so empowering and miraculous.

If mom's not happy, nobody's happy.

What's the one word that best describes you?

Authentic.

What do you miss from life before kids?

Nothing. I know it sounds cliché but I would be a parent 100 times over again.

Name one thing that is part of your daily routine that you just can't live without.

Saying "I love you" to everyone in our house first thing in the morning and right before we go to sleep.

Tell us something about you that would surprise your kids.

I forged my dad's signature 64 times in high school to skip class. I still have his signature mastered.

What advice would you give your younger mom self? What do you wish you knew then that you know now?

Time really does fly. Be more in the moment; enjoy them even when it's 2 a.m. and they are puking, or screaming or back-talking you at the dinner table; take it

all in and embrace every moment you get to share.

What keeps you sane?

My tribe, a.k.a. my family, friends, church, coworkers, coach, etc. They are so supportive of my kids and our family. My husband is truly at the root of my sanity. He has always been so supportive of me as a mother, a wife and of my career. He makes me feel like I can take on the world.

What is the best way that you let off steam?

Music! Anything I can sing at the top of my lungs, especially Christmas music, makes my heart happy.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Vodka and soda. Not in excess, but I love a cocktail and a club sandwich at Sam's Place. I also love movie popcorn and Hot Tamales mixed together. Yum!

Who inspires you?

My kids. Whenever I want to break down and throw a temper tantrum that life is hard or not fair, I always stop and think: "I have healthy kids, a great marriage and a wonderful faith." I want to be my best self for them, so they are always proud of who I am.

Listen to mom.

What surprised you the most about motherhood?

How natural it is to love someone so completely from the moment you conceive.

What have you learned from your mom or other mother figures?

You are owed nothing, you work for everything, make good choices, be a good person and the rest will fall into place.

What message would you like to share with other moms? Remember to tell it like it is.

Ask for help! There are so many people out there willing to jump in and be part of your parenting journey. I also think you just do the best you can each day and, as long as you love them even with tough love, you will always get through the day.



Three's company

Our triplets, Allison, Calvin and Payton were born at 33 weeks. We knew the triplets would likely be premature and had prepared ourselves for the worst. They were born at three, four and five pounds and spent 2.5 weeks in the NICU. I can say without a doubt that the medical treatment given to them saved their lives. The March of Dimes and their mission to save premature babies is a huge reason we have three healthy teenagers today.



High style

Robyn was recently a model in the March of Dimes High Heels for High Hopes event, showing her support in style.



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Confessions of a junk store junkie

by Angela Hibbard

I am a second-generation “Junk Store Junkie.” My mother turned garage sale hunting and thrift store shopping into an art form. When I was around 6 years old, I remember relatives moving to California from overseas without any furniture. They found an apartment and, one weekend and \$200 later, my mom had the place furnished and decorated. And it was darling. Not Pottery Barn-perfect, but neat, tidy and homey.

We used the term “junk store” affectionately. These shops were filled with treasures, but sometimes you had to sift through the junk to find them. Don’t get me wrong, we were not hoarders. Quite the opposite; our house was always very clean and tidy with minimal clutter. I think it’s easier to clear out your own junk when you only spent 50 cents on it to start with. Tired of the end table? No problem, we’d just re-donate it to the thrift store and start hunting for a new one. We were Reusing and Recycling before it was chic.

Today, my mom would be so proud to know that I have grown into a “Junk Store Junkie” myself, even if I can’t come close to matching her skill. And the third generation of “Junk Store Junkies” is in the works. While dragging my kids around town on errands, they don’t whine to go to the toy store or ice cream shop (because they know I won’t buy them anything there); they bug me to go to the thrift store. I must be doing something right. They love going someplace where they can actually buy something with their own dollar. And they are also learning the importance of donating items. We regularly sort through clothes and toys and select items to be given to the thrift store. Birthdays and Christmas don’t come until we’ve cleared room.

When we are at traditional retailers, my daughter is often surprised by how much things cost and how little you get for your money. My “Junk Store Junkie” heart just swells with pride.

Top 10 junk store tips

Here’s some valuable advice for the uninitiated “Junk Store Junkie.”

- 1. Set a budget.** Even at low prices, you can over spend.
- 2. Pay attention to price.** Just because it’s a thrift shop, it’s not always a good deal. You might find some items on sale for a lower price at a traditional retailer.
- 3. Keep a list.** You never know what you’ll find, and that’s half the fun, but it’s also fun to have a list of things you’re actually looking for. As a girl, I found every single Nancy Drew book at garage sales and thrift stores. My mom used to carry a list of the numbers I was missing until we had found all the books in the series.
- 4. Be picky.** It’s tempting to load up the cart when you’ve found a bargain, but ask yourself if you would want this item if it was full price. If you’re unsure, put it back. I force myself to remove at least one item from my cart just before checking out.
- 5. Don’t hoard.** When you get it home, if it doesn’t work out like you had hoped, simply re-donate it to a thrift store.
- 6. Be realistic.** When I first became a homeowner, I rushed to the flea market and bought two old chairs which I planned to refinish and reupholster. Yeah right! When I moved out of that house years later, guess what was still in the garage next to a piece of sandpaper? Unless you’re a seamstress or a carpenter, don’t buy items with the hope of “fixing” them up.

7. Be patient. Junking takes time. If you need it today, you’d better go to Target. But if you can wait, it’s so much more fun to find it at the thrift store.

8. Find a cause. Frequent a thrift store whose proceeds benefit a cause you care for. You’ll feel better about spending money and donating items there.

9. Take pride. I love to surprise people with “I got it at a thrift store” when they compliment me on something new (to me). This is a frequent occurrence since, on any given day, at least one item of my outfit is from a thrift store, and over half of the furnishings in my home.

10. Treat yourself. My junk store indulgences are hardbacks, handbags, cookbooks, costume jewelry and seasonal housewares—all things that are not normally in my family’s budget.

Happy Junking!



A room to grow

Designing a nursery can be overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Northwest mom and interior designer Kari DeLavenne shares her professional tips for creating a nurturing space that will grow with your child and leave your wallet and sanity intact.

The basics

Nurseries only need to support the baby's basic activities in order to thrive. So, what do babies do? New babies eat, sleep and play. Does baby *need* a mommy daybed adorned with pillows, a long chaise lounge and a television? No. Buckets of love, a crib or bassinet, a chair for nursing and a comfortable surface for play are all baby needs for a good growing start.



Safety

Safety has to be the first priority when designing a space for baby. For example, choose cordless window treatments, a new or properly retrofitted used crib, no/low VOC paint and forego crib bumpers at certain ages or altogether. If it is not safe, don't let yourself love it and put it in the room.

Consult the American Academy of Pediatrics for more information on infant sleep safety guidelines at www.aap.org.

Continued on page 20

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Changing station

It's entirely possible, and some argue safer, to change diapers with just a pad on the floor. If considering a table or dresser, new or used, choose a pad that can be securely attached for safety. Dressers, rather than changing tables, allow for easy access to diapers, supplies and baby clothes and can also be used during toddlerhood and beyond.

Lights out

Even the tiniest sliver of light can wake some babies, especially if you have a summer born, light-sleeping baby. A dark room will add to your baby's sleeping success rate. There are many cordless blackout shade options in various lengths that can be cut-to-size. Or simply buy blackout material and "hook and loop" tape it to the surrounding millwork.



That special chair

A chair is used for nursing, bonding, rocking, relaxing, singing, reading and, sometimes, sleeping. So many precious moments will take place in this chair, so find a good one, new or used! Traditional gliders are often resold after mom and baby outgrow them, while an upholstered chair with rocking feet can be used in another room in the house.



Continued on page 22

Momism #41: Don't use that tone with me.

MOM MAGAZINE

Parents of 3-7 year olds



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MOM MAGAZINE

 Sheri Hubbs
PHOTOGRAPHY

"A smile happens in a flash, but the memory lasts a lifetime."



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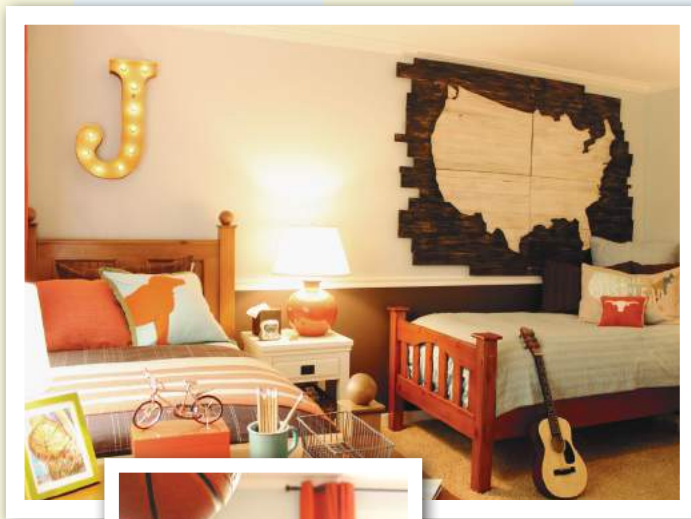
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Color & theme

An elegant girls room

We love how Kari's nursery transitioned into a beautiful big girl room.

"I made a kitschy garland out of packaging string and miscellaneous fabrics; I just ripped them, tied them on a string and strung them in front of her framed silhouette. For that, I took a profile photo of her when she was three, removed the background with a basic word editing tool to create a pattern, then cut it out and smoothed the card stock edges with a nail file. The rug was grandfathered in from her baby room. Since it is wool, it is soft and brilliantly resists soiling. The wall color is called Noble Blush by Valspar. It is a barely-there-white pink and is the most beautiful color. It's airy and soft and not an annoying pink; there's nothing shocking about it."



A boy (and dog's) room

"When designing a child's room, I incorporate interests in a variety of ways; it doesn't have to be a roomful of literal symbols of hobbies and interests. The room can get too "themey" and this gets outdated in no time, because interests change so fast, and sometimes too much is just too much. A well-designed room needs to have longevity—but we also have a kid to please.

This boy loves his beloved dog, basketball and his favorite colors: orange, blue and brown. So we started with the Buddy Pillow. It has great colors—a blue that reads on the green, but not aqua, side with an earthy, but sweeter green border—and a white dog silhouette with bright orange color blocking. The entire room was built on this color combination, anchored with a dramatic brown color matched to the color of the beloved dog. Since this is her room too, there is no bed skirt under the second bed so she can scoot right on under to her spot."

Decorating on a budget

Here are some tips that give a nursery, or any child's bedroom, a happy personality while stretching the dollar.

- A non-themed room transitions more affordably, and can be accomplished gradually avoiding future expenses when interests change or baby grows an opinion.
- When buying more expensive or custom items, choose colors and patterns that transition over time. For example, gender-neutral colors and age-transitional patterns: geometrics and stripes over baby-specific scenes; greens over pinks; multi-color fabrics; furniture in white or wood tone over bright painted colors.
- Bring in color with smaller, budget-friendly items: storage baskets, sheets, throws, wall art and other decorative top notes. Books and toys are the most practical ways to style kid's rooms; select your favorites and put them front and center!
- Decorate with affordable art. Search "printable nursery art" online then repurpose old thrift store frames and buy a custom colored mat at your local frame shop.
- Select paint last. If you want to get the color right, wait until you know the design direction of the room. You can create any color in the world after you have a reference point such as a color pulled from fabric or a rug.

Kari Delavenne is a mom and interior designer. She lives in McMinnville with her husband and two kids, now age 6 and 9. For more of Kari's design ideas visit www.delavennedesign.com.

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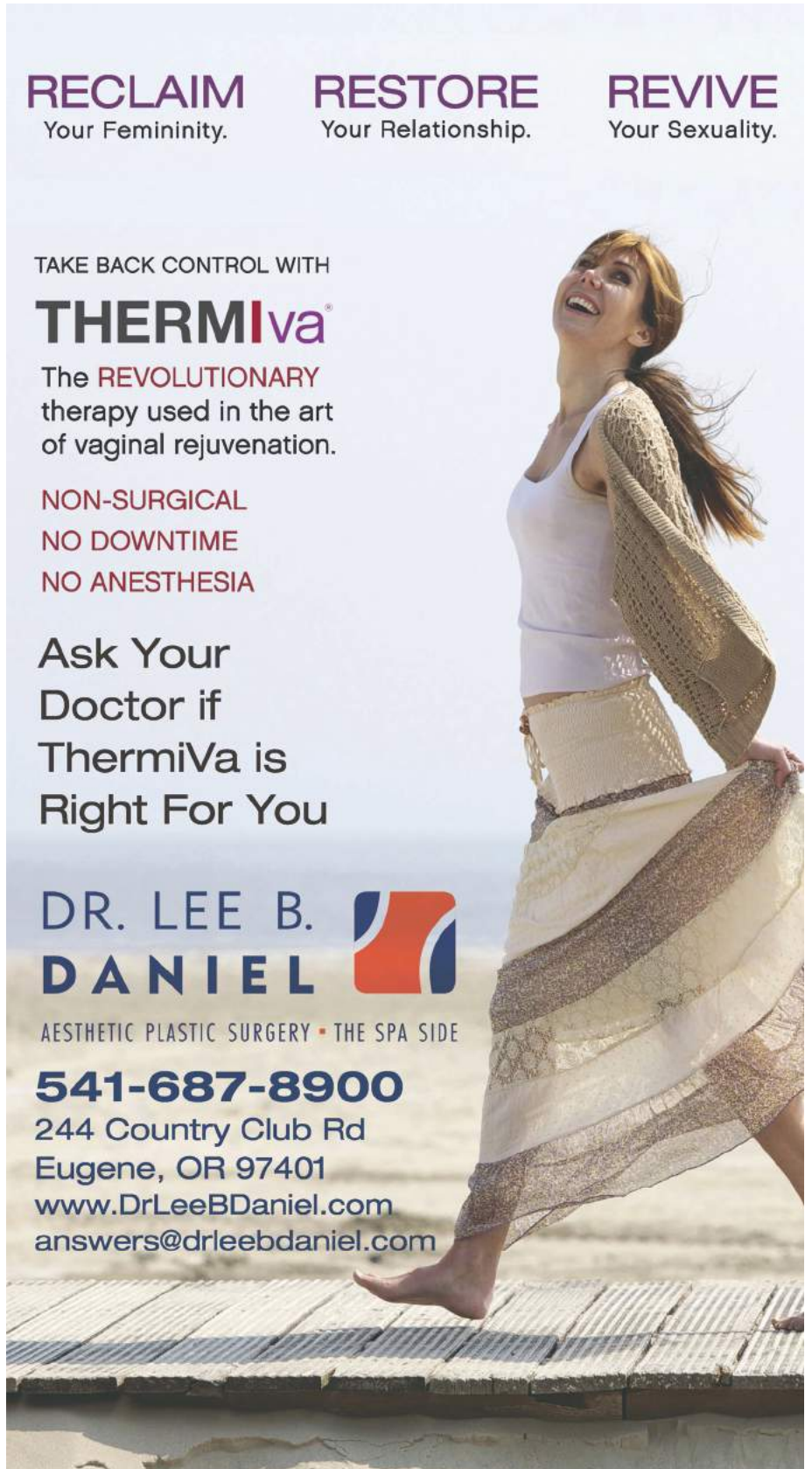


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But mom... I made that!

by Angela Hibbard

My kids have recently added “taking out the garbage and recycling” to their chore list. Clearly I didn’t think that through because, boy was I busted when my son emptied the recycling container and discovered all the drawings and scribbles he’s been bringing home from school. Ouch!

The truth is, there is no way to save every little scrap of “art” your kids create without ending up in an episode of *Hoarders*. But you can find ways to honor their work before it heads to the bin. We love these simple ideas for displaying and treasuring your child’s work while freeing the fridge (and the rest of your house) from artwork overload.



Digitize it

Take pictures of the art and create a digital portfolio or add it to their annual photo book. You can also upload it to a digital frame or use as a screensaver.



Keep a portfolio

Let your child collect their favorite artwork for the year (first grade, second grade, etc.) in a large, scrapbook-size album with plastic sheets. They will have to make careful selections about what makes it into the book and what gets recycled.

Create a display

Mount clipboards or empty frames in your child’s room so they can easily swap out their latest masterpieces. Consider painting a frame, or using frame decals, around a cork board so new art can be installed with a simple push of a pin.



Hang it on the line

We love this simple and easy idea from Queen B Organizing: Stick two thumbtacks into the wall and create a clothesline out of ribbon, wire, rope, etc. Then use paperclips or clothespins to attach this week’s favorite work. www.queenborganizing.com

[Momism #6: Call me when you get there.]

MOM MAGAZINE

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let's do brunch

Whether you're gathering the family together for a celebration, or just trying to feed a hungry crew, you'll love these brunch recipes from MOM reader and personal chef: Chef Becky.

Ham and cheese crescent roll-ups

Ingredients

- 1 8-ounce tube crescent roll dough
- 3 ounces Nancy's cream cheese, softened
- 2 teaspoons Koop's stone ground mustard
- 1 tablespoon green onions, minced
- 2 tablespoons extra sharp cheddar cheese
- 8 thin round slices of ham

Parchment Paper: Paper Chef pre-cut sheets

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

In a small bowl, combine the softened cream cheese, Dijon mustard, green onions and extra sharp cheddar cheese.

Unroll the crescent roll dough and separate the triangles.

Using a small spatula, spread 1 tablespoon of the seasoned cheese mixture on each piece of dough. Then lay one slice of ham on top. Fold the edges of the ham in, so it is not hanging over the edges of the dough.

Start at the wide end of the triangle, and roll up, towards the point of the triangle. Place the crescents, point down, on the parchment paper.

Bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 minutes.



Continued on page 28



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To register www.getmeregistered.com/GiveUs5

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Tax exempt donations are appreciated, and may be made to:

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3600 NW Samaritan Drive, Corvallis, OR 97330

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Continued from page 26

Mother's Day brunch casserole

Ingredients

20 ounces hash brown potatoes, shreds

3 tablespoons oil

9.6 ounces Turkey Sausages (precooked Jimmy Dean brand), sliced into ¼ inch rounds

14 large eggs, beaten

1 tablespoon Italian Seasoning

1 cup milk

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon pepper

1 ½ cups cheddar cheese

Directions

Preheat oven to 370 degrees.

Add oil to the pan. Brown hash brown shreds in a large, non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. Cook shreds for 4 to 5 minutes without disturbing. Turn hash browns and cook for 4 more minutes. Spray a 13 x 9 pan with nonstick spray. Add the hot, browned potatoes and spread evenly over the bottom of the pan. Top with sliced turkey sausage.

In a large bowl, crack the eggs. Check for shell pieces. Add Italian seasoning, milk, salt and pepper. Blend with a mixer for about a minute and a half. Pour over the casserole. Top with cheese.

Bake uncovered for 35 minutes. Let rest for 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

Visit chefbecky.com for more scrumptious recipes

Chef Becky photos by Craig Volpe Photography

Cinderella

Feel like a princess with this fun mocktail kids and grown-ups can enjoy or add the spirit of your choice to make it an adult beverage.

Makes 2 servings

Ingredients

½ cup orange juice

½ cup pineapple juice

¼ cup fresh lemon juice

¼ cup ginger ale

2 tablespoons grenadine

Ice Cubes

1 orange slice, for garnish

Directions

In a cocktail shaker, combine the orange juice, pineapple juice, grenadine and lemon juice. Shake gently, and pour into a martini glass filled with ice. Hang a slice of orange on the side of the martini glass. Serve with a straw and a paper umbrella if you have them!



Momism #55: Chew with your mouth closed.

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MOM Magazine welcomes

Kia Jones

We are thrilled to introduce the newest member of the MOM team: Kia Jones, who is our Advertising Representative in the Eugene/Springfield area. Here's a message from Kia...

"My name is Kia Jones, I was born in Texas to military parents. My mom's family is from England and settled in Port Townsend, Washington of all places years after World War II. My mother took me back to her hometown to grow up. I love being from a small town and hope my kids can have the same small town experience I did.

In 2008, I married my husband, Fred Jones. We have two amazing sons: Frederick Terrell Jones II (he goes by Terrell or Deuce), age 6 and our wild child, Tré Isaiah Jones, age 2.

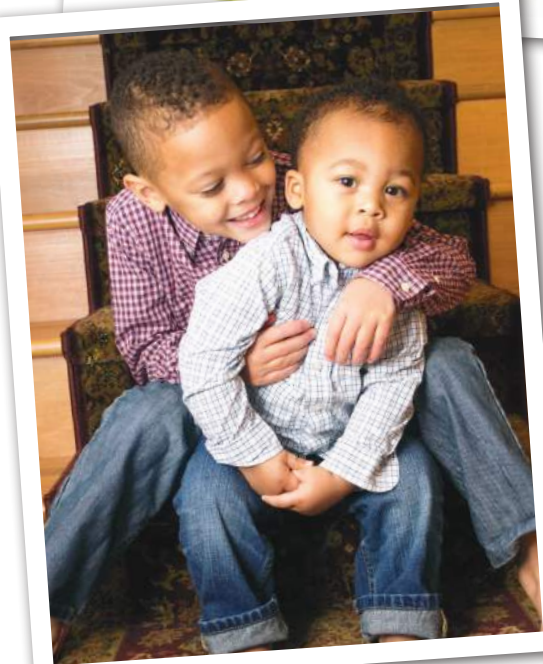
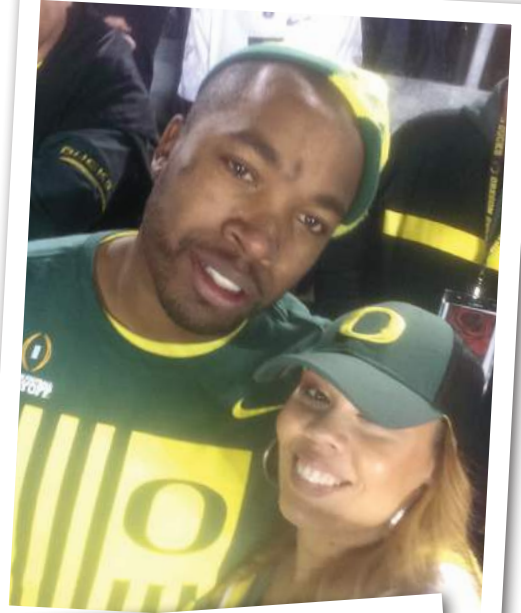
Our boys have one major thing in common: they both love sports—any and all sports. Otherwise, they are complete opposites. Terrell is our emotional, affectionate son. He has a huge heart, idolizes his dad and is fiercely protective of his momma. He loves school, playing video games, football, basketball, baseball and golf. He's traveled more than most adults, been to many countries and never sits down.

Tré is a busy 2-year-old. He loves playing football and basketball every day. I'm constantly the long snapper in football and the goal/hoop in basketball. He loves macaroni and cheese and brown sugar Pop Tarts. He's less 'lovey-dovey' and more of a 'love you from afar' type of kid.

Our family breathes basketball since my husband played at University of Oregon for four years and professionally for nine. Eugene was so great to him while he was at University of Oregon. It's new to my boys and I but, so far, so good. We are looking forward to making many new memories here in Eugene."

~ Kia Jones, MOM Magazine Advertising Representative

To get the word out about your business, contact Kia at kia@mommag.com to discuss advertising opportunities.



HAPPY SPRING!



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