

## FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS



**Dawn Reed**

A few years ago, I needed gum grafts. Dr. Leslie Horn and Beaumont Periodontics provided me with everything I needed to have a successful surgery. After the initial visit, I was given a black folder filled with important information. It held guidelines for everything: what to do before the oral surgery, right after, and days and weeks later. Dr. Horn knew that if I followed her instructions, everything would go well. That's what I wanted, too.

But...I skimmed the folder filled with important information. I selected what I felt was truly crucial. I picked up on the words "as you feel comfortable" on one of the pages. That became my mindset. Naturally, they told me what I

should and shouldn't eat while my mouth was healing. Focused on the "as you feel comfortable" clause, I ate what I wanted. Because I felt comfortable. The folder directed me to be careful as my gums healed. I wasn't careful and licked out my stitches within 24 hours.

If I had followed the instructions, everything would have gone well for me.

Last month, I needed gum grafts in other areas of my mouth. Back to Dr. Horn I went.

At that appointment, when I was given the black folder filled with important information, I held my breath for a moment understanding I needed to know was held within. This time, I would follow the instructions!

The book of Deuteronomy chronicles the true story of when the Israelites were finally going into the Promised Land. Moses shared vital, life-changing instructions from the

LORD to help them begin this journey. Following His instructions would bless them if they heeded it.

God implored His people to obey ALL of the regulations, not just skim them and hit the high points or the ones they felt comfortable with. ALL of the regulations. He wasn't being bossy. He wanted it to go well for them!

In Deuteronomy 6, Moses encouraged, "Love the Lord...fear the LORD...do what is right...so that it may go well with you."

Following God's ways are not always easy, but it is better than going our own way. The Israelites had learned where following other paths had led: the wilderness.

If I completely follow instructions given by Dr. Horn, my oral surgeries will go well. If I completely follow instructions given by the Lord, everything else in my life will go well.

## Read all about it!



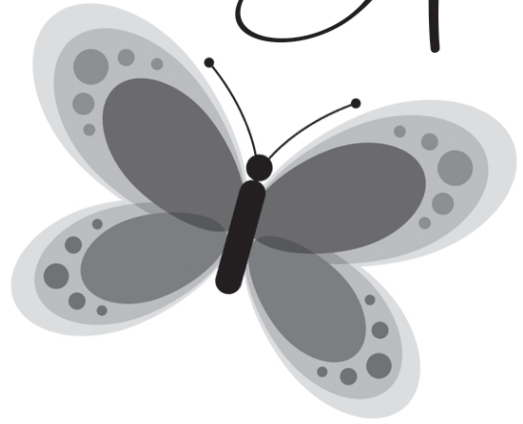
Nearly 500 people attended Read Across Russell County last Tuesday at the Russell County Public Library (RCPL). The event, sponsored by the RCPL and the Russell County Education Association, featured local dignitaries, students, and athletes reading to children, and participating in literacy-themed activities.



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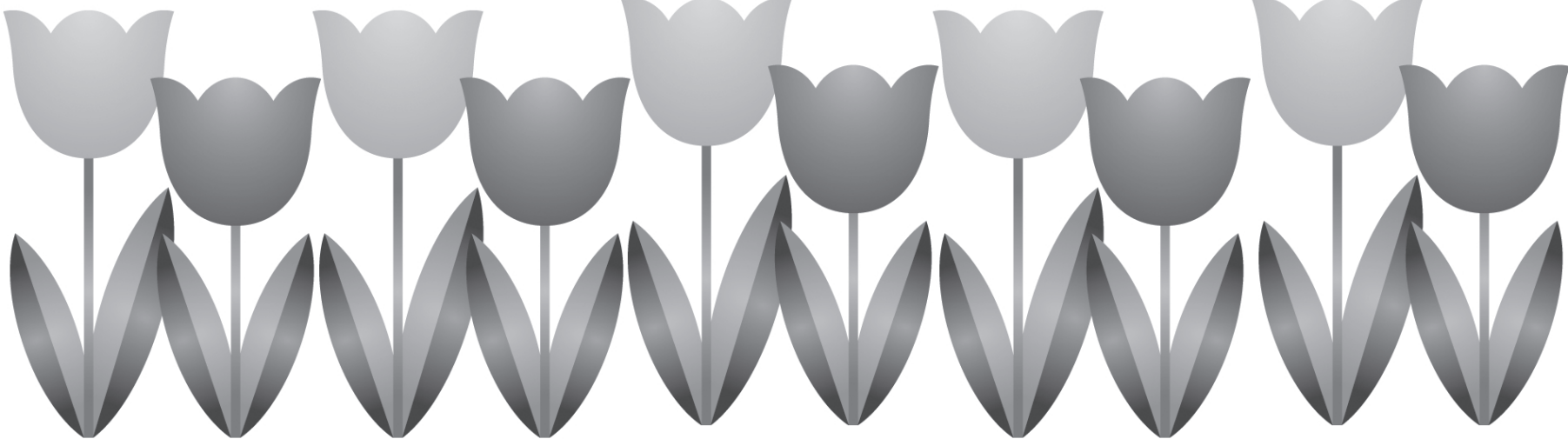
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