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October 2007

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**Sonia Brumbeloe
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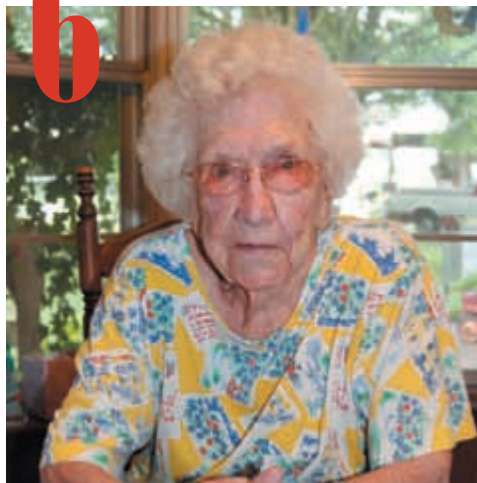
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On the Cover: A quilt square given to Faye Reed on her 90th birthday.

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

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Midlothian NOW

Editor's Note

Hello, Midlothian!

What would you do if you lived to be 100 years old? If you were Faye Reed, you would be savoring memories of a long, well-lived life, surrounded by family members and hundreds of friends who love and care for you. We should all be so blessed! Read her story in this month's issue.

Check out our home feature with Sonia Brumbeloe and discover how she visits garage sales to decorate her home. After reading about all the treasures she has accumulated, you might want to rev up the truck and go shopping!

Speaking of shopping, Midlothian's Chamber of Commerce annual Fall Festival will be October 20. With the side street circus, the 5K race, pet parade, dance and martial arts performances, as well as the arts and crafts booths, there will be something to delight everyone. Oh yeah, did I mention food? There will be lots of it, so come out and enjoy the cooler weather with your neighbors! Call (972) 723-8600 for more information.

Betty Tryon

Midlothian Editor



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A Living Treasure

— By Betty Tryon

It was hot and dusty — a typical Texas day back in 1927. Twenty-two year old Faye Reed and others worked very hard to prepare meals on-site for the men thrashing the grain in the fields. Faye's daughter, Nellafay Isom, recounted the tale, "It was very hot and there was no air conditioning. They prepared the meals in a wagon that was a kitchen on wheels. It was called the cook shack. When the work started, the cook shack and the cooks stayed there the entire time. Instead of sleeping at night on the ground, Mom and the others would let down the flaps of the wagon and sleep on the tables. She felt it was cooler up there; a small breeze made it more comfortable."

For centenarian Faye Reed, this is only one small story in a celebrated life as Midlothian's oldest citizen. But for



Faye, when she wakes up every morning, she thinks, "It's just another day. I'm glad to be alive." Born in 1907 as the fourth baby in five years, Faye found herself being more of a mother than a sister to the youngest child. Helping her mom recall history, Nellafay said,

"Mom was 11 years old when the last baby was born. Her mother used to say that baby Mozzell cried all day until Faye returned home after school."

In an interesting bit of Midlothian history, Faye remembers that her mother attended school in the log cabin that now resides in downtown Midlothian. According to Nellafay, "The log cabin used to





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be on the Newton property for years. The Andersons bought it and moved it to their property north of town. The city obtained it sometime after that. My mom remembers that her mom said the log cabin had a dirt floor and used to have other rooms around it." Faye herself attended school in Maypearl and graduated in 1925. There were only 12 students in the graduating class.

After graduation, Faye attended college for one year to receive a teaching certificate. She said, "You didn't have to have a degree then. In the winter when it was cold, I paid a little boy to build my fires in the school." Her daughter Nellafay said, "When Mom was a teacher, she lived with another family and paid \$30.00 a month out of her \$75.00 salary for room and board. She had one room to herself and had to prepare all of her meals in her room. Mom used a butane burner stove that was placed on top of a stack of apple crates. I still have the apple crates that she used."

Faye taught for six years until she married in 1931 and moved to Midlothian. "I had to stop teaching when I got married," she said. "No one wanted to hire a teacher who married, because they would get pregnant. You couldn't teach if you were pregnant." Faye married Roy and they had four children. Nellafay explained, "Two of the children are deceased. The oldest child and the youngest, which is me, are still alive. My brother, Kenneth Reed, died five years ago. He was the plant manager for TXI for many years. My sister Margaret Milton lives in Alabama and my deceased sister, Laura

Dailey, had lived in New Orleans.”

During those early years, one of Faye’s favorite things to do was to listen to the *Stella Dallas* radio show. Nellafay remarked, “*Stella Dallas* was a soap opera on the radio, and when it was on, she wouldn’t allow anyone to interrupt her while she was listening to it.”

Family has always been important to Faye. “We didn’t have a lot of money, but my parents always played games with us,” said Nellafay. “We played croquet, volleyball and card games. Mom played canasta and dominoes as if all her money depended on it. On Sunday, the only games we were allowed to play were Bible bingo or Bible quizzes.”

Faye and her husband Roy did not limit the fun to only their children. They generously allowed many other children to join them. Nellafay commented, “Every Sunday night after church service, all the kids from church would come over for Mom’s



homemade ice cream. We had a cow that made rich milk and we got the eggs from our chickens. There was no refrigeration, so ice had to be purchased every week. Part of the fun in making ice cream was we would take turns with one of the kids sitting on top of the ice cream machine and the other would turn the handle.” Faye remembered that, “We would wrap a quilt around a block of ice that we bought from the ice house to use in making the ice cream.”

Faye was not only known for her ice cream, but her delicious doughnuts. “She won a doughnut-making contest when she was in high school,” Nellafay said. Faye’s homemaking skills also included sewing. Nellafay commented that, “Mom sewed everything. I don’t



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ever remember her buying any clothing. She heard of a need in India for crochet hats for children and knitted 100 of them. She has made many lap quilts for people in nursing homes to keep their legs warm."

Quilting was a special skill with Faye and her quilts are legendary. "She still has the first quilt she made as a young girl called the Dutch Girl," said Nellafay. "On Mom's 90th birthday, people brought quilt pieces. Each individual brought one piece they had created and all together there were enough pieces to make three quilts. At age 90, from July 13 until September, Mom had all the pieces sewed together for the completed quilts." Some of the quilt pieces were memories from trips with Faye, personal moments shared with her and whimsical reminders of card games enjoyed with her. Faye still loves a good card game with whoever stops by.

She also enjoys reading and is a lover of poetry. "She wrote many poems and taught herself how to read and interpret poems," said Nellafay. Faye has a *Leaves of Gold* poetry book with numerous poems marked with any type of paper she could find. You can flip through the book and see mail, scraps of paper or whatever was handy to mark a poem that caught her interest.

Nellafay said, "Money spent on a card to her is not wasted. She reads her cards two or even three times." Near her chair Faye has a new stack of cards she received during her 100th birthday party. Her daughter proudly said, "We had about 250 people at her party and she hugged everyone."

Faye Reed is an important and precious part of Midlothian's history. She is our living treasure. **NOW**



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Bringing the Farm to Town

— By Sandra McIntosh



Sonia Brumbeloe's home, which she lovingly shares with her grandson Clay Franko, is a treasure trove filled with things she has grown to love over the years. Her riches are not found in family heirlooms like most would think; in fact, far from it. "The majority of my decor was found at garage sales," Sonia said. "I go to yard sales and garage sales every chance I get. I've been decorating my home with garage sale finds for years."

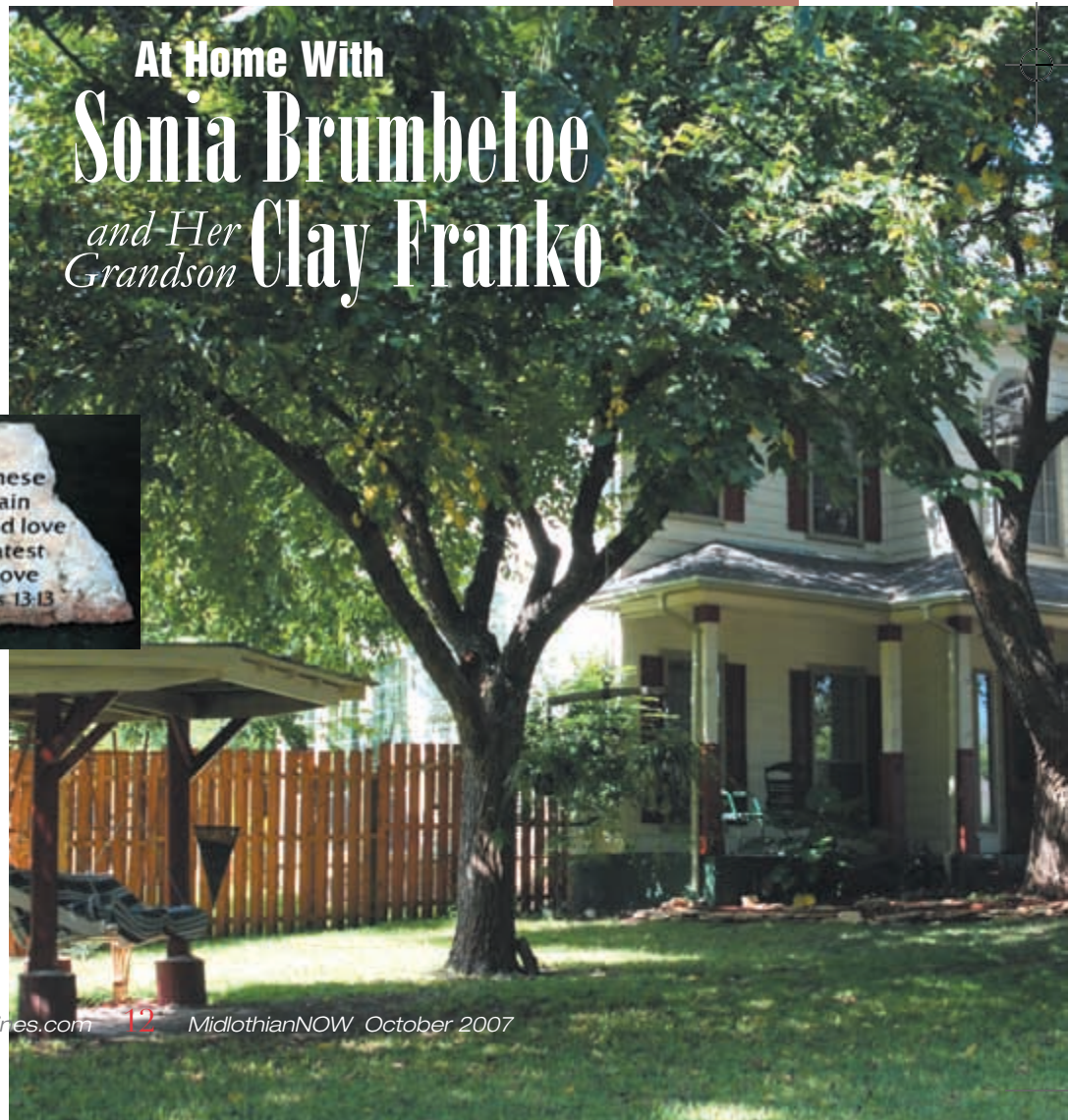
Before moving to Midlothian just one year ago this month, Sonia had shared many happy years on a farm between Midlothian and Mansfield with her late husband, Jake. After his passing, Sonia decided it was time to bring the farm to town.

"The Lord directed me here," Sonia said, referring to the two-story home nestled back on a large corner lot, just walking distance from downtown Midlothian.

The four-bedroom, two-and-one-half-bath Ranch style home is proof that one person's junk, when displayed properly, can easily become someone else's fortune. She has been able to successfully transform a home with a



At Home With Sonia Brumbeloe and Her Grandson Clay Franko



traditional Victorian feel into the Ranch style she finds to be most comforting for her and Clay. "One of the first things I did after moving was change the windows in the den," she said, pointing 20 feet in the air to the tallest peak within the home's interior. "The windows now appear to look like Ranch gates." The treatment, Sonia explained, was accomplished with imitation iron bent into the shape of a Texas star and beveled Plexiglass panels that resemble clear stained glass. "It was an inexpensive way to dress up the windows," she added. "They no longer look like picture frames without a picture."

What was once the back patio is now a closed-in sun porch, where Clay spends quality time on the computer and Sonia's indoor plants flourish. The only time she waters them is when the plant-sitting, moisture control blue bird makes noise. "He only chirps when the plant needs water," she said,




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“so I water all of them when he goes to chirping.”

The sunroom could be Sonia's favorite space for a lot of reasons, with the first one being the priceless view of her beautifully landscaped backyard and oasis-like swimming pool. The waterfall is relaxing and the area has proven to be the perfect spot for Sonia's eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren to congregate with their friends. “It's where we gathered all summer long,” Clay said. “The parties were sometimes overwhelming.” Sonia listened to her grandson, smiling at all the new, yet fond, memories.

The oversized den, located directly

to the right of the sun porch, with its soft shades of khaki with burgundy accents, is where Sonia's imaginative decorating style is showcased on the massive wall space. The decor includes rusty stirrups, a worn out pair of chaps and a big straw hat that reminds her of Jake. “Other oddities are a peace pipe and an Indian breastplate,” Sonia said, proudly stating that the peace pipe was one of her latest garage sale finds, while the breastplate was acquired during a recent mission trip to South Dakota. “I can brag on bargains much better than I can at paying full price.”

A little brown bear takes his rightful place in an antique chair in the den. He is battery-operated and only cost Sonia a “whopping fifty cents.”

“All you have to do is touch him to bring him to life,” she said, as the animated action of drinking from a bottle began. “He came without his bottle,” she continued. “After he drinks he'll start to have the hiccups because he's such a little pig. Then he'll stretch





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and want you to pick him up and hug him. I think he's the cutest thing!"

Shades of green, red and cream make up the palette in the kitchen and breakfast nook, which also boasts of rich, hardwood floors. A large section of gingerbread trim decorated with greenery and cranberries hangs above the south entry to the kitchen. The lights Sonia installed under the cabinets add ambiance to the room, in which any chef would most definitely flourish. A lone, empty chair hangs on one wall. "I bought that chair over 30 years ago from a lady that was well into her 80s," Sonia said. "I promised her I'd take



good care of it. It must be at least 125 years old, now." The etched glass pantry door was also another one of Sonia's special finds. As a self-proclaimed frugal shopper, she said it may have cost a bit more than she usually spends, but each time she goes in and out of the pantry, she feels it was well worth the extra she paid.

Each room is as good or better than the one before, especially when it comes to all the acquisitions Sonia mentions along the way. She seems to remember where she bought each piece, as well as what she paid for it. The dining room table, buffet and matching



chairs in the home's formal dining area were a bargain at \$200. Items found in the formal living room, also known as Sonia's bear room, include two antique high-back chairs with low arms, a player piano with a box of reels and a beautiful area rug in mint condition.

More special finds are displayed in the three bedrooms and master suite with a sitting area located on the second level. There is a "mad money purse" that once belonged to Sonia's mother displayed in a case alongside a pair of toy pistols in the patriotic Indian room.

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family photographs and memorabilia alongside her finds throughout the house, as well. The master suite is filled with Sonia's most precious memories. "This is the farm," she said, further explaining that memories of Jake are the most important thing as she pointed to several framed photographs. "Downstairs, there's a special picture that hangs over the quilt rack in the dining room. Jake would always hang it straight because he loved the flat land of West Texas. I would always go by and make it crooked to remind me of the mountains that I love." Since moving to town, Sonia makes sure to keep it hanging straight, even though many times she finds it crooked. "That's the way Jake would have wanted it," she added.



The move to town has been good for Sonia and Clay, as well as for Fred and Maggie, the family's dog and cat respectively. The feeling of being in the right place at the right time was almost immediate. "I want the home to offer a cozy feeling for visitors, family and friends," she said. "I pray that everyone who enters finds spiritual peace." **NOW**

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More Than Art

— By Betty Tryon

Fascinated by the sound of the piano, 4-year-old Josh Green liked to listen to his mother play. Many times he would go to the piano himself and try his hand at it. According to his mom, Amy Green-Jordan, “He could hear the notes someone would sing and pick out the same tunes on the piano. When I heard him do that I thought, ‘There’s something there!’”

Indeed. That “something” has turned into a lifelong love of music. Josh said, “I started taking piano lessons at age 8. Music came easily to me. My mother played the piano and she encouraged me in my music. I started taking lessons and learned music theory. It was easier to play by ear after I learned the basics. Playing by ear or by reading the music – both approaches are good.”

As a teenager in high school, Josh was proficient enough in his piano performance to play on the youth praise team at Midlothian Bible Church. Josh said, “In the youth group it was the first time that we put together a team for live music to sing to instead of just using CDs.” The first time he participated as part of the worship team for the general

congregation was after he graduated from high school.

Initially, Josh was not sure about his direction after high school. “I didn’t think college was for me,” he said, “but I decided to study music and that led me to further my education. My dad encouraged me to get a good education and a good job.” Josh went to Dallas Baptist University (DBU) and received a bachelor’s in music and piano performance. He now attends Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, working toward his master’s in church music. He added, “I am getting my master’s degree to further my skills in thinking and equip and better prepare me for ministry. Having been involved with music in church playing on the praise team, I enjoyed that outlet more. I feel called to do that, even though I enjoy classical music as well.”

While working on his master’s, Josh has been involved in different experiences. He worked for one year as a substitute teacher in Midlothian and has accompanied at the Waxahachie Community Theatre. Other singers, choirs and wedding parties have requested his services. His primary involvement has been worship music at the church and teaching private

ARTS NOW

lessons in piano. His desire to minister with his music took him to Guatemala in 2002. For one month, Josh and other music missionaries taught piano lessons and music theory to the natives. They also provided music for the worship services and gave a concert.

Teaching piano lessons brings a special joy to Josh. "After I graduate



from Southwestern with my master's degree, I would like to continue music ministry and open a music school. It would be more than just piano lessons. I would have different instruments taught by other people who were skilled in that area.

"I started giving private lessons in 2002. I wanted to share what I had learned in my experience, to be able to encourage other people. I want to try to instill the love of music in them. There is an opportunity for ministry to influence lives outside of music with life in general. It gives me a chance to form a good relationship and talk about what may be going on in their life.

"One of the students I have is a 12-year-old girl, who comes to class at The Master's Touch School of Music with highlighted notes all over her work. She does work that I don't even

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ask her to do. She asks lots of questions. I'm impressed to see her initiative."

Another student with whom Josh was impressed was a 13-year-old named Philip who took private lessons. He initially did not show much interest in the piano. Josh explained, "He was struggling to get through the basics. I tried to find something that would interest him. The *Lord of the Rings*



"My music is being used as a tool for ministry and to glorify God."

soundtrack was his breakthrough music. Every other lesson, he wanted me to find this song or that song and bring it to him the next week. He then discovered online music and could make the purchases himself," he said smiling. "He now plays on the praise team. It is a great joy to see him using his gift in church. It reinforces the teaching side of me when I see students use their gifts. It is a great feeling to be able to help them stick with something that is a challenge and coming through it. That applies to life itself with the parallels to life and music, also, with work and relationships. It is a good life skill – learning to be persistent."

Whether Josh goes into ministry full time, opens his own music store or both, he is sure to use his gift of music to help others. He remarked that, "My music is being used as a tool for ministry and to glorify God. It is more than art and entertainment. Music is a gift from God and should be used to glorify Him." **ARTS NOW**

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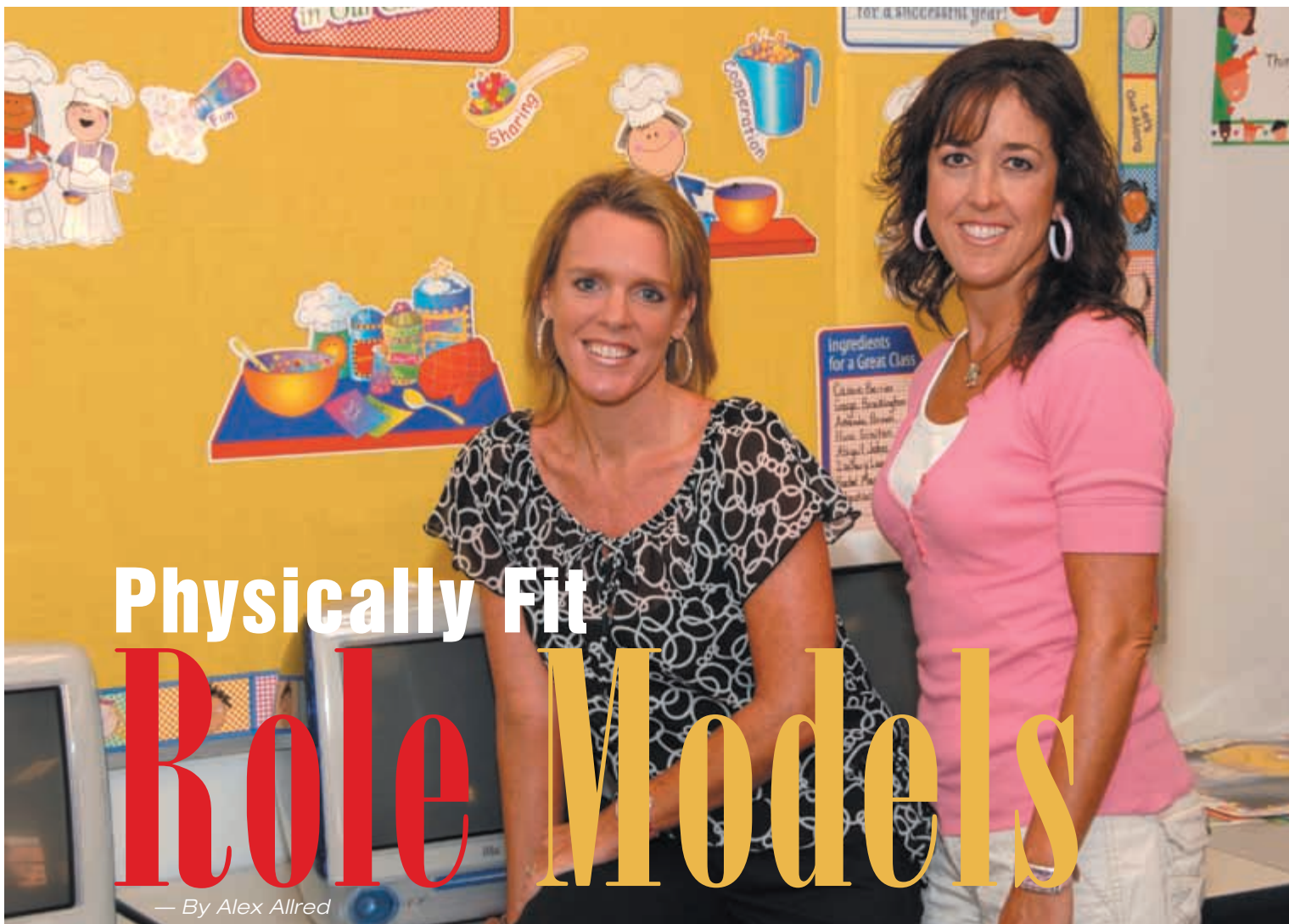
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— By Alex Allred

At the onset of each new school year, there is an electric energy that fills the hallways. Friends reunite after the summer break and, of course, the obligatory question, “What did you do this summer?” comes up.

For two outstanding teachers, the answer may surprise you. They signed up for an intense martial arts-based kick-boxing class, lifted weights, logged miles jogging and ran stadium stairs for an extra challenge.

According to their kick-boxing instructor, JR Irvin, teachers Jill Dunegan and Nikki White performed an estimated 6,000 karate kicks, well over 1,000 push-ups and sit-ups, and countless punches. Even more impressive is the number of stairs the women tackled. Both Jill and Nikki woke early once a week to run a course that equaled 3,456 steps at Lumpkins Stadium in Waxahachie and over 27,000 stairs throughout the summer!

“Working out has become a stress reliever.”

What is most inspiring are the reasons behind their goals. Yes, they wanted to get in shape, but when they returned to school, they also wanted to tell their students how hard they worked. They wanted to gain more energy and stamina for teaching. “Teaching really takes it out of you,” Nikki said. “Most people don’t realize how much you give to your kids during the day.” She added that most teachers also have families

of their own.

It is important to her that she is able to give as much energy, affection and patience to her own children at the end of the day. “Working out has become a stress reliever,” Jill said. “I can’t wait to get my iPod on and sweat it out. I sleep better and deal better with things.”

Nikki said there is also an added bonus. When students can see their teachers as role models, it changes the dynamics in the classroom. “My kids can say, ‘Hey, my teacher is working

Sports NOW

out. My teacher runs bleachers!" she said. "How cool is that?"

They are reluctant to use the word "role model" in describing themselves. In fact, they do not see themselves as anything out of the ordinary. Yet, they have been quietly acting as role models to the children of the community for years, introducing innovative ways to




Both Nikkie and Jill fight — literally — for their workouts!

encourage higher learning and physical activity. "I try to incorporate physical activity when I teach," Jill said. "In the third grade, we made up multiplication tables with exercise." With every set of mathematical equations, there are physical challenges. "For threes, we pick cotton. For fours, we do lunges," she explained. "They shout the answer and we do jumping jacks for fives."


In Nikki's second grade class, she uses music to motivate her students. "When the kids start to fade after lunch or need to wake up a little in the morning," Nikki said, "we do the Cha Cha Slide."

"When I see they're getting restless," Jill said, "we do multi-tables." For any



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other teacher, this might indicate a math lesson, but for Jill and Nikki, this includes push-ups, jumping jacks and many smiling faces.

For this reason, both women use sports as a way to motivate their students. In fact, every fall, Jill tracks



the football season. "We follow different teams and take stats. I get them all hooked on it," she said. "Even my girls will come to me and say, 'I watched the game!'"

Together, they are showing their students how much fun it can be to work out. It is something that they, themselves, are rediscovering. In high school, both were athletes. Jill played volleyball, basketball and made the cheerleading squad. "Horses were my thing," Nikki said. Clearly, this is an understatement as she and her team — a mounted equine drill team — won the National Drill Team Olympic Award in Dallas in 1982.

Life has a funny way of changing things, and both women fell into the routines of college, getting married

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and starting a family. When Jill, frustrated by her weight, began riding a stationary bike religiously, Nikki took notice. "She really motivated me. She lost something like 20 pounds, and when I saw how great she looked," Nikki said, "I realized I could do it, too."

They joined the Main Street Gym



"I have to teach kids the skills to believe in themselves and give them confidence."

in Midlothian and signed up for some of the most challenging aerobic classes they could. Once again, life changed radically. "As a teacher," Jill said, "I am more of a cheerleader sometimes. I have to teach kids the skills to believe in themselves and give them confidence."

Through their own physical routine, the very same was happening to Jill and Nikki. "I've never been that way, [competitive], but now I want to test myself and see how far I can go. It's awesome to discover we're stronger than we ever thought we were."

If you ask them what they did this summer, they will say they exercised, but they did so much more. As this new school year unfolds, both Jill and Nikki continue as they always have, inspiring and motivating the children. Only this year, they are not just role models to the children, but to us all. **NOW**



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Business
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Serendipity

— By Dia Catalani

“Serendipity.” Lots of people have asked store owner Carla Wilson what the name of her store means. While most of us correlate the word to an event like owning a winning lottery ticket, for Carla, serendipity is a long story with a happy ending.

Several years ago, while shopping with her mother, the pair frequented a little Texas gift shop very similar to the one Carla now owns. With a background, which included operating a Hallmark store and working as a Midlothian travel agent, Carla already had two key facets of a successful retail store in place: experience and knowing almost everyone in town.

“It’s pretty neat now that we’ve been open for a while, because when people walk in, the first thing they say is, ‘Wow.’ It’s awesome, because the shop we used to go into heard the same thing all the time, too,” Carla said. “We do everything we can to make shopping here enjoyable, and [offer] items that people really like.”

Carla also took care to ensure she has staff on hand who are friendly and

provide excellent customer service. Visitors are greeted by store manager Mandy Daly, and employees Jan Post, Kathleen Mack, Rhonda Asher and Judy King, who each do their part to help keep shopping fun and creative.

Open since April, Serendipity features gifts for literally any age, personality and style. Their tasteful, elegant home and office décor, high quality kitchenware, gourmet snacks, bath items, and even gifts for teens, can be given alone or arranged in a gift basket. “We’ve also got a great selection of gifts for new moms, babies and toddlers,” Carla said. “If you’re looking for something no one else is giving, come see us!”

Their featured line of popular Webkinz animals are a hot toy among educators, who have found the toys to be an effective tool in teaching toddlers

and young children to read. They are also known to promote and develop true play imagination and logical thinking, a big plus for busy parents.

Visitors will enjoy the eccentric ambiance of the store as well. It is housed in one of Midlothian’s historic buildings. Carla choice of colors, paired with the rustic feel of the building and an interesting type of lighting (come see!) are design inspirations. An opportune time to visit Serendipity is during their Holiday Open House, an anticipated annual event that will get you in the shopping mood. Holiday Open House will be held November 10th from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and November 11th from 1- 4 p.m.; the special weekend will offer pricing for affordable gift giving, door gifts, holiday goodies and cider.

Before then, consider holding your



Always greeting friends and visitors with a smile, Serendipity store owner Carla Wilson and store manager Mandy Daly truly enjoy helping people find the perfect gift.

Business NOW

own Thursday Night Hostess Party. The reservation-only evening provides an opportunity for friends or co-workers to gather and shop after the usual business hours. Light refreshments and hors d'oeuvres are served, along with a special something for the hostess included as part of the deal.

"This has been very successful. Sometimes it's difficult to find time to



"If you're looking for something no one else is giving, come see us!"

maintain friends, shop when you really do need to shop or just have some "down time," Carla said. "Plus, it really is a lot of fun for them, and it's easy to do because it usually lasts just an hour or two."

Other ways the store makes it easy and affordable to attain quality items include: Serendipity frequent-shopper cards (which offer a considerable discount once completed); special offers for those on the Serendipity mailing list; flexible layaway terms and the Serendipity wish list. Husbands may consider searching this list early — doing so could increase their own chances of a serendipitous Christmas.

Serendipity Home Décor & Gifts is located at 216 West Avenue F, between Seventh and Eighth Streets. For gift inquiries or an event reservation, please call (972) 775-8600. The store is open weekdays from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. **NOW**

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Education **NOW**

Funding for the Future

— By Betty Tryon

The roots of the Masonic Lodge grow deep in Texas. When the Republic of Texas — as an independent country — was founded, every president and vice president was a Mason. According to Duke Burge, a member of Midlothian Masonic Lodge, “The Masonic influence was huge. Mirabeau Lamar, vice-president of Texas was a staunch proponent of public education and he insisted the constitution state that every child have a free education,” he said. “The Masons were so committed to education that the Masonic lodges in the early years used to be two-level buildings. The bottom level was used for the school building. Education is one of the major philanthropic areas for the Lodge.”

Duke, a resident of Midlothian and member of the Lodge since 1993, contributed to the legacy of educational assistance by helping to generate excitement about the Midlothian Masonic Lodge Scholarship Fund. “Before 1993, we were giving about \$250.00/year in scholarships,” he explained. “We got excited about it



“This is something I do because I love the kids. This is a great community with great people. I want things to be better because I was here.”

and pulled together a group of people willing to put some time in it. We have given 60 scholarships totaling \$30,000 in the last 15 years.”

In the 2007 school year, the Midlothian Masonic Lodge was able to give 17 scholarships funded by their different fundraisers, such as the Bucket Brigade, and through individual donations. They want to do more. In order to do so, the Lodge is expanding the scholarship program. Duke said, “We are going to a 501(c)(3) independent corporation named Midlothian Masonic Scholarship Foundation. We started the foundation because we want to solicit and collect donations and invest them for the students in

Midlothian. Masons are not allowed to solicit that type of donation.

“Money that is donated goes into the endowment with 90 percent of the interest from the investments used for the scholarships. Only the interest is used so the fund will always grow. One of the exceptions to the 90 percent interest is if someone wants a named scholarship. These have to be at least \$25,000. Another exception, for example, would be if you and your husband donated \$1000.00 and designated it to be used for this year, then that would happen. Most people donate money that goes directly into the endowment fund.” The Masonic Lodge takes every precaution to make

Education NOW

sure scholarships are given fairly. The announcement that the scholarships are open is in January. Students can get the applications from their counselor. A five-member committee of lodge members and school officials look at redacted applications, where all identifying information is removed.



In 2007, the Midlothian Masonic Lodge gave 17 scholarships to Midlothian students.

Duke's attention to the scholarship program stems from his interest in education. This is his second year as president of the Midlothian School Board and it is his eighth year as a member of the board. He first ran for the school board president because he was asked to. His wife, Dawn Burge, is also involved in the educational system as the athletic secretary for Midlothian ISD. They have three daughters, two of whom graduated from Midlothian High School.

As a growing community, Midlothian faces many challenges to accommodate the increasing population and incoming students. Duke commented, "Growth is inevitable, but quality growth is manageable. I wish everyone would read and understand the growth of Midlothian, the needs of the students and the tax impact. Our school tax

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Education **NOW**

rates are down approximately 30 percent this year. One of our goals was to get the state to contribute more funding to education at the local level. That happened the last session with the help of Representative Jim Pitts. We

“Education is one of the major philanthropic areas for the Lodge.”

have a bond election coming up that will ask for \$103 million for a second high school, Agricultural Science Center [barn] and additional land purchase.”

Being a member of the Masonic lodge and school board president are not enough to keep Duke busy. He also runs his own computer company that was started in 1993. He said, “When I used to work on the oil field I was the only one who knew how to work with computers.” He took that knowledge and built Computer Solutions Inc. It is a American Indian-owned business. He explained, “I belong to the Cherokee Indian Nation. The Cherokee heritage is on my mother’s side. It is something I grew up knowing.”

Being a man of many talents and skills, Duke is also a singer and a flight instructor. “I have sung the National Anthem at sports events, and I also sing at church. I have a commercial multi-engine instrument rating and was able to be a flight instructor part time in Arlington,” he stated. But these days his mind is on computers, scholarships and school board matters.

He said, “This is something I do because I love the kids. This is a great community with great people. I want things to be better because I was here.” **NOW**

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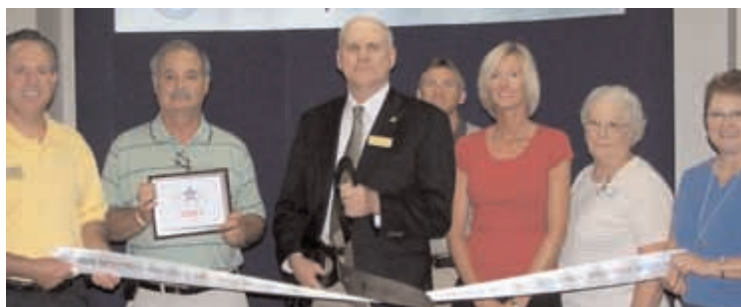

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ARTS NOW



A ribbon cutting, top left, was held at the offices of Dr. Randy Griffin. Contracted workers, top center, worked hard to complete the handicap access on the corner of Avenue G and 8th Street. Marshall Hendricks and Matt Misenhimer were fixing a flat at Burke Tire. A couple more ribbon cuttings were held at Rapid Refill Ink, bottom left, and Lord Insurance, bottom right. Students from T.E. Baxter Elementary, middle right, enjoyed a "dino dig" in the sand.

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The Midlothian Chamber of Commerce's silent auction was a big success as evidenced by photographs at top and middle left. A student, top right, from J.A. Vitovsky Elementary gladly shows several of the supplies that will be used in art classes throughout the school year. A ribbon cutting, bottom right, was held for the Midlothian Rotary Club, while Your-Web-Guys.com, bottom left, was also welcomed to the community during a recent ribbon cutting.



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Look Who's Cooking

— By Melinda Hines

IN THE KITCHEN WITH BARBARA BENHAM

Barbara began cooking when she was young in order to help her family out. "My mom worked, and I would always start dinner for her," Barbara said. One of Barbara's favorite recipes is her mom's corn casserole, which she often prepares for family gatherings. "My mom was an awesome cook. She cooked with a pinch of this and a dab of that and it turned out great, while I like to have a recipe in front of me," Barbara said.

Now living alone, Barbara enjoys cooking during the holidays and for her own children and their families. "I love to cook pies, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas," she said, "and I make my fruit salad and Bundt cake every year because my kids love them." **NOW**

MOM'S CORN CASSEROLE

- 1 8-oz. container sour cream
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 14-oz. can cream style corn
- 1 14-oz. can whole kernel corn
- 1 7-oz. box Jiffy corn bread mix
- 1 jalapeño pepper, chopped
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 Tbsp. butter

Mix all ingredients together. Spray pan with Pam. Bake at 350 F for 30 - 35

minutes. If desired, add grated cheddar cheese to taste and add to the top 5 minutes before done.

PINK FRUIT SALAD

- 1 21-oz. can strawberry or cherry pie filling
- 1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand Milk
- 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 12-oz. container Cool Whip

1 cup pecans (optional)

Combine all ingredients in large bowl and refrigerate until ready to serve.

BUNDT CAKE

- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups cooking oil
- 1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained

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Who's Cooking NOW

- 1 cup pecans
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups mashed bananas

Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl. Make a well in the center and add eggs, pineapple, pecans, oil, vanilla and bananas. Stir, do not beat. It will only take a few stirs to mix together. Pour into greased and floured tube pan. Bake at 350 F for 75 minutes.

CORN BREAD SALAD

- 2 7-oz. boxes Jiffy corn bread mix cooked, cooled and crumbled
- 5 slices crisp bacon, crumbled
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, chopped
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1 15-oz. jar Hellman's Mayonnaise (must be Hellman's for the taste)

Mix all ingredients, chill and serve.

MEXICAN DIP

- 2 11-oz. cans Mexicorn, drained
- 1 4-oz. can green chilies, diced
- 1 16-oz. container sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- chopped jalapeños, to taste (optional)
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate (for a couple of hours) and serve with Tostitos chips.



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Women Must Focus on Retirement Income

— By Clay Money

Whether they are the breadwinner in their household or not, preparing for retirement should be extremely important to women. One item of planning that must be considered is the financial situation of the surviving spouse and what can be done to prepare for a potential shortfall. Women survive their spouses more often than men. The Administration on Aging estimates that seven of 10 women will outlive their husbands,¹ highlighting the need for retirement planning even more.

Unfortunately, women are often at a disadvantage when it comes to resources available for retirement. The average woman spends nearly 15 years away from the workforce, while the average man will be away for 1.6 years. This

translates into lower benefits from company pensions, 401(k) plans and Social Security.

Various estimates indicate expenses after the death of a husband will be 80 percent of what they had been when he was alive. Unfortunately, a widow's income may likely be much less than that. Of all elderly persons with income below the poverty level, over 70 percent are women.² More than half were much better off financially before their husbands died. Less time in the workforce may also mean fewer women qualify for health benefits. This can put an even greater burden on their retirement income.

It is imperative for women to start saving now for their retirement, which can be accomplished through several



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savings vehicles. It is equally important to protect your nest egg through adequate life insurance coverage and insurance options should your health care needs change. Adequate planning for retirement and survival of a spouse can be a deciding factor in living comfortably.

Taking the time to examine the household finances and planning carefully will help to ensure there are adequate means of support for either spouse during the golden years. Talk to a qualified individual about your retirement needs to prepare for and enjoy a comfortable retirement. **NOW**

Source:

1. "Older Women." *Administration On Aging*, 2000, pg. 1.
2. Ibid. pg. 1.

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Breast Cancer: Factoring Your Risk

In the U.S. alone, more than 250,000 people are diagnosed with breast cancer every year, but if detected at an early stage, the chances of survival are extremely high. According to Valerie Gorman, M.D., general surgeon on the medical staff at Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie, every woman should be vigilant about her own breast health, especially if she is considered high risk.

"There are many different risk factors for breast cancer, most of which you cannot change, but being aware of your risk and not neglecting your annual breast screenings is essential for early detection and effective treatment," Dr. Gorman said.

According to the American Cancer Society, major risk factors for breast cancer include:

- **Age** — The risk of developing breast cancer increases as a woman ages.
- **Family History** — If you have two or more blood relatives who have

been diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer — especially before age 50 — you could be at a higher risk.

- **Genetics** — Most genetic breast cancer is the result of a mutation of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. Fortunately, there are genetic tests available that can detect this mutation.

- **Menstrual Cycle** — Women who began their menstrual period early in life (before age 12) or went through menopause late in life (after age 55) are at an increased risk.

However, Dr. Gorman said there are also risk factors you can control, including:

- Having your first child before age 30.
- Reducing your use of birth control pills.
- Avoiding hormone replacement therapy.

- Breastfeeding for one-and-a-half to two years.

- Limiting alcohol to less than one drink a day.

"There's no way to prevent breast cancer 100 percent, but you can further reduce your risk by maintaining a healthy weight, exercising and not smoking," Dr. Gorman added.

For early detection, Dr. Gorman recommends following these guidelines:

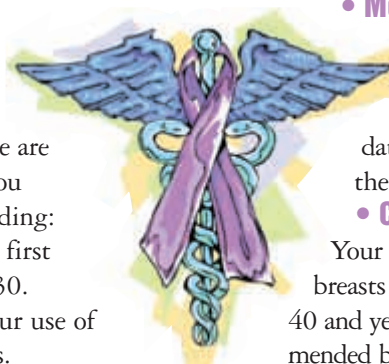
- **Monthly breast self-exams**

— Check your breasts every month after your menstrual cycle, or on a date you will remember, such as the first of every month.

- **Clinical breast exams** —

Your doctor should examine your breasts every three years up to age 40 and yearly after that, or as recommended based on your risk factors.

- **Mammograms** — A baseline mammogram is recommended




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between age 35 and 40 and yearly mammograms starting at age 40, or sooner if your risk is higher.

• **Breast ultrasound** — This test can help evaluate abnormalities that show up on mammograms.

Reduce your risk by maintaining a healthy weight, exercising and not smoking.

• **Breast MRI** — This scan can screen women who are newly diagnosed with cancer and those with a 20 percent to 25 percent lifetime risk of the disease. **NOW**

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Past, Present and Future

— By Nancy Fenton

Our gardens and landscaping are always affected by our past, present and future. The severe drought of last year is still to be seen in our big trees. Maybe you have noticed a good many leaves dropping early around your yard. After a bit of research, I realized that those big guys still have not had time to rebuild their feeder root systems. The plentiful rains this year have stressed the underdeveloped feeder system, hence the leaf drop. Some of our oaks have been mistakenly thought to need more

water. Actually, what is happening is they cannot take up the available water because of the reduced feeder system, and they are drowning. If you have soggy soil under your trees, check your drainage and get some of that water away from the tree for a while! We would hate to lose those 150-year-old trees!

Our present is upon us, and now is the time to make those last minute trimming decisions on your shrubs. Freezes will be upon us in November and the growth stimulated by trimming needs at least 6 to 8 weeks to harden off. If you are through trimming, think about planting some bulbs like tulips, daffodils or crocuses. They can go in the ground now to come up early in the spring. You can even plant them under the trees that lose their



leaves, knowing the bulbs will get the sun they need before the trees leaf out!

Our future is a yard that is as pretty as you are willing to make it! A balanced fertilizer can go on your irises and daylilies after Halloween and up to 4 inches of mulch can be added at any time on all those shrubs and flowerbeds. Lawn fertilizer can go on after the first freeze in November to be ready for that spring growth spurt. Planning for new beds is always a way to freshen and spruce up your landscape.

Know that Mother Nature is very flexible and forgiving. So, look at the past and present and get going for the future! **NOW**

Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.

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October 2007

Community Calendar

First and Third Tuesdays

Training Academy for Dental Assistants holds free informational sessions at 5:30 p.m. For details, call (972) 842-2999.

First and Third Thursdays

Midlothian Lions Club meets at 7 p.m. at Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th Street. For more information, call (972) 775-7118.

"Leads to Success" Leads Group, 8 a.m. at 2nd @ Main Place.

Second and Fourth Mondays

Texas Ladies Networking meets from 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Fire Mountain Grill in Waxahachie. For more information, call (214) 587-1221.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Toastmasters meets at 6:30 p.m. inside Baylorworx, 507 N. Hwy. 77 in Waxahachie.

Midlothian City Council meets at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Every Tuesday

Midlothian Rotary Club meets at noon at Midlothian Civic Center, 224 South 11th Street. Call (972) 775-7118 for information.

October 4

Ribbon Cutting for ECI of North Central Texas, 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber offices.

Northwood University Adult Education Information Session, 6 p.m. at the Butler Building, Northwood University, 1114 W. FM 1382, Cedar Hill. For more information, call (972) 293-5454.

October 4 - 7

Texas Motorplex Summit ET Finals Test and Tune and Brackets

Finals. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for details.

October 6

First United Methodist Church's Annual "Lord's Acre" Sale, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at George Hopper Road.

October 11

Chamber board meeting, 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber offices.

October 12 - 13

Ellis County Art Association's "Off the Wall" Benefit Art Sale and Garage Sale, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at the Ellis County Fine Arts Museum, 501 West Main Street, Waxahachie.

October 12 - 14

Texas Motorplex ADRL Pro Mod World Finals and Autobahn VW Bug Out. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for details.

October 13

St. John Lutheran Church's Fall Festivals/Heroes Day. Enjoy German food, live music, games and more.

October 16

Ribbon Cutting for Whispers Boutique, 11:30 a.m. at N. 8th Street.

October 20

Cedar Hill Saddle Club's "Open Playday," 11 a.m. at 1531 N. Mockingbird Lane, Midlothian. Cost is \$2 per event and \$1 per exhibition run.

Midlothian Chamber of Commerce's Annual Fall Festival, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on George Hopper Road. Enjoy live entertainment, arts and crafts, food, martial arts demonstrations and the Midlothian OctoberFAST Downhill Dash, the Chamber's 5K race. For information, contact Mary Rustin at (972) 723-7919 or Amanda Miller at (972) 723-8600.

October 20 - 21

Texas Motorplex Muscle Car Club Challenge #2. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for details.

October 22

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County meets at 7 p.m. at St. Paul Episcopal Church, Hwy. 287 at Ovilla Road in Waxahachie. Visit CQGuild.org for information.

October 26 and 27

Munster Mansion 6th Annual Charity Event, presented in conjunction with Century 21 Judge Fite Company, benefiting Easter Seals North Texas, 6 - 11 p.m. \$20 for adults and \$12 for children under 12. Call (972) 923-3116 or visit www.munstermansion.com.

October 26 - 28

The Music Man, presented by Waxahachie Community Theatre in the historic Chautauqua Auditorium in Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. October 26 and 27, 7:30 p.m. October 28, 2:30 p.m. Tickets at the door. Call PJ Searcy at (972) 723-6976 for information.

October 28

Texas Motorplex Import Face Off. Visit www.texasmotorplex.com for more details.

October 31

Downtown trick-or-treating, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m., downtown Midlothian.

November 3

Great Visions Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association's "Midlothian Shopping Extravaganza," 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Midlothian Conference Center. Register online at <http://midlothianabwa.com> or contact Tami Tobey at (214) 208-7575.

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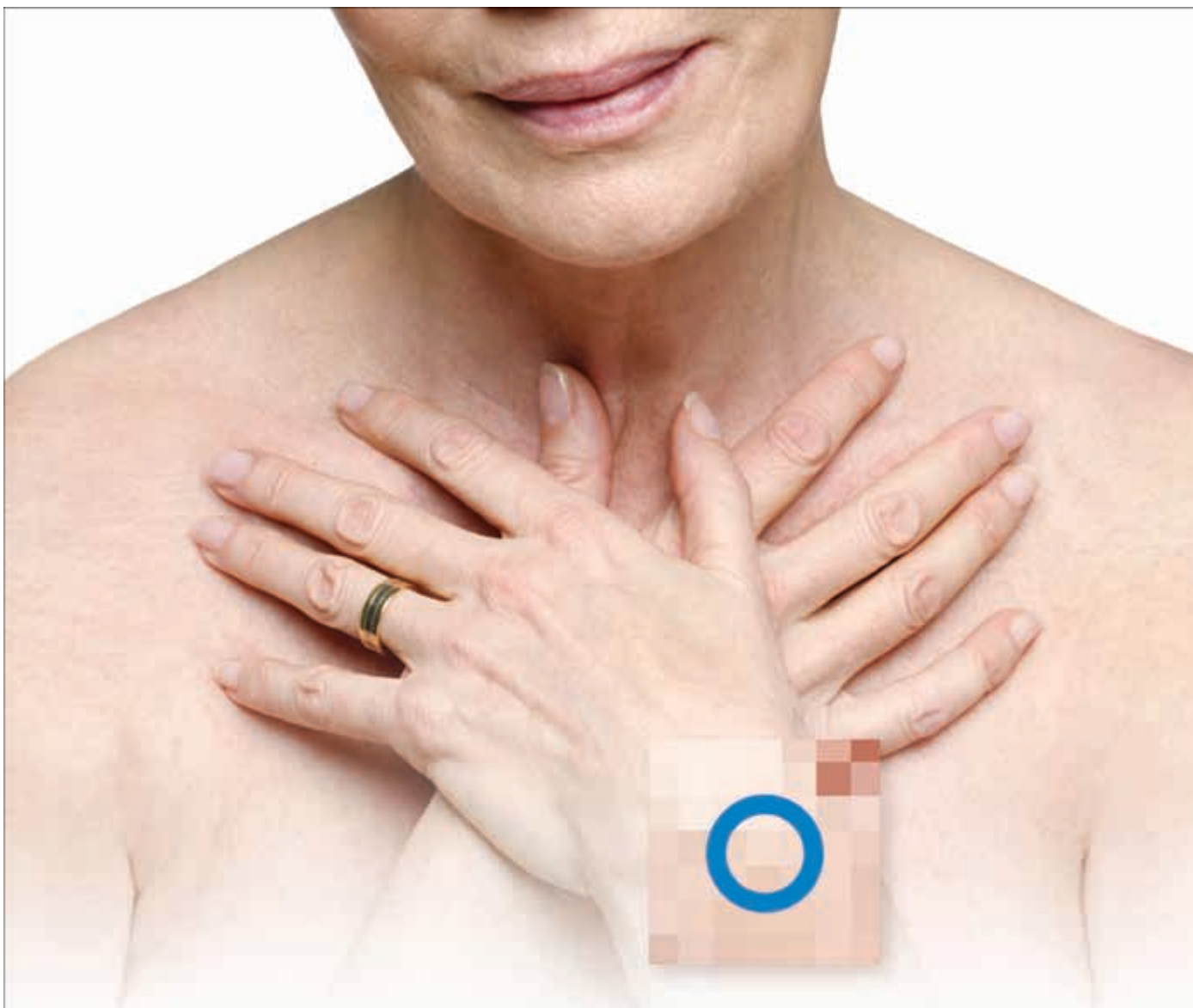
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Keynote Speaker: Lynn Redgrave
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