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OCTOBER 2011

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### Also Inside

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Competing for a Career

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## On The Cover



Mallory McCarter  
has an important  
message for  
young women.

Photo by  
Jill Rasco Photography.

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# Editor's Note

*Hello, Mansfield!*

Every October brings beautiful weather and great fun in the form of the two-day Historic Mansfield Music and Arts Festival along Main Street. The whole event reminds me of a mini-Kerrville Folk Festival, which was my cup o' tea back when I lived in Austin. On October 15 and 16, a musician close to my heart — Texas rocker, Joe Ely — closes out Saturday's lineup of nine bands, and the fun starts again Sunday at noon. All the while, family fun is encouraged at a huge children's area close to the Oak Street intersection. Throughout the weekend, parking is free, and well-known kitchens set up to sell generous plates of food for only \$2.00. Mansfield firefighters sponsor a chili cook off on Saturday. Art will be on display from youth who attend all the public and private schools in Mansfield. A visit to [www.historicmansfield.net](http://www.historicmansfield.net) will help if you, like me, tend to plan your month around music.

Enjoy this lovely fall.

*Melissa*

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MansfieldNOW Editor  
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# Beautifully Unique

— By Julie B. Cosgrove

*Two days before the Miss Mansfield pageant, Jacque Hughes, Mallory McCarter's boss at the hair salon where she is a stylist, asked her to step in when someone dropped out of the competition. Her employers were one of the sponsors of the first-ever event. "I had never done a pageant in my life," said the 22-year-old, tall, slender blonde. Out of gratitude to her bosses, who are "the best in the world," Mallory reluctantly agreed. "The second she asked, I was on top of it."*

---



# “The Miss America Pageant is not just a *beauty* contest. It’s a scholarship program.”

The door flew open and the whirl of pageantry preparations blew Mallory into a fun, but frantic flurry. “I wore my sister’s prom dress and borrowed a friend’s bathing suit. I’m a vocalist, so I sang the country song, ‘The House That Built Me,’ by Miranda Lambert.” That night, it did go all right. This self-proclaimed dark horse, last minute entry was awarded the title of the “first” Miss Mansfield.

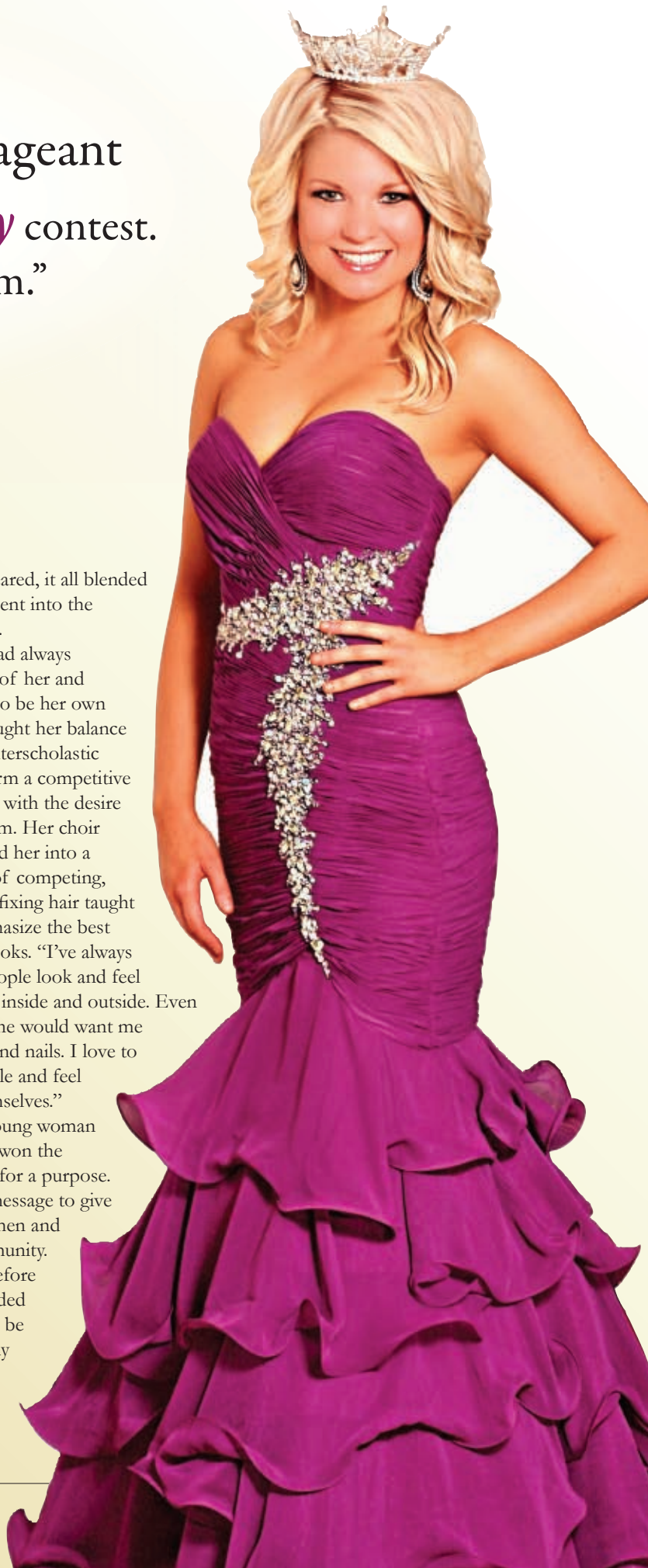
“Mansfield was the only city of its size in Texas that had never had an entry in the Miss Texas Pageant, until this year. It was a really big deal,” she stated. The city-chosen queens compete in the Miss Texas pageant in June of each year. The winner then goes on to represent the state in the renowned Miss America Pageant. “The Miss America Pageant is not just a beauty contest. It’s a scholarship program. Most people don’t realize that,” Mallory pointed out. “Each contestant has to raise a certain amount of money for the Children’s Miracle Network in order to qualify. That means just as much as talent, answers or looks. I’m very proud I got to be a small part of all that.”

What was the key to her winning? Mallory grinned and gazed upward. “I know I had outside help.” She admitted she felt strange among the other talented and beautiful young women who had been in the pageant circuit for so much of their lives. But, as she looks back on her life experiences in Ovilla, Texas,

where she was reared, it all blended at the right moment into the winning formula.

Her mother had always been supportive of her and encouraged her to be her own person. Ballet taught her balance and poise, and interscholastic sports helped form a competitive team spirit along with the desire to stay fit and trim. Her choir singing developed her into a vocalist worthy of competing, and her love for fixing hair taught her how to emphasize the best about people’s looks. “I’ve always loved helping people look and feel their best on the inside and outside. Even in school everyone would want me to do their hair and nails. I love to make people smile and feel good about themselves.”

This astute young woman realized she had won the citywide contest for a purpose. She now had a message to give other young women and girls in the community. “When I went before the judges I decided to be genuine, to be myself and do my personal best,” she admitted. “Whatever the outcome,







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I'd be satisfied if I did that. That's what I want others to know. Seventy-five percent of young people, especially girls, feel inadequate. They turn to negative activities to cope with their low self-esteem. I want to tell them to forget the



people who make fun of them. They'll never see them again for the rest of their lives after school. They really aren't that important. Just be yourself and do your best."

Mallory has developed a platform

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entitled "The Skin I'm In," based on building self-esteem and finding the potential inside. "I'm not the prettiest girl ever. But now I have the opportunity to reach out and make others the prettiest they can be. It has always been my

passion to make people pretty on the outside. That's why I feel so blessed my parents let me pursue my dream of being a stylist." Now through wearing the Miss Mansfield crown, she has the opportunity to speak to schools and organizations in order to help others find their inner beauty as well. "I want them to know it's our flaws that make us beautifully unique, and to be themselves. Accepting that will give them confidence."

She admits it was a huge group effort to lead her through the Miss Texas Pageant preparation process. She had only two months to get up to speed. Most of the other contestants had been preparing since last November. Her vocal coach, Sarah Conley, expanded her range and taught her so much in such a very short time. She could feel the prayers of everyone who loved her.

"The pageant was held this year at The University of Texas at Arlington. That was wonderful because it was so close by. It was a fun, but grueling week. We were up at 7:00 a.m., practicing for five hours, then eating lunch and back to practicing. Often we were up until 2:00



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a.m., then back up the next morning. I lived on total adrenaline. I really respect the other girls who have been doing this for so long."

Her mother and boss were with her every step of the way. "I was going through personal challenges of my own when Jacque approached me. I was feeling pretty low. Now, through this experience, I have never been happier or felt better about being me."

Mallory didn't place in the finals for Miss Texas. "It's OK, really. I learned so very much and was so honored to represent my city. This is still such a privilege. I know these school kids will look up to me when I walk in with my



"I want them to know it's our flaws that make us *beautifully* unique, and to be themselves."

crown on to speak with them. I want to be a good influence in their lives. I want to tell them if I can do it, they can achieve their dreams, too. I'm excited about the opportunities I will have this year."

Realizing she has her whole life ahead of her, Mallory feels positive about her future. "I love what I do and wake up every morning excited to go to work." Mallory plans to continue speaking with kids and adults for years to come about how to find their unique beauty. "This title has given me the opportunity to begin this dream. I'll be forever grateful to Mansfield and will represent this city to the best of my ability. I don't know what will happen next year, but I plan to be right there styling hair and helping to make each contestant the prettiest they can be, inside and out." **NOW**





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# Keeping it *Positive*

— By Melissa Rawlins

*“Oh, golly, am I ever a granddaddy,” John Mathiesen said, with a huge grin. Most of his 13 grandchildren live in Mansfield or south Arlington, while the rest live in Minnesota. Originally from St. Paul, John moved here on July 1, 1984. “I’ll never forget it because it was 105, and you could hardly breathe.” He and his wife, Cathy, were unprepared for the adjustment. Amazingly, John’s family chose to suffer with the summer heat rather than returning to the winter cold. They have enjoyed Mansfield’s neighborly, friendly atmosphere.*

*Four years ago, they moved to a home close to Main Street and its little antique shops and Pirate Coffee, where John goes for*





*morning or afternoon breaks from his telephone and computer. Those — plus his happy gift of gab — are the tools of John's trade, which is volunteering and fundraising for children with disabilities.*

"I will do anything to help kids understand that there is a brighter day ahead," John said. Throughout the year, he raises money for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation (PBTf), since he has a friend whose 18-year-old daughter died from a brain tumor. On October 2, John registered a group of motorcyclists who rallied for the PBTf annual Ride for Kids to generate funds for medical research into new neurological techniques and

**"I will do  
anything to help  
kids understand  
that there is  
a brighter  
day ahead."**

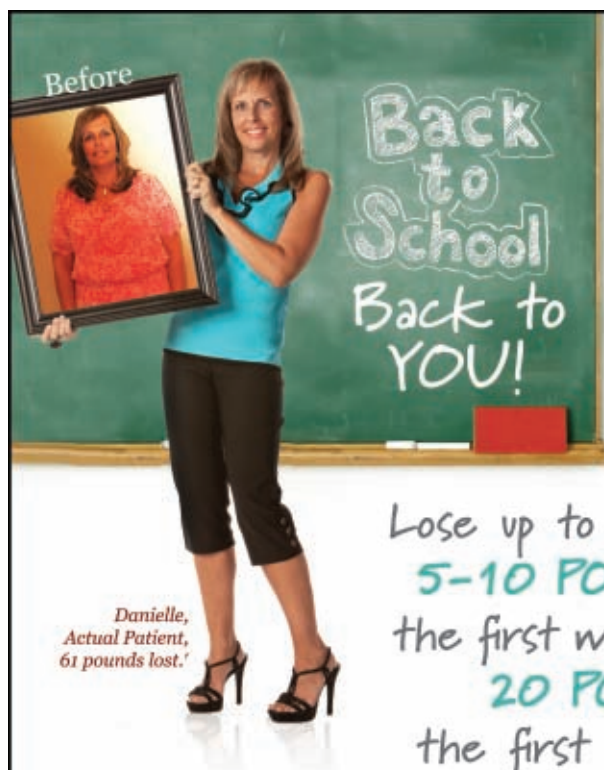
lower-risk medications, family counseling and assistance and even college degrees for survivors of brain tumors.

John steps out wherever he thinks he can raise a nickel or a dime — whether through writing grant proposals or speaking one-on-one with business managers. Retired from a marketing career with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), John now wears a variety of hats while using his skills for the sake of other organizations, like Green Oaks School, Tarrant County Down Syndrome Partnership, Mansfield Lions Club and Handley Meadowbrook Lions Club in Fort Worth, of which John is president. "I have this fixation with helping children who don't have 100-percent capacity to do what they want to do."

John actively serves in Mansfield's Citizens on Patrol Alumni Academy Association (MCPAAA). "I joined



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Dr. Chellappan completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. During her training, she also provided obstetrical and gynecological medical care for Tarrant County facilities. She earned her medical degree from Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine, and she studied nutritional sciences at Texas A&M University.

Fluent in both English and Spanish, Dr. Chellappan welcomes new patients and accepts most insurance plans, including Medicare and Medicaid.

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MCPAAA just to find out what Mansfield, as a community, was doing, and who is volunteering in which ways,” John explained. John signed on to help as extra eyes and ears to help patrol community events. “The biggest benefit to me is being a participant,” John said. “I not only get an education about the city and a light overview of politics and public safety, I think more people enjoy their community when they understand it.”

John also volunteers with Mansfield’s Victims Assistance Program. “When there is a fatal incident in Mansfield, I’m on a roster of about 10 individuals



who will get called out to comfort family members of the victims,” John said. “We lend assistance where we can, if they need a minister or some family support.” Discerning core needs in people is one of the many gifts of this man, who believes he is called to help people. “I think






that's because of the lifestyle I endured growing up."

The middle child in a broken home, John's life was turmoil and friction. "One Christmas Eve, when I was 13 years old, I was purposely locked out of the house, and it was 22 below. I had to go spend the night in the boiler room of a local church," John recalled. After a pitiful childhood, John eventually learned he could keep looking at the "black hole" or he could choose to look at the light ahead. "I made my decision after I got out of the service and found success working for BNSF. People really mentored me and gave me some ideas on how to go, and I felt okay, because I realized I do have people that care about me."

Over time, even without a college degree, John earned his way to promotion after promotion. He started with a stint in the Navy — a service he recommends for every American youth. "Every child between 16 and 25 should go into the military, just to experience discipline and structure of life, and to get great learning opportunities," John said. "I was a high school dropout and had to make a decision: Do I want to continue this lifestyle and be dead by 21 or join the military and get some direction? That was the best thing I ever did. It got me in the direction I needed to go."

After his time of service, he started off as the office boy at a transportation company. "There were people in that corporation who saw something in me and encouraged me to bid for jobs that were further along. I was in the union and had a wife and children by one point, and thought I'd lose my job," John remembered. "I went to the management

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and said, 'Gentlemen, I need to talk to you. I request you guys consider me as a management employee, entry level, because I'm going to lose my job in the union roster.' A couple weeks later they called me and offered me a management position." Throughout his career, John then took specific college courses to support the jobs he was in, never attaining a degree but staying qualified.

John's No. 1 mission became caring for others. "I didn't want my children, or any kids, to live the lifestyle I had lived if I could prevent it in any way," John said. "I told my kids this, 'There is no way you are going to live the lifestyle I lived.' I made it mandatory that all five of my sons went to college and got degrees. I am proud of that. I want them to enjoy their life to the fullest."

To help troubled teens, John developed what he lovingly calls a dog-and-pony show. He is often invited to give his presentation on healthy family life at service clubs, churches and schools. "So many kids out there are from families that don't care about them. I want to show them that they do have options. I tell them, 'You can make the choice. If you have the fortitude or drive or ambition, you can change your life. Life is not doom and gloom. Life is what you make it.' Too often these kids live in an environment they don't control, and they don't see an opportunity to live differently. But all they need is tutoring or mentoring, and then they'll see how to get out of their environment." With just one positive comment by a person like John Mathiesen, everyone can believe that there are bright days ahead and then head into those days, full speed ahead. **NOW**





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# Surrounded by Color

— By Carolyn Wills

*Move-in day in 2004 was a true homecoming for Trent and Lisa Woody and their sons, Chase and Tate. After months of collaborating on the design and construction of their nearly 5,200-square-foot home in one of Mansfield's stately gated communities, Lisa's love of warm colors and modern design and Trent's preference for primary colors and the look of Colorado rustic had ultimately merged into a*

At Home With  
Trent and Lisa Woody





*breathtaking style of its own. "We wanted to incorporate everything into our home that we enjoy as a family," Lisa said. "Chase was just 6 years old at the time, and Tate was only 4, but we designed the house to be comfortable for four adults so they would have room to grow. We also wanted to create a gathering place so their friends would want to be here and there would be plenty to do." Chase is now 13, and Tate is 11. For them, the home envisioned by their parents will likely always be their "family home."*

Trent and Lisa married 17 years ago. They met as students at The University of Texas at Arlington and dated for five years. Both were born in Fort Worth and have remained close to their families. Trent has worked with his father and brother in their family-owned business since he was 15 years old. Between being "moms" and taxi drivers, Lisa and her sister-in-law help with the office paperwork.

Early in their marriage, the couple




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knew they would eventually build a home. Mansfield came into the picture when they couldn't find the right lot in Arlington. "We moved to Mansfield in 1996," Trent said. "Our first house was only about 15 houses up the road." In the mid-1990s, Mansfield had one high school, very little traffic and lots of wooded areas and open fields. Trent and Lisa decided it was ideal for their family and have not been disappointed.

When Trent's parents and brother decided to build homes nearby in the



neighborhood, Trent and Lisa bought the adjacent lots. "Someday, we knew we would want a bigger house," Trent said, "and we liked the idea of being close to family." Today, Trent's parents live on the street beside theirs and the backyard gate is often busied with the boys traveling back and forth to the swimming pool and the families getting together. With Trent's brother's home only about 200 feet away, managing the family-owned business is also convenient.

The Woody's home is a commanding two-story structure on a corner lot. The exterior is finished in a light, tumbled brick with accents of Austin stone. The layout includes three bedrooms, five bathrooms, kitchen/eating area, office, boys' game room, great room, upstairs game room, Lisa's "get-away" craft room, laundry, concrete weather-safety room and a three-car garage. Impressive from the outside, the home's personality



really shines on the inside. The entrance opens into a high-ceilinged great room with overstuffed furnishings that invite gatherings in front of the fireplace. A dramatic art display against the wall opposite the fireplace sets the whole tone of the house.

"Trent and I enjoy looking for interesting art," Lisa said. "When we found a large contemporary piece with colorful circles, I thought it would be perfect for our living room." What makes the wall so eye-catching, though, is the collection of pieces. "Our son, Tate, is the artist in the family," Lisa said. "A few of his paintings have been displayed at the *Star-Telegram* Stock Show Art Contest. Last year, I had all of his work framed, including his self-portrait and two self-portraits created by his brother. That's when I realized their pieces have the same colors as our painting, and we created the 'gallery' wall. Everyone makes

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a big deal about the art and that makes Tate happy. I think everything about the wall is cheerful.”

Cheerful is exactly the word to describe the colors throughout the house. “Every room is different,” Trent said. “For the most part, Lisa is surrounded by her favorite colors, and that makes her happy.”

“We asked the boys to pick themes for their bedrooms,” Lisa explained. “Chase decided on military camouflage, and Tate chose hunting camouflage so brown and green it was.” The house is arranged so that the boys’ rooms form a wing off the central living area, which includes their own bathroom and game room.

“We didn’t want a formal dining room,” Lisa said, “and we wanted to minimize wood grain, so the kitchen floor is made of hand-scraped maple and all the cabinets are maple. The floor in the eating area is stained concrete, and the walls are red with a brown glaze.” The eating area has a big round “family” dinner table. “It was also important to have a happy laundry room,” Lisa smiled, “so we painted it orange.” The master suite has a gigantic antique bed, which was a gift from Trent to Lisa, and all the pictures are from their trip to Africa. Trent’s office is a deep-plum color and is accented with Western art and a life-size carving of “Duke,” the family’s beloved Labrador retriever, who lived to be 17 years old.

Importantly, the Woody’s home also functions as the holiday house in the neighborhood, particularly on Halloween. “Our first Halloween party started as a cookout in 2000,” Lisa said. “Chase was a 2-year-old, so we invited his playgroup to trick-or-treat on our block and, before we knew it, we had a yearly tradition.”







"We decorate for all holidays," Trent said, "especially Halloween and Christmas. When we built the house, we included four attic spaces for storage and installed a separate breaker, timers and plugs under every eave to accommodate lights."

"We were married on October 22 and started a pumpkin-carving contest soon after our honeymoon," Lisa said. "Halloween has always been special for us." While she likes "cute" decorations like little ghosts and goblins, the decorations and costumes have definitely become scarier over the years. "Trent loves to be 'ghouled out,'" she smiled, "and now the boys have joined him. We start decorating a month before and add things every year, like strobe



lights and smoke machines. We play recordings of Halloween music, and after everyone has been here for about two hours, we go trick-or-treating around the neighborhood."

Lisa has her own tradition of creating a coffee table book each year with Halloween photos so that the memories will always be preserved. "I'll always remember the Halloween," she said, "when a little boy told me, 'You throw the best party I've ever been to in my whole life!'" **NOW**

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# Getting as Much as *She Gives*

— By Jeremy Agor

*Susan Sevier has had great success in helping her students develop the programming skills needed to successfully participate in robotics competitions, but the classroom at Ben Barber Career Technical Academy (BBCTA) was not where she pictured herself when she embarked on a career path. “I earned a bachelor’s degree in zoology and a master’s degree in biomedical engineering, with an eye toward becoming a doctor, but I decided not to,” she said. “Instead, I became a senior software engineer, working for Gearhart in Fort Worth for about four years until my son was born.”*





Susan stayed home with her son, Stuart, and, later, her daughter, Kristen, until both children were in school. Then, she went back to work in F-16 simulation software for about three years. However, she found herself spending a large amount of time in the schools, and soon her career path took a dramatic turn. "At the time, both of my children went to Tarver-Rendon Elementary School. I volunteered over 800 hours there one year and then became PTA president. I wanted to be aligned with my family. I like learning and always had a lead role as an engineer, which was a lot like a teaching role," Susan explained. "When Mansfield had a job opening for a computer science teacher, I jumped at it."

During her first year teaching, Susan was assigned to teach all levels of computer science, including advanced placement (AP) computer science. Susan was told she would sponsor the University Interscholastic League (UIL) computer science team. Fresh out of the industrial world, Susan did not

**“I really like being part of the development of these kids in a positive way.”**

even know what UIL or AP computer science was. But her students immediately had success in both areas, and Susan was hooked.

Susan took on the RoPro robotics competition hosted by The University of Texas at Arlington computer science department. A few years later, Summit High School business teacher and former Business Professionals of America (BPA) sponsor, Elaine Bielss, suggested that Susan's students try the Information Technology contests of BPA. That first year, all five who entered the technology competitions advanced to at least state, and one placed second at nationals in C++ programming. Susan, along with other BBCTA teachers, has sponsored BPA ever since. In all but one year since



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her first foray into coaching, at least one of her students, if not a group of them, has qualified for national or even global competitions, and many have placed in team programming contests hosted by SKILLS USA, Tehnology Students Association and Texas Computer Educators Association. Susan's experiences with BPA led her to develop the computer science program and design a course in video game development to enhance students' academic development and avenues for competition.

Most recently, Susan teamed with ex-BBCTA engineering teacher, James Wilson, to sponsor Mansfield Independent School District's FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics teams. They began competing against more than 1,000 teams from around the world in the First Tech Challenge (FTC). Before competition, the team designs and builds a robot from scratch, using a Lego NXT "brain," then documents the process for this robot. At competition, they are paired with another successful robot team they do not even know, and together the teams will pit their two robots against two other teams' robots in a 10-foot x 10-foot field to complete tasks — like throwing wiffle balls or dropping batons in buckets.

"It's the pinnacle competition for students," Susan said, "because it encompasses everything it's really like to work together as a team." The competition involves programming and engineering, and the teams are judged on their process. "Both our teams were able to help others who maybe weren't



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ready on the programming or engineering side. This year both teams won FIRST FTC's highest award, the Inspire Award, which earned them an invitation to the FTC World Championship. The award takes into account a competitive robot, connection with the community, outreach, fundraising, good conduct and being role models."

Susan has created a fulfilling career out of a desire to be available for her own children, but what keeps her motivated year after year is the successes of her students. She has a deep, positive friendship with them and relishes having them get to know her personally and see her flaws. "I really like being part of the development of these kids in a positive way," she said. "If they're willing to put in the effort, I'll put in the time. One of my biggest joys is helping them excel."

Susan's students have nothing but praise for their former teacher. Adam Griffin, a graduate of Texas A&M University who now works for Lockheed Martin, didn't have a good idea what he wanted to do in college. He took Susan's AP programming class for the extra points toward his high school grade point average. However, Susan ignited a passion in him. "It was fun, and she matched what we did in class to our strengths. It was something she did above and beyond her normal duties, and she supported us and gave us everything we needed to succeed," he admitted. "She seems to enjoy helping her students pursue what they're passionate about. My degree from Texas A&M and the fact that I'm doing well in a job in my field is at least partly due to her influence."

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Another former student, Taylor Cannon, is a sophomore computer science major at The University of Texas at Austin. He, too, was steered to computer science by Susan and has a strong bond with his former mentor. "Early in high school, I wanted to be a math teacher, but I took one of Mrs. Sevier's classes for my technology credit and that changed. After a couple classes, she suggested that I try some extracurriculars and it was great. It was really cool to see our code turn into a physical action. Instead of watching numbers on a computer screen, a robot was doing what we told it," Taylor recalled. "Mrs. Sevier always seemed to know the answers, and if she didn't know, she'd find them. She has experience in the workforce and knows the skills you need to get a job."

After 12 years in the classroom, student success is easy to quantify in terms of trophies and ribbons, but that's not the reason Susan continues to teach. "Each year, something happens that draws me back," she confessed. "I get to see them go on and be successful and hear about it. One student from my first year teaching e-mailed me last year, and what he wrote made me cry. He said I was his hero. Each success a student has re-energizes me and makes it all worth it." **NOW**

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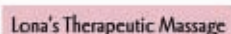
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# COMPETING for a Career

— By Jeremy Agor

*Andrew Korinek's tennis career began simply enough. He was 4 years old and tired of tagging along to sit and watch his three older siblings play at Walnut Creek Country Club. Before long, he was on the courts instead of in the stands. "I'd go to tournaments to watch my sister and brothers play, but I hated watching tennis. I wanted to play," Andrew said. "We all played baseball and soccer, and I was good at baseball, but once kid-pitch baseball started there was too much standing around. I picked tennis because I'm not good at sitting still, and there's no down time."*



He began playing in local tournaments at age 6. "I wanted to play earlier but I couldn't figure out how to keep score," he said. And he always played against older players. That gave him an edge over his siblings at the same age because his



competition was better. As a result, he qualified for the Super Championships — the highest junior level tennis tournament in Texas — at age 9, following in the footsteps of all three of his older siblings. Two years later, he won regionals and finished third at nationals in a tournament called Little Mo. "It was a lot of fun. You're a little kid, and they give you big trophies," Andrew laughed.

Once he reached high school, Andrew played almost every match as a freshman at Mansfield High School. That year was special because his brother was a senior

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on the team. Andrew won the 5A state championship last year as a junior and will officially commit to play collegiately at The University of Texas at Austin (UT) in November. He thinks he might study business, but so far he has not decided on a major. When he enters the



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university, he will become just the latest in his family to attend. His father earned his Ph.D. there. His mother earned her master's degree. His sister, who played tennis for one year at Abilene Christian University and earned a bachelor's degree from Baylor University, will finish her master's degree at UT this summer, and both brothers are Longhorns as well. Andrew's younger sister is just 13, but he says she is smart enough to continue the tradition.

Andrew has been playing a lot of Texas tournaments and has a No. 1 ranking in his age group. He also won the National Championship in doubles last year for his age group. This fall, he started playing Futures tournaments, which are the lowest level of professional competition, to begin building his world ranking. His focus has turned to more

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pro level and high USTA (United States Tennis Association) tournaments and he'll play a reduced high school schedule this year, although he admits it would be fun to repeat as state champion. Last year, regionals, districts and states did not overlap with major USTA events, so he

was able to play. This year, his plan is to play fewer high school matches if he is doing well in the Futures tournaments, or more high school matches if he is not doing as well. Before he can play at all, though, he must recover fully from a stress fracture in his back, which kept him sidelined all summer.

"I'm never home, so in a way it was nice this summer to have some time. My family usually goes on vacation for two weeks every summer, and I'm gone seven to eight weeks the rest of the time. This summer was totally different because of my injury. I liked it at first, but soon I missed playing the tournaments," he said.

As he looks ahead to his collegiate career, Andrew is excited about playing with a team for the entire year. "It's the only time in my tennis career where it's a team event. Everything else I do is individual, so it will be fun to play with a team for a full year," he said. "I played for a Texas Davis Cup team and it was

a lot more fun being on a team because there are more guys around you, and you root for each other."

**"I picked tennis because I'm not good at sitting still, and there's no down time."**

Tennis takes up a large portion of Andrew's time, but he still does his best to be a normal teenager, including choosing to attend high school rather than be homeschooled.

"Most of the kids I play against are

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homeschooled, and I tried it during the spring semester of my sophomore year, but I can't do it long term because I miss out on being normal," Andrew explained. "High school takes up a good part of my day, and I have to drive to Dallas after school for two to three hours of tennis practice, so the time adds up. Homeschooling only takes two to three hours a day, which would give me more free time, but I wouldn't get the experience of high school. I do pretty well in school — I'm in the top eight percent of my class and get all A's or high B's, and I go to football games on Friday nights when I'm home and hang out with my family and friends."

On those rare weekends when he is home, he doesn't play tennis at all, preferring to play golf instead. He also attends church on Wednesdays and Sundays, and spending time with his family is very important to him.

Andrew is doing whatever he can to prepare himself for a professional career, even though the odds are against him becoming one of the best players in the world. Playing Futures tournaments and four years of college tennis will enable him to hone his talent and build a ranking, but there are a lot of very good tennis players in the United States and around the world.

"Anyone can say they're going to go pro and go play tournaments and move up the rankings, but I'll be in much better position after four years in college," Andrew said. "I've been among the highest-ranked U.S. junior players, but if you look at Wimbledon or the U.S. Open, there are 128 guys in the draw, and it's a long process to get there. You have to be in the top 100 in the world to make any money professionally. Otherwise, you're just scraping by."

Out of all the people who try, very few make it to the top. "It's like golf," he continued. "There are a lot of scratch golfers out there, but not many have their tour card. I have friends who've played the Junior Wimbledon tournament. They get to hit with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal. I'm as good as my friends, so I could hit with Federer and Nadal, too, but I'm not going to beat them. There are a lot of little things that make you one of the top players in the world, and those come with experience." **NOW**

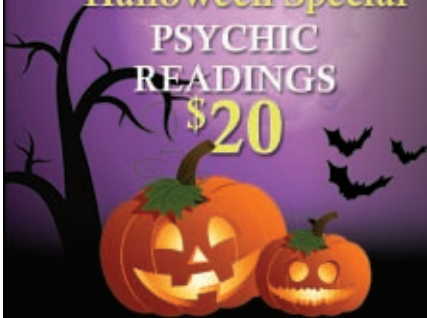
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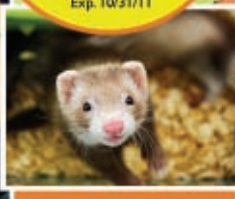
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# Just a Common Man

— By Melissa Rawlins

*At Mansfield High School, Mark Stout's students call him Coach. His mother-in-law calls him a mad scientist. Whenever colleagues, friends or family express a wish for something, Mark is likely to sneak to his garage late at night and try to build it himself. Only after football season will he have time for finishing Christmas gifts he wants to give — and that might not be*





until early December. "Good Lord willing," Mark said, "we will make our goal of playing through Thanksgiving." Even while he works, Mark contemplates his creations. For several years, Mark has been trying to polish off a holster he tooled and sewed. All he has left to do is the lacing, and that has required good old-fashioned ingenuity.

This man, who grew up in Mansfield and has coached in the Mansfield Independent School District over 13 years, has developed his artistic talents in everything he sets his hands to. Sometimes to accomplish a project — whether woodworking, welding, carpentry, leather work, roofing or drawing — he has to create the tools needed. "For example, when working leather, there are tools called fids, or needles that separate strands. When

"The excitement for me is seeing a block of wood that was a tree stump turn into something pretty like a bowl or a pen.





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you're weaving knots you can't work the lace without a leather opener sharpened to a point," Mark explained. "You can purchase those online or you could use things you have around the house, like an ice pick."

To lace his holster, Mark took a solid metal rod, called bar stock, and spun it in a circle with his lathe. Using his grinder, he sharpened the bar stock to a point and made his own fid. "You can dabble in stuff without having to spend a lot of money," Mark said. "You don't need the most expensive tools. When you're just a common man on a budget, you don't run out and buy a \$2,500 table saw or a \$900 leather sewing machine. You can get around most of those dedicated machines by using other things."

Doing as much as possible by hand, Mark has made his hobbies affordable. One thing he has learned: pencil artists just cannot cut corners on Prismacolor Color Pencils. "Unlike a crayon or a cheap matte pencil, you can blend the colors together. That was introduced to me in Mr. Jones' class," said Mark, who credits his Mansfield High School art teacher, Danny Jones, with teaching him how to draw. "He taught me to see things in a different way. You have to have a talent to paint and draw, but a lot of people don't know how to tap into that. He taught me how to see an object in such a way that I could recreate it on the paper, whether a portrait or a still life."

Mark believes everybody has the potential to be an artist. "It can be expressed in any way, whether through woodworking or metal sculpting," Mark said. "My grandfather is a retired sheriff who worked on a ranch. Some of the things he'd come up with, whether a latch on a gate or rebuilding something for a cattle pen, his ingenuity amazed me."



As he matured, Mark tried to reproduce things so he did not spend large amounts of money. He taught himself to invent his resources. After high school, as he continued drawing for the pleasure of each project, Mark figured out how to save money. "I purchased a small assortment of primary colors for \$18, instead of the \$100 pack, and I blended and mixed my own colors as I went."

This came in handy in 2006, when he completed the color pencil drawing of a wood duck requested by his uncle, a semi-avid hunter. "The wood duck is probably the most colorful of all the species we have around here," Mark said. "My inspiration comes from the beauty that God's created. This duck was



on water, so everything was a reflection. The wood duck is a very beautiful animal, and it was hard to get all those colors just right." Mark estimates he poured more than 30 hours into his uncle's drawing.

Working wherever he could, Mark used to carry his art projects around. "If I had a little time, I'd get my drawing out with my pencils and work on it for 30 minutes or so. I did that throughout college and during my early years in this district," Mark said. "Since becoming head track coach and gaining responsibilities with my children, I don't spend my free time on myself now, because I think my children and wife deserve whatever

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## Adam Kerbs, Jr. Double Hip Replacement



**Adam Kerbs, Jr.**, 84, has never been able to slow down - and he won't have to anytime soon with his two new hips. A retired contractor, Adam keeps busy traveling as well as harvesting wheat each year at the family farm.

When Adam started having back pain, he thought it would be the end of his mobility. A visit to the experts at **Lone Star Orthopaedic and Spine Specialists** at Huguley Memorial Medical Center showed that his hip joints had no cartilage to cushion them, and he needed to have both hips replaced.

*"I was worried about being able to get back to the harvest," he says.*

Adam had both hips replaced and was on his feet in no time. He's climbing around on large machinery and driving a combine during the wheat harvest just like he always has.

*"I'm back to being me," says Adam. "I'm not slowing down at all."*



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free time I have." Still, once they are all tucked in for the night Mark sometimes finds himself drawn to the computer, to research new techniques online, or to the garage to experiment with his ideas.

When Mark starts turning a bowl on a lathe or repairing shoes for his wife, Natalie, his enthusiasm to successfully finish his project prompts him to work on it late at night. "The excitement for me is seeing a block of wood that was a tree stump turn into something pretty, like a bowl or a pen," Mark said. Whether it is tiling his bathroom floors, like he did this summer, making boot jacks out of exotic woods and mesquite as a gift or carving the headboard for a new bed for his family, Mark's motivation is to use his talents to benefit the world in some way. "When something that was nothing starts to develop, I am driven to work on it whenever I can. And the more I get into



it, the more excited I get — not to be done with it, but to see it completed."

He tries to teach his two little girls, five-year-old Noelle and two-and-a-half-year-old Lila, the simple pleasure of handcrafting in daily life. They bring him all their toys to fix, and when Mark is sitting on the couch braiding something out of leather his girls are experiencing the same father love that his own dad gave to him. Last Christmas, Mark taught Noelle how to tool leather. This year — while the materials for the project are laid out on the little sofa table Mark made from some old cedar logs that he got off his dad's place in Glen Rose — Mark may work with Noelle again to make some belts or purses. And years down the road, his family might flip his table over and find — as in "Morningside," one of Neil Diamond's most beautiful songs — that Mark left a table made with pride with for his children. **NOW**



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Steph Moos and Amy White believe family time should be fun. The staff in their store love helping people find the perfect toy for every child.



# SHOPPING TO PLAY

*Families come together at historic Mansfield's Town Square Toys.*

— By Melissa Rawlins

Remember Spirograph, the toy that let you draw geometric shapes? Town Square Toys has the modern version, Spin Doodles. Their extensive inventory of specialty toys includes other classics, such as Mad Libs and Silly Putty, and novelties, like Clickety Clackety Teeth. “People come in all the time and say, ‘I played with this when I was a kid! I can’t believe you have it!’ When it’s a really great toy, it’s fun forever,” Amy White said.

Amy and her friend, Steph Moos, started Town Square Toys as an Internet business eight years ago. When they opened their toy store in historic Mansfield last year, their husbands passed around a six-pack of funny moustaches for people to wear at their celebratory ribbon cutting. Little green army men are stationed over the door jambs thanks to Russ White and Brian

Moos, who come in after their day jobs to help their wives arrange the toys.

Play-hungry shoppers will find a flying pig in the baby room, tiaras and fairy wings in the girls’ room, books and games in the hall leading to the puzzle room. Building and science toys mixed in with Breyer collectible horses in the train room. At every turn there is something fun to touch, from dinosaurs and reptiles to a Thomas Wooden Railway and knights and castles. The store also features kitchens with play food, teddy bears, baby and preschool toys, arts and crafts, bath toys, school supplies and locker decorations, and even a Skuut for learning to ride a bike without training wheels. For older students who bring in their report card, Amy and Steph give Town Square Toys Bucks — a



dollar for every A — perfect for buying little rubber balls and other items out of the bins of easy-to-buy toys near the front door.

Think of Town Square Toys for costumes during this season of fall festivals and dress up parties. Then in November, the toy store staff will get out the Christmas Wish Lists for kids of every age to come make their requests known to Santa in preparation for the Christmas season. The personal service offered by Amy and Steph, who help pick the perfect toy for every occasion and gift-wrap it for free, was quite a hit with customers last Christmas. “Children can fill out their wish list while they’re in the store and leave it with us, and later parents can send in aunts and uncles and grandparents who can shop from that list,” Amy explained.

**“When you can interact together, you really get to know your kids in every state.”**

The owners designed Town Square Toys as a destination for families to play together and have fun. “That’s why we have so many play days and dress up parties. We put out lots of toys for kids to play with and for parents to sit down and play with their kids,” Amy said. Every week or two, the store hosts themed play days that are free for children. During Pirate Play Day and Princess Tea Party, kids get to play dress up. On Piggy Paint Play Day, girls paint their nails with all natural nail polish. There is also a monthly Family Game Night when the fun revolves around board games and hanging out.

“When you can interact together, you really get to know your kids in every state. My youngest is 6, and Amy’s oldest is 16. No matter how old they are, you can still play and have fun and find out what’s going on with them,” Steph said. “One-on-one time playing with your child is priceless. It’s what we’ve built our families and our business on: Families spending time together, making memories, having fun.” And when all is said and done, toys are just plain fun. **NOW**

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*Pam Rudnicki (center) invites Carol Esstman, left, and Jackie Leasor, right, to join Caring Hands as they greet returning troops on October 24.*



*In a procession through downtown Mansfield, local Patriots guard the body of Jesse Wayne Dietrich, 20, a U.S. Army specialist and great American hero who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the Kandahar province, Afghanistan, on Thursday, August 25, 2011.*



*Norma and Angela Angel enjoy a mother-daughter lunch at Habanero's.*



*Mansfield Women's Club President, Kathleen Powers, left, and Marilyn Gerloff, right, present Joy Duncan with a \$25,000 check for Methodist Mansfield Medical Center Women's Pavilion Expansion.*

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# Tunnel of Pain

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Popular thinking says carpal tunnel syndrome is found mostly in women who work with computers entering data. Well, popular thinking is half right. Carpal tunnel syndrome is more common in women, but data entry personnel have to wait their turn on the list for those afflicted.

You have a nerve in your wrist called the median nerve. This nerve is what gives you feeling and movement to parts of your hand. Carpal tunnel refers to a passageway that contains connective tissue and nerves. This passage is very narrow, so if there is any swelling in the tunnel, the median nerve is compressed, and there is your genesis for carpal tunnel syndrome.

Scientific data is conflicting when suggesting repetitive or lengthy activities, such as extensive computer work or even prolonged video game play, cause this syndrome. These activities can cause irritation in the wrist. However, carpal tunnel syndrome may not be the definitive diagnosis. This syndrome can be caused by any number of factors that irritate or compress the median nerve in the carpal tunnel. A few examples are: trauma to the wrist area, such as, a fracture or sprain; pregnancy, because of fluid retention; rheumatoid arthritis due to inflammation of the area and even metabolic disorders, such as diabetes, can cause damage to the nerves. Unfortunately, in some cases, a cause cannot be found.

Determining if you have carpal tunnel syndrome as early as possible can help avoid nerve and muscle damage. Symptoms

of tingling, numbness, burning, weakness and pain begin gradually. Sometimes, someone affected with this will shake their hands in an attempt to restore normal sensation. Some may notice the symptoms at night because of sleeping with flexed wrists. If you have symptoms in your other fingers but the little finger feels fine, that may be a sign you do have carpal tunnel syndrome. As symptoms worsen, the pain and weakness become more pronounced. You may find difficulty in grasping objects and drop things unexpectedly.

Initial treatment focuses on reducing any further damage to the area. Ice packs may be applied for swelling and inflammation. A splint for immobilization, as well as resting the affected area for a few weeks, may work for mild or moderate cases. Sometimes medication, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and the injection of corticosteroids can help with the pain by reducing inflammation. If symptoms persist, surgery is an option. Physical therapy to regain strength in the area after surgery is very helpful.

Because carpal tunnel syndrome can occur because of multiple factors, there is no one preventative. If you feel you are at risk, consult your health care professional for guidance. **NOW**

*This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult with your physician if you have questions regarding this topic.*



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# Traditional IRAs: Savings Vehicles With Tax Advantages

— By *Tim Bordelon*

There are many ways for you to build a retirement nest egg. One of the more popular is the traditional Individual Retirement Account, or IRA. Tax deferral is one of the reasons for its popularity.

Contributions to a traditional IRA may be deductible from your income, lowering the federal income tax for which you are responsible. Federal income tax on your IRA will be deferred until you begin taking withdrawals, usually when you have retired and may be in a lower tax bracket. Generally, you can qualify for a tax deduction if you are not an active participant in an employer-sponsored retirement plan.

For 2011, if you are an active participant in a retirement plan, your deduction for contributions to a traditional IRA will be reduced (and then phased out) if your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) is:

- Up to \$89,000 for a full deduction; \$89,000- \$109,000 for a partial deduction for a married couple filing a joint return or a

qualifying widow(er).

- Up to \$56,000 for a full deduction; partial deduction \$56,000 - \$66,000 for a single individual or head of household, or

- Less than \$10,000 for a married individual filing a separate return.

You must begin taking minimum annual withdrawals from your traditional IRA by April 1 of the year after the year you reach age 70 1/2. Taxable withdrawals will be subject to ordinary income tax rates.

There are a number of options available to you when you open an IRA. Various investments may be used depending on factors, such as your time horizon, risk tolerance and other financial goals. Talk to a qualified financial professional to find out how you can take advantage of the tax benefits of a traditional IRA. **NOW**

*Tim Bordelon is a State Farm agent based in Mansfield.*

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### October 1

American Legion Military Appreciation Celebration: All day at Post 624, 2950 FM 917. A barbecue and celebration to honor local veterans. [www.alpost624.org](http://www.alpost624.org) or e-mail American. [legion624@sbcglobal.net](mailto:legion624@sbcglobal.net).

### October 15

Fire Prevention Week Open House: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Kimbrough Fire Extinguisher Co., Inc., 1203 S. 2nd Avenue. Mansfield residents' home fire extinguishers serviced free. Learn proper use of fire extinguisher. Free disposal of old/condemned extinguishers. (817) 842-1220 or e-mail [dee@kimbroughfire.com](mailto:dee@kimbroughfire.com).

### October 15, 16

Historic Mansfield Music & Arts Festival:  
**Saturday:** 11:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m., **Sunday:** 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Broad Street and FM 157. Free family fun: bands, juried art show, chili cook-off, kids' area, local restaurant booths: \$2, cash only. Bring chairs; no coolers, food or beverages. [http://www.historicmansfield.net/music\\_festival](http://www.historicmansfield.net/music_festival).

### October 19

Lunch Box Learning: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Mansfield Chamber, 114 North Main Street. Hosted by Medi-Weightloss Clinics; free for the

first 15 Chamber members. (817) 473-0507.

### October 20

Mansfield Women's Division Networking Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Drive. Sponsored by Solis Women's Health, breast cancer survivors tell their stories. (817) 473-0507.

Business After Hours: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Drive. (817) 473-0507.

### October 22

Operation Futures of Mansfield: 9:00 a.m., Walnut Creek Country Club Tennis Facility. A day of remembrance honoring U.S. military, local police and firefighters and veterans. Featured events include USTA-supported Adopt-a-Troop, a ceremony honoring active military personnel and veterans, wall of remembrance and professional men's semi-final tennis matches. Military personnel, veterans, police, firefighters and their families are invited. (817) 473-1311.

### October 23-November 2

Multiplication Madness: 4:00-5:00 p.m., Mathnasium of Mansfield, 2270 Matlock Road, Ste. 104. Free: second-sixth grade students. RSVP (817) 473-6284 or [mansfieldtx@mathnasium.com](mailto:mansfieldtx@mathnasium.com).

### October 25

Mansfield ISD board meeting: 7:00-9:00 p.m., 605 E. Broad Street. Julie Moye (817) 299-6382.

### October 27

Networking Luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Drive. Learn how to serve Mansfield community. (817) 473-0507.

### Ongoing:

#### Through October 8

Mansfield Farmers Market: Saturdays, 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., corner of Broad and Main (FM 157), historic downtown Mansfield. Rex Wenger, (817) 501-6027.

#### Through November 17

GriefShare: Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Mansfield Bible Church, 2351 Country Club Drive. GriefShare features nationally recognized experts on grief and recovery topics. Cost: \$20. Sign up at [www.mbcchurch.com](http://www.mbcchurch.com) (GriefShare Recovery Support Group under Support Group on Small Groups page) or (817) 473-8089.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).*

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## In The Kitchen With Shelley and Madi Cook

— *By Melissa Rawlins*

Shelley Cook and her daughter, Madi, cook together in the tradition of Shelley's mother, who taught her to make others happy. Shelley and her husband, Richie, moved with Madi, Miles and Gage from Laurel, Mississippi, and Shelley's mother comes to visit during the holidays. Together they make her special recipes for gift-giving. Madi likes to decorate the sugar cookies. Throughout the year, Richie cooks during the work weeks — making him Shelley's favorite chef. But on weekends, Shelley prepares the family meals. She has kept a book of her special family recipes since she was in high school. She puts a great deal of thought and consideration into planning and preparing the wonderful meals she wants her guests to remember. Here, Shelley shares yummy recipes perfect for cooler fall meals. **NOW**

### Spinach Artichoke Dip

- 1 10-oz. box frozen spinach, thawed**
- 1 6-oz. can artichoke hearts, drained and quartered**
- 6 oz. Velveeta cheese**
- 1/8 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated**
- 16 oz. sour cream**
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise**
- 1 6-oz. jar pimientos**
- 6 slices bacon**

- 1.** Mix all ingredients except bacon. Bake 20 minutes at 400 F.
- 2.** Fry bacon and crumble on top of dip before serving.

### Ranch Oyster Crackers

- 1 pkg. ranch buttermilk dressing mix**
- 3/4 to 1 cup salad oil**
- 1/4 tsp. lemon pepper**
- 1 tsp. dill weed**
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder**
- 12-16 oz. plain oyster crackers**

- 1.** Combine ranch dressing mix and oil. Add lemon pepper, dill weed and garlic powder.
- 2.** Pour over crackers. Stir.
- 3.** Stir in an airtight container.

### Green Bean Wraps

- 3/4 cup brown sugar**

- 1/4 cup butter**
- 1 lb. bacon**
- 2 cans whole green beans**

- 1.** Melt butter and stir in brown sugar.
- 2.** Wrap half a piece of bacon around a bundle of 3 green beans. Arrange bundles in a casserole dish 1 inch apart.
- 3.** Pour butter and brown sugar on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until bacon is fully cooked.

### English Pea Salad

- 1 head iceberg lettuce**
- 2 Tbsp. sugar**
- 1 pint mayonnaise**
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped**
- 1 15-oz. can English peas, drained**
- 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded**
- 2 oz. bacon bits**

- 1.** Clean, chop and spread lettuce in the bottom of dish.
- 2.** Mix sugar and mayonnaise. Spread mixture over lettuce.
- 3.** Sprinkle with onions and English peas. Layer with cheese.
- 4.** Repeat all layers again and top with bacon bits.
- 5.** Keep refrigerated.

### Dumplings

- 4 chicken breasts, cooked**
- 1 24-oz. box chicken broth**
- 1 15-oz. can cream of chicken soup**
- 1 stick butter**
- 2 cups self-rising flour**
- 1/4 cup oil**
- 1 egg**
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup ice cold water**

- 1.** Tear chicken breasts into bite size chunks and place in a large pot filled with chicken broth, chicken soup and butter. Bring the mixture to a boil.
- 2.** Meanwhile, mix last 4 ingredients with a mixer. Roll dumplings into 3 balls. Cut into any shape you want, no bigger than 2"X 2", and drop into boiling broth.
- 3.** Cook until the dumplings rise to the surface.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).**



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