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ON THE COVER



Angee Hallmark takes her students to new heights of competition.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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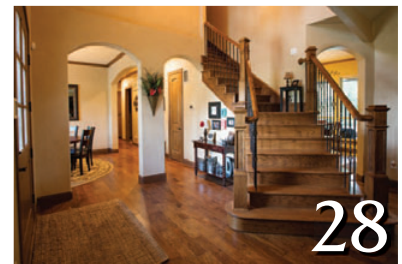
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Editor's Note

Welcome to Fall, Midlothian!

Vermont tempts us with its maple syrup, Washington glories in its apples, but nothing says fall in Texas like fried butter, fried Coke and anything else you want fried. The gleeful quest for this feast of cholesterol binging brings in people from all over the state and indeed, the nation, to sample these unconventional treats at the State Fair of Texas. Fall in Texas is much more than the fair, however.

There's football and, uh, *football!* But there are things that unite all of us Americans this time of year.

One of the main events we all have in common and admire is the seasonal changing of the color guard. On hill and dale, we marvel at the vivid colors of autumn gold, crimson red and leaves that sport both green and rust colors. Fall comes in softly after a blistering summer and before the stillness of winter. Watch the leaves pirouette in the gentle breezes, bringing a touch of melancholy as they make a soft bed of rustling leaves.

Enjoy all the fun and wonder that fall brings!

Betty

Betty Tryon
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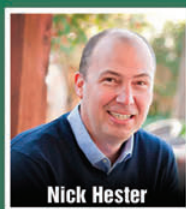
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THE ME PERFECTION

— By Betty Tryon



When Angee Hallmark became the theater director at Midlothian High School, she had three goals. One of them was spectacularly reached when her students not only competed but won the 6A state championship in the University Interscholastic League film competition the very first time they tried. "My first year was so amazing," Angee said. "We wanted to expand our reach to different students and to do bigger and more productions. Stephanie Jerrell, the former theater director left me with a great program, and we just wanted to expand it."

As a lover of the theater, Angee majored in communication with a minor in theater at The University of Texas at Austin. It was when she did her student teaching in Austin that she definitively decided to go into education. Prior to coming to Midlothian, she taught speech, theater and was the cheerleader sponsor at Waxahachie High School. She taught speech, theater and journalism at Red Oak High School for seven years. "I've wanted to teach in Midlothian for years," she noted, "and I finally became theater director three years ago."



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When Angee came to MHS, the UIL Film Competition in the theater division was in its first year. "The students get to write, direct and act in a seven-minute film. Schools all across the state enter." The students delivered the film, *The Fourth Wall*, with amazing effects and animations.

With the goal of expanding the program, Angee and her students encouraged younger kids to participate, thereby pulling in more of the community. "We included the elementary students and the Pantherettes in our first musical, *Cinderella*," she noted. "We had the elementary kids in the village and ballroom scenes." *Cinderella* also served a larger purpose for the theater students. Dallas Summer Musicals has a competition called High School Theater Competition and involves anywhere from 30 to 50 schools and individual scholarships. "They send judges to your performance, who then go back and confer. After April when the season is over, they announce the winners in *The Dallas Morning News* and on *Good Morning Texas*," Angee said. "In May, Dallas Summer Musicals has



Each hardworking student strives for success in Angee's theater program.



a red-carpet event at Fair Park where they present high school students with awards and scholarships. One of my students, McKenna Woodlan, who played Cinderella, won a \$5,000 scholarship and is now studying musical theater."

The UIL theater competition sponsors another challenge for students — the One-Act Play Contest. The play can only be 40 minutes long. Midlothian students have participated in this event for many years, but Angee wanted to increase their level of participation and commitment. The students had to put together a play, while adhering to about 200 rules from UIL in addition to all of the UIL requirements — including no pass, no play. "A typical play is two hours with an intermission. We read a play and take parts of it out so it will still flow and make sense," she explained. "We have to get permission to edit because it's someone's property. This is a big deal here in Texas and a very difficult process. It's a very popular competition with thousands of kids, so it was a great honor for the students."

For the One-Act Play, the students are allowed 15 actors and can have five crew members for lights or stage managing. They can only use certain set pieces, which must be a certain size. They are allowed only seven minutes to set up the set and seven minutes to strike (take it down). "After the play is judged, they can then advance to different levels," Angee

informed. "Our students had not advanced in 15 years, except the year they went to region with their play. It was one of our goals, and we reached it!"

The students also had a goal for the school year. They wanted to add a children's performance, so Angee brought back the tradition of bringing elementary students over during the school day to



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enjoy a performance at the high school. That first year, the high school kids had to raise the money for transporting the elementary students. That is how much they wanted them there. The first play in their Children's Theater was *Miss Nelson is Missing*. They had 1,200 students bused over for three different shows. "Having them come was not only a good way for them to learn about the arts and audience etiquette," Angee mused, "but my students got to perform in front of a larger audience and enjoy the energy from the little kids."

Another event the high school students involve the elementary students in is a theater camp held a week before school starts. The theme this year was Panthers in the Wild West. "We teach them acting techniques, play games, make costumes and have them perform in a short play," Angee explained.

As the theater grows and expands its reach, parents are becoming more involved and began the first Theater Booster Club. It offers more community involvement and behind-the-scenes support with a possible homecoming dance in the works.

Angee recognizes many positive attributes theater gives to the students. "Theater teaches them a variety of



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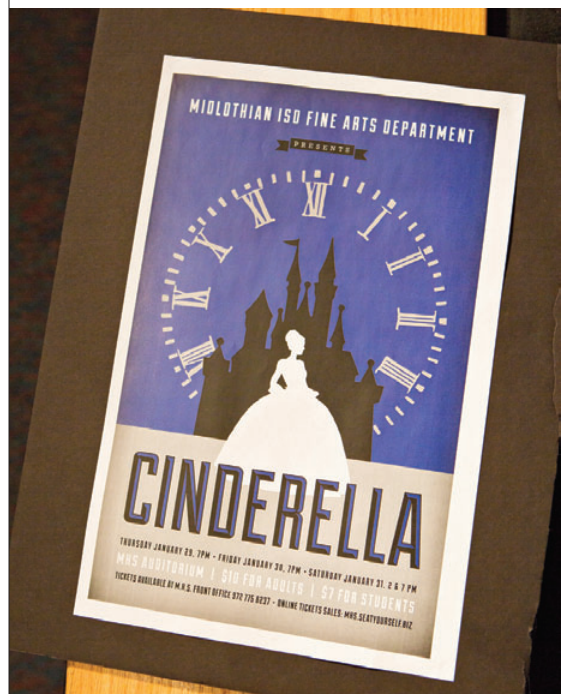
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interpersonal skills. They learn empathy when doing dramatic scenes, math skills while measuring and building sets, writing scripts and learning them and reading about history. But, the biggest thing is being present in the moment. They learn to have empathy in understanding someone else's position. We work on learning theater culture. There are different roles but no small roles. I try to teach them to be self-governing and to be accountable. We have a theater council, and the students run the meetings and hold each other accountable.”

Even though the students have accomplished much in the competition arena, Angee doesn't want them to miss the bigger picture. “With us, it is never totally about winning but about understanding and portraying real life on stage, which is difficult.” So in looking back over the last three years, both Angee and her students have met their goals — to expand the program, participate in the state film competition, earn scholarships and include elementary students in their productions. Angee was able to meet these goals with a great group of hardworking students. **NOW**

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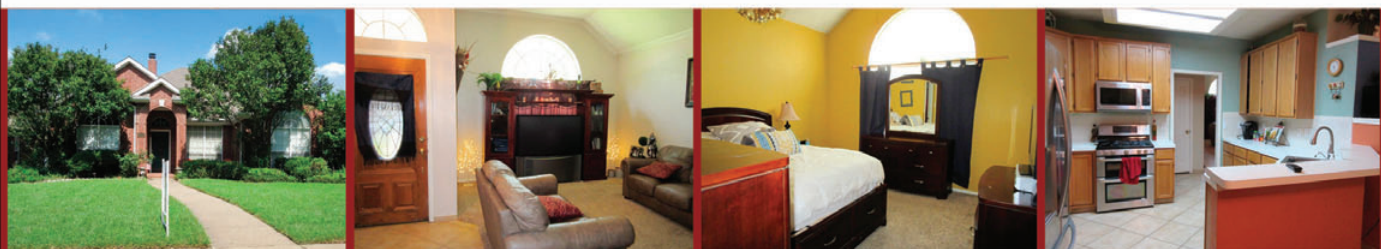
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Recapturing a Life

— By Betty Tryon

The victory of the human spirit can astound and amaze. The ability to rise above dreadful circumstances is one of the most profound abilities one has. Some make a valiant effort, but there are others whose heroic efforts can cause the world to take note. Jennifer Campbell is such a person. Her life unwittingly fell to a critical crossroad on December 11, 2014. The day before, she became ill with the flu. Throughout that day and the coming night, her illness became progressively worse. Seeing how ill she was the following morning, her husband, Derek, made the decision to go to his job after dropping off the kids and pick up work to do at home, so he could be there for her. However, he changed his mind and returned home immediately. Changing his mind saved her life. "If he had driven downtown, I would've died by the time he got back," Jennifer said.





Returning home, Derek could see how much worse she'd become and rushed her to Baylor Hospital in Waxahachie. Ten minutes after arriving at the ER, Jennifer passed out. She'd gone into shock, and her body organs were shutting down. It became necessary to CareFlite her to Baylor All Saints Medical Center in Ft. Worth, where Derek received the grim news that she only had a 10-percent chance to live. She required more specialized care and was transferred to Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, where she was placed on ECMO, life support which has an unfortunate side effect. It restricts the blood flow to the extremities. "My family watched as hands and feet shriveled, turned black and hardened," she said sadly. "Dr. Shaffi asked me if I wanted life or limb, and of course I said, 'Life!'" She eventually lost her right leg, half of her left foot and all of her fingers.

Before all of this happened, Jennifer had begun taking cello lessons — something she had always wanted to do. "I was calm when my leg was amputated, but when my fingers had to go, I grieved for them because I would no longer be able to do what I loved."



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*“God has us
go through
things for
a reason.”*

However, her indomitable spirit and faith in God spurred her on in her recovery. On January 24, she was discharged to Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation, or BIR. Blessed with a positive attitude she chose to focus on the life ahead of her and not dwell on what she lost. That was the day Jennifer garnered her new approach to life. “I learned a saying that I say to this day — ‘Find another way.’ For example, if I drop a penny and can’t pick it up because I don’t have fingernails or fingertips to do that, another way is to get a piece of paper and slide it under it! It’s constant problem solving. It’s amazing how I’ve learned to cope.”

While at BIR she formed such a close bond with the staff that the therapists went out of their way to give her an incredible and touching surprise. They arranged for a professional cellist to play for her, and then she wanted Jennifer to play. So Jennifer sat in her wheelchair holding the cello with the cellist behind her. The cellist did the finger work as Jennifer moved the bow. “I can never

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thank the staff enough for what they did for me,” she said in awe.

It’s not surprising Jennifer’s therapists would do such a generous thing when one speaks to others who know her. Her friends speak of her with admiration and respect at how far she has traveled down such a difficult road. Jennifer does not strike one as being handicapped. She moves with control and strength. Although she has lost more of her left foot after learning how to walk with the amputation of her right leg, she continues on with the daily chores of taking care of her children, driving and functioning completely independently.

There was a point during her hospitalization when the doctors were amazed by her progress and asked her husband if she was a fighter. He responded by laughing and saying, “You have no idea.”

During the early days of Jennifer’s return home from the hospital, she needed to use a wheelchair. It was difficult going over the carpet. Friends Scott and Suzann Chambers from First Baptist Church “came over, looked at our carpet and said, ‘We’ve got to change this,’” Jennifer shared. “They spear-headed an entire project for us and raised funds to install wood floors and redecorate the home to make it handicap accessible. Suzann remodeled my bedroom. She put in cedar planks from ceiling to floor covering one of the walls. Several of my friends surprised me with crosses with their favorite Scriptures on the backs. They now hang on my bedroom wall. It was such an amazing gift. The bathroom was remodeled where I was given a larger shower, touch-free faucets and a rolling door over the bathroom opening. It’s such a gift and a help.”





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Two other friends helped her regain her teaching job. “Todd Hemphill and Heather Prather, school board members, approached the school board and requested my reinstatement. They felt I would be able to use my story. I am able to look at a child who is struggling or feeling different and I am able to relate and understand,” she smiled. Jennifer is teaching fifth grade at the new Dolores W. McClatchey Elementary School this fall.

“As I look back on one of the nights in ICU when I was feeling discouraged,


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God said to me, 'It's not all about you.' I can see that even to this day," she exclaimed. "I look at how many people are learning from this story. A co-worker said it's all about perspective. That people can look at me going about my day, and they may be thinking they are having a bad day. But there is someone else having it a little tougher. God has us go through things for a reason. You get that empathy for others who are in similar circumstances."

Baylor Rehabilitation Group was so impressed by Jennifer's spirit throughout her recovery that they wanted to honor her and presented her with the Patient of the Year "Human Spirit" Award. "It was an honor to receive such praise," she enthused. "But I was also aware of just how fortunate I was. The world is full of patients giving their best fight, and I wished they could all walk through the same standing ovation that I was blessed with. Life's not fair, but God is forever faithful." **NOW**

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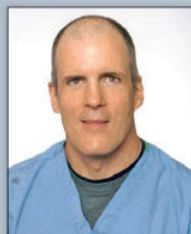


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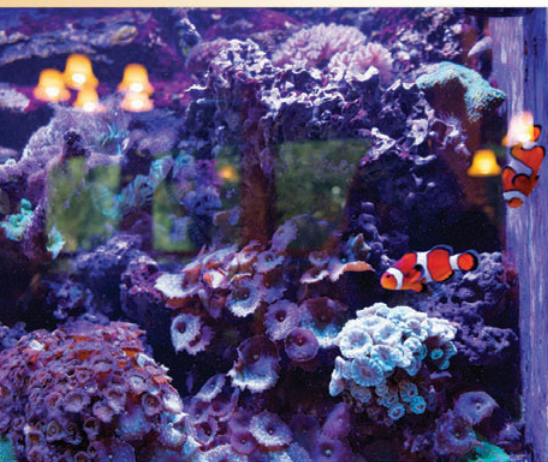


Eye of the Beholder

— By Zachary R. Urquhart



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Beauty is supposed to be in the eye of the beholder. Sometimes, though, the beauty is trapped, and it just takes the right eye to find it. While Midlothian's housing market has boomed over the last decade-and-a-half, some plots of land have sat unwanted. But for George and Cindy Dolezal, a couple with a remarkable back story, it just took a little imagination and creativity to turn land no one wanted into a house anyone would love to call home.

George grew up in the Czech Republic and came to America two decades ago. When he and his friend arrived, they didn't know if they would be staying weeks, years or the rest of their lives. George bounced around the country, starting in New York and slowly making his way to Texas. "In all honesty, we came to check out different places. The last stop was here in Texas, and then I met Cindy," he laughed. "Of course, when I met Cindy, I knew I wasn't going anywhere." A trained chef back home, George is known by many to make the best crawfish around. But here in the states, he has worked in the car business for almost two decades, and he and Cindy now have their own car dealership.

Cindy's background is only slightly less exotic. "My dad was in the Air Force, so I was born on a military base in Japan," she explained. "We moved a few times before settling in DeSoto when I was in fourth

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grade.” After graduating, she went to work, and it was on the job that she met George for the first time. “I was working part time in this bar in Arlington. George came in one night, and we hit it off,” she described. They met in May of 1998 and were married by the end of the year. She has worked in real estate since she was a teenager, and is now a short sales analyst for Fannie Mae.

George and Cindy have three sons. “Matous is 18 and enjoys mountain biking, loves working on cars and lives

back in the Czech Republic. He comes over every summer with George’s mom and cousins. Radek is 10, loves soccer and is involved in everything at school,” Cindy said. “But Roman is our free-spirited 8-year-old, and he always wants to go help at the shop.”

In almost 18 years of marriage, George and Cindy lived around the area, moving from Arlington to Glenn Heights before settling in Midlothian. “My in-laws built a place out here, and every time we went, we talked about how



nice it was,” George detailed. “We finally bought the lot behind them and hired all the contractors ourselves to build our house.” George and Cindy actually found a lot that no one wanted because it was on a pretty steep hill and took a lot of dirt moving to get ready for construction. After pushing dirt starting in late 2007, they moved into their stunning home late in the summer of 2008.

Making the last turn to see their corner lot, the large trees and nicely groomed shrubbery betray the newness of the home’s construction. Inside, the entryway immediately shows the labyrinth-like layout that winds freely through living spaces and bedrooms. The formal dining room is simple, with a rustic table and

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ferns adorning the corners. The family room is decorated with ornate, rich wood bookshelves surrounding a large-screen television. One side of the room features decorative seating next to bay windows that allow for wonderful open views of an amazing backyard.

The kitchen and nook are just as breathtaking. George and Cindy opted for sand-hued granite, with cabinets that are a dark honey tone. An ornate door hides the kitchen pantry away, and the family eats at a simple wooden table. "We call it the kids' table because we'll wait to replace it until they're older," Cindy laughed. The focal point of the whole downstairs, though, is a beautiful saltwater fish tank, which is really the culmination of years of work with aquatic pets.

"One day I decided I wanted an aquarium," George said. "But when I was looking at the fish at the store, I saw that saltwater gave you so many more options, so we made the switch." In their last home, George and Cindy actually had two tanks, but they have settled on a single, one-of-a-kind design in this home. By using the space under the stairwell, George has what appears to be a completely built-in tank without seams, visible from the kitchen. In the fish closet, vents and plumbing allow George and Cindy to keep underwater pets far more exotic and brilliant than your typical goldfish or betta.

The master bedroom features subdued tones with bright, colorful highlights in the bedding and wall decor. "This photo is the focal point of our room, taken from a spot near our place in Angel Fire," Cindy said. Past the tiled and dark honey wood bathroom, George and



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Cindy have massive closets, a trait seen throughout the house. "In our last place, we really had no storage, so we made sure to fix that when we built here," she smiled. In using every bit of space they could, they even added a hidden coloring room where the boys and their friends can crawl in and cover the walls with the buckets of crayons they keep handy.

Upstairs, two guest rooms share a Jack-and-Jill bathroom, which is where George's family stays when they come for the summer. Across the hall, the boys' room contrasts wild colors with a very orderly setting. Sports plaques and trophies adorn the shelves, along with posters of their favorite players. George plays ice hockey, and his office is similarly decked out with sports memorabilia. The family also enjoys a great media room, complete with stadium seating, dark walls and an interesting pool table. George did not want a traditional green felt, so he decided to go with a bright pink. Possibly the best part of the house, though, is seen when looking out the upstairs bedroom windows. "In my opinion, the backyard is the best. I think we have the best view," George stated.



"We really tried to make our backyard an oasis," Cindy said. With resort-style seating around a negative-edge pool and an elegant outdoor kitchen overlooking a picturesque view of their property, they have certainly been successful. "This is where we see the work we did, bringing in all of that dirt," she added. With keen eyes that were able to see what their lot could be and the patience to put it together just right, the Dolezals have built a house anyone would love to call home. **NOW**



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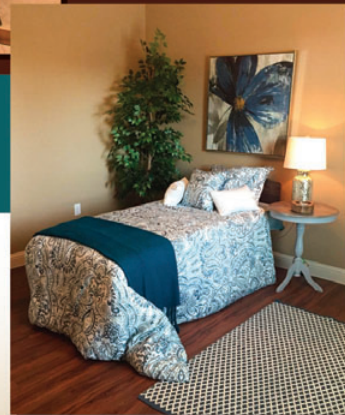
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SPARE A WATT, SAVE A LOT

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

What seemed like it might be a passing fad 10 years ago, appears to be here to stay — energy-efficient upgrades to new and existing homes. With oil prices constantly in flux, homebuilders have started adding key improvements to energy efficiency in their construction process, and many appliance manufacturers offer models that can cut bills in half. Here are some things to consider including as you build a home, as well as simple upgrades you can take advantage of in a home that has already been built.

New Appliances

• *Do the math.* When appliances, such as refrigerators, washers, dryers or ovens start having problems, think about the potential monthly energy savings of a new model before pouring money into repairing an older, less efficient unit. If you are buying replacements, or completing a new build, make sure you know the monthly energy costs before simply picking the cheapest model. You can easily find the energy use specifications on manufacturer or retail websites.



• *Look for the logo.* For two decades, the government has sponsored Energy Star, an agency that tests products and reports on their energy efficiency. Products that meet the highest standards will have a small blue sticker with the word, "energy" followed by a star. When buying new appliances, it is usually worth spending a few dollars upfront for the savings over the life of your machine.



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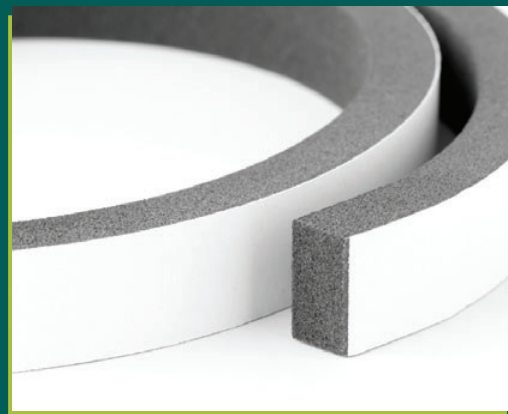
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• *Remember the "Big Two."* Draining your water heater allows you to get sediment out. This allows your heating elements to last longer and work better. For your air conditioning system, you can change your filters yourself, but it might be worth calling a professional for a yearly air duct cleaning to help the unit, and to give your family cleaner air. Preventative maintenance on your unit is important. When it comes to repairs, though they can be costly, many issues may lead to larger, more expensive problems if left unchecked. Contact your local plumber or HVAC serviceman to keep your equipment running smoothly.



Keep the Air In

• *Do not cool the outside.* The average Texas home uses more electricity on the cooling system than it does on anything else, and letting air out through cracks makes it worse. You can probably solve the issue with weather stripping, which is available at any hardware store or superstore. If that is not enough, you might need to adjust the door to square it in the frame and minimize air drafting to the outside.



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• **Check your windows.** Air can also escape through cracks near your windows, and weather stripping and caulk should be all you need to correct this problem. If you have older, single-pane windows, getting an estimate from a local window replacement company may be worth your while.

Shield It Inside and Out

• **Think about shade.** While they are great for offering views of the yard and can be made to be very attractive from the outside, windows have a notable downside. During the hot summer months, heat comes in through the windows. If you are building a new home, try to include some trees or shrubbery close enough to shade some of the direct sunlight coming in through your windows. And if you need a quick fix or cannot add vegetation, consider solar screens instead.

• **Insulation is key.** Hot air comes into the house in the summer and flows out during the winter, and your main defense against that unwanted and expensive heat transfer is insulation. If you do not have adequate insulation in your walls and attic, you need to add it as soon as possible. There are pros and cons to options, such as batting, spray foam and radiant barriers, but the key is to have it installed properly, so be ready to hire a professional.



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Make Small Changes

• *Insulate your pipes.* Your attic and walls are not the only things that need insulating — your pipes do, too. The copper pipes for your central air unit undoubtedly have insulation already, but some people neglect to cover their hot water pipes. Insulation there will keep your hot water from cooling down as quickly, which means your hot water heater won't have to work overtime to do its job.

• *Invest in new bulbs.* You might have noticed that the light bulb section at the store has changed more and more over the last 10 years. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) and light-emitting diodes (LED) are replacing what used to be standard incandescent light bulbs, and for good reason. There is some fluctuation, but CFL and LED lights typically cut electricity by more than half, with some LEDs cutting cost by as much as 90 percent. While there is a bit of an upfront cost difference, the bulbs last much longer, and emit less heat, leading to less electricity being used in the home's cooling process.



More Incentives

• *Consider tax credits.* If saving money over the life of an appliance and conserving energy and electricity use is not enough, the government offers tax credits for making many efficiency upgrades to your home. When you are looking at windows, central air units and even simple appliances, you can often get a credit on your taxes the following year just for buying the units that save you money in the long run.

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Editor's Note: For more information about energy efficiency, tax credits and the Energy Star program, visit www.energystar.gov/.



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A Helping Hand

Approved Home Healthcare puts personal assistance for health needs in the home. — By Betty Tryon

Sometimes you just need a little help. Even if you are generally healthy and independent, having a surgery that needs home care or an injury can leave you seeking assistance from others. Approved Home Healthcare can fill that void. Louis Ponder, co-owner with his wife, Kathy, of Approved Home Healthcare understands how important it is for patients to have the opportunity to stay in their home, if possible. “It is a great advantage for patients if they can stay in their homes, and we can bring services to them,” Louis explained.

Louis feels strongly about helping people, particularly the elderly, stay independent and in their own homes for as long as they can. “I had a grandmother who had to go into a nursing home,” he shared. “She stayed there 25 years, and it was very painful for me to visit her there. I thought, *Something’s got to*

be different! I know that sometimes it’s necessary, but if we can keep them comfortable and in their own homes for a longer period of time, that’s better for everybody.”

Approved Home Healthcare is now in its 11th year. Before its inception, Louis recognized that there were no home care agencies in Midlothian. “There are a lot in Dallas and Ellis County, but we are the only one in Midlothian,” he clarified. “We go out to see people in their homes. The vast majority of them are elderly on Medicare, and some are on insurance.” If a patient under a doctor’s care needs home health care, the physician will send out an order to admit the patient for home care. A nurse goes to the home to do a head-to-toe assessment of the patient and determine what the needs are. A home health aide may be necessary for more frequent visits to help with personal care

or mobility assistance. "If a wound pump is ordered, we will take care of that," Louis added. "There may be a need for helping diabetics who are unable to give themselves their insulin because they have dexterity problems in their fingers and no family member is available. Sometimes, they need nursing care, occupational therapy, physical therapy and/or speech therapy, if they have speech issues or swallowing problems."

"It is a great advantage for patients if they can stay in their homes, and we can bring services to them."

The agency has social workers to connect patients to resources if they have financial problems or if they need to be connected to programs such as Meals on Wheels. "Our goal is to get patients to the point where they don't need us," Louis explained. "If we can facilitate their needs and get them healthy again where they can take care of themselves, we know we've done our job."

Feedback from patients is another way Approved Home Healthcare knows it is doing its job effectively. The business received a five-star rating from Medicare.gov based on patient evaluations. Grateful patients have written notes of gratitude to the business. One of them stated, "They went the extra mile to explain what they were doing and that we understood what was being done."

Louis acknowledges the role his staff plays in keeping patients happy. "We are nothing without our staff," he shared. "They are the best out there and truly care about the patients they see. They don't mind spending that extra time to make sure patients have what they need. I couldn't be prouder of this business. The only thing I'm probably prouder of is my children and grandchildren." **NOW**

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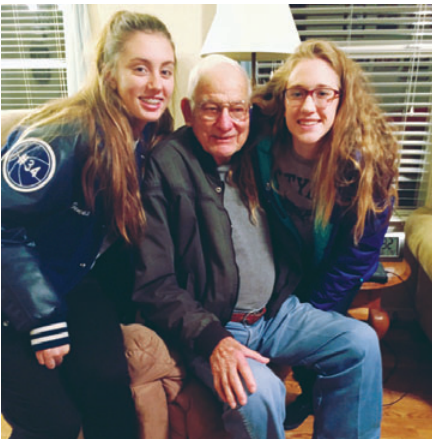
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Jenna Price, Charles Barnett and Breanna Frederick look forward to enjoying the evening together.



Ethan Romney greets guests at Atlet training center to celebrate their grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration.



Dr. Mondragon of Midlothian offers a nutrition class to a packed house at the first ever Women's Health Expo.



Bonnie Russell assists Kim Kizer-Hays with her purchases at Lucky U's Birthday Bash.



Jill Montgomery, with Providence Title, welcomes several members of the Midlothian Police Department to an early morning Back the Blue Thank You Breakfast.



Whitney Krupula displays her collection of Matilda Jane Clothing.



Kroger District Manager Bethany Blankmeyer helps to open the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Midlothian Kroger.



Tami Tobey, owner of ET Tobey Company Furniture and Home Decor, and customers enjoy a chalk paint demonstration.

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There are steps soccer moms and dads can take to prevent their children from suffering a painful ingrown toenail. First,

teach children how to trim their toenails properly. Trim toenails in a fairly straight line, and don't cut them too short. Second, make sure cleats fit properly. A child's shoe size can change within a single soccer season.

If a child develops a painful ingrown toenail, soaking their foot in room-temperature water and gently massaging the side of the nail fold can reduce the inflammation. Other home treatments can be dangerous.

Also, if your son's or daughter's ingrown toenails show signs of infection, it's definitely time to seek medical care. A foot and ankle surgeon can remove a child's ingrown toenail, and prevent it from returning, with a simple, 30-minute surgical procedure. During the short procedure, the doctor numbs the toe and removes the ingrown portion of the nail. Various techniques can permanently remove part of a nail's root too, preventing it from growing back. Most children experience very little pain afterward and can resume normal activity the next day. **NOW**

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October 1 — October 29

Ellis County Life Exhibit at Lighthouse Gallery: Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th St. **Tuesday-Friday**, 8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

October 4

National Night Out events will be held in various neighborhoods and cities across Ellis County. Billy Seals is the Midlothian Police Department contact for those interested in more information or registering their neighborhood. Call: (972) 775-3333.

October 8

4th Annual Dentistry From the Heart: 7:30 a.m., official registration begins, Waxahachie Family Dentistry. For more information, call the dental office at (972) 937-4370.

October 15

Fall Festival: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., MISD Multi-purpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St. The community event features food, games, vendor booths, entertainment and more. For more information, call (972) 723-8600.

October 19

Midlothian High School Homecoming Parade: 5:15 p.m., parade begins.

October 21

Midlothian High School Homecoming Game: 7:30 p.m., Panthers vs. Mansfield Summit, MISD Multi-purpose Stadium.

October 20

Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:30 p.m., Ellis County Sheriff's Office Training Center (County Farm), 2272 FM 878, Waxahachie. Talk-in on the 145.410 machines. All are welcome. For more information, go to: wd5ddh.org.

October 20 — 22

Ellis County Youth Commercial Heifer Show & Sale: **Oct. 20**, cattle check-in; **Oct. 21**, ranch-beef course presented by Mark Arnold, county extension agent; **Oct. 22**, cattle judging and auction; Ellis County Expo Center. Call John Paul Dineen III at (214) 236-0407 or on FB at Ellis County Youth Commercial Heifer Show & Sale.

October 22

Prescription Drug Take Back: 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Midlothian CVS Pharmacy. Bring expired, unwanted/unused prescription and over the counter drugs to be disposed of safely and anonymously.

October 28

Necessity Closet at One Way Church: Noon-3:00 p.m., One Way Church, 716 W. Main. The Necessity Closet is to help people on food stamps or who have a low income by giving them paper products and cleaning supplies. They are open the last **Friday** of each month. For more information, please contact Jean Burns at (972) 978-7210 or by email at mybrokee@aol.com.

October 29

21st Annual Texas Country Reporter Festival: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., historic downtown Waxahachie. Join Bob Phillips for a day of arts and music. Enjoy a free concert by Restless Heart as they take the main stage. Admission is free. For more information, call the Waxahachie Convention & Visitors Bureau at (469) 309-4040 or visit www.waxahachiecvb.com.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com.

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ELLIS COUNTY ELECTIONS BUILDING

Check your voting status by calling the Elections Office.

October 11th is the deadline to register to vote or to change your name or address in order to be eligible to vote this November. Get a voter registration application at a local City Hall, Tax Office, Elections Office or our website.

General and Special Elections - Tuesday, November 8th, 2016.
Early voting begins Monday, October 24th - Friday, November 4th.
Visit our website for a complete listing of polling locations, sample ballots and more.

Elections Office has relocated to 204 E. Jefferson Street, Waxahachie.
New Phone: 972.825.5195 • Email: Elections@co.ellis.tx.us
Website: www.co.ellis.tx.us



Follow us for election information on
www.Facebook.com/EllisCountyElections





In the Kitchen With Teresa Stanford

— By Betty Tryon

From beginning to end, Teresa Stanford enjoys everything about cooking. “I enjoy the whole process of creating a meal. I love choosing the recipes, making the grocery list, going to the store and preparing the meal,” she said.

Teresa feels privileged to have been able to prepare meals for friends and families who may be going through a difficult time and for youth mission trips and camps. She especially loves baking wedding cakes with her daughter. She had the special responsibility of cooking for her daughter’s wedding and her son’s rehearsal dinner. “No matter if I’m cooking for a small or large group, my desire is to honor God with the gift He has given me.” **NOW**

Maw-Maw’s Baked Corn

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 cup milk
- 3 Tbsp. melted butter
- 2 eggs
- 2 14 3/4-oz. cans cream-style corn

1. Preheat oven to 350 F
2. Mix sugar, flour, milk, melted butter and eggs together, with a spoon, until well blended. Pour in corn and mix all together.
3. Pour into a greased 1 1/2- to 2-qt. baking dish. Bake uncovered for 45 to 60 minutes, or until center is firm.

Mexican Bean Pie

- 18 corn tortillas

- 1 lb. hamburger, browned
- 1 large onion, chopped and sautéed
- 3 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 1 15-oz. can Ranch Style Beans (do not drain)
- 2 10.5-oz. cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel tomatoes

1. Preheat oven to 350 F Spray a 9x13-inch pan with cooking spray.
2. Place 6 corn tortillas in the bottom of dish. Tear apart at least 2 of them to make them cover the bottom of the dish.
3. Add 1/2 the meat. Cover meat with the onions and cheese.
4. Layer with 6 more corn tortillas. Tear apart at least 2 to cover all the cheese. Add beans and spread evenly; add remaining meat. Spread soup evenly over the meat.
5. Add remaining corn tortillas. Tear apart at

least 2 to cover entire soup layer; top with Ro-Tel. Cover with foil and bake for 1 hour. Enjoy with a salad and tortilla chips.

Monster Cookies

Make these holiday-specific by buying the appropriate color of M&M’S.

- 1 stick butter, softened to room temperature
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 3/4 cups flour
- 3 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 1/2 cups peanut butter
- 3 cups quick oatmeal
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup plain M&M’S

1. Preheat oven to 350 F
2. In a large bowl, in the order given, mix ingredients together until well blended. Mix with a spoon or electric mixer.
3. Scoop out a heaping tablespoon of the dough; roll into a ball, then flatten. Place on a cookie sheet and bake for 9 to 11 minutes.
4. Remove from oven; let cool on the cookie sheet for about 5 minutes. (Cookies will continue to bake.)

Pumpkin Bread

- 3 cups granulated sugar
- 3 cups flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1 15-oz. can pumpkin

1. Preheat oven to 350 F
2. Mix dry ingredients in a large bowl; add eggs, vanilla, oil and pumpkin. Using a wooden spoon or electric mixer, stir together until well blended.
3. Spray 2 9x5x3-inch loaf pans with cooking spray; pour half the batter into each pan and bake for 1 to 1 1/2 hours. Bread is done when center springs back when lightly touched.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.

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