

The Community Magazine Serving Mansfield and the Surrounding Area

Mansfield NOW

M A G A Z I N E

November 2008

**An Example
to Follow**

**The Golden
Girls**

**Holiday
Shopping Guide**

**Uplifting
Experiences**

**Driven to
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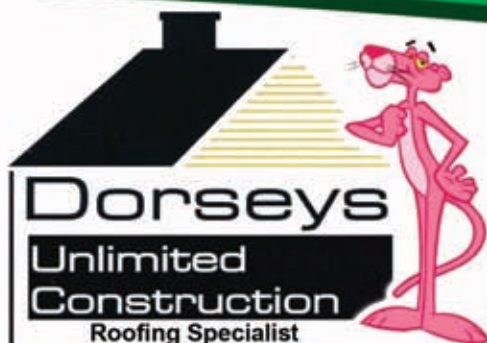


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*On the Cover:
Pumpkins and gourds are
cheerful reminders that
Thanksgiving is just around
the corner.*

Photo by Terri Ozymy.

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Mansfield
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Serving Mansfield and
the Surrounding Area
MAGAZINE

Editor's Note

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we approach the holidays, the common thread is family, and this issue is a wonderful reflection of that sentiment. From a school principal, Alma Martinez, who was encouraged by her family to pursue a dream, to Joey Lemmons, who enjoys cooking for as many as 400 people at a time, family is the key to happiness.

Our articles this month demonstrate a tremendous sense of community spirit and giving. Special Olympic athletes soar and our talented youth perform around the world but, as the saying goes, "There is no place like home."

How appropriate that our home feature highlights a beautiful, young family who, in buying their first home, chose to lay down their roots in Mansfield. Most certainly, there is no place like Mansfield.

Be safe and take care of one another.

Alex Allred

MansfieldNOW Editor

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Those unfamiliar with the services of an outpatient surgery center, what is often referred to as an ambulatory surgery center, may not realize how the ambulatory surgery ideology

has revolutionized the health industry. "There was a time," said Larry Unger, a managing partner of the center, "when a person would stay in the hospital for several days after having the appendicitis surgery. But we have learned it improves the recovery process by appropriately ambulating the patient. The healing process," he said, "begins when the body starts moving."



Medical professionals have seen the benefits of their patients moving as soon as possible after surgery. From body posture, proper breathing and blood circulation to monitoring vital signs, both medical professionals and insurance companies have noted getting up and moving is a win-win for everyone. Patients are more likely to heal faster with fewer problems, they are more happy and comfortable in their own homes and the overall cost is more effective for insurance companies, the ambulatory surgery center and patient.

But what is most exciting about the Mansfield Surgery Center is the warm feeling you receive when you walk through the front door. Unlike the sterile atmosphere of a hospital, the Mansfield Surgery Center is warm, inviting and user-friendly. Mahogany hardwood floors, lavish floral arrangements and beautiful photographs depicting the Mansfield landscape and hometown scenes decorate the lobby and waiting room area. Dr. Richard Burkett, a local plastic surgeon and photography enthusiast, agreed to share his art to embrace the spirit and culture of Mansfield in the center.

The waiting room area offers a Wi-Fi service, two high-definition, flat screen televisions and a children's play area. Two private recovery rooms and a private consultation room were also designed to suit the needs of patients and their families. The complimentary coffee is just another thoughtful service provided by a very friendly, knowledgeable staff.

With five surgery rooms, eight post-op stations, four step-down recovery stations, and over \$2.5 million in state-of-the-art medical equipment technology, the facility promises to be a

MANSFIELD SURGERY CENTER



leader in the Mansfield health care community. “We believe that this is what health care is meant to be,” said Melissa DuMond, CFO.

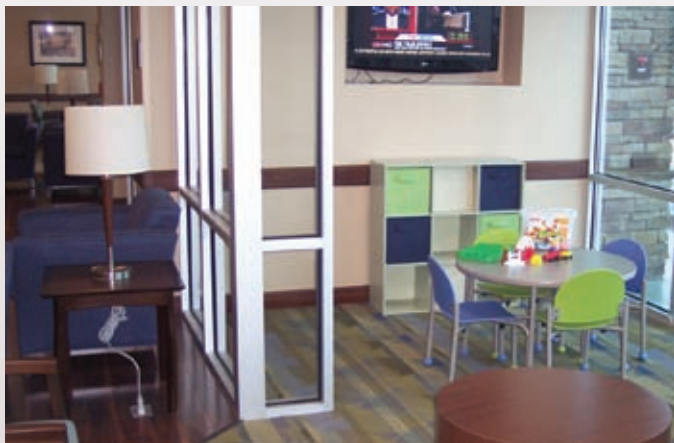
Situated on a six-acre site, the nearly 16,000-square-foot facility is a full-service surgical center to which great thought and preparation have been given. From sterilization, equipment and isolation panels to the width of the hallways and quality

fact, the subject of serving their community is part of the surgery center’s mission. “Mansfield is a great family community, and we want to be part of it, to build a great health care community,” Larry said.

It is Larry’s hope that the Mansfield Surgery Center, in conjunction with the new Methodist Hospital, will bring more surgeons to the Mansfield area. Rather than working in competition against a larger hospital, Larry said, “We want to have a collaborative relationship with the hospital for the health of everyone.”

Along with intensive screening and background checks on the entire staff, the Mansfield Surgery Center is breaking ground in many ways. As a physician-owned facility, they are able to keenly ensure the quality and cost of each patient’s care. It is one of the first in the DFW area to be “paper-free,” using an electronic medical record and clinical/management database. Unlike the frantic ER pace we often see on television shows, or even the long waiting periods many have experienced firsthand, the Mansfield Surgery Center is able to give one-on-one personal care in a friendly, timely and informative manner.

But what truly sets this center apart from most is their mission to provide personal service, not only to the patients, but also to their physicians. The physicians and staff of the Mansfield Surgery Center are on a mission to serve the whole person. “By practicing our mission one-patient-at-a-time,” Melissa said, “we will be the leader for outpatient surgery in the Mansfield health care community.”



The waiting room area offers a Wi-Fi service, two high-definition, flat screen televisions and a children’s play area.

of the gurneys, every detail has been considered, including a backup generator “the size of an 18-wheeler, but,” Larry pointed out, “we’ve been very prudent. We are stewards of everyone’s money, from our patients’ to our physicians’.” In



Alma Martinez poses with her team at Mary Orr Elementary.

An Example to Follow

— By Michelle Powe

When Alma Martinez talks to children at her school about the importance of getting an education and working hard, she has a wealth of personal experience from which to draw. This experience also seems to impress the children. “You picked cotton?” they ask her in disbelief. The principal of Mary Orr Elementary School picked cotton when she was growing up? Indeed she did. Though her family was not poor, Alma’s father — a preacher — wanted Alma and her six younger siblings to know how less-fortunate (and usually uneducated) people lived. He wanted to instill in them a strong work ethic. So they picked cotton during the summers. They even picked cherries in Michigan one summer. “All of us kids have a really good work ethic,” Alma said, “and I share that with my kids here at Mary Orr.”

Alma not only learned the importance of a good work

ethic from her parents, but also the importance of education. Education, after all, is an important part of her heritage. Alma’s father is a first-generation American. His father was a farmer from Mexico, who struggled to make ends meet for his family. When Alma’s father was in eighth grade, his school principal invited the star pupil to move in with his

family. Alma’s grandfather allowed it, realizing that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for his son to pursue an education. For Alma’s father, it was the first time he had lived in a house with wooden floors, indoor plumbing and electricity. He graduated from high school with honors and began attending the University of Texas.

However, World War II interrupted college life, and Alma’s father enlisted in the service to fight for his country. When the war was over, he graduated from Abilene Christian College, married and became a preacher. He also vowed that all of his children would have an

education. He remained true to his word. All seven children went to college and four graduated.

The parents led by example. Alma’s mother was a stay-at-home mom until the last of her seven children had graduated



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from high school and gone off to college. Then Mom went back to school and got her degree in special education and taught for years. "I'm really proud of her for that," Alma said. Alma followed in her mother's footsteps and became certified in special education and bilingual education. Alma's father also went into education, becoming a school administrator.



Another educational life tool Alma's parents gave their children was speaking in English only at home, even though Alma's dad preached in Spanish to his Spanish-speaking congregation. Although she understood and could speak Spanish, Alma did not read or write it. When the family moved from Sinton to Weslaco, a more heavily Spanish-speaking town, Alma suddenly found herself at a bit of a disadvantage. Always an outstanding student, the eighth-grader had to take Spanish class with fluent Spanish speakers in order to learn to read and write the language. True to her upbringing, she prevailed. By the end of the year, she was named the most-improved student in Spanish.

To Alma, this accomplishment was nothing remarkable; it was simply necessary. To her students, she offers simple but constructive advice. "You have to work for what you want," she stated. "You have to set goals."

Alma certainly knows about working for her goals. The summer she picked cherries in Michigan, shivering in the morning cold, is the summer she raised enough money to enroll at

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Southwest Texas as an undergraduate.

Years later, when Alma went back to graduate school at Pan American, she was already teaching and had a family of her own. So, she went during summer semesters and took as many hours as possible, while her mother helped care for Alma's two young sons. When she took 21 hours in one semester, Alma had



"I try to have one-on-one contact with the students every day."

to get permission from the university to take simultaneous classes. She would sit in one class and put a tape recorder in the other, then go home and listen to the recording.

Now Alma strives to bring her father's lessons about work ethic, dedication to education and compassion for others to her students at Mary Orr. She tutors students and encourages her assistant administrators to do the same. "It keeps you connected with the kids," she said. "I try to have one-on-one contact with the students every day."

Alma is equally committed to her faculty and staff. Her philosophy is to treat people as she herself would like to be treated. This kind of treatment will be transmitted to the children. "If you want to have happy kids and happy parents, you have to have happy teachers and staff," Alma said. "Teachers are so important. The teachers here work so hard. So does the staff, including the custodians."

Alma finds unique ways to make

Mary Orr Elementary a happy work environment. For example, she bakes goodies and decorates for staff meetings. "She'll be here until midnight decorating," said Tracy Franklin, the school registrar. "And she bakes. Once she baked over 80 cookies with flowers on them. She hand decorated each one. I've been at lots of other schools. You don't get that."


Alma has themes for staff meetings and gives little rewards to honor efforts.

"If you want to have happy kids and happy parents, you have to have happy teachers and staff."

For example, she brought Starbucks to all the teachers giving the language arts TAKS test last spring. However, Alma is quick to point out that none of the money for any of these expenses comes from school funds. She pays for much of it herself or the PTA donates money from fundraisers.

The bottom line — Alma is keeping the people around her happy. "I try to make this a place where people like to work," she added. Apparently, it is working. "We have people knocking down our doors to work at this school," Tracy said. "People want to come to work here. It's almost like a family."

"People also want their children to attend Mary Orr," Tracy said. "It's all because of what they hear from other parents." What they hear is positive — the positive effects of special treatment from the principal to the teachers and staff to the students. "She sets an example for all of us," Tracy said. For Alma, it is all part of the job. "It's all about the kids," she said. "If you have a kid's heart, you have his head. You have to care for your children." That is an example worth following. **XXX**





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At Home With Ken and Amy Huling

Where the Heart Is

— By Alex Allred



Just like the fairy tales he creates at work every day, cartoon animator Ken Huling is now living his dream with his family in Mansfield, Texas. But it was not always that way. An immensely talented artist, Ken was attending the Academy of Art in San Francisco when he met his future bride.

Ken attended a church dance where he met Amy, the quintessential picture of the California girl. She was tall, tanned, blonde and beautiful; Ken never had a chance. But today, he jokingly boasts, “She was my sugar momma!”

While Ken completed his degree, Amy supported her “starving artist,” working at a computer software company. For Amy, Ken was a breath of fresh air. He was down to earth, funny and caring. In each other, both identified an extremely important quality for a lifelong partner: They are both “goofy.”

As an animator for the highly successful movies, *Meet the Robinsons*, *Barney*, *Alvin and the Chipmunks*, and the upcoming releases *Open Season II*, and *Kung Fu Panda/Secrets of the Furious Five*, Ken was a proponent of creativity and laughter. While many people have adorned their home with the ever popular “live, love, laugh” signs, it is the way of life in the Huling home.

As Ken’s career took off and their family grew, both Ken and Amy were suddenly taking another look at life in L.A. It was not where they wanted to rear their daughters, Addyson and Olivia. It was perfect timing, then, when Reel FX, an affiliate of DreamWorks and Sony located in the art district of Deep Ellum (Dallas), called.

Everything began to fall into place. The young couple,



who could only afford an apartment in California, could think about buying a house in Texas. Listed as one of the Top 100 Places to Live in *Forbes* magazine, Ken quickly identified several homes in Mansfield.

"We really loved the layout of the kitchen," Ken said of their new home. Now expecting their third child, Amy can look out into the backyard, surrounded by a privacy fence, to watch Addyson and Olivia play on their swing set. For Amy, the close-knit community provides safe bike rides on the sidewalk, a community pool and friendly neighbors. And that same warm atmosphere inside the Huling home encourages visitors to feel welcome.

A current trend among homebuilders is to design the first (or front) room in the house as a home office. Ken and Amy have taken a different approach, turning the first room into a music/family

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room. Ken and his father flipped an existing bookcase that served as a built-in shelf unit for an office, as well as a divider between two rooms, making Ken's office the second room down the entrance hallway. They then used the back of the bookshelf as a wall to place a couch for the sitting area.

"It was important to us to have a more inviting, warm room when you first walk into the house," Amy said. Not surprisingly, the room is filled with Ken's original artwork, a piano, some musical instruments, as well as favorite pictures of their children that encompass their live, laugh and love philosophy.

Though the girls do not yet fully comprehend what their

father does for a living, Ken's office is an open room, which allows the girls to see what and how he creates the characters that delight millions of people every day. It is not uncommon

for them to watch the creation of a set of characters that the world has yet to discover and think nothing of it, such as an upcoming commercial for McDonald's depicting characters from *Madagascar II*.

In this lovely four-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom house, only the girls' playroom depicts the Disney and DreamWorks characters their father helped create. Ken and Amy left the nursery paintings from the previous homeowner in the girls' shared bedroom. Although, to Ken's discerning eye, "I might

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have rendered the sheep differently,” he said with a smile.

Both the guest and master bedrooms are furnished modestly as Ken and Amy navigate through new homeowner waters. How they want to decorate and what colors they might choose, not to mention how they may now delegate rooms once the new baby is born, are all exciting, if not challenging, issues. But together, they were very certain about how they wanted their kitchen/dining area to be decorated. “This is our favorite room in the house,” Ken said.

Slightly off-centered in the middle of house, the open format allows the girls their own form of a motocross freeway, as they run circles through the house. It is a frequent activity both Ken and Amy watch with amusement from either the formal living room, just off from the dining area or from the dining table. Between the two rooms is an open fireplace,

which offers both aesthetic appeal and functional access to both the dining and living areas. A free-standing pantry, high arching ceilings and open-bar area at the kitchen counter truly make the kitchen and dining area the hub of activity. For exactly this reason, Amy knew she wanted warm colors to accent the homey feeling.

Refurbishing their kitchen table, the first piece of furniture they purchased together, Ken stained the pine table to a rich mahogany color. Once Amy had picked colors from the swatches Ken brought home from work, he was able to create original artwork for the dining room — a three-piece set with deep reds and warm earth tones.

While he is an animator by trade, Ken’s true passion as an artist can be found throughout the home (as well as on his personal Web site). Beautiful paintings he describes as



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abstract landscapes are displayed along the walls, capturing the mood of each room. If the saying holds true that every man's home is his castle, this is truly a kingdom for Ken and Amy Huling.

Although they worry a little about



not yet having their home set up the way they want it to be and do not yet have the kind of furniture they both see as part of their long-range plans, they are not interested in buying things just to set up house. They are purposefully moving slowly in their designing, so that they can make every



room and every memory just right. They are patient and grateful and, to every newcomer, they are welcoming. Together, they will tell you how pleased they are to be first-time homeowners. They will tell you how lucky they feel to own such a wonderful



home, but really, it is the house that is lucky to have been made a home by such a warm, lovely family.

If the proverb "home is where the heart is" holds true, that is to say, if you are with the person or at the place you love most, then Ken and Amy are truly home. **NOW**

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The Golden Girls

— By Danielle Parker



All who enter Mansfield High School can immediately see the legacy and history of the school's athletics and extracurricular activities. Among the awards proudly displayed are those of the MHS Gold Duster Dancers. Once called the Dixie Dolls, the Gold Duster Dancers are known for their upbeat dances and first-rate school spirit.

Traditionally, the dancers threw gold and black glitter, reflecting the school colors, during their performances. While the ritual no longer occurs, the name stuck around. Under the direction of Lisa Hazelwood, 27 young women have signed up for a year-long commitment of dance. "Drill team is almost year-around," Lisa said. "There really is no off-season for these girls. They have competitions, a spring show, camp in the summer, and they perform at every basketball and football game."

Being a Gold Duster is no simple task. Spring auditions are held prior to the next school year; officers describe it as a week of strenuous tryouts. "It's an entire week of full-out dance," Jessica Collins, Gold Duster's first lieutenant said.

"Girls have to show they can kick, leap and do pirouettes. They have to basically prove they can dance on the level that will be expected of us."

Talent and execution are presented before a panel of judges, who then select those who measure up to Gold Duster caliber, but this process is just the beginning. Gold Duster Dancers are expected to display class not only in dance, but in everything they do. "These girls are positive leaders in the school, as well as on the team," Lisa said. "They know they are expected to show the same level of diligence and excellence on and off the squad."

Along with the quality expected of each young lady, dancers must learn to manage their time wisely, according to officers. "Being a part of the squad is definitely a time commitment," Rebekah Lauff, a Gold Duster officer, said. "We

practice from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. every day except for Fridays, when we have pep rallies and games." This year, several challenges have come their way, but Lisa said the squad had a knack for overcoming the obstacles they faced. "Every year is



The Gold Duster officers pose for a group shot.

a new year," she said. "We had 15 new girls out of 27 this time around. They have worked so hard and not only have they done well, but they have stepped up to another level."

A passion for dance is a requirement, because it takes just that to reach the quality at which the Gold Duster Dancers have arrived. "They are always hard at work, constantly learning new dances," Lisa said. "They learn about 20 dances every year. They even made

"I am getting to dance every day and making friends while I do it."

up their own field dance this year. They are constantly working to improve on their technique, flexibility and overall performance."

Even more is required of the five officers appointed to lead the team. "We first have to work on being unified leaders," Captain Katey Gray said. "There are five different minds, but we have to be a team within ourselves."

As friendships grow, officers must also balance it with their leadership responsibilities. "Being an officer during practice and being a friend after is the most challenging aspect," Officer Zhenya Kolpakova said. "It's hard to make that switch sometimes. We want to keep things tight, but still have fun when practice is over." While being on the squad requires a lot of work, the girls admit that it is worth all the effort. "It's challenging, but at the same time it's so much fun," Jessica said.

Katey, who has been dancing for 15 years, said the time is not an issue because she is doing what she loves to do. "I am getting to dance every day and making friends while I do it," she said. "This really is a great experience." As each dancer labors individually to be the best she can be, the girls must also come together and work as one

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unit, which they acknowledge can be one of the most difficult feats. "We go through a lot and definitely learn a lot," Officer Nicole Tietz said, "but through it all, we grow stronger and become a close family." That growth is what makes it all worth it in the end. "A drill team is basically a group of dancers that come together," Jessica said. "And every year, we find a way to achieve that."

As they find unity within the squad, they are able to build relationships with others as well. "Every game, we also have the opportunity to meet other teams," Rebekah said. "It is fun seeing



how other teams work and learn from them." Competitions and away games allow the team to expand their horizons and learn more about their talent and one another. "We're all getting good experience and creating memories along the way," Nicole said.

As the squad prepares to end the fall season and enter into the spring semester, they can look back knowing they represented their school with pride and excellence. "I have very high expectations for this team," Lisa said. "I have set the bar high for them and they consistently rise to that. I am extremely proud of them." **NOW**

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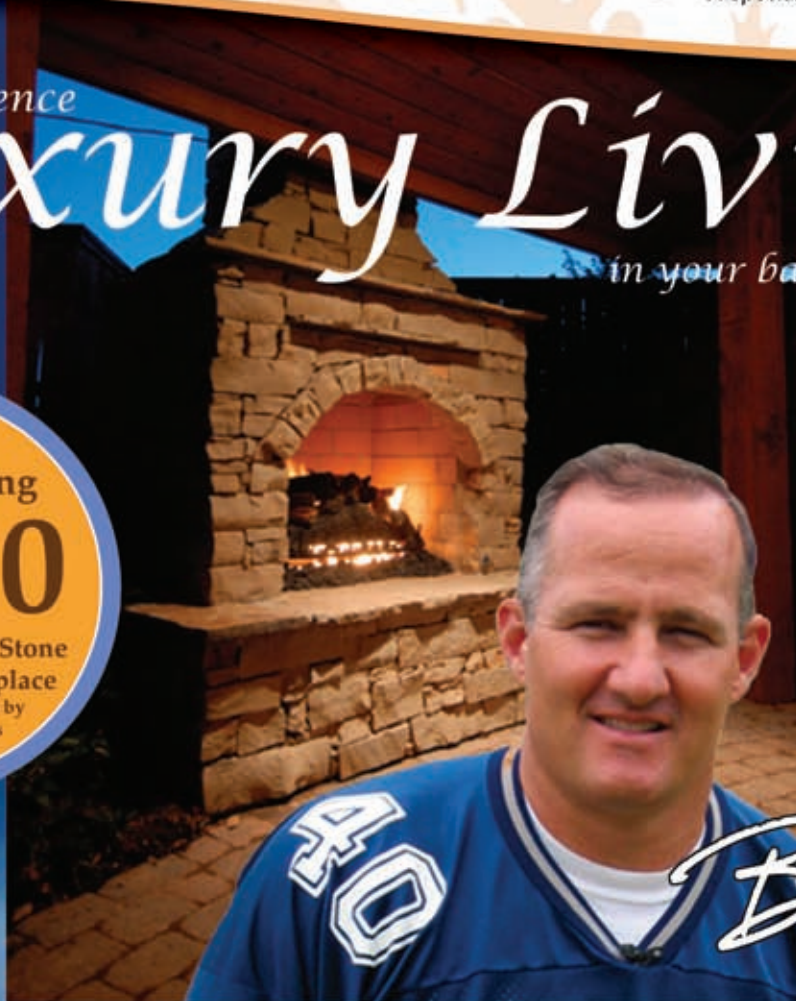
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Uplifting Experiences

— By Mary Pritchard



The Mansfield All Stars!

For many families, the Special Olympics is a very important part of their lives. David Jimenez is one of those who make these sports competitions an uplifting experience for both the children and parents of Mansfield's special needs families. David has been coaching Special Olympics basketball, the Mansfield All Stars, for the past four years, and in that time, he said, "We've won two state championships, in '07 and '08. In '06, we got fourth place." The championship games were held this year on Memorial Day weekend at University of Texas at Arlington (UTA). Area teams from all over the state participated.

The area tournament, which includes teams from Greater Fort Worth, Denton, Lewisville and Arlington, is held in March at Martin High School. "We've won that [one] three years in a row," David said. He has 11 children on his team, four girls and seven boys.

For four years, David has been an Adapted Physical Education (APE) teacher in the Mansfield Independent School District (ISD). APE is for students who need extra help in regular physical education. "There are four of us who teach APE," David said, "and we also coach Special Olympics teams.

Rudy Dominguez is the lead APE teacher, Dana Beal is in charge of swimming, Becky Poggesee coaches track, and I do basketball. Jared Hall is a volunteer who works with me from November to May at every practice and at tournaments."



The basketball team practices at the Rock Gym on Monday nights for approximately an hour. David's teaching record includes six years of regular P.E. at Cross Timbers and four years at T. A. Howard Middle School teaching P.E. and coaching football, basketball and golf. But once David's son was born four years ago, he decided to teach only APE. "I've always enjoyed sports and watching students learn. I teach the APE students the same way I taught my regular P.E. kids," David said. "At Special Olympics tournaments,

officials tell me that our team really understands the game."

Students on David's team are junior high and high school students, though elementary students are also on Special Olympics teams. "We have different levels in basketball,"

David said. "Those who can't play on the [tournament] team are on the skills team, where they practice dribbling and shooting. As they advance, due to hard work and parents bringing them to practice and working with them, they move up."

David's Special Olympics team played during halftime last year at a varsity basketball scrimmage at Legacy High School. "That was a lot of fun," he said. "A lot of people came out to see our kids play. The varsity players were high-fiving our kids, and that was really neat to watch. So many people are surprised when they see us for the



**"We get enjoyment
seeing special
needs kids
do what other
kids get to do."**

first time because we follow the same rules as regular basketball teams."

The fall state games for bocce ball and swimming are held in October at Texas A&M University. "All four of us go to the state games," David said. "I go to the fall games to chaperone, help out and lend support. The kids love the traveling, staying in hotels, watching other teams play and meeting new people. The parents go, too."

In fact, the parents are a big part of the Special Olympics team's success.



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One parent, Gregg Young, said, "My family and I go to these games and so do the others. It's like an extended family, and Coach Jimenez is like the engine that makes everything go. David is very patient and gives the kids the attention they need. He knows how to modify the game for them and interact with them. He is genuinely interested in them. He inspires them to excel."

Kevin Henry, another parent, has a daughter in bocce, basketball and bowling. He also mentioned the "big family feeling" found within the group of parents and students. "It's one of the best-kept secrets in Mansfield," he said. "It's a great resource for parents with special needs kids. Information about ways to provide for these kids gets passed around during practice. It's a social network that happens behind the scenes, and it's a great group."

Both Kevin and Gregg urged other parents with special needs children to get involved with Special Olympics. "I'm a better person because of my daughter," Kevin said, "because I am having to go places and do things I would not otherwise experience."

Kevin also mentioned that because of budget constraints, the Mansfield ISD has had to cut back on their Special Olympics sponsorship, so it is up to the parents and supporters to fill in.

Rudy mentioned that the coaches go above and beyond, as do many other teachers. "We get enjoyment seeing special needs kids do what other kids get to do," he said. "The more things available for them to do, the better, especially at a level in which they can be successful." Volunteer coaches and the district coordinate their efforts.

"Over 45 children actively participated in the program last year alone," Rudy added. Clearly, Special Olympics basketball has provided many opportunities for so many, but it has opened the eyes of so many more. Truly, these Olympics are special! **NOW**

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— By Alex Allred

To step inside A J Passini's Hair Salon and Spa is a unique experience of its own. On paper, it is no different than most full-service salons, offering manicures, pedicures, massages and haircuts by top-notch professionals. It is the atmosphere and attitude that sets it a world apart.

Unlike the typical open floor plan with salon chairs lined along a single wall, each stylist has her own small studio complete with a glass door reflecting her name and phone number. Café style tables and chairs, along with an elegant street lamppost, line the interior hallway. The warm earth-tone décor, with matching marble floor, flower arrangements and beverage stand, makes visitors feel as though they are walking through the narrow shops of Europe.

But owner Judy Passini has gone beyond creating ambiance. As an entrepreneur, she understood the need for creating something different. While most stylists work off of a sales commission, Judy has her stylists lease their space, thus allowing them to be their own bosses. The result is brilliant. Stylists at A J Passini's Salon and Spa agree: "It's like a small village here." According to stylist Michelle Perry, there is a kind of freedom the women feel as a result of keeping their own hours, and "we're one big happy family."

The consummate businesswoman, Judy is committed not only to her customers, but also to her staff. Although they are independent contractors, Judy continues to advertise for them, offer job titles and work alongside them. She

is active within the Chamber and local women's organizations, mentoring young beginners when she can.

"She's amazing," said Chandra Kelley, stylist and educational director for the salon. "She's one of the strongest women I know."

In the business world, Judy was a rising star, working as a vice president of sales for a national firm and managing over 125 people around the U.S. and Canada. "I can sell ice to an Eskimo," she laughed, but quickly noted that working sales was not what she wanted to do with her life.

It was Judy's mother who had always told her she would one day work as a stylist. Though Judy denied this, she had a flair for hair and the beauty industry had always intrigued her. Just

Business NOW

as her mother prophesized, Judy began working as a stylist, but when she learned a local studio was not doing well and was on the market, she leapt at the opportunity. Four years later, A J Passini's Salon and Spa is a thriving business in downtown Mansfield.

For many young women entering the profession, Judy and her business are the model for success, but Judy insists that her staff work "with me, not for me." It is a distinction which carries over to the customers, who also become "family."

She is poised, elegant, soft-spoken yet demanding. What few people know, however, is that not everything has always come with ease. She has suffered personal setbacks and, even now, is dealing with the serious health issue of a family member. "But this is a service industry," she said of her salon and spa.



"When you walk through these doors, you know we are happy to see you. We're very friendly and our atmosphere is to die for!"

Though her talent for both business and beauty are apparent, her true secret to success is people. "My home is Mansfield because of the people, and this salon is what it is because of the people," she said. **NOW**

A J Passini's Hair Salon and Spa is located at 911 Broad Street. For more information, call (817) 453-9989 or (817) 988-2615.

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“If I’m going to let a student pass and drive on our roads, I should be able to hand him **my keys.”**

Driven *to* Success

— By Alex Allred

Can you imagine handing over your car keys to a teenager you barely know? That is what Summit High School Guidance Counselor and Driver Education Teacher Kevin Klein does almost every day. “In all good conscience,” Kevin explained, “if I’m going to let a student pass and drive on our roads, I should be able to hand him my keys.”

It is an attitude he wishes all parents would have. “Once upon a time,” Kevin said, “parents used to look at driving as a privilege.” Teenagers had to prove themselves before they were able to get behind the wheel of the family car. “But today,” he said, “it’s a convenience.”

Times have certainly changed. With a faster lifestyle and far more distractions to young drivers, the issue of safety is becoming more of a concern. According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and the Department of Health and Human Services, 16-year-olds crash more than any other age group, are three times more likely to die in a car accident than any other ages and, based on the reports in 2006, the number of crashes are increasing. Yet, parents are spending less time with their children behind the wheel.

Kevin has seen the change firsthand. “When I started teaching, Mansfield was mainly rural. The kids who came to driver ed already knew how to drive because they were used to driving tractors and four wheelers.” Today, one of his greatest challenges is to find a rural setting to let his student drivers practice.

Kevin began his teaching career in Mansfield over 28 years ago coaching basketball and teaching world history. But in 1997, he was approached by the then acting principal of

Mansfield High School, Jerry Kirby, and asked to earn his master’s in education and become a counselor within the district. He did, quickly moving to Summit High School once it opened in 2003.

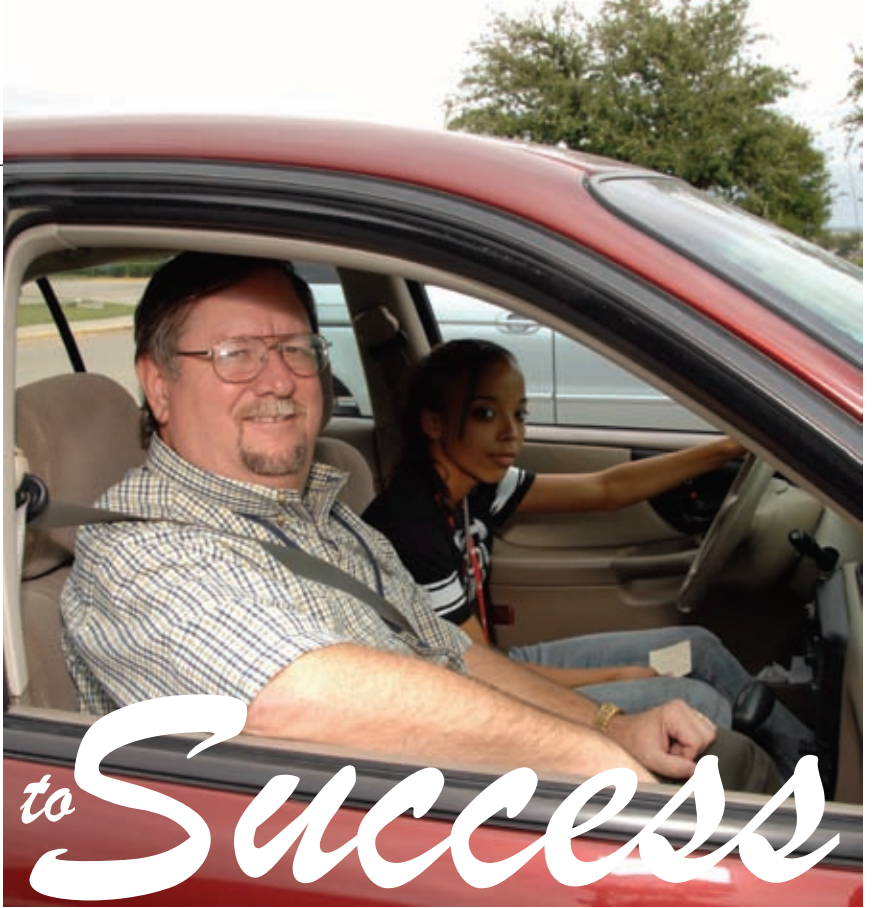
“I was very happy with what I was doing,” Kevin said, “but as a counselor, I get to see more of the kids.” Each day offers a variety of challenges and new people for him to interact with, and because he is a people person, the job is ideal for him. Office Administrator Laura Strause chuckled as she said, “He is perfect for the job. He is so calming and supportive.”

During the late 1990s, “just to pick up an extra income,” Kevin began teaching driver education. Who knew how much he would come to enjoy it? While many would report white-knuckle rides through the back roads of Mansfield, Kevin loved instructing new drivers.

“He rocks!” Laura said. “His first year in the district was my senior year of high school in 1981. I’ve known him for a long time and he’s still the same — so nice. He never gets stressed out.”

There are many humorous stories involving Kevin and new drivers who punched the accelerator rather than the brake at a 7-Eleven or the student who did not understand that a car could not handle curves on its own and simply let go of the steering wheel.

“He would just walk into the office smiling and say, ‘Yep, we wrecked a car,’” Laura said. His method of teaching is not to yell or indulge in high theatrics. Instead, it is his calming influence that assures the new drivers and gives them both the tools and confidence to safely drive a car.



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"But we need to work together," Kevin said of all parents. Despite public opinion about the amount of time students are given in driver education, "We only see them behind the wheel seven times." Parents, he said, can play a huge role in teaching their teenagers how to drive. "Point things out, encourage them to be an observer," he said, explaining that when prospective drivers see the mistakes of other drivers, they can learn so much more. "Parents need to monitor their child all the way through the program," he said. From the moment a

"He is perfect for the job. He is so calming and supportive."

student earns his or her driver's permit, parents should encourage the new driver to get as much experience as possible behind the wheel thus allowing the parent to observe potentially bad or dangerous habits.

As part of an innovative effort to increase drive time and communication between parents and students, Mansfield Independent School District created its own 28-hour log sheet that must be completed by the conclusion of the driver education course. This, Kevin said, is the time when parents can evaluate their child. How do they drive? Are they driving too fast? Learning to budget their time more efficiently, for example, can greatly improve their driving. Someone who is rushing cannot fully appreciate the rules and regulations of the road. "Many of them still have a hard time judging distances."

"The reality is," Kevin warned, "there are more cars on the road than there were 10 years ago," and far more distractions. "Kids don't need to be talking on their cell phones and changing CDs. You don't need to be multitasking when you drive. You only need to drive!" After his students have learned these lessons, then, maybe, he just might hand them his own car keys. **NOW**

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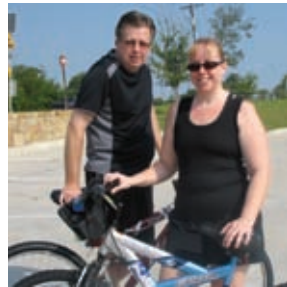


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The FC Texas Stars girls' soccer team, top left, fell just short of making the finals at the Arlington Labor Day Shoot Out. Katie, top right, played on the ropes at Town Park during the Labor Day weekend. A ribbon cutting, second row left, was held at Sterling Real Estate, Inc. Charles and Kelly Shepherd, second row center, enjoyed a bike ride. The Danaho family, bottom left, welcomed the birth of Garrett. A ribbon cutting, bottom center, was held recently at Pression Restoration & Roofing. It became a family affair when Jackie and her sons, Kyle, Evan and Ethan, bottom right, sealed the parking lot where their father works. They agreed it was a fun way to spend the weekend.

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Officer Rodriguez and Cecil, top left, posed for the photographer at Mansfield Animal Care & Control Center. Several young ladies with Mansfield ties, top right, served as models at an American Airlines Wings Fashion Show held in Arlington. Kittens, second row center, are also available at Mansfield Animal Care & Control Center. Head kennel technician Marilyn Wallen holds two of the cute little darlings. Dr. Polson, second row right, conducted a presentation at the Mansfield Activities Center recently. He is shown working on Janet Kurtin. Miguel, Cecy, Diana and Rosa, bottom right, make up the dynamic staff at Panda Express.



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Smoking and grilling meats gives Joey Lemons a great deal of enjoyment. When he and his wife, Mary, built their home, they included a built-in smoker for Joey's benefit. He enjoys spending time camping with Mary and their two sons, Justin and Jared. "I enjoy cooking outside and coming up with recipes that lend themselves well to the grill," Joey stated.

Sunday mornings you can find Joey cooking breakfast for the Mansfield First Baptist Church youth ministry or the men's ministry. He also enjoys smoking and cooking for special events like honoring his Pastor. "Several men and I stayed up all night smoking briskets and preparing sides for about 400 people," he recalled. "It made a special memory doing what I love to do while sharing with others."

To view more of your neighbors' recipes, visit our archives at www.nowmagazines.com.

IN THE KITCHEN WITH JOEY LEMONS

BREAKFAST BURRITOS

This is a favorite with the youth at church.

1 lb. potatoes, cubed
1/2 cup bell pepper
1/2 cup onion
salt and pepper to taste
9 eggs
1 lb. sausage, browned
12 flour tortillas
2 cups cheddar cheese, grated

Slow fry the potatoes, bell pepper and onion; add salt and pepper to taste. Scramble and cook eggs. Combine sausage, potatoes and eggs in a large bowl. Make the burrito by heating a tortilla on a hot pan or griddle. Fill tortilla with sausage, potato and egg mixture. Top with cheese. Fold ends of tortilla and roll up. Wrap in a foil sheet to keep warm until ready to serve. Serve with salsa. (Same recipe can be used to make breakfast quesadillas.)

JARED'S SALSA

1 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes
1 28-oz. can tomato sauce
1 cup fresh cilantro, finely chopped
1 onion, finely chopped
2 jalapeño peppers, finely chopped (or more if desired)
1 Tbsp. minced garlic
juice from 1 lemon
salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients to make salsa. Jared often samples the salsa and adds more garlic, salt and/or pepper, if needed.

JOEY'S SMOKED BRISKET

BRISKET RUB:
2 cups brown sugar
2-3 Tbsp. Lowery's® Seasoning Salt
2-3 Tbsp. lemon pepper

2-3 Tbsp. garlic powder
2-3 Tbsp. onion powder
salt and pepper to taste
1 10- to 12-lb. brisket, average size

Combine brisket rub ingredients. Pat brisket rub on all sides of brisket. Refrigerate for 2-3 hours. Smoke at 220 F for about 4 hours. Wrap tightly in foil and continue to smoke slowly for approximately 14 more hours. (The same steps can be followed using a grill instead of a smoker. Be sure to grill at a low temperature. Another option is to smoke the brisket for 4 hours and wrap in foil. Place the brisket in a pan and cook in the oven for 12 hours at 220 F.) After brisket has been cooked, remove the foil and scrape off the fat. The top fatty part of the brisket can be removed to make chopped barbecue later. The leaner or bottom part of the brisket should be sliced across the grain to ensure tenderness. Mix part of the juice with your



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Chop the fatty portion of the brisket. Heat brisket and your favorite barbecue sauce on the stovetop. Stir often to avoid burning. Note: The amount of barbecue sauce will depend on the amount of brisket. Add the sauce slowly until the desired consistency is reached.

PIGS IN A BLANKET

1 8-ct. can biscuits
1 pkg. Lit'l Smokies® sausages
4 slices American cheese, cut in half

Preheat the oven according to biscuit directions. Separate biscuits and flatten. Add a strip of sliced cheese and a sausage to each biscuit. Roll biscuit and place on a greased pan, seam side down. Bake until golden brown.

INSIDE-OUT BURGERS

1-2 lbs. ground beef
1 cup cheddar and/or Swiss cheese, grated
1/2 cup mushrooms, sliced (optional)
1/8 cup jalapeños, sliced (optional)
1/2 cup onions, sliced and grilled (optional)
4-8 slices bacon, cooked (optional)
Lowery's® Seasoning Salt to taste
Worcestershire sauce to taste

Form 8 thin hamburger patties using ground meat. Add toppings of choice on top of one patty. Add another patty to the top; seal edges together. Season the stuffed patty with Lowery's® Seasoning Salt and Worcestershire sauce. Grill slowly at a low temperature. Leave the grill lid open. Cook until done.

PULLED PORK SANDWICHES

3-5 lb., or larger, pork butt
salt to taste
lemon pepper to taste
SAUCE:
1 cup ketchup
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup vinegar
1/2 cup water
1 Tbsp. A1 Steak Sauce®
Louisiana Hot Sauce to taste
salt to taste

Season pork butt with salt and lemon pepper. Place on a smoker or grill; cook for approximately 4 hours at a low temperature. Wrap in foil; cook for another 4 hours. (Optional: At this time the pork butt can be placed in the oven at 225 F). After cooking, pull the pork from the bone using a fork. Combine sauce ingredients in a pan; bring to a boil. Serve meat and sauce on a bun.



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Saying “I Do” —

Marriage and Finances

— By Lezlee Liljenberg

Money plays a part in almost every event in our personal lives. So why do we try to ignore this fact and act as though it is taboo to discuss finances? The number one leading cause of divorce is disagreement over finances. And you thought it was about your mother-in-law! Start your marriage out on the right foot by reviewing your attitude and your actual financial situations together. Many a break-up has been caused when ... “Oops ... I forgot to mention that bankruptcy back in 2002.”

START OUT SMART

Too many couples start out their marriage by spending a ridiculous amount of money on a wedding. Most of the time, the bride's parents may be footing the bill; it still does not make sense to throw away money on a five-hour party. You may be thinking, *This lady does not have a romantic bone in her body*. Well, maybe, but romantic to me is not having to worry about the bills, or maybe it is investing in something my husband and I will enjoy for many years to come. Downsize the wedding and use the money to plan for your future. Start out fresh and as free of debt as possible.



DECIDE EARLY

One of you may be better with money and one of you may love keeping records and spreadsheets. Choose who will do what in your marriage. Split up the duties of finances just as you should with all household responsibilities. Discuss financial goals. You have a goal and desire about starting a family, right? Then you need to have financial plans, too. These aspects all mold together for a successful family and marriage. Pull your credit reports and go over these together. If you are embarrassed or trying to hide something, then first things first — this is not the way to start a marriage. Come clean with the past, and you will have a better chance of resolving these issues together.

PRENUPTIALS, NOT JUST FOR THE RICH

Ah, you are in the rosy moment of love and do not want to discuss a nasty topic such as “not being together.” There are many times when the prenuptial does make sense. If one of you is expecting an inheritance, owns a business or has a

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trust fund, the division of this money needs to be determined in case of a divorce. This agreement can protect first families of their inheritance due to a second marriage, while also protecting the spouse of any unforeseen situations. The last thing you want to do is leave the family behind to fight it out.

There are many events in our lives that are expected and unexpected. No matter the situation, be prepared and make decisions based on logic, not emotion. I am no Dr. Phil, but with a financially successful marriage, I do know that love can be bliss, so give your marriage a great chance. Discuss, agree and agree to disagree and continue financial communication. **NOW**

Lezlee Liljenberg is an Allstate Insurance representative based in Arlington.

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Diabetes Type 1

— By Betty Tryon

Puncturing your skin with a needle every day hardly seems a reason to celebrate. However, if the substance in the syringe is insulin, then every day is a reason to celebrate because without it, the consequences are dire. The delicate balance between health and catastrophe on the weighing scales of life plays out very clearly in the life of someone with type 1 diabetes. In type 1 diabetes, the body is not able to produce insulin, or it produces it in insufficient quantities. Type 1 diabetes, known as juvenile-onset diabetes because the diagnosis is usually made in childhood, can also be diagnosed in older individuals who have lost the function of their pancreas because of disease or injury. The main goal of treatment involves proper management of blood glucose levels. All individuals with this type of diabetes must undergo daily insulin injections.

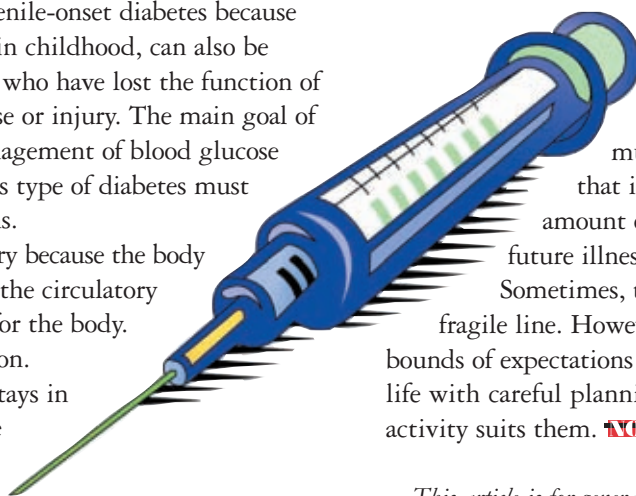
Insulin injections are necessary because the body needs the glucose, or sugar, in the circulatory system converted into energy for the body. Insulin facilitates this conversion. Without insulin, the glucose stays in the blood vessels and can cause many serious complications. The requirement of regular monitoring of the blood glucose level keeps the management

of this disease in check, and gives the doctor a simple tool for treatment. Abnormal levels of this substance in the blood long term can lead to significant damage in the eyes leading to blindness. It can disrupt kidney function so significantly that it can lead to failure of that organ. Improper management can also lead to amputations of the lower-extremities and also heart disease.

In diagnosis, two of the most common symptoms are frequent urination and increased thirst. Other symptoms are unexplained weight loss despite increased hunger, nausea, fatigue, vision changes and when wounds, particularly on the lower extremities, are slow to heal. The onset of symptoms of type 1 diabetes can sometimes be severe enough to require hospitalization until you become stable.

After the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, usually consultation with a nutritionist is in order. Your diet makes a huge impact on your blood sugar levels and dictates how much insulin you receive. Other factors that influence your blood levels are the amount of exercise you have every day and any future illnesses.

Sometimes, the diabetic must walk a thin and fragile line. However, it is completely within the bounds of expectations that one can live a full and normal life with careful planning while indulging in whatever activity suits them. **NOW**



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



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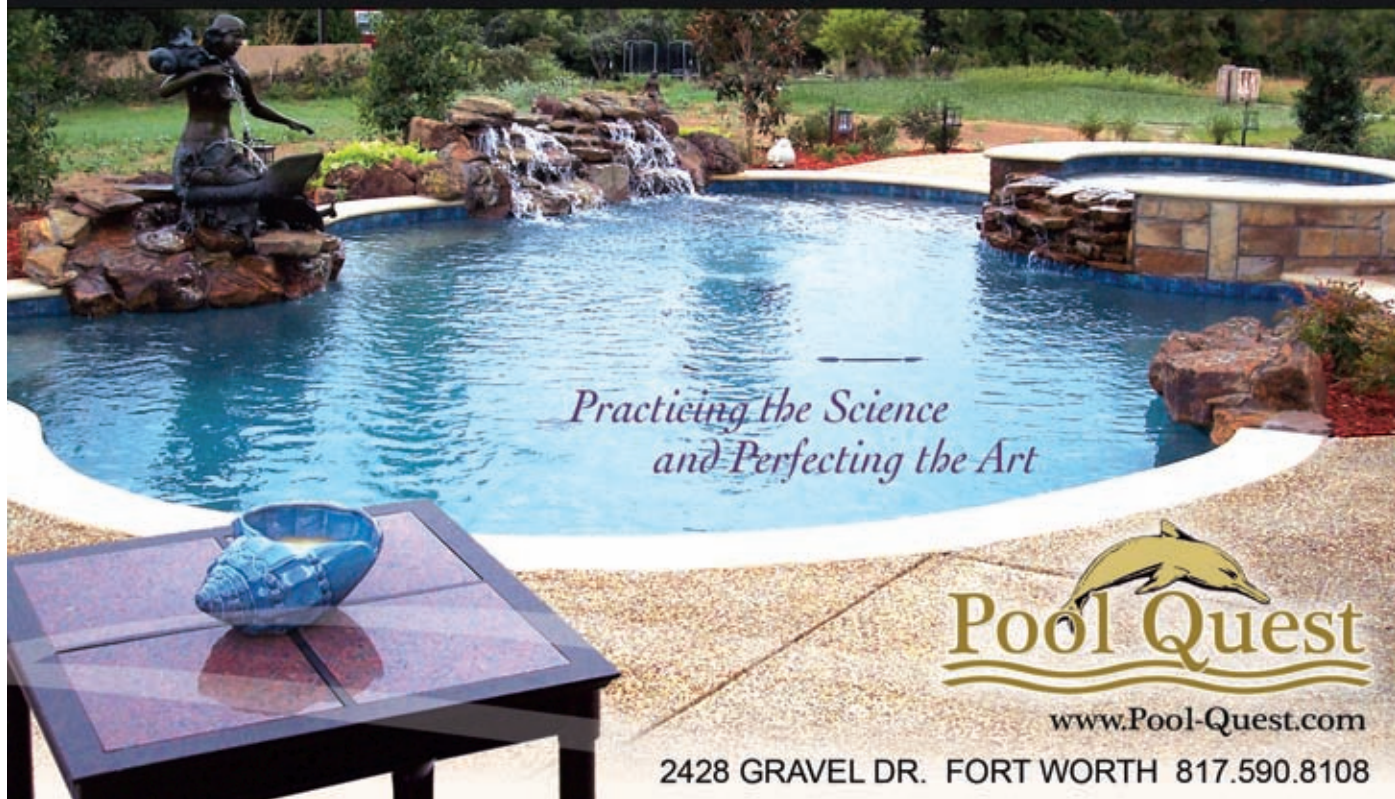
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November 2008

Community Calendar

Monday - Friday

The Young at Heart (ages 55 plus) meeting: 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Mansfield Activity Center (MAC). (817) 453-5420, ext. 2227.

Every Monday

Small business counseling provided by Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Mansfield Chamber offices, 114 North Main St. (817) 473-0507.

Every Tuesday

Bouncing Babies story time for infants to 24 months: 10:30 -11:00 a.m., Mansfield Public Library.

Every Friday

Mansfield Kiwanis Club meeting: 6:45 a.m., Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, 2700 East Broad St. (817) 473-9886.

November 1, 8 and 15

Get a pet at the City of Mansfield Animal Control. Saturdays: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Volunteers are always needed.

November 3 and 17

Planning and Zoning Development Commission meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mansfield City Hall.

November 4 and 17

Training Academy for Dental Assistants free informational session: 5:30 p.m. (972) 842-2999.

November 6

Mansfield Child Care will discuss "Voice, Sound and Music" at 7:00 p.m. in the Mansfield Library meeting room, 104 S. Wisteria St. www.mansfieldchildcare.com.

November 6, 13

Toddler Story Time for 2 year olds: 11:00 - 11:30 a.m., Mansfield Public Library.

November 10 and 24

City Council meeting: 7:00 p.m., Mansfield City Hall, 1200 Broad St.

November 12

Library Advisory Board meeting: 6:00 p.m., Mansfield Public Library community room, 104 S. Wisteria St.

November 18

Mansfield Economic Development Commission meeting: 6:00 p.m., Mansfield City Hall.

Adult book club meeting: 6:30 p.m., Mansfield Public Library. This month's book is *Digging Up America* by Anne Taylor. There will be no meeting in December.

Mansfield Park Facilities Development Corporation meeting: 7:00 p.m., Mansfield City Hall, 1200 East Broad St.

November 20

ABWA Empowering Women Express Network monthly meeting: 5:45 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle, Midlothian. Please RSVP to Daphne Brewer at (972) 723-6551. www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org.

November 22

Free music lessons for children (infant to 6 years of age). Contact heathersharmonies@sbcglobal.net for more information and to RSVP.

December 6

Hometown Holidays Parade: 2:30 p.m. Parade information and entry applications are available at the Mansfield Activities Center. Contact Andrew Binz at the Parks and Recreation Department at (817) 804-5797 for more information.

December 7

29th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes: 2:00 - 8:00 p.m. RSVP to (817) 794-5887.

For more community events, visit our online calendar at www.nowmagazines.com.



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