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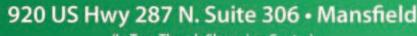
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Pat Anthony . Teresa Maddison Angel Morris . Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla Artists, Julie Carpenter . Martha Macias Connie VanderBeek . Allee Brand Marshall Hinsley . Arlene Honza Brande Morgan

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose Photographers, Jill Rasco Photography Opaque Visuals

ADVERTISING

Advertising Representatives, Teresa Banks . Lori O'Connell . Steve Randle Rick Ausmus . Linda Dean . Laura Fira Bryan Frye . Melissa McCoy . Lisa Miller Carolyn Mixon . Jami Navarro . John Powell Linda Roberson

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On The Cover



Rob Schultz's efforts with Mansfield 2020 will strengthen the community.

Photo by Jill Rasco Photography.

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Editor's Note

Hello Mansfield!

I'm Jeremy Agor, the new community editor for *MansfieldNOW*. My wife and I are relatively new to Mansfield. We chose to live here because of the quality of the schools for our son, but we've come to love this town because of the feeling of community. From the services provided by the city to the friends we've made, we feel lucky to have found Mansfield.



Mansfield NOW has opened our eyes even more to all Mansfield has to offer. Some pretty amazing people can be found here! I've met many while writing for the magazine. I hope you've done the same by reading it.

If you know someone with a special talent, unique job or an amazing house who should be featured in the pages of your community magazine, feel free to e-mail me at jeremy.agor@nowmagazines.com. I'm on the lookout for stories to highlight even more of our community members, and your friend or colleague could be next!

Happy New Year!

Jeremy

Jeremy Agor

MansfieldNOW Editor





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The Right Mung

Rob Schulz is extremely reluctant to talk about himself. He's not impolite about it, but he'd just rather not be the main topic of conversation. That just seems to be his style.

But his excitement grows when the conversation turns to his efforts in the community, especially the project known as Mansfield 2020. This project is just one of his passions, and something he is deeply committed to seeing succeed. In fact, seeing Mansfield flourish is very much a part of who he is: "Mansfield

is a real community, not just another sterile suburb," Rob said. "It has diversity, history and character that make it a great place to live! We're here for life!"

Rob and his wife, Shelly, whom he married during his senior year at The University of Texas at Austin, have lived in Mansfield since May 1994. They





have four children: Gretchen, Grace, Daniel and Gwen, who range in age from 20 to 9. "I want Mansfield to be a place that my kids can come back to someday and thrive if that is what they desire. This community has massive potential, and Mansfield 2020 is our roadmap to success."

Much of Rob's sense of community involvement comes from his family heritage. Rob looked up to his father and grandfather, who both believed in making a difference in their community. Rob said his father's passion was for downtown revitalization. That influence led Rob, once the decision was made that Mansfield would be his family's home, to the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce to ask how he could be of service. Because of the way he was reared, community service was never a question where Rob was concerned. "It's what you do," he stated. "It's the legacy you leave behind."

The first thing Rob got involved in was the campaign that led to the Mansfield Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). The campaign called for a half-cent sales tax increase to fund the MEDC and passed by a wide margin. Then in 2009, Rob was inspired to work with the Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce to create Mansfield 2020, which he describes as a





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living document. The document was adopted by the Chamber and presented to the Mansfield City Council in 2010.

The mission of Mansfield 2020 is to discover what Mansfield can accomplish by the year 2020 and share a vision for the future. MEDC incorporates four areas of focus: infrastructure, economic development, education and quality of life. The document states that quality of life is intertwined with the others and that it's all about finding and creating better lives for ourselves and our children. To improve on the quality of life in the community, the document focuses on several initiatives that include clean, green and lean.

When discussing the clean aspect, the document points out how important first impressions are. For that reason, a greater emphasis on clean streets and beautification programs is advocated. "This means we may have to find a way to locally fund the cleanup of state-owned thoroughfares and even private property in order to meet the high standards our potential future demands," he explained.

As one might guess, green has to do with maintaining a healthy focus on the environment. The document indicates that in order to continue to achieve a strong quality of life, there will have to be continued emphasis on the linear park system and maintaining clean and beautiful waterways. Environmentally responsible recycling, water use and energy initiatives are also considered essential.

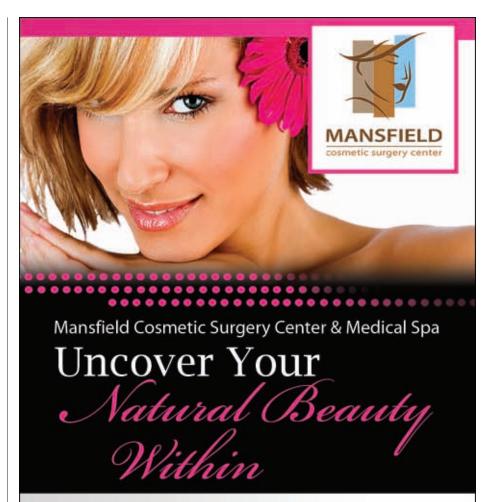
"Lean has to do with health," Rob said. "The Mansfield 2020 document is crucial to one's quality of life." Moreover, the document asserts that a strong health initiative would set this community apart from others. Rob and the Mansfield 2020 Health Initiatives committee believe the community is well on its way in this area with newly created branding and unprecedented cooperation between the city, school district, local businesses and healthcare providers. "Our efforts



are being noticed and acknowledged as groundbreaking work throughout the Metroplex," he added.

When it comes to economic development, the goal for the year 2020 is a self-sustaining city with quality neighborhoods, schools and businesses, known as a hub of medical excellence, corporate headquarters and clean industry. Continued encouragement of medical industry expansion, educational excellence, cultural enrichment and public transportation initiatives are among the items suggested. A vital, continued effort for downtown revitalization is also considered important.

By the year 2020, Highway 360 should be taking drivers all the way to Hillsboro, becoming a third major connector for travel between the Metroplex and Austin. In addition, Mansfield is slated to be a part of the proposed Loop 9, a 357-mile loop around the entire Metroplex. Mansfield 2020 suggests that intensive planning for the opportunity needs to start immediately.



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Rob feels that education may be the most important component of Mansfield 2020. Keys for a successful educational system include more parental involvement at the higher grade levels and massive support from the business community. The goal of the Mansfield education system is to have students

"I want Mansfield to be a place that my kids can come back to someday and thrive if that is This community has massive potential, and Mansfield 2020 is our roadmap to success."

prepared to step off the commencement stage into an academic or vocational program that helps them achieve the career path they have chosen in life. Rob holds this goal very close to his heart. "I want this to be a community where every kid is prepared to achieve what they want to accomplish and be able to do it here," Rob remarked.

To Rob, Mansfield 2020 is all about giving tools to community leaders who aspire to do great things, while also giving them the opportunity to succeed. What if they should bypass the vision? "That's even better," he said. "That's the greatest compliment. It's my hope that Mansfield attracts and nurtures such talented future leaders that they in turn achieve things we cannot possibly imagine."

But don't think Vision of Mansfield 2020 is the main priority in Rob's life. As he talks about his children and his wife, his eyes light up. The dry erase board in his office is evidence that his family is very close and supportive of one another. The words, "I love you Daddy! Gretchen," had been drawn there by his daughter for all to see. Once again, Rob reiterates his desire — making an impact on the community has more to do with providing a legacy for his family than anything else. "It's just the right thing to do." NOW



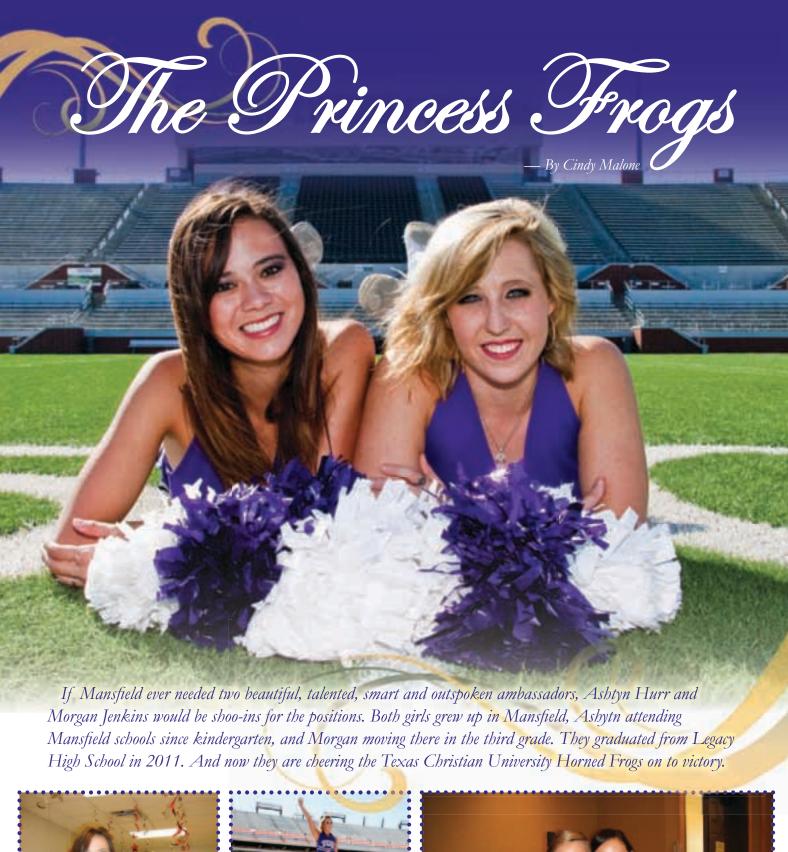
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Ashtyn described herself as a "hard-core" gymnast, having participated in gymnastics from the time she was 2. She worked out at Arlington Academy until she started competitive cheerleading at the Spirit of Texas gym. She began cheering at school in the seventh grade and never looked back.

Morgan, on the other hand, participated in PeeWee cheerleading, but did not really get into cheering until high school. Morgan described herself as an all-around athlete, who loves to play almost all sports.

Morgan and Ashtyn met at Legacy's cheerleader tryouts the summer before their freshman year. They agreed, "We were both nervous coming in as freshman. We immediately were drawn to one another, and we could tell we would one day be best friends."

Both girls agree that family is the most important force propelling them in life. They belong to First Baptist Church, where they are active in youth ministry. Morgan credits her mom, Liz, with being her biggest fan, and her dad, Steve, as the one who lifted her up and made her laugh. "I am Daddy's girl and Mommy's best friend," she said while smiling.

Ashtyn praises her step-mom, Lindsey, for being a motivational force and her cheer and life coach. Lindsey attended every one of Ashtyn's games and was always ready with encouragement, praise and constructive criticism. Although Ashtyn's dad, Randy, didn't always get the whole cheerleading thing, he always found a way to be supportive of her in everything she did.

The girls absolutely loved their high school years at Legacy. Almost in unison the girls gushed, "We are obsessed with teachers. We love them!"

"Legacy is like a big family — the atmosphere, the students and especially the teachers," Ashtyn explained. As for favorites, there are too many to mention. Ashtyn and Morgan agreed that Cassidy Lakota and Julie Gross were their favorite coaches during high school.

"Both of these girls are so incredibly talented, but more importantly, they both have hearts of gold," Coach Lakota stated. "They have left a mark on my heart, and I hope they know they've made an impact in my life as much I have in theirs, if not more." At Legacy High













School, while Ashtyn honed her skills as a cheerleader, and Morgan also played basketball and ran track, both decided that cheerleading in college was a very real and attainable dream.

Both of these bright, family-oriented girls feel it is important to carry the "family" feeling they have loved so much in Mansfield into their college years. Where better than Texas Christian University (TCU) in Fort Worth? When asked why they chose TCU, in unison they answered, "Why not TCU?" More specifically, Ashtyn said her step-mom went to TCU. The classes are small, and the campus has a really "homey" feeling. Then, laughing they admitted, "And we love purple!" Both girls ooze more school pride then most seniors, and yet they are only halfway through into their freshman year.

College cheerleading tryouts were more daunting than the girls had expected. They had to learn the fight song for TCU (which they both started singing), as well as four cadences, two cheers, tumbling and stunting. Over 80 girls were at the tryouts. Only 35 girls were selected to represent TCU as cheerleaders. The girls had each other to lean on in case one was disappointed. Neither needed it, as they were both selected to the incoming class of TCU Horned Frog cheerleaders!

Like most college freshman, the questions about the future drew crinkled eyebrows and sideways glances. Ashtyn is majoring in business and psychology. She is thinking about becoming a





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counselor or maybe a lawyer, or maybe she will join the Peace Corps until she figures it all out. But she won't be alone in the Peace Corps, since Morgan has similar aspirations. Morgan is majoring in secondary education, but feels moved to spend some time as a missionary. After her work, maybe in the Peace Corps, maybe doing mission work through her church, she wants to teach high school history and be a coach.

Of course, before they can achieve those lofty and admiral goals, the girls have to survive college. Each will have the help of a separate sorority. Ashtyn is a Delta Gamma, the same as her stepmother. Morgan is a member of Zeta Tau Alpha. Why different sororities for two girls who have been inseparable for more than four years? "We live together, cheer together, train together," Morgan explained. "We need some time apart so we have something to talk about."

"We need to be apart sometimes. It's healthy, and we don't get on each other's nerves that way," Ashtyn maturely reiterated.

They are both taking a full load of classes and cheering. They work out Mondays and Wednesdays by conditioning, running bleachers and practicing their cheers. On Tuesdays and Thursdays they meet with the trainers for cardio and circuit training. Friday through Sunday they cheer. Although they cheer for all sports, their favorite is football.

Finding time to study and missing some of their sorority functions are on top of the list of their least favorite









things about being a cheerleader. But the positives more than outweigh the negatives. "There are only 35 cheerleaders out of 9,000 students at TCU," Ashtyn said. "We're unique and have a chance to do something not everyone can do."

"I like doing the appearances and having little girls look up to me," Morgan mentioned. She takes being a role model seriously and hopes to be a positive influence. Cheerleading has its perks, too. The girls have met Dallas Mavericks' owner, Mark Cuban; country singer/songwriter, Pat Green; and Tim Halperin, a TCU grad and *American Idol* star (Season 10), while filming a routine that will be featured during halftime of a future Dallas Cowboys game.

If she could give advice or encouragement to little girls who want to follow her path, Ashtyn said, "Give everything you do your absolute all. Be hard-core. Whatever it is — be awesome."

Morgan added some practical advice. "Try everything (Parents, let your kids try everything), don't limit yourself. Try everything and then decide where your heart lies."

When they graduate in four years, they will return to Mansfield. "I love Mansfield," Morgan said. "I love the city, the family feeling, the school district, everything!"

Ashtyn seconded those sentiments, adding "Tell them all we said 'Hi!" NOW



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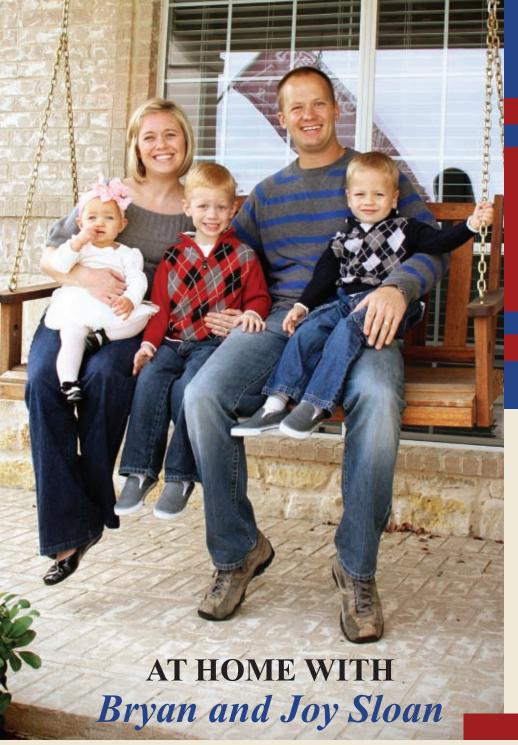
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Waving F Front i Swind

By Carolyn Wills

A traditional, two-story home was built in one of Mansfield's stylish communities in 2006. With upgrades and lovely touches, its grayish-white brick exterior, corner location and proximity to the neighborhood's park and swimming pool, the home was ideal for a growing family. As Bryan and Joy Sloan searched for a home

in Mansfield about a year and a half ago, the two-story house on the corner was on the market, available and more than ready to welcome their young family.

"Finding it was a miracle," Bryan said. "We sold our house in Arlington in less than two months and, thankfully, were able to purchase the house in Mansfield quickly. The day we closed was one day before the national tax credit program

ended. It was such a blessing."

Bryan and Joy know a lot about blessings. Joy was born in Rockport, New York, and by the time she reached the seventh grade, her family had settled in Arlington. "We moved a lot because of my dad's business," she said. "I graduated from Arlington High School, and that's where Bryan and I met and started dating when we were 16."

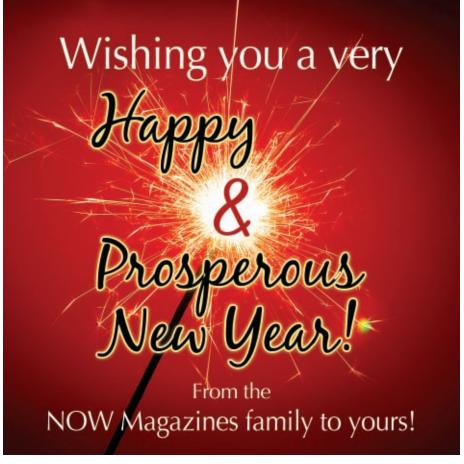
Bryan grew up in Arlington, often working part time for his father's construction company. "After graduation,



From the Poych









I enrolled at Texas A&M University and majored in zoology," he said. "Toward the end of high school, I had become sincere about my faith, and in the second year of college, I went on a retreat that changed my life. I returned to school and changed my major to biology so that I could graduate early and go to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth." He began his church career as a youth pastor at Lamar Baptist Church in North Arlington where

he served for 10 years.

Bryan and Joy are a warm, dynamic couple with faith and family at the center of their lives. They have been married for eight-and-a-half years and have three children. The boys, Tucker and Jaxson, are ages 5 and 3, and their sister, Avery, is 1 year old.

About two years ago, Bryan felt called to start a congregation in Mansfield. "Church planting is some of the greatest missionary work being done in America and, really, in the world," he explained. "A small church is an opportunity to engage directly with people who might never step into a big church. Mansfield is a growing area and close to our families, so Joy and I wanted to start here."

The grayish-white, brick home on the corner could not have been more suited for the new congregation or the family. The 2,600-square-foot layout is large enough to accommodate a small meeting and spacious enough to entertain two energetic boys, a young daughter, a well-mannered family dog and two parents. Downstairs, the open concept includes a living room/den area,

breakfast room and kitchen. The living room/den features a large, wood-mantled, gas fireplace topped with a mounted 50-inch, flat-screen TV that came with the house.

The stunning kitchen is complete with shiny granite countertops. "I was so excited to have an island in the kitchen,"



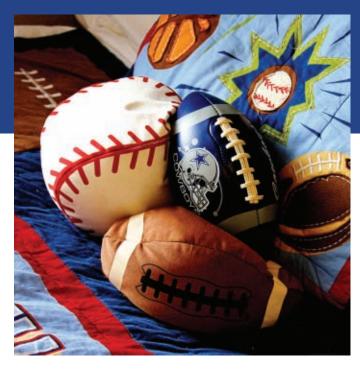








"I love having the kids with me while we're mixing, cooking and making messes."







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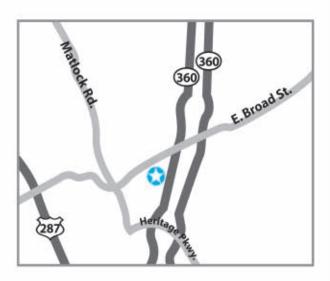
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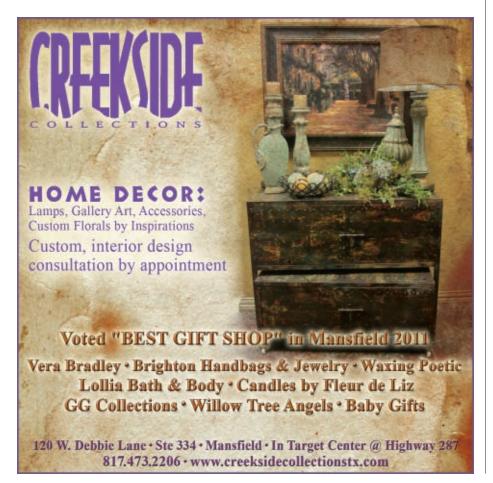
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Joy smiled. "I love having the kids with me while we're mixing, cooking and making messes." Downstairs, the flooring is predominantly large, light-brown ceramic tile, and the walls are either painted or treated in a warm, mocha brown with bright white trim. Beyond the living room/den area toward the front of the house is a formal dining room, master suite and Bryan's office. At the center of the downstairs is an elegant, wood-railed staircase leading to the kids' bedrooms and a huge playroom on the second floor. "Our favorite room is the living room/ den," Bryan said. "Being together as a family is very important to us. We eat at the table for every meal, so the breakfast area is a favorite, too."

If the house had not been built in 2006, long before Bryan and Joy saw it, it would be easy to believe it had been custom-built for them. Upgrades like crown molding, wall treatments, granite countertops, wood railings, a giant laundry room, attached garage and walk-in closets are as stylish as the family is. "We had to work on the playroom," Joy laughed. "It had been a media room and was painted dark purple with black trim and dark windows. After we opened the windows and painted, Bryan built a white, wall-to-wall unit to hold a TV and the kids' games and toys. Now we have family movie nights up there and have a great time."

Other than remodeling the playroom and adding a soft area rug in the living room/den for the kids, Joy managed to decorate the new home with what the family already had. "I don't think we

bought one decoration for the house," Bryan said. "Maybe a pillow, but for the most part, Joy made everything work from our old house." Besides being a decorator, wife and mother, Joy graduated from the Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas and works one day a week as a dental hygienist in Arlington.

When he arrived at the Mansfield home, the sixth member of the Sloan family was pleased to find a good sized, fenced-in backyard. "Remington is our pound puppy," Joy said. "We think he's part Beagle and Red Heeler and may be 7-years-old. He shakes hands and puts up with the kids pulling his ears and crawling all over him." Whether it's caused by or an effect of being part of the Sloan family, 'Remy' is extraordinarily happy, calm and polite.

"Another thing we love about the home is the covered patio in the backyard," Bryan added. "When we moved in, it was in disrepair, and my dad completely rebuilt and recovered it as a Christmas gift. It's almost like an extra room with a grill and the fire pit my sister gave us."



Last Easter, an opportunity arose for the new Mansfield congregation to begin meeting at the YMCA on Cooper Street. "It's the perfect situation," Bryan said. "We like sharing with partners, and our goal is not to have our own facility. We had to raise financial support to be able to do this. We were blessed by the Southern Baptist Convention, and our goal is to be able to help others plant churches."

Meanwhile, the gravish-white, brick house on the corner now has a wooden swing hanging from the front porch ceiling. What better way to love your neighbors than with a wave from a front-porch swing? **NOW**







— By Julie B. Cosgrove

When you walk into Debby
Rake's home, you cannot help but
notice the quilts on her walls. Each
is different in theme and color, as
well as in the stitchery and the use
of fabrics. They're each her creations
from start to finish. She doesn't use

kits. Each quilt comes alive in her choice of colors, fabric patterns and stitches, because Debby is not only a highly experienced quilter, she also has a master's degree in quilting history. Actually, that is where her story begins.

About 20 years ago, Debby discovered quilting. "I was living in Iowa with my husband. He was in a terrible accident, and I needed something to occupy my mind for therapy," she stated. "I saw an article on quilting in a magazine. I immediately was attracted to the colors."

Debby began taking quilting classes and was quickly hooked on the craft. "I quilt when I should be dusting," she



shrugged. Then, in 1998, she learned the University of Nebraska, an hour and 45 minute commute away from her hometown, was starting a master's program in quilting. "Their museum houses the most extensive collection of quilts in the world. People learn of their reputation and donate their collections to it. There are now over 2,000 quilts in the museum."

Debby's eyes grew wide with excitement. "I was blessed to live close by. World-renowned quilt experts flock there." She studied with the best, such as the renowned quilt historian, Merikay Waldvogel. "Working with her was like a young doctor working with Jonas Salk [who invented the polio vaccine]."

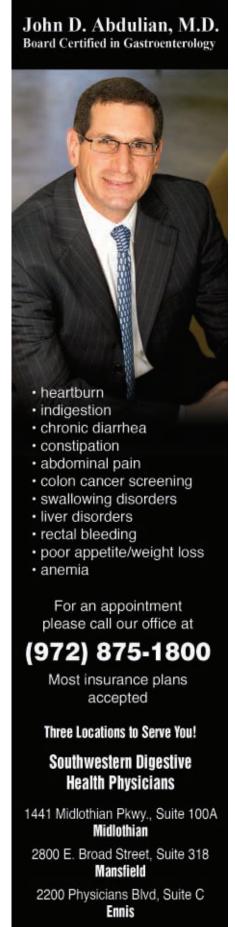
She decided to get her master's degree in quilting history. "I was older than the other students. In fact, I was older than the professors," she laughed.

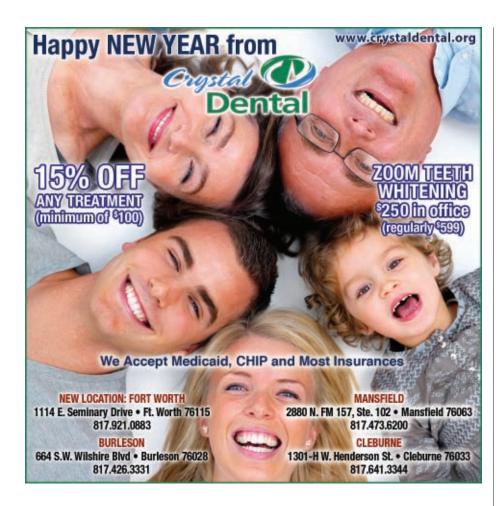
For her thesis, she curated a show featuring American quilts from the 1930s through the 1950s. "Quilting is a true American art form. Many countries quilt, but here in the U.S. we have turned it into art, not just clothes padding or a bedcover." Now she says, other countries are learning from the American experience and quilting for art as well.

According to Debby, quilting as art is a fairly new concept. "In 1972, quilts were first introduced in New York as wall art. Thus began the renaissance of

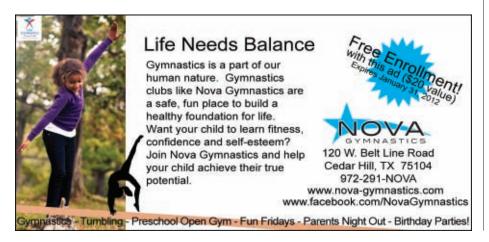














quilting." Debby believes it was due to women becoming noticed for what they contributed to society and the value of their work. "It really caught on in the 1980s as a way for women to express themselves and be recognized for their artistic talents. We are now, I think, in the golden age of quilting."

The fascinating thing about quilting is the variety. Whether women stitch by hand in blocks of fabric patterns as their great-grandmothers did or create freehand abstract as Debby does, they are all quilters, and thus artists. "It's a creative outlet whether you're following a pattern or doing your own thing. Choosing your colors and fabrics is a creative process. A quilt is not just something I make, it's something creative that I make." Debby enjoys teaching others to quilt almost as much as doing them herself. "It usually doesn't take long before they become an addict, too."



Quilting not only helped her cope with her husband's accident and recovery, it prepared her for another challenge. "We first followed the rules. Supposedly when you retire, you are to move to south Florida. So we did." Then, in 2008 they moved to Texas to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Lucy Rake, who had recently given birth to granddaughter, Sofia. Sofia, who is now 4, has since been diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). "They say she has a mild case, but I say she has a heartbreaking case," Debby said as her eyes teared.

Debby began creating Sofia's quilt, which later won first place in the art quilt category at the Arlington Quilt Guild Show held annually on Mother's Day weekend at the Bob Duncan Center. The happy quilt stitched in bright pink patterns with bows and buttons is Debby's expression of her joy and love for her special grandchild. "I wanted to affirm that she is a joy and beautiful." Along the bottom are tiny block letter beads organized in loving sayings such as "Talk to me, Sofia" and "Grandma loves you."

This special lady also gives back to her community through quilting. She is on her church's quilting guild, which makes them for the Samaritan House. "The quilts go to families who are adversely affected by HIV/AIDS." Debby explained there









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are many charitable organizations where quilters can donate their handicraft. "But, I called Samaritan House, and no one was making any quilts for them. I said we'd do lap quilts," she explained. "They can be simple to make. It gives everyone a sense they have done something worthwhile, even if they're just learning."

There are many techniques Debby employs. One is called echo stitching, which outlines the fabric patterns in a rippled effect. She also has experimented with cheesecloth to add texture and interest. Most of her stitching is done on the sewing machine, using no other adhesive than threads to hold her



intricately layered pieces together. She does hand-stitched beading to add depth to some of her works, as she did on Sofia's quilt.

Quilts are very unique. "Everyone has a quilt story. Most likely they remember a special quilt." Debby suggests if anyone has an heirloom quilt to do two things. The first is to document it. "Write down everything you know about it. Who made it? Who slept under it? Then, make a miniature fabric pillow case and stitch it to the back of the quilt. Slip that paper inside so everyone will be able to know for generations to come." The second thing is to never, ever wash an antique quilt. "Xenia Cord, a noted quilt historian and collector says, If you feel like washing an old quilt, lie down. The feeling will pass," Debby added.

One look at Debby's glow and you know the quilting feeling will not pass from her anytime soon. Those who receive her quilts or just appreciate their beauty when they see them hanging on the wall are glad she's a quilt addict for life. And, little Sofia has not only an heirloom, but something greater — the tangible, creative expression of her grandmother's love.

















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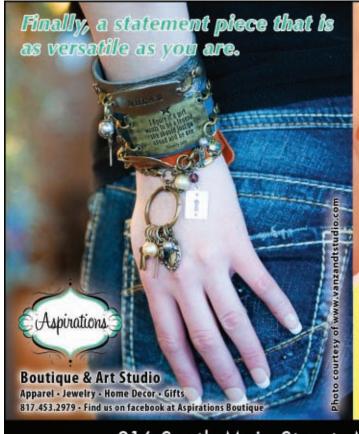
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Lixting Others Up

Thousands of adults from all over Mansfield – doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, bankers, managers, mechanics and everyone in between - know Pam Rudnicki as Mrs. Rudnicki, their teacher and friend. She worked for Mansfield Independent School District (MISD) for 25 years, eventually landing in administration, where she impacted the education of every single student in the district. Now, she is impacting the lives of even more people.

Pam retired from education nine years ago and immediately began searching for ways to continue her service to the community. "I wanted to meet people outside of education, form new relationships and seek out a deeper spiritual life," she said. For her creativity, she found an outlet at the Mansfield Activities Center, taking painting classes. Others find her work surprisingly good.

She also found the Wesley Mission Center, part of First United Methodist Church of Mansfield, and there, she began her volunteer work. Five years ago, after joining the Mansfield Women's Club (MWC), Pam began recruiting others in the community to volunteer. "Most patients and visitors don't realize they are being helped by volunteers. They work at the gift shop, help give directions, answer the phones and work at the information center. They do whatever is necessary," Pam explained.

The Mansfield Women's Club is a group dedicated to helping the community, with





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an emphasis on helping young women grow to realize their dreams. "When I joined the MWC," Pam remembered, "a whole new world of opportunities unfolded before me,"

Among other things, the MWC offers scholarships and runs fundraisers for community projects. While working for the MWC, Pam recalled something she heard during a staff development meeting while working in MISD. She had been told, "There are three steps to making a difference. First, your mind must envision it. Second, your heart has to be open to it. And third, your hands have to commit to the service." Although Pam had been very active helping to collect and donate money to those in need, she realized the step she was missing was actual service.

"Retirement has offered me the opportunity to reflect on what is most important to me," Pam said, "And I realized the generosity and giving was important, but I also needed to physically do something." So Pam made a proposition to the Women's Club, headed up a steering committee and formed Caring Hands this year. "Our purpose







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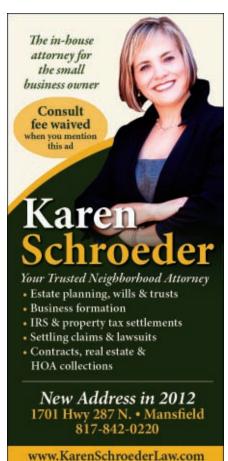
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is to connect to the community. Giving charitable donations is great, but the fruition of that giving, the actual service, is important, too."

The inspiration for forming Caring Hands came from two places. First was Pam's mother. She was diagnosed with polio at age 40 with five children. Later, while living alone, she qualified for a food delivery service. Although she was very thankful for the food, she told Pam, "When they bring my food in, they sit and talk to me. They visit me, care about me and ask about me. It is the bright spot of my week." Pam was touched that



something so simple could make such a large difference in her mother's life.

The second inspiration came after Hurricane Katrina ravaged Pam's home area of south Louisiana. "I had family 500 miles away that I could not help. It was heartbreaking." Pam recalled. "A call came in to the Women's Club [asking if] the church could be used as a staging area for misplaced families. It only took 15 minutes to have 30 ladies lined up and ready. I could not believe how many people were just waiting for the opportunity to be of service to others."

Caring Hands is dedicated to facilitating volunteer opportunities and matching them to those who feel passionate about it. The steering committee meets to plan activities and then opens that activity to all who want to come. Pam pointed out, "Some people are timid,

afraid to try things, even good things. But in a group, we can be emboldened to try new things." The idea is not to tell people what to do and when to do it, but to allow them the opportunity to experience something and if it touches their heart, then they can move forward with it as they see fit.

The steering committee for Caring Hands has scheduled five events, the first of which they have completed. The group went to the airport to greet the soldiers as they arrived home. "It was a moving experience for all involved," Pam said, "We had a great turnout and



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everyone was reflective on the way home." Pam's vision was realized.

On the way back home, a couple made plans to take their grandchildren to greet the soldiers the next week. Then the group began to brainstorm what could be done with the information and feelings they gained from the experience. Some ideas were to find fallen soldiers from the area and start college funds for their children. They also thought they could make sure that all children of deployed soldiers from the area had adequate childcare. "I was so happy and proud. This is exactly what we had pictured," Pam smiled. "People taking one small experience and letting their hearts lead the way to more meaningful experiences."

Because Caring Hands is run by volunteers doing volunteer work, they have freedom to work with whomever, whenever, they choose. They decided in a steering committee meeting to have a Valentine's Day party in 2012 at a local nursing home, not only to bring food, but arts and crafts, and more importantly, fellowship to the residents. It was brought to their attention that The Plaza at Mansfield nursing home does not regularly have charity and visitors. And, since the mission of the organization is to go where they are needed and can do the most good, The Plaza Nursing Home will be the host of the first annual Helping Hands Valentine's Day party.

Thanks to the philanthropy committee, Caring Hands has scheduled two activities besides the Valentine's Day party. They will be taking a meal to those working on a home for Habitat for Humanity and helping to pack backpacks for Common Ground, a network of non-profit organizations. This network is comprised of representatives from churches and other assistance agencies in the great Mansfield area. Caring Hands hopes to present the philanthropy committee with six activities for funding next year.

Pam's goal is simple. She wants, "everyone to be touched enough by something to do good in the world. Giving money is wonderful, but for me, I needed step three, doing the actual service. I needed to take my head and heart and move my hands. The opportunities are countless for actual physical service, to have helping, caring hands."



From left to right: Ellen Parrill, M.D., Baron Atkins, M.D., Erin T. Steidl, D.O., John Paul Wood, Jr., M.D., R. Stephen Krombach, M.D., Keryn Dias, M.D., Mary Finke, M.D., John Jeffers, M.D., Martin W, Fielder, M.D., Nafalie K, Moore, M.D., Byron Kallam, M.D. and Russell Dickey, M.D.

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Dr. Bishara has built a successful practice in cosmetic and reconstructive surgery at The Paragon Med Spa.

Following the Family Footsteps

Dr. Mark Bishara works to define the differences in cosmetic and reconstructive surgeries. — By Sandra Strong

Mark Bishara, M.D. holds his father in high esteem. He has great pride in what his father accomplished in the field of pediatrics. "My father, Munir F. Bishara, M.D., was a pediatric physician specializing in pediatric infectious diseases in Lancaster for 45 years," Mark said. "That's the legacy he left behind when he retired – name recognition in the area."

In fact, the Bishara name is well-known all over the United States. "Almost all the family has gone on to a career in the medical field," Mark said, citing a cousin who has a dental practice in Lancaster as one of many examples. Only his brother, Roger, chose a totally different path. "He's a lawyer," Mark said with a smile.

Although Mark's heritage is found in Syria, his roots are planted deep in the areas surrounding Mansfield. After graduating from high school, Mark ventured off to college to pursue studies in the field of orthopedics — until he took a medical mission trip to Mexico. That trip changed his life in more ways than one. "I saw so many children with facial disfigurements," he said, adding that corrective procedures for a cleft palate were many on this trip. "I came home knowing I wanted to be a plastic surgeon."

Dr. Mark Bishara earned his bachelor's degree in biomedical science at Texas A&M University in College Station. He then studied basic medical sciences and worked in multi-specialty charity clinics in underserved areas of Latin America before returning to the United States for two additional years of clinical training at New York Medical College.

He completed a five-year residency in general surgery at

Business NOW

Morristown Memorial Hospital, which has close ties to the prestigious Mount Sinai Medical School in Manhattan, New York. During this period, Dr. Bishara founded the American Plastic and Reconstructive Research Association. "This was an industrial think tank for novel concepts and respective clinical applications in plastic surgery," he explained.

His educational résumé continued with a fellowship appointment in aesthetic and reconstructive plastic surgery at Harvard Medical School at the world-renowned Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, Massachusetts. He holds memberships with the American College of Surgeons, the American Academy

"I'm always working to define the difference."

of Cosmetic Surgery, the Dallas County Medical Society and the Texas Medical Association. Dr. Bishara is licensed to practice in Texas, Florida, Massachusetts and New Jersey.

With credentials like this, it's no wonder Dr. Bishara is finding success in his practice at The Paragon Med Spa. He performs many procedures from breast augmentation and liposuction to Botox and chemical peels. But as one of only two or three providers in the North Texas area, Dr. Bishara is finding an even greater success for his patients in what's known in the medical field as FUE (Follicular Unit Extraction). "FUE is a method of obtaining donor hair for transplant on the scalp and the eyebrows," Dr. Bishara explained. "There are so many advantages to FUE, with the main one being the absence of a traditional scar in the back of the head."

Differences in cosmetic procedures and reconstructive surgery are vast, and Dr. Bishara fully understands these differences. "The more I study the two approaches, the more the differences tend to blur," he said. "I'm always working to define the difference."









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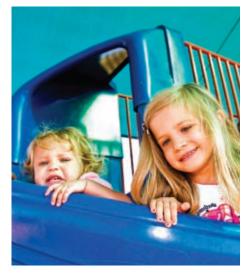


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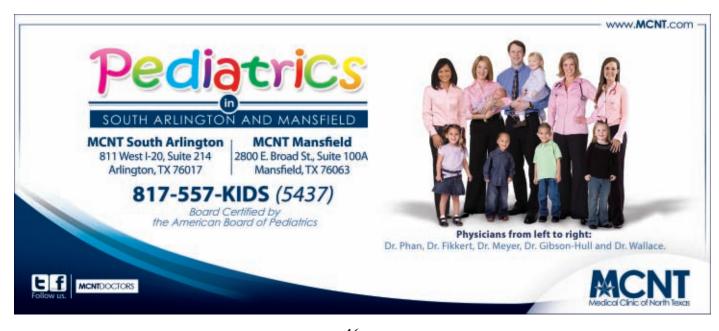
Taya Schram and Rebecca Dunn of the Mansfield Area Fiber Inspired Artisans.



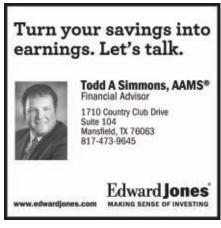
and her granddaughter, Ellie.



Linda Williamson, of Canada, visits with her son, Todd Williamson, Grace Frederick and Alyssia Donaldson of the Mansfield Area Fiber Inspired Artisans enjoy sharing some time for creativity.











A Healthy Beginning

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

You are going to have a baby! That wonderful news is quickly followed by a realization of the responsibility that now rests upon you. Now, it's mostly up to you to provide your baby with the proper nutrients and the best possible environment in which to grow. Assessing your prenatal options as early as possible will give your baby the best chance possible.

One of your most important initial decisions will be choosing your prenatal care provider. Here are some of the areas to consider:

- Although your insurance may restrict your choices, you can check licensing and references.
- 2. Are the provider and staff respectful and courteous?
- 3. Do you know and feel at ease with the person who covers for your provider?
- 4. Does your provider listen to your concerns and communicate with you effectively?

Several responsible options for care are available. You can choose a midwife if you have a healthy pregnancy and choose home delivery. If you want someone more specialized, a certified nurse midwife is a registered nurse, who works with a doctor. For a physician-assisted delivery, you may prefer your family care physician or an obstetrician. For very complicated pregnancies, a highly specialized physician such as a perinatologist may be necessary. Do your research and make sure you are comfortable with your decision. Of course, if you have a high-risk pregnancy, your options will be limited because of the

need of a facility that has the resources, staff and equipment to give you and your baby the best possible care.

Prenatal care is crucial to your health. Your health care provider can spot complications and intervene if a problem arises. The frequency of appointments will depend upon your trimester, level of health and condition of the baby. Hopefully, your lifestyle before pregnancy was a healthy one. If so, you are well on your way to delivering a healthy baby. Take extra special care of yourself. Take your vitamins as ordered by your prenatal care provider. Eat plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables. Hydrating yourself properly during pregnancy is very important. A few of the benefits of hydration are:

- 1. Water helps to transport nutrients through the blood to the baby.
- 2. Water relieves constipation.
- 3. Water helps to prevent urinary tract infections, which can be common in pregnancy.

By following guidelines from your provider regarding exercise during pregnancy, you can improve muscle tone, have more energy and help manage your weight. While it takes a great deal of effort to maintain a healthy pregnancy, the end result is worth it — a healthier baby and mom.

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



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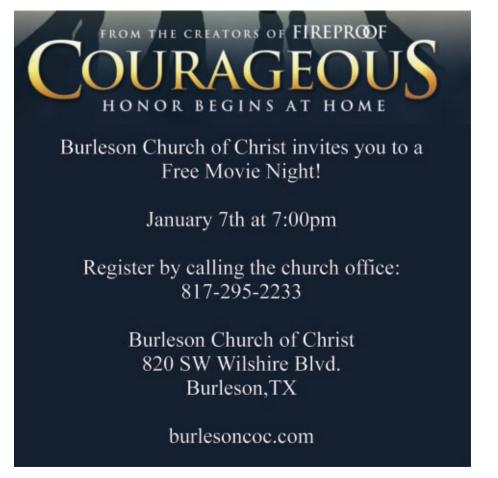
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Five Good Reasons to Create an Investment Strategy

— By Todd Simmons

Some people buy investments here and there, now and then. Others open an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), put some money in it and then forget about it. But this type of haphazard investment behavior can lead to haphazard results. On the other hand, you've got five good reasons for creating and following a comprehensive, long-term investment strategy.

• Reason No. 1:

You want to enjoy a comfortable retirement lifestyle. For most people, building resources for retirement is the most powerful reason to invest. As a key part of your investment strategy, you'll want to consider investments that have growth potential. The proportion of your portfolio devoted to these growth investments should be based on your individual risk tolerance and time horizon. And, as you move much closer to your actual retirement date, you may decide to shift some — but certainly not all — of your portfolio from growth-oriented vehicles to those investments that can provide a reliable income stream and incur less volatility.

• Reason No. 2:

You need to stay ahead of inflation. Over the past few years, we've experienced relatively low inflation, but over time, even a low inflation rate can dramatically erode the value of your savings and investments. That's why you may want to consider investments that provide the potential for rising income.

• Reason No. 3:

You need to help manage the unexpected. You can't predict what life will hold in store for you. To cope with unexpected costs, such as a major car repair or a new furnace, you'll need to create an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses so that you won't be forced to dip into your long-term investments. And to deal with other major uncertainties of life, you'll need adequate life and disability insurance.

• Reason No. 4:

You need resources for major life events. Your retirement may eventually require the bulk of your financial resources — but it's not the only milestone for which you'll need to save and invest. You may need a down payment on a house, or you may someday even want to purchase a vacation home. And if you have children or grandchildren, you may want to help them pay for college.

• Reason No. 5:

You'll want to keep in mind investment-related taxes. Taxes, like inflation, can eat into your investment returns. You'll need to evaluate whether you can benefit from tax-advantaged investments and retirement accounts, such as traditional or Roth IRAs.

So there you have it: five good reasons to adhere to a unified investment strategy that's tailored to your situation. This type of "blueprint" may not sound glamorous, and it's certainly not a "get rich quick" formula, but it will help you stay on track toward your important financial goals.

Todd Simmons is an Edward Jones representative based in Mansfield.



Ianuary 1-13

Christmas tree recycling. Trees can be placed in the empty corner lot located at 501 S. 2nd Ave. The collection site will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. For more information, call Arianne Shipley at (817) 276-4297 or e-mail arianne.shipley@mansfield-tx.gov.

January 2

Mansfield ISD classes resume. Call Julie Moye at (817) 299-6382 for more information.

January 8

Elvis Gospel Show: 3:30 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 North Main Street. Celebrate Elvis' birthday with an hour-long gospel concert by Elvis tribute artist, David Allen. Visit www.farrbest.com for more information or to purchase tickets, or call (817) 453-1700.

January 9

Metro Beekeepers Meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., AA China Buffet, 1054 S.W. Wilshire Blvd., Burleson. Novice and expert beekeepers in Texas will enjoy learning from each other at Metro Beekeepers meetings. Jason Smith will talk about how to make and use homemade bee fondant and candy boards. Equipment all beginner beekeepers need to get started will be on view. Contact Stan Key at (682) 459-1737 or stankey.texas@gmail.com, or visit www.metrobeekeepers.net.

January 10

Registration ends at midnight for 16-week and first 8-week spring courses at Southeast Campus of Tarrant County College. Visit www.tccd.edu/Getting_Started.html for information on admissions and registration.

January 12

Wesley Mission Center budgeting class: 6:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 777 N. Walnut Creek Dr. Learn more about basic budgeting, saving and investment strategies. This class is led by a representative from Texas Trust Credit Union. Contact Paulette Uzee at (817) 473-6650, ext. 203 or Pauletteu@firstmethodistmansfield.org.

January 21

Men's Breakfast: 7:00-8:30 a.m., in The Link at Mansfield Bible Church, 2351 Country Club Drive. Come eat a hearty breakfast and hear a message geared for men that will help you grow spiritually. There is no charge for this event. To learn more about the ministries of

MBC or to watch the 11:00 a.m. service live on Sunday, go to www.mbcchurch.com or call (817) 473-8980.

January 24

Mansfield ISD School Board meeting: 7:00 p.m., 605 E. Broad Street. See agenda at http://mansfieldpublic.novusagenda.com. Call Julie Moye at (817) 299-6382 for more information.

January 28

Winter Walk: 10:00 a.m. Walk begins at Katherine Rose Memorial Park. Walk also features fitness celebration, health fair, snacks, drinks and children's entertainment. Contact the MAC at (817) 453-5420 for more information.

Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet: 6:00 p.m., Aristide Event and Conference Center, 570 N. Walnut Creek Dr. Call (817) 473-0507 or visit www. mansfieldchamber.org/AwardsBanquet.asp for more information.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to jeremy.agor@nowmagazines.com.





In The Kitchen With Kelli and Todd Taylor

— By Sandra Strong

Kelli and Todd Taylor enjoy cooking big meals for family and friends. When they see a recipe they like, they make it their own with little changes. "We will remove ingredients we don't like and add items we do like. We cook to taste," Todd said. "We think everything tastes better with a little Tony Chachere's Original Cajun Seasoning."

Todd likes to cook grilled chicken, while Kelli finds pleasure in preparing appetizers and side dishes. They both learned how to cook by watching their parents and grandparents. "I would rather read a cookbook than any other book," Kelli admitted. "I really like cookbooks that have recipes my grandmother made in them." The couple's four children are all showing an interest in learning to cook the same way — by watching.

Macaroni and Cheese

16 oz. pkg. elbow pasta
4 Tbsp. butter
16 oz. Velveeta cheese, cubed
1 1/2 to 2 cups milk
2 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
Garlic, salt, pepper and Tony Chachere's
Original Cajun Seasoning, to taste

- **I.** Boil pasta according to package directions.
- **2.** Melt butter and Velveeta in saucepan, gradually adding milk to melting cheese.
- **3.** Add cheddar cheese; then add pasta to the cheese mixture. Season to taste.

Smoked Salsa

4-5 Roma tomatoes 1/2 large yellow onion 2 jalapeños

I bunch cilantro I Tbsp. minced garlic Salt, to taste Juice from I lime

- **I.** Place tomatoes, onion and jalapeños in a grilling basket. Place basket in smoker for 30 minutes to 1 hour.
- **2.** Chop smoked vegetables and cilantro in food processor. Add minced garlic and salt to taste.
- **3.** Add lime juice. Best when served with tortilla chips.

Todd's Pinto Beans

2 lbs. dry pinto beans
1 onion, chopped
6 slices bacon
1-2 jalapeños, seeded and cut in half lengthwise
2 Tbsp. chili powder

2 beef bouillon cubes 1 tsp. garlic powder 1/2 bunch of cilantro Salt and pepper, to taste

- **1.** Wash beans. Place in 6-quart pan; cover with water. Bring beans to a boil; cover and boil rapidly for 5 minutes.
- **2.** Remove from heat; set aside for 1 hour. Beans will have absorbed most of the water.
- **3.** Put back over medium heat. Add water to cover and remaining ingredients except cilantro, salt and pepper.
- **4.** Cook at least 2 to 3 hours adding cilantro, salt and pepper to taste shortly before serving.

Pork Shoulder

10 lbs. pork shoulder Dry pork rub Barbecue sauce, to taste Sandwich buns

- **I.** Rub meat completely with dry rub. Refrigerate for 2-4 hours.
- **2.** Place meat in smoker box. Bring smoker to 215 F using hickory wood. Cook for 1 hour per pound maintaining constant temperature.
- **3.** Wrap tightly in foil last half of cooking time, internal temperature should be 170 F.
- **4.** Remove from grill and let rest for 10 minutes. Take two forks and pull meat apart.
- **5.** Add barbecue sauce to taste. Place pulled pork on sandwich buns and enjoy.

Stuffed Jalapeños

20 jalapeños I Tbsp. garlic powder I tsp. Tony Chachere's Original Cajun Seasoning 8 oz. cream cheese, softened

I lb. bacon, cut in half

- 1. Cut tops off jalapeños and hollow out.
- **2.** Mix seasonings with cream cheese. Stuff the peppers with cream cheese.
- **3.** Wrap peppers in bacon and secure with a toothpick.
- **4.** Place peppers upright in a pepper cooker. Grill over direct heat for 20-30 minutes or until bacon is done.

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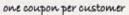
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