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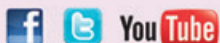
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ON THE COVER



Abby Wilson takes her Golden Retriever, Duke, to nursing homes and schools as part of Pet Partners.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Editor's Note

Happy New Year!

People tend to look at the New Year as a clean slate — 12 full months of possibilities, a fresh chance to accomplish goals or follow dreams. What are your hopes for this year? Are you planning to lose the extra pounds gained while enjoying holiday goodies? If so, you might want to participate in the 7th Annual Winter Walk on January 26. More details about this healthy activity can be found on our community calendar. If you are like me, organizing your closets and storage areas are on this year's to-do list. But organizing the environment around me isn't the most important thing on my list — the people in my life are. My biggest goal for this year is spending more time with the people I love. What tops your list?

Here's to the clean slate — fill it with good things, Mansfield!

Becky

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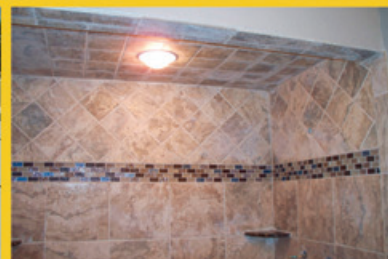


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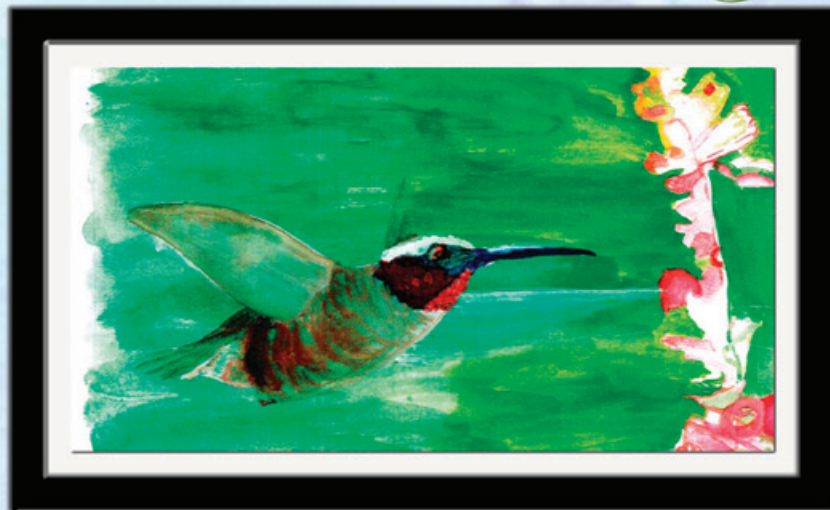


Duke, Winston and Max know how to light up a room. They've really never met a stranger, and everyone loves them. They seem to bless everyone who gets to spend even the smallest amount of time with them. Although their language is difficult to understand, they always seem to know how to lift the spirits of others. In spite of all the love they give and receive from people of all ages, this trio is not human. Duke, Winston and Max are furry, four-legged canines.

These dogs are registered with Pet Partners. Pet Partners is an organization made up of volunteers who come with their trained pets to a variety of places to help with a myriad of tasks, most of which boost morale and brighten the lives of the people with whom they come in contact. Needless to say, talking to a dog and expecting an understandable answer is impossible. That was not the case when talking with the dogs' owners.

Pat Jolley retired after a long career at Texas Christian University and like most retirees, did not want to spend her time just sitting at home. She almost immediately began looking for something to do. Her neighbor, Abby Wilson, was already involved in Pet Partners, and Pat decided that could be her niche also. "I went looking for a Greyhound dog and rescued Winston," Pat said. "After two sessions of obedience school,

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where Winston earned a Canine Good Citizenship Award, he was ready to go."

Pat and Winston make seven visits a month, most visits last about an hour. Visiting locations include the Mansfield Nursing Home, The Plaza, Horizon Bay Senior Care Center and Walnut Creek Assisted Living. "Some of the residents have had animals, and they miss them," Pat said. "They want to feel that warmth from another living thing. They like that unconditional love dogs are so known for giving."

Winston provides a nice break in the day for most residents, and they look forward to his regular visits. Pat is basically anonymous and is usually referred to simply as Winston's owner.

"The gratitude I receive is incredible," Pat shared. "I don't believe I've ever received as many thanks as I do during Winston's visits. It makes it all worth it."

Steve Burn is the proud owner of Max, a Chow mix. Max was a rescue dog, and from the start it was very apparent that he loved people. Steve and Max got involved in pet therapy, and once they started they haven't looked back.

Max's favorite activity is taking part in the Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) Program. This is an activity where Max goes into elementary schools and helps children who are having difficulty learning to read. "The children react to Max," Steve explained. "They don't mind reading to him. He won't offer criticism, and it helps them gain confidence."

Max has also received some rave reviews from the places he has visited. "Max knows how to get a smile, a pat and



his favorite — a hindquarter rubdown,” said Teresa Wilks of Isle at Watercrest. Teresa refers to Pet Partners as “a wonderful program that is touching the lives of both the young and the old.”

Catherine Le Breton of Sterling House in Mansfield feels Max is having a tremendous impact on therapy residents. “He has made a wonderful



difference in so many of our residents’ lives,” Catherine stated. “His sweet and loving nature is a comfort to everyone he meets.”

Steve pointed out not every dog can take an active role with Pet Partners. Each potential animal has to be evaluated. According to Steve, the criteria includes how well they obey and how they respond to unexpected stimuli. “Every visit has the potential of an unexpected reaction. It’s very important

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to know without a doubt your dog will be consistently calm," Steve explained. "You just can't risk it."

Abby Wilson is the proud owner of Duke, a beautiful Golden Retriever. Some time ago, Abby was working in the accounting department at Health South in Arlington. While there, she had several opportunities to observe a Pet Therapy group that visited. She always enjoyed observing the dogs with patients and remembered how the animals made a huge impact on a particular paraplegic patient. She decided that was something she would enjoy doing.

Not long after retirement, Abby trained her Australian Shepherd, Shorty, for obedience, and then they qualified to be registered with Pet Partners. Sadly enough, she lost Shorty to cancer. And not too long after her loss, a vet called to tell her about a rescue dog named Duke.

Like Steve and Pat, Abby takes her dog to visit nursing homes and memory care facilities, and she and Duke are also involved in the R.E.A.D. program. Recently, Abby and Duke also became involved in a new program for autistic children at Anna Daulton May Elementary School. And interestingly enough, Abby and Duke, along with Max and Steve, Winston and Pat, and another member of this Paws with Partners group, Kristina Forney and her dog, Ziva, also visited with the students at The University of Texas at Arlington the last week in December.

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Finals,” Abby explained. “Students often get stressed out preparing for their final exams, and we’re sent in to provide a much needed break.” All the dogs and their owners were allowed to go into the library while students were studying.

Pat, Steve and Abby all clearly love what they do and want to keep doing it as long as they can. “For me, it’s all about the satisfaction of seeing people getting a break from their life,” Steve admitted. In addition, Steve feels like he has an obligation to bring Max around. “I’ve got to show this dog. He’s awesome, and he’s making a difference in the lives of others.”

“I love being Winston’s owner,” Pat confessed. “Pet Partners is very rewarding. I feel like we’re giving back to the community in some small way.”

Abby, who is an active member of St. Greg’s Episcopal Church in Mansfield, considers Pet Partners her ministry. “I feel like God has directed me here,” Abby said. “I keep getting older, but my dog makes me feel young.” Two other teams within the Pet Partner group include Linda Milburn and her dog, Tatum; and Marsha Huey and her two adorable Poodles.

Many people have a memory of a special pet from their childhood. As they get older, that childhood pet can be desperately missed as life gets tougher. But have no fear, because Pat, Winston, Steve, Max, Abby and Duke are here. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For further information, contact Abby Wilson at abbywilson@sbcglobal.net or www.petpartners.org.

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CHALK DUST

in Her Veins

—By Mikaela Mathews



McKenna Calvert looks like a normal 12-year-old. She likes the teen pop-star singer, Justin Bieber, going to the lake and spending time with her friends. But, McKenna is no ordinary preteen. With an enthusiastic love for gymnastics and a promising hope of a full-ride college scholarship as a top-level gymnast, McKenna spends 20 hours a week twisting, stretching and flipping through the air. She was once nicknamed "pretzel" for her flexibility and currently competes as a level 9 gymnast, a rare feat for someone who is not yet a teenager.

Although McKenna has the potential to reach the elite and potentially Olympic level, her sights are set on achieving a scholarship to attend either

Her love and ability for gymnastics started at the age of 3. "I was in ballet, and I was very flippy. My mom put me in gymnastics, and I loved it," McKenna recalled.

She didn't stay in her age bracket for very long, however. McKenna's mom, Jill, remembered a phone call she received after McKenna had been in gymnastics

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only a month. "I was told they were going to have to pull her out of the 3-year-old gymnastics group," Jill said. "She was too advanced. She could do back bends and cart wheels with her legs straight up, and her toes were always pointed. She naturally had the form."

This was when Jill knew McKenna had a talent and passion for gymnastics. McKenna remained in the sport, working her way up through levels of difficulty through competitions. McKenna jumped around to various gyms in Mansfield and Arlington before finding her home at Trevino's Gymnastics in Lancaster.

Jill remembers McKenna's first competition well. "I remember going and watching the big girls doing all of this stuff, thinking *Oh, my gosh, will my daughter ever get to do that kind of stuff? That's crazy!* And now, over the years, you see it happening."

From the beginning of her career as a gymnast to today, McKenna's favorite part of gymnastics has always been the beam. She enjoys the artistic side of it. Her coach, Rich Trevino, believes her greatest talent can be fostered on the uneven bars. "She likes beam. I like her on bars," he laughed. "I saw her talent [on the bars] at the beginning."

Marilyn Trevino, McKenna's choreographer, describes McKenna's talent as limitless. "She will have international experiences," Marilyn described. "We love seeing the kids reach

the elite level, but I personally love to see kids get school paid for.” Although McKenna has the potential to reach the elite and potentially Olympic level, her sights are set on achieving a scholarship to attend either the University of Florida or The University of Oklahoma.

“Even if you’re the most talented gymnast at the time, the chances of being healthy and ready to go the Olympics are slim,” Marilyn explained. “But, it’s not out of McKenna’s reach if she wanted to go down that road.” When asked if she wanted to go to the Olympics, however, McKenna only shook her head and said, “They pick five out of, like, a billion.”

McKenna is only a seventh grader at Linda Jobe Middle School and still has



six more years before she graduates high school, but she is nearly eligible for a college scholarship. Most colleges look for level 10 and elite level gymnasts. As a level 9, McKenna has a promising hope for a scholarship. “We’ve got a great position to be at level 10,” Rich said, “and spend the majority of her career at the top level.”

The commitment to keep McKenna’s gymnastics career going doesn’t rest simply on McKenna. The ride to the gym takes 45 minutes from Mansfield.

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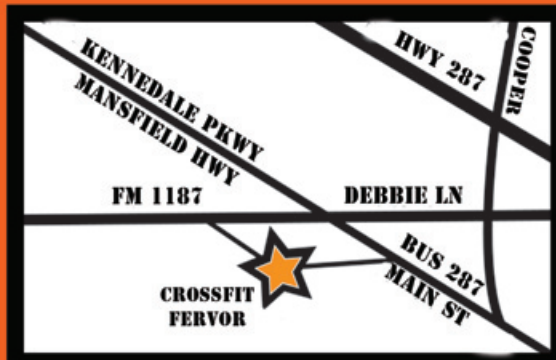
"My husband, Chad, drives them there every day," Jill explained. "It's a family commitment." Chad also drives two of McKenna's gymnastics friends. McKenna's family, which also includes her 14-year-old brother, also regularly travel to all-day or all-weekend competitions.

McKenna and her family stay dedicated to the sport, even on vacation. "When we were in Canada, we found a gym to train at," Jill explained. McKenna gets antsy when she can't train. "On her one day off, from the time she walks into the house, she's doing cartwheels and handstands and floor routines," Jill said. "I can't imagine if she didn't have gymnastics."

"We often like to say that they have chalk dust in their veins," Marilyn also explained.

Although the training is intense and the commitment is great, McKenna has a second family made up of her gymnastics friends. When McKenna injured her hip at a competition a few months ago, she remained to cheer on her friends, despite her injury. "She stayed, tears and all, to watch her teammates," Jill remembered. "She sat there with a bag of ice, covered in chalk and watched the next group of girls for the rest of the five-hour competition."

Age knows no boundaries in McKenna's friendships either. Even though McKenna is in seventh grade, her best friend, Jordyn, is a junior in high school. They have been best friends since McKenna was 4. Rich explains their friendship as a sisterhood.



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Tessa Pierce is a Certified Public Accountant with over 17 years of experience in accounting and finance. She has worked for small and large publicly-held companies, as an auditor at Deloitte & Touche, and as a VP of a multi-billion dollar private investment fund doing both capital management and financial reporting. Tessa has a BBA in accounting from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA in finance from Dallas Baptist University.

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Jordyn and McKenna both agree the most fun they have had together as friends was at their international competition in Cancun, Mexico. The girls were able to meet other gymnasts from Japan, Canada and Mexico. One of the biggest highlights for McKenna was her new friendship with the Japanese gymnasts. She even got all of them to sign her wrist guards as a reminder of their time together.

Even though McKenna and her fellow gymnasts have precious little time to finish their homework, most of them remain straight-A students. They often finish their homework during car rides to and from the gym, but Rich believes gymnastics has taught them how to stay disciplined. "That's what this sport teaches you — organization and goal setting," he described.


Marilyn agreed, "It's so much more than gymnastics."

Although McKenna hopes to one day become an orthodontist, she is a natural coach and encourager. Several months ago when her beam coach was going to Russia, McKenna gave her a Texas leotard to give to a Russian gymnast. Because Texas produces so many elite gymnasts, the leotard was a big honor for the international gymnast.

McKenna also teaches the little kids her mom watches throughout the day. "I do in-home childcare for Mansfield ISD teachers, and on McKenna's days off, she teaches the little ones gymnastics," Jill laughed. "One of the little girls I had who is 4 now is currently doing gymnastics [at the same gym as McKenna]. There are three kids I've had over the years who are in gymnastics because they see her doing stuff, and they want to do it. She's like a little mini coach." **NOW**

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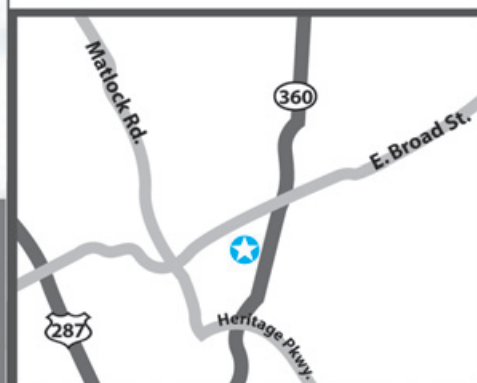


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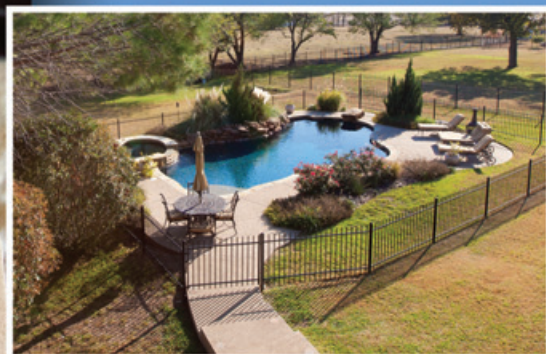
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A PLACE TO *Get Away*

— By Jeremy Agor

Patrick Hurta and Jana Jackson-Hurta like life in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex just fine, but when it came to building the home of their dreams, they made a decision to escape the hustle and bustle and move to the country. Now, their family enjoys a quiet lifestyle in a small neighborhood on the edge of Mansfield, and they are happy they moved.

“We tell people we live in the Metroplex but away from the city. I grew up in a small town in South Central Texas, so I was used to the simple life. We wanted to get away from the city and were drawn to Mansfield,” Patrick said.

“Even though Mansfield has grown we’re still out here in the country, and for me, a shopaholic, it’s only two-and-a-half miles to go shopping,” Jana smiled.

Jana grew up in Arlington, graduated from Lamar High School, and went to Southwest Texas State (now Texas State University), where she met Patrick, who had already been there for a year. She returned to Arlington after college, and he followed shortly after. They got married and lived in Arlington for about five years. In 2000, they purchased their first home in Mansfield, but soon decided they wanted something with a little more land. Jana’s job as a Realtor with Ebby Halliday gave her access to many home listings, but they couldn’t find anything.

“I was looking everywhere I could. We liked the Hidden Lakes subdivision, but there was nothing there,” Jana recalled. “One day, I decided to drive around in the country and found





this neighborhood. The gate was open, so I went in and drove around. As soon as I saw it, I called the builder and my husband. I knew we had to live here. My father was into horses, and our home backs up to a ranch, and we can see their horses and cows.”

Including a model home, theirs was the fourth house built in the development, and they were the third family to move in. At the time, Patrick remembered, the neighborhood was pretty empty, but they have enjoyed watching it grow to about 50 families, from retirees to

young couples just starting their families. Patrick, Jana and their daughters, Autumn, 8, and Ashlyn, 5, enjoy an active lifestyle along with their two cats and two dogs. The girls attend elementary school in Mansfield and cheer every Saturday for the Mansfield Pee Wee Football League Timberwolves. Patrick is a payroll accountant for AECOM in Fort Worth, and Jana recently returned to real estate full time after taking five years off to raise their children.

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will find a spacious foyer with a soaring ceiling and a niche with a statue of Jana's father, Tracy Lee Jackson. "My father died before the girls were born, and it was very important to me that the entry had a niche for the statue," Jana said.

Also in the front of the house is an office with French doors and floor-to-ceiling, built-in shelves and cabinets where Patrick and Jana can work and not be disturbed. The office also contains some of Patrick's baseball memorabilia.

The open floor plan leads to the living room, kitchen and breakfast nook. A large, leather sectional sofa forms a boundary for the living room where the family can curl up and watch the large television in the built-in entertainment center or get cozy in front of the gas fireplace. On the shelves of the entertainment center are numerous photos of the family. The fireplace and hearth are surrounded by Granbury stone, a feature that carries over to the front of the breakfast bar and the walls and archway around the oven. The kitchen has granite countertops, an island where the girls climb on stools to bake cookies and a butler's pantry. An arched walkway leads to the formal dining room, which they use often during the holidays.

The master bedroom is in a back corner of the home. The room features high, vaulted ceilings with rope lighting and a dual fireplace between the bedroom and the master bath. "The builder thought Jana was crazy for adding so many fireplaces," Patrick laughed.

Smiling, Jana added, "It was very important to me that when we built a house, I would have a double fireplace and a large closet, and I have both." A large chaise lounge near the window allows Jana to relax and read when she is not on the run with her daughters, and French doors lead to the master bath with its garden tub and a steam shower.

The girls share a pink bedroom with matching custom beds and bedding. They originally had separate bedrooms, but they always ended up sleeping together, so Jana and Patrick moved them in together. That was easy, because they had all of the bedrooms made extra large so everyone would have space. The other room is now a playroom, complete with a tree mural painted onto two walls, connected to the bedroom by their bathrooms and closets.

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Back up the hallway toward the main living area is the laundry room and a small bathroom that opens to the backyard with a small shower, which comes in handy because no one has to walk through the house dripping wet after playing in the family's pool.

Upstairs, a wide-open game room with a pool table, comfortable couch, a guest bedroom and a balcony overlooking the backyard provide the perfect place for company to relax. A corner cabinet houses Jana's collection of angel figurines and more of Patrick's baseball memorabilia is displayed, including several bats and a ball autographed by former St. Louis Cardinals and Oakland A's manager Tony LaRussa. "I got to go to spring training with the Cardinals one year, and I had dinner with Tony LaRussa. He's a really nice guy," Patrick said.

Back downstairs, windows line the back wall of the living room, overlooking a covered outdoor living area with another fireplace and barbecue grill. Farther out on the lawn are a sizable playhouse and the pool, which features natural plants and other accents, including a diving rock instead of a diving board. Beyond the pool and playhouse, a heavy, barred fence separates the yard from the ranch, and cattle graze just yards away.

"We really enjoy being outside, and I love to grill. The outdoor fireplace is relaxing, especially on a cool night," Patrick said.

Patrick and Jana's home is a perfect place to get away from the busyness of their everyday lives, just as they planned when they built it. **NOW**

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A Man of MANY TALENTS

By Zachary R. Urquhart



People often refer to a concept called the *American Dream*. The idea is someone can come from humble beginnings and make something of themselves by the sweat of their brow and the ingenuity of their minds. Yet some Americans tend to think success stories are bred by a life of privilege. But there are still examples of the common man forging a path for himself. Mohammad Onvani is proof that sometimes dreams come true — even American dreams.

Mo, as he is known, was born in Iran, where it was considered very lucky to make it to the United States. "I started working at my father's grocery store when I was young, and we would work to help put the older kids in school, not

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me,” he recalled. Mo swept and stocked, always working to help his siblings, not knowing he would eventually find a way to the United States. With his money from his dad’s shop going to help the older children, Mo also worked side jobs and was finally able to save up enough to move to America. “I knew if I could get a U.S. education, then I could get any job. Going to college in Iran was a huge luxury.”

Mo made it to America in 1976, but he did not immediately feel welcomed. “I got to the airport and took a taxi a few blocks to get to the other terminal, and he said it was fifty bucks,” Mo remembered. “I only came with a few hundred dollars, and my first day I had to spend fifty just to get my luggage.” Mo eventually settled in, attending classes at several universities around Texas. “I had to work 40 hours between Friday and



Sunday to pay for tuition.” Mo explained. “I took whatever classes I could — summers, nights, everything.”

Although it was hard work, Mo looks back kindly on his first years in America, but not just because of the education he received. Mo met his wife, Lisa, while taking one of those summer courses at The University of Texas at Arlington in 1977. “I was taking the class and working. I was so busy, but that one day was my luckiest day,” he shared. “I always remind myself how blessed I am to have met her, and for the family we have now.”

Because of their schedules, Mo and Lisa did not get to go on many dates early on in their relationship. “Dating? We were too busy going to school,” Lisa recalled. “There wasn’t a whole lot of dating, mainly just seeing each other.” Mo and Lisa married in 1978. They have three children: Michael works for

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an energy provider, Marcus is climbing the ranks for Boeing in Washington and Matthew works in the clubhouse at the Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. They are all married and have added grandchildren to Mo and Lisa's ever-growing family.

Coming out of college with a degree in engineering, Mo immediately went to work for a company in Richardson, though he always had, and still has, a passion for serving others. His desire to serve, coupled with a keen business sense, led Mo and Lisa into a different direction. "I was working at an engineering job, but I saw that we could make more money in the restaurant business, so we switched," he said. They opened a steakhouse in 1980, and a year later the business was doing well enough that they opened a second. In order to keep the business successful, though, Mo and Lisa worked seven days a week, usually all day.

In 1983, Mo became a Christian, which shaped how he views another important event in his and Lisa's lives. That year, they were in a horrific car accident while on vacation. "Lisa had 69 breaks in her back. We were in the hospital for months. While we were away from the restaurants, they were run into ruin," Mo explained. "We left for that vacation with plenty in the bank. By the time it was over, we had lost everything." Although they went through an extraordinary hardship, Mo knows some good life lessons came out of the ordeal. "I had gotten very proud in my accomplishments, and I needed to be reminded it isn't just what I have done."

Mo and Lisa had to rely on others during their extended hospital stay. "Mo and I were in there for a long time, but the kids were out pretty fast," Lisa said. "We had so much support from our church, and even the kids' teachers would watch them." While Mo already had the heart of a servant, this incredible trial cemented in him a desire to help others in times of need. Lisa summed it up, "Mo always does things to help people, and he is always putting himself last."

They worked and rebuilt their lives, even though there were low points along the way. One day, they passed a woman changing a flat on the roadside. She was the kindergarten teacher who had watched their kids while they were in the hospital. Mo recounted, "We wanted to



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help, but her spare was flat, too. We went to the parts store, and they had a tire to sell for twenty dollars. But we were still broke, and this really was our last twenty dollars. We thought about it, but we gave her the money." Unbeknownst to him, when Mo got home that afternoon, someone was waiting to repay an old debt from years before. "I know God has blessed me in many ways. It's not just about the money."

Mo ended up getting a job at Lockheed-Martin. He has loved what he does there for almost three decades. "It's very stressful," he admitted, "but at the end of the day, I have gotten to solve some new challenge." In addition to working with problems at work, Mo also enjoys working with kids others might label as problems. Mo mentors kids, and sometimes adults, whom others bring to him knowing he can help. "I don't give anyone anything. I show them how to work. I love hearing someone say, 'I can't,' because then I can help them see they can," he said.

While Mo is most proud of his family, Lisa's pride is often directed at Mo himself. "He does so much. He helps people in need. He is a leader in the local Iranian community. He is just so hospitable. He is always entertaining and hosting," she beamed. "It makes me happy to see him so happily helping and giving back in so many ways."

Mo looks at his life with a clear mindset. "If you can just give a little more than you take, you can feel good about yourself." **NOW**



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For those who prefer activities under their own power, Breckenridge's

two Nordic Centers offer snowshoe, plus groomed trails for classic and skate-style Nordic skiing. Those with the proper equipment (and a sense of adventure) head to Breckenridge's trail network for afternoon outings, overnight hut trips and everything in between.

When the snow gives way to dry, 70-degree summer temperatures, wildflowers bloom. Purple lupine, wild roses, bluebells and a variety of Rocky Mountain wildflowers dot the mountainsides. Rivers and streams rush with cold,

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Open Space planner and the guiding hand behind Breckenridge's award-winning cycling network, Scott Reid explained the town's hiking and biking trails: "It's similar to a bicycle wheel, with the hub as downtown and miles of trails, the spokes, extending into the backcountry. Downtown access points lead to town, county and Forest Service trails. There's no need for a car."

Many of these popular hiking and biking routes were once used by miners in search of gold. Flumes have been converted into flowing singletrack (narrow biking trails), and along it are glimpses of the town's gold-seeking beginnings. Pioneer cabins can be seen on trails — Tom's Baby, Minnie Mine — whose names have roots in the characters of the past. Several restored dredge boats, remnants of a mining method uncommon in the Rocky Mountains, stand abandoned in the backcountry.

The Breckenridge Heritage Alliance, a nonprofit committed to protecting, sharing, and celebrating the unique stories of Breckenridge, has placed interpretive signage both at backcountry sites, such as the dredges and throughout



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The storefronts, once housing mostly gear shops and burger stops, now boast a diverse lineup of funky boutiques and modern menus, all served up in the Victorian spaces that line the downtown streets. The diversity adds up to plenty of options in town, plus a backyard that brings adventurers out to play. Wondering where to head next? Just ask the locals in the coffee shop. **NOW**

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Jellystone Park and Pirate's Cove want you to stay and play, enjoying all their family-friendly activities during your next vacation.

— By Jeremy Agor

For Steve Stafford, general manager of Jellystone Park and Pirate's Cove in Burleson, the greatest reward for coming to work is the smiles on the faces of the families staying at his campground. Jellystone Park, with its Yogi Bear theme, family-friendly activities and newly opened water park, is a fun place for families to get away from the hustle and bustle of their daily lives, relax and make lasting memories.

"Seeing families have a good time, bringing them together and seeing them relax is wonderful. We tell our staff, 'Yes, we're a business, but when a family comes to the park — and we don't know what's going on in their lives — we want them to relax and bond.' It's about the smiles and the memories they take away with them," Steve explained.

Jellystone Park has been a part of Burleson for about three

years, but the campground has been around much longer. A couple years ago, it became more difficult to maintain a profit as the economy kept people closer to home. At that point, Steve and the campground's owner began investigating ways to increase profitability. There were several large halls around the property suitable for hosting large gatherings like corporate retreats and weddings. With that in mind, they changed the campground's name to Rustic Creek Ranch and began to focus on group sales. The plan worked, but not as well as they wanted. Steve began researching Jellystone, cold-calling and visiting Jellystone parks all over the country. What he found was a corporate culture featuring very friendly people who were willing to share what they knew to help him succeed.

"We went to a meeting of the National Association of RV

Business **NOW**

Parks and Campgrounds and spoke to a couple who ran a Jellystone campground in Estes Park, Colorado. I have a 29-year background in education. I love kids. When they told me about dads pushing kids on swings and the fun families have, I was sold," Steve said.

Jellystone has daily activities, from crafts and candy bar bingo, to fire truck rides and hay rides and appearances by Yogi Bear or

For a small fee, Yogi will visit to tuck children into bed and read them a bedtime story.

BooBoo. Guests can enjoy movie nights, laser tag, as well as golf cart and pedal car rentals. Throughout the year, theme weekends, such as the chocolate-themed Chocopalooza, patriotic holidays, Mother's Day and Father's Day are featured. For a small fee, Yogi will visit to tuck children into bed and read them a bedtime story. He also delivered Easter baskets last year.

Visitors can camp in their own RVs or rent a cabin or RV. The cabins sleep 2-6 people and feature satellite television, comfortable beds and, in some, gas fireplaces and a spa tub.

Pirate's Cove water park was a new addition in May 2012, and the park saw just over 60,000 people in its first season (May-September). Future plans for Jellystone include an expansion of the water park to include a lazy river and wave pool; go-karts and mini golf; and the possible addition of park models (somewhat like a mobile home) for guests to stay in.

Regardless of what happens in the future, Steve is excited by the reactions he's gotten from guests and the looks on children's faces. One grandmother even gave him a big hug because she was so happy her grandchildren were having a good time.

"Kids need their dad and mom. They need their memories. And family vacations at a place like this make the parents feel good, too," he said. **NOW**

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Rhonda and David Meadows, owners of Farr Best Theater, and friend Dena Roden, enjoy the fun and festivities of the Hometown Holidays Parade in downtown Mansfield.



The Nothing Bundt Cake booth at The Streets of Mansfield was just one of the many vendors found at the annual event.



Jerry Cloud of the Kiwanis Mansfield awards Joshua Kirtley the Guy of the Month award for November.



Mansfield area Girl Scouts of America wave to the crowds during Hometown Holiday Parade.



Santa Claus makes his appearance for happy onlookers during the parade.

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What Should You Do with a 401(k) When Leaving a Job?

In the past, many people stayed at one job, or at least one company, for almost their entire working lives. When they retired, they could typically count on a pension, the value of which was based on their years of service and earnings. But today, workers can expect to hold several different jobs in their lifetime, and to a great extent, pensions have been replaced by 401(k) plans, which place much of the funding responsibility on employees. So, assuming you will change jobs at some point, and you do have a 401(k), what should you do with it?

Here are your basic choices:

- **Cash out your plan.** If you cash out your plan, your company will likely pay you 80 percent of your account value, withholding the rest for federal taxes. And if you're younger than age 59 1/2, you may well be slapped with a 10-percent IRS tax penalty. Even worse, you'll have lost a key source of your retirement income. Still, if you are leaving your employer involuntarily, and you need the money, cashing out your 401(k) is an option you may need to consider.

- **Keep the money in your company's plan.** When you leave a company, your employer may allow you to keep your money in your existing 401(k). You may want to choose this route if you like the investment choices available in your plan. However, you might be caught by surprise if the company decides to change investment options. Furthermore, some employers may charge former employees fees to maintain their 401(k) plans.

- **Move the money into your new employer's plan.** If your new employer has a 401(k)

and allows transfers, you could roll the money from your old plan into the new one. This might be an attractive option if you like the investment options in your new employer's plan.

- **Roll the money over to an IRA.** You may find several advantages to rolling your 401(k) over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). First, your money will still have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis. Second, you can invest your funds in virtually any investment you choose — stocks, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit (CDs), etc. Third, if you own more than one 401(k) account, you could find it advantageous to consolidate them into a single IRA, thereby making it easier to allocate and monitor your retirement assets. And fourth, IRAs may give you greater flexibility if you plan to pass money to your children. In fact, if your child inherits your IRA, he or she has the option of stretching withdrawals over the child's entire lifetime, rather than taking the money as a lump sum. (If you do transfer funds from your old 401(k) to an IRA, be sure to use a "direct rollover" to avoid the possibility of triggering unwanted taxes.)

Before making any moves with your 401(k), consult with your tax and financial advisors. By looking closely at your options, and by getting professional guidance, you can make the choice that's right for you. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Scott Marburger is an Edward Jones representative based in Mansfield.

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January 5

Elvis Birthday Celebration With David Allen: 7:30 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. Reserve seats online at www.FarrBest.com.

January 12

Shake Rattle and Roll Featuring Drake Milligan as Elvis: 7:30 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. This event benefits P.E.O. Chapter, HN. Tickets may be purchased online at www.FarrBest.com for \$15.

Girls Night Out: 5:30-8:00 p.m., historic downtown square, Granbury. Drawing for \$100 downtown dollars, drinks and food for ladies who come to shop in the boutiques and galleries surrounding the courthouse. Call (817) 573-5299 or visit facebook.com/GNOgranburytx.

January 14

Metro Beekeepers meeting: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Cana Baptist Church, 2309 E. Renfro St., Burleson. This month, a review of bee biology and discussion of spring build-up will be followed by announcement of youth scholarships awarded. Contact Stan Key, (817) 888-0470, or visit www.metrobeekeepers.net.

January 15

"As the Page Turns" Book Club monthly meeting: 6:30 p.m., 104 S. Wisteria. Featured book: *11-22-63* by Stephen King. Discussion leader: Annette Weber.

January 26

7th Annual Winter Walk: 10:00 a.m., Katherine Rose Memorial Park. Cook Children's Hospital will join with Mansfield Parks and Recreation to sponsor the event. Strollers, bikes and pets are welcome on this walk, which ends at Town Park. The first 100 participants will receive a free gift. A health fair at Town Park will feature blood pressure checks, healthy snacks and drinks and children's entertainment. Call Mansfield Activities Center at (817) 453-5420 or visit www.mansfield-tx.gov for more information.

February 9

10th Annual Mardi Gras Gala: 6:30 p.m.-midnight, Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr. Casino play, silent and live auctions, hors d'oeuvres. Advance ticket price: \$50/ person. This event, hosted by the ATHENA Society of Burleson, benefits Johnson County residents and cancer patients through the Center for Cancer and

Blood Disorders, the Careity Breast Care Center at Huguley Memorial Medical Center, Pediatric Palliative Care at Cook Children's, Educational Opportunities for Women and New Journeys Christian Women's Job Corps. Call (817) 295-1816 for more information.

February 16

Father/Daughter Sweetheart Dance: 6:30-9:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria. This year's theme is "Dancing Through the Decades!" Everyone will receive a keepsake photo provided by Extreme Photography and will have the opportunity to purchase more if they choose. Refreshments served. Register early, as space is limited. Please register under daughter's name. No MAC card required. \$30 per couple; \$5 per additional daughter. \$10 late fee applies after February 11. If registering online, call the MAC at (817) 453-5420 to register additional daughters.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to bnwalker.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.

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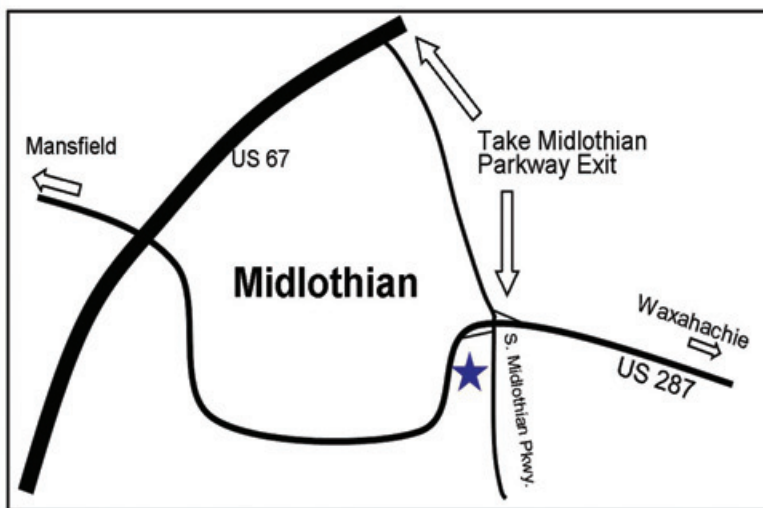




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In The Kitchen With Becky Walker

— By Sandra Strong

As a little girl, Becky Walker remembers watching her mom cook and helping her with simple dishes. “I was 9 years old when I cooked my first meal without assistance,” Becky shared. “It was a birthday gift for my mother. I found a blueberry pancake recipe on a calendar and thought, *I can do this!* Everyone loved it!”

Becky still picks up recipes from friends, magazines and TV shows that she adds to those handed down from her great-aunt. When Becky was in college, she spent a summer as a missionary in Jamaica. “A lady I met there let me copy some of her recipes,” Becky explained. “Those recipes quickly became family favorites — especially the Mango Bread.” **NOW**

Blueberry Pancakes

4 eggs
4 cups all-purpose flour
2 cups milk
4 Tbsp. oil
2 Tbsp. sugar
6 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
2 cups blueberries (fresh or frozen)

1. Beat eggs until fluffy; add next 6 ingredients and combine.
2. Add blueberries and combine.
3. Heat a small amount of oil on a griddle or in a frying pan. Pour pancake batter into oil and cook until batter begins to brown on edges. Flip and cook second side. Be careful not to cook too hot or fast or they will burn.

Jamaican Mango Bread

2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking soda

2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
1 tsp. vanilla
3 eggs
2 cups mangoes, peeled, seeded and chopped
1/2 cup raisins

1. Sift together flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and sugar.
2. Add oil, vanilla, eggs, mangoes and raisins. Mix well.
3. Pour batter into well-greased 9x13-inch baking dish. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour.

Jamaican Fried Rice

1/2 green bell pepper, finely chopped
1 Tbsp. onion, chopped
2 to 2 1/2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
1/4 lb. ham, chopped
1 cup cooked chicken, chopped

1 egg
Black pepper, to taste
4-5 cups rice, cooked and chilled
Soy sauce, to taste

1. In frying pan, sauté bell pepper and onion in oil.
2. Add ham and chicken; cover. Allow ham to cook.
3. Add unbeaten egg to pan and stir; season with black pepper. Mix in rice.
4. Add soy sauce, gradually stirring mixture after each addition until all the rice is colored, desired flavor is developed and rice is sufficiently heated.

Stir Fry Delight

Vegetable oil
1 1-lb. pkg. chicken tenders
1/2 pkg. Little Smokies sausages
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1 orange bell pepper, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
2 large garlic cloves, chopped
2 green onions, chopped
1 small yellow squash, chopped
1 jalapeño, chopped
3 dried red chilies, chopped
3-4 mushrooms, chopped
Paprika, to taste
Dash of cloves, thyme and oregano
Salt and pepper, to taste
Provolone, to taste

1. Add enough oil to cover the bottom of large skillet. Brown chicken and sausage.
2. In separate skillet, sauté vegetables; combine with meat.
3. Season with enough paprika to give reddish hue. Add remaining spices and top with cheese.

Peanut Butter Cookies

2 1/2 cups flour
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1 cup butter
1 cup peanut butter
1 cup white sugar
1 cup brown sugar
2 eggs

1. Combine all ingredients; mix well.
2. Shape into balls; place on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten with a fork.
3. Bake at 375 F for 10-15 minutes until lightly browned.

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