

## WELCOME HOME FURNITURE

1411 N. Hwy 67 | Midlothian, TX | 972.775.7575
Tuesday-Saturday 11 am-7 pm | facebook.com/WelcomeHomeFurniture







## Because You Want the Best

Family Owned, Locally, by Hobart Ambuehl.

You've known him for years as



### Over 35 years of Experience in:

- Automatic and Standard Transmissions
- Foreign and Domestic
- Clutch Service
- Transfer Cases



- Free Towing w/major repair
- Free Diagnosis
- Senior and Military Discounts
- Financing Available

I-35 Transmissions 1462 N. I-35E, Lancaster 972-228-9905 www.I35transmissions.com M-F 7a-5p





Hwy 67 Transmissions 1602 N. US Hwy 67, Midlothian 972-723-5300 www.hwy67transmissions.com M-F 7a-5p















# & ORTHODONTICS





Dr. Vazquez obtained a certificate in advanced graduate studies in General Practice Residency at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2006 nurse of school of Dental Medicine in 2006
where she concentrated her training in special
needs and medically compromised patients.
In June 2009 she completed her residency in
Periodontics at Boston University and her Masters
Degree in Oral Biology, which was
focused in inflammatory processes.
During her Periodontology residency
she refined her skills in periodontal
procedures including cosmetic
surregies and implant placements.

### Are vou...

- ...Missing one or more teeth?
- ... Having trouble with dentures or partials?
- ...Unhappy with your bridge?

#### **Dental Implants with Certified Periodontics**

Dental implants are replacements that look and feel just like your own. Gone are the inconvienences of unretained dentures, partials and missing teeth while eating and drinking whatever you like. They look and feel like real teeth for a flawless and natural smile.

### **A Confident Smile with Certified Orthodontics**

Orthodontic braces can align teeth, fix your bite, and create a more healthy, attractive smile. Contact us today to learn more about this process, which helps create a more confident smile for you in a relatively short time.



WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS 1540 Highway 77 North, Suite 7 Waxahachie, Texas 75165 (972) 937-7787

MANSFIELD, TEXAS 1811 Hwy 287 N., Suite 160 Mansfield, Texas 76063 (817) 453-1001

**Call Picasso Dental Today for details and to learn** about our amazing prices for these procedures!





Publisher, Connie Poirier

General Manager, Rick Hensley

#### EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker Midlothian Editor, Betty Tryon Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay Writers, Zachary R. Urquhart Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla Artists, Julie Carpenter . Casey Henson Martha Macias . Felipe Ruiz Arlene Honza . Brande Morgan Shannon Pfaff

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photography Director, Jill Rose Photographers, Opaque Visuals

### **ADVERTISING**

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

Billing Manager, Angela Mixon

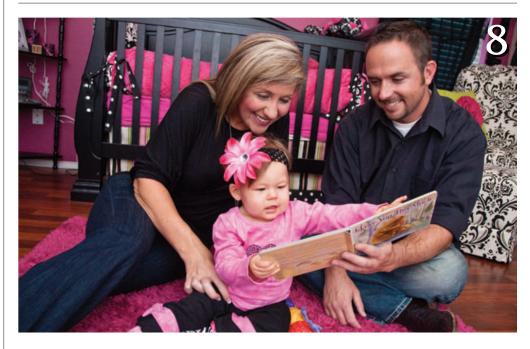
### ON THE COVER



Justin and Heather plus Brooklynn makes three.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

## CONTENTS January 2013 • Volume 9, Issue I



### 8 A Cradle Full of Dreams

The Blackwells' adoption of their daughter was worth the journey.

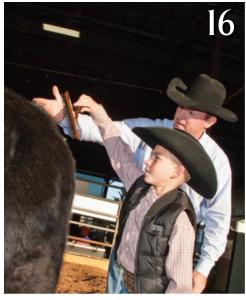
16 A New Vision MISD's FFA program looks to the future.

### 24 Business and Pleasure

At Home With Josh and Caroline McAda.

30 Rolling Rarity

Mike Pennington spends countless hours playing hockey on ice and on the streets.



36 BusinessNOW

38 Around TownNOW

44 CookingNOW

MidlothianNOW is a NOW Magazines, L.L.C. publication. Copyright © 2013. All rights reserved. MidlothianNOW is published monthly and individually mailed free of charge to homes and businesses in the Midlothian ZIP codes.

Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



### Editor's Note

Dear Midlothian,

Here are my suggestions for a mentally healthy and happy New Year:

- Make sure you "laugh out loud" every day. It decreases stress, releases the feel-good chemicals in your body and improves your mood.
- Remind yourself that the sun will rise and set without your help. You are not the boss of the world. Relax!
- Go out of your way to help someone. Not only will it help them, but it will make you feel good, too.
- Try not to be so sensitive, because it's not all about you. Really, it isn't.
- An unknown person said, "You don't have to attend every argument you're invited to." Resolve this year to calm down and argue less.
- Forgive those who hurt you. It is best for your peace of mind.
- A personal stalwart for me is to pray every day.

Make this your best year ever!

Belly

Betty Tryon

MidlothianNOW Editor
betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com











Your Best Friend's Wedding Bridal and Special Event Show

Please join us Sunday, February 24, 2013

11:00am - 4:00pm | Fashion Show @ 2:30pm

You are invited to experience a mock wedding, complete with all the charm you would find at an actual wedding. We will have food and beverages, a DJ for entertainment, fresh flower arrangements, table and room décor, a Broadway-themed fashion show, and many preferred vendors for you to visit with about your upcoming special event.

Admission is \$3.00 per person
For more information call 972-723-7919
Or visit our website at www.midlothiancenter.com

Midlothian Conference Center I Community Circle Drive, Midlothian TX 76065

Sponsored by : Your DJ, At It's Best Events, Fresh by Villa Flora, My Invitation Lady, and Sterling Events and Catering



### Why ask a doctor about BOTOX<sup>®</sup> Cosmetic?

Everybody has their own reason. Isn't it about time to make an appointment?



Laser & Medical Aesthetics

R. Paul Kare, MD **Botox Cosmetic** Physicians' Network Member



120 S. Grand Ave., Suite 3 . Waxahachie www.drkare.com • 972-938-8200

Gift certificates available

The ONE. The ONLY."



By Prescription Only

©2005 Allergan, Inc. Irvine, CA 92612 @ and ™ marks owned by Allergan, Inc.





## HANSON

## iron works

## #1 SOURCE FOR CUSTOM WROUGHT IRON FOR OVER 20 YRS.

\* WROUGHT IRON FENCES & GATES \*AUTOMATIC GATE OPENERS \* STONE & BRICK COLUMNS \* WOOD & IRON FENCE COMBOS \* SERVICE AND REPAIR ALL GATE OPENERS \* BALCONY RAILINGS









(972)775-3091

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.HANSONIRONWORKS.COM FREE ESTIMATES











### **WAXAHACHIE'S NEW** FULL- SERVICE DIAGNOSTIC **IMAGING CENTER**

## NOW OPEN

- Open MRI (For those who dislike tight spaces)
- X-Rays (No Appointment Necessary)
- Medicare & All Insurances Welcome
- Patient's reports & images available online to physicians within 24 hrs

- CT Scan
- High Field MRI
- Ultrasound
- Worker's Comp
- Se Habla Español







972-937-4300 | NORTHGATE PLAZA 507 N HWY 77 STE 908 | WAXAHACHIE WWW.LIVINGWELLIMAGING.COM

did. Now I can tell my daughter I was there when we heard her heartbeat and when we found out she would be a girl."

Finally, the big day came. The birthmother wanted Heather in the room during the birth, but only two people could be present, and she chose her boyfriend and mom. Heather and Justin waited anxiously in a nearby room until they received the phone call. The



biological grandmother called Heather on her cell and asked, "Do you want to hear your baby?"

"This was like 30 seconds after she was born," Heather said. "I could hear her crying, and I started bawling. I couldn't believe this was happening! The biological granddad immediately went to the gift shop and bought fake cigars that said, 'I'm a mom' and 'I'm a dad' for us. I was able to give Brooklynn her first bottle. It was emotional to say the least." During the next 48 hours of waiting, Justin and Heather fell in love with their baby. They named her Brooklynn.

"That 48-hour period was probably the most difficult thing I've been through," Justin declared. "We weren't able to have any family with us because of the rules of our adoption agency. We only got to see Brooklynn when her biological mother and father went outside to take a break. It was so hard to have no control over what went on with our potential little girl. I just wanted to grab Brooklynn

and run away from that place and never look back!"

Although the waiting was hard, the worst was yet to come. Even now, Heather becomes emotional when she recalls learning the birthmother was considering changing her mind. "It was my worst nightmare," she said. "It was what I most feared. I almost thought it was my fault, because I got too excited.



I went into the bathroom and threw up. I couldn't think. I can't describe how attached I was to her already. I told our social worker if that was going to happen, I didn't know if we could tell her goodbye. We had such a strong bond with her and had already become so protective of her."

Justin was also living his own nightmare. "Heather was literally throwing up in the bathroom. I was losing my mind. I was trying my best to hold it together in front of Heather, but I literally felt like I was dying inside. It had been months of getting to know

"She has made me realize what's really important in life."

this family and preparing our hearts to be parents. It just didn't seem real that it could come to an end in the last moments of our journey."

Meanwhile, Heather had to break the news to family members at their home who were decorating and preparing for a









joyous homecoming celebration. "I asked them to pray for Brooklynn to come home with us. The nurses were crying. Everybody at home was praying. I've always been a Christian. In the bathroom while I was being sick, I could literally feel the power of prayer," Heather shared.

After an agonizing wait, the Blackwells got their miracle. The birthmother's mom came in and said, "She's signing the papers right now."

Heather sent out another text to let everyone know it was happening. "I could feel the excitement of everybody there. When I checked my phone, I had over 200 text messages from people. It was a weird moment, because you want to be excited, but my heart was breaking for the birthmother. I knew this was a tough decision for her."

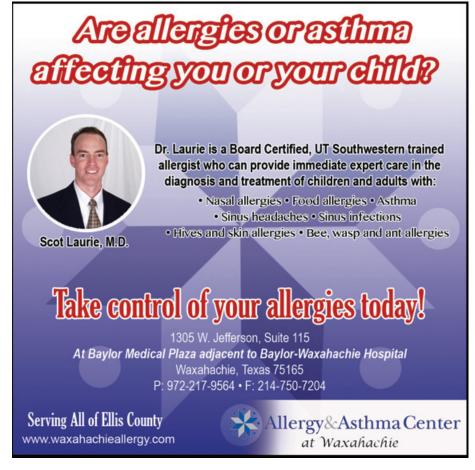
Justin gushes when talking about his daughter. "God is good! I can't imagine life without her. She has been worth all the drama, heartache and money 10 times over. She was meant for us, and I cherish every moment that I have with her. She has made me realize what's really important in life. She is daddy's little angel now and forever!"

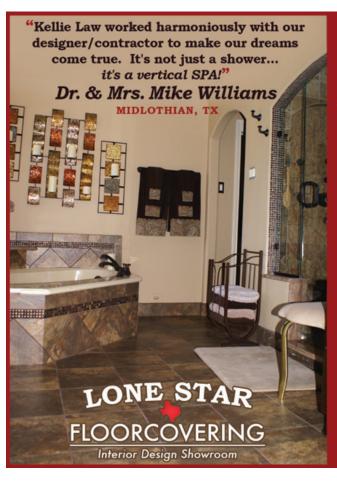
"I want to use our story as a testimony to others to be thankful to be parents," Heather stated. "I consider being Brooklynn's mommy a huge honor. All we went through to get her just reinforced to us even more how blessed we are to have her. I want our story to remind others who are parents how lucky we are God blesses us with these babies! She is our gift that will always keep giving." NOW











Like Lone Star Floorcovering Facebook Page to See More Pictures of the Williams' Home.

SERVING ELLIS CO. FOR 28 YEARS

Lighting,
Carpet,
Hardwood,
Tile,
Laminate,
Vinyl,
Area Rugs,
Countertops
& More

### **FREE ESTIMATES**

972-872-9811 2203 W. Ennis Ave. in Ennis lonestarfloor.com Tues.-Fri.: 10-6 & Sat.: 10-3 or by appt.

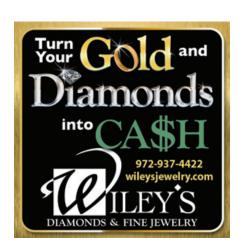




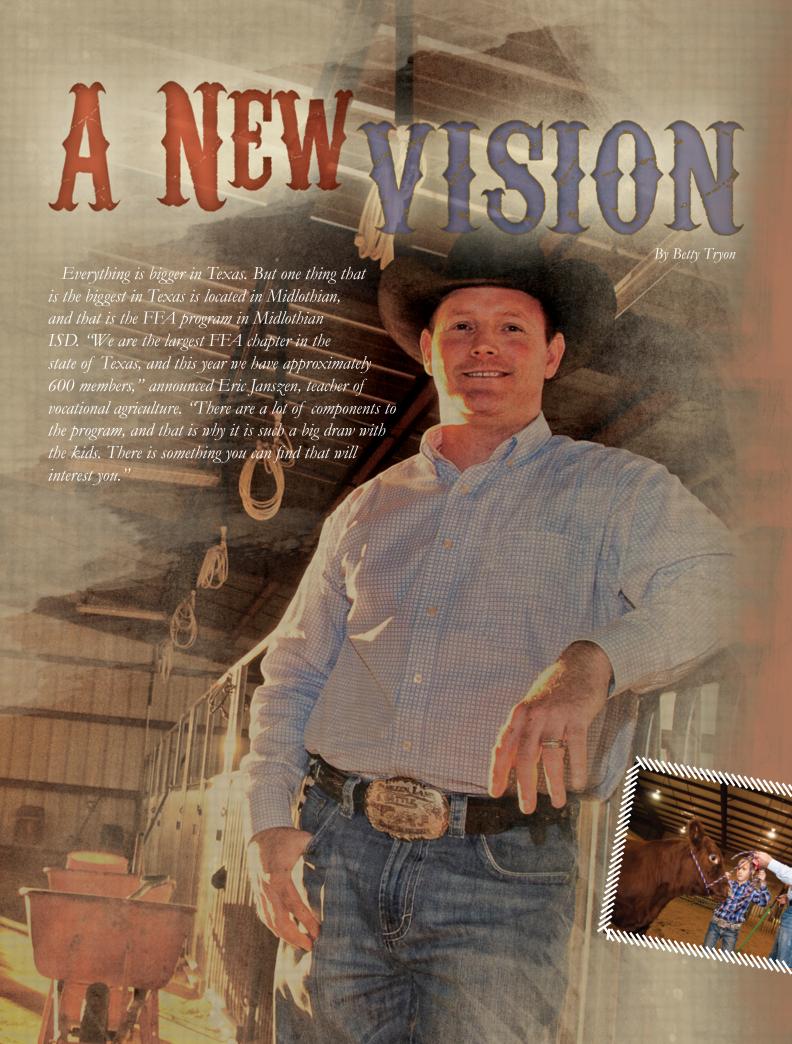












The National FFA Organization was formerly known as the Future Farmers of America. This program promotes the advancement of agricultural education and awareness. Now it is so much more than that. "Our national organization saw we were limiting ourselves," Eric stated. "So, they changed the motto and the mission." The organization has moved in more of a futuristic direction with the focus more on environmental sciences and biotechnology, but its foundation remains in agriculture, livestock and crops.

"The stereotype is these kids are farmers and ranchers. Or, you have to raise an animal, and you have to be country," Eric said. "If you look at the kids who take our classes, I think they couldn't be farther from that stereotype. Most of our kids don't live on farms. They don't wear boots and cowboy hats. A lot of them don't drive trucks. But they do have a passion for animals or a passion for some type of hands-on activity, whether it be welding, construction or animal science."



Students in the Ag (agriculture) program have several options — animal and livestock, leadership program, construction and welding. Eric works mostly with the welding and building

part of the program. "We really focus on welding, along with several other areas," he explained. "We also cover other topics, such as hydraulics and engines."

This area has seen tremendous growth in natural gas research and development. Because of this growth, there is a shortage of qualified available people to fill all the job positions. They can't fill all the welding

### Build your story with us



"We are so grateful to you for helping us fully live life as a family in this way - everyday" ~ The West Story



### JOHN HOUSTON HOMES

YOUR HOME, YOUR WAY,

Home is where your family grows, generations meet, and memories are made. A home is birthdays, holidays, and graduations. It is friends, neighbors and small groups.

At John Houston Custom Homes, we believe your family deserves a home built around your needs.

Call us today and ask how we can help build your family's home.

JohnHoustonCustomHomes.com | 866.699.6054

Find us online: f > You Table 8+















### I'M PROUD TO WORK FOR





### COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

Javier Sosa Ortiz Quality Manager

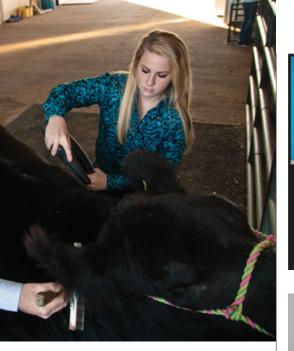
Strength. Performance. Passion



jobs for the infrastructure needs they have. Right now, I have eight young men who graduated last year who are currently working in the oil and gas field doing welding. They were able to get jobs right out of high school. We focus on the pipeline sites, because that is where the money is made. Some of those guys are making up to \$100 per hour."

Although well paying, those jobs do not necessarily lead to security and stability as a career choice. The Ag program tries to prepare its students for that inevitability. Dennis Mann, another Ag instructor, teaches business management and an agriculture-related management course. "He teaches them how to manage their finances," Eric explained. "He takes the students and fine tunes their skills, so when they go out to get a job, they will know the safety requirements and will have their OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) certification."

As the FFA program progresses into the 21st century, they have not neglected their foundation in crops and animal husbandry. This area is even more significant today, because the conditions for growing crops and caring for animals has changed. Eric summed up some of the reasons. "When you look at the prices in the supermarket and you're upset about them, a lot of that is not just because of the economy. I think a lot of that is because we have less land. Farmers and ranchers are expected to have twice as many crops and animals in a smaller area and be able to produce for more people. The only way to get better at that



is through biotechnology and to modify some of our crops and animals to get them to produce more with less, which is kind of a controversial thing itself. If you look at Midlothian and in Ellis County, what used to be a lot of farmland is now subdivisions with many people moving into this area. People want a city feel with a country atmosphere, but that comes at a price to the agricultural producer."

This program is doing its part in carrying on tradition, and the instructors, students, parents and community have pushed the program to distinction. It was just a few short years ago that the district built the Midlothian ISD Agriculture Science Facility located on Mockingbird Lane. It has a veterinarian station and different sections for each group of animals. In addition, each animal has its own pen equipped with fans for comfort during those hot Texas days. All the pens are clean and dry. "We are glad to say we are at maximum capacity. The number of animals has almost doubled in the 13 years I have been here. We have 5 foot by 10 foot pens, 72 pens and 72 animals," Eric stated.

In the animal science course, students are taught what a quality animal looks like, parts of the animal, how to look for and treat disease and injuries, how to give shots and how to give day-to-day care. "Not every sickness or injury requires a vet's care," Eric stated. "Our vet, Dr. Rook at 14th St. Vet Clinic, has been real helpful. He keeps us focused on general health care for the animals and quality of life."

Having an animal in the program



- + SIGNS
- + STAMPS
- + PRINTING

- + Banners
- + Vehicle Lettering
- + Window Graphics
- + Nameplates / Badges
- + Interior / Exterior Signage

Installation Services Available

www.aplussignco.com www.aplusstamps.com

3241 Robinson Road Midlothian, TX 76065

Mention Ad for Free Gift When Placing Order



### **Christie Tatum Janszen**

469-569-8810

ChrisTatum@yahoo.com • www.ChristieTatum.com



Ovilla \$469,000
3678sf Main house with 812sf Guest House & Inground Pool & Spa. 3/4 ac. Gorgeous custom with all the bells & whistles.



Midlothian \$129,000 1825sf home with 4 bdrms. Fabulous neighborhood. Recent carpet & paint. Move-in ready!



Waxahachie - Outside City Limits
House w/ 10+ ac - \$244,900. 12 ac
tracts - \$76,600 each. Great for home
business and/or animals



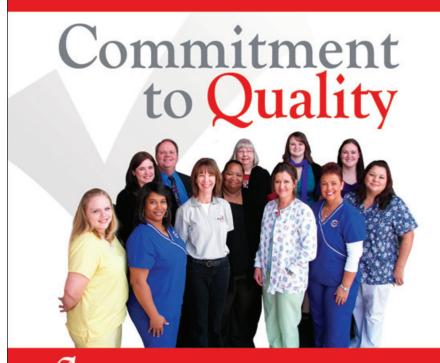
Red Oak \$189,900
Commercial property on I-35 south of FM 664. High vis & easy access.
792sf office bldg on site.



Keller Williams Realty ranked "Highest in Overall Satisfaction for Home Buyers and Sellers Among National Full Service Real Estate Firms."







Approved Home Health Care provides a variety of nursing and therapy services to patients and their families in Ellis, Johnson, Tarrant, Dallas counties and surrounding areas. We're locally owned and operated by hometown folks with over 50 years of combined home health experience.

The Community Health Accreditation Program, Inc. (CHAP) rewards agencies for their Core & Home Health Standards of Excellence. Approved Home Health Care continues to hold CHAP Accreditation status as we go into our sixth year!

Best Little Home Care Agency in TX! Family Owned and Operated Since 2005

For additional agency information, contact Louis Ponder, Owner at (972) 723-2933.

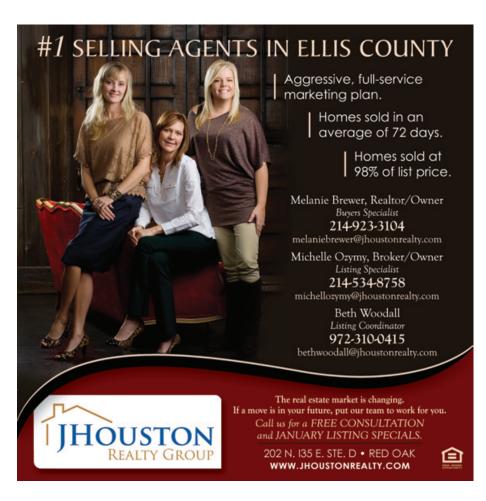




### "I can't speak highly enough about our parents."

and housed at the facility requires a lot of effort from parents as well as from students. Kids and parents care for all of the animals' needs and feed them twice a day. "Everyone has been very responsible," Eric said. "I can't speak highly enough about our parents. We have some dads who will fix a water leak and let us know about it. If an animal is loose, they put it back."

All of this hard work has paid off with many honors and awards. The students enter all of the major stock shows in Texas: Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Houston and Austin. They end the year with Ellis County Expo. At the most recent State Fair of Texas, a sale was made with a market goat, and another goat received Grand and Reserve Grand Light awards at Heart O'Texas Fair & Rodeo 2012. For the Ellis County Youth Expo in 2012, MISD produced a Grand Champion goat, steer, lamb and rabbits. The students also produced Reserve Grand winners with a hog, steer, lamb, goats, rabbits and chickens. These are just a few of the honors this program has received. The school year is not yet over and, no doubt, there are more accomplishments to come from this program. NOW







972-937-4433

800 N. Hwy 77 Ste 100 Next to HEB

AllEyeCare.com

AllOpticalCare.com



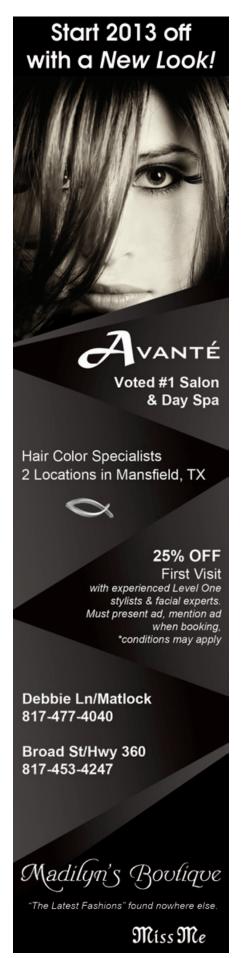














Josh and Caroline McAda Josh McAda, who grew up in Mansfield and has lived in the area his whole life, has worked for his family's construction business for years. Caroline is a transplant from upstate New York. She explained, "In the late '80s, the economy was suffering, so I followed my brother to Texas to look for work." She ended up working in sales for a company that specialized in concrete pipe. Josh and Caroline shared many business calls before finally agreeing to meet one day. "We'd talked on the phone for years but never met," Caroline said. Josh's aunt, who



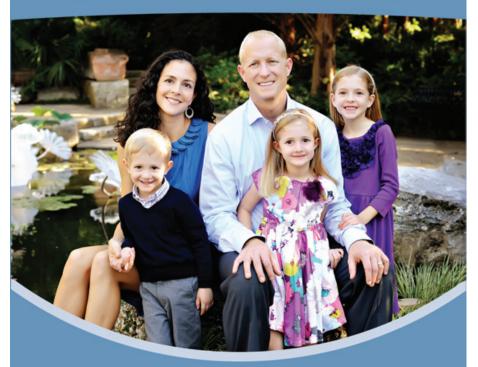


is part of the business, knew both of them and convinced them to meet. After a year-long courtship, they were married. They now have three daughters: 7 year old twin girls, Leah and Leanna, and 3-year-old, Allie.

A few years ago, they started considering a move to Midlothian. "My Granny, Ola Hopkins, has lived here since the '50s, and my mom lives in Venus, so we wanted to move to be close to the family," Josh said. They love the small-town feel, as well as the school district, but their ties to the family were the determining factor. Having decided on Midlothian, Josh and Caroline just had to find the right spot.

After looking for a while, Josh and Caroline decided on the new Midtowne subdivision near the high school. The neighborhood borrows from Old Town America in that each house is styled after





## Happy New Year!

- Environmentally friendly office
  - Invisalign teeth straightening
- Enjoy sedation dentistry Implants
- Now in-network with PPO insurances



Travis Spillman, DDS

800 Silken Crossing, Ste 112 adjacent to Ellis Co. BBQ • Midlothian

972.723.3567

dentalcenterofmidlothian.com



a specific older style. "Our developer was Options Real Estate," Josh shared. "This house is a 1920's Spanish revival, and it's like revivals you can see in the Kessler Park area in Dallas."

Josh and Caroline decided to build their new home themselves. "It was always my dream to build a house with my granddad," Josh said, "but he passed away before I could." Having gotten the plans from the developer, Josh and Caroline set out to create the perfect house, from many angles.

"We loved the Spanish style, but we also wanted to make a house that was great for our girls and our pets," Caroline explained. "We made sure this would be a place we could host our friends and family." What they ended up with was formal in places, but an overall welcoming home that invites guests of all ages.

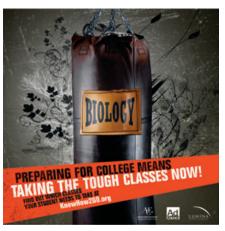
From the curb, the house features beautiful arches complementing traditional Spanish style. Above the windows, Josh and Caroline inlayed colorful Mexican tile, which they include in other spots around the house. "There are a few spots where we didn't want windows, so we used the tile inlay instead," Josh added.

Once inside, a large dining area greets visitors with casual decorum. "We usually























eat in the kitchen," Caroline explained, "but we use the large dining table for special meals and all of the family gatherings we have." With so many of Josh's family members so close, they end up using the dining room more often than an average American family. The kitchen is open, and a smaller table gives a cozy family feel. The whole house is ideal for hosting holiday parties, family get-togethers and for entertaining friends.

Josh and Caroline's master bedroom is downstairs, while the children sleep upstairs. Though the rooms break from the Spanish style in some areas, they have been careful to include arched entryways, wrought iron detailing and hand-troweled walls, to keep with the ambience. Josh and Caroline also accent with natural stones throughout the house.

Additionally, the restrooms subtly accentuate their style. "We wanted a spa-like feel in the master bath," Josh stated, "We have vessel sinks, natural stone and stained concrete floors."

"The sangria red color in the front bath touches the Spanish style," Caroline said. "We have several unique faucets in the house." Little touches stand out in every room. "That's one thing with building yourself — you can add your personal style to give it the feel you want."

Upstairs, Josh and Caroline have worked long and hard to make each room just right. The girls' rooms could not be mistaken for boy's rooms. "Allie, especially, is all girly. You can tell from all of the pink," Caroline said. Leah and Leanna share a room. "They still want to sleep in the same room, so that's why we have a spare bedroom up here. I guess one day they will want their own."

Between the children's quarters, there sits a game room with a pool table and television. From there, Josh and Caroline bring the house back to its Spanish roots. "We wanted to have another touch to bring in the Spanish style," Josh said, "so we put in the patio breezeway between the house and the garage's upstairs. We used more of the natural stone from inside the house to tie it all together."

Above the garage sit two of the most interesting rooms in the house. "We built the upper garage into a home office," Josh said. Unlike a typical spare room, their office is a quiet space where Josh

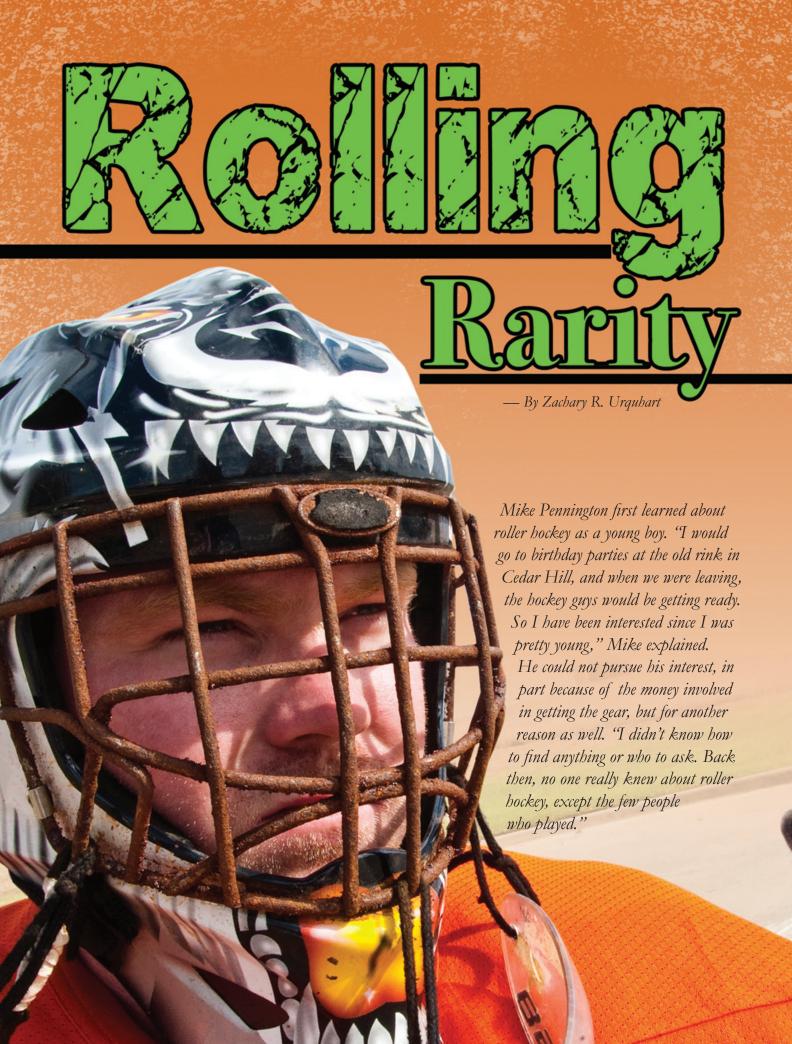


and Caroline can work away from the main house.

The architectural apex is Josh and Caroline's state-of-the-art media room. Off the side of the office, still above the garage, they have a black wall theater. With six plush leather stadium seats, it's great for watching games or sharing fun and laughter on family movie nights. As it happened, they turned a potential problem into a chance to bring out the style of their home. "There can't be plain outer walls anywhere that the house faces a street, but we didn't want windows letting in light. So, we did a really large tile inlay that matches the rest of the house," Josh stated. By finding creative ways to keep their unique touches, Josh and Caroline did what they have done their whole lives together - mix lots of pleasure with a little business. **NOW** 









Mike graduated from Midlothian High School (MHS) in 2005 and joined the Navy. Due to an unfortunate medicinal allergy, he was discharged shortly after enlisting. In the last several years, he has worked around Midlothian, and he currently does maintenance for Love's. Whatever job he has, though, he always makes sure he has time to get to the rink.

Three years ago, Mike was finally able to get into the sport he had wanted to play for so long. "I have some cousins who gave me the gear I needed," he said. "That was a big step. I would play a little just by myself." Now that he had all of the equipment he needed, Mike needed to get ready to hit the rinks. "I already knew how to skate, but I didn't have the technique down. I started skating on the hills in my neighborhood to get better and faster."

After a short time, Mike was ready to go to the rink and mix it up with others. He ended up playing at the old rink in Cedar Hill. "The owner just recently stopped letting us on there, but we used to play at the old rink all the time," Mike said. For the most part, there was a small contingent of guys who made frequent visits to the Cedar Hill rink for pickup games of roller hockey. "In Cedar Hill, it was usually the same guys. We would play with the same teams a lot, so you got to know how to play together. We also















learned each other's moves, so it made defense a little easier."

After several years of playing regularly at that old rink, the owner decided to shut down the hockey nights. "It was cool there, because he would let us go for five or six hours most nights. Now I have to go out to Arlington," Mike said.

For a while now, Mike has played at Elzie Odom Recreation Center in

## "No ice is no excuse."

Arlington. One of the big differences between Odom and the old rink is the inclusion of leagues. "We just met at the old place, but there are leagues most nights in Arlington. I was in a league last year. This season I am just doing drop-ins, but I still get up there and play a few times a week," Mike said. Mike enjoys playing in Arlington for two main reasons. "Everyone is really supportive out there. They have players of all skill levels, and we never want to discourage new people." The other key factor for Mike is it is never hard for him to find a game when he goes to Arlington, and for good reason.

Just over a year ago, Mike switched positions. "For a while, all of my friends were encouraging me to try being a

goalie," Mike shared. "They thought I would be good at it, and we usually need one, so I figured, Why not?" Mike bought a set of goalie pads and equipment and started minding the net. Because there are usually so few goalkeepers, he is able to find a game more often than not and has been asked many times to join leagues. "I had to pay about \$800 for the gear, but now I almost always can find a game, so it was worth it."

Mike's favorite playing memory came while in the net. "It was my first game as a goalie," he recounted. "The guys told me I was probably only a D level keeper, but I was playing a C level game. It ended up going to a shoot out. It came down to one last shot. I knew I couldn't reach it, but I stuck out my stick and miraculously flipped it out of the goal!"

His astounding first game as goalie aside, Mike mainly just loves playing the game. "Roller hockey is great," he said.



"It's cheaper than ice hockey, as far as the gear and getting onto the rink. And if nothing else, you can just go out to the street to play. I like to say, 'No ice is no excuse." Because roller hockey players are still relatively rare to find in Texas, the guys who are involved tend to be supportive and welcome first timers. As Mike pointed out, "There aren't many of us, so no one wants people to quit."

Hockey, though a fun game, is not always easy. "Sometimes, one of the hardest things is just keeping up," Mike

## COLDWELL BANKER

2502 Garrett Court · Cedar Hill





Fabulous custom beauty w upscale finishout & amenities\*wood & tile flrs massive kitch w/ granite & SS appliances\*tile backslash & bunwarmer\*dbl oven\*appliance garage\*computer-desk builtin closet\* plantation shutters rock FP\*crown moldings\*rounded corners\*dbl lead glass ft doors\*dbl shower\*huge tub\*huge wooddeck over garage\* beautiful pool hottub\*Midlothian Schools. \$3,495 (Rental)













## **Hometown Chiropractic**



## Chiropractic Approach to Disc Problems

While the intervertebral disc is a common culprit in spine-related health problems, its function is widely misunderstood. The disc is a small cartilage pad that is situated between spinal bones. The soft jelly-like center is contained by layers of fibrous tissues.

Each disc serves as a connector, spacer and shock absorber for the spine. When healthy, discs allow normal turning and bending. Discs can bulge, herniate or rupture, resulting in other problems.

Like a wet sponge, a healthy disc is flexible. A dry sponge is hard, stiff and can crack easily. This is how many disc problems begin. Because of the way each disc is attached to the vertebra above and below it, a disc cannot "slip" as commonly thought. However, trauma or injury to the spine can cause discs to bulge, herniate or worse, rupture. This can be quite painful, putting pressure on the spinal cord and nerve roots, often interfering with their function.

The chiropractic approach to disc problems is to help restore better motion and position to the spinal joints. Besides reducing disc bulging, better spinal function helps decrease inflammation so the slow process of healing the surrounding soft tissues can begin. Many patients have avoided needless surgery or a dependency on pain pills by choosing conservative chiropractic care.

## Free initial consultation

Most Insurances, PIP, Attorney's Letter of Protection
All patients seen within 15 minutes • Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. - 7 P.M.

Dr. David Marcial 112 S. McKinney, Ennis 972-875-8600 Dr. Natasha Maza-Marcial 607 Ferris Ave, Waxahachie 972-923-1003



admitted. "It does get really hot in the goalie gear, too. But, I have learned a lot, and I still get lots of advice on how to set up, and what techniques to focus on improving."

On top of the challenges of roller hockey, Mike often drifts to the frozen ponds to play, as well. "We play ice hockey, sometimes, too. The game is the same but very different, especially for a goalie. There are things you can't do on land that you can do sliding around the ice rink. You have to get used to all of the differences, depending on where you're playing." Whatever type of rink Mike is using, he is always ready for a game.

One day, Mike hopes to take his skills to a different area, if not a new level, of play. "I want to go to Canada," he said. "My hope is to go to TriOS College in Toronto to get a programming degree, and of course, to play hockey." Mike does not have a specific time frame but hopes to make it up there sometime soon. Getting to cold weather and consistent hockey games is not the only reason he hopes to move north. "It doesn't hurt that the NHL Hall of Fame is just down the street," he said with a smile. Whether or not he makes it to Toronto, Mike will certainly keep playing as much hockey as he can, on the ice or the streets. And if nothing else, he always has the memory of the miraculous deflection from his first ever game in the net. NOW





### **Need Gifts?**

Phone Orders Welcome
Call for an Appointment or
Host a Party to Earn
Free & ½ Price Scentsy!

Debi Mangan (972) 937-1440 Office (903) 258-3513 Cell www.eFlameless.com debimangan@sbcglobal.net







# Business NOW







### **Welcome Home Furniture**

1411 N. Highway 67 Midlothian, TX 76065 (972) 775-7575

### Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.



Stephen Hidlebaugh gives Midlothian a beautiful selection of furniture.

# Love of Furniture

Welcome Home Furniture shows you the latest furnishing trends for your home.

— By Betty Tryon

A store in Midlothian has a pleasant surprise for you. Welcome Home Furniture is filled with beautiful furniture that is tastefully and artistically displayed. Owner Stephen Hidlebaugh, along with the help of Logan Gaddis, wants to give you an idea of what it would look like in your home.

Stephen studied architecture and started his company in 1991. He put his skills to good use by working with clients who develop apartment communities and senior housing. His interior design work is strictly for commercial use, such as designing model homes and office interiors. "In an apartment community, we put the whole package together for our clients. The model home, the pool furniture, brick color, shingle color, the carpet color, wall color and all the furniture that

goes with it, we design the way the facility looks," he stated.

Stephen and Logan have many commercial projects that keep them busy. They are currently doing projects in Nashville, Tennessee, Arizona and Katy, Texas. They recently won an award in Indianapolis for the best renovation project in the state. But it was in 1997 that Stephen started buying old homes in Midlothian and restoring them. "We've always been in the design industry," he said. "We've always had employees and a warehouse, but we've never had a retail outlet. With our huge history in design and having the love of furniture, we decided to start a furniture store. We realized there was no outlet to buy furniture in Midlothian."

They purchased the building that used to be Sharp Furniture,

## **Business NOW**

modernized the structure and brought in a decor that is trendy and traditional. They still have the old sign that was on the building, and it now decorates one of the walls inside. Another wall is old wood that was salvaged from a home. A third wall showcases three large, antique windows taken from a mansion in Waco.

But the star of this business is the furniture. Stephen and Logan go to great lengths to make sure their furniture selections are current, stylish and fresh. "We went to a huge furniture show in Vegas," Stephen explained. "It had a million square feet of furniture. It took us days to get through it. It was a lot of fun to see the latest trends and colors.

# **Whatever your home** furnishing needs are, **Welcome Home Furniture** wants to be your furniture store.

We try to find something that is good quality yet affordable. We want to have a really cool look but have something you can actually afford. We have a little bit of everything, with current trends from very traditional to soft contemporary. It's a good mix and, of course, we can order anything from our catalogs."

Welcome Home Furniture sells furniture for the whole home — living room sets, dining room sets and bedroom sets. Perfect home accents and accessories to complement the furniture presented are also offered. The store also sells Simmons Beautyrest and Golden mattresses, and Rowe furniture, which offers a very attractive guarantee. They have a lifetime warranty on their cushions! If your cushions get worn down and squished, as cushions are inclined to do, the company will send you a new cushion insert that is easily interchanged with the old one. Furniture can be custom ordered. The business offers a 90-day layaway with attractive financing packages available. They also offer free delivery for Midlothian residents. Whatever your home furnishing needs are, Welcome Home Furniture wants to be your furniture store. **NOW** 







972-572-1616 www.anniceantiques.com





# Around Town NOW



LaRue Miller students have crazy hair day.



Volunteer dentists from Hope Clinic teach students about dental health.



Nancy Tracy and her son, Jason, enjoy hamburgers at B's Texican.



Second graders get comfy during a read-in to practice reading.



Don Butler put in 850 miles to win the Race Across Texas at Main Street Gym!



Mitchell D. uses his guitar to help with teaching examples of sound, pitch and volume.



Rover-comer begs Kamual Jones for his nachos at the Lighthouse Coffee Bar's art and music festival.



Alexa M. is holding "Miracle," a newly born chick hatched in Mrs. Alexander's CBI's class at Mt. Peak.



Fourth graders at LaRue Miller Elementary presented their program, "Thwacked," to family and friends.



A third grader shares a poem with his dad at Our Poetry Cafe.

# YOUR NEWEST NEIGHBOR IS PRETTY GOOD WITH MONEY.



# New location opening in Waxahachie.

First Financial Bank is happy to announce we're extending our branches. Literally and figuratively. We're opening a new branch in Waxahachie and we couldn't be more excited. We're ready to bring everyone our great customer service and lend them a hand when they need it. And remember, as soon as our doors are open, it's You First.

101 Northgate Drive, Waxahachie, TX.

firtstmybank.com



YOU FIRST









# WINTER is the PERFECT time to create your BACKYARD RETREAT!









# Crawling With Life

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Once again, the two sisters found themselves on a familiar path to the nurse's office at school. They were sent there by their teachers who noticed the troubling symptoms of another round of head lice infestation. Head lice are wingless parasitic insects that live on your scalp, feed on your blood and lay their eggs in your hair. They are very tiny, about the size of a sesame seed, and when they move around on the scalp, it can feel like a tickling or crawling sensation. Lice infestation is not a sign of uncleanliness or poverty. Anyone can get lice. They are nondiscriminatory about whom they choose to crawl on. They spread by crawling from person-to-person and by the sharing of personal items, such as combs, brushes, hats or headphones.

The earliest and most predominant sign of lice infestation is itching with resultant scratching. The itching is because of an allergic reaction to the saliva excreted from the louse (singular form for lice). Intense scratching can cause open wounds which can then become infected. Another visual to determine if lice are present is the actual bug itself and its eggs, which are called nits. Nits are deposited on the hair shaft next to the scalp. One can find the bugs most often on the back of the neck and behind the ears.

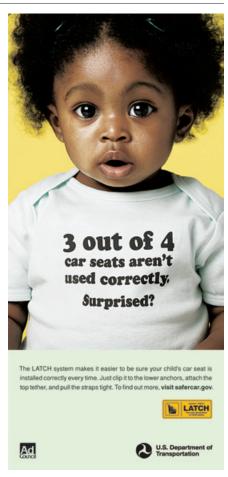
Getting rid of lice is involved but worth it. There are products and medications available over the counter (OTC) and by

prescription to kill lice and their eggs. Follow directions carefully. Use a fine toothed comb on wet hair to remove nits. Check the hair of all persons in the household. Remember to wash all brushes and combs in hot sudsy water. Afterwards, either soak them for an hour in isopropyl alcohol or replace them. Sheets, pillow cases and clothing that have come in contact with the infected person need to be laundered using hot water. Items such as large comforters or stuffed animals that cannot be laundered should be placed in a plastic or airtight bag tightly sealed for at least two weeks. The environment, floors and furniture, should be vacuumed thoroughly. For children under the age of 2, check with their health care provider before using any chemicals or OTC medications. For them, it is usually sufficient to remove live bugs and nits by hand.

Having lice may be embarrassing, and it is definitely annoying. However, the good news is that with effort they can be eliminated from your home and your head. NOW

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







### January 2-4, 7-11

Christmas Tree Recycling; 7:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m., 1011 Eastgate. Please check in at the office. Make sure all decorations and electrical lights are removed. No artificial trees or wreaths will be accepted.

### January 8

Midlothian Area Historical Society meetings: 7:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center. For more information, contact Beverly Sink at beverlysink@sbcglobal.net or at (469) 628-1907.

The Navarro College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will sponsor free seminar on How to Start a Small Business: 2:00-4:00 p.m., Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, 102 YMCA Dr., Waxahachie. Seminar is free but pre-registration is required. Call Navarro College SBDC at (972) 923-6425 or -email sbdc@navarrocollege.edu. Attendees will explore the feasibility of their business ideas and learn the basics of registering a business, choosing a legal form of business ownership, filing proper permits and licenses, and evaluating financial options.

### January 14 and 17

Paws for Reflection GALS (Girls' Animal Lovers Society) and CHAPS (Cowboys Honoring Animal Partners Society): ages 7 and up, Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5431 Montgomery Rd. Call (972) 775-8966 for schedules and registration information or e-mail pawsforreflection@att.net.

### January 17 Through 20

Midlothian High School Musical Performance: 7:00 p.m., MHS auditorium; January 20 performance at 2:30 p.m.

### January 19

"Free Children's Dance" for Maddie's Sake: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center (next to old DQ), 104 W. Avenue E., dance for children of all ages with and without a disability. Donations accepted. Refreshments, games, dancing, photo booth and DJ Carl from Fire Bird Entertainment. For more details, visit www.ForMaddiesSake.com.

Waxahachie Community Theatre Inaugural Black & White Gala: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium, The evening will include presentation of Spotlight Awards for the 2012 season. Black tie optional and all of the family is welcome to attend. Tickets for gala are \$15/adults and \$7/children ages 6-11. Preschool children free with paid admission. Reservations required and must be made by **January 14.** Tickets available online at www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com or contact the Box Office at (972) 646-1050.

Texas Baptist Home's Adoption
Department Run for Their Lives 5K
fundraiser for Post-Adoption Services: 9:00
a.m.-noon, Getzendaner Memorial Park
(near downtown Waxahachie). The needs of
children and families do not automatically
disappear after adoption. Help us provide
assistance to those families and support life
and family. Registration: \$30 (includes event
T-shirt). Watch Web site for registration
information.

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





# Cooking NOW



# In The Kitchen With Kasey Barron

— By Betty Tryon

Although Kasey Barron enjoys cooking, she readily acknowledges that sometimes it is a chore. To alleviate the doldrums, she takes a "mad scientist" approach. "Sometimes I follow recipes, mostly for baking," she said. "But for the most part when it comes to cooking, I just throw things together and hope my family likes it!"

Kasey's cookie recipes have won her lots of praise within her family. "My kids and friends say I should open a cookie shop and sell them! That's inspiring and flattering and makes me realize the gift that my 'higher power' gave me." She has found much success with family recipes and hopes you will pass her recipes on to your kids! NOW

# Chocolate Chip REESE'S Peanut Butter Cups Cookies

Chocolate chip cookie dough (Use your favorite recipe.)

- 1 bag REESE'S Peanut Butter Cups, unwrapped
- **I.** Line mini-muffin pans with mini-muffin liners.
- **2.** Pour prepared chocolate chip cooking batter into muffin liners. Bake according to cookie recipe directions.
- **3.** After baking, check several of the cookies with a toothpick. If done, toothpick should be clean.
- **4.** Insert individual peanut butter cups in the center of each cookie.
- **5.** Allow to cool completely. Enjoy!

# Crock-Pot Creamy Italian Chicken

- 4-6 boneless skinless chicken breasts, halved
- I to I 1/4-oz. envelope dried Italian salad dressing mix
- 1/4 cup water
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 10 3/4-oz. can condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1 4-oz. can mushroom stems and pieces, drained

### Hot cooked rice or pasta

- **1.** Place chicken breast halves in a Crock-Pot.
- **2.** Combine Italian dressing mix and water; pour over top of chicken. Cover and cook on low for 3 hours.
- 3. In a small mixing bowl, beat cream

cheese and soup until well-blended; stir in mushrooms.

- **4.** Pour soup mixture over chicken. Cook I hour more or until chicken is cooked through.
- **5.** Serve over hot cooked rice or pasta.

# Grandma Jones' Cowboy Beans

1/4 onion, finely chopped Olive oil

2 tsp. garlic, chopped

1 lb. ground sirloin Salt, to taste

I can pork and beans

I can chili beans

1/4 cup Worcestershire sauce, or to taste

- **1.** Sauté onion in a little olive oil until slightly softened.
- 2. Add garlic and continue to sauté.
- **3.** In a larger pan, brown the sirloin; drain grease and then salt the beef.
- **4.** Add pork and beans and chili beans to pan; add sautéed onions and garlic.
- **5.** Add Worcestershire sauce. Simmer 10-15 minutes. Great when served with corn bread.

### **Quick Beer Bread**

- 2 cups whole wheat flour, or 1 cup wheat flour and 1 cup white flour
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 to 1 1/2 cups beer, light or dark, but not stout
- 2 tsp. melted butter
- **I.** Oil and flour loaf pan. Mix first five ingredients thoroughly.
- **2.** When moistened, add beer. Beer should be room temperature or cold, but not flat. Batter will be sticky.
- **3.** Pour batter in loaf pan; drizzle butter on top of loaf before placing in oven.
- **4.** Bake at 400 F for 40 minutes. Cool before slicing.

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







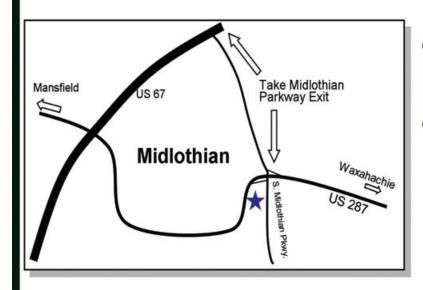
Dr. Hamilton was great with my son Jayden. He was patient and very understanding. I am blessed we found him. I would recommend him to anyone. - Jennifer B.

ikidsdental.com - Most Insurances Accepted - Medicaid/CHIP Approved



That's the beauty of a new year.
The past is gone. You start with a clean slate. No mistakes.
Start more than just a new year.
Let us help you start a new *life*.

Sundays at 8:15, 9:30, 11:00 a.m., & 5:00 p.m.





fbcMidlothian.org

1651 S. Midlothian Parkway 972.723.6415