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THE BEST SHOW IN TOWN

Heritage High's theater and choir directors grow the school's fine arts program.

16 HER PLACE
At Home With Joanne
Dandridge.

24 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

28 IN THE FAST LANE Olympic hopeful Tyler Cobbs pursues his dreams.

38 GETAWAY TO GOOD TIMES

Head to Northwest Florida for fun, sun and historical treasures.

40 A BRAND NEW YOU

Make the right choices in your diet this year.



34 CookingNOW

36 BusinessNOW

44 Around TownNOW

52 HealthNOW

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ON THE COVER

The musical theater team at Heritage High is ready to amaze a crowd.

Photo by Amy Brown.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, Midlothian!

In just a month on the job, I'm learning this town is plugged in! Well, technically, it's wireless, but what I mean is we are "in the know!" Local social media sites have shown me whether it's traffic or weather, store openings or special events, word travels fast here. That should come as no surprise, being that it's on the Internet and all, but I'm impressed how quick Midlothian residents are to answer one another's questions.

Is Kroger open? (Boy, is it!) Are we getting a Chick-fil-A? (The sign is up!) When's the big game? Can you recommend a doctor? Did anyone find a lost dog? Who left out their grocery cart? Are we there yet?

We have the answers, and we have them fast! But one thing we're not sure of, at least not according to one social media post, is what residents want to be called — Midlothianites? Midlothianers? Or my personal favorite, Midlothianians?

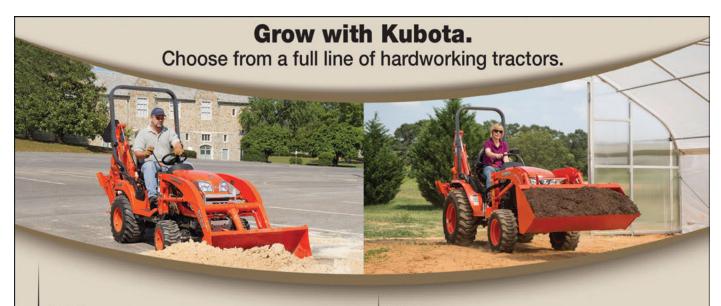
Sure, there isn't always agreement, but people always offer suggestions, solutions or at least comical resolutions to their neighbors' requests for assistance. What an exciting time to cover a city, when voices old and new come together on both slow city streets and speedy virtual highways.

See you on the road, Midlothians!

P.S. New year, new look and some fresh, new ideas! The NOW Magazines team has been working hard on this project, and we hope you love it. Cheers!







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While the hills may be alive with sounds, the real music this winter is coming from deep in the forest at Midlothian Heritage High School. Just a few years ago, the campus housed only freshmen and teachers who had to travel to Midlothian High School for athletics and the arts. This year, for the second time, the halls are filled with four full classes of students. Just a year after sending off the school's first graduating class, MHHS Choir Director Cliff Carbone and Theater Arts Director Amy Brown are excited to bring a year of productions, highlighted by January's staging of Into the Woods.

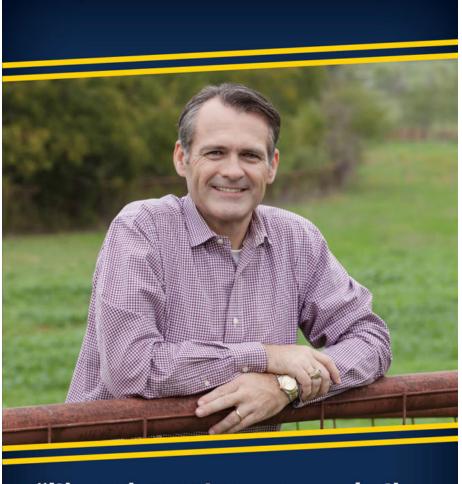
Cliff grew up in Altus, Oklahoma, before heading to Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where he majored in vocal music education. "I actually almost changed my major to history," he laughed. Cliff had a friend from the area who convinced him to interview at T.E. Baxter Elementary, so he moved from Oklahoma to Midlothian in 2003. "I was there for a few years, and then I started at Walnut Grove the first year it was open," he detailed. In its first year as a school, Heritage did not have its own choir program, but Cliff took over when the campus opened in 2015, and he has loved growing a program full of kids he taught in middle school.

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Cliff has had a growing number of students each of his years, which means he has had an ever-growing talent pool to choose from when it comes to his productions. "I've been really pleased with what we've been able to do," he said. "I try to have more of a Broadway aspect when we perform choir shows. I pick a theme, and we set up lighting, staging and really create an entire production." It is that natural showmanship that has helped lead to success for what may be Cliff's favorite project, the yearly Heritage Musical Theatre production.



When it comes to musical theater, though, a solid group of singers is only half the recipe, which is where Amy comes in. Amy grew up in Dallas, and moved to Midlothian in middle school. After graduating in 2006, she went to Texas Christian University for her undergraduate work and then immediately earned a master's degree in design production from Cal-State Fullerton. "I thought I'd stay in California and work, but then a position opened up here, and it was home, so I moved back," she detailed. Amy was in Midlothian for a year before Heritage opened its doors, and she was one of the teachers for the school's inaugural staff.

As soon as Cliff and Amy started working together a few years ago, their strengths and styles blended together like the harmonious union of choral singers that they both enjoy in their shows. "At one of the first things we did together, I looked over and Amy was giving an impromptu breathing lesson to one of the singers," Cliff laughed. "I wasn't used to having someone else who knew how to help like that, but I learned that Amy can really sing, too."

Their shared love of music is not the only key thing they have in common, as Amy has figured out. "Cliff is such a showman," she explained. "He always wants to do so much with his shows, so I can help bring his ideas to life." Within a few months of working together at Heritage, Cliff and Amy decided to do a joint effort. "My first year, there was a group of freshmen who were really talented. So, when Cliff came, it made sense for us to do a big musical theater production," Amy recounted.





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Within a few months of working together at Heritage, Cliff and Amy decided to do a ioint effort.

Heritage has staged several musicals, along with offering joint efforts during the holidays, and this year they wanted to do something special. "That great freshmen group of Amy's are now our seniors," Cliff shared. "They've helped us grow the Fine Arts Department, but especially the musical theater program. We chose Into the Woods because it is this great, fun show that has a lot of great parts for these kids to bring to life." Between the main characters, the supporting cast and the technical crew, Cliff and Amy will have close to 75 students with a hand in staging the show.

Growing a program big enough to handle those needs has been a big part of Cliff and Amy's job the last three years. "Having a full campus helps, and we always hope to have new kids who want to be a part," she admitted. "But





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we really appreciate that core of seniors who have been with us since the start. We took them to see the show when it was at the Winspear. It's bright and exciting in the first act and is meatier and deals with human emotions in the second."

With Amy's specific area of expertise in the technical aspects of theater, she has been able to work with kids in both acting and stage management. "I have an advanced tech class for the first time, so I've got some kids who really thrive in those roles," she explained.

That advanced tech class is a further extension of another progression for the program. Heritage added a joint class that Cliff and Amy teach together. "I've had specialized music classes before, but this gives us the chance to really work with the kids on all aspects of musical theater," he continued. "Whether they ever do anything with theater, they get to learn so much responsibility, communication and teamwork." While they love teaching their kids skills for life, when it comes to the show, Cliff expressed a simpler goal, "When people think about entertainment in the area, I want them to know that Midlothian Heritage has the best show in town." NOW

Editor's Note: Tickets are available online at heritagetheatre.seatyourself.biz or at the

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Her Place

— By Zachary R. Urquhart



At Home With Joanne Dandridge



For 50 years, Joanne Dandridge lived in a house in Oak Cliff. She raised a family there. She played music there, and she even spent years alone there. Now, though, as she enters her 80s, Joanne is starting over in an addition to one of her children's houses in Midlothian. Home is where the heart is, and Joanne is making a whole new place feel like home.

Joanne was born in West Texas, but moved to this area as a young child. "Dad was a cotton ginner, but he could do just about anything, and we ended up in Dallas when I was 5," she explained. After graduating from Sunset High School, Joanne married Bob, and they moved to Washington, D.C., where he was stationed in the Army. "T've lived in Texas all my life, except for those two years," she reminisced. Once they were back, they moved into a house in Oak Cliff, where she lived for five decades.









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Bob and Joanne had four children. Rita lives in North Richland Hills. Russell lives in Arlington. Karen and her husband, Bryan, are in Midlothian. And her oldest daughter, Paula, passed away two years ago. Joanne has six grandchildren, and she just welcomed her 10th great-grandchild. "Once I was done raising the kids, I started helping watch the grandkids," she said with a smile. "I always had kids around my house, and I still get to see



my great-grandchildren a lot." Bob and Joanne eventually separated, and he passed away several years back, so she lived independently for quite some time before deciding to move in with Karen and Bryan last year.

Joanne is in good shape, all things considered, but she made a decision with her family to move now. "I've had heart problems, and my kids wanted to be able to take care of me," she said. "It's taken a little time, but

I'm starting to think of this place as my home. Karen has lived here so long that I couldn't think of anywhere I'd rather be than Midlothian. I've heard how great it is for so long." Having lived on her own for a while, Joanne takes herself back to Oak Cliff for church every week, and she has no problem if Bryan and Karen go out of town for an extended stay.

Her home is a quaint addition to an unassuming house at the end of















a cul-de-sac that belies the many stories of the woman who lives in the back room. "The whole time they were designing it, I didn't realize I would get my own entrance," she admitted. A bit of greenery dots her special walkway that allows her more independence than a typical motherin-law suite within a house. "And the kids took care of everything. Karen had the furniture all laid out and the photos and decorations all ready when I moved in." One wall is covered with photos of all Joanne's descendants, complete with space for updated photos of the entire extended family.



Under the photo wall sits a true gem, a table that belonged to Joanne's grandfather. "I used to play under that table next to his feet while he worked," she recalled. "When Rita was having it refinished, I told her to keep the stain from where his oil lamp sat each night." That table is one of many treasures in the home, including a beautiful dresser and bed. "My friend, Tom, was a preacher and an antique dealer," she explained. "He found this headboard that had been painted black, but he knew what was underneath. There is a unique burling that he knew would be there."

More beautiful than the bed, though, are the pictures next to it. There is a painting that her mom did before she was born, as well as a photograph of a young Joanne sitting next to her mom on a piano bench. "My mom was a well-known singer

and piano player," she recounted. "I would go with her, so she could play for this Methodist minister who had a radio show, and that day there was a photographer. But he made me sit behind her on the stool, and you can see in the picture that I'm still not happy about that."

Joanne followed in her mother's musical footsteps. "I love being able to serve by playing music, and people really love hearing the organ going," she said. "The week I moved in, I missed a turn on the way back to church, so I had to call the preacher and tell him I wouldn't be there," she laughed. "But most weeks I'm there playing the organ."

Aside from photos, Joanne also proudly displays art and mementos from some of her family around the house. The bathroom is decorated with a sign her granddaughter made showing the important events of 1936, the year Joanne was born. Above the small selection of her library she brought, Joanne has a piece that the same granddaughter painted of Paula. "Bob and I were foster parents for a few years when the kids were young, but in school," she shared. "Paula ended up working with Buckner International, and then helped start Orphan Outreach." Past the windows that give Joanne a view of the backyard, her entry table has photos that Russell took on a trip to Africa several years ago.

Just outside the door that leads to the rest of Bryan and Karen's house, sits the ideal last piece of art: a sign that simply reads Joanne's Place, est. 2017. "Whenever they were building the addition, they would always say, 'We'll do this to Joanne's place,' or, 'Let's take that to Joanne's place,"' she detailed. It is the perfect reminder that even though her family is just down the hall, she is still the same independent lady who drives herself to church every Sunday, as long as she does not miss her turn. NOW





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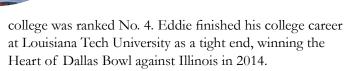
Where Now?



— By Virginia Riddle

A move from Cedar Hill to Midlothian in the eighth grade set Eddie Johnson on a career path that resulted in his recent move to Dallas. There he has opened his own business, The Crew Fitness. Around Midlothian, however, Eddie is best known as the son of Eddie Sr. and Jeanette Johnson and brother to Joseph, as well as for his agility on the gridiron as one of Midlothian High School's former Friday night heroes. He thrilled fans his senior year at MHS by catching 48 passes for 814 yards and eight touchdowns. As such, Eddie was featured in *MidlothianNOW's* September 2009 issue.

Following high school, Eddie attended Hargrave Military Academy, a college prep academy in Virginia, and then he returned to Texas to play for Navarro College during the 2012 and 2013 seasons. Eddie's gridiron talent grew, and during his sophomore year at Navarro College, he caught 27 passes for a total of 351 yards and five touchdowns. "We went on to win two backto-back Southwest Junior College Football Conference championships and two back-to-back C.H.A.M.P.S. Heart of Texas Bowl games," he said. Navarro College finished the 2013 season at 10-2, and in the final NJCAA poll, the



Even for the best, there is only a limited time to play football, as each player advances into a tougher level of competition and the physical challenges of playing as one ages become greater. "After college, I had an opportunity to play arena football with the Dallas Marshals and went into training again. But I came to realize football had been a great experience, and I'd had a great career, but it was time to do something else," Eddie admitted. Armed with a solid education and positive outlook, he was ready to put his athletic experiences to good use and take that next step.

Atlet Sports offered Eddie an opportunity that brought him back to Midlothian to train and build his career. "Midlothian has really been good to me," Eddie explained. "I had over 15 football scholarship offers during high school."

After his time at Atlet, Eddie took a leap of faith and started The Crew Fitness. "Cyrus Gray, a former Texas A&M University and Kansas City Chiefs running back, and I were close friends during this time. He introduced me to those at Vault Aviation who helped me get established."

Eddie is very thankful to his family, especially his parents. "I have to give a shout out to them," he said. "My dad taught me everything, and my mom had the heart. I thank them so much for all they've done. I also give credit to God for all He's done in my life. Three years ago, I was poor. With God and the guidance of family and friends, things have definitely turned around for me."

His positive outlook has worked well for him, so Eddie is advising others who are following in his path. He often tells young people to strive toward being their own boss by owning their own business. "I was really poor in Louisiana, and now, three years later, I own my own business, and everything's working really well. Everyone should want to be the captain of their own ship. Follow your dreams. You can do whatever works for you and succeed," he said.

"My dad taught me everything, and my mom had the heart.

Eddie emphasizes that fitness is also for everyone. "At TCF, we have age groups starting with 5- and 6-year-old kids with no upper age limits for adults," he said. "We get all ages to understand how to get and stay fit by developing and using their muscles correctly. I have a great philosophy of life and work, and I love what I'm doing!" NOW





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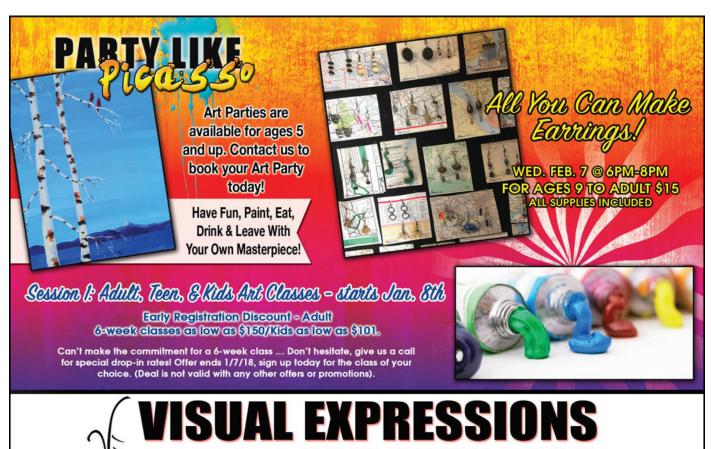
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Mary Prunty 817-994-1150 prunty@ebby.com

Barb Rau 817-944-9856 barbrau@ebby.com

Tricia Wilson 817-308-4963 triciawilson@ebby.com



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Dr. Richard R. Knight, M.D.

Jackie D., Mansfield, TX

I love to eat, and it shows. I got up one day, looked in the mirror and didn't recognize the person looking back at me. With health and mobility issues, I said, "This is it. Something must be done." The next day I did a Google search and came upon the Diet Solution Centers website, and I said to myself, "What do I have to lose?". Boy, am I glad that I called to schedule my initial visit. I started out exercising every day, but with my busy schedule and working two jobs, I had little to no time to work out. I just stuck to the plan without cheating and here I am, 65 pounds gone in 19 weeks. I feel like a new person and love myself again! If I can do this while working two jobs, so can you!





Jackie lost 65 lbs. in 19 weeks.*

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– By Derek: Jones

ANE

The email was a complete surprise. It contained a message from a representative of USA Cycling inviting Tyler Cobbs to Colorado Springs, Colorado, to do some power evaluations for a chance at a spot on the USA Olympic track cycling team. "I sent in some of my track results to USA Cycling and was shocked when I got the invite to be flown out to the Olympic training center for testing," Tyler shared. "Actually, I kinda freaked out." After the shock wore off, he became excited about the once-in-alifetime opportunity.

Tyler has been riding bicycles since he was a young boy. He laughed as he recalled his youth spent on two wheels. "Me and my friends were really into freestyle BMX riding, and we would sometimes skip school to spend the whole day riding our bikes." Still grinning, Tyler added, "We would be back for dinner before anyone knew we were gone."

Soon, however, he moved on from BMX bicycles and began riding mountain bikes and road bikes. This is when he discovered his real talent. "I'm not built for long distances," Tyler explained, "but I can hold 45 mph in a sprint." This ability to sprint





METHOD POOLS & SPAS

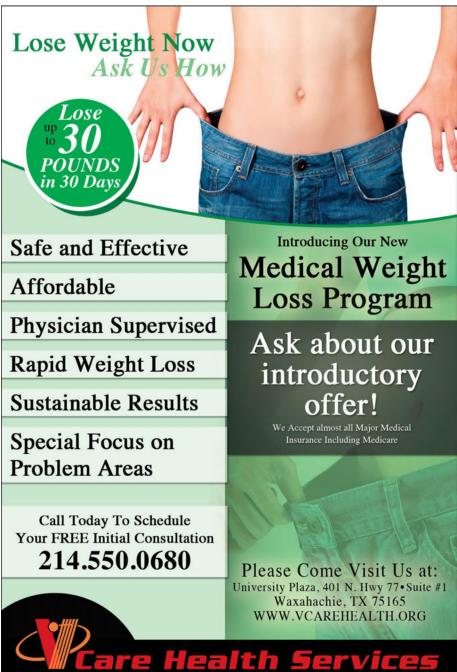
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opened doors for Tyler, and soon he became a regular at the Frisco Velodrome, where he could rely on his skill as a sprinter to compete on the indoor track.

Along with working a job and attending school as a student at The University of Texas at Arlington, he spends a great deal of time training. Tyler confessed, "I have been so busy lately, it has been difficult to train as much as I need to." To stay in shape, he competes on the UT Arlington mountain bike team, trains at the velodrome and does squats to strengthen his legs for the demands of high-intensity sprinting. "Riding off-road on my mountain bike sharpens my bike handling skills and makes me a better sprinter on the track," Tyler stated. Although extremely busy, he is clearly dedicated to his sport.

His commitment has paid off as USA Cycling recognized his potential as a track cyclist. Tyler reflected on being one of the 25 cyclists invited to the Olympic Training Center. "Going to train in Colorado Springs with Olympic coaches was an amazing experience," he said. Along with cyclists, Olympic hopefuls in rugby, skeleton and bobsled were also there. "It was both humbling and exciting to be among all these great athletes," Tyler admitted.

One of the cycling stars he met at the training center was eight-time world champion in track cycling, Sarah Hammer. Sarah is also a fourtime silver Olympic medalist in track. "Meeting her was awesome, but receiving guidance and advice from someone with her experience was invaluable," he stated. Tyler hopes to take all he learned while at the training center and apply it to his upcoming track season.

NBC was also on hand at the Olympic Training Center filming for a program titled, Scouting Camp: Next Olympic Hopeful. Reflecting on the filming, Tyler stated, "It was strange to have a film crew there shooting our torture tests for a television show, but I tried to not be distracted and remained focused on my cycling performance. I have not actually seen the program."

Tyler's girlfriend, Lauren Vanpool, chimed in with a grin, "Oh, I watched it for sure with my best friend and mom. Because they were filming all the athletes, it was hard to spot Tyler. We did, however, pause it whenever we saw him. We had so much fun spotting him." The program, in its entirety, can be viewed at www.NBCsports.com.

Tyler readily admitted the importance of his family and growing up in a community like Midlothian. "They have always supported me, no matter what," he said. "I would not be where I am today without them."







We look forward to hearing from you.

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Tyler was diagnosed with spina bifida as a child, and it still causes him pain and discomfort while on the bike. He offered these words of advice: "Never let anyone tell you that you can't do something." With conviction in his voice, he continued, "People tried to tell me that cycling was the wrong sport for me because of my condition, but I have proven them wrong." With strong support from his family and friends, a condition like spina bifida has no chance of slowing Tyler down.

What is next for Tyler? For now, all he can do is hope and wait on an official invite from the U.S. Olympic Committee to attend the Olympic Trials. This would be a dream come true, because, as Tyler stated, "I love to compete against the best." However, Tyler is not resting on his laurels. "Right now, I am focused on the mountain bike season at UT Arlington, and then I will turn my attention to the upcoming track season in spring."

It seems nothing will slow Tyler down in his pursuit to become faster on the bike. "He is stubborn," Lauren shared, "but it translates to determination on the bike." Whatever the future holds for Tyler, it's clear he has no intention of exiting the fast lane anytime soon.

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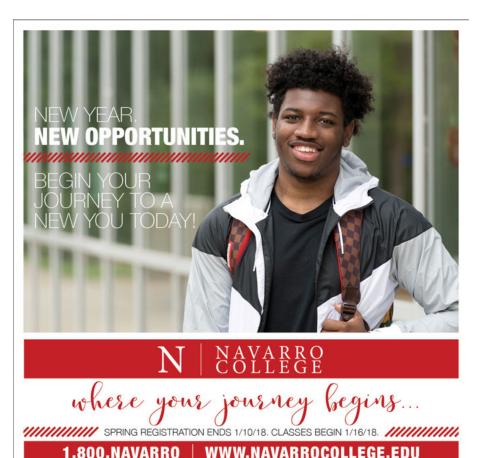
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With a creative side and a desire to express that in her baking, Sue Freshwater loves to be in the kitchen. Her recipes combine the best of the old with the new, finding inspiration from recipes her mom copied for her before her passing, and also drawing ideas, especially decorating ideas, from the Internet. "My mom was a great cook, but I love to bake," she said. "I love to watch YouTube and find ideas from ladies who have been in the kitchen far longer than I."

You can find more of her goodies and creations on Facebook at Sue's Sweets Midlothian. On special occasions, you can find the Freshwater family enjoying a traditional breakfast featuring Sue's famous fruit pizza. "I make it for all five kids, with each child's favorite fruit on top." **NOW**

Sue Freshwater's "World Famous" Fruit Pizza

Pizza:

Baker's Joy cooking spray
I roll Pillsbury refrigerated sugar
cookie dough
2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese
I cup sugar
I tsp. vanilla
Kiwis, to taste
Strawberries, to taste
Bananas, to taste
Pineapple chunks (packed in their
own juice), to taste (divided use)

Glaze:

1/2 cup sugar1 Tbsp. corn starch

Mandarin oranges, to taste

I. For pizza: Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare a pizza pan with cooking spray; spread out

cookie dough like pizza crust and bake for 10 minutes, until golden brown.

- **2.** Mix cream cheese, sugar and vanilla; pour on top of cooled cookie crust. Slice kiwis, strawberries, bananas, pineapple chunks (reserve the juice) and mandarin oranges. Arrange on top of the pizza. Be sure to use your imagination!
- **3.** For glaze: Mix 1 cup of reserved pineapple juice, sugar and corn starch. Boil until thick. Cool; pour over pizza.

Lemon Cut-out Cookies

Makes about 4 dozen, depending on size and shape of cutters used.

Cake:

I cup unsalted butter, softened
I 1/2 cups sugar
I egg
I/3 cup lemon juice
2 3/4 cups flour
I tsp. baking powder

1/2 tsp. baking soda 1/4 tsp. salt

Lemon Royal Icing:

2 lbs. powdered sugar

4 1/2 Tbsp. meringue powder

1/4 cup strained fresh lemon juice

1/4 cup plus 2 Tbsp. warm tap water

I tsp. cream of tartar

1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

- **1.** For cake: In a large mixing bowl, beat together butter and sugar until creamy. Add egg and lemon juice; beat well.
- **2.** In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Gradually beat flour mixture into creamed mixture. Beat until well-mixed. Dough will be soft.
- **3.** Divide dough in half. Wrap each half in waxed paper, and then wrap it in plastic wrap. Chill for at least two hours in the freezer. After dough has chilled, preheat oven to 375 F.
- **4.** Roll dough onto a lightly floured surface to 1/8- to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut out shapes with cookie cutters and place on ungreased cookie sheets.
- **5.** Bake at 375 F for 8-10 minutes or until edges are slightly golden brown.
- **6.** For icing: Sift powdered sugar into a mixer. Using a whisk, mix meringue powder with fresh lemon juice and warm water, until slightly foamy. Add cream of tartar; mix again. Add all the powdered sugar at once. Using your stand mixer on the lowest setting

with the paddle attachment, mix for about 3 to 4 minutes; add vanilla extract. Continue mixing for another 5 to 6 minutes. Scrape the bowl once, and beat again. When icing is done, it should be stiff. Frost cookies once they have cooled.

Fancy Cake Mix

I cake mix

2/3 cup sour cream

1 cup milk

3 eggs

1 Tbsp. oil (1/4 cup cooking oil if using a chocolate cake mix)

1 tsp. vanilla extract

1. Preheat oven to 325 F.

2. Mix all ingredients; bake per the directions on the cake mix package.

Sugar Cookies

2 cups unsalted butter, room temperature

2 cups granulated sugar

1 Tbsp. vanilla extract

2 large eggs

6 cups all-purpose flour

1 Tbsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt

I. Cream the butter with the sugar until light and fluffy, in the bowl of a mixer, using the paddle attachment. Add vanilla extract.

2. Add eggs to the creaming butter/sugar mixture one at a time. Be sure to stop the mixer and scrape the sides of the bowl after each addition, and do not add the next egg until the creamed mixture has absorbed the first addition.

3. Sift together the flour, baking powder and salt. Add it all at once to the creamed mixture. Mix just until it is all combined.

4. Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured work surface; knead the dough mass and all of its fragments into a disc.

5. Wrap dough disc in plastic wrap; chill for at least two hours. (Keeps up to a full week if refrigerated.)

6. When ready to bake, mash the dough together and re-knead it. Then re-roll on a lightly floured work surface until pliable.

7. Cut your shapes, dip in sugar or leave plain. Place on a parchment-lined sheet pan. Bake at 350 F until cookies begin to brown on the edges, approximately 14-18 minutes.

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







BusinessNOW

Ebby Halliday, Inc./Jan Davis

- By Virginia Riddle

Ebby Halliday, Inc./Jan Davis

515 N. Cedar Ridge Dr., Ste. 1, Duncanville, TX 75116 (214) 707-4955 • jandavis@ebby.com www.calljandavis.com Facebook: Jan Davis Realtor

Hours: Please call to schedule an appointment.

With 34 years' experience as a real estate salesperson, Jan Davis knows the importance of listening to what buyers and sellers say, and sometimes, even what they don't say. "I know buyers and sellers' needs and walk them through the process," Jan said. "I treat everyone like they're family and how I would want a real estate professional to treat my family. I work mostly from referrals now and have become the family Realtor by helping a third generation of family for some of my first buyers and sellers."

Another trademark of Jan's service is communication. "I like to keep everyone in the transaction on the same page, while talking about realistic expectations. Buying and selling a house are two of the most stressful aspects of life. However, it ought to be a fun experience. I like to ease the stress and have closings that are happy," she explained.

With an Ebby Halliday office in nearby Duncanville, Jan specializes in residential, commercial, lake and golf course properties and new construction in Ellis County and nearby communities. An admitted Type A personality, Jan is a member of the MetroTex Association of Realtors, the Texas Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. She's earned the coveted designations: ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative), CRS (Certified Residential Specialist), GRI (Graduate REALTOR® Institute) and SRES (Seniors Real Estate Specialists). Jan has also earned the ASP (Accredited Staging Professional). "I enjoy staging

homes and have vendors with whom I work," she added. Photos of her listed properties are created by a professional photographer.

Jan believes in giving back to her community by serving as the president of the Midlothian Economic Development Corporation. A historic house specialist, she understands the need for historic preservation and parks, while focusing on improving quality of life. "The city is wonderful to work with," she said.

"I treat everyone like they're family and how I would want a real estate professional to treat my family."

A former elementary teacher who was working on her doctorate when she decided to take a summer off and work for a builder, Jan found her future in real estate. However, she can be found working on various MISD school committees, too. She holds a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce and a master's degree in reading/school supervision from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Having grown up in Hillsboro, Jan and her husband, Rick, moved to Midlothian from Duncanville in 2005 to join her daughter, Jayme, and her husband, Chris Cox. She now has two grandsons, Jackson (15) and Carson (9). Jan doesn't relax much, but she does enjoy following the Dallas Cowboys with Rick, and they attend their grandsons' football and baseball games, as well as enjoy traveling with friends.

A Diamond Circle member and Star Producer for Ebby Halliday every year since 1985, a Company-Wide Top 25 Producer and named Best of the Best by D Magazine for the past three years, Jan's enjoying the current real estate market. "We value our small-town feel, while growth is happening. Midlothians enjoy a quality of life that's slower. Everyone's friendly, and you can take the time to get to know people." NOW













TravelNOW

Getaway to Good Times

— By Emily Nipps

Northwest Florida often gets less attention than Miami and Orlando, but it makes an ideal spot to explore and relax without the crowds. Sugar-sand beaches, emerald waters, historic landmarks and sunny outdoor adventures await families or couples designing the perfect getaway.

You don't have to venture far beyond the Alabama-Sunshine State border to find a treasure of activities, ranging from museums and mini-golf to waterfront dining and fishing. At the northwest tip of Florida sits beautiful Pensacola, known for its protected beaches and 18th centuryera restored neighborhoods.

To get a real-life feel for Pensacola's past, start your trip by passing through Historic Pensacola Village. Whether you explore on your own or discover the area with a guide, don't

miss seeing the T.T. Wentworth, Jr. Florida State Museum, built in 1908.

Aviation geeks won't want to miss visiting the National Naval Aviation Museum. Located on Naval Air Station Pensacola, the museum features more than 150 aircraft on display. It's also where the Blue Angels Naval aerobatics team trains.

Pensacola owes its pivotal role in American aviation history to its famous warm climate and sunny skies. With free museum admission and free guided tours, the National Naval Aviation Museum is an affordable and fun adventure.

From Pensacola, it's about a one-hour drive along Scenic Highway 98 to the unspoiled beaches of Santa Rosa Island. Enjoy luxury beach houses, upscale dining and the unique

artist colony known as Gulf Place. Santa Rosa Beach also has several entrances to Point Washington State Forest, a 15,000acre preserve known for rich hunting, off-road bicycling and hiking.

Santa Rosa Island is home to five fascinating all-brick forts built to defend coastal Florida after the War of 1812. Fort Pickens, finished in 1834, was active until 1947. Walk through the halls where soldiers were in the Civil War, World War I and World War II and where the great Apache leader, Geronimo, spent seven months after he was captured in 1886.

Fort Barrancas was built on the ruins of an old Spanish fort and finished in 1844. Fort McRee was built too close to the water with too much wood in its construction and was blasted to bits by artillery in the first months of the Civil War. The ruins are clearly visible near the surf at Perdido Key.

If the family is up for another threehour drive continuing east on US-98, St. George Island is a perfect getaway along the water. Climb the 92 stairs to the top of the Cape Saint George Lighthouse, built in 1852, for a beautiful view of the island and surrounding waterways. St. George Island is also home to 17 miles of paved bike paths and numerous off-road trails for exploring. Jolly Roger Beach Shop rents bikes by the hour, day and week and is located in the center of the island.

For sunset, stop by the Blue Parrot Oceanfront Café for fresh seafood. cocktails and a great view of the water. Don't miss trying the fresh Apalachicola Bay oysters while you're there.

And if you want an even closer look at the sparkling waters, check out Journeys of St. George Island to charter boat trips for great fishing, rent kayaks or take your little ones on the guided dolphin tour or sunset cruise.

Whether you wish to relax or explore, look no farther than the sunny shoreline of northwest Florida. Its rich history combined with soft beaches and nature trails make it your getaway for good times. NOW







A Brand New You

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

There's never a bad time to start exercising, dump bad habits or learn a new skill, and the beginning of the new year can be the jumpstart needed to make a change. If eating healthier is your goal this year, here are some ideas for a fresh start on becoming a new you.

Gluten-free vs. Low-carb1

- Know why you are changing. Celiac disease and wheat allergies cause a small percentage of people to be unable to digest the protein from wheat properly, but many others have cut gluten and seen improvements in their health. It isn't clear if everyone would be healthier on a gluten-free diet, but if it means you avoid cookies or donuts and don't drink beer, less gluten would make you healthier. The key is understanding what you are avoiding and why, so you don't miss nutrients like fiber.
- Eat less bread. If you aren't actively staying away from breads and wheat-based starches, you are likely eating more bread than you need. While enjoying a roll with dinner may not be a bad thing, going for third and fourths is over-consumption.

• There are other carbs. The gluten-free trend stemmed from an earlier craze of reducing carbohydrates. But there are many types of carbs. Fruit is high in natural sugars, which is better than foods with added sugar, but too much fruit can still be a bad thing. The key in low-carb eating for weight loss is to avoid sugar and sugar substitutes like aspartame and sucralose as much as possible. If you need something other than water to drink, try unsweetened tea with a fruit wedge, instead of diet soda.



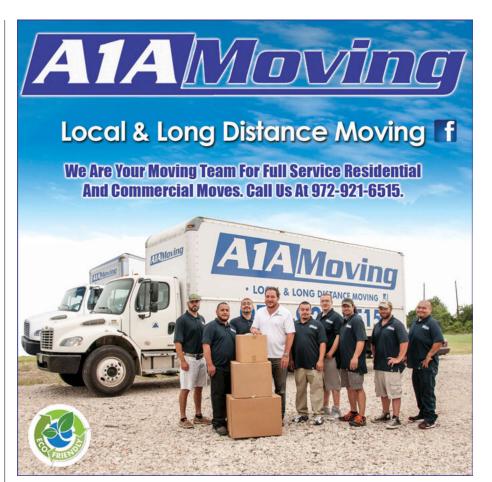
Diabetic Diets²

- Control your glucose. Diabetics should eat at regular times, with a focus on healthier foods like fruits, vegetables and healthy carbs. This helps the body produce and regulate the insulin it either makes or gets from injections.
- Know what to avoid. Diabetics are at a higher risk of heart problems, so limiting the amount of both saturated and trans fats is important. Fats in avocados and almonds are healthy in moderation, but animal proteins and processed foods aren't. Sodium and cholesterol should also be limited.

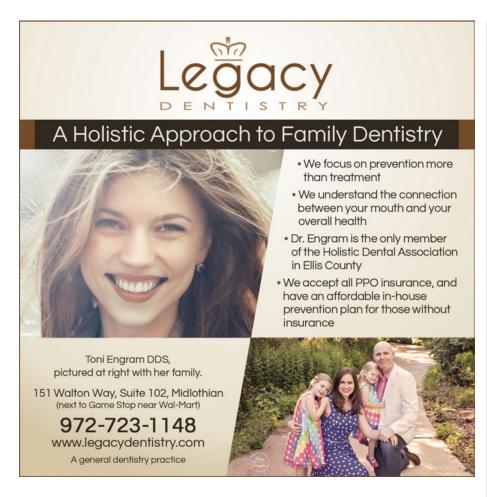


Heart Healthy³

- Eat better to live longer. If the goal is long-term health, you will want to make some long-term diet decisions. Choose whole grains over refined flour or calorie-high muffins and pastries. Add plenty of fruits and vegetables, while limiting sodium. Keeping portion sizes down to limit your caloric intake will improve your overall health.
- Make good choices. A heart-healthy menu includes good fats like those in healthy oils, nuts and seeds. Limit saturated fats and avoid untrimmed beef or hot dogs. Instead, choose













good proteins like lean ground meat or poultry, eggs and legumes.

• Follow a plan. Find a variety of healthy options and buy groceries with a menu in mind to get food that meets your nutritional needs, while limiting the unhealthy options you are trying to avoid. And include a sensible "cheat" meal once in a while to curb cravings for unhealthy options.

Whatever your diet and health goals are this year, your first steps should be researching and deciding on a firm plan to follow. No matter your goal, knowing what to and what not to eat will help you become the new you that you are hoping to be. **NOW**

Sources:

- 1. "Is Eating Gluten-Free Healthier" obtained from http://www.eatingwell. com/article/9943/is-eating-gluten-freehealthier/
- 2. "Diabetes Diet: Create your healthyeating plan" obtained from http://www. mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/ diabetes/in-depth/diabetes-diet/art-20044295
- 3. "Heart Healthy Diet: 8 Steps to prevent heart disease" obtained from http://www.mayoclinic.org/diseasesconditions/heart-disease/in-depth/ heart-healthy-diet/art-20047702



Saturday April 7, 2018 9:00am - 2:00pm at the Red Oak Municipal Center

North Ellis County MARKET & BUSINESS SHOWCASE

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Around Town



Realtor Dawanna Quintana (center) welcomes the Eubank family to their new home in Midlothian.



Kelsie Phillips and Bella Edwards help the Frank Seale Middle School Student Council collect submissions in support of Macy's and the Make a Wish Foundation's Letters to Santa Drive.



Texas Trust Credit Union representatives support Midlothian through the Community Unity Team.

Zoomed In: Sharon Mondragon By Angel Morris

Midlothian's Sharon J. Mondragon (second from right) takes top honors in the American Christian Fiction Writers Genesis contest. From hundreds of entries, Sharon's The Heavenly Hugs Prayer Shawl Ministry won the Short Novel category. "I'm thrilled my work was selected for this prestigious honor," Sharon said, regarding the contest that recognizes unpublished writers.

The book grew from Sharon's involvement in making shawls for people enduring various life trials, and tells the story of a group of women stuck in a rut until their pastor challenges them to knit together in public. "They not only touch others, but through the situations they encounter, they find hope and healing in their own lives," Sharon explained. Her next project is a "cozy mystery series" featuring a grandmotherly sleuth.



Some members of the Community Veterans Collaborative meet at the Lighthouse Coffee Shop.



Linda Dean Miley and Trent Dean promote Help to Heal, Sharing Christ's Love, the nonprofit group collecting items for elderly in need.



Midlothian Boy Scout Matthew Anderson presents his Eagle Scout project, part of the Bridge for Equines Program, with Katelyn Crawford and Ranger of Paws for Reflection Ranch.

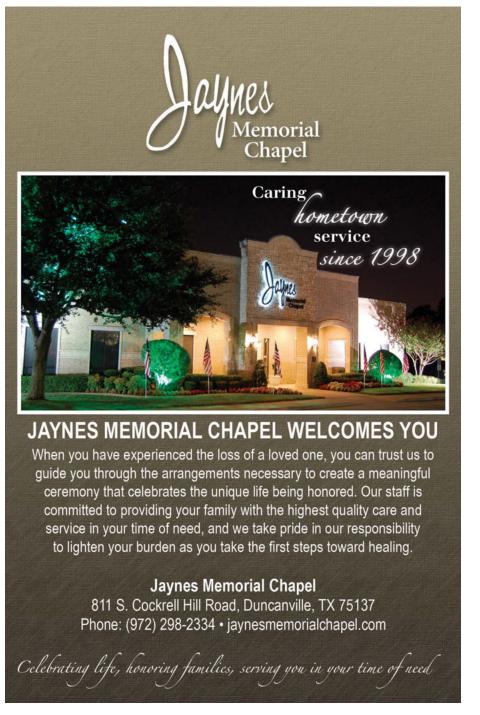


For innovative projects and programs, MHS and MHHS join LaRue Miller, McClatchey and Mt. Peak elementaries, in receiving the 2017 Fall Innovative Teaching Grants from Midlothian Education Foundation's Star Patrol.



Players for '04 Girls Premier FC soccer team mark the end of their season with an activity at The Creative Brush.

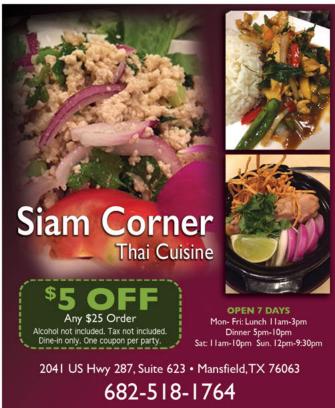




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Calendar

Midlothian Rotary Club meeting: Noon-1:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. Learn how this organization supports the community through service projects, volunteerism and more. Contact midlorotary@gmail.com for more information.

6

Katie Knight LIVE Concert: 8:00 p.m., doors open; 9:00 p.m., show begins, The Oasis Bar and Grill, 4720 Ruby Ave. Come hear American country music singer-songwriter and guitarist, Katie Knight, perform live. The event is for ages 21 and older. Tickets are available for \$5 at ticketfly.com.

9

Paws for Fun: 6:00-7:00 p.m., Paws for Reflection Ranch, 5431 Montgomery Rd. Ages 7 and older are invited to interact with and learn about all sorts of animals. The group meets on alternating Tuesdays through May. Cost is \$100 for 10-week winter session. Register at PawsForReflectionRanch.org or message Tlambert.pawsranch@att.net for more details.

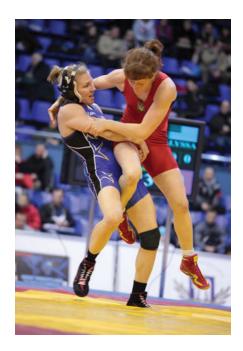


The Writers' Circle: 6:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Group is open to

the public to provide support, motivation and writing tips. For more information, contact Ashley at meadoswriterscircle@gmail.com.

19

Midlothian Wrestling Duals: 6:00 p.m., high school; 7:00 p.m., middle school, Midlothian High School, 923 S. 9th St. The community is invited to support varsity, JV and middle school wrestling teams in their dual contests.



Ongoing:

Mondays

Celebrate Recovery meeting: 7:00-9:00 p.m., The Lighthouse Church, 1400 N. 9th St. A Christ-centered recovery program designed to help those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. For more information, email jason@dfwlighthouse.org.

Second and Fourth Mondays Rag-Tag Readers Book Club: 10:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Join lively discussions of books chosen by the club members. For more information, call Sandy at (972) 775-3417.

Third Mondays School Board meeting: 6:00 p.m., Midlothian Independent School District Administration Building.

Ellis County Veterans Networking Group: 6:00 p.m., Ryan's Steakhouse, Waxahachie. Come join the group for dinner and listen to what the guest speaker for the evening has to share. For more information, call Mike Lamb at (214) 763-0378.

Tuesdays

Senior Center Bingo: 10:30 a.m., 4 Community Circle. Learn more about bingo and the variety of other activities offered monthly at midlothianseniors.com.

Midlothian Rotary Club meeting: Noon, Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. Call (972) 775-7118 for more information.

First Tuesdays Midlothian Area Historical Society meeting: 7:00 p.m., Community Room of CNB, 310 N. 9th St. For more information, contact Edwin Bateman at (972) 743-2379.

First and Third Tuesdays Bluegrass Jam Session: 7:00 p.m., Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th St. Everyone's invited to join in bring your instrument or simply relax and enjoy!



Tuesdays and Thursdays Community Computer Class: 1:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library,

January 2018

923 S. 9th St. Hands-on help with computer basics. Open to the public. For more information, call Sandy at (972) 775-3417.



Wednesdays DivorceCare: 6:30-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Midlothian, Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time, as well as child care for younger children.

For more information, call the church

office at (972) 775-3993.

Thursdays

Open Mic Night: 7:00 p.m., Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th St. A night to come and enjoy with family and friends. Play an instrument? Perform poetry? Comedy? Come along and join us! Sign-up starts at 6:30 p.m., and slots are 15 minutes each.

Third Thursdays Ellis County Amateur Radio Club: 7:00 p.m., The Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club Waxahachie, 620 Farley St., Waxahachie. Talk-in on the 145.410 machines. All are welcome. For more information, visit wd5ddh.org.



Fridays

Preschool Storytime: 11:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Story, craft and snack provided. For more information, call (972) 775-3417.

Third Saturdays Midlothian Opry Country Music Show: Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. Old country and gospel music with Goodtimers Band. \$5 admission. Call Davonnia at (214) 676-1706 or go to Facebook Midlothian Opry for tickets and show times.

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



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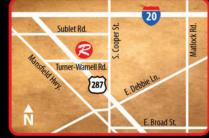
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HealthNOW Wash Your Hands

By Betty Tryon, BSN

Hepatitis A is a great example of why it is so important to wash your hands. Someone infected with the disease can transmit the virus to others via contaminated food or water or by direct contact if good hygiene is not practiced. Complicating matters is the fact that the infected person will be contagious for at least a couple of weeks before they are aware they have the disease. If their personal hygiene is poor, meaning if they get the virus on their hands after using the bathroom, neglect to wash their hands and then handle food that others will eat, they can easily infect many people before they become ill.

The hepatitis A virus (HAV), found in the stool and blood of an infected person, causes an infectious disease of the liver. Some of the symptoms of hepatitis A are jaundice (yellow skin), dark urine, pale or clay-colored stools, fatigue, nausea, stomach pain and poor appetite. A physical examination for any tenderness, a thorough investigation of symptoms, blood tests and a medical history are all usually part of any visit to the doctor for diagnosis. The doctor will also want to know if you have been exposed to hepatitis A or if you have been traveling.

There are no specific medications to treat hepatitis A. Rest and avoiding vigorous exercise are recommended. One may need to take an absence from school or work if performing those activities requires too much energy. It is important to try to eat a balanced diet during this period and to drink plenty of fluid. Because of the gastrointestinal upsets with this virus, sometimes eating several small meals a day is better than three large ones. Because the liver is where substances are broken down, it is important to avoid those that are toxic to it, such as alcohol. Even Tylenol, which may seem benign, can cause serious damage to the liver if not taken properly. Consult with your health care provider before taking or stopping any medication if you have hepatitis. Symptoms last an average of two to six months.

The greatest control measure in preventing the transmission and spread of this disease is for people to wash their hands. This does require vigilance on an individual's part — particularly those who work in day care centers with all of the frequent diaper changes.

Speak to your physician about receiving the hepatitis A vaccine to avoid this disease. If you have been exposed, an injection of immune globulin (IG) given within two weeks may prevent you from getting hepatitis A. **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.





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