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ON THE COVER



"Mr. Baseball" translates good business into great youth baseball.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Editor's Note

Heads Up, Friends!

It's fun watching the people drive in this town. We are generally friendly drivers, who take our time and give each other space. Even while men from Lane-Abrams Joint Venture, in partnership with the North Texas Tollway Authority, toil to build the toll road between I-20 and Hwy. 287, the beneficiary residents of Mansfield keep right on trucking — or VW Bugging!

But we don't bug out. That's such a blessing! In fact, this town's full of really patient people, who give respect, love and time for others. You'll read about some of them in the pages of this issue. You know them, too — in your church, your neighborhood or your school, you've got people blessing your life. If you feel like sharing their story with me, I just might share it with the larger Mansfield community. Feel free to call or email me about the wonderful people in your life!

Melissa

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It's All About the Kids

— By Virginia Riddle

As the weather warms, the crack of baseball bats will soon begin to sound. It's time for youth league players to step up to the plate with confidence and begin making positive lifetime memories. Serving as president of the Mansfield Youth Baseball Association since January 2008, Kevin Lewis and fellow board members have made many changes over the years. As a result, MYBA has become one of the largest youth baseball leagues in Texas and the United States. "I'm really proud of what we've put together for the kiddos in this area," Kevin said.

By the time the league begins its spring schedule of play in March, about 2,300 players are expected to have registered on about 165 teams. Other numbers are equally impressive — about 5,000 family members to cheer on the players, team moms and coaches, a corps of paid umpires, staff members and an active board of directors and commissioners — will all gather with one mission and motto: "It's All About the Kids."

Kids from ages 4U to 16U will gain more than just the skills to play and/or enjoy baseball for the rest of their lives. "Baseball is an experience, and we want these players' experiences to be great in Mansfield. We promote great sportsmanship and ethics," said Kevin, or "Mr. Baseball" as he is called by some folks after all these years.

Kevin became involved as his son, Zach, began his years of playing in the league at a very young age. His predecessor in the president's position warned Kevin that it would take up a lot of time, and his phone would ring constantly. "He was right. In those early days, my phone blew up with every kind of question that could be asked," he said. "I knew things had to change."





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Kevin and the MYBA staff encourage their players to do their best.



A vice president of operations for Taco Bueno Restaurants, Kevin combined his knowledge of baseball from his youth with his knowledge of successful business practices to begin changing the climate of MYBA, to make the president's position manageable and to make the organization financially stable. With the help of fellow board members, areas of responsibility and accountability were formed. A complete overhaul of the association website was in order, and they began loading most of the answers to every question within an easy-to-find site. The site also includes links to team websites and player/coaches' pages, which are used to connect players and coaches. "That worked wonders," Kevin revealed.



"Now being a board member isn't overwhelming, and we have established a good communication system that is informative." Current sitting board members are President Kevin Lewis, Vice President of Operations Duane Burt, Vice President of Fields Neal Shaw, Secretary Chris Raines, Vice President of Equipment Mike Mills and Treasurer Jenni Witteveen.

Before each season starts, mandatory meetings take place. "We explain the rules and regulations, educate people and, basically, lay the groundwork for success well before the season starts. We tell people to email us unless their issue is time sensitive. Then call us," Kevin said. The board revamped the commissioners who are encouraged to "own" their individually assigned age grouping of teams. "They are the first point of contact. Each commissioner is responsible to make sure the fields are open and ready and to stay on-site to handle game-day problems," Kevin said. Commissioners, who wear green safety shirts, are easy to identify during games.

The marketing of the league is being cut back to avoid growing too quickly. "We've seen about a 10-percent growth each season, but we have reached the point that we don't have enough area fields on which to play," Kevin stated. "We still try to avoid games on Wednesday night and Sundays, but it's hard and even becomes more challenging

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when we have to reschedule games due to weather." The league uses three area complexes — two of which are owned by the city and one that is operated by a private for-profit. "We have a good relationship with the city's Parks and Recreation Department," he added. "We've bought all new scoreboards and provided hitting stations at the city's parks. These improvements become permanent fixtures owned by the city."

Kevin researched the concessions and made changes that made them profitable enough to hire paid staff. "We became heroes with the parents, who no longer had to work the concessions," Kevin said. The concessions also fund hardship scholarships, covering the expenses for about 15-25 players each season. "Those kids probably wouldn't play without this program," Kevin said.

Parents can completely register their players online. "We have digitized the process into a well-oiled machine," Kevin said. There are three skill-level divisions

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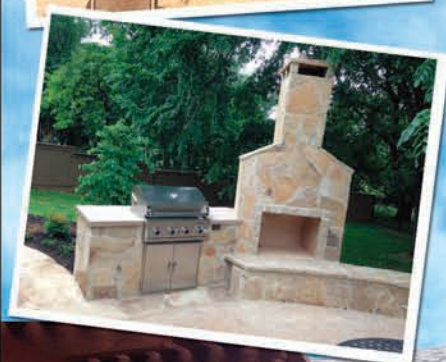
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that provide a place to enhance every player's interest and ability. First-time players begin in the recreational division, and more experienced and serious players rise to AA divisions. The rec division draft is handled completely electronically and is totally random.

Officials are trained and certified by the league's director of umpires. They start officiating with the recreational group and work upward with experience. "We pay our officials and have a lot of father-son teams. Many of them are former players," Kevin explained. "MYBA is sanctioned by USSSA Baseball, a national organization that plays straight-up baseball.

"Although board members are not compensated, we do have a few paid positions, including our director of tournaments and director of umpires, which are time-consuming and demanding positions. MYBA sponsors the Kyle Lewis [no relation to Kevin] Memorial Tournament each year honoring a fellow 7-year-old player who died suddenly from a parasitic amoeba infection. Players from the Texas Rangers sign autographs, and Kyle's family does a lot to educate attendees about the dangers of the disease," Kevin said.

Background checks are required for anyone who works with the players or takes the field. "Parents have the list of approved people on the website. They are very watchful from the stands," Kevin said. "We also don't put up with dishonesty, conflicts of interest or a culture of profanity."

Zach has aged out of the program as have some of the other officers' sons. "We stick around because working with the Mansfield Youth Baseball Association is very rewarding. We've accomplished so much, but still have so much we want to do," Kevin said, as he looks forward to another great season. **NOW**

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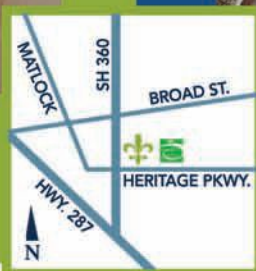
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ME

WANT To BE

— By Virginia Riddle

Shannon and Tracy Jones' venture into parenthood was pretty normal. Tracy was already mother to son, Jeremy, who is now grown and married. The couple was blessed with another son, Peyton, now 14. Unable to have more children, the couple decided to open their home to foster-to-adopt children. Nathan and his brother, Asher, were 2 months and 16 months old when the couple received them. Since then, Preston, now 9 years old, has also joined this household of active boys.

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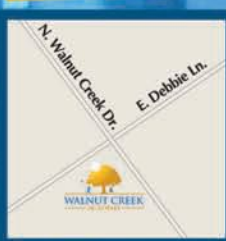
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Failure to thrive isn't what parents want to hear from a doctor treating their sick baby, but that was what Shannon and Tracy were hearing concerning Nathan. Tests, then more tests and diagnoses followed until doctors were certain — Nathan had Methylmalonic acidemia or MMA Mut 0, a rare, inherited disorder which means the body does not produce methylmalonic acid. Methylmalonic acid is what a body uses to process proteins. When the body does not process proteins it produces ammonia which could be fatal. So, Shannon and Tracy take great care to keep Nathan on special medications and a very restricted low-protein diet. Before Nathan came into the care of Shannon and Tracy, he had been life-flighted to Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. He was not expected to live and had expired three times on the way. Shannon and Tracy were told he would never be able to walk, talk or have any kind of normal life. Yet, he has proven to be a fighter, and today he is a very happy thriving 10-year-old.

When Shannon's position as senior superintendent with Manhattan Construction required the family to move from The Woodlands, near Houston, to Mansfield, the couple found a wonderful doctor for Nathan, Dr. Lewis Waber. "He and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center have been a dream come true for us," Tracy said. Since Dr. Waber's recent retirement,

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Nathan is now being treated by Dr. Luis A. Umaña. "By the grace of God, Nathan hasn't been in the hospital for five years," Tracy added.

While Shannon supervised the construction of the new Cowboys Stadium (AT&T Stadium) and now their training facility in Frisco, Tracy is a busy stay-at-home mom. She homeschools the boys, who are all in different grades. "We made a family decision to homeschool, so we can avoid exposing Nathan to germs that would be brought home by his brothers from school. It's challenging sometimes when the boys can't do certain things their friends are doing, and we have to keep everything sanitized in our home," Shannon explained.

Outdoor adventures where exposure is less likely beckons to the boys. Nathan loves being with his brothers at their sporting events, and they return his cheers when they watch him play in Miracle League Baseball in Arlington. "Nathan hits home runs," Tracy said proudly. The team rotates players through different positions and the games always end in a tie. The field has rubber to accommodate wheelchairs, and the program is totally funded through donations.

Not only do two of Nathan's brothers play tournament baseball, but one brother is very musical and plays the guitar at the family's church, Mansfield Bible Church, where Nathan attends a special needs children's class. Nathan has excelled in

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swimming, having won three gold medals in previous Special Olympics held in Keller. He swims wearing a life vest in a very controlled environment. "Nathan competed in several categories. One which he swam — the 25-meter — was his longest and hardest swim yet, while his brothers cheered him onward," Tracy said.

However much fun a family can have, it's still stressful when days are filled with feeding tubes, doctor appointments and therapies that are provided through the Mansfield ISD. Even with a great online support group, a little break doesn't hurt. That break came for the family through the Make-a-Wish America Foundation. After having been nominated by Dr. Umaña's office and approved by the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Shanda Ranelle and Stephanie Steinmetz were the angels granting Nathan and his family an all-expense paid vacation to Walt Disney World last October.

It was the first time Nathan and his brothers had flown on an airplane. "Way cool," and a big smile expressed their impression of the experience.

"We were able to board the plane early, and on the flight to Florida, after the landing, the pilot allowed Nathan to go into the cockpit with him to look around," Shannon said.

"The constant kindness that was shown to make Nathan and all of us feel special was amazing," Shannon stated. Their family stayed at Give Kids the World Village, which is for all Wish families. There were daily activities and tons of fun, including lunch and dinner with their favorite Disney characters for all the Wish children. They were able to eat ice cream from the Ice Cream Palace for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Wish families were given special passes that



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allowed them to walk up to a ride and not have to wait.

"Nathan liked driving the cars and riding the roller coasters, and he was spoiled rotten by all the Disney characters," Tracy recalled. Disney characters were always aware that Nathan was a Make-A-Wish child and would come right over and make him feel extra special. "We were smiling so much. It's moments like that that make all the hard moments worthwhile," Tracy said. Photos were taken everywhere and Universal and Walt Disney World provided all the photos of their adventure.

"The environment of acceptance in Mansfield is wonderful. We are so happy to have moved here," Tracy said.

One of Nathan's favorite things to do is watch Wiggles. He also enjoys riding his Electric 360 Crazy Cart, playing family games and is an iPad expert.

"Having Nathan has made us stronger as a family," Tracy said. "We all know that the future can be taken only one moment at a time, so we try to do something special as often as we can. We want Nathan to grow up and be as normal as possible."

"Nathan has an infectious smile and loves to cuddle. The most joy I could ever have is to see him every day when I get home from work. To see him thrive, grow and learn is amazing," Shannon said, as Tracy nodded in agreement. "We are extremely blessed to have been chosen to be his parents and share in his life as we keep learning more about his illness and help him and the other boys thrive." This is a family that was meant to be. **NOW**



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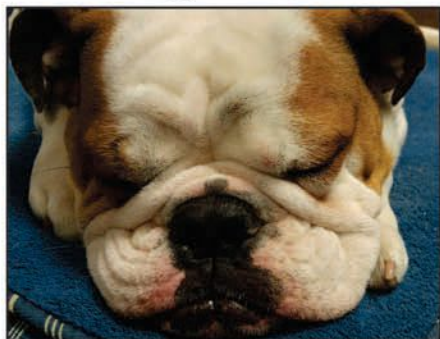
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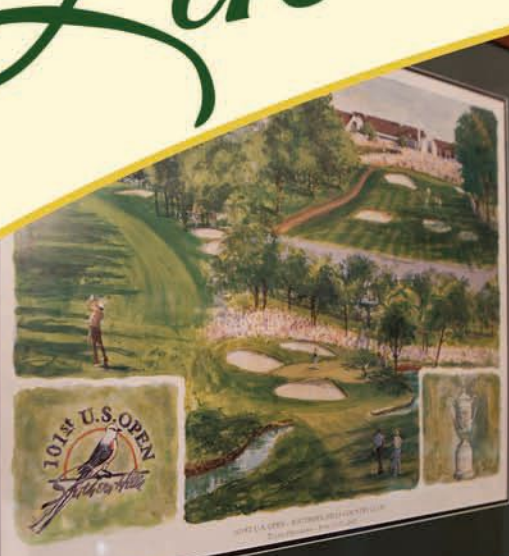
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In 2011, Kim Fair might easily have said, "JoJo, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."

She would have been right, and it wouldn't have been a tornado that blew her, her family and her little dog to Texas.

When Todd Fair was offered a managerial position at the Russell Stover Candies plant in Corsicana, Texas, he and Kim had been living happily in Kansas City for 12 years. Their daughter, Elizabeth, and son, Nick, were in school and Kim's parents lived nearby.

Clearly, the promotion meant moving to Texas. Todd had never lived outside of Kansas. Kim had grown up in a military family and had long since tired of moving. Additionally, Elizabeth was approaching her senior year in high school, yet in the end, they opted to go.



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Even Elizabeth, with the chance to finish high school in Kansas, chose the adventure.

Their Kansas City house sold quickly, and by June, they were on their way. “I had the hardest time,” Kim said with a smile. “I went to Texas kicking and screaming.”

Their search for a home eventually led to Mansfield. “As soon as we saw it, we knew Mansfield was the right place,” Kim said. “The city is vibrant with so much to do. It just felt like home!”

They hoped for a brick house with a swimming pool, two things scarce in Kansas. So, when the 10th house on the second day turned out to be a gorgeous, single-story, red brick, traditional with a pool that was move-in ready and in their price range, they were thrilled. “As we

talked to our Realtor, two cars pulled up,” Todd said. “Kim looked at me and said, ‘Let’s make an offer!’”

That was five years ago. Today, every inch of their 2,200-square-foot home reflects this amazing family’s personality, as well as Kim’s delightful and elegant design style. “Our home isn’t a mansion, but we love it,” she shared. “We had a three-story house in Kansas City and didn’t want that anymore. This is the perfect size, and I love that it’s so open.”

The three-bedroom, two-bath home, built in 2005, features both a family room and a sitting room, a study, a kitchen/dining area and a three-car garage. The entryway boasts of a 22-foot ceiling with a panoramic view of the central interior.

Most of the rooms are painted a muted olive green with white trim.

To the left of the entryway, a handsome study is affectionately known as “Todd’s room.” “We didn’t need a formal dining room, so this is the place for Todd to relax, read or watch sports,” Kim said. The room features a soft, leather sofa and chair and richly finished TV armoire. “It used to be a wardrobe,” Kim said. “I love do-it-yourself projects. Plumbing, electrical, painting, landscaping and refinishing, I can do just about anything that can be Googled or You-Tubed.”

The study is also JoJo’s favorite. He’s Kim’s 8-year-old Bichon-Shih Tzu mix, and most days, he can be found on his pillow in the study. “He’s my little



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shadow,” she admitted. “If I’m being a sun bunny on a raft in the pool, he’s there, and, in the evenings, he’s always ready for our walk in the neighborhood.”

To the right of the entryway is a sitting room accented by a beautiful tray ceiling. Beyond the sitting room, an enormous family room features access to the stunningly “blue” backyard pool. The family room is accented by a brick fireplace and furnished with a huge, wraparound Italian leather sofa.

Floors throughout the main areas are a gorgeous cherry wood and accessories include groupings of family photos. “I love tans, blacks and creams,” Kim said. “I liked animal patterns even before we became Mansfield Tigers.”

Her favorite room is the kitchen. “I’m Italian and love to cook. Homemade pasta to Texas fare, I can make anything,” she smiled. She has a treasured collection of cookbooks, which she makes notes in to pass down to Elizabeth and Nick. Her kitchen features oak cabinetry, a sandstone tile backsplash, a large island and stainless steel appliances but, most importantly, it’s a cook’s kitchen. “I have three sets of professional knives and lots of pasta bowls,” she shared.

Bedrooms are located on the right side of the house. The master bedroom is painted a light blue gray to reflect the pool. Beside the soaking tub in the master bath are postcards from Niagara Falls. “They’re reminders of where I spent most of my childhood,” Kim said.

Elizabeth, now 21, is a lead stylist and make-up artist. “She’s always had a gift for beauty, and we’re very proud of her,” Kim said. “I wish both of our kids would stay home forever. It’s an Italian thing, I guess, but my fondest dream is that they will get married, have their babies and live here or next door.”

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Nick is a senior at Mansfield High School. With the move to Texas, Kim became a stay-at-home mom and is actively involved with Nick's high school football program. "I'm the mom who goes to football practice every day and certainly would never miss a game," she said. She serves as vice president of the booster club, raises funds and loves cooking for the team and coaches.

Todd and Kim were eighth-grade sweethearts. He was the quiet, hometown athlete with strong family and community ties in Manhattan, Kansas. His grandfather started the first winery in the state of Kansas. Kim, on the other hand, was the dynamic daughter of an Army general, practiced at moving every three years and, to Todd, she was nothing short of an Italian princess. Sadly, when they became high school sophomores, Kim's family moved away.

Todd went on to earn a football scholarship to Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, while Kim enrolled in nursing school in Virginia Beach. They had lost touch until Kim decided to call. "He invited me to homecoming weekend," she said with a smile. Both of their mothers worked for United Airlines, so flying was free. "I was nervous, but also so excited, and my flight was late," she said. "I had starved myself, tanned and wore a fitted black and white dress that I could barely walk in! He was reading a copy of *USA Today*, as adorable as I remembered him."

They were married June 2, 1990, before family and friends and a big Italian contingency. The wedding was in Manhattan, Kansas. "We rented out the Best Western Hotel and flew everyone in from New York and St. Louis," she grinned.

Today, Kim wonders where Texas has been all of her life, and Todd has not missed the weather in Kansas. After all, "there's no place like home" — in Texas. **NOW**

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"The entire experience is about them, not us," Lanae said. "We make sure each person knows how special they are to us." Lanae sometimes brings her 2 1/2-year-old son, Tristan, to entertain them. He likes to help hand his mom the Bingo numbers, as she shouts



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them out. She wants to teach him that serving should be a part of a person's daily routine.

Robyn and Lanae claim starting the Bingo adventure has changed their perspectives about people. Robyn experienced a huge heartbreak when a man named Joel, whom she had befriended at Brookdale, passed away. "We know our time with them is short. We walk in each month not knowing if our new friends will still be with us," Robyn said. "We frantically start searching for them and feel such a relief when we learn they are simply resting earlier than usual that evening!"

Both of these women have a strong desire to make an impact in their community by reaching out. Together, Robyn and Lanae have served as parade marshals at the annual Arlington 4th of July Parade for the last three years. They served side by side as committee chairs on the Community Service Committee at the Arlington Board of REALTORS (ARBOR) four of the past five years. As chairwomen, they also served on the Community Service Foundation for two years. In 2012, they were awarded the prestigious Fleetwood Newbery Meritorious Service Award by ARBOR. As a team, the Realtors at CENTURY 21 Judge Fite Company have been heavily involved with philanthropic and civic activities since 2011, each serving an average of 12 hours per month to help others.

One charity to which they particularly enjoy contributing is Cornhole For Community, a beanbag game popular in the Midwest. Robyn and Lanae successfully helped raise more funds for the Community Service Foundation by signing up teams to play this game

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at their annual chili cook-off. They consistently donate to Cornhole For Community, since its goal is to raise funds for local families in need of some temporary financial relief. Each tournament can raise \$10,000 or more to give to a particular local family in need.

These gregarious girls try to physically do as much as they can because they enjoy talking to people and finding out about other peoples' needs. "There are people who need help everywhere, and it's not always monetary," Robyn explained. "Maybe they just need help achieving a specific task." Robyn and Lanae collected coats and blankets for the homeless during the Christmas holidays. They also joined their co-workers in passing out teddy bears to patients at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center on Christmas Day.

Individually, Lanae serves with Meals on Wheels in Mansfield. She is very active in the women's ministry at The Church





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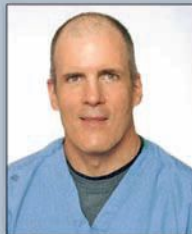


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on Rush Creek Mira Lagos Campus and has volunteered at SafeHaven of Tarrant County, a shelter for abused women. Robyn is active in the Mansfield Lake Ridge High School Band Booster Club, where she has served on the Executive Committee.

Their passion to serve was inspired by their parents, their church families and their early school organizations. Robyn recalls painting apartments with her church youth group in the eighth grade and participating in various service projects as a National Honor Society member during high school in Duncanville. At the time, her driving force was simply hanging out with friends. After starting her own family and helping her four children become self-sufficient teenagers, she devoted a year to Leadership Mansfield. Her class helped renovate the community center near the library and the clothes closet at the First United Methodist Church. The following year she served at Mission Arlington, sorting and folding clothes regularly, and during the Christmas season, she helped sort toys and bikes to donate.

Lanae remembers being 10 years old when she first helped someone. She befriended a deaf girl who lived in the neighborhood, and Lanae's mother allowed her to take a sign language class. Once the new friends began communicating, the fun began. So did Lanae's passion for serving people. During college at Texas State University in San Marcos, Lanae joined a sorority where philanthropy was a priority. "It was really neat to go to the Ronald McDonald House in Austin as a group and walk away feeling like I had made a difference as an individual," she said.

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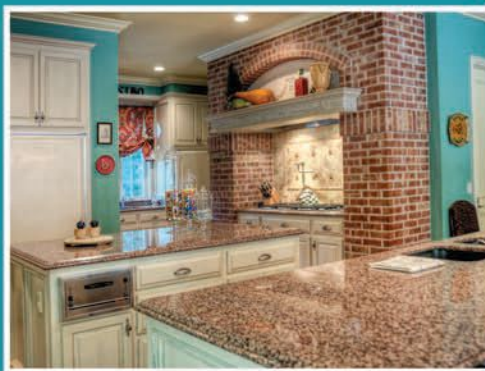
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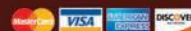
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Several years ago, Lanae started attending Bingo with her church's Lifegroup. At first she felt sad. "I have a grandmother in a nursing home, and I didn't believe I could continue with this type of service. But the girl who led the group just insisted that I keep showing up. She said I had no idea how much this meant to them." Since helping begin the monthly Bingo event at Brookdale Senior Living, she now understands how true that statement is.

Lanae's dream is to change one life at a time through generous acts of service and giving. Her newest service adventure is being a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). "This will be the most challenging, and hopefully rewarding, place I have served because I will be serving children who will be our future. They will hopefully become the adults who will be serving me at a nursing home."

Serving youth has been most rewarding for Robyn as well. As the former owner of The Little Gym in Arlington for 10 years, she generously waived fees to the physically challenged kids. As a mom, she gives of herself every time she has the opportunity to spend time with her kids and their friends. Her teenagers have also enjoyed helping alongside her from time to time at Brookdale. "When you are serving children, you are changing their lives," Robyn said. "When you serve seniors, you are helping bring them joy at the end of their lives."

Robyn and Lanae are two local ladies, working actively within the community in a multitude of ways. They are prime examples that no matter how much time or money you lack, you always have enough to bring joy to someone's life. It's not about you. It's about the end result. **NOW**

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overwhelmed with choices, and out of frustration, decides to do her own hair. On the day of the wedding, no matter the weather, a bad hair day can show up without an invitation. When everything needs to come together perfectly, having a stylist ready to create your predesigned hairstyle will get all those butterflies flying in order!

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If you are planning to use a professional photographer, ask him or her for recommendations on stylists they have worked with before.

The wedding location and theme should be taken into serious consideration when selecting the wedding hairstyle. Whether the ceremony is located on the beach, on a bridge, in a field of bluebonnets, in a cathedral or in a cottage chapel, it is essential that you feel complete and comfortable. Whether you walk barefoot in the sand, in heels in the city or in boots in the country, your focus is to look beautiful as you reach your destination at the altar. Theme weddings can require a bit more creative work in order to reflect a time period or a historical event. Whether Victorian, Grecian, Bohemian or traditional, your hairstyle will give you confidence to walk down the aisle, feeling beautiful.

Hairstyles and Necklines

Bridal hairstyles can be a failure, or they can be a grand success when created well in advance of the date. You need to consider your body and face shape, the gown style and neckline, and last but not least, the texture of your hair and your personality type.

A V-neck wedding gown embellished with the hair pulled up high, will give the face and neck a notably long appearance. If your face is already long, it is best to style your hair in a way that creates fullness at the cheekbones, making your

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face appear rounder. A V-neckline is best for someone with broad shoulders, a full bust and a short neck. If you have a wide, round or square jaw, this style is very flattering.

Depending on how low your neckline is and how high you style your hair, you could look inches taller than the groom — especially when wearing heels. When deciding the height of your hairstyle, take into consideration the neckline, the dress, the shoes and the groom's height.

Off-the-shoulder gowns are often made of lace or chiffon and softly reveal eye-catching shoulders. However, be

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aware this style can widen the appearance of your neck and broaden the look of your jawline. If you are a bride with a square-shaped face, you may already wear your hair in a short, bobbed cut. If your hair length is medium or long, it can be pulled up and away from your face, and this will give the appearance of width at the ears. Creating a soft, wispy style will bring a balance to the strong features. A tiara will create added charm, and with a long veil, your look will be absolutely chic.

If you are a modern bride, you may select the sweetheart neckline because it visually elongates the face and provides an overall proportioned silhouette. This complementary neckline is most preferred by all face shapes and body types. An updo will make you look elegant and feminine. A tiara with pearls placed high with a floor-length veil will make you look enchanting and regal.

A gown with a halter or high neck creates an illusion of a wider neck. This is a flattering style for those with long necks or faces, as well as for small-chested women. Wear your hair down, and keep it soft and tousled. Hair tucked behind one ear and a petite flower or jeweled comb really complete this sophisticated look.

If you are a bride with a heart-shaped face desiring a voluptuously soft and romantic look, wear your hair chin-length and pull it off the face to one side. If you wear your hair longer and flowing to the side with a little fringed bang, you will disguise the broadness of your forehead. Your gown selection should have a scooped neckline, which will elongate a short or thick neck.

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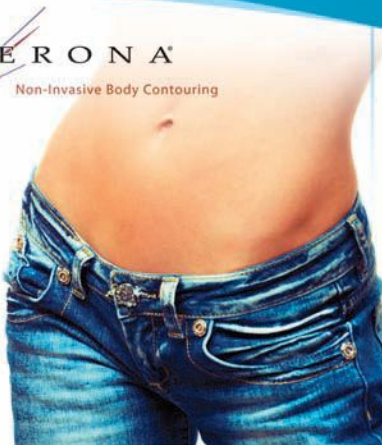
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Jon C. “Kit” Gallini practices law for the sake of helping families and businesses find peace and protection.



CLEARING YOUR HURDLES

Gallini Law applies their expertise to give you the guidance you need. — By Melissa Rawlins

Kit Gallini left a large law firm practice in 2001, opening his own practice to bring his legal expertise and experience to serving the people and businesses of Mansfield. Gallini Law, PLLC is located conveniently within the Chase Bank building, just off of Walnut Creek Drive and Hwy. 287. “There is nothing more rewarding than working with my clients to assist them with important matters in their lives and businesses,” said Kit, whose primary practice areas are business law, estate planning and probate, real estate and bankruptcy.

Assuring each client’s needs are met in a timely manner, Kit and his experienced staff, Melanie Pratt and Regina Tillman, work tirelessly to achieve the desired results. Kit cannot imagine any place he would rather be than fighting the good fight on behalf of his clients. He believes that as the world gets more

complicated, his job becomes even more important in assisting and aggressively working for his clients’ benefit and protection. “Planning, protecting and advocating — that is why I love the practice of law!” Kit said.

Kit comes from a family that is passionate about the law. His father was an attorney and district judge for many years in New Mexico. In fact, it was Kit’s love of people and admiration for his father that drew him to the practice of law. Two of his brothers have followed in their father’s footsteps, as well. Kit is always open-minded and searching for ways to address his clients’ utmost needs and concerns.

“Having practiced law for nearly 20 years, we bring true experience, practicality and creativity to our clients. We know how to think outside the box,” Kit said. Possessing an

undergraduate degree in business and marketing, earned by attending both Brigham Young University and University of Nevada, Las Vegas, as well as a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from Texas Tech University School of Law, Kit is well-equipped for the task.

Knowledge is key at Gallini Law. "We fully evaluate legal issues and truthfully advise our clients, so they will be in the best position to make decisions as we serve them," Kit said. "Our clients' legal issues are extremely important to us, and we strive to give each client the devoted attention required and deserved."

A perfect law firm for small and medium businesses, Gallini Law helps such clients from start up through retirement. Kit loves to take people from the conceptualization of their business idea through growth into a successful, ongoing business facing expansion or a prospective sale. The nuances of entity formations, contracts, litigation and collections keeps Kit working hard for his clients.

"Planning, protecting and advocating — that is why I love the practice of law!"

Kit strives to assist individuals and families with the best protections available in estate planning and asset protection. "Having order brings happiness in our lives," he said. "Everyone should have a will or trust, but what if you are going through financial troubles? Or, what if you have someone in your family with special needs? How do we make your situation the most wonderful it can be without it being a burden?" Kit cheerfully assists people seeking peace and protection.

Every family or business needs an attorney they can trust for solid advice and legal services. Visit Gallini Law this year to see how he can assist you. **NOW**



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The Aceves family braves the cold to show their support for the Lake Ridge High School football team.



First Methodist Mansfield's Emergency Response Team heads out to help with tornado damage in Ellis County.



Andrea Chavez and Cristina Pacheco find the perfect spot for a healthy begonia at Mansfield Gardens.



Kirsti Wohler helps 35-year-old Mo get accustomed to his new location inside Mansfield Feed Mill.



Climacare Mechanical employees take a breather before the winter weather has them busy again.



Dressed in traditional Chinese attire, Jingboa Zhuo, a chinese student in Level 1 ESL classes at First Methodist Church, celebrates the end of a semester with one of her instructors, Yolanda Wright.



Mary Flanary looks at the treasures for sale by Mary Harper, left, and Betty Hinkle, in the lobby of Watercrest.



Kit Rash plays her ukelele during Historic Downtown Mansfield's Third Thursday.



Scott Frizzell and Amy Senato chat with Jeff Cockrum before he goes in for his chiropractic treatment.

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New Year, Renewed Beneficiaries

This year, resolve to review and update your beneficiary designations.

There is one resolution you can keep this year — and every year — that will improve your own well-being and state of mind. It will also help ensure the financial well-being of your loved ones well into the future.

A Great Way to Start the Year, Every Year

A lot can happen in 12 months. Remember that every life event — births, adoptions, disabilities, deaths, marriages, divorces, even moving — should trigger a review and update of your estate documents. That's why it is important to review your beneficiary designations at least once a year to ensure your assets are properly passed down. You'll never regret reviewing your estate plan, and around New Year's is a great time to do it. Your financial advisor can help you coordinate with a qualified estate planning professional.

Before You Bestow

Too often, issues arise during the transfer of assets simply due to lack of knowledge of estate laws. Learn and understand the laws that govern transfer of property in your chosen state, and be aware that beneficiary rules can vary from asset to asset. For instance, retirement and insurance accounts generally default to a spouse. If you want your children to inherit your retirement savings, you must name them on the appropriate documents and have your current spouse sign a waiver. Spousal laws vary by state, so be sure to consult your state's specific legislation.

Avoid Uncertainties, Be Specific

Life events, such as divorce and remarriage (especially if you have children from both marriages), may muddy the waters for your heirs. Without explicit instructions and properly

documented beneficiaries, your family could end up in court to settle your estate. Asset titling is especially important when you and your partner are not married. Legally, your partner may not have the same rights a spouse would.

Back up Your Beneficiaries

Beyond primary beneficiaries, you should also name one or more secondary ones. These are called contingency beneficiaries, and they are a good safeguard to have in place should something happen to you and your primary beneficiary at the same time.

Make the Transfer

While retirement, insurance annuity and trust accounts require beneficiary designations, some, like a traditional brokerage account, do not. That's why you should consider placing a Transfer on Death (TOD) registration on your brokerage account. A TOD registration is a powerful tool that allows you to designate beneficiaries for your brokerage accounts, and it supersedes a will or trust. If you're married, a joint registration would allow the surviving spouse to receive the assets. Should both account holders pass away, the TOD would take effect, passing your assets down to your designated beneficiaries, often without a fee.

New home, new estate laws — moving? Make sure to review your new state's requirements when you relocate and update your estate plan accordingly. **NOW**

Material prepared by Raymond James for use by its financial advisors. The information contained herein is general in nature and does not constitute legal or tax advice.

Jonathan Pope is a Raymond James Financial Advisor based in Duncanville.



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February 2, 9, 16

Branding/Marketing 101: 4:30 p.m., El Primo's. Three sessions of six teaching essentials for creating a successful small business. Call Eric Petry, Mansfield Minority Chamber of Commerce, (682) 730-0104.

February 6

Sweetheart Dance: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria. Daddies and daughters enjoy with one free photo per couple, refreshments and dancing to '80s music. \$20. (817) 728-3680, x 3687.

Bingo: 6:00-9:00 p.m., St. Thomas Hall, St. Jude Catholic Church, 500 E. Dallas St. Lots of good food and family fun. Call ahead: (817) 473-6709.

February 9

Friends of the Library meeting: 6:00-7:00 p.m., Mansfield Public Library, 104 S. Wisteria. Email: mansfieldlibraryfriends@gmail.com.

February 11

Business After Hours: 5:30-7:30 p.m., Mansfield Court House, 1305 E. Broad St. Free. RSVP to (817) 473-0507 or info@mansfieldchamber.org.

February 12

MISD District Spelling Bee: 9:00 a.m.-until there is only one speller left. The MISD Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. Mansfield Sunrise Rotary Club helps celebrate the students. (817) 299-1252.

February 13

Cupid Shuffle 5K & 15K: 7:50 a.m. and 8:00 a.m., Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. Wear your tutu and Valentine's socks! Register online at www.reachcouncil.org/events. Email: nisa.hurd@reachcouncil.org.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mansfield Environmental Collection Center, 616 S. Wisteria. Bring your electronics and recyclables with proof of Mansfield residency. (817) 276-4239.

Spring Semester Begins: day and evening classes, Christian Women's Job Corps of Greater Arlington, 1516 W. Pioneer Pkwy., Arlington. Tuition-free job skills program for under-resourced women. (817) 275-5600.

February 18

Mansfield Chamber Women's Division Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., call for

location. RSVP to (817) 473-0507 or info@mansfieldchamber.org.

February 19

Mansfield Connects at the Chamber: 3:30-4:30 p.m., Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce, 114 N. Main St. Meet others desiring to help you, with no direct benefit for themselves. Free. info@mansfieldchamber.org.

February 27

MISD Multi-Cultural Festival: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., The MISD Center for the Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. Free. Explore the diversity within MISD's student body. (817) 299-1252.

March 5

Mardi Gras Gala: 6:00 p.m.-midnight, Walnut Creek Country Club, Mansfield. In the true New Orleans tradition, breakfast is served at 11:00 p.m. www.athenasocietyofburleson.org/athena-gala/.

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

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In the Kitchen With Yolanda Walter

— By *Melissa Rawlins*

Empathy for busy, on-the-go families developed in Yolanda Walter's heart while rearing children with her husband, Tim. They moved to Mansfield in 2006, seeking a country feel combined with great education, extracurricular activities, a family-friendly atmosphere and proximity to shopping.

Yolanda is especially experimental, and appreciates a variety of healthy food. "It wasn't until I had children that I paid greater attention to tastes, because children are so picky," she said. "Over the years, my family has come up with a thumbs-up, thumbs-down system for rating meals. Thankfully, I receive a lot more thumbs-up ratings than thumbs-down." As a busy mom, her goal is to prepare quick, nutritious meals including desserts — sometimes healthy, sometimes indulgent — planned around her family's activity level for the day. **NOW**

Creamy Pasta, Sausage and Tomato Skillet Meal

2 1/2 cups mini-bow tie pasta
1 Tbsp. olive oil
8 oz. link turkey sausage, diced
1/2 cup onion, diced
1 clove garlic, minced
1/4 tsp. red pepper flakes (optional)
1 15-oz. can diced tomatoes
1 to 2 cups heavy whipping cream
2/3 cup Italian cheese blend
2 Tbsp. parsley flakes (divided use)
Salt and pepper (optional)
2 cups cooked broccoli or spinach (optional)

1. Cook pasta until al dente; drain and set aside.
2. Heat olive oil in a skillet. Brown sausage,

and then add onions and garlic until translucent. Add red pepper flakes if desired.
3. Add in tomatoes. Stir in whipping cream, using 2 cups if you intend to incorporate broccoli or spinach. Let simmer 2-3 minutes.
4. Once sauce thickens, stir in pasta and sprinkle with cheese.
5. Blend in 1 Tbsp. parsley and, if desired, salt and pepper to taste.
6. Stir in cooked broccoli or spinach, if desired.
7. Ladle into bowls, garnish each with a pinch of parsley flakes and serve.

Easy Crock-Pot Meatball Sliders

12 prepared meatballs
1 18-oz. jar Smucker's Concord Grape Jelly

1 12-oz. bottle Heinz Chili Sauce
12 slider buns or Hawaiian rolls
6 slices Provolone cheese

1. Place uncooked meatballs, either homemade or frozen, in a Crock-Pot.
2. Combine grape jelly with chili sauce in a bowl; stir and then pour over meatballs. Cover, and cook on high for 3-4 hours, stirring occasionally.
3. Let simmer on low after cooking until ready to serve.
4. Transfer 1 meatball to each bun, top with a half-slice of cheese and serve with sweet potato fries and sliced tomatoes.

Cheesecake

Crust:

1 3/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/2 cup melted butter

Filling:

7 eggs (divided use)
5 8-oz. pkgs. Philadelphia Cream Cheese
1/2 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 3/4 cups sugar
3 Tbsp. all-purpose flour

1. To make crust: Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Texture should be somewhat dry but moldable. Pour crust into a 9-inch spring-form pan. Use more graham cracker crumble for a thicker crust, or use less for a thinner crust. Bake crust in a 350 F oven for approximately 3-5 minutes. Remove and set aside.
2. To make filling: Reserve egg whites from 2 eggs. Blend remaining ingredients.
3. In a separate bowl, whip egg whites for 3-4 minutes, or until fluffy.
4. Pour cheesecake mixture into pan with crust. Using a fork, gently and thoroughly incorporate fluffed egg whites into cheesecake mixture.
5. Bake at 350 F for approximately 55-60 minutes. Test cake with a toothpick. If more cooking time is needed, reduce heat to 300 F and cook for an additional 10-15 minutes.
6. Before serving, garnish with fresh sliced strawberries.

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

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