

The Community Magazine Serving Midlothian and the Surrounding Area

# MidlothianNOW

M A G A Z I N E

March 2010

**Warmth  
and Humor**

**Good  
Boys To  
Better Men**

**Intarsia  
in Form**

**At Home With  
Chris and  
Lisa Wagner**



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**Midlothian**  
**NOW**  
The Community Magazine  
Serving Midlothian and  
the Surrounding Area  
MAGAZINE

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## On The Cover

Aaron Ingersoll, deputy state master counselor of the Legacy Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, takes a turn sitting in the chair of one of our state lawmakers.

Photo by Roger Ingersoll.

## Editor's Note

*Hello, Midlothian!*

You can feel it in the air. The heartbeat of the earth begins to quicken, and its pulse infuses the land with color and warmth. March 20 is the official first day of spring, so although the winds may blow cold, we know it is coming. It is a great time of anticipation, and the gardeners have been waiting for this for months. This is also the month of Daylight Saving Time. Remember to spring your clocks forward one hour on March 14.

The Midlothian Chamber of Commerce has its annual Business Expo March 20. This is your opportunity to meet the many wonderful businesses in our community in one location. Come see what services they have to offer you. As a bonus, do not miss all the opportunities for freebies!

As always, you can contact me at [btryon.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:btryon.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).

See you at the Expo!

Betty Tryon

*MidlothianNOW* Editor



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# Creating a Successful Future **MISD**

## Attention Senior Citizens

MISD residents over 55 years of age

Mark your calendar for Friday, March 26 from 10am-2pm. Come aboard the Midlothian ISD tour bus and learn about your school district. The day will include tours of various campuses, entertainment by students, learn about volunteer opportunities and enjoy lunch provided by the MISD food service department. Receive a "Senior Tour" t-shirt and Panther spirit goodies.



The tour and lunch is open to Midlothian senior citizens, who are over 55 years of age. Space is limited so sign up today! Call Jana Hathorne at 972-775-8296, e-mail [jana\\_hathorne@midlothian-isd.net](mailto:jana_hathorne@midlothian-isd.net) or stop by the MISD Administration Bldg, 100 Walter Stephenson Rd.



**April 9, 2010**  
**12:00pm-5:00pm**  
**Midlothian First Baptist Church**  
**1651 S. Midlothian Pkwy.**

- Teacher applicants must preregister online
- For more information, visit the MISD Human Resources Web site at [www.midlothian-isd.net/hr](http://www.midlothian-isd.net/hr)

## New HR Resource Online

Midlothian ISD has joined the Region X Teacher Job Network Cooperative application system. If anyone submits an application with Midlothian ISD prior to February 1, 2010, he or she will need to **re-apply** using the new system online at [www.midlothian-isd.net/hr](http://www.midlothian-isd.net/hr).

## Love to Eat and Run

This is one time we hope you'll Love to Eat and Run. Please join the Midlothian ISD Education Foundation on Friday, April 16 for a pasta dinner and student art auction. Then, on Saturday morning, April 17 join MEF for a 5K fun run for the whole family.

All proceeds benefit the Midlothian ISD Education Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, philanthropic organization of citizens who share a vision of enhancing education in Midlothian ISD.

See the MISD and MEF Web site for more details or call Kristin Zastoupil, executive director, at 972-775-8296 ext. 1281.

## Midlothian: 5A School District

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) announced its district alignments for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. UIL governs most secondary extracurricular activities in Texas and assigns classifications to schools based on the high school enrollment. During the October snapshot date, Midlothian High School had 2,215 students. The cut-off to be considered a 5A school district is 2,065+ students. Therefore, MISD is now a 5A school district.

Midlothian schools will be in District 5-5A for two school years. The high schools in MISD's new district are: Cedar Hill, Duncanville, Grand Prairie, Mansfield High, Mansfield Legacy, Mansfield Timberview, Midlothian, and South Grand Prairie.

To see the UIL's complete alignment, visit the University Interscholastic League at [www.uil.texas.edu](http://www.uil.texas.edu).

## Engineering Students Build Robots



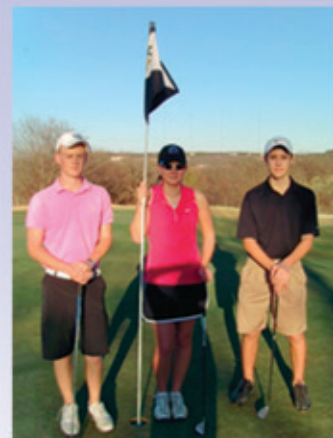
(L to R): Garrett Carroll, Amanda Kline, Kevin Hess, Austin Blackburn, Nolan Henley, and Erica Gafken (Sarah Heitzman not pictured).

For the first time ever, the MHS Engineering Robotics Teams competed at UTA's RoPro robotics competition. Each team had to design, build and program their robot to make its own decision in order to navigate its way through an intricate maze. The team of Garrett Carroll, Kevin Hess and Sarah Heitzman made it to the finals. The team of Nolan Henley, Amanda Kline, Austin Blackburn and Erica Gafken placed 3rd out of 18 teams.

## Hole-in-One!



The Midlothian High School golf team has recorded three hole-in-ones this year at the Tangle Ridge Golf Course. Since 2005 there have been a total of 84 hole-in-ones at the Tangle Ridge Golf Course.

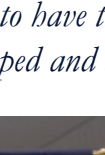


(L to R): Austin Odgers, Taylor Chalmers and Nick Cornelius all shot a hole-in-one.

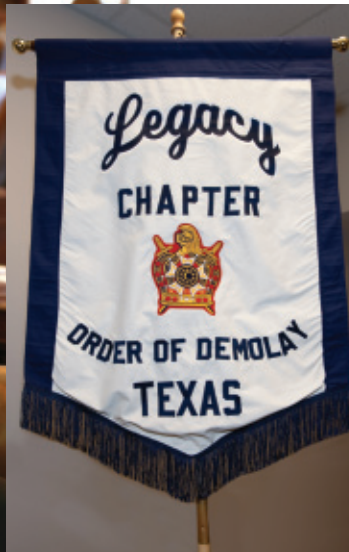
Freshman Nick Cornelius recorded the first hole-in-one on hole #4 using a pitching wedge for 142 yards. Junior Austin Odgers provided the second hole-in-one on hole #17 hitting with a 5 iron for 172 yards. Junior Taylor Chalmers accomplished the third hole-in-one on hole #4 using a pitching wedge for 90 yards. The Panther golfers are coached by Coach Brant Bennett and assistants Kris Boyd and James Smith. The Midlothian players have recorded seven hole-in-ones in the last 3 years under Coach Bennett.

## Calendar of Events

<b>March 8</b>	No School/Staff Development
<b>March 15-19</b>	No School/Spring Break
<b>April 2</b>	School make up day: MISD closed for bad weather on Feb 12
<b>May 3</b>	No School/Staff Development MISD Educational Showcase, 6:30-8:00pm, MHS
<b>May 4</b>	School make up day: MISD closed for bad weather Jan. 7
<b>May 31</b>	No School/Memorial Day Holiday
<b>June 3 &amp; 4</b>	Early Release at all schools
<b>June 4</b>	Last Day of School



*Hurrying through the crowd to his next class, the last thing the new freshman in high school needed was to have the contents of his backpack deliberately dumped and scattered all over the floor in the crowded hall. However, that is exactly what happened to him due to some youngsters making mischief. Not to worry, his “brothers” came to his aid immediately to ask if he was OK and help pick up the contents of the backpack. One of the brothers, who witnessed the incident, knew the culprit and went to have a conversation with him. Patty Champion, mother of the teenager, also witnessed the incident, but quite wisely hung back to let the boys sort it out. “One of them knew the kid who had done it, and went to find him and told him, ‘You don’t do that to our brother. We’re here to look out for him.’ Here is my son, who is a freshman being picked on, but the brothers who were all seniors took care of him. That is what it is all about,” she stated smiling.*



The boys are all members of the Legacy Chapter of Texas DeMolay, a character and leadership development organization for young men. Their camaraderie and support for each other is so strong that they consider themselves brothers. Roger Ingersoll and his wife, Felest, are both a part of the organization along with Patty. Roger joined DeMolay when he was 15 years old. "I still enjoy getting together with the brothers I grew up with," he stated. "They are friends I've had for more than 30 years." With 23 members from the ages of 12-21, the Legacy Chapter continues to grow. Roger explained, "We are based in Midlothian, but we cover all of Ellis and Johnson



counties [along] with parts of Dallas and Tarrant counties."

Felest describes the focus of the young men's organization: "The group is about leadership, character building and social activities. It helps them develop to become more well-rounded young men."

Part of the effort which goes into making them better men is helping them have a greater awareness of our government and how business is accomplished at the state capital. To that end, Roger explained, "There is a joint resolution by the House and Senate in Austin, which allows DeMolay to meet in the chambers and conduct a mock legislation. The bill is sponsored by senior members of the organization who are actual members of the House and Senate."

Patty stated, "We have government day, weekend events, mock debates and work on writing bills. We have the same paperwork as if you were a senator writing a bill. The bill is presented, and they debate it in the capital. They sit in the chairs of

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our state leaders in the capital.”

One of the ways in which DeMolay is different from other youth groups for young men is the members — not the adults — run the organization. The adult advisers are there to only advise and provide support as needed. Accepting the responsibility to run the organization begins in the meetings. The leader or president of the group is in charge and sets the tone. Felest said, “The master counselor puts the committees together — [choosing] who he wants on the committee and who he wants to chair it. It teaches them hierarchy and how to be leaders within the smaller groups so



Jacob Winchester - Jr. Counselor  
Joey McAteer - Senior Counselor  
Matt Stokes - Master Counselor  
Aaron Ingersoll - Deputy State

they can hone their skills and be better leaders when they become officers of the chapter. We give them a path to learn these lessons and skills. They don't realize they are learning skills, because we are trying to do it in a fun atmosphere and allowing them to develop their own skills by giving them goals to reach.” Roger added, “They get to learn by doing, not by listening to someone say this is how you do it. They are given a challenge and they have to plan it.”

Responsibility, accountability and character building are all lessons learned in DeMolay. One way these traits become part of who the members are is in doing good deeds for others. In this, the young men are still in charge of what it is they do. “The boys think of these ideas. They figure out how to get from A to B to get it done. The adult advisers are there to say, ‘Well, have you thought about this or that?’” Patty explained. “DeMolay teaches them how to be leaders, but also teaches them how to fail in a safe environment. If they crash in flames, they can learn and grow from it. It is a safe place for them to do that.”



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Over the course of a year, the members become involved in many projects. Perhaps one of their most successful projects is the Build-A-Bear program. In 2008, the Legacy Chapter decided to donate teddy bears to Texas Baptist Home in Waxahachie. They were able to collect and donate 85 bears. In 2009, the boys wanted to donate the bears to Scottish Rite Hospital and set a goal to collect at least 200. Arrangements were made, in cooperation with the Build-A-Bear business, to allow anyone who wanted to donate a bear for the cause to pay only \$5.00 to build one. The boys also collected donations to purchase the bears and put them together themselves. When it was all over, they contributed close to 500 bears to the hospital!

Displaying good citizenship, the young men volunteer for many projects. They participate in Keep Midlothian

**“We have government day, weekend events, mock debates and work on writing bills.”**

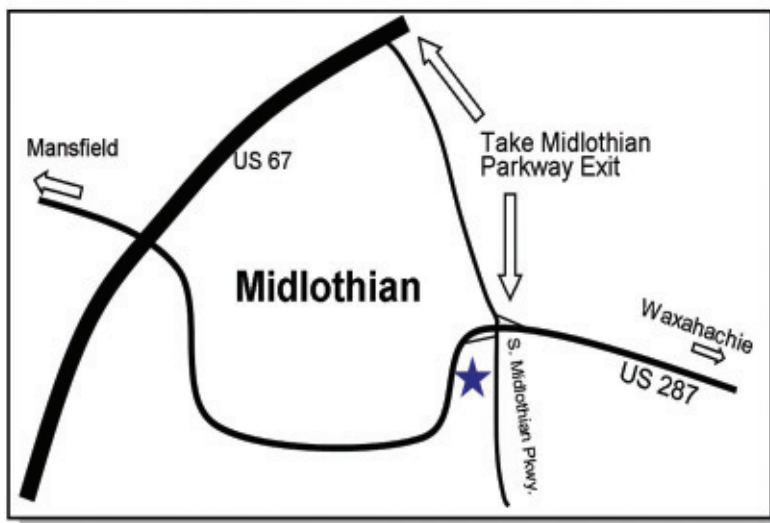
Beautiful by picking up trash along an area of Midlothian Parkway. DeMolay is the only youth organization, which partners with Relay for Life, where they volunteer their time to help as needed. They have also given of their time to help at Midlothian Senior Citizens Pantry and at Midlothian's Chamber of Commerce Business Expo. Felest stated, “Vicki Massey [Senior Citizen's Pantry director] called asking for the guys to come help with the seniors' Christmas party. The boys showed up, helped with getting the food ready and assisting the seniors. People know if they need honest, hard-working and dedicated young men, they'll call us.” Another little known fact is that this chapter is responsible for changing the marquee in downtown Midlothian twice a week after school.

As the chapter gears up this March to celebrate the 91st anniversary of DeMolay, they are looking forward to another year of fun while building character. Felest exclaimed, “We take good boys and make better men.” **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information on DeMolay visit [www.ntx.demolay.org](http://www.ntx.demolay.org).*

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# — THE TEXAS TUSCAN —

— By Katrina D. McNair



At Home With  
**Chris and Lisa Wagner**

*It is only fitting that one drives through scenic country roads to reach the home of Chris and Lisa Wagner. The backdrop of trees and open fields serves as a prelude to the modern, yet rustic home that the Midlothian couple resides in with their two young children, Nathan and Natalie.*

Chris and Lisa, both originally from the Pennsylvania area, have been married for 16 years and have lived in Midlothian for 10. The family landed in Texas when Chris was in the Air Force and assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base. Upon leaving the Air Force, Chris and Lisa, who manages a project management office for a local media company, lived for some time in Grand Prairie.

When it came time to purchase a home, they both knew they wanted a place that was spacious; removed from the hustle and





bustle of the city. Lisa was familiar with the Midlothian area, having attended a retreat at a campground not too far from their current home, so they began their search there.



It surprised the Wagners that what is now their three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bathroom home had been seen by almost

30 potential homeowners before they had a chance to view it. Upon entering, Lisa said she just knew the house was supposed to be their new home. "I was like, *Wow*," she said, remembering her



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first impression of the home that sits on an acre of land, its expansive green lawn supplying ample curb appeal. “I mean, it was almost ready, as far as the decorations go.”

Calling their home decor a “Texas-Tuscan,” there are several themes that extend through the entire house. Upon entering, a beautifully rich stained concrete floor, the color of milk chocolate, runs throughout the entire downstairs, save for the bedrooms and bathrooms. To the right of the entrance, the Wagner’s have turned a formal dining room into a cozy library, complete with three large shelves full of books, small toys and two huge leather chairs. Thus far safe from their own active children, a 200-year-old antique clock, in Chris’ family for several generations, hangs above one of the chairs. “We love to read to the kids in here,” Lisa shared. “We removed a coffee table to

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make it 'kid-friendly,' and they just love it in here.”

Throughout the home, evidence of the family's faith is visible.



Some of the most beautiful items are in the library and centered inside an art alcove in the entrance. Two crosses the family purchased hang in both these areas. The company specializes in handcrafted steel items whose unique color-swirled patterns are created from intense blowtorch heat. When viewed in just the right light, the polished fixtures

reveal The Lord's Prayer and other memorable Bible verses. In both children's rooms, lyrics from a song by Christian artist, Rich Mullins, are painted on the walls, reading "Let mercy lead, let love be the strength in your legs and in every footprint that you leave, there'll be a drop of grace." "I like that song," Chris said. "The song talks about a little boy and as he grows up, how his father wants him to walk with the Lord in his heart."

The Wagner's love of travel is carried throughout the home



## Phocus on your Pharmacy Phamily

Brandi Armstrong has been a member of the US Drug Mart phamily since June of 2008. She just completed her testing to become a Certified Pharmacy Technician. Brandi grew up in Midlothian and has chosen to make Midlothian home as an adult. She is married and has a six-month old son. Brandi enjoys spending time with her family, friends and her church.

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continues, "I can tell you as both a cardiology director and as a patient, it's a blessing to have access to high quality care right here at home." To get to the heart of what's new at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, call them at 877-637-4297 or visit [www.methodisthealthsystem.org](http://www.methodisthealthsystem.org).



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as well. Lisa's 93-year-old grandfather was an avid traveler and that same adventurous spirit is in both Lisa and Chris. In the large and airy living room, there are several photos of wildlife that Lisa's grandfather took while on a trip to Africa, still a dream destination for the couple. The photographs are vivid, depicting bright blue skies and weathered brown grass. "He traveled into his 80s," she said. "We did a lot of traveling before we had kids, but our next vacation will probably be Disney World," she said laughing, "but, we've seen several countries."

The centerpiece of the family's living room is the enormous fireplace. The stone that covers the fireplace, as well as the outside of the home, is Granbury stone. The stone has a rough, textured look, supplying a comforting contrast against the stained concrete floor.

The living area flows into an airy dining room and kitchen, with an island that comes complete with its own sink and garbage disposal. The island and the countertops are covered in a flecked marble that gleams under the chandelier over the island. The roomy breakfast nook has three large windows that overlook the family's backyard.

What a backyard it is, too! The couple agrees that the family gets a lot of use out of the huge space, complete with a sport pool where they like to play volleyball and a raised patio with a gas grill where Chris is king. "It was just dirt," Lisa remembered. "It was like a mud pit," she said, still amazed at what they were able to accomplish with a few tiki lamps



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surrounding the kidney-shaped pool.

Both the master bedroom and the children's bedrooms are on the first floor and combine the decor of faith and wilderness effortlessly. Behind Nathan's bed, a gigantic mural covers the wall, depicting zebras, gazelles, lions and other animals at a waterhole on the African plains. In Natalie's room, large flowers in shades of orange, purple and pink cover the walls, complete with a rising yellow sun and songbirds in flight on the pale yellow walls.

Chris and Lisa's master suite has small windows high above their more than king-sized bed, reminiscent of an island villa. The room has the decor of a lodge, but with trinkets and decorations that give it an upscale feel. The dresser is decorated with several items from across the world including a porcelain box from Italy, paying homage to Lisa's Italian roots. Other travel-inspired artistic touches can be found in the home, for instance: a feather with the image of a sea turtle painted on it is located in their bathroom and a picture of the couple in full scuba gear is found in the bedroom. The bed, with its thick wooden posts, has linens with a pattern of pale gold stars, putting the Texas in "Texas Tuscan."

Though they are far from their Northern roots, the Wagner's have found Texas to be a warm and welcoming place for their family. "The people are very warm," Chris said. "We like that, and we like it down here because it's a little bit slower pace. Midlothian's just a nice town."

"Yes, we've found that Southern hospitality is alive and well," Lisa agreed, "and we've learned how to say ya'll." **NOW**

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# Intarsia *in* Form

— By Betty Tryon

Many years ago, Carolyn Hart saw a form of art she had never seen before and yet, she knew she could do it. “It is an innate thing,” she said. “You know what you know. Somehow, I already knew how to do this.”

Intarsia, a very labor-intensive form of artwork, involves using different naturally colored pieces of wood, cut into a particular shape and laid on a wood surface. The result of this demanding work is an amazing piece of three-dimensional art. Carolyn explained how she began to learn this ancient form of art. “The first time I saw this was in a woodworking magazine that had a sample pattern in it. The paper pattern is like a blueprint. Judy Gale Roberts makes most of the patterns that I use. They tell you the color of wood to use and what level to place them. After that, you are on your own on the shaping. None of the wood has a stain on it; it is just the natural color.” Carolyn still has her first intarsia artwork of a smiling cat lazily hanging on a tree limb.

She also created a particularly interesting wall hanging of a boy splashing through a puddle while crossing the street. The wood inlay with different pieces on top of a wood surface, achieves the 3-D effect, making for an incredible piece of art. The skill of the craftsmanship shows in every precisely cut section of wood that is eventually pieced together for a picture. In Carolyn’s granddaughter’s room hangs another work of intarsia. It is a fairy tale castle floating in clouds. The dark sections for the wood were made with a wood-burning tool.

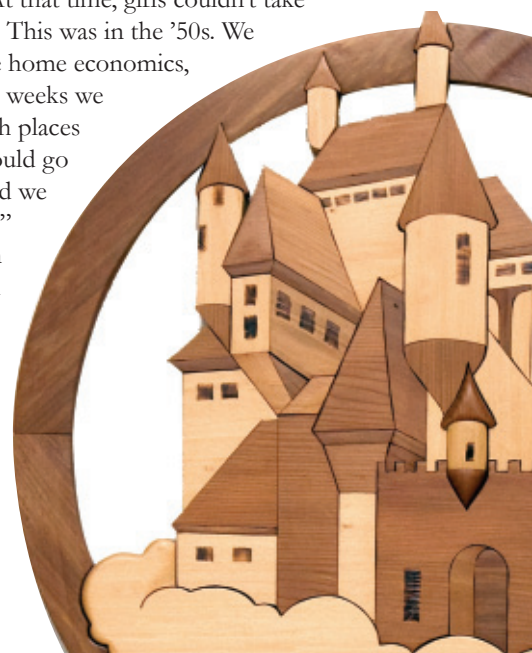
Although now an expert in the craft of woodworking, Carolyn



remembers when she first began. “I was in junior high school, and I wanted to take woodshop,” she recalled. “At that time, girls couldn’t take woodshop. This was in the ’50s. We had to take home economics, but, for six weeks we could switch places

with the boys. They would go to home economics and we could go to woodshop.”

Carolyn’s fascination for working with wood was not deterred. She stated, “I was always out in the garage with my brothers who were older than me, and that kept me interested. They were



working on cars, tearing things apart and putting them back together. Those were things I liked to do.” Her woodworking knowledge and craftsmanship had to come by her own initiative. She explained, “I learned how to do it by trial and error. I had always dabbled in woodworking before I got a degree. I started college late in life after the children were adults. I went to Mountain View College and was going to take drafting, but one of the instructors talked me into getting my bachelor’s degree. I went to North Texas University and earned my bachelor’s in industrial arts. I got a teacher’s certificate in teaching industrial arts. I taught in Dallas for 20 years, 11 years in woodworking, and then I switched to information technology and started teaching computer application.”

When you are passionate about your work, getting a chance to share it with others wanting to learn it can be a bonus, particularly when your students are as enthusiastic as you are. “I have had students who couldn’t wait to get into the class and others who couldn’t wait to get out,” she chuckled. “Woodwork is a mentally challenging and costly enterprise. You don’t need a lot of woodworking material, but you do need to have a band saw and drill press among other things. If you already have those, you are well on your way.”

Because of her expertise in woodworking, Carolyn has carved many works of art out of wood. In her home is a hanging of a clock, raised on a block of wood. Completing the picture is a silhouette of a cowboy with intricate details carved into the body. She has wooden cars and pickups designed from the 1920’s era. Adding variety to her abundant store of talent, she has cross-stitching pieces that are dear to her. She stated, “I give most of my woodworking creations away — probably because I didn’t have room to hang it. I haven’t given any of my cross-stitch

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away though. They will have to claim that when I'm dead and gone," she smiled.

In describing her joy in art, Carolyn said, "It is one of those things that you can't do without, at that particular time." Her passion allows others to experience the ancient art of intarsia. In the past when persuading students to join her



**The wood inlay with different pieces on top of a wood surface, achieves the 3-D effect, making for an incredible piece of art.**



woodworking class, she told them, "If you like to get dirty, this is the place to come. You are going to get wood chips and sawdust on you, dust in your face, nicks, scrapes and splinters." If any students remain in the room after that picture of their future, they will get the opportunity to learn woodworking from one of the best. **NOW**

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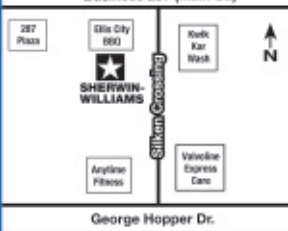
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# Born to Run

— By Kyle Irion



As a runner, Carly Kitts competes in one of the oldest sports humanity has to offer — and she is good, very good. Currently on both the track and cross country teams at Midlothian High School, she has already accomplished much, and intends to increase the size of her trophy case. “I like competing a lot,” Carly said. “It’s fun. I like the adrenaline rush when you’re on the starting line and what you accomplish.”

Carly started out as a soccer player. She played for eight years, beginning as a child in a recreational, just-for-fun league, then moving up at the age of 11 to select, competitive soccer. Although a talented soccer player, Carly wanted to focus more on what she loved the most — running. So, during her freshman year of high school, she left the soccer team to compete in cross country and track. “Once I did that, I really liked it and decided I didn’t want to do soccer. I just really like to run, so I wanted

## Sports**NOW**

to work harder and to get better.” Carly displayed great zeal and excitement for the challenges that lay ahead of her in her new sport of choice.

In track, Carly runs the 3,200m (two miles) and 1,600m (one mile) races. These are solo races; she has no team to hand a baton off to and no rest in between miles or laps. In middle school she ran the mile relay (four laps of 400m). The decision to move out of relays was a welcomed one, as Carly herself admitted that, “I wasn’t very good anyway.” Mark humility and self-awareness as two more of her winning traits.

Carly has had numerous accomplishments in recent years. Last year, she won state in both cross country and track. Her most recent accomplishment was placing sixth in the Nike Regionals for cross country. Nike puts on four regionals and the top five teams go to nationals in Oregon, all sponsored by Nike. Carly’s team was selected from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico. To reach this competition, a specific qualifying time

**“It’s fun. I like the adrenaline rush when you’re on the starting line and what you accomplish.”**

must be met. “There are no qualifying races, they just look at your times, then the regional race is qualifying for the national race.”

Carly does not favor one over the other when it comes to cross country versus track. “They’re so different. I like them both the same. Track is much faster because it’s all flat, but cross country is the opposite. Track is not really a team sport; it is more of an individual. And I like them both.”

Winning at these two different sports only speaks for the competitive edge Carly brings. The dynamics of a team sport versus that of a solo sport are vastly different, and Carly recognizes this. With team sports, she said, “It can be a lot of fun to cheer each other on, and it takes some of the pressure off than



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running by yourself.” When asked of solo sports, Carly responded that she “can focus better and know exactly what I need to do, so I need to train for myself.” She enjoys the fact that individual sports are more based on individual determination and focus.

Although Carly has accomplished quite a lot in her young athletic career, she has no intentions of slowing down. “I want to run in college, so I just have to see what scholarships are offered.” Like many student athletes, the greatest determining factor in where Carly goes to school is financial assistance, and while she does not really have a college preference, she does have an idea of what she wants to major in. “I want to study nursing or maybe coaching,” she said. “Ever since I was small, I’ve always wanted to be a

**“Every year, my goal is to do my best and to get to state.”**

nurse, because my mom’s a nurse. I’ve always seen her do it, and I think it’s really cool. And helping people out seems really fun.” On the matter of coaching, Carly elaborated, “I’ve learned a lot about running through the years, and it’d be fun to tell the other kids what I know so they could get better and run fast.”

Carly knows that, like practically every other sport, running has an integral mental dimension. “A lot of running and training is just having faith in yourself that you can accomplish high standards or big goals and win big things. Most of running is in your mind, so if you tell yourself you can do it, most of the time you can.” Whenever Carly is running, and she begins to lose steam, she checks her own mental toughness, and pushes through.

With continued improvement, Carly hopes for another state title this year. “Every year, my goal is to do my best and to get to state. I want my times to get faster and faster every year. My body gets stronger each year.” With that mindset, there is no doubt that many more great things are on the horizon for Carly. If she has her way, one of those things will be another state championship! **NOW**

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— By Betty Tryon

Bill Larkin, owner of Sardis Tires and Wheels, uses his 18 years of experience in the tire business to service you in an efficient and cost-saving manner. Eighteen years ago, he found a tire company, which was splitting its business, and he decided to take the retail part while the other company continued with the wholesale tire business.

The Sardis' business philosophy is very simple and direct. They sell the best tires and get them on your car in record time. Bill said, "I feel your time is worth something. When I started this business, I wanted to make sure customers would not have to wait. We can get you in and out in 20 minutes. We can put four tires on in about 10 to 15 minutes. No waiting; we do it now."

They have an efficient and competent staff to get the job done. Bill employs seven people and is proud that he has had the same people working for him at Sardis for over 15 years. The team works as a unit, and Bill sees himself as just another member of the team. He is especially proud of Mike Smith, who has been with the business for 17 years. "He is a huge asset to the business and knows all the ins and outs about tires," Bill stated.

The demand for their service is so high that Sardis Tires and Wheels is open for business every day of the week. Bill added, "We have a need to have the business open so much. We work on 35 to 50 cars a day. On Saturday, maybe twice that. It just depends. We sell more



The team at Sardis Tires and Wheels.

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tires than anyone else around. Many of our customers are repeat customers. With the population of Ellis County growing, we see more and more new customers every day."

"They come from all over the state and surrounding states," Judy Smith, the company's secretary added.

**"We try to find the best deal for the customer. I may call four or five places to get the best price. We do bend over backwards for the customers."**

To handle such a demand requires a large and diverse inventory. "We keep almost everything in stock," Bill stated. On the rare occasion when something is not in stock, Sardis will get it for you quickly. "If it is a special order, you can order in the morning, and we can have it for you [the same] afternoon. We have all sizes and brands available. It doesn't mean we have them here, but they are available." The business is mostly geared toward new tire sales, but Sardis does carry used tires. Bill also sells tires for other types of vehicles such as lawnmowers, dollies and trailers, but the company only mounts tires on cars and trucks. "We sell custom wheels, chrome or black," Judy stated. "We also carry the latest brand names such as HELO, Moto Metal and many more."

One of the reasons Sardis gets so much business may be found in their prices. In these hard economic times, everyone wants a good deal. Bill stated, "When you price a tire from us, we give you the total price up front. That includes the sales tax. That's important to a lot of people. We have the lowest prices anywhere available. Other people match our prices." Judy said, "We try to find the best deal for the customer. I may call four or five places to get the best price. We do bend over backwards for the customers."

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# Warmth and Humor

— By Betty Tryon



The conversation, punctuated with laughter, conveyed a certain natural warmth when speaking with T. E. Baxter's second-grade teacher DeAnna Edmister. Perhaps her charges inspire such a cheery state of mind. Second-graders are fun and this class at Baxter has the perfect teacher. "I have taught every grade [in elementary level] except the first grade,"

she said. "Second-graders are sweet. They still love you and think you can do no wrong. They think you are the smartest thing in the world. They work hard. They're not too babyish but not too grown-up either. They are getting to the age where they can catch your jokes. They don't think you're lame yet," she laughed. "Humor is a characteristic common to

second-graders. They love to laugh. Their sense of humor at this point is not very developed, so it's silly and goofy. They have a tendency that when a joke works once, then they will do it 900 times. If they catch you and get you to laugh, then they will do the same one again."

With a bachelor's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin State University, a master's in curriculum and supervision from Texas A&M University and 27 years of teaching under her belt, DeAnna has much experience and knowledge in deciphering the ways of the second-grader.

Even though these students have a jolly time going about their day, they have a tendency to become upset when they think they have done something wrong. DeAnna stated, "You might say something to them and they can get all upset. One of the things I like to teach the children is that you may do something wrong, but life goes on. It's done. We have talked about it and now we are moving on. I like to teach the kids that there is no problem that they can't figure it out. Kids do something wrong and can't forgive themselves, and they think you don't like them anymore. I say, 'No, I still love you; I just don't like what you did. Life goes on.'"

It is at this age that their reading skills of fluency and comprehension are demonstrated. Of course, every child's level of competency is not the same. DeAnna understands that and is very sympathetic to that concept. "I had trouble with reading when I was younger, so I realize that, developmentally, they may not be ready for it. But, that doesn't mean they won't be ready tomorrow. I try different types of strategies because not everyone learns in the same way. I try to make sure that everyone in my classroom gets what they need. If they are struggling, I just want them to know they might not get it today, but they will. Sometimes, it just takes time. Everyone learns, they just learn at different rates in life."

In keeping with making sure every student gets what they need, DeAnna takes the extra step of personally connecting with each student every day. She explained, "It is important to me that everybody gets a little piece of me during

the day. It doesn't have to be a formal conversation. It might be asking about their weekend, talking about something that happened, or a quick game at recess."

DeAnna has words of wisdom for parents of soon-to-be second-graders. "The biggest thing is to read, read, read. Read with them every night for as many nights as you can. They will hear you read and their fluency will develop based on what they hear from you. I read to the classroom a lot because they need to hear someone reading well. They need to hear someone stop at the punctuations. They need to hear someone put character voices in the reading so they can see that reading is nothing more than talk written down. It should sound like an act on a stage. For the child who is struggling with

**"One of the things I like to teach the children is that you may do something wrong, but life goes on. It's done. We have talked about it and now we are moving on."**

reading, it is just as important for the parent to read to them and then have the child reread the page after they read it. It makes them feel more confident. It helps them build their fluency as well as their word building, their vocabulary and all the techniques that go with that."

Reading comprehension, of course, is not the only focus in the second grade. DeAnna said, "They get into fractions, double digit addition and subtraction, geometry and we barely scratch the surface of multiplication. They also learn cursive. They love that because they feel so grown up, and they also think they get to write with a pen," she added smiling.

Perhaps one of the greatest pleasures an educator will experience in their career is knowing they made a difference in a child's life and they are remembered. Students who belong to the Legacy Chapter of Order of DeMolay honored DeAnna as the Outstanding Educator in March 2009. In the course of 27 years of students, DeAnna's warmth and laughter will have helped many children along the way. **NOW**

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# In The Kitchen With Marilyn Patterson

— By Faith Browning

Marilyn Patterson's first memory of cooking is at the age of 8. "My mother was a wonderful cook. I grew up with two brothers, and my dad was a farmer, so mother cooked hearty meals," she recalled. "Cooking is the 'love language' I inherited from my mother."

For the last 42 years, Marilyn has enjoyed cooking for her husband, Pat, and their three daughters. "My husband said

one of the reasons he married me was because I cooked like his grandmother," she said. "My son-in-law says I can make rocks taste good!" Marilyn enjoys being a part of Mary Kay Cosmetics, attending church and spending quality time with her grandchildren. "One of the ways I show love is by cooking for my family," she expressed. "Now I enjoy teaching my grandchildren how to cook." **NOW**



## PIECRUST

*This will make 2 single pie shells or 1 double crust pie.*

**2 cups sifted flour**

**1 tsp. salt**

**3/4 cup Crisco**

**1/2 cup ice-cold water**

1. Sift the flour with the salt into a medium-size mixing bowl.
2. Using a pastry blender, quickly cut Crisco into flour until you have the consistency of tiny dumplings. Do not overwork.
3. Add cold water stirring just until dough makes a ball. Divide in half.
4. Flour your work surface, rolling pin and hands. Pat out the dough smoothing the edges.
5. Using your rolling pin, work the dough out from the center into a circle.
6. When it is large enough for your pie pan, fold it in half, holding it over the side of your hand, pat it gently dusting off excess flour. Turn it over and dust the excess off the other side.
7. If you are baking the pie shell with nothing in it, take a fork and pierce the crust around the sides and in various places on the bottom to prevent the crust from rising/forming air pockets. Bake in a 375 F oven until light golden brown. *Note: Do not leave the room, crusts cook quickly. The less you handle the dough, the flakier it will be.*

## BASIC CREAM PIE FILLING

**6 level Tbsp. flour**

**2 cups sugar**

**5 egg yolks**

**2 cups milk**

**1/2 stick margarine**

**1 tsp. vanilla**

1. In a saucepan, whisk together the flour and sugar until there are no lumps of flour.
2. Separate the eggs, reserving the egg whites for meringue. Keep the egg whites in the refrigerator until ready to whip.
3. Stir the beaten egg yolks into the milk.
4. Make a hole in the dry ingredients and slowly stir in the milk mixture.
5. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly,

making sure all ingredients are combined and not sticking to pan. The pudding is ready when your candy thermometer reaches 330 to 340 F. Remove from heat, add margarine and vanilla.

Variations: *Chocolate Pie:* Add 2 heaping Tbsp. cocoa to flour/sugar mixture. *Coconut Pie:* After adding margarine and vanilla, add 1 cup coconut. *Pineapple Pie:* After margarine and vanilla, add 1 cup drained, crushed pineapple. *Banana Pie:* Line bottom of baked pie shell with slices of bananas; cover with filling.

## MERINGUE

*This recipe makes meringue for 2 pies.*

**5 egg whites**

**1/4 tsp. cream of tartar**

**6 Tbsp. sugar**

**1/2 tsp. vanilla**

1. Beat the egg whites and the cream of tartar until soft peaks form.
2. Gradually add sugar; then add vanilla.
3. Continue beating until all sugar is dissolved and you can make stiff peaks.
4. Spread over warm pudding mixture. Seal the meringue to the edges of the pie crust. If this is a coconut pie, sprinkle coconut on top before browning in a 350 F oven for 12 to 15 minutes.

## ICE BOX COOKIES

**1 1/2 cups Crisco, melted**

**3 eggs**

**1 cup packed brown sugar**

**1 cup white sugar**

**1 tsp. soda**

**1 tsp. cinnamon**

**1 tsp. salt**

**5 cups sifted all-purpose flour**

**1 cup pecans, chopped**

1. In a large electric mixer bowl, beat the first 4 ingredients until creamy.
2. In another bowl, combine soda, cinnamon, salt and flour.
3. With mixer on low to medium speed, gradually add dry ingredients to creamy mixture.

4. After everything is mixed well, stir in pecans.

5. Tear off 2 to 3 sheets of wax paper the length of your cookie sheet.

6. Divide the cookie dough into 2 to 3 portions. Place a portion on wax paper and roll into a shape similar to the tube of the wax paper.

7. Roll up the dough in the wax paper, fold under ends, place on cookie sheet, repeat using remaining dough.

8. Chill overnight.

9. The next day, you can cut the cookies into 1/4-inch slices.

10. Lightly grease a cookie sheet. Bake at 350 F for approximately 8 minutes. Watch closely. Oven temperatures vary. These are crunchy cookies.

## SWEET POTATO PIE

**1 1/2 cups sugar**

**2 eggs**

**1 cup milk**

**3/4 cup cooked sweet potatoes, mashed**

**1/2 tsp. nutmeg**

**1/4 tsp. ginger**

**3/4 tsp. cinnamon**

**1 stick margarine**

**9-inch pie shell, unbaked**

1. Mix all ingredients well.
2. Pour into unbaked crust.
3. Bake at 450 F for 15 minutes, then turn down oven temperature to 300 F and continue baking for 1 hour.

## PECAN PIE

**3 eggs, beaten**

**1/2 cup sugar**

**1 cup Karo syrup**

**1/4 tsp. salt**

**1 tsp. vanilla**

**1/4 cup melted butter**

**1 cup pecans**

**1 9-inch piecrust, unbaked**

1. Mix all ingredients; pour into piecrust.
2. Bake at 350 F for 50 minutes or until filling does not shake.

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# What is Your Objection to Term Life Insurance?

— By *Tim Tobey*

One objection to purchasing term life insurance is just that: when the term is over, the policy is finished. That's it. No more coverage.

Many people I've talked with about term insurance worry they will outlive the policy period and 'waste their money' on something they didn't need. It can be difficult to counter these arguments except by explaining how term insurance can be an affordable way to provide life insurance coverage for a specific time period.

Until now. Insurance companies are offering term policies that actually return the premiums you've paid after the level premium period ends. In other words, if you purchase a 20-year term policy

and are still living when the 20-year level premium period ends, the premiums you paid will be returned to you, in many cases free of federal income tax.

Those returned premiums can have a number of uses. If you still need life insurance, you could purchase another policy. You could also use the premiums that are returned to pay down your mortgage or even add to your retirement savings.

Life insurance can provide peace of mind that your loved ones' financial burdens may be eased if you are no longer there. The benefit provided by life insurance can help keep dreams alive.

One objection to buying term life insurance has been addressed by a policy that may return the premiums you paid. Ask an insurance professional about a product that provides needed life insurance coverage but has the potential to return your premiums at the end of the term. **NOW**

*Tim Tobey is a State Farm agent based in Midlothian.*



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# A Foundation for Hope

— By Betty Tryon, R.N.

When the body turns on itself, it can be as devastating as outside forces. Autoimmune diseases are diseases where the body actually targets normal cells for destruction — a haunting prospect for a system created to protect and defend the body from harmful invasion. Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an example of things gone awry. However, today with the vast amount of resources available for the research, treatment and supportive care of patients with MS, the picture is far from bleak. The course of MS varies greatly from person to person with progression of the disease and relapse of symptoms. The range of disease progression can go from benign symptoms with little or no disability to a severe progressive form of the disease.

Some of the symptoms experienced with MS are weakness in one or more limbs, double or blurring of vision, tingling, dizziness or loss of balance and tremors. In multiple sclerosis, the brain and spinal cord are damaged by the body's own immune system. In the simplest terms, a protective sheath called myelin covers your nerves, and in a process called demyelination, the body attacks and damages the sheath. The purpose of the myelin is to facilitate the transmission of electrical signals along the nerve cells. The disruption of this communication pathway is what results in symptoms of MS, such as loss of muscle control with impaired mobility, speech, vision and balance.

Facing possible immobility or disability can be overwhelming. Information can provide a foundation of hope that life can be as normal as possible. For those coping with this disease, perhaps the most important resource available to

them is a health care provider specializing in the treatment of multiple sclerosis. When developing a treatment plan, educating family and close friends to this disease will be beneficial in allowing the patient to live a more productive and active lifestyle. Joining support groups and even using online chat rooms devoted to this issue can be greatly beneficial to a patient's well-being. Many of these resources serve a great need for family members who must learn how to cope with the changing environment of MS. Communicating with others who deal with this can be a source of comfort, strength and support. In talking to others, many will find there is great reason to hope and, even to rejoice, at the many breakthroughs in this area.

With the assistance of fundraisers, research continues to rapidly advance for more viable therapies, new drug treatments and possibly a cure. Being aware of the manifestations of this illness can help prepare you to be as active as possible every day. **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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# Happening **NOW**

## First and Fourth Monday

School Board meeting: 6:30 p.m.

## Third Monday

Ellis County Aggie Moms: 7:00 p.m.,  
Waxahachie First United Methodist Church,  
505 W. Marvin.  
[www.elliscountyaggiemoms.org](http://www.elliscountyaggiemoms.org)

## Fourth Monday

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County:  
6:30-8:00 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church,  
621 Grand Ave., Waxahachie. March 22 guest  
speaker: Lori Shelton.

## Every Tuesday

Midlothian Rotary Club meeting: noon,  
Midlothian Civic Center, 224 South 11th St.  
(972) 775-7118.

GED Class: 6:00 p.m., Midlothian High  
School Meadows Library.

Bingo: 10:30 a.m.-noon, Midlothian Senior  
Citizen's Center, 4 Community Circle. Call  
for transportation services by 8:30 a.m. (972)  
775-6401.

## Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Midlothian City Council meeting: 6:00 p.m.,  
City Hall, 104 W. Ave. E.

## Third Wednesday

Ellis County Christian Women's Connection  
monthly luncheon: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,  
Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 W. Hwy.  
287 at I-35 East, Exit 401B, Waxahachie.  
\$13, inclusive. Nursery vouchers available.  
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937-2807 or [windchime423@yahoo.com](mailto:windchime423@yahoo.com) or  
Mary at (972) 937-9984 no later than Friday,  
March 12.

## First Thursday

Midlothian Area Historical Society meeting:  
7:00 p.m., Midlothian High School Meadows  
Library. Contact Kathy Robinson at  
(972) 723-2755.

ABWA Empowering Women Express  
Network monthly meeting: 6:00 p.m.,  
Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community  
Circle. Please RSVP to  
[www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org](http://www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org)

## First and Third Thursday

Midlothian Lions Club meeting: 7:00 p.m.,  
Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. (972)  
775-7118.

## March 2

Voting day.



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## Happening **NOW** —

### March 13

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### March 15-19

Midlothian ISD Spring Break.

### March 15-20

Navarro College Spring Break.

### March 20

2010 Experience Midlothian Business Expo: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle. For more information, contact the Chamber at (972) 723-8600 or [info@midlothianchamber.org](mailto:info@midlothianchamber.org).

### March 25-27

DeSoto Art League presents James Spurlock Art Workshops: 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Ellis County Art Museum, 501 W. Main. Cost: \$195/members; \$200/non-members; \$100 deposit due Mar. 5. Limit 10/class. Contact (972) 217-1546 or [sandy@sandyreese.com](mailto:sandy@sandyreese.com) for more information.

### March 27

Ellis County Master Gardeners 10th Annual Lawn and Garden Expo: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, IH-35E and 287 Bypass. \$3; children 12 and under are free. (972) 825-5175. [www.ecmga.com](http://www.ecmga.com).

Community-wide Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the Midlothian Downtown Business Association: 10:00-11:00 a.m., Kimmel Park. The business community can help by making monetary donations or by donating plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy. All donations should be dropped off at 411 N. 8th Street at Technical Support or Kyle & Associates.

### April 16, 17

Midlothian Education Foundation "Love to Eat and Run" Fundraiser and Student Showcase: Friday, April 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Saturday, April 17, 8:00-9:00 a.m. Please join the MEF for their first pasta dinner, student art contest/auction, and 5K fun run. The dinner and student art contest and auction will be held Friday evening in the MHS cafeteria, and the 5K fun run will follow on Saturday morning. Visit [www.midlothian-isd.net/mef](http://www.midlothian-isd.net/mef), call (972) 775-8296 x 1281, or e-mail [foundation@midlothian-isd.net](mailto:foundation@midlothian-isd.net) for more details.

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