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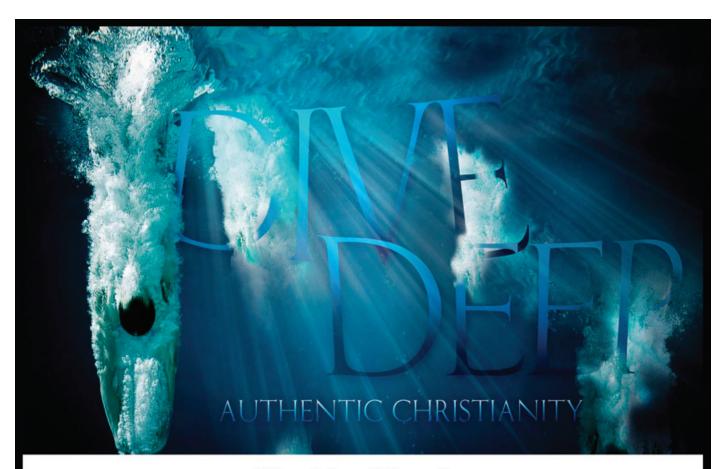
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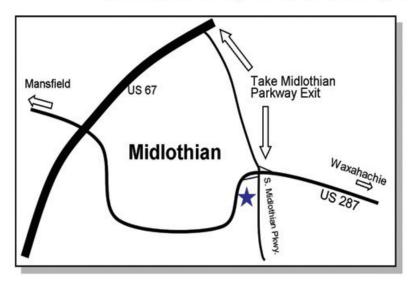


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On The Cover



Rebecca Rury holds one of her cherished cameras — a Holga.

Photo by Natalie Busch.

Contents April 2012 • Volume 8, Issue 4



Surreal Beauty Rebecca Rury specializes in unusual

photographic images.

The Game of Her Life Haley Richards' competitive drive takes her to the next level.

Hilker, Incorporated At Home With Michael and Katrina Hilker.



28 **Just for Fun**

> Kyle Glaeser taught himself to play the guitar andmthat opened a whole new world for him.

36 A Teacher to Remember

> Every child is special and loved in Ashley Golden's classroom.



42 BusinessNOW

46 Around TownNOW

48 HealthNOW

52 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

"Isn't it appropriate that the month of the tax begins with April Fool's Day and ends with cries of May Day?" This quote from an unknown author certainly sums up his feelings about taxes in the month of April! But, there is a lot more to the month than feelings of gloom and doom.

This is when we finally believe spring is here to stay with the lengthening days, warming sunshine and our lovely, Texas bluebonnets. Say hello to spring with a fat juicy hot dog as you enjoy America's favorite pastime — baseball. On April 8, all of Christendom will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. Millions of children will wake to beautiful Easter baskets and gorgeous outfits to rejoice in the occasion. It is fitting that these customs fill the month of April, where newness and fresh beginnings are championed.



Betty Tryon

MidlothianNOW Editor

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Join the Midlothian ISD Education Foundation for a 5K or I mile fun run Saturday morning followed by fresh fruit, juice, water, and hot, homemade breakfast burritos catered by the MHS Culinary Arts Department. After the awards ceremony, head downtown for Spring Fling, hosted by the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

5K Race & T-shirt - \$20 1 Mile Fun Run with T-shirt - \$10 Catered Breakfast - \$5

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Rowdy Runners register through your coach for a discount.

All proceeds benefit the MET, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit, tax-exempt, philanthropic organization of volunteer citizens who share a vision of enhancing education in Midlothian ISD. Contributions are tax-deductible as defined by the IRS.





YOU'RE INVITED TO FOUR SEMINARS: SATURDAY, MAY 12

9 – 9:50 am Your Breasts, Your Life

Dr. Kory Jones reviews the latest in breast health, screening, treatment and reconstructive surgery.

10 – 10:50 am The Pelvic Floor Show

Dr. Tracy Cannon-Smith focus on bladder health, including incontinence approaches such as pelvic floor reconstruction and slings, and

robotic prolapse surgery.

11 – 11:50 pm Robots – A Woman's Best Friend

Drs. DeEtte Vasques and Russell Dickey talk about the latest in minimally invasive gynecological surgery with a special focus on the benefits of robotic surgery.

12 – 12:30pm Hospital Tour & Refreshment Break

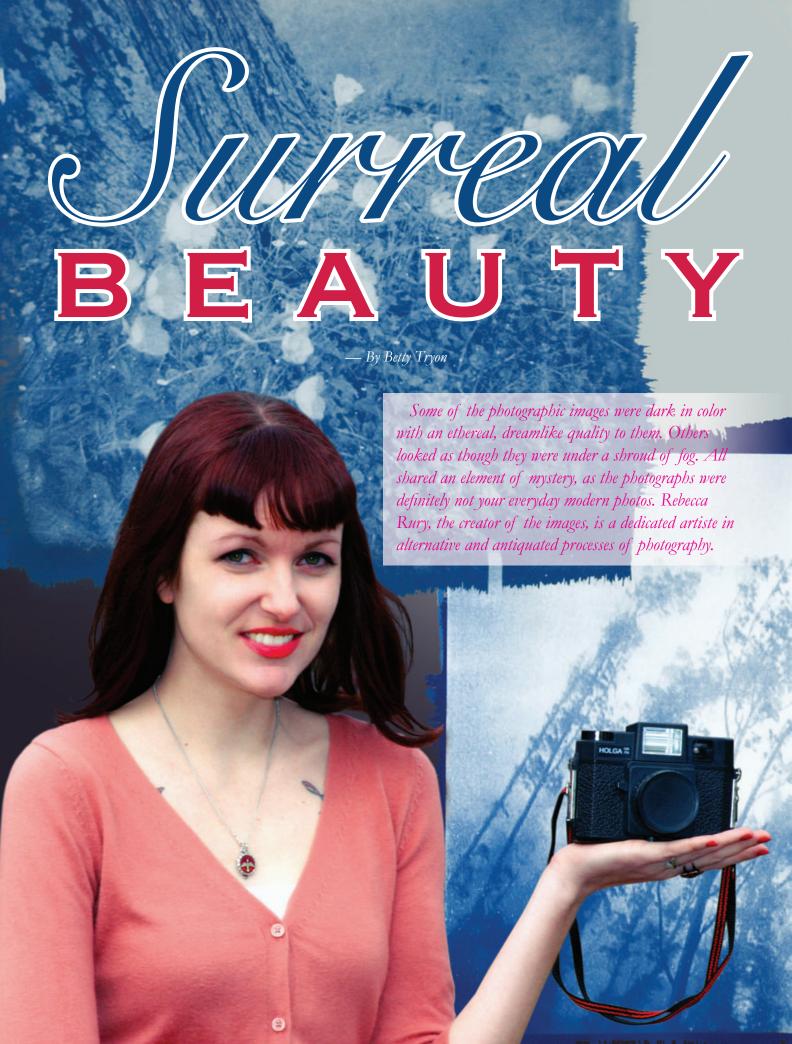
12:30 – 2pm Losing Can Mean Winning

Dr. Russell Dickey will focus on medically supervised weight loss options. Drs. David Dyslin and Augustus Lyons will share the latest in surgical options, including robotic bariatric surgery. A nutritionist and counselor will share tips regarding how to maintain weight loss for life.

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Rebecca first became interested in art at age 8 when the family received its first computer. "I started messing around with graphic art by way of Microsoft Paint," she smiled. "That eventually became my career. Graphic art is my real job. I got into photography when I was 13. I was working as a teacher's aide in a summer program, and they assigned me to photograph the field day program. I remember really enjoying it. In high school, my mom let me use her 35 mm camera, and that lit the fire!"

Rebecca enjoyed photography so much that she took classes at Mountain View College, along with Web design classes, to increase her knowledge. "I had to take a fine art elective class and chose a dark room photography class, using black and white film only," Rebecca explained. After two years at Mountain View, she transferred to The University of Texas at

Arlington (UTA), where her direction in photography crystallized. "In 2008," she continued, "we had an assignment where we had to purchase a Holga camera." The Holga camera, made in China, is considered a toy camera. Because of its simple construction, it is prone to vignetting [when there is a reduction of light on the periphery of a photograph] and other distortions. Many people use Holga cameras because they like the effect of the distortions.

"The Holga uses medium format film. Up until then, I had only used 35 mm film and digital camera," Rebecca stated. "They take some of the weirdest

pictures! Once again, I fell in love with alternative photography. Sometimes, it's called nontraditional photography because it's not your standard pose in a well-lit portrait. The Holgas are made for outdoor or very candid pictures. You have to tape it up or you get light leaks. The lens is made of plastic, so it's all warped on the pictures. But I just loved it as soon as I developed that

students took pictures of people and others of landscapes. I took pictures of everything, because I wanted to know what it looked like with this camera."

While attending UTA, Rebecca took an alternative process class with Professor Scott Hilton, where she learned cyanotype and other antique film processes. Cyanotype was invented in 1842 and used for architectural blueprints up until the 1960s. Cyanotype refers to the process of image making by using photosensitive liquid and sunlight to print a picture. "Most of these photographic processes have been abandoned for over a century except by enthusiasts, like myself," she stated. "The whole world is digital now, and people have forgotten about real photography, where it can take hours for one picture. I took two years of advanced photography classes to figure out what my purpose is as a photographer or what my style is. I knew portraits were not for me. I wanted to do antiquated photography for the rest of my life."

Rebecca's photography has a spiritual element to it. In many of her photographs, she has a passage from the Bible that best depicts what she wants to say about that photograph. "My favorite work is about surreal beauty in the natural world accentuated by alternative processes, defined by the simple elements

and principles of art and inspired by the Creator," she explained.











"Photography is not an outlet. It is an inlet. When I take a picture, I am letting a little of the beauty I saw come in to me. Making the print afterward is sort of anticlimactic to me. The actual taking of the picture is what I enjoy the most. My artistic expression matched what I was producing."

With Rebecca's type of photography, time is an essential element in producing just the right image. When making wet plate collodion tintypes, she pours an emulsion onto the plate and then dips it into silver nitrate, which is what makes the plate photosensitive. All of this is done in the darkroom. Rebecca then places the plate inside the camera and, in her words, "opens the shutter for as long as 10 minutes, to expose the image onto the plate." She then takes out the plate and develops it. There is no film involved.



Rebecca explained the cyanotype method. "Photosensitive chemistry is painted on paper, [and] then you place a film negative or objects on top and lay it in the sun for about 15 minutes. UV rays react with the chemicals on

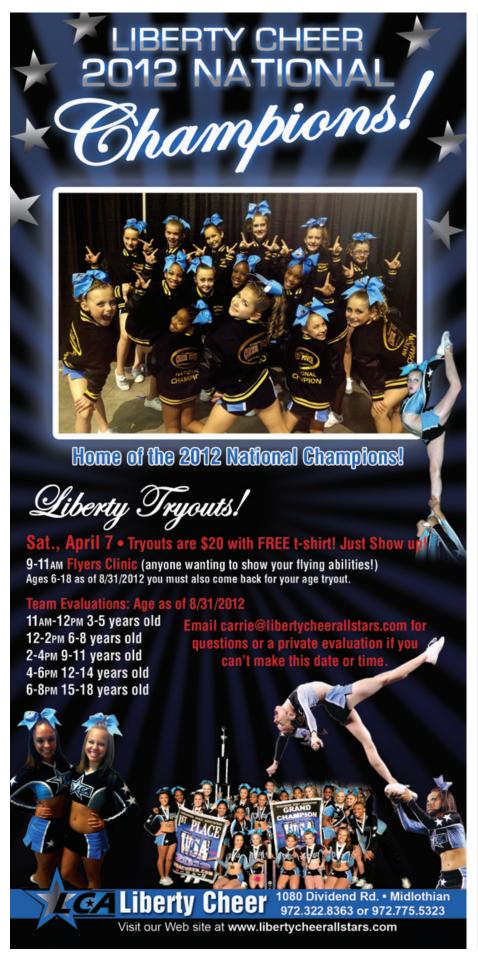


the paper. This is a very hands-on kind of photography. This process is cool because you can do it on any material that will soak up the photosensitive liquid. You can make yourself a T-shirt with a cyanotype on it."

As a photographer who appreciates photography's past, Rebecca has a collection of Brownie cameras [introduced in 1900] full of history. She has her dad's camera and her grandmother's. Another Brownie camera vielded a wondrous find. Her sister found it at a garage sale and, knowing her sister's passion, purchased it. "It still had a roll of film in it!" Rebecca recalled









"Photography IS NOT AN OUTLET. IT IS AN INLET. WHEN I TAKE A PICTURE, I AM LETTING A LITTLE OF THE beauty I SAW COME IN TO ME."

excitedly. "I call it the mystery film. I had the film developed, and it was photos of a family from the '50s. I would love to find the kids in those photos and return them. It was pretty much the highlight of my life finding that mystery film."

Rebecca tried to locate the family by doing some detective work, so she could return the photos. Guessing the film was from Norman, Oklahoma, since that is where her sister purchased it, and noticing the house number 1321, she traveled to Oklahoma to find them. Her trip, unfortunately, was unsuccessful.

Rebecca recognizes that her photos are very different from modern photos. "There is a lot of art in the world that is meant to be about something and makes a statement. Or it's supposed to be shocking," she explained. "I'm not into all that. When I discovered these alternative processes, I felt like I didn't have the burden anymore of trying to make my pictures about something. I just wanted to capture something I saw, and I saw something beautiful. I wanted to capture it and share it. The alternative processes are a statement in themselves." NOW

Tammy doesn't wait around in waiting rooms.

Keeping up with Tammy can be difficult. An avid runner and communications officer, she doesn't have time to be sick. So when Tammy felt the symptoms of a sinus infection coming on, she started taking over-the-counter medications. Days later with sinus pressure mounting, she ran into the Methodist Charlton QuickCare Clinic, where walk-ins are welcome and no appointment is required. Conveniently open evenings and weekends, the clinic staff and provider had her in and out quickly, and with the prescribed medication she was feeling better the next day. Even for a busy woman like Tammy, having to stop to see the doctor didn't slow her down.

Get the full story at www.MethodistHealthSystem.org/QuickCare.









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The Game of Line G

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

Middle school gym class, for many kids, is a break from studying "the three R's." For some, though, it can blossom into a love

for sports.

Haley Richards
had never picked
up a racquet of any
kind, really, before
playing badminton in
sixth grade at Walnut
ddle School. She loved it,

Grove Middle School. She loved it, and her teacher suggested she sign up for tennis the following year. Haley joined the middle school tennis team because of the fun she'd had playing badminton, never thinking that she would eventually earn a scholarship. But she did earn a scholarship, and she is

the only Midlothian High School girl who has received a college tennis scholarship in

quite some time.

After signing up for fun in seventh grade, Haley started getting better with each practice and match. More important than her success was that she enjoyed playing. "I like competition a lot, so it was great — even early on," she said. Her competitive drive soon took her beyond playing for school alone. "I joined the United States Tennis Association (USTA) when I was in ninth grade because I wanted to compete more," she explained. This was also the year Haley made it to varsity level.

Throughout Haley's high school years, she played for Midlothian High School. She and her doubles partner, current junior Lexi Hendrix, placed third in district both of the last two years. Haley also competed with the USTA, which often led her across the state for matches. "With the USTA, my mom and I would travel. It was fun traveling to play as much as anything else," she admitted. "We went as far as Corpus Christi for tournaments." In addition to traveling,

Haley was able to hone her skills with sometimes more rigorous competition. "It's a little more competitive than high school tennis. I played a lot of the same girls in high school and USTA matches."

Because their matches usually brought together the better players from many areas, college recruitment happened largely through the USTA. "I was recruited pretty much only from my USTA contests. That's definitely how I got a scholarship," Haley shared. She was playing tennis more or less year-round between the high school team

"I like competition a lot, so it was great — even early on."

and USTA. She had planned on going to school for nursing, and pursued enrolling at The University of Texas at Tyler. "They have a nursing program, and I was probably going to play, but didn't have a scholarship or anything," Haley said.

One of the other schools in the same conference, Schreiner University, sought her out. Haley was not very familiar with the school until they contacted her but quickly found it was a great fit. "The coach, Gary Naudebaum, had me visit the school," she recalled. "They offered me a scholarship to play, so I went." After recruiting her to come, Coach Naudebaum actually left Schreiner. Haley, along with the whole tennis team, got to take part in the interview process for their new coach. "It was kind of weird," she confessed. "They had us come in and talk to the different coaches, as a team." The team selected Wade Morgan from Hardin-Simmons University.

In addition to tennis, Haley has made



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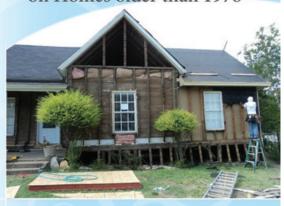
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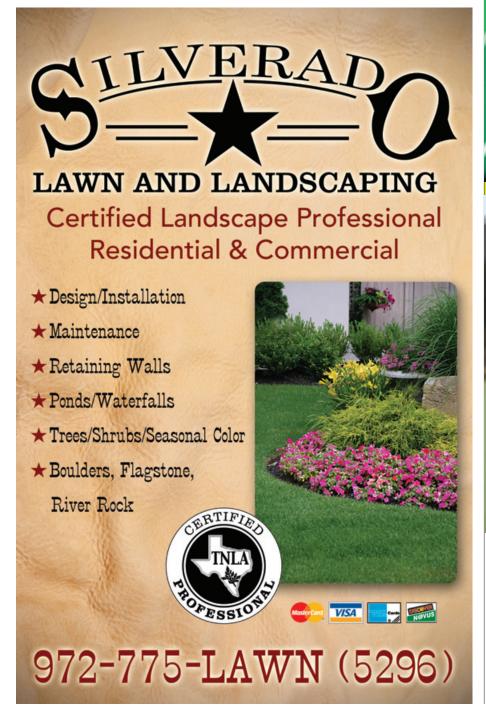
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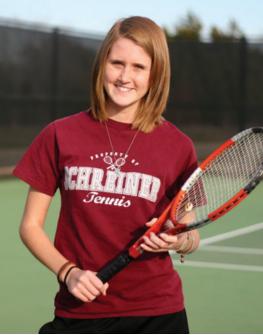
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the time to work with kids for many years. "I have volunteered at Children's Medical Center in Dallas and with the YMCA. I also was babysitting when I was young, probably 12 or so," she explained. Because of Haley's love for kids, she has planned for years to go into pediatric nursing. Recently, though, she has honed her plan to an even narrower focus. "In the past year or so, I have known several



people who have been diagnosed with cancer. So I decided that I want to pursue pediatric oncology, specifically." Haley will spend time away from tennis this summer, as she will be involved in an internship at Children's Medical Center. "I will be doing a shadowing program, so I will probably see a lot of different parts of the nursing work I will do one day," she said. Part of the appeal that brought Haley to Schreiner was its outstanding nursing program.

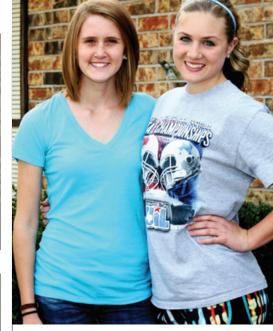
For now, though, Haley has to spend most of her time focusing on her tennis. "I haven't really had the typical college experience. I would say about half of my time is doing something for tennis, between practice and workouts." She has taken 13 credit hours each of her first two semesters but has not had much choice in her classes. "The coach picks our schedule. I am on a certain degree plan, but he schedules us so that we have morning classes. That way, we can practice and workout in the afternoons," she stated. "They only let freshmen take 13 hours, so that we won't be overloaded." After class, she usually has workouts on her own and practice for a few hours each evening.

The start of Haley's college career has had both ups and downs. She won









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her first ever college match, eventually losing in the consolation finals of her first tournament. Toward the end of the fall season, though, she suffered a rotated vertebra and spent several months rehabbing her injury. "The fall season is individual, and I missed one tournament," she said. "In the spring, we play team tennis for accumulated points, so I had to miss the first part of that, as well."

In spite of the time Haley was forced to take off, the spring season has brought welcome travel back to her tennis life. "Because of the schedule, between school and tennis, I couldn't really come home in the fall. But in the spring, we traveled to Dallas for several tournaments, so I got to see my family a lot more," she said.

Haley has missed the closeness she enjoys with her family: her parents, Patrick and Jenny, and her older brother, Corey. Along with short trips that bring her close to home, Haley will get to travel across the country. "Every other year," she said, "we go on a spring break trip to play some new schools. Next year, we will go to Oregon, Tennessee and California."

Haley's tennis career began on a whim. One day she was enjoying herself in gym class, and six years later, she signed a scholarship to play tennis in college. She spends much of her time training, working out and practicing. The extra work is worth it to her, as Haley will one day head into the nursing field. But for now, she is getting to play a game she loves — one that has become a pathway into her future.

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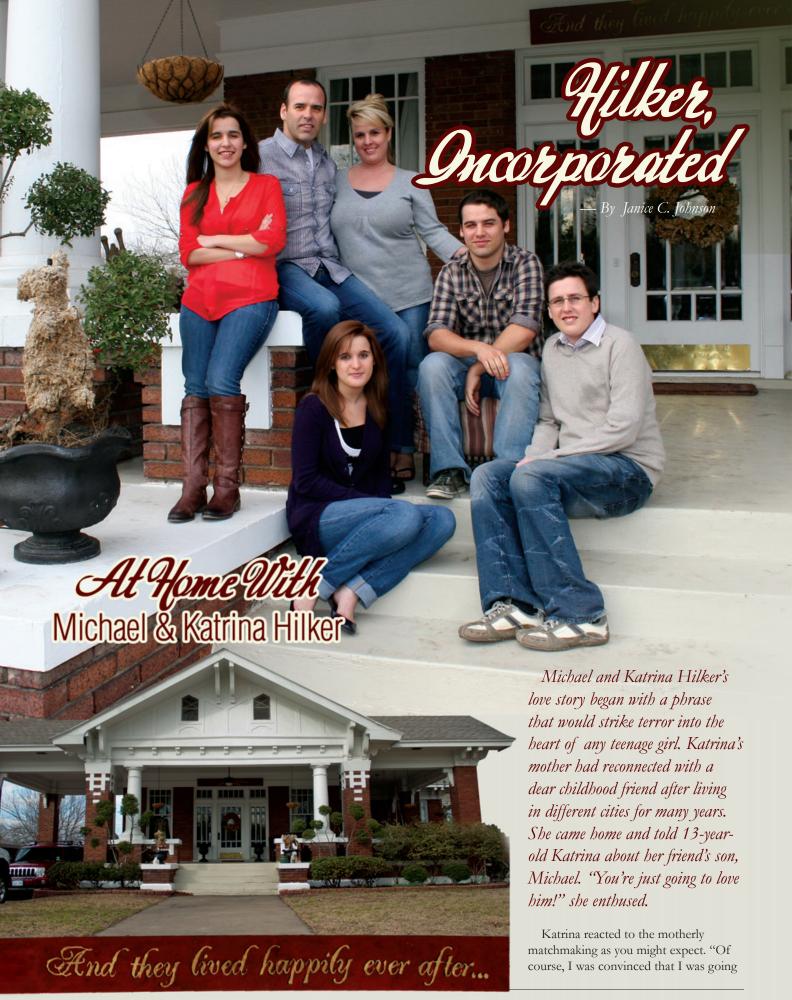
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to absolutely *not* love him!" Katrina remembered. "She said he was perfect for me, so I thought, *Yeah, now I know for sure that I won't like him.*"

But when Katrina actually met 15-year-old Michael, she found him good-looking, intelligent and quite likeable, after all. It took her by surprise. Friendship blossomed into love, and within a few years, they decided to marry.

"Our mothers had been best friends. They even got married on the same day — June 1," Katrina said. "When Michael and I got engaged, they suggested an August wedding, but we didn't want to wait. So, we told them it would be so sweet if we had the same anniversary that they both did. My mother fell for that, and we got married June 1 of that year."

The couple settled in Grand Prairie and, over time, were blessed with two sons and two daughters. As the youngest approached her teens, the family decided to move to a more rural school district. Their search led them to Midlothian and the historic W.L. Stephenson home. Q.C. Stanberry had built the rambling, prairie-style house in 1921. The Stephensons later bought it, and it remained in their family for 50 years.

Katrina fell in love with it the moment she first saw it. Stephenson's son and his wife had updated the home in 1999. "I only had to repaint two rooms in the house after we bought it. The Stephensons had excellent taste," she said.

The three youngest children settled into Midlothian's schools. Only Hannah, an easygoing high school junior, is still in school. Her sister, Katie, graduated last year and is busy training for a hairstyling career. Brandon, now 20, aims to attend Fire Academy. Mikey, at age 23, is the eldest. In 2010, he suffered a major setback: a brain tumor. After undergoing





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surgery and radiation treatment, he is still working on rehabilitation. He also helps his brother with yard work and enjoys reading and cooking. Two lively English bulldogs, Cletus and Bella, round out the family.

Meanwhile, the vintage home with its large rooms proved the perfect setting for Katrina's decorating talent. She scouts estate and garage sales to find antique furniture and accessories. She began upholstering so she could restore worn pieces, such as the three-piece living room set she got for just \$16. "I'm a



bargain hunter," she admitted.

Katrina's "do-it-yourself" thriftiness extends to sewing, as her spacious workroom reveals. Besides the sewing machine, which faces the large window, the room is equipped with dress forms, well-organized shelves and a large work table. Above the doorway she has hung the four "baby's first outfits," one for each child. She embroidered their names on each outfit before mounting them on fabric and framing them in glass-encased shadow boxes. Katrina smiled up at the mementos and said, "I always tell my

husband that if there were a fire, aside from the dogs, I would save those first."

The sewing room started out as their daughters' bedroom. But soon they had the open attic finished out into a suite for the girls. "It had just been empty space, and it added 500 square feet to the house," Michael said.

Most of the renovations the Hilkers would have wanted had already been made. The master suite originally had a tiny bathroom and an even smaller closet. The previous owners had enclosed a sun porch to make a roomy bath, and the



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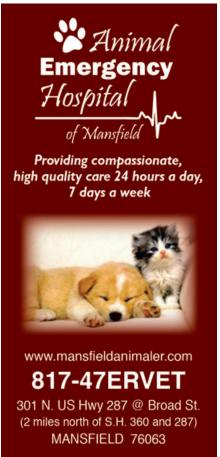




















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former bathroom is now Katrina's closet. "That one little closet would never have worked," she said.

The main bathroom just needed a coat of blush-colored paint to become a nostalgic retreat. Here Katrina hung her collection of old-fashioned silhouettes done in cut black paper, pen-and-ink and cross-stitch.

Katrina's least favorite room in the house began life as a dining room and is now the den. "I don't know anyone who needs a dining room this big," she observed, looking around at the wide open room. She likes the formal living room's fireplace and glassed-in bookcases, but its large windows make it too sunny to use much in the summer.

The warm, yellow kitchen carries a "poultry" theme, decorated with ornamental hens and roosters and antique wire baskets full of faux eggs. Rippled-glass doors in the double-sided cabinets show off Katrina's collection of milk glass and jadeite dishes.

Beyond the cabinets, where the breakfast room once was, Michael has set up a home office. As a sales executive for Microsoft, he has an office in Las Colinas but works at home some days. While the commute is manageable, he pointed out that "when I can work from here, I can get a lot more done."

Below the kitchen, the basement is another favorite room. It houses Katrina's upholstery work area with an old coal chute still visible above the



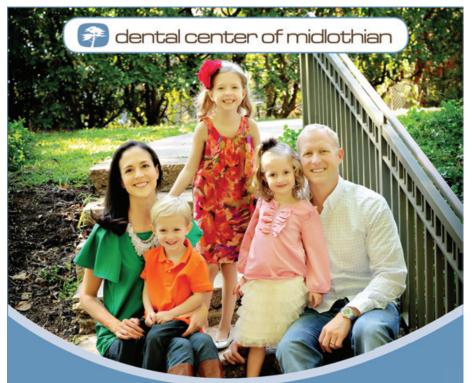
workbench. A back door opens at ground level onto a courtyard featuring a grill and picnic table. In the far corner of the lot, a garden thrives and a swimming pool waits for summer.

Katrina is thankful for Michael's career, which allows her to be a homemaker. "Michael has a very strong provider instinct. I knew he would be good at whatever he did, but I never dreamed he would be so successful," she said.

In turn, Michael noted, "In some ways I think of our family as 'Hilker, Incorporated' that is, I am working for my family. What I do, going out to provide for them, is made much easier by Katrina's support. She's like the chief operating officer. She keeps everything together."

Michael and Katrina have been happily married for 25 years, "but not without some rough patches," Katrina said. Both of the mothers that brought them together have since passed away. Also, some years ago, Michael was diagnosed with a heart problem, which he has overcome through his diligent pursuit of fitness.

Katrina mused, "As a couple, we've been through so much — we've lost parents, we've had a cancer scare with our kids, we've been poor, we've had excess — we've pretty much done it all, and we've managed to stay together. I don't believe in fate, but we're just the two people that are *for* each other. We're a perfect fit."



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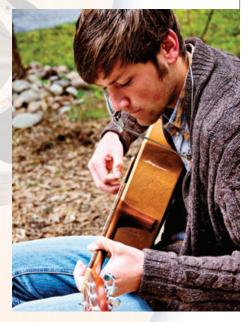
EXP. 4/30/12



Kyle's foray into music was something even he did not expect. "I was always reluctant to start playing instruments because my brother is very musically gifted. He's the one with all the talent. He got a scholarship for college to play jazz with his trombone and has a good voice. But when I started playing, I really got into it."

Kyle's playing was mostly experimental at first, since other than playing the trumpet in band during junior high school, he had no formal lessons. Gradually, he learned to master playing the instrument by ear. His talented brother did help in the beginning. Smiling, Kyle said, "He helped a little. He was patient enough. When I first started playing, I found a couple of songs I liked and wanted to learn. They were always songs that were too hard for me. I would practice and practice until I could play it. I would also practice chords. I learned a lot from playing with other people."

As Kyle's proficiency in guitar playing increased, he decided to expand his repertoire and taught himself how to play other instruments. "For a long time, I didn't try to play anything else because I was obsessed with the guitar. I went through a couple of years where I'd have to play two or three hours a day or else I didn't feel right," Kyle shared. "Because of the nature of the guitar, the way it's made with strings, it's a lot easier to learn how to play. I can play anything with strings: ukulele, mandolin, bass guitar and banjo. I learned these after playing the guitar for about two years."





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Once Kyle became more comfortable with the guitar, he stepped out of his comfort zone with stringed instruments to play the harmonica. It all began with a white elephant Christmas gift exchange with his youth group. "Someone had put a \$5 harmonica with the gifts. I was able to get it, and I just started playing on it and thought it was fun. I played that \$5 harmonica for a long time. I then went and bought a nicer one and found out the more expensive one was easier to play. Because I'd played so long with the cheap one, playing with the good one was easy."

Kyle learned how to play the harmonica by watching YouTube. He wanted to learn to play the harmonica

while simultaneously playing the guitar. "To coordinate the harmonica and guitar at the same time took lots of practice," he said. "I feel that if you can sing and play at the same time, you can play the harmonica and guitar at the same time. It's like disconnecting from the guitar. It's called doing something other than what you are supposed to be focusing on. So, I had to play a style



of guitar where you have to learn how to disconnect. I do baselines with my thumb so that helped. It's a painstaking process, but everyone I talked to about it said you just have to practice it. It is very frustrating. At first, it doesn't make sense and then it just comes. I practiced doing simple beats, and it became more complex from there."

After learning how to play the guitar, Kyle started writing music. He prefers to write his own music instead of playing popular songs written by others. However, he does have his favorite musicians. "I have written approximately 50 songs. I play a lot of folk and blues. With blues, I am a big Buddy Guy fan and, of course, B.B. King. I also like Derek Trucks. For folk music, I like Neil Young and Joe Pug."

Kyle often has the opportunity to perform his own creations in front of others with a recent appearance at Lighthouse Coffee Bar. He also performs with others. "I've played background for my friend's band whenever he needed instruments. We've played in lots of coffee houses, a couple straight music venues, in churches and a festival," Kyle said.

"I've always been a lead guitarist. I've been blessed in that I could jam with people. So, about two years ago, I started playing a lot more rhythm and things, but I really enjoy playing with people. I like to play solo, but it is not as much fun as playing with people. I don't sing. I play the instruments and have my friends sing. It's just for fun." The group, known as Murtaugh and the Silver Lining, has also played at Rock the Republic in





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Bryan, Texas, with about 150 bands in attendance. In addition to playing for fun, Kyle has organized charity concerts to raise money for various events.

Playing professionally requires much focus and commitment. Presently, that is not an option for Kyle because of his studies at Texas A&M University. He is looking forward to his future career in geographic information systems. "We take satellite data and aerial photography and interpret it into thematic maps. We work with intelligence, government agencies, defense — all sorts of things like that. I got interested in it because I had a friend who was interested in it, and because I didn't get in my first choice [program] at school. I got accepted into that program, which is really strange because it is a more difficult program to get into than the one I originally wanted. The school wouldn't let me change for a semester, so I stuck it out and wound up liking it."

Kyle's biggest draw to the guitar may have been because of boredom but he continues to play because he finds it relaxing. "I have a recording setup, so I record some songs. I bought a really cool condenser microphone. It's like a small audio transfer. I play it like a program on my computer. It sounds really nice. I just record my friends to have fun," he explained. "No matter how bad my day was, I can just relax and play the guitar and get lost in it." Now, instead of Kyle's brother patiently tolerating him, "I have gotten so much better," he said, "and it is a lot more fun to play together."

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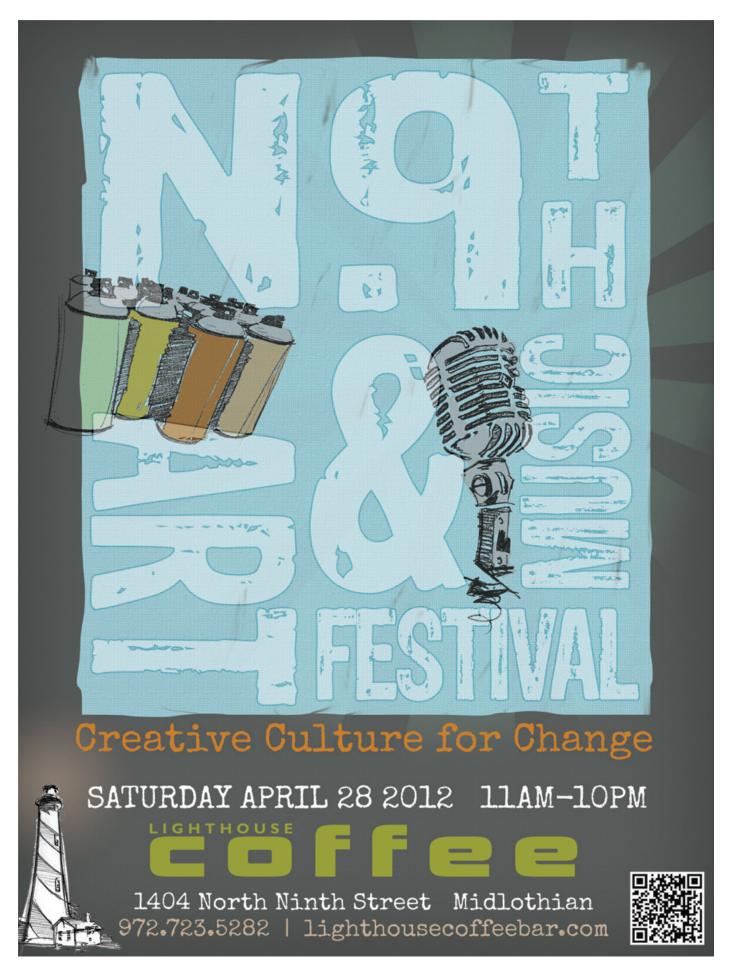


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"Oh, what did you do?" the kids asked. "I called 9-1-1 and told them, 'I have a horse on my front porch!"

This story was part of a lesson in Ashley's writing class to teach the students about problems, actions and solutions. "I try to teach them different strategies in writing," she shared. "In



telling a story, I slowly build the action, and with the horse story, I'm building it until they are on the edge of their seats. I like to tell stories because I want the kids to be invested in what I'm teaching, and at the same time, I love to hear what they write because I like to be invested in what they're telling me, as well. It's funny because a year later someone will ask me, 'Mrs. Golden, do you remember ...?' They may not remember the problem/action/solution, but they will remember the horse on my front porch."

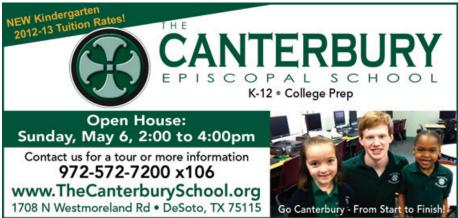
This is Ashley's eighth year of teaching, and her sixth year of teaching language arts to fourth-graders at J.R. Irvin Elementary School. "I also teach spelling, grammar, narrative writing and expository writing." One of her assignments to the students is to keep a daily journal. She acknowledged that when they start to write in fourth grade, they lack self-confidence and are hesitant to write and to share what they have written. "I want writing to be enjoyable to them," she stated. "By the end of fourth grade, one of the biggest transformations I see is their love for writing. The most















creative writers are usually the kids who are your storytellers. They want to come up and tell you everything the first thing Monday morning. They usually follow me around as I am setting up the room. They are so animated and have great imaginations. Sometimes, you have those

"The most creative writers are usually the kids who are your storytellers."

quiet kids who don't do a lot of talking, but whenever they write, they really express themselves, and you get to see a whole new person. Writing is a fun subject to teach, and it's neat to see them excel in it."

Ashley always thought about teaching as a career when she was younger. "My mother is a teacher, and I have a lot of educators in my family, so it came naturally to me," she said. Ashley did veer from her teaching goal when working in the counselor's office during her high school years. She was so impressed that she thought counseling kids instead of teaching them was for her. "My first major in college was for a psychology degree.



Somehow, I ended up in an educational math class where the professor always talked about ways to teach math to children. Once again, I thought about teaching. So, with only one semester of psychology, I returned to my roots of originally wanting to be a teacher."

Counseling has its rewards, but teaching suited Ashley's bubbly personality better. "I feed off other people's energy," she said. "Teaching brightens your day every day."

Ashley has found that in such a small school, with only 350 students, it is easy to get to know her students, their siblings and their other family members. "That is what makes Irvin so special," she said. "Because we are so small, it's easy to learn who the kids are and why they are the way they are."

Building relationships with her students is one of the most special things for Ashley. "To me, that is the best part of teaching," she said. She has found that there are some hard situations with some of her students' families that her heart gets wrapped up in. "I had a little boy whose mom was moving him. He was bounced from school to school, and he just held me and cried. That was such a special year because with a group that small, I got to know them inside and out."

Ashley remembers how some of her teachers made an impact on her as she grew up. One of them traveled to her weekend gymnastics meets and went to her softball games. "She made math fun and encouraged us to think outside of the box. Maybe it is because of her influence that I am so big on building relationships with the kids. I also remember how my language arts teacher

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in high school had loud music playing every day, and she was in the hallway dancing! I remember thinking, *This woman is crazy!* But she made learning so much fun," Ashley recalled.

A few years ago, Ashley and some other teachers received a grant from the Midlothian Education Foundation to attend the Ron Clark Academy, with the 55 Essentials. They learned many things, but one of the things Ashley learned from Ron Clark was to do something random after the kids had been sitting through a long lecture. "I do cartwheels or handstands in the classroom to see if they notice. They shout, 'Oh my gosh! Look at Mrs. Golden!' I want my kids to remember me. I love seeing them around



town and having them run up to greet me at Walmart or at church. It is special to me that they love me that much, and I feel the same way about them," she shared.

Ashley's grandmother also taught school, and she gave Ashley a great lesson when dealing with children. "She gave me so many strong points," Ashley said. "I had a student teacher this year, and I shared those strong points with her. One very important point was always to remember that everyone's child is someone's baby. Somebody in the world loves them more than life itself. I always remind myself that this student is very special and important to someone. Whenever I have to talk to my students or discipline them, I always talk to them as if their mother was standing next to them. I told my student teacher, 'If you take away anything, just know that every child is special. Respect is a big thing. If kids know you love them and respect them, they will do anything to please you." NOW







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Kathy Spiegel and some of the tenants she has become friends with through her business.

A Great Place to Call Home

Kathy Śpiegel, Realtor for Coldwell Banker Americana, considers property management to be much like running a family.

— By Betty Tryon

As a Realtor at Coldwell Banker Americana, Kathy Spiegel enjoys her work. "The most fun part of being a Realtor is dealing with tenants and buyers," Kathy said. "I'm pretty much a selling agent, and I like to deal with people one on one and help them find properties. It's really fun to have first-time home buyers because they are so thrilled. You feel like they are sharing a part of their life with you."

Kathy became a Realtor in 1987 after moving to Midlothian. She enjoyed living here so much that she shared that enthusiasm with others. "I was able to talk some people into moving here," she stated. "I thought that maybe I could turn this into some kind of an opportunity." With that revelation, she started going

to Cedar Valley Junior College and took classes at different real estate schools until she earned her license and began to work in her field.

As the real estate business changed with the economy, Kathy decided to expand her business and focus on property management. "I now have 68 rental properties that I manage. I am a real estate manager who specializes in property management. I still list and sell, but my true passion at this point is property management. I like working with my tenants. I have some tenants who have rented from me for four or five years, and I just love them. I have multiple properties on some streets, and when I go there, the tenants will come out and talk to me.

Business NOW

That makes me feel like I am part of their lives. One of the tenants in one area had a new baby, saw me showing another property and waited so she could show me her new baby," she enthused.

Coldwell Banker Americana has proudly updated by adding the software AppFolio Property Manager. This update now allows the agents to access all of their properties remotely. Tenants will be able to pay their rent, get applications and pay fees online. Kathy has tenants in Waxahachie, Arlington and, of course, Midlothian, so doing some of the business online has its advantages. Having Kathy manage a property in Midlothian that is owned by someone in Dallas is an obvious choice. "I find it interesting that someone would hire a property manager out of Dallas when I am already here and can drive by their property every day.

"I love my job and look forward to working many more years. It's not about the money. It's about being able to help people."

"Our office is the top producing office in Midlothian in sales for the year 2011," Kathy said. "I have a diamond, which means I am among the top 10 percent of selling agents with Coldwell Bankers. The group of people that we have is more like a family. We try to complement each other. We are always trying to make sure that we are covering each other instead of working against each other. Part of my enthusiasm in liking what I do is because property management is kind of like running a family. If they don't pay their rent, I have to call them. You have to call and make repairs when running a home; you have to do basic repairs to keep it running. I love my job and look forward to working many more years. It's not about the money. It's about being able to help people." NOW







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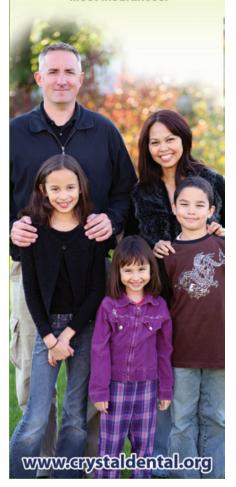
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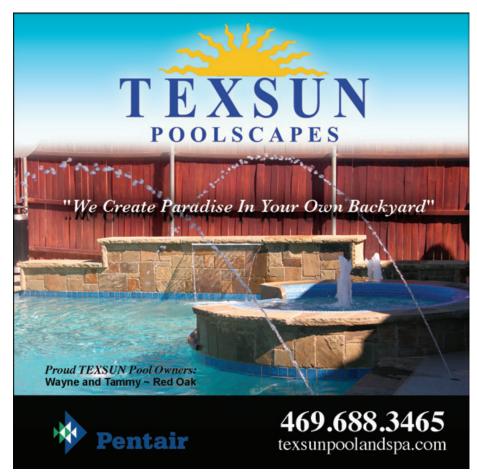
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Understanding Parkinson's Disease

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Muhammad Ali, boxer, and Michael J. Fox, actor, are arguably the world's most famous people with Parkinson's disease. They have become the face of the disease, with all of its physical symptoms and controversial treatments. Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder. Neuro, in neurodegenerative, refers to the neurological or nervous system. In Parkinson's, certain nerve cells malfunction. When functioning properly, these nerve cells produce a chemical called dopamine that transports signals to the brain regarding movement. When the level of dopamine declines because of problems in the nerve cell, movement is affected. This disease is the most common movement disorder.

Parkinson's most familiar symptoms are: tremors or shaking, bradykinesia, rigidity of muscles and instability in balance. Tremors or shaking usually begin in one finger and may progress to the hands, arms, face, legs and foot. Sometimes, this symptom is called resting tremors because when the muscle is put to use, the tremors cease. Bradykinesia means slow movement. In Parkinson's disease, there is a decline in voluntary or spontaneous movement. Walking can resemble a short shuffle. Simple tasks such as combing one's hair can become difficult if not prohibitive. Rigidity or stiffness can occur in any muscle and cause discomfort. When there is stiffness in the muscles of the face, the facial area can appear masked or unmoving. Instability in balance can be dangerous. A person with Parkinson's can very easily tilt backward and fall.

How one lives with Parkinson's will vary greatly. Not everyone will develop the same symptoms in the same order. Not everyone will experience the degree of symptoms in the same way. There is no known cure for Parkinson's, but there are medications to help alleviate the symptoms. Parkinson's patients must work closely with their physician, because the treatment is tailored to their specific needs. Treatment is determined by factors such as: which symptoms are present, severity of symptoms, general health condition and age. As the disease progresses, increased dosages of medication or a different medical and pharmaceutical regimen may be in order.

Physical therapy aims to improve muscle strength and muscle tone. This promotes greater flexibility, better posture, balance and increased movement. Some exercises such as yoga and tai chi are used to enhance these benefits. Patients who try to remain active appear to do better over the course of the disease than those who remain or become sedentary. Parkinson's disease comes with many challenges. Counseling and group discussions with others who are coping with the same issues can provide you with tips and strategies to meet the challenges head on.

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























April 7 and 28

Larkin Newton Log Cabin Tours: 10:00 a.m.noon, Heritage Park. Midlothian Area Historical
Society will begin opening the Larkin Newton
cabin on the first and third Saturdays of the
month. Beginning June 2, it will be open 9:0011:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Farmers
Market. It will also be open April 28 during the
Spring Fling.

April 12-May 31

The Ellis/Navarro County Indian Trail Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists is accepting applications for its 2012 Training Class. Application deadline: **April 6**. Classes will be held weekly in Waxahachie. Contact the AgriLife Extension Service office at: (972) 825-5175 or by e-mail: ellis-tx@tamu.edu.

April 14

Bonjour Brilliance! Navarro College Ellis County Scholarship Fundraiser: 6:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. Entertainment featuring the Dallas String Quartet. Tickets: \$75 each. Contact Lynn Pike at (972) 923-6439 or lynn.pike@navarrocollege.edu.

April 20 and 21

Relay For Life of Midlothian, TX: 6:00 p.m.-6:00 a.m., MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium. Sign up teams at www.relayforlife.org/midlothiantx.

April 21

CureSearch Walk for Children's Cancer: Registration: 8:30 a.m.; walk: 9:30 a.m., Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth. Event includes: prizes, music, food and fun activities for the whole family. Contact Elena (469) 693-5156 or elenajoserodriguez@yahoo.com or www. curesearchwalk.org/dfw/teamreagan2012.

April 28

Midlothian ISD Education Foundation presents its 3rd Annual "Love to Eat and Run." Registration: 7:00 a.m.; race: 8:00 a.m. Awards following race at 100 Walter Stephenson Dr. Call Kristin Zastoupil at (972) 775-8296, ext. 1281 or visit www.eatandrun.org.

The Midlothian Chamber's Annual Spring Fling Arts and Crafts Fair featuring entertainment and performances: 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Heritage Park in downtown Midlothian (8th Street at Avenue E). E-mail info@midlothianchamber.org or visit www.MidlothianChamber.org.

North 9th Creative Culture for Change Art and Music Festival: 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. 9th Street. Free admission. Children's activities.

May 4-6

South Pacific presented by Waxahachie

Community Theatre, Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. May 4: 7:30 p.m.; May 5: 7:30 p.m.; May 6: 2:30 p.m. Advance tickets: \$10 for seniors/students; \$12 for adults. Purchase online beginning April 1 at www.waxahachiecommunitytheatre.com. A service charge will be added to the price of each ticket for online purchases. Advance tickets are also available at the Waxahachie Chamber of Commerce, The Ellis County Museum on the square in Waxahachie and at the offices of Jerry Ellis, D.D.S. in Midlothian. Tickets at the door: \$2 more.

May 5

Ellis County Bar-B-Que Cook-off: 9:00-4:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park, Waxahachie. Contact Maria Urias at (972) 937-4477 or Rhonnie Tompkins at (972) 935-9188 for entry forms, rules and information. Proceeds benefit Daniel's Den.

June 2

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-in: 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. (972) 923-0080.

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











In The Kitchen With Sandra Johnson

— By Betty Tryon

Sandra Johnson's cooking is all about heart. She loves cooking recipes gathered from friends, *Southern Living* cookbooks, church recipe books and homemade family cookbooks. Many of her dishes are prepared with vegetables from her own garden. "During the spring and summer months, we really love to have friends over and do a lot of grilling, but come fall and winter, I love to cook more of the down-home comfort foods. Just like the seasons change, so do our cooking habits." In addition to enjoying cooking, Sandra operates her custom drapery business from home and still finds time to help the grandkids experience the great outdoors and the simple pleasure of cooking s'mores over an open fire pit.

Chocolate Caramel Sheet Cake

Cake:

1 cup butter

1 cup water

1/4 cup cocoa

1/2 cup buttermilk

2 large eggs

1 tsp. baking soda

I tsp. vanilla

2 cups sugar

2 cups flour

1/2 tsp. salt

Frosting:

2 14-oz. cans sweetened condensed milk

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup butter

1 tsp. vanilla

Optional:

1 1/2 cups coconut 1 1/2 cups toasted pecans

- **1.** Prepare cake by cooking the first 3 ingredients in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly, until butter melts and mixture is smooth. Remove from heat.
- **2.** Beat buttermilk. Add next 3 ingredients at medium speed, until smooth; add cocoa mixture and blend.
- **3.** Combine sugar, flour and salt. Gradually add to buttermilk mixture, beating until blended. (Batter will be thin.)
- **4.** Pour batter into a greased and floured 15 x 10-inch pan.
- **5.** Bake at 350 F for 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
- **6.** Cool cake completely in pan.
- **7.** Make frosting by placing all ingredients

in a heavy 2 qt. saucepan. Bring to a boil; stir constantly 3-5 minutes or until mixture reaches a pudding-like thickness.

8. Remove from heat. Pour warm frosting over cake. Spread coconut on cake and sprinkle with toasted pecans, if desired.

Venison Stuffed Jalapeños

10 large jalapeño peppers, halved and seeded

1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese

I lb. venison backstrap, marinated (I use Daddy Hinkle's meat marinade, but you can use your favorite.)

I onion, thick sliced

1 lb. bacon

- **I.** Fill peppers with cream cheese.
- **2.** Cut meat into 1 1/2-inch slices and place on top of cheese.
- **3.** Place onion on top of meat.
- **4.** Wrap with bacon slices and secure with toothpicks.
- **5.** Grill for 15-20 minutes at 375 F or until bacon is crispy.

Chicken Lasagna Florentine

6 lasagna noodles

1 10-oz. pkg. spinach, thawed and drained

2 cups cooked chicken breast

2 cups cheddar cheese, grated

1/3 cup onion

1/4 tsp. nutmeg

1 Tbsp. cornstarch

1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 tsp. pepper

1 Tbsp. soy sauce

1 10 3/4-oz. can cream of mushroom soup

1 cup sour cream

1 4.5-oz. jar sliced mushrooms

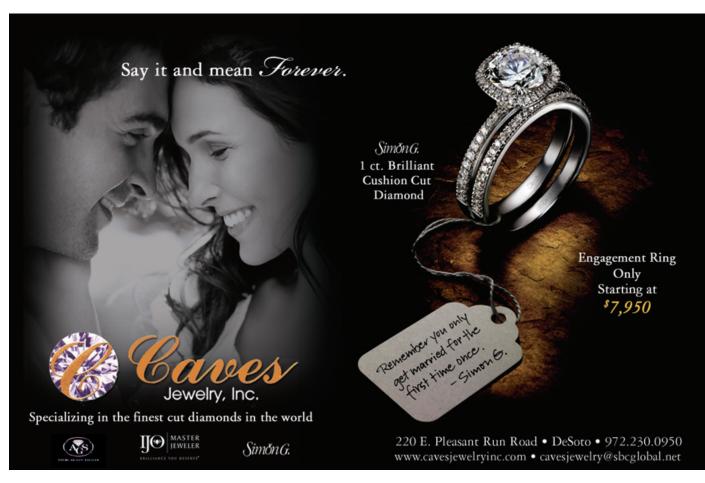
1/3 cup mayonnaise

1 cup Parmesan cheese

1 cup pecans

2 Tbsp. melted butter

- 1. Cook noodles; set aside.
- **2.** Drain spinach well; pat dry. Combine spinach, chicken and next 11 ingredients in a large bowl. Arrange 2 noodles on the bottom of a casserole dish; spread 1/3 of mixture over noodles; repeat 2 times.
- **3.** Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and top with 1 cup buttered pecans. Bake 350 F for 30-45 minutes.





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