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ON THE COVER

The Hinds family takes us inside their hometown fixer-upper.

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Angel

Angel Morris
MidlothianNOW Editor
angel.morris@nowmagazines.com

Hello, Midlothian!

Now is the time many begin to plan, or at least daydream of, summer vacations. While I admire folks who enjoy traveling, I am a serious homebody. In fact, I'm writing this while parked in my favorite, comfy corner chair, where you can find me any time when more pressing matters aren't at hand. Sometimes, I feel guilty that I'm not taking advantage of the great wide world, but most the time, given a choice, home is where I'd be.

Don't get me wrong, on the rare occasion I do travel, I enjoy myself. I like to experience sights and sounds of new places, but I'm always, *always* glad to be home at trip's end. Like the swifts and the swallows, I'm happy to return to my oh-so-cozy nest. For me, familiarity does not breed contempt, but rather contentment.

If you are a traveler, a wanderer, an adventurer, I applaud you! But if you, like me, prefer home fires over frequent flyers, I hope you know that is perfectly OK, too. Akin to being comfortable in your own skin, what a blessing to believe there really is no place like home. Give me my comfy corner chair and a good book, in fact, and I can travel anywhere I desire without packing a suitcase.

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Mouser Adds New Perks

for Employees As Business Continues to Grow by Double Digits

Business is booming at Mouser Electronics and so are the career opportunities.

Mouser is a global distribution leader in the electronic components industry. This spring, the company is adding more than 150 full-time employees to its workforce at its global headquarters and distribution center in Mansfield. (Mouser is Mansfield's largest private employer.)

Employees enjoy competitive pay; great benefits with medical, dental, vision and more; paid holidays and paid vacation; a 401(k) company match; educational assistance; and employee discounts. The newest benefits also include an onsite health clinic and fitness center that are open to employees and their spouses.



The new onsite health clinic and fitness center are an important testament to Mouser's leadership in doing what is right by employees in the 21st century. The health clinic offers expedited medical attention and lower costs for employees who would otherwise need to schedule a doctor's visit off-site and maybe even lose a day of work in doing so.

"Both of these additions are receiving fantastic reviews from employees. The clinic offers prescriptions, so if employees have an illness or something like strep throat they can get in and see the nurse and be taken care of — and it's for their spouses, as well," says Tracey Mellenthin, Mouser's Vice President of Human Resources.



The fitness center is a state-of-the-art facility for cycling, weight training and endurance training, and contains just about every type of workout equipment found in commercial fitness centers, Mellenthin adds. Employees have 24/7 access with their badge and are even able to bring a guest.



With 22 offices around the world, Mouser currently has more than 2,000 staff members across three continents (with approximately 1,650 people in Mansfield). The company serves more than 600,000 electronic design engineers and buyers in the tech industry in more than 170 countries as an authorized distributor of semiconductors and electronic components for more than 700 manufacturer partners, including Texas Instruments, Intel and Microchip Technologies.

The job openings are a result of the company's incredible growth. The immediate need is for order pullers, warehouse supervisors, customer service assistants, web developers, pricing specialists and management.

Job seekers may start the interview process by completing an online application. Job candidates who speak multiple languages have an advantage, especially those who speak Portuguese.

To learn more and apply online, visit MouserJobs.com.

THE WRIT SHIFT

— By *Angel Morris*

Officer by day, writer by night, Matt Rushing has a unique story to tell. Inspired by the written word much of his life, his interest in storytelling came naturally. The road to his day job was less direct. "I'd been doing data entry to pay the bills, and on my way to work I would see this billboard about joining the police force," Matt recalled. When his job wanted to transfer him to phone sales, that billboard became a beacon. "I never wanted a job on the phone. I took it as a sign and called the Dallas Police Department about becoming an officer."

Matt joined DPD in 2008. His assignments ranged from days to deep nights, and he is currently working South East Patrol Division's evening shift. "It's where a lot of the

most violent crimes occur in Dallas," Matt noted, with one particular night on the job on his mind.

"Before our shift July 7, 2016, we were told there would be a peaceful protest downtown. At about 8:00 p.m., an emergency tone came over the radio," Matt recalled. "Officers were asked to respond to shots fired, with officers down."

At the scene, Matt remembers squad cars and tactical vehicles everywhere. "Rookies with field training officers, old crusty supervisors, undercover detectives all banded together," Matt described.

Radio reports placed a shooter at El Centro College. "We heard automatic rifle fire. First, we cleared the bus station of civilians, then we heard rifle fire again and took cover," he said. "When the fire ceased, we moved civilians from the street, out of the line of fire."

While serving those they swore to protect, officers were taunted by protestors. "The civilians were laughing and yelling,

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"They're not shooting at us, they're shooting at you!" Matt remembered.

While the event was quickly national news, officers were still unsure how many shooters were involved. "I sent a text to my wife saying I was OK for now. My biggest fear was that a shooter would show up from behind and kill my partner and me," Matt said. "Eventually, we were told to maintain radio silence. SWAT was running an operation."

That operation was the robotic delivery of explosives into the location where the shooter had barricaded himself. "After everything was over, we learned we'd lost five officers. My heart sank in my chest," Matt said. "Michael Krol and Patricio Zamarrripa were two from my division who were killed."

On Matt's drive home, he saw the sun come up. "This shooting made me appreciate things like that sunrise. I came home, walked into my children's rooms, kissed them and tucked them in," Matt said. "My wife had waited up all night. As long as I live, I'll never forget that night."

The event prompted Matt's essay, "7/7," which recounted the tragedy and aired on WBAP radio marking the one-year anniversary in 2017.

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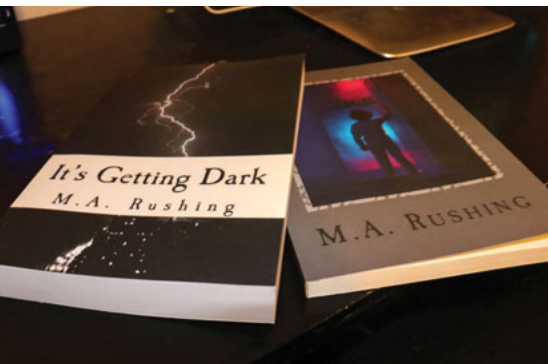
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While perhaps his most poignant, it is not Matt's first foray into writing.

"I've been writing stories my entire life. In fifth grade, I did a research paper on Edgar Allan Poe. As a junior in high school, I was a freelance sports writer for *Midlothian Mirror*," Matt recalled.

At Tarrant County College, a creative writing class led to Matt penning *Happy Birthday Grandma*, about an elderly woman who goes insane. "My junior year at The University of Texas at Arlington, I took a literary class. The professor said I should drop out of college and write novels. That gave me a lot of optimism," Matt, who earned a history degree from UTA, said.

Matt began writing stories daily, submitting to magazines and ultimately winning a short story



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contest in 2007. “But after that it was rejection after rejection. I was going to give up until I opened an email in 2016 explaining my novella, *Dead Dogs*, won a contest for publication on Amazon,” Matt said.

“They asked if I had more, and published my short story compilation, *It’s Getting Dark*, in March 2017. Then I was asked to be part of an independent horror writer series for Halloween and I published *Stories-Five Short Novels*.”

Matt finds inspiration in horror stories and historical fiction by favorite authors, reading about 50 books per year. He has developed his own following on a local social media site, where readers anticipate his satirical daily recaps about Midlothian life.

His artistic side is also fueled playing bass guitar for Midlothian Bible Church’s praise and worship team. “I come from a late 1990s, early 2000s pop-punk background, so it’s interesting to see me grooving punk rock melodies to contemporary Christian music,” Matt joked. He also plays for a garage band, The Gallows Crow.

Before graduating from Midlothian High School in 2002, Matt was in a band that performed around Dallas and Arlington. His musical roots trace back to middle school band, which was also a class taken by his future wife, Courtney. “But I didn’t actually meet her until high school,” Matt admitted. The two wed in 2009.



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Matt counts his marriage and the birth of his children among his finest moments, along with being the first in his family to graduate college. The son of a Dallas firefighter, Matt is proud to have survived the police academy and to work with a “most excellent group of colleagues” at DPD.

Today Matt’s goal is to write a novel and sign with a publishing company. His current project, *Tina Bell and the Magical Wishing Box*, is about an aspiring magician who must decide how to use a special music box that grants wishes.

While being a police officer requires Matt to tap into his stoic side, writing and serving his family are his softer strengths. “It’s been my lifelong ambition to be a successful husband and father,” Matt said. “But if there’s a publisher out there willing to give this cop a chance, I’d also like to make a career of writing.” **NOW**

Editor’s Note: Samples of The Gallows Crow’s music may be found at www.soundcloud.com/thegallowscrow.

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At Home With **Gary and Megan Hinds**

TEXAS SIZED DIY

— By Zachary R. Urquhart



For some people, making a house a home is just a saying. For others, though, there is a tremendous amount of work that goes into taking a house and truly turning it into a home. Gary and Megan Hinds found a nice spot and, little by little, they have turned it into a home that is something special.

Gary was born and raised in West Texas by his mother. Upon graduating high school, he moved to San Antonio, where his brother lived, to pursue bigger opportunities. Megan was also born in West Texas, but was an oil brat and moved along the oil belt before settling in San Antonio with her parents. “Our lives were running parallel to each other, but our paths had never crossed until we met while working at Kinko’s many years later, in San Antonio,” Megan explained.

After working together for two years, Megan and Gary started dating and were married within a few months. Amid getting married and Megan attending nursing school at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio,



they decided to build their first home. Gary fell in love with the construction process of home building and decided that is where he wanted to pursue a career. "UTSA had a new program in construction management, and it was perfect for me," he said. Gary completed his bachelor's in construction management just a few years later.

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nurse, Megan decided it was time to stay home to focus on their family's needs. Pursuing her other interests in interior decorating, she began blogging their home remodel. "I told Gary, even if we had to eat beans, I was ready to be at home," she said.

Gary and Megan's children range from a senior in high school to a 4-year-old. "Next year, I'll have one starting college and one starting kindergarten," she laughed. Mary is the oldest and is an old soul. Ross is an eighth-grader, who they tell regularly he is their favorite son (because he is their only son). He plays in the middle school band. Maggie is in sixth grade, and also plays in the middle school band. Mollie is 6, and is their free spirit. The lone redhead, Charlotte, will start school next year and is the comedian of the family.

Having spent the first 10 years of their married life in San Antonio, Gary and Megan were excited to relocate



to the DFW area. "Megan's parents had moved to Granbury, and we wanted to be closer to them," Gary said. "We looked at areas around the Metroplex, focusing on schools, and chose Midlothian." They lived in an apartment while they were searching for a house, and eventually, they found the perfect spot ... kind of.

"We came to look at this house, but there were so many things we weren't in love with," Megan described. "We had always talked

about rehabbing a house, so we bought it and got started." From redoing wall coverings and installing new floors, to changing the layout of rooms, Gary and Megan took a quaint older home and turned it into something you might see on HGTV.

The home is somewhat unassuming, but new shutters and paint give the exterior a hint of what lies inside. It is a true ranch-style house, as one long hall goes from the master, past the kids' rooms,

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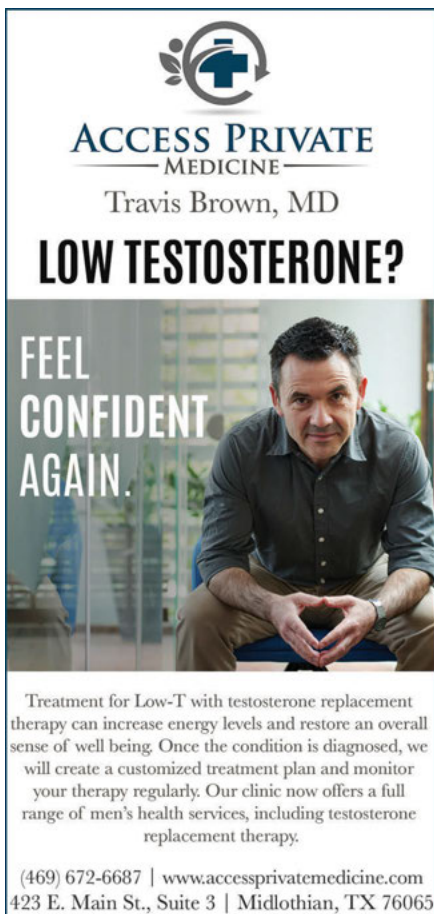



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and ends in a beautifully reworked living room. “We had to remove faux beams, wood wall paneling and random light fixtures,” Gary detailed. “We designed and reworked the fireplace to include space above for our television, while flanking the fireplace with custom built-ins.”

With his background and education, Gary had a good idea of how to make the changes happen. “Other than having plumbers rework some of the piping, we pretty much have done everything ourselves,” Megan noted. “I would show him examples from Pinterest and blogs that I follow, and with a little DIY magic, we brought our vision to reality.”

Aside from the living room, the biggest DIY project was probably the kitchen. “We had to take out this sliding door, and had to add an access point on the other end of the room,” she explained. Gary built a beautiful door with chicken wire instead of glass for its window that leads to an enormous pantry, which borrowed space from the study. “There was no vent in the pantry, so the wire is also to keep it from getting too hot. I can’t have my chocolate melting,” Megan quipped.

The pantry door is just one of the many things Gary and Megan built



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for the house themselves. The dining area has a farmhouse table with a matching bench that they custom built. "We adjusted the dimensions a little to add more space at the ends and allow for place settings even with the food being served on the table," he relayed. To make optimal use of the younger girls' room, Gary and Megan built a pair of foot-to-foot beds that you would assume came from a high-end furniture boutique.



Making the house perfect has been a family affair. "When the kids want to make extra money, we tell them to pick something in the shop and start sanding," Megan joked. What Gary and Megan are not able to build, they supplement with Megan's keen eye for decorating. Their bedroom is an example, as they have remodeled several parts of their space, but one of the biggest eye-catchers is a simple furniture placement choice. "Since we have two closets in the master bedroom, we took this recessed closet area and put our oversized dresser in here," Megan said.

From the redone exterior to choosing the perfect light fixtures Gary and Megan took a chance on a house they knew needed work. By focusing on what they knew it could be, the Hindses turned a sweet, old home into a stunning display of hard work and design. **NOW**

Editor's Note: To view Megan's blog, visit www.tx-sizedhome.com.



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SEPTEMBER 1994



Preserving the Past

— By Angel Morris

Located in the heart of downtown at Heritage Park, Larkin Newton Cabin is a structure many residents pass daily, yet not everyone knows its unique history. Rescued in the 1960s from its old site — which was set to be a quarry for the TXI Industries cement plant — the cabin is now the backdrop of many community events, such as the Scarecrow Festival and Christmas Tree Ceremony.

Historical records indicate the cabin was built by Mr. Larkin Newton for his wife and eight children in 1848. The family added three more children while living there. Later a school was attached to the cabin, and eventually the building was moved by a private citizen for its preservation.

“It was in the early ’60s when Mr. and Mrs. Jack Anderson retrieved it, and the building stayed on their property until the 1990s,” Midlothian Area Historical Society recording secretary, Judith Howard, explained to *MidlothianNOW Magazine* in 2011.

For several years, the Andersons collected authentic furnishings for the cabin, which were moved with the building to its current site in 1992. “Mrs. Anderson donated the cabin to the city because she wanted the building taken care of after her husband’s death,” Judith recalled. Because Ash Grove Cement Company bought the Anderson land, the cabin was again threatened with becoming a quarry site had it not gone to the city.

Almost two decades later, the cabin was in need of some major repairs. “In early 2010, Master Preservationist Bill Marquis was hired by the city to address problems. He replaced two logs which were beyond help, and placed cedar lathing and oak shingles on the roof, extending it past the edges of the house to protect the walls below,” MAHS historian Karen Ann Kay Esberger said.

Bill replaced missing chinking with new chinking made of clay from Newton Branch, which would have originally been used by Larkin Newton, and the cabin was re-dedicated on June 4, 2011, with many Newton descendants there, according to Karen.

“A grant from Midlothian’s Community Development Corporation made these renovations possible, with day-to-day maintenance handled by the city,” Karen explained.

In the same spirit of preservation, developer Stephen Hidlebaugh has recently overseen the transfer of several historic homes onto East Ave. G between 11th and 12th streets. Dubbed “Founders Row,” this is expected to be an area of office, retail and entertainment upon completion.

“We’re happy Founders Row is being developed. The intrinsic value of old buildings is incalculable, considering the quality material, like now-rare hardwoods, used within, and the older, more exacting standards of construction,” Karen said. “Older buildings attract people, whether due to the warmth of the materials, resonance of special activities, or the unusual quirks often found therein.”

Inspired by work with MAHS, Karen wrote two books for Arcadia Press — *Images of America: Midlothian* (2008) and *Then & Now: Midlothian* (2010). Karen reports that tours of Larkin Newton Cabin will pick up in the spring as warmer weather allows. “We’re glad that Midlothian and surrounding residents will be able to explore and experience all of these buildings,” she said.

MAHS’s current project is the restoration of a header from one of the oldest Midlothian public schools, the Dell Mason Dees Building of 1920. The structure was located on the site of current-day J.R. Irvin Elementary, and was demolished in 1980 — with only the header saved.

“The header was broken, but a Midlothian native kept the pieces at his home. MAHS has the pieces now, and the restored header will probably be placed near the entry of J.R. Irvin Elementary,” Karen explained.

The header’s restoration is estimated between \$7,500 and \$10,000. If you’d like to help preserve a piece of Midlothian’s history, MAHS is taking monetary, material and labor donations specifically for this project. **NOW**

Editor’s Note: For more information, visit www.midlothiantxhistory.org or email inquiries may be sent to Annakay48@hotmail.com.

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A photograph of a man and a woman embracing outdoors. The man, in the foreground, has a beard and is wearing a dark blue t-shirt. The woman, behind him, has blonde hair and is wearing a light blue cable-knit sweater. They are both smiling warmly at the camera. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with a wooden fence and some foliage.

Second Chances

— By Angel Morris

Doug and Beth Melton's love story makes anyone believe in second chances. While they met in middle school and carried a torch for each other through high school, they were never more than friends. Years later they reconnected, and were determined, despite a shocking turn of events, not to lose each other again.

“We wish we’d told each other we had crushes on each other back then, but we were always just buddies,” Beth recalled. “But we both agree, the path our lives took was as it should be. We grew into adults who could share a healthy relationship and now value and nurture our love for each other.”



After graduation from Duncanville High School, the pair went their separate ways. Beth earned a master’s degree in nonprofit management, married and had two children. Doug, who also married and had children, has owned and operated Advanced Exhaust, an automotive shop in Cedar Hill, for 17 years.

It was here the duo would meet again after their first marriages ended. “My stepfather sent me to the shop on an errand because he thought Doug and I should reconnect,” Beth said. “I knew the moment I saw him again this was meant to be.”

As Doug welded beneath a lift, sparks flew — literally and figuratively. “I giggled and thought of the movie, *Flashdance*. Doug says it was the same for him, seeing me standing in the sunlight watching him,” Beth said.

Doug added, “I looked up and said to myself, *Here she is*. It was a feeling of coming home.”

With their shared history, the couple fell into an easy rhythm. Beth was



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impressed by Doug, whose children are grown, when she saw his interaction with her younger children. "Declan and Abby are my 14-year-old twins. Abby is legally blind, has autism and an intellectual disability. Doug has been so great with both kids," Beth said.

Meeting the children's needs is priority for the Meltons. "While working in the disability field, I researched school districts. MISD allows Declan to thrive and meets Abby's needs. I'm amazed at the culture of inclusion," Beth noted. "Baxter Elementary taught about kindness and 'filling each other's buckets,' which carried to Walnut Grove Middle School and then high school. The peer coaches are amazing young people and make a difference in their classmates' lives."

From the initial phone call with MISD's Special Education Department, the Meltons felt welcomed. "We wanted a place with quality schools, a sense of community and values. Midlothian offers all that and more," Beth said.

For the last six years, Doug and Beth settled into their lives, engaged to be married but in no rush to officially tie the knot ... until a life-altering event



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reminded them they could lose each other again. “I was put on antibiotics for five weeks but I kept going back to the emergency room because I knew something bigger was happening,” Doug recalled. “I was finally told I had a cancerous tumor on my lungs.”

A small business owner and former military man, Doug sought treatment through Veterans Affairs, but eventually transferred his treatment to Parkland Memorial Hospital. “Through diagnostic testing and the news they had to deliver, Parkland was amazing,” Beth said.

“We found out I had metastatic Stage 4 lung cancer and that there were 11 tumors in my brain. I was given months to live,” Doug said. “There was no need to do surgery. It was the end.”

The alternative was whole brain and lung radiation, which would buy Doug several more months. “We walked around numb for about a week — then said, ‘OK, if this is what we have to deal with, how do we get the most out of the time we have left?’” Beth admitted.

The result was a bucket list of activities most important to the couple. “Getting married was the first item on our list, and within days of our telling

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the family of the diagnosis, Doug's adult kids and nieces and nephews had planned our wedding," Beth reflected. "All we did was show up. Alex LaFluer — Doug's niece — and her husband, Jonathan, hosted the wedding at their home and paid for everything."

The couple were married in Midlothian by their minister from First Christian Church Duncanville on July 15, 2017. Next up was renting a 2018 Corvette Stingray convertible and heading to Illinois to Doug's childhood home. "We stayed in his family home and visited family and friends," Beth said. "On a whim, we drove to Pikes Peak from Dallas City, Illinois! We bought a paper map and marked things to do on the way."

Their remaining bucket list involved neither destinations nor material things, but enjoying shared moments. Thanks to the recent FDA approval of a combination of chemotherapy and Keytruda infusions (which interfere with the growth and spread of cancer cells), Doug anticipates more shared moments than doctors initially suggested. "I'm the second patient at UT Southwestern to get this combination of chemotherapy, and it is working miracles," Doug said.

Before starting infusions last October, the cancer had spread to the tissues under Doug's skin and into his thigh bones, causing excruciating pain. "We were looking at only months together," Beth said. "Two infusions later, the tumors were shrinking, and the doctor is talking to us in terms of years instead of months."

Once again, Beth and Doug give new meaning to second chances. "We've learned to reassess what's important," Beth said. "We try to find something to be grateful for, no matter how small. It's impossible to be miserable if you are living in gratitude."

On hard days, the couple says holding hands makes anything more bearable. "One of our sayings is, 'We got this!'" Beth noted. "We don't know what the future holds. But we do know we will face it together." **NOW**

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CookingNOW

In the Kitchen With

LISA BRAY

— By Amber D. Browne



From her Mexican-American heritage to the Hungarian influence of her husband's family, Lisa Bray strives to create dishes that everyone anticipates savoring at family gatherings. "I enjoy cooking and baking because I love making others full and happy," Lisa admitted.

Most of Lisa's recipes have been passed down for generations, but the Midlothian resident also finds soon-to-be favorites in magazines and on Pinterest. She often makes recipes her own by changing ingredients or converting them with low-fat options.

After moving to Japan during her third year of marriage, Lisa found limited food options and began using easy family recipes and cookbooks to create dishes. "I started teaching myself," she shared. "I like to show others how easy it really is and how you can teach yourself anything." **NOW**

Carol's Potato Salad

6-7 potatoes
1 cup Hellmann's Mayonnaise
1 tsp. mustard
1 tsp. sugar
Salt, to taste
6 boiled eggs, 4 diced and 2 sliced
5 radishes, diced
1 cup carrots, julienned
1 cucumber, skinned, cored and chopped
1 celery stalk, diced
1 bunch green onions, chopped (optional)
Paprika, to taste

1. Boil potatoes until tender. While potatoes are hot, peel and cube them.
2. In a separate bowl, combine mayonnaise and next 3 ingredients.

3. Add mayonnaise mixture to potatoes; mix well. Mix in diced eggs and next 5 ingredients. Layer sliced eggs evenly over the top of the potato salad; sprinkle with paprika. Refrigerate before serving.

Mom's Cornbread Dressing

2 6-oz. pkgs. Martha White Corn Bread Mix
1 cup yellow onion, chopped
1 cup carrot, shredded
1 cup celery, chopped
2/3 cup Country Crock margarine
2 1/2 cups chicken broth
1 tsp. black pepper
2 tsp. poultry seasoning
4 eggs, beaten

1. Bake cornbread according to package directions; cool and finely crumble.

2. Simmer onion, carrot and celery in margarine. Add chicken broth, pepper and poultry seasoning; warm.
3. Add eggs to cornbread; mix well.
4. Add vegetable mixture to cornbread; mix until combined. Pour into a 13x9-inch greased pan. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour.

Strawberry and Cream Pie

1 Keebler Ready Crust Graham Pie Crust
2 cups plus 1 Tbsp. heavy whipping cream
2 8-oz. blocks cream cheese, room temperature
2/3 cup sugar
2 tsp. vanilla
1 carton strawberries, sliced into thirds
1/2 cup chocolate syrup or chocolate chips, melted

1. Bake pie crust at 375 F for 10 minutes; cool.
2. In a mixer, add cold heavy whipping cream; beat until peaks form.
3. In a separate bowl, cream together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Gently fold in whipping cream until incorporated. Evenly spoon 3/4 of mixture into cooled crust. Layer strawberries in overlapping rows on top of filling.
4. Mix chocolate syrup or melted chocolate with leftover cream mixture and drizzle on top of pie. Refrigerate for several hours before serving.

Raspberry Strawberry Cake

- 1 box Betty Crocker Super Moist Yellow Cake Mix
- 1-2 cups sugar (divided use)
- 1 bag frozen raspberries or 2 cartons fresh raspberries, mashed
- 1 pint heavy whipping cream
- 1-2 cartons strawberries, quartered

1. Prepare cake according to package directions using two round cake pans; cool completely.
2. Add 1/4 to 3/4 cup sugar to raspberries, or to taste.
3. Mix cold whipping cream until thick and fluffy; add 3/4 to 1 1/4 cups sugar (depending on how sweet you want it). Refrigerate for later use.
4. Place one cake on a plate; spread raspberries on top. Add second layer of cake. Frost cake with whipping cream. Top with strawberries; refrigerate before serving.

The Best Strawberry Cake Ever

Batter:

- 1 18.5-oz. box Betty Crocker Super Moist White Cake Mix
- 1 3-oz. box strawberry Jell-O
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 23.2-oz. container frozen strawberries in syrup (divided use)

Frosting:

- 2 1.2-oz. pkgs. freeze-dried strawberries
- 6 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 6-8 cups powdered sugar
- Fresh strawberries, chopped (optional)

1. For batter: Mix together first 5 ingredients and about 8 oz. strawberries. Bake mixture in 2 round pans at 350 F for 20-25 minutes; cool.
2. For frosting: Finely chop freeze-dried strawberries in a blender; add lemon juice, vanilla and powdered sugar. Blend well. Add remaining 15 oz. frozen strawberries from batter ingredients to the blender and puree to create frosting.
3. Frost the first layer of cake. Add second layer, then frost entire cake. Top with optional fresh strawberries.

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



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— By Virginia Riddle

Animal Hospital of Ovilla

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Facebook: Animal Hospital of Ovilla

Hours: Monday-Friday: 7:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. by appointment

At the Animal Hospital of Ovilla, each pet is treated as an individual with its own personality and its own health care needs. Founded in 1999 by Dr. Mark Stanfill, the practice has grown to include two other veterinarians — Dr. Stephanie Gorman and Dr. Anne Owen. Understanding that pets are a part of their clients' families is the cornerstone of the care and attention given to pets. "We bond with and get emotionally attached to our patients and their owners," Dr. Gorman said.

The practice provides complete medical and dental services for cats, dogs, small mammals, reptiles and birds. There's separate housing for dogs and cats during hospitalization and an isolation ward for contagious animals. The staff uses the latest diagnostic tools of digital radiography, electrocardiology, echocardiology and ultrasonography. Microchip implantation and identification, as well as behavior and dietary/nutritional consultations, are offered.

"We serve patients and their owners from Ellis, Navarro and Dallas counties," Dr. Stanfill said, "and we even have a truck driver from Tennessee who comes in with his pet when he's in the area." A staff of 22 assists the veterinarians: patient care assistants, groomers, client care assistants, licensed vet techs and two practice managers. Payment for services is made by cash and major credit cards. Financing is available through CareCredit.

"One challenge we face is keeping up with the population

growth this area is experiencing,” Dr. Owen said. A future addition to the clinic is planned. The added space will allow staff to care for more patients at a time and handle more procedures. A new treatment will be added, as Dr. Gorman will become trained in acupuncture.

Another challenge all veterinarians face is the loss of a pet. “The human/animal bond is strong, and the loss of pets is hard,” Dr. Stanfill said. “We see people who are struggling financially and are having to decide between handling their needs or their pets’ needs.”

Dr. Gorman agreed. “As veterinarians, we have exciting and happy days, and then we have other days when our hearts are breaking. This is an emotionally challenging profession.”

“Many of our clients have been with us long term, so we’ve seen their puppies grow up and live a long life, and then we’ve helped them leave this world,” Dr. Stanfill said. “We’ve built relationships with clients.”

The clinic is a member of the Chambers of Commerce in Midlothian, Red Oak and Waxahachie. Additionally, the doctors are members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association and the Dallas County Veterinary Medical Association, of which Dr. Stanfill served on the board. This past year, to help its community, the clinic accepted donations to provide 3,523 pounds of food for distribution to Meals on Wheels recipients who have pets to feed.

Dr. Stanfill is a graduate of Red Oak High School. He attended Texas A&M University for both his undergraduate and veterinarian degrees. Dr. Owen graduated from St. Mary’s University and received her veterinarian degree from Oklahoma State University. Dr. Gorman is a Midlothian High School graduate. She received her veterinarian degree from Ross University, with a clinical year spent at Texas A&M.

“We’re blessed to live and work in this area,” Dr. Stanfill concluded. “We get to meet really neat people and care for their treasured pets.” **NOW**



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TravelNOW Hidden Gems

— By Allison Burdick

What do gold, Bruce Lee, and strawberries have in common? They're all part of Seattle's heritage shared through not one, not two, but three National Park Service sites that explore the area's history, culture and community.

History: Pioneer Square

All hail to the Klondike!

Situated within historic Pioneer Square (Seattle's original neighborhood) is a restored building known as the Cadillac Hotel. Constructed in 1889, it is now the home of Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, which shares stories from the 1897-98 gold rush in the Yukon Territory of Canada that swept gold-seekers through Seattle and up toward the Klondike gold fields. History buffs are exposed to Seattle and the Pacific Northwest's past through the eyes of stampedeers looking to strike it rich, including John Nordstrom and how

he managed to start a shoe empire. Kids can earn Junior Ranger badges by completing activities, while they explore the park. Short films and rotating exhibits are also part of the experience and help visitors delve deeper into the impact of the gold rush on Seattle.

Culture: Chinatown-International District

Enter the Dragon!

A short walk from Pioneer Square is the Chinatown-International District, a neighborhood rich in restaurants, shops and public art. The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience, an affiliated area of the National Park System, celebrates the art, history and culture of Asian-Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences. Learn how the neighborhood shaped Seattle's most famous martial artist and world icon, Bruce Lee. Take a historic building tour and catch preserved scenes of the everyday lives of the

hundreds of Chinese, Japanese and Filipino immigrants who once made this building their home. A menu of other guided tours takes you through the neighborhood — including one led by your stomach — with different seasonal dishes that may include dumplings, noodles, rice and barbecue.

Community: Bainbridge Island

Nidoto Nai Yoni — "Let it Not Happen Again."

A short, and extremely scenic, ferry ride from Pioneer Square takes visitors to Bainbridge Island, a community that encourages us all to learn from a dark chapter in our nation's history. Japanese immigrants first began arriving on the island in the 1880s, and strawberry farming was introduced in 1908. Many Japanese Americans went on to own and operate farms on the island and became integral to the community. However, immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States government began arresting and facilitating the mass removal of all individuals of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. The Bainbridge Island community was the first to have its members of Japanese ancestry forcibly removed from their homes. The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial, a unit of Minidoka National Historic Site, is an old-growth red cedar, granite and basalt memorial that honors all 276 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were exiled from the Bainbridge Island community. These were the first of what would become 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry — two-thirds of whom were United States citizens — forcibly removed from their homes and incarcerated during World War II. Visitors can check regularly for tour schedules.

Whether you are looking for stories, activities or new cuisine, the Seattle area is your destination with three National Park Service sites to visit, all easily accessible through public transit. For maps and other planning tools, visit www.nps.gov/state/wa/index.htm. **NOW**

Photos courtesy of the National Park Service.

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Better Safe Than Sorry

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

If it has not happened yet, you can expect to get the first tornado scare of the year any day now. Late spring to early summer is the height of storm season in North Texas, and you will want to be sure you are prepared for an emergency situation. Here are some ideas for what to stock up on and how to be as ready as possible if severe weather comes your way.

Have a Plan

- *Know your home's safest spot.* Depending on your house, this could be a simple one. You want to stay away from windows, ideally staying close to interior walls without much that could fall on you. Most importantly, make sure everyone in your home knows where to go in case of danger, so you do not have children panicking and missing if storms are happening.



- *Know how to leave.* One of the saddest sights when major storms hit are the thousands of cars along the freeways trying to find refuge. Be sure you know the major evacuation routes, so if you have to evacuate, you can get somewhere to stay for a while.

- *Know if you can bunk with a friend.* If your house does not offer a good safe spot, plan ahead to have a place you can go when severe weather is expected. You might

have friends who have a bunker, or at least a better safe spot than you do. Storm shelters are not the norm in this part of the country, but more and more contractors are offering to build or install them.



Have Supplies

- *Get food and water now.* If you want to avoid the price gouging that sometimes happens in a storm's aftermath, go ahead and stock up on bottled water and canned foods. One easy plan is to always have a surplus of those items, and every few months, consume what you have and buy replenishment. Be sure to include food for your pets when you are making your grocery list. And remember that your pets will increase the amount of water you need.

- *There are other useful items.* If you lose power, you may not be able to do much about your refrigerator and cold food, but you can be ready to stay warm with plenty of blankets. And just like you should have a stock of sustenance, be sure you have a supply of the

A woman in a red boxing glove is the central figure. The background is pink with floral patterns. Text includes "FITNESS KICKBOXING 48 HR Spring SALE", "HURRY! SPOTS ARE LIMITED!", "Call 972-775-8286", and "TXBBA Midlothian 800 Silken Crossing • #107 • Midlothian www.txbba.com". There is also a logo for "TX BLACK BELT ACADEMY".

The ad features a blue van with "McGraw's Irrigation Systems" branding. Below the van are four images: "SPRAY HEADS", "ROTORS", "DRIP TUBING", and "Foundation Drip Tubing Systems installation". Text includes "McGraw's IRRIGATION SYSTEMS", "• REPAIRS • INSTALLATIONS • DESIGN • LANDSCAPE LIGHTING • DRAINAGE", "\$50 OFF Service Call & First-time Repair OFFER EXPIRES 4/30/18", "We ALSO do: Landscape Lighting & Drainage", "972-438-4196", and "www.McGrawsIrrigation.com". Social media icons for Facebook, LinkedIn, MasterCard, Visa, American Express, and Discover are at the bottom.






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batteries you will need for flashlights and any items that are essential for your family.



Have Information

- *Use the radio in the mornings.* Each morning, before you press play on your favorite CD or turn to your satellite music station of choice, tune into a station that includes regular news and regular updates. Forecasters never know exactly when storms might sprout up, but they usually have an idea at least a few hours in advance. In the same vein, keep a television turned on and tuned to a major network. You don't have to do anything more than watch for a break from regularly scheduled programming to bring a breaking weather update.

- *Download a Weather App.* There are many options, so many in fact that the only bad choice is not having one at all. Apps like WeatherBug or AccuWeather will not only warn you of tornadoes and extreme conditions, they also track lightning, so you know whether it is smart to be outside in less severe conditions.

Hopefully, you will never need any of these tips. But, if the worst does happen, your best plan is to be prepared. **NOW**



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Zoomed In: Will Hinson

By Angel Morris

Will Hinson presents his Eagle Scout project to Midlothian's Paws for Reflection Ranch. The ranch uses animal-assisted therapy to help clients with mental and emotional issues, and Will's music wall will be used in play and developmental therapy.

The project took about three months to plan and collect materials, and two weeks to build. "I had many Scouts and friends help along the way, and I couldn't be prouder of the finished project," Will said. A junior at Townview Center's School of Science and Engineering, Will joined Cub Scouts in the first grade and moved into Boy Scouts in fifth. "I originally joined because of the experiences I would have," he said, "but I stayed because of the impact it had on my character and leadership."



Shane and Vickie Bell, Betsy Jones and Makenzie Aman prepare for an event at Midlothian Conference Center.



Jessica Williams, Irene Ozigbo, Tommy Blake and Jeffery Ozigbo celebrate Golden Chick's Chamber membership.



Kinsley and Breeze play at Hawkins Spring Park on a beautiful Saturday.



Longbranch Elementary kindergarten collects and delivers 440 canned goods for Manna House.



Long Family Dental doctors and staff host a Business After Hours event at their office.



Midlothian High School Girls Powerlifting earns second place at the 5A Region 3 meet.



Representing American Legion Chris Kyle Post 388, Travis McCasland is pictured with Gary Towers after advancing to the 6th District Oratorical Contest of the American Legion.



Midlothian High School senior Aubrey Walton (second from right) receives \$2,500 as she is named an Wingstop/NBC 5 Scholar Athlete.

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AARP Tax Preparation Help: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Free assistance by certified volunteers with priority service given to seniors. For information on what to bring call (972) 775-3417.

6

Shooting for Graduation: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Alpine Shooting Range 5482 Shelby Rd., Fort Worth. Benefitting Mentors Care, which assists students at risk of not graduating. Register at mentors.care/shooting-for-graduation/.



6, 7

Midlothian's Got Talent: 7:00-9:00 p.m., Midlothian High School Auditorium, 923 S. 9th St. Elementary/middle school show **April 6**; high school **April 7**. Art exhibit both nights. Email mhspantherchoir@gmail.com for ticket details.

7

Heritage Jaguar Band Fundraiser: 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Midlothian Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St. Classic car show, bounce houses, concessions and more. A \$20 donation made for every test drive taken at Waxahachie Ford during car show. Registration for car show is free when you participate in the Ford Drive. For more information, contact Randy Griffith at (817) 308-7412 or at vpoperations@heritagejaguarband.com.

8

Laughability with Heather Land: 6:00-10:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference

Center, 1 Community Drive. Black-tie optional event benefitting Ability Tree, which assists families impacted by disabilities. E-mail texas@abilitytree.org for details.

14

Keep Midlothian Beautiful Spring Trash Bash: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes that can get dirty as you volunteer to de-litter the city. Gloves and trash bags provided. Music, prizes, food and family fun.

Help to Heal Sharing God's Love Yard/Bake Sale: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 670 Primrose, Midlothian. The event needs volunteers, garage sale items and baked goods. For more information, email Linda Miley at ldcan@helptohealtx.org or visit www.helptohealtx.org.

Bark for Life: 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Multi-Purpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th St. Event fighting canine cancer including 3K Family Fun Run/Walk, pet adoptions, vendors and more. Email barkelliscounty@yahoo.com or call (972) 765-1072.



First Responders Benefit Car Show: Noon-4:00 p.m., Kroger, 2200 FM 663. Classic car contest and show. Learn more at www.midlothianclassicwheels.com.

Social Inclusion Dance: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center 224 S.

11th St. Free dance for children with and without a disability. Dress as a Disney character or come as you are. Donations welcome. Learn more at www.formaddiessake.com.

16

Writers' Circle: 6:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. Public invited for writing support. Email writerscirclemidlo@gmail.com for more details.

19

BESTWA Benefit Dinner: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Dr. An evening of food and friends, helping feed children in Liberia, West Africa. Register for free event at bit.ly/bestwadinner2018.

28

Wine & Arts Festival: 2:00-9:00 p.m., downtown Midlothian. Festival is free, wine walk (4:00-8:00 p.m.) is \$25. Music, food, art, shopping. Call (972) 723-8600 or visit midlothianchamber.org for more information.

30

Festival of the Arts: 5:00-8:00 p.m., Ovilla Christian School, 3251 Ovilla Rd. Art showcase, silent auction, raffle prizes and concessions. Free admission. To donate artwork, email jnavarro@ovillachristianschool.org.

Ongoing:

JOY of Midlothian Service Efforts: More than 100 student volunteers available for serving the community. Email JOYofMidlothian@gmail.com for information.

Second and Fourth Mondays
Rag-Tag Readers Book Club: 10:00

a.m., A.H. Meadows Public Library, 923 S. 9th St. For more information, call Sandy at (972) 775-3417.

First Tuesdays

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

First and Third Tuesdays

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



Wednesdays

DivorceCare: 6:30-8:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time. Care for younger children available. For more information, call (972) 775-3993.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays

Senior Dance at Western Kountry Klub: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Western Kountry Klub, 5728 Lake View Rd. Adults age 45 and older welcome. \$5 cash admission. Call (817) 800-4585 or visit www.westernkountryklub.com.

Thursdays

Midway Composite Squadron of Civil Air Patrol/US Air Force auxiliary: 6:45-9:00 p.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr. Cadets ages 12-18 and Senior Members 18 plus. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com.

Fridays

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

Third Saturdays

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

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



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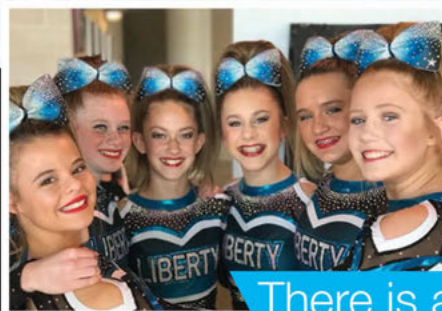
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Wounds to Wisdom

— By Angel Morris

Because of her family's experience, 27-year-old author Kimberly Claborn is motivated to offer victims of domestic violence help finding their voice. "I'm passionate about empowering women. Women have told me I'm their inspiration, but they don't realize their courage inspires me to help break the silence," Kimberly said.

In order to help promote domestic violence awareness, Kimberly began researching the topic, spending hours on The National Domestic Violence Hotline. "I knew from speaking with the hotline advocate that it takes an average of seven times for a victim to leave and not go back," Kimberly noted.

Her research on the topic introduced Kimberly to many avenues for assisting others, including hotline discussions, books and social media. "I saw an online call for participants to share their story in Volume 2 of the book, *Wounds to Wisdom: The Survivor Series* by Tamiko Lowry-Pugh. After applying, I was given a phone interview with the author, who was blown away by my story," Kimberly said. "My contribution focuses on abusive control, as well as challenges in the legal system many victims face."

Kimberly spent several months writing her story, encouraged by the 11 other co-authors chosen for the book. "We had conference

calls for updates. Tamiko then announced two special co-authors we hadn't known about: Yamma Brown, daughter of music icon, James Brown, and former New England Patriots football player, Kannonis Davis, who provided poetry for the book."

In October 2017, Kimberly joined her co-authors at the Purple Affair Banquet benefiting The Still Standing Foundation in Atlanta. "We all walked a purple carpet together, did press interviews, were photographed by media and did a book signing. We were also presented on stage," Kimberly said.

To find local resources, Kimberly suggests visiting domesticshelters.org, which provides shelters and assistance organizations based on one's ZIP code. "I have been able to partner with The National Domestic Violence Hotline several times. I have shared my story on their website, their YouTube Channel and was able to attend their 20th Anniversary Banquet in Austin in 2016, where a quote from my story was used in their brochures," Kimberly said.

"Through my book, speaking engagements and perhaps national TV, I hope to inspire people worldwide. I hope to be able to work directly in shelters with victims," Kimberly, who was featured on *FOX4 News* last year, said. "One voice could be the key to unlocking someone else's prison, so it's important we keep talking!" **NOW**

Editor's Note: 1-800-799-7233 is the National Domestic Violence Hotline. Advocates are also available at thehotline.org. Information about Kimberly's book is located at www.survivorbook.ecvid.com.



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