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MAY 2014

Sparking Curiosity

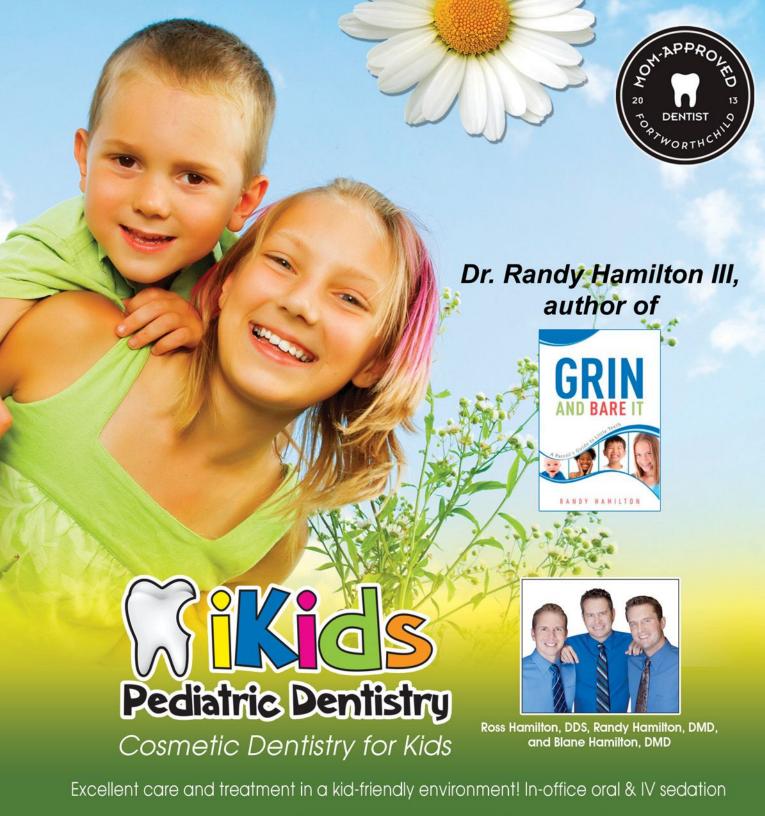
Blake Lindsey makes social studies come alive

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ON THE COVER



Blake Lindsey takes every class on a fun and educational journey. Photo by Amanda Rooney.

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more than geography.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Mansfield!

Did you know the month of May features a nurse's week, as well as a national police week? I'm glad there is. These brave and fine people should be celebrated! I've always felt remarkably safe in our community, and that's in large part due not only to our responsible citizens, but also because of our hard-working police officers.

And where would we be without nurses? My mom was a physician's assistant, and I've long appreciated their work. The amount one has to know in order to

be in the medical field is astounding, and the compassion to take care of others in need is remarkable.

So, if you know or see a nurse or police officer, give them a "thanks" or a hug this month. I bet you it will make their day!

Mikaela

Mikaela Mathews MansfieldNOW Editor mikaela.mathews@nowmagazines.com



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Sparking

Curusty

— By Mikaela Mathews



Ask any sixth-grade student at Mary Orr Intermediate School about their social studies class with Mr. Blake Lindsey, and they'll tell you tales of foreign visitors, lively conversations and brightly colored flags dripping with history. In Mr. Lindsey's classroom, inquisitiveness is allowed to run rampant in order to deepen students' understanding and respect of other cultures around the world. "The goal of my teaching is to spark curiosity, inspire the kids to ask their own questions and help them go after the answers. The big thing we deal with in any content or grade level is helping the kids engage with the material. When they get curious, they'll want to come into the classroom," he shared.

One way Mr. Lindsey most famously engages his students is by dressing up as a fictional character from the region the class is studying. One of those characters is Mr. Aziz, a Bedouin from Southwest Asia. Another is a Latin American peasant farmer. The purpose of these days, although fun and exciting for the students, is to encourage discussion about different cultures and help the students learn a new perspective. "I want them to learn that what's normal for them might not be normal





"If I can have any sort of influence in nudging them in the right direction or sparking a passion for learning in them, I want to give it 100 percent."

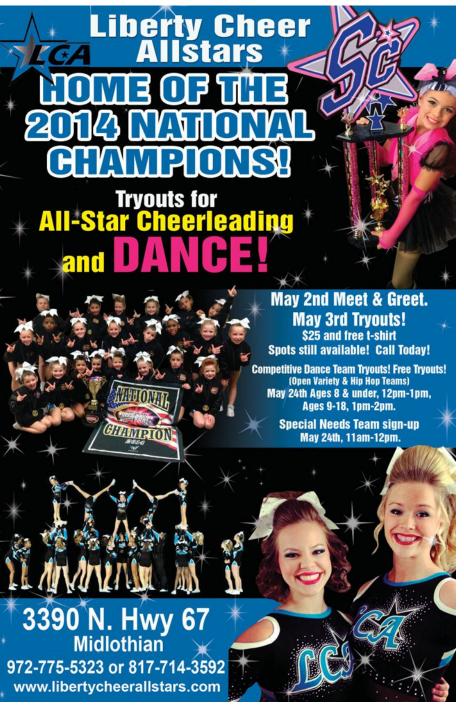
for someone else. Your perspective comes from your experience and heritage. But, we need to learn to respect other backgrounds and see things from somebody else's point of view," Mr. Lindsey explained. "And, it's really exciting to see that spark of curiosity awakened in the students as they start the conversation instead of me."

The discussion turns lively when one of these visitors comes to class. "Of course, it's one of the students' favorite pastimes to try to trip me up — to get me to reveal my real identity while I'm in character," Mr. Lindsey laughed. Nonetheless, students are taught to be respectful of different cultures. "We can have an honest dialogue that is really important to the learning process. I'm helping lay a foundation of













respect, so the students can develop cultural awareness, instead of allowing problems and prejudices that could come over time. Together, we also role-play parts of the curriculum. I use experiential activities wherein the students can discover the objectives themselves."

For Mr. Lindsey, the sixth-grade year of a child's life is an exciting time to teach. "I really like sixth grade, because the students are thinking with more complexity and depth," he explained. "It's nice to meet them as they're just beginning to learn more about the wider world. And it's great to have the opportunity to guide and mentor them as they transition into those pivotal teenage years."

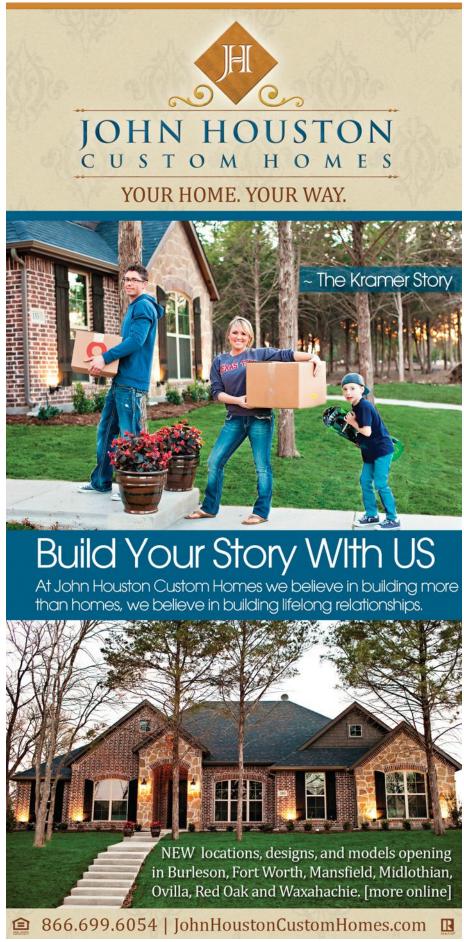
To encourage learning, Mr. Lindsey has strategically placed decorations and flags throughout his classroom to ignite conversations. When students first walk into his room, they are greeted by over 30 flags hanging from the ceiling or walls. A painting and souvenirs from his



wife's time in Kenya are perched on the wall to the right, while decorations from New Zealand and Honduras surround his desk. "Many things in my classroom connect to a personal story, a trip I've gone on, or something a close friend has given me as I've learned from them," he said.

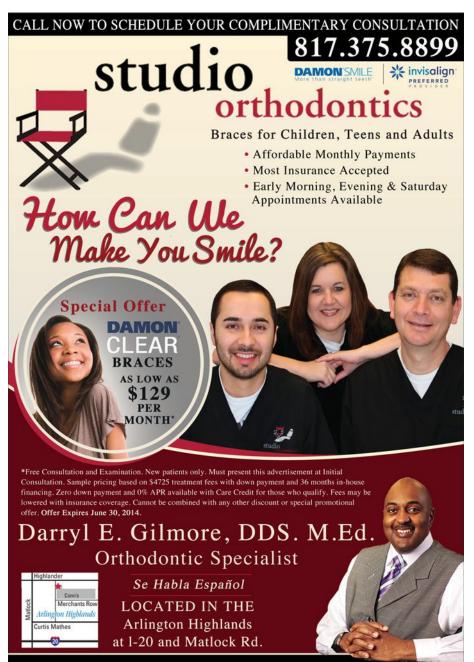
The flags act as a distinctive teaching tool, as well. "Every one of these flags has a unique story, just like each of us does," Mr. Lindsey explained. "Countries have made deliberate decisions about how they want to be represented through the colors and symbols on these flags. It's a great segue for reflection with the students. What do we want to be known for? When people look at us, just like a flag, what do they see us representing?













It's another way we can connect the content with our lives."

Mr. Lindsey's accomplishments in the classroom have affected the wider world of many students. One family reached out to show appreciation for his work: "We want to thank you for the amazing job you have done this year. ... Thank you for taking time to encourage and teach — not just social studies, but the value of being part of something bigger. You will never know the positive impact you had." Others have taken notice of Mr. Lindsey's teaching abilities, as well. In 2006, the Mary Orr PTA recognized him with an honorary life membership. In 2012, he was named Campus Teacher of the Year, and at the 2009 and 2013 MISD Education Foundation Academic Recognition Banquets, top graduates remembered him for his positive influence on their education.

Mr. Lindsey's deep passion for teaching was born early in his life. Growing up in an uplifting school, Blake knew he wanted to teach. "I went to a small private school in Fort Worth, and school was always comfortable and friendly for me, because we got to know the other students and teachers really well," he shared. "It was a tight-knit community. With that positive background, I've felt

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called to try to create those sorts of experiences for my students."

One teacher who inspired Mr. Lindsey was Mrs. Campbell, his social studies teacher for several years. "Because I went to a smaller school, I had Mrs. Campbell for class a few times while growing up. She just made social studies come alive. She wanted to take care of us and help us. She wasn't there to torture us," he laughed. "She was there because she loved us and believed in our futures. That attitude made her class and school a wonderful place to be."

In addition to his schooling, however, Mr. Lindsey credits his parents and grandparents for their influence in his life. "While my parents were not school teachers during my younger years, they and my grandparents on each side were always very active as teachers and leaders at church. They always emphasized the importance of doing our best to honor God and making good choices while weighing our decisions against their potential consequences," Mr. Lindsey shared. "This legacy has been influential in my career as I have come to appreciate the importance of such constructive adult role models and mentors in the lives of young people. As a teacher, I strive to honor both my family and God by being that sort of positive influence for students today."

All in all, Mr. Lindsey is, without question, an outstanding teacher, balancing a love for learning with a commitment to his students as he makes social studies come alive. "I want to give these students my best every day," he added. NOW

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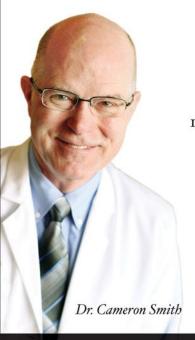
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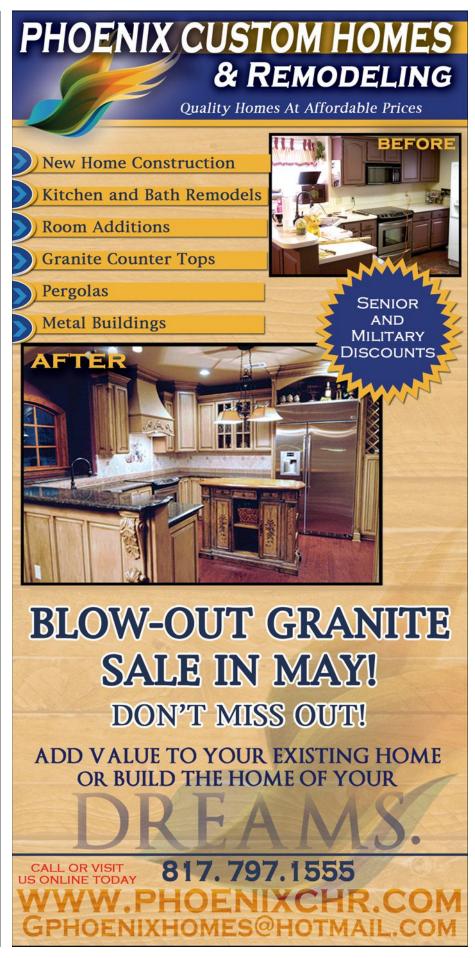
In the summer heat of 2013, Kenny, as he is known by friends and family, was looking for a project to complete with his son. He was also hoping to give the neighborhood kids something to take pride in and become involved with. He wanted to create a sense of community in his little piece of the world. Furthermore, he wanted to find a way to share his love of books with others.

Kenny's little library came into being after he saw the idea on one of his favorite home improvement websites. He had found the perfect project that would incorporate all of the things most important to him: family, community and books. The project took a little over two months to complete, but the finished product has proven to be well worth the effort.

When he decided to build the little library, his wife, Kathleen, was more than supportive. They have an 11-year-old son, Dakota, and a 2-year-old daughter, Kaylee. The entire family shared Kenny's excitement for the project and agreed it was a fantastic idea. Dakota actually got involved in the building process, and neighborhood kids were included in the painting. "I wanted to give the kids something they could be a part of, something they could take pride in," he said, "because if they were part of it, then they would respect it."

As a child, reading provided Kenny with an escape. Because he grew up





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in the Sulphur Springs countryside, he was rather isolated. He only had access to three television stations, so he spent the majority of his time reading in order to escape boredom. Each book he read offered him the chance to explore different cultures, go on extreme adventures and experience exciting new worlds. Books took him beyond the confines of his solitude. "I really enjoyed fantasy books, as a kid," he admitted. "My favorites were Tolkien's Lord of the Rings trilogy and the Shannara series by Terry Brooks."

Kenny has moved on from the narratives and fictional fantasies of childhood to selections in the adult sci-fi genre and works by Tom Clancy, among countless others. He's currently reading *Good Omens*, and interestingly enough, he does not own an e-reader. He prefers



One of the features that makes the little library so appealing is the accessibility to free literature.







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to read the old-fashioned way. "I can't share a really good book with someone if it's digital," Kenny stated. Reading, for Kenny, has always been more than a private experience. He finds sharing stories has the potential to influence a life.

Reading is something Kenny's son has naturally taken up. Together, the fatherson duo has read the complete *Harry Potter* series by J.K. Rowling and all of the *Percy Jackson* series by Rick Riordan. In this instance, the apple hasn't fallen far from the tree, and Kenny couldn't be any prouder. "Kids spend multiple hours a day playing electronic games," he said. "They don't realize it, but they are compromising their imaginations."

In Kenny's opinion, reading is the best way to exercise and develop a creative imagination. One of the features that makes the little library so appealing is the accessibility to free literature. There are no membership dues or sign-up fees required. There is no check-in or checkout system to abide by. Any book in the library is up for grabs. If you see something you like, take it and enjoy it. Bring it back, or even bring a few more to contribute to the selection. Virtually anyone can use the little library at any given time, in order to better cultivate their imaginations.

The best thing about the little library is it's not just for kids. Since its beginning in September, Kenny has monitored the variety of titles that have cycled through the library. Of the most popular are *Star Wars, Goosebumps, Dr. Seuss* and Geronimo Stilton books. Sure, children's books are the most popular, given the neighborhood kids' involvement, but the little library is also intended for adult use, too. "I think people are curious about it, so they

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Mansfield resident Toby Gooch and his wife, Sabrina, along with Beverli Sumrall and her husband, John, all had a passion for eCigs and a desire to help others break the bad habit of smoking. The result was the opening of Jaded Vapors in March 2014 at 7221 Matlock Road in Arlington. With a strong belief in competitive pricing, they are helping their customers save money and stop smoking at the same time. Happy Hour E-Juice is available Mon.-Sat. from 1-5 p.m. They also believe in paying it forward and have sponsored a local bowling team. Visit their website at www.jadedvapors.com and like their Facebook page for special deals and promotions.

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stop by and peek inside, but when they see *Harry Potter* and *Dr. Seuss* they think, *Oh, this is just for kids*. But it's not!" The little library is not limited to the street or the surrounding neighborhood. All of Mansfield is welcome to use Kenny's library. To encourage more adult activity, Kenny has toyed with the idea of making a separate little library dedicated solely to the types of books older audiences enjoy. "I'd really like to see more adults using it."

The community response has been overwhelmingly positive. Not only are people using and donating to the little library, but they are also intrigued by it. About once a week, Kenny is approached by people who want to know more about the little library. Some even want to start their own. "They ask me questions about what they need to do to start a little library of their own," he shared. "Everyone I talk to says what a great idea it is and how they'd like to get involved."

To keep the little library operating smoothly and possibly increase its popularity, Kenny has some ideas in the works. Currently, the box sits about three feet off the curb in front of the Cowan home, but Kenny has plans to move it beneath the shade tree in his yard. He also intends to add a bench so readers can enjoy their finds from the little library and have a nice quite place to read. In the future, you may also see more little libraries around town. "I'd like to build a few in the local parks," he said, "but I have to contact the city first and see what that process will require."

So, if you find yourself dreading the hot summer sun, or perhaps you have grown restless with your technological toys, take a drive or a stroll to Prescott Drive and check out the little library's current inventory. You just might be surprised with what new adventures you will find.

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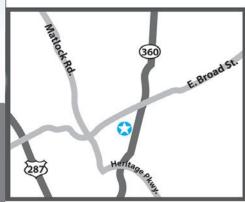
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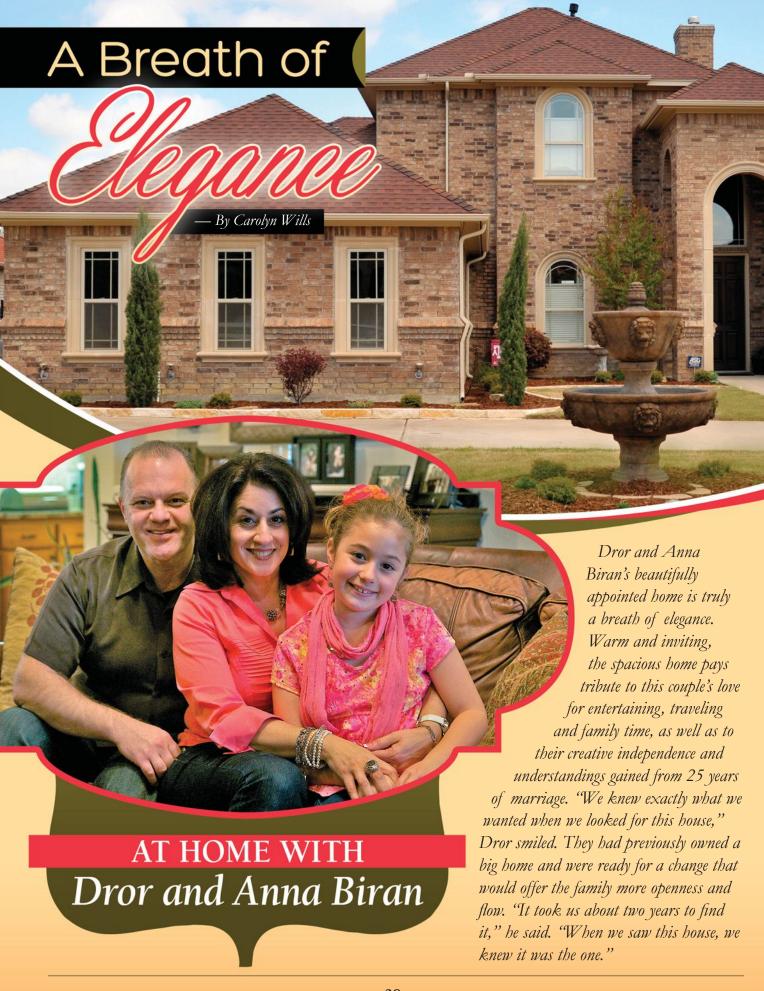
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"We enjoy entertaining," Anna added. "People tend to congregate in one central location, so we searched for a floor plan large enough and open enough to accommodate larger groups." They immediately saw the potential in the lovely 3,500-square-foot home. The four-bedroom, four-bath, traditional, two-story, built in 2006, is located in a pristinely maintained Mansfield neighborhood. Especially outstanding is the three-tiered backyard overlooking a pond with its own water fountain that channels through the neighborhood. "At night, the lights reflect off the water, and the view is breathtaking," Anna smiled. "We love sitting out there in the evenings, because it's so beautiful."

The distinguished brick home may very well be a head turner from front to back, but the openness of the main floor

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is what initially drew Dror and Anna to the home. They bought the house in 2012. Guided by Anna's eye for design and function, they promptly rearranged the core living area. "We wanted casual, easy and peaceful," she said. "We've had homes with lots of color. This house is open, neutral and relaxing with lots of earth tones and a rustic, elegant style."

The enormous living room easily embraces large-scale leather and wood furnishings and dark hand-scraped hardwood floors. The left corner of the living room, originally intended for formal dining, is now home to a luxurious and beautifully detailed desk. "We want our space to be used," Dror commented. "We didn't want to be closed off in a separate office." The effect is so fitting that it's difficult to imagine any other use for the space.

The great size of the living room is accentuated by an open view to the

remaining central areas, including spaces for dining, the kitchen and a wonderful niche called the keeping room. From the living room is a view of the wide window-lined dining area complete with a 12-foot rustic, dark wood, farm-style table. "We love the fact that we bought a table with its own character, so we don't have to worry about anything happening to it," Anna smiled. For big dinners, the whole kitchen/dining area is large enough to accommodate another 12-foot table, plus additional seating at the breakfast bar.



Three weeks after they moved in, Dror and Anna hosted a shower and, later, a Super Bowl party. "There were probably 55 people in the house at one time, and we didn't even feel it," Dror said.

Custom kitchen cabinetry that came with the house is finished in a gorgeous pecan stain with lasting quality. "We did install granite countertops and travertine floors, extend the breakfast bar and added a gas stove," Anna said. "We also had the exterior trim repainted, and Dror completely redid the landscaping."

To the far left of the kitchen, an area originally intended as a breakfast nook is now a keeping room furnished with a stunning, dark wood buffet and an













overstuffed, oversized chair. "We love curling up in the big chair," she said. "It's a great place to read and relax. This is definitely one of the most used rooms in the whole house!"

Dror and Anna have three daughters. The oldest, 23-year-old Lauren, works in the auto show industry and travels a lot. Stephanie, a 21-year-old student at Texas A&M University, is studying finance. "Our youngest, Allye Kathryn, is a second-grader majoring in Lord help us," Anna grinned. "She's 8 going on 20."

Allye Kathryn's room is downstairs. "We just redid her room in zebra print with fuchsia accents," Anna said. "Since she's cheering and participating in gymnastics, we decided it was time for the baby pictures to come down and her artwork to go up." Coco, the 3-year-old apricot poodle, has a zebra print bed in the window cove.

The master suite, also downstairs, faces the backyard water view and features massive, hand-carved pecan furnishings in a Moroccan design. The luxurious suite includes custom cabinets, which match the kitchen cabinetry.

Upstairs are Lauren's and Stephanie's rooms, each designed with soft neutral colors, comfort and elegance. The upstairs landing features a piano surrounded by family photos.

Dror and Anna's home reflects the sophistication, taste and warmth of a relationship built on love. Married for 25 years, these two met in Navasota, Texas. Originally from Israel, Dror lived in Liberia for five years and the Ivory Coast for three years before his father's "leap of faith" moved the family to Navasota. Anna's lineage is from Lebanon, although she was born in Youngstown, Ohio, where her family lived before moving to Navasota.

When tragedy struck Dror's family with the loss of his middle brother, the

small town of Navasota, including Anna, shared his family's grief. "As the pastor asked everyone to join hands, the circle closed with Dror and me," Anna said. "Soon after, we began to date, and I believe it was God's blessing that brought us together."

Dror has worked in the retail business for over 30 years, starting his career at age 16. "I was in the grocery business for 23 years, with the majority of those years





spent at Albertson's, and have been with Lowe's now for eight," he said. "Anna and I moved from Waco to Mansfield in 2002 and have thoroughly enjoyed this community. We love the size, location and the great school system."

Anna studied business and psychology, but her first love is decorating. "I used to do interior design consulting," she said. "I never went to school for it, but it's what I've always loved." Today, she is very involved with Allye Kathryn's school where as a member of the PTA, she is in charge of fundraising and volunteers as room mom. She also teaches Sunday school at St. Jude Catholic Church.

When they aren't entertaining or relaxing at home, Dror and Anna are likely planning their next vacation. "We've been to Israel twice and plan to go back," Dror remarked. We've taken an Alaskan cruise and enjoy Cancun. Occasionally, we visit family in Ohio, and every year, we go to San Antonio."

Above all, Dror and Anna treasure each other and family. "Nothing is more priceless," Anna said. "As long as we have family and friends, we're more than OK."











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told me she hadn't wanted a coloring book to stunt my drawing ability. After that comment, I don't think I ever touched a coloring book again."

Despite this positive influence, however, Philip decided to become a computer science major in college. At that point, he hadn't realized his artistic talent. "It's hard to realize you know something until you see someone else doesn't know it," he explained. "I just always thought people knew to draw three or five things in a painting or knew about primary colors."

As Philip continued in his computer science studies, he realized his love for art instead and changed to an art major. "Computer science was tedious, and art came naturally to me," he said.

But, job offers for an art major weren't knocking on Philip's door after graduation. "My senior year of college, I started to think about what I was going to do with my degree. I can remember seeing my art professors drinking coffee, walking in and out of the class and telling

"My mother has been very influential for me, because she taught me so much of what I know."

me to add more orange to my painting. I thought, *That's the gig I want,*" Philip laughed. After graduating, Philip worked for the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Board delivering mail, while he worked on getting his teaching certificate. Shortly after, he became an art teacher at Mansfield High School.

But, teaching students about colors, composition and art history hasn't shadowed his passion for art. He has shown his work at the Arlington Museum of Art, Upstairs Gallery in Arlington,





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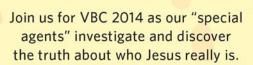
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Hue Gallery in Mansfield, the LoCo Flamingos boutique in Big Spring, Texas, and a recent solo show at the Mansfield High School library entitled *3 Hours*. "Three hours is the approximate time I spent on each painting in the show. Some I find more successful than others, but I feel that I have learned from them," he shared.

Philip's strength is in his drawing. "I see myself as a sketcher who is trying to learn to paint," he explained. His art usually starts off as a sketch, which he later fills in with acrylic or watercolor paints or sometimes, Sharpie. Although he often has an idea of what colors he wants to use, Philip usually doesn't have a





vision of where his painting will end and instead allows for his work to develop during the process.

Distinct in Philip's one-of-a-kind artwork is his use of vibrant colors. Bright hues of orange, blue and green cover Philip's work to create a surreal, abstract effect. One painting, in particular, features one of his art instructors painted in green, while students from his own art class are portrayed in varying shades of pink and orange. Philip isn't concerned with realistic proportions. His focus is on illustrating a feeling or abstract concept. And, because Philip believes in drawing what he sees, a majority of his work concentrates on his students. He often sketches students who are working, talking, laughing and even one who dozed off in class. "In a lot of my work, I paint things that are reflective. They are things people have seen before."

As with most artists, Philip isn't afraid to try something different with new materials to create exciting images. One painting, in particular, shows a sketch of

















a half-drawn face with string stitched into the canvas to complete the other half of the face. Paint covers the strings to create extra texture and color.

Another experiment turned successful with different materials was featured in the 3 Hours art show. "I had an ink cartridge refill syringe and would use the paint in the refills," he explained. "I put the syringe at the top of the canvas and just let it drip down. Then I'd rotate the canvas after the paint had dried and do the same thing again to create a grid," he described. "Then I filled in some sections with paint and some with India ink. I like the way it turned out." He created another painting with a similar method to imitate synapses in the body.

One of Philip's most popular paintings is of the view outside his bedroom window. A serene image of the branches and bright sunshine make the canvas come alive. Philip also created a unique self-portrait by cutting out tiny pieces of paper with an X-ACTO knife and arranged them in the shape of his head and shoulders.







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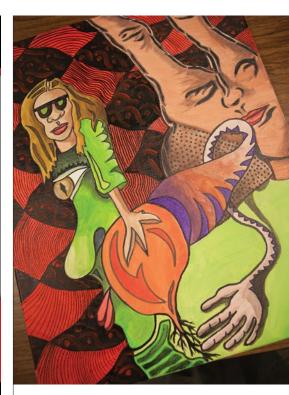


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Important about Philip's work is its flow. "That's the thing with composition in lots of paintings — it starts and stops, but my work is like a chain from one element to the next," he explained. This continuity creates an abstract stream of conscious effect for his audience.

As an art teacher, Philip believes it's important to instill a love and appreciation for art into his students. "I teach the students that there should be some thought behind the art. You don't just do it. What makes art is the thought behind it," he explained.

Philip has two main inspirations for his work: his mother and Salvador Dalí. The two artists have very different works, but both have encouraged his development. "My mother has been very influential for me, because she taught me so much of what I know," he explained. "And, I like that when you look at Salvador Dalí's paintings, you often see more than one thing." Dalí's surrealism also influenced Philip's work.

With these strong influences and Philip's imagination, his work is eclectic, exciting and beautiful. His surrealism draws in his audience and allows them to see his abstract stream of consciousness. "My drawings are observations over time and are put together in a sequence, like a jig-saw puzzle with pieces that almost fit," he said. "I strive to allow others to see what I observed."









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With summer around the steamy corner, moms and dads everywhere are considering ways to keep their kids cool, entertained and challenged until school activities rev up again. Busy parents, especially, want safe options for amusement and education they can depend on for their children during workday hours.

Summer Camps





encourage you to plan all activities using the 'everybody plays, everybody wins' philosophy," the site suggests, adding by changing the rules to give a personal touch and not keeping score helps make competitions upbeat and fun.

Susan Merrill, director of programs for Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro in Granbury, believes in the importance of reaching children through activities for all tastes and skills. In her 25 years in the camp industry, Susan has observed the positive effect the interactive enjoyment of work, play and team building has had on young campers. "Going to camp should be a part of every child's life," she said. "The experience develops their independence and confidence, and it provides the opportunity for children to learn decision making."

At large camps, some extraordinary features include: horseback riding, canoeing and kayaking, hiking,

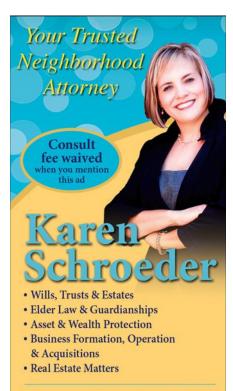












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basketball, tennis and soccer. Whatever children's interests might be, Misty Luttrell, director of overnight and family camps at Camp Fire, recognizes a common denominator: togetherness. "With all the electronics out there, kids spend more time plugged in and less time interacting face to face," she pointed out. "But camp fosters an atmosphere that allows kids to build relationships with peers and their counselors."

Vacation Bible Schools

Another staple, yet ever diversifying, alternative for meaningful summer activity for children is Vacation
Bible School. Nearly every church sponsors a program blending faith-based instruction with challenging amusement, covering a range of ages.

Nora Beane, a contributor to the online clearinghouse Yahoo Voices, cites five good reasons for parents to consider VBS as a viable outlet for kids' entertainment and education:

- 1. Scheduling: "The majority of VBS programs run for a single week and many only operate for a half day during that week. Almost every family can plan around that."
- 2. Content: "There are a million sites where kids can go to learn how to play baseball, but considerably fewer places where kids can learn to respect others and have faith in God."
- **3.** Quality companionship: "Parents can guess that their child will be





attending VBS with other kids who come from families where values are important and faith is central."

- **4.** Engaging entertainment: "Kids at VBS don't just spend time reading the Bible. VBS programs have curriculums built for and around kids that are full of adventure."
- **5.** Economic value: "Because they are church based, most VBS programs are not set up to make a profit. They are set up to share a message."

Library Programs

An increasingly varied venue for parents seeking relief from the heat for their kids this summer is the local













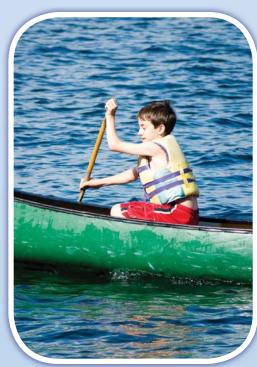






library. Not only can the little ones (and the older ones, too) hone their reading skills, but they also acquire valuable social sensibilities and teamwork through contests and other interactive programs. From talks by authors to magic shows and clown acts, children learn to associate books with fresh new experiences and exposure that will aid their future reading development and desire for knowledge.

According to the American Library Association, 95 percent of public libraries offer summer reading initiatives for children, so there's no shortage of programs for which parents can sign their kids up. Many

















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libraries select themes each summer for their programming, which involves not only literature but special events. Local themes for summer reading programs in the recent past have included tie-ins to popular family movies, cartoons and comic books.

The ALA lists the three main benefits for youth-geared summer reading programs as:

- 1. Maintaining reading skills between grades.
- 2. Attracting reluctant readers by activity-oriented events.
- 3. Encouraging reading as a lifelong habit.

YMCA and Community **Recreation Centers**

More fun in the sun opportunities for kids this summer at local YMCA centers or other community recreation facilities include: basketball and football, swimming, outdoor art installations, tie-dyeing T-shirts and numerous other craft projects.

One North Texas area YMCA craft idea proved especially popular last summer with young children returning from a field trip to a popular water park, and it promises to entertain many again this year. Boys and girls created a souvenir of their outing by gluing sand and shells onto a wooden or particle board backing in the shape of a starfish or dolphin. These were then affixed to a painted stick or straw, which girls in particular enjoyed waving around, calling the toy their "mermaid wand."

Whether camping out or taking a dip, curling up with a new book or displaying artistic creations, the summer sky's the limit. There are plenty of choices available for exciting recreational and educational opportunities for your kids this year! NOW













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An Oasis in Your Backyard

Carl and his team want to make your outdoors beautiful. — By Mikaela Mathews

Ask anyone about their ideal backyard, and most people will describe something similar to the luxurious havens that Urban Oasis builds. Constructing gabled roof patio covers, planting lush landscaping and installing outdoor kitchens are only a few of the services this company offers. "We're a one-stop shop for customers who want to build their dream backyard. We take care of everything, so customers don't have to subcontract out each piece of their project to a different contractor," explained Carl Stewart, lead designer and managing partner of Urban Oasis.

Starting with a one-on-one consultation, Urban Oasis assesses each client's needs and determines a plan. "We offer a free consultation, and in some cases, we'll provide a rough estimate of the price," Carl described. Customers can expect to have their needs met exactly during their consultation. "We like to educate

our customers, so they know what would work best with their lifestyle. For instance, if they like to grill on a gas grill, instead of a charcoal one, we'll make sure to show them the newest grills on the market that can enhance their enjoyment," he explained.

For clients having trouble visualizing their design, Urban Oasis also offers 3-D rendering. "The 3-D images are almost identical to the final outcome," Carl shared, "so people are able to get a really good idea of what their backyard will look like." This allows customers to see the final product and make any changes beforehand, if necessary.

Clients who might need a little inspiration are encouraged to check out Urban Oasis' website, which shows a number of photos from completed projects. The quality and variety of our work is clearly illustrated through these photographs.

Business NOW

For those customers who want to take the project slowly, Urban Oasis can install their design in stages. "No job is too big or too small. We want to respect any budget guidelines people have, and we are more than happy to install in phases," Carl said.

Once a design is finalized and under contract, Urban Oasis will walk their customers through the entire process. "If a customer decides to move forward after the design, we'll be there the whole way — from getting the necessary permits to obtaining HOA approval and, of course, to building the project to their complete satisfaction," Carl explained. "We'll show them all the available options, explain all the details and offer advice, as well, along the way." Urban Oasis only uses the highest quality of materials for each project to create an outstanding and long-lasting product.

"We're a one-stop shop for customers who want to build their dream backyard."

Carpentry, landscaping and outdoor living has long been in Carl Stewart's line of business. "I've been in this business, really, since I was old enough to swing a hammer," he smiled. Working with his dad, who was a carpenter, and, later, working at a nursery, taught Carl the skills he needed to create quality pieces.

With this experience, Carl has partnered to develop a company that eliminates customers' worry about the hassle of working through a number of contractors. Urban Oasis can build arbors, fire pits, cabanas, patios and covers, water features, retaining walls, cooling systems and much more.

Ultimately, the goal of Carl and his team is to make a beautiful and functional at-home retreat for each one of their customers. "Of course, we want to exceed our customer's expectations and make them happy with the final product," he said. "But more than that, by creating a home oasis, we love how what we do can bring families together, spending time outside. Your oasis awaits!"







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Don't Let Investments Take a Vacation

At long last, summer is almost here — which may mean it's time to put together your traveling plans. Still, while you and your family may enjoy going on a summertime trip, there's one part of your life that should not go on vacation, and that's your investment portfolio.

So, what can you do to help your investments keep on working all year long, year in and year out? Here are a few suggestions:

- Don't chase after "hot" investments. Many times, you will hear about a hot investment, usually a stock. However, by the time you hear about such an investment, it may already be cooling off. Even more importantly, it might not have been appropriate for your needs. And any investment that has either "flamed out" or wasn't right for you in the first place will not be a hard worker in your portfolio.
- Monitor "lazy" investments. Under the right circumstances, just about any investment could be of value to you. However, under different scenarios, those same investments may not be doing as much for you. To cite one example, when interest rates are at historic lows, as has been the case recently, and your portfolio contains a relatively large amount of short-term fixed-rate vehicles whose interest payments don't even keep up with inflation, they could be considered lazy investments.
- Look for the "multitaskers." In most aspects of life, multitaskers are valuable
 — and it's the same in the investment world. Can you find a particular type of
 investment that may be able to achieve multiple goals at the same time? Consider
 dividend-paying stocks. If you need the income to supplement your cash flow,
 you can cash the dividend checks. And since some companies tend to increase

their dividends, your investment in these stocks can serve as a source of potential for rising income, helping keep you ahead of inflation. Furthermore, if you don't actually need the dividends to support your income stream, you can reinvest them to increase your ownership stake — a method of building your overall wealth. Finally, many dividend-paying stocks also offer significant growth potential. Keep in mind, though, that there are no guarantees, because companies can lower or discontinue their dividends at any time. And, as you know, stocks are subject to market risk, including the potential loss of principal invested.

• Don't take a "time out" from investing. The financial markets regularly move up and down. During the down times, it's important not to get so discouraged that you decide to take a time out from investing until things get better. No one can really predict when a downturn will end, but you don't want to be on the investment sidelines when the market turns around — because the biggest gains can occur in the early stages of a rally. And in any case, if you're not constantly investing, or at least exploring new investment opportunities, your portfolio could begin to stagnate — or even become unbalanced, in which case it may no longer fit your objectives or your risk tolerance.

By following the above suggestions, you can help keep your investments working for you this summer — as well as fall, winter and spring. The road toward achieving your financial goals is a long one, so try to keep moving.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Shawn M. Malley is an Edward Jones representative based in Mansfield.













What's the Right Age to See an Orthodontist?

One of the most common questions dentists are asked is: "What is the right age for my child to see an orthodontist?" The America Association of Orthodontists recommends that your child get a checkup with an orthodontist at the first recognition of an orthodontic problem, but no later than age 7. By then, your child has enough permanent teeth for an orthodontist to determine whether an orthodontic problem exists or is developing. Putting off a checkup with an orthodontist until a child has lost all baby teeth could be a disservice. Some orthodontic problems may be easier to correct if they are found early. A checkup no later than age 7 gives your orthodontist the opportunity to recommend the appropriate treatment at the appropriate time. If early treatment is in order, the orthodontist may be able to achieve results that may not be possible once the face and jaws have finished growing.

Most orthodontic problems (malocclusions) are inherited. Examples of these genetic problems are crowding, spacing, protrusion, extra or missing teeth and some jaw growth problems. Other malocclusions are acquired as a result of thumb- or fingersucking, dental disease, accidents, the early or late loss of baby (primary) teeth or other causes. While your child's teeth might appear to be straight, there may actually be a problem that needs to be evaluated by an orthodontist. If you recognize any of the following

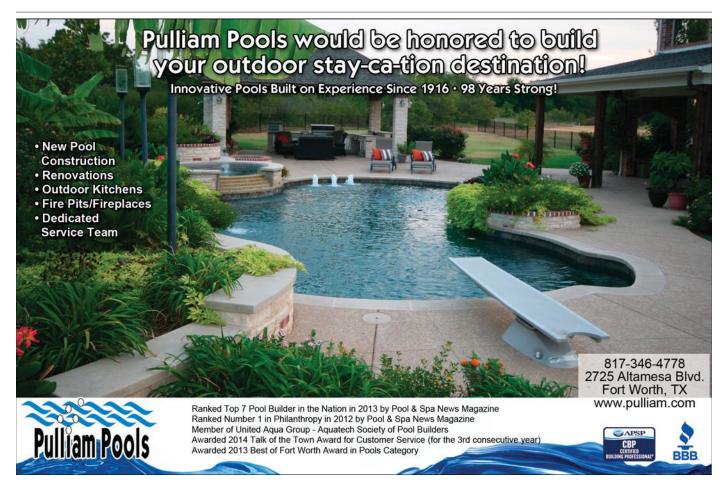
issues with your child, consider scheduling a checkup with your local orthodontist:

- · Early or late loss of baby teeth
- Difficulty in chewing or biting
- Mouth breathing
- Jaws that shift or make sounds
- Speech difficulties
- Biting the cheek or the roof of the mouth
- Facial imbalance
- Grinding or clenching of the teeth
- Thumb- or finger-sucking

Calling an orthodontist may be one of the most important actions you can take to ensure your child's healthy and happy smile! NOW

Source: Brochure ©2004. American Association of Orthodontists. 401 North Lindbergh Blvd., Saint Louis, MO 63141-7816.

Sheila Birth, DDS, MS Justin Jergensen, DDS, MS Birth Stewart Orthodontics



Calendar

May 1, 15, 29

Home School Nature Walk with a Naturalist: 10:00-11:00 a.m., Oliver Nature Park, 1650 Matlock Rd. \$5 or \$3 with current MAC card. Join a naturalist for a guided walk. Learn about local ecosystems and watch how animals and plants interact. For more information, visit www.olivernaturepark.com.

May 3

Cinco de Mayo Celebration: Noon-6:00 p.m., City Hall Plaza, 317 College St., Grand Prairie. Free entertainment, GPISD performers, mariachi bands, folklorico dancers and more. Visit www.grandfungp.com for more information.

May 4, 5

Love Your City Theater auditions for Disney's *Beauty & the Beast*: **May 4**, 3:00-9:00 p.m.; **May 5**, 5:00-9:00 p.m., 1231 E. Pleasant Run Rd., Cedar Hill. To schedule auditions for ages 8 to adult, call (469) 454-8456. Performance will be **July 18-20**. For more information, visit www.loveyourcitytheater.com.

May 9

Leadercast 2014: 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Mansfield ISD Center for Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Ln. First Methodist Mansfield is partnering with the Mansfield ISD to host this simulcast for anyone who wants to improve their leadership skills. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit leadercast.com/location/Mansfield.

May 10

Tennis Play Day. Apex Indoor Sports, 1741 Commerce St. Hosted by Mansfield Area Tennis Association. For more information, contact Trina at tgibbs@mansfieldareatennisassociation.com.

Mansfield High School Annual Tiger Classic: Registration: 11:00 a.m. Shotgun start: 1:30 p.m. Tierra Verde Golf Course, 7005 Golf Club Dr., Arlington. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for MHS football. For more information, contact Kim Fair at kim. fair@netzero.com or (816) 585-2678.

Stargazing at Oliver Nature Park: 8:00-9:00 p.m., Oliver Nature Park, 1650 Matlock Rd. \$7 or \$5 with current MAC card. Learn all about the night sky with an astronomer to guide you. For more information, visit www.olivernaturepark.com.

May 12

21st Annual Mansfield Chamber Golf

Tournament: 10:00 a.m. Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr. For more information on sponsorship opportunities or to join a team, email info@mansfieldchamber.org.

May 17, 24, 31

Mansfield Farmer's Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. 206 Smith St. For more information, visit www.mansfieldfarmersmarket.net or email Rex Wenger at rwenger@prodigy.net

May 18

Mansfield Tiki Tri: Hawaiian Falls Water Park, 490 Heritage Pkwy. Swim 289 meters in the lazy river with the current. Bike for 11.53 miles and the run is a flat 3.09 miles, finishing at Hawaiian Falls. For more information, visit www.active.com/mansfield-tx/triathlon/races/mansfield-tiki-tri-2014.

May 24

Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce 2014 Memorial 5K Run/Walk: 8:30 a.m., Katherine Rose Park, 303 N. Walnut Creek Dr. Register for the race at www.mansfieldhcamber.com.

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



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Cooking NOW



In the Kitchen With Denise Hayslip

— By Mikaela Mathews

As an athlete since high school, Denise Hayslip has long known the importance of a healthy diet. "My senior year in high school, we got a new swimming coach who taught us about healthy eating," she explained. Her coach's influence prompted her to become a better athlete, and eventually, to pursue her bachelor's and master's degrees in nutrition.

Denise has passed down her love for food to her son. "Sterling loves cake decorating, so I've decided he's going to start making his own cakes to decorate," she said. Denise also helps the Mansfield ISD with their menus and nutritional options as a dietitian and nutrition coordinator. "We are constantly striving to make the healthiest menus we can, as well as having an acceptable menu the kids will eat." NOW

Coconut Rice

I onion, chopped 1/2 cup shredded coconut

1 1/2 cups uncooked rice

1 Tbsp. curry powder

2 Tbsp. butter

2 1/2 cups chicken stock

1/3 cup coconut milk

1/2 tsp. salt

1. Sauté onion, coconut, rice and curry powder in butter until coconut is slightly toasted.

2. Add chicken stock, coconut milk and salt. Simmer until rice is cooked.

Tarragon Carrots

10-12 carrots, thinly sliced diagonally 4 Tbsp. butter 1 tsp. tarragon

1 clove garlic

- 1. Put carrots in a steamer. Steam until almost soft.
- 2. Place carrots in a pan; add butter, tarragon and garlic. Sauté carrots until wellcoated.

Belizean Potatoes

1/2 cup olive oil (divided use)

1 large Vidalia onion, diced

I red bell pepper, seeded and cut into 1-inch pieces

1/4 cup white wine

1 tsp. oregano

I envelope onion soup mix

2 lbs. red potatoes, cut into small

1/4 cup Parmesan cheese

I. Preheat oven to 350 F.

- 2. Reserve 2 Tbsp. oil. Combine the remaining oil, onion, pepper, wine, oregano and soup mix. Mix in potatoes and place in a baking dish.
- **3.** Bake 45-60 minutes, or until potatoes are golden brown and crisp. Sprinkle with remaining olive oil and Parmesan cheese. Bake for an additional 10 minutes.

Ginger Carrot Bisque

1/4 cup plus 2 Tbsp. unsalted butter 2 lbs. carrots, peeled and thinly sliced 2 large onions, chopped 1 Tbsp. fresh ginger, peeled and minced 2 tsp. grated orange peel 1/2 tsp. ground coriander 5 cups chicken broth (divided use) I cup half-and-half Salt and pepper, to taste 1/2 cup fresh parsley, minced

- **1.** Melt butter in a heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add carrots and onions.
- 2. Cover and cook for about 15 minutes, or until the vegetables begin to soften, stirring occasionally. Add ginger, orange peel, coriander and 2 cups of broth.
- 3. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer until carrots are soft, about 10 more minutes.
- **4.** In batches, puree soup in a food processor. Transfer to a large cooking pot. Add remaining 3 cups of broth and halfand-half. Season with salt and pepper; heat thoroughly. To serve, garnish with parsley.

"Bileazy" Blue Cheese Salad

Salad:

I bunch romaine lettuce

4 oz. seedless red grapes, halved

1/4 cup toasted almonds

1 8-oz. package blue cheese

Dressing:

1/8 cup red wine vinegar

1/2 cup olive oil

I garlic clove, minced

1/2 tsp. dried basil

1/2 Tbsp. red pepper, chopped

1/8 tsp. salt

1 1/2 Tbsp. sugar

1. For salad: Mix all ingredients together, except blue cheese. Crumble the blue cheese on top.

2. For dressing: Whisk all ingredients together and serve with salad.



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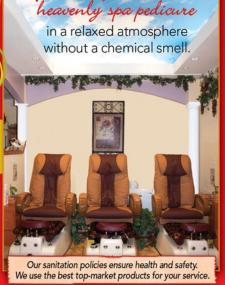
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