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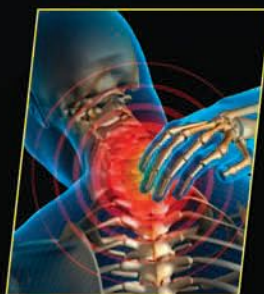
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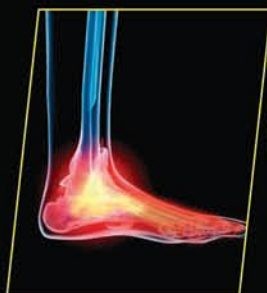
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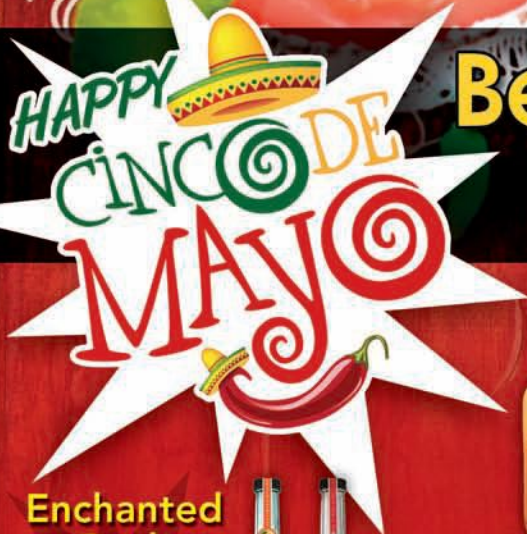
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*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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## Editor's Note

*Hello, Midlothian!*

Do we do enough to commemorate Memorial Day? May 25th is exclusively to remember heroes who died in service to our country. Wreaths will be placed at cemeteries, our flag will be ever present and speeches will be made. There are some who criticize that many use the day to benefit from sales events or to just enjoy extra time off from work by relaxing or having fun. However, because our veterans died in the name of freedom, what

we do on that day has already been sanctioned by their sacrifice. Perhaps we can best say thanks by remembering them and honoring the veterans who live today. As President John F. Kennedy said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

*Betty*

Betty Tryon  
MidlothianNOW Editor  
betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com

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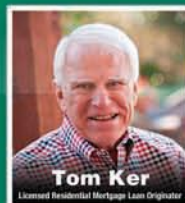
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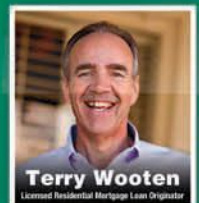
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# Ten Years of *Innovation*

— By Betty Tryon

*On your mark, get set, go! And off go the Rowdy Runners as they heed the call for another marathon. This elementary school-based running group was one of the recipients of a grant funded by the Midlothian Education Foundation. It is just one of the jewels in the crown of this organization. As MEF enters its 10th year, Chelsi Frazier, director of the organization, hopes to use the anniversary celebration in May as a way to “highlight MEF, the innovative programs funded and celebrate where we’ve been and where we are going.”*







Chelsi and her husband, Midlothian native Jake Frazier, looked to his hometown for their new home. “He didn’t want to look anywhere else but Midlothian,” Chelsi said. “It’s been great, and I can’t imagine working anywhere else.”

As a 2006 graduate from Tarleton State University, she earned her degree in exercise and sports studies. Her love of kids and desire to do something that made a difference caused her to want to be a PE teacher. “I wanted to feel good about myself at the end of the day and that something was better because of what I was doing,” she admitted. “That’s why I was attracted to education.”

However, instead of going immediately into education, Chelsi began to work at CNB as a teller. After working there for a year, an opportunity arose in the marketing department for a marketing coordinator. It suited her bubbly personality, because she enjoys meeting and talking to people. “I did that for five years before coming to work for the Midlothian Education Foundation. It felt perfect for me,” she shared. “It was good to have that business background, because I was able to see what businesses wanted in return for their investment. They make a tremendous impact just by donating their dollars. It’s also really nice knowing that my efforts and the board’s efforts are making where my 2-year-old daughter, Clarke, will go to school a better place.”

Education remains a great investment for businesses. It is a productive venture in Midlothian because of the conscientiousness of the school district, teachers and leadership. “Not only are you helping people right now,” Chelsi remarked, “but, you’re helping yourself, your community and your world forever, because what kids learn and what they have the opportunity to do now is what’s going to make our world what it’s going to be.”

And the world will look better with healthy children in it. MEF’s grant to the Rowdy Runners is an extremely successful project that gets kids up and running. “Rowdy Runners is a good picture of what the board envisioned when they started the teaching grants,” Chelsi observed. “It started





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with a small group on one campus where the foundation was able to help them build the walking track. They have now taken the running club and duplicated it on all six elementary campuses. That is what MEF wants — that spark of an idea. We give them the gasoline to fuel their idea, and they keep it going. The runners are not necessarily in the physical classroom but, physical education is taught in school, and it's important for the student's overall health."

MEF has given grants to fund many in-classroom programs using the creative





engine of educators to bring interesting ideas, equipment and technology into the classroom. It isn't necessarily the projects that cost the most that make the largest impact. "Money doesn't drive the amount of innovativeness," Chelsi observed.

Every school year the MEF board awards grants in the fall and in the spring. This past spring they gave grants across the spectrum of students' abilities. One such grant at LaRue Miller Elementary was *CBI: Start your senses!* In order to encourage the students to enhance their sensory experiences and motor skills, MEF awarded a grant for the purchase of classroom materials that specifically targeted those needs in order to encourage a more productive and positive learning experience.

Another grant was for the campus of J.A. Vitovsky Elementary, *We Do LEGOs*. In order for students to grow in knowledge about technology and understand its increasing influence, that genre must be brought into the classroom. With this program, the students will have the opportunity to grow in areas of creativity, problem-solving, critical thinking and many more areas necessary for technological advancement.

The educators are the ones who study and write the grants presented to the MEF board. In her role as director, one of Chelsi's goals for MEF is to



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*"The foundation provides that link between businesses and individuals who want to support education."*

do a better job of putting forth the expectations of getting more innovative and creative projects from teachers. "Teachers, who have an innovative idea to inspire their students and then take the time to write the grants, should be celebrated and, if at all possible, funded," Chelsi proclaimed. "We have so many amazing teachers in our school district. I'm glad I get to be a part of helping them."

One of the ways Chelsi would like to help would be to bring back the grant workshop and provide training. In doing so, she wants to give them ideas of what has been successful in the past and to take a look at inspiring ideas being implemented in other schools. However, her No. 1 goal is to begin to tell the grant stories. "This is the biggest thing we do as a board. Every grant is a story. We need to get them in video or





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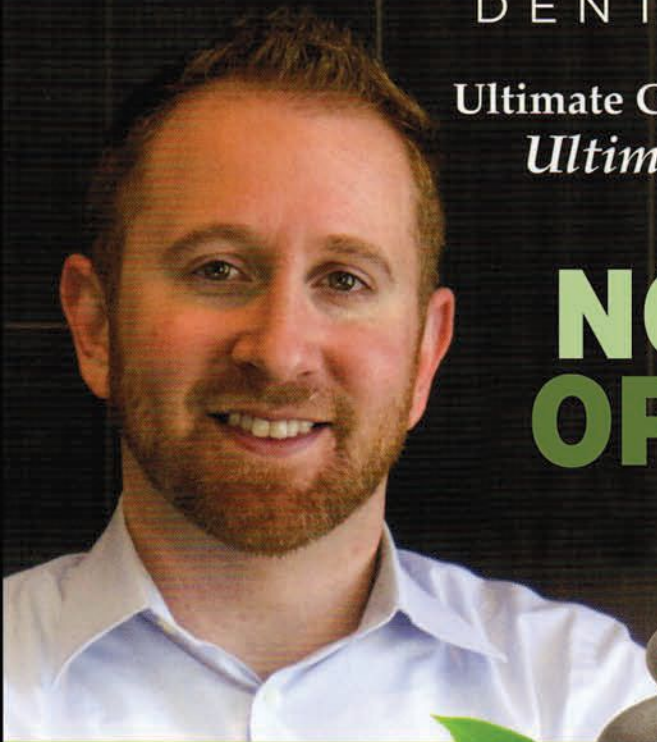


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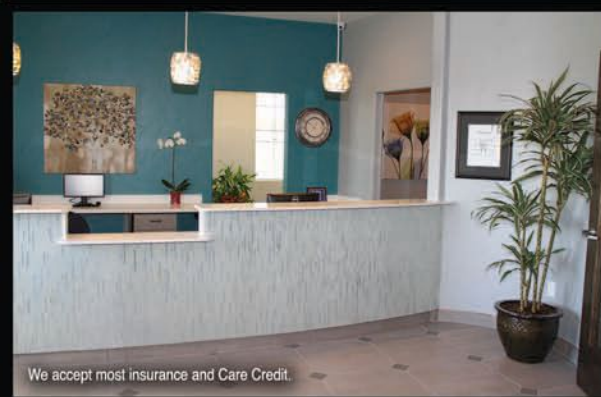


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picture format to show our donors and the community what we are doing. Every semester we have a group of grants we are promoting. I really think we can make that happen."

It is important that the school district has an educational foundation board to provide support and encouragement to the schools by awarding grants to programs that inspire and motivate students. "We have a fantastic board," Chelsi declared, "that's the benefit of working with a volunteer board of directors. They are there because they want to be. The foundation is important to the school, because there are a tremendous amount of businesses and individuals in the community of Midlothian who want to support the school district but don't know what to do. They may not have the money to donate but want to give of their time and volunteer. The foundation provides that link between businesses and individuals who want to support education."

The more opportunities students have to learn, to explore, be creative and imaginative the more they will benefit from their education. MEF stands ready to do all it can to help with grants that will inspire and motivate students, and, in a sense, to revolutionize what takes place in the classroom, causing students to experience not just learning but a *joy* of learning. **NOW**





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Left to right: Emily, Natalie, Trang and Sy.

# Seeing Perseverance Through Helps Ophthalmologist Focus on Successfully Serving the Community

— By Hope Oriabure



Dr. Trang Le is a board-certified ophthalmologist who specializes in the treatment of glaucoma and cataracts. But before she was a doctor, she was a 10-year-old girl who emigrated from Vietnam. Dr. Le, her mother, grandmother and two sisters were all sponsored by a Lutheran Church in Baytown, Texas. Later, Dr. Le and her family would be joined by her father. When Dr. Le arrived in Baytown, she was met with several challenges and admits while it was a difficult process to learn the language and adapt to a new way of life, these challenges helped build her character.

"In my situation, I had to grow up faster (than other 10-year-olds), but it helped me be self-sufficient and adaptable," Dr. Le said. "When I left Vietnam, I had to leave friends behind, so when I made new friendships here, I appreciated them more."

Eventually, Dr. Le and her family left Baytown and moved to Massachusetts. Both Dr. Le and her sister graduated valedictorian of their high school classes. Their success was not a surprise but a destination, with a road paved by education and the belief that self-motivation determines one's future in life. As a family practitioner and surgeon in Vietnam, her father, Dr. Lan Le, provided a wide range of medical services. With Vietnam's doctor shortage, he worked very long hours ending with rounds at the hospital seven days a week. Upon coming to

America, Dr. Lan Le was unable to practice medicine here and made the challenging decision to continue his profession in the United States. Despite his medical experience and background, this decision required Dr. Le's father to complete a medical residency. She was inspired by her father's dedication and knew she wanted to be a doctor, too. Both Dr. Le and one of her sisters are medical doctors today. Her husband, Sy Le, is also a physician.

Dr. Le attended Rice University for her undergraduate degree, then Baylor University for medical school and completed her residency in Arizona. Dr. Le then completed a fellowship or training in a medical specialty at UT Southwestern in glaucoma. She started working at EyeCare Associates of Texas and has been with the practice ever since. Here, Dr. Le continues her belief in the vital role education plays in our lives by educating patients to ensure that they understand their conditions, as well as the risks and benefits of treatment options. She continues to instill in her children the value of education. "We encourage our children to take their education seriously, because it's valuable and can never be taken away," Dr. Le said. These are not just feel-good words but a legacy that helped a little girl from a war-torn country navigate her path to success.



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# THE RIGHT PATH

— By Betty Tryon

*It's Friday during football season, and not all of it is about football. Sitting in rapt attention around a varsity football player are elementary students listening to a story. Not surprisingly, many of them eventually start to idolize the players because of their positions on the football team. It certainly helps if the player is a good citizen and someone of great character.*

Participating in spring ball at Midlothian High School are two such students — Najee Mustafaa and Mason Walker. They are both seniors and members of the Varsity Football program. As National Honor Society members and captains for the football team, both young men have comported themselves in such a manner to be good role models for their fellow teammates and to kids in the community.

Many of the elementary students have become big fans of Najee and Mason. "Reading to them is probably the best part on Friday, besides the game," Najee smiled. "They think we're like Dez Bryant."

That adoration carries over into spring ball. Spring ball at MHS is about competition between the teammates to determine each member's position on the team. "We are only playing against ourselves. The seniors are graduating, so it will be a new team. Everyone gets to see what you have to offer," Najee observed.

**"With football you learn how to TRUST and COMMUNICATE with people."**

"You are working to get your name noticed," Mason added. "There will be position battles to see who will evolve and who will step up as leaders."

During the fall 2014 football season, Mason played middle and outside linebacker on defense. His football years did not begin until seventh grade because of his father, Danny. "It was dad's rule that I had to wait until then to play," Mason explained. "I really wanted to play football, and every year I would







Najee Mustafaa and Mason Walker appreciate the lessons they have learned through playing football.



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ask him and he said no. I love to play defense more than anything!"

Najee played running back on offense. He didn't start until sixth grade, because like Mason, Najee also had a parent who had reservations — his mom, Brenda. She had hesitations about the game, because she thought he would get hurt. "I don't know why she thought that because in the sixth grade I was 5 feet 6 inches and about 150 pounds," Najee mused.

"He's always been bigger than everyone," Mason added with a smile.

Najee's body size paid off for him. His longest official run in high school was 79 yards. He had a total of 900 yards rushing, 150 yards receiving and eight touchdowns. So far as the season went last year, he regrets they didn't go as far as planned.

The season didn't go the way Mason had planned either. He missed three games at the beginning of the season because of nerve problems in his neck. "My arm would go numb," Mason explained. "After it improved, the rest of the season went fine. My favorite game is when we beat Duncanville. That was a cool game. We scored a defensive touchdown when the center





for Duncanville snapped the ball over the quarterback's head. I saw it and I hit the quarterback, so the guy behind me scooped it up and scored. That was one of my favorite plays."

Najee had his worst injury early on during his high school years. "I tore all the ligaments in my left ankle," he shared. "It happened during the third game of the season during my sophomore year. It was a routine play early in the game. A defender came down on my ankle awkwardly and caused it to twist the wrong way. This changed my outlook by making me realize that it only takes one play to end your season or possibly your football career."

For Najee, his injury was a life-changing moment. His parents Muriddin and Brenda let him know when he was growing up that if he wanted to go to college, he would have to make it happen. "They told me I had to get a loan, a job or get a scholarship. Knowing that was one of the things that motivated me," Najee reasoned. "When I was growing up, I would say I was going to the NFL. But, when injured, I realized I may need something else to fall back on. Getting hurt was one of the

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best things that happened to me. It took me being injured to realize that.”

Mason has plans other than football when he leaves high school. Part of the reason for his direction in life is due to Chris Kyle. “Chris Kyle inspired me by what he sacrificed for others and by just the man he was,” he replied thoughtfully. “He was from my home town of Midlothian and impacted a country with his actions. He was an honest man with a good heart always helping fellow veterans.”

Mason plans on attending Texas Tech University and hopes to get into the Navy SEALs someday. “I have always dreamed of giving back to my country and doing my part in ensuring that future generations get to enjoy the same freedoms that I have. Special Forces have always fascinated me for what they are capable of doing and the brotherhood they share. Having guys you can trust your life with and count on to be there for you is a bond that is so special.”

Mason’s desire to attend college after high school does not include a football scholarship. As the proud owner of his own lawn mowing business, his parents, Danny and Missy encouraged his productivity. “My parents said, ‘If you



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want to do stuff and have fun, then go work! I like having my own money and buying my own stuff."

Najee plans on graduating and going to Doane College in Nebraska with a four-year scholarship in football where he will join his brother Tariq Mustafaa, who also attends with a football scholarship. "My brother said they have morning meetings, practice in the afternoon, meetings at 8:00 p.m. and college classes all day. There is no time for me to have another job," he reasoned. Najee's brother Tariq also played at MHS and in many ways has mentored him. "My brother is a positive influence in my life," Najee remarked. "He pushed me to do better without even knowing it. He helped me accomplish my goals by pushing me to limits I never knew I could reach on and off the field."

Football has given a lot to both players, who show every sign of being on the right path for the sport and for life. "With football, you learn how to trust and communicate with people," Najee said.

"There is a brotherhood to it. I know that is a cliché, but I'd do anything for Najee and he likewise," Mason stated.

"You get to find out who you are," Najee concluded. "It's not for everyone, but if you commit to it you can get so much out of it." **NOW**



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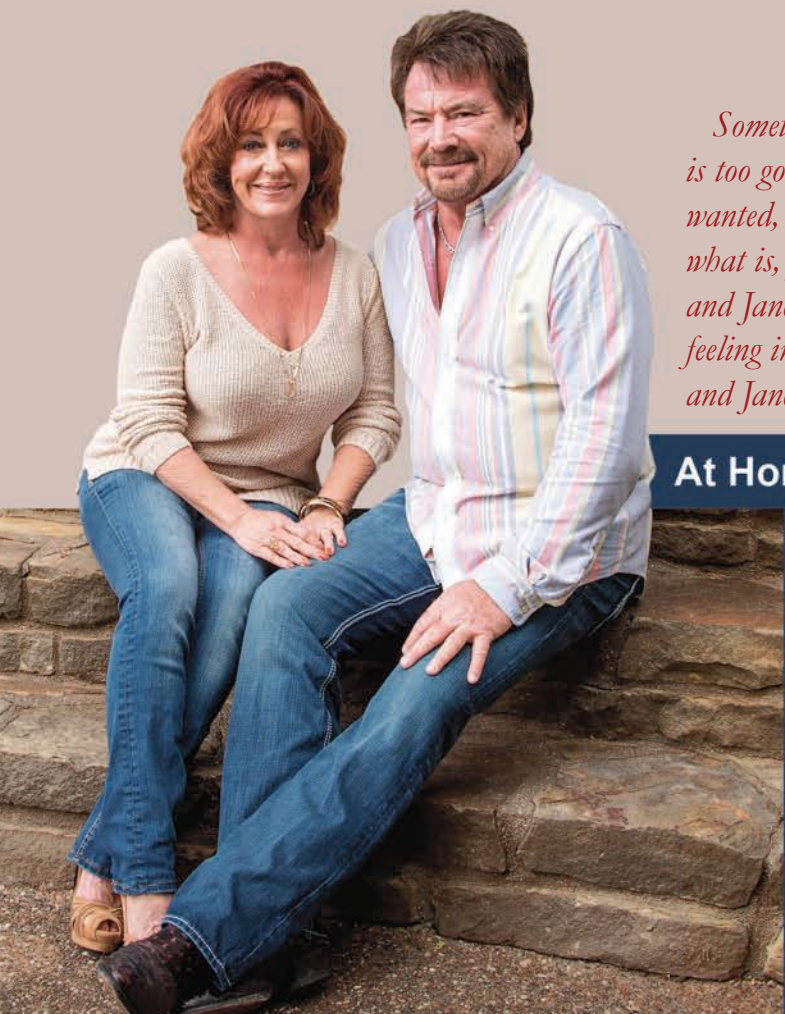
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and Janet own and operate Elite Realty Group in Midlothian.

They moved into their house in 1985, with one child already a part of the family. "My son, Chad, lived here for about six years and attended Midlothian High School," Bert explained. "We brought our son, Blake, home from the hospital, and he lived here until the day he left for college." Blake went to Louisiana State University and now lives in Austin and is a legislative liaison for the Texas Department of Transportation. Chad is a master electrician and lives in Arlington with his family.

Coming from the farm-to-market road, Bert and Janet's house combines a mixture of fanciful grace and inviting warmth. Decorative stonework and a large, arching entrance begin an elegant driveway up to the home, with two large trees in the middle of the driveway's culminating circle. That ornate feel is juxtaposed with a collection of large windows, whose interior views bring visitors quickly into a genial home ambience. The front entry offers immediate access to many parts of the house, as it leads to a formal dining room on one side and Janet's favorite room,

the library, on the other. "Even though I don't necessarily spend all of my time in here, I just love the look of the room," she explained. The walls are overlaid with beautiful oak panels, and an antique 1910 Mason & Hamlin grand piano accents the room in a way that furthers the fusion of poise and cordiality. "I don't play, but Bert and Blake both do a little," she shared.

The home was the perfect spot for Bert and Janet to join in marriage, raise kids and is now an ideal setting for their life as empty nesters. When they built the house, they planned to get married there. "There are a couple of big rooms



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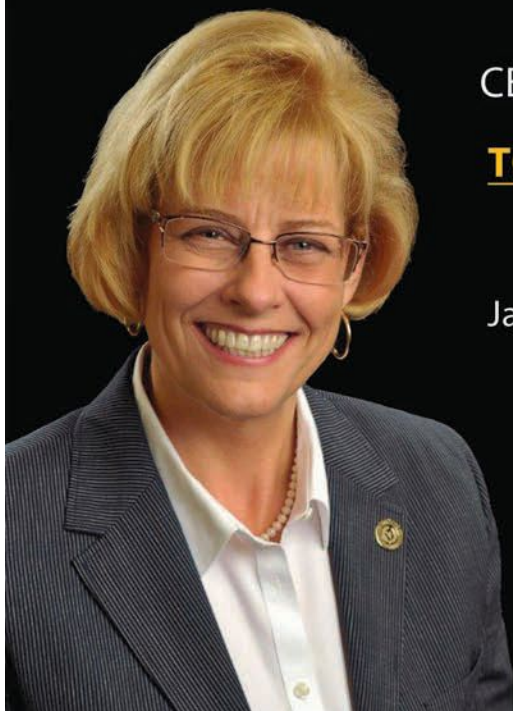
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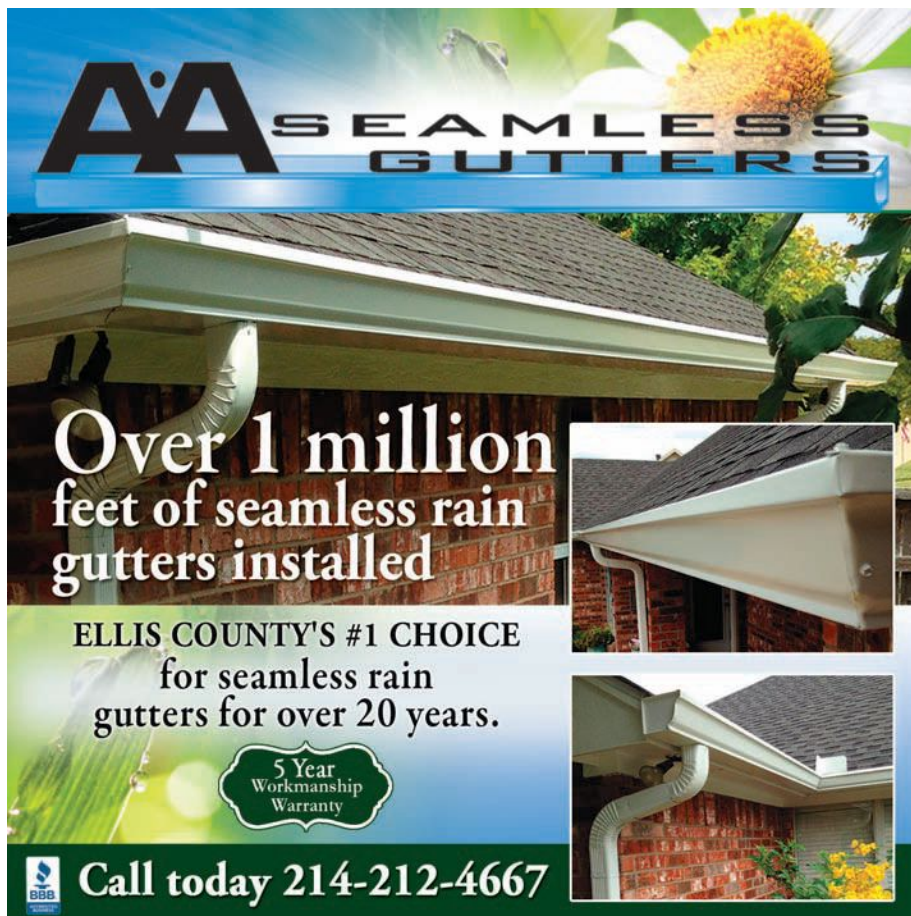
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large enough for seating that flow into one another,” Janet said. Since living in the home, they have also hosted a wedding for Janet’s mom, as well as countless holiday get-togethers and special occasion celebrations. The central feature of the living room is an ornate fireplace that required Janet’s imagination and the vision of a very talented trim carpenter to create the beautiful finished product. “I had a vague idea of what I was wanting,” she explained. “The trim carpenter drew it on a piece of wood that had been lying on the floor, and it was *exactly* what I was envisioning.”

The living room and library converge on Bert and Janet’s master bedroom, which includes a second fireplace, a beautiful armoire and a closet large enough to be another bedroom. Upstairs, two bedrooms have seen their day with Chad and Blake spending their formative years there, and there is still evidence of that. “Some people say it seems like a shrine,” Janet admitted. Baseball uniforms and camp pictures document the boys’ lives from birth until graduation.

On the other side of the house, is a large kitchen and nook beside a combination bar and living room. The nook contains a noteworthy piece of furniture — a hutch that likely dates back to the mid-1800s. “My family had been in Marble Falls for generations, and we were clearing out the house after my great-aunts died,” Bert said, explaining that a friend refinished the hutch for them. The walls are a wonderful complement to new granite counters, wood flooring and a space that is perfect for hosting. The bar offers access to an outdoor space that is part patio, part oasis.

Being able to bring in guests has been a big draw for Bert and Janet, and their friends love the resort feel of the pool, hot tub and pool house. “Our friends





like to say we have a retreat here,” Janet said. “They will come just to get away from it all for a few days.” The patio next to the bar claims comfortable outdoor seating, with brown and red hues, as well as a great view of the entire



backyard. Outside their bedroom, Bert and Janet’s second patio houses their grill and outdoor cooking area. Just past the kitchen, they have another bedroom, though it is not often used.

Though the guest wing includes a handsome bedroom and private bath, their friends prefer a different accommodation. “Everyone always wants to stay upstairs. We call it The Blake Suite,” she remarked. With six acres away from the growing city, it is no surprise that friends and family use Bert and Janet’s home as a sanctuary from their daily lives. From the day they became a couple, Bert and Janet have done everything together. They work together, built a home together and have remodeled their house together. Sometimes, it just seems right. **NOW**

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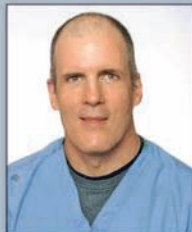


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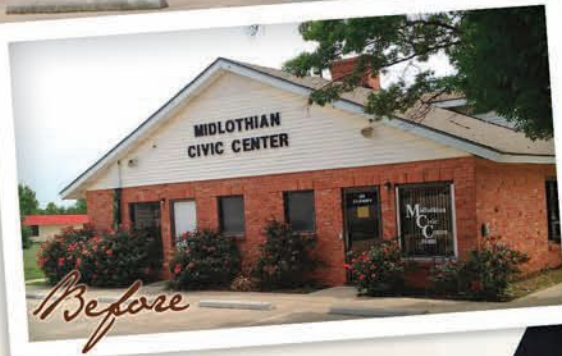


# For Generations Past and Future

— By Zachary R. Urquhart



*Midlothian has been changing a lot lately. A decade ago, most residents would have never thought of having multiple supercenter food stores and a sushi bar, or seeing Mexican cuisine where a long-standing video store once operated. But with all of the change and progress in the last few decades, one establishment has stood firm since the 1950s — the Midlothian Civic Center. While it has remained a fixture in Midlothian for almost seven decades, recent renovations have seen the Civic Center blending the tradition of a Midlothian standard with the progressive change seen throughout the city in recent years. And that is*



*thanks, in part, to Renee McElheney, who has led the renovation project for the Civic Center.*

Renee grew up in Midlothian, where her family has deep roots. “My family has been here since the 1900s,” she explained. With that rich Midlothian heritage, it is no surprise that Renee wed a local boy as well. “I married my high school sweetheart, Billy Wayne. He graduated in 1982, and I graduated the next year,” Renee recalled. They just celebrated their 30th anniversary, and they have two children. Christopher graduated from Midlothian High School in 2005, is





“Our goal is to bring the Civic Center up to today’s standards and extend the life and use of the building for years to come.”



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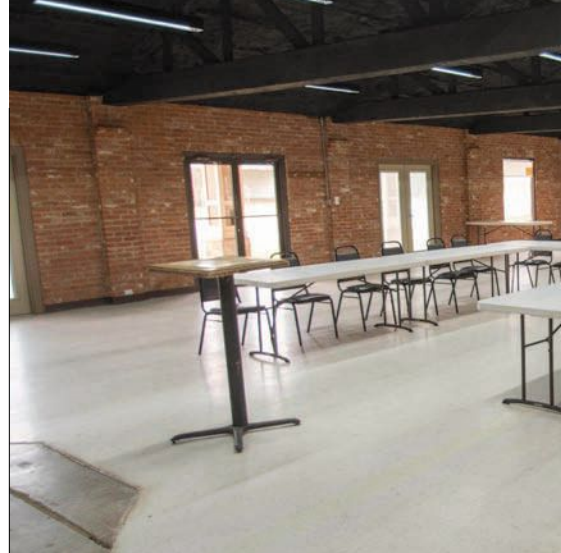
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an assistant store manager for Starbucks in Denton and also does freelance advertising work. Krystal graduated in 2008 and works for the family businesses. She also runs a specialty cottage law bakery, Jane Dough Bake House.

Billy and Renee opened Technical Support in 1997, a company that focuses on industrial automation. Along with that corporation, they operate several other companies that include management, hydraulics and a massage studio. Additionally, Billy holds several patents mainly dealing with OIT Units, but is working on additional ones for solar energy. "Really, he's the creative genius, and I am the facilitator," Renee quipped. "He will come up with ideas, and I tend to shoot them down. Then down the road, we usually end up doing what he had suggested in the first place." In addition to their own businesses, Renee has been PTA president, has served in numerous board positions for the Chamber of Commerce and serves as the president of the Midlothian Downtown Business Association.

Though she has donned dozens of hats during her life in Midlothian, it is the most recent one that has placed Renee in the center of town. About two years ago, Renee was approached to serve on the board of the Midlothian Civic Center. "The Civic Center is really a private entity that serves public interests," she detailed. "The city was on board with seeing some renovations, but it isn't their building or their project to do, so they reached out to me to initiate the renovation project."

To understand the intricacies of the renovation project, you have to understand the history of the Civic Center. Though a private, incorporated entity, the Midlothian Civic Center was



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After



Before

built in the 1950s using community labor and recycled supplies. "They bought all of the bricks from the city for a dollar from a building that was being torn down in town," Renee said. "People would come at night and clean the bricks to be used for the new building." Once completed in 1958, the Civic Center served as a place for people in Midlothian, especially kids, to meet in both official settings and as an informal gathering place. "One of the things in the charter is that the center is for the boys and girls groups [Scouts] to use," she explained. In the 1970s it was also the initial location of the public library. "I have an old newspaper article about when it opened with a picture of me reading in here."

The Civic Center continues to serve as a meeting place for numerous groups, which was one of the most interesting things to Renee when she came on board. "It has been amazing to me how many different groups use the facility on a monthly basis. We have Lions Club, Rotary, Girl Scouts and the American Legion, not to mention all of the groups that come just for a meeting now and then," she accounted. "When I was in junior high, this was always the cool place to have birthday parties, and we still see that today. We also have weddings, receptions, and reunions."

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Before



After

After decades of adeptly serving the community's needs, the Civic Center needed a few upgrades, and that is what brought Renee into the mix. "The past Civic Center boards had done an amazing job of saving money over the years," she boasted. "I took on the role of president in April 2013. Because of the work the prior board had done, we had the initial capital needed to do the first of several upgrades. Our goal is to bring the Civic Center up to today's standards and extend the life and use of the building for years to come." One of the big interior changes was getting rid of the drop down tiles in favor of the beams and original ceiling. They also redid the kitchen with new cabinetry, counters and appliances, one example of the fact that renovations have been made for both beautification and functionality. Renee credits contractor David Lansford with keeping the project moving and on track, finishing faster than she anticipated.

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roof had been re-shingled several times, but we replaced the entire thing during this phase,” Renee described. Along with a small upgrade to the front of the building, they added on a beautiful, large covered back porch area, which Renee sees as a huge improvement. “I think people will be able to use this space for cookouts and parties. It’s just a great space that will add to the viability of the Civic Center,” she voiced. With the enhancement in the front and the added space overlooking the fields used for youth sports, the Civic Center is looking better than ever, but there are no plans to stop there.

Renee has additional ideas for the Civic Center moving forward. “We need to redo the floor and update the office area, as well as doing some landscaping,” she said. Along with renovation, Renee’s daughter, Krystal, has been working on advertisement and has created the website, [MidlothianTXCivicCenter.com](http://MidlothianTXCivicCenter.com). “One day I would like to see an electronic sign out front promoting the events that are open to the public,” Renee added. She also has a vision to incorporate green measures and truly bridge the tradition of the Civic Center with the future generation’s needs. With the work she has already overseen, and the work that is planned, Renee is ensuring the Midlothian Civic Center will be a community centerpiece for decades to come. **NOW**

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# Summer Fun! — By Amber D. Browne

*Summer is just around the corner! Parents will be searching for activities to keep their children busy, other than playing the newest video game or watching their favorite television shows. Choices for summer camps are abundant in the local area. Full-day or overnight Camp Fire programs can be reserved, and many school districts sponsor sports and cheerleading camps. Museum, library, cooking and art, and other day or weeklong camps for kids are offered through various nonprofits, community centers or business-related groups.*

If you are looking for some fun in the sun for the entire family, a variety of activities are available locally. You can visit state and local parks, historic sites and zoos for hours of fun. Water parks, lakes and community pools provide for many fun-filled afternoons.

## Nature Activities

With all the hustle and bustle of today's world, technological distractions and busy schedules of adults and children, sometimes we forget to enjoy the outdoors. This summer, why not make time to get back to nature? Multiple state parks are within driving distance







and offer a variety of activities to enjoy. From hiking trails and bird watching adventures to star gazing and overnight camping, families can soak up what Mother Nature has to offer. You can visit [www.tpwd.texas.gov](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov) for state park locations and a calendar of events.

If you want to stay close to home, city parks provide a great place to picnic and enjoy the outdoors. Many include playgrounds for children to exert that extra energy. Your own backyard can provide an afternoon of fun. Why not have the children search for rocks and then paint them for family members and friends? Parents can put together a

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### Nature Safety Tips

If you and your children plan to spend time outdoors either at overnight camps or hiking the nature trails, please keep in mind the following safety tips. Keep an eye out for poison oak and poison ivy. Both of these plants can cause an itchy rash that will stick around for up to three weeks. Calamine lotion can help relieve the itchiness. Remind children not to eat wild berries they may come across on the trails. If you're out in the sun, don't forget to slather on the sunscreen!

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poison ivy





## Water Activities

The State of Texas is full of beautiful waterways that provide ample opportunities for some fun in the sun. Families can enjoy canoeing or tubing down winding rivers and boating in refreshing lakes. Fishing is also a favorite pastime for many. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website, residents who fish in the state's public waters are required to have a fishing license. However, there are several exceptions to this rule. No fishing license is required if the resident is under 17 years of age.



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Taking a dip in a community or backyard swimming pool is always a good choice for some fun in the sun. With swirly slides, wave pools and more, water parks bring out the kid in all of us. Swimming lessons are available at the YMCA, at some city pools or even at a community member's private pool.

Boat enthusiasts are out enjoying the warmer temperatures. Local lakes offer open water to ski, wake board, tube or just relax on the boat deck. Many lake businesses offer rentals for jet skis and other personal watercrafts. Read all instructions before getting onboard watercraft and keep safety in mind.

### Water Safety Tips

The week of May 16-22 is designated as National Safe Boating Week. When boating, life jackets are a must. According to the TPWD, children under 13 years old must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device in a boat under 26-feet in length. Every occupant on a personal watercraft is required to wear a life jacket.

Sunscreen is also a necessity when out on the water. The American Academy of Dermatology suggests applying sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to all bare skin at least 15 minutes before heading outdoors. The sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours.



### More Family Fun

Warmer weather entices people to get outdoors and soak up the rays. For those rainy days or if you prefer a few hours of indoor entertainment, the local area has plenty of places to share the day together. Children can learn while having fun at the Dallas World Aquarium, Dallas Zoo,



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Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens and Perot Museum of Nature and Science. Fort Worth is home to numerous museums, the Fort Worth Zoo and the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. Families can learn about wildlife at the Heard Natural Science Museum and Wildlife Sanctuary in McKinney, hand over a few treats to exotic animals at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center or spend the afternoon checking out prehistoric creatures at Dinosaur World in Glen Rose.



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Do you want to check out the latest blockbuster? Many movie theaters now serve a variety of food and drink items on their menus. Drive-in movie theaters are an option for a night out under the stars. Most theaters offer convenient online ticket reservations. Or if live entertainment is more to your liking, you might consider attending a performance at Winspear Opera House in Dallas or the Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth.

With nearly three months of summer ahead of us, parents and children can take advantage of many of the options available to them. Whatever you and your family choose to do this summer, keep safety in mind and don't forget to have fun! **NOW**



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# **The A-team** *for Service*

*Service is everything to Jory McDaniel and his team at Texas Ace Heating & Air. — By Betty Tryon*

A young man with a lot of moxie and confidence in his abilities with installing heating and air conditioning systems took a giant step to further his career. Jory McDaniel, owner of Texas Ace Heating & Air, remembers his first big break. “A guy brought me in to put a bid on assisted living homes. He asked me if I’d ever done assisted living homes before, and I said, ‘No.’ He asked, ‘How long have you been in business?’ My answer was, ‘Two months.’ He then asked, ‘Why should I use you?’ I said, ‘Because I’ll never lie to you, and I’ll do a good job.’ He took a chance on using me. After that job, he told me it was the best HVAC mechanical experience he’d ever had. He then gave me three more projects. I’m currently working on additional projects from him.”

That conversation took place three years ago, and today Texas Ace Heating & Air is a thriving business. “I started with a truck and just myself, and the next thing I knew, I had several employees and a well-rounded company,” Jory stated. His business became successful because of his focus on doing a great job and customer service. “The most important day in the life of an air conditioner is its first day,” Jory stated. “If it’s installed properly, then it will live longer.”

Texas Ace Heating & Air does a little bit of everything — residential, change out market (changing out existing equipment), new housing market, service, commercial, new construction, multifamily, remodels and industrial. Jory has high praise for the crew that works with him. “The people here



are hand-picked," he said. "I can't say enough about them. We have really built the A-team, because we make sure we do it right. We'll go to the ends of the earth for our customers."

A company's reputation is crucial to their business, and Texas Ace Heating & Air works hard to satisfy all of their customers. "We strive for 100 percent," Jory declared. "If someone is unhappy, we handle it. We are building the reputation that we are going to do it right and won't cut any corners. Many builders are jumping on board with us. Our reputation is everything."

**“The most important day in the life of an air conditioner is its first day. If it's installed properly, then it will live longer.”**

Jory's business provides not only good customer service to the builder, but to the people who are buying the house. "We not only take care of our customer, we take care of our customer's customer," he remarked. "If asked to cut corners to save on the cost of the home, then we turn it down. Cheaper is not better, especially when you are dealing with the energy savings on your home."

One way the business takes care of its customers is with Texas Ace Club Membership, which was created exclusively for their customers. Members pay a monthly fee and get two maintenance inspections a year, year-round customer service, discounted service calls, discount repair service and a free 1-inch filter replacement.

Jory credits the success of the business to his wife who has supported him 100 percent, his five children, the team he works with and all of their families. They show their pride in wearing all of the gear — caps and T-shirts — from the company. "We have a passion for what we do," he shared. **NOW**

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*A Midlothian Filipino egg roll party offers yummy treats.*



*Charlie Scott and Natalie Scott show off their team jackets for MISD varsity tennis.*



*Midlothian seniors celebrate their birthdays.*



*The Midlothian Chamber of Commerce welcomes Believe Therapies.*



*Natalie Wood represents the UPS Store at the Midlothian Marketplace.*



*Students at LaRue Miller Elementary become Super Heroes for a day.*



*Mrs. Satcher's class read The Butter Battle Book and then made homemade butter.*



*Kai' Perkins and family represent Goosehead Insurance at the Midlothian Marketplace.*



*The Destination Imagination teams from J.R. Irvin Elementary have great success at their regional tournament.*



*Midlothian Healthcare joins Midlothian's Chamber of Commerce.*



*Midlothian Leadership class tours Hope Clinic.*



*Sponsors for the Volunteers In Parks enjoy an appreciation dinner.*



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# Four Ways Interest Rate Hikes Affect Your Finances

*Interest rates set by the Federal Reserve shape the economy and your portfolio.*

Federal Reserve chairwoman Janet Yellen, the nation's top financial policy maker, and the Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC) are attempting to answer a seemingly simple yet very complicated question: When to raise interest rates? If the timing is wrong, the ongoing economic recovery could stall or even shift into reverse.

In 2008, Yellen's predecessor lowered the federal funds target rate to nearly zero to help stimulate the economy at the height of the financial crisis. As the basis for the interest rate, banks charge other banks to borrow money, and the starting point for many consumer-facing interest rates, the target rate set by the Fed impacts nearly every American.

As the origination point for interest rates financial institutions pass along to investors, the federal funds target rate affects you and your money. Here are four of the most common ways that it could impact you.

**Mortgages and vehicle loans** — If it costs more money for banks to borrow money, it's likely that extra cost will be passed on to the consumer. Whenever the Fed decides to hike interest rates, house hunters and car buyers should expect to pay a little more in interest.

**Bond values** — Generally when interest rates rise, yields rise and the price of existing bonds fall on the resale market. If held to maturity, the full principal value of the bonds is returned subject to the creditworthiness of the issuers.

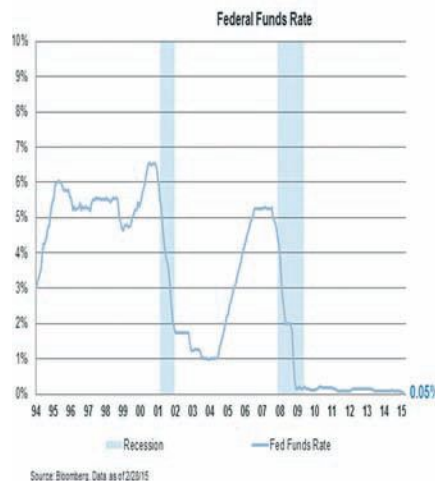
**Student loans** — Most student loans issued by the federal government are tied to the 10-year Treasury note, a debt instrument issued by the U.S. Treasury department. Here, too, higher interest rates mean you'll pay more to borrow money for school.

**Savings accounts and CDs** — This is one area where higher interest rates are good news for investors. When rates

increase, you'll earn more interest on your savings. Interest rates on CDs are usually fixed at the time of purchase.

In a February Congressional address, Yellen used her usual cautious language and suggested that the Fed will soon consider a rate hike on a "meeting-to-meeting basis," and emphasized that the decision will be data-dependent. The Fed wants to see further improvement in labor market conditions and needs to be "reasonably confident" that inflation, which has been trending low, will move back toward the two-percent goal. Even with the recently improving economy, it is "unlikely that economic conditions will warrant an increase ... for at least the next couple of FOMC meetings." Translation: It's looking like later rather than sooner.

Contact your financial advisor for more information on how interest rates play a role in your investment portfolio. **NOW**



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*Todd Simmons is a Raymond James Financial Advisor based in Duncanville.*

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# Hope for Clearer Skin

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

Some things cannot be changed, but acne doesn't have to be one of them. Getting rid of it may be a challenge, but it is possible. Acne is a skin condition that is very common in the U.S. and usually occurs during adolescence. When the sebaceous glands (oil glands) over-excrete sebum (oil), the pores can become clogged with sebum and dead skin cells. When bacteria get in and find a favorable place to multiply, you have the beginning of acne.

Acne can become quite severe and leave the face scarred. The best option is to begin to treat it early and lessen the chance of any lasting physical damage. It can appear on face, neck, shoulders, chest and back. Acne is not just pimples but can be a combination of blackheads, whiteheads, papules, pustules, painful clogged pores beneath the skin called nodules or cysts, which are pus-filled lumps larger than pimples.

Zealous efforts to get rid of acne can actually make it worse. Scrubbing can aggravate the condition by irritating the skin. If washed too frequently, the skin can dry out and trigger the glands to make even more oil, which could lead to increased acne. If you use a washcloth to clean your skin, use a clean one every day to avoid a buildup of dirt and bacteria being rubbed back onto your skin. Scrubbing pads, sugar scrubs or

cleansing products that promote exfoliation should only be used once or twice a week. Clean skin gently with mild soap or cleanser and water.

Pay attention to things that touch your face, such as hair or your cell phone. Try to keep hair as clean as possible, particularly if you have oily hair. Clean your cell phone according to the manufacturer's instructions. Keep your hands away from your face. Avoid popping, pinching or manipulating pimples. Be aware that hormones, such as changes seen in adolescents or during pregnancy, can trigger an outbreak of acne or exacerbate an existing one.

Mild cases of acne usually can be treated with over-the-counter products that contain the ingredients benzoyl peroxide or salicylic acid. If the acne is severe, then it's time for a dermatologist. There are many treatments available that offer hope of clearer skin, such as stronger medications, chemical peels, laser treatment and extraction of troublesome cysts. It is important to note acne will not clear up overnight. Consistent attention to detail will quite possibly win the day. **NOW**

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



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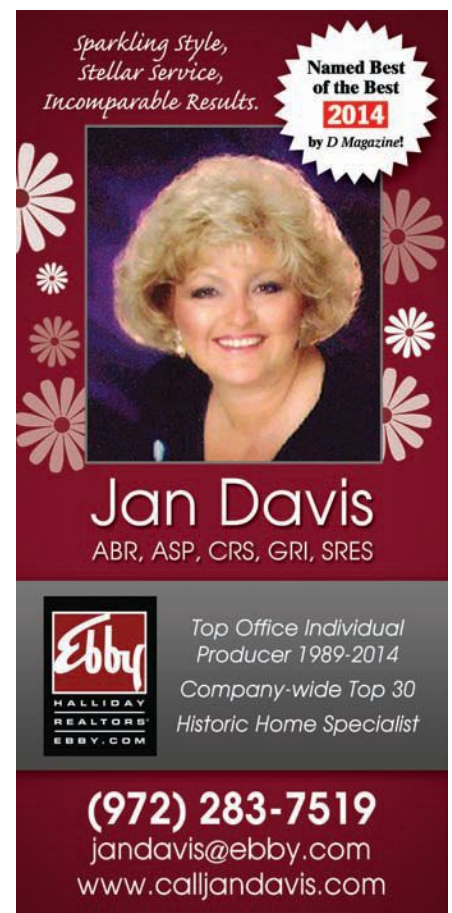
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### May 1

Midlo Jazz, 2nd Jazz Under the Stars: 7:00 p.m., Back Alley Plaza, downtown Midlothian. The Midlothian HS Jazz Band, Heritage HS Jazz Band and Walnut Grove MS Jazz Band will perform. Free admission. Bring blankets or lawn chairs and a picnic dinner or buy food from one of our great Downtown restaurants. In case of rain, this event will be held at the MHS Auditorium.

### May 1 — 3

Waxahachie Community Theatre announces performances of the Broadway classic *"Hello, Dolly!"* Show times are: **Friday**, 7:30 p.m.; **Saturday**, 7:30 p.m.; **Sunday**, 2:30 p.m., Chautauqua Auditorium in Getzender Park in Waxahachie. Contact the WCT box office at (972) 646-1050 or via email at [wct.texas@gmail.com](mailto:wct.texas@gmail.com) for further information.

### May 2

5th Annual Kids Fishing Derby: 8:30 a.m., 900 Gifco Rd., Gifford-Hill Lake at Ash Grove.

Bark For Life: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 224 S. 11th St., Civic Center Park. Call (214) 864-1138 for more information. By

supporting Bark For Life, you help the American Cancer Society save lives, and that helps us move closer to our ultimate goal of a world with less cancer and more birthdays. Bring your best canine friend for a noncompetitive community dog walk, and then continuing with demonstrations, contests, activities, and games!

### May 2 — October 3

The Midlothian Market (formerly Midlothian Farmers Market): **Saturday**, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or until everything is sold, Larkin Newton Cabin.

### May 9

Movies In The Park - *Big Hero 6*: Movie starts at dusk, 1498 FM 1387, Hawkins Spring Park.

### May 16

Heroes of Midlothian Benefit Run 5K Festival, Theme – Who's Your Hero: **race**, 8:00 a.m.; **festival**, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Multi-Purpose Stadium. Dress as your hero. Free to the community.

Hazardous Household Chemical Waste Disposal: 9:00-11:00 a.m., 1050 N. US Hwy 67, Public Works Service Center. The Crud

Cruiser is coming to town. A voucher must be purchased from the Utility Billing Department at City Hall to participate in this event. All vouchers must be purchased before 4:30 p.m. on **May 15**. \$20 for city residents, \$47 for non-city residents. For more information, call (972) 775-1083.

8th Street Dance: 7:00 p.m., downtown Midlothian. Music by Le Freak Band.

### May 25


Creative Quilters of Ellis County: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand, Waxahachie.

### May 28

Midlothian Chamber of Commerce 29th Annual Golf Tournament: **7:30 a.m.**, breakfast and registration; **8:30 a.m.**, shotgun start, Tangle Ridge Golf Course, 818 Tangle Ridge Dr., Grand Prairie. Lunch and awards immediately following the Tournament. For more information, call (972) 723-8600.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com](mailto:betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com).*

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## In the Kitchen With Brianna Carter

— By Betty Tryon

Being of German descent, Brianna Carter naturally enjoys foods from that country. She has inherited recipes from her nanny and the family has a tradition to eat schnitzel and spaetzle on Christmas. Brianna enjoys “baking because it is delicate work and sweet. There are many different things you can create or different ways to change recipes.” She would love to share what she has learned with others if they are willing to try new things. “Once you start cooking you realize how fun it is, and the one bad part is cleaning up the mess afterwards!” When not cooking, Brianna spends her time helping others, playing with kids, doing crafts, shopping and hanging out with family. **NOW**

### Oreo Truffles

- 1 8-oz. pkg. chocolate sandwich cookies with white filling, finely crushed**
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened**
- 1 lb. baking chocolate, melted**

- 1.** In a large bowl, combine crushed cookies and cream cheese. Beat with a mixer on low speed until well-blended. Refrigerate.
- 2.** Form 1-inch balls by hand. Dip balls in chocolate; place on baking sheet covered with waxed paper.
- 3.** Refrigerate 1 hour or until firm. To store, cover and refrigerate. Makes 50 truffles.

### Ro-Tel Cups

- 1 10-oz. can Ro-Tel, drained almost all the way**
- 1 bag Hormel bacon bits**
- 1 cup Swiss cheese, shredded**
- 1 cup mayonnaise**
- 2 pkgs. phyllo pastry cups, thawed**

- 1.** Combine first four ingredients and scoop evenly into cups.
- 2.** Cook at 350 F for 15 minutes.

### Fluffernutter Sandwich

- 2 slices white bread**
- 1 jar marshmallow creme**
- 1 jar peanut butter**

- 1.** Spread a thick layer of marshmallow creme on the first slice of bread.
- 2.** Spread an equal or greater amount of peanut butter on the second slice of bread.
- 3.** Add additional layers of marshmallow and peanut butter if you want a thicker sandwich.
- 4.** Put the two slices of bread together and enjoy!

### Sopapilla Cheesecake

- 2 8-oz. cans Pillsbury refrigerated crescent dinner rolls**
- 2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened**

- 1 1/2 cups sugar (divided use)**
- 1 tsp. vanilla**
- 1 cup butter, melted**
- 1 Tbsp. ground cinnamon**

- 1.** Heat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Unroll 1 can of dough. Place in bottom of ungreased 13x9-inch, 3-quart glass baking dish. Stretch to cover bottom of dish, firmly pressing perforations to seal.
- 3.** In a medium bowl, beat cream cheese and 1 cup of the sugar with an electric mixer on medium speed until smooth. Beat in vanilla. Spread over dough in the baking dish.
- 4.** Unroll second can of dough. Carefully place on top of cream cheese layer. Pinch seams together.
- 5.** Pour melted butter evenly over top. Mix remaining 1/2 cup sugar with the cinnamon, and sprinkle evenly over butter.
- 6.** Bake about 30 minutes or until center is set. Cool slightly, about 20 minutes. Refrigerate for easy cutting. Cover and refrigerate any remaining bars.

### Cookie Trio

- 1 stick softened butter**
- 1/2 cup shortening**
- 1/2 cup sugar**
- 1 egg**
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract**
- 2 cups plus 2 Tbsp. all-purpose flour (divided use)**
- 1 tsp. baking powder**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**
- 2 Tbsp. Hershey's Special Dark Cocoa**
- 48 Hershey's Hugs Brand Candies, unwrapped**

- 1.** Heat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** Beat butter, shortening and sugar until well-blended. Beat in egg and vanilla.
- 3.** Stir together 2 cups flour, baking powder and salt. Gradually beat into butter mixture.
- 4.** Divide dough mixture into halves. Add remaining 2 tablespoons flour to half of the dough and the cocoa to the other half, blending well.
- 5.** Roll dough into 1-inch balls. Roll together a pinch of vanilla dough and a pinch of chocolate dough for marbled cookies. Place balls on ungreased cookie sheets.
- 6.** Bake 9 to 11 minutes or until cookies are set. Remove cookie sheet from oven to wire rack. Cool 1 minute.
- 7.** Press candy piece into center of each cookie. Remove cookies from cookie sheet to wire rack; cool completely.



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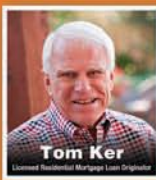
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