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# Mansfield NOW

M A G A Z I N E

June 2008

## The Listener

## The Turtle and the Potter

## Teaching the Basics

## Letting Go of All the 'Whys'

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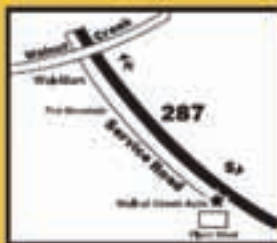
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# Mansfield NOW

## Editor's Note

### Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is official! Summer is here, and the city of Mansfield is bursting with activities for children, seniors and everyone in between. Traditionally, our town has celebrated the outdoor activities with thriving parks, sports programs and festivals, but as you read this month's issue, you will also find a theme of realizing your dreams. Janet Glass embraced a completely new career path when her first job came to an end. Edward Holschuh not only travels the world, but also takes other people with him, and Olivia Littleton is pursuing her dreams of becoming a chef. Even Cyndee Hopkins, when faced with a tragedy, has become an inspiration to her community.

With summer comes the opportunity of rebirth and growth. Find your passion and pursue your dreams. What better time than right now?

Your friend,

*Alex Allred*

*MansfieldNOW* Editor

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Photo by: Cyndee Hopkins

# Letting Go of All the 'Whys'

— By Sandra McIntosh

In any situation, healing comes when you can shut the door to the past and open the window to the future without feeling guilty. This way of positive thinking is what Cyndee Hopkins had to grasp firmly in order to begin living her life to the fullest after tragedy struck. As a young mother of four children, Cyndee has experienced two major griefs in her life. The untimely death of her husband came just 12 days after their youngest child, Emma, was born. Two years later, Emma was diagnosed with autism. Either of these life-changing events could have brought the strongest person to their knees, but after a time of deep mourning, Cyndee decided to go the opposite direction. "You can let things like this make you bitter," she said, "or you can push past the grief and lack of understanding. You can stop dwelling on the 'whys' and start living for today."

Cyndee did spend the first year after her husband's passing just going through the motions. All she really remembers is seeing that her children were fed. Since Dave



died without insurance, this also put a strain on Cyndee's grief. It added worry to the equation.

"Everyone helped out," Cyndee said. "The family dentist and pediatrician gave us a year of appointments, while someone left diapers on the front porch for Emma on a regular basis."

What Dave's fraternity brothers did that first year, and continue to do on an annual basis, still touches the deepest recesses of Cyndee's heart today. "The fraternity brothers and their wives treated me to my first 'Cyndee weekend,'" she said. "I didn't cook or



clean and I didn't have to make one stinking decision." That first weekend trip was taken in April 1996. Cyndee boarded an airplane destined for San Francisco, California. It was not long before those working the flight knew of Cyndee's loss. "The stewardess gave me two bottles of champagne. The crew took up a collection that came to \$100," Cyndee said, still amazed at their kindness toward a stranger. "The same stewardess had saved \$200 on a

**"You can let things like this make you bitter, or you can push past the grief and lack of understanding. You can stop dwelling on the 'whys' and start living for today."**

wedding dress she had recently purchased, so she gave that amount to me, too."

During this time of financial woe, Cyndee's mom helped supplement the Social Security checks and Cyndee was able to pick up some part-time work to make ends meet. At this same time, the three older children were enrolled in the Mother's Day Out program at St. John Lutheran Church in Mansfield. "The church sponsored a huge golf tournament to raise money at Walnut Creek Golf Course," she reminisced. "All Dave's fraternity brothers flew in." They presented Cyndee with a generous check. The golf tournament



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became an annual event, which served its purpose for several years before the location changed to Tucson, Arizona. It soon became known as the Joe Christiani Golf Tournament in Memory of David Hopkins.

Once Cyndee was taken care of and



**Cyndee quickly realized her mood dictated the mood of her home.**

she was able to be self-supportive, it was time for her to give back as well. "The tournament soon began to benefit individuals in the Tucson area," she said, explaining how nice it felt to finally be able to give back to a community who had helped her family for so long. "The last year it was held they collected \$120,000. All that money went to women's and children's charities."

While all these wonderful things were happening around her, Cyndee quickly realized her mood dictated the

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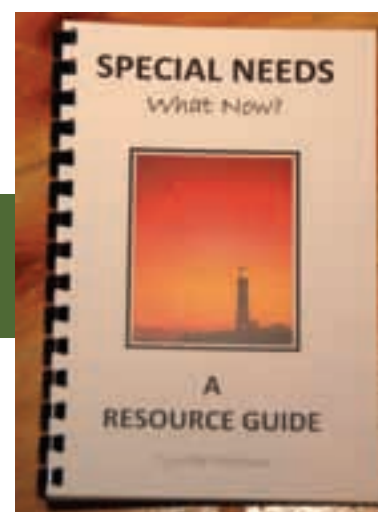
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mood of her home. She understood she had to change in order to return her home to the happy haven full of laughter it once was. "In the beginning, I was mad at God. I'd never learned to lean on Him for anything," Cyndee said, referring to surviving that first year without Dave. "I still wasn't sure of heaven and hell, but I was going to make the best of whatever life had to offer." She quickly learned to let go of all the 'whys.' "It's a relief; a freedom," she said, making reference to letting go and letting God. "No longer is 'why' important."

As the family began to share normal activities like going to the movies or



out for a burger and fries, Cyndee began to notice something new in Emma's behavior. She remembers the changes starting when Emma was only 2. She still was not talking, but doctors thought she may have been a late bloomer or was just relying on her older brothers to do the talking for her. Six months later, when Cyndee enrolled Emma in Mother's Day Out, she realized the problem was much deeper. "She wouldn't sit down. She was unable to color. She didn't behave the same way the other children did," Cyndee explained. "She started having melt downs in public that were embarrassing for the boys. I quickly learned she wasn't just a child who was acting out. Her problems went much deeper."

The strength Cyndee had acquired



since Dave's passing did not totally prepare her for Emma's diagnosis, but it kept her grounded so she was able to make positive strides to help her daughter be successful in her day-to-day living. Luckily, they found the Fourth Street School in Arlington, a private elementary school that specializes in autism. "The lady that answered the phone changed our lives forever," Cyndee said. Emma attended therapeutic classes from kindergarten through the second

**"I still wasn't sure of heaven and hell, but I was going to make the best of whatever life had to offer." She quickly learned to let go of all the 'whys.'**

grade at Fourth Street. "She couldn't learn if she wasn't behaving," Cyndee said. "Fourth Street School taught Emma and me the simple concept the rest of the world takes for granted. They gave us a foundation."

When given the choice of academic skills or social skills in reference to Emma, Cyndee chose social skills. "I wanted her to learn how to speak kindly to others," she said. "I wanted the rude outbursts to stop."

Emma was integrated back into public school in the third grade. While it has not been easy, the family has made great strides toward the future. The oldest, Zack, now lives in Venice Beach where he is pursuing an acting career. The two middle boys, Spencer and Ian, are excelling in sports and Emma is moving forward into the future as well.

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wondering why. She is returning the many favors that were bestowed upon her. She volunteers, speaks publicly on the subject of autism, serves on the board of directors at Fourth Street School and has even written a book, *Special Needs What Now? A Resource Guide*, to help other parents who find themselves lost when their child is diagnosed with autism. "Anyone can use the book



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because of the state and Dallas/Fort Worth resources I've provided," she said. "Parents are sometimes so overwhelmed. My book gives them a sane place in which to start."

Life may not be easy and problem-free, but for Cyndee and her family of four, the laughter has been restored. "As long as I encourage the gifts within each of my children," she said, "they will be the best they can be. That's all any parent can hope for." **NOW**





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# Nothing to Chance

— By Alex Allred

American poet John Greenleaf Whittier once said, “For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, ‘It might have been.’” For Melissa Wimberly, these are truly words to live by. For this mother, wife and resident of Mansfield, it has become essential to her that she never regret a minute or lose one moment with her friends and loved ones. To



At Home With  
**Ken and Melissa Wimberly**





never question what might have been is, she said, a gift from her mother. It was when her mother called to let her know that she had cancer and Melissa uprooted



her life in Virginia to be by her mother's side, that this very valuable lesson was learned.

Sadly, just a few months after her move to Texas, Melissa's mother passed away. A woman who embraces the proverb 'when one door closes, another opens,' Melissa is philosophical about the time she spent with her mother, because it generated conversations she might not have otherwise had.



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She paid closer attention to the stories, to her family history and to the very things her mother held dear.

Her move also led her to her future husband, Ken, and today they have two beautiful children, Grace and Knox. While Ken earned his broker license for commercial real estate, Melissa

discovered her passion and gift for interior design. Just as she had met Ken on a blind date, it was by pure chance that she was offered a job with a homebuilder. After a year-and-a-half of working with multiple clients, she established her own interior design firm, but not before creating her own dream home. In many

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respects, what might have been, Melissa said with a smile, “was actually meant to be.”

The home was created and designed through blood, sweat and tears. Not ones to take things for granted, Melissa and Ken worked hard for their home. They also recognized how very fortunate

they are and, as a result, “We love to entertain,” Melissa said. It was important to have an open, welcoming home for both guests and their growing family. Rich tiles, hand-scraped hardwood floors and warm colors envelop newcomers, but the open floor plan, great arching doorways and Melissa’s

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*From left to right: Martin Fielder, M.D., Robin Johnston, M.D., David Russell, M.D., John Jeffers, M.D., Baron Atkins, M.D., Keryn Dias, M.D., Ellen Parrill, M.D., Russell Dickey, M.D., Byron Kallam, M.D., John Paul Wood, Jr., M.D., Mary Finke, M.D.*

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unique style of furniture are what truly welcome each visitor. The formal dining room and living room area are decorated in furniture which once belonged to her mother. Once Melissa chose her décor, a fascinating blend between Mediterranean and French Renaissance, she had the antique

furniture reupholstered in lavish, rich colors and patterns. Even the large round-top table in the kitchen is a rescue from her mother. Melissa reupholstered the chairs, bringing new life to both the kitchen and table set.

Each room, though distinctly an area of its own, blends nicely into



the adjoining rooms so that the first floor appears to be one large area with formal and informal dining, bar stools at the magnificent granite kitchen counter and formal seating in the living room. A second entrance, from the garage area, has its own mudroom that Melissa has creatively constructed into a shelving



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unit with its own individual hooks and bins for the children. The dining area opens into the veranda outside, with a fireplace, cushioned seats and a six-seat table set some 15 feet away from the pool. The backyard, though not especially large in size, is well manicured and decorated, created exclusively

for the idea of entertaining.

Ken's office, closed off by French doors, displays a world map as part of the texturing to a vaulted ceiling. In fact, a signature style to Melissa's decorative talents is her detailed attention to the ceilings. In the dining room, a leather-textured ceiling adds to

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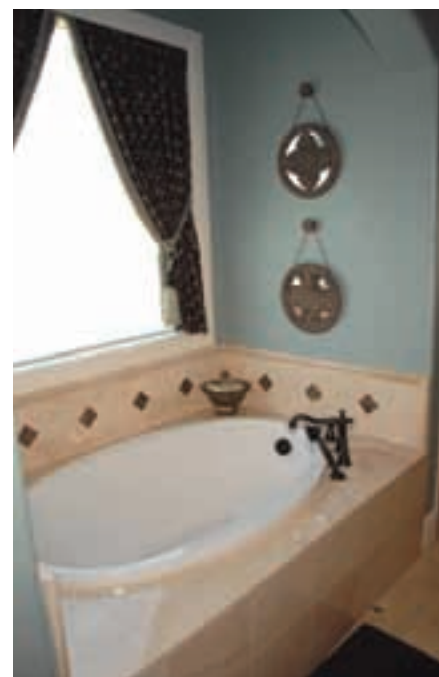


the dark wood and elegant fabric, and Melissa chose a bronze texture for the ceiling in the master bedroom.

Again, her eye for detail cannot be surpassed. Huge bay windows and heavy window dressings with blue and bronze highlights throughout the room make the master bedroom a showpiece, but

she is most pleased with the massive walk-in closet and master bath.

The two remaining rooms on the first floor are the most intriguing. Though it may be the smallest room in the house, the half bath is arguably one of Melissa's favorite. Nestled between the kitchen, back doors and game room, the room



“has my favorite light, the best colors and the antique cabinet I dragged all over Virginia,” she laughed. “I had always wanted to turn this into a functional sink,” she said of the cabinet, noting how it fit perfectly into the small bath area. In truth, to take a tour of the Wimberly home, one must

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appreciate how perfectly and appropriately each piece of furniture is utilized.

Functionality is key. While aesthetic beauty is desired, Melissa insists that for their children and active social life, the house must be user-friendly. For this reason, Ken and Melissa created a game room downstairs “so the kids wouldn’t have to drag their toys all over the house,” she explained. At the tender ages of 4 and 5 years old, when being messy is what they do best, this is a fantastic idea. With their own rooms and play area upstairs and a game room specifically designed for children downstairs, messes are minimized and good times abound.

Though Melissa’s gift for decorating is apparent, as is her love of antiques and rich fabrics, there is clearly one constant theme throughout the house: her children. That theme is most evident in the upstairs rooms. An impressive home theater, complete with a sunken floor, 10-foot screening area and velvet drapes “is where we spend most of our time,” Melissa shared. Again, it is the small details that make the room, with a microwave for making popcorn, a dishwasher to minimize carrying

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plates and cups up and down the stairs and even a small snack bar.

Melissa devoted most of her attention to creating the perfect rooms for her children. "I want them to know how special they are," Melissa said, explaining how and why she chose the materials for Knox's bedroom and how "Grace's Wall"



came about. "When they wake up each morning," Melissa said, "I want them to know how amazing we think they are!"

Handwritten with her own creative flare, Melissa has stenciled messages: "Reputation is what other people know about you. Honor is what you know about yourself"; "We can only learn to love by loving"; and "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

The gift Melissa received during those last months with her mother was so much more than hearing stories and acquiring antiques. It was a new philosophy for life: Leave nothing to chance. **NOV**

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# The Turtle and the Potter

— By Alex Allred



Janet Glass is a turtle. In the fable, “The Tortoise and the Hare,” it is the turtle that finds the secret to success in life. It is a timeless fable that promises that the way to win the race is slow but sure. But in the story of Janet and the turtle, it was only by chance that she stumbled upon the creature.

Janet had worked as a petroleum exploration geologist in the city of Fort Worth when the market changed and massive layoffs ensued. It was 1987 and, she said, “I was put out on the street. So, I thought it might be a good time for me to go back to school.” Her plan, she admitted, was to earn her master’s and Ph.D. with the hopes of teaching at the college level.

With few other prospects, it seemed reasonable that she continue on course with geology after she lost her job. Larry



## ARTS NOW

Galbiate, Janet's husband of over 30 years, was very understanding during this difficult time. While her goals were lofty, Janet was feeling out of sorts and Larry urged her to find her heart's desire. "He just wanted me to be happy," she said. After being suddenly thrust back into the demanding schedule of higher education, she decided to



## "pottery feeds your soul"

take a pottery class, "to relax."

Something about pottery quieted Janet's spirit and gave her new focus. While she admitted that it sounds cliché, "pottery feeds your soul," she shared. "When the career crisis came along, I just didn't know what my heart desired," she said, noting that no one was more surprised than she how pottery changed her life.

"I'd always envied the concert pianist. They get up on the stage and make it look so easy and effortless. But, really, how many hours of practice

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## ARTS NOW

did they have to put in?" she questioned. It was a level of commitment that had always seemed unfathomable to Janet until pottery. Suddenly, becoming a full-time potter and putting in 12 or 16-hour days molding, shaping and creating works of art seemed as important and joyful as the pianist at his keyboard. The work can be labor intensive but the outcome, according



**"A lot of people use this as a form of therapy."**

to Janet, is worth the hours sitting over a potter's wheel or setting and glazing individual pieces.

In 1994, Janet began a three-year apprenticeship under master potter, Roberta Whitney. She began working as a production potter and instructor while she studied with Randy Brodnax at Cedar Valley College in Lancaster, Texas. With the support of fellow potters, her confidence grew and she began to experiment with the style and methodologies of pottery. This would include using horsehair to leave unique



## ARTS NOW

carbonized traces on the outside surfaces of her pieces. One such piece, in fact, caught the eye of authors James Watkins and Paul Wandles for their beautiful book, *Alternative Kilns and Firing Techniques*.

It was during that same time she was asked to design a whistle, and that was when the turtle made its first appearance. As she looked at her clay, an image began to take shape in her mind, resulting in a whistle in the shape of a turtle. She was inspired by it, and in 1997, Clay Turtle Pottery was established.

Today, she creates and designs all forms of pottery, from dishware to simple bud vases to extravagant centerpieces. Birdhouses, salt shakers, elegant cases for wine bottles and glassware and statues fill the shelves of her modest pottery shop. Much of her days are spent working the potter's

wheel with her two constant companions, Guinness, a chocolate Labrador mix, and Aubrey, a golden retriever. Together, they are on a mission. For Guinness and Aubrey, this includes a great deal of socializing. For Janet, on the other hand, it is based on the principal of paying it forward.

Unlike many artists, Janet is not shy or elusive about her techniques. She is so incredibly grateful for the gift that pottery has been to her, she wants to share the experience and the joy with everyone. When she began offering classes, she noted, "a lot of people use this as a form of therapy." For her, the world of art opened an endless sea of possibilities.

"I would love to see some kind of art league here in Mansfield," she said.



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## ARTS NOW

"There is so much talent right here in this town, I would love for us to have a place, a forum to display our works." Truly, it is something Janet is so passionate about that she has become part of the Historic Mansfield Arts Festival, calling on artists to partake and showcase their own art. As for Janet and the turtle, they are the



**"The world of  
art opened an  
endless sea  
of possibilities."**

perfect match. Formally trained in geology, Janet has always studied and appreciated world history and the natural formation of all things. She was fascinated when a student brought her a *National Geographic* picture of a statuette "of a squatting potter," dated back to 2419-2392 B.C. But when another student gave Janet yet another picture well after the opening of The Clay Turtle, she knew that she had found her true calling. It was an ancient Mayan clay whistle in the shape of a turtle. **■ NOW**



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# Teaching the Basics

— By Mary Pritchard



On December 1, 2007, the Wildcats, Mansfield's junior division pee wee football team, played Arlington's Blue Devils and won their division title. The championship Superbowl game played at R. L. Anderson Stadium in Mansfield was more than just a victory for the team and for its coach, Robert Jordan. "This year has been a very enjoyable experience," Robert said. "It takes working together; it's not just given to you. The team finally learned that this year and took advantage of what they had around them. It's a total effort of parents, coaches and kids."

"Pee wee football builds relationships," he explained further. Those relationships

have been building since 2006, when the Wildcats won third place during their championship game. "We teach socialization and discipline, as well as knowing the game of football, which was our key asset this year."

As the old adage says: "The proof is in the pudding." The pudding for this group of youngsters was found in their teamwork and sportsmanship as they grew as a team. "We were the least penalized in the league," Robert said. "Referees told me they had never seen kids this young this disciplined." Robert is hopeful that his players realize that hard work and fun can, and do, go together. He is hopeful that he has



## Sports NOW

been teaching them by example. "They don't realize how hard they're working," he said, "because they're having fun."

A former high school and college football player himself, Robert loves the game. "And I was blessed to have



sons who love football, too," he added. Robert and his wife, Jaretha, are the parents of three boys, Joshua, 9, who played on Robert's team; Trey, 6, who finished his first year on another pee wee football team; and Justin, 2, who wants to be out there playing as well. "It was a big let down for Justin when the season was over," Robert laughed.

Robert feels that listening is the key to fully understanding what it means to be a successful coach. Communicating is at the top of his daily "to do" list when it comes to his team of boys. "I wanted to be sure the kids enjoyed it, to communicate with the kids in a way that they can understand and respond to," he said. "At this age, kids don't need to be yelled at. They need to be taught with a great deal of patience and understanding. It's just a family atmosphere from the kids to the parents."

Robert started coaching four years ago when his oldest son was 6. "One of the main reasons I started coaching was because I trusted myself with my kids more than I trusted them in the care of others," he said. "I enjoyed being around the kids and spending quality time with Joshua. I started coaching with the 6- and 7-year-olds, then moved up to the next division, the

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## Sports NOW



way through until December. We also go through a true draft," he added.

"We get returning players and several new recruits through the draft. Derek Hall, Keith Smith, Malcolm Hutton and Colby Yeats were all new drafts to the Wildcats this year who made a big difference in our team."

There is a week of evaluation in



August where new and returning boys play together. "We had the most returnees this year of any team,"

Robert said. Three members of the team have been together all four years: quarterback Austin Tidwell, lineman Garrek Orth and running back Joshua

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Jordan. "Others from the previous year's team were Trent Walker, Cross Mitchell, Edwin Castillo, Dalton Mead and Richie Vaughn," Robert listed, also proud to report that the team plays very well together. "During practice, some are willing to run laps twice in order to help slower teammates who need encouragement," he added.

The Wildcats' spirit is not confined to the game. "At Christmas," Robert



**"It depends on what the boys think. ... After all, this has always been about the boys."**

said, "the team took gifts to a shelter so they could experience giving and seeing those who have less than they do. They played with the kids in the shelter and saw what it was like to give to others. This was the highlight of the season to me, and it's probably a highlight to them, too."

It would seem that Robert has carried out the mandate of the NTYFA: "Implanting in youth, through participation and instruction in the game of football, the ideals of good sportsmanship, personal integrity and team cooperation." When asked about his coaching plans for 2008, Robert replied that he has not decided whether to go on to the next level with Joshua or to go back down to Trey's team level. "It depends on what the boys think," he said. "After all, this has always been about the boys." **NOW**



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## Business NOW

# Elvis, Pink Kisses and Great Fashion Sense

— By Alex Allred

Elvis is in the building! Actually, he is in the back room of the building, but he is there all the same. He appears in the form of cups, posters, magnets and every trinket imaginable but, owner Lori Watt says, he is not for sale. "I celebrate all things Elvis," Lori said, noting that her husband does not share this affection. "So, Elvis has to live here."

"Here" is a hot, retro store called Pink Kisses and what is for sale is worth seeing. Jeans, belt and jewelry accessories, novelty items and purses fill the store. There are chic but affordable styles that can be seen among the New York and Hollywood sect. But the most popular items in the store are the trendy T-shirts that can be dressed up for a night on the town or worn casually.

"That's important to me," Lori said. "I want them to be trendy but not overpriced. I love things that are bright and fun but because they are trendy, I have to keep the prices down." She does this by researching the market, constantly keeping an eye on trendsetters and regularly visits the Dallas Market. The market, she pointed out, is six months ahead in the fashion world so Lori must use her fashion sense, the relationship she has fostered with her clientele and be willing to "take a gamble" when she buys new inventory for Pink Kisses.

In many respects, she began gambling three years ago, when she first bought the store. Lori entered the business

world knowing only two things: She wanted to be her own boss and she loved trendy clothes. For more than 20 years, Lori worked alongside her uncle at his land surveyor company. It was, she said, "a very stressful job." So, when a local store was put on the market, Lori jumped at the opportunity to go into business for herself. Already familiar with the stock, the staff and the clientele, it seemed an easy



transition, as the previous owner was her cousin.

"I bought out the store," Lori said, "one month after it opened." Mindy Moody, Lori's cousin, already lived a very busy lifestyle with a houseful of children and their after school activities. "It was just too much for her," Lori added. So, armed with only the assurances from family members that she would do well, Lori took a huge leap of faith into the business world.

"I had no idea what I was doing," she laughed. On her first visit to the Dallas Market, she remembered, "I had someone hold my hand the entire time." But she quickly realized she had a true talent for spotting, selecting and even setting trends. Today, Pink Kisses is the only store outside the Dallas Metroplex to carry the "Mommy Juice" hand





## Business NOW

painted glassware. Lori has developed such a strong customer base that many of her regulars sign in to see who else has visited and when. Her clients range from young teens to women in their 60s and 70s and all are as excited to see her new stock as they are to visit with Lori.

While Lori poured over how-to business books, nervous about her venture into the business world, she was already blessed with that very thing most entrepreneurs dream of having: She is a walking billboard for her own business. Bright, fun and engaging, with a remarkable fashion sense, she networks easily and sells her merchandise, not because she needs to, but because she truly wants to share.

**“I love things that are bright and fun but because they are trendy, I have to keep the prices down.”**

It is a philosophy she credits to her family, all of whom allowed her to live out her dream, and one that she hopes to share with her clients — even her love of Elvis.

This June, Pink Kisses celebrates its third year and once again, Lori will host a party that will include door prizes, food, drinks and an Elvis impersonator. Be on the lookout for the Pink Kisses anniversary party. Just do not try to buy anything Elvis!

Pink Kisses is located at 2860 N. 157 in Mansfield. Store hours are 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. **NOW**

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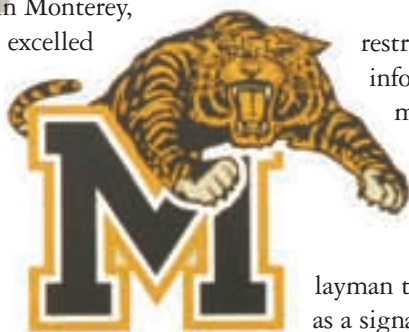
# The Listener

— By Alex Allred



When E.B. Holschuh, a teacher at Mansfield High School, graduated from South Grand Prairie High School in 1980, he joined the Navy to see the world. Instead, he found a new purpose in life. After scoring high on the defense language aptitude test, the U.S. Navy sent E.B. to the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, where he excelled in the basic, intermediate and advanced Russian language courses. He also immersed himself in Russian history, literature, politics and geography.

The Iron Curtain of the Soviet Union, a military barrier and social ideology that separated communist states from the outside world,



restricted the exchange of information and, specifically, military intelligence. For this reason, the U.S. military relied on linguist specialists, such as E.B. He was, in layman terms, a listener, working as a signal intelligence expert.

Ironically, however, as much as he learned, and loved and studied the Russian culture, he was never able to truly embrace its people.

"Because of security clearances,"

E.B. said, "I was forbidden to talk to anyone from the Soviet Union. I spent 20 years of my life listening to a language of a country I could never visit." Under strict code, E.B. was forbidden to speak to anyone from the Soviet Union. "If we did," he said, "we were supposed to report it."

After years of teaching Russian to employees of the U.S. government, E.B. earned his bachelor's degree from the University of the State of New York, also receiving two Fulbright-Hays educator grants to study in Russia. It



## Education NOW

was, E.B. said, "an opportunity of a lifetime and I jumped."

Suddenly, everything he had studied, the language he had listened to and the pictures that he had seen all came to life. "It's a beautiful culture. The people are wonderful," he shared. He returned

**"I am pleased  
that they  
see there are  
people who look  
just like us on  
the other side of  
the planet."**

again in the summer of 2004 to study at the Moscow State University and again in 2006 when he escorted a group of students from Mansfield High School.

As E.B. reveled in meeting his first Russian citizen and taking in the sites of the majestic city of Moscow, so rich in history, he was also able to watch his students experience the same sensations. Together, they visited the Red Square and Lenin's Tomb in Moscow, took in the history of Nicholas II, Tolstoy and religious freedom, and traveled the breathtaking countryside of St. Petersburg, visiting grand palaces and priceless murals.

"I am pleased that they see there are people who look just like us on the other side of the planet. They work and worry about the same things," E.B. said of the Russian people. "They want to live peacefully. They want the same things we do." But his students were also surprised to see that people still live in communal apartments and most Russians do not



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SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2008

personal style update



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## Education **NOW**

own cars. They had studied the language and read books about Russia, “but it was fun to watch it all come to life for them,” he enthused.

For E.B., speaking Russian, teaching the language and meeting Russian citizens is as fun today as it was on his initial trip to Russia. He has a passion for teaching the language that can hardly be contained. It is evident as he speaks so rapidly, eagerly inviting anyone and everyone to partake in his lessons. As E.B. completes his



seventh year with the Mansfield ISD, his class and teaching style have gained popularity. This is particularly impressive, as Russian is considered to be a level III language. In other words, it is one of the most difficult languages for English speaking people to master. Despite the difficulty, E.B. has begun teaching at the Ben Barber Career Tech Academy in Mansfield to accommodate the growing roster of eager students.

“That is what I have enjoyed so much,” E.B. said of his students. “It’s been gratifying to watch them grow in their language skills and what really flips my switch is that they are actually interested in the history and culture of



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## Education **NOW**

Russia.” He is proud to say that his beginning students have a working vocabulary of 500 words.

With an impressive résumé as the only Russian instructor in Mansfield ISD, E.B. maintains there is much more to learn. Although he is active with the growing Russian community in Mansfield and serves as a translator in the Metroplex, he has also returned

**“It’s been gratifying to watch them grow in their language skills and what really flips my switch is that they are actually interested in the history and culture of Russia.”**

to school to become an ordained minister for the Russian-speaking outreach program at his Lutheran church.

When E.B. joined the Navy after his high school graduation so many years ago, he had little idea of what he wanted to do with his life. Today, he is among teenagers who may very well be asking the same questions he once did. This time, however, he stands ready to show them a world he has fallen in love with. “Everything good that has happened to me,” E.B. said, “is because of this language. My wife, my job, my education — everything.” Beyond his passion for a foreign language and its people, he has achieved the very thing every educator hopes to do; he has inspired his students to learn, to grow, to travel and experience this big, wide, wonderful world of ours. **NOW**



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## Around Town

### NOW



Students from MHS, top left, took in a game of volleyball at the local park. Gene Clark, in the blue shirt, top right, worked with a couple of other volunteers on a new Habitat for Humanity home. The Timberview UIL Team, second row left, spent the day washing cars for tips. Paula Highfill, president of Friends of the Library, second row center, stopped for a photograph with James Boobie Miles. A ribbon cutting, third row center, was held at Primamerica Financial. Rie and Donnie, bottom right, celebrated their son, Wyatt's first birthday.





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## Around Town NOW



The choir at Timberview High School, top left, sponsored a car wash to raise funds for the UIL competition they recently attended in California. A ribbon cutting, second row left, was held at Tarzan Company. Alex and Thavone Bertaud, second row center, attended Author Night at the library. Two cuties, top right, modeled tutus by Lil Couture at the 32nd annual style show hosted by the Women's Division of Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce. Jim Gray's team, bottom left, posed for a photo during the Texas Trust Credit Union and Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Classic. James Boobie Miles and Pat Young, bottom right, smiled for the camera during Author Night.

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## Around Town NOW



Barrie, Mary and Ann, top left, worked the registration table during the annual style show. Intermediate school teachers, Valerie Campos and Lacy Huggins, second row left, gave up one of their Saturdays to share in the building of a Habitat for Humanity home. Hannah, Madison and Blake of the Retta Baptist Church, bottom left, took a field trip after working with shut-ins as part of a community service project. Ribbon cuttings were held at Zaxby's, top center and Signa Play, bottom right. James Boobie Miles; Buzz Bissinger, Pulitzer prize-winning author of *Friday Night Lights* and Mac Engel, top left, invited the audience to participate in a time of questions and answers about the book and its characters. A groundbreaking ceremony, second row right, was held for the Mansfield Surgery Center.

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### LUSCIOUS 5-APPLE PIE

#### FLAKY PIE CRUST

1 1/8 cup all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup salt  
1 tsp. sugar  
8 Tbsp. butter

#### FILLING

5 apples  
1 cup sugar  
1/3 cup flour  
1 tsp. cinnamon  
pinch of salt

#### TOPPING

1/3 cup butter, melted  
1/2 cup sugar  
3/4 cup flour  
cinnamon to taste

Preheat oven to 400 F for conventional or to 375 F for convection. Make crust by mixing together all ingredients and roll out into 9" pie pan. Freeze or refrigerate to firm the dough (at least 10 minutes).

Wash and chop apples; core but do not peel. Chop into thick bite-sized chunks. Combine filling ingredients. Toss in apples to coat well. Dump into chilled crust. Combine dry ingredients for topping. Stir in melted butter and crumble over pie. Bake 40 - 50 minutes and cool.

### MY GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER'S BANANA CAKE

2 cups sugar  
3/4 cup butter  
4 eggs  
1 tsp. baking soda  
6 heaping Tbsp. sour cream  
1 1/2 cups bananas (4 big ones)  
2 1/4 cups pastry flour or regular flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
pinch of salt  
1 tsp. vanilla

Preheat oven to 350 F. Cream sugar, butter and eggs together. Mix baking soda in sour cream; stir

well. Add the bananas to sour cream mixture. Combine flour, baking powder and salt. Mix all ingredients together and add vanilla. Lightly grease baking pan of choice. Bake for 35 - 40 minutes. Do not open oven until done.

### BEST GRAPE SALAD

2 lbs. green seedless grapes  
2 lbs. red seedless grapes  
8-oz. sour cream  
8-oz. cream cheese, softened  
1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1 tsp. vanilla extract, to taste  
**TOPPING**  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup crushed pecans, to taste

Wash and stem grapes; set aside. Mix sour cream, cream cheese, granulated sugar and vanilla by hand until well blended. Stir grapes into mixture; pour into large serving bowl. Combine brown sugar and crushed pecans for topping; sprinkle over the top



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## Who's Cooking **NOW**

of the grapes to cover completely. Chill overnight.

### MACARONI AND CHEESE

1 2/3 16-oz. packages elbow macaroni  
3 eggs  
1 2/3 12-oz. cans evaporated milk  
1/2 cup and 1 Tbsp. butter, melted  
3 Tbsp. prepared mustard  
1 3/4 tsp. seasoned salt  
1 3/4 tsp. pepper  
13-oz. processed cheese, melted  
3 1/3 cups mild cheddar cheese, shredded, divided  
3 1/3 cups sharp cheddar cheese, shredded, divided

Preheat oven to 350 F. Cook macaroni according to package directions. In a large bowl, whisk eggs, milk, butter, mustard, seasoned salt and pepper until combined. Stir in processed cheese and 1 1/2 cups of each of the cheddar cheeses. Drain macaroni; stir into cheese mixture. Pour into a greased 3 qt. baking dish. Top with remaining cheeses. Bake uncovered for 25 - 30 minutes, or until cheese is melted and edges are bubbly.

### LOADED MASHED POTATO CASSEROLE

5 1/2 cups mashed potatoes (about 4 lbs. uncooked)  
1/2 cup milk  
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened  
1 cup sour cream  
2 tsp. parsley flakes  
1 tsp. garlic salt  
1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg  
3/4 cup cheddar cheese, shredded  
12 slices bacon, crispy cooked and crumbled (about 1/2 cup)

Preheat oven to 350 F. Place all ingredients except cheese and bacon in large bowl. Beat with electric mixer on medium-high speed until potatoes are smooth and creamy. Spoon mixture into lightly greased 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with cheese and bacon. Bake 30 minutes or until heated through. Yield: 12 servings.

### "ROAST PORK" AND APPLE DINNER IN A PAN

4 pork chops, about 3/4-inch thick  
1 onion, chopped  
2 cups mushrooms, sliced  
2 Tbsp. Balsamic Vinaigrette Salad Dressing  
1 1/2 cup instant white rice, uncooked  
1 cup condensed chicken broth  
10 1/2-oz. water  
2 red apples, chopped  
1 tsp. dried thyme leaves

Spray large non-stick skillet with cooking spray. Add chops; cook on medium-high heat 4 minutes on each side or until browned. Add onion, mushrooms and dressing; cook an additional 3 minutes. Stir in rice, broth, water, apples and thyme. Reduce heat to medium; simmer 10 minutes or until heated through.



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# The 10 Costliest Cars to Insure

— By Brenda Stuart

If you're shopping for a new car, chances are you're considering things such as gas mileage, vehicle size, comfort and even that all-important CD system. But have you checked on the cost of insurance? Along with your own driving record, your ZIP code and the demographics of the drivers in your household, the make and model of your vehicle can have a big effect on your insurance bill.

Collision-damage costs are one of the main factors in differentiating the cost of insuring one type of car over another. You also want to look at how attractive the car is to thieves. Vehicles that top the insurance-cost list tend to be either high horsepower, high dollar or expensive to repair. Some think that a smaller, more maneuverable car is able to outrun trouble and avoid crashes. It's a myth. From a statistical standpoint, the safest models tend to be the full-sized family sedan-type cars.

A few other special circumstances can also send rates through the roof. If a car is a popular target for thieves, your insurance company might charge you higher rates. If you're driving a high-priced car, it will likely cost more to fix after a collision. One other factor to consider: How much damage is your vehicle likely to inflict in a crash? If you drive an SUV, your liability premium (which covers damage to other vehicles), could be higher because of the increased damage a vehicle of that size can cause in an accident.



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The 10 cars with the most expensive collision losses, starting with the most expensive, from 2002 to 2004 figures from the Highway Loss Data Institute are: Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution, Mercedes CL-Class, Dodge SRT-4, Subaru Impreza WRX, Jaguar XK (convertible), Lexus IS 300, Honda S2000, Acura RSX, Nissan 350Z and Jaguar XJ.

A safe car is not necessarily the cheapest car to insure. The car itself could also be expensive or just expensive to repair after an accident, which would increase insurance costs. But a high rate is a red flag to ask a few questions. For instance, if a car has a lot of horsepower and is involved in a lot of crashes, that can also send insurance rates up, even if the car itself is relatively inexpensive. Insurance companies and crash analysts have noticed that vehicles most often associated with family transportation get in fewer crashes than the high horsepower hotrods that appeal to young male drivers.

The 10 least expensive models to insure, in terms of collision losses, starting with the least expensive are:

Volvo XC90, Chevrolet Malibu Maxx, GMC Safari, Buick LeSabre, Nissan Pathfinder Armada (2004 only), Pontiac Montana (Standard model), Mazda MPV, Ford Thunderbird, Pontiac Montana (extended model) and Ford Taurus (station wagon).

Just as with the most costly picks, a variety of reasons can land a vehicle on the least expensive list. For instance, the Volvo XC90 and Chevy station wagon that make the top of the "best" list are most likely to be family vehicles, driven differently than the vehicles on the "worst" list, and like a Ford Thunderbird used as a second or third car, is not driven as often. **NOW**

*Brenda K. Stuart is a MetLife representative based in Mansfield.*



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# Health That is Skin Deep

— By Betty Tryon

As the hot, summer days wear on, concern for the health of your skin usually reaches its peak. The skin carries the honor of being the largest organ of the human body. With such a large area, surprisingly, many of the problems encountered with it are easily remedied. That is primarily because the skin has the ability to rejuvenate and regenerate itself. A basic understanding of the general anatomy of the skin gives insight into this process.

The skin consists of three layers. The top layer, epidermis, is the skin you see. It constantly forms new cells. These new cells replace the old ones. This top layer of the skin also contains the pigment melanin. This pigment gives the skin its color and causes it to tan by producing more melanin when exposed to the sun.

The second layer of the skin lies beneath the epidermis and sustains the health of the skin because the blood vessels located there provide oxygen, nourishment and temperature regulation for the skin cells. The nerve endings are found there, as well as the sweat and oil (sebaceous)



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glands. Also located in the second layer is collagen, a protein that provides support to the epidermis.

The third layer houses the subcutaneous fat, which holds the adipose (fat-filled) cells and provides insulation to keep our bodies warm. The depth of the third layer varies depending upon how much fat an individual possesses. This layer is where cellulite forms.


For healthy, radiant and glowing skin, there are some simple guidelines to follow. Eat healthy well-balanced meals, drink plenty of water and get a moderate amount of exercise every day. To keep skin clean requires twice-daily cleaning with whatever facial cleanser you feel most comfortable. Moisturize after every cleansing with the product that works best for you. The different types of moisturizers are numerous and you can easily find one tailor-made for your skin type. When you venture outside, wear sunscreen for protection, SPF 15 or higher is recommended. Apply at least 30 minutes before exposure to the sun. Proper protection will save you from not only skin cancer, but also premature aging.

The skin's incredible ability to shed and produce new cells can easily correct many problems. For example, many over-the-counter products can reduce the appearance of light wrinkles. They include: microdermabrasion products, products containing alpha-hydroxy acids and chemical peels. More extreme measures require the assistance of a professional — laser resurfacing, botox injections, dermabrasions and dermal fillers.

Knowing how to care for your skin and correct minor problems can restore vitality to skin and maintain that healthy look for many years to come. **NOW**

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

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# Mother's Day *Forever*

— By Nancy Fenton

Did you get one of those big, beautiful hydrangeas for Mother's Day? It does not have to be a one-time thing, if you are willing to give it a little help.

When it starts to droop inside, soak it overnight in a deep dish outside and find a good-sized spot near your back door for it. Get that spot ready by digging in lots of organic stuff like dead leaves or compost. Hydrangeas need lots of air and water and will grow large. Our clay/rock soil needs organic help in that area. Of course, we are talking about a shady spot since

hydrangeas will not take hot sun without burning up. After the plant has soaked overnight, plant it in a wet hole in that shady spot you have ready. Planting it by the door where you walk in and out makes it easier to remember to water it!

The plants that are forced in a greenhouse will grow outdoors with a little extra care, but do not look for luscious blooms next Mother's Day. It will take a bit longer, but they will bloom if you have not cut them back. All hydrangeas bloom on old wood, so trimming is in line right after they bloom. If you wait until spring, you stand a chance of cutting off all the stems that would have bloomed! They can be shaped up after blooming and left to make lots of new blooms the following spring.

Nurseries sell several varieties, if you did not get one for Mother's Day. Bluebird is a sturdy variety with oblong olive leaves and flat lacecap flowers. Annabella develops into a white hedge, whereas the newest variety, Endless Summer, produces large, showy flowers over several months.

Winter care requires heavy mulching to protect the plant from the cold. If you have yours in a large pot, a light place in the garage will do. Plant and protect for a lifetime of blooms to remind you of a special Mother's Day. **NOW**

*Nancy Fenton is a Master Gardener in Ellis County.*

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for a lifetime of  
blooms to remind  
you of a special  
Mother's Day.**





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# June 2008

## Community Calendar

### Monday - Friday

The Young at Heart (ages 55 plus) meets at the Mansfield Activity Center (MAC) between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. For more information, call (817) 453-5420, ext. 2227.

### First and Third Monday

The Planning and Zoning Development Commission meets at 6:30 p.m. in Mansfield City Hall.

### Every Tuesday

Bouncing Babies story time for infants to 24 months: 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. at the Mansfield Public Library.

Small business counseling provided by SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Learn about business start-up, cash flow management, marketing and the development of advisors or board directors. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Mansfield

Chamber offices, 114 North Main Street. Call (817) 473-0507.

### First and Third Tuesdays

Training Academy for Dental Assistants' free informational session, 5:30 p.m. For details, call (972) 842-2999.

### Every Thursday

Mansfield Public Library hosts Toddler Story Time for 2 year olds from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

### Every Friday

The Kiwanis Club of Mansfield meets at 6:45 a.m. at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center, 2700 East Broad Street. (Please note new location.) Membership and other information can be obtained by calling (817) 473-9886.

### Second and Fourth Mondays

City Council meeting: 7:00 p.m. at the Mansfield City Hall, 1200 Broad Street.

### June 1 - 8

Painters will be setting up their easels on the streets of historic downtown Waxahachie and designated historic districts during "Paint Historic Waxahachie," the *Plein Aire* art event that has become an annual celebration of outdoor painting at its best. The public is invited to observe and interact with the artists. The event is sponsored by the Ellis County Art Center and Museum. For more information, please call (972) 937-3414.

### June 2 and 24

Seniors Supper Club from 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. at the Mansfield Activity Center (MAC), 106 S. Wisteria. For more information, contact the MAC at (817) 453-5420.

### June 3

Mansfield Zone Adjustment Board meeting: 6:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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# June 2008

## Community Calendar

### June 5

Mansfield Child Care will discuss "Did I Really See That?" at 7:00 p.m. in the Mansfield Library community meeting room, 104 S. Wisteria Street. Visit their Web site at [www.mansfieldchildcare.com](http://www.mansfieldchildcare.com).

Summer reading program kickoff at 2:00 p.m. Celebrate the Texas Summer Reading Program's 50th birthday and pick up reading logs for the entire family. Check the library Web site at [www.mansfield-tx.gov/departments/library](http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/departments/library).

### June 7

Annual Pancake Fly-In at Mid-Way Regional Airport, Waxahachie, 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Classic airplanes and fighters, plane rides/Discovery Flights, remote control model flyers, flight demo (T-28s), The Classic Swing Band, Midlothian Classic Wheels and other attractions. Breakfast tickets \$6.00. One child

under 8 eats free with a paid adult ticket. Event and parking are free. For more information, call Tammy at (972) 923-0080.

### June 7 and 8

Waxahachie Trade Days, located at the Ellis County Expo Center next door to the Cowboy Church of Ellis County, will be open Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, call Les Clemons at (972) 617-8156, Gerald Huckabee at (903) 865-1385 or Dean Worley at (903) 286-0183.

Gingerbread Trail Historic Home Tour and Arts and Crafts Fair, sponsored by the Ellis County Museum, will begin both days at 10:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day until 6:00 p.m. Tour five selected homes and visit historically recognized buildings. Arts and crafts will be available in Getzendaner Park. For more information, please call (972) 937-0681.

Join the Alpha International Ministries and Pastor Johnny Dickerson of the First Baptist Church for the AIM Missions Conference. Guest speaker Will Graham, grandson of Billy Graham, will be on hand to discuss education and poverty in India. For more information, check the Web site at [www.aim18.org](http://www.aim18.org).

### June 11

The Library Advisory Board meets at 6:00 p.m. in the Mansfield Public Library community room, 104 S. Wisteria Street.

### June 11, 18, 25

Mansfield Public Library hosts On My Own Story Time for 3 to 5 year olds from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Call (817) 473-4391.

### June 14

Mansfield is hosting the Historic Mansfield Arts Festival in celebration of our own gifted artists from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Come



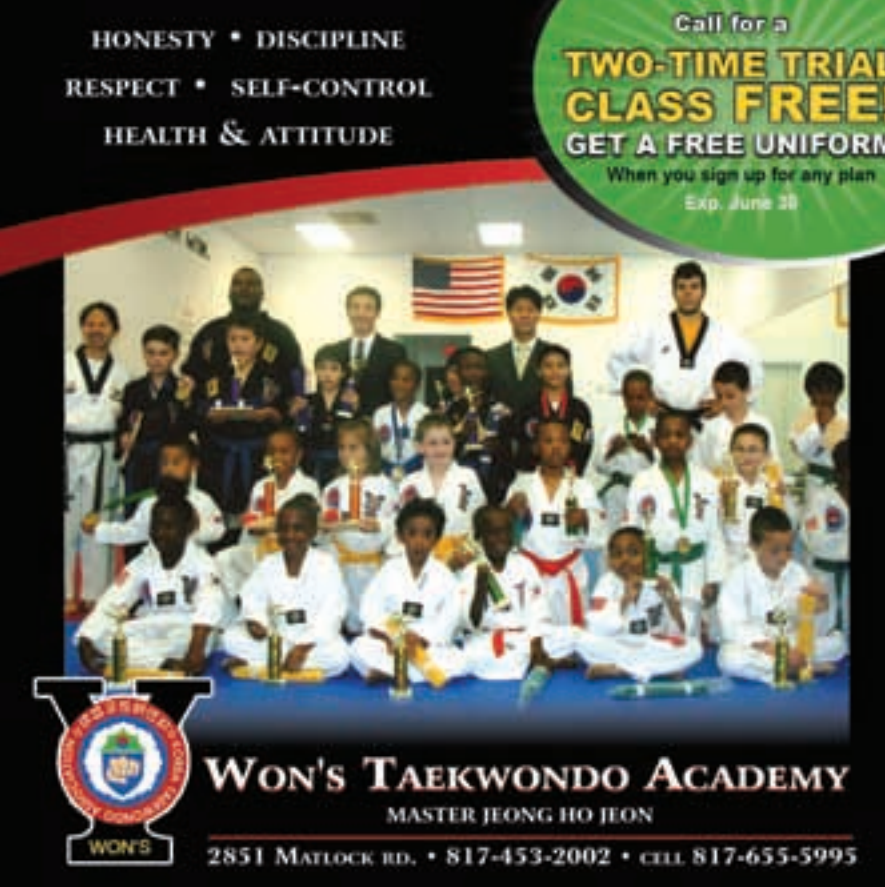
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# June 2008

## Community Calendar

check out the exhibits, live music and great food. For more information, contact Janet Glass at (817) 453-2529 or [jglass@clayturtle.com](mailto:jglass@clayturtle.com). Because Texans love festivals, Mansfield resident Steve Cosio has created his own Web site for music lovers! Log on to [www.TXFest.com](http://www.TXFest.com). First up on the agenda: Live music at the Art Festival with performers Terri Hendrix, Davin James, The Hawkes, Ray Diffie & The Gringo Revolution, Blacktop Gypsy, Trinity River Whalers and The Rounders.

### June 17

Mansfield Library adult book club meeting. New members welcome. This month's book is *Orchid Thief* by Susan Orleon. The book for the July 15 meeting is *Tin Roof Blowdown* by James Lee Burke.

Mansfield Economic Development Commission meeting, 6:00 p.m. at Mansfield City Hall.

### June 19

Senior citizens will meet for a trip to the Frontiers of Flight Museum from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For more information, contact the MAC at (817) 453-5420.

Mansfield Park Facilities Development Corp. meeting: 7:00 p.m. at Mansfield City Hall, 1200 East Broad Street.

American Business Women's Association (ABWA) meeting: 5:45 p.m. at the Waxahachie Civic Center. For more information, contact Stephanie Kinnison at (972) 938-0703 or [Stephanie@customcaregivers.com](mailto:Stephanie@customcaregivers.com).

### June 20 - 22

The annual Summer Balloon Classic will be held at Mid-Way Airport. Over 50 hot air balloons will take to the sky in all colors, shapes and sizes. The media flight will take place Friday from 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. The regular

schedule is Friday from 4:00 - 9:00 p.m., Saturday from 6:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. and Sunday from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. The event is free to the public. Parking is \$5. For more detailed information, please visit [www.summerballoonclassic.com](http://www.summerballoonclassic.com).

### June 21 - 22

Photo Expo 2008, Midlothian Conference Center, Sat. 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Sun. 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Contact Mary Rustin at (972) 723-7919 or e-mail [midconfcntr@aol.com](mailto:midconfcntr@aol.com) for details and more information.

To have your events posted on the community calendar, e-mail us at: [alexallred.nowmag@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alexallred.nowmag@sbcglobal.net).

For more community events, visit our online calendar at [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



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