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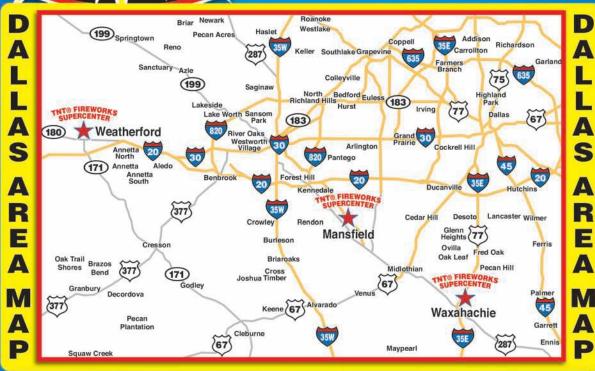


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ON THE COVER



Larry Doran and his band added to civic pride in our community.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Midlothian!

It is the beginning of summer, and with mild temperatures, the living is easy. All too soon, we will be dragging ourselves through the scorched landscape of August. But for now, these early days are perfect for a little self-indulgence. Go barefoot through grass that's cool and heavy with dew. Wake your taste buds with ruby red sweet watermelon to enjoy with breakfast. Take a little extra time with that morning paper or a good novel.

A picnic lunch on the back porch topped off with a long nap sounds heavenly. So does an early evening swim with iced tea or lemonade poolside with the family and Texas barbecue for dinner! Now *that's* a perfect lazy summer day for me. I imagine some of you might prefer something more action-oriented, but that's the fun of summer. Whatever your pleasure, I sincerely hope you get as many perfect days as you can.

Happy Father's Day, Midlothian Dads! Treat your dad to his perfect summer day.

Betty

Betty Tryon

MidlothianNOW Editor
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— By Betty Tryon

Larry Doran, director of bands at Midlothian High School, opened his email and stared at one of the most important messages of his career. After a decade of submitting applications to perform at the highly esteemed Midwest Clinic-An International Band, Orchestra and Music Conference, he was suddenly reading the incredibly good news of an invitation for his band to perform. "I was getting ready to go into a sectional rehearsal," he shared, "and I saw an email show up from The Midwest Clinic. I thought, Oh here I go. I'm going to get my Dear John email. I read it, sat down, read it again and then closed it up. I waited until the next day to tell everyone."

He had just discovered the MHS Wind Ensemble, the top performing ensemble at MHS, was invited to perform on December 17, 2014, at this international event, along with a band selected from Japan, one from Belgium, one from Australia and one other band from Texas. "Texas has the strongest bands in the nation, and that's a pretty well-known fact — so much so that I relocated my career to this state," he stated. Before giving the students the good news, Doran wanted to make sure the trip would be approved before getting the students excited.

The invitation was something worthy of excitement. Doran would know. He first learned about The Midwest Clinic while in high school and remembers the director speaking of all the great bands that were present. Immensely involved in band, his interest was piqued to attend the event someday. As a percussionist, Doran played in band throughout his school years. He pursued music when attending Penn State





University and earned a Bachelor of Science in music education. He earned a master's degree in percussion performance from University of Michigan. Because of Texas' strong band performances throughout the state, Doran chose to relocate here 23 years ago, and for 18 years his talents have benefited Midlothian High School.

Part of directing the bands involves exposing the students to opportunities that will enrich their studies and their lives. "The Midwest Clinic has long been thought of as one of the most important events for school band programs," he explained. "This was the most educated audience with whom we have performed. It included international music teachers from colleges, high schools, middle schools, professional musicians, composers and other music industry representatives from around the world."

As one can imagine, with a showcase of this magnitude, the competition for an invitation is fierce with bands applying from all over the world. Some of the requirements for playing at the clinic are to submit a CD, video, programs and recommendation letters from people who have listened to the band and judged or evaluated it. Doran wisely incorporated preparation for the recording into the curriculum as a teaching opportunity. "I started putting recording dates on our calendar, not necessarily to make the clinic, but using it as an opportunity to evaluate ourselves."

The Midwest Clinic is held in Chicago every year, and the band had fundraisers

to raise money for travel. One of the pieces they performed was called "In Memory." John Gibson, the resident composer of the Dallas Winds, formerly the Dallas Wind Symphony, was commissioned for the arrangement. "We wanted to do a piece in honor and memory of Chris Kyle and Chad Littlefield. He came up with a combination of the "Navy Hymn" and "Amazing Grace." There were many beautiful moments, and it was well received."



"Being invited to perform at The **Midwest Clinic** should be a source of pride for the entire community of Midlothian."

Three members of the Wind Ensemble were Jordan Doss, who has since graduated; Kera Dockins, now a senior; and Rachel Keener, a sophomore. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime performance that our band got to share with literally the entire world," Jordan enthused. "It was such an amazing and humbling educational opportunity for all of us, especially myself, since I'm going to





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college as a music major in the fall. Emotionally, it was such a great thing, because our band really is family." Jordan gives a great deal of credit for their success to the directors. "They worked selflessly, probably double the hours we did," he stated. The students not only participated in preparation for The Midwest Clinic, they also had school, marching band and other auditions to prepare for.

Kera did not fully realize the auspiciousness of the event until later. "When Mr. Doran read to us the email that explained we would be attending The Midwest Clinic, I still did not realize what a big deal it was. While we prepared for the trip, more and more people kept telling us how amazing it was that we were invited and what a huge opportunity it was. That was when it finally began to sink in. I am very honored to be able to say that my high school performed at The Midwest Clinic!"

Rachel was not a part of the Wind Ensemble but wanted to be a part of the group. "When I heard the Wind Ensemble had qualified, I became determined to make it into the group even more than I already had been," she declared. "The Midwest Clinic was something really important to me, and I knew I needed to work to show we deserved it. It was an incredible honor, and I'm glad we had such a great opportunity."

"When we work hard, we are working because we are so passionate about music and so compassionate about each other," Jordan added. "We do it for each

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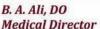
other, for the music and, for many of us, for God — seeking only to revel in the power of music and its ability to bring us together to do something such as this."

A wonderful thing about The Midwest Clinic is the glimpse it offered the students into what could be their future. "The kids get to meet composers and conductors and realize this is just a person who started out where they are now," Doran said. "It grounds them, and they realize it's something they can do if they are interested. There are tons of great groups who never get to do this, who strive to do it. It wasn't just me, but my colleagues, middle school directors and high school assistants put in hard work and hours of practice with the students during marching band season. We had really long days, but it puts us on the music education map. Being invited to perform at The Midwest Clinic should be a source of pride for the entire community of Midlothian." Here's a standing ovation to the Midlothian Wind Ensemble. Bravo! NOW

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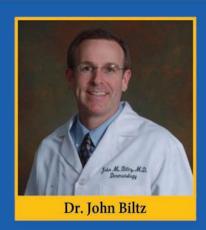


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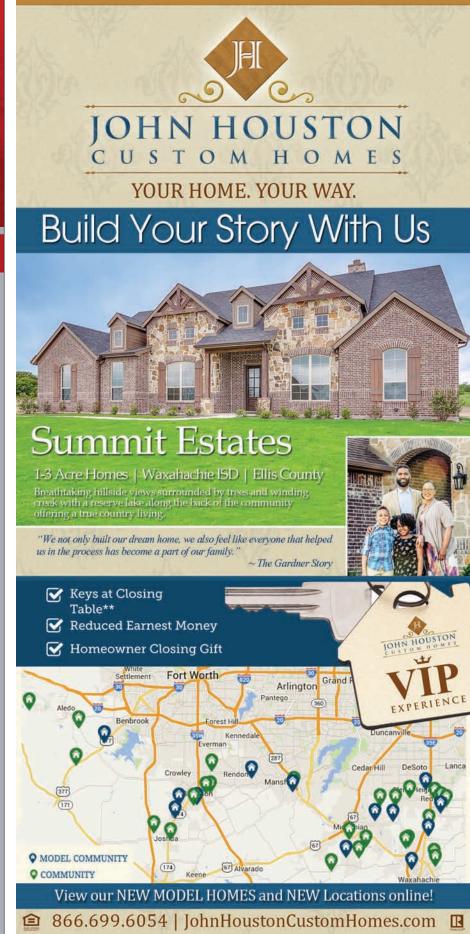




Midlothian Firefighters ride to the rescue again, and this time it's with a nice long walk. Relay For Life in Midlothian gears up for another season of hoping for a cure. This evening-long affair gathers groups and individuals from around the community to walk together around a track and raise money for any and all cancers. Individual firefighters have participated in the past, but this year the entire department solidifies into one big, supportive group for the event.

Part of the Midlothian Fire
Department's team are Chief Dale
McCaskill; Matthew Sapp, president of
the Midlothian Firefighters Association;
and Ted McPherson, association
secretary. "In years past, we've had
teams participate, but this is our first
time as a full organization. We are totally
committed in our focus for Relay For
Life," Chief McCaskill stated. "There are
very few of us who have not, in some
way, been touched by cancer. We wanted
to step up and be leaders in this area and
try to bring more awareness and funding
for a cure for cancer."

Instead of individual firefighters joining separate teams, Donna Collins, administrative assistant to the chief, approached the association and asked







them to consider having the MFFA participate as an organization. She has been committed to Relay For Life for a long time, and in previous years, she held the accounting chair for the local group. Donna speaks proudly of the



fire department's decision to participate. "This speaks volumes to their integrity and shows that the heart of this organization is on the people's needs and research for a cure," Donna declared.

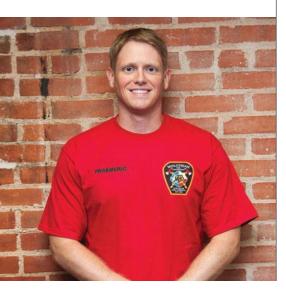
"When we were approached about doing Relay For Life, we had just finished up with Operation One, which is when we get donations for coats for kids who may not have the means to have one," Matthew commented. "We took a vote, and it was unanimous. We felt it was a good thing for the association to be involved with and to be pillars in our community."

Relay For Life will be held on June 12 at the Youth Football field located behind the Midlothian Civic Center. Teams will walk from 6:00 p.m. until midnight. The firefighters have been busy for Relay for Life for some time. A month before

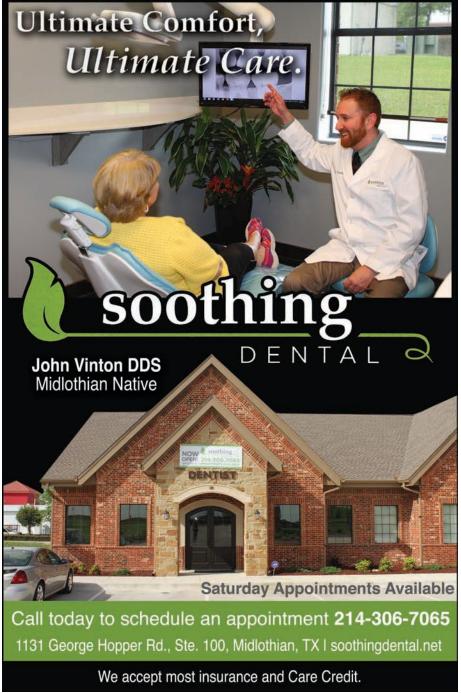


the event, the firefighters began wearing their newly designed red T-shirts with the motto, MFD Blazin' Toward A Cure, every weekend. They also participated in Bark for a Cure, which is another fundraiser for cancer research.

The American Cancer Society predicts in 2015 over one-half million people will die from cancer. With astronomical numbers such as this, everyone has a cancer story to tell. They've either been diagnosed with it or they know someone whose life has been touched by the disease. The three firefighters also have their personal stories. "My grandpa, at the age of 91, had lung cancer that spread to his brain," Ted shared. "He battled it for a year, beat it, and then it came back again. We were definitely close and saw each other often. His cancer affected the whole family, and it's something you don't get over." Ted acknowledges that it is somewhat unsettling to see the effect on the mind and body as the cancer starts to take over. Even the treatments are difficult and may seem to be almost worse than the cancer itself.









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Matthew's dad suffered with prostate cancer four years ago. His story has a happier ending, because his dad recovered and is now healthy. "Cancer concerns me more because of my job," he said. "If you look at it statistically, we are more likely to get cancer from the carcinogens we come in contact with. It's not just from fires, but they're in our gear, our trucks and in our station no matter how much we clean them."

Although the firefighters volunteer at Relay For Life for others, in a way they are helping all other firefighters, because as a profession they are at higher risk than the average person to get cancer. "Because of that, we mandate wellness screens and fitness programs to our employees to ensure they are getting the best preventative care possible and the best treatment available," Chief McCaskill stated.

Chief McCaskill has a different perspective when looking at cancer, although he has his own personal tragedy with a father who had prostate cancer and died three years ago. He worked as a paramedic for 11 years on the oncology floor at Children's Medical Center. "One of the things I had to learn on the oncology floor was not to say, 'He's very handsome,' or, 'She's very pretty,' because after they lose their hair, it's hard to tell a boy from a girl," Chief McCaskill remembered. "It was very difficult to watch families deal with the impact the cancer was having on their child, but it was also unique to watch the child, who didn't understand the impact of cancer, live life. They didn't let it slow them down. I'm glad we have an opportunity to battle it shoulder to shoulder."

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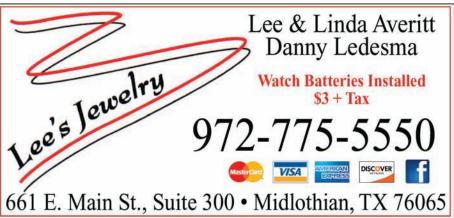
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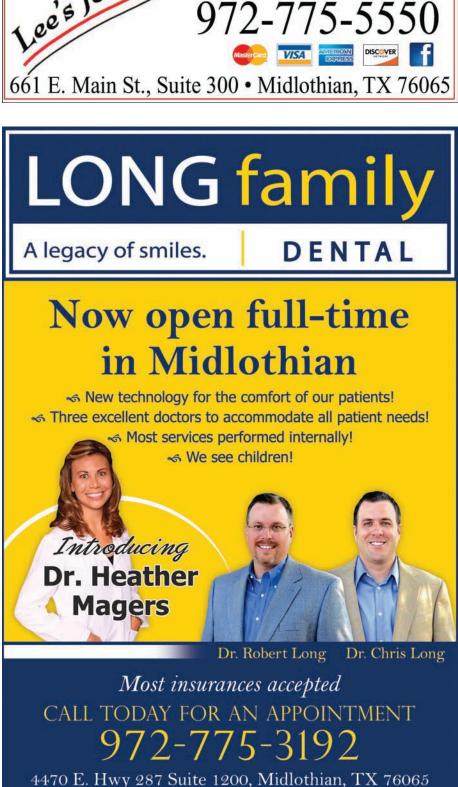
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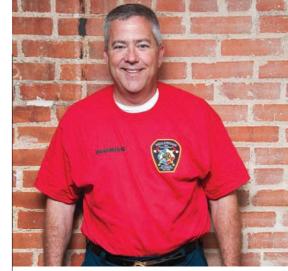
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about how early detection saves lives,"
Donna stated. She lost her dad and
brother to cancer. When her brother's
cancer was finally diagnosed, it was stage
4 lung cancer. Donna believes if he had
seen the doctor earlier, her brother might
have had a chance to survive the disease.

For Matt, Relay For Life is about the team. "It's about being there to help others even if you don't know them," he remarked. "It's about getting help and getting financial support to push on the research. It's about finding a cure."

For Ted, team effort is important. "It helps to raise awareness for the community. Sometimes saying something as small as, 'Hey, you're doing a good job!' to somebody with cancer, can be something that keeps them going."

"The support factor is the biggest thing," Matthew agreed. "The support they get when bad things happen to them lets them know that someone cares."

"It's our responsibility to demonstrate to the community through our leadership that this is important and we support it," Chief McCaskill added. "Every employee that's hired in this organization understands they are held to a higher standard, because we are leaders in the community and with that leadership came responsibility."

People understand that with a relay race, it takes a coordinated team. "Relay in and of itself is the most important word," Chief McCaskill said. "It means that I'm handing something to you and for you to pick up and carry when I cannot. That is what a cancer survivor sometimes can't do — pick it up and carry it. They need someone else to do it." Helping others with their burdens is one of the things Midlothian firefighters do best.



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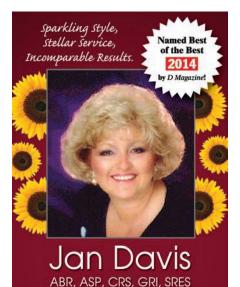


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In some of the more beautiful neighborhoods around Midlothian, it is sometimes hard for an individual house to be notable. From developments still being built like Shiloh Forest Estates to older neighborhoods like Park Place, appealing facades and massive arched front porches can start to

At Home With Kevin and Jenny Reid

blend into one another. By adding personal touches, some families have found a way to stand out. With a sprawling front patio, little additions throughout the house and an amazing outdoor living upgrade, Kevin and Jenny Reid's home is more than just another pretty space.



Kevin grew up in Carrollton before attending Texas Tech University where he earned an advertising degree. "I worked for two different power companies for about five years each, but I really never used my degree for my job until now," he said. After his entire department was laid off, Kevin was not sure what to expect. He soon experienced what he considers to be part of a larger plan. "A friend who coached my son's baseball team offered me a job with DFW Creative Homes &



Renovation," he explained. "I have faith that God used me being laid off and my son's baseball connection to lead me where I am now."

Jenny grew up in Fort Worth, and also went to Texas Tech. She earned a degree in early childhood education, which she has used in two different ways over the last decade-and-a-half. "I've taught kindergarten for 10 years, sandwiched around a few years working for Early Childhood Intervention," she detailed. Jenny currently works at Nancy Neal Elementary in Mansfield.

Kevin and Jenny met one night in a Texas Tech dining hall after a snowball fight. They started hanging out as part of a large group of friends that stayed together for several years. "Jenny finally asked me if I was going to ask her out, and we started dating in the spring of 1999," he shared. They were married in June 2003, and they have two sons. Brady is 9, goes to school with Jenny and plays baseball. Camden is 3 and already loves playing baseball, just like his big brother. "They even play in the house. The door is

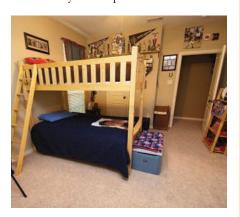






home plate. The fireplace is first base, etc. They love it," Kevin detailed. The family also has a rescue dog, Raider, whose name is one of many examples of their devotion to their shared alma mater.

Early in their marriage, Kevin and Jenny lived in Fort Worth. "After the first two houses we lived in, we were very particular," Jenny explained. "We were driving the neighborhood and saw one of the neighbors doing yard work. We asked him probably 50 questions, and we knew this was it." Their house is guarded by numerous mature trees. The entrance is bordered by a wide porch with a classic





swing on one side and a casual seating area on the other. A simple but beautiful, oversized wooden door is the gateway from the picturesque front yard into the house's warm interior.

The front entryway offers the first glimpse of an upgrade Kevin and Jenny added once they moved into the home. "We put in hardwood floors and had them hand-scraped," Kevin detailed. The hardwood extends into the home office, which he uses when working from home a few days a week. "It's great being home, especially since the other days

I am driving to Keller," he remarked. "One of the few family antiques we have is the desk that belonged to Jenny's grandmother. She says it still smells like her grandmother's house."

Across from the office, there used to be an open formal dining room, but Kevin and Jenny knew they had a better use for the space. "We decided to close off one wall and turn it into a playroom for the boys," Kevin said. They have several big toys, and a decorative sign that harkens back to their days at Texas Tech. "We got it as a gift for the back patio, but we were afraid the canvas might get











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messed up out there. The sign is a great complement to the boys' playroom."

Beyond the spacious living room with plush leather seating and a beautiful stonework fireplace, a hallway weaves to the boys' bedrooms. The rooms are covered with sports memorabilia, as well as a few special touches. "Now that Kevin's dad is retired from the fire department, he does woodworking as a hobby," Jenny explained. "He made Brady a baseball display, and of course little brother wants what big brother has, so he made Camden one, too." The boys share a "Jack and Jack" restroom, and the hallway includes a collage featuring some of Brady's artwork. "I like finding projects on Pinterest, and Brady loves art, so little things like this make perfect additions to the house," she added.

The kitchen is big and open, with an island that is actually a reclaimed wood table. It is both decorative and functional. The stovetop and hood are partially hidden behind dark wood that panels the whole room. While Jenny loves the practicality of the space, Kevin focuses on some of the mementos that adorn the shelves. "We went to Napa for our 10th anniversary, and we have some special wine bottles that we got while we were there," he described. "I guess you would almost say that's the theme in here."

Moving to the other side of the house, the master bedroom is large with big closets and access to the back patio. "This is the room that gets the most neglected," Jenny laughed. "The bathroom is just a bathroom. We spend more of our time working on the rest of





the house." But one key feature of the bedroom is the access to the home's best feature, the newly redone back patio.

Kevin has an amazing patio built in his backyard. "I drew the design and did some of the work, but it was mainly friends from work who built it," he admitted. "We gave them ideas and then let them go." They added a scripture stone of a prayer Kevin's granddad used to say before each meal, and it is the perfect first impression for the grand outdoor kitchen. It has multiple grills, a refrigerator, several seating areas and a fire pit, as well as a small decorative fire feature built into the bar. "The stones are of course red, white and black for Texas Tech," he explained.

Kevin and Jenny have enjoyed countless memories. With a home perfect for indoor baseball, fireside meals or casual family time, they are adding more each and every day.





Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital, Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas, The Heart Hospital Baylor Plano and Cleveland Clinic have joined forces to bring more expertise to heart care. It's an alliance drawing on the Baylor Scott & White Health heart hospitals' long track record of cardiovascular excellence and Cleveland Clinic, ranked #1 in the nation for cardiology. Learn how outstanding heart care is getting even better. Call 1.844.BAYLOR1 or visit BaylorHealth.com/OneHeart.



Baylor University Medical Center at Dallas Baylor Jack and Jane Hamilton Heart and Vascular Hospital' 'Joint ownership with physicians





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"Dr. Ledbetter truly

exemplifies the two main

profile characteristics that the

district staff and community

members are seeking: 1) One

who is passionate for kids and

and staff," said Todd Hemphill,

2) One who fits our culture

School Board president.

Message from the Midlothian ISD New Superintendent Dr. Lane Ledbetter

I feel blessed to have been selected to serve Midlothian ISD. I am grateful to the Board of Trustees for entrusting me with this responsibility. Please know that I do not take it lightly and will work alongside the great teachers and staff to continue to provide a first class education for the students.

Furthermore, I want to express my sincere appreciation for the warm welcome my family and I have received over the last several weeks. As is the case with any change, there is always apprehension regarding the unknown; however, I can honestly say that the people in the Midlothian ISD community have made this transition extremely easy.

This summer, my desire is to meet with individuals and community groups to gain insight into the dreams and desires for Midlothian ISD and identify challenging areas as we move forward over the next several years. I am also excited about visiting classrooms in the fall to experience the engaging environments that continue to be created. Most importantly, I am ready to get to know the out.

am ready to get to know the outstanding students and witness their talents in the classrooms as well as outside of school on the stage, on the fields, and on the courts.

My wife, children and I look forward to becoming involved in the community, church and schools. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

> Sincerely, Lane Ledbetter



Lane, Penny and children Luke, Lauren and Landon (L to R)

Dr. Ledbetter's Experience

The School Board signed Dr. Ledbetter's contract on May 7 and his official start date is June 1.

He has 22 years of experience in public education and most recently served as Superintendent for Graham ISD since 2012. Prior to Graham, Dr. Ledbetter served as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in Birdville ISD from 2009 until 2012. During his 13 years in Birdville ISD, he served in a variety of roles including: Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Principal of Birdville High

School, Principal of North Ridge Middle School, Assistant Principal at the Middle and High School levels as well as the district's administrator of virtual education. Before moving into administration, he was a secondary science teacher and coach in Lake Travis ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD and Carroll ISD.

Dr. Ledbetter graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1993. He received a Master of Science in Education from the University of North Texas in 2000. In 2004, he earned his Doctorate in Educational Administration from Baylor University.



Two FCCLA teams advance to National Leadership Conference in July

<u>Life Event Planning-1st place</u> Reilly Bengtson, Ashley Johnson and Montana Roberts

Career Investigation- 2nd place
Caroline Savins, Maddie Davis (Alternate)



SUMMER CAMPS

Walk-up registrations are welcome at all camps.

Camp flyers and more information online at midlothian-isd.net/athletics/

for all ages!

Duke Talent 7th Grade Scholars

The Duke Talent program identifies bright seventh graders based on their standardized test scores achieved while attending middle school. Candidates are encouraged to take the ACT or SAT college entrance exams which allows them greater insight into their academic abilities. Students who qualify for State or Grand Recognition meet rigorous performance standards that compare their scores to national percentile rankings of all students.



Above: Walnut Grove Middle School State Recognition students: (L to R) Carter Lucas, Zac Brus, Tyson Wiens, Chandler Casteel, Elizabeth Simpson, Katie De Selle, Kellyn Lansdowne and Hannah McDaniel (Maegan Brumley, not pictured, earned Grand Recognition because she scored better than 90% of all seniors in the nation who took same test.)



Left: Frank Seale Middle School State Recognized students: (Back) Austin Hedgcoth, Travis Domke, Connor Rury, Marcus Medina; (Front) Katie Watford and Genevieve Flores



Support Student Learning 24/7

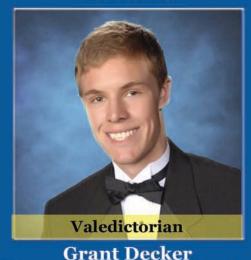
To prepare for 2015-16, local business owners are asked to support student learning by displaying a 'Free WiFi' Internet access window decal and/or a front desk sign so MISD students can complete homework and parents can check grades and assignments while at your business. If interested in this free partnership, send an email to info@midlothian-isd.net call (972) 775-8296.

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Plans to attend Texas A&M University and major in Civil Engineering



Katherine Pugh
Plans to attend Texas A&M University
and major in Industrial Engineering



Maroon and white buses are a familiar sight on the roadways of Navarro and Ellis counties, so much so that most residents aren't aware of the unassuming but valuable service that Katie Ragan, Arelette Cobb and other employees of Community Transit Services provide. "We couldn't ask for a better job, because we know we help individuals. It's not just a service. It's all about caring and having compassion," Arelette said.

Texans love their trucks and cars, which are needed since most of the state is still rural, necessitating miles of travel between small towns, the farm or ranch and major shopping and medical centers. As they anticipate getting a driver's license, teenagers understand that a license and vehicle represent *freedom*. But what if that freedom is not available anymore? A call to Community Transit Services will be answered by Katie, operations manager, or Arelette, the office manager, and a ride can quickly be scheduled. "There is no income requirement. We serve the general public," Arelette revealed. Their nonprofit service is part of Community Services, Inc., which receives additional funding

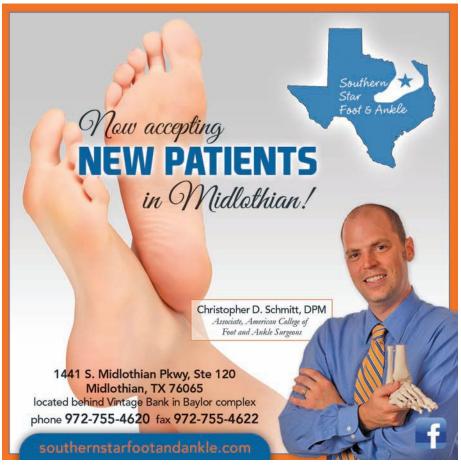
"It's not just a service. It's all about caring and having compassion."



at the state and federal levels and through organizations such as United Way.

Most of the residents served by Community Transit Services are the elderly, disabled (the service is ADA approved) and Navarro College students. As Katie stated, "We are all an accident away from not being able to drive ourselves, at least temporarily." Children are allowed to ride, with an accompanying adult, age 21-plus. If 7 years of age or younger, the child must be secured in a safety seat. All passengers must be seated and secured with seat belts during rides, and shopping bags must be secured by the passenger. Drivers will load wheelchairs and help riders on the bus steps, but if







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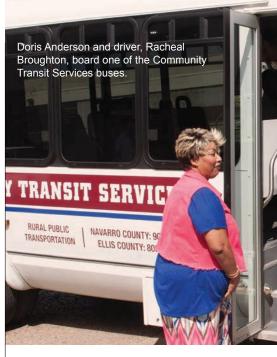
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passengers need further assistance, they must arrange for a personal care attendant (PCA) to ride with them, but there is no charge for the PCA.

Considering the miles traveled, the fares are made affordable to most customers. A \$10 bus pass allows the customer four stops within hub cities, but they can customize their options. The fare is \$4 without a pass per oneway stop within hub cities and \$5 per stop within a county. For customers wishing to travel between Navarro and Ellis counties, the charge is \$1 per mile. "The majority of our customers use the bus pass for our customized, concierge, curb-to-curb service when they need it," Arelette stated. When calling the service, customers must give accurate times of appointments, addresses and dates. All reservations are based on availability, so customers are encouraged to call a day in advance. Rides between counties must be reserved two weeks in advance. "We can handle some same-day calls, but it's all based on availability," Arelette said. Katie told of an instance where a mom got home and realized there was no food for the children that night. "That's when we will do whatever we can. We are a family here, and that includes our customers."

Common stops in Waxahachie include but are not limited to: Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, Liberty Dialysis, Wal-Mart and H-E-B. Common stops in Midlothian include Wal-Mart and Brookshire's.

Katie has been an employee for 13 years, and Arelette has been with the



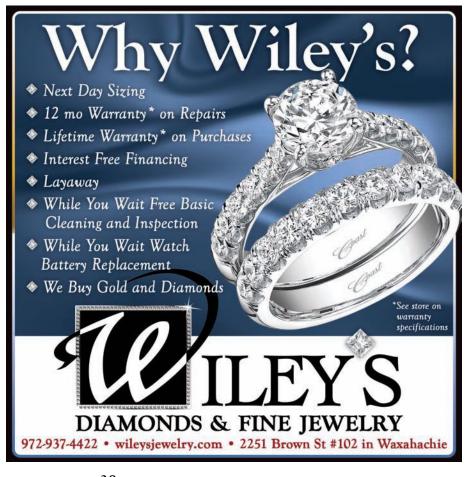


service for seven years. Both ladies personally know the daily distances covered by the fleet of 2006-2016 Chevrolet and Ford cutaway models and their drivers. Since drivers start each day from the Corsicana location, Ellis County routes average 300 miles per day, while Navarro County routes average about half that. Katie and Arelette arrange regular maintenance and repairs with different area vendors. "It's rough when a bus is out of commission. We do oil changes and rotate and align tires every 5,000 miles," Katie explained.

"We have to make sure the vehicles are safe," Arelette agreed. Drivers are responsible for taking care of cleaning bus interiors. "We provide masks, gloves, and Clorox, so they can keep it as germ-free as possible, since we transport people with compromised immune systems," Katie added.

Drivers must have a current Texas CDL license and the special temperament













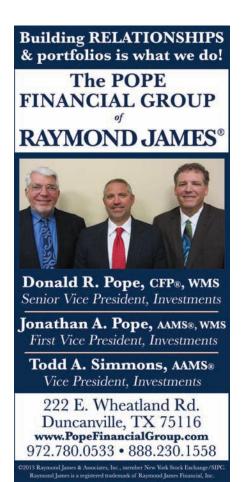


required of those who work with the public. "We have to be patient. We see people's good and bad days. Some of our customers are on dialysis. Others are cancer patients. Sometimes we don't know what that person is going through," Katie explained.

Customers are encouraged to be waiting at pick-up sites, since drivers do not wait more than five minutes. However, exceptions are made. "If a driver knows that person's routine, and they aren't answering their phone or door, we check on them or have an apartment manager or someone check. We know when something is happening that's out of character for that customer," Arelette said.

Likewise, regular customers get to know their drivers. "They have their favorites and may request a certain driver," Katie remarked laughingly. Longtime customers who know Katie and Arelette call to check up on them. "One lady just calls to talk. She always tells us, 'I love ya'll," Katie said.

However, there are challenges. Time slots and routes are built daily, and having sick drivers or equipment failure can make the original schedule impossible to keep. Texas weather is especially challenging. "It's very hard to keep the buses clean









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drivers run the buses through car washes or outsource the job. If the roads get too bad, the service has to shut down. "That causes us double duty, since we have already scheduled everyone, and then have to call to cancel and reschedule," Katie explained.

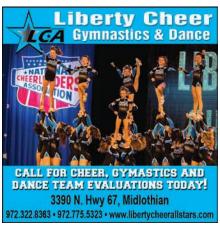
Currently, the service runs p.m., which requires drivers going to Midlothian from Corsicana to leave as early as 4:15 a.m., but Community Transit Services is not daunted. Future possible Saturdays and transporting veterans to and from the Dallas VA hospital.

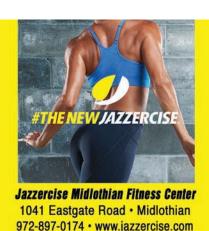
Both Katie and Arelette enjoy their jobs so much, they find it hard to leave after clocking out some days. Both ladies are Corsicana natives and graduates of Corsicana High School. They can easily recall why they do this challenging job. "I have been able to meet so many new

"It's the joy of seeing a 90-year-old lady who's tickled that she can get where she wants to go, and as a driver, I was able to see new places in neighborhoods and rural areas I had never gone to," Arelette revealed. "I can say I have been to Italy and Venus all in one day!" NOW

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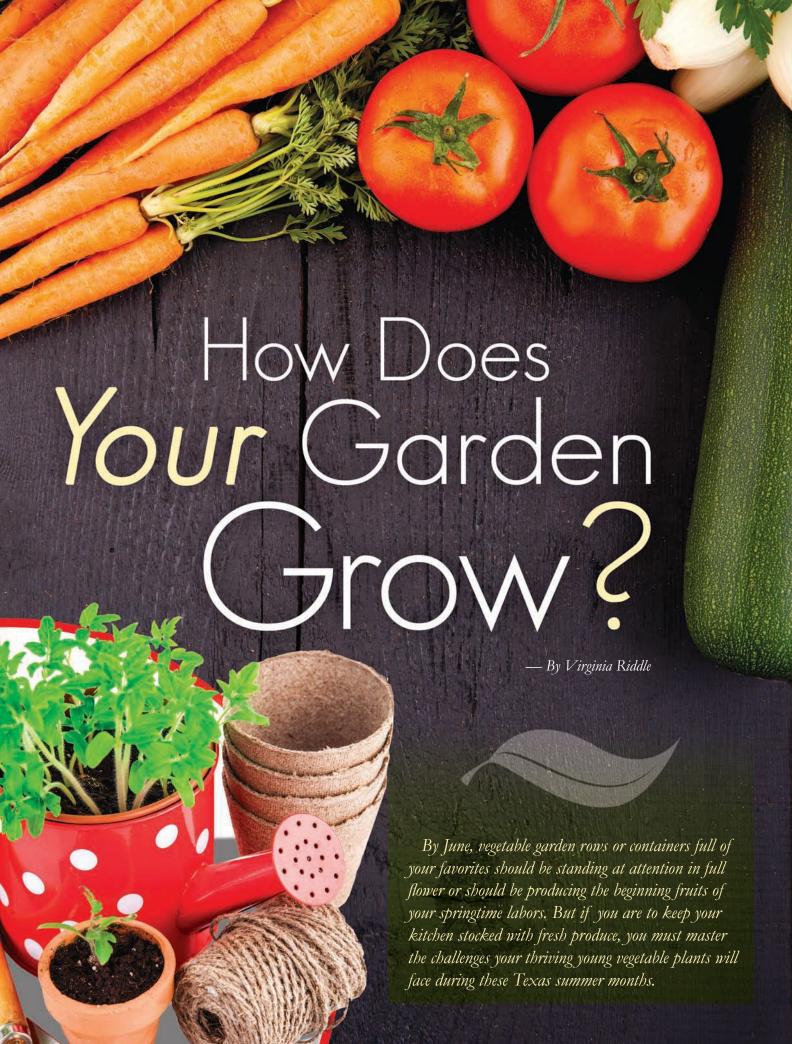
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Some helpful watering hints include:

1. Watering too much or too little is a problem. When soil is dry to the touch, water to a depth of 1-2 inches at least once a week. Remember, leaves can wilt from being too wet or too dry.

2. Use drip or trickle irrigation to avoid waste. Run hoses slowly in furrows so every costly drop soaks in, and use overhead irrigation only as a last resort, since watering in this fashion allows water

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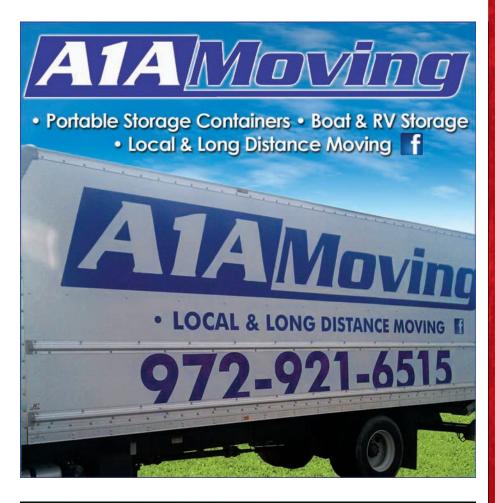


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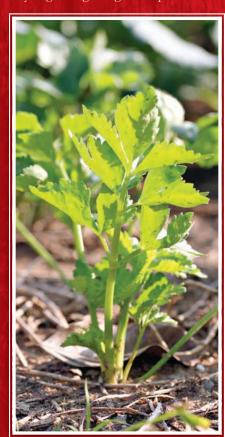


to evaporate rather than soak in and promotes disease on leaves and rot of fruit. Use wicking or refillable watering bottles available at your garden center for container plants.

- Water early in the morning or early evening to avoid greater evaporation during the heat of the day.
- 4. Keep your garden weeded since weeds drink precious and expensive water. Use a Cape Cod weeder, swan hoe and/or collinear hoe for weeding.
- 5. When plants are at least 4-6 inches tall, add more mulch around the stems. The best types of mulches are organic bark, compost, pine needles or shredded leaves. However, if you use a black plastic liner, cover it with a thick layer of organic mulch, since it will soak up the summer sun's heat if left bare. Organic mulches lower or moderate soil temperatures.
- 6. Keep plastic buckets handy and use them to cover your smaller plants before occasional hailstorms occur.

Insects

By including cilantro and mint in your garden plantings, you will attract beneficial insects, which include: bees, lady bugs and green garden spiders. For



grasshoppers, spider mites and other problem insects that eat what you love, purchase horticultural oils and soaps that are sold at garden centers and use them as directed. If you use heavily based chemical sprays, be sure to scrub your veggies well before eating them!

Animals

Bambi is cute until he consumes your nearly ready-to-eat corn. Deer, raccoons, skunks, wild hogs and/or rabbits can be discouraged by installing small-charge electric fencing that can be turned off and on. Additionally, a live animal trap can be used to capture, relocate and release small animal poachers into a more suitable habitat. Finally, mesh netting can be laid on the ground for about 10-15 feet surrounding the garden. Secure netting with ground staples. Deer and other four-footed hooved animals don't like poor footing. They are less likely to walk on something that might entangle them. Old CDs can be hung to scare away animals and birds.

Beneficial animals include: nonvenomous snakes, toads, frogs and earthworms. Be sure to know your snakes, and always stick your long-handled hoe under or into plants to check for their presence before you risk a snake or spider bite!

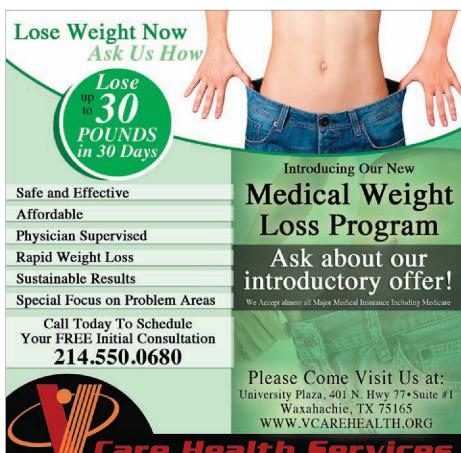
Fertilizing and Feeding

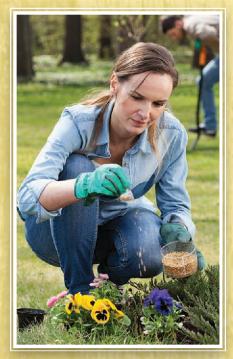
Feeding vegetables during this growth spurt season is important, especially if your plants are growing in containers. Choose an organic or nonorganic, soluble complete-and-balanced plant food or high nitrogen fertilizer that is the right complement for your soil, based on its previous test. Your garden center expert or county extension agent can advise you. Follow the package directions for application and frequency. It's best to spray early in the morning, keeping the fertilizer off leaves, and water thoroughly right after feeding to avoid fertilizer burn from the hot sun. Organic compost tea or manure tea can be made by mixing a bushel of either with 20 gallons of water in a plastic







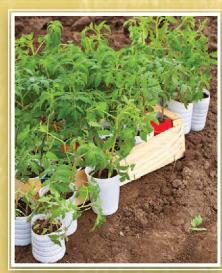




garbage can. Let the tea brew for at least four days, agitating it once a day. Apply at plant roots with a spray bottle used only for this tea, then water thoroughly.

Pot-bound Container Grown Vegetables

If your tomato potted plants have branched out and are looking a little ragged, transplant them to larger pots, after trimming their roots slightly. If the pots have been used previously, be sure



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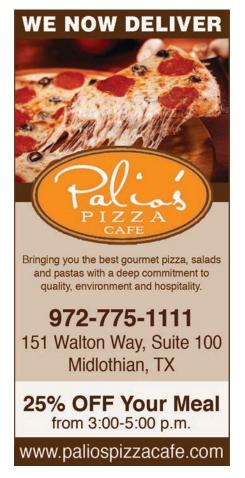
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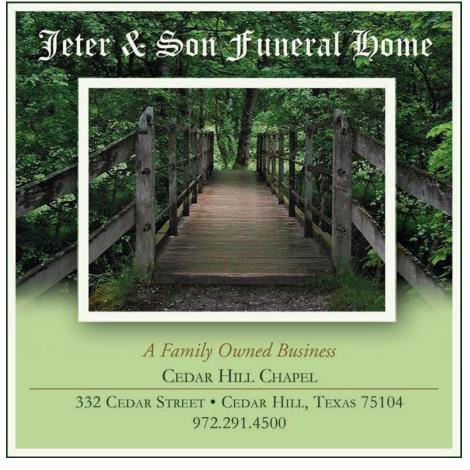
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to clean them with a 10-percent solution of laundry bleach to kill any organisms or insect eggs before you refill the pot with new potting soil.

Harvesting

Pick your mature vegetables during mid-morning hours, just after dew has dried but before the sun causes the wilting of leaves or saps the flavors. Harvest herbs before the plants have gone to seed.



Plan Your Fall Garden

Our first freeze is normally about November 15. Count back the days from that date to establish a second summer planting early enough for the crops to mature before the first freeze.



Favorite fall starters that go into the winter months include: lettuces, spinach, leeks, kale and collards. Start these from seeds and plant them in the garden or containers in October.



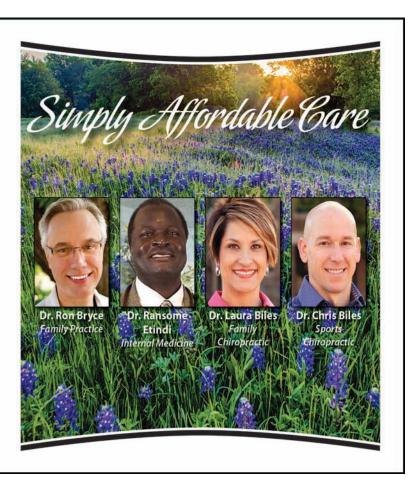
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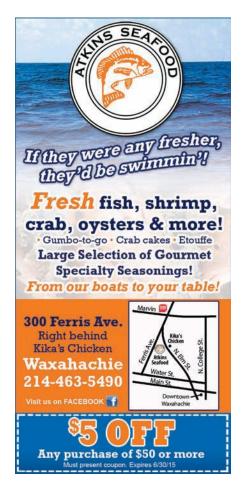














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Laurie Reynolds and her team cover canines in their care with affection.

— By Betty Tryon

Baxter, the Box Terrier looked sad. Wanting to cheer him up, his owner asked, "Do you want to go to day care?" At the words "day care," Baxter jumped up, grabbed his bed and dragged it to the door, where he impatiently jumped up and down waiting for it to be opened. When his owner pulled into the parking lot of All About Dogs, Baxter gleefully did somersaults in the backseat. "His owner could barely hold his leash as he barreled in looking for us," exclaimed Laurie Reynolds, owner of All About Dogs. "There could be 10 dogs in here, but he would ignore them until he found each one of us first and said hello. Then he'd run to play. I have several like that whose owners say they can't wait to get here."

All About Dogs is more than doggy day care. It is a family-owned, full-service grooming, boarding and training business. As a growing business, they just added a brand new room and expanded to accommodate more boarding dogs. Laurie believes she knows the reason the animals are so eager to return to the facility. "I think it's because of how we treat them," she noted. "I treat them like my own. I can't guarantee perfection, but I can guarantee they'll feel loved. I'm everybody's 'dog mom."

Laurie shares hints about dog behavior, so owners can tell if their pet is happy and content at their day care. "Your dog will tell you about their experience. They can't tell you with words, but you can look at their body language. If the dogs

Business NOW

seem happy, relaxed and doing fine when you pick them up, then they had a great experience. If they are a nervous wreck and upset, then that says a lot, too."

Laurie and her staff have learned to read the body language of dogs so well they have never had a problem between the animals. "I've never had a fight in here," she declared. "Our dogs are never unsupervised. Because we know their body language, we know if there is one in the crowd we may need to separate for a while."

There are several advantages and consumer deals associated with All About Dogs. Perhaps the most compassionate benefit is Laurie will pick-up or drop-off in case of illness or for the elderly. "I've had people have surgery and be unable to make it, so I would just go get their dog," Laurie said. "I just want to help."

She has a loyalty program for grooming. Come 10 times and your next grooming is free, whether it is a Chihuahua or a German Shepherd. "We

"I treat them like my own. I can't guarantee perfection, but I can guarantee they'll feel loved. I'm everybody's 'dog mom.'"

use only all-natural, organic products here," Laurie stated. "We also offer the first grooming free to all who adopt a dog. Just bring adoption papers (within 30 days of adoption) to receive this offer. Certified service dogs actively serving our community are groomed free. We are all about serving our community and giving back."

Laurie stresses how much she enjoys her work. "We all look forward to coming to work every day," she shared. "Midlothian and the surrounding area have really blessed us. This is our fourth year in business. We have evolved into what our clients ask for. My vision is to one day have the biggest and best allaround dog facility in Ellis County."





Around Town NOW



Donna, Maddie and Richard Dixon dress up for Maddie's Superhero Dance Party.



The MHHS Robotics Club place 4th in the regional BotBall Competition and also won the Judge's Choice Award.



Soothing Dental joins the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce.



LaRue Miller Elementary kids hang out at Field Day Games.



Students learn about dental health from Allie the Alligator from the office of Dr. Shelly Clark.



Faint Image Band and Singer Isaac Vancil, second from right, perform for North 9th Art & Music Festival.



Betty Tryon and Tami Toby volunteer for a MEF event.



J.R. Irvin Elementary students are third-grade multiplication masters.



Janice Carey and Dolores McClatchey help Rowdy Runners sign up for the fundraiser.



Start Saving Early – Put Time to Work in Your Retirement Corner

Here's a valuable tip parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts can convey to a young college graduate who has just landed an exciting new job: first, express your congratulations, then whisper "save early for retirement." Now, this is unlikely to fit into any young person's definition of "exciting," but years from now, when it is time to enter a comfortable retirement, you'll occupy an honored position in his or her mind.

That is simply because it makes supremely good sense to start saving for retirement during the early years. How much sense?

Consider the case of a 25-year-old who puts \$5,000 into a tax-sheltered IRA or 401(k) every year for 10 years (\$50,000), then stops. Left untouched, and assuming a 10-percent annual return, this portfolio will grow to \$1.755 million by the time he or she reaches 65.

Later - Good, but Not Better

Now imagine someone at 35 who saves \$5,000 a year for 30 years (\$150,000). At the same rate of return, he or she will have \$904,717 at 65. Good, but only 53 percent of the total for the saver who started at 25. What's at work in favor of the early contributor is compound interest.

The real trick here is to interest young wage earners in retirement savings. Try hitting these themes:

- 1. Establish a savings habit before getting married, acquiring a mortgage, having a family and supporting a gas-guzzling sports utility vehicle.
 - 2. Save in a 401(k) or individual retirement account to take advantage of the tax shelter.

Consider the Roth versions - you'll receive no tax benefit now, but you'll pay no taxes when you withdraw the funds.

- 3. Start small if need be. Of course, pay off your student loans and other lingering debt, but when those expenses decrease, add that freed money to your retirement savings.
- 4. Set up an automatic payroll deduction, savings or transfer plan if possible. It's far easier to save money you've never seen.

To be sure, retirement may seem as remote as the moon to someone in their early- to mid-20s who has just landed a dream job. And perhaps saving \$416.66 every month (to reach the \$5,000 example quoted above) isn't possible. What's important is to start saving early, to contribute regularly to a tax-sheltered investment and to take the long-range view that every step you take influences the structure of the rest of your life. If you'd like to discuss more pivotal points to make to that younger relative, contact your financial advisor.

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Jonathan Pope is a Raymond James Financial Advisor based in Duncanville.





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and sit in my recliner until time for bed. I went to the doctor and was diagnosed with low testosterone. I tried the creams but they didn't seem to help. The shots were every week, but I needed something that didn't tie up my time. I then discovered testosterone pellets at Phillips Family Medical! 15 minutes in the clinic and insertion was complete. Now I'm good for about 4-5 months with a constant level of testosterone. I feel GREAT, like I'm 20 again with no aches or pains. I have energy to exercise and I'm losing belly fat! Stop by Phillips Family Medical for a consultation. Trust me, you'll be glad you did! - BEN P.



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Through October 3

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

June 1 — 7

10th Annual Paint Historic Waxahachie Plein Aire Paint-Out: The event showcases the best landscape artists in Texas and surrounding states as they paint Waxahachie's historic downtown and residential areas. For more information, visit www.elliscountyart.net.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Celebrate Recovery: Large Group: 7:00-8:00 p.m., The Lighthouse Coffee Bar, 1404 N. Ninth St. Join us for a time of worship, testimonies and teaching on the 12 steps and recovery principles. For more information, go to lighthousecoffeebar.com.

June 6

Pancake Breakfast & Fly-In, Fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 524: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport, 131 Airport Dr. Cost: age 8 and over, \$6; under age 8, \$3.

June 9

City Council meeting: 6:00 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 104 W. Avenue E. For more information call (972) 775-3481.

2015 Relay for Life: 6:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center.

June 12 — 14

Waxahachie Community Theatre presents G.I. Jukebox: First United Methodist Church, 800 S. 9th St., Midlothian. Tickets are \$25 per person. Prepaid reservations are required by June 10. Seating is limited. For performance times and further information, call (972) 646-1050 or email wct.texas@gmail.com.

June 13

Movies in The Park – Dolphin Tale 2: Movie starts at dusk, 1498 FM 1387, Hawkins Spring Park. Free movie. Concession stand open. For more information, visit www.parksandrec@midlothian.tx.us.

June 19

Midlothian Center Daddy Daughter Dance: 7:00-10:00 p.m.

June 20

Pet Adoption Event: 9:00-11:00 a.m., Walmart Garden Center Entrance, 400 N. Hwy. 67. Animal Shelter pets available for adoptions are in attendance. Call (972) 775-7614.

June 22

Creative Quilters of Ellis County: 7:00 p.m., Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand, Waxahachie. Visit www.elliscountyquilters. com for more information.

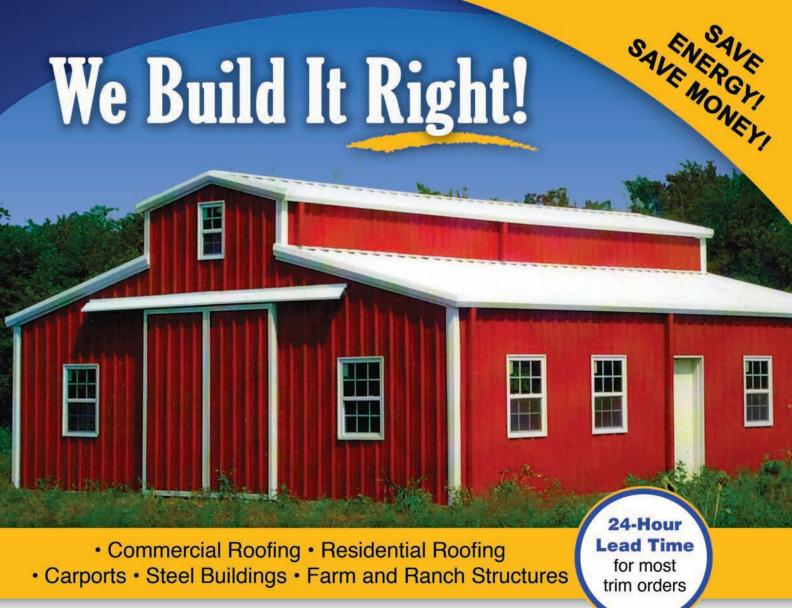
July 17, 18

Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County Annual Quilt Show: "Quilts! Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow:" 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. The show benefits both the guild and Hope Clinic.

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



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Cooking NOW



In the Kitchen With Sue Calveard

— By Betty Tryon

Sue Calveard's weight loss of over 200 pounds changed her eating habits and, naturally, the way she cooks. "I like to change up my favorite comfort foods into lower calorie, no sugar options," she explained. "I have been experimenting with different low/no sugar options, like Truvia Baking Blend and organic coconut palm sugar."

Growing up on a farm gave her a healthy start with good home-cooked meals using their own vegetables. Her mom created the Garden Ragu Recipe using fresh ingredients. Sue generously shares that recipe with our readers, along with two of her own recipes, which won awards from *Bariatric Foodie* — Healthy Pumpkin Cheesecake and Quinoa Salad With Black Beans & Avocado.

Garden Ragu

This, like most tomato-based recipes, tastes better the next day.

- I lb. bulk Italian pork sausage, ground chicken or ground turkey
- I onion, chopped
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- I green pepper, chopped
- I red or yellow pepper, chopped
- 4-6 carrots, sliced (or a bag of shredded carrots)
- 1 pkg. fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 2-3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 zucchinis, thinly sliced
- 2 small yellow squash, thinly sliced
- 2 14.5-oz. cans Italian style tomatoes
- 1 16-oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed
- Oregano, basil, salt, pepper, to taste Cheese, shredded and/or Parmesan cheese, to taste

- **1.** Brown meat in a stove-top Dutch oven and drain.
- **2.** Add remaining ingredients except cheese, and cover. Simmer 30-45 minutes until vegetables are tender.
- **3.** Remove cover; sprinkle sauce with shredded cheese. Serve over rice or noodles or eat plain.

Healthy Pumpkin Cheesecake

- 1 8-oz. pkg. Greek Cream Cheese, softened
- I scoop vanilla or unflavored protein powder
- I tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup plus 2 Tbsp. Truvia Baking Blend (divided use)
- 2 eggs
- 1 15-oz. small can packed pumpkin
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

- **1.** In a bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth; add protein powder, vanilla extract and 1/2 of the Truvia. Mix well.
- **2.** Add eggs one at a time; mix well after each one. Add pumpkin, remaining Truvia and spice. Mix well. Pour into a sprayed glass pie plate. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour. Note: To prevent the top of the cheesecake from cracking, put a small oven-proof dish of water in the oven when baking. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream.

Quinoa Salad With Black Beans & Avocado

- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- I cup quinoa, rinsed
- 1 3/4 cups water
- I avocado, chopped into chunks
- I cup cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1/2 red onion, diced
- I small garlic clove, minced
- I red bell pepper, chopped into chunks
- I bunch cilantro, chopped
- 1 16-oz. can black beans, drained and rinsed

Dressing:

- 1 lime, juiced
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 tsp. cumin
- Salt, to taste
- **1.** Warm the olive oil in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Add rinsed quinoa and toast for about 2-3 minutes until it starts to smell nutty. Add water; stir once and cover. Simmer for 20 minutes.
- **2.** While quinoa is cooking, prepare avocado, cherry tomatoes, red onion, garlic clove, red bell pepper and cilantro.
- **3.** When the quinoa is finished, remove from heat and fluff with a fork. Add black beans and toss to warm through. Let the quinoa cool for about 5 minutes.
- **4.** For dressing: While the quinoa is cooling, prepare dressing by combining lime juice, lemon juice, oil, cumin and salt. Whisk it aggressively. Adjust seasoning as necessary.
- **5.** Add vegetables and dressing to quinoa; mix. Great served warm or cold. You can also add cooked diced chicken or turkey for a complete meal.

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

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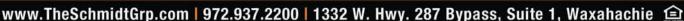












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