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JUNE 2018

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## ON THE COVER

*Brian Grossman's Kralich - Hobbit House is the one that got him involved with the Make-A-Wish Foundation.*

**Photo by**  
Todd Kamp.

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# EDITOR'S NOTE



*Melissa*

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*Sunshine on my shoulders ...*

The lovely warm temperatures that keep me in Texas have arrived! I like being hot. It's relaxing to me, to get into my car after being in air conditioning for an extended period. Here, where the air is the same 100 F as the black vinyl dashboard, the "ovenish" feeling quickly envelops every muscle, taking away the tension of the day.

What do you do to relax? For many of us, simply doing something that requires our focus can promote rejuvenation. For some, moving quickly and sweating brings on the calm. I have friends who shop, cook, eat, garden, read, sing, dance, write, paint, carve, whittle, pray, stretch, groom animals, sculpt clay, drink beer and attend concerts. Others need total downtime in a dark room where movement is out of the question, and so are other stimuli. That last one is, I find, very hard to construct. There's too much life happening outside my blackout curtains, and it calls my name until I finally give in, get up and go out where the birds are singing.

Whatever you discover to keep you happy this summer, may you find more time to do it during these longest days of the year.

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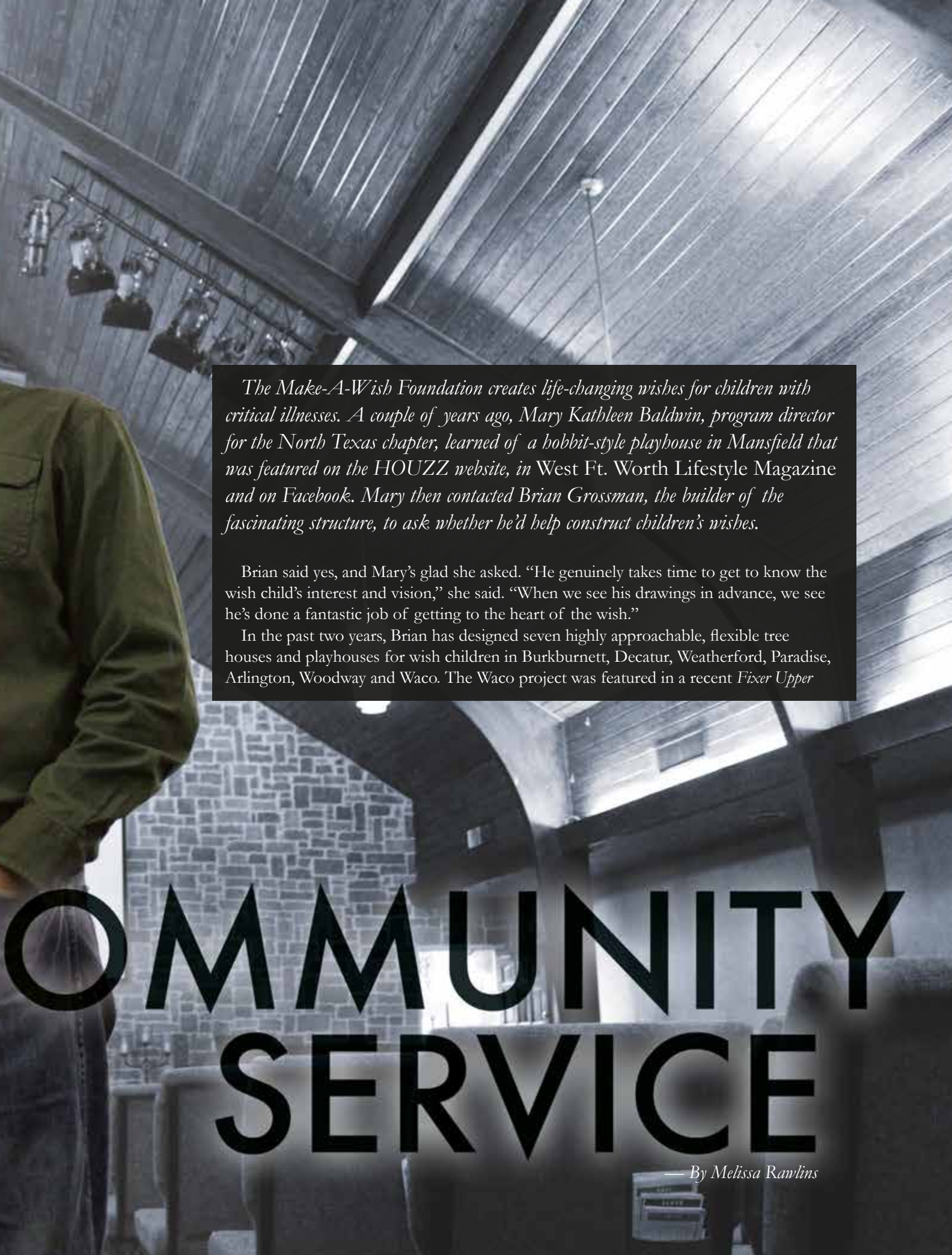
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*The Make-A-Wish Foundation creates life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses. A couple of years ago, Mary Kathleen Baldwin, program director for the North Texas chapter, learned of a hobbit-style playhouse in Mansfield that was featured on the HOUZZ website, in West Ft. Worth Lifestyle Magazine and on Facebook. Mary then contacted Brian Grossman, the builder of the fascinating structure, to ask whether he'd help construct children's wishes.*

Brian said yes, and Mary's glad she asked. "He genuinely takes time to get to know the wish child's interest and vision," she said. "When we see his drawings in advance, we see he's done a fantastic job of getting to the heart of the wish."

In the past two years, Brian has designed seven highly approachable, flexible tree houses and playhouses for wish children in Burkburnett, Decatur, Weatherford, Paradise, Arlington, Woodway and Waco. The Waco project was featured in a recent *Fixer Upper*

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— By Melissa Rawlins



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episode. It takes Brian and his team of carpenters about one-and-a-half weeks to build the project onsite, custom to the terrain and to the wish child's desires.

Although no expert on impairments associated with the wish children he serves, Brian studies their syndrome or disease to figure out what will best help them therapeutically. Whether the wish child is terminally ill or not, he cannot know. But the Make-A-Wish Foundation always sends him a couple pictures of the wish kid, along with their list of wishes. That ignites Brian's fire.

"I'm extremely fortunate to have a healthy, happy family," Brian said of his nine-year marriage to his Mansfield High School sweetheart, Rachel Grossman, with whom he is parenting two young children. "I couldn't imagine, if my children were



**“IF THE GIRL WANTS A PRINCESS-OR CASTLE-STYLE PLAYHOUSE, WE FRAME IT IN THAT MANNER AND PAINT IT PINKS OR WHITES OR DIFFERENT MAGICAL DISNEY COLORS.”**

sick or disabled, what I would do, so it gets me every time I see a request come across my computer.”

Granting more than 200,000 wishes in North Texas alone each year, Make-a-Wish has a budget for each wish. “These children want an extravagant wish,” Brian said, “and because that’s their wish, I’m not going to not do what they want simply because of money.” If the guys working for him recommend changes or upgrades to the plans that they think will turn out better, Brian spares no expense and covers the out-of-budget cost. “The wish families are so happy when they see it. That right there is priceless.”

Brian has learned how to be happy. “In the last couple years, I’ve grown, now that I have two children, a job and a mortgage,” Brian said. During high school, while he was heavily involved in soccer and golf, he began working for his father’s Grossman Design Build company, where he helped frame and carry lumber and then clean houses and job sites. He then went to Stephen F. Austin State University on a golf scholarship, earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing and then played professional golf for a year-and-a-half. Ten years ago, his dad offered him a salaried position, and he has not looked back.

The secret to happiness, Brian believes, is gratitude. “If you are

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grateful for the things you have and the things you can do, you don't let other things bother you as much," he said. "If you think, *I'm really lucky to be able to do what I do*, then when a person calls to complain, it just doesn't bother you."

Nobody complains about his Make-A-Wish playhouses, which he builds for permanency. They have real framed and painted walls, doors, windows, HVAC, solid flooring and shingle roofs. The smallest playhouse was a 10x12-foot structure in Arlington. "The biggest we built was our first, in Burkburnett, a really neat multi-level tree house," Brian said, remembering that the wish girl was in a wheelchair 50 percent of the time.

With a ramp to the front door and another to a castle in the trees, plus a slide and an ADA swing set, the playhouse allowed the girl to play without the assistance of her parents. "The first thing she did when we unveiled it was to run up and down the ramp, which had handrails, as well.

"If the girl wants a princess- or castle-style playhouse," Brian said, "we frame it in that manner and paint it pinks or whites or different magical Disney colors."

Boys generally ask for a fort. Fort Connor, built in Paradise to look like an old western building, included cedar siding, bunk beds and a gun rack to hold all the wish child's Nerf guns. The whole place looks like an old-time fort and grew out of the child's imagination in collaboration with Brian's.

More than 20 years ago, in the unbuildable woods and flood plain near Willie Pigg Creek, across from





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Willie Pigg Auditorium, Brian, his friends and his brother, Eric, used to build forts. "I remember I'd steal my dad's lumber and take his tools," Brian said, adding that his dad did not appreciate it when Brian forgot to return the tools. At times like these, Gary Grossman sentenced his son to work without pay for his construction company, and such lessons helped Brian grow up.

"Technically, it was community service," Brian said, with a laugh, crediting his father with teaching him to be a giver. "When it comes to kids and helping people, my dad's probably the best there is." Over his 30 years in business, Gary has donated services for constructing the Mansfield Cares Clinic, the Harvest International Food Bank, the original Wesley Mission Center buildings, several of the First Methodist Church's additions and the new Mansfield Mission Center building. "We've always gone to church, and my dad's always taught us religion is more about the way you act than what you tell people."

That's come full circle in the last couple years. Now, Brian also gives back by donating construction services for the needy or elderly in Mansfield plus creating his own treasures and memories — building forts and princess playhouses for children who are being granted the desires of their heart. **NOW**

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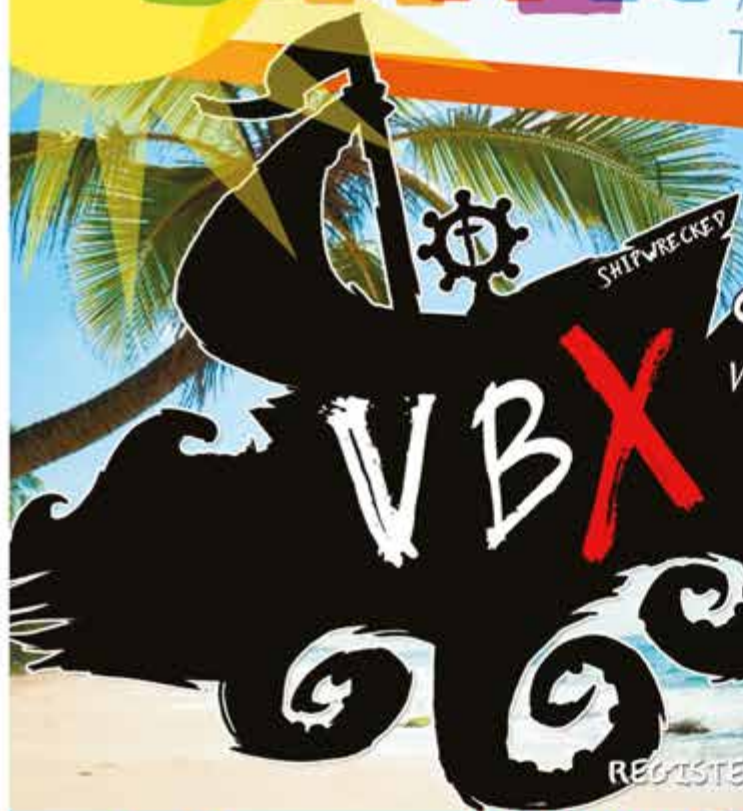
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## At Home With Valerie Crowe

*Valerie Crowe had a plan in mind for her new home when she moved in two years ago — literally. That's because she designed it. "I did the plan in pencil on paper, then I took it to the architect," Valerie said. "He's very creative and added some new ideas. We worked very well together throughout the process. I actually kind of thought it would be more cottagey, but I love the way it turned out."*

It could be called a new "old" house. Throughout are items that take visitors back in time, starting with an antique church pew just inside the front door that now serves as a bench. "I actually had that little niche built for that pew," she said.

The flooring throughout the house is dark brown hardwood. "Once we got started, I just said, 'Do the whole thing.' It's an extravagance, but I love





— By Rick Mauch



them,” Valerie said. “If you have all of one kind of floor, it makes the whole house look bigger.”

The vaulted ceilings in the living room also make the home look bigger. The living room includes Craftsman-style cabinets filled with books and a large cabinet that provides separation from the kitchen, along with holding more books and a TV. “I didn’t want to walk in and see a big TV, so I had it put here, where I think it works well,” she said. “And it’s not my thing to have an open kitchen. I know a lot of people like



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that, but I'm a messy cook, and like my privacy when I'm in there."

There's also a secret room, but you can only go to it if Valerie takes you. That's because the entrance blends into the wall. But slide the door open and voila! There's a storage area that includes her Christmas tree on a dolly.

"At Christmas, I just roll it out, plug it in and it's Christmas. I love holiday decorations, but mostly after they're already up," Valerie said with a laugh.

The kitchen also features a large window overlooking the front garden that invites visitors to wander through, as does the larger garden in



the backyard. "I like to get up in the morning and look out, knowing the world is out there," she said.

Below the window is a farmhouse sink made of cast iron. "It's the real deal. It took three men to get it in here," Valerie stated. There's a vintage Chambers stove and a matching vintage-looking refrigerator. The dishwasher door is disguised as a set of drawers.

In the dining room is a round metal table with seating for six. The



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passageway between the two rooms has an archway that doubles as a display shelf filled with items, such as an antique scale and classic jars. A large China cabinet in the dining room was a gift from a friend. It's filled with dishes that date back decades, including a lovely brown and white color combination. "Those were my mom's. They've been in the family maybe 60 years. It suits this house just fine," she said.

Another China cabinet holds more dishes that are priceless to Valerie. They are from her wedding to her late husband, Jim, who died at age 68 in 2014, from a lung disease. Together, they had four children and four grandchildren.

The house is filled with vintage light fixtures. However, above the dining room table is a crystal chandelier. "I've never been a crystal-fancy person. I've always been more rustic, but I loved this when I saw it, and it just fits."

The welcoming sunroom features a large fireplace and a white mantel with exquisite woodwork. On the wall is an assortment of needlepoint, along with a variety of other pieces of art. "I do a lot of needlework myself, so any time I see something handmade, I want it," she explained. "I'll even buy something that's incomplete and finish it myself."

On the table is an unfinished jigsaw puzzle. There's no hurry for Valerie, though. "I love jigsaw puzzles. If I'm not careful, I tend to do that instead of other stuff I should be doing," she said with a laugh.

In the study is an antique leaded glass window that opens in three sections. On the shelf is an old Royal typewriter in mint condition, the kind on which she learned to type.

The guest room features one of several quilts from her collection, offering comfort. "I have a lot of quilts," she admitted. "My grandmother was a quilter."



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A bunk room hides behind a sliding barn door. It's a hideaway for her grandchildren when they visit. "My dad made this little table for his mom as a boy," she said. "It's got to be at least 80 years old."

In the master bedroom is one of her most prized possessions — a crocheted coverlet with raised floral designs that she found at an estate sale. "I can't believe this is handmade, but it is," she said. "I love thinking of the time and love involved in its creation. Perhaps it was part of a trousseau and created by a bride."

The lace curtains in the room were made by a friend. On top of an armoire is her hat box collection that ranges from Stetson to Neiman Marcus. Two doors in the bedroom came from a mansion in Dallas.

The master bathroom features a vintage tub and sink. "Everything downstairs is wheelchair accessible," she said. "I'm not getting any younger. Hopefully, I won't need it, but I just like the space it gives the house, also."

Upstairs are two more bedrooms, one with large windows that offers a wonderful view of the backyard. Back there one can walk through a path and soak in the atmosphere of the huge garden, as well as warm up by the giant outdoor fireplace. The neighboring room includes a small crib with some collectible dolls, and in the hallway is a cabinet from her mother's kitchen, which holds some keepsakes. "I'm first and foremost a gardener," she said. "I've been gardening all my life."

Valerie also loves to do some traveling. But wherever she goes, she always loves coming home. "If I travel, or even if I go out for the evening, it always feels good to come home," she said. "A home has to be comfortable." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: Valerie's home will be featured during the Mansfield Women's Club Holiday Home Tour on December 2.*



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# From Pledge to Progress

— By Virginia Riddle

A floral fragrance wafts on the wind. Beautiful Monarch butterfly wings flutter as these delicate creatures hover above milkweed grown specifically for them in the Butterfly Garden tucked between Mansfield Public Library and Mansfield Activities Center. Other butterflies, insects, birds and ground creatures are welcome to share this urban wildscape created and maintained by the Mansfield Garden Club in collaboration with the community's parks and recreation department personnel. "Together we're making a difference in the community," Tammie Pavese, Mansfield Garden Club president, said.

The club was approached in September 2017, by Mansfield's Nature Education Supervisor Tiffany Gorrell, inspired by Mayor David Cook, who had taken the National Wildlife Foundation's Mayors' Monarch Pledge. U.S. mayors and other local and tribal government officials have been challenged by NWF to

"take the pledge" to help save the Monarch butterfly. Since the Monarch's annual migration stretches from Canada to Mexico, the pledge has been extended to a tri-national partnership.

Led by member Barbara Sissen, the club acted with enthusiasm upon Tiffany's request to participate in the project, creating the garden and reporting the progress periodically. "The city's our biggest partner in all our area projects," Barbara said. "Some items are provided by the city, and some plants come from members' yards. I have always loved flowers, but I like the design process mostly."

Anyone can certify a garden with NWF. One doesn't have to have a big space. A home's yard, a balcony's container garden, school property or roadside can be certified. By creating such a space for bees, butterflies, birds, amphibians and other wildlife, Mansfield residents can join the garden club members in making a difference in their community.

The online application requires substantiation of key garden elements: food, water, cover, places to raise young and sustainable practices. An application fee of \$20 helps support the foundation. Once the application is approved, the Certified Wildlife Habitat sign with Ranger Rick, like the one in the Butterfly Garden, can be displayed.



Milkweed is an important plant to introduce to a garden design that entices Monarchs. Monarch caterpillars feed on the plant's leaves. Without milkweed, the Monarchs' life cycle is broken and populations decline. Other plants, mostly native to the area, with little care needed, are planted to supply nectar. Grasses, groundcover, trees and shrubs must be planned thoughtfully.

A list of suggested plants compiled by U.S. regions is located on the NWF site. "The plants we chose are grown organically," Barbara explained. "We do all the trimming and mowing, and we pull weeds by hand. This is a four-season garden with interesting plants in season, even in the winter."

Bird feeders, nesting boxes, hummingbird feeders, yard art and picnic tables complete the scene. Tammie's daughter, Francesca, has helped Tammie with some of those additions. Mansfield ISD students and staff have taken on some of the work, and the club enjoys the donations from FHA projects of rabbit waste, since it makes great fertilizer.

Valerie Crowe, last year's Butterfly Garden chairperson, likes to visit the garden and pull weeds some nights and often encounters families that are enjoying the garden while picnicking. Valerie's notebook filled with the Butterfly Garden's progress has been passed onward to the garden's new chairperson, club member Shelle Mondon.

The garden club's community partnerships extend to other areas. "We participate in the city's Earth Day celebration; plant Habitat for Humanity gardens; plant, decorate and maintain the city's gazebo garden; use the ISD's greenhouses; and share information with FFA students," Tammie said. "We try to encourage kids to stay with Mother Earth, and the gazebo, with its seasonal holiday decorations, is a favorite photo space. The Butterfly Garden is really special," Tammie reflected. "Everyone's welcome to join us and have a hand in it." **NOW**

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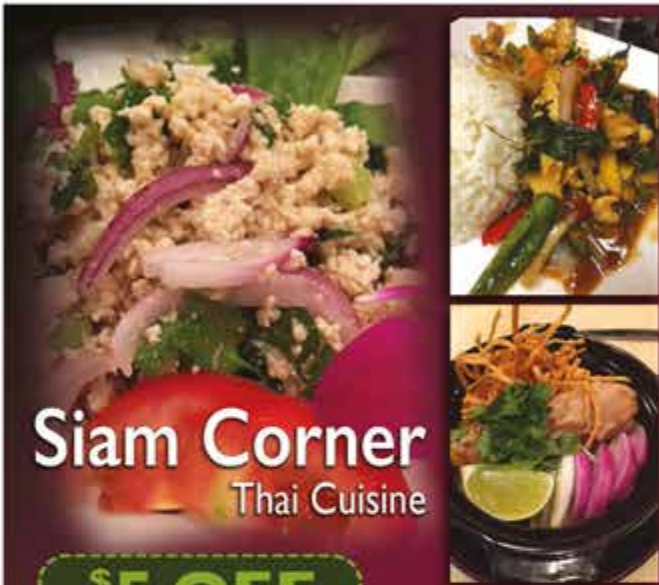
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# BREAK A LEG

— By Virginia Riddle

*There will be no trouble in Mansfield when Professor Harold Hill and his River City, Iowa, band hit the Mansfield ISD Center for the Performing Arts' stage this coming July. The Music Man is one of two musicals to take to that stage this summer. Many of the actors and crew will have already participated in Into the Woods late this month, as well as musical productions in the past six years, gaining valuable experience. "A lot of our kids are involved in community theater," Dr. Chuck Roe, MISD assistant director of fine arts, said. "They are doing something they love with their friends."*



Like many great educators, Dr. Roe knows that the summer theatrical experience must center on the students. "I enjoy seeing the students gain confidence. I've been able to see MacKenzie Rieter blossom into an actress."

MacKenzie, a 2018 graduate of Summit High School, has the distinction of having been in all four summer musical productions. She will attend The University of Texas at Arlington as a music education major, aspiring to become a choir teacher.

SHS senior Hayden Hartrick participates in these productions because he likes connecting with other people. After graduation, Hayden plans to do character voiceovers and voice-animated games.

Another SHS senior, Angel Reeve will play a lead role in this year's production. She said, "The summer musicals help us become better persons and mold us into unique individuals." After graduation, Angel wants to major in music in college.

Not only do the students get valuable acting, singing, dancing and crew experiences, but camaraderie across MISD is forged through the shared interest in theater. "We all root for our friends from other schools during these musicals and UIL one-act play competitions,"



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Melissa Iverson, SHS theater director, said. "We become a team during the summer productions. Students come up with ideas, and the staff tweaks them. We all get to work on the July performance with some professionals who have been in the theater business. Character is built off stage as well as on stage through this program. I couldn't be prouder of these kids."

The summer events were started as dinner theater productions and evolved into the June student-only scholarship show and the July musical, which, this year, will be produced in conjunction with Mainstage Classic Theatre adult cast and crew members. Each year, the process starts with an email Dr. Roe sends to all school theater directors. "It's a collaborative process," he explained. "We do a lot of classics that are family friendly."

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The students and staff have an opportunity through the summer musicals to connect with other directors and learn different styles of theater directing. There's a collaborative technical team, a lead director who's over the acting and blocking and a band or orchestra director over a combined group of musicians. They have hired a choreographer some years, and other times one of MISD's dance teachers does the choreography. Sometimes, a graphic design/art student creates the musical's poster.

Dr. Roe explained, "The real impact of this experience is still unknown since most of our graduates are still in college, but many of them are theater or musical theater majors. All the students and staff know they're doing something special because the ticket sales money goes into scholarships."

There are challenges. "We want the kids to take advantage of other summer opportunities without inhibiting rehearsal time," Dr. Roe stated. Also, there's the matter of transportation since many of the students don't drive yet and their family members are at work. "We schedule rehearsal times in the afternoon, so students can go to school in the morning. We leave evenings open for those students who need or want to work during the summer," Dr. Roe explained.



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Funding for the scholarship show is through the MISD budget. “Staff members earn a stipend,” Dr. Roe explained. “Enough funds were raised last year to provide several \$1,000 scholarships.” The July production is directed and funded by MCT. “We provide the stage and the extras,” Dr. Roe added.

Dr. Roe, a native of the small town of Springtown, Texas, had only acted in his high school’s one-act plays prior to attending Harding University, where he received bachelor’s degrees in music education and theater/vocal music/theater. “College was the first time I had ever experienced a musical production,” he recalled. “I had great professors.”

He received a master’s degree in educational administration and supervision from Dallas Baptist University and, in 2014, a Doctor of Education in education leadership and administration from DBU. With experience as a teacher, assistant principal and principal before serving in his current position, Dr. Roe’s been with MISD for 15 of his 25 years in education. Additionally, he’s an adjunct professor at DBU and serves as the children’s worship director at The Hills Church of Christ. Married since 1990 to his high school sweetheart, Kristy Roe, a Ben Barber HS job coach, the couple has three children, Hannah (22), Dane (21) and Macy (17).

“The Mansfield community provides so many opportunities for our students,” Dr. Roe said. “The support for the summer musicals comes through a community effort.” **NOW**

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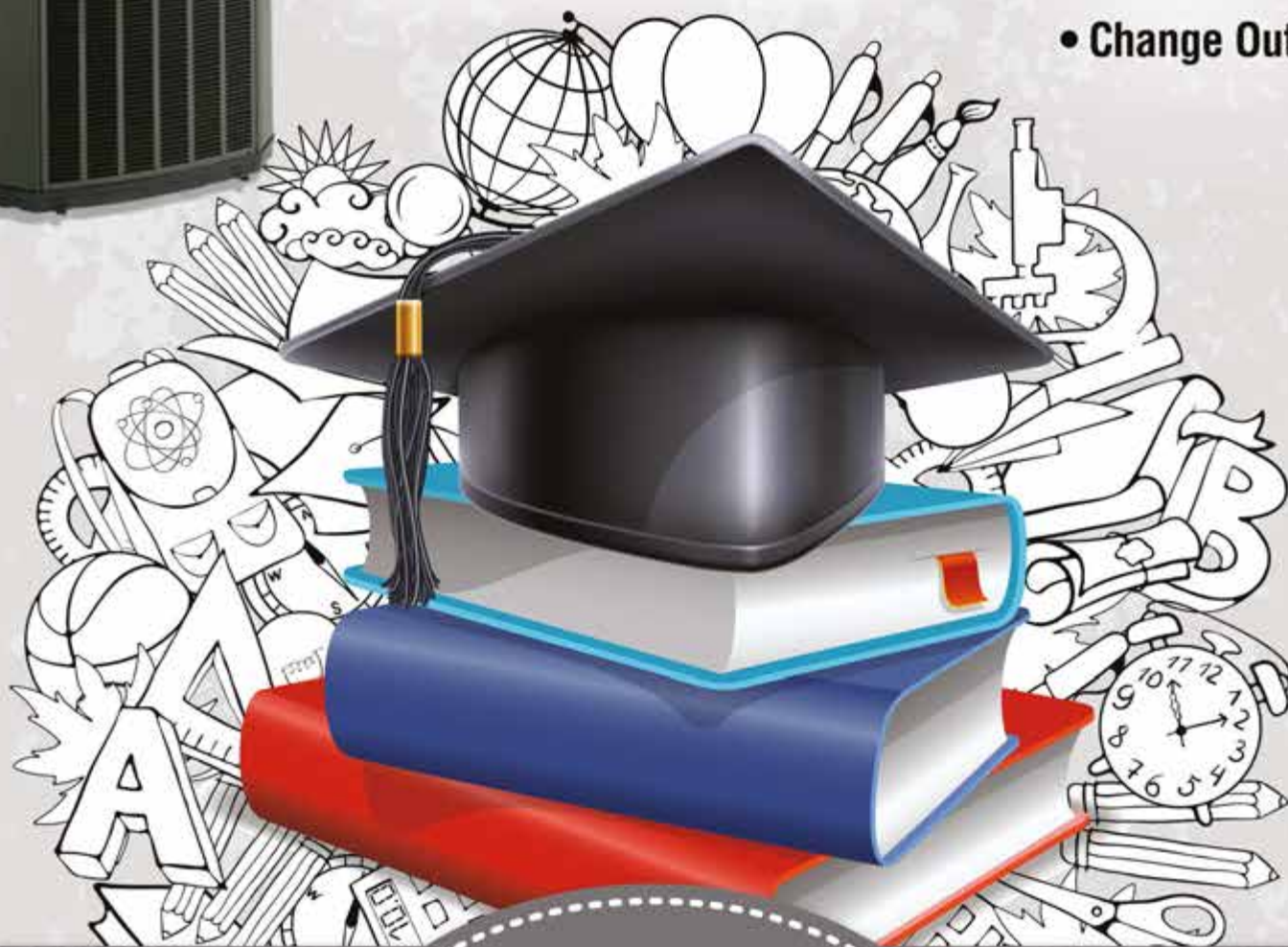
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# CookingNOW

## *In the Kitchen With*

### KYLE SHIPLEY

— By Amber D. Browne



From preparing “kid-approved” meals to date-night dinners, Kyle Shipley enjoys cooking up dishes both in the kitchen and out on his FireDisc Shallow 24-inch Disc Cooker. “I can cook, boil, sear, simmer, warm tortillas and even fry bacon on it,” Kyle shared. “We have three picky toddlers who pretty much only like ‘daddy’s bacon,’ so I top everything with wild boar bacon.”

As co-owner of Glory Farms, Kyle raises grass-fed beef, which is included in most of his recipes. To add variety to mealtime, he often cooks elements of Hello Fresh recipes and recipes passed down to him from his mother. Kyle uses fresh ingredients in his recipes. “I prefer to buy all my veggies, jams and breads from the Mansfield Farmers Market.” **NOW**

### Crock-Pot Ranch Pork Chops

#### 2-4 pork chops

**1 10.5-oz. can cream of chicken soup**  
**1 1-oz. pkt. dry ranch salad dressing mix**  
**4 large sweet potatoes**

1. In a Crock-Pot, layer pork chops. Add cream of chicken soup and sprinkle with dry ranch mix. Cover and cook on high for 4 hours or on low for 6 hours.
2. Poke sweet potatoes a few times with a fork; wrap in foil. Bake for 1-2 hours at 400 F, until soft. Serve with pork chops.

### Sliders

**1 lb. ground beef**  
**Weber Gourmet Burger Seasoning,**  
**to taste**  
**1 lb. wild boar bacon**

#### 5 slices Muenster cheese

**1 12-pack King’s Hawaiian Original**  
**Hawaiian Sweet Dinner Rolls**

#### Lettuce, to taste

**1 tomato, sliced**

**1 onion, sliced**

**Sliced pickles**

**Condiments of choice**

1. Form five slider patties; sprinkle with burger seasoning. Grill patties on medium-low heat for 2 minutes on each side for medium or cook longer for well-done.
2. Fry bacon. Add a slice of cheese to each slider; add bacon. Place on a bun; add vegetables and preferred condiments.

### Date-night Meal

**1/2 tsp. honey**  
**1 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar**  
**4 tsp. olive oil**

#### Salt and pepper, to taste

**2 filet mignon steaks or New York**  
**strip steaks**

**2-4 oz. arugula**

**1 peach, halved, pitted and cut**  
**into 1/2-inch wedges**

1. In a large bowl, whisk together the first 3 ingredients to create a vinaigrette. Season with salt and pepper.
2. Season steak with salt and pepper. Grill on low heat for 3 minutes on each side, or until preferred doneness.
3. Add arugula and peach to bowl of vinaigrette. Toss to combine. Serve steak with salad on the side.

### Stuffed Pepper Soup

**1 lb. ground beef**

**1 yellow onion, finely chopped**

**Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper,**  
**to taste**

**1 15-oz. can tomato sauce**

**1 14-oz. can diced tomatoes with garlic**  
**and onions**

**3 cups beef broth**

**1 cup cooked rice**

**1 green bell pepper, seeds removed,**  
**chopped**

**1 red bell pepper, seeds removed,**  
**chopped**

**1/2 tsp. dried oregano**



**1/2 tsp. dried basil**  
**1 bay leaf**

1. Brown ground beef in a large pan or skillet over medium-high heat; drain all but 2 Tbsp. of fat; set aside.
2. Return skillet of beef to heat; sauté onions until softened and translucent; season with salt and pepper.
3. Place beef and onions in a slow cooker; stir in tomato sauce and next 5 ingredients. Season with oregano and basil; add bay leaf.
4. Cover slow cooker; cook on high for 3 hours or on low for 6-8 hours.
5. Taste and adjust seasoning, if necessary. Remove bay leaf. Ladle into serving bowls; serve hot.

## Salisbury Steak

*Patties:*

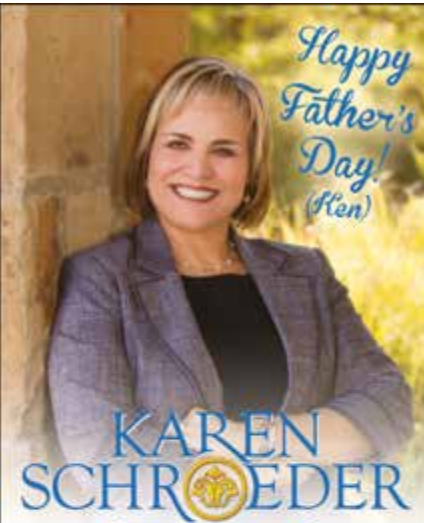
- 1 10.5-oz. can condensed French onion soup (divided use)
- 1.5 lbs. ground beef
- 1/2 cup dry breadcrumbs
- 1 egg
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. ground black pepper

*Sauce:*

- 1 Tbsp. flour
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. mustard powder

1. *For patties:* In a large bowl, mix together 1/3 cup condensed French onion soup with ground beef and next 4 ingredients. Shape into 6 oval patties.
2. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, brown both sides of patties. Pour off excess fat.
3. *For sauce:* In a separate bowl, blend flour and remaining French onion soup until smooth.
4. Mix in remaining 4 sauce ingredients; pour sauce over meat in skillet.
5. Cover and cook on medium for 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).



*Happy Father's Day! (Ken)*

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## BusinessNOW

# Mansfield Glass and Windows

— By Adam Walker

### Mansfield Glass and Windows

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[service@MansfieldGlass.com](mailto:service@MansfieldGlass.com)  
Facebook: Mansfield Glass and Windows

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. • Closed weekends.

Jimmy and Rhonda Jones have been serving the glass and window needs of Mansfield, and the surrounding area, at Mansfield Glass and Windows since 2009. This locally owned business was started in downtown Mansfield in 2000, and Jimmy and Rhonda purchased it in 2009. As Mansfield grew, so did Mansfield Glass and Windows. They outgrew two locations before purchasing their current property and building a facility with plenty of room for growth. The

Joneses enjoy living in the community where they work and serving their friends and neighbors. “We aren’t just selling glass here. We are building relationships. We’re part of the community. We live here. Our kids are in school here,” Jimmy explained. “We want good relationships with our customers when we run into them at the grocery store.”

Mansfield Glass and Windows specializes in replacement windows, shower enclosures, mirrors, tabletops and other household glass applications. If you need new replacement windows, have a foggy insulated window or are looking for the shower of your dreams, they’ve got you covered.

They also do light commercial glass, such as storefront doors and windows, and glass walls for conference rooms or tops for large conference tables, like the one where they meet with customers in their glass-enclosed conference room. “Mansfield ISD keeps us busy with replacing windows



near the end of the school year. The students get a little excited around that time,” Jimmy said with a chuckle.

“We only hire the best, experienced employees, and we train our new employees to a high level of expertise,” Jimmy said. “We really emphasize customer service. We have three front-desk people, because we never want a call to go to voice mail. We treat all our customers the same, whether it’s a \$10 job or a \$3,000 project. And we tell our techs to leave a place cleaner than when they arrived.”

“You can trust us with your panes” isn’t just a slogan. It’s a promise. Their technicians are trained in customer service and get lots of compliments on the cleanliness and quality of their installs. “Jimmy is a very hands-on owner,” Rhonda said. “He does installs right alongside his guys. And all of our installers know that.”

**“WE AREN’T JUST  
SELLING GLASS HERE.  
WE ARE BUILDING  
RELATIONSHIPS.”**

In addition to regular clear glass, the team at Mansfield Glass and Windows offers various patterned glass options. One such option is antique glass made to match that slightly warped look of vintage windows found in old Victorian houses. Another is glass patterned like rain. Numerous other options, from ridges to leaves, are designed to obscure the view, while still letting in light. These options are just right for cabinet doors or shower enclosures.

Whatever your window or other glass needs may be, Jimmy and Rhonda Jones and the rest of the Mansfield Glass and Windows team are ready and eager to help you. From the front desk to the install team, they want to provide a great product and a great customer experience. **NOW**



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## TravelNOW Cultural Attraction

— By Andrea Panozzo

For a slice of Americana, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, beckons Texans with family fun, outdoor adventure, live music, shopping, museums and history. Enriched culture, ever-growing culinary and brewery scenes, beautiful art and a variety of sports entertainment are all within visitors' reach. Driving northeast from Fort Worth will take almost 16 hours and about \$150 in fuel. Or, the Eastern Iowa Airport is 9 miles from Cedar Rapids, where cultural immersion is easy, thanks to a community proud of its heritage.

For many years, Czech was commonly spoken in Cedar Rapids, and today, more people of Czech ancestry live in Cedar Rapids than in any other city in the world, except for the Czech capital of Prague. It is a proud aspect of Cedar Rapids culture, and the history is expressed through extraordinary

exhibitions and experiences at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library.

The museum isn't the only representation of the Czech culture. Czech Village/New Bohemia Main Street District was voted Best Cultural Attraction by the *Corridor Business Journal* in 2017 and was a 2016 Great American Main Street Award semi-finalist. It is home not only to incredible artists and world-class museums, but also some of the best dining, shopping and entertainment in the area.

One fantastic shopping area in the district is NewBo City Market, a year-round indoor farmers market. Visitors can taste local cuisine and brews and support local artistry, all while experiencing a unique and fun atmosphere.

One of Cedar Rapids' most famous local artists, Grant



Wood, got his start here. Cedar Rapids Museum of Art holds the largest collection of his works. The classic art piece, *American Gothic*, was painted in his studio home in 1930. His studio is located near downtown Cedar Rapids and is available to visitors on weekends from April through December.

Another historic landmark is the Brucemore Estate, former home to several history makers who played a large role in Cedar Rapids' factory industries, including Quaker Oats. The estate was donated to the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1981, and today 43,000 people are drawn to the site every year. Brucemore Estate hosts signature events for the public, like the poolside Tahitian Party, Balloon Glow in the summer, Brucemorchestra in the fall and A Modern Salon in the winter. The house and incredible gardens are open for tours throughout the year.

Hundreds of other parks allow for escape into nature. Indian Creek Nature Center's grounds and trails are explorable at no charge. Families can hike scenic trails, see a concert in the amphitheater, participate in a yoga class or let their children play in the outdoor classroom.

Throughout spring and summer, visitors can join residents cheering on their Cedar Rapids Kernels baseball team, the Minor League affiliate of the Minnesota Twins, playing at the single A level. Fans get to experience firsthand future MLB talent, as top prospects from all over the world play for and against the Kernels. There are also hockey, indoor football and soccer teams competing in the winter.

At the end of full days, calm and cozy lodgings abound. People who need the comfort of a hotel will find every national chain has a key just for them. And those towing an RV will rest securely at campsites nestled close to the Cedar River. **NOW**

*For more information or to plan a trip to Cedar Rapids, visit [gocedarrapids.com](http://gocedarrapids.com).*

*Photos by Liz Zabel, GO Cedar Rapids.*



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# RV There Yet?

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*You may be thinking about getting a new ride before your family heads on its ultimate adventure. Whether you just need a vehicle to get to your destination, or you are thinking of having the RV experience this year, here are some tips to keep in mind before you head to the dealership.*

## The Best Type for You

- *Compact vs. Roomy* — If you are just looking at getting a simple sedan, the main decision is two-door or four-door. If you have kids, a compact car with limited legroom in the back may not be the best choice. But, if you just need something to get to work and back, a compact car is often cheaper and offers better fuel efficiency.
- *Minivan vs. SUV* — If you have a big family or tend

to drive a lot of people around town, you probably need something that seats seven or eight people. While minivans are sometimes thought of as uncool, their sliding doors and lower access make them more convenient than bulkier sports-utility vehicles. If you need the space but not necessarily the seating, an SUV or even a pickup truck may be the ideal choice for you.

## If the Car is More Than a Car

While alternative accommodation options like Airbnb have given travelers more choices than ever, many people still love the freedom of having a vehicle that doubles as lodging. If you are looking for the perfect RV, here are the questions you should ask:

- *Pull vs. Drive* — While there are many specific choices, the first decision to make is whether you want something



that attaches to a vehicle, or if you want to buy a larger unit that is a vehicle in and of itself. Motor homes vary in size, but they are self-contained houses that sleep any number of people, while fifth wheels and bumper pulls attach to trucks, and even small cars, in some cases, and tend to be less expensive on average.

• *Fifth Wheel vs. Bumper Tow* — Fifth wheel RVs are a specific type of trailer that use a sophisticated system to hitch to the entire bed of a pickup truck. Because of their attachment method, they tend to be bigger than other towable RVs. But there are varied sizes available for those who want to tow from a bumper hitch. Some of the smallest pop-up campers can actually trail a sedan, though most RVs will still require a decent-sized truck for the towing power they afford.

• *A vs. B vs. C* — If you decide to go the route of a true motor home, there are three classes, A, B and C. Type A is the largest and, understandably, the most expensive, but it offers more sleeping accommodations. Type B is essentially a larger version of a minivan, with sleeping enough for a small family. Type C is smaller than type A but, typically, offers sleeping space over the driver's area, similar to the way type B does.

While there are no special license requirements for operating an RV, you will want to practice driving such a large vehicle before heading out on the open road for the first time. If you opted against a motor home, be sure you have all the necessary hitches, light hookups and the registration needed to tow from your vehicle. This summer could be the perfect time to take your family on the road trip of a lifetime, so be prepared and get the perfect vehicle to meet your family's needs. **NOW**

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## Zoomed In:

By Melissa Rawlins

## Emma Wunder and Emma Moore

Ten-year-old friends Emma Wunder, left, and Emma Moore, right, dance inside the bounce house at El Primos Mexican Grill. They came with their mothers, both named Jennifer, during the Cinco de Mayo celebration. “Emma piggy-backs me in the bounce house,” Miss Moore said. “We call that the Bouncing Froggy.”

Miss Wunder added, “Another move we do is we both jump over the poles simultaneously.”

Then they both grabbed their phones to ask Siri, in unison, “What is Cinco de Mayo?” Siri explained that Cinco de Mayo often incorporates parades, food, music and folkloric dancing. “Which would be my favorite part,” Miss Wunder said, “because me and Emma can have a fun time dancing.” At which point the bounce house seemed the best place to go, so they could dance some more.



*Cutting Edge Pediatric & Adult Therapy owners, Joe and Kate Lundgren, share their personal success story with local businesses.*



*Nicole Rosales and Luis Lara, PR for Methodist Health System, escort Mansfield Methodist volunteer Christianah Adejokun, Miss Prestonwood Polo Club’s Outstanding Teen.*



*Jessica Swafford, Old Republic National Title receptionist, stays dry and happy indoors while the raindrops steadily fall outside.*



*Zoie Taylor, Macie Lee, Avery Ross, Tessa Nicolas, Ava Prichard and Brynne Farrar dance the night away during the J.L. Boren Elementary Annual Talent Show.*





*London O'Connell bottle feeds her 6-day-old baby goat, Pico.*



*Johnny Nguyen has been running food to guests at BFF Asian Grill for about a year, and he loves his job as much as the food.*



*Bryan Adkison, Kim Mullins and Greg Lingle, board members of Leadership Mansfield, celebrate the success of their 5th Annual Leadercast Conference.*

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# Calendar

1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Kiwanis Club of Mansfield meeting: 6:45-9:00 a.m., Mansfield Methodist Hospital Conference Rooms A&B, First Floor. Contact Sharon Baker, (817) 994-2497.

2

Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-in: 8:00-11:00 a.m., Mid-Way Regional Airport. The event includes classic airplanes and fighters, helicopter rides, CAF vintage airplane rides, fly-overs, Midlothian Classic Wheels, Gold Wing Road Riders, live music, children's activities and more. Breakfast tickets are \$6 for adults and children 8 and above. Children under 8 are \$3. Parking is free. (972) 923-0080 or [www.mid-wayregional.com](http://www.mid-wayregional.com).



Vive! Ensemble: 7:30 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. The Applause Music Concert Series is free to the public. Visit [ApplauseMF.org](http://ApplauseMF.org).

3 — 6, 11 — 15

VBX and VBS: 5th and 6th graders, 6:30-9:00 p.m.; 5-year-olds through 4th graders, 9:00 a.m.-noon, First Baptist Church Mansfield, 1800 E. Broad St. (817) 473-1161 or [www.firstmansfield.com](http://www.firstmansfield.com).

4, 11, 18, 25

Sunrise Toastmasters Club: 7:00 -8:00 a.m., Methodist Mansfield Hospital, Canedy Community Room, 2700 E. Broad St. Become the speaker

and leader you want to be. Visit [kevinorsak@mhd.com](mailto:kevinorsak@mhd.com).

6

Love Above All Support Group: 6:00-7:00 pm, First Methodist Church Mansfield, 777 N. Walnut Creek. Individuals with cancer are welcome to share and express their struggles and blessings in a safe, loving environment. Contact Erica Uplinger at [ericau@fmc.org](mailto:ericau@fmc.org).



6, 20

Mansfield Lions Club meeting: Noon-1:00 p.m., Mansfield Methodist Hospital, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2700 E. Broad St. Service-minded citizens wishing to learn more about the Mansfield Lions Club mission are welcome to contact Nicole Simmons, (817) 453-1170.

7 — 9

Household Hazardous Waste Collection: **Thursday** and **Friday**, 3:00-7:00 p.m.; **Saturday**, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Mansfield Environmental Collection Center, 616 S. Wisteria. Contact David Macias, (817) 276-4239.

8

All Star Equestrian Foundation Golf Tournament: 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Hidden Creek Golf Course, Burleson. Support therapeutic horseback riding for special needs riders and disabled veterans. \$90 per person or \$300 for a team

of four. (817) 477-1437 or [marie@allstarequestrian.org](mailto:marie@allstarequestrian.org).

9

Meat, Mugs & Music: 2:00-9:00 p.m., The LOT Downtown. All day, all local music accompanies samplings of local craft brewer's stouts, fruits and brews plus \$30 steak dinner plates including rib eye, baked potato and salad. Contact The LOT Downtown Executive Director Kat Orsak, (405) 250-1947, or visit [www.mansfieldcookoff.com](http://www.mansfieldcookoff.com) to sign up for the competition.



9, 23

Chess Club: 1:00-3:00 p.m., 104 S. Wisteria St. Learn to play or brush up on your skills. Free. (817) 728-3690 or [julie.crisafulli@mansfieldtexas.gov](mailto:julie.crisafulli@mansfieldtexas.gov).

12

Mansfield Garden Club meeting: 6:00-8:00 p.m., Chris W Burkett Service Center, 620 S. Wisteria. Presentation by Holly Teal, owner and floral designer at The Vintage Pair. To RSVP or ask questions, call Tammie Pavese, (817) 453-5289 or Donna Mendenhall, (817) 475-4428.

13

Storytelling by Deecee Cornish: 10:30-11:30 a.m., 104 S. Wisteria St. The award winning "urban Aesop," Mr. Cornish engages families. Free. Contact [julie.crisafulli@mansfieldtexas.gov](mailto:julie.crisafulli@mansfieldtexas.gov) or call (817) 728-3690.



14

Chamber Chat: 8:00-9:00 a.m.,  
Mansfield Area Chamber of  
Commerce. Free to glean from an in-  
depth conversation between Chamber  
President Lori Williams and Dee Davey,  
of Davey Goosmann Realty. Call  
(817) 473-0507.

21

Quilting With Heart: 1:00-3:00 pm,  
First Methodist Church Mansfield, 777  
N. Walnut Creek. Open membership  
with no dues. Join us if you are  
interested in making charity quilts  
and would like to learn more about  
and share the art of quilting.  
qwhinfo@gmail.com.

22

Fine Arts Showcase: 5:30-7:00 p.m.,  
South Oaks Baptist Church, 5925 US

Hwy. 287, Arlington. Be amazed by 3rd  
through 8th grade students performing  
the story of Joseph, developed during  
The Technicolor Dream Camp. For  
details on participating, contact Kim  
Herron, (817) 478-8284.

Ongoing:

Mondays — Fridays

Mission Market: by appointment, 777  
N. Walnut Creek Dr. To meet dietary  
needs, families may choose their own  
grocery and toiletry items. Call to make  
an appointment to shop: (817) 473-6650.

Wednesdays Through August 8

Feed the Kids for Summer: 10:00-  
11:00 a.m. or 6:00-7:00 p.m., Mansfield  
Cares Warehouse (directly behind the  
Linda Nix Care Center) 150 S. 6th Ave.  
Donations are gratefully accepted.  
Volunteers are needed to unload food  
from truck and load tables for bagging,

and then to bag food items and load  
into food pantry vehicles. Contact  
suzyherrmann@hotmail.com.



Saturdays through October  
Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.,  
206 Smith St. For more information  
about the cheeses, crafts, baked  
and canned goods, flowers, herbs,  
vegetables and meats available, visit  
www.mansfieldfarmersmarket.net.

*Submissions are welcome and published  
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melissa.rawlins@nowmagazines.com.*



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# An American Dream

— By Melissa Rawlins

A peculiar story of successful intergenerational mentoring rests in the files of Byrne Brothers Foods, operating quietly from its Mansfield warehouse and established in 1979. The four Byrne brothers who run it now are in the business of serving other businesses, as were their father and his father.

In 1939, John Byrne Sr. purchased John Murrin Company — founded in 1915 to sell coffee, tea, pickles, dressings, napkins and sundry groceries to cafés in Fort Worth — from its founders. John Murrin and his wife had sponsored 18-year-old John J. Byrne's immigration from Ireland in 1922, when their company was called Fort Worth's Home Sauce & Vinegar Company. Excerpts from a letter Mrs. Murrin typed to her cousin before he came to America are both humorous and relevant today.

"I am enclosing your transportation from Londonberry to Fort Worth ... The total ... will be \$200. This may make you figure rather close but you will have to get used to doing that as conditions in this country also are pretty tight, and you will have to figure mighty close to get by on what you will be able to make for a time.

"The less getting ready you do, the better off you will be. You could undoubtedly buy an outfit of clothes cheaper there than here, but anything you buy there does not fit in well here ... When you arrive here you can get what American clothes you will have to have ... You will look like an American 13 hours after you get here.

"There is no one here to help you make a success; you will be your own man, and your measure of success or failure will depend upon your own merits. There is a good living here for every man who is industrious and of good habits, morally and socially. There is no room for any other kind, and I want you to know well that you must expect hard work and plenty of it."

Before John J. Byrne, Sr. passed away in 1963, he'd clearly taken to heart Mrs. John Murrin's stern guidance. After purchasing their firm, the industrious Irish-American practiced well all they taught him, and then guided his son, John Byrne Jr., to operate the business. Around 1984, John Byrne Jr. brought his sons into the company.

Of the four, Johnny Byrne keeps history alive. In Byrne Brothers Foods' lobby, an oak-and-glass case full of artifacts fascinates visitors. Tucked between old mustard and ketchup bottles and implements used to bottle vinegar and pickles, there is, of course, a faded snapshot of a young immigrant named J. J. Byrne, who had ears to hear and a heart to pass on good advice. **NOW**



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