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On The Cover



American Legion Post 624 member, Eddie South, has been inspired to do many good deeds.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Howdy, Mansfield!

To honor our independence, a four-person detail from the Mansfield Fire Department Honor Guard presents the colors at Mansfield's Rockin 4th of July. Firefighters of every rank participate in the Honor Guard. Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshal, Clay Cawood, is one of the six original members. He believes the flag represents truth, honor, our right to be American citizens and to be free. "I've read and reread the Declaration of Independence,"



Clay said. "Our founding fathers wanted us to be able to look at that Declaration and immediately think of the goals we should always be working for and about the people who have fought so hard to make these ideas possible." Before the fireworks this year, please take a closer look at the symbolism of the Honor Guard's two fire axes protecting the very heart of our United States.

Stay free in your hearts, Mansfield!

Melissa

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Today, men like Eddie South are the face of our country. Seven grandchildren and 41 years after returning from Vietnam and starting a whole new life as a Tarrant County law enforcement officer, Eddie has retired to the countryside near Mansfield and has time for a little introspection. He realizes the war never was about him. "War is about who you're taking care of," Eddie said, thinking of the present-day warriors in Iraq and Afghanistan. "They're doing it for everybody's family. They are the best of us who are over there doing that."

After serving his country, Eddie understands the Fourth of July and the American flag to represent a lifestyle of sacrifice. "We're the only country in the world that opened our arms to the huddled masses, the only country where you're free to celebrate the resurrection of Christ and offer up the soldier who's willing to die for the freedom to do that. The flag symbolizes everything this country stands for," he said. Staff Sergeant Jeremy Smith, a member of Mansfield's American Legion Post 624, recently came home under a flag. Eddie, a self-confessed fixture at the same post, rode in the Patriot Guard for Jeremy. With motorcycles

"Our preamble begins For God and country," and we have to put our money where our mouth is."





12-deep, they escorted his body to Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery and stood ready to be a barricade between his family and any protestor.

Eddie remembers what it was like to be a dutiful citizen and then to return to United States soil alive, at the age of 19. "We were happy to make it through the next day," Eddie said, "knowing that there was a day out there when we'd get on the freedom bird for the world. 'Cause where we were was not even of this world."

Coming home was nearly as scary for Eddie as fighting in Vietnam. "When I got off the airplane, I couldn't remember what anyone looked like. I went over there at 185 pounds and came back at 145. I did not have anything that fit," he said. "I came back at end of June, and Fourth of July was frightening to me, for a while, fireworks in the distance. When your life is in danger consistently for a long period of time, you forget a lot of that civilian stuff you grew up with." This year for Fourth of July, Eddie and his wife, Yvonne, will stay at their house out in the country, relaxing with family, remembering those who sacrificed for freedom and giving thanks for their own.

Much of his free time, Eddie dedicates to helping the veterans who are members of his post. "A lot of these fellows don't have any family, and if it wasn't for this post, they'd have nowhere to go at holidays," said Eddie, who sometimes acts as chaplain at American Legion Post 624. "After our Easter egg hunt for the kiddos on Saturday, I did the sunrise service this year — my favorite kind: short, sweet and to the point, but heartfelt."

Eddie's tattoos attest to his focus on

four things: love, peace, joy and faith. He is also a faithful supporter of the four pillars of the American Legion. Since its creation in 1919, the American Legion has focused on fostering a strong national security, taking care of veterans, mentoring the youth of our nation and promoting patriotism and honor. Under the leadership of Eddie and former commanders Al Robart and Ron Bowman, the American Legion Post 624 on the southwest side of Mansfield diligently serves the local community. They give presentations for military excellence and scholastic achievement to the Junior ROTC programs at Legacy and Mansfield High Schools. They host Flag Day to honor veterans. They lobby, as necessary, on behalf of veterans' families. "Our preamble begins 'For God and country,' and we have to put our money where our mouth is," Eddie said. "A lot of that stuff in Scripture about the Great Commission and going out and feeding the country and healing the sick and clothing the naked — that's what we do. We do it for veterans, widows and orphans, and we do it in the community.



"We are not perfect and don't declare [ourselves] to be, but we've been consistent. The economy has been terrible, but we have been consistent about giving," Eddie said. "It's really stunning what needs are out here within a five-mile radius. We took Christmas to a family nearby where the dad had lost his job and the wife had heart surgery. It wasn't because they weren't doing what they were supposed to do; it was the curveball they got thrown." When Post 624 showed up with toys for their



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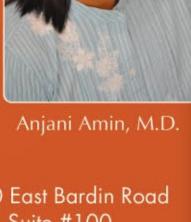
children, folks in the neighborhood came out in the street to applaud the help this family was given.

Belonging to and participating in events that are bigger than any one person requires teamwork. While Eddie acts as finance officer for Post 624, he needs the help of Yvonne to keep up with record-keeping, Web site development and even the final report on one of the most visible activities at the post — the American Legion Military Appreciation Celebration (ALMAC). To honor veterans who have served and are in the hospital, remember veterans who are serving currently and celebrate those who have died, Eddie and the folks at Post 624 organized the first ALMAC six years ago as a barbecue for veterans from the VA hospital in Dallas. People at the post volunteered live music, meat and items for an auction. When all was said and done, proceeds totaled \$3,200, and the money was spent on care packages for soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Every year since, the donated funds have doubled. "We raise the money for the kids, because they're the ones who will come back and try to fit in to society," Eddie said. Last year, American Legion Post 624 sent 9,878 pounds of a variety of items for 2,000 troops. Every one gets a brand new, clean pair of white socks, beef jerky, eye drops from Alcon and Ramen Noodles. The post receives letters and cards thanking them as much for the gifts as for the moral support. "When their morale is down, it's not the beef jerky or fruit. It's [the fact that] people made homemade products, with cards from kiddos in the school district, total strangers who are demonstrating by their actions their support for them."

Eddie was elected Post Commander this summer, and he and his pals at Post 624 are working hard to throw a party local veterans will enjoy. Their preparations will involve barbecuing 350 pounds of brisket for the October 1, 2011, ALMAC. "When I am asking myself why we are doing this and how it happened and who it is all for, I remember," Eddie said. "It's for a gazillion giggling babies from coast to coast. That's who will be the face of our country 20 years from now." **NOW**

For more information about the American Legion Military Appreciation Celebration, visit www.alpost624.org.



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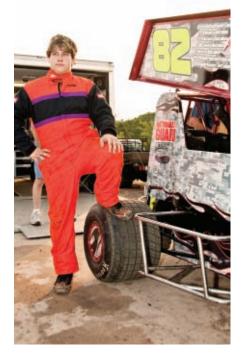
DRIVING TO

— By Jeremy Agor

At 14 years old, Christian Kinnison is too young to drive the family car on the streets, but he has developed into a successful driver of mini-sprint cars in races on dirt tracks from Kennedale, Texas, to Tulsa, Oklahoma. His passion requires a great deal of support from his parents and two sisters, since he races every weekend for the majority of the year. 'We were amazed that racing is such a family event. We didn't see that world as a family activity, but it brings people together," Cassie, Christian's mom, said. 'We have to work around everyone's schedule, and it gets crazy. But we don't want to miss a race, and we like to hang out together."



Christian first became interested in racing six or seven years ago when he met his friend, Tony Dowd, on the school bus and noticed his race car T-shirt. When he asked Tony about the shirt, Tony told him it was *his* race car and invited Christian to a race. Two years later, Christian finally convinced his parents to attend a race, and he was hooked. Tony races go-karts, and while the two ride to school together, they do not race each other. "T had driven a golf cart and four-wheelers, but this was totally different. I really wanted to race, and on December 16, 2006, my parents gave me my birthday present — my first race car,"



"Racing's fun, because 90 percent of the time you get a result you didn't expect."



Christian remembered. "I started with a go-kart with a 6.5 horsepower engine. The second week I raced, I trashed my car, and it took a long time for me to regain my confidence."

His confidence grew while practicing at Cowtown Speedway in Kennedale. The track's promoter, Bo Rawdon, let him practice as often as he wanted. Christian's father, Chris, set up cones to help

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Christian practice taking lines around the track. With hundreds of practice laps under his belt, it took Christian about six months to improve his skills. By the end of the first season, he got a better car that rests on springs instead of on a suspension. At that point in his career, he started to come into his own, and Chris

"Racing in the ASCS2 series is a pretty big deal, because kids from all over compete."

— not a "car guy" but a fast study — was learning to set the car up correctly. That's important because small things make a difference. Christian lost once because of one pound of pressure in his right tire and another time because the angle of the wing was off four degrees.

Soon, Christian won his first race and was met by his team in the pit area, spraying soda like champagne to celebrate. He continued his success in



go-karts for three years and is now in his second year racing mini-sprint cars in the Lucas Oil ASCS2 series.

Mini-sprint cars are bigger and faster and have more safety features. His new car has a motorcycle engine, and Christian recently reached 75 mph in a race. Another challenge for Christian in the ASCS2 series is instead of just racing kids his age, he now faces adults as well. He races in two classes and is the oldest racer in one and one of the youngest in the other. "Racing in the ASCS2 series is a pretty big deal, because kids from all over compete. There are races all over Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, and every two weeks we're racing in a two-night race at a different track," Chris said.

Christian has made the transition smoothly. He captured his first victory in mini-sprints this season at Cowtown and qualified for the feature race at the Tulsa Shootout on New Year's Eve. He was the only racer from his region to do so and was one of 20 drivers to qualify from the 92 who entered the weekend.

Just as important as Christian's success on the track is the effect it has on his self-confidence. "Racing gave Christian his mojo," Cassie explained. "He has friends all over because of racing. He found himself, and it really boosted his confidence. He's motivated and encouraged."

Christian's car has a camouflage theme in honor of his uncle, Col. Mike Kinnison, a National Guardsman in the 45th Battalion in Afghanistan. Service members and veterans often strike up conversations with him because of his

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car, and he's proud to support his uncle. He also has three ribbons on his car: a blue one for prostate cancer research, a yellow one supporting the troops and a pink one for breast cancer research. In the fall, Cassie will walk in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day for the Cure, a 60-mile walk over three days benefiting breast cancer research. To help fundraising efforts, Christian has donated all his winnings this season — so far, more than \$1,500 — to the foundation.

Although racing takes most of his time, Christian is also successful in activities away from the track. His parents insist on him maintaining A's and B's in school in order to race, and he has yet to miss a race due to bad grades. "I hate it! But I have a really good relationship with my teachers. They let me pick up work early or make it up when I get back. I'm glad summer's here, so I can get a break," Christian laughed.

He played football in middle school, but will take his freshman season off to focus on completing his black belt in karate. Chris is insistent that Christian earn his black belt before getting his driver's license. This is because Chris wants Christian to finish what he started. Setting a timeline will help Christian accomplish his goal. "I'm two belts away from my black belt. Karate helps me with my discipline and helps keep my mind in the right place," Christian explained.

Most importantly, Christian values time with his family and supports his sisters' interests as much as they support his. Chloe and Caroline help out each week by cleaning his cars, and they wear shirts with his number on it, but both are dedicated participants in their own activities. "The main thing is we try to keep it fun for the girls, too. Christian is blessed with the God-given talent to drive," Chris said, "but if his sisters ever get tired of racing every weekend, we'll have to slow the schedule down."

Racing is in Christian's blood. His next goal is to race 360-cubic-inch sprint cars, which he can begin driving when he reaches the age of 16. Until then, he continues to enjoy competing in minisprints. "Racing's fun, because 90 percent of the time you get a result you didn't expect," he mused. "I love adrenaline, the rush of the G-forces and the wind blowing in my face."



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In the countryside outside of Mansfield, winding roads can sometimes lead to surprising pockets of large estates with white-fenced pastures and elegant neighborhoods of custom-built homes. Brian and Nancy Ryals' country French home is clearly one of those gorgeous homes, yet the story behind their motivation to build it, and the thoughtful attention from architects, decorators, landscapers and all who were involved, make the beauty of their home extra special.

Brian is a pediatric neurologist at Cook Children's Medical Center, and Nancy is the director of Life Point, an organization providing training and education to young adults with autism spectrum disorders. "Our 23-year-old son, Jonathon, has developmental differences," Brian said. "He needs our support and will always live with us." Jonathon's twin sister,

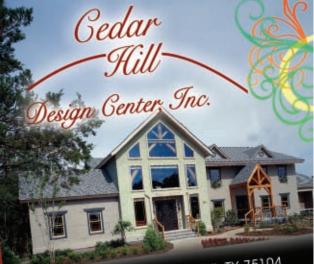


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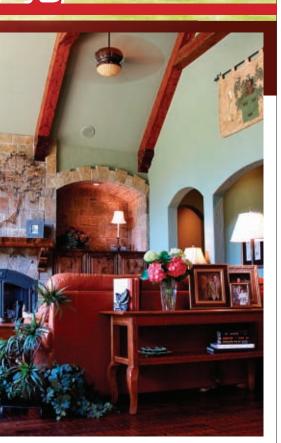




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Elizabeth, has just completed her first year of medical school at The University of Texas at Houston.

Four years ago, moving was nowhere on Brian's mind. As it happened, he and Jonathon had discovered a great place to walk. "Before construction began, we often took walks out here," Brian said. "One day, I realized we enjoyed it so much that it made sense to buy a lot." Today, the area is a lovely gated community, including 50 custom-built homes and enough lots for a total of 80. It's a community filled with daily



dog-walkers and great people.

At 4,980 square feet, the Ryals' home sits on a landscaped acre, and inside and out, it speaks of substance and warmth. A path from the circular driveway leads to a stone-covered porch and a massive exterior door fronted by decorative glass and ironwork. The home's exterior features unique castle-cut stone brought in from Arkansas, accented by brickwork and touches of tan-colored stucco.

"Nancy and I visited the Rough Creek Lodge near Glen Rose and wanted to bring that look into our home," Brian



said. Timber frame construction uses heavy beams to support a tall barn-like structure, and the style works well with the country French theme. "We wanted to create big, wide open spaces," Brian explained, "to have more room and activities for Jonathon and to enjoy holiday gatherings and watching football on TV."

Without a doubt, they have accomplished their vision. The central part of the home incorporates the living and dining rooms and kitchen. "They are all one great room," Brian said. The tall





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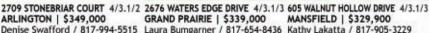
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ceiling and opening between the dining and living areas are lined with massive beams of decorative pine, and the floor is rich brown hand-scraped wood. "The dining area had to be big enough to hold the dining table Nancy and I bought when we were first married," he admitted. On either side of the dining area are the kitchen and the living space. With tall windows facing the backyard and 24-foot vaulted ceilings, the effect is truly a "great room." Primarily, colors are green, gold and beige with a long multi-sectional leather sofa, two comfortable chairs, a gorgeous area rug, a fireplace and a 63inch, flat screen TV in the living area. In addition to the great living-dining-kitchen room, the floor plan includes four bedrooms, six baths, Brian's office, wine room, laundry, combination pantry and Nancy's office, an upstairs game room and a large screened-in porch.

"The three downstairs bedrooms are mini-masters with their own bathrooms," Nancy said. "It was important to me to create distinct personalities in each room." The "master" master suite is breathtaking with abundant and artful millwork, a huge fireplace and beautifully appointed furniture. The doors throughout the house are 8 feet tall and made of knotty alder, finished with a dark stain. "To see Jonathon's room, you would think his dad is a fireman," Brian smiled. "Since he was 3 years old, Jon has been fascinated by firefighters. He was named an honorary firefighter by the Mansfield Fire Department, and he's really proud of it. He volunteers to wash fire trucks and help clean the fire stations, and the firefighters have welcomed him." Jonathon also has a set of scrubs and a white coat, because, next to firefighters, he thinks doctors are pretty special, too.

Brian and Nancy wanted their home to be functional and efficient. "There's a bathroom just inside the entry from the swimming pool with a pass-through to the laundry room. That way, fresh towels are always available, and it's easy to gather the used ones," Nancy said. Having the laundry room close to the bedrooms is also more efficient than putting it close to the kitchen. "I love my kitchen," she smiled. "I found a photo in a magazine of a kitchen unit that was unique from the rest of the cabinetry and had an antiqued look, so I decided to incorporate that." The effect is a spectacular combination of a sea foam granite counter-topped island on dark cabinetry opposite a unit of green cabinetry with black granite countertops. The sink is farmhouse-style, and the appliances are stainless steel. "Brian wanted cabinets made to hide small appliances so the kitchen would never look cluttered, and that has proved to be a great decision," Nancy remarked.

Brian and Nancy agree their favorite room is the screened-in porch. "I like to sit out there in the mornings and drink coffee," Brian said. "There's a remotecontrolled gas fireplace if it gets cold, and the screens let you feel like you're outside, but without the bugs."

"Our daughter's favorite room is the wine room," Nancy said. "She loves that it has an iron gate and feels like you're actually walking into a vineyard." The wine room is just large enough for a wall of wine holders and a small bistro table with two chairs.

The Ryals are a very close family. "Let's talk about The University of Oklahoma," Brian smiled. "Nancy and I met there as students in 1983. Nancy, Elizabeth and I all graduated from there and, importantly, it is home to a great football team. Everyone in our family is an avid Sooner fan. Jonathon loves to go to the games, and we're always ready for OU to beat The University of Texas."

Last year, Brian and Nancy celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. "We went to the BMW factory in Munich to pick up a new convertible for Nancy. We had a great time, and I've enjoyed a happy wife ever since!"

As for building a home, would they do it again? "It was a six-month project that took 15 months," Brian said. "It's a tough process, but there's nothing about the house we would change. Jonathon and Elizabeth are happy. Boomer, our Boston Terrier, likes it. So I would say we're home." **NOW**



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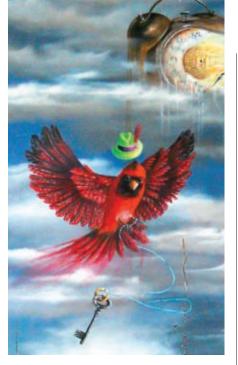
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"Visual artists are communicators of our internal dreams."

— By Melissa Rawlins

Natascha Rijfkogel is no romantic. Hearts are not her chosen emblem. But in 2008, she painted one for Leroy Thorpe, her husband-to-be, and sent it to him from Panama. Somehow the Marine-turned-truck driver met Natascha, the multi-cultural, professor-turned-painter, over the Internet, and love blossomed. Before moving here in 2009, Natascha finished the last painting in her postal stamp series — the one featuring an oversized child's jack. Then she put aside her entire world — including a television talk show she hosted about art and artists — and moved to Mansfield. She spent a year settling into married life, and began to paint again 12 months ago.



Since aligning herself with Eclectic Expressions, an art studio and gallery in Arlington, she has displayed her work publicly three times. "Leroy comes to the exhibitions," Natascha said, "and I don't know how he does it, but within five minutes he has talked to everyone in the room and shared stories with them about the meanings behind my paintings." Entering cultural life in Mansfield and the Metroplex is a process Natascha is watching unfold.

"I am a person with a lot of patience," she said, remembering her creative progression with a smile. She began her career as a graphic designer, studying at the Universidad de Panamá (University of Panama) to be a professor of publicity. For fun, she joined a theatrical troupe in 1992, and later performed in Columbia with an experimental group. While a



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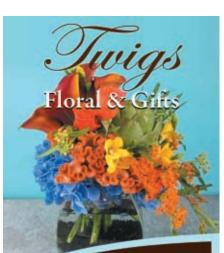
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thespian, she began making fantastic plaster masks, exhibiting 32 in one show. During her mask-making period, she joined the Panamanian Association of Art. They inspired her first painting, El Parto (The Labors of Birth), which now hangs on the wall in her family room.



She had never painted in all her life, but accepted their invitation to paint about a culture of peace. She asked her colleagues for instruction, and they told Natascha how to prepare the canvas. Then she made a little sketch. "I had three days with the canvas blank, because when I began to make it I got nervous in the hands," she said. "I had no professional paints, just house paints, and no nice brushes, nothing. I made the drawing with pencil on the canvas and I said, 'Today's the day.' Once I began, I spent three days, with only breaks to sleep, and I finished." Natascha's was one of the first nine paintings judged worthy of displaying in the 1997 UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) exhibit.

From there she challenged herself to keep painting. Influenced by a visit to the Salvador Dali museum in Tampa, Florida, Natascha studied and practiced in Dali's style until one day someone told her that people would never buy her paintings if she continued in surrealism. "You cannot jump one style to the other style," Natascha said. "Art is a process. You have to sit in a chair and think, and define your conception of the stuff you have

internally. What do you feel good about creating? You have to investigate."

By 2002, she had begun a series of still life paintings based on an antique bottle collection. She taught herself to work in the scale of the grays by painting a glass of water. "That forces



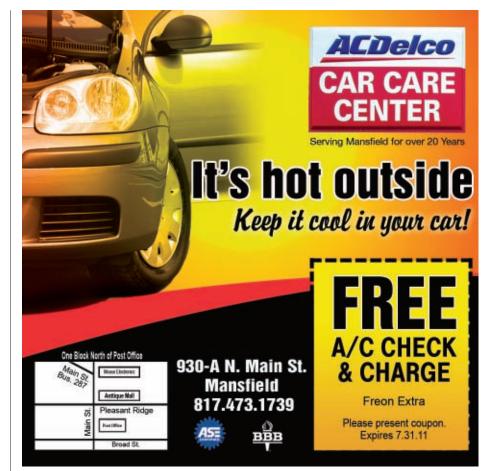
me to improve as a painter, to separate the colors in my mind, to discipline myself to paint like a musician who hears all the elements of a symphonic composition," said Natascha, who also began studying the surrealism of René Magritte. "It is fewer elements than Dali, more open spaces, and I feel like it's more clean, more of a dream. Visual artists are communicators of our internal dreams. I never paint my emotions, never, because if I'm depressed, why paint something depressing? I paint my fantasies, my dreams."

One day in 2006, a friend

pointed our that Natascha's focus was on bottles and bottles and more bottles, so she decided to change the subjects of her art. In 2007, she made her second individual exhibition with the motif of postal stamps, as though her paintings were envelopes, and their meaning could travel. Natascha had fallen in love with the antique stamps she discovered at the Philatelic Museum in Panama. "The stamps of the United States are amazing, too," said Natascha, who uses both those stamps in her paintings even now.

After dwelling for another year on the motifs of flowers, doorways and fruit suspended in clear skies with floating clouds, Natascha began to work with another technique: the spatula knife. "Art is a continuing process of making experiments," she said. The more she used the spatula the more her style changed. Painting the sky or the clouds no longer bored her, a little aggression crept into the dynamics. Natascha had found another kind of visual language.

Her new theme emerged in June, 2010, when she painted a diptych, *Each Bears The Mark of Time*, after completing her transfer from Panama City to Mansfield. "When you move, you have to suspend





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many activities in order to clean and organize," Natascha said. Her resulting dreams inspired a painting of a clock suspended in fluffy clouds with a key and a couple postage stamps.

Leroy, who studied technical drawing before joining the Marines, admired *Each Bears The Mark of Time* and encouraged her to imagine making a series of paintings based on her original. Knowing



she could continue the series up, down, left or right from the original, Natascha said the second in the series of six, Supervisor of Clouds, was hard because she had to work using the same colors and clouds throughout all six pieces after accepting Leroy's challenge. "We

are fingers of one hand," Natascha said. "What is the hand? Art. We are writers, painters, actors, photographers, poets and musicians. Each one has to learn about other people."

By this spring, Natascha had completed seven more paintings on the motif of time. "We put the meaning to time," Natascha said. "But who tells you we have to separate the time in years, hours, minutes? We invented that because we need a measure of everything." In March and April her exhibition, titled *Solo Cuento Las Horas Serenas* (I Only Count the Hours Serene), presented 13 paintings displaying time as conceived by Natascha Rijfkogel.

As her name implies, Manfield's newest artist has ancestors who are Indian, Dutch and African. "Many times, I miss my previous cultural life," she said, "but when I think, *I'm with a good person and in a really nice place*, it's okay. I live in the here and now." Natascha uses her new reality to create dreams and stories about time, putting them to canvas for future exhibitions. **NOW**



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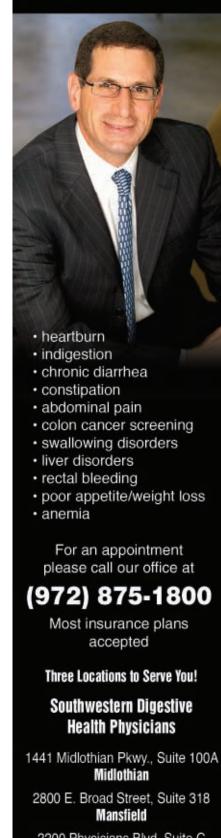




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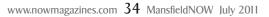
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Window to the

— By Jeremy Agor

Jennifer Rike has a good imagination and a creative spirit, and she puts both to good use. The Timberview High School librarian uses her position to help open her students' eyes to the world beyond Mansfield. She relishes the times when students respond in ways they haven't before. "The library is a window to the world, especially with all the technology available to

students today," she said. "They can explore the unknown, travel and research things they might never be able to in real life. Because I'm curious, I love to share my curiosity. Students may send me on a wild good chase, and they often ask me for help finding something I have to learn about first. But I love to learn, and I'll help them find what they're looking for." Jennifer became a librarian almost as an afterthought. She had earned a college degree in recreation, but didn't know what she wanted to do with her life. The small town in which she and her husband lived provided few opportunities for someone with her degree. So, she founded an art festival and a summer recreation program that gave children something to do, and she loved that too. The only reason she stopped was because she and her husband moved.

When she arrived in Mansfield in 1988, Jennifer pursued her interest in community theater, and later became involved in participatory theater and storytelling. She was practicing a story while sitting at her mother-in-law's hospital bedside, when a nurse came in and mentioned her sister was a storyteller who happened to work in an elementary school library. That comment struck a chord with Jennifer. She realized then her curiosity, her love of reading and her storytelling ability could all combine into one job.

Jennifer was not a certified teacher, so when an opportunity arose to work in the J.L. Boren Elementary School library as a paraprofessional, she took it. Then the challenge became getting her



certification. The certification process didn't take long, and she taught one year before becoming a librarian in the Arlington ISD. She spent four years in Arlington before taking a position in the Mansfield ISD and is now in her eighth year in Mansfield, having spent four years at the elementary level and four at the high school level. "I feel very blessed every day to be able to get up and do something I love. This job is different every day," she confessed. "Being able to provide and share access to information and language is wonderful."

Jennifer believes educational researcher Stephen Krashen's theory that free and voluntary reading is the greatest predictor of success at life. To that end, she encourages her students to read by asking what interests them outside school and then finding books that align with those interests, rather than asking them what they like to read.

In one instance, Jennifer approached





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a fourth-grader who had never passed a standardized test and said, "Let me help you find a book." The girl left, but Jennifer persisted, and when the girl finally relented, Jennifer sat down and had a conversation with her, then selected a book in the hope she had found the right book for the right child. Soon, the girl passed a standardized test for the first time ever. Her mother later reported the girl now brought books with her everywhere she went.

Another time, a veteran third-grade teacher was astounded when, after only a few library visits, her students began using problem-solving skills to decide how to complete assignments. "It's the confluence of the library and the classroom. Once that light bulb goes on, they have a tool," Jennifer explained. "It's empowering, motivating — that's why I do it. The kids have really learned to be comfortable doing research. They come in, go right to the computers and get to work."

Similar successes have been repeated in Jennifer's high school library. To further assist her students, two years ago Jennifer approached Timberview High School's then-principal, John Kraft, with a request to keep the library open after regular school hours. John agreed, and the library is now open late twice a week. She is happy to see students who are regular



after-school users. "There are lots of kids who need access to the library and the technology it contains. Some are writing novels, and they get on the computers to write and do research until they can't write any more," Jennifer added.

Sometimes during after-school hours Jennifer passes the time indulging



"The library is a window to the world, especially with all the technology available to students today."

in another of her creative hobbies: quilting. She grew up sewing, and two summers ago she tagged along as one of her friends taught another friend the art of quilting. Since then, she has







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created seven quilts, including one for the Wounded Warrior Project in San Antonio. One even won second place at the Arlington Quilt Show. Her students often show interest, and one is creating a quilt as her Key Club service project for the Project Linus, a national project in which participants create quilts which are donated to hospitals with children in critical care, who need something warm and fuzzy to wrap themselves in. That student often comes to the library after school to sew and get Jennifer's help.

Jennifer is toying with the idea of helping students use the many T-shirts they acquire during their high school careers to create memory quilts. Although it is potentially a big project, she is confident it can be accomplished with help from mothers, aunts and grandmothers, many of whom have admired her quilting projects.

This summer, Jennifer plans to indulge her passions in different ways. Nine months of the year she receives a box of new books, and was able to read some of those at the time. This summer she will pull several more books from those boxes and catch up on reading all sorts of fiction. She also has plans to gain knowledge, which will help her better serve her students. She will attend the North Texas Children and Youth Conference as a professional development opportunity. She also tries to take classes because she feels that knowing literature is no longer enough for a librarian. "I'm there to integrate with the classroom and meet the academic needs of the students," she said. "Hopefully, I will be planning research lessons with faculty members this summer while we're not rushed. That way, we can collaborate on ways to really address student needs by working together."

Jennifer recently introduced young adult fiction author, Jacqueline Woodson, at a lecture at the Dallas Museum of Art. One of Woodson's novels features family stories about a quilt. Jennifer made the analogy that the writer built with words what others build with fabric. That analogy is a parallel between her career and her hobby. "In life, if you take what you're curious about and pull the threads individually, they don't mean much," she said, "but when you piece them together, they make amazing things."

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With hearts for children, Doris Carter and her family have dedicated their lives to helping the workday family. — By Melissa Rawlins

While yet a high school girl, Doris Cannon, and her family moved from West Texas. Her dad, Simon Cannon, bought 365 acres back when Mansfield's city limits sign was near Erma Nash Elementary. Doris went to North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas), and then married Frankie Carter. Frankie joined Texas Instruments, and Doris opened Mrs. Carter's Kindergarten on her family land. Eventually, the city named Cannon Drive after her father.

"This community has been very good to me," said Doris, who devoted her life to teaching the little ones in Mansfield. "I am grateful for the parents and children of the community who supported me all these years." When she started in 1969, she drove the bus that brought children in from as far as Kennedale and Midlothian. "I'd get up at 5:00 a.m. to pick up the children, bring them here and I'd teach them. At noon, I returned them," Doris said. Then customers asked for daycare, so Doris continued to teach (and drive the bus) and brought in Luellen Bishop to care for the toddlers or smaller ones who came with their brothers and sisters.

Times have changed, yet Doris, along with her staff, still provide parents with choices. The State of Texas lists Carter's Day Care as a provider for CCMS (Child Care Management Services), for families that are low-income. The current program divides two shifts between 12 teachers. Two of their employees — Judy Lee and Willie Mae Brooks — have given over 20 years of dedicated service. The first half of each day offers pre-K,

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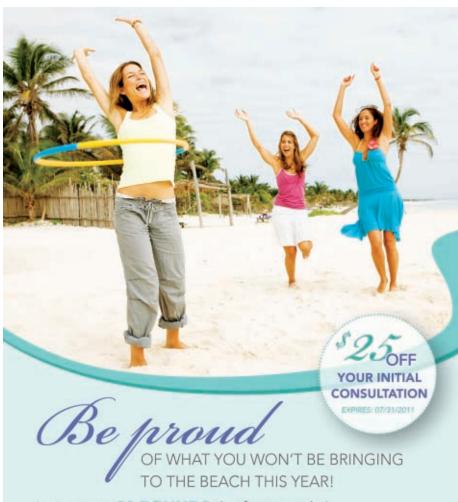
Doris and Frankie, who reared their own children while helping local children mature, changed the business name to Carter's Day Care. Frankie has acted as bookkeeper and office manager since retiring from TI. The Carters have focused on making their family-run learning center home-like. They have maintained their buildings and grounds and concentrated on giving good care to prepare children for school after daycare. Sheri Davis, Doris' daughter, and her husband Darrell, are licensed directors along with Fredda Cook, who joined the staff one-and-a-half years ago.

Fredda and Doris are members of their very own mutual admiration society. "Mrs. Carter is here for the children and to make it affordable to the families," said Fredda, who directs the teachers to work with every child according to their individual learning style. "A lot of times at 3-4, children are pushed to be like little college students. But children learn more through play than anything." Such a free childhood experience is something Doris has always provided. Because Doris grew up with Fredda's mother, she expressed confidence that when she is ready to step down, Fredda will run Carter's Day Care in an honest, efficient manner that is accommodating to parents and good for the children.

Preparing children socially, behaviorally and academically for entrance to public schools requires as much patience and love as it does play time. "There is not a rigid curriculum in the afternoon," Sheri said. "We have a park-like setting where the children play every afternoon in nice weather." Sheri expressed her sentiments in a poem she penned:

I was inspired and moved to tears one day, as I sat in my office staring out at the children at play. I noticed so quietly how my teachers nurtured their little ones, as if they were the mothers of everyone. They do their best and it is so sweet to see as they take care of the workday family.





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Around Town NOW



Dottie Von Bose tends to her sunflower garden.



A few Mansfield Lions Club members put out flags in front of businesses on Memorial Day.



Bob Stulce, Clay Hensley and Chris Chamblee erect crosses as part of the Every 15 Minutes campaign for drunk driving awareness.



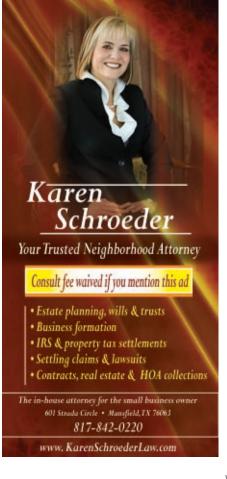
Debbie LaPlant, cafeteria manager at MHS, poses with the cake she made to celebrate faculty showing their creativity at an art show in the library.



Isabelle Edwards of Charlotte Anderson Elementary stands by her picture of sunflowers displayed in the art show at Mansfield ISD Administration Building.











Mary Jane Is Not the Same

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

"This is not your father's marijuana," intoned the narrator from a recent *National Geographic* documentary. It is no longer the same because it is now stronger. There has been a determined effort to grow the plant with higher concentrations of THC (Tetrahydrocannabinol), the substance found in marijuana. Many sources of marijuana come from agriculturalists who seek perfection in their crop. With the perfection, comes a stronger plant that produces marijuana with a higher degree of potency.

Health NOW

The scientific name for marijuana is *cannabis sativa*. Other names for the drug are: weed, pot, ganja and Mary Jane. With close to 200 million people worldwide smoking marijuana, it has the label of being the most widely illicit substance in the world. In America, possession of this drug is illegal in all 50 states, but that has not slowed its growth. A common misconception is that marijuana is harmless.

All of the effects and risks associated with this drug have risen over the years because of its increased potency. Long-term use of marijuana can lead to addiction and opens the door to experimentation with stronger and more lethal illicit substances. Marijuana affects the circulatory and respiratory systems. The drug is inhaled into the lungs, which absorb the chemicals in the smoke. Marijuana smokers hold smoke in their lungs as long as they can to get a bigger hit or achieve a better high from the drug. That smoke can contain up to 70-percent more carcinogenic hydrocarbons. The amount of tar in marijuana that settles in the lungs has been estimated to be up to four times the amount of tar in an unfiltered cigarette. The blood vessels carry chemicals from the lungs to the heart. These chemicals cause the blood vessels to dilate, which gives the body a flushed, warm feeling and red eyes. The blood pressure starts to fall, which makes the heart beat faster and can lead to abnormal heart rhythms. A marijuana user's risk of having a heart



attack quadruples in the first hour.

Mentally, the drug affects the parts of the brain that influence memory, thinking, concentration, coordination and perception. The effect on memory and difficulty in learning can last for weeks after the effect of the drug has worn off. This presents obvious problems for someone still in school because comprehension and thinking skills are impaired.

For those who smoke marijuana, it is wise to realize the risks to your health and mental capacity. Don't impair your future for a few moments of floating high. **NOW**

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



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Finance **NOW** Sharing the Moments of Life

— By Tim Bordelon

Families share the moments of life: Moving into your first home, picking up your son from school, walking your daughter down the aisle. But, what if something were to happen to a member of your family?

Your or your spouse — Would you be able to pay the bills? Your family's other provider — Who would care for your family? Your children — How would you cover their future needs?

Life insurance can help you protect the most important people in your life — your family. Family term insurance can help you provide protection for your entire family under a single policy. Now, getting that life insurance coverage has never been easier or more affordable. You can save on premiums, while everyone gets the coverage they need.

Initially, term life insurance may fit your family needs. You and your spouse can purchase term insurance and pay the same low premium for the term of the policy. As your life circumstances change, you and your spouse have the opportunity to convert your coverage to permanent insurance that may last as long as you live.

Optional coverages, or riders to help protect other members of your family, may be available. Instead of dealing with separate policies, you can get life coverage for your whole family with just one policy. And, the



cost of the riders is more affordable than purchasing separate policies for each family member.

When sharing the moments of life, it's comforting to know your whole family is protected. Talk with an insurance professional to help ensure you have the coverage you need and the protection your family deserves.

State Farm Life Insurance Company (Not Licensed in MA, NY or WI) Bloomington, IL. Form # MPC#101162 EXP 4/2012

Tim Bordelon is a State Farm agent based in Mansfield.



Calenda

Through October 8

Mansfield Farmers Market: Saturdays, 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Corner of Broad and Main (FM 157) in historic downtown Mansfield. All organic fresh veggies, peaches, herbs, honey, free-range eggs, flowers and house plants plus crafts. For more information, contact Rex Wenger at (817) 501-6027.

July 1

Rockin' 4th of July: 7:00-10:00 p.m. Big League Dreams, 500 Heritage Parkway South. Join the festivities as Mansfield celebrates the Fourth with rock 'n' roll, recreation and rockets! Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. Parking is at MISD's Newsom Stadium with free shuttles to Big League Dreams. No parking is available at BLD. For more information, visit www.mansfield-tx.gov.

July 9, 10

The King and I: July 9: 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and *July 10*: 3:00 p.m., Kennedale Performing Arts Center, 901 Wildcat Way, Kennedale. Music by Richard Rodgers; book and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein

II. Based on *Anna and the King of Siam* by Margaret Landon. Purchase tickets at www. MansfieldCommunityTheatre.org. For more information, e-mail info@mansfieldcommunitytheatre.org.

July 18-21

Vacation Bible School: 6:00-8:30 p.m., Mansfield Bible Church, 2351 Country Club Drive. Free for children from 3 years old through sixth grade. Children will experience the ultimate "concert" each night as they worship and sing with the Go Fish Guys! After that, it's time to go backstage, tour a recording studio, and most importantly, learn about the Bible! Crafts, team-building games, cool Bible songs and tasty treats are just a few activities that will help faith flow into real life as the children go Back Stage with the Bible! Go to www.mbcchurch.com to register your children. Call (817) 473-8980.

July 22-24

Summer Balloon Classic & AirFest: Friday and Saturday: Sunrise-sunset; Sunday: Sunrise-noon. Mid-Way Regional Airport, between Midlothian and Waxahachie off Hwy. 287. Dallas-Ft. Worth's "Aviation Extravaganza" in the country features three mass ascensions, one each day. Airplane, helicopter, B-25 and DC-3 flights will be available to the public, for purchase, throughout each day. Booths, exhibits and children's area will be open 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday; 6:00 a.m.-8:30 p.m. on Saturday and 6:00 a.m.-noon on Sunday. Live music throughout the day. Hot air balloon tethered flights will be available, for purchase, during balloon hours from 6:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m., weather permitting. For more information, visit www.summerballoonclassic.com.

July 26

Board Meeting for Mansfield Independent School District: 7:00-9:00 p.m., 605 E. Broad Street. Call Julie Moye at (817) 299-6382 for more information.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to melissa.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.



JULY 2011

Cooking **NOW**



In The Kitchen With DaSha Galloway

— By Melissa Rawlins

For occasions like July 4th, when she gets a chance to try out new recipes and experiment, DaSha Galloway bakes. She whips up crowd-pleasers, serving Frog Eye Pasta and Banana Pudding at barbecues and family gatherings. At 18 months old, she baked her first rolls with her grandmother and rolled one out especially for her dad. By elementary school, in Strawn, Texas, she was in Grandma's next-door kitchen learning, by memory, how to bake from scratch. She and her husband, Bill, moved to Mansfield 20 years ago to rear their family in a small town. "Mansfield is no longer the small town that we moved to," DaSha said, "but I couldn't think of any other place to raise Colton, Michaela, Dylan and Hunter."

Mexican Dish

2 lbs. pinto beans, soaked
2 lbs. pork loin roast
Salt, to taste
2 tsp. chili powder
1 tsp. comino seeds
4 jalapeño peppers, chopped
1 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. oregano
2 tsp. liquid smoke
1 large bag Fritos
1 lb. cheddar or Monterey Jack cheese, grated
1 head iceberg lettuce, shredded
2 large tomatoes, diced
1 large onion, chopped

I. Cook first 9 ingredients together for about

6 hours, or overnight, in a slow cooker. **2.** Serve over Fritos with grated cheese, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes and chopped onions.

Frog Eye Salad

cup white sugar
 Tbsp. all-purpose flour
 1/2 tsp. salt
 3/4 cups unsweetened pineapple juice
 eggs, beaten
 Tbsp. lemon juice
 quarts water
 Tbsp. vegetable oil
 16-oz. pkg. acini di pepe pasta
 11-oz. cans mandarin oranges, drained
 20-oz. cans pineapple tidbits, drained
 20-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained

I 8-oz. container frozen whipped topping, thawedI cup miniature marshmallowsI cup shredded coconut

I. In a saucepan, combine sugar, flour, 1/2 tsp. salt, pineapple juice and eggs. Stir and cook over medium heat until thickened. Remove from heat; add lemon juice and cool to room temperature.

2. Bring water to a boil, add oil, remaining salt and cook pasta until al dente. Rinse under cold water and drain.

3. In a large bowl, combine the pasta, egg mixture, mandarin oranges, pineapple and whipped topping. Mix well; refrigerate overnight or until chilled.

4. Before serving, add marshmallows and coconut. Toss and serve.

Chocolate Cake

2 cups flour 1 tsp. baking soda 6 Tbsp. cocoa 2 cups sugar 1/2 cup Crisco 2 eggs, beaten 1 cup buttermilk 1 tsp. vanilla 1/2 cup boiling water

 Sift together flour, baking soda and cocoa.
 Cream sugar with Crisco. Add eggs. Then add dry ingredients, a little at a time, alternating with buttermilk and vanilla.

3. Add water last. This will make a very thin batter and a very moist cake.

4. Bake at 350 F for about 35 minutes. Makes two 9-inch layers or one 9x12-inch cake. **5.** Frost with your favorite icing.

Cherry Cream Cheese Pie

8 oz. cream cheese

- 1 15-oz. can Eagle Brand Milk
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1 9-inch prepared graham cracker crust
- 1 15-oz. can cherry pie filling

I. Beat cream cheese until light and fluffy. Gradually add sweetened condensed milk; continue beating until smooth and combined. Add lemon juice; mix well.

2. Fill graham cracker crust evenly. Refrigerate until set, between 2 to 4 hours. Just before serving, spread the cherry pie filling over the top of the pie.

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