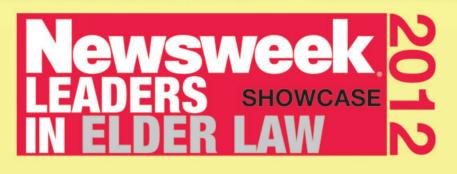
# Magazine Constant

# Eclectic, Colorful and Friendly At Home With Fernand and Cindy Hollier

From Pantry to Staclium Vicki Massey ensures that our Fourth of July fun benefits Midlothian's senior citizens

Plus: A Cause Worth Walking About • Kicking and Swinging • Stories in Pictures • Funky and Classic • In the Kitchen With Shawna Brown



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#### **GRAPHICS AND DESIGN**

Creative Director, Chris McCalla Artists, Julie Carpenter . Martha Macias Connie VanderBeek . Allee Brand Marshall Hinsley . Arlene Honza Brande Morgan

#### PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose Photographers, Amy Ramirez **Opaque** Visuals

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Advertising Representatives, Rick Ausmus . Teresa Banks . Linda Dean Kelly Feld . Laura Fira . Bryan Frye Melissa McCoy . Lisa Miller . Carolyn Mixon Jami Navarro . Lori O'Connell . John Powell Steve Randle . Linda Roberson

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# On The Cover



The Holliers enjoy the view in front of their beautiful home.

Photo by Amy Ramirez.

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# Editor's Note

#### Happy birthday, America!

On July 4, the United States of America, founded in 1776 with the signing of the Declaration of Independence, commemorates its 236th birthday. The entire day is set aside for celebration and introspection as we ponder the idea of what freedom and patriotism mean to a country that is not ruled with an iron fist but by persuasion and, hopefully, reason. The late Erma Bombeck put this perfectly into words. "You have to love a nation

that celebrates its independence every July 4, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism."

Happy celebrating!

Belly

Betty Tryon MidlothianNOW Editor btryon.nowmag@sbcglobal.net

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From Panify to Stadium

— By Betty Tryon

The hot dogs and hamburgers are being munched in contentment. Cold soft drinks on a hot night in Texas hit the spot. The flags are waving, music is playing and fireworks fill the sky with all the accompanying oohs and ahs! The festivity contains all the earmarks of a celebration on the Fourth of July. This is a celebration of Independence Day, but here in Midlothian, the merriment occurs on July 3. The change in the date does not lessen anyone's enthusiasm for the annual homage to wish our country happy birthday. Vicki Massey, a woman of purpose and compassion, is the founder and operator of Senior Citizen's Food Pantry in Midlothian and organizes the occasion. This is not just a celebration of the Fourth. It is an opportunity to help feed some of the senior citizens in our community.

The citywide firework event is traditionally held on July 3 and is sponsored by Citizen's National Bank (CNB). Vicki thought it would be a great idea to have a musical before the firework show, so she spoke to the city manager who agreed to loan her the sound stage. "He said I could show a movie or have a musical or whatever," Vicki stated. "But for that, I thought I would need Floyd Stadium. However, it would be too hot for the seniors on July 3, so I went to the school superintendent, who was J.D. Kennedy at the time, and asked to use the new football stadium, where the seniors could sit in the press boxes where it would be cool." After receiving his approval, she asked Danny Rodgers of CNB if he would move the fireworks from the Don Floyd Stadium area, and the event was moved to the Midlothian Independent School District Multi-Purpose Stadium.

Change is always challenging, and some citizens wanted the fireworks to remain at the original location. However, the change turned out to be a good one. "The fire department was thrilled with the move, because it gave them more room to work with, plus some of the fireworks were coming down on people's homes," Vicki said. "At the new stadium, that didn't happen. It was just a safer, neater place, and you can still see the fireworks just as easily from any place in town. I can see them from my house, and that's 2.7 miles out."

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Being at the Multi-Purpose Stadium offers more room for more entertainment. There are two concession stands and an area off the side of the field designated for children's activities. "The children's activities are located in the concave areas. Nothing can be on the field but the stage, because that grass is so expensive," Vicki explained. "Every year, we progress a little bit more. For children's activities, I went to the Ministerial Alliance and asked if each church would participate, and it worked really well. This year, we'll have face painting and one or two jumping booths." Unfortunately, Sonny Murray, "the barbecue man" passed away since the last event. "So this year, we will probably just have hamburgers and hot dogs. But, we should still have plenty of food for everybody. I always make it reasonable. You can have a sandwich, two cookies, a bag of chips and a drink for \$5. I figured that price wouldn't hurt your pocketbook with a family."

To supply the concessions area, Vicki asks for donations. Two main contributors have been Renee McIlheney and Dennis Smart, owner of Smart Stops. "From Dennis' vendors, I got 800 hot dogs, 200 to 300 drinks and two of his vendors sent money. I drove to Waco to get a whole carload of water from another one of his vendors."

Some Midlothians come to put up tents and picnic in the area around the stadium. Others take their place in line between the rows of cars in the parking lot, while many more take advantage of the music from local talent inside the stadium. And all of them are waiting for the highlight of the evening — the

Dr. Glenn Clark DDS

Dr. Brian Clark DDS





# <image>

spectacular fireworks display. In order to make everyone more comfortable, Vicki would like to have a trailer with a freezer that can house cold drinks to sell to those sitting in their cars. But in order to make that happen, she needs a driver. "I need someone very efficient to drive the trailer," she stated. "It's a wonderful time. You can come and eat and listen to the entertainment and, later, see the fireworks. We don't charge anything to come in. The entertainment is free, and I'm very reasonable with the food. The proceeds help us for two to three months with food at the food bank."

Those few months will provide food for not only the 385 senior citizens who now come to the food bank every Thursday and Friday but also to 1,098



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people living with them. "These people are their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The reason I know this is because the North Texas Food Bank, where we get our food, requires me to keep a record for possible recall," Vicki said. "We feed approximately 1,400 people every week. No one gets paid a salary or any kind of money. It is strictly volunteer work. The people who help me to get the food furnish their own truck, gas and tires, and everybody is just a godsend. It's amazing who God sends and what they do."

Combining the fundraiser with the Independence Day celebration has helped the Senior Citizens Food Pantry with its needs. Although entrance to the celebration is free, there will be donation boxes at the gates for anyone willing to give money toward the purchase of food for the pantry. "We don't purchase food from the North Texas Food Bank, but we do share maintenance fees with them," Vicki explained. "The maintenance fee went from 14 cents a pound to 28 cents a pound. That doesn't sound like much, unless you're buying for 385 families. At that time, I was devastated. I didn't know how I was going to come up with the money to feed them. When we came up with this idea, and I saw how much money it was raising, it is now our largest fundraiser. With the donation boxes, I guess the Lord touches hearts. We've done very good, considering half the people in town don't even know we exist. When we need something, God always comes through someway somehow."

The Midlothian Independence Day celebration is full of festivity and is a great family time with a lot of fun. You can enjoy your time there waiting for the fireworks as you get a jump on July Fourth.

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# A Cause Worth A Difference of the second sec

- By Alex Allred

Do not tell Thelma Minton you don't have time to raise money or walk for charity. She is a woman who does not allow mere obstacles to stop her from what she wants. Born in Mexia, Texas, but reared in Houston, Thelma's life was everchanging. "We moved all the time," she said of her parents. "I don't know why, but every time we turned around, we were moving."

Though she teases about her nomadic childhood, she adopted the gypsy lifestyle in her adult life. "Name it," Thelma said about her employment résumé, "and I just about did it all." She worked as a desk clerk in a hotel, a waitress and factory worker. She also managed an apartment complex and worked as a nurse's aide while rearing nine children — seven biological children and two stepchildren. In 1979, Thelma lost a son in a tragic car accident and a grandson to another car accident in 1998. Compounded by the death of her second husband, Thelma now a grandmother to 15 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren — has truly learned the value of life.

With family scattered throughout Texas, Thelma's last mailing address before Midlothian was Canton. "But I wasn't happy there, so I came up here in 2002," Thelma



Debbie Garvin, Thelma Minton, Danny Minton and Ina Reves believe in fighting Multiple Sclerosis, one step at a time.

smiled. As simple as that, she moved. While she did not understand the reasons for the many moves as a child, she did learn a valuable lesson in life. If she was not satisfied with where she was, she could always make a change.

Make a change. Take a stand. Believe in yourself. These are not simply catchy slogans for T-shirts, but the way Thelma lives her life. So when she settled in Midlothian, she began volunteering at the Senior Citizens Center in 2003, instantly making friends and impressions. "This place wouldn't run without Thelma," said Karen Cox, the Senior Citizens Center director. "She welcomes everyone, checks on everyone to make sure they are OK and just goes above and beyond."

By 2010, Thelma had taken on a part-time position with the center. "T'm here every morning at 7:30 a.m. making coffee, putting out the sweet stuff and answering phones!" Thelma beamed. Although it is supposed to be just a twohour shift, Monday through Friday, "she stays most of the day," Karen said.

Quite naturally, Thelma loves to



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motivate and encourage people to become more active, join the center, make friends and find an activity they like. "In fact," she confided with a laugh, "the first time I came here I said, 'I ain't going back! All they do is sit and play dominos and talk!' But I came back and the next time I did, I brought something to do."

She brought crafts and invited others to join in. One such person was Lynne Street, now diagnosed with stage four cancer. "We have become like family here. We all check on one another, and there are always activities going on, including quilts. You should see Thelma's quilts!"

"I met Thelma here when I used to work here," Mary Howard said of the center. "She turned out to be my best friend. We fuss and fight and go places together. I don't know what I would do without her. So when Thelma announced she was going to start walking for a cause, saying, 'If anyone wants to come, they are welcome,' I said, 'I'm coming with you.""

The walk, as it turned out, had great significance for Thelma. Just a few years prior, Thelma learned that her daughter, Peggy, had been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). Prior to that, a daughterin-law, Lou Ann Brooks, was diagnosed with MS.

Always a woman of action, Thelma knew she had to do something. "When my daughter told me about a walk for MS, I went over there to volunteer to hand out T-shirts," she said. She had just had knee surgery and walking would be an impossible task for the fundraiser held annually in Addison, Texas. As she cheered for the walkers, she resolved to





both participate and raise money for the next walk.

Using the senior center's bus, Karen drove a dozen Midlothian residents to Addison to participate the following year. "We met a lot of people with MS," Karen said. "For them, the momentous amount of effort it took to walk was inspiring. There were people being pushed in wheelchairs or who had to use a walker."

"And I was one of 'em!" Thelma hooted. "It took us four times around the football field, and we didn't stop!" Using a walker, Thelma and her friends, or "Peggy's Posse" as they came to be known, showed the greatest heart.

Wearing bright orange T-shirts with the words Peggy's Posse printed on the front, not only did the group win "Best T-shirts," but they earned a round of applause for their persistence. "Her walk kept us all involved and kept us excited and invested," Karen said of Thelma. "It kind of caught on, and we all felt a part of it."

"After you walk like that," Mary said,

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"you feel like you've done something good. You feel like you've done something for you, too!"

"It gives me great pleasure to help raise money and find a cure for MS," Thelma shared. It also gave Thelma many unexpected rewards. She lost over 20 pounds as a result of her new walking routine and resolution. It gave her new insight and respect — both for and from others.

"Thelma is amazing," Karen said. "She never stops."

"This year, I asked for donations," Thelma explained, "and then I made a full-sized quilt and sold tickets here [at the center] and at the Cowboy Church for a raffle on game night."

And just like another T-shirt slogan: Go Big or Go Home, Thelma's quilt brought in \$1,100. She made the Top 100



list for most money raised in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area. But this year was also special for another reason as it clearly highlighted the kind of woman Thelma really is. No excuses. Just do it.

When a scheduling conflict made it impossible for Thelma to make it to the Addison MS walk this year, her true character shone through. Without a loud speaker or cheering crowd, without a watering station, the promise of a T-shirt or encouraging volunteers, Thelma lined up on the starting line at the track at exactly 8:00 a.m. at the Frank Seale Middle School track, wearing her Peggy's Posse T-shirt. She walked her mile. As she rounded the final lap to an empty stadium she resolved, "If I can do this, anyone can." But, truly, had she been handed a T-shirt, hers would say, "Heart of a Warrior." NOW

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#### — By Cindy Malone

Walking to the door, a casual observer would notice the lush green lawn, the kaleidoscope of colorful flowers and ground covering, and potted plants that frame the doorway of a classically beautiful Victorian home. However, for a Master Gardner like Lucinda "Cindy" Hollier, the tiny faults, like petals that have



#### been eaten by bugs or a weed or two popping up by the stairs, represent work that needs to be done to return her yard to its natural state of perfection.

Cindy met her husband, Fernand, at Port Neches-Groves High School in Port Neches, Texas, where they were high school sweethearts. They were married in 1979 after both graduated from college. After several years up north, the two agreed to settle down in our area, so they set out to build their dream home. Fernand oversaw the building of their two-story, Victorian home on close to two acres. Their large lot is enjoyed by a hodge-podge family of dogs that Cindy, an avid animal lover, has adopted over the years.

The couple's love for dogs is evident by the decor in the formal living area. The walls are adorned with framed pictures of dogs dressed in Victorian dress. "I am a collector, not hoarder-ish, but a real collector," Cindy laughed. "I collect a lot of things that I love." One of those things is handmade and painted pieces by Jay Strongwater. Along with the jewelry-like frames, Cindy collects Victorian dressed, stuffed bunnies along with Raggedy Ann Dolls that sit for tea around her breakfast table. Teddy bears and other dolls also help to warm the home by complementing the floral couches covered in throw pillows. "I am a true Victorian," Cindy shared. "I never met a pillow I didn't like." The kitchen colors, mainly blue and white, are brought out by the floral stained glass accent over the window, the same accent that appears throughout the home. There are also two stained-glass panes in the attic that show only at night with a "special light."

Cindy also loves clocks, a "traditionally Victorian and French" preference. At the stroke of each hour, more than 10 clocks ring, chime and sing at the same time. The





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parlor is decorated primarily in floral patterns and lace. "Some people have big soft couches for any and all people to come anytime and sit," Cindy admitted. "Others tend to use furniture as decoration, a statement. I guess if I was telling the truth, I err toward the later."

Fernand, on the other hand, has a sense of humor about the decorations. "I tell her she better out-live me or else I am bringing in a huge, brown leather Lazy-Boy and a big screen TV," he said.

As Cindy walked up the staircase, she lamented the lightcolored carpet that led upstairs and covered the floor of the second level, which she promised would soon be all hardwood and marble. Each bedroom has a large four-post bed. The guest room

is decorated in blue and white, with a pattern resembling lace.

The master suite is pink, from carpet, to walls, to the marble in the bathroom. "Fernand planned and built this house from the ground up. He let me decorate any way I wanted to," Cindy explained. The powder room, bathrooms, enclosed porch and cut-through bar area have one major decorating scheme in common. When decorating, Cindy worries less about trends and more about surrounding herself with things she finds beautiful. "I was born in the wrong century," Cindy smiled. "I was meant

for a simpler, more elegant, more traditional time. My house is my personal time capsule."

After passing by Fernand's front office and out the front door, the scent of gardenia and roses are strong and fresh. The porch is home to large potted flowers and trees. The lawn is lit in the evening by four Victorian street lamps, two in the front and two more at the sides. There are two large separate



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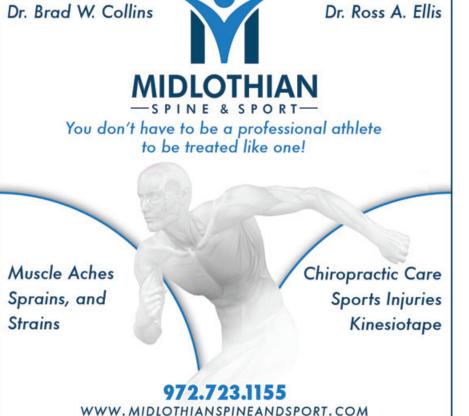
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Physicians are employees of HealthTexas Provider Network, an affiliate of Baylor Health Care System. ©2012 Baylor Health Care System. BID HTPN\_1468 2.12 Internal Medicine Jeffrey Astbury, M.D. Leigh Nordstrom, M.D.

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bed areas separated by a concrete and stone path leading to the home. The ground cover brightens the dark greens of the grass and trees with purple,



orange, yellow and a variety of pinks. Another bed has a water feature, and bird baths are everywhere. "Just another way we like to care for animals in our area," Cindy smiled. To the left, through a handmade, white wooden gazebo, is a hidden garden with benches in the shade of several mature trees.

A gravel path stretches from the secret garden and serves as a path to



the backyard. More bird baths, stepping stones with the dogs' names and pawprints, and one tree whose branches hold several wine bottles that remind Cindy of places she has been are found along the path. Always the comedian, Fernand said,

VISA

"Don't let her fool you; those were all from last night."

"We love to travel. With so many home projects, we haven't had as much time to travel as we would like," Cindy said. As a teen, she and her sister studied abroad in Italy. That is where Cindy fell in love with traveling and studying different cultures. Together, she and Fernand love places like San Francisco, Santa Fe and Savannah, Georgia.

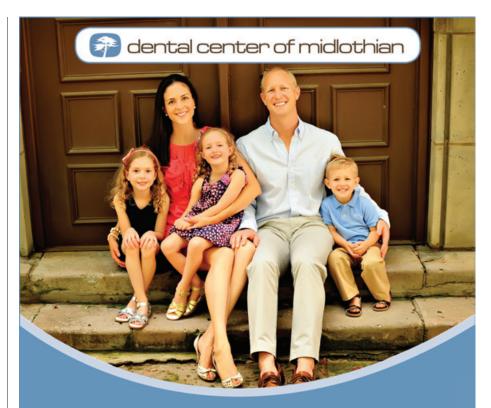
Her travels have also led her to see things and attempt to recreate them in her home, like the very ornate chandelier in the enclosed porch that she decorated with cups and saucers. A large landscaped pool is fenced in by a white picket fence and floral shrubbery, along with a gazebo Fernand built to spec after Cindy saw it in a magazine. "She's the idea person. I'm the get it done person," Fernand laughed.

There is an arbor house also off the pool to help with struggling plants. A small Victorian dog house that she built for her dogs is located between the greenhouse and pool. After Clementine [now deceased], her oldest dog, refused



to let the other dogs in, Cindy changed it into a miniature school room, complete with an antique sewing machine and "set for tea time" breakfast table. No one plays in there, but it's the play house Cindy never had.

Their yard is truly a garden getaway, one that takes a lot of upkeep and maintenance. Cindy, a master scheduler of her time, works in pulling weeds and planting with the many environmental and animal groups she supports. "I probably get 100 e-mails a day from different organizations. I believe in maintaining our earth as well as all the life on it." The Holliers' house is the perfect reflection of their personalities: eclectic, colorful and friendly. **NOW** 



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— By Zachary R. Urquhart



The doctor's appointment was on April 30, 1996. People visit the doctor hundreds of times in their lives. Most will not remember any given appointment two months later, much less 16 years down the road. When someone remembers an appointment, it usually involves something life-changing. For Craig Till, the appointment on April 30, 1996, was just that. It was the day he told the doctors he wanted to have his left leg amputated. The procedure was done within the week, and he has lived as an amputee since that time. He has been alive and kicking ever since.

From the time he began walking as a toddler, Craig had a limp in his walk. The early doctors fitted him with leg braces, thinking the problem was likely in his hip or back. "Seriously, I had Forest Gump's magic shoes. They didn't know what was wrong, so they just started trying things." At the age of 3, doctors at Scottish Rite Hospital diagnosed Craig with congenital pseudoarthrosis, meaning he was born with a false break in his tibia. He was subjected to a series of surgeries and metal rods that got progressively longer, making it hard for him to have a normal childhood. "I won a bike in a school raffle that I really wanted to ride, but I had been in a cast. One day I just went out with the cast on and starting pedaling. Eventually, my



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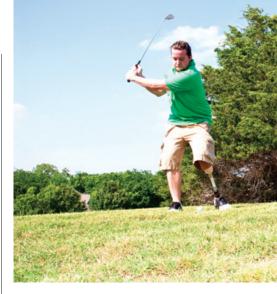
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cast hit the cement, and I flipped off, breaking the leg within the cast."

As a teenager, Craig's treatments intensified. "When I was 12, I had the limp again. It turned out that my left foot was five sizes smaller, and the leg was three inches shorter." Craig was fitted with the first of many state-of-the-art devices called the Ilizarov. "Basically, you have a bunch of rings around your leg with long screws going through the leg," he explained. "You turn some of the screws several times each day, and it lengthens the leg. It was a terrible process."

In addition to three Ilizarov devices, he had nine separate broken legs, 64 pins, three steel rods and more than 40 casts, 21 surgeries and three bone graphs. When he went in on that fateful April day, the doctors said he could be fitted with another device, but Craig had had enough. "I knew that day I was ready," he remembered. Craig sometimes wishes he had amputated earlier, but he knows the process helped him along. "Going through it mentally prepared me. Every day, I put on my leg, and I put on a smile."

Craig has certainly overcome many obstacles through his life. He is naturally driven, and that mental toughness has served him well growing up in braces, and then living as an amputee. "There were 23 of us with the Ilizarov at Scottish Rite. I was the only one who could deal with going to school. I decided early not to care about people looking or what they thought, and that has helped a lot." He knows that part of his perseverance is due to those around him. "I've basically had three families along the way — my immediate family, my church family and my six best friends."

Throughout his childhood, Craig was



# "Every day, I put on my leg, and I put on a smile."

as active in sports as possible. "I loved playing baseball. I finally gave it up, but I stayed active in other sports." Craig has a tremendous competitive side, and that has driven him to try new sports throughout his life. "My older sister played tennis, so I decided to try it in high school. I was kind of a manager as a freshman, but I made varsity the next year. I actually broke my leg during a match. I finished, but I had to be carried away when it was over and the adrenaline wore off."

Today, Craig has found a new athletic outlet in amputee soccer. He was never much of a soccer player, but all of his best friends were. With his connection to soccer added to his ambition to do things people might think undoable, it is only fitting that Craig would be trying to start an amputee soccer league in North Texas. "I met Fred Sorrels a while back. His group, International Institute of Sport, is an advocate for disabilities worldwide." Fred heads the amputee soccer league in Haiti, and Craig has started trying to develop a similar league here. "It's weird. In other countries amputees are treated so badly, like people just want them to go away," Craig stated. "Here, it isn't the same, but getting amputees to do something like the soccer league is much harder." Craig organizes pickup games with his amputee friends, and hopes to develop something more organized down the road.

Right now, though, Craig is focused on other things. "I earned an associate degree after high school, but never finished my bachelor's. I was in a band and wasn't really focused on school. I feel like I started this, so now I want to finish school." Craig will graduate







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in the fall with a Bachelor of Arts in advertising, focusing on marketing. He plans to use that to further help other amputees. "I could see going into sales for prosthetic companies. My goal is to be a motivational speaker, to be able to tell kids that things can get better."

Craig has had plenty of practice speaking to people about his amputation and dealing with life afterward. For a few years, he has been active in the Dallas Amputee Network, a support group he did not even know existed for a long time. "I never really felt like I needed to talk about it," he admitted, "so I didn't look for things like this. When I went, I was the youngest by far. It turns out I had been an amputee longer than any of these older guys though."

"Some people might say it won't work, but that's great. I love the word 'can't.' That just gives me a chance to prove them wrong."

His involvement in the Network extended Craig a very special opportunity last year. He attended the Amputee Coalition of America, where about 1,000 amputees meet to hear about new technologies and procedures. "It reminded me again that things could always be worse. I saw guys who were missing three and four limbs."

While in Kansas City for the Coalition, Craig met Jennifer Griffin, founder of P.L.A.Y. Foundation, a group that helps fund athletic activities for amputees. He is working with her to bring along a local amputee soccer league. "Really, she thought we might be able to move forward this fall, but with school, I couldn't commit to it."

For now, Craig will concentrate on his schooling, and will keep playing pickup games when he can. But he expects to put more attention on the league soon. "Some people might say it won't work, but that's great. I love the word 'can't.' That just gives me a chance to prove them wrong."









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## Seories IN PICTURES - By Betry Tryon

The beautiful woman has a secret. She proclaims it to the world by wearing a mask — a Batman mask. Throughout her day, she shields herself behind the mask. When she finally takes it off, she turns her face away to avoid revealing her identity. The secret is still intact. Through a series of photographs, Nicollette Mollet tells the story. "I always try to have a story with my photographs," she explained. And, her Batman series is done in classic Nicollette style. As a 2010 Midlothian High School graduate, she found her perfect niche for life during her high school years. "My friends would come over, and we would look at pictures from the TV show, *America's Next Top Model* and try to recreate those pictures," she stated. "The pictures were awful, but that is what got me interested in it, because I've always loved fashion. But, photography is my way into fashion." Fortuitously, Nicollette took a photo journalism class in the ninth grade because it sounded interesting. "I hated it," she declared. "But, it taught me all about the camera."

Learning about the camera turned out to be a good thing for Nicollette in coming years. During her junior and senior years, she started taking senior pictures for friends. "Friends found out about me doing senior photos, by word of mouth and Facebook." Taking the senior photos was a great training ground, and her skills grew. She was accepted into The Art Institute of Dallas two years ago and is currently working toward her Bachelor of Arts degree. She has set her sights high for her future with plans to move to New York. "I want to do what the big fashion photographers do - to work for magazines like Vogue. I want to work as an assistant to famous photographers, because I think they can help me.'

In her classes, she has learned about such things as the importance of looking at the lines leading to a subject, the foreground and background of a photo, blurring, framing — what looks good to the eye and printing a really good picture. Although Nicollette has learned many things in her classes at the Art Institute, she thinks she learned more in her high school photo class about the designs of a photograph. Her knowledge is now being passed on to students at the institute, as she is an assistant teacher for the beginner classes where she teaches the fundamentals of photography.

"Most of my classes are about critiquing. I think that is the best way to learn," Nicollette said. "We sometimes go on field trips with large format cameras. Those are the type of cameras with the cape, and you have to pull the string. It was real film, and we had to develop it. We were all taking pictures of the same building, but the instructor wanted to see



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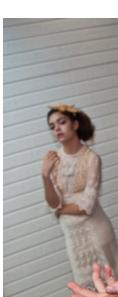


how we were each going to make it cool. My favorite class at school was a fashion class. It was cool, because that is what I want to do. We got to do a lot of projects I was excited about, and it was taught by a fashion photographer. He's been in New York and has shot different famous models. It was inspiring to be taught by that guy. He helped me understand that modeling is hard and not everyone is a model. It's a natural talent to know how to move certain ways."

Nicollette continues to take pictures to keep her skills sharp, even as she studies photography, while always keeping her goals in mind. "It brings me such happiness to see my seniors feel beautiful and confident after I take their picture," she confessed. "I want my seniors to feel like supermodels and my brides to feel like princesses. That's what brings me pleasure through photography."

One of the tools Nicollette uses

in her photography is Photoshop. "I try to make sure the images look real. Photoshop is half the work for me, I know people say Photoshop is not photography, but that is where most of my artwork comes from. I always tell the person whose picture I'm taking that their picture is not going to look anything like this." She pointed to a plain draped background



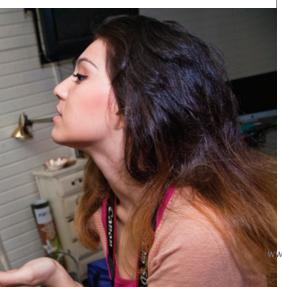
with a solid color. In her photos, she adds the background and other things to enhance the image.

In taking photographs, Nicollette makes sure she has a clear picture of her subject when planning her photo shoot. "I ask what they like, what their hobbies are, what their favorite type of fashion is, if they want an outside or inside shoot or if they like nature. I try to put their personality into it. I try to make them as different from the last one as possible. Each person tries to put their spin on it. For example, one girl liked ballet, so I put her in some cool ballet clothes and did something feminine," she explained.

In photographing a singer in town, Nicollette thought it would be fun to do the photo shoot in the style of a different era. "I thought, She's going to be famous,



so let's pretend she's already a superstar. In the magazines, they would do a spin on celebrities, so let's pretend she's a '40s singer. I put her in clothes from that time period and had the background show that." The photographic story showed the star going throughout her day singing, drinking coffee in an elegant dining room, in a dramatic moment with tears and concluding her day in her boudoir.



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Nicollette has some tips for the ordinary person who wants to learn how to take a great photo. She maintains that one can research composition elements



online. She also emphasizes having an idea before the shoot or even drawing it out first. "That is what helps me," she said. "Drawing it out helps you think about the important details of the photograph you might forget when you're shooting it. You think about what the model is going to wear and what is going on in the background. I like to plan and have the story in my head before I execute it."

For Nicollette, photography is hard but rewarding work. "After finishing a project, my entire mind and body is sore from the amount of work I put into it," she said. "I feel as if I really got my hands dirty, but I'm proud. Feeling proud of your work is one of the best feelings."



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## **Funky and Classic**

Gigi's Tre Chic has all the accessories you need to look great. — By Betty Tryon

Have you ever walked into a store, taken a look around and excitedly thought, *I want that! I want that one, too, and that one!* Those are easy thoughts to have when walking through Gigi's Tre Chic. If you are looking to beautify yourself or just looking for the perfect gift for that special lady, whether she is age 2 or 92, Gigi's can help. "I thought we would just do the accessories," Elizabeth Ashby, proprietress of Gigi's Tre Chic, said. "I offer something to the women of Midlothian, so they will not have to leave town to go battle traffic and parking." In addition to the convenience of shopping in town, Gigi's offers its customers something extra special. They enjoy finding unusual items to appeal to varied tastes. "We have different types of purses than you would find in the big chain stores. Our jewelry is fashion jewelry, but some of it is funky and some is classic."

Elizabeth adopted the expression "funky" during a shopping spree at the World Trade Center Fashion Apparel Market with her 15-year-old granddaughter. "This is a family-oriented business," Elizabeth explained. "One of my daughters works in the store with me. My daughter-in-law makes the children's bows for the little girl and baby section. My son has done our graphic designs and all of our marketing tools. My son-in-law helps with moving work and some maintenance. My 11-year-old grandson is my cleaner. He vacuums and dusts after school, and my 3-yearold granddaughter is my hat model," she smiled.

When shopping for items for the boutique, Elizabeth looks for items of high quality with a reasonable price. "We are middle

### Business NOW

of the road," she said. "Tve had some customers come in and look at our products and expect a higher price. Of course, our shoes are higher end, because we have to pay a higher price for them. We have top-of-the line flip-flops. Our flip-flops sell quickly. When we go to market and talk to our vendors, they will tell us what their highest sellers are, and we get those for our customers. We are very lucky with our vendors. Some of them are exclusive to our store."

"I give teachers and military 10 percent off, because they are in the trenches daily, and I want to honor them."

Some of the name brands that can be found at Gigi's Tre Chic are Yellow Box Shoes, Corkys Footwear, a line of T-shirts called It's A Girl Thing and also a line of body lotions and hand creams from k.hall. Gigi's carries handbags with a distinctive, creative flair - another item in the store that has earned the description of funky by Elizabeth. The boots look like works of art, with lively and colorful designs on them. The shop also sells watches, sunglasses, scarves, metal charm bracelets, baby hats, ball caps for ladies and many other items. "We love to have people come in and browse. Sometimes customers will bring in their outfits to perfectly accessorize them. I give teachers and military 10 percent off, because they are in the trenches daily, and I want to honor them," Elizabeth said. With the wide array of selection in the boutique, Gigi's Tre Chic can have fun with their motto: Shopping is Cheaper Than Therapy! NOW



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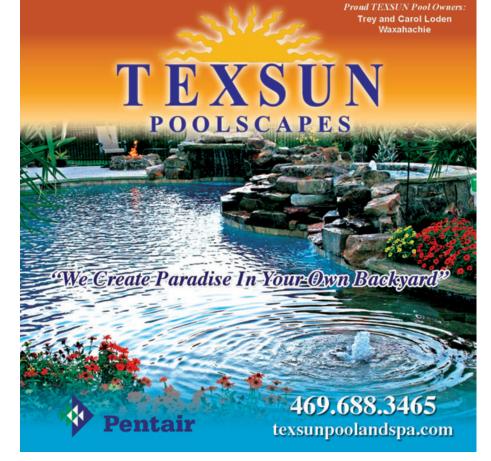






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### Health NOW

### Have a Drink

#### — By Betty Tryon, BSN

You should drink eight glasses of water a day. No, you should drink only six glasses per day. Or, perhaps three glasses is enough. So, what is the right answer? When you consider that your body is 60-percent water and every day you lose some of it by breathing, urinating and perspiring, it should be clear and incontrovertible how much you need to replenish it. It should be, but it is not. The optimal amount of fluids your body requires may change depending on the circumstances. The hydration needs of a sweaty athlete practicing in the hot sun will be monumentally different from a person who spends most of their time on the couch in a comfortable room.

The standard amount most often given as a starting point is eight eight-ounce glasses of fluids a day. Contributing to that eight-glass total can be fluids such as: broth, soft drinks, milk, Jell-O and juice. However, water is the ideal drink, because your body does not need to process extra substances, such as sugar, alcohol or caffeine. You also can receive a great percentage of water through your food, especially fruits and vegetables.

Here are a few guidelines to consider for your hydration needs:

• If you exercise, and particularly if you perspire heavily, you must increase your intake of fluids to stay hydrated.

• Pregnancy and breastfeeding requires more liquid to support the baby and to produce milk.

NOVEL 2

• Extreme temperatures will affect your intake. When it is very cold, use of indoor heat is very drying and causes your skin to lose moisture.

Likewise, hot temperatures cause sweating, and that water needs to be replaced.

• Illnesses that cause vomiting, diarrhea or fever increase your need for fluids. Some illnesses require limiting your liquid intake. When advised of this by your health care professional, guidelines should be strictly monitored.

• Although alcoholic beverages and drinks containing caffeine are included in the daily fluid count, you may have to drink more water because of the diuretic action these liquids have on the body.

• Diets that contain large amounts of salt or fiber will create a need for extra water.

You can tell if your body is receiving the proper amount of fluids each day. Dark colored urine may be a sign of not enough fluids. Don't try to reach your daily total amount of fluids in one sitting. Spread your drinks throughout the day. Once again, water is the best choice for your body. If you have an aversion to drinking plain water, add lemon or cucumber slices to jazz it up a bit. Try not to get thirsty, and if you do, have a drink!

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

Dr. Basit Ali, medical director of the Methodist Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Center is one of only 25 physicians/sites in the US selected to participate in a new wound study.

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If you are interested and think you may be eligible to participate in the study then please call: (214) 614-8386 or visit www.wound-study.com Principal Investigator: Dr. Basit Ali • Sub-Investigator: Mary Blankenship RN, FNP • Research Coordinator: Erika Marin, MA

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Calenda

#### July 2, 16

Summer Wildflower and Bird Walk: 8:30-10:30 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park. Indian Trail Master Naturalists will lead summer wildflower and bird walks at Mockingbird Nature Park every first and third Monday of July and August. Bring water to drink. Bug spray and sun screen are recommended. Bring binoculars for the bird walks. If it's raining or the weather is threatening, walks for that day will be canceled. Mockingbird Nature Park is located just north of Mockingbird on Onward Road.

#### July 3

Midlothian's Annual Independence Day Fireworks Display, MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium, 1800 S. 14th Street. Fireworks at 9:00 p.m.; music, food, festivities earlier in evening. Free to public. Visit www.midlothianchamber.org or call (972) 723-8600.

#### July 4

Midlothian "Red, Wet and Blue" Independence Day Parade, sponsored by Midlothian Park Advisory Board and Midlothian Parks and Recreation Department: Line up time: 8:30 a.m. Parade

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Service Dogs serving our community! start time: 10:00 a.m. Begins at south side of 8th Street Bridge then West on Avenue F, ending at Kimmel Park. Call (972) 775-7777.

#### July 12-22

*The Boys Next Door.* Warehouse Living Arts Center, 119 W. 6th Ave., Corsicana. This successful, off-Broadway play focuses on the lives of four mentally challenged men who live in a group residence. It is filled with humor and compassion. For more information, contact (903) 872-5421 or visit www.warehouselivingartscenter.com.

#### July 14

Movies in the Park: Dusk, Hawkins Spring Park. Featured movie: *Soul Surfer*. Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy the movie. Concessions available.

#### July 14, 28

Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Heritage Park. Contact info@midlothiandba.com.

#### July 20-21

Ellis County Quilt Show, "Texas Quilt Round-up": To enter a quilt in the show, download an entry form and return it to Jean McKinney at Quilts 'n More, 211 W. Ave. F, or call her at (972) 723-8669 for more information. Quilt take in: **July 18**, Midlothian Conference Center. Quilt appraisals by Denise Bartosh. Appointments will be made with Ragi Marino through the contacts link at http://www. elliscountyquilters.com/quiltshows.php.

**IULY 2012** 

#### Ongoing:

Meadows Library summer schedule: Story Time: **Tuesday and Friday**, 11:00 a.m. Family Friendly Movies: **Wednesday**, 2:00 p.m. Teen Book Club: **Thursday**, 2:00 p.m.

Midlothian ISD Head Start enrollment: For ages 3 to 4, as of Sept. 1, 2012. All children must meet federal income guidelines for program including: foster children, non-English speakers, children with disabilities and those from homeless families. Contact April Pickney at (972) 775-4361.

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

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### Cooking **NOW**



### In The Kitchen With Shawna Brown

- By Betty Tryon

Cooking and baking cakes, cookies, breads and muffins is a passion with Shawna Brown. She is happy to be married to Brian, who shares her love of cooking. They love to be creative in the kitchen and make many of their own recipes. Shawna enjoys sharing her creations with her co-workers. "We have a lot of luncheons at the salon I work at here in town, Edge Studio Salon and Spa, which is my family away from home," she said. "They always request my famous chicken enchiladas. I also love to surprise them with lunch or baked goodies." NOW

### Chicken Enchiladas

16 oz. sour cream
1 small can chopped green chilies
1 can cream of mushroom soup
4 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided use
1 Tbsp. butter
1/3 cup onion, minced (optional)
1 lb. chicken
Salt and pepper, to taste
1/2 tsp. cumin, divided use
1 pkg. corn tortillas

**I.** In a bowl, mix sour cream, green chilies, cream of mushroom soup and 2 cups of cheese.

**2.** Pour half of the sour cream mixture into a separate bowl; set aside.

**3.** Heat skillet and add butter. After heated, add minced onion. Cook until tender. Pour into first half of sour cream mixture.

4. Season chicken with salt, pepper and 1/4 tsp. cumin. Cook until no longer pink and slightly browned. Once chicken is cool, shred and mix into first half of the sour cream mixture; stir in remaining 1/4 tsp. cumin.
5. Spoon chicken mix into flour tortillas. Roll

each and place in a 13x9-inch nonstick pan. Continue until all chicken mix is used. Spread remaining sour cream mixture over tortillas.

**6.** Top with remaining 2 cups cheese. Bake at 350 F for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown.

#### **Shrimp Pasta**

Whole wheat linguine noodles 3 Tbsp. butter, divided use

- 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 1/2 red bell pepper, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 lb. shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 5 cups fresh spinach

1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper (optional) Feta cheese

Salt and pepper, to taste

**I.** Cook linguine according to directions on package.

**2.** Heat 2 Tbsp. butter and 2 Tbsp. olive oil in a large skillet. Add onion and red bell pepper. Cook about 5 minutes; add garlic. Cook 5 minutes or until tender.

**3.** Add shrimp; cook until pink. Add spinach and crushed red pepper. Cook till spinach is wilted then add pasta. Serve in dishes and sprinkle with feta cheese. If desired, sprinkle crushed red pepper over top. Salt and pepper, to taste.

### Mom's Meatloaf

I lb. ground beef
l egg
l packet Quaker maple and brown sugar oatmeal
6-8 crackers, crushed
1/2 onion, chopped
1/2 green bell pepper, chopped
l cup ketchup, divided use
Salt and pepper, pinch of each
2-4 slices of bacon

**I.** In a bowl, mix together the first six ingredients, plus 3/4 cup ketchup and salt and pepper. Place meat mixture in a loaf pan; top with bacon slices and drizzle with remaining ketchup. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes to an hour or until brown on top.

#### Easiest Cake Balls Ever

*Cake:* I pkg. any flavor cake mix White chocolate bark Shortening Cupcake holders

Butter Cream Icing: 1/2 cup butter 1/2 tsp. vanilla 2 cups powdered sugar 1 Tbsp. half-and-half or milk Mix with mixer until smooth.

 Bake cake as directed on box. Let cool completely; crumble cake into a bowl. Don't use any cake corners or crunchy parts.
 Blend butter cream icing with crumbled cake. Cool in freezer for about 15-20 minutes.

**3.** Roll cake mixture into balls and place on parchment paper supported by a pan. Place back into freezer for 15-20 minutes.

**4.** Melt white chocolate bark in microwave. (A little trick: If the white chocolate gets thick, add a small amount of shortening, a little at a time, to thin and add shine.) Dip each cake ball into chocolate. Using a toothpick, place each ball on parchment paper. Cool completely and then place in a cupcake holder.



# B's Texican

### Handcrafted Burgers, Freshmex and Lone Star Specialties

Ellis County has a new hip restaurant located on Highway 287 between Midlothian and Waxahachie. Ellis County has chains a plenty, but now we have B's Texican, a cool Austin-esque, fast-casual burger and freshmex joint. Cool and hip is one thing, but the made-from-scratch food is really awesome!

B's Texican is owned and operated by Executive Chef Brian Hennington and Lori Hennington his restaurant and art-savvy wife. The Hennington's are known in the Dallas Ft. Worth Metroplex for opening cutting edge restaurants such as the Deep Ellum Café, The Elm St. Winery, Ruby's Greenville Av. Café, Christos Table Catering and Hennington's at the Nutt House Hotel in Granbury.

When talking with B and Lori about what is most important at B's, this was their response; "The main thing we care about is our customers," state both B and Lori. "We do not believe in cutting corners or using inferior products. B's Texican is a chef-driven, fast-casual restaurant that creates unique and excellent scratch recipes served in a fun environment. We buy the freshest and highest quality products available and train our chefs with the best methods and techniques to prepare your food to order. The world is loaded with restaurants serving frozen cookie cutter food that has absolutely NO nutrition or flavor."

B's specializes in fresh ground chuck and brisket burgers, tasty freshmex, Texas specialties and house baked desserts. B's is a local favorite and regional destination spot known for their made-fromscratch cuisine.

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- Ish tacos with chipotle mayo and Latin-Asian slaw
- Icadillo tacos and chile con carne cheese enchiladas
- 🎗 Trial by fire burger with ghost pepper jelly
- C The Old Lordy burger with ham, bacon, Swiss, cheddar, fried egg and Russian dressing
- $\ell$  Texican burger with queso, guacamole and pico de gallo
- Maui wowee burger with teriyaki-grilled golden pineapple and smoked ham
- I Fresh turkey burger with arugula, pecan bacon, Swiss and horseradish mayo
- New Mexico green chile chicken enchiladas
- Hand-breaded chicken-fried steak and chicken-fried chicken with scratch gravy
- Salads with the chef's roasted garlic and avocado dressing
- Mississippi catfish and fried Gulf shrimp with homemade tartar and cocktail sauce
- 🐧 Guacamole made when ordered
- Handmade salsas and made-to-order corn and flour tortillas.

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