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Community Spotlight



Rotarians line the streets of Mansfield with American flags on Flag Day, Veterans' Day, July 4th and other days that honor our country and servicemen.

Rotary is a volunteer organization of 1.2 million business and professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service and help build goodwill and peace. About 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas conduct projects to address today's challenges — including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and environmental concerns — while encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations. Mansfield Rotary meets every Tuesday at 12pm at Spring Creek BBQ. Come join us!



Edna enjoys her weekly Meals on Wheels visit from Rotarians, Lance Walker, Dr. Dwayne Cannon, and Glenda Beckwith (not pictured).



Mrs Moody welcomes Dr. Dwayne Cannon as he delivers her a hot and cold meal from Meals on Wheels as part of his commitment to service to others.



Rotary Club of Mansfield Scholarship recipients pose with their sponsors, Mike Frazier and Bob Lommel.



The playground at Rose Park is one of many community service endeavors to which the Mansfield Rotary contributed time and effort.



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Finally the reality that my health was at risk led me to seek help. I saw the Diet Solution Ad and liked what the program offered. With my first appointment I knew I was in the right place. The cheerful enthusiastic staff and their encouraging words have made my weekly "weigh-ins" something to look forward to rather than dread.

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ON THE COVER



Gary's favorite time as a pilot was flying for the President.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

Happy Independence Day! This month, we celebrate our freedom with the sizzling of burgers on a grill, cool lemonade, splashes in a pool and vibrant sparklers. Did you know that an estimated 150 million hot dogs are consumed every year on the Fourth of July? Help add more to the number at the League of Dreams for the sixth annual Rockin' 4th of July party and enjoy some spectacular fireworks, family activities and live music. Parking is available at the MISD

Stadium with a free shuttle service.

One of my earliest memories of living in Mansfield is spreading out a blanket on plush green grass with my husband as a newlywed and watching the explosions of color in the sky. It's truly a fun experience.

So, enjoy the memories with your family and go eat a hot dog!

Mikaela

Mikaela Mathews

MansfieldNOW Editor

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If you were to ask Gary Maddux the most memorable time of his life, he might tell you about the very first of many times the wheels of his helicopter grazed presidential ground as he landed the former President of the United States, George W. Bush. Or as a family man, he might choose when his four children were born. Or, perhaps after retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel from the Marine Corps, he could choose the fact he is



THING

— By Mikaela Mathews



“EVER SINCE I WAS ABOUT 6 YEARS OLD, I JUST KNEW THAT I WANTED TO FLY.”

still being paid to fly helicopters. Whatever moment he would choose, one thing would be for certain: Gary Maddux has lived, and continues to live, an exciting life.

Being in the military was never on Gary's radar. Although his father was a Vietnam veteran, he never intended to join the Marines. He did, however, always want to fly. “Ever since I was about 6 years old, I just knew that I wanted to fly,” Gary shared.

To help pay for college and flight training, he joined the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M University and eventually, the Marines. “I didn't have money for any training myself so it just seemed logical to just go to school, get a degree and go into the military

and let them pay for it,” Gary explained.

After college, Gary married Nancy, a fellow Aggie, and they began their 20-year long career in the Marines. Although the Maddux family moved a great deal throughout this time, they consider themselves lucky. “We stayed each place five years,” Nancy explained. “We were lucky. That's unheard of in the Marines.”

Several years into his service, Gary contemplated applying to fly with the Marine Helicopter Squadron One, or HMX-1, which transports the President to and from Air Force One. Members of HMX-1 always travel with the President should there be an emergency or if he is in need of quick transportation by helicopter instead of with the Air Force One's 747 plane. The commitment, however, was great and would



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require him to be on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week for four years straight. With young children, Gary and Nancy decided this was not the best for their family. "It just didn't seem like the right time," Gary said.

After the children were older, however, the opportunity to fly for HMX-1 came up again. But, Gary's chances of being accepted had dropped over the years. "Normally, HMX-1 likes to have the younger guys, like captains and majors, even though they need higher ranked



people to lead," Nancy explained. "We pretty much thought the opportunity was past." Because Gary was a senior major, about to be up for lieutenant colonel, there seemed only a small hope of getting the job.



Gary received a disheartening letter after the application process informing him he had not been chosen. "I really hadn't thought much about what I was going to do if I didn't get it," Gary remembered. "And then I got the letter saying that I wasn't selected, so for about two weeks there, I just kept saying, 'God, I know You're in this and something good is going to come out of this.' And, then He made it come together." Two weeks after Gary received the letter, he got a call asking him to be a part of the



team. A couple of the other pilots who had been chosen were unable to make it, opening a spot for Gary.

Gary's tour with HMX-1 lasted from 2004-2008 during President George W. Bush's first term. One of the most

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memorable experiences with the President was flying up to Camp David, located in Frederick County, Maryland, over Christmas one year. The whole Bush family would have Christmas dinner at the camp and allowed other families to join them. "Every year, they have Christmas dinner, and they let your families come up and eat Christmas dinner with you," Gary explained. "Then afterwards, the Bush family goes in front of a little dining hall in front of a little



tree, and they stand there for an hour and a half [to take pictures]." A family picture with the President and First Lady hangs in their hallway to this day.

Living close to Washington, D.C. and with Gary's job, the Maddux family had several opportunities to visit the White House. To many people, visiting the White House was an exciting trip. But if you're a small child, the experience is far from thrilling. "Oh, we hated going to the White House," laughed Kaylee, the second oldest daughter in the Maddux family. Between all the uncomfortable fancy dresses and walking around, the Maddux girls don't remember enjoying their visits to the White House. "I would love to do that now," Kaylee added. "But when I was little, I did not want to go."

Another perk for Gary in flying for HMX-1 was traveling to President Bush's ranch in Waco, Texas, many times. As native Texans, Gary and Nancy craved opportunities to visit their beloved state. One year for Christmas, Gary was chosen to fly with the President to the ranch. When Nancy heard this, she was



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determined to join him. "I said, 'There's no way that you're going to be in Texas at Christmas, and I'm not there,'" Nancy laughed. "So, I mean, I literally threw the kids in the car and drove 24 hours straight with the kids to be there." Gary had a few days off while in Waco, so the whole family explored San Antonio and even attended the Alamo Bowl where their alma mater, Texas A&M, was playing.

Nancy and Gary's determination to create a unified family, despite military commitments, has spurred their children to follow. Kaylee currently marches in the Texas A&M band and plays the piccolo. "It was because of my dad that I went to the Corps of Cadets, actually," Kaylee



smiled. "I wanted to experience all the stories he was always talking about."

Their third child, Madison, echoed Kaylee's sentiments. "I want to be an Army doctor, and I guess I pretty much got that idea from my dad," she explained. "When you grow up in a military family, you get that sense of pride. You see what your dad's done and see how good of a man that he turned out to be."

Gary's time with HMX-1 and the President was his favorite time in the Marine Corps. Although travelling around the world and meeting the President were all memorable, his first time to pick up the President will always be one of his most favorite moments. "You have to undergo a year of training to fly the President," Gary remembered. "So you want to do everything right because you're picking up the President from the White House — it is just the most amazing thing in the world." **NOW**

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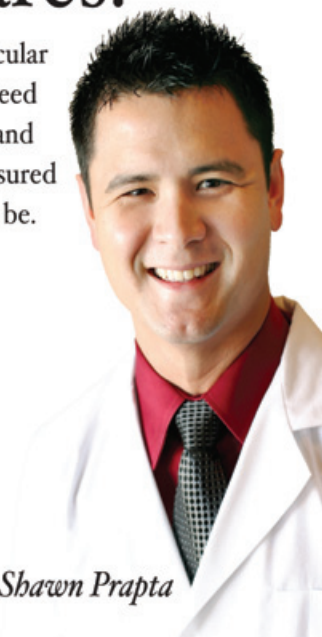


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Tessa Pierce is a Certified Public Accountant with over 17 years of experience in accounting and finance. She has worked for small and large publicly-held companies, as an auditor at Deloitte & Touche, and as a VP of a multi-billion dollar private investment fund doing both capital management and financial reporting. Tessa has a BBA in accounting from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA in finance from Dallas Baptist University.

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Sharing★ America

— By Whitney Alswede



Imagine starting a brand-new school, calling a brand-new house and continent home — and also living with a brand-new family. Each year, nearly 3,000 students from 25 countries come to the United States to discover the American dream, and each year, a couple of those teens call Mansfield home and the residents of that home family.

Coordinating the arrangements for the students is a massive undertaking, but, thanks to the Education First (EF) Foundation for Foreign Study and its regional coordinators, many of the participants say the relationships and memories formed extend far beyond the school year. “The families love learning about different cultures and seeing things differently,” said North Texas

Regional Coordinator Crystal Brown. “These teenagers are living what they feel is the American dream, so it changes them. I’ve known so many students who have returned home, and they’ll e-mail or Skype with me saying, ‘That was the best year of my life.’ Of course, it’s only been a year or two, but it really changes everything and broadens their view of the world. This is about more than changing lives — it’s really about sharing them.”

Crystal, a Mansfield resident and mother of two, is at the helm of the program for North Texas, interviewing and matching students with families based on personality, as well as preparing everyone for the experience ahead. Once the school year starts in August, she will have matched nearly 45 students with families in cities from Amarillo to Waco. She will then be responsible for their well-being and success while in the states. If an emergency arises, she’ll help however possible, even



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Lynia Papenhagen, an exchange student from Germany, enjoys her time in the U.S.

welcoming them into her home and family at a moment's notice.

"The students will stay for one full school year, spending holidays with their host family and just experiencing day-to-day life," Crystal explained. "Many times, they arrive expecting us to ride horses and wear boots, so they're actually disappointed. I'll take them to the stockyards so they can get that experience. They think they will see everything they have seen in the movies, even down to the high school experience, with cheerleaders and pep rallies. They don't have those things overseas, so it's a really new experience for them."

Since she answered a Craigslist ad looking for a Dallas-area coordinator some three years ago, Crystal's global family has grown exponentially, from forming relationships with the students she daily supervises to even welcoming seven students — all girls — into her home. "The very first time we hosted, it was kind of difficult for my sons to adjust because the [students] were so young," she admitted. "They'd ask why she talked funny. After that, though, it opened my oldest son's eyes more to different cultures, and now my youngest son loves it because it's like having a big sister."

Since the EF Foundation for Foreign Study was founded 30 years ago, it has been promoting its mission of advancing "international understanding and global

awareness across the United States.” And with students visiting from around the world, including Finland, Germany, Hong Kong, Norway and Australia, among other countries, there’s no shortage of opportunity for Mansfield residents to become aware of the world beyond the shores of the United States. “The most rewarding part of what I do is watching the students build relationships with the families,” Crystal continued. “They build some really great relationships while they’re here, and I love seeing them continue to communicate through Facebook and Skype after they get home. In fact, we have a lot of families who go overseas and visit the student they hosted.”



For Crystal, being a regional coordinator for the EF Foundation is more than just a job. It’s personal, and it’s about creating once-in-a-lifetime memories only made possible because of her work with the foundation. Like when she watched one of the students she hosted, Lena of Germany, walk across the stage as she “graduated” from Mansfield High School, and when she drove her student from Hong Kong to Kroger every two or three days to get sushi because that’s all she liked eating. Being a coordinator is about helping the students prepare for the first day of school, sporting events, various school activities, prom and their graduation commencement.

For the exchange students, visiting the United States is about discovering a world outside their home country, a lesson

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they'll carry with them the rest of their lives. "We just had one former student who came over seven years ago with the foundation, and she actually was hosted in Dallas," Crystal said. "She came back over on her own later, met and married her husband. The family who'd hosted her was at the couple's wedding and was even at their child's first birthday party."

And for the current group of exchange students, once the last bell rings at Mansfield's eight high schools, the students have just 30 days to say their goodbyes to their friends and adopted family and return home. "The hardest part of the entire year is taking the students to the airport, especially if it's one I've been hosting, and I am sending them back home," Crystal shared. "And once they're home, particularly that first month, sometimes they go through a reverse culture shock. They're not 100 percent their nationality anymore because their views on things have changed while they were in the states, or they may miss relationships here. Plus, it can be hard to readjust to speaking in their native language all the time when they're so used to speaking English."



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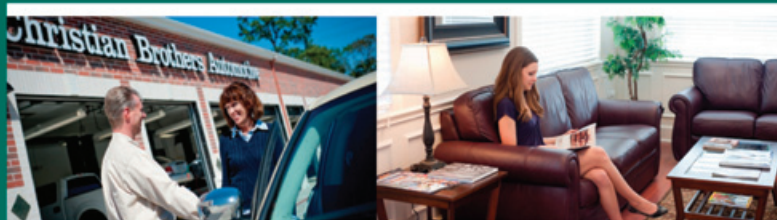
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"I know a lot of people who think the program wouldn't work for them," she continued. "I hear, 'We're too busy,' quite a bit, and sometimes it's a hard sell because families don't get paid or reimbursed, but it's more about what you get out of the experience that makes being a host worth it. Your children learn from it. You learn from it. For example, because of hosting I have learned how much the experience opens the minds of the family, not just the students. You get



"You really get to see how great it is in the United States and how **lucky we are.**"

to share so much, and that's what being a host family is about."

Crystal and her husband are already discussing adding another exchange student to their family of four, giving her sons another exchange sibling and one more person to share stories with at the dinner table. "When you meet these students and really get to know them, it opens up the whole world," she said. "You really get to see how great it is in the United States and how lucky we are." **NOW**



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At Home With
Alan and Kristi Wilson



Dream House, Dream Neighborhood

— By Sydni Thomas

Each new house a home builder builds for himself has the potential of being the home of his dreams. Alan Wilson and wife, Kristi, took lessons they learned building their first home to create the potential house of their dreams with their second home two years ago. It truly became the home of their dreams this year when the community rallied behind them after an almost tragic accident occurred.

The Wilson family briefly discussed moving away from Mansfield, but all those thoughts are long gone after the uprising of community support they recently received. Earlier this year on March 26, the Wilson family was showing some out-of-country guests the Texas way of life with horseback rides. During the ride, their oldest daughter, Kinzie, fell off her horse, hitting her head on a metal pole. With the amount of blood she lost and location of her wound, doctors were not sure if she would survive. The family was told they would not know anything for the first 72 hours, and if she did pull through she would more than likely not walk away without long term effects.

Neighbors and friends rallied together to get the word out. A Facebook page, Kiki's Amazing Journey, was created to keep everyone up to date. The streets of their gated community were lined with signs and purple tulle bows adorned the mailboxes. Countless prayers were said, loads of meals were delivered and teddy bears of all shapes and sizes waited for Kinzie to wake up. "Her recovery was miraculous," Alan said. "The only thing we could do was pray, and everyone was [praying]. The outpouring of cards and well wishes from the community was awesome." "The worst case scenario





turned into the best case scenario,” Kristi said. “She returned to school three weeks after it happened. This summer we are going to have a celebration of life party.”

They chose the gated community where they built their house because Alan, owner of Brass Key Custom Homes, had built several of the houses in it. Set away from the busyness of the city, the community is surrounded by open land and trees. The couple chose a one-acre plot in a cul-de-sac that gives

them more privacy. Many of the homes in the community have an old world aesthetic, but Alan and Kristi were looking for a mix between traditional and contemporary. “Our house is a transitional style,” Kristi said. “We are drawn to clean lines and stay away from ornate things.”

The outside of the home is made up of limestone, iron, brick and cedar. These elements are also carried throughout the inside as evidenced upon entering. The

floating staircase with the hand-forged iron railing is stunning. The brick archway leads to the formal dinner room. Large windows surround the open-format living and kitchen spaces. “We built this house to be very energy-efficient,” Alan shared. “Even the large windows throughout the house are efficient. It was important to us to create a home that was energy-efficient, from the appliances to the insulation.”

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clothing and accessories industry, works from home. Her office is just off the living area and overlooks the front yard. The tin ceiling and furniture are different from the rest of the house, giving Kristi a non-homelike working environment. On warm days, Kristi opens the glass doors to let the sounds of her fountain come through.

While coming up with plans for the new house, Alan decided to include a little extra space for himself, too. The second detached garage is Alan's man cave where he keeps his hot rods and hangs out with his friends. One of Alan's hobbies is going with other local hot rod enthusiasts to car shows. "There are so many guys around here with cars who go to shows," Alan said. "We get together and drive to them. I used to build cars, but now I like to use that time to spend with the kids."

Alan and Kristi have two daughters, Kinzie, 11, and Zoe, 6. During the homebuilding process, Alan and Kristi wanted Kinzie and Zoe to have a say in their own spaces. The girls picked out pink shag carpets for their rooms, black and white tile for their Jack-and-Jill bathroom and lime green paint for their walls. Zoe's room is a tribute to Hello Kitty, while Kinzie's room is a tween's dream complete with a chandelier instead of a ceiling fan. "We told them they could pick, and it's all them," Kristi said. "The upstairs of the house is mostly for the girls. They have their rooms and a playroom where they spend most of their time."

When Alan got into the homebuilding business 14 years ago, most of his clients wanted to build their homes in Mansfield. Both he and Kristi had lived in the DFW area for most of their lives, but hadn't



given Mansfield much thought until it was time for them to build. It was their first house to build together, and they took their clients advice and chose Mansfield. "We looked at the schools because we knew that it was going to be where we would raise our children," Alan explained. "You can't get better than the Mansfield schools, and our girls have been going there since they started school. I'm a big believer in Mansfield and try to do as many local things as possible, from shopping to community events."

"We shop local whenever we have the chance," Kristi said. "This town is big, but it still has that small town charm. I always see someone I know when I'm in a store in Mansfield."

Outside of work and school, the Wilsons spend most of their time together. Their favorite part of the house is the back porch. With no cable or satellite in the house, the Wilson family spends a lot of time outside with each other. They host crawfish boils, Fourth of July parties and get-togethers with friends whenever they can. With a dual fireplace in the living room and back porch, the family can spend time outside year round. "Just before the accident, we broke ground on a pool," Alan said. "We've wanted one for a while. It's been a slow process, but we will have it ready this summer for the girls."

The Wilsons have not had an easy year this year, but the support of the community helps them realize they picked the best place to build their new house. Blown away by the generosity and support from the community; the Wilsons plan to stay here for a very long time. "This is it," Kristi said. "This is the home of our dreams, and we love this community." **NOW**



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Musical Passion

— By Carolyn Wills

Mansfield newcomers, Robert and Dolores August, are both highly-accomplished professional musicians. They are also parents to two delightfully active young children, 7-year-old Robert John (RJ) and 3-year-old Melody Grace.

Young families are often busy these days, but the Augusts must surely top the chart. Less than a year ago, they were barely settled into their new home when RJ entered first grade. "We moved to Mansfield because of the exemplary schools," Dolores said. "We're so thrilled with RJ's school, which is only about three blocks from our house." Their lovely two-story home on a cul-de-sac overlooks the neighborhood park. "We love the house and the neighborhood," Dolores smiled, "While we liked our home in Fort Worth, there weren't many children in the area, and we wanted good schools for RJ and Melody."

The Augusts are highly-educated, impassioned musicians. By welcoming them, Mansfield has deepened its vibrant community's cultural and artistic base. Dr. Robert August was born in Holland as one of six children. He speaks Dutch, German, Friesian, English and a "little" French. He plays the organ, piano, harpsichord and bass guitar, and is "pretty much passionate about anything ever written by Bach. I started playing the organ when I was 6 or 7," he said. "My uncle was a professional bass guitarist, and while in my early 20s, I briefly played bass in a rock band." His direction and passion, though, has





always been the organ. "I finished my undergraduate work in the Netherlands and was fortunate to meet a professor from Brigham Young University." He, then, traveled to the United States where he earned a master's degree from Brigham Young University and, later, a doctorate degree from the New England Conservatory of Music.

Today, Robert is the director of music/organist at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth. In addition to an extensive music and arts program, Fort Worth's First Presbyterian Church is known for its combined chancel and gallery organs featuring an awe-inspiring total of 7,333 pipes.

"I'm living my dream," Robert said. "This is a full-time position in which I conduct, compose and perform." Often, it is also a hectic dream. "Dolores and I link and frequently update our phone calendars," he smiled. "During Holy Week, I may have as many as 12 services."

In the fall of 2000, as Robert pursued his doctoral degree at the New England Conservatory of Music, he began working as organ scholar, and later as assistant university organist and choirmaster at The Memorial Church at Harvard University. As it happened, the new coordinator of music and his co-worker was a young woman named Dolores, who was also impassioned by music and Bach.

Dolores completed her undergraduate studies in her home state of Florida. "I began playing piano when I was about 6



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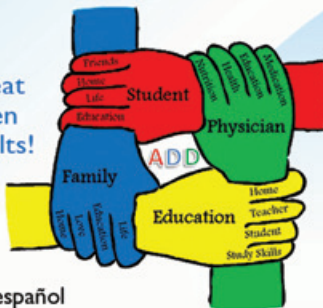


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and taking lessons at age 9. I took up the flute when I was 12. I started my degree in piano performance and switched to the flute the following year," she said. She went on to earn two bachelor's degrees from Florida International University and her master's degree in flute performance from the University of North Texas in Denton before returning to Florida to teach in public school. "I really wanted to pursue performing though so, in a leap of faith, I moved to Boston."

At The Memorial Church, she performed solo and as principal with the Harvard University Choir, Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra with



members of the Handel and Haydn Society and with Harvard University Mather House Chamber Music. She also married Robert August on a Saturday in 2004 to exquisite sounds of music in the presence of family and friends from as far away as the Netherlands.

Today, Dolores performs baroque (aka

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early) flute, modern flute and piccolo. "Robert and I play separately or in the same ensembles, or as a couple on flute and organ. We love performing as a duo and have created some interesting programs combining a variety of instruments and styles, which we've performed across the U.S. and in Europe," she said. In addition to maintaining private flute and piano studios in Fort Worth and Mansfield, she currently plays flute in the First United Methodist Church Mansfield's orchestra and has also created August Music Services, a flourishing contracting service for clients in search of musicians for weddings, services and other



special events.

"My longtime dream has been to be part of an orchestra," she shared. "I have recently worked up about 30 excerpts, some of the most difficult snippets from a list of symphonies, and I've decided to take my first orchestral audition."

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dream. Clearly, she is committed, disciplined and exceptionally talented. "There was a time when I feared that starting flute at the age of 11 was too late," she smiled. "My undergraduate professor, John Kapenekas, who currently plays in the Royal Swedish Orchestra, stressed that what really matters is to lock yourself in the practice room and just get it done. His unwavering belief in me guided me through my master's, and now he is helping me via e-mail and sound files to prepare for the orchestral auditions."

"Teachers have such impact," Robert added. "Sometimes I think they don't even realize the extent. My old teacher at the Conservatory in Holland was incredible. He's a brilliant, magnificent organist. I see him when I go home, and he actually came to visit us in Boston."

As for other influences, Robert and Dolores have been privileged to work with such world-class artists as Yo-Yo Ma, Andrew Lawrence-King, Christopher Hogwood and Simon Carrington. "The



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most positive and encouraging musicians tend to be those who have excelled in their fields," Robert said.

Whether it is to perform or to visit family and/or friends, the Augusts enjoy travelling. "The American Guild of Organists is hosting their annual convention next year in Boston," Robert said. "The date coincides with our 10th wedding anniversary, so we're planning that trip. Next year, we also hope to go to Holland."

While balancing music and family is a full-time job, Robert and Dolores keep learning, teaching, parenting and moving forward. "The best advice I can share with a young student is to never compare yourself to others, but to focus on continuing to grow as a musician," Dolores said.

Today, RJ plays the piano and sings in a youth choir. "He's quite the pianist," Dolores beamed. "Typically, it takes a year to complete one instruction book and, after just six months, RJ is in his fourth book." As for Melody, she has a little pink piano in her room.

"We love to play music," Robert smiled. "It's fun to do it together." **NOW**

Editor's Note: Special thanks to First United Methodist Church Mansfield for allowing use of their sanctuary for this photo shoot.

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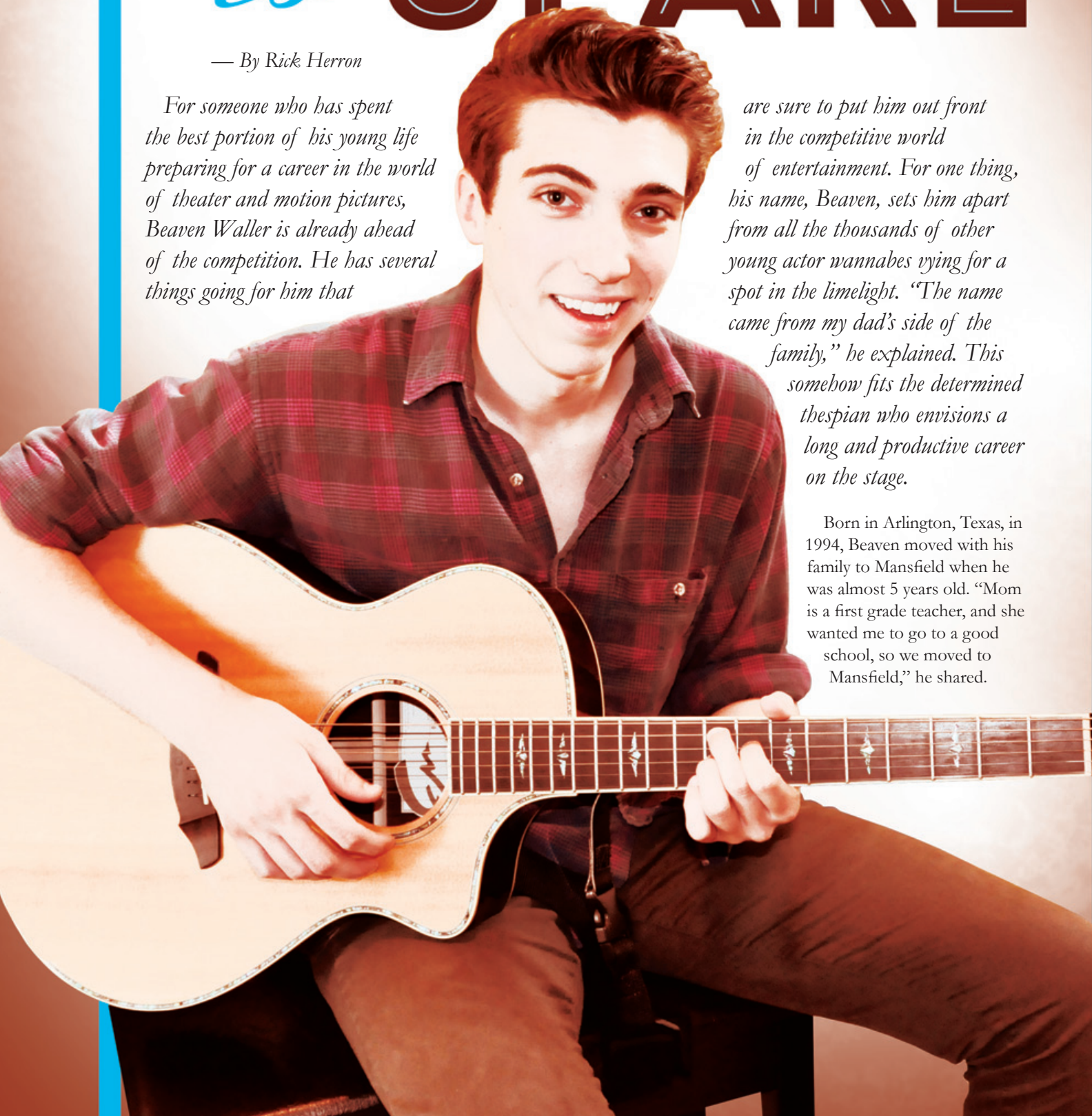
TALENT *to* SPARE

— By Rick Herron

For someone who has spent the best portion of his young life preparing for a career in the world of theater and motion pictures, Beaven Waller is already ahead of the competition. He has several things going for him that

are sure to put him out front in the competitive world of entertainment. For one thing, his name, Beaven, sets him apart from all the thousands of other young actor wannabes vying for a spot in the limelight. "The name came from my dad's side of the family," he explained. This somehow fits the determined thespian who envisions a long and productive career on the stage.

Born in Arlington, Texas, in 1994, Beaven moved with his family to Mansfield when he was almost 5 years old. "Mom is a first grade teacher, and she wanted me to go to a good school, so we moved to Mansfield," he shared.



“I started playing the piano, ukulele, guitar, mandolin and even the flute, and was pretty much self-taught on all of them.”

For as long as he can remember, Beaven's flair for creating different characters has been a dominant force. This actually started shortly after he was born. “I was always in a costume when I was very young, being different characters,” he said. “In a lot of my baby pictures I was in some costume or playing some character.”

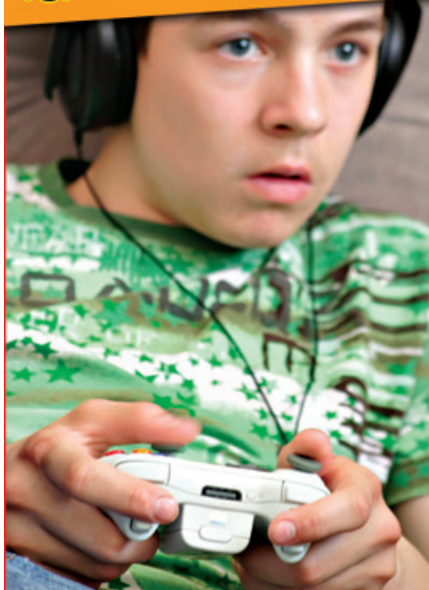
He loved sports and seriously considered making a career in that arena, but he decided against it, because his heart lay elsewhere. Around that same time, music entered Beaven's life. He discovered another natural talent — the ability to play just about any musical instrument without formal lessons. “I started playing the piano, ukulele, guitar, mandolin and even the flute, and was pretty much self-taught on all of them,” he said. “Dad taught me the basic guitar chords, and I just went on from there.”

Beaven was a member of a local band, Genuine Progress, where he played the piano along with Jake

Tulley, Austin Peake and Damon Ryan on guitar, and J.D. Price on drums. Jake was also the lead singer. “We played a lot of different musical genres,” Beaven said. In addition to playing in the band, Beaven and Jake also lead youth worship on Wednesday nights at First United Methodist Church in Mansfield. His skills in music composition were also showcased as the two young men

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Beaven is shown here with his dad, Del Waller.

wrote many of the songs performed by the band. Following high school graduation, the band dispersed and went their separate ways. Beaven has high hopes they will keep in touch and doesn't rule out the possibility of getting back together at some point in the future.

Finally, adding to an already impressive list of abilities, he also sang baritone and tenor in his school's choir, having a vocal range known as baritenor. However, Beaven readily admits the theater is where his heart really belongs. "In second grade, I was in my first play, *Willy Wonka*, at the Art Institute of Mansfield (AIM), where I worked with Ms. Marty Frederick. After that, I dove right into theater when I got to high school," he explained.

In his portfolio, which includes an impressive headshot of Beaven that invokes thoughts of current acting sensation Robert Pattinson, he lists 25 productions where he's played either leading or supporting roles in theaters, including Casa Manana, Artisan Center Theater, Mansfield High School, the Art Institute of Mansfield and Mainstage Classic Theatre. A facet of the theater in which Beaven excels is oral interpretation, which he admits is time consuming but "well worth it. Devin Hunt and I got first place in the state oral interpretation competition in 2012," he said. "We performed a duo — an abstract, two-person scene." He's quick to credit that accomplishment to his oral

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interpretation coach, theater director Kristy Thomas, whom he describes as "awesome."

In addition to Marty Frederick and Kristy Thomas, other pivotal figures who have played major roles in the development of Beaven's natural talents, include Mansfield High School theater director, Kasey Vaitekunas; Beaven's voice teacher, Dr. Scott Ferrell; and



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choir directors, Reginald Wright and Dr. Jane Andrews, as well as his writing buddy Chandler Clamp and “King Al,” also known as Aldean Pierson, a theater buddy from way back. Beaven is grateful for the influence of each of these people in his life.

Those talents, which emerged at a very young age, have contributed to a long list of accomplishments in this young dramatic impresario’s portfolio, such as the Betty Lynn Buckley nomination for Best Supporting Actor in 2012, member of the All-Region Choirs in 2009, 2010 and 2011. He was also the recipient of multiple division 1 ratings at Texas State Solo and Ensemble in 2009 and 2010.

In August, Beaven heads to St. Louis, Missouri, to attend the Conservatory of Theatre Arts at Webster University. He’s already the recipient of a \$14,000 per year academic scholarship to the college.

Incredibly, he won his very first scholarship of \$2,500 back in eighth grade, with a winning essay. “I wrote about my idol, Jesus,” he remembered.

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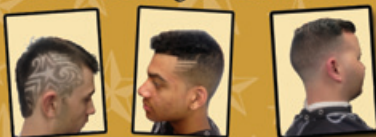


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program in March," he said.

In the meantime, Beaven plans to hang
out at home for the rest of the summer,
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acting with the eventual goal of breaking
into the movies and theater," he said. He
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name as an actor," he said, "and be part
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Pastor Greg Buckles started Mansfield Bible Church and continues to love and serve the community.



ENGAGE, CONNECT, IMPACT

Mansfield Bible Church offers many opportunities for the community. — By Mikaela Mathews

Twenty-seven years ago, a small Bible study led by Greg Buckles huddled together in a Mansfield home. Their intention was to start a church, and eventually, Mansfield Bible Church was born. Today, the church is nestled near the center of town and provides a number of programs to love and serve Mansfield.

“We are leading others to become fully devoted followers of Christ who engage God, connect with the family of God, and impact the world around them,” said Greg Buckles, the lead pastor of Mansfield Bible Church (MBC). Those who attend can engage God through worship on Sunday mornings and Bible studies throughout the week. The church has also started Good News Clubs, which are 6-week long, after-school programs. These programs are held in elementary schools for students whose parents volunteer their child.

In order to create community, MBC provides small groups throughout the week where people can share life with each other. “We’re doing small groups to emphasize the understanding that people can begin to stimulate love and good works in a small group,” explained Greg Lingle, executive pastor at MBC. Small groups range from men or women only, family or college groups.

Impacting the world is high on MBC’s priority list too. Every year, during spring break, students in the youth group can go on a mission trip to connect with and help people in need. Trips rotate between locations in the state, in the country and in the world each year. Last year, the youth group went to Belize, and this year, they are going to Houston. “Our youth have been really impacted recently with events that were very significant for

them,” Greg Buckles said. “Recently, they went on a trip to Houston and ministered to a lot of different people there. Some of them even came back thinking they wanted to do more with their lives in terms of missions.”

The church also opens their facilities for use in the community. “One of the things we do is minister broadly to the community,” Greg Buckles shared. Various organizations, including Bible Study Fellowship, YoungLife and the Mansfield Soccer Association, all use MBC’s building for events and meetings.

“We care very much about kids programming because taking care of the whole family is important to us.”

In addition, every summer, the church opens its doors for Vacation Bible School (VBS). “Our VBS has been growing like crazy every summer,” Greg Buckles smiled. “We had 350 kids total last year.” The VBS program shows the importance the church puts on its kids ministry. “We care very much about kids programming because taking care of the whole family is important to us. So, we do a lot of that,” Greg Buckles explained.

Families with special needs children also can find a home with MBC. Recently, MBC hosted a Special Needs Prom in their gym with approximately 75-100 special needs students attending. “We had one gentleman come, who travels internationally in the special needs movement,” Greg Lingle explained. “He said he had never seen so many special needs kids happy in one spot.”

Above all else, however, MBC intends to love God and to love people. “We are not just about programs,” Greg Buckles said. “We’re about life-change.” **NOW**

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The Mansfield Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors host a ribbon cutting for Steve Grammer of Farmers Insurance.



Janna Seal chats with a friend on Sunday morning at church.



Susan Wong puts the finishing touches of paint on a baby grand piano which is now on display at Music Place Mansfield.



Members of the Mansfield Lions Club deliver personal care kits for tornado victims in Granbury, Texas.



The Mansfield Tigers baseball team competes in the playoffs.



Rhonda and Shane Hopper and Debbie Smith enjoy their time spent building a new home for a fortunate family compliments of Habitat for Humanity and many dedicated individuals.



Southern Champion Tray employee, Angela Farrey, discusses with her daughter, Rachel Farrey, about recycling at J.L. Boren Elementary.



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Plan Ahead for Your Own Financial Independence Day

This month, we celebrate Independence Day with fireworks, sparklers, picnics and parades. Amidst the hoopla, though, it's always important to reflect on the many freedoms we enjoy in this country. And as an individual, you may want to use the occasion to think of another type of independence you'd like to enjoy — financial independence.

In some ways, we are living in a time when attaining financial freedom is more difficult than it has been for quite a while. We're still recovering from the bursting of the housing bubble and the lingering effects of the Great Recession. Furthermore, wage stagnation is a real problem. In fact, median income for working-age households — those headed by someone under age 65 — actually slid 12.4 percent from 2000 to 2011. Taken together, these factors certainly impose challenges on anyone seeking to become financially independent and eventually enjoy a comfortable retirement.

Still, you need to do everything you can to put yourself on the path to financial independence. For starters, make full use of whatever resources are available to you. If you have a 401(k) or similar retirement plan at work, try to contribute as much as you can possibly afford — and every time you get a raise in salary, increase your contributions. At the very least, put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered. Also, within your 401(k) or similar plan, choose an investment mix that offers you the chance to achieve the growth you will need to make progress toward the type of retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

In addition to contributing to your 401(k), you can also take advantage of

another retirement account: a traditional or Roth IRA. Like a 401(k), a traditional IRA grows tax deferred, while a Roth IRA can grow tax free, provided you meet certain conditions. Plus, you can fund your IRA with virtually any type of investment, including stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit and Treasury securities.

What else can you do to help yourself move toward financial independence? For one thing, don't become dependent on "hot tips" or other questionable financial advice about "the next big thing" in the investment world from so-called experts who often have poor prognostication records. Even more importantly, though, their advice may simply be inappropriate for your needs and risk tolerance.

Finally, consider these two suggestions: Maintain adequate liquidity and keep your debt levels as low as possible. By having enough cash reserves to cover unexpected costs, such as a major car repair or a new air-conditioning unit, you won't have to dip into your long-term investments. And by keeping your debt payments down, you'll have a stronger cash flow, which means you'll have more money available to save and invest for your future.

Each one of these suggestions will require a commitment on your part, along with a clear focus on your goal of financial independence — there just aren't any short cuts. But with a consistent effort, you can keep moving along on your journey toward your own Financial Independence Day. **NOW**

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Todd Simmons is an Edward Jones representative based in Mansfield.

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Understanding Ulcerative Colitis

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

After going to the bathroom for four to 10 times a day for the second straight week with painful bloody stools, the afflicted person may wonder if they will ever get their life back. They suffer from the disease ulcerative colitis (UC). There are two states of being with this illness — flare-ups and remission. Flare-ups are when symptoms are present and the disease is active, and remission is when there are few to no symptoms. UC is a chronic disease that is classified as being one of the forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). The other form is Crohn's disease. With many of the same symptoms, the most defining difference between Crohn's disease and UC is that the latter primarily affects the lining of the large intestine (colon). It becomes inflamed and develops ulcers or sores.

Symptoms may become severe in about half of those afflicted with UC. The condition may at times require hospitalization, or it may go into remission for a time. The most common symptoms of abdominal cramping, persistent and urgent diarrhea containing blood and/or pus should be monitored by your doctor. During flare-ups, too much blood loss can lead to anemia and weakness. Some patients must receive blood transfusions, because they have lost so much blood from the colon area. The constant diarrhea with the loss of many valuable nutrients and fluids leads to fatigue. Loss of appetite and weight loss are common.

UC has no definitive cause, but research has yielded a few theories. Although no clear line of inheritance exists, there is a distinct familial tendency for developing UC. Some discussion has taken place regarding the role bacteria and viruses may play in this. Another possibility is the immune system may be functioning abnormally. While stress does not cause UC, stress will aggravate the situation.

A varied range of treatment modalities for UC are available depending upon the severity of the illness. The goal is to reduce symptoms and aim for remission. Medications are prescribed to help reduce inflammation and improve the immune system. Diet and good nutrition play an important role. Although certain foods do not cause UC, there are some that might trigger symptoms, such as spicy food, raw veggies, popcorn, caffeine and alcohol. Dietary counsel and awareness of what you eat is necessary. If conservative treatment does not work, surgery may be necessary with the removal of the colon. The type of surgery will depend upon many factors your surgeon will discuss with you. UC can affect every area of your life. For your emotional health and coping strategies, support groups can be a great resource, as is receiving encouragement from family and friends. **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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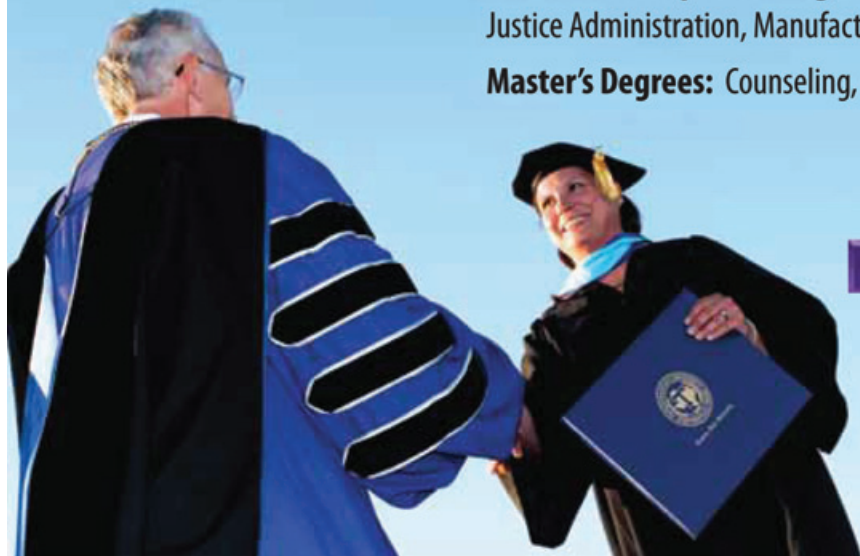
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July 7 — 11

United Mission Week: First United Methodist Church, 777 N. Walnut Creek Dr. \$150 for students. For more information, visit www.firstmethodistmansfield.org.

July 8 — 11

Dance Camp: 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Walnut Ridge Baptist Church, 1201 SH 360. \$55/child. Camp for kindergarten - fourth grade. For more information, visit www.walnutridge.com.

Vacation Bible School: 6:00-8:30 p.m., Mansfield Bible Church, 2351 Country Club Dr. Free. Register children 3 years old through completed fifth grade at www.MBCchurch.com. For more info, call (817) 473-8980.

July 8 — 29

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July 22 — 25

Upward Basketball & Cheer Camp: K-third grade, 9:00 a.m.- noon.; fourth-sixth grade, 1:00-4:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 777 N Walnut Creek Dr. For more information, visit www.firstmethodistmansfield.org.

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GA Camp: Riverbend Retreat Center, 1232 County Road 411B, Glen Rose. \$200. Girls who have completed first-sixth grades. First Baptist Church of Mansfield will sponsor. For more information, visit www.firstmansfield.com.

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In The Kitchen With Janice Stephenson

— By *Mikaela Mathews*

Big gatherings are some of Janice Stephenson's favorite events. Not only does she whip up her favorite recipes, but she gets to enjoy the people too. "The association of cooking for big family gatherings and being together in conversation over the table inspires me to make food worth lingering over," she explained.

Janice believes good recipes should be shared. So much so that a majority of her recipes have come from friends and family. "If you have a great recipe, why would you not share it with other cooks so everyone can share good food?" Although Janice teaches English at Legacy High School, she still finds joy over a stove. "I am an everyday mom making plain food, but I'm happy with what I can do in the kitchen." **NOW**

Chicken Tetrazzini

- 4-6 chicken breasts
- 2-4 cups water (divided use)
- 1/2 cup onion, diced
- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 5-oz. package vermicelli
- Dash of garlic
- 2 10 3/4-oz. cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups Monterey cheese (divided use)

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. Boil chicken in 1-2 cups of water. Cut or shred chicken. Set it aside.
3. Pour 1-2 cups of water into a different pot. Add onion; cook until soft. Add butter; cook until it melts. Add vermicelli; cook until soft.
4. Add garlic and soup. Stir well; add chicken. Use remaining water if mixture is too thick. Add 1 1/2 cups of cheese; mix well.
5. Pour into a casserole dish and top with

remaining cheese. Bake for 50 minutes.

Lemon Meringue Pie

- 2 eggs, separated
- 1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand milk
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1 tsp. grated lemon rind
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tarter
- 1/4 cup sugar
- Pie crust

1. Preheat oven to 350.
2. In a medium bowl, mix egg yolks and milk, lemon juice and rind.
3. For meringue: in another bowl, beat egg whites with cream of tarter until foamy, gradually adding sugar. Beat until stiff but not dry.
4. For pie with lots of meringue: put the lemon mixture in pie crust first. Pour the meringue on top, sealing to edge of the pie crust.
5. For pie with more filling: fold half of the meringue into the lemon mixture. The filling

will be creamier. Top and seal with remaining meringue.

6. Bake 15 minutes or until meringue has browned. Cool and chill.

Meaty Lasagna

For lasagna:

- 1 lb. hamburger meat
- 1 lb. Italian or hot sausage
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 Tbsp. basil
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 1-lb. can tomato sauce
- 1 12-oz. can tomato paste
- 1 10-oz. pkg. lasagna noodles

For cheese filling:

- 3 cups ricotta or small curd cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbsp. parsley flakes
- 2 beaten eggs
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 lb. grated mozzarella cheese

1. *For lasagna:* Preheat oven to 375.
2. Brown meat slowly. Drain thoroughly.
3. Add next 5 ingredients; simmer for at least 30 minutes.
4. Cook noodles in boiling salt water until softened. Drain, rinse in cool water.
5. *For cheese filling:* Mix the filling ingredients, except mozzarella, in large bowl.
6. Place 1/2 of noodles in a 9x13-inch pan.
7. Spread with cheese filling; cover with 1/2 of cheese and 1/2 of meat sauce. Repeat layers.
8. Bake for 30 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Banana Pudding

- 4 oz. vanilla instant Jell-O pudding
- 1 14-oz. can Eagle Brand milk
- 1 1/2 cups cold water
- 1 pint whipping cream
- 1 box vanilla wafers
- 6 bananas, sliced

1. Cook pudding according to directions.
2. Mix milk with water and pudding until smooth. Chill for 5 minutes.
3. Whip cream; fold into pudding mixture.
4. Layer cookies, bananas and pudding. Repeat. Garnish with more cookies.
5. Refrigerate any leftovers.

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