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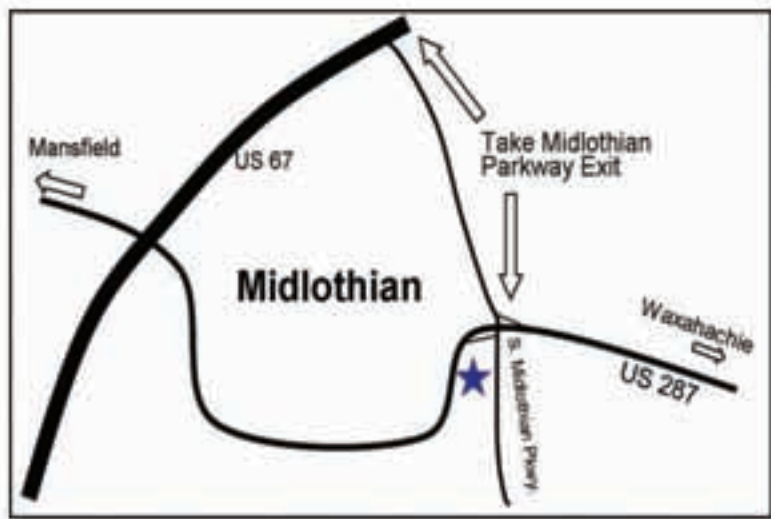


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## On The Cover



Patty Ozga's square  
representing Midlothian in  
the "Stitches Around the  
World" quilt.

Photo by Natalie Busch.

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# Editor's Note

*Hello Friends!*

Here is an old joke for you. It is so hot the chickens are laying fried eggs! Corny jokes and hot weather go hand in hand. It helps make life more bearable. Jokes aside, during these hot days, most of us can find reprieve inside with the air conditioner. However, if you must be out under the Texas sun, remember your sunscreen. It is one of those things that you appreciate more if you forget it!

A little known day of celebration in August is Friendship Day. I think one of the reasons friends are so special is because, unlike relatives, we get to choose them. Friends encourage you when you need a little push. They muster the courage to tell you when you are wrong. They stand by you when others walk away. Remember your special friends on August 7.



*Betty*

Betty Tryon  
MidlothianNOW Editor  
btryon.nowmag@sbcglobal.net

A small, light-colored dog with dark spots is sitting and facing right, wearing a large, colorful backpack with red, blue, and green sections.

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The logo features a stylized illustration of a cat and a dog sitting together, with the text "CATS & Dogs" in a bold, sans-serif font.

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**Midlothian ISD  
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## **Check out MEF's 2011-2012 programs & events benefitting Midlothian ISD:**

### **7th Annual Golf Tournament - Friday, September 16, 2011**

Join MEF at Mansfield National Golf Course for a day of food, friends, golf and prizes with proceeds benefitting the Midlothian ISD Education Foundation. See our ad below for more information.

### **Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast - Friday, November 11, 2011**

MEF's "Thankful for You" celebration honors donors and volunteers that contribute to MEF's programs and events. MEF Board Members don aprons and flip pancakes, while honorees enjoy video highlights of the past year's events.

### **Star Patrol for Fall Innovative Teaching Grants - December 2011**

Join MEF on their top secret mission to distribute approximately \$15,000 to MISD campuses. We load up the bus with large checks, balloons and the MHS drumline to surprise teachers and students across the district. To join in the celebration, e-mail [foundation@misdef.org](mailto:foundation@misdef.org). Since 2004, MEF has awarded 70 grants and contributed over \$209,000 to MISD through the Innovative Teaching Grant program.

### **Star Patrol for Spring Innovative Teaching Grants - March 2012**

For a second time, MEF sets out on a top secret mission to distribute another \$15,000 to MISD campuses, for a yearly total of approximately \$30,000 in grants. To join in the celebration, e-mail [foundation@misdef.org](mailto:foundation@misdef.org).

### **3rd Annual Love to Eat & Run - Saturday, April 30, 2012**

For the 3rd year MEF will host a 5K and 1 mile fun run. Breakfast will be served, and the event will be held prior to the Midlothian Chamber of Commerce's Spring Fling. Race registration opens at 7 a.m. Shotgun start at 8 a.m. with breakfast and awards ceremony following. And Spring Fling begins at 10 a.m.

### **8th Annual Stars Banquet - Thursday, May 24, 2012**

Each year, MEF honors the top five percent of MISD's graduating class. Each student honoree selects an educator, who has had an impact on their life to be honored also. Since 2004, MEF has honored more than 180 students and 180 educators.

### **7th Annual Midlothian ISD Education Foundation**

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**Mansfield National Golf Course**

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**10:30 a.m. Registration Opens**

**11:00 a.m. Lunch**

**12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start**

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# The World in a BOX

— By Betty Tryon



*The box from the post office carried great promise. Eagerly, Patty Ozga, her sister, Carol Adams, and the ladies of the Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County opened their treasure box — and the world came to visit. They had the grand idea to collect squares from quilting clubs around the world and make a quilt. “When we got the mail, we didn’t just get a few letters. We got crates. When we would sit and open the mail, it was just like Christmas,” Patty smiled.*

Patty, a maker and collector of quilts, was enthralled with the idea. A quilter since 1994, she has decorated her home with beautiful quilts she made herself. Becoming a member of a group of quilters that loved the craft as much as she did was a natural progression. The group patterns its activities around a specific theme every year. The club’s theme for the year 2010 was “Stitches Around the World.”

Carol is the person who came up with the idea of approaching other groups from around the globe to contribute a square that would be incorporated into one quilt. She got the ball rolling by trying to contact every quilting group she could find, and eventually, e-mailed 1,500 guilds in America and overseas. “I spent hours Googling quilting guilds,” she stated. “All we asked

*“Every square has its own little story.”*

from them was one block. They were to take a square cloth, write their guild name and location on it and send it back to us. We were hoping to get enough squares to make a small quilt to hang on the wall,” Carol said.

The final tally of squares they received was enough to make three full quilts and a wall hanging! “It was phenomenal,” Patty stated. “We received blocks from Costa Rica, South Africa, Canada, Europe, Sweden, Zimbabwe and most of the states.”

“We got real creative squares,” Carol said. Although the participants were told their cloth square could be embroidered, appliquéd or handwritten, only a few of the ones they received were handwritten. The majority were gaily decorated with creative depictions of the region that sent the square or something personal about the group that sent it. After the Ellis County quilters received the squares, they began to organize them for the completion of a quilt. Irene Nichols, another member of the group, quilted all three quilts. To highlight each square, each one was framed by material.

Since the quilts were completed, the group has proudly had them on display at the Meadows Library in Midlothian, the



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Dallas Quilt Show and the Corsicana Quilt Show. "At the quilt shows, our quilts go in as special exhibits and are not judged," Patty stated. "The Ellis County Quilt show has an annual show at Midlothian Conference Center with about 125 quilts for judging. When these were hung for special exhibit, the people were amazed and pleased."



It takes time to view the quilts because each square has its own individual uniqueness about it. "Every square has its own little story," stated Carol. One of her squares is a needle and thread encircling a globe of the world symbolizing their theme, "Stitches Around the World." She pointed out one of the squares that typifies what a small world this is. "A lady who grew up in Ellis County and now lives on the East Coast, went to one of the quilting shows and signed her squares. It just brings everything together where you randomly send out an e-mail and get a response — it's a small world."





Patty shares another story that demonstrates this. "I took some quilting classes from a lady in Lancaster. The lessons stopped when a tornado took out her shop. We have a square that was sent from Japan. The daughter of the lady who owned the shop in Lancaster, moved to Japan. She sent this square in to represent that country."

Interesting tidbits about the region accompanied many of the squares. From South Africa, the note read, "This comes from the middle of South Africa with love. ... I embroidered a few roses



as our main city is Bloemfontein, and it is known as the city of roses here." Information about particular states here in America flowed in also. The quilter from Brooksville, Kentucky, had a depiction of a ferry and a bridge. She wrote, "The Augusta Ferry is one of the longest continuous running ferries that crosses the Ohio River. The Walcott Bridge is the last covered bridge in Bracken County."

Some men love quilting, too! One from Las Vegas offered to show fellow quilters the city when he sent his square in. It was a colorful collection of replicas

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of neon signs that are a trademark of Las Vegas. In New Jersey, there is only one quilting chapter, but they were included on the quilt. She explained her square, "Our block represents the beach, ocean and even a Cape May diamond."

The square that arrived from London came with an invitation to show the quilt at the Canadian Quilter's Association show. Their square depicts their guild logo and colors. Also, they made it "Texas size" with the offer to feel free to trim, if necessary.

In addition to each square being unique with its own story, each one has its own style of stitching with different types of embroidery and hand appliqué. "The quilting scene from Taylor, Texas, Blackland Quilt Guild, was hand-drawn," noted Patty. "From Germany, the horse on the square is put together with paper piecing (a quilt-making technique)."

The three quilts that Patty, Carol, Irene and other members of the guild put together are now momentous treasures for the group. "Carol and I both have squares in all three quilts," Patty noted. "Other quilting groups that participated in the making of the quilts now want to do the same thing for their groups." The Quilting Council from the state of Colorado was celebrating their 25th birthday, and the square they sent to the Ellis County group commemorated their anniversary.

Each quilt will be under the care and protection of a member of the Creative Quilters Guild. Patty, Carol and another member, Peggy Terril, each have one quilt. After a period of time, the quilts will be given to each lady to keep. The finished products will forever symbolize the time the group invited the world to share their love of quilting. **NOW**



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# Built Just Right

— By Sydni Thomas



## At Home With Bill and Sharon

### *Hileman*

*Bill and Sharon Hileman knew exactly what they wanted their home to be like and planned to take as much time as they needed to get it just right. With their children grown and out on their own, Bill and Sharon began their search for a piece of land where they could build their dream home. The search took two years and spanned across the Dallas/Forth Worth Metroplex, but they kept coming back to a subdivision just outside the Midlothian city limits. “We just knew this was the place to be,” Bill said. “All the homes had their space. It didn’t have that compact feeling like our house in the city. It will never get crowded here.”*

The subdivision gave them the country feel without all of the country keep up. They purchased a one-acre plot and began





drawing out ideas for the house. With big dreams come big price tags, and Bill decided quickly that he would have to be the general contractor for the project. Sharon drew out the floor plan and an architect helped them translate their ideas into a blueprint. Bill contracted out the jobs that he was unable to complete, and



in the end, it saved them time and money.

From the time they laid the slab until they moved in, Bill had a strict schedule planned down to the day. As soon as one project was complete, another would immediately begin. Every day after work, they would drive to the house and work until after dark and then drive back to

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their home in Arlington for a few hours of sleep. By sticking to the schedule, the house was completed in four months. "Our neighbors looked outside on Christmas day and saw the house being painted," Bill said. "They asked us later how we got a crew to work that day. We laughed because it was me and Sharon out there doing the painting. We had to get it done or the stone workers wouldn't be able to work the next day."

When it came time to do the kitchen, the couple learned the true meaning of custom cabinetry. They found that most custom cabinets were not custom at all, but they needed cabinets built specifically for their space. After searching, they

found a dealer who would build exactly what they had in mind. They used every inch of space by straying from the normal box-like cabinets. Each cabinet fills the entire space, giving the couple enough room to store all of their food and utensils. Sharon's one request for the cabinets was that they provide a place to store all her spices. Just below the vent-a-hood, the cabinetmaker installed hidden drawers on each side of the stove where all her spices and seasonings are stored. "My dad and brother came over to help us stain them," Bill said. "They didn't know what they were getting into. We also had them help us stain the cabinets in the laundry room. I think they were

glad to be done with us when it was all over."

Other friends chipped in to help the Hilemans lay their floor to finish their house on schedule. It was a long four months of labor for Bill and Sharon, but moving into their dream home was just the beginning. All of the walls were white, and Sharon was ready to begin her part of building the home. Sharon is an artist and paints canvases, many of which are on display around the home, and murals as a side business. It took a lot of convincing before Bill let Sharon paint the walls of their Arlington home anything but white.

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from the start. Upon entering the home, eyes are naturally drawn to the entryway's vaulted ceiling where Sharon has painted a mural of vines. It took hours to paint upside down on a ladder. The Old World Tuscan theme continues on through the living room. The faux bricks Sharon hand painted in the living room's built-in nook, where they store their wine collection, gives it a true wine cellar feel. Since moving into the home, the living room has already been repainted twice. "It helps that my brother-in-law works at a paint store," Sharon said. "I don't keep things the same for long. Bill was unsure at first about painting the walls different colors in Arlington, but I did it anyway. Once it was done he was OK with it. You just have to show him."

"I've learned to give her free reign of the home's decor," Bill said. "She has an eye for these things. The house looks the way it does because of her."

From photographs of outhouses to mountains, the master bedroom and bathroom are daily reminders of the motorcycle trips the couple has taken over the years. At least once a year, the Hilemans load up the bike and take off on an adventure. Bill drives and Sharon rides on the back snapping photographs. They've driven to Colorado, Tennessee, North Carolina and Arkansas. One year, they spent three weeks driving to and touring Canada.

When the couple isn't traveling or busy working, they are watching their favorite movies or sporting events in their media room. The ceiling is painted grey and the walls are dark red to give it a genuine movie theatre look, complete with sconces along the walls. The walls were specially insulated to keep the sound and vibrations from escaping the room.



“There is somebody always here during football season to watch the Cowboys,” Bill said. “We found a great movie poster display from a video rental shop, and we change it out with the latest posters.”

The Hilemans’ two daughters, Tiffney and Courtney, and their granddaughter, Chloe, come over every third Sunday of the month for family day to enjoy the movie room, outdoor pool and one of Sharon’s homemade meals in her custom kitchen. The tradition is that when everyone arrives, they flip through a cookbook to find what sounds good and then Sharon makes dinner. “We play games and have a great time,” Sharon said. “We’d do this every Sunday if we could. The weather had barely turned warm when they began asking if it was



time to start swimming in the pool. We finished it late last summer and didn’t get to use it that much. This year has already been a lot of fun.”

After years of saving and planning, Bill and Sharon were finally able to see their dreams come to life. “Coming home to the house that you built gives you a sense of accomplishment,” Bill said. “This home is truly ours, and we built it together.” **NOW**

An advertisement for Chick-fil-A. On the left, a cow stands holding a sign that reads "VOTE CHIKIN 4 BREKFUST". In the center, two Chick-n-Minis are shown. The text "Start your day with Chick-fil-A" is written in a stylized font. At the bottom, it says "Breakfast Served 6am - 10:30am" and "387 E. FM 1382 • Cedar Hill • 972-293-0022". On the right, a red box contains the word "Free" in large letters, followed by "3 pk Chick-n-Minis" and the Chick-fil-A logo. Below the logo, small text reads: "©2009 CFA Properties, Inc. Good only at Cedar Hill Location. One coupon per person per visit. Coupon not valid with any other offer. Closed Sundays. Coupon valid from NOW magazines only. Please use by 8/31/11."

An advertisement for Approved Home Health Care. At the top, a group photo of staff members is shown. To the right of the photo is a quote: "We are excited that we are able to provide high quality, compassionate health care services with a home town feel for our community." Below the photo, the text "COMMITMENT TO QUALITY" is written in large, bold letters. Underneath, it says "Approved Home Health Care is Awarded CHAP Accreditation". The main body of text reads: "Midlothian, Texas — July 7, 2010 — Community Health Accreditation Program, Inc., (CHAP) announced today that Approved Home Health Care has been awarded CHAP accreditation under the CHAP Core &amp; Home Health Standards of Excellence. This is the beginning of the fourth year CHAP accreditation has been awarded to Approved Home Health Care." Below this, it states: "Approved Home Health Care provides a variety of nursing and therapy services to patients and their families in Ellis, Johnson, Tarrant and Dallas counties, and surrounding areas. They are locally owned and operated by hometown folks with over 50 years combined home health experience." At the bottom right, there are two logos: the CHAP logo and the Approved Home Health Care logo. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: "For additional agency information, contact Kelly Kavanaugh, RN, HCS-D, COS-C, Owner/Administrator at (972) 723-2933."





# MISD Back-

## It's almost schooltime again!

The first day of school can be exciting for students and parents: new teachers, new friends and for some students, even a new school. It is projected that Midlothian ISD will welcome more than 7,700 students during the 2011-2012 school year.

Access the bus information, calendars, dress code, school supply lists and much more on the B2S website at [www.midlothian-isd.net/b2s](http://www.midlothian-isd.net/b2s)

### Elementary Meet-the-Teacher Night

#### August 18

- 6:30-7:30p.m. (K-5th): Mt. Peak Elem., Baxter Elem., Vitovsky Elem. and J.R. Irvin Elem.
- 5:30-6:15p.m. (3rd-5th) LaRue Elem., Longbranch Elem.
- 6:15-7:00p.m. (K-2nd Grade) LaRue Elem., Longbranch Elem.

### Middle School Orientation

#### Frank Seale Middle School Orientation

August 8, 9:00-11:00a.m. Cub Camp – 6th grade  
6:30- 8:00p.m. Orientation – 6th grade  
August 9, 6:30-8:00p.m. - 7th grade  
August 11, 6:30-8:00p.m. - 8th grade

#### Walnut Grove Middle School Orientation

August 11, 6:30p.m. - 6th grade  
August 15, 6:30p.m. - 7th grade  
August 16, 6:30p.m. - 8th grade

### Midlothian High School Orientation

#### Seniors, Juniors and Sophomores

Sessions will begin in the auditorium with a general meeting, and then students will pick up schedules at the conclusion of the meeting.

**August 10**, Seniors: 9:00-10:00a.m.; Juniors 11:00-12:00p.m.; Sophomores: 1:00-2:00p.m.

#### Freshman Panther Camp - August 11, 2:00-5:00p.m.

All 2011-12 freshman Panthers should join us in the auditorium at 2:00p.m. for a fun and informative three-hour orientation session that will help get you on the path to success at MHS.

**Freshmen Parent Meeting** - August 11, 6:30p.m., MHS Auditorium. Information on NEW graduation requirements for the class of 2015 will be presented by MHS counselors and administrators.

### Got Shots?

Changes to school immunization requirements for five vaccines took effect Aug. 1, 2009, according to Texas Department of State Health Services officials. Changes affect mainly students entering K-7th. Students without the proper documentation of the required immunization or a valid exemption will not be given a schedule or allowed to attend school. Visit [www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us) for more details.

#### Shot Clinic

A free immunization clinic will be held on Wednesday, August 10 from 5p.m.-7p.m. at the L.A. Mills Administration Building for MISD students. Parents must bring their child's current immunization record to the clinic.

### Athletic Physicals for 2011-2012

Students participating in pre-athletics and athletics in 6th-12th grades need to fill out and turn in their athletic physical forms. Athletic physical packets are available online at [www.midlothianisd.net/athletics](http://www.midlothianisd.net/athletics)

### YMCA After-school Care at MISD Elementary Schools

The YMCA Childcare Program is an after-school childcare service offered at all six MISD elementary schools. The YMCA maintains a staff-to-child ratio of 1 teacher per 15 kids. The program is licensed by the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services and conforms to the strict standards of the YMCA of Metropolitan Dallas. The program serves children in grades K-5, with care available from 2:45p.m.-6:30p.m., Monday-Friday.

For more information, visit [www.ymcadallas.org/afterschool](http://www.ymcadallas.org/afterschool) or call 972-920-9622.



# to-School ... August 22, 2011

## 7th Annual MEF Golf Tournament Benefiting MISD students

7th Annual Midlothian ISD  
Education Foundation



**Friday, September 16, 2011**

Join the MISD Education Foundation on Friday, September 16, 2011 for the 7th Annual Golf Tournament at Mansfield National Golf Course. Registration opens at 10:30a.m., lunch begins at 11:00a.m., and the shotgun start for the 4-man scramble will be at 12:30p.m. All entry fees include green and cart fees, range balls, hamburger lunch and prizes. Proceeds benefit MISD students and teachers. Visit [www.midlothianisd.net/mef](http://www.midlothianisd.net/mef) or call 972-775-8296.

### Panther Junior Club

Membership is only \$20 for MISD students 6th grade and under. Sign-up at [www.midlothianisd.net/athletics](http://www.midlothianisd.net/athletics)

- \$2 admission for MHS home volleyball, sub-varsity football, basketball, wrestling, soccer, softball & baseball

- Receive a Junior Panther Club t-shirt, membership card and e-Newsletters

- Meet Panther coaches and athletes and receive a birthday card. Participate in fun events only available to Junior Panther Members (ex. ball boy/girl, run bases with the Panthers, honorary football captain and much more)



### MyNutrikids.com Online Prepayment System

Parents can view their child's account balance, deposit money for meals and print eating history reports. Register now at [www.mynutrikids.com](http://www.mynutrikids.com) or visit the Food Service website at [www.midlothian-isd.net/foodservice](http://www.midlothian-isd.net/foodservice).

### Apply for Free and Reduced Price Meals Online

MISD parents can apply for free and reduced-price meals online! The process is safe, secure, and private. Visit [www.school lunchapp.com](http://www.school lunchapp.com) and follow the step-by-step screens to enter student and household information. Click "Apply" to submit your application for meal benefits.

### MIDLOTHIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

2011-2012 School Calendar	2011-2012 School Calendar	2011-2012 School Calendar
<b>AUGUST 2011</b>	<b>2011-2012 School Calendar</b>	<b>JANUARY 2012</b>
S M T W T F Sa	Aug 22 First Day of School	S M T W T F Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6	June 1 Last Day of School	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12	6 Weeks Periods	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18	Aug 22 - Sept. 20 29 Days	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
19 20 21 22 23 24	Oct. 2 - Nov. 4 24 Days	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
25 26 27 28 29 30	Nov. 5 - Dec. 20 37 Days	29 30 31
	Jan. 1 - Feb. 17 37 Days	
	Feb. 20 - Apr. 13 24 Days	
	Apr. 16 - June 1 22 Days	
	Total School Days 117	
<b>SEPTEMBER 2011</b>	Staff Development	<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>
S M T W T F Sa	Aug. 16, 17, 18, Oct. 10, Nov. 21 (Camp Day), Jan. 4, 16, and May 21	S M T W T F Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6	Staff Work Day	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12	Aug. 16 and June 2	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18	Holidays	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
19 20 21 22 23 24	Sept. 5	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
25 26 27 28 29 30	Oct. 10	29 30 31
	Nov. 21-25	
	Dec. 21-Jan. 4	
	Jan. 16	
	March 17-18	
	May 28	
<b>OCTOBER 2011</b>	Staff Weather/Make-up Days	<b>MARCH 2012</b>
S M T W T F Sa	April 5 and May 22 (if needed)	S M T W T F Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6	Early Release Days	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12	Sept. 21 (Homecoming), Nov. 1, Dec. 20, Feb. 20, June 1 (Graduation)	8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18	Legend	15 16 17 18 19 20 21
19 20 21 22 23 24	1 6 Weeks Period Begins	22 23 24 25 26 27 28
25 26 27 28 29 30	2 6 Weeks Period Ends	29 30 31
	3 New Teacher	
	4 Staff Development/In-service	
	5 Teacher Work Day	
	6 Holiday	
	7 Inclement Weather Day	
	8 Early Release Day	
	9 Education Showcase	
<b>NOVEMBER 2011</b>	Visit our website at <a href="http://www.midlothian-isd.net/athletics">www.midlothian-isd.net/athletics</a>	<b>APRIL 2012</b>
S M T W T F Sa	Get Connected	S M T W T F Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6	athletics@midlothianisd.net	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12		8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18		15 16 17 18 19 20 21
19 20 21 22 23 24		22 23 24 25 26 27 28
25 26 27 28 29 30		29 30 31
<b>DECEMBER 2011</b>		<b>MAY 2012</b>
S M T W T F Sa		S M T W T F Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6		1 2 3 4 5 6 7
7 8 9 10 11 12		8 9 10 11 12 13 14
13 14 15 16 17 18		15 16 17 18 19 20 21
19 20 21 22 23 24		22 23 24 25 26 27 28
25 26 27 28 29 30		29 30 31
<b>JANUARY 2012</b>		<b>JUNE 2012</b>
S M T W T F Sa		S M T W T F Sa
1 2 3 4 5 6 7		1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14		8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21		15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28		22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31		29 30 31

Midlothian ISD has expanded communications to the community through an online electronic newsletter. MISD eNews provides subscribers important district news, weather related closings and delays, as well as late breaking news as needed. In addition, the newsletter contains district announcements and links to calendars, online meal payments, athletic schedules and more. Go to the MISD website and sign-up today.

MISD is on Facebook and Twitter, too!  
Visit MISD 24/7 at [www.midlothian-isd.net](http://www.midlothian-isd.net)



# World Series Bound

— By Sydni Thomas

*It didn't take long for the United States Specialty Sports Association (USSSA) to notice the record of the Drillers, a USSSA baseball team out of Mansfield. Game after game they defeated their opponents and took over as Texas' No. 1 team in the AA division. They continued their success and became the top AA team in the nation. When it became apparent to the USSSA that the Drillers needed more of a challenge, they bumped the team up to AAA, and Blake Wilhoite and Colton Silvers are the only two of the 11-member team who are from Midlothian.*





The USSSA consists of teams in four different levels. The highest level and ultimate goal of most teams is the Major Division, which is made up of the most competitive teams in the USSSA. Just below the Major Division is AAA, consisting of the middle level of competitive teams. AA follows and is made up of restricted rosters, drafted players or players at the recreational level. The lowest level is A, which includes only teams in the recreational league.

Blake has been with the Drillers for over a year, and Colton joined this past fall. They both started playing baseball in a recreational league when they were 4. After changes were made to the league they were playing in, Randy and Jenna Wilhoite, Blake's parents, started looking into other leagues for Blake. They finally found a fit with the Drillers. The same thing happened to Colton. He was not being challenged in his age



level and started playing on an older team. Eventually, the team was ready to progress to kid pitch, but Colton was not.

"We made the move to this league when Colton wasn't being challenged as much in the city league," Hilary Silvers, Colton's mom, said. "He wasn't ready for kid pitch but couldn't move back down to his age level because some of the kids on that team were new to baseball. He'd been playing for a while, and I was afraid he would get bored."

The boys are anything but bored as Drillers. They play baseball year-round with only a handful of free weekends. If they're not at practice, then they're

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playing a game. Some weeks are so busy that there are no free days for practice, so the coach will hold practice following the games. In addition to their regular practice schedule, coaches offer private batting lessons. Most of the team members attend at least one per week. On the weekends, the team travels to tournaments all over Texas and surrounding states. "If you win the two Saturday games of a tournament, you get to sleep in on Sundays," Blake said. "We always try to do that, because if we lose, we have to wake up really early on Sundays."

This summer, Blake and Colton got to participate in their first World Series tournaments. Each lasted for a week and games were played all day and in the evening, with special events to introduce the teams to each other. To qualify for the World Series, teams had to win a tournament or automatically qualify based on their rankings. Since restructuring to AAA, the Drillers worked their way up to 10th place in the Texas rankings. "Being moved up to an AAA team is a great achievement for the Drillers," Jenna said. "Sadly, we lost our No. 1 ranking, but the boys are working harder, playing tough competitors and learning a lot. They competed and won the Super Series Texas State Championship in June, officially earning the ranking of No. 1 again."

When the Wilhoites and Silvers became part of the Driller family, they were welcomed immediately. It was

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not long before they saw a new level of enjoyment from Blake and Colton brought on by the new team. Despite being a Mansfield team, Coach Shane Ferrell, the head coach, took the time to attend a Midlothian High School baseball game with Colton and Blake for extra coaching and teaching time. "The coaches do a great job making it fun for the boys while teaching them at the same time," Hilary said. "They never come home complaining or not wanting to play anymore. In fact, they always want to play."

Despite their busy baseball schedule, both Colton and Blake participate in other sports and talk about playing football or hockey one day. However, baseball always takes precedence over any other activity, and they miss a lot of games in their other sports to attend baseball tournaments. They will take their



ball and glove to soccer and basketball games to play catch in their downtime. "The gloves go with us everywhere," Jenna said. "Blake wants to play catch with his dad after practice and even at soccer games."

The boys have been playing baseball for half of their life. They began on the same T-ball team, the Longhorns, when they were 4. At 5, they played on the same All Star team, but went their separate ways after that. When Colton joined the Drillers, Blake was happy to see a familiar face and friend. Even though they do not go to the same school, they always see each other and are the best of friends. "I like baseball



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because I get to be a part of a team," Blake said. "It also means I get to hang out with Colton more."

"I was already friends with Blake, but when I joined the Drillers I got a lot of new friends from different cities," Colton said. "That's one of my favorite things about baseball."

Next year, the boys will enter kid pitch. Blake, an aspiring pitcher, has already started to learn techniques from his dad. Both Blake and Colton's dads played baseball through college and spend a lot of time teaching the boys how to play better. Colton prefers to play in the infield and stop the opposing team from



scoring. First base is his favorite because the ball always gets thrown there.

"I'm not afraid of the ball," Colton said. "The infield is the most fun to play, especially when batters hit really hard grounders."

Some weeks it's a group effort between both families to get Blake and Colton to practice and games. Even though each family sacrifices a lot of time for baseball, they have not regretted letting the boys play at this level. If the day comes when baseball stops being fun for the boys, they will walk away. Until then, they will continue making new friends and playing the game they love.

"Baseball teaches them a lot," Jenna said. "They are still little boys, but they are learning the importance of paying attention and using their listening skills. Just like any sport, this will follow them throughout life and help them be prepared." **NOW**



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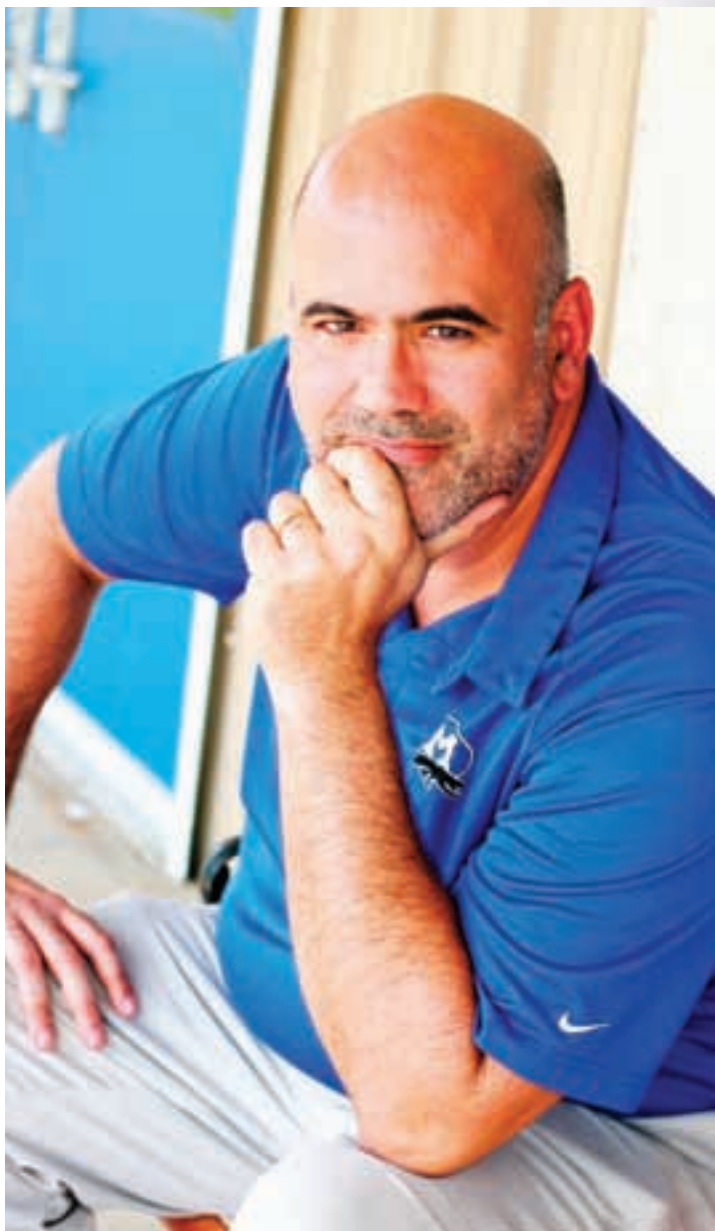
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# The LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

— By Betty Tryon

*Sitting in a lonely cubicle, the student had time to reflect upon the decisions that led him to that desk. However, no matter how bleak the world looked at that moment, if he tried, there would be better days ahead. Manny Medina, director of alternative learning in Midlothian ISD, reiterated the seriousness of the placement.*

*“This is the last step with what we are trying to do to help the student be successful. If it doesn’t work, the next step is expulsion. I have had students from all walks of life, economic backgrounds and even had students whose parents were employees of the district. For whatever reason, some kids just need that moment to step back, think about the decisions they are making and be reminded of what’s important, what matters.”*



The alternative learning program, located in a separate building on the high school campus, is for students who have committed disciplinary infractions at either middle school or high school. "Alternative learning is for repetitive offenses plus major infractions that would make for placement, such as threats toward staff, drug offenses or



**"This is the last step with what we are trying to do to help the student be successful."**

criminal offenses committed on campus," he explained. "Placements here can range from 15 to 90 to 120 days, depending on the offense. This is after we've tried in-school suspension, suspension and detention hall."

It may be somewhat ironic that Manny is the director of a program that targets students who are in serious trouble in school because he, himself, was a dropout from high school. "I was born in Miami. My parents emigrated from Cuba. I had trouble in school and got my GED. I was able to get into UNT (University of North Texas) on my SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) scores, because I have always been a good test taker."

Manny thought he would go into speech writing and communication after



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college, but watching his wife in her job as an educator changed his mind. "I was able to see that even when she came home exhausted, she came home loving her job," he said. "I never thought I would go into education, especially considering my school age experience." After teaching bilingual English at the elementary level, being an assistant principal in Waxahachie and Mansfield and principal at J.R. Irvin Elementary, he received an opportunity to become the director of the alternative learning program. That was five years ago.

Manny is in a unique position to have a better understanding of the students in his program, and he keeps the goal of the program front and center. "Yes, we are a disciplinary campus, but we are a school first. We are obviously stricter and have greater limitations on freedoms than what they experience in school, but our primary goal isn't to be a hammer. It is to get them to where they need to be. The students who come to this program run the gamut. There are some who intentionally do things they know will send them here. Other students may be caught in a difficult situation, and they just make the wrong choice. Sixty to 70 percent of students only come here once. They've made that one mistake and never come back."

Surprisingly, even though this program is a disciplinary one, there are some students who find some comfort in being in this environment rather than in their regular classes. They see it as a way to get away from the hassle and pressure

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of school and their peers. Manny understands the attraction of solitude for some students who are sent there repeatedly. "I think this is the last line of defense to help them and [keep them] from the temptations around them. This program is important for those who come repeatedly, because it offers the district an opportunity to keep them on track by reminding them what the larger goal is."

There can be a certain level of risk of students becoming too comfortable in a restricted environment, because they see their grades improving and they do not have to deal with their peers. "It's nice to see that we are being productive in here, yet on the other hand, it is sometimes frustrating because life isn't about someone making all the decisions for you. What probably gives me the greatest worry is wondering what is going to happen to some of these students, especially the ones who feel this restrictive environment is a better place for them. What will happen when they are 20 or 30 and heading into the work force, or when they are developing relationships or building families?"

Manny's questions can only be answered by the students and with the passage of time. However, Manny's program seeks to change the pattern of his students' lives while they have the opportunity. "We try to at least plant the seeds of making decisions that need to be made to prevent this from becoming the majority of their high school experience," he offered. "We try as much as we can

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to engage parents in conversation with how things are going in here. We let the parents know that our primary function here is to keep them on track for their education."

Manny has outside help with some of the needs the students have. Communities in Schools, a community service organization that seeks to improve the lives of students and decrease dropout rates, works with some of the students in the alternative learning program. In addition, the program welcomes the REACH (Resource Education Action Council Helping Midlothian) Council. "They not only



meet with the students in here but keep in touch with parents," he commented. "If the students need outside assistance for specific issues, whether for counseling or family counseling, they can help parents get in touch with groups or agencies that can help them. Dena Petty's program has done a fantastic job developing mentoring relationships with many of our students in here. What I like about it is not only do they follow our students in here, they work with them when they are back in the high school." The educators who work with Manny encourage the students to look at their situation and try to come up with a strategy to do things differently for a better result. They also assist and tutor the students with their schoolwork while they are in the program.

"This has been the most frustrating and rewarding job I've had. It is frustrating because you see the same faces and mistakes over and over again. At the same time, even here, we can create an environment where teachers care and give students every opportunity to prove what they can do. The most important thing I want people to know about this program is, even in here, we are a school first." **NOW**





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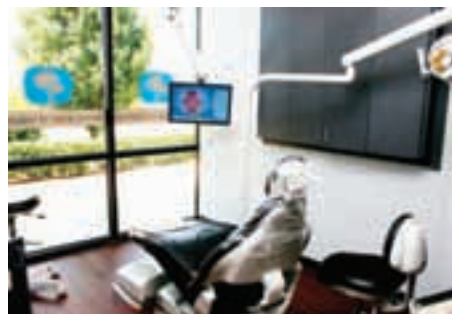
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## Educating Patients for a Better Result

*Dr. Travis Spillman considers education a crucial element of his dental practice. — By Betty Tryon*

Have you ever stood in front of the mirror trying to see a tooth that has been giving you fits? No matter how much you twist your head or wrench your mouth into all sorts of contortions, you cannot quite see what the dentist can see. Dr. Travis Spillman of Dental Center of Midlothian wants you to see what he does. He has the computer program, MedVisor, which he uses as a tool to visually educate patients on the procedures. Seeing what is wrong and watching a program virtually perform the procedure that is appropriate for you can lessen anxiety. “I think what sets me apart from other dentists is the amount of time I put into educating the patient and the tools I have to educate patients,” Travis explained.

Travis graduated from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Dental Branch. After graduation, he practiced in a large office for five years. There he gained

experience and clarity as to how he wanted to run his own practice. “It was a good learning experience, but I knew it wasn’t the place I wanted to practice forever,” he said. With a smaller practice he could “do more quality, comprehensive care.”

In wanting the best for his patients, Travis not only desired a smaller practice but also sought to increase his knowledge of more specialized procedures. “When I got out of school, one thing that bothered me was I saw a couple of patients I didn’t know how to treat,” he explained. “They were complex restorative cases and would need a full rehabilitation of their mouth.” He enrolled in the Center for Aesthetic and Restorative Dentistry in Dallas and took the two-year-long course by attending classes one weekend a month. “I learned everything for restoring the whole mouth with veneers, crowns, implants and bridges. Treating facial pain was included. At the completion



of the course, I was asked to help teach at their teaching facility in Dallas.”


In Travis’ comprehensive care dentistry business, implants can be done in one day. “I work with a surgeon who places the implants, and I do the restorative part.” Some of the other aspects of his business are sedation dentistry, which offers an option for those who feel much anxiety during dentist visits. Invisalign is one of the more welcome additions to the dentistry profession in that it offers a method of teeth straightening without metal braces. Teeth whitening, with your choice of in-office whitening or the at-home whitening, is also one of the services offered.

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“I think what sets me apart from other dentists is the amount of time I put into educating the patient and the tools I have to educate patients.”

Travis wants his patients to be informed on what dentistry can offer. This begins with the first visit. The initial visit will have a comprehensive exam with X-rays, cancer screenings, appropriate cleanings and any restorative treatment plans. “I give the patient options and let them choose which road they want to go down. We’re not really pushing or selling anything — only educating the patient.” **NOW**



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*Cash-N-Go's Jacob Porter shows Ron Schultz a rare, vintage guitar.*



*Aaron Stewart and his son, Aidan, work in the front yard together.*



*Mary Rustin and Sallie Snow welcome visitors to the Midlothian Conference Center Arts Council Photo Expo.*



*Burke Tire's Matt Misenhimer braves the heat for a steady flow of afternoon tire rotations.*



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## Back to School With Good Health

— By *Angel Biasatti*

Good posture and good health are important for learning. A healthy body contributes to a healthy mind. Research shows that children who regularly eat nutritious meals and maintain good health have better standardized test scores, better behavior and are less hyperactive than children who do not.

As a parent, encourage your children to run, jump, walk and climb, and participate with them in a variety of activities. Regular physical activity has significant health benefits, including building strong healthy bones and muscles and improving balance and coordination. Ensure your child gets physical exercise every day. Children age 2 years and older should get 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise on most — and preferably all — days of the week.

Eating more home-cooked meals as a family is also better for a child's health than supersized portions of non-nutritious processed foods. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends filling half your plate with fruits and vegetables, consuming whole grains such as wheat bread or brown rice rather than white, and including calcium-rich foods such as low-fat dairy products (milk and yogurt), leafy green vegetables and legumes such as chickpeas, lentils and split peas.

Discourage your children from drinking too much sugary soda and instead offer more nutritious drinks like water and nonfat milk. Soda, energy drinks and sports drinks are a major source of

added sugar and calories.

Encourage good posture, and make sure your children carry no more than 10 to 20 percent of their body weight. When shopping for school backpacks, choose one with wide, padded shoulder straps and a padded back, and show them how to use both shoulder straps to prevent muscle strain. You can also avoid back pain by strengthening muscles in the abdomen and lower back. Doing crunches and other exercises to strengthen the abdominal muscles is also recommended. Brisk walking, swimming and riding a stationary bicycle are good options for building overall muscle strength and flexibility.

With summer break coming to an end and the new school year nearing, make sure to keep these helpful tips in mind. Start the school year right by promoting healthy habits to your children. You may be surprised that the change in diet and activity may soon filter into healthy and positive classroom learning. **NOW**

*Angel Biasatti, Director Community Relations and Marketing  
Methodist Mansfield Medical Center*

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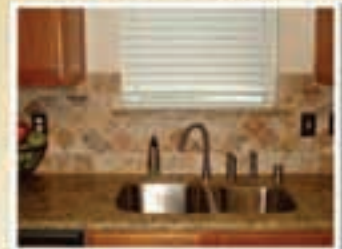
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# Calendar

AUGUST 2011

## August 8

Cub Camp (sixth grade and new to district): 9:00-11:00 a.m., Frank Seale Middle School.

Sixth grade orientation (new to district): 6:30-8:00 p.m.

## August 9

Seventh grade orientation: 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Frank Seale Middle School.

## August 10

Community Immunization Clinic: 5:00-7:00 p.m. at MISD Administration.

Midlothian High School Orientation for seniors, juniors and sophomores. Seniors: 9:00-10:00 a.m.; juniors 11:00 a.m.-noon; sophomores: 1:00-2:00 p.m., MHS auditorium.

## August 11

Freshman Panther Camp: 2:00-5:00 p.m. in the MHS auditorium. Meeting for parents of incoming freshmen: 6:30 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium. Information on new graduation requirements for the class of 2015 will be presented by MHS counselors and administrators.

Eighth grade orientation: 6:30-8:00 p.m., Frank Seale Middle School.

Sixth grade orientation: 6:30 p.m., Walnut Grove Middle School.

## August 13

For Maddie's Sake, Inc. presents Saturday Social Dance for children with and without special needs: 6:00-8:00 p.m. Theme: "Rock-N-Roll Summer" will include DJ music, dancing, photo booth, door prizes, snacks and hot dogs at the Midlothian Civic Center (next to Dairy Queen). Door admissions: \$6.50. Visit [www.ForMaddiesSake.com](http://www.ForMaddiesSake.com).

Movie in the Park sponsored by Methodist Health System: 8:30 p.m., Hawkins Spring Park, 1498 FM 1387. Featured movie: *Toy Story 3*. Contact: (972) 775-7777 or <http://www.midlothian.tx.us/>.

Historic 5K Run for REACH: 8:00 a.m., 109 S. Jackson Street, Waxahachie. Early registration: \$15/kids under 12; \$25/runners or walkers ages 12-plus; \$5 late fee added for day of the run registration. Proceeds provide drug prevention programs for youth. For online registration and information, visit [www.reachcouncil.org](http://www.reachcouncil.org) or call Nisa at (972) 723-1053.

Life Church Back 2 School Bash: noon, Midlothian ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium. Largest inflatable water slide in Texas with 150 feet of sliding distance, two Euro bungees, 24-foot rock

climbing wall, 30-foot dry slide, two obstacle courses, bounce houses, batting cage, games and competitions, free haircuts, immunizations and health screenings. Citywide tailgate party and public viewing of the Rangers game that afternoon. Please bring school supplies to be given to Manna House. Visit [info@lifeunusual.com](mailto:info@lifeunusual.com).

## August 15

Seventh grade orientation: 6:30 p.m., Walnut Grove Middle School.

## August 16

Eighth grade orientation: 6:30 p.m., Walnut Grove Middle School.

## August 18

Elementary "Meet-The-Teacher" Night: 6:30-7:30 p.m. for kindergarten-fifth grade, Mt. Peak, T.E. Baxter, J.A. Vitovsky and J.R. Irvin. At LaRue Miller and Longbranch: third- through fifth-grade students: 5:30-6:15 p.m. kindergarten through second-grade students: 6:15-7:00 p.m.

## August 22

First Day of School

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to [btryon.nowmag@sbglobal.net](mailto:btryon.nowmag@sbglobal.net).*

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## In The Kitchen With Tina Nixon

— By Betty Tryon

One of Tina Nixon's favorite sounds is "Mm-mm good!" That is what she hears often when others are eating her meals. "I learned the cooking basics from my mom, grandma and TV chefs," she said. "I was watching cooking shows as far back as Julia Child and *The Galloping Gourmet*."

Tina enjoys preparing meals from other cultures. "My parents traveled extensively to numerous countries, and my mom always brought some of that foreign flair to the family dinner table." Along with an appreciation for foreign flair, Tina inherited her mom's cherished cookbooks. "I have one of the original *Boston Cooking-School Cook Books* that my grandma gave to my mom when she graduated from college, as well as one of the original Betty Crocker's famous red binders." **NOW**

### Fried Artichoke Hearts

**3 eggs**  
**1/2 cup milk**  
**1 tsp. each, salt and pepper**  
**1 1/2 cups Italian-style bread crumbs**  
**1 cup panko bread crumbs**  
**1 Tbsp. garlic powder (or to taste)**  
**2 15-oz. cans artichoke hearts, drained well and blotted on a paper towel**  
**Oil for frying**  
**1/2 cup Parmesan cheese**

- 1.** Beat together eggs, milk and salt and pepper, until well mixed.
- 2.** Combine bread crumbs and garlic powder.
- 3.** Dip artichoke hearts in the egg mixture, then in the bread crumb mixture and drop in hot oil.
- 4.** Fry on medium high for about 2-3 minutes, until golden brown.
- 5.** Drain on paper towels and immediately sprinkle with Parmesan cheese.

### Spinach Lasagna Roll-ups

**8 oz. mushrooms (cremini or button), cleaned and chopped**  
**1 Tbsp. butter or olive oil**  
**8 oz. shredded Parmesan cheese**  
**8 oz. shredded mozzarella cheese**  
**15 oz. ricotta or cottage cheese**  
**1 egg, beaten until smooth**  
**1 tsp. red pepper flakes**  
**1 tsp. garlic powder**  
**1/4 tsp. nutmeg**  
**Salt and pepper, to taste**  
**2 10-oz. boxes chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry**  
**Non-stick cooking spray**  
**1 jar Alfredo sauce (2 if you like it saucier)**  
**1 box lasagna noodles, cooked to al dente, drained**

- 1.** Sauté mushrooms in a little butter or olive oil, until soft.

- 2.** In a food processor, mix together all 3 cheeses, egg, red pepper flakes, garlic powder, nutmeg, salt and pepper.
- 3.** Add spinach to mixture and pulse, until combined. Pour into mixing bowl.
- 4.** Stir in mushrooms.
- 5.** Spray baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.
- 6.** Spread 2-3 spoons of Alfredo sauce on bottom of dish.
- 7.** Lay out a lasagna noodle on your working surface. Place approximately 1/2 cup of the mixture down the center of the noodle, leaving an inch or so on one end.
- 8.** Roll up and place "facing up" in baking dish. Repeat until done.
- 9.** Pour remaining sauce over roll-ups. (Be sure to get every bit of the sauce. Use a little of your pasta water, if needed.)
- 10.** Bake at 350 F for about 30 minutes.

### Lemon Bundt Cake

**2 lemons**  
**2 cups powdered sugar**  
**1 cup water**  
**1 box lemon-flavored, pudding-style cake mix**  
**1 can lemon-flavored frosting**  
**The seeds from 1 vanilla bean or 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract**

- 1.** Zest and juice one lemon; then using a vegetable peeler, peel (yellow part only — not the pith) and juice the other.
- 2.** In a saucepan, add 1 cup each of sugar and water and the lemon peel.
- 3.** Bring to a boil. Simmer for about 10 minutes, or until peel is translucent.
- 5.** Remove candied peel and set out until dry. Don't throw away the syrup. It is great in iced tea.
- 6.** Prepare cake mix according to package directions, except add the juice of 1 lemon to your measuring cup before adding/measuring the water.
- 7.** Add the zest of 1 lemon and the can of frosting. Blend well.
- 8.** Pour batter into prepared Bundt pan and bake according to package directions.
- 9.** Once cake is cooled slightly, remove from pan onto your cake plate.
- 10.** Mix together the remaining powdered sugar and vanilla. Slowly mix in the remaining lemon juice, until it becomes a glaze consistency. You may not need all the juice.
- 11.** Spoon glaze over cake letting it drip down the sides.
- 12.** Sprinkle chopped candied peel over top.





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For a physician referral or for more information about weight loss services at Baylor Waxahachie, call **1.800.4BAYLOR** or visit us online at **[BaylorHealth.com/Waxahachie](http://BaylorHealth.com/Waxahachie)**.

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