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**Midlothian ISD
Education
Foundation**

Check out MEF's 2012-2013 programs & events benefitting Midlothian ISD:

8th Annual Golf Tournament - Friday October 5th, registration begins at 10:30 a.m.

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.

Star Patrol for Fall Innovative Teaching Grants - December 2012

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 suprise teachers and students across the district. To join in the celebration, e-mail foundation@misdef.org. Since 2004, MEF has awarded 77 grants and contributed over \$239,000 to MISD through the Innovative Teaching Grant program.

Stars Telethon - January 28, 2013

Our newest fundraiser! MEF will host a telethon this year featuring the talents of MISD students and staff. The telethon will be broadcast live on the MISD website. Our new fundraiser will be a great showcase for our students as well as a great advertising medium for our local businesses. More details coming soon. For more information, please e-mail foundation@misdef.org.

Star Patrol for Spring Innovative Teaching Grants - March 2013

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.

4th Annual Love to Eat & Run - April 27, 2013

For the 4th 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 7:00 a.m. Shotgun start at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast and awards ceremony following. And Spring Fling begins at 10:00 a.m.

9th Annual Stars Banquet - Thursday, May 30, 2013

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 200 students and 200 educators.

Friday, October 5, 2012

Mansfield National Golf Course

4-Man Scramble

10:30 a.m. Registration Opens

11:00 a.m. Lunch

12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start

Awards Ceremony to Follow

8th Annual Midlothian ISD Education Foundation



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On The Cover



Chanyyn Robinson, Crystal Gaither, Monica Franklin and Louis Scharringhausen work to get kids ready for the new school year.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Subscriptions are available at the rate of \$35 per year or \$3.50 per issue. Subscriptions should be sent to: NOW Magazines, P.O. Box 1071, Waxahachie, TX 75168. For advertising rates or editorial correspondence, call (972) 937-8447 or visit www.nowmagazines.com.



Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

One of the accomplishments an entire community can celebrate is the joy of watching our children grow and excel in their studies. The benefits from that reality are reaped for many years to come. Every citizen wins when the school system aims for excellence. We are blessed to have a district whose focus is for every child to feel loved and be given opportunities to be successful in the education arena. That approach, along with parental and community involvement, has produced many award-winning scholars — five of whom are returning students Bryce Boyd, Myki Miller, Zach Krawczyk, Haley DeSelle and Christian Mann. As seventh-graders, they received state recognition for outscoring many senior and junior high school students on the SAT and ACT on the Duke Talent Identification Program 7th Grade Talent Search. We know we will continue to see even greater things from them!

Betty

Betty Tryon
MidlothianNOW Editor
btryon.nowmag@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

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

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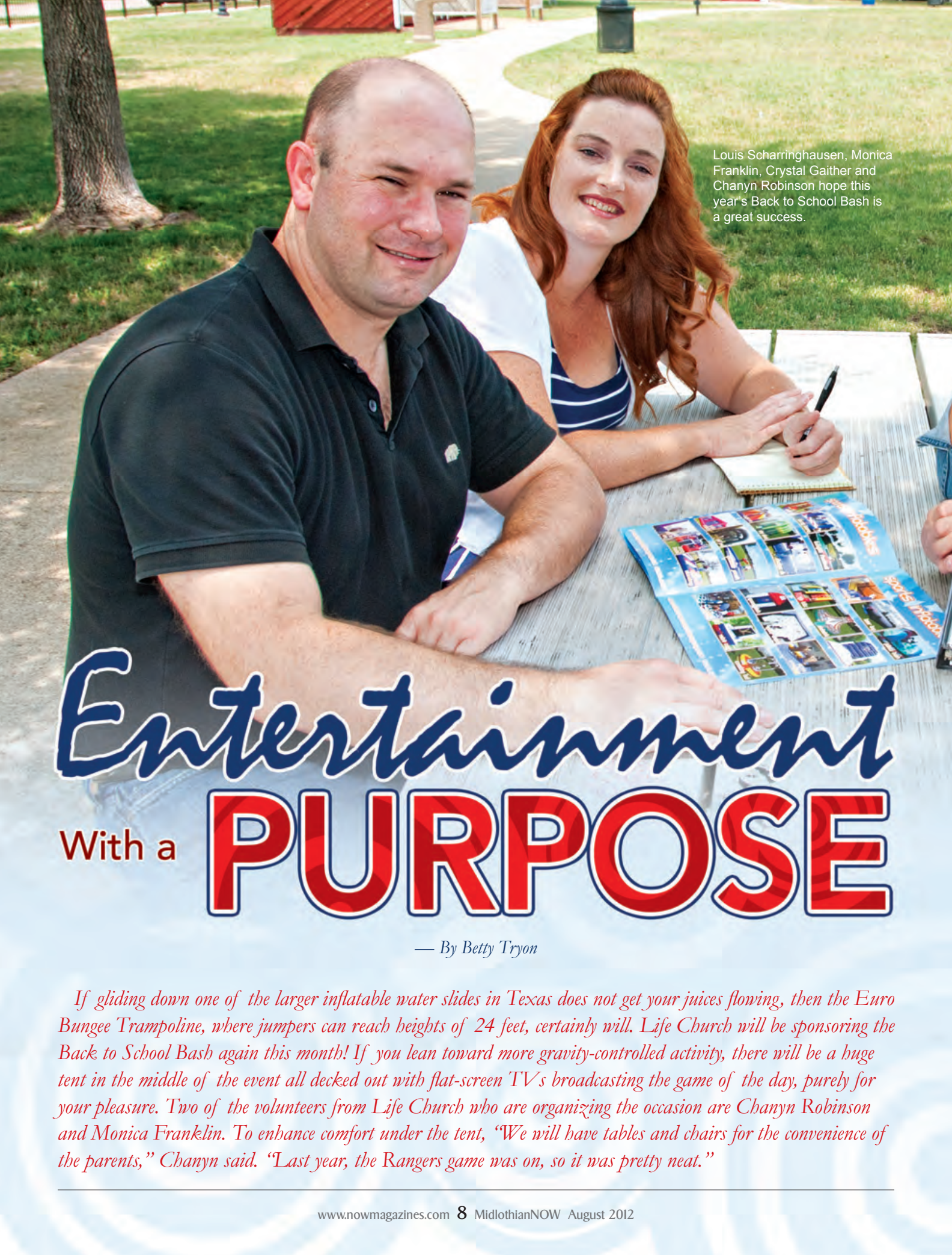
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Louis Scharringhausen, Monica Franklin, Crystal Gaither and Chanyyn Robinson hope this year's Back to School Bash is a great success.

Entertainment With a PURPOSE

— By Betty Tryon

If gliding down one of the larger inflatable water slides in Texas does not get your juices flowing, then the Euro Bungee Trampoline, where jumpers can reach heights of 24 feet, certainly will. Life Church will be sponsoring the Back to School Bash again this month! If you lean toward more gravity-controlled activity, there will be a huge tent in the middle of the event all decked out with flat-screen TVs broadcasting the game of the day, purely for your pleasure. Two of the volunteers from Life Church who are organizing the occasion are Chanyyn Robinson and Monica Franklin. To enhance comfort under the tent, "We will have tables and chairs for the convenience of the parents," Chanyyn said. "Last year, the Rangers game was on, so it was pretty neat."



"We wanted to have a place for everyone to come together and enjoy some activities, and it evolved into the Back to School Bash."

The Back to School Bash originally began as a friendly Fourth of July opportunity provided by Life Church to serve the community. "We wanted to have a place for everyone to come together and enjoy some activities, and it evolved into the Back to School Bash," Chanyn stated.

Although this is a fun event, the reason for the Bash is to get kids ready for school. Stations are set up for haircuts, immunizations and vision checks. The church receives much local support from within Midlothian and the surrounding communities of Waxahachie, Mansfield, Cedar Hill and Arlington. "We want to ease the number of kids sent home that first day because their hair is too long," Chanyn stated. "Last year, our event was six hours, and we had so many children we had to turn some of them away. We hope to increase our stylists this year so every child can get a haircut."

Last year, local hair salons assisted with the necessary equipment for the haircuts, including providing stylists. Some have expressed an interest in returning to help this year.





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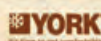
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During the 2011 Back to School Bash, the free vision event was sponsored by Target Optical, and they have agreed to return this year. Clark Dental set up a booth and gave away toothbrushes, dental floss and answered questions.

Several medical organizations volunteered to provide the immunizations with volunteer nurses assisting. This year, immunizations will prove more challenging. "In the past, the organizations could have a shot clinic, and anyone could show up, present their shot record, get their shot and walk away," Chanyyn shared. "With the Patient Eligibility Screening Record, children must be prescreened before receiving free immunizations." Parents must bring their child's insurance and shot record. Volunteers will file expenses with the insurance companies for the parents, so in the end, no one will have to pay for the shots.

The event also features a silent auction to raise money for funds for Manna House. Last year, Technology and Beyond donated a laptop as the grand prize for the raffle drawing. At the end of the school year, Manna House identified the children in need of help procuring their back-to-school supplies. "The silent auction brings in money for Manna House to purchase supplies for school. They will be responsible for putting the school bags together and getting them to the children," Monica explained.

"People drop school supplies off at the Manna House booth. Life Church



supports that by running the raffle for them,” Chanyn said. “We just partner with them and encourage people to come out and bring school supplies. Last year was very successful. The event is free, but the school supplies are in direct relation to the raffle. When you donate the school supplies, you get a raffle ticket.”

Monica added, “We were able to help all of the students in Midlothian who asked for help last year and even had enough left over to pass on to Venus Independent School District. Everyone buys the crayons and colored pencils, but we need more of the 3-inch binders and the backpacks. The bigger items are scarcer, and that’s where the silent auction helps. After seeing what was going on, some participants who didn’t bring school supplies donated money in order to help. The money goes directly to Manna House.”

Besides taking care of the necessities, there are many activities providing some family-friendly fun. “We will have something for every age group — small bounce houses for the little ones, a zip line, a rock climbing wall, live music and other live entertainment,” Chanyn said.

“We will have the choo-choo train for the little ones,” Monica stated, “but we will also have events for the teens, so it is well-rounded. Last year, a high school break dancer came out, and he was a big hit. The concession stand sells typical fair or carnival-style food, with snow cones and cotton candy.” The city of Midlothian joins organizers by having

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its summertime special event, Movies in the Park, shown in the evening after the festivities wind down. Movie goers can enjoy popcorn from the concession area as they watch the movie *Dolphin Tale*.

"This really is a team effort," Chanyn replied. "We have a team for sponsorships and administrative tasks. We have a gentleman who manages the facilities and power, the setup and teardown and someone who recruits businesses for the immunizations, haircuts and vision care. The Cub Scouts come and hand out cold water to all the volunteers. It takes a community effort to be successful."

That is very clear when considering the vastness of their task. Last year, they had over 200 volunteers. The team also approaches other churches in the area with the invitation to be involved. "Our primary focus is serving the community," Chanyn stated. "The church body as a whole has a passion for that, and if we can partner with Manna House, the school district and other churches in the area to make this a bigger and better opportunity to serve the community, then the more the merrier." **NOW**

Editor's Note: This year's Back to School Bash will be held on August 11 from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium.



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— A — Glimmer of Hope

— By Betty Tryon



The young woman's smile and unassuming air was in direct conflict with the compelling story she shared of her life on the street. In less than one minute, she told of being lured into a sordid lifestyle and finding redemption. The beginning of her turnaround occurred when she discovered she was pregnant and knew she wanted a better life for her baby, whom she described as "a gift from God." Her new beginning came after being in a home for pregnant women where she learned life and parenting skills.



The fastest-growing population of homelessness in the United States is pregnant women. However, there are glimmers of hope. One of which is in the care of Midlothian resident, Angie Hammond, executive director of Hope Mansion in Cedar Hill. "It's a huge need," Angie stated. With over 24 years of experience in helping women in crisis pregnancies, she knows her subject matter well. When the two maternity homes she worked in were closed, Angie looked for a new building to continue her work of helping pregnant girls. From Hwy. 67, she noticed a three-story, white stately home and knew it would be the

"We are the only residential group home for pregnant women in the Metroplex with a full Christian program."

perfect place for her vision. "We are the only residential group home for pregnant women in the Metroplex with a full Christian program," she said.

The new home was christened Hope Mansion by the executive committee from Transformation Vision board of directors. Although they are still in the process of renovation, Angie receives calls nearly every day from pregnant women needing the services of a safe haven. "We have added six new bedrooms and five new bathrooms. Our goal is to house 16 to 18 women at a time. We want two residents per bedroom," she said. Angie hopes to open the home at the end of the summer.

Why is homelessness such a problem for pregnant women? "The family is so torn apart and broken and there is such a higher percentage of fatherlessness in this country than we've ever had before," Angie stated. "Sometimes, women get kicked out of the home when they become pregnant. They may already have

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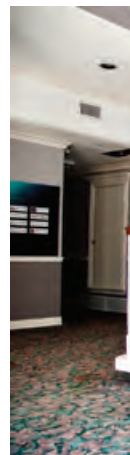


a child, and their family is taking care of that child but is not willing to do it with another one. So they tell her to figure it out on her own,” Angie said.

That does not mean that the family does not love and care for her, but many times they have either run out of patience with her or the family life is in turmoil. “We hear that often,” Angie stated. “Sometimes, they come from the foster system. Sometimes, they get caught in a destructive relationship, and they find themselves kicked out again and abandoned. Other times, it’s women in prostitution. They find themselves pregnant, and with no help from family, they come into our program.”

Once they get into the program, their renaissance begins. One of the first things Angie does is akin to shock therapy. “We tell them that we will take their cell phones away, and that’s going to kill them, because that’s their identity,” she laughed. “We are slowing their life down, so they can think about their life and not be so caught up in the influences of the world. Slow down and allow God to speak to you.”

Another way to change their outlook on life is to eliminate the influence of television. Only family films that are appropriate and teaching DVDs are allowed. One of the teaching DVD programs used is *Effective Parenting in a Defective World*, by Chip Ingram. In most residential homes, there is a full program where residents receive life-skill classes, and that is what is planned for Hope





Mansion. "We'll be doing GED credits, computer training, life skill classes, birthing, breastfeeding, parenting classes, cooking classes, nutrition, sewing classes, character building, manners and Bible study because we are a Christian ministry — everything we can think of to help our young ladies," Angie stated.

In that light, they will offer the girls three tracks for their life. If the birth father is involved and the mother thinks he is someone who would be a good father to the baby and a good husband to her, then they will receive marriage counseling. "From our perspective, God's best design is for a child to be raised with his own mommy and daddy," Angie said. "But, many times, by the time she gets to us, the relationship has already broken up or she doesn't know who the birth father is or the relationship is destructive. Certain women may come to the decision of adoption because they don't have their lives together and wonder how they can take care of a child when they can't take care of themselves. And, there are those who choose to keep their baby and be single parents."

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Everyone in the home will take parenting classes, adoption classes and marriage counseling because, “eventually, a young lady may consider marriage. And now we’ve had the time to do that preparation. We do all three trainings, so she will know why she is saying yes to one and no to the other,” Angie explained. Many of the girls come in with about an eighth-grade education, regardless of whether they graduated from high school. So, Hope Mansion will have tutors for their education. “I have had 14- and 15-year-olds with a third-grade level. We will assess her needs



and, for most of them, it’s the basics — reading, writing and arithmetic. We want to break the cycle of poverty with education, support and the life skills we’ll be offering to the girls and to break the cycle of continual crisis pregnancy. We are seeing third and fourth generations where there has never been a marriage.”

In order to make a difference in the lives of these girls, Hope Mansion needs many helping hands to furnish the home and provide for the needs of the girls. Angie has pursued the cooperation of businesses, Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, women’s groups and churches to help her mission. Hope Mansion will provide a safe haven for women during the most critical time of their lives — when they need support while carrying their baby. **NOW**

Editor’s note: For more information, call Hope Mansion at (972) 293-3370 or go to www.hopemansion.org.

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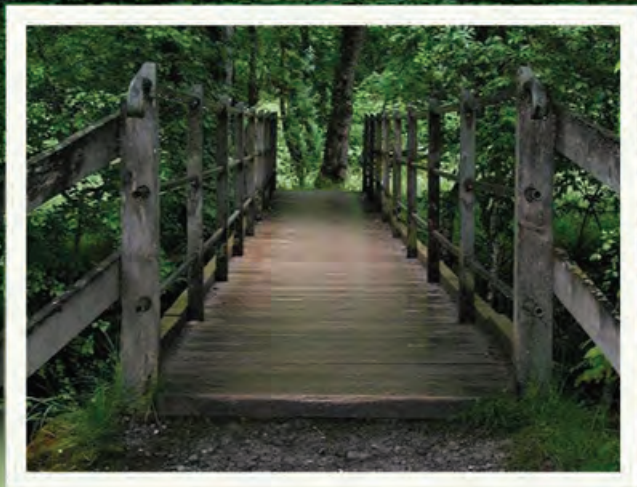
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Musical Ties

— By Randy Bigham

For one Midlothian family, music is a mainstay. Dave and Susan Marcontell are involved in the Texas entertainment scene, performing country, gospel and '50s music with their son, Andy Marcontell, and daughter, Amy Marcontell Jeter. "Music is definitely the bond that keeps us close," said Susan, a former producer of Johnnie High's Country Music Revue in Arlington. "We enjoy singing and performing with one another, whether it's at a special event or church. We just love being together."

Dave, a steel guitarist for a local band, Electric Cactus, adds that while their avocation has brought them into close contact with nationally known singers and other celebrities, it's their love of family that motivates them on stage and off. "It's been an honor to work with famous acts, but that's just icing on the cake for us," Dave pointed out. "We are a family who loves music and making harmony. It just comes naturally."

The Marcontells have appeared often at Arlington Music Hall, where they have won numerous awards, and at the Ballpark in



At Home With
Dave and Susan Marcontell

Arlington, where they've belted out the National Anthem at Texas Rangers games. The family has been named "Group of the Year" seven times by the Johnnie High Revue, for which Susan served as an assistant to the late country music producer for whom the program was named. "It was an incredible experience," Susan said. "I learned so much from Johnnie High, and it was humbling to have had a hand in promoting talents like Miranda Lambert, LeAnn Rimes and others who came on the program in their early years."

For Dave, an outstanding opportunity was he, Susan and Amy getting to sing with Johnny Cash's band at a recent reunion concert. "It's one of those times when you realize how blessed you are," he said.

For all their passion for performing, Dave and Susan's occupations exist outside the music industry. Susan is an A.S.I.D. associate interior designer, and Dave is an independent insurance broker. They are also the proud grandparents of Chase Jeter, 9; Grayson Marcontell, 7; Madelynn (Maddy) Jeter, 5; and Gage



Marcontell, 2 months. "And we also love Sammy Jack," Susan bragged, referring to the couple's handsome tabby cat.

"The grandkids keep you jumping," Dave said. "But God and family are the guiding forces in our lives, and we cherish every minute of our time with them."

Susan concurred. "It's great having the little ones underfoot," she said. "Literally actually, because my son lives just down the street and my daughter's backyard meets mine!"

The Marcontells' home, built by Allan McKeever in 2009, is a seamless

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expression of the ideal of family togetherness that they have embraced for their lives. "Allan was the perfect fit for us," Susan said. "We felt very comfortable with him and he did a superb job."

Elegant and practical, their two-story, 15-room home, nestled in a quiet neighborhood, is decorated with Susan's unerring skill. "She really loves color," Dave said with an approving nod for the furnishings his wife has assembled. "I think that's her forte. She knows just what colors to use to make a smooth transition from room to room."

Susan described her design aesthetic as eclectic. "I like a good combination of different styles, because it makes the overall look more original," she explained. "It also allows a true expression of who we are. So there's nothing too formal or matchy-matchy. I love the country French influence, but I also like Asian touches, so there's a little of everything, I guess."

Susan has blended, with the expertise of a connoisseur, a wide range of artwork, furniture types, draperies and accent pieces. Her own home's

repertoire echoes an artistic philosophy of individuality. Everywhere can be seen her preference for quality materials, such as: fine mahogany wood, modern and vintage linens and silks combined with exquisite finesse. Ravishing details proliferate with the use of rattan, ironwork, floral upholstery and an array of bright and warm colors. "I think it's a nice balance between my own touch,





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Jepsin Maliyil, M.D. has joined Baylor Family Medical Center at Midlothian. Dr. Maliyil is board certified in family medicine. She enjoys the full scope of primary care and sees patients of all ages. Some of her clinical interests include women's and children's health, preventive care, and management of acute and chronic diseases. Her goal is to provide safe, effective, and quality health care to families of Midlothian and its surrounding communities.



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which is fairly feminine, and more rustic elements that reflect my husband's personality," Susan explained.

Her office is an impeccable evocation of the mistress of the house, signifying her melded roles as wife, musician and businesswoman. Against a tobacco brown background, light and dark accents complement the painting of a lush white flower that dominates the room. "I really laid everything out around that picture," Susan admitted. "It inspired me so much."

Personal touches mark the decor of other spaces, especially in the dining room where highbrow beauty meets



kitschy chic. Funky curtains with a trace of period charm and a large portrait of a peacock rival the centerpiece of the room — the dining table — for interest. The table has a story of its own to tell. "It was the first item of furniture we ever purchased, but there's more here than meets the eye," Susan grinned.

Dave picked up the tale from there. "The table was bought with the insurance money I got when my brand new '67 427 Corvette was stolen," he laughed. "But it wasn't funny then. Now we think of what that Corvette would be worth today! So you could say this is a *very* expensive table!"

If a room can be selected in the Marcontell home as an ideal showcase, it



would be the master bedroom. Buttery yellow walls and white painted furniture, several pieces of which emanate from Susan's own line of furniture, Queen Vickie, tell a romantic story befitting a couple who are still very much in love. From a floral bedcover and antique throw to bedside lamps reworked from originals belonging to Dave's mother, the room is a flawless testament to comfy elegance.

Guest rooms convey a flavor of Victoriana, the upstairs game room is simplicity personified and Dave's office, also located upstairs, is a virtual man cave. Among its features are mounted hunting trophies, music equipment and a wall of framed awards and pictures of various entertainment stars with whom the couple has performed.

"All in all, our house is not about design," Susan said. "It's about family."



Dave agreed. "We're proud that as a family, we've been able to stay connected through music, and are able to enjoy life together," he said. "That's what matters most, and in the end, it's the only thing that matters." **NOW**



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ECLECTIC HOBBIES

— By Cindy Malone

Pete Lewiston has dedicated his life to teaching. After graduating college with his bachelor's degree in music from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas), he began teaching as an assistant for the band program at Sunset High School in Dallas. He married in 1980, while teaching and attending graduate classes. Once he earned his master's degree in administration, he moved his wife, Sharon, and their two sons, Peter Jr. and Joey, to Arizona where he was hired as the Pearce Rural School District administrator. Pete returned to Texas



from Arizona to work as an elementary principal in Venus, Texas. In 1988, he and his sons started a painting, decorating and home improvement company and named it Lewiston and Sons.





When not involved with other pursuits, the Lewiston family loves their involvement in all aspects of music: playing, singing, performing and writing. Pete played woodwind instruments throughout college and still does in local groups like The Metro Praise Orchestra, a 20-piece, jazz big band. "We are a

**"We are a group of
Christian musicians that
plays at different venues
and festivals."**

group of Christian musicians that plays at different venues and festivals," he said. He also plays in the Classic Swing Band, which entertains at volunteer and community events like the Mid-Way Regional Airport Annual Pancake Breakfast Fly-n, Santa's Helpers on Channel 8 at Victory Park Plaza and the Waxahachie Veterans' Day service.

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Dr. Jerome Stewart

Dear Midlothian ISD Family:

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NEW! Online Enrollment Packet

This quick, easy online process allows parents to electronically sign-off on their child's first day enrollment packet. Parent letter mailed early August with more details.

Elementary Meet-the-Teacher

Thursday, August 23

T.E. Baxter Elementary

5:30-6:15 p.m. Pre K – 2nd (PPCD)

6:30-7:15 p.m. 3rd – 5th

J.R. Irvin Elementary

6:30-7:30 p.m. K – 5th

Longbranch Elementary

5:30-6:15 p.m. K – 2nd

6:15-7:00 p.m. 3rd – 5th

LaRue Miller Elementary

6:00-6:45 p.m. 3rd – 5th

6:45-7:30 p.m. K – 2nd (Head Start)

Mt. Peak Elementary

6:30-7:30 p.m. Pre K – 5th

J.A. Vitovsky Elementary

6:30-7:30 p.m. Pre K – 5th

Walnut Grove Middle School Orientation

Students and parents can pick up schedules, talk with staff, locate classrooms and purchase spirit wear.

August 16, 6:30p.m. - 6th Grade

August 20, 6:30p.m. - 7th Grade

August 21, 6:30p.m. - 8th Grade

Cat Camp: August 20, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All students new-to-district are welcome to attend Cat Camp to become familiar with the campus through games and other activities. Parents can drop child off at 10 a.m. and pick-up at 12 p.m.

Frank Seale Middle School Orientation

6th Cub Camp: August 13, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

All incoming 6th graders and new to district students are welcome to attend Cub Camp.

Students will become familiar with the campus through a scavenger hunt and other activities.

Parents can drop their child off at 10:00 a.m. and pick-up at 12:00 p.m.

6th Grade Orientation: August 13, 6:00 p.m.

Parents and students will receive preliminary schedules and tour building.

Schedule Pick Up between 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

August 13 & 14 - 7th Grade

August 15 & 16 - 8th Grade

Midlothian High School Orientation

Sessions will begin in the auditorium with a meeting and schedule pick-up.

August 15, Seniors 9 a.m., Juniors 11a.m.,

Sophomores 1 p.m.

Freshmen Panther Camp: August 16, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

All incoming 9th graders are encouraged to attend Panther Camp to become familiar with MHS staff and the campus.

Get Ready for Back-to-School

Monday, August 27, 2012

B2S

Shot Clinic

An immunization clinic will be August 22 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the MISD Administration Building. Children ages 2 months to 18 yrs. old will receive free shots if covered by Medicaid or CHIP (please bring card). Other shots are \$25 for the first shot and \$10 for additional shots. College students are welcome to attend. Cash or checks are accepted (payable to Agape Outreach). A current shot record must be provided.

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Healthier Food Options For MHS Students

Midlothian High School students will have a new dining experience with healthier menu options. The Food Service Department, ARAMARK, has implemented a made-to-order concept by offering more nutritional meals that promote wellness and meal participation. For a \$2.45 lunch plate, students can choose items such as a veggie wrap to a turkey burger with sautéed mushrooms. The four stations are Tortilla Fresh Mex, Green Street Deli, Custom Bros Grill Co., and Corner Crust Pizza. View menus online.

Free and Reduced Meals

Parents can apply for free and reduced price meals online at www.school lunchapp.com. The process is safe, secure, and confidential. Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility. Parents can easily deposit money, check balance and view food/drink items their child purchased.

Your Bond Dollars at Work!

Construction updates and pictures on Bond 2011 website.

High School #2 (phase 1)

The two-story high school (phase 1) will include classrooms, administrative facilities, cafetorium, library, fine arts area, vocational and athletic facilities, and gymnasiums. Plans are also underway to straighten the sharp curve on FM 1387/Walnut Grove Rd. and add traffic stoplights. The expected completion date is July 2014.

Naming HS #2

A committee will begin the process of officially naming High School #2 in accordance of Board policy CW (Local).



Groundbreaking Ceremony

The public is invited to the official groundbreaking ceremony for the new high school #2 (phase 1) located on the 118-acre corner lot of FM 1387/Walnut Grove Rd. on September 17 at 4:30 p.m. The support of the Midlothian citizens and the vision between the city and district officials of building a second high school has now become a reality, benefiting students and the entire community. Come celebrate the start of construction and get involved in the development phase.

Frank Seale Middle School Addition

Additional classrooms will expand student capacity from 1,000 to 1,200. A fire lane expansion will also be added. The contractual completion date is December 2012.

Elementary #7

This project is temporarily postponed. Bonds will not be issued until conditions warrant it.



Welcome New Assistant Superintendent

MISD welcomes Katie Bowman as the new Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations. She replaces Dr. Edd Bigbee, who accepted a position as Chief Financial Officer for McKinney ISD, on August 1.

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do, Pete and Sharon's two sons play instruments as well. After graduating from Midlothian High School, Peter attended Christ For The Nations



Institute, where he earned a Diploma in Practical Theology and studied music. After transferring to Dallas Baptist University, he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration. Peter, leaning more toward rock and gospel music than jazz, has played the drums for singers like Tony Pierce and for the church service at The Lighthouse Church in Midlothian where he leads the young adult group.

Joey, the younger son, plays bass guitar, and as Peter told it, "is pretty amazing. He also played with Tony Pierce, but his real genius is in writing music," which is something he, unfortunately, has not had as much time to work on while attending The University of Texas at Arlington where he is working on his master's degree in civil engineering.

Peter's wife, Hannah, a photographer turned stay-at-home mom of four children under 5, plays guitar, sings and sometimes leads worship for the women's group at church. Sharon is the bookkeeper for the family business and the church and has played the piano since childhood. She plays and sings as part of the worship team at their church, as well. Music truly runs in the Lewiston family. Pete's brother, Cal, who is 10 years older, is a professional musician and professor of instrumental music at Weatherford College.

The Lewistons are committed to living, working and rearing their family in Midlothian. Although the boys have gone in slightly different directions, they find a way to all be together whenever it

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is important. Each Sunday, they attend church together. "It is a very relaxed worship atmosphere. Our music is contemporary while the messages are very traditional," Peter explained.

Another hobby the family enjoys is snake watching, catching and releasing. It's not like they've never eaten one. "My mom, Heidi, cooked up a Mojave Rattlesnake once in Arizona and, yes, it tasted like chicken," Pete said.

Pete grew up in Virginia where, on a walk with his dad, he saw his first snake. He became fascinated by them and now calls himself an "amateur herpetologist." Arizona, where the family lived for six years, is a wonderland for all types of reptiles. "Pearce is a ghost town," Pete said. "In its infancy, it was the richest gold mine in Southern Arizona in the late 1800s." Apparently, snakes like ghost towns, because Pearce was also the richest snake hunting area the Lewistons have ever seen. They don't hunt snakes for danger or thrills but, because they are beautiful, colorful and graceful. "There



is nothing like finding a snake, especially one I've never seen, and getting to look at it up close and really see the colors in each scale," Peter admitted. As far as fear, Peter was quick to point out, "I have never seen a snake that didn't try to get away from me and was in any way aggressive, until I backed it into a corner." For safety reasons, they never handle poisonous snakes.

"When Peter was about 10," Pete remembered, "the whole family was in the car when a 6-foot Red Racer was lying across the dirt road. We stopped, and I sent Peter out to catch it. Sharon watched in horror as Peter stepped on it, the way he was taught to restrain a snake until it could be handled more easily. Stepping on the middle of it, however, still allowed the long snake to rise as tall



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idlothian, Texas — February 3, 2012 — Approved Home Health Care announces the promotion of Karen Torti to Administrator/Director of Nursing. Karen has been an RN, Case Manager with Approved since Feb 2011. We are proud to have Karen leading our team! Congratulations, Karen!

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as Peter and peck him on the forehead — just kind of a warning from the snake. Peter let it go.” Of course, the boys were laughing and excited to have finally seen a Red Racer, Peter was shocked but unharmed. “Sharon,” Pete chuckled, “probably decided that was not the right hobby for the boys.”

They still find snakes, occasionally, and recently, when Peter’s daughter graduated from Pre-K, he found a very bright green Coachwhip grass snake (a relative of the Red Racer) and took it home in a bucket



for his daughter. Daisy wasn’t scared at all and even picked it up. As more and more construction continues around their area, there will be more snakes left homeless and roaming the streets. “It is important for her not to be afraid of snakes and know which ones are actually dangerous,” Peter said.

Peter also feels the need to teach like his father; however, his calling is pulling him toward a life in the ministry. “I am following God’s will and will go where He leads. I would love to find a church to lead, but I will wait for God to point me in the right direction.” Hannah, his wife, plans to homeschool her children beginning next year. For now, the boys work hard and have fun doing so. Pete hopes Joey will “graduate, open a structural engineering firm and hire me to work for him.” **NOW**

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HOCKEY PHILOSOPHY

— By Alex Allred

Theirs is a Cinderella story, minus the wave-of-a-wand, life-changing moment. In fact, Grayson Ridge and Brent Jones, just two of the seniors on the Midlothian Panther's high school hockey team this past season, have been working toward their goal for years and years. "I started in the second grade," Grayson said, noting that he grew up with hockey. "My father played hockey while living in Minnesota." His father, Tom Ridge, also acted as coach throughout Grayson's early years on the ice, eventually becoming one of the coaches for the Midlothian Hockey Club.

Initially, they began practicing in the Duncanville Dr Pepper StarCenter rink until it closed in 2009. Unlike other sports, hockey athletes must find a rink, and in Texas, this means logging many miles in a car. "We play at the Parks Mall in Arlington, at different Dr Pepper rinks in Farmers Branch or Euless and Frisco," Grayson said.

Brent began playing roller hockey near the Southwest Center Mall in Dallas, but when the Dallas Stars won the Stanley Cup in 1999, "I really got into it and wanted to play," he said. More than a decade later, Brent became the new state record holder in most points scored in a regular season during the 2011-2012 season in the state of Texas. "I accepted that honor, but it was a team effort," Brent said, highlighting the essence of the hockey philosophy. While the sport is about speed, precision, brute force and daredevil mayhem, Grayson and Brent speak frequently

A young man with blonde hair and sunglasses is captured in a dynamic pose on an outdoor roller hockey rink. He is wearing a black t-shirt with a graphic, blue jeans, and roller skates. He holds a hockey stick with both hands, ready for action. The rink is a light blue mat with purple and white graphics, set on a grassy field. In the background, there are green trees and a clear blue sky with some clouds. A hockey goal is visible in the distance to the right.

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of camaraderie, trust, teamwork, fair play and friendship.

"It [hockey] can be violent," Grayson said. "It is a part of the sport, but it's actually safer than other sports, like football, where there is the never ending beating of your head against other people. The NHL [National Hockey League] and USA Hockey League have really tightened the rules of safety of the game." In truth, much of a hockey athlete's money goes toward proper safety gear, including helmets, mouth guards, shoulder and body pads, as well as the skates.

"We aren't allowed to fight," Brent explained, "but whenever you play a sport that fast, testosterone definitely gets tossed around." With that, he said, "tempers can flare, but it's short-lived."

For the most part, "Hockey players carry themselves with class," Grayson said. "We learn to lose and win with class. We show up to every game wearing a suit and tie."

The real struggle, the real fight has been getting people to understand Texas hockey. "It's not popular in Texas," Grayson admitted. "But it is a growing sport. I think with the successes we've had in the last couple of years, people are seeing that it's cool, and people can get into it."

The fact is many people are surprised to learn that the Midlothian Hockey Club is now ranked second in the state





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of Texas, losing only to Keller. Even more impressive, the Midlothian team beat Keller, the reigning state champions, twice in regular season, ultimately losing in the state championships. But what makes their story even more impressive is they are continuously low in numbers, always having to scout for new players. They must travel long distances for a sport that is already notoriously expensive, yet they never lose heart. It is, they all agree, something that is in the blood.

For Frank Seale Middle School seventh-grader, Cody Wann, hockey is indeed in the blood. He began playing hockey at the tender age of 4 and now plays Triple A in youth, the highest level. "He used to sleep with his hockey stick," his mother, Candi Wann said. Like Grayson and Brent, Cody is an outstanding athlete in other sports. "But hands down," Candi said, "his heart and soul are in hockey."

"The hard thing to hear is when people qualify ours as 'Texas hockey,' but we train just as hard as the northern states. We're just as dedicated," Brent said.

More so, in fact. When



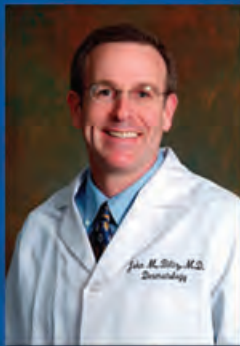
asked to total up miles and money on hockey, Candi can only laugh. Unlike northern athletes, Texas hockey families work twice as hard just to find a rink, recruit and train players and travel the Lone Star state. "We toured the University of Michigan," Candi said, "and spoke to a recruiter there who said it doesn't matter where you play, be it Florida or Texas, Russia or Finland. If you're good enough, we're going to find you."

Even though they have now graduated, Grayson and Brent, two athletes who have put so much into building a strong program in Midlothian, want to see the sport continue to thrive here. Grayson will skate for a club at Texas A&M University while majoring in aerospace engineering. Brent, while currently being scouted by a league in Canada, is also looking at the University of Arkansas with an interest in communications, so he could become a sportscaster "and call games" or get into coaching. "But I would hate to see hockey die out in



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Midlothian," Grayson said. "We could win state. I know we could!"

It's an unexpected optimism. On the surface, hockey is rough, brutal, unforgiving. But the Midlothian Panther athletes are incredibly respectful and polite, good-humored and modest. Unlike many other contact sports, these young athletes do not delight in stories of battle but reflect on how they have grown both on and off the ice.

"Hockey has taught me so much about my life," Brent said. "It's hard to explain. I can't even sum it up. It's taught me about responsibilities, time management and how the things you do on the ice define you as much as what you do off of the ice. Hockey is the only thing I want to do. When I put on a pair of skates, everything else just stops. It calms me down which, I know, is the most unexplainable thing. You're so pumped up while you play, but it's also calming."

"For me personally," Grayson said, "hockey has taught me how to work hard and dedicate myself outside of hockey." It is, he said, a sport that constantly teaches. "It hasn't been an easy ride playing for 10 years and, I hope, playing for another four [at college], but it teaches you how to win and lose and how to deal with people you don't like but want or need to respect. It teaches you about leaders above you, guys below you and how to respect people and deal with them in the real world. Life is kind of like a game, too." Hockey, they say, gets in the blood — on and off the ice. **NOW**

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History buffs will enjoy the Lyndon B. Johnson State and National Parks, which offer a look at the 36th president of the United States and depict pioneer farm life. For students of our more modern culture, the National Museum of the Pacific War is a must-see. The museum complex is dedicated to everyone who served in the Pacific in World War II under Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

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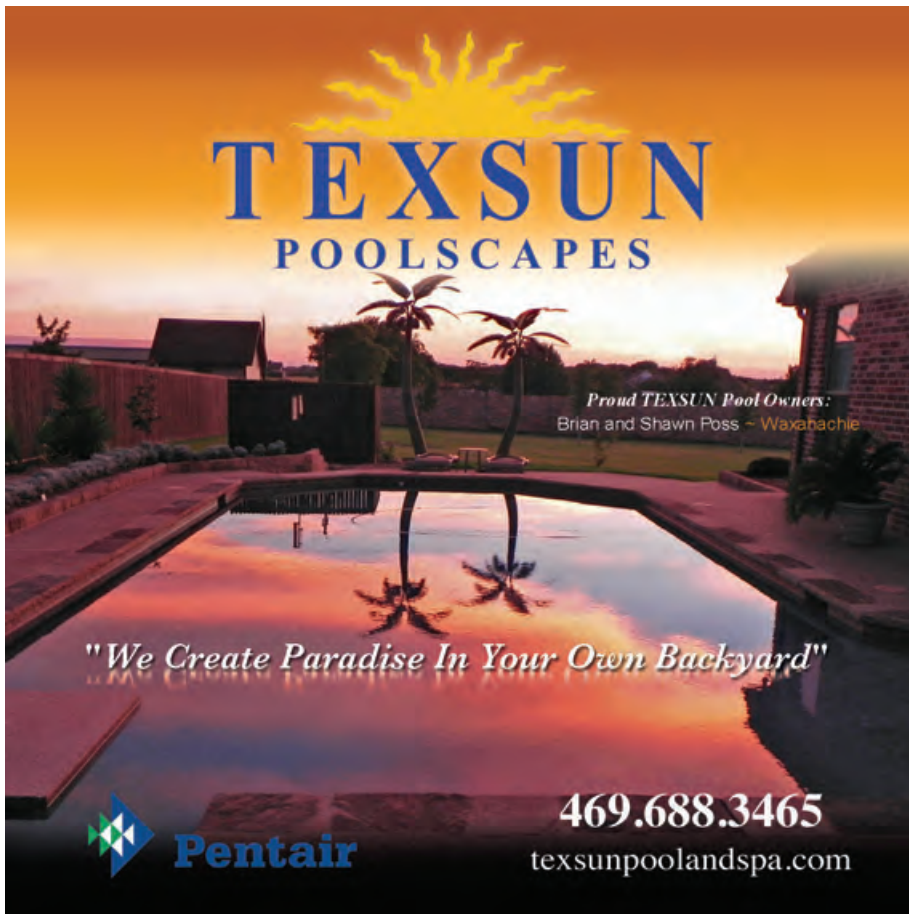
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Mexican, Chinese and Italian foods. And during the summer, the town is filled with roadside stands selling peaches and other fruits in season.

Grapes also grow well in the Hill Country soil, and the area is the home of 20 wineries and tasting rooms that have produced award-winning wines, with most open daily for tours and tastings. Fredericksburg is in the Texas Hill Country American Viticultural Area (AVA), which is located north of San Antonio and west of Austin. Spanning much of the region, the AVA covers an area of over 9,000,000 acres, making it the second largest in the U.S.

When the original settlers arrived in the area over 160 years ago, they found



several species of native grapes growing, which prompted their leader, John O. Muesebach, to correspond with vintners in Germany about the possibility of a wine industry here. The settlers of the area learned to make wine from the native grapes and enjoyed it at their many gatherings. He turned out to be very prophetic in his vision as the Hill Country Wine Region and its dozens of wineries are the second most popular wine area in the U.S. according to a major online booking service. And there are not many better ways to enjoy a stunning Texas sunset than to sip a glass of wine on the deck of one of the award-winning wineries.

So, are you ready for a European-style vacation in the Texas Hill Country? Planning a trip to Fredericksburg doesn't take an international call. Just dial (888) 997-3600 (toll-free in the U.S.) or visit www.visitfredericksburgtx.com to request a free visitor kit. **NOW**

*Daryl Whitworth, Assistant Director
Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau •
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CONSTRUCTION FOR YOUR PLEASURE

Danny Christensen, with DAC Construction, is ready to help you with your next building project.

— By Betty Tryon

Danny Christensen's education in the school of hard knocks gave him a productive and profitable business he named DAC Construction. Before starting his business, he actually went to college for two years to become a radiologist. He decided, however, that construction was what he wanted to do. "I started out framing at \$4.50 an hour in 1980," Danny said. "While helping to build houses, I would watch the plumbers and ask questions like, 'Why are you doing this?' 'How do you know to do that?' Most of the stuff I've done, I've learned just by watching."

Danny started DAC Construction in 1982. However, when the housing market went south in 1988, he diversified his business and focused on other aspects of construction. "I went

back to doing roofing, Sheetrock, woodwork and cabinets. I've painted, laid bricks, plumbing, electrical. I've done everything in the trade. Anything there is to do in a house, I have done it."

Even after Danny established his business, he never stopped learning and seeking new skills to explore and master. "I've worked for myself, and I've worked for other people to learn other things," he explained. "So part time, I work for someone I want to learn from, and I still have my business to run. I'm a homebuilder. I've got my own framing crew that's working for me right now. I am currently building a house down the street from my home."

Working for and with others has given Danny skills in providing fire and flood restoration and remodeling as part of

DAC Construction. "We do anything that has to do with housing," he said. "We do residential and commercial roofing, gazebos, swimming pools and outdoor kitchens."

Although Danny hires people who work for him full time, he keeps a steady eye on all of his projects. "I'm hands-on with everything," he stated. "I don't just shove it off on somebody and say, 'Here you go and do it.' I make sure I'm there and that they do everything right. I'm present at every job — not all the time, of course, because I have a lot of projects, but I oversee everything."

"I KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE AND WHAT'S BEING BUILT. WE PROVIDE EXCELLENT SERVICE AND PRODUCTS WITH ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF MY JOBS COMING FROM REFERRALS."

Danny has built the homes in which he and his family have lived. In the last five years, they have lived in eight houses. Their current home is not only built by him, but designed by him also. It is a beautiful showcase with its textured walls, striking woodwork and decorative moldings. "I do a lot of this," he stated. "I've never had to hire an interior decorator. I just know how to do it, because I have been around so many remodels and in hundreds and hundreds of homes. I've done remodels in Highland Park, and I see what it is people are doing. People will pay an interior decorator \$10,000 to \$20,000. I can go in there and do it for nothing. I have given ideas to a lot of people, and many of them will go with what I say, because they can see that I have a vision about what it could look like. I know what's out there and what's being built. We provide excellent service and products with about 90 percent of my jobs coming from referrals." With his great references on jobs well done, DAC Construction is ready to do a great job for you. **NOW**



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Whiplash is a common ailment after a rear-end car collision. Even low-speed car accidents can result in whiplash, which is the result of a sudden jolt that causes unnatural movement of the cervical spine located in the neck. The result is often painful, stiff muscles and an inability to move the head in certain directions without discomfort.

Though every whiplash case is as unique as the patients who suffer them, chiropractic care to treat whiplash is a proven way to restore mobility, reduce pain and help you move on with your life.

What symptoms of whiplash appear within 24 hours of the injury? Every whiplash case is different, but usually the symptoms are as follows: headache at the base of the skull, painful bending or moving of the neck and/or spasms of the neck muscles.

How does a chiropractor treat whiplash? Diagnostic X-rays to pinpoint the cause of the pain and identify any other damage to the cervical area and the joints, nerves and muscles around it. Specialized spinal adjustments can realign the vertebrae and restore mobility. Targeted massage will soothe strained muscles around the injured area.

Whiplash usually takes us by surprise, but don't let a sudden, unexpected injury like whiplash derail your life. Seek qualified medical care and diagnosis by a professional, and remember chiropractic care is the safe, effective way to treat whiplash and not just mask the pain it causes.

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Heidi Lewiston enjoys the artwork on display at The Lighthouse Coffee Bar.



First through sixth grade kids have a Kid's College at the Midlothian Campus of Navarro College.



Justin Peacock gets some help vacuuming the car from his daughter, Cecelia.



Michelle McVee admires the purses at the Texas Best Smokehouse gift shop.

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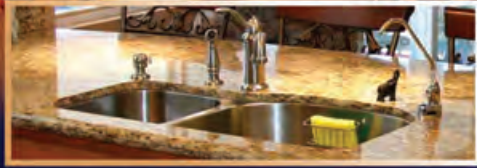
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Eyes Wide Open

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

If your child can see, you might take it for granted that everything related to their vision is perfect. It might not be. The American Optometric Association recommends children have their first comprehensive eye exam at 6 months of age, another one at age 3 and again right before beginning school. If problems are detected, the time table will change according to the specialist's recommendations.

It is important to have a child's vision tested at an early age. The earlier problems are discovered, the more responsive they will be to treatment. It also gives a child the opportunity to see the world as it really is. If a child has always had vision problems, they think what they see is the way the world is supposed to look. What a tremendous opportunity to give them the gift of true sight.

The benefits to a child entering school with normal vision are obvious and vital. Here are a few specific vision skills crucial to your child's success in school.

1. Visual acuity is how clear or sharp a person's vision is in the distance and up close. This can be measured with the Snellen test that will show if your child's visual acuity is normal. This is a test where the individual is positioned 20 feet from a Snellen eye chart and asked to read letters or symbols on different lines as accurately as possible. A normal reading yields the result of 20/20 vision.

2. Eye focus is important when a child must look up at the teacher or the board and then back at their paper or book. Their eyes must be able to handle this transition smoothly without having to squint or blink or struggle to bring shapes into alignment.

3. Eye/hand coordination is mentioned frequently in our culture. It is the ability of the eyes to receive information and direct or delegate which action the hands are to perform. When catching a ball or playing a video game, the eyes make the first determination of whether this task can be completed.

There are some signs parents can watch for if they suspect a problem with their child's vision. Sitting too close to the television, squinting at the computer, frequent rubbing of the eyes and blinking excessively are symptoms of possible eye problems. The bottom line is if your child does not get their vision screened, you do not know if they have problems or not. Getting their vision checked is just another step in ensuring they have the best future possible. **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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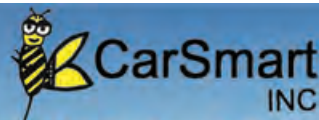
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August 2, 3, 4

Friends of the Meadows Library Book Sale:
August 2: 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; **August 3:** 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; **August 4:** 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 921 South 9th Street. Call (972) 775-3417.

August 4

Mt. Peak Cemetery Association annual ice cream supper/fundraiser: 6:00 p.m. at the cemetery grounds, FM 875. Ice cream, hot dogs and cold drinks. Bring a cake, other baked goods or new arts and crafts for the auction to begin at 7:00 p.m. All proceeds are used for the upkeep of the cemetery. Kids' activities. Join the fun and meet your neighbors.

August 6

Summer Wildflower and Bird Walk: 8:30-10:30 a.m., The Indian Trail Master Naturalists will lead summer wildflower and bird walks at Mockingbird Nature Park. Bring water to drink, bug spray, sun screen and binoculars. Daily walks are subject to weather conditions. Mockingbird Nature Park is located just north of Mockingbird on Onward Road.

August 11

Back to School Bash, sponsored by Life Church: 3:00-7:00 p.m., MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium. Event benefits students needing back-to-school

supplies. Fun activities including a large water slide, two Euro Bungees, 24-foot rock climbing wall, 30-foot dry slide and more. School supplies or financial donations are welcome.

Movies in the Park: 8:30 p.m., Midlothian ISD Multi-Purpose Stadium. Featured film: *Dolphin Tale* will be shown following the Back to School Bash.

August 11, 25

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

August 18

Campfire Creek Therapeutic Riding Center Fall Volunteer Orientation: 9:00 a.m.-noon, 767 Bethel Road, Waxahachie. Learn how horses and volunteers can make a difference in the life of someone with a challenge. Call (972) 937-7265 to RSVP.

August 25

Wish Upon a Star, Ellis County SPCA special dinner and silent auction: 6:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center. Cost: \$50 per person. All proceeds benefit the Ellis County SPCA.

Ongoing:

Midlothian ISD Head Start enrollment: For ages

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

Tuesday and Friday

Summer Reading Club: 11:00 a.m. all summer, A.H. Meadows Library, 921 South 9th Street. Call (972) 775-3417.

Tuesday and Thursday

Community computer classes: 10:00 a.m., A.H. Meadows Library.

Wednesday

Free afternoon family-friendly movies: 2:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Library.

Thursday

Teen Book Club: 2:00 p.m., A.H. Meadows Library.

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In The Kitchen With Evonne Smith

— *By Betty Tryon*

Evonne Smith grew up believing her mother created magic in the kitchen. If she lacked a certain ingredient, then voilà, she simply came up with another ingredient that made the dish just as tasty. Her mom's chocolate fried pies were legendary with the elementary school lunch crowd.

In high school, Evonne's own love for cooking began with baking and moved to gourmet dishes. "When I first married, crepes were becoming a popular dish. I discovered a crepe cookbook, and the world of gourmet cooking opened up. I still serve dishes today that I found in that cookbook. Cooking for my husband, David, has been fun because he loves to eat 'fancy' stuff." **NOW**

Fettuccine With Ham and Peas

1 Tbsp. Canola oil
1/2 lb. shaved ham
1 tsp. garlic, minced
1 cup frozen green peas, thawed
1 12-oz. pkg. fettuccine
1 stick margarine
1 cup sour cream
1 cup Parmesan cheese
Garlic bread and salad, optional

1. In a large skillet, add Canola oil and heat over medium heat.
2. Chop ham into bite-size pieces.
3. Stir ham and garlic into hot oil. Stir occasionally until lightly browned. Stir in peas until heated thoroughly. Set aside.
4. Cook fettuccine according to package directions while ham and peas are cooking.
5. Drain and add margarine, stirring until melted. Add sour cream, mixing well. Add Parmesan cheese. Next, add ham and peas. Stir again, until combined.
6. Serve immediately with garlic bread and tossed salad, if desired.

Black Bean and Corn Salsa

1 15-oz. can black beans, rinsed
1 12-oz. can shoe peg corn
1/2 cup fresh cilantro, chopped
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. garlic, minced
Dash of red pepper
1/2 cup orange or yellow bell pepper, chopped
1/2 cup purple onion, chopped
1 medium tomato diced
1 avocado, peeled and diced
1/4 cup Italian dressing, or more to taste

1. Combine all ingredients and stir well. This is great as a garnish for meat.

Granny Wright's Coconut Pie

1 1/2 cups sugar
4 Tbsp. flour
1/4 tsp. salt
2 cups milk

3 egg yolks, beaten
1/3 cup margarine
1 cup coconut
1 tsp. vanilla
1 deep-dish pie crust
Favorite meringue

1. Combine sugar, flour and salt.
2. Gradually add milk, stirring over medium heat.
3. As mixture cooks, add egg yolks and stir constantly, until desired thickness. (Note: Some of the warm mixture should be mixed into the egg yolks prior to adding egg yolks to warm batter and completing cooking. If you fail to do this, batter will be lumpy.)
4. Add margarine, coconut and vanilla; pour into baked pie crust.
5. Top with favorite meringue and sprinkle with coconut.
6. Bake at 375 F for 5 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Vegetable Dip

1 small box lemon Jell-O
3 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese
1 10 3/4-oz. can tomato soup
1/2 cup water
1 cup Miracle Whip
1/2 cup pecans, chopped
1 cup green bell pepper, chopped
1/3 cup onion, chopped

1. Combine first four ingredients. Heat until melted and blend well.
2. Add Miracle Whip, pecans, green bell pepper and onion.
3. Chill overnight; serve with fresh vegetables or crackers.

Elegant Chicken Salad

3 4.5-oz. cans chicken, drained
1 8-oz. can crushed pineapple
1/2 cup pecans, chopped
1/2 cup pineapple preserves
1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese, softened
1 cup coconut

1. Combine ingredients and mix well. Serve on croissants.

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As co-owner of a karate school, Valerie Honeycutt, 47, leads a physically active life. But hip pain from chronic arthritis made it difficult for her to even tie her shoes. At Baylor Medical Center at Waxahachie, Valerie underwent hip resurfacing, an alternative procedure to total hip replacement. She then participated in physical therapy to regain strength and full range of motion. “It was an absolutely wonderful experience,” she says. “Everyone at Baylor was very compassionate and caring. My doctor was very clear in his explanation of what would happen during the procedure, and that was very important to me.” With her full mobility returned, Valerie is enjoying traveling, karate, swimming and even tying her shoes. “I’m back on my feet doing everything I want.”

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