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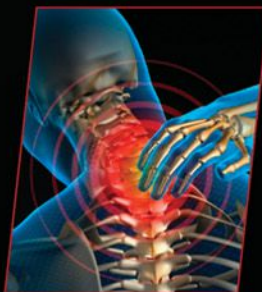
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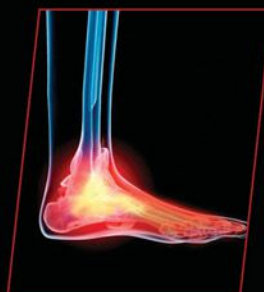
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## EDITORIAL

Managing Editor, Becky Walker

Midlothian Editor, Betty Tryon

Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong

Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay

Writers, Donald Pope

Zachary R. Urquhart

Editors/Proofreaders, Pat Anthony

Randy Bigham

## GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla

Artists, Eduardo Barajas . Kristin Bato

Martha Macias . Felipe Ruiz

Brande Morgan . Shannon Pfaff

## PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose

Photographer, Amy Ramirez

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## ON THE COVER



*Woodrow's Coffee Shop  
is a revolutionary  
academic experiment.*

*Photo by Amy Ramirez.*

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## Editor's Note

*Hello, Midlothian!*

This is not much of a revelation, but I love sunsets — especially desert sunsets. During the time we lived in the Sonoran Desert, they captivated me every evening. I would struggle to find words that could describe the nightly display of liquid yellow fire spilling across heaven with the clear sky whipping through the color like cool blue flames.

All of this richness moved against a backdrop of deep violet colors. Texas sunsets are close to my heart, too. From my days of growing up in Austin, I've watched Texas sunsets come slow, easy and stretching forever. Any poetry to be written on these skies has to be quick before the weather changes.

During stormy weather, the last dying rays of the sun are glimpsed through the boiling clouds. In the waning days of summer here in Midlothian, look up at dusk and enjoy a new depiction of something absolutely magnificent.

*Betty*

Betty Tryon  
MidlothianNOW Editor  
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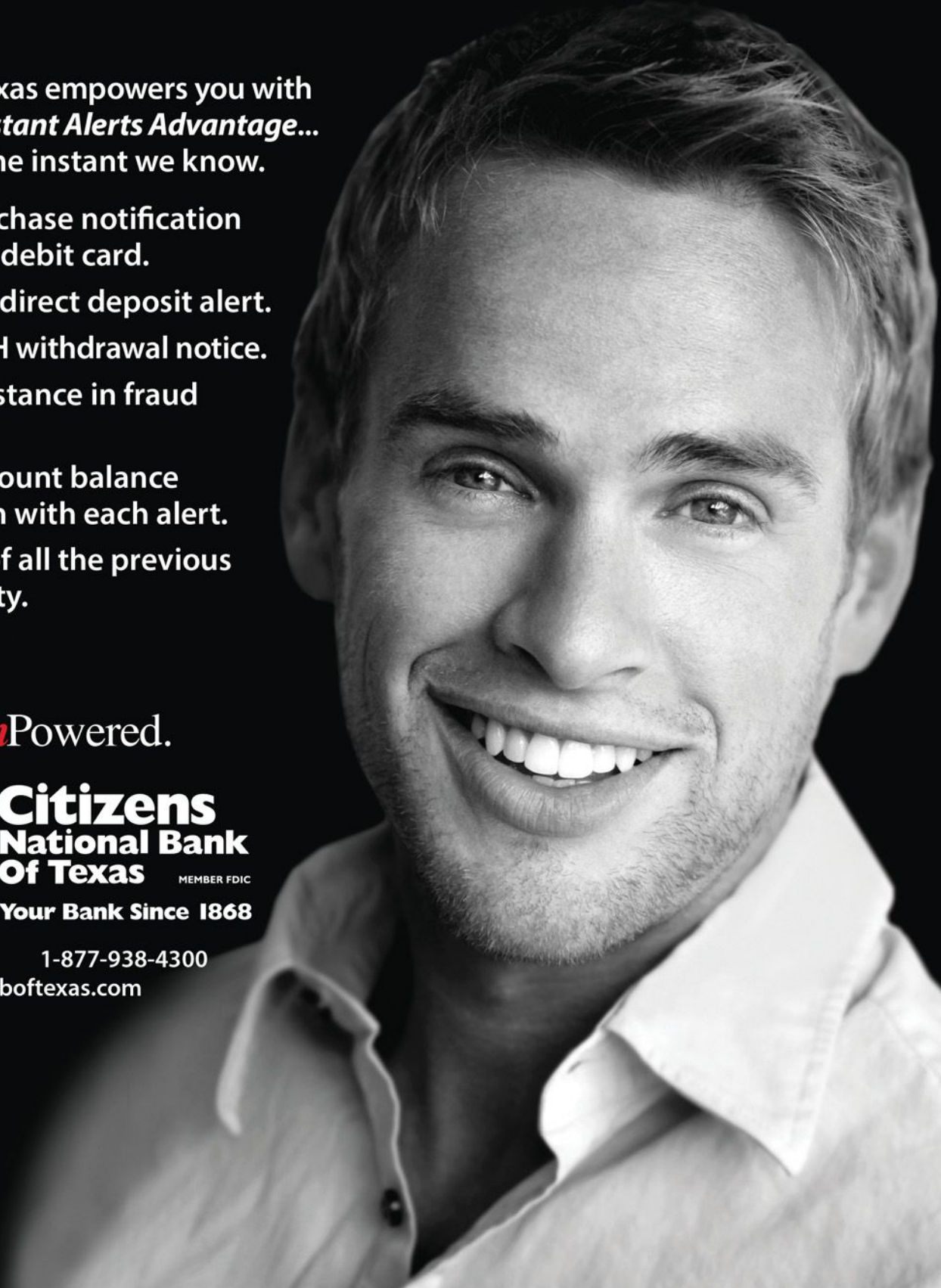
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# Midlothian-ISD.net

Dear MISD Family,

*The beginning of the new school year is so very exciting. Students who enter their classrooms for the first time experience great joy, and, truth be told, maybe some apprehension; but that's the moment where your children see the greatness of our district - in our people. Your children - our students - will see our faculty and staff welcome them with unconditional love. Our teachers will challenge their students with lessons designed for meaningful and engaging learning opportunities in a safe, nurturing and supportive environment. Student apprehension will give way to confidence and trust. And when your children put their best efforts into their schoolwork, good things happen. Yes, the new school year is exciting! May this be your best school year ever.*

Dr. Jerome Stewart  
Superintendent of Schools



Senior Taylor Baril (photography editor) and junior Maegan Powers (co-business manager) were awarded first place in the Yearbook Team Portfolio at the Jostens Summer Workshop for their theme design of the 2014-2015 MHS/MHHS

Panther Scream Yearbook. They competed against 30 other schools at the workshop July 14-16.



Project S.E.E.D.S. (STEM Education to Enhance Daily life Skills) earned first place at the International Conference. The Community Problem Solvers worked with special needs classes and showed them how to grow and harvest food in a greenhouse environment while teaching them STEM related lessons.



## First Day of Class Monday, August 25, 2014

Elementary: 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.  
Middle School: 8:35 a.m.-3:40 p.m.  
Heritage High School: 8:40 a.m.-3:40 p.m.  
Midlothian High School: 8:55 a.m.-3:55 p.m.

## Parents Must Complete First Day of School Packet Online

This quick, easy online process allows parents to electronically sign-off on their child's back-to-school first day packet. Letters will be emailed to parents in early August with login and web access information.

**NOTE:** Midlothian High School student registration must be completed by August 14 to receive a class schedule at orientation. All other students' first day packets must be completed by the first day of school on August 25.



## Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening Ceremony Sunday, August 17, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.

The Board of Trustees, Superintendent Dr. Jerome Stewart, Principal Krista Tipton and the Midlothian Heritage High School staff cordially invite you to celebrate  
*The Official Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening of  
Midlothian Heritage High School  
4000 FM 1387, Midlothian, TX 76065*

A tour of MHHS campus will immediately follow ceremony.





## Elementary Meet-the-Teacher Night Thursday, August 21

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Baxter Elementary<br>5:30-6:15 p.m. PreK - 2nd<br>6:00-6:45 p.m. 3rd - 5th  | LaRue Miller Elementary<br>5:30-6:15 p.m. 3rd - 5th<br>6:15-7:00 p.m. K - 2nd (Head Start) |
| Irvin Elementary<br>6:30-7:30 p.m. K - 5th                                  | Mt. Peak Elementary<br>5:30-6:15 p.m. PreK - 2nd<br>6:15-7:00 p.m. 3rd - 5th               |
| Longbranch Elementary<br>5:30-6:15 p.m. K - 2nd<br>6:15-7:00 p.m. 3rd - 5th | Vitovsky Elementary<br>6:30-7:30 p.m. PreK - 5th   |

## Frank Seale Middle School Orientation/ Schedules

August 14: 7th and 8th grades, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
August 18: 6th grade, 6:30 p.m.  
August 18: Cub Camp, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. (6th grade & new to FSMS)

## Walnut Grove Middle School Orientation/ Schedules

August 14: 6th grade at 6:30 p.m.  
August 18: 8th grade at 6:00 p.m.  
August 18: 7th grade at 7:30 p.m.

## Heritage High School Orientation/ Schedules

August 14: Freshmen Panther Camp (9th), MHHS, 1:00-4:30 p.m.  
August 14: Freshmen Parent Mtg., 6:30 p.m., MHHS

## Midlothian High School Orientation/ Schedules

August 14: 10th-12th grades, 9:00-11:00 a.m., MHS cafeteria

## MHS Varsity Football Schedule

|          |                                  |      |
|----------|----------------------------------|------|
| Aug. 22  | vs. Coppell                      | Home |
| Aug. 29  | vs. Waxahachie                   | Away |
| Sept. 5  | vs. Mansfield Timberview         | Home |
| Sept. 12 | vs. Keller Fossil Ridge          | Away |
| Sept. 19 | vs. Haltom City (Homecoming)     | Home |
| Sept. 26 | vs. South Grand Prairie          | Home |
| Oct. 3   | vs. Cedar Hill                   | Away |
| Oct. 10  | Open                             |      |
| Oct. 17  | Duncanville (Dance Extravaganza) | Home |
| Oct. 24  | Grand Prairie                    | Away |
| Oct. 31  | DeSoto (Senior Night)            | Home |
| Nov. 7   | Mansfield                        | Away |

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Back-to-School details  
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## MISD Students Enjoy Summer Vacation

<http://midlothianisd.smugmug.com/Summer-2014/>



Over the years senior citizens have made many contributions to the children and schools of this community. MISD wants to say: thank you.

The **Gold Card Club** is FREE to Midlothian residents who are 65 years of age or older. Seniors get free admission to fine arts events such as plays, musicals and concerts. Also, they'll get free admission to MISD athletic events in school district gymnasiums and general admission seating at the Multi-Purpose Stadium. *(Not valid for playoffs and fundraising events)*

Become a Gold Card partner today! Stop by the MISD Administration Building, call (972)775-8296 or email Jana Pongratz at [info@midlothian-isd.net](mailto:info@midlothian-isd.net).



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# WOODROW'S S

— By Betty Tryon

*What could be more perfect for a student than to have a job, get paid and keep most of the profits as scholarship money? That is exactly what's happening here in Midlothian at Woodrow's Coffee Shop. Located in a room behind Richard and Tammy Reno's business, Omega Advanced Planning and Scheduling System, the coffee shop is a revolutionary academic experiment. Usually reserved for students on the collegiate level, the employment program is now offered to a few at Midlothian High School.*

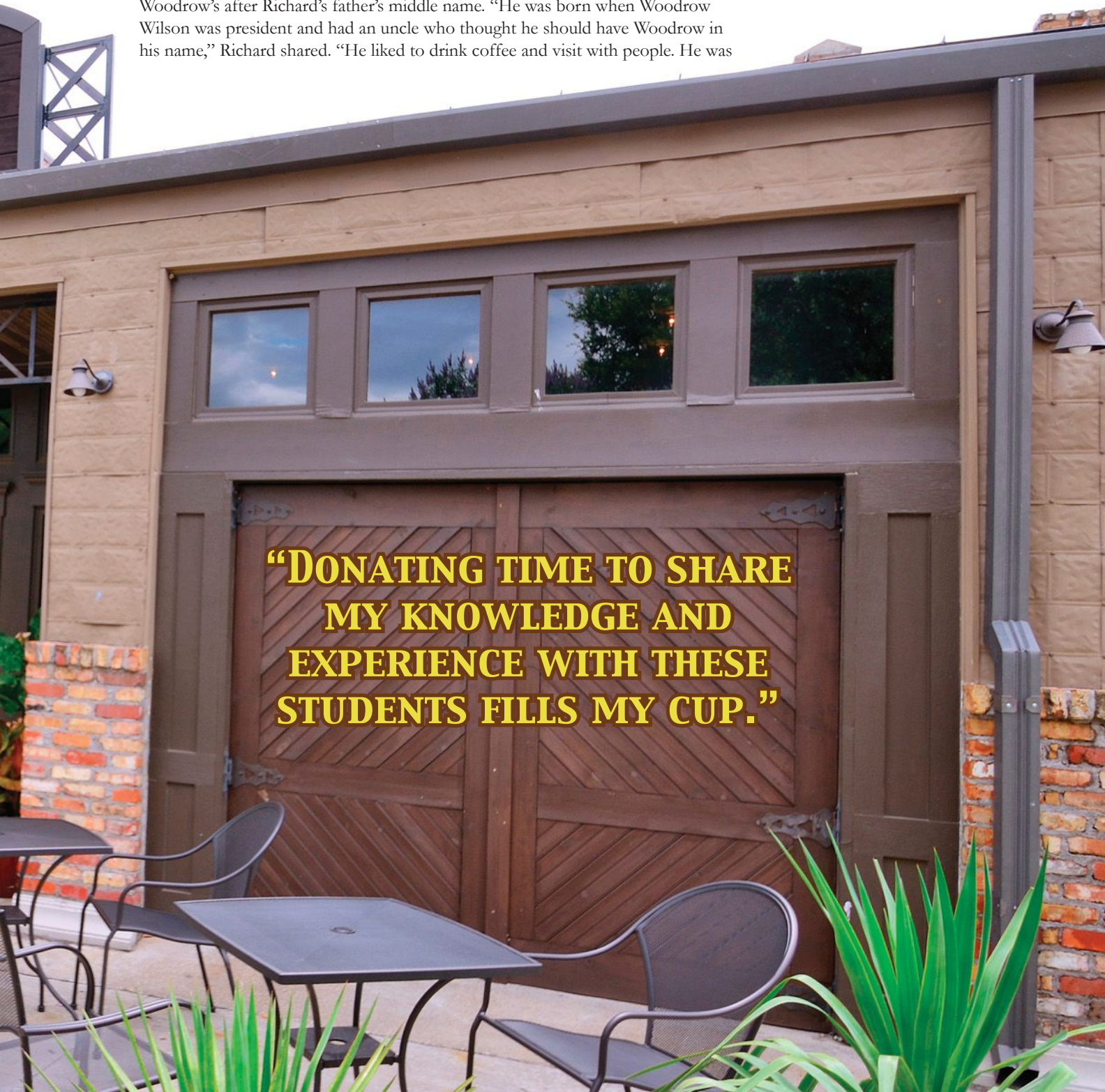




# SPECIAL BREW

“Our role in the coffee shop is that we are the sponsors,” Richard said. He and his wife have donated the space behind their business and fitted the shop out with furniture, supplies and anything else necessary to operate. They named the shop Woodrow’s after Richard’s father’s middle name. “He was born when Woodrow Wilson was president and had an uncle who thought he should have Woodrow in his name,” Richard shared. “He liked to drink coffee and visit with people. He was

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my inspiration.” Inside the shop there is a special corner dedicated to Woodrow’s memory.

The couple wanted to start the unique business as a service to Midlothian. “Because our kids had gone through the Midlothian schools, we felt we were losing touch with MISD and the community,” Tammy explained. “We wondered what we could do with the extra space that would be a connection to the high school.” So, the Renos came

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up with the idea of a program in which a specially selected group of students get a taste of the business world by having full responsibility for running a store. “They are responsible for the cash flow in the coffee shop, supplies and the actual running of the business,” Tammy added. “They make the coffee, serve the people and look at what they did that day, so they can project for the next day or next week.”

Students are selected through an extensive process with the high school’s participation. “The main thing was to choose kids who are interested in being in the business world in some way after graduation,” Tammy pointed out. “The






interview process is just like applying for a job. They have to submit a résumé and come in for an interview.” The students who are eventually chosen are two seniors and one junior. It’s important to the program to include a junior, because that student can then continue for another year providing continuity and support for incoming participants. At the end of the school year, the majority of profits are divided between the three students and used as scholarship money.

Because the first year was a pilot program, the Woodrow’s Coffee Shop was not as profitable as hoped. But the Renos subsidized the students, because they had worked hard and deserved the scholarship money. This has all been a part of the learning process as students evaluate what worked and what needed improvement. The junior and seniors look at their marketing strategy and make adjustments for the next year. This is where having a junior student becoming a senior benefits the business. The junior brings knowledge and experience from a year of managing the coffee shop into the new school year. The larger the profits, the more money will be allocated for the scholarship fund.

Tammy notes that one of the problems the shop faces is its location. “We are not very visible on the back alley,” she acknowledged. “We are hoping for more word of mouth between the students.”


In selecting and training students for this opportunity, the Renos solicited Zach Hopkins, a hospitality industry expert for help. As a mentor to the students in the Woodrow’s program, he designed a formal training program of 18 hours. “The learning platform I have in place at Woodrow’s is the same platform I use to teach both new and veteran adult managers in restaurants today,” Zach explained. He also stated



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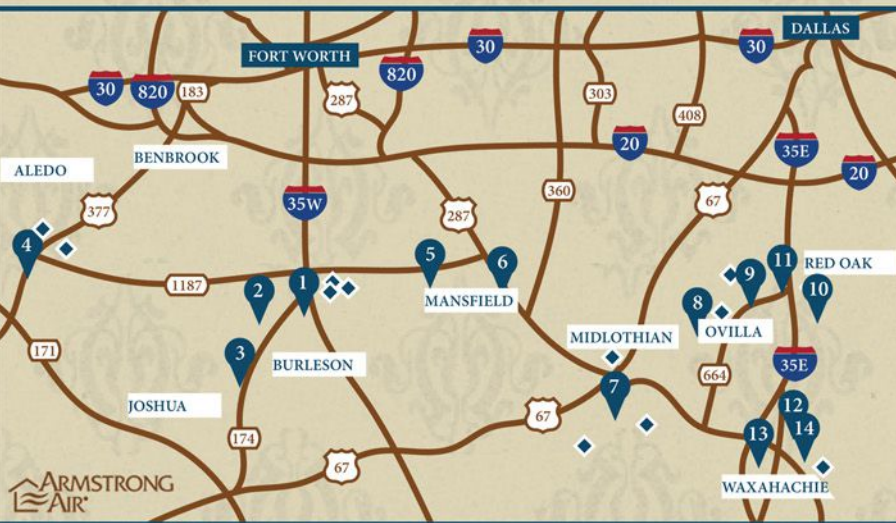
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that most of the “best practices” the students are learning are points that 90 percent of entry level managers/supervisors are not even trained in. The training process is detailed, and Zach has developed five core values that are stressed: integrity — holding each other responsible; gratitude — being grateful for the opportunity to serve their guests and each other; acceptance — treating others as they would want to be treated; guests first — not only meeting the needs of the guest but anticipating the needs first; and finally, responsibility — being accountable for the results of their decisions.

“We teach students how to see a business through the eyes of an owner,” Zach affirmed, “by helping them understand why a business opens and why it stays open. Then, we teach them how to see a business through the eyes of a manager. A business is an entity that cannot make decisions for itself. It’s up to the managers to manage the systems, processes and tools that keep the business alive.” Zach further impresses upon students that good decisions enable a business to thrive and bad decisions may cause its failure. He then presents how to view the business through the eyes of an employee — how important a “clean and welcoming environment,” and simple things like a smile and good service are in encouraging patrons to return. Daily and weekly assessments



# BACK TO SCHOOL



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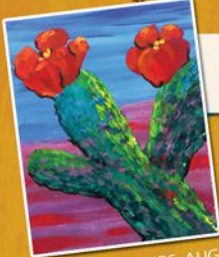
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are vital to making sure the students and the business are on the right track. “We measure the results through teaching them to read financial reports such as monthly profit and loss statements. Basically, we teach why they should be responsible, and what they should be responsible to deliver. Then we hold them accountable, while they hold each other accountable.”

One of the advantages of students participating in the program is college acceptance after high school. “One of the seniors said that all of the experience at Woodrow’s favorably impressed the colleges,” Tammy reported, “and that several colleges wanted her specifically because of what she has done this past year at Woodrow’s.”

Zach feels honored to be able to participate in the program. “Donating time to share my knowledge and experience with these students fills my cup,” he shared. “I was blessed to have had a great mentor in the world of restaurants when I was a young adult. Now it’s my time to pay it forward.”

“It helps the kids mature, because they have to be responsible,” Richard agreed. “All of the capital investment has been made. This has been set up to be an ongoing program and will go on as long as we have participation.” And, as long as Woodrow’s stays open, the students and the community will benefit from the generosity of the Renos. **NOW**

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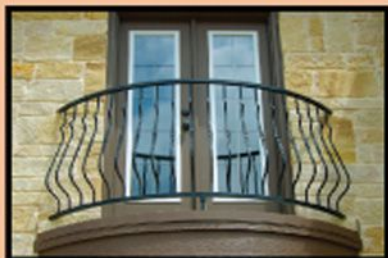


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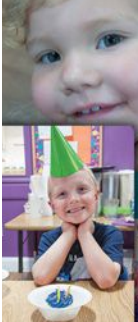
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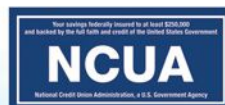
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# SHINE ON, LIL STAR

— By Betty Tryon





*After a year of hard work to get to the National Finals in Hutchinson, Kansas, the championship was on the line for 11-year-old equestrienne Jordyn Baxter and her pony, Lil Star, when the mare suddenly became ill. "She drank bad water while at the show and had stomach problems," Jordyn recalled. "I still had to ride her, because we drove a long way to be there and had worked really hard for the year."*

Full of heart, Lil Star competed in round one and round two before progressing to the final. The pony was so ill they placed last in the first go and had to make up many points during the second before qualifying for the final round. That Sunday morning of the last run, it was questionable if Lil Star could continue, because she was cramping so





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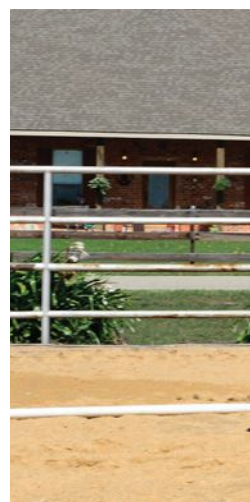


badly. But the onsite veterinarian worked with Lil Star, enabling her to complete the competition and win! "I was really surprised we won, because she was so sick," Jordyn, now 12, remarked. While listening to the awards being announced, she heard the names of runners-up, and when her name wasn't mentioned, she knew she had won. "I was smiling and all jittery before I went up there. I wanted to go up there before the winner was announced but everyone was saying, 'They haven't called your name yet!'"

It was the National Finals of the American Horseman Challenge Association in August 2013, and Jordyn's accomplishment set the tone for the future. "She won her National Championship in the Wrangler Division," Jana Baxter, Jordyn's mom, explained. "Among her prizes were a saddle, belt buckle, gift cards, necklace and embroidered hay bag."

As inspiring as that day was, it was not the only championship Jordyn won last year. Another one was with the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of America. She was their National Champion in Western Pleasure. "In Western Pleasure, you show off your riding skills for walk, trot and lope," Jordyn clarified. "You're showing off how well your horse does, how your horse looks when you're doing it and how you look when you are doing it."

Another impressive honor with AHCA that year was being named fourth in the







nation in Novice Division. Jordyn was the youngest competitor in that category, competing mostly against adults. 2013 offered further success for Jordyn as she finished eighth in the world in Young Guns Division of Extreme Cowboy Association for age 12 and under. The competition pool was tougher this time, because more kids were getting into the



sport. The previous year, she finished sixth in the world. Jordyn accomplished all these remarkable wins with Lil Star.

Jordyn's career started at 3 years of age when she won her first blue ribbon. Others walked with her, but Jordyn was on the horse by herself. Her first memory of riding a horse was at age 5. "It was not a peaceful feeling," she laughed. "I was worried about falling off, but my grandma encouraged me." Jordyn's grandmother, Janice Early of Lazy J Welsh Pony Ranch, has been her primary equestrian teacher and trainer. Jordyn spends most of her summers at the ranch. While there, she not only



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practices riding her horses but takes on her share of chores as well. "I help clean pens, help Grandma feed in mornings and afternoons, and help with farm work, like hauling large bales of hay and driving the tractor," Jordyn said. "It is hard work, but everything is hard work. Nothing comes easy."

Jordyn has participated in almost every area of care for horses but has yet to see a pony born. With some frustration she admitted, "I always miss it by a day or an hour. Most of them have been born in the spring." Since her grandmother lives in Linden, Texas, it isn't surprising that Jordyn is not able to be present during the births. The Lazy J is a breeding ranch, so she has had the opportunity to observe artificial insemination procedures.

Jordyn has used four Welsh Ponies for her competitions. Her first one is called Magic. He's the only gelding she has ridden — the rest are mares. Jordyn no longer rides him, because he has laminitis, a painful hoof condition. The entire name for Lil Star, her second pony, is Lazy J Bailef's Star. Jordyn is presently training a larger pony, named Ellie, whose full name is Lazy J Legally Red.

Jordyn performs western and English Riding. "I prefer western, because you can be more relaxed while riding," she acknowledged. "English riding is all about technique." One of the events in western riding is the timed obstacle race. The obstacles have to be completed in a certain order and in less than eight minutes. "The judges look at how you approach the obstacle, how you do the



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obstacle and how you depart from it,” Jordyn explained. “If there is a bridge and your horse turns away, you don’t get many points on the approach. If he trots over beautifully then he gets more points. If he goes over the bridge and straight out of it, and doesn’t turn away and does what he is supposed to, then that will be a pretty good score.” Another event in English riding is termed English Pleasure. In 2013, under WPCSA, Jordyn placed third in the nation in that division.

Because of school obligations Jordyn does not get to practice her skills very often. Dance classes also eat into her time. She spends three hours once a week afterschool at Stage Door School of Dance. “Her teacher, Miss Laurie, is so supportive of her,” Jana pointed out. “She knows that horses are her first passion and calls Jordyn her Dancing Equestrienne.” In June, Jordyn performed her first solo at the recital.

“I would rather ride horses than do anything else in the world,” beamed Jordyn. “It makes me feel secure that I trust the horse and it trusts me. It’s the companionship that you have with your horse. I try to help my horse feel accomplished when we win by scratching her or patting her on the neck. The neat thing about horses is however you are feeling when riding them, they can sense that from you. So, if you are feeling happy or accomplished they feel that way, too. If you are nervous, they can tense up.” Jordyn’s knowledge and understanding of horses no doubt ensures many more notable wins to come. **NOW**

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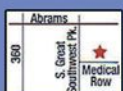
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# Perfected Living

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*They say if you want something done right, do it yourself. Sometimes that even applies to building a home. Jeff and Shannon Thaxton have built several houses for themselves over the years, each time adding touches that give a unique style and feel. They have lived in the Coldwater Creek area for about 15 years, having built houses in the neighborhood twice. For over a decade, they have lived in a lodge-style house full of their own take on design and decor.*

Jeff and Shannon are both from Red Oak, but being several years apart, they didn't know each other growing up. "Our families kind of knew each other, but we didn't meet until I was in college," Shannon said. "We started dating when I was at Baylor." Jeff also attended Baylor University, but graduated from University of North Texas. After dating for some time, Shannon transferred to Texas Woman's University to be closer to Jeff, and they were married in June 1994. They have a 13-year-old son, Jax.

Early in their marriage, Jeff and Shannon lived in DeSoto and owned a health club there. Jeff ran a construction company at the same time, which was helpful when they began the first of several house builds. "We sold the health club, and I was thinking we might move to Colorado or something, but we decided to stay nearby," Jeff explained. "We built a house in Cedar Hill, but after a few years we built again in Midlothian."

"We knew the area from growing up nearby, and we liked the small-town feel," Shannon added.

Jeff and Shannon considered a corner lot in the neighborhood, but they decided it would be too difficult to build on a steep slope. They decided on a lot a few streets over and were happy, but after a few years, they wanted something a little different. "We wanted something a little bigger, but that wasn't it," Shannon continued. "Being builders, there were things we wanted to do, and it was easiest to start over with a new build."

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a local guy build the timber framing, which is one interlocking piece with no screws,” he related. “And Shannon had the idea to border the windows with timbers to enhance the feel.” The front also has double-wide stone bricking in order to give it a more robust impression, as well as a custom-made front door.

The entryway provides an example of one of the little features that makes the house distinctive. In the common areas throughout the home Shannon has opted for special

the neighborhood, on the original lot they inspected. “We had passed it up the first time, but we liked it and had some new ideas we wanted to try out,” Shannon said. The result is a beautiful house reminiscent of a ski lodge or a mountain retreat. Though they have stayed in the same house for over a decade, Jeff and Shannon have made some big changes in other parts of their lives. “When the economy went south, it gave us the push and opportunity we needed to pursue careers we both had been interested in for many years,” she pointed out. “I went to school to become a nurse, and Jeff joined the Midlothian Police Department. He’s been on the force for about two years now.”

The spacious home impresses even from the curb, with a stepped gable whose inspiration is a typical cabin in any ski town in the Mountain region. Jeff described the unique touch. “I had



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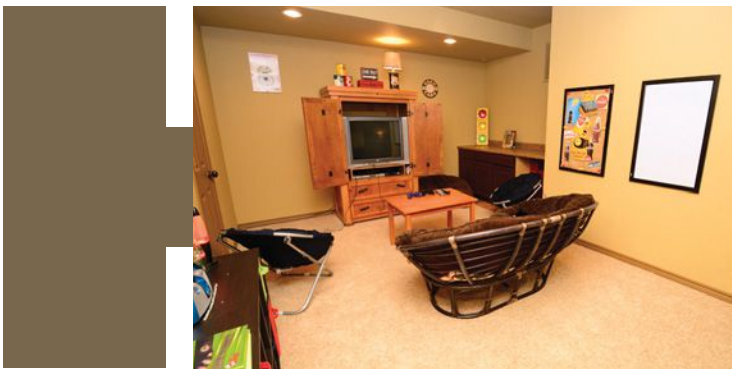
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light fixtures. "We spend our time and live in these rooms, so that's where we put a lot of the cool things," Shannon shared. Some of the fixtures have deer antlers, tying into the family room, where Jeff displays several of the trophies he has hunted. "Some people ask if I mind all of the mounts, but it works with our style," Shannon clarified. In addition to animal mounts and oversized couches, the family room features some of Jax's artwork.

Next to the family room is an expansive kitchen that flows into a large dining area. "We could have made part of the space a formal dining area, but we never ate there in our old homes," Jeff said. "We decided on more living space and a bigger kitchen nook." The massive island and large table are perfect for entertaining guests, and another little touch caps off the room. "We didn't want it to be too formal, so I had more trim specially made to give it a more casual feel," he added.

The master bedroom showcases large furniture and a wall of big rustic crosses, but Shannon chose not to overdecorate the space. "We focus on the look of the rest of the house, not our room," she admitted. The other side of the home includes what Shannon calls a "catch-all" room. "This was Jax's room until he moved upstairs," she informed. "We had someone local paint the sceneries on the wall." Jeff and Shannon have also turned a playroom into a workout room.

Jax now occupies what can only be described as his own suite upstairs. He enjoys a living room with TV and gaming center and a large bedroom with plenty





of space to spare. "He plays basketball," Jeff revealed, "and is trying out for football at Frank Seale."

Upstairs Jeff also occupies a small space to sleep during the day when he works the night shift. The room boasts several extra closets to accommodate his hunting equipment, as well as his music gear. Jeff has played guitar for decades, and performs with the worship team at First Baptist Church in Midlothian. "I made every possible effort to make music my career, but God obviously had other plans for me," he added with a smile.

The family's favorite spot is not really in the house at all. "This screened porch is where I spend as much of my time as I can," Shannon acknowledged. "I sit out here and have coffee as many mornings as possible." The porch overlooks the backyard and swimming pool, and immense trees offer plenty of shade. The pool features a zero entry point enjoyed by many special guests. "We get birds that wade into the water at the entry," Shannon laughed. "I don't think they would use the pool if it weren't for the beach entry."

Though they called several houses home in the first decade of their marriage, Jeff and Shannon are content. With a unique overall style, and a plethora of unique touches throughout, it's the perfect home at last. **NOW**

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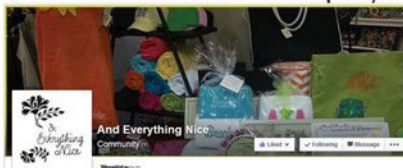


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# AQUATIC ADVENTURE

— By Randy Bigham

*Nature lovers know the peace that water brings to any pastoral setting, whether it's the babbling brook of the wilderness or the trickling mini-waterfall of a terrace garden. But what can be more soothing or fascinating than a koi pond? With its colorful varieties of Japanese carp darting among rocks and plants, this touch of nature transforms any backyard into an oasis.*



"Ponds have become increasingly popular recently," acknowledges letsbekoi.com, the online face for this Waxahachie-based fish and pond supplier. "They can be preformed, hand-dug, made from stock tanks, on your patio, even indoors. With so many options, you can make yours as simple or elaborate as you wish."

Koi ponds, as an addition to your water garden, not only create a tranquil environment but ensure years of refreshing enjoyment for the whole family. There are how-to guides for installing koi ponds, available in print and online, and serious garden lovers prefer the do-it-yourself approach. But if you're like most homeowners, you're not a landscape designer or even a seasoned gardener. You will, therefore, likely opt to buy ready-made pond and waterfall kits. It's an expedient route to a beautiful result, yet it pays to be informed.

Whether choosing a local contractor or a national chain to implement the water garden of your dreams, you should acquaint yourself with the process. You should also know how best to address issues from building ordinances that might impede your project to the proper maintenance of the pond, its plants and fish.







## Do you really want a pond?

Before making a decision between a pond or water feature, consider the significant difference. A koi pond will require dedication to upkeep, which a water feature won't. "Ponds are miniature ecosystems with plants, animals and microorganisms working in harmony to achieve balance," explains a how-to

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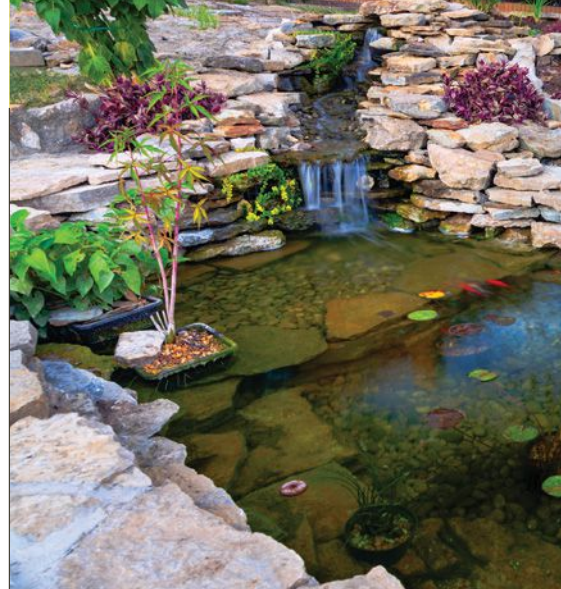


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page at Lowes.com. "Ponds are alive and require different care; all need to be circulated in the summer and aerated in the winter."

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## What to know before you build.

Before your landscaper or contractor lays out your koi pond, consult the local code enforcement department. There may be laws restricting the depth of your pond or access to it, and you'll need to be prepared to meet those or other requirements. Ordinances may also mandate fencing types, a building permit or an inspection of the site before and after construction. Finally, call 811 free of charge to request that all gas, electric, phone and cable lines be mapped out for your safety.





## Collaborate with your builder.

You may want to hire either a landscape designer who specializes in gardens and pools or an independent contractor. But you can also pick one of many construction companies that now perform the excavation and initial cultivation of koi ponds.

Work from architectural drawings or images of your builder's former projects or provide your own vision for the size and layout of the pond. Incorporate highlights of your existing garden, for instance a gazebo or arbor, into the scheme. Decide with your builder on the kind of stone to be used for pathways around your pond.

Perhaps you'll want a small, rustic terrace constructed nearby so guests can admire the carp whizzing to and fro. A grotto or other forms of recessed seating along the path to the pond are attractive ideas for individualizing the addition of a koi pond to your garden.

## Select the location.

Choosing the perfect site for a koi pond is key to reducing maintenance while optimizing safety and enjoyment. Make sure the pond is built lower in the surrounding landscape, but not so low that runoff threatens the pond with fertilizer or other lawn chemicals. The pond should sit in an area that receives four to six hours of sunlight. A location fully exposed to the sun will cause issues of overheating and algae accumulation. Placement in full shade will prevent water lilies and other plant life from prospering.

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## Pick your fish.

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## Protect your fish.

The bright colors of koi that attract the admiration of garden lovers also draw predators like cats, raccoons and birds. Ponds should have a section deep enough for koi to hide in and ledges that are high enough from the surface to prevent animals from attacking. Nets covering the pond are sometimes suggested to keep away predators.



The possibilities for enjoying the peace and beauty of koi ponds are boundless. While adding a distinctive decorative element to your garden, this creative yet affordable feature will enhance your love of nature, aid the environment and provide family fun for generations. **NOW**



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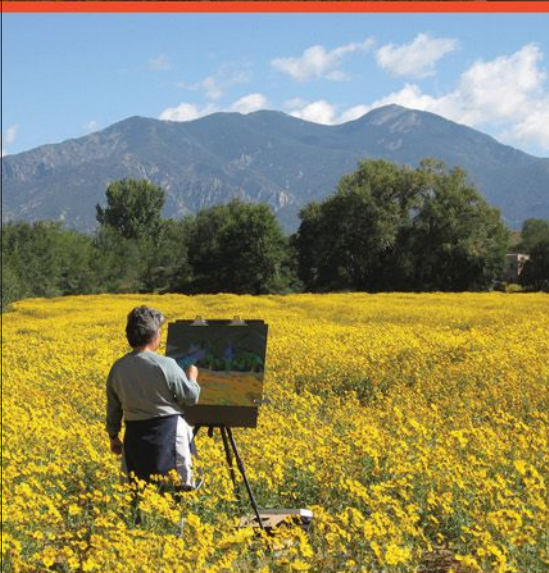


*It's been said that we travel first to lose ourselves and then to find ourselves. Traveling is often the impetus of change, forcing us to step outside of our comfort zones, experience a few firsts and learn about other cultures and ourselves in the process. And there is no better classroom in which to learn than Taos, New Mexico. Taos has been at the top of many international "best" lists for a variety of reasons. In*

*fact, Fodor's Travel Guide recently listed Taos Pueblo as one of its top bucket-list destinations to see before you die.*

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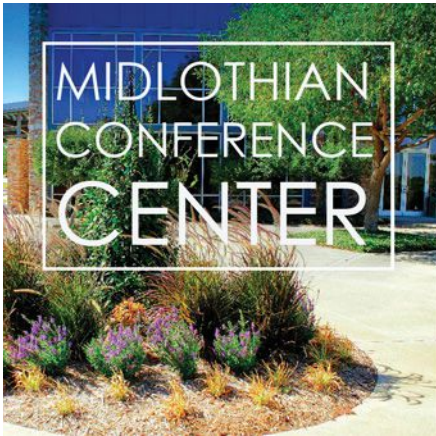
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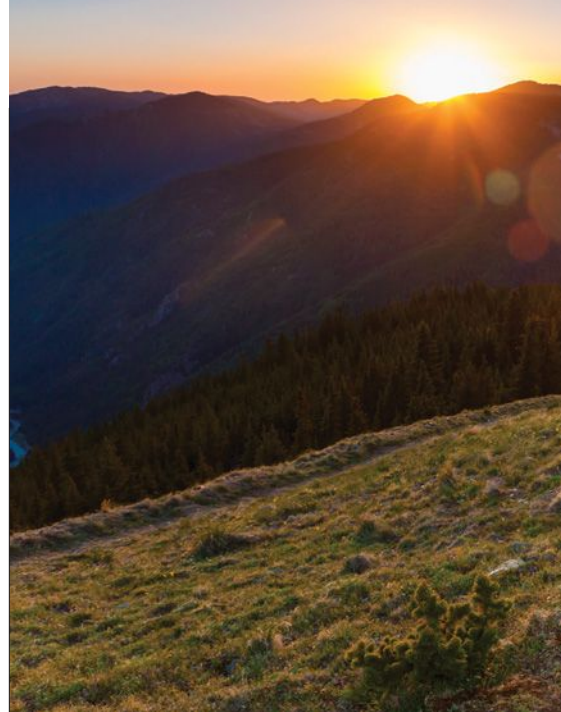
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de Cristo Mountains. Tours are available. Cameras aren't allowed during religious ceremonies, but as the natives believe, "You won't need pictures to remember Taos Pueblo. It will remain in your heart and soul forever."

Another Taos treasure, San Francisco de Asis Mission Church, heads many top 10 lists of places to see before you die. San Francisco de Asis is the most painted church in the U.S., made famous by Georgia O'Keeffe and photographer





Ansel Adams. This 18th century National Historic Landmark is re-mudded annually by the community. Don't miss *The Shadow of the Cross*, an 1896 painting by Henri Ault, which is said to take on a luminescent glow in the dark.

Just as artists and creative-types continue to be drawn to Taos for its abundant light and cultural landscape, nature lovers are attracted to Taos for its outdoor landscape, 300 days of sunshine and proclivity toward outdoor

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The physicians and staff of Kessler Women's Healthcare are pleased to introduce Melodi Reese-Holley, MD, who joins Kessler Women's Healthcare in August, 2014.

A Houston native, Dr. Reese-Holley graduated *magna cum laude* from Xavier University of Louisiana, majoring in psychiatry with a double minor in chemistry and biology. She received her Doctorate of Medicine from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, and completed her OB—Gyn residency at Methodist Health System, Dallas, serving as chief resident in her final residency year.

A mother of two young children, Dr. Reese-Holley has special interests in obstetrical care and patient education that assists and supports women in making informed healthcare choices.

If you would like to make an appointment with Dr. Reese-Holley or any of the physicians at Kessler Women's Healthcare, please call our office at **214-941-7200**.

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activities. For those who have never llama trekked before, it's yet another new experience unique to Taos. Members of TripAdvisor have ranked Wild Earth Llama Adventures' (llamaadventures.com) llama trek first among activities they enjoy in Taos, and the outdoor adventure is a multigenerational hit for those who love hiking in a beautiful setting. It's not uncommon for kids to bond with the pack llamas, who are more like furry, four-legged backpacks. Half-day, full-day and overnight trips are available and include information about area ecology, edible/medicinal plants and survival skills. It's comforting to know Wild Earth's llamas have been rescued from abuse or neglect and rehabilitated.

For many travelers whose bucket lists include branching outside of their comfort zone, rappelling or rock climbing along the recently designated Rio Grande del Norte National Monument is sure to boost a sense of confidence. Mountain Skills Rock Climbing Adventures (climbingschoolusa.com) offers year-round, half- and full-day adventures for beginners. Rock n' Raft trips, which combine white water rafting and rappelling, are also available, but only from April through October. Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, encompassing the Rio Grande Gorge and Ute Mountain, is chock-full of outdoor offerings such as hiking, fly fishing and biking. The Gorge Bridge hovers about





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650 feet above the Rio Grande and is not only the second highest bridge in the U.S. Highway System, it is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Taos Ski Valley ([skitaos.org](http://skitaos.org)), just 18 miles north of Taos, is also popular among nature lovers, not only for its world-class winter skiing, but also because of its off-season hiking and biking trails and views. Wheeler Peak, New Mexico's highest mountain, is visible from Taos and Taos Ski Valley and climbs to 13,161 feet.

Taos' status as one of America's original art colonies stems from its reputation for inspiring creativity. An entire movement known as the Taos Society of Artists was formed in 1915, bringing well-known artists to the town who embraced its tri-cultural and aesthetic landscape. Whether stepping inside the 18th century Spanish Colonial Martinez Hacienda house, seeing oil heiress Millicent Rogers' arts and jewelry collection or exploring artifacts once used by Kit Carson, there are many museums in Taos that encapsulate Taos' history. For only \$25, you can visit five Taos museums, including: Harwood Museum of Art, Blumenschein Home and Museum, Millicent Rogers Museum, Taos Art Museum and La Hacienda de los Martinez. Visit [taosmuseums.org](http://taosmuseums.org) for details.

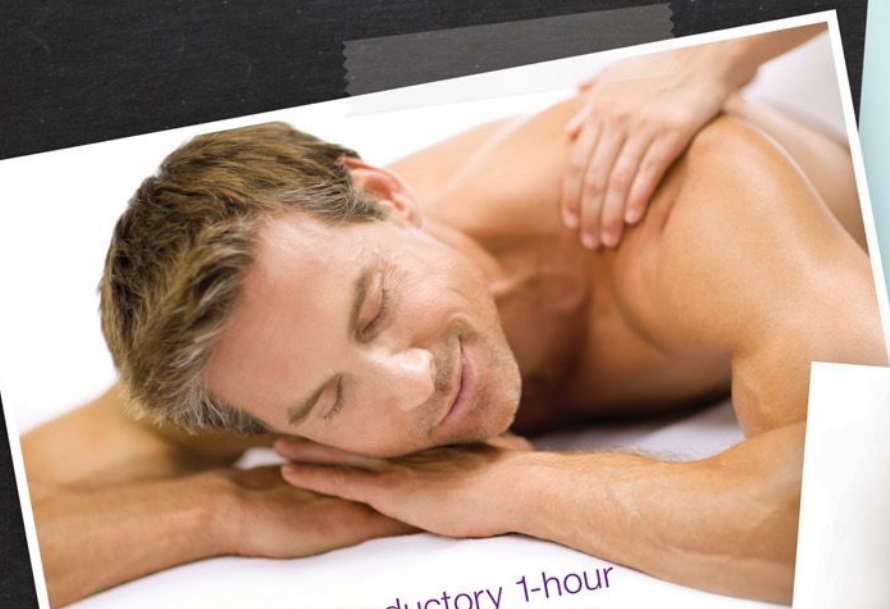
Taosños are known to be eco-friendly, so it's no wonder that Taos is the headquarters of the Greater World Earthship Community ([earthship.com](http://earthship.com)) — a community of energy-efficient, self-sustainable homes composed of used tires and recycled materials. Earthship tours are available and can even be rented out on a nightly basis.

Unlike many tourist-driven art destinations, Taos has managed to maintain its integrity as a small, friendly town while still being recognized worldwide as a culturally rich art colony, complete with more than 80 galleries, creative workshops, ongoing events, world-class performances and attractions. So if you find yourself in Taos, expect to return home with more than you left with, but you can keep the change. **NOW**

For more information on Taos, visit <http://taos.org>. By Erica Asmus-Otero. Photos courtesy of the Town of Taos.



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*For four decades, Jerry's J&W Carpet and Flooring has carpeted Midlothian. — By Betty Tryon*

Jerry Massey's family has been a part of the fabric of Midlothian for at least three generations. "The first of my family that we know of for sure was here in 1892," Jerry said. "I know that because I saw it in the historical records." Growing also with Midlothian has been Jerry's business — Jerry's J&W Carpet and Flooring. Patsy, Jerry's wife, states they have been in business for over 40 years. "Jerry started the company," she said. "We are a full-service flooring business. We sell just about any flooring that's made: carpet, wood, tile, laminate, vinyl and bamboo floors."

Jerry's J&W Carpet and Flooring sells to residential and commercial customers. "We have really changed over the years," Jerry acknowledged. "Hard surface product has picked up an equal share to the carpet industry. Wood floors, ceramic tile,

vinyl plank, laminate floors are all new offerings. We are an aligned Shaw flooring dealer, and we sell Mohawk, Beaulieu and many other top-quality producers. Shaw and Mohawk alike are huge distributors of our flooring needs. The No. 1 thing we want to do is sell customers a product that will take care of them, work for them and wear well."

Customer satisfaction is very important to Jerry. He expresses great appreciation to patrons for their business. "I feel good about where we are today, but I feel better about what has kept us in business," he pointed out. "I feel the support we have gotten from Midlothian, Ellis County and several surrounding counties has helped our business grow." From earlier days when carpet was the main product sold, Jerry has expanded his line to include wood flooring, ceramic tile, vinyl plank and cork as



well as others. "We take great pride in providing affordable top-quality products for our customers," Jerry added, "and we like to think that the product or products our customers choose will bring pride and enjoyment to them and their home for years to come." Along with great customer service, Jerry's J&W Carpet and Flooring offers the best quality products at the best prices.

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Jerry and his team must be doing something right, because even famous people have called on them. "We've done work for Ladybird Johnson for her house in Austin and several times at the LBJ Ranch in Johnson City," Patsy revealed.

Jerry credits a great deal of their success to the people who work with them. "We don't have anyone who has been here less than 15 years," Jerry remarked. "I think that is the true strength of our business. I can't say enough about our staff, because they have done a great job."

"And we have independent contractors who have been here 20 years," Patsy added. The sales personnel are trained to help customers choose what type of flooring will work best in their homes and businesses. The knowledgeable staff has the experience to suggest the right product for the customer's lifestyle. Having children or animals may influence what type of flooring product to purchase. The sales personnel can advise on the best methods for cleaning and caring for carpets and other flooring. They can also recommend the most appropriate padding to place under the kind of carpets a customer chooses.

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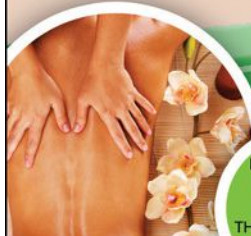
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## Time and money can work together

The premise behind compounding is fairly simple. Your retirement plan contributions are deducted from your paycheck and invested either in the options you select or in your plan's default investments. Your contribution dollars may earn returns from those investments, then those returns may earn returns themselves — and so on. That's compounding.

## Compounding in action

To see the process at work, consider the following hypothetical example: Say you invest \$1,000 and earn a return of 7 percent — or \$70 — in one year. You now have \$1,070 in your account. In year two, that \$1,070 earns another 7 percent, and this time the amount earned is \$74.90, bringing the total value of your account to \$1,144.90. Over time, if your account continues to earn positive returns, the process can gather steam and add up.

Now consider how compounding might work in your retirement plan. Say \$120 is automatically deducted from your paycheck and contributed to your plan account on a biweekly basis. Assuming you earn a 7 percent rate of return each year, after 10 years, you would have invested \$31,200, and your account would be worth \$45,100. That's not too bad. If you kept investing the same amount, after 20 years, you'd have invested \$62,400 and your account would be worth \$135,835. And after just 10 more years — for a total investment time horizon of 30 years and a total invested amount of \$93,600 — you'd have \$318,381. That's the power of compounding at work.

Keep in mind that these examples are hypothetical, for illustrative purposes only and do not represent the performance of any actual investment. Returns will change from year to year, and are not guaranteed. You may also lose money in your retirement plan investments. But that's why when you're saving for retirement, it's important to stay focused on long-term results.

Also, these examples do not take into account plan fees, which will impact your returns, and taxes. When you withdraw money from your traditional (i.e., non-Roth) retirement plan account, you will have to pay taxes on your withdrawals, at then-current rates. Early withdrawals before age 59 1/2 (age 55 for certain distributions from employer plans) may be subject to a 10-percent penalty tax, unless an exception applies. Nonqualified withdrawals from a Roth account may also be subject to regular income and penalty taxes (on the earnings only — you receive your Roth contributions tax free). **NOW**

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*Donald Pope is a Raymond James Financial Advisor in Duncanville.*

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### August 2

Mt. Peak Cemetery Annual Ice Cream Supper/Fundraiser: 6:00 p.m. FM 875 in Mt. Peak. Ice cream, hot dogs and drinks will be sold. Bounce house and face painting for the kids. Bring a cake for the auction. Auction will begin at 7:00 p.m. Lots of fun making new friends and catching up with old friends. All proceeds are used for upkeep of the cemetery grounds.

### August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Downtown Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St. Open air market hosted by the Midlothian Downtown Business Association held every **Saturday** morning from May through October.

### August 5

Midlothian Area Historical Society meetings: 7:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center 224 S. 11th St. For more information, contact Beverly Sink at [beverlysink@sbcglobal.net](mailto:beverlysink@sbcglobal.net) or (469) 628-1907.

### August 9

Movie in the Park – *The Nut Job*: 8:30 p.m., Hawkins Spring Park, 1498 FM 1387. 2014

Movie from Open Road Films tells the story of Surly and Buddy who plan a nut store heist. Rating: PG Bring blankets and chairs. Concession stand will be open. Giveaways at every show.

Wildflower Walk: 9:00 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Rd. Guided walk led by members of the Indian Trail Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalists. For more information, email [itmnc.com](mailto:itmnc.com).

Red Oak Opry: 7:00 p.m., Lone Star Cowboy Church, 1011 E. Ovilla Rd. Live country and gospel music featuring several different singers backed up by the six-piece Opry Band. Adult tickets \$10 at door. Visit [redoakopry.com](http://redoakopry.com) for more details.

### August 10

Pit Stop Friday: 7:00-10:00 p.m., Pit Stop BBQ, 3921 S. Hwy. 287, Waxahachie. Red Oak's Association of Fine Arts: Benefiting Children presents live musical performances by local artists Eric Vazquez, Gabriel Dunnahue and Sky Holman. Call (214) 949-3817 or email [aofabc\\_musicfest@yahoo.com](mailto:aofabc_musicfest@yahoo.com) for more information

### August 14

The beginning of Midlothian school district back-to-school orientations, camps and meet the teacher. Check MISD district calendar for school dates and times.

### August 16

Pet Adoption Event: 9:00-11:00 a.m., Walmart - Garden Center Entrance, 400 N. Hwy 67, Contact: (972) 775-7614.

### August 25

First day of school.

### August 30

Glenn Heights Back-to-School Extravaganza: 10 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Harvest of Praise Ministry, 2603 S. Hampton Rd. Neighboring communities are invited to enjoy a live deejay, free games, food and drinks, and free school supplies. Driver's license requested of parents and report card for each student, plus proof of residency utility bill or ID. Contact Alfrida McCoy at (972) 230-1154 for more information.

*Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to [betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com](mailto:betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com).*



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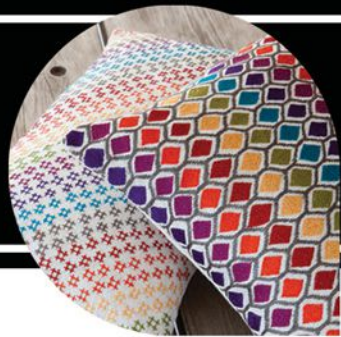
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## In the Kitchen With Haley Pierce

— By Betty Tryon

Changing locations frequently as a youngster can be daunting. However, it can also open the door to wonderful possibilities. Haley Pierce's dad works with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and every few years, the family moved. Okinawa, Japan, became her favorite place.

"I have such a huge love for Japanese cooking," she said. "I notice that a lot of the time, restaurants tend to 'Americanize' Japanese cooking, and even though it's delicious, it's never quite like the real thing." She wants to learn how to make some of Japan's more traditional dishes for her family and friends. Haley also likes to modify recipes like baked ziti for meat eaters, which she shares here with us. **NOW**

### Baked Ziti

- 1 pkg. ziti or penne pasta**
- 1 lb. Italian sausage**
- 1 lb. turkey**
- 1 jar Newman's Own Sockarooni pasta sauce**
- 1/2 pkg. Sargento grated Parmesan cheese**
- 1/2 pkg. Sargento grated mozzarella cheese**
- 1/2 cup ricotta cheese**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 400 F.
- 2.** Bring a large pot of water to a boil and cook pasta until al dente; drain.
- 3.** While pasta is cooking, in a separate pan, brown sausage and turkey together. Once browned, add pasta sauce.
- 4.** In an oiled baking dish, add all prepared

ingredients in layers; alternating pasta, meat, cheese, pasta, meat, ricotta until dish is full.

- 5.** Top with cheese. Bake about 30 minutes until cheese is lightly browned and hot. Serve immediately.

### Pork Wellington

*Courtesy of Alton Brown.*

- 1 whole egg**
- 1 Tbsp. water**
- 1 oz. dried apple rings**
- 1 whole pork tenderloin, approximately 1 lb.**
- 4 1/2 oz. prosciutto ham, thinly sliced**
- 1/4 tsp. kosher salt**
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper, freshly ground**
- 1 tsp. thyme leaves, chopped fresh**
- 1 tsp. all-purpose flour**
- 1 sheet puff pastry, thawed completely**

### **1 Tbsp. whole grain mustard or honey mustard**

- 1.** Place a rack in upper third of the oven and heat to 400 F.
- 2.** Whisk egg and water in a small bowl; set aside. Place the apple rings into the bowl of a mini food processor and pulse for 30 to 45 seconds or until the size of a medium dice. Set aside to dry.
- 3.** Trim pork of any excess fat and silver skin. Slice down the middle lengthwise, creating 2 separate pieces. Lay pieces next to each other head to tail, so when laid back together they are the same size at the ends.
- 4.** Lay out a 12x16-inch piece of parchment paper on the counter and arrange the pieces of prosciutto in the center, overlapping them enough to create a solid layer as long as the tenderloin. Top with a second piece of parchment; using a rolling pin, press the prosciutto to adhere pieces to each other.
- 5.** Remove parchment paper and sprinkle prosciutto with salt, pepper and thyme. Set tenderloin down in the middle of the prosciutto. Spread apples in between the two pieces of tenderloin and push back together so apples are held between them. Using parchment paper to assist, wrap prosciutto around tenderloin to completely enclose.
- 6.** Sprinkle counter with flour and roll out pastry to 12x14 inches. Spread mustard thinly in the center of pastry and lay the prosciutto-wrapped tenderloin in the center of the pastry on the mustard. Fold pastry up and over top of the tenderloin, roll to completely enclose, brushing the edges of the pastry with egg wash to seal. Turn the tenderloin over so the side with the double thickness of pastry is underneath. Pinch ends of pastry to seal.
- 7.** Brush entire pastry with egg wash. Place tenderloin on parchment-lined half sheet pan and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until the pork reaches an internal temperature of at least 140 F.
- 8.** Remove tenderloin from oven. Transfer to a cooling rack and let rest for 10 minutes before slicing and serving.

**To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit [www.nowmagazines.com](http://www.nowmagazines.com).**





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