

# Midlothian

M A G A Z I N E

SEPTEMBER 2013

# NOW

## A Growing Family

At Home With  
Pate and  
Melissa Neal

*Plus:*

It's Just Common Sense  
Still the Same Girl

Building Bridges

Teaming Up for Renewal

In the Kitchen With Danielle Schrodt

## Playoffs, Then State

One focus will drive  
members of MHS football  
down the field







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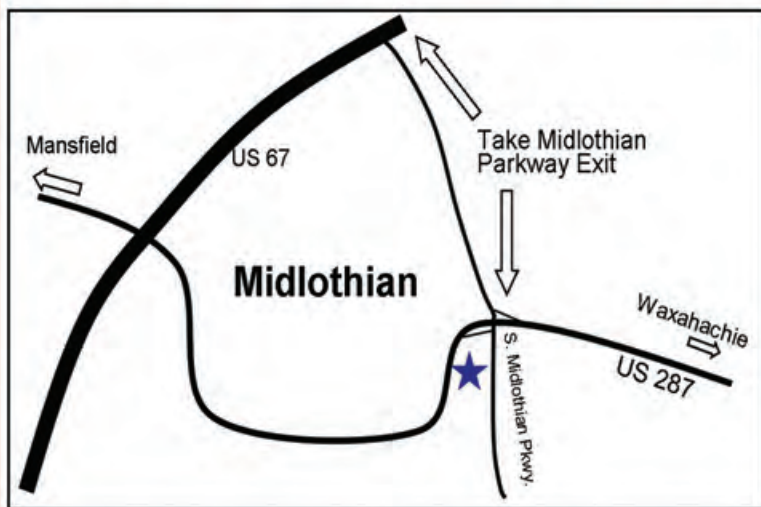
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"We're available 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Tim said. "We answer calls rather than use an answering service so, while a midnight call might rouse a sleepy Tim, be assured that we are ready and happy to help!"

Tim and Wendy have been together for 14 years. They are a couple, parents to three active boys and ideal business partners. Tim grew up working at his dad's successful automotive company. "My dad built his business through hard work and commitment to personal service and community," he said. "After high school, I worked for my dad at Hardin Automotive and discovered that automotive was not what I wanted to do." At that time, Tim moved into the HVAC industry. He learned that trade and knew that, someday, his dad's lessons would apply to his own business. Before starting the company, he spent eight years working at a local HVAC company before attending school to become a licensed HVAC technician.

Wendy is the perfect balance to Tim with her extensive

background in customer service. "I handle the office, scheduling and telephones," she said. She also has great instincts. When Tim came home with their first company vehicle, she suggested painting it black to match their business cards. "Now, increasingly, we hear people say, 'Oh, you're the company with the black trucks!'"

Through service, quality and commitment, Hardin Heating & Air is growing. "We've added another employee and joined the Chamber of Commerce and Better Business Bureau," Wendy said. "This year, we're sponsoring the Midlothian Panthers, a 12-and-under select baseball team. With three sons, we've spent a lot of time at baseball games, and it's an honor to be a sponsor and give back to the community."

They've also launched a website featuring Energy Saving Tips. "Investing in education and maintenance can save homeowners money and tremendous inconvenience," Tim said. "We encourage people to visit the site to read the tips."

Tim and Wendy are pretty busy these days. "With my cell phone, the office is always with us," she smiled. "I carry work orders, and Tim is always available by email and phone."

Tim and Wendy met when Midlothian was still a tiny town with one grocery store and a single fast-food drive-in. "I was literally the girl next door," she smiled. Midlothian is definitely their home today. "This is where our kids are growing up. And as the area continues to grow, too, we're excited to be growing our business."



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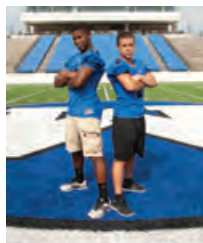
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## ON THE COVER



*Quindell Daniels and Brendan Cornell are ready for a tough season in 5A football.*

*Photo by Opaque Visuals.*

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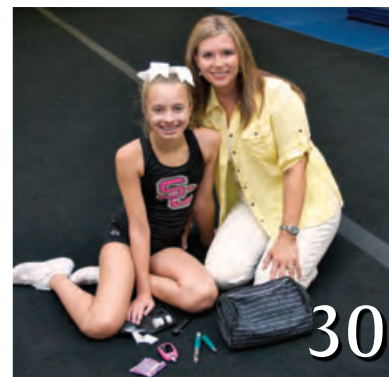
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## Editor's Note

*Hello, Midlothian!*

During my school nursing years, my office was directly across from my daughter's kindergarten class. My day ended before hers, and somehow she always managed to have a tummy ache where the only solution was to go home with me. One morning I knew she was having true stomach difficulties, so I waited for her daily visit at lunchtime. When I opened my door, there stood Lauren with two of her best friends. "Are you feeling OK, Pumpkin?" I asked. Three tiny voices said, "Yes." I had to smile. Every little girl is a pumpkin!

Back to school is when an energetic mass of pumpkins, darlings and sweeties are going to fill our streets twice a day. We can all help by being extra careful in our driving and paying attention in school zones. I want them all home safe, and I know you do, too!

*Betty*

Betty Tryon  
MidlothianNOW Editor  
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Dr. Yaritza Vazquez, Periodontist

Dr. Vazquez obtained a certificate in advanced graduate studies in General Practice Residency at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2006 where she concentrated her training in special needs and medically compromised patients. In June 2009 she completed her residency in Periodontics at Boston University and her Masters Degree in Oral Biology, which was focused in inflammatory processes. During her Periodontology residency she refined her skills in periodontal procedures including Cosmetic surgeries and implant placements.

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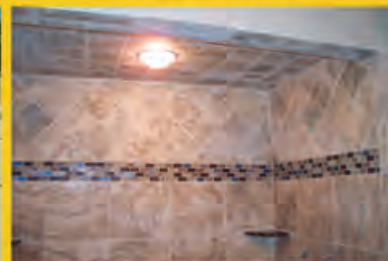
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# PLAYOFFS, THEN STATE

— By Betty Tryon



---

“I can **trust** my teammate that he is going to do what he **commits** to do. You can trust him on the field and in **life**.”

*The decision was unanimous. Both Brendan Cornell and Quindell Daniels agreed that the game against Mansfield Timberview was the most memorable of the 2012 season. “It was big time,” said Quindell, who started at safety for Midlothian High School. “Our defense really showed up in the beginning with some good stops. The second half of our offense was an eight-minute drive. It was amazing to watch! The offense had the ball for 20 minutes out of 24 and pretty much dominated the field.”*

Brendan, one of Midlothian’s wide receivers, expressed the same sentiments but remembers the contest for a totally different reason. “Timberview punched our ticket into the 5A playoffs,” he stated. “We had never done that before. It was emotional, because we could see that all of the hard work and long hours really do pay off. I didn’t play, because I had a broken foot, but I was on the sidelines with my team. I did play in the playoffs, because I didn’t want to miss that opportunity.” The Midlothian Panthers football team beat Mansfield Timberview by a score of 28 to 10. This was just one game in a season full of feel-good sentiments with an ending that was a long time coming.

Notwithstanding the risk he took, Brendan’s foot is now fully healed. It was one incident in a life full of football. Influenced by



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Pastor Brian Treadaway



Photo by: Dr. Jerome Stewart.

his dad, Brendan started playing football in the fourth grade. "My dad played at TCU, so football has always been my love. When I was little, he would show me how to run routes and how to catch balls. I became a receiver at an early age. Football has pretty much been my life. It is always what I think about and is way more than a hobby. I hope I can get a scholarship, because I want to go to college to play football." Brendan also played soccer, baseball, basketball, track and indoor select soccer during his school years.

For Quindell, football began as just a fun thing to do that he could take or leave. But the longer he stayed, the more committed he became to the sport. "I started playing football in the second grade. A friend invited me to one of the practices, and I started playing on the team. Now that I've put so much work into football, it is something I can't give up at this point," he remarked. "I want to stay in football now because of the chemistry with the guys. And, you can't give up on the town that watches you."

The town did watch with enthusiasm and great anticipation. Last season, the team earned its first playoff opportunity classified as a 5A team. The excitement was palpable in the community, as was the hope for the team to perform well. The team members graciously handled the pressure of being local celebrities. "I wouldn't call it pressure," Brendan explained. "It was more like expectation. Our district has the best fan base ever. We got a lot of attention from anyone who pays attention to sports. On Fridays,





we would go and read to the elementary school kids. When I was walking through the halls, I could hear the kids saying, 'Oh that is No. 2 from Friday night!' I'd go up to them and give them a high-five.

"Last year, our goal was to reach the playoffs," Brendan said. "Our hope for this year is to go to state. There is a lot of joy and excitement in football. All the time you work hard for something — the long hours practicing and all the tough stuff you do during practice — makes it that much sweeter when you



Photo by: Dr. Jerome Stewart.

play the game you love and succeed in it. It makes you an all-around better person, because it teaches you how to work for something. The coaches stay on you, and so your grades are pretty good. They want the best for you, so they will push you and push you until you reach your goal."

Quindell also agreed with the positive things that playing football brings into one's life. "It brings trust," he said. "I can trust my teammate that he is going to do what he commits to do. You can trust him on the field and in life. The coaches teach us not just the game of football but the game of life. You learn how to take



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Brendan Cornell, Coach Eric Edwards and Quindell Daniels are proud of the Midlothian Panthers.

on different situations, like in a marriage. Walking out on your team is like walking out on a marriage. If you are committed to something, you have to stick with it. You can't just up and leave."

The two seniors had many favorite moments during their junior year of high school. For Brendan, it was against South Grand Prairie, and it was all personal. "That's when I broke my foot during the first half," he explained. "I didn't know I had broken it. I just knew it hurt really, really bad. I played the rest of the game with a broken foot and made two touchdowns."

Quindell logged in his finest moment during a game where he had a personal best play. "It was during the Cedar Hill game. During the first drive we were struggling, but I had six tackles. The other team got into the red zone and was about to score. I picked the ball off and ran it back 45 yards. It was a big start, but we lost the game by one point. We would've been down or sad about it a couple of years ago, but now we know what we are capable of. Our goal was to make the playoffs not to just beat that team."

The team ended the season with a 7-3 win/loss record. It would be 7-4 if one counts the playoff game. This football season, the team has their eyes on winning state. Along the way, there will be many more life lessons to be experienced and learned. One of the better lessons Brendan learned that will carry him through life was, "When faced with hard situations, you just find a way to get through." **NOW**



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# It's Just Common Sense

— By Betty Tryon





*When you find a man with imagination and ingenuity, there is just no telling how far he will go. For Bob Worsham, it has been quite a journey. "I was born and raised in a small country town in Texas, where my parents were sharecropper farmers. I had a knack for fashioning things. I was born with an entrepreneurial mind. Not everybody has that. If I could work for you and make you money, then I figured I could do the same thing for myself and make me money. I was never satisfied working for other people," he stated.*

That mindset allowed Bob to live a very full and interesting life with many failures and successes along the way. "I had my first business when I was 20 years old," he explained. "It didn't work out, but that's OK. It was a learning experience." After his business failed, he went to work for another employer. Bob never felt happy being there. He left after seven years and went into business for himself by purchasing a gas station. "I operated it for two years," he stated, "and never earned any money. I worked from 6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. seven days a week. I don't mind going home tired, but I do mind going home tired and broke."

Facing that losing proposition, Bob got out of the business but still considered it worth his time, because he had met many people in the business world. One such person worked in glassworks and influenced Bob and his wife, Ann, to start a company 45 years ago called Republic Glass and Mirror. They furnished mirrors and shower doors for new home construction. "I named it after Republic Bank, which was one of the biggest banks in Dallas at the time," he stated. "I figured if I introduced myself as Republic Glass and Mirror, then the Republic part would stick with people. It was just common sense to me."

Bob became such a success with his

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first glass business that he was able to own several more, including Alamo Glass. His oldest son now runs all of the companies under Alamo Glass.

Because of his association with home builders who purchased his glass products, Bob had the opportunity to observe, participate and learn the home construction business. As a result, he became involved in construction. "It's a natural thing to me," he explained. "I've



been around construction 45 years of my life, and having done that I got into building and selling homes myself. A lot of people think you have to be very educated to be a home builder. It's a common-sense thing to me. You have to have good subcontractors, plumbers, electricians, painters and concrete people. They are the ones who do the work."

During his years in the home building business, he was the supervisor. "I had a good relationship with my team," Bob said. "Ann was the interior decorator for the homes and ran the offices of the businesses and kept the books."

Bob retired from home building,

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got bored and, since his retirement, built about 35 more houses. Some of those homes are in Crystal Forest. He retired and went back to work several more times until seven years ago, when he retired for good, due to a medical concern with his wife. His last home-building project was an addition to his home. "I built a shop, so I could have someplace to go and something to do when I retired," he explained.

"I'm not a television person, except for sports or a special program. I have to be out here doing something, so I began purchasing tools and started piddling. I spend every day out here."

While he's out in his shop, Bob creates many different objects of art. His first project was building birdhouses. He makes birdhouses with clocks in some of them and climbing vines on others. He completed a large deluxe birdhouse with several interesting features.

The windows are circular pieces of glass with the Ball glass jars trademark on them. The deluxe look is completed with shutters and a door that opens and closes. The lumber used for the birdhouses is 80 years old from Bob's old farm near New Bethel.

Another project was making distinctive ink pens. "Ann bought a pen from someone at church, and I thought I might like to try that. So, I ordered a turning blade, bought some kits, taught myself, and made it into a pen." One ink pen is decorated with a beautiful green acrylic design with golden bands at each end.

Another set of pens is set apart by



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uniqueness. One is a replica of a .30-06 bullet (for a rifle). The outer cap is made with a deer antler. "Last year I came out with the same thing, but now it has a bolt action," he stated. "Hunters and outdoors people love it!"

Bob's next project came once again from his wife. "She saw a cross made of mesquite wood at a church bazaar. She bought it, and it captured my attention," he explained. "It's very pretty. I never knew a mesquite tree was good for anything other than cows to lie under and to barbecue with," he quipped. "I take a round limb and split it. That round end has the circle going all the way around on the outside. After I split it, then I get the streak in the wood going down." Bob's crosses are not straight but are curved to follow the natural design of the wood. He decided to leave the bark on some of them. The wood is so beautiful, he also used it to make clocks and the table the clocks are showcased on.

Bob approaches his projects with the same attitude he had when building homes. "Things have to be done right," he explained. "That is the only way I know how to do it."

"He is very meticulous," Ann agreed. "Everything has to be right for him."

At the age of 82, Bob pondered his life-learning experiences. "All of my education was from observation," he said. "I don't downgrade education, and I think everyone should get as much as they can. But, I wouldn't swap my personal education for four college degrees. I'm just an inquisitive person. It's a way of life for me." Bob's entrepreneurial spirit has brought him through four decades of an innovative and remarkable life. **NOW**



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# A Growing FAMILY

## Pate and Melissa Neal

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

*Home is where the heart is. If this truism can be taken at face value, then the location, size and feel of an actual house are secondary to the love that a family shares inside the house's walls. But, sometimes, growing families or new business ventures necessitate a move to larger furnishings. Such is the case for Pate and Melissa Neal, who recently moved into a new home in the Country South area of Midlothian. With a new addition to their family and Pate changing careers, they were ready for a new home sweet home.*

Pate and Melissa met in Nashville two decades ago. They took separate paths but ended up in the same place. "I was working in the music industry, and a guy wanted help in sales," Pate explained. "So I worked for Word Entertainment, a Christian music company." Eighteen years ago, shortly after meeting and beginning their relationship, Pate and Melissa were able to move to Arlington and be married.

After living in Nashville and Arlington, they decided they wanted to move to a more country setting. "We started in Arlington and then went to Cedar Hill, which was pretty quiet at the time. In 2000, we moved out here," Melissa said. "We got a little farther out each time."





Pate and Melissa have reared three children in Midlothian. Emily is 14 and is a cheerleader for Midlothian High School. Spencer is 12, loves sports and attended the Major League Fanfest event. Paxton is 10, and his leading passions are baseball and roller coasters. Pate and Melissa spent the first 12 years of their Midlothian life in a house that was full of love but had become crowded due to their growing family. This year, with a special blessing from the Lord, they knew they needed to expand their space.

In July 2010, Melissa went on a mission trip to Haiti. While there, the team worked closely with an orphanage. This was still in the wake of the earthquakes that had displaced so many children. At the orphanage, Melissa fell in love with a young boy named Wensley. "Back home," she recalled, "Pate and I talked about adoption, but we weren't sure if that was really something God

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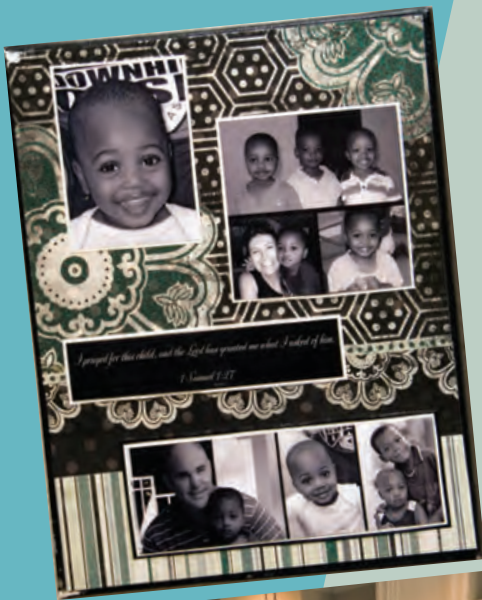
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was directing. Pate's job situation was changing, so we didn't pursue anything yet."

A few months later, Melissa heard that Wensley had been adopted by another family. "I was excited for him and figured that told me it wasn't meant to be," she said. Melissa returned to the orphanage in November of that year. She decided to try to find out where Wensley ended up but discovered something when looking for paperwork. "It turns out that my friend got incorrect information," she said. "A boy named Wensley was adopted.

Wensley was still at the orphanage."

Pate and Melissa renewed their earlier conversation, and in January 2011, they decided to pursue the adoption of Wensley. "In our church, there are five families adopting seven

children from that orphanage," Pate added. There isn't a specific timeline to the process of adopting a child from a foreign country. Sometimes things go quickly, and other times red tape and paperwork can slow things down. For Pate and Melissa, things seemed to be moving at a plodding pace, until this past spring.

The family got a call shortly after the start of the year, and on April 18, they were able to welcome home the child they had been calling part of their family for over two years. "I had visited four times, Pate twice, and Emily had gone once," Melissa recounted. "It was amazing bringing home our little boy after all that time. Of the seven children our church families have adopted, Wensley was the first, and two more came home after him. So we are just waiting on the other four."

The growing family was not the only reason Pate and Melissa needed a larger house. A few years ago, the music company Pate worked for downsized and he lost his job. "With more digital music available, our company had to let



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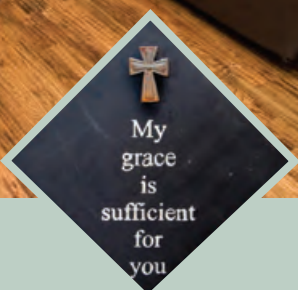
a lot of people go," Pate related. He started a business buying and selling items through the Internet, but in December 2012, he found an opportunity he got truly excited to pursue. "I was watching *Undercover Boss*, and there was an episode with

a franchise called Budget Blinds," he explained. "I thought it sounded cool, so I bought in. Now I have a home-based business selling blinds and any other window treatment." Pate's business allows him to work largely from home, which was a big reason for the move.

Last winter, Pate and Melissa knew they were getting close to finalizing the adoption, and Pate had secured his franchise, so they started looking at land for a new house. They found just the right place, and a few weeks after Wensley arrived, the family moved him into their new home. "He only lived in our old house for a few weeks before we moved," Pate joked. "He probably keeps thinking we'll be moving again soon."

Photographs that detail the family's journey in adding Wensley to their household hang in the entryway, which





leads to both an office and to a family-size living room.

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are perfect for entertaining guests or letting kids pile on top of each other to watch television together. Next to the living room is an open kitchen and dining area. "With sports and cheerleading, it's hard not to miss, but we try to eat together almost every day," Melissa said.

The bedrooms in the house are split, with the four kids sharing three rooms, and the master on the opposite end. Pate and Melissa made sure to add an additional bathroom to what they had in their old house. "With four kids, we needed another bathroom," Melissa admitted. "Emily has her own now, which she loves." The master bedroom is elegant and simple, which truly sums up the home's overall feel. "We are pretty simple, and that comes out in the way we decorate," she added.

Next to the master bedroom is a small staircase that leads to what Melissa refers to as their spare room. Upstairs, there is a mash-up of a media, game and family room. "We don't really come up here," Melissa added. "It's mainly a space for the kids." The backyard is a large space perfect for all kinds of play and activity. There is also a cozy patio that is ideal for grilling and relaxing outside. Though they claim to be simple, it is clear from their new house that Pate and Melissa have put their heart into making it a home. **NOW**

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# STILL THE SAME Girl

— By Sara Edgell



Sam Harris' teacher, Mrs. Lisa Houchin, is helping her advocate for diabetes awareness.



When Samantha “Sam” Harris was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of 11, her life changed. Her mother, Cathy, was concerned about how thin Sam had become and had noticed several other indicators that something was not right with her daughter. One day while at cheer practice, Sam’s coach called Cathy very concerned because Sam was simply not her normal self. That’s when her journey began.

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Sam was taken to the emergency room at a nearby hospital. After a quick blood sugar test with a reading of 600, she was rushed to Children's Medical Center in Dallas by ambulance. A normal reading for Sam's age is between 80 and 150. "It was kind of fun, because we got to go in the ambulance. I was freaked out, but I got to watch a movie, because I went to Children's."

At just 67 pounds, Sam underwent a lot of tests and consultations with doctors and educators to figure out the exact issue. July 18, 2012, was the beginning of a new lifestyle for this brave young girl. Sam had Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA). Her body wasn't producing insulin, and therefore began tearing down muscle mass in search of sustenance.

Most people with Type 1 diabetes are diagnosed while children but then live with it the rest of their lives. The autoimmune disease affects the pancreas and the body's natural production of insulin.

"Children and adults are taught diabetes only happens to a person when they are overweight and eat a lot of sugar," Sam explained, "but that's just not the case." There are differences between Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, as listed on the American Diabetes Association's website. Type 2 is related to diet and exercise, and this is the one most of the education is about, because this type is totally preventable. Type 1 has an unknown cause and is most always diagnosed in children.

Sam Harris (center) has a close relationship with her best friends, Addie Crawford and Baylee McCord.



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Thanks to progression in diabetes research, Sam has been able to maintain much of her freedom while accommodating her diabetes. She does have to plan meals and shots though. She has to be mindful about what and when she eats. She has to count carbs, time meals and snacks with insulin shots, and regularly check her blood sugar. Sam has to be thoughtful about physical activity, too.



Because cheer is such a big part of Sam's life, she has to have a snack before practice, which means she has to balance those snacks with her meals, insulin shots and overall daily ratio. This is a great responsibility. Cathy is very impressed with Sam's display of maturity and responsibility about the whole situation. Thankfully, the tools Sam uses to check her blood sugar and to administer insulin shots make it easy for her to maintain her active lifestyle. She keeps her insulin pens and refills, glucose monitor and a few snacks in a small zipper bag she takes virtually everywhere. She even gives herself some of her daily shots.

For Sam and her family, coping with her diabetes is all about good habits, awareness and educating others. More





School nurse, Carol Hitt, helps Sam keep her blood sugar regulated.

thought has to go into meals and mealtime, but the end result is overall better health and smarter choices. Sam has to have a shot of insulin four times a day, but because of this, she has learned responsibility and has become quite disciplined.

Throughout this life-changing experience, family and friends have been monumental. Her friends at school and Spirit Cheer Academy have shown her nothing but support. Their eagerness to learn about Sam's Type 1 diabetes has been a wonderful bonding experience, which in turn, has helped Sam accept the constraints and responsibilities of her new way of life.

Her best friends, Addie Crawford and Baylee McCool, as well as her teammates, have shown Sam an unbelievable amount of encouragement, as they have rallied around her in support. Her friends even went so far as to decorate the house and yard upon her arrival home from the hospital. All of her friends were there to make the party extra special.

Beyond being supportive, they actually help hold Sam accountable by reminding her to check her blood sugar levels and to finish her meals. They also make sacrifices, so Sam doesn't have to deal with her diabetes alone. Since Sam cannot enjoy the free-range diet her friends may have, her friends often give up foods, too. "Addie didn't have a snow cone at field day, because I couldn't have one," Sam explained. "Instead, we had sugar-free popsicles my mom brought."

Sam is now 12 and in the seventh grade at Walnut Grove Middle School. One might think diabetes would slow



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a girl down, but not Sam. She has participated in competitive cheer and tumbling for three years. She is in choir and is a Wildcat Dancer at her school.

If that's not enough to keep her busy, Sam is also in charge of the Diabetes Awareness Club at her school. With Addie and Baylee's help, her teacher, Mrs. Houchin, and the school nurse, Mrs. Hitt, Sam is advocating for diabetes awareness amongst her peers. At Walnut Grove, there are a total of three students enrolled who actually have diabetes. Sam is the only one in her class.

In 2012, her cheer coaches, Alexa Alimbini and Kim Hollaway, organized a team of 25 members for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk to raise awareness and funds to help find a cure for juvenile diabetes, all because of and for Sam. In total, the group raised about \$1,000 from July to September. "The entire cheer team walked, and that meant a lot to me to have them band together for something so personal and important to me," she admitted. "What meant the most to me is the number of people who signed up."

This year, the JDRF walk will be held at Victory Plaza at the American Airlines Center in Dallas on September 28. Sam's team will be walking again, but with a larger group and goal amount of \$2,000. Sam is specifically looking forward to being able to walk with her best friends and teammates. "I'm excited that my best friends are going to be with me this time."

Having diabetes may have changed Sam's life in a variety of ways, but she wants people to know she's still the same girl she was before her diagnosis. "I'm just the same as everyone else. Don't look at me with a different point of view, because I'm the same." **NOW**

*Editor's Note: For more information on the JDRF, visit [www.jdrf.org](http://www.jdrf.org).*



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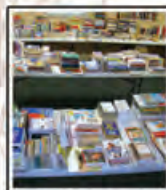
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# Building Bridges

— By Callie Revell

*After 10 years of teaching and working with students with special needs, McLissa Boler is nowhere near running out of steam. Currently employed with the Elevate Program through Navarro College's Midlothian Campus, McLissa works with students who are developmentally disabled and autistic from Midlothian, Red Oak, Waxahachie and Life School as they work to make the difficult transition from high school into the responsibilities of adulthood. Her passion for her students has carried over into her personal life, as she takes on the daunting task of beginning her own nonprofit organization, Bridges, to help her students adjust to life after high school.*

Through the Elevate Program, area students with special needs attend classes on the Navarro College campus, which are designed to give them college experience and allow them to earn a continuing education certificate. Half the day is spent in class, while the other half involves sending





the students out into the community to work. "What I have found over the years is there aren't jobs for these young adults, and when they do find a job, it's so limited — maybe one hour a week," McLissa explained. "Having someone come in and be excited they found a job for an hour a week — that doesn't excite me. They need that extra time. They need that extra exposure."

According to McLissa, the ideal job for one of her students would be at least 20 hours a week. "Where you and I might pick it up the first or second try, they may need 10 or 15 tries," she said. "They're not going to get that in an hour." In a time when finding any job is difficult, arranging jobs for students with special needs is more than challenging. Unlike other employees, earning wages is not as valuable to these students as are the social skills and experience gained. "On the college campus, they grow so much emotionally and socially," McLissa pointed out. "It's amazing, and if I could get that same exposure on a job, then I could have the same success."

McLissa has decided in order to fill the need for job opportunities for her students, she will create jobs for them herself. A year ago, she began the nonprofit organization, Bridges, and just recently they received their 501(c)(3) status designation. "We're going to open a store front, and what that will allow us to do is take these students, and if we can't find them a job out in the community, they can work within Bridges," McLissa explained. "We'll be able to take them out in the community and say they've been doing this for 20

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hours a week, so they can transfer the experience over. I call it a vocational training work site."

After over a year of hard work, Bridges will be ready to launch this fall. "It's funny because you're like, *Hey, I'm going to start a nonprofit*, and you don't think it's going to be a big deal. It *is* a big deal," McLissa laughed. She has spent months organizing a board and finding property to open the storefront. "It's a lot of work," she admitted. "It takes time, and I try to give it a lot of focus while I'm still working full time. It's been a long process." After finding a lawyer to help her file for nonprofit status, McLissa began recruiting members of the community to contribute to Bridges, whether financially or by simply opening jobs up for her students in local businesses. Bringing her idea to fruition meant all the hard work was worth the effort. "For me, it was something I talked about for a long time, but then, finally, when I put feet to it, the idea started coming together."

McLissa has taught in Midlothian for five years and claims the spark for Bridges came from Midlothian Independent School District. "Everything started because Midlothian ISD came to me with the Elevate Program. That opened my eyes to the need," McLissa said. Soon after the Elevate Program was created, McLissa witnessed firsthand the students' capability of progress. "They come out here and get exposed to the least restrictive environment where they are around their peers," McLissa said, claiming that Bridges would take the Elevate Program a step further by taking the students with special needs out of

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their peer program and into everyday society, where they can challenge themselves and thrive.

She believes no one should place limits on students with special needs. "You can't look at someone and say they can't do something," MeLissa stated. "You might be able to tell me what they can't do in that second, but you can't tell me what they can't achieve." Instead, MeLissa prefers to ask, "What can you do? And what can I do to get you to that point? Everyone I work with is capable of a whole lot more

than what they're doing at that point in time."

To MeLissa, Bridges is about helping her students make social and professional connections. "The students and the clients I work with just need that bridge into the community," she declared. When she first began working with the Elevate Program, MeLissa was surprised to find



MeLissa Boler helps students, R.C. Tolliver and Kelsea Miller, bridge the gap between high school and young adulthood.

the students with special needs were able to blend in with the college environment. "They just need a little bridge over from where they're at in high school to where they can be as young adults. You and I might be able to assimilate right in, but they need help. I think the passion for me is in knowing they can do it and wanting to help them do that."

MeLissa encourages everyone in the community to get involved in upcoming events and fundraisers. "One thing I

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have found, especially with Midlothian, is when something comes around they can help with, they do it," McLissa remarked. "There is a real outpouring from Midlothian. They are great about that."

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"You can't look at someone and say they can't do something."

She also encourages everyone to search for job opportunities for participants of Bridges in Midlothian and surrounding communities like Waxahachie and Red Oak. "If you have a job someone could do, we're going to need jobs in these communities for our guys."

McLissa is excited for Bridges to get up and running. She's eagerly awaiting the difference she feels it's going to make in the lives of so many students. She seems more passionate about working with students with special needs than ever before. She enthused, "It's probably just about the best job you could ever ask for." **NOW**





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*Eureka Springs has a mysterious effect on people. No one seems to be able to explain their love affair with the place. Secluded and peaceful with winding mountainside streets, the city has flair like no other. Chosen as one of America's "Dozen Distinctive Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, this Victorian village boasts the country's only entire downtown on the National Register of Historic Places. Nestled in the Ozark Mountains of Northwest Arkansas are painstakingly preserved Victorian homes that hug the sides of cliffs and hillsides. The city has block after block of one-of-a-kind shops, boutiques, fine art galleries, craft emporiums, spas and restaurants.*







Eureka Springs is a small town and proud of it! The absence of traffic lights, malls and giant discount stores is a big part of the lure. Fewer than 2,500 folks live in this magical, friendly village, and yet there's as little or as much to do as you like. While many come to Eureka Springs to enjoy the slow-paced peace and quiet, those who are looking for an adventure can find plenty to do as well.



More than 20 million have seen the *Great Passion Play*, America's largest-attended outdoor drama, a depiction of Jesus Christ's last days on earth. One of the country's largest sanctuaries for big cats, Turpentine Creek Wildlife Refuge, rescues large felines and places them in natural habitats. Visitors to Eureka Springs can enjoy nightly music shows, annual jazz, blues and bluegrass festivals, opera and the country's oldest folk festival.

The opera season stretches through June and July. The Eureka Springs Blues Festival is in June, the Eureka Springs Bluegrass Festival happens in August and Jazz Eureka Festival is in September. Eureka Springs has hosted the Ozark Folk Festival each October since 1947, which makes it the country's longest continuously running folk festival. Events include a songwriter competition, a parade, the Barefoot Ball and, of course,

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lots of good folk music. The traditional kickoff to the festival is a queen's contest featuring a square dance performance by the Hedgehoppers — students from Eureka Springs' third-grade classes. Free musical acts perform in the park all week with headline acts in The Auditorium as the grand finale of the week. A staple of nearly every Ozark Folk Festival is a craft show, celebrating the diverse skills of our many area craftspeople.

Every second Saturday, there are free outdoor concerts, shows at the city auditorium and colorful parades for every occasion! Other attractions include zip lines, a steam train, ghost tours, carriage rides and a show with an illusionist and medium. Trolleys are a preferred way to get around the winding, crisscrossed streets — run year-round, though for fewer days and hours during the winter months. With over 115 stops around town, the trolley provides convenient transportation for all ages.

Lodging options include something for everyone. Numerous family-owned motels, historic hotels and Victorian homes turned into bed-and-breakfasts and nightly rentals, as well as unique tree houses, rustic cabins and quaint cottages are tucked into the hillsides and woods. You can even sleep with tigers outside your window at Turpentine Creek!



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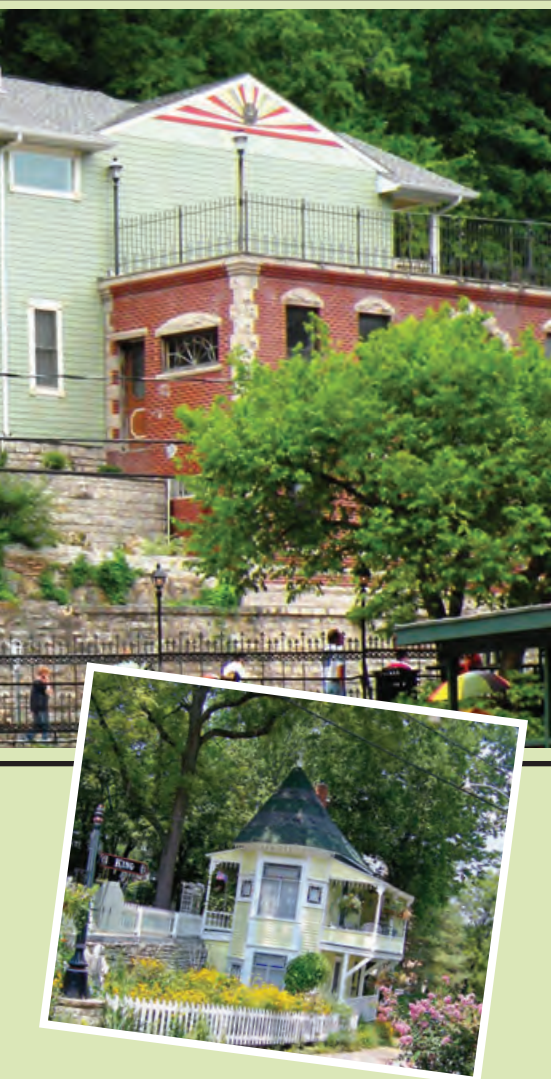
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Eureka Springs can satisfy anyone's appetite — from down-home Southern food to romantic, candlelit dinners. Award-winning restaurants serve savory Czech-German dishes, authentic Italian cuisine and spicy East Indian fare. You'll find Mediterranean, Chinese, Irish, Mexican, Cajun and Thai, as well. You can also dine on a dining car at Eureka Springs & North Arkansas Railway.

Despite Eureka Springs's small population, more than 300 residents are working artists, helping the town make the list of "Top 25 Arts Destinations" by *AmericanStyle* magazine for the past several years. The entire month of May is proclaimed May Festival of the Arts — dedicated to all the arts, including: theater, performing arts and music. Other events like a monthly gallery stroll and artists' studio tours celebrate these artists' works on a regular basis. For those who wish to expand their own personal creative art expression, the Eureka Springs School of the Arts offers

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a variety of art workshops for adults and children throughout the year.

Outdoor adventures abound. The city is surrounded by two rivers, White River and Kings River, and three lakes, Lake Leatherwood, Table Rock Lake and Beaver Lake. On the latter two, there is great fishing and smooth water for canoe/kayak float trips. Take a guided cruise, rent a boat or Jet Ski or even paddle board! The 1,600-acre Lake Leatherwood City Park is crisscrossed with hiking and biking trails, and the 85-acre, spring-fed lake is perfect for a day of swimming, boating or fishing. Nearby caves and caverns are perfect for exploring on a hot summer day.

The town's history is colorful and lengthy. Artifacts of Eureka Springs' rich past are displayed in the Historical Museum. Eureka Springs first drew visitors in the late 1800s because of the healing powers believed to be present in over 60 natural springs there. The healing tradition spawned by the springs in the early days lives on today in the abundance of day spas, massage therapists, herbalists and alternative healers. While the springs today are not potable, they are wonderfully landscaped and lushly gardened. They provide excellent picnic and rest areas and give a beautiful arboretum-like feel.

This is decidedly not an ordinary town, and most definitely a destination of distinction. For more information or to plan your extraordinary escape, visit [www.eurekasprings.org](http://www.eurekasprings.org). **NOW**

*By Gina Drennon. Photos courtesy of Eureka Springs CAPC.*



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— By Betty Tryon

“We are like the doctor for the hair or the artist for the hair, and the hair is our canvas,” said Debbie Hunt, proprietress of New Day Salon and Spa. Making your hair beautiful is her business. She started New Day Salon and Spa in downtown Midlothian in October 2012. Owning her business is a different venture for Debbie, but it holds exciting and fresh possibilities. “That’s why we named it New Day,” she declared. “It’s a new beginning. Having a new place to work is refreshing and renewing.”

Joining Debbie at the salon are six other ladies who, although they work independently at their craft, have joined together to make a great team. “We do everything — nails, hair

and massages,” Debbie stated. “We offer colors, highlights, lowlights and haircuts for all ages. We like to say we have an upscale, relaxing environment.”

One of the stylists joining Debbie is Diana Farnsworth. She is a hairstylist with 17 years of specializing in coloring, highlights and haircutting on women, men and children of all ages. Diana offers Joico hair care products for sale. Another stylist who works on hair is Stacy Owens, who has worked with Debbie for over 20 years. Stacy sells Alterna, a full organic line for hair care products.

Debbie and Angela Freeman have also worked together for 20 years. Angela is a licensed aesthetician with her field



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of expertise in skin care, facials and massages. "I offer a variety of facials and skin care treatments customized to your needs and concerns," Angela explained. "Microdermabrasion, photo facials and peels are available, giving visible results for your age correction concerns, such as fine lines, firmness and brown spots. Also, let me recommend products from our skin care lines for you to use at home. This will further enhance your results." She also sells the Yonka skin care line and has sold it for over 20 years.

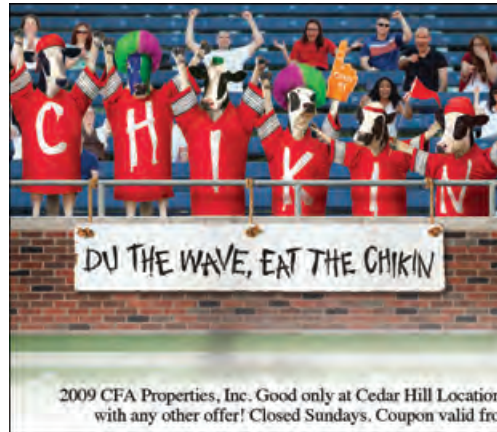
In addition to Angela performing massages, Samme Winkles is a licensed massage therapist and certified in Rich Therapeutic Technique. She is also skilled in reflexology and aromatherapy. Samme uses her skills to bring relaxation and relief from stress and pain to some of your most troubling areas.

Another addition to New Day Salon is Erika Seamayer-Williamson, who is a medical aesthetician, permanent makeup artist, manicurist and eyebrow specialist. With more and more teenagers and women specifically focusing on the shape of their lovely eyebrows, it is a big bonus that New Day now has a specialist on board!

Sharlene Cazares is well-known for her artistic abilities. Already talented at painting beautiful wall pictures, she takes that great ability and shrinks it down to tiny masterpieces on nails. At New Day Salon, she does manicures, pedicures and nail art.

New Day Salon sells products for the hair and skin. "We use really great products, so their hair is healthier than when they came in," Debbie stated. "I sell mostly Kevin Murphy, which is a natural product, and Moroccan oil. I use it for fine and coarse hair. I have to customize it for my clients. I also use Aquage, another natural product, and Revita. I've been in the business for over 20 years and like to try almost everything to see how the products perform. I chose these products because I feel like their performance is top notch."

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*Elliot from Baxter Elementary and Cameron from WGMS visit the Carlsbad Caverns National Park with their parents.*



*Don and Wanda Wilson take a moment to reflect on 56 years of marriage.*



*Dale Martin breaks down boxes on a hot summer day in Midlothian.*



*Leah, Allie and Leanna attend their cousin's wedding.*



*Participants stroll through Mockingbird Nature Park on a recent wildflower and bird walk.*



*Chris Roberts and his daughter, Lillieyana Roberts, go shopping.*



*Dennis Lanterbach and Belinda Talbot volunteer at the Senior Citizens Food Pantry.*



*Tammie Zuccaro, owner of Great Vapes, takes a moment to visit.*



*Members of the Midlothian Bible Church VBX team celebrate together.*



*Creative Quilters Guild of Ellis County 2013 Quilt Show committee and non-guild volunteers assist in all aspects of the show with smiles.*



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### September 5

The Terrace at Midtowne Grand Opening of Midlothian's newest rental community for persons age 62 and up: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., 991 Abigail Way. Everyone is invited. RSVP by calling (469) 324-0040.

### September 6 — 7

Dale Hansen Football Classic: 4:00 p.m., Stuart B. Lumpkins Stadium, 1000 Hwy 77 North, Waxahachie. Games will feature Italy Gladiators vs. Malakoff Tigers, Florence Buffaloes vs. Thrall Tigers and Alvarado Indians vs. Mexia Blackcats.

### September 7

Cruisin' for St. Jude's Research Hospital Car Show: 10:00-2:00 p.m., Getzendaner Park, 400 S. Grand Ave. \$15 registration fee with all proceeds going to St. Jude's Hospital. Contact Alan Krohn at (214) 808-4019 or visit [www.midlothianclassicwheels.com](http://www.midlothianclassicwheels.com).

### September 7, 14, 21, 28

Midlothian Downtown Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-noon, Heritage Park by the Larkin Newton log cabin. 234 N. 8th St. Local preserves, produce and goodies. Open air market sponsored by the Midlothian Downtown Business Association.

### September 14

Midlothian Chamber of Commerce Annual Auction and Dinner: Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle. Tickets are \$50 at the door. For more information about the event, including a list of donations, please contact the Chamber at (972) 723-8600 or email [info@midlothianchamber.org](mailto:info@midlothianchamber.org).

### September 16

Wildflower and Bird Walk: 8:00- 10:00 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park. Join us on this half-mile stroll along the trails as we identify the wildflowers and birds. The public is invited to attend, and there is no charge. Participants should bring drinking water and binoculars for bird watching.

### September 19

Ellis County Friends of the NRA: 5:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community

Circle Dr. Contact John Capps at (972) 435-1170 or [john@jctcxcpa.com](mailto:john@jctcxcpa.com) for more information.

### September 21

Silver Ring Thing: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Southwestern Assemblies of God University, Sheaffer Full Life Center Chapel, 1200 Sycamore St., Waxahachie. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m., parent session at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6 online, \$8 at the door and \$5 group online. The 2-hour stage performance incorporates high energy music, special effects, fast-paced video, personal testimonies and comedy delivered in a way that teenagers can respond and relate. For more information, visit [www.silverringthing.com](http://www.silverringthing.com).

### September 28

Wish Upon A Paw Goes Western: 6:00-11:00 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. This is a dinner and silent auction event with proceeds going to the Ellis County SPCA. Email your questions to [director@elliscountyspca.org](mailto:director@elliscountyspca.org).

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



**Painting Lessons**

Local Artist and Teacher, Jana Jennings, is now signing up for fall classes for children ages 8-18 to be held at her NEW Studio in Ovilla. Call for additional information.

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## In The Kitchen With Danielle Schrodtt

— *By Betty Tryon*

If you are going to an event in the South, it is almost a sure bet food will be present. Danielle Schrodtt's cooking was influenced by her mom who was reared in the Deep South. "A love for food and cooking for family and friends was instilled in me at a young age," Danielle said. "My grandmother won an award for her baking at the Alabama State Fair in the 1960s.

"The kitchen is our favorite room in the house!" Danielle stated. "We have two growing boys who are about to eat us out of house and home, so I strive to cook hearty meals." Danielle shares a few of her favorite family recipes for your family to enjoy. **NOW**

### Nana's Spaghetti Pie

- 8 oz. spaghetti**
- 2 Tbsp. butter**
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated**
- 2 eggs**
- 1 cup cottage cheese**
- 1 lb. ground beef**
- 1/2 cup chopped onion**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**
- 6 oz. tomato paste**
- 1 tsp. sugar (optional)**
- 14.5-oz. Italian style tomatoes, diced**
- 1 cup mozzarella, shredded**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Cook and drain spaghetti.
- 2.** Mix butter, spaghetti, Parmesan cheese and eggs.
- 3.** Layer this mixture in the bottom of a greased 10-inch pie plate. Add cottage cheese on top.
- 4.** Cook beef and onion; drain. Mix remaining ingredients, except mozzarella

cheese, into meat.

- 5.** Layer meat mixture on top of cottage cheese. Cook for 20-30 minutes. Top with mozzarella cheese and cook 10 minutes more.

### Breakfast Casserole

- 1 lb. bulk pork sausage**
- 1 cup bell pepper, chopped**
- 1/2 cup onion, chopped**
- 32 oz. frozen Southern style hash brown potatoes, thawed**
- 2 cups sharp cheddar, freshly shredded (divided use)**
- 1 cup Bisquick mix**
- 2 cups milk**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**
- Dash of Tony Chachere's Creole Seasoning**
- 4 eggs**

- 1.** Heat oven to 400 F. Grease a 9x13-inch dish with olive oil.
- 2.** Cook sausage, bell pepper and onion in

skillet on medium heat until sausage is no longer pink; drain.

- 3.** Stir together sausage mixture, hash brown potatoes and 1 1/2 cups cheese in baking dish.
- 4.** Stir Bisquick mix, milk, pepper, Creole seasoning and eggs, until blended. Pour into baking dish.
- 5.** Bake uncovered for 40-45 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake 1 minute longer until cheese melts.

### Bama Cherry Squares

- 1 box white cake mix**
- 1/2 cup softened butter (divided use)**
- 1 1/4 cups rolled oats (divided use)**
- 1 egg**
- 1 21-oz. can cherry pie filling**
- 1/2 cup nuts, chopped**
- 1/4 cup brown sugar**


- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease 9x13-inch pan with butter or Pam.
- 2.** Combine cake mix, 6 Tbsp. of butter and 1 cup of oats. Mix until crumbly. Reserve 1 cup of crumbs for topping.
- 3.** Add 1 egg to remaining crumbs; mix until blended. Press into pan.
- 4.** Pour pie filling over crust; spread to cover.
- 5.** In a separate bowl, combine reserved crumbs and remaining ingredients. Beat until mixed.
- 6.** Sprinkle topping over cherry mixture. Bake for 30-40 minutes, or until golden brown. Cool completely.

### Oven Fried Chicken

- 3 cups corn flakes, crushed (divided use)**
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated**
- 1 tsp. salt**
- 1/4 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1/4 tsp. pepper**
- 1/4 tsp. Creole seasoning**
- 4-6 chicken breasts, boneless, skinless**
- 1/2 cup butter, melted**

- 1.** Combine first 6 ingredients, using only 1 cup corn flakes, in a large Ziploc bag; seal and shake well.
- 2.** Dip one chicken breast in butter; place in bag. Seal and shake to coat chicken completely. Remove chicken and repeat with remaining chicken breasts.
- 3.** Place chicken on lightly greased 15- x 10-inch jelly roll pan. Sprinkle remaining cornflake crumbs over chicken. Bake uncovered at 400 F for 45 minutes. Serve hot.





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