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“Creating a Successful Future!”



The high school #2 groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 17 to celebrate the official start of the construction and development phase of the district's 10th school. Pictured are MISD School Board, Superintendent Dr. Stewart, VLK Architects and Balfour Beatty Construction representatives.



Each school day there are 60 buses that transport over 3,000 students to and from school. MISD will celebrate School Bus Safety Week October 15-19 as a community awareness to keep students safe. Motorists are encouraged to use extra caution when driving in school zones, slow down and pay attention to school bus traffic.



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Midlothian ISD has a comprehensive Energy Management program to control the cost of every kilowatt-hour consumed, maintain energy-using systems in peak condition, and secure support at the campus level. This initiative has saved the district \$327,349 from June 2011 to August 2012.



Celebrate Homecoming!

The community is invited to the MHS Homecoming pep rally at 7 p.m. on October 24 at the MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium.

October 26 Events

- 3:00 p.m. Parade (Details online)
- 7:30 p.m. Panthers vs. South Grand Prairie Warriors varsity football game

Parade participants will be charged a \$1 fee with proceeds benefiting the Ethan Hallmark family. For more information, email midlothianpanthercheerleaders@gmail.com.



As part of MISD's initiative to be Tech Stars, 6th grade students at Walnut Grove Middle School scan QR codes using mobile devices.



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ON THE COVER



Joyce Griffith proudly coaches the MHS cheerleaders.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Midlothian!

I could wax eloquent about the changing of the seasons with all of the accompanying colors. But this year, October means only one thing to me. The end of the exasperating and annoying march of bugs is near! Our mild winter and wet spring gave them the perfect breeding ground to proliferate and inhabit the earth in biblical proportions. At least to me it feels that way. I have a lifelong adversarial relationship with the critters. I know they have their

uses and all that, but any bug that dares to cross my path might as well say goodbye to life. My olive branch to all the bug lovers is to take heart. For every one bug I get there are billions more waiting to take its place. However, hope springs eternal, and I wait breathlessly for the first freeze!

P.S. If you have story leads, please send them to my new e-mail address, which is listed below.

Betty

Betty Tryon
MidlothianNOW Editor
betty.tryon@nowmagazines.com

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



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CHEERERS

For the New Team

— By Betty Tryon



Joyce Griffith did something the majority of coaches in her position would never dare try. She took a brand new team, entered them in a national competition, and they won first place as novices! After only nine practices, this team, still in its infancy, dared to go to Cowboys Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys in Arlington, and compete in the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Nationals. "We picked a new team in February and decided in March to compete," Joyce, the new district cheer director stated.

The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders partnered with a cheerleading company from the National Cheerleaders Association (NCA) or the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) in order to run the event. "This company comes in and puts on the competition," Joyce explained. The involvement of the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders is not as judges but as presenters of the awards. During breaks at the competition, they also come out and cheer with the group as entertainment. "There are 12 to 15 professional judges on the panel. Different judges evaluate different things. For example, one judge might look at tumbling, another might be looking at stunts, and another will look for rule infractions. The judging panel is made up of the NCA, which is the big cheer company in Texas, or the UCA, which is the larger cheer company throughout the rest of the country. The goal of the high school competition is to win the NCA nationals in Dallas. The cheerleading association judging the competition is separate from the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders, who hold this competition as a fundraiser." The routine the group performed was comprised of a cheer, stunts, a pyramid,

a dance, standing tumbling, running tumbling and jumps. All of this had to be accomplished in two-and-a-half minutes. Music during part of the routine stops for the cheer part, and then it starts up again. However, the MHS cheer team's performance was not without a mishap. "While performing, the music messed up, but they just kept going and still hit it flawlessly," Joyce said. "They had us do it again to the music, and I thought, *There is no way we can do it again as perfectly, because we've already done it once.* They did it again the same way! It was *amazing.*"

This triumph was achieved with a lot of hard work, but surprisingly, with less than 14 hours of practice with spring break in the middle of it. The team did have a secret weapon, Michael Wright of Liberty Cheer All-Stars. "He really is a master at putting all that together and maximizing the score sheet," Joyce shared. "The amazing thing is most teams work on their routines for months and months. Even the school teams will work on their routines for six to eight months. I was just taken aback at how well they learned it and worked together."

The school team competed as novices, which means they were limited in the number of stunts and tumbling allowed in the competition. In addition, an individual on the team was singled out for special recognition. "There is a section of judges that looks for kids who stand out above all of the individuals in

"While performing, the music messed up,
but they just kept going
& still hit it **FLAWLESSLY!**"



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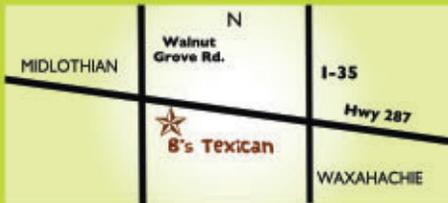
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a division for the WOW Award. Micha Wiggins, who will be a senior this year, won the award. She is totally deaf with double cochlear implants. After we performed, one of the judges came over and asked what her name was. He was just so impressed with her.”



The competitive team is comprised of 32 members. Included in that number were the 20 new varsity cheer members, some returning seniors from the previous squad and some new junior varsity cheerleaders. Joyce wanted the higher number for the performance at Cowboys Stadium. “I wanted to carry 32 girls, which is the maximum number for their division,” she said. “It looks better when you can get so many doing the exact same thing at the same time. Doing the cheer where we spell out Panthers, holding up signs and doing the different stunts with that large of a group on point looks amazing.”

Midlothian will have an opportunity to see at least part of the performance at some point during the 2012–13 school year. “We will probably do part of the routine at one of the pep rallies,” Joyce remarked. “But I would rather a pep rally not be a performance of any one group, so the student body doesn’t hate going. They do get tired of just watching the cheerleaders, or whoever it is, doing something instead of participating

themselves. I'm really big on everybody being involved. Maybe we'll do the performance before a football game or something to showcase it." The MHS cheerleaders will also take the routine they learned for the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders Nationals and participate this school season at a few other events.

The new varsity cheer team started the school year with some great talent. "There are different strengths on the varsity team. There are some who are great gymnasts, and we spotlight that. Paige Kirkland is a great gymnast, and



we make sure her tumbling is featured. I have some who are phenomenal on stunts. Maegan Hartson is a phenomenal cheerleader who flies and tumbles — the whole package. I have some who are great dancers, and we feature them in the dance part. There are so many different things going on in the routine, that there is no one hidden in the back for long. If they aren't as strong a tumbler or jumper, then they may be a great dancer. They all move around. Michael is a master at bringing that in," Joyce said.

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Throughout the year, Joyce and the team will create some of the choreography used in cheers and for other events. Through trial and error, the team uses routines learned at cheer camp, comes up with original routines and replays popular cheers and stunts from year to year. "We do some staging or blocking where we move people around. But during the year, at the football games and basketball games, the best cheers are the ones the crowd can follow — simple and short with easy words. We don't do many of the long cheers you might do at competition. It's all about, 'Go Panthers! Go, Panthers, go!'" This school year, the student body and community can look forward to being entertained by a highly competent and talented team. **NOW**

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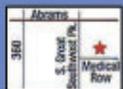
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DRAWING FOR GLORY

— By Betty Tryon

Looking upon the face of her newborn, the mother could not help herself. She had to touch her, had to hold her, had to kiss her. Swaddled in blankets, only her tiny face was visible. Tenderness and love were etched into every line on the mother's face as she lowered her lips to sweet innocence. Mary Wyrzzen, drawer and painter had captured the essence of motherhood in her drawing titled First Kiss.

Mary's awakening to the world of art occurred when she was in grade school watching an artist perform her magic. "A chalk artist came to our church, and I was totally fascinated by her work. She was married to an evangelist, and every night at the meeting she would draw absolutely gorgeous things with pastel chalk. She would draw scenes like Jesus in the garden, or something like that. Then they would turn a blue light on it and certain colors would pop out. They had a trailer that they parked on my mom and dad's

Mary Wyrzzen



MADE IN THE

land, sort of the church parsonage land, and I would spend a lot of time with her absorbing her talent. She gave me little chalk ends to mess around with, and she was the one who got me started. Since then, I have always enjoyed drawing," Mary said.

Although she is now very skilled as an artist, Mary was not trained in her craft. Along the way, she has had some interesting assignments that helped hone her skill, one of which was to draw a negative in high school. "I drew a warrior on a horse," she stated. "The drawing was to look like a photo negative, so whatever was going to be printed white, I had to do black, and whatever was going to be printed black, I had to do white. That was my first commissioned piece in high school."

After high school,



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Mary went to college and then married. During the early 1970s, acrylics became popular. Mary enjoyed that particular medium, so she painted many acrylics. She was able to display them and was shocked when the paintings started selling. She allowed the buyer to set the price and did so well she was able to put her husband, Dave, through at least one semester of seminary. She vividly remembers when the last painting sold. "We were living in Midlothian and had absolutely no money, and the last check from a painting came in the mail. We were so surprised and thankful!" Mary enthused.

The couple had four children, and for a period of 25 years, Mary stopped painting. "It was the busyness of life," she explained. "With the kids and their activities and ministry, I just didn't have time for painting."

Getting back into painting was a little difficult for her. "After being out for so long, you lose your confidence," she shared. "Even with cooking, if you don't do it regularly, you lose your skill. There is a lot of ego involved. When you are creating anything, you are exposing a part of yourself, so there is some fear involved."

Mary had a revelation when reading the book, *The Artist's Way*. She realized just how much she had been starving her artistic nature. "It was hard for me to figure out how spending hours painting would glorify the Lord when maybe no one would ever see it," she shared. Then she began to wonder if it really mattered if anybody ever saw it. "That book was instrumental in freeing me up to express myself that way," she said.

Mary's return to painting was by the sheer will and persistence of her

neighbor, Peggy Knight. Peggy knew Mary had painted and wanted her to accompany her to an artist retreat for a weekend. It was there that Mary was introduced to portraiture painting and oil painting. Her first try at oil painting — a painting of her daughter, Jenae — now hangs in the front room of her home.

Although oil painting has some benefits over acrylics, Mary prefers painting with acrylics. “I paint with oil like some people paint with acrylics,” she

Although Mary’s style is realistic, she very much wants to give impressionism a try.



said. My colors pop and seem to be very vibrant. Oil takes so long to dry. Some of my paintings have taken six months to dry. I remember one painting I finished in April and was finally able to give it to the person in November. My frustration with oil is that I’d like to get the project done.”

Out of all the ways to create the perfect picture, Mary prefers pencil. Compared to the other methods, pencil sketching is very portable. She can take her supplies with her wherever she goes. It is also inexpensive. Laughing she

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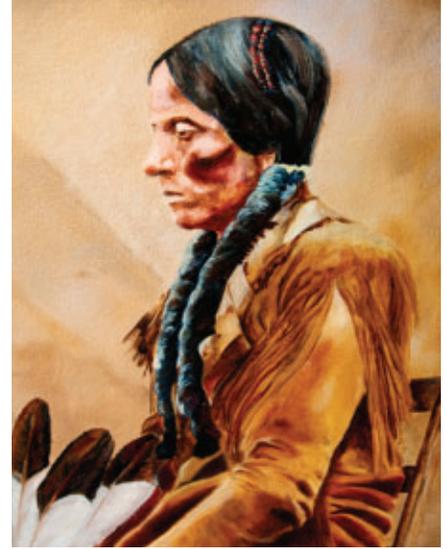
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stated, "You can't lose too much if you mess up. I get gratification from it and can easily spend eight to 16 hours on it if it is a complicated drawing."

When drawing people, Mary tries to capture the inner being or the essence of a person. When drawing situations, she finds the life in the scene and brings it forth for viewers, who can enjoy her artwork via her Web site where she displays her drawings and paintings. Once she did a portrait of one of her nieces who was killed. It was such a tragic and sad time that she wanted to give her family something to bless them. "I was pretty happy with the painting," she said, "but it was really hard to do, because I didn't have the person there anymore, but I did have certain memories."

Another painting of a scene Mary wanted to capture was when her daughter-in-law, Courtney, was holding nearly 2-year-old Blythe on her shoulders standing in front of Mary's crape myrtle. "I just wanted to give her something with a particular verse to bless her. I wanted to express love to her. It was just the outline of the two of them, and I call it primitive. I didn't do anything with shading. After I developed my personal style, I wanted the photo back to redo it, but Courtney loves it the way it is."

Although Mary's style is realistic, she very much wants to give impressionism a try. "I have pictures that flip through my mind that I want to paint. I heard an expression when I was in Canada — 'running through fields of mercy' — and every time I think of that saying, pictures I want to paint pop into my head." Whether creating with acrylics or pencils, Mary recognizes it "as an expression of how God made me, and by using it I can glorify him." **NOW**

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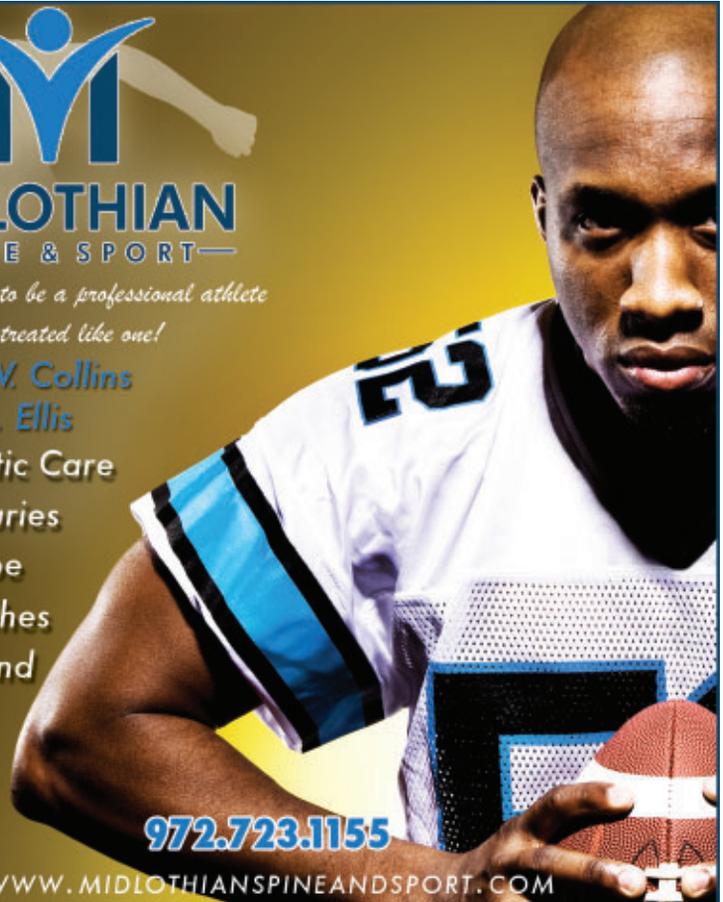
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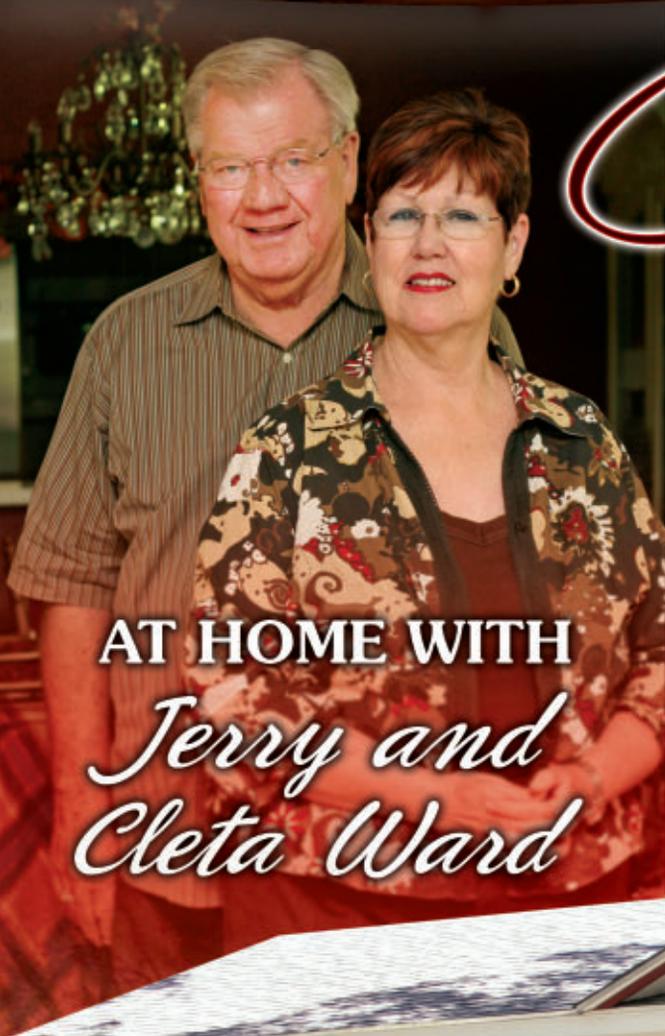
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Country

Comfort

— By Cindy Malone

Some people were born and reared Texan. Some, realizing they were Texan at heart, got here as quickly as possible. Some, like Jerry and Cleta Ward, needed to try a few other places to appreciate Texas and find their way home to Midlothian.



AT HOME WITH
*Jerry and
Cleta Ward*

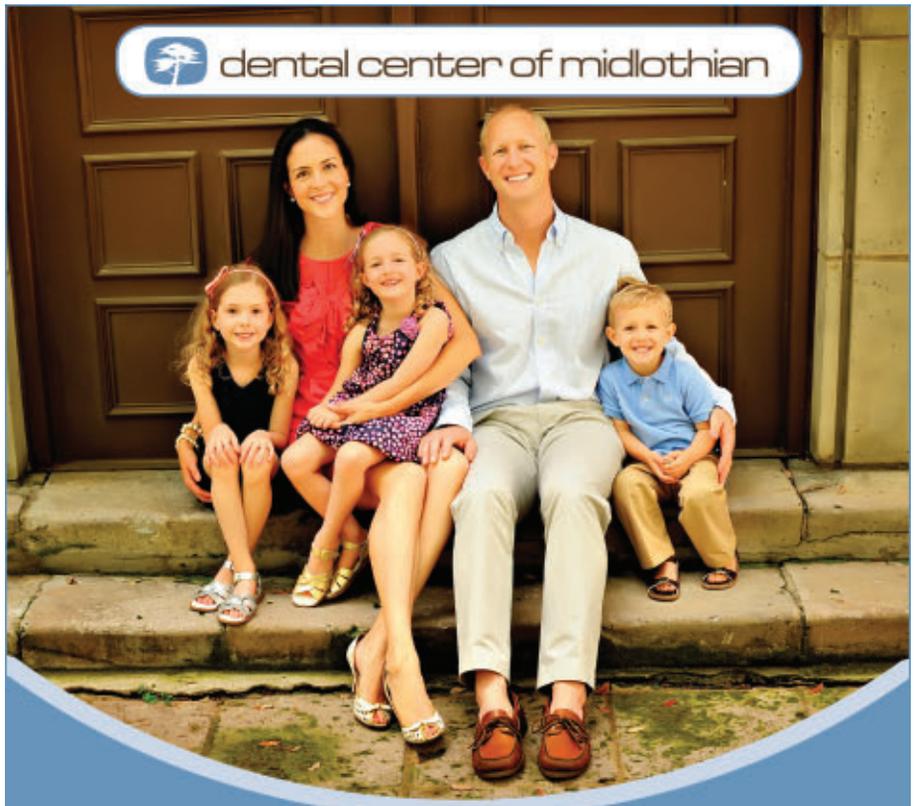


Cleta was born and grew up in Stephenville. Jerry was born and reared in Grayson County, near Sherman. Cleta worked for a motor investment company, and Jerry, a salesman at heart, sold cars at Bill McDavid Pontiac in Fort Worth. The two fell in love and were married in 1962 and began moving. "Salesmen follow the business," Jerry explained. Cleta traveled with him and enjoyed trying different places like Colorado and Arizona, while caring for her growing family. "Our son, Warren, was born in Fort Worth; our daughter, Stephanie, in Houston; and our baby, Tiffany, in Colorado," Cleta said. Before passing away suddenly at the age of 29, Warren, inheriting his dad's salesmanship, managed Reliable Chevrolet. "It's still not something we can talk about without getting emotional," Jerry explained. "But we love to be reminded of him and talk about him every day."

Some decorations from Warren's home, as well as gifts from the girls, adorn the walls in the living room, the front room of the couple's 19th century home. "We moved to Midlothian in 1974 when I went to work for Chaparral Steel,



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but we bought this home in 1994,” Jerry explained. They wanted an old house, one with antique-like charm, but not over-polished — one they could work on and make their own. “I saw this house the day it went on the market. We looked at it that night and struck a deal standing on the front porch,” Cleta said.

Once they purchased the home, a member of Jerry’s Masonic Lodge in Midlothian mentioned he and his son had worked on the house in 1929, and

he believed it to be a Sears’ kit house from the late 1890s. The house was pretty plain in 1994, something Cleta was determined to change. The living room is painted a light neutral color. During the fall season, the mantel is decorated with a large fall branch, trimmed with hanging moss and fall leaves. On one wall hangs a photograph of Cleta’s family, taken, according to the back, in “Tucky” (Kentucky) in 1881. Cleta’s grandmother is a baby. She is seen sitting

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in the front of the group. An antique fan and several kerosene lamps, including some that belonged to Cleta's parents and grandparents, round out the living room decor. Photographs of Jerry's parents and his grandparents hang on the opposite wall. The bookshelf leading into the guest room is stuffed with Cleta's old hardbacks. The collection hints at her obsession with books.

In the lilac guest room, a four poster bed holds Cuddley, Cleta's childhood teddy bear. Mother's Day pictures (hardback card-like photographs) that Stephanie buys at antique stores and has been sending to Cleta for the past 20 years cover the walls. In this room, as well as in all the rooms, the doors and hardware are original to the home. Brass plates with crystal knobs also adorn both closet doors.

Deep red walls add a royal feel to the dining room. An upright piano, hanging wine rack, corner bar and curio cabinet add a modern feel to the small, country home. "I play a little," Cleta said, nodding toward the piano.

The curio cabinet holds a set of dishes accumulated by three people — Cleta, her mother and Warren. The dishes are blue and white Currier and Ives — a collection they began with stamps earned from Safeway. Between the kitchen and dining room is a pass-through, which lets the cook, usually Jerry, see all the way to the living area. Around the pass-through is a tangle of thin wood that normally holds seasonal decorations. "During Valentine's time, I hang cards that I received when I was a child," Cleta said.

Much like the pass-through, Cleta decorates her entire home, inside and out, for each season. From the Fourth of July through Labor Day, the dark red, gray and navy house, which sits on the corner, has a yard to match. Flags line the flower beds and swags hang from each post of

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the porch. "During Easter, everything is pastels and bunnies," Cleta explained. "Christmas at our house looks like the North Pole. But our favorite has to be the fall." When the pumpkins come in, Cleta decorates her front yard with red, gold, orange and purple.

The yard has definitely been Cleta's passion while living in this home. "Clela dug and planted every flower bed in this yard," Jerry shared. "She plans the flowers each year and pulls weeds often." On the walkway leading to the porch, decorative clay pots overflow with oversized pumpkins, moss and fall leaves, while hummingbird feeders hang from the porch roof. Clela also decorated the backyard — a true gathering place — with four seating areas, a large grill, a potting garden and a fort on stilts. "Our grandkids used to stay up there for hours," Clela said. The oldest grandson has been a successful Eagle Scout since the age of 15, and his 14-year-old brother is now following in his footsteps. Three younger grandchildren, ages 5, 7 and 10, come to visit several times during the year, but they rarely miss the family Easter egg hunt.

The large back porch off the kitchen is screened in and cooled with a ceiling fan. Jerry and Clela spend time out there each day drinking coffee. The kitchen truly looks like an old-fashioned country kitchen except that each appliance is stainless steel and ultra-modern. Jerry, grinning from ear to ear, said, "If I could do it again, I'd be a chef!"

Leading to the master bedroom is a small hallway. A four poster bed anchors the room, while a dresser-turned-desk sits at the foot. Soft colors and the quilt on the bed give the room a relaxing "getaway" feeling. The only bathroom completes the simple and elegant decorating theme. Antique mirrors cover the wall and a lingerie chest holds all of their toiletries, allowing them to have a pedestal sink.

They know the house seems small to most people. It is far from modern and is more reminiscent of old, country homes than one within minutes of a large Metroplex. But Jerry and Clela love it — every square foot — or lack thereof. "This is home. We love it here," Clela said, as Jerry nodded in agreement. "We love the area, the people and our home." **NOW**

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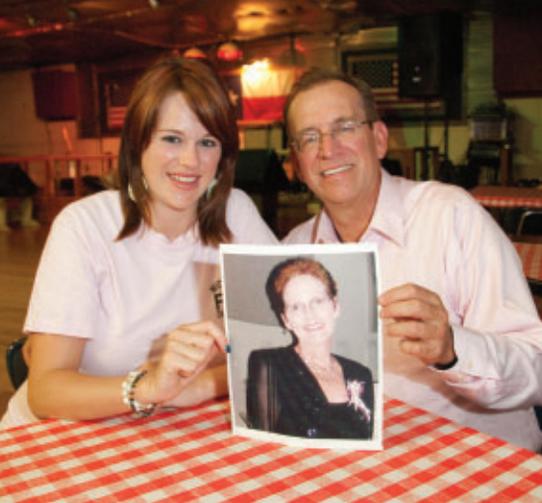
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WOMEN'S

Cancer

— By Dianne Reaux





According to the American Cancer Society, more than 230,000 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer annually in the United States, and each diagnosis is accompanied by a unique range of reactions, thoughts and emotions. Some people choose to close themselves off from others, if only for a while to absorb the enormity of their diagnosis. Others dig in with both heels, load both barrels and decide that they are ready for the fight of their lives. When Bill Davidson's wife, Marsha, was diagnosed with breast cancer, their journey was a unique blend of both.

Bill is a quiet, gentle, soul. He has a warm personality with an easygoing, "aw shucks" disposition. He speaks softly and has eyes that twinkle when he laughs. But his easygoing nature belies the strength he has demonstrated over the past few years. Bill is the president of the nonprofit organization Texans Against Breast Cancer, and it is a position he never could have dreamed of one day holding.

Born and reared in Oak Cliff, Bill enjoyed a typical Texas upbringing. Growing up, he loved fishing, playing tennis and scuba diving. He graduated from Kimball High School, attended Mountain View College and while he was a student, he started what would become a very successful, lifelong career working

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as a structural steel detailer. Throughout the years, many structures can be credited to Bill's aptitude for his trade. But there is one feather in his cap that is especially significant. Bill was one of the structural detailers of the George W. Bush Presidential Center on the Southern Methodist University campus in Dallas.

Marsha Davidson was also a native Texan. A very spiritual person, she was an active member of her church's single's ministry which was, incidentally, where she met and married Bill in 1981. Together, they enjoyed country-western dancing, spending time at the lake and traveling. Another leisure interest they shared was a love for snow skiing, "We spent our honeymoon in Winter Park, Colorado," Bill warmly recalled. "We enjoyed many Christmas holidays and spring breaks traveling to locations in Colorado, like Key Stone and Breckenridge." Married for 26 years, Bill and Marsha reared two children, Lindsey Davidson Medlock and Billy Davidson III, who both are now adults.

In October 2004, Marsha was diagnosed with breast cancer. "Initially, she reacted to the news the way most people do," Bill shared. "There were a lot of tears and a lot of questions. But, eventually, she decided that even though she had been diagnosed with the disease, she still wanted to help others. And she wanted to help others by helping the Susan G. Komen organization." Marsha, along with the help of their good friends, Barbara Ellison and Dalaine Fletcher, formed an organization whose mission would be, "to raise awareness of breast cancer, and the need for early detection and treatment."

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In 2007, Texans Against Breast Cancer was chartered as a nonprofit organization and although they are not directly affiliated with Susan G. Komen for the Cure, both organizations are fighting for the same cause. Each year, all net proceeds raised by Texans Against Breast Cancer are sent directly to the Cure.

Texans Against Breast Cancer has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds to help battle breast cancer. They try to reach as many people as they can because they know the significance of their message — being given access to and getting regular breast screenings are two of the best defenses against breast cancer. Screenings can help to detect the disease in its earliest stages — the stage when it is most treatable.

In 2008, Marsha lost her fight with breast cancer, but the organization has continued with its mission in honor of her memory. When she passed away, Bill stepped into her role and now serves as president of the organization — a role that he now cherishes. “I know how much Marsha loved working with people, and how genuine her desire was to help others,” he admitted. “The need for education and early detection is great, and that need still exists even though my wife is no longer with us. I know that Marsha would smile knowing that her efforts did not end with her.” With the continued help and committed support from their good friends, Dalaine and Mark Fletcher, and other faithful volunteers, Texans Against Breast Cancer continues to carry out its mission.

As with any nonprofit organization, Texans Against Breast Cancer has to raise money to support its efforts. In

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2007, "Kickin' for a Cause" was held in Ellis County to do just that. The foot-stomping, boot-scooting fundraiser has been such a success that the group decided to make it an annual event. Since October is designated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, "Kickin' for a Cause" will hold its sixth annual fundraiser October 19.

The event will be hosted by Mack and Dyan Cook, owners of the Western Kountry Klub. They have offered the free use of their venue for the fourth year in a row. If the name Western Kountry Klub sounds vaguely familiar, it's because the 1992 movie *Pure Country*, which starred George Strait in his acting debut, was filmed in the same venue.

"Kickin' for a Cause" is a fun-filled, family event that will feature local musicians Chuck Cusimano, Billy Keeble, The Mack & Dyan Band and many others. There will also be a large silent auction and a raffle for door prizes.

"The event will be one the entire family can enjoy," Bill shared. "So, if you have a chance, mark your calendar, come out and kick up your heels to help spread the word for a truly worthy cause!"

Bill, a man who is strong in his faith, could never have imagined that his journey in life would have led him to become an advocate in the fight against breast cancer. "My wife meant the world to me," he said with emotion in his voice. "And if I can do anything to help others — then I am willing to do whatever I can." Bill would also never consider himself a hero, but his efforts are heroic. Midlothian should be proud knowing that Bill and Texans Against Breast Cancer will continue to be on the front lines in the fight for a cure. **NOW**

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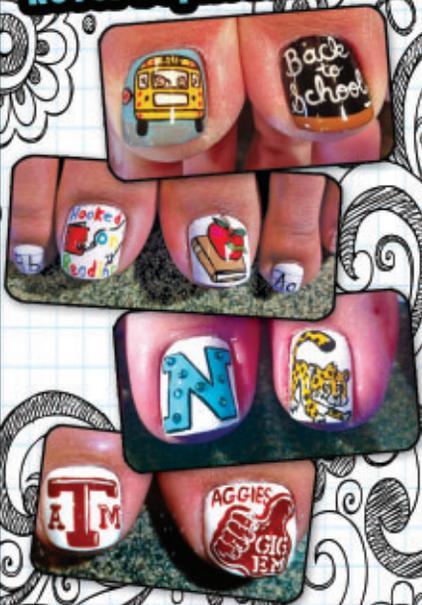


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LET'S GET MOVING!

— By Zachary R. Urquhart

When he left teaching before the 2004-05 school year began, Will Probst thought he was leading his family on a two-year mission trip in a remote part of the Caribbean Islands. Having taught for five years, he and his wife, Rhonda, wanted to reach out to those who hadn't heard of Christ. But, circumstances kept them in Texas. Will eventually found his way back to the same teaching job, where he has found his calling — to get kids active.

Will was born in Las Vegas and moved to Germany at age 5. His family moved all around Europe throughout his schooling. "I was one of the last graduates of Frankfurt American High School," he said. When it was time for college, Will looked exclusively at the East Coast. "I chose Campbell University over Clemson University, Duke University and a few others. Campbell was the only Christian school on the list, so that's why it beat the others."

Will had not always been so dedicated to his faith. He grew up going to church and had head knowledge, but started questioning his beliefs after being quizzed by a girl he knew in high school. "I started looking for answers, because I wanted to understand my faith. I went to a Baptist church with her, and then we went to Campbell together." Will headed for the small Christian school in North Carolina, where he met Rhonda. They now have six children: Noah, Isabella, Kenson, Jesi, Asher and Eden, ranging in age from 12 to 2.

After college, Will and Rhonda moved to Texas even though he did not have a job. "I ended up being offered a job coaching tennis and teaching ninth-grade PE," he said. "I thought it was perfect." Will started as the coach for both boys' tennis teams, then added the girls' and even helped start the middle school programs. "Four years of coaching tennis was pretty monotonous," he admitted. "A position opened up at Mt.



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Peak Elementary. I hadn't thought about teaching at that level, but it was perfect for me. I could be my goofy self." Will taught there for a year, and that's when he and Rhonda felt called to something different.

Will and Rhonda heard about an organization called EpicQuest, and they started praying about going on a two-year mission trip to St. Vincent. Will resigned from Midlothian Independent School District, so he could focus on raising funds, prepare for the transition and sell their house and possessions. "After a few months, literally everything we owned could fit in a small storage unit." In preparation for the move, they went to the island, and things began to change. "We had pictured an area with no amenities, where the people didn't know about God. But there were churches. They had cable TV. It was illuminating."

The couple began to consider not going. Rhonda's dad was having health problems. "About the time we got back from the visit to St. Vincent, Rhonda's dad passed away. We felt like we needed to take care of her mom," Will shared. "We were in a great place to move in with her and help her." About a year-and-a-half after the passing of Rhonda's dad, Will and Rhonda started looking into adoption. After a trip to Haiti, they began praying about adopting another child. "Four months into the process of adopting Kenson, we got a call from the agency. There was a girl they thought we might like to adopt as well. We left it in God's hands, and He provided."



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They adopted Kenson and Jesi in June 2009. "Since it was summertime," Will admitted, "I was able to be home to help with the transition."

In the midst of taking care of Rhonda's mom, Will began substitute teaching. He found a renewed vision as he went into other teachers' classrooms. "I had a long-term sub job for Mrs. Warren in Cedar Hill. She had songs for everything," he stated. "I learned a lot from her students about classroom management and interacting with the kids. I started bringing my guitar to class and singing with them, too." After a year of substitute teaching, Will began to look for a full-time position again. Several days after being declined a position in Cedar Hill, while feeling very anxious about his prospects, something familiar opened up. "The woman who took over for me at Mt. Peak was moving late in the summer, because her husband got a job as the athletic director in McKinney. So, shortly before the 2005-06 year began, I got my old job back. I definitely recognize God's hand in putting me back where I started, and where I need to be."

Will has been teaching at Mt. Peak Elementary for seven years now, and he has gained "rock-star" status among the kids. He attributes his notoriety to the way he interacts with and takes time out for the kids. "If a kid calls to me in the hall, I make it a point to acknowledge them and, maybe, give a high five or something," he said. He also makes frequent visits to the cafeteria to see the kids outside of his classroom.

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"Sometimes, I even get in trouble with the lunchroom aides for causing a commotion," he smiled. "If you ask them or anyone here, they will say I am just a bigger kid."

Will does some special things in his classroom, as well. "I try not to repeat games and activities too much, so things stay new for the kids." He uses incentives to get the students interested in what they are doing. "Our big fundraiser is Jump Rope for Heart," he shared. "Every year, I give them an amount and a dare. I dyed my goatee pink and shaved my head last year, and I have almost had to eat a worm and kiss a pig." Will motivates the students to be active outside of school. "I started pumping up the commercial workout. All of the kids watch TV, so I encourage them to do something during the breaks. They can get their heart rate up, even for a few minutes at a time."

Will knows that kids have always liked PE, because it gives them a chance to be active in the middle of their school day. He does his best to make sure it is fun and fair. His goal, though, is to get them active. "I always tell them, 'You don't have to be a pro ball player to get your heart rate up.'" Will has been down a long road to end up where he started. By following his passion he has found his calling in motivating kids to get moving. **NOW**

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Thank you, Kasey Murphy, for all you do for the office and for being a great Physician Assistant!

Dr. Stephen Trammell

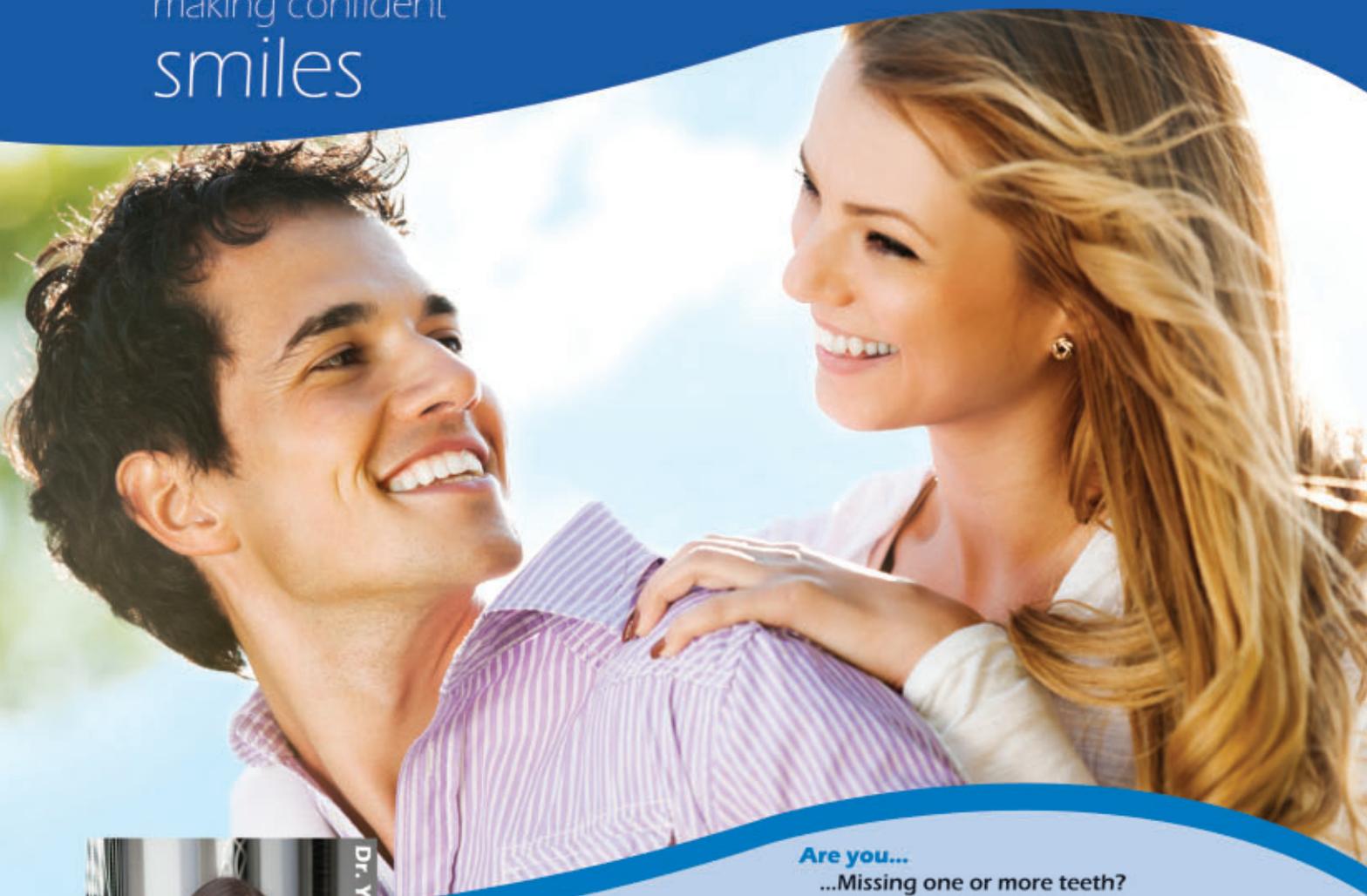
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Dr. Vazquez obtained a certificate in advanced graduate studies in General Practice Residency at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 2006 where she concentrated her training in special needs and medically compromised patients. In June 2009 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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— By Betty Tryon

Walking from one office to the other in the same building offers a totally different experience. On one side of the building you will find the quiet elegance that defines Brian Clark's offices. On the other side, you will see the child-friendly, but tastefully designed offices that signify Shelly Clark's specialty. They are both dentists, married with three children and live in Midlothian. Being a part of the Midlothian community is something Brian and Shelly both cherish. "We love the town of Midlothian," Brian stated. "We live here, and our kids go to school here." Brian grew up in Cedar Hill and Shelly in Kerrville. They met in dental school at Baylor College of Dentistry and celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary in August. He enjoys golf. She enjoys

cooking, but they both enjoy spending time with family.

Brian and Shelly practiced dentistry at his dad's dental practice for 15 years and have practiced in Midlothian for two years. Brian practices general dentistry, and Shelly is board certified in pediatric dentistry. Although in the same building, the offices are completely separate, as they are separate corporations.

Shelly trained at Children's Medical Center and the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Her specialty required two additional years of training in children with special needs and medically compromised children and also focused on early orthodontic treatment and sedation. Her practice spans that first visit and continues through the child's junior year in high school.

Business **NOW**

She encourages parents to bring their children to what her office calls a “happy visit” when they are between the ages of 1 and 3 for an introduction to dentistry. “We teach parents about brushing and fluoride, diet and prevention. We also do IV sedation or laughing gas (nitrous oxide) for children who are fearful or need to have a lot of treatment done.

“We are big on education and involving parents in the decision-making and making it a family type of experience,” Shelly explained. “I want to be their kid’s dentist, see them in the community and support them in every way possible. We feel like we are not just doing dentistry. We have a great opportunity to not only educate them on

“Brian practices general dentistry, and Shelly is board certified in pediatric dentistry.”

oral health care and overall total care, but to build them up, and our staff strives to do that.”

When walking down the hall into Brian’s offices, one can clearly see this is where the grown-ups go. Brian praises his staff also. “One of our best assets is our staff. They are highly trained and strive to make patients feel at home, while providing high-quality care,” he commented. “We do everything — crowns, root canals, IV sedation for wisdom teeth, cosmetic dentistry and ZOOM whitening.” His office also offers dental implants, bridges and even TMJ (temporomandibular joint) treatments. Brian remains on the cutting edge of technology and does a lot of continuing education to stay abreast of what is new, latest and best in dentistry.

Brian and Shelly provide 24-hour emergency care to their patients. They use digital radiographs, which are the latest in technology, and reduce exposure to their patients. From that first tooth to the need for dentures or implants, the Clark team can provide quality dental care. **NOW**



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MHS varsity volleyball players, Ashton Rawlings, Raegan Hydes, Meagan Jones and Courtney Tobolka, work for a team fundraiser at Oma's Jiffy Burger.



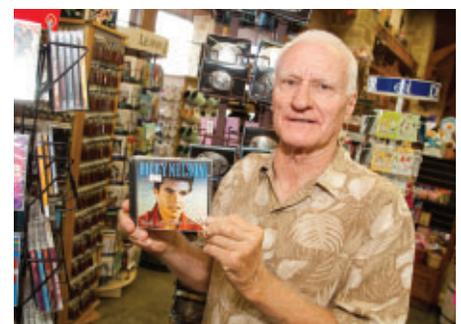
Greg Baker beats the summer heat with an ice cold soda.



Lane Snow and Brice Meyers enjoy lunch at Campuzano's following a Hitz Select Baseball Tournament.



Ricardo Higuera preps a house margarita at Tio Tony's Cantina.



Harold Love browses the CD selection at Texas Best Smokehouse.



Quilts 'n More owner Kathleen Allen helps Debbie McCann square up a quilt block.



The Green family enjoying lunch at Tio Tony's Mexican Food Restaurant.



Zach Stables, John Limberg and Chaz Cleveland enjoy lunch at Campuzano's.



Kenny Porter at Cash-N-Go Pawn Shop sells Christine Miranda a much needed window AC unit.



Mona Leigh Studio's Linsey Williams gives Jana Hathorne a color, cut and style.



Jeremy Vaughan, MD, PA

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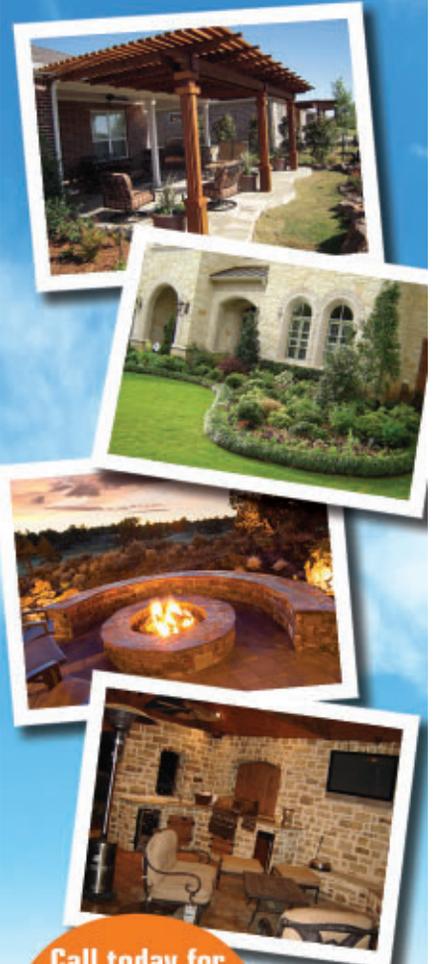
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October 1-31

11th Annual Midlothian Scarecrow Festival: Heritage Park in downtown Midlothian. The theme this year is "Storybook Time." For more information, call (972) 775-2151.

October 5

8th Annual Midlothian ISD Education Foundation Golf Tournament: 11:00 a.m., Mansfield National Golf Club. 12:30, registration/lunch, followed by shotgun start. Awards ceremony following tournament. If you are interested in being a tournament underwriter or a prize or gift bag sponsor, contact us at (972) 775-8296, ext. 1281 or visit foundation@midlothian-isd.net.

October 6, 13, 20 and 27

Midlothian Downtown Farmers Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St. The vendors sell a variety of items including produce, smoked meats, jewelry, home decorations, jams, jellies, breads, tamales, ice cream, teas, coffees, Scentsy, Pampered Chef, candles and more.

October 9

Voter Registration Day: 5:00 p.m. is the deadline

to register to vote in the November 6 general election. Visit VoteTexas.gov for more information.

October 13

Movies in the Park: begins at dusk, Hawkins Spring Park. For more information, call (972) 775-7777.

30th Annual Waxahachie Fun Run Car Show: 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Getzender Park, 400 S. Grand Ave., Waxahachie, \$20 per car. For more information, call John at (972) 937-0013.

October 16

Midlothian High School Fall Choir Concert: 7:00 p.m., Midlothian High School.

October 20

Midlothian Chamber of Commerce's Annual Fall Festival: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., MISD Multi-Purpose Stadium, S. 14th St. Festival will include arts, crafts, food, OctoberFAST Downhill Dash 5K Run, demonstrations, and more.

Fall at the Ranch for Families with Special Needs: 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., Paws for Reflection, 5431 Montgomery Rd., free event.

October 23

Annual Seeds of Hope Fundraiser Dinner: 6:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. Proceeds will benefit Hope Clinic. Please RSVP Barbara Clark at (469) 517-2523 or bclark@hopeclinicelliscounty.com for more information.

October 26-28

The Wizard of Oz: Oct. 26-27, 7:30 p.m.; Oct. 28, 2:30 p.m. Chautauqua Auditorium, 298 S. Grand Ave., Waxahachie. Advance ticket prices for the production are \$10 seniors/students and \$12 for adults. Preschool children get in free with a paid adult admission. Tickets at the door will be \$2 more. For more information, call (972) 646-1050 or visit wct.texas@gmail.com.

October 31

Happy Halloween Downtown Trick or Treat sponsored by Downtown Business Association. For more information, visit <http://midlothiandba.com/>.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to bttyon.nowmag@sbcglobal.net.



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In The Kitchen With Cecilia Wagnon

— By Betty Tryon

For Cecilia Wagnon, cooking represents many things, and they are all good! “I enjoy satisfying my family with a great meal, expressing myself artistically through new foods and recipes, and it provides me a nice stress relief. I like to think of my kitchen as my test kitchen, and my family as my food critics!” Some of the harshest critics are kids, but Cecilia has that covered. “My sister-in-law, Robbin, once told me that her son, Noah, said, ‘Aunt Cecilia is the best cook in the family!’ I don’t think I have a particular style since I’m born of Hispanic and German descent, married into an Italian family and live in the South! I enjoy cooking all those genres!” **NOW**

Shiner Bock Beer Brats With Onion Chutney

1 pkg. Bratwurst links
3 Tbsp. vegetable oil, divided use
2 bottles Shiner Bock Beer (or beer of your choice)
1 sweet white onion, thinly sliced
Salt and pepper, to taste
1/2 cup apple cider vinegar
1/4 cup brown sugar
Butter
Hoagie buns

1. In a large pot, sauté the brats in 1 Tbsp. oil over medium heat, turning them over so that all sides get browned.
2. Add 2 bottles of beer and bring to a simmer. Let simmer for 30 minutes.
3. In a separate pan sauté onion in 2 Tbsp. oil over medium heat, tossing frequently so that onions are coated.
4. Add pinch of salt and pepper and let the onions release their natural water.

5. Add vinegar and a ladle full of beer liquid the brats are simmering in.
6. Stir in brown sugar. Reduce heat to low and let simmer until reduced, stirring occasionally. Add additional liquid as needed.
7. Slice brats on the diagonal and toss in the onion chutney.
8. Toast buns; butter buns.
9. Add sliced brats with onion chutney to buns and enjoy.

Shrimp and Avocado Dip

1 cup shrimp, cooked, peeled, deveined, chopped (I use Costco deli’s cilantro lime shrimp.)
1 16-oz. jar tomato salsa of your choice
1/2 cup ketchup
1/2 cup chopped cilantro
1/2 lemon, squeezed
2 avocados, peeled, cored and cubed
Tortilla chips

1. Add shrimp, salsa, ketchup, cilantro and lemon juice to a bowl; stir to combine.

2. Gently fold in avocado chunks. Refrigerate. Serve with tortilla chips.

Cilantro Lime Rice

1 cup white rice
6 Tbsp. butter, melted
2 limes, rolled and juiced
1/2 cup cilantro
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Cook rice, per package directions.
2. In a small bowl, combine melted butter and lime juice.
3. When rice is cooked, transfer to a serving bowl; pour butter-lime sauce over rice; toss to combine. Gently fold in cilantro; season with salt and pepper.

Summer Quinoa Salad

1 cup quinoa
2 cups chicken broth
1/2 cup celery
1/2 cup cucumber
1/2 cup green bell pepper
1/2 cup red bell pepper
1/2 cup cilantro
1/2 cup tomato, deseeded and finely chopped
1 15-oz. can low-sodium kernel corn
1 cup apple cider vinegar
1 cup olive oil
1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup pine nuts, toasted

1. In a fine mesh colander, rinse the quinoa (even the pre-rinsed package needs another rinse).
2. Cook quinoa per package instructions, using chicken broth instead of water.
3. When quinoa is cooked and tender, transfer to a serving bowl and refrigerate.
4. Meanwhile, chop all veggies, combine with corn in large bowl.
5. In a mixing bowl, add apple cider vinegar; whisk in the olive oil to combine. Add the onion, garlic, salt and pepper to the vinegar mixture.
6. Toss together the quinoa, veggies and pine nuts. Drizzle the vinegar mixture and toss to coat. Best served chilled.

To view recipes from current and previous issues, visit www.nowmagazines.com.



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