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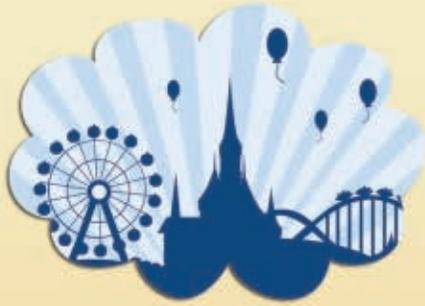
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On The Cover



Chantil Angton, Briana Yancy and Jacqueline Campbell have embraced the opportunities provided by the Girl Scouts.

Photo by Opaque Visuals.

Contents

March 2012 • Volume 7, Issue 3



8 Beyond Cuteness and Cookies

Joyce Campbell's Girl Scout troop has fun and gains skills.

44 Finding the Right Words

Susan Maxwell Campbell's poetry focuses on accessibility.

14 Coaching for Life

On the field and off, Dameon Gomes is a positive role model.

20 Moore Adventure

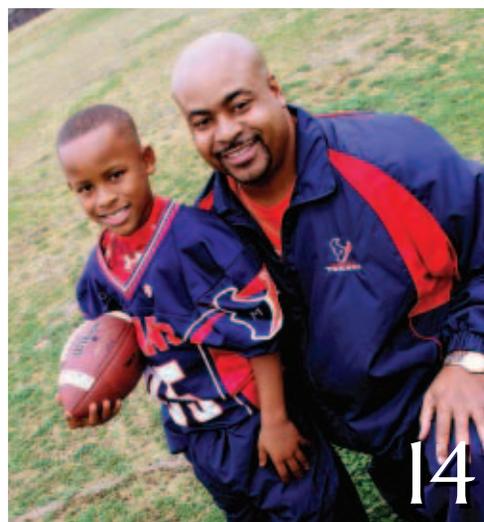
At Home With Cassidy and Nichole Moore.

28 Toddlers to Teammates

Alex Edwards and Kensli Pounds depend on their talent and each other for success in their next adventure, college.

36 Faith in Action

Jolyn Schwartz's faith led to a thriving ministry.



50 BusinessNOW

54 Around TownNOW

58 FinanceNOW

60 CookingNOW

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Editor's Note

Hello, Mansfield!

Did you know that one of our country's oldest groups for girls is celebrating its centennial in 2012? The Girl Scouts of the USA was founded in 1912. Since then, thousands of girls have participated. You probably know about Girl Scouts because of their cookies, but Girl Scouts teaches life and leadership skills and helps girls find their voice in society.

Also this month, on March 2, we celebrate the birthday of one of the best-known children's writers of all time, Dr. Seuss. Did you know that Dr. Seuss (born Theodor Seuss Geisel) wrote *Green Eggs and Ham* after betting a friend he could do so using only 50 words?

With that in mind, I leave you with this thought from Dr. Seuss: "So the writer who breeds more words than he needs, is making a chore for the reader who reads."

Here's to good, brief writing!

Jeremy

Jeremy Agor
MansfieldNOW Editor
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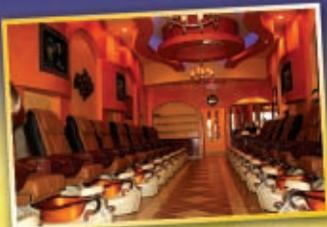
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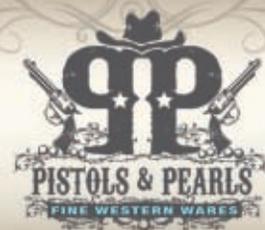
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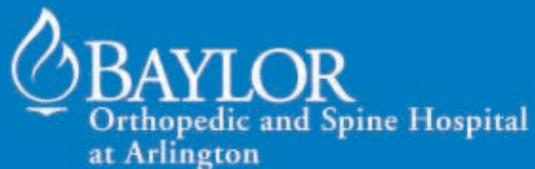
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Beyond Cuteness and Cookies

— By Jeremy Agor

In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded American Girl Guides, creating a group for girls, which taught them practical skills and leadership. The following year the name was changed to Girl Scouts. They are now known as the Girl Scouts of the USA. This year, the Girl Scouts of the USA celebrate their 100th anniversary, and the girls in Joyce Campbell's troop are excellent examples of the positive influence scouting can have.

“Girl Scouts offers leadership opportunities. Girls can train to be program aides, helping leaders present ideas during meetings. They do volunteer training and counselor training and go to camp. There’s also a focus on trying to keep girls involved once they turn 18, so they’ll become future leaders,” Campbell said.

Three girls from Campbell’s troop — her daughter, Jacqueline, Briana Yancy and Chantil Angton — have been involved for

several years, and they are happy to talk about their experiences.

Chantil became a Girl Scout in middle school after hearing friends talk about it in school. “I heard people talking about it, and it sounded fun. I like the activities,” said the Summit High School sophomore.

Briana, a 9th grader at Timberview High School, has been a Girl Scout since 5th grade. Her mother encouraged her to join because of the opportunities to earn college scholarships, but she has enjoyed learning and making friends also. “I get satisfaction from it. I have fun, and I’ve made friends. I like the activities we do, especially all the options we have after we finish raising money by selling cookies,” she said.

Jacqueline, a sophomore at Timberview, became a Girl Scout because her sister was involved and having a lot of fun. Jacqueline recruited some of her friends to scouting, and her mother became a troop leader soon after. “I like Girl Scouts because I’ve done lots of things, like program aide training. There’s a lot



more to it than cookies. You have to want to be here. You can't come to meetings and be miserable all the time. Sometimes we learn and have fun with the lesson," she said. "We learn valuable lessons every day, like personal safety and first aid. I have asthma, and a first aid instructor for Girl Scouts taught me a lot about it that I didn't know."

The other girls agreed. "Girl Scouts teaches valuable skills like leadership, how to be independent, how to set goals for life, communication skills and social skills, like how to act in certain situations," Briana said.

"Over the years, Girl Scouts has helped me with my communications skills," Chantil added. "I was uncomfortable talking to people, so I'd wait for them to come up to me, but now I've learned how to approach people and talk to them."

Each spring, Girl Scouts of all ages — in Joyce's troop they range from third grade to high school sophomores — take to streets and shopping



“We learn valuable lessons every day, like personal safety and first aid.”



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centers to sell cookies, which might be what they are most famous for. The proceeds from the cookie sales are used to fund trips to places like Great Wolf Lodge and Space Center Houston. Last year, Joyce's troop sold the most cookies out of 79 troops in Mansfield. Even Girl Scout cookies reflect the organization's centennial: the photo on the box of shortbread cookies shows a girl dressed in her Girl Scout uniform from 1912. In 1951, the three official cookies were shortbread, a sandwich cookie and chocolate mints, now known as Thin Mints.

Another fun activity the girls participate in is Twilight Camp, which is normally held in June or July from around 4:00-8:00 p.m. Although the camp is scheduled to avoid the hottest part of the day, it can still be very warm, and girls can earn their Sizzler Badge for taking part in activities when the temperature tops 100 F.

"There are lots of Twilight Camps all over — there are some in Arlington,



Dallas, as well as all over the world. We advise anyone whose little girl wants to join Girl Scouts to come. We want to get the word out about Girl Scouts,” Jacqueline explained. “We do lots of fun things, play tons of games and have a flag ceremony.”

Briana added, “It’s hard to choose an activity. There’s horseback riding, swimming, even a mystery where something disappears and you have to find it. That’s really fun, but horse camp is my favorite because you get to work with horses and learn to tie knots.”

The Sizzler Badge is just one of many patches that can be earned and displayed on the Girl Scout uniform, which usually



consists of a white shirt and a sash or vest. Patches can be earned, like those for first aid, program aide and sewing, and some are given for participation in activities.

In addition to activities and learning, Girl Scouts supports its members. “If a girl can’t afford membership dues or a uniform, there are scholarships available,



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and sometimes the troop has money to assist her. Also, girls can earn academic scholarships through the Girl Scouts," Joyce said.

Additionally, the Girl Scouts hold breast cancer awareness events each October because Juliette Low, the founder, died of breast cancer and it is a disease that could affect any Girl Scout.

On March 12, Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington will host Girl Scout troops from all over the region in an event called, Stand Up and Be Counted. The event, which starts at 7:12 p.m. (19:12 in military time, to honor the year the Girl Scouts were formed), is intended to give girls a voice in society.

Joyce will also emphasize the 100th anniversary, according to Jacqueline. "For the 100th anniversary, my mom is planning on going back to see how Girl Scouts used to dress compared to our uniforms now, and I think we're going to do a cookout," Jacqueline said.

Because most people are familiar with Girl Scouts being comprised of younger girls, it can be surprising to see high school girls participating, but Chantil, Briana and Jacqueline are vocal advocates of the organization. Chantil's friends are shocked she is still in Girl Scouts in high school, and Briana mentioned some people view Girl Scouts as "lame," but both just shrug off the criticism.

"I just tell people I have fun. I don't have a problem with being a Girl Scout at my age," Chantil said.

"In truth, Girl Scouts is really cool and you learn lots of useful skills and have a great time doing it," Briana added.

"Sometimes when we're teaching or learning, we make mistakes and laugh. In Girl Scouts you're allowed to make mistakes and be yourself, and people don't criticize," Jacqueline chimed in. "Some of my friends do nothing on the weekends, and I'm having fun." **NOW**

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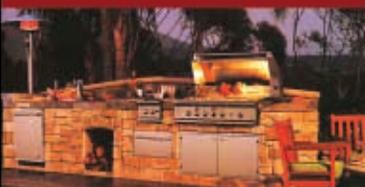
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GOACHING

— By Jeremy Agor

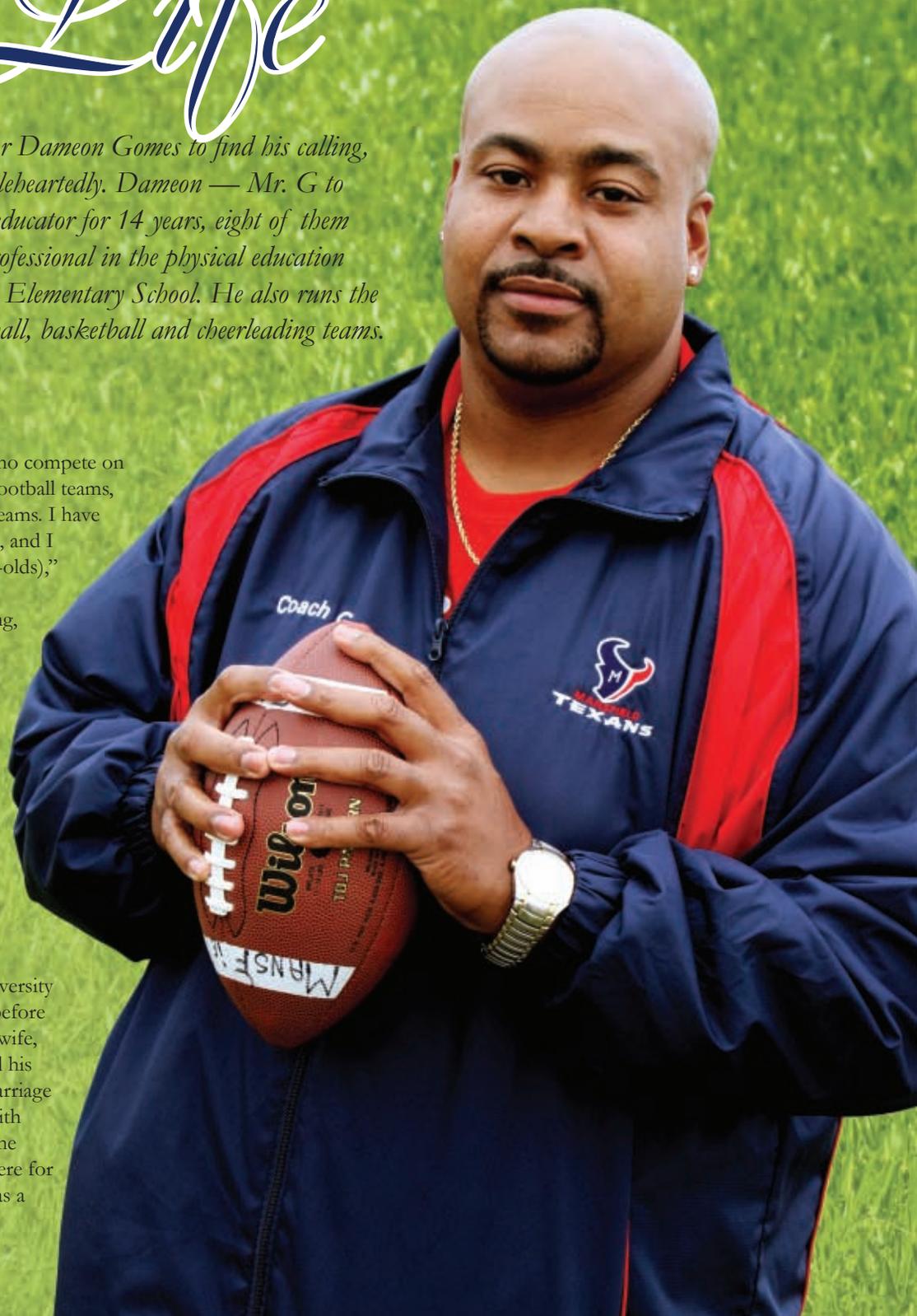
for Life

Although it took a while for Dameon Gomes to find his calling, once he did, he tackled it wholeheartedly. Dameon — Mr. G to his students — has been an educator for 14 years, eight of them in Mansfield. He is a paraprofessional in the physical education department at Roberta Tipps Elementary School. He also runs the Mansfield Texans select football, basketball and cheerleading teams.

“We have 120 kids, ages 4-12, who compete on four cheerleading teams and four football teams, and we also have three basketball teams. I have a hand in all the teams as president, and I coach my son’s junior team (9-year-olds),” he explained.

Dameon’s mother, Meredith Lang, though always involved in his life, was 19 years old when she gave birth to him and left for school after he was born, so he was raised by his grandparents, the late Hugh Camel Sr. and Edith Camel. Edith was a cafeteria manager for the Fort Worth Independent School District for 24 years and never missed a day of work in that time. She stressed church, school and a job, and made sure Dameon understood those priorities.

Dameon attended Southern University at New Orleans after high school before moving to California with his first wife, then moved back home and started his own courier business when that marriage didn’t work out. One year later, Edith suggested he apply for a job with the Fort Worth ISD, and he worked there for three years, followed by two years as a postal carrier.



“When they said rain, sleet and snow, they meant it! I decided I liked working with kids better,” Dameon laughed.

He soon began working at the CEP (Community Education Partners) alternative school in Dallas, but that school’s funding was eliminated as part of a \$60 million budget cut in 2001.

“My son, Dameon, was born in February of 2002, and the school closed in May 2002. That’s when I applied in Mansfield, and I’ve been here since,” Dameon said.

Dameon remembers local volunteers coming to his neighborhood and transporting his friends and him to play football, basketball, baseball and track each year. Their commitment led to a love of sports and also motivated him to give back to his community.

His first foray into coaching came while he was working at Como Elementary School in Fort Worth, which he had attended as a youngster. He agreed to coach fourth graders in a district-wide track meet.

“The school hadn’t participated in four years, so I told the principal I’d coach the kids and let them compete. The kids did really well and finished fifth overall in their first meet ever,” Dameon recalled.

Soon, he began coaching football, basketball and track at a community center, then with a youth program at a church and, finally, coaching basketball, baseball and soccer at the local YMCA.





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When young Dameon turned 3, he started playing baseball. Then he participated in the Upward program for a few years and, when his son turned 5, Dameon started coaching his son on the North Texas Pee Wee Football squad. From there, he and a friend started the Mansfield Broncos Select football team and also had a basketball team. Then, he struck out on his own and started the Mansfield Texans, which just finished their second year of competition. All four of his teams qualified for the playoffs last season. His sophomore team (7 and 8 year olds) won the Super Bowl, and his juniors (9 and 10 year olds) and seniors (11 and 12 year olds) were runners-up.

"The No. 1 reason I coach is because I want to give back to the kids," Dameon said. "I want the kids to learn the right way to play the sport. We need to teach them skills, not just to go for the glory. It's all about the basics. Without the basics, you have nothing. Every coach I put around me played in high school and college, so I'm confident they have the proper knowledge."

Those coaches are interviewed twice,



have their references checked and undergo background checks. They also hold coaching certifications so that Dameon is confident the children competing for the Texans are receiving quality coaching.

Dameon keeps his coaching in perspective, preferring that his players grow personally, as well as athletically, while competing for him. His motto is: play now to the future.

“These kids are here to have fun and learn. I tell them, ‘What you do now isn’t what you’ll do in 15 or 20 years,’” he said. “My goal is to see a guy develop skills at 4 years old, so that when he’s in seventh grade, he can make the A team. We watch film, because it helps the kids to see themselves and make adjustments. They become better athletes and better human beings. Things they learn from sports carry over to home and school.”

In the spring, Dameon will coach his teams in a 7-on-7 flag football league, and some will also play baseball. In May and June, he will take time off from coaching — surely a welcome break for his wife, JoAnn, a pharmacist with a doctoral degree from Xavier University in her native New Orleans. Football practice starts again the week after Independence Day. It is a routine that will continue for at least the next few years.

“When Dameon gets to seventh grade, I’ll quit and turn the team over to the younger dads,” Dameon said.

Despite his busy schedule, Dameon does find time for other hobbies. He has played softball in Arlington and Mansfield since 1999, and he took up golf three years ago. On the weekends, he addresses work needing to be done around the house — yard work, painting



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“I want the kids to learn the right way to play the sport. We need to teach them skills, not just to go for the glory.”



and washing the cars – during his downtime. A self-avowed kid at heart, he also enjoys playing video games and going to amusement parks.

Family is also important to Dameon. He and his wife often travel to Louisiana to visit her family, and he keeps in touch with his two daughters from his first marriage. He will travel to Los Angeles in the spring for his eldest daughter's high school graduation. He also is active in his church, St. Paul Lutheran in Dallas, where he sings in the male chorus.

Dameon remains committed to the success of the children he sees during the course of each week. That commitment, as well as his positive demeanor, have served him well in his career and his coaching, and will continue to do so for years to come. **NOW**



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Moore Adventure

— By Carolyn Wills

Cassidy and Nichole Moore's home is a stunning, two-story, traditional red brick in one of Mansfield's beautiful neighborhoods. Its picture-book appearance, though, is not the only distinguishing feature. As quickly as someone enters their home, the warmth of the Moore family takes over. "We've been here for three years," Nichole smiled. "I want it to be our forever home and, unless God calls us elsewhere, we're here to stay."

The house was built in 1998 and is thought to have been designed as a model for the development, which explains its many architectural embellishments and upgrades. "After accepting our offer, the previous owner, Mr. Pierce, told us that he walked through the home and prayed for us," Cassidy said. "He and his wife had so many happy memories here, and they wanted to pass the love on to us. They were a remarkable couple."

Cassidy and Nichole met at Texas A&M University, where he majored in biology, and she in engineering technology. "I loved to build and take things apart when I was a kid!" she grinned. Both are native Texans. Cassidy grew up in Arlington, and Nichole in Houston. They were married eight years ago, and today, Cassidy works as a medical device representative for a company in Grapevine, and Nichole is busy caring for their three young children.

Shortly after they were



AT HOME WITH Cassidy and Nichole Moore



married, the Moores relocated to Florida. "We were there for three years, knowing that someday we wanted to return to Texas and raise a family," Cassidy said. "When the company I worked for was sold, the time was right." Their first son, Brody, was born six weeks before they moved. "Before Brody was born, Nichole's parents drove from Texas and




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brought a bag of dirt. We put it under Brody's bed so we could say he was born on Texas soil?"

They left Florida just as the real estate market slowed, so it took about a year to sell their house. They moved into a house owned by Cassidy's parents that fortunately, gave Cassidy time to become familiar with a new company, as well as giving them the time to look for a new home. "We knew we wanted more kids, and it was important to be in a good school district, so we picked Mansfield. It's centrally located, close to my family, and while it's growing, it isn't overgrown." Cassidy said.

"I really wanted an open kitchen," Nichole said. "A yard was also important,



so the kids would have a place to play." Their 3,000-square-foot home has both features and a whole lot more. Inside the entrance are Cassidy's office to the left and a sitting room to the right. "When we moved in, we hardly had any furniture," Nichole said. "It happened that Cassidy's parents were remodeling their home. They would bring truckloads of furniture to us. It was such a blessing, and thankfully, we have the same taste!"

Cassidy's impressive wood desk and armoire were gifts from his parents; however, the old green filing cabinet

with the 1940 Miami beach-look was entirely his find. "I love that cabinet," he smiled. "Nichole kindly tolerates it. Some day, I hope to add wainscot and wallpaper and do the office in a 1950s 'private eye' decor."

The room across from the office was once a formal dining room. "We prefer eating in the breakfast area," Nichole said. "We enjoy entertaining and, on Wednesday nights, we have a Bible study group, so it made more sense to have a sitting room." With luxurious seating and art work from Cassidy's parents, it is

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difficult to imagine the room as anything but the inviting, comfortable and intimate sitting room.

A short distance from the foyer, the home opens to what can only be described as the truest reflection of the Moore family. Instantly, the space opens to a great room with gas fireplace, big, soft, family furniture and cheerfully stunning kitchen. The kitchen's custom, cream-colored wood cabinetry with crown molding and glass inserts, granite on the counters and large island, all black appliances, commanding vent hood and the combination of beautifully tiled and distressed wood floors speak to the home's upgrades and architectural detail. The striking cabinetry is even carried through to the large, adjacent laundry room.

"The walls are painted in a color called Golden Fleece," Nichole said. "The kitchen was already this color, and we liked it so much we painted the whole living area the same color." The rich, golden yellow is at once calming and happy. The breakfast dining area is next to a wall of windows, convenient to the kitchen and offers a view of the large backyard. "I love the layout," Nichole added. "Two bedrooms, a playroom and bathroom are upstairs and two bedrooms, office, sitting room, great room, kitchen, laundry room, butler's pantry and two bathrooms are downstairs."

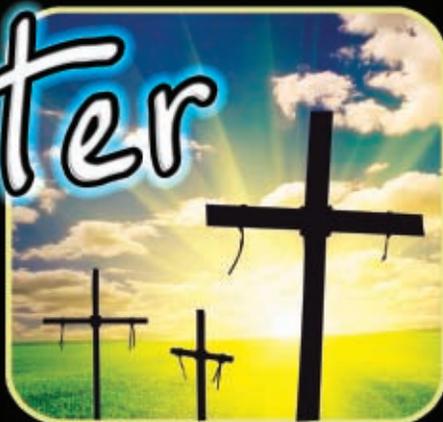
The Moores have grown to a family of five, plus Bailey, their 7-year-old Rat Terrier. "Brody was 18 months old when we moved in," Nichole said. "He's now 5. Our daughter, Finley, just turned 3 and Sawyer recently celebrated his first birthday." Three outgoing, happy children keep Nichole and Cassidy very busy and thankful that their home was in move-in condition. "We replaced the

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backyard fence, removed old bushes and added a playhouse,” Nichole said. “Other than painting and adding a built-in cabinet Cassidy made for the playroom, we haven’t needed to do anything.”

Nichole’s goal is to keep painting until none of the walls are white. She’s almost there. Finley’s downstairs bedroom, complete with its own chandelier, is in a soft color called Dolphin Fin. Brody’s upstairs room is striped in shades of blue. “Never again will we paint stripes,” Cassidy smiled. Sawyer’s room is dark blue and furnished with the rocking chair Cassidy’s mother used when he was a baby. The playroom features fun vinyl stickers and a painting created by Nichole.

The master bedroom is a sage-gray. “Nichole likes to paint samples when she picks colors,” Cassidy explained. “One day I walked in to see about thirty squares on the wall and wondered if we were suddenly Scottish!”



“It was 3:00 in the afternoon when we first saw our house,” Nichole said. “Half of the backyard was shaded, and we knew it would be perfect for the kids. They love to play ball, run with Bailey and play in their playhouse.”

As in their family home, Brody, Finley and Sawyer have a lot of fun in their playhouse. “We put a sign on the playhouse,” Cassidy smiled. The sign says “Moore Adventures.” A better description for this happy family could not be found! **NOW**

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From Toddlers to Teammates

— By Cindy Malone

Alex Edwards and Kensli Pounds are best friends and complete opposites. They have learned to agree to disagree on a lot of topics. However, they completely agree that when they met at 2 and 3 years old, they immediately became inseparable. They also agree on Midwestern State University, the college they will both be attending on soccer scholarships.

Both girls have older brothers, Jake and Leighton, who played together on a tee ball team, coached by Alex's dad, which allowed the girls to play together as toddlers. This also gave their parents time to get to know each other and become close friends.

Then, when the girls were 4 and 5, they joined the same soccer team, the Sharks, led by Coach Mike Cheesman. "I hated soccer when I was little," Alex said, "Coach Cheesman allowed me to get into the games at my own pace. It was that no-pressure way of teaching that got me to loving soccer."

In the beginning, soccer for 4 year olds looks more like a pack of animals chasing one small prey. Kensli's dad "began to think she had some talent when she came running out of the pack toward the goal with the ball." Apparently most girls on that team had some natural talent because in Alex's words, "We pretty much won everything."

Coach Cheesman has fond memories of the girls and their individual talents – Kensli's speed and Alex's leadership, as well as the way Alex is able to judge the game and the next play. He said of the girls, "I wish them both the best of luck playing college soccer and in whatever they do going forward. They are both great kids. and I will always cherish the memories."

Kensli remembered that when they were younger, "Alex was so much fun to be around. She was always playing outside with her overalls and chili bowl haircut."

'... we really don't have to be around each other all of the time. We just know the other one is there.'



“She always wanted to play outside with me,” Alex jumped in, “but in her frilly dresses with her Hello Kitty purses.”

Kensli doesn't want to come off like a princess, so she was quick to point out, “Just this past weekend, I shot an eight-point deer.”

At age 10, they got more serious about soccer and both joined the Dallas Texans, a select team that practices and plays mostly in Plano. They also have played on the varsity soccer team for Legacy High School since their freshmen year. “Our goal is to get to state this year,” Alex said.

“We say it during practice and before games,” reiterated Kensli, “and this year we really have a chance.”



Kensli's favorite part of soccer is scoring. “It is just the best feeling in the world.” Alex's favorite part of playing soccer is the friendships that come from competing together. And they have competed, as Legacy's girls soccer team has made it to the playoffs every year since they have been playing.

So far in their 14-year soccer career, these two friends have attended over 1,500 practices and competed in over 500 games. Tournaments have been played all over Texas, including in Austin, Houston, Waco and McKinney. Out-of-state games have been played as far away as California, Arizona, Oklahoma and Tennessee, to name only a few.

Besides soccer, the girls both have part-time jobs and spend lots of their free time just hanging out. They love to shop together. “Kensli has the better sense of fashion,” Alex laughed. “If she sees something that looks good, she gets it. I am more indecisive. I like having her there to make me decide on things.”

But they don't hang out with each other all the time. They have very different groups of friends with whom

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they each do things separately. "We are more like sisters," Kensli explained, "so we really don't have to be around each other all of the time. We just know the other one is there."

When they do want to be around each other, they live seven minutes apart, "or six if something is wrong" Alex explained further, "We never stay mad at each other for more than three seconds, so we don't really fight that much," which is good since they count on each other for carpools to and from practice in Plano several times a week.

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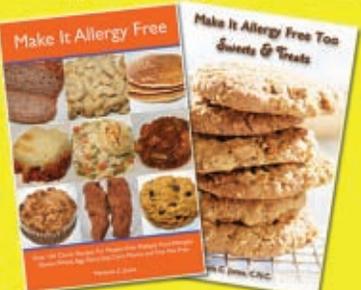
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They are funny as they talk about their perceived differences. Alex is the “book-smart” one, and Kensli has more common sense. Although they both do well in school, even with this professed common sense, Alex recalled, “When we were little, I had to get Kensli to stop eating gum off the ground.” Kensli is blunt, not rude. She’s just not good at “sugar coating things.” Alex is the people pleaser, always wanting to make people happy.

The pair started going to school together at Donna Sheppard Intermediate as fifth graders. While at Donna Sheppard, Alex’s love of science was born, thanks to the “cool” science teacher. He is a large contributor to her consideration of geology as a college major.

In high school, both girls have had the opportunity to have Mrs. Fagan for biology. Although they both agree her class was super hard, they credit her for “teaching us how to take notes and study. We feel more ready for college because of her,” Alex said. Studying and keeping up with college-level classes are not the only things the girls are nervous about.

Alex worries about being distracted by college stuff — like the social stuff. Kensli, who is undecided about her major, but is considering physical therapy, is more worried about lecture classes and

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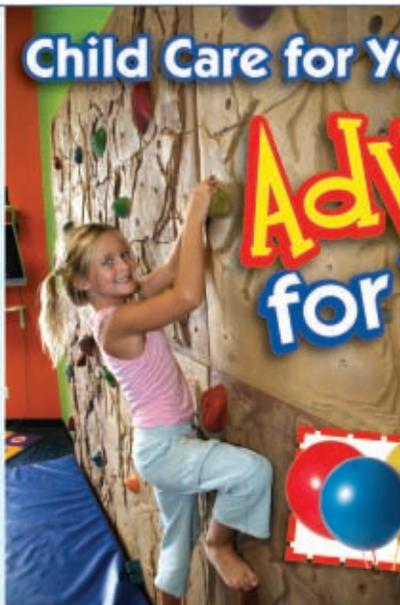


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taking notes. Also, there is no redshirting (a term referring to delaying entrance in order to have a competitive advantage) in NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division II schools so both girls will be playing as soon as they get there in 2012. In college, soccer is a fall sport, not played in the spring like it is in high school.

Definitely one of the reasons they chose Midwestern State University (MSU) is its proximity to home. MSU is located in Wichita Falls, only two and a half hours away. Both girls are confessed home bodies and plan to come home often, but readily admit they are not afraid of the new challenges college will surely bring. While they are living on campus their freshman year, they will not be rooming together. They are mature enough to know that with soccer and classes, they will spend enough time together without sleeping in the same room. "We don't want to kill each other," Kensli laughed.

One thing these friends are both excited about is making friends on their new soccer team. "It's like a sorority. A sorority of girls that make it to their conference championship every year," Alex said with a smile. **NOW**

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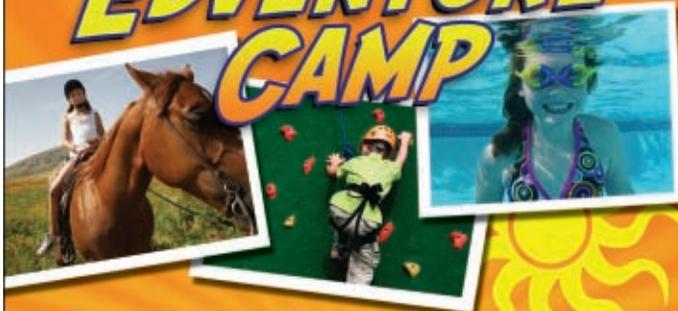
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Faith in Action

— By Rick Hope

Jolyn Schwartz had served in the United States Air Force and had been as far away as Portugal. She started attending church overseas (where she also met her husband), beginning a chapter in her life that is still ongoing today. She found herself hungering for something different and new. And in recent years, she has figured out what that something was.

Jolyn was looking for a way to put feet to her faith. She was looking for a way to give back, since she felt particularly blessed in her life. But she wasn't sure what she should do. Through the inspiration of a friend and the support of her husband, she found her place of service in My Sister's Closet.

"It really all began with my friend, Tracy," Jolyn said, "who passed away early last year. She was all about ministering and serving others."

Jolyn and Tracy were members of the same church, and every Christmas, Tracy picked a handful of single moms to bless with



gift cards, money and toys, while feeding them a dinner at Cha Cha's. She would even bless one mom with a car. Jolyn was honored to be part of these events. "In 2010, I was able to bring jackets to the Christmas dinner and allow the moms to take what they needed home," Jolyn added.

Tracy also owned her own business and would hire single mothers in the hopes of giving them a better start, while teaching them work skills that would carry them through life. Jolyn got to observe Tracy constantly seeking out ways to serve others who were less fortunate. Tracy's husband now runs that business with the same vision and direction as his late wife.

"I was inspired by this. I learned so much from working and being around Tracy," Jolyn stated with passion. "In some ways, I wanted to be just like her. I wanted to help others and serve my God at the same time."

While working as a part-time manager at a self storage facility in 2003-2004, she met a lady who had a children's clothes closet, for sharing used children's



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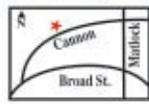
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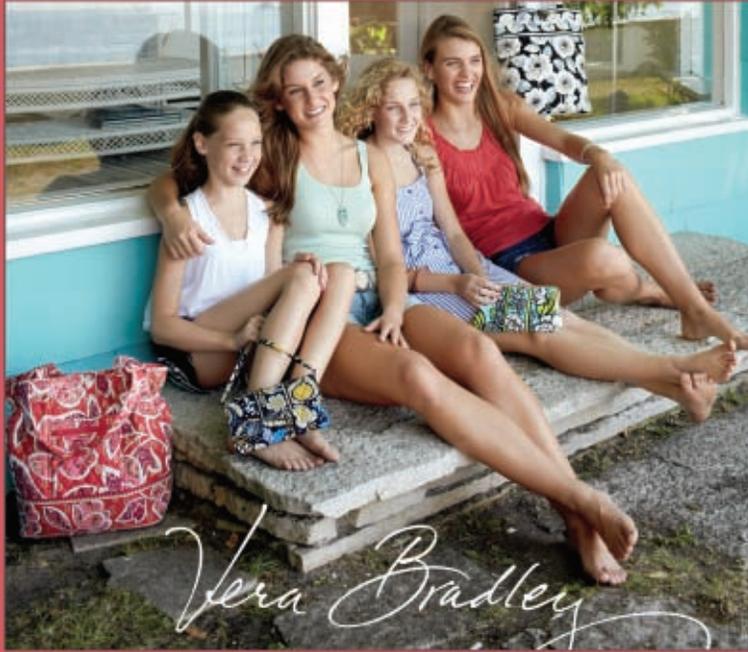
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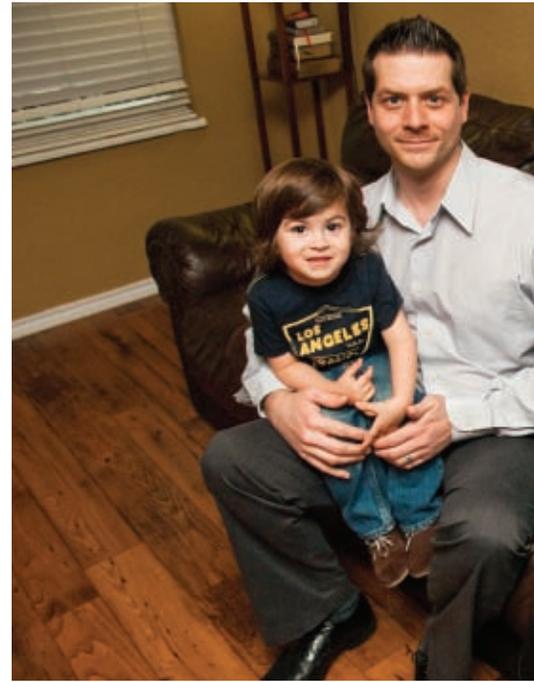




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clothing. "She would store them in totes and take them to families each month," Jolyn shared. Though this impressed her at the time, it wasn't until several years later she acted on it.

In 2007, Jolyn and a friend began collecting clothes for charity, but soon found a lot of their clothes were going to organizations that, while charitable, were selling the clothes. Even at a low price, that was not what Jolyn desired. She wasn't out to make a profit on these clothes. She wanted to give them away.

Shortly thereafter, Jolyn found out a clothing store in The Parks at Arlington mall was closing. Right away, she knew what she had to do. She was able to buy 25 boxes of clothing for \$25. She moved the clothing to two 10x12 storage units, and shortly thereafter opened a walk-in clothes closet.

Last year, that clothes closet had to temporarily close, but it will open again this spring. In the meantime, Jolyn and her friend, Shani Butler, have been holding clothing swap parties. They have a small charge per person or organization, using that money to reimburse the cost of the meal that is served. These parties are held twice a year. Jolyn advertises mostly through word of mouth and Facebook.

As many as 60 people attend these parties, where each one is given a number. When their number is called, they are allowed up to 60 seconds to

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pick any three items they want. After that, everyone is allowed to freely shop. These events, usually lasting up to four hours, are normally held at Embargo, a restaurant in Fort Worth. The next swap is scheduled there on March 24.

Shani was not at all surprised when Jolyn took on this ministry. "The first time we went to a clothing swap party together was at my son's school," Shani explained. "When we were leaving, several of us remarked we ought to do something like that someday. But she was the one who stepped up and actually did it. That's just who she is!"

One person who has benefitted from this ministry is Laura Kelly. Laura's husband passed away three years ago, and she was left to raise six sons on her own. He had been the primary provider at the time of his passing, and carrying on where he left off wasn't easy for Laura. Many times she was unsure of how she was going to get through it. Jolyn and My Sister's Closet, as Jolyn named her ministry, have helped alleviate much of that stress. "The last time I was there, I went home with 10 outfits," Laura said. "I'm able to take care of so much because of her. I don't miss a swap party. Sometimes I even take my sister and my niece."

Jolyn chose the name of her charity based on her personal experience. "I was the youngest of five sisters, and I was always getting their hand-me-downs,"

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Jolyn confessed. "Since all my clothes back then came from my sisters' closets, it just made sense to give it that name."

Jolyn and Tim have been married for 13 years. They met while they were both serving in the Air Force. He definitely supports her endeavor. "He grew up as one of four children being raised by a single mom, so he understands what many of these families are going through."

Still, he was initially skeptical, thinking his wife would be overloaded in her schedule. She is after all, homeschooling their 9-year-old, Timothy, along with tending to their 3-year-old son, Noah. But Jolyn has found her place of service and she definitely doesn't want to stop there.

And to hear Tim tell it, he wouldn't have it any other way. "My wife is the quintessential nice person. If there's a hurt dog on the side of the road, she wants to nurse it back to health. If there's a homeless person in need, she's immediately reaching into her wallet. If someone's in need, she's the first to start organizing aid," he said with pride. "My Sister's Closet is just a natural outgrowth of what's always in her heart — compassion, kindness and genuine love."

"Someday I want to open my own resale shop and use it to supplement the Closet," Jolyn added.

However, her primary objective would never be to make money, as much as it would be to do ministry. After all, it's how she chooses to put feet to her faith. **NOW**

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FINDING THE Right WORDS

— By Jeremy Agor



Susan Maxwell Campbell spent a long and rewarding career teaching English and French before retiring from Mansfield High School in 2000. Prior to her retirement, she began work toward a graduate degree in writing at the University of North Texas, which, once she finished it in 2006, set a foundation for her current passion for writing poetry.

“When I retired, I committed to pursuing a degree more seriously. I was by far the oldest student in my classes, and often older than the professors, too,” Susan smiled. “However, I believe you can be a prodigy at age 11 or 12 in things like science or math. But to master art you need to have the experience of a life.”

Certainly, that was true in Susan’s case. As a teenager, she gravitated toward studying languages and ended up with a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in French, with a minor in German. Much later in her professional life, when she became involved with the New Jersey Writing Project in Texas, her love for poetry began to take shape.

“The New Jersey Writing Project in Texas was part of a movement which changed paradigms that led educators to focus

on the process of writing, emphasizing the skills of the individual writer instead of a dossier of finished work,” Susan said.

Susan regards poetry as an art form to be shared with everyone. She feels too many people think that poetry has to follow traditional rhythms and rhymes, and that many people have thrown up their hands in frustration because some poetry is too obscure. She quotes Russian novelist Valdimir Nabokov, who tells readers to “read with your spine,” meaning they should essentially put their all into feeling and understanding a written work.

“It’s important to be engaged with your feelings, because it allows for ambiguity and it emphasizes the pleasure of well-chosen words. The problem with a lot of poetry is it’s too ambiguous.

“THINGS ARE ONLY METAPHORS FOR WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE *love*”

FROM *THE PAPERWHITES*, BY SUSAN MAXWELL CAMPBELL.”

Poetry doesn’t have to be opaque,” she explained. “The thing about poetry is that there’s thinking on part of both the writer and the reader. There’s emotion on both sides. The poet needs skillfully to use the tools at her disposal, and the reader gets more pleasure from seeing that skill in use.”

Susan writes about what she calls ultimate concerns: the purpose of individual life, the nature of evil and death. Some of her poems focus on the balance of mortality and natural cycles. Frequently, she tries to base her works on art and use it as a springboard to describe what’s happening. However, one of her favorite subjects is dogs.

“I have a whole series of poems called *Dogs in a Gallery* in my thesis. I like to use dogs as metaphors because they uniquely live in the moment, and we, as

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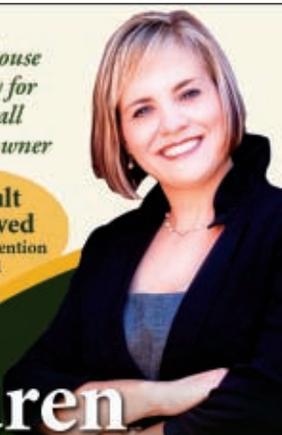
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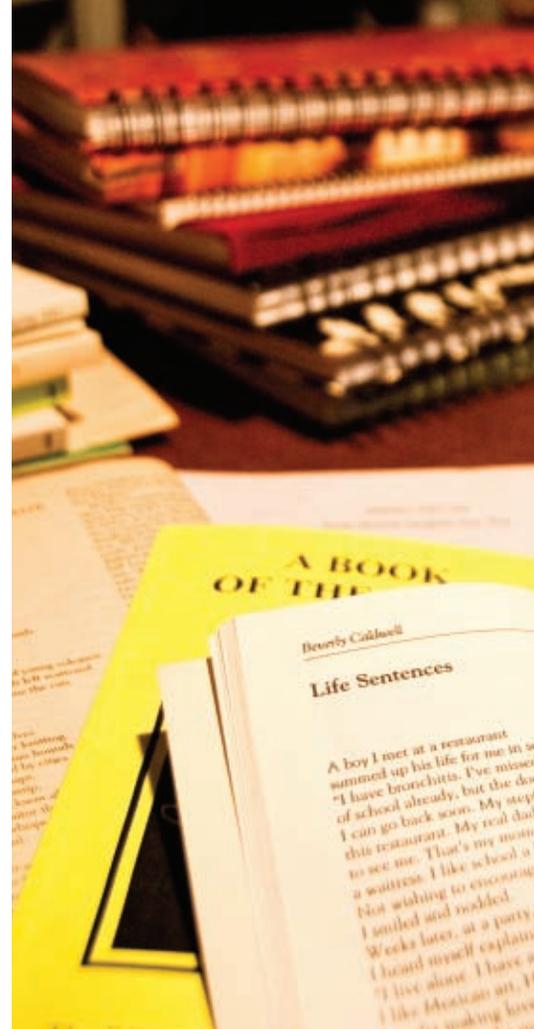
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humans, don't," she explained. One of those poems is based on a Charlie Russell painting in the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth, in which a chief of a Plains Indian group is moving his people toward the buffalo in early spring. At one corner of the painting is a dog, whose point of view Susan uses "to explore magic as a way to interact with life."

Susan first started exploring writing poetry several years ago when she joined a small group of teachers who met to write and discuss writing. Her process is quite disciplined.

"Every morning my husband brings me a cup of tea, and I write longhand in pen in hardbound, blank-page journals. Sometimes it takes two hours, but if I don't sit down to write first thing in the morning, it's really difficult to get back to do it. I've been doing that consistently since January 1, 2008," she said, displaying a foot-high stack of journals filled with spidery script, highlighted passages and notes in the margins. "I've found that if I go slowly, my cognitive leaps show me what I'm really thinking. That's why I don't use a computer. I've

discovered I have to spend the last day of every month doing a triage which allows me to mine potential poems from my thoughts.”

She continued, “The hardest thing is the first line. You always know the last line, but the first one is a gift. The last line is like a goodnight kiss — the end of a date or when mommy turns out the light. In my experience, you always come back at the end to the beginning, which is why that first line is so difficult.”

In 2007, Susan joined the Fort Worth Poetry Society, which was founded in May 1910, and is the oldest such society



in the Southwest. The group meets monthly to critique poems submitted in advance by members. Each poem is submitted anonymously, but the critique sessions follow very specific rules to ensure, as much as possible, that the person whose poem is being scrutinized will not have his or her feelings hurt.

“There are some fine, serious writers in this organization. We see many serious poems, but nevertheless, some of us still like the silly stuff. In our critiques, we try



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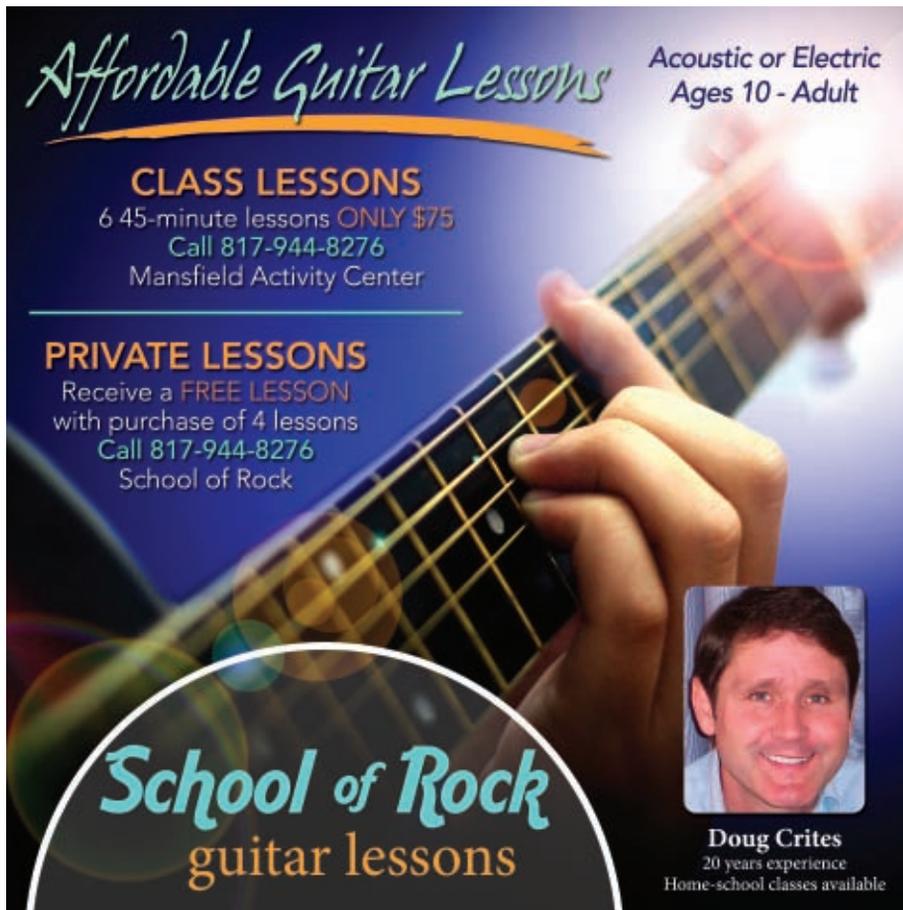


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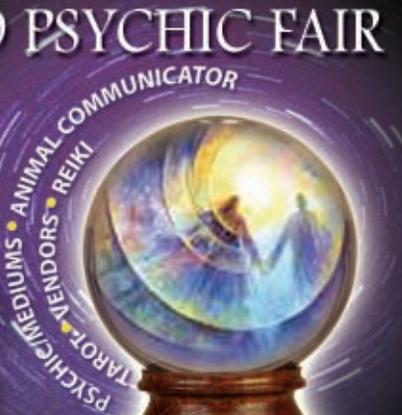
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to balance what we like and what needs tweaking,” Susan said.

Although Susan spends hours on her poetry, her literary medium does not dictate her literary choices. Her study features two walls, filled floor to ceiling with books on myriad topics. She explains literature using luggage as an analogy: “A novel is like a checked bag, with a flood of words that can carry you away. Short fiction is like a carry-on bag. You have to be more sensitive to your choice of words. Poetry is like a fanny pack. It’s the ultimate compression of thoughts,” she explained.

Despite her prolific output, Susan is not, by her own admission, good at submitting poetry for others. “I’m not



writing a diary. I do sometimes think about who may read my first drafts, as well as the readers ‘out there,’” she said. “There are opportunities for submission. There’s a very active community of writers in Texas and several important contests with nice prize money and the joy of your peers’ feedback.”

Throughout her life, whether teaching high school students how to write, reading or writing her own prose, Susan has enjoyed her craft. She firmly believes that to be a good writer you have to share your work and model it for others. But most of all, it comes back to the artistic release provided by finding the right turn of phrase and shaping a story in her reader’s mind. **NOW**



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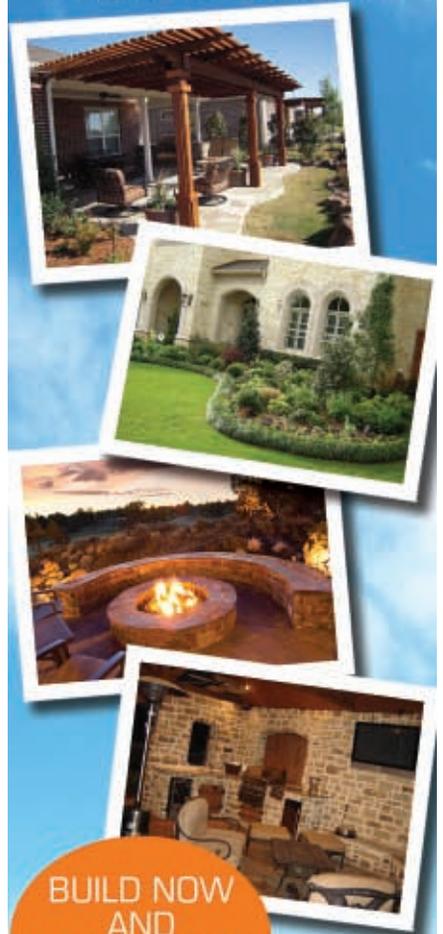
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— By *Jeremy Agor*

John Boguski of Greater Mansfield Realtors oozes energy and ideas. His enthusiasm for his chosen profession gives his clients a real estate experience like no other.

“My wife calls me a workaholic, and I respond, ‘You can’t be a workaholic when you absolutely love what you do.’ I’m one of the biggest advocates for Mansfield. I love it here,” he said.

John has been selling homes in Mansfield for 10 years. He grew up in Ohio and worked for a homebuilder during high school. That builder, Ron Puzziello, took John aside near graduation and told him he had a gift and energy for relating to people that would be well-utilized in sales. Ron introduced John to his brother, who taught him business basics, and then

Ron bought him plane tickets to Phoenix, Raleigh and Dallas. John felt he could be successful in Texas, and two weeks after graduation he packed what he could check on an airplane and moved to Arlington. Within three months, at age 19, he had earned his real estate license and was listing and selling homes.

John and his wife, Amber, moved to Mansfield shortly after they married because they wanted to live in a place that they could call home where their future children could attend good schools.

John counts the Internet and his ability to show homes at their best as his most effective tools. His Web site appears at the top of the list on search engines such as Google and

Yahoo, and the site is easy for visitors to use. Featured properties can be clearly viewed at the top of the page and again in the body of the page. What sets his listings apart, however, is the quality photography. His photos give a nearly 180-degree view of each room, like a virtual tour in a still image, so home buyers can have an excellent idea of what the home looks like before they tour it in person.

"In 2008, the Texas Real Estate Commission published an article that said 97-percent of home buyers shop online before contacting a Realtor. If you search 'Realtors' online, my little business is at the top of the list. Then, when you go to my page, you're on the featured listings bar at the top of the page, so you're visible to those online shoppers. That's really an advantage," John explained. "Another advantage is that shopping with me has to be fun. I love looking at real estate,

"I LOVE LOOKING AT REAL ESTATE, BECAUSE EVERY HOME IS DIFFERENT, AND IT'S JUST AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY."

because every home is different, and it's just an exciting opportunity."

With all of his exuberance, John is grounded. He and Amber have three young children, and he volunteers at his church, taking advantage of an opportunity to give his time to something other than work.

Also, four years ago, he started The Mansfield Network, a group of nearly 30 local businesspeople, which gathers to talk about supporting local businesses so that they can grow and be successful.

"The Mansfield Network started as a small group, but we've grown because we're passionate about what we're doing, and we're helping local business. My business is growing, and I'm dedicated to my work and my family. The Mansfield market is rocking, and I'm happy to be accepting listings and helping people buy and sell their homes," John said. **NOW**



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Peanut Battle

— By Betty Tryon, BSN

What a dichotomy. What you eat to stay alive and healthy can, without warning, turn into your most dangerous enemy and kill you within minutes. Americans are allergic to many foods, but one particular food has received much attention in recent years — peanuts. One of the reasons for the amount of attention drawn to peanut allergies is the effect these allergies have on children. There could be dire consequences depending on the sensitivity of the child and the amount of peanuts they eat.

The incidence of peanut allergy in children has doubled since 1997 to 2002. The alarm grows when one considers how easily an allergic attack can be precipitated. Reports have been received of allergic reactions in peanut-sensitive individuals just from peanut dust or airborne particles in the air of airplane cabins and inside bars. True stories abound about severe reactions from the slightest contact. One well-known case is the teenager in Ohio whose boyfriend had eaten a peanut butter and jelly sandwich early in the day. Later on that day, they shared a kiss. The slight residue of peanuts from hours earlier threw her body into a severe allergic reaction.

Surprisingly, peanut sources are not always so obvious. Peanuts can be in sauces, pizza, vegetarian foods — particularly those used as protein or meat substitutes — and even in hot chocolate. Some peanut allergy sufferers also have allergies to tree nuts such as,

walnuts, almonds and Brazil nuts. In some commercial preparations of nuts, there can be cross-contamination with peanuts, so those with peanut allergies have to be especially careful and check with their doctor as to whether nuts should be eaten at all.

Allergic reactions can vary from mild to severe and be as serious as hives. Or, it could be life-threatening as in anaphylaxis, which is a severe allergic reaction. Some of the symptoms in anaphylaxis are dizziness and possible loss of consciousness from a drop in blood pressure. Breathing becomes difficult because the airways swell and tighten. There can also be swelling of the face and eyes. These symptoms can occur within seconds. Often individuals with severe allergies carry epinephrine [EpiPen or Twinject] with them. If the person has an attack, do not assume this injection is all that is needed. If they have trouble breathing, do not put anything in their mouth such as antihistamines. A dangerous situation such as anaphylaxis calls for emergency treatment. Call 9-1-1 immediately.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for lunch are as American as apple pie. However, with the increased occurrence of children having this allergy, some customs may have to change. **NOW**

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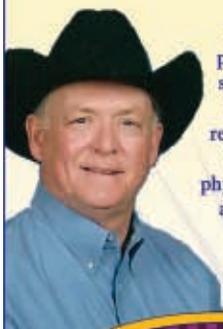
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Put Power of Tax Deferral to Work

— By *Todd Simmons*

As an investor, you may sometimes feel frustrated. After all, your portfolio seems to be at the mercy of the financial markets, whose volatility is beyond anyone's control. Yet you can control the quality of the investments you own and the diversification of those investments to improve your chances of attaining your long-term financial goals. One way in which to do so is to put as much as you can afford, year after year, into tax-deferred investments.

When you contribute to a tax-deferred account, your money has the potential to grow faster than it would if you placed it in a fully taxable investment — that is, an investment on which you paid taxes every year. Over time, this accelerated growth can add up to a big difference in your accumulated savings. For example, if you put \$200 each month into a taxable investment that earned a hypothetical seven percent a year, you'd end up with about \$325,000 after 40 years, assuming you were in the 25-percent federal tax bracket. If you put that same \$200 per month into a tax-deferred investment that earned the same hypothetical seven percent a year, you'd accumulate about \$515,000 — or nearly \$200,000 more than you'd have with the taxable investment.¹

Of course, you will eventually have to pay taxes on the tax-deferred investment, but by the time you're retired, you might be in a lower tax bracket. Furthermore, depending on how much you choose to withdraw each year from your tax-deferred account, you can have some control over the amount of taxes you'll pay.

Clearly, tax deferral can be a smart choice, but what sort of tax-deferred vehicles are available? One of your most attractive choices will be your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k). Your earnings have the potential to grow on a tax-

deferred basis, and since you typically fund your plan with pre-tax dollars, the more you put in, the lower your annual taxable income. If you're lucky, your employer will even match some of your contributions. Consequently, it's almost always a good idea to put in as much as you can afford into your 401(k), up to the contribution limits, and to boost your contributions every time your salary increases. In 2012, you can contribute up to \$17,000 to your 401(k), plus an additional \$5,500 if you're 50 or older.

Even if you participate in a 401(k) plan, you can probably also contribute to a traditional IRA. Your earnings have the potential to grow tax-deferred and your contributions may be tax deductible, depending on your income level. In 2012, you can put in up to \$5,000 to a traditional IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older. (If you meet certain income guidelines, you might be eligible to contribute to a Roth IRA, which offers tax-free earnings, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you're 59 1/2 and you've had your account at least five years.)

Finally, if you've "maxed out" on both your 401(k) and your IRA, you may want to consider a fixed annuity. Your earnings grow tax-deferred, contribution limits are high, and you can structure your annuity to provide you with an income stream you can't outlive.

The more years in which you invest in tax-deferred vehicles, the better. So start putting the power of tax deferral to work soon. **NOW**

1. This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and does not represent a specific investment or investment strategy.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Todd Simmons is an Edward Jones representative based in Mansfield.

March 1-31

Shoe Drive: First Baptist Church, 1800 East Broad Street. Mosaic at First Baptist Church will collect shoes for the Shoes for Orphan Souls program. Bring new pairs of kid-sized shoes to donate to needy orphan children worldwide. Contact David Peyton at david.peyton@firstmansfield.com or (817) 473-1161.

March 1-9

Art Exhibit: Peter Helms Feresten: "... my thoughts wander to the south side of town" at Tarrant County College, Southeast Campus. Admission is free. Contact Christopher Blay at christopher.blay@tccd.edu or (817) 515-3406 for more information.

March 10-11

Funky Finds Spring Fling: **March 10:** 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; **March 11:** 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Will Rogers Memorial Center, Poultry Barn, 3409 Burnett-Tandy Drive, Fort Worth. Check out www.FunkyFinds.com/FortWorth for more information.

March 12-16

Mansfield ISD spring break. School resumes Monday, March 19. Call Julie Moye at

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March 14

Spring Break Magic Show (ages 2-12): 3:00-4:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria. A magician from Galaxy Entertainment will perform. Cost: \$4 with MAC card, \$5 without MAC card, \$6 day of show. Call (817) 453-5420 for more information.

March 16

Animal Extravaganza (ages 2-12): 3:00-4:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria. Critterman will perform with some of his Rain Forest Junior Safari friends, including Zuka, the ring-tailed lemur, and Rojo, the red tegu. Cost: \$4 with MAC card, \$5 without MAC card, \$6 day of show. Call (817) 453-5420 for more information or log on to www.animaled.com.

March 17

Best Maid St. Paddy's Pickle Parade: 2:00 p.m. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and all things green on March 17 as the Best Maid St. Paddy's Pickle Parade marches down Main Street. Kids of all ages are welcome at this family-friendly event. Log on to <http://>

www.historicmansfield.net/best_maid_pickle_parade/index.html to learn more.

March 31

2012 Lawn & Garden Expo: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Waxahachie Civic Center, 2000 Civic Center Ln., Waxahachie. Adults/\$5; children under 12/free. Free admission tickets available from participating sponsors. See www.ecmga.com for a list of sponsors and Expo details.

April 13

Mansfield Women's Club Yellow Rose Charity Fest: 7:00-11:00 p.m., Aristide Event Center. Tickets: \$50. Adults only. Catered wine pairing, dinner and entertainment from Michael Hix of Johnnie High's Music Revue in Arlington, plus a silent auction and raffles. Contact Karen Payton (817) 453-2111 or Vicki Hamilton (817) 233-9300 for tickets or sponsorship information.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your event details to jeremy.agor@nowmagazines.com.



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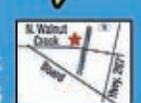
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In The Kitchen With Michaela Jones

— By *Jeremy Agor*

Michaela Jones's daughters are allergic to many foods, making cooking for her family challenging. "My goal is to cook allergy-friendly dishes that are safe for my daughters, but still tasty enough that the rest of the family will eat it and not feel like they're missing out. I can't use most recipes from magazines. However, if I see something that looks good, I'll take the essence of it and build around it with ingredients that my family can have," she explained.

Rather than treating her daughters differently, Michaela has learned to make food they can have. "I didn't want them to feel odd by making their food separate from everyone else, so I was determined to come up with recipes everyone would eat. As I developed recipes, more and more people with food allergies asked me to share, so I wrote a cookbook," she said. **NOW**

Applesauce Snack Cake

- 1 2/3 cups gluten-free flour blend**
- 1 cup brown sugar**
- 1 1/2 tsp. ground allspice**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1/2 tsp. guar gum**
- 1/2 cup water**
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce**
- 1/3 cup grapeseed oil or other vegetable oil**
- 1 tsp. apple cider vinegar or rice vinegar**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F.
- 2.** In medium bowl mix flour, brown sugar, allspice, baking soda, salt and guar gum with

whisk or spatula until combined. Stir in water, applesauce, oil and vinegar.

- 3.** Pour into ungreased, square baking pan. Bake 35 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean and top is golden brown. Cool on wire rack. Cut into squares and serve.

Cinnamon Raisin Crunch Granola

- 3 cups gluten-free rolled oats**
- 1 cup raw sunflower seed kernels**
- 2 tsp. ground cinnamon**
- 1/2 cup brown sugar**
- 1/4 cup water**
- 1/4 tsp. salt**

- 2 Tbsp. grapeseed oil or other vegetable oil**
- 1 Tbsp. alcohol-free vanilla**
- 1 cup raisins**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 300 F. Line large baking sheet with parchment or nonstick foil.
- 2.** In large bowl combine oats, seeds and cinnamon.
- 3.** In small saucepan combine sugar, water and salt. Simmer over medium heat, stirring until sugar and salt are dissolved. Boil and stir for 1 minute. Remove from heat and stir in oil and vanilla.
- 4.** Pour sugar mixture over oat mixture and stir to coat well.
- 5.** Spread oats evenly in pan. Bake for 15 minutes. Remove from oven. Stir, then spread evenly again. Put oats back in oven and bake another 10-15 minutes, until mixture is lightly browned and seeds are toasted. Oats will be soft, but will crisp upon cooling.
- 6.** Remove from oven and let cool completely in pan. Stir in raisins. Store in airtight container for up to 3 weeks. Make a great snack, cereal or for use in recipes.

Lemon Poppy Seed Muffins

- 2 cups gluten-free flour blend**
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar**
- 2 Tbsp. poppy seeds**
- 1 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**
- 1 tsp. guar gum**
- 3/4 cup water**
- 1/4 cup grapeseed oil or other vegetable oil**
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice**
- 1 Tbsp. grated lemon peel**

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 F. Line muffin pan with paper cups.
- 2.** In medium bowl mix flour, sugar, poppy seeds, baking soda, salt and guar gum with whisk or spatula until combined. Stir in water, oil, lemon juice and lemon peel. Mix well, just until lump free.
- 3.** Divide batter among cups. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean and top is golden brown. Cool in pan just until cool enough to handle. Remove from pan and cool on wire rack.

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

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