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MAY 2015

Artful Experiences

Suzanne Moncuse's stories are told in watercolor and textiles

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Mother's/
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ON THE COVER



Suzanne Moncuse captures the beauty of life in her art.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Editor's Note

Hello, Mansfield!

May puts me in an interesting state of mind. I wonder if it's the warm sunshine and lively colors of the foliage, or maybe the end of another school year right around the corner. Either way, summer is beating on the backdoor beckoning me to come out and play, and the end result is me in such a state of giddiness that I feel like a child again. The old adage about being young at heart comes to mind. I hope I never grow out of that.

There is something surreal about seeing the world with the innocence and wonder of a child. Considering simplistic things like the sensation of my skin warming from the bright, hot sun or the beauty of a bright green blade of St. Augustine grass is comparable to hitting a reset button. Let's all reset, shall we?

Sara

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Artful EXP



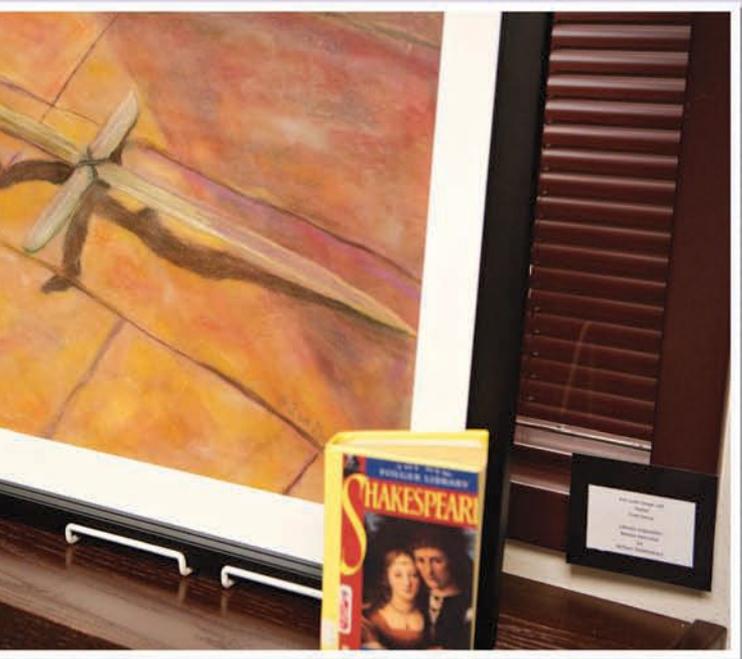
Growing up in Japan and around the country, multifaceted artist Suzanne Moncuse has translated her real-life experiences into art. She is fascinated with history, culture and people. As a watercolor artist, she thrives when given paint and brush to bring real life to the page.

Suzanne's background in a multicultural family strongly encouraged her art. "My dad was a Southern Baptist Bible kind of a guy," she shared. "And my mom was from Puerto Rico." Suzanne was born in Alaska, spent her early years in Japan but grew up in the Carolinas after her dad retired from the United States Air Force. While her dad was stationed in Japan, Suzanne and her brothers soaked in the atmosphere. "My parents taught us to appreciate and respect the Japanese culture. We would celebrate their holidays, too."

In later years, Suzanne would credit her love of watercolor and design to experiences in Japan. "As a little girl, I would copy Japanese art and just loved Asian art," she explained. Suzanne also identified with the Japanese integration of nature and spirituality. Her mother's Puerto Rican culture also taught

EXPERIENCES

— By Mikaela Mathews



Suzanne the importance of celebrating. Her family regularly commemorated different holidays and events.

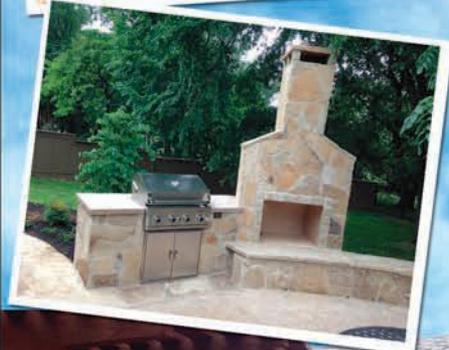
Literature was another important aspect of Suzanne's childhood. "My dad would read us *Beowulf* and parts of *The Canterbury Tales*, while my mom would read us folk tales," Suzanne recalled. Attending theater events and listening and playing music of various types and styles were also valued in her childhood home.

With this emphasis on literature, storytelling was also highly valued. Because both parents traveled regularly and had unique backgrounds, their stories never ran dry. Her mother came to the U.S. in her early 20s to



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work as a bilingual stenographer for the Department of State, having worked in a similar position for the British Embassy in the British West Indies. “She had a lot of stories from being in D.C. during the war with ladies from all over the United States,” Suzanne shared. “I grew up with stories like that.”

When Suzanne left home for college, it made sense that her adulthood would be as varied as her childhood years. She attended a small college nestled in the mountains of Georgia and majored in art, a career choice which pulled together her interests in art, literature, storytelling and music. “I’m glad I went to Young Harris College. I met some interesting people and learned a lot about art,” she shared. “Our teachers encouraged us to know how to hold art shows, too.”

She held her first art show in 1978 at the main library at Young Harris. Her next show was entitled *Metamorphosis*. “My work was described as allegorical, and I think that’s very beautiful,” she shared. She enjoys combining calligraphy with watercolor. Her favorite piece incorporates a quote concerning gunpowder from a 13th century monk named Roger Bacon, written in flourishing letters.

After graduating from Queens College (now called Queens University of Charlotte) with a bachelor’s degree in art (painting), she worked at the local



"I want people to feel a certain way when they look at the color."

museum. She continued painting, but her marginal salary caused her to seek other means of income. She applied to nursing school at Vanderbilt and, after completing a semester, realized nursing wasn't her specialty. In Nashville, she sold her work in several art galleries. "I guess I should have been flattered when one of the gallery curators bought one of my pieces," she laughed. "But I never knew how to market myself at that time."

Throughout the years, she worked for a parks and recreation department, taught senior citizens, was a graphic artist and later worked as a paralegal. All the time she explored different careers, Suzanne continued to paint but never pursued



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gallery connections. While raising her daughter with her husband, Bob, she also earned her teaching certificate and worked with special needs children. Currently, she is a librarian with Mansfield High School.

After a personal family tragedy, though, she put the paintbrush in a drawer and stopped painting for a time. But just recently, after much encouragement from co-workers and friends, she bravely picked up a paintbrush again. "I have a different perspective with my art now," Suzanne shared. "I know what I'm going to focus on, and hopefully, God will make it happen."

Careful color combinations are important parts of Suzanne's art. "I like to think of my art as inspiration," she shared. "I want people to feel a certain way when they look at the color." Her subjects are primarily snippets of real life. "I used to think art was not cerebral enough. But, I totally disagree now. The best artists pull from their own experiences and tell stories."

Suzanne's early work was largely abstract, focusing on color and design. She believed in expressing emotion through the blending of pigment. With a renewed focus, her recent work includes realistic images interplayed with reflective light.

Art used to tell stories is an exciting aspect to Suzanne. With her love for history, she values the connection between a people group's past and their art. "You want to know about history?"



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Study art history. You can learn about a culture and time period that way,” she shared. As librarian, Suzanne enjoys spurring her students to learn more about cultures through their art.

Suzanne has learned a great deal about human nature through art. While teaching a watercolor class to senior citizens, she found a unique connection. “I learned more about the people themselves as they started painting. They opened up. It was kind of like a therapy,” she shared.

With a friendly and kind personality, Suzanne also believes in highlighting other’s work. She rallied several Mansfield High School faculty members to feature their work in an annual faculty show. For three years, the show was hosted in the Mansfield High School library. Because of its success, the district reached out to Suzanne and requested that the show become a permanent districtwide show at the Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts. “I felt very honored that the district would want to have this event to really feature artists in the way they need to be featured,” she shared. Faculty and student artwork are a mainstay of the MHS library.

Suzanne looks forward to continuing her artistic exploration, drawing on her past experiences to tell stories. She acknowledges that her faith truly influences her. “Why do people buy work they can create on a laptop?” she asked. “I think it’s a soul thing. Art is spiritual, and it enhances people’s lives.” **NOW**

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Pursuit of DREAMS

— By Lisa Bell

The sun rises over Mansfield, painting a vibrant backdrop over the golf course. Unless the club is closed, Cameron Carr will probably visit the course before the sun sets.

As a child, Cameron went to the golf course with his dad. Perhaps the early experiences forged a love for the game deep in his veins. In seventh grade, he learned the school had a golf team and wanted to be part of it. His friend's father introduced Cameron to First Tee, an organization that teaches life skills through golf. From the very first year, Cameron established himself as a winner at a district level. Because golf is a year-round sport in Texas, he had to make a choice. He chose to give up all other sports and focus on his golf skills.

The decision surprised his mother, Kim. Up until seventh grade, Cameron's primary sport had been soccer. "I just knew we were going to move to Europe so he could become a famous footballer," she said. But she and his father, Davin, supported his choice and allowed him to follow the path he wanted.



“Football and soccer always came easy for me,” Cameron said. “I had to work harder at golf.” The challenges made him choose golf over other sports.

In addition to the need for developing specific skills, the mental game gives him the greatest challenge. “You have to stay even-keeled the entire time. If you get too up or too down, scores start rising,” he said.

Although he admittedly gets angry sometimes, the idea of throwing a golf club dissipates like a fast moving Texas storm, if it rises at all. “Throwing clubs isn’t allowed. They’re too expensive,” Kim said with a laugh. Cameron likes to get everything right and won’t stop until he does. Harder on himself than anyone, a bad day on the course means he’ll be out there the next day looking at what went wrong and working hard to correct mistakes. Acknowledging there are a lot of great golfers in Mansfield, Cameron practices almost every day.

The golf team at Mansfield High is one of the best, requiring tryouts for the team. Cameron made the cut all four years,



winning medals and receiving invitations to the Hank Haney International Junior Golf Association Academy, The First Tee PLAYer Academy and the Nature Valley First Tee Open at Pebble Beach.

Cameron likes tournaments most, because it gives him an opportunity to play against competitors and see how he handles it. He enjoyed the academies and meeting players from other places. The days filled with playing on amazing golf courses, learning and competing were great. “Pebble Beach was the best experience ever,” Cameron said. He

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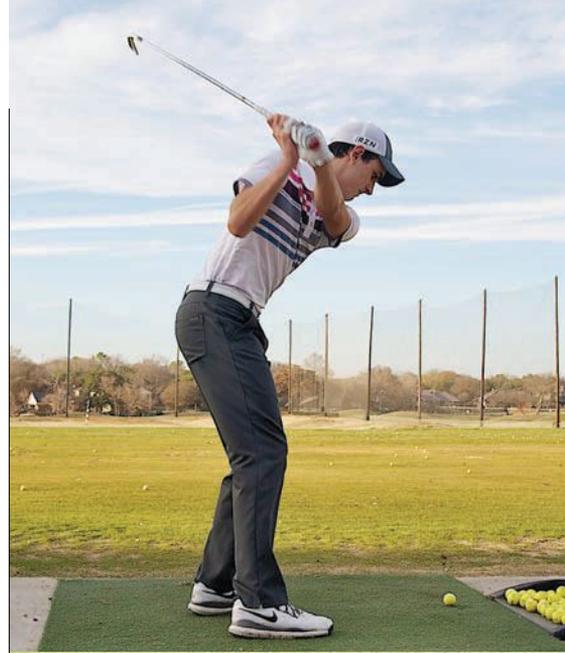


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hopes one day to play at Augusta — in the Masters, of course.

But he has several steps between where he is and the PGA tour. Cameron's first step — college — requires planning now. Already writing essays and completing applications, he'd like to attend University of Oklahoma and play golf there while pursuing a degree in business marketing. To move toward his end goal, Cameron balances schoolwork with a grueling golf schedule. Many days he leaves the golf course at dark, wolfs down some food and then retreats to finish homework before ending his day. The efforts pay off for the straight-A student.

Wherever he attends college, Cameron must play golf at the college level to advance toward his dream of becoming a pro-golfer on the PGA tour. A Q-School, or Qualifying School, paves the way to earn a PGA card, so he can play as a professional golfer. Along the way, he must continually improve his game, perfecting skills to compete with the best.

The team practices three days a week and runs the other two. Cameron hits the golf course on Fridays by himself, and often goes during the weekend, as well. But playing golf isn't everything. He serves on the Junior Advisory Committee for First Tee, volunteering time to the organization where he got his real start in learning the game.

One time, he helped with Special Olympics. "It was really cool watching how they played golf, swinging with one arm," he said. "And they were hitting it far. I couldn't do that."

In addition to taking on a leadership role with First Tee, Cameron also

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“You have to stay even-keeled the entire time. If you get too up or too down, scores start rising.”



serves on the athletic council at school. Coaches choose leaders from each sport to participate on the council. The group comes up with community service projects. Cameron partners community service requirements with the work he does through First Tee. The student leaders also find ways to promote lesser publicized sports. Everyone knows about football and basketball, but not everyone wants to play either of them. The council attempts to raise interest in other sports, opening potential opportunities for all students.

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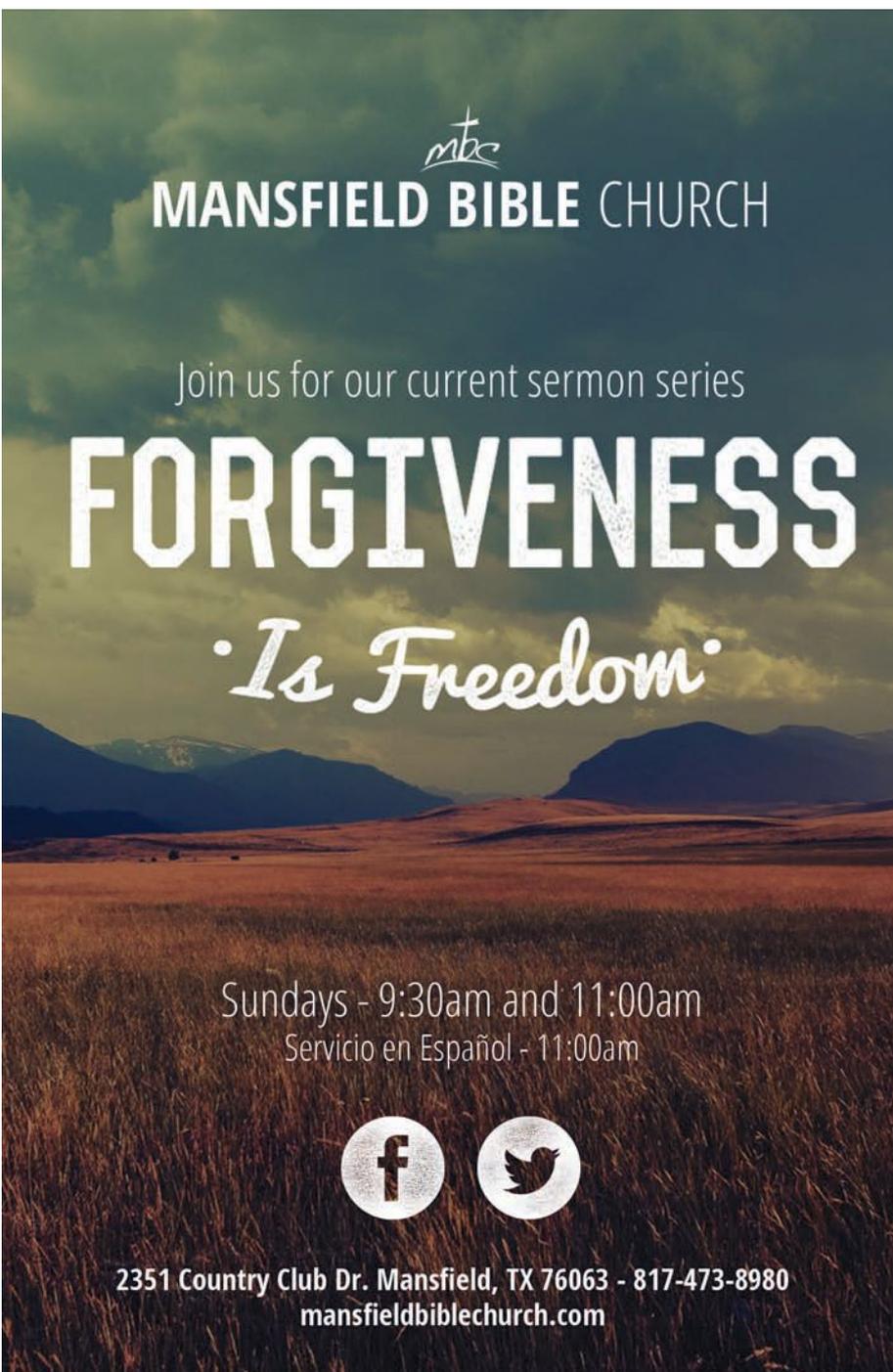
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For fun, Cameron plays golf. To relax, he listens to music, maybe plays Xbox or sometimes hangs out with friends. With little downtime, he usually wants to simply be at home and rest. Going to car shows is his hobby. He took an interest in BMW's because, when he was young, his dad loved them. He now drives an older model but would love to someday own a McLaren P1, a dream for much later in life.

Younger twin brothers, Pierson and Jackson, play some golf but are not following in Cameron's footsteps. Pierson is more into football, and Jackson plays soccer. Nevertheless, Pierson admires his big brother. "It's cool he got to go to California, do all that stuff and have some fun and not worry about what's going on here," Pierson said.

Both of Cameron's parents beam. "We're proud of his accomplishments and look forward to bigger and better things for him," Davin said.

Besides support from friends and family, Cameron has two mentors he gives credit to for his success. Kevin Long, executive director of First Tee, influenced him from the time Cameron began playing golf seriously. "Kevin cares about



every kid there. Cares about me a lot," he said. "He taught me a lot about golf, and he taught me to be a better person, too."

Although he's known Lindy Miller for only a few months, the relationship with his swing coach has also affected Cameron. "He's a role model to me. He's honest and straightforward with me. He tells me what I need to work on and how to work on it," he said. "He really cares about me, too."

Cameron realizes the road to fulfill his dream won't be easy, but his tenacity may just get him there. If not, the time isn't wasted. Many deals are hammered out on golf courses. And the years spent with First Tee have taught Cameron far more than golf skills. **NOW**



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BY GRACE OF A

Mistake

— By Carolyn Wills

Bryan and Melony Boober moved to Mansfield in 2003 and built a 1,500-square-foot starter home. Eleven years, two kids and two dogs later, they needed more room. With time, a wish list and lots of determination, this young can-do family ultimately found their storybook home. “We looked for two years,” Melony smiled. They



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wanted to stay in Mansfield. “We love it here,” she added. “Bryan’s mother is close, and the schools are great.” They envisioned a place where their son, Jacob, and daughter, Ryan, could grow up in a family-friendly neighborhood with nearby schools, a Target within 10 miles (Melony’s prerequisite), room for entertaining, space for a wine cellar and a backyard for their



MELONY BOOHER

Beagles, Bailey and Zoey. Ideally, they wanted a forever home where they might even retire.

Fortunately, Bryan and Melony enjoy previewing model homes, because a model of an old-style Tudor eventually led to their perfect solution. "We saw the model home in Fort Worth and fell in love," Melony said. "Then, we learned that floorplan had been discontinued."

Miraculously, a contractor's mistakenly poured foundation resulted in the use of the floorplan one more time. "It was the

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house we loved. It would be the last of this style to be built, and it was on a lot in Mansfield,” Bryan smiled.

On a relatively short street in a great neighborhood, the house backed up to fields surrounding an elementary school. By the grace of a contractor’s mistake, their forever home had been found. Their first house had closed on March 28, 2003, and exactly 11 years later, on March 28, 2014, they closed on the new one.

The 3,100-square-foot, four-bedroom brick and stone home is a charming blend of English Tudor and Texas elegance. On the inside, it is a stunning expression of a family’s love — of Bryan’s visions and Melony’s talents. The downstairs has a touch of Tuscany, while the upstairs hints of Hollywood and a whole lot of Disney.

The main floor consists of a study, wine cellar, open kitchen/dining/living area, guest bath and master suite. To the

left of the foyer is a beautiful study lined with dark-stained bookshelves. “The bookshelves were our splurge,” Melony shared. “We’re both voracious readers, and the shelves are probably our favorite pieces of furniture.”

Down the hall and tucked beneath the staircase is a custom iron-gated entrance to a charming wine cellar. “I’ve always wanted to say we have a wine cellar,” Bryan grinned. “We were excited to have room for one.” The gate opens to a narrow walkway leading to a compact bar opposite a wall of storage for 166 wine bottles. “Melony built the bar, installed the chandelier and the stone backsplash,” he added. “She’s a great decorator and actually does the work herself. I’m not as handy inside, but I love yardwork.”

The central hallway leads to a large open living area. A state-of-the-art kitchen features dark espresso cabinets, granite counters and stainless steel appliances. The sink, housed in an island, faces the living room, and a second island, accented by tall columns, offers an eat-in counter. “We both cook,” Melony said. “Bryan’s mother is from

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Germany, so for Christmas, we always have a German dinner.”

“Everything Melony cooks is good,” Bryan smiled. “My favorites are salmon croquettes with macaroni and peas. She also bakes and is known for her famous cake balls.”

A prominent color throughout the downstairs is called wise owl, a soft brown. Combined with shades of tan, sepia and green, the overall palette is warm. In the living room, comfortable furniture is complemented by a gorgeous Austin stone-clad fireplace, large sepia-toned prints of trees and bridges and beautiful crown moldings. “It doesn’t take a fortune to decorate nicely,” Melony said. “I’m a nut for bargains. I buy calendars at half price the day after New Year’s Day and frame the photos.”

Sepia prints are also hung in the spacious master bedroom, accenting a giant golden armoire, king-sized bed and inviting window seat along the windowed wall. “Melony made the window seats in the master and the dining area,” Bryan said. “She also installed all of the crown molding.”

“We love the layout of this house,” Melony added. “The main area is perfect for entertaining, and the upstairs is great for the kids.” Downstairs is all about elegance and comfort and is inviting for the whole family (including the Beagles), while the bright and fun-filled upstairs accommodates the children’s bedrooms, a bathroom, playroom, game room and theater. “We want this to be the place where everyone wants to come, especially when our kids are teens,” Bryan said.

The Texas Ranger-themed game room is complete with pool table, foosball and dart board. Then, there’s the amazing movie theater with its 100-inch screen, two tiers of leather seats, movie posters, popcorn and candy and a lifetime of

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movies. "We wanted the theater finished before Jacob started school, so it was the first to be done," Bryan said. "It's become our favorite, and Friday movie nights are now a tradition."

It's hard to imagine two more delightful children's bedrooms than 5-year-old Jacob's and 2-year-old Ryan's. Jacob's *Cars* theme features a car for a bed and a wall of the Disney cars, as seen in the movie. "It was Jacob's idea to do the big mural with the cars," Melony smiled. Ryan's room is a happy, girly pink and lavender with Disney's Minnie everywhere. Their shared bathroom is decorated with everything Mickey and Minnie.

"We turned the fourth bedroom into a blue and yellow *Sesame Street* playroom," Melony added. Chalk and white boards, a kitchen for Ryan and lots of toys provide hours of play.



Bryan and Melony were married in 2001. Bryan is the historical manuscripts writer and manager for Heritage Auction House in Dallas, and Melony is principal of an elementary school in Cedar Hill. "We're an active family," Bryan said. "We enjoy going to the zoo, botanical garden, museums and parks and usually have season passes."

Time together also includes being part of their community. "We've made a point to meet our neighbors," Bryan added. "For Halloween, we threw a party, and now, the community is planning a block party. My childhood neighborhood was a lot like this, and it's great to know our kids will grow up surrounded by friends."

On a wall in the Booher house is an inscription that reads: *All because two people fell in love ...* From newlyweds to pet owners to parents and from starter to storybook home, Bryan and Melony are two people in love who have clearly just begun. **NOW**

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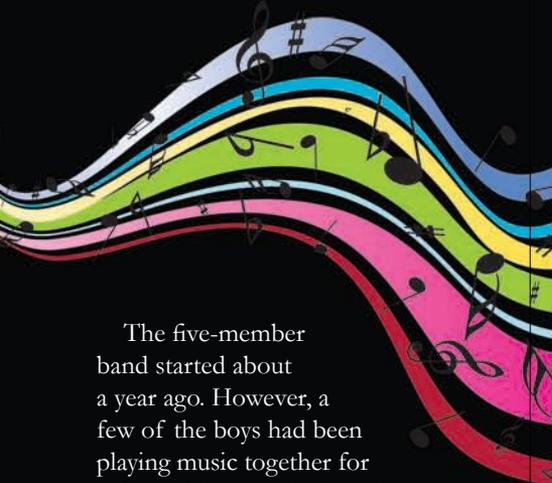
— By Mikaela Mathens



People have said when focused energy is combined with time, success is not far away. The Young brothers, ranging from eighth grade to out of high school, may not be very old, but they have already dedicated much of their lives to music. And, as a result, they are well on their way to seeing their hopes and dreams acknowledged: making a living as musicians in the band, Coastal Skies. Martin, Marvin, Alex, Nick and Jay, members of the band, have bright futures ahead, with names that could end up in the bright lights someday.



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After several years of playing together, the boys decided to form a band, but figuring out a name took several weeks.

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“We thought through different places that we liked and what we wanted to symbolize with our band,” Marvin said. “Martin had the idea of a coastal theme, so I helped him figure out a name, and we came up with Coastal Skies.” All of the boys love the coast, especially Corpus Christi, and their songs have a relaxing feel. With the rest of the band’s consensus, they stuck with the name. To date, Coastal Skies has released two albums with another one scheduled for release this month.

Although the teenage boys are very talented, at the helm leading the way is their manager and father, Henry Gonzalez. Encouraging the boys toward their dreams is a strong passion for him. “I was a professional boxer when I was young. I could have done great things, but somehow I got disconnected,” he shared. “So I’m trying to see these boys through.”

After a year of working together as Coastal Skies, they have already seen some success. Gorilla Music, an artist management company, is helping Coastal Skies get on the radio and booking shows. They also have signed with Tinderbox Music, a music promotions and distribution company. That relationship has fostered their music playing on over 300 college radio stations, as well as booking several shows. In fact, the band was invited to participate in Austin’s SXSW Music Festival in March. They have also auditioned for *America’s Got Talent*. This summer, they will be showcasing with major labels in Los Angeles.

“Spring work is going on with joyful enthusiasm.” –John Muir

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Being invested in their local market is important to Coastal Skies. "If you can't win your local market, then what are you doing with the national market?" Henry



expressed. As such, the band regularly travels throughout Texas playing in festivals and concerts. They have traveled to Louisiana and Oklahoma, as well.

Coastal Skies labels itself as indie pop with various influences, including the bands Maroon 5, 30 Seconds to Mars and Red Hot Chili Peppers. Their music, however, remains very clean. It's important to the five boys that they inspire their peers to great things. "I want to impact this generation with

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our music,” Jay shared. “We want to get across the message: ‘Be yourself. Be original and don’t go with what people want you to do.’” As such, the band is very anti-drugs and uses their music to promote fun and inspirational living.

Each band member is talented and can play multiple instruments. Nick plays the piano and synthesizer, Martin sings vocals and plays bass, Alex plays the electric guitar with Marvin and Jay plays percussion and drums. Martin is also the songwriter.



All of the boys, except Nick, live together under the same roof, which creates a close bond and an impeccable work ethic. Their song “Gotta Get Up” gives a glimpse at their philosophy on working hard. “I gotta get up if I wanna do something/I gotta get up and go be somebody,” the lyrics explain. And, the band isn’t all talk. Many weekends, the boys will drive home at 3:00 a.m., after touring, to only wake up at 6:00 a.m. the next morning for school, followed by practice after school.

Martin got the inspiration for “Gotta Get Up” after his dad woke them up for practice with pots and pans. “These kids’ work ethic is incredible,” Henry shared. “They eat, breathe and live music.”

The band always has a good time while they’re on the road. On one trip, the whole group fished for hours and caught more fish than the longtime fishermen in

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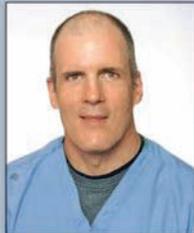


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the area. The first one asleep on the bus, too, is often a victim to Sharpie drawings on the face. "Don't fall asleep on the bus with these guys around," Henry laughed.

Although Coastal Skies is very serious about their music, they also believe in finishing their education. Most of the



boys have plans to attend college and pursue a career in music engineering or in the music industry, depending on the band's success. "Education is very important to fall back on," Henry explained. "I don't want the boys to think that education isn't valuable."

One of their more successful songs, "911," is about someone with no immediate future, friends, job or money. But ultimately, that person realizes all they really want is someone to love. The song has resonated with a large audience, and the band has received positive feedback from the song's honesty.

Ultimately, what's most critical to Coastal Skies is their bond as a family, doing what they love the most. "If the boys want to do something crazy like art or music, I want to help them, because at the end of the day, it's their lives. The best thing I can do to help them is get on the boat," Henry shared. "I'm spending time and building a legacy with my family. To me, that's important." **NOW**

Editor's Note: To learn more about the band, follow them on Facebook at Coastal Skies.

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Summer Fun! — By Amber D. Browne

Summer is just around the corner! Parents will be searching for activities to keep their children busy, other than playing the newest video game or watching their favorite television shows. Choices for summer camps are abundant in the local area. Full-day or overnight Camp Fire programs can be reserved, and many school districts sponsor sports and cheerleading camps. Museum, library, cooking and art, and other day or weeklong camps for kids are offered through various nonprofits, community centers or business-related groups.

If you are looking for some fun in the sun for the entire family, a variety of activities are available locally. You can visit state and local parks, historic sites and zoos for hours of fun. Water parks, lakes and community pools provide for many fun-filled afternoons.

Nature Activities

With all the hustle and bustle of today's world, technological distractions and busy schedules of adults and children, sometimes we forget to enjoy the outdoors. This summer, why not make time to get back to nature? Multiple state parks are within driving distance





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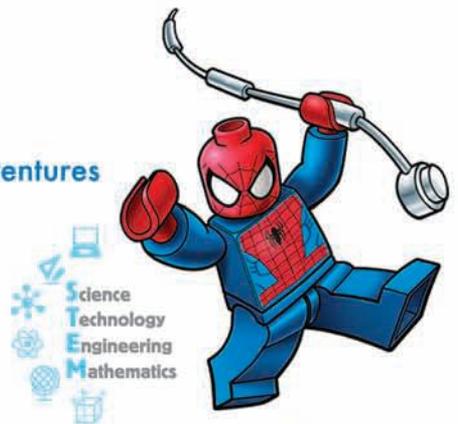
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and offer a variety of activities to enjoy. From hiking trails and bird watching adventures to star gazing and overnight camping, families can soak up what Mother Nature has to offer. You can visit www.tpwd.texas.gov for state park locations and a calendar of events.

If you want to stay close to home, city parks provide a great place to picnic and enjoy the outdoors. Many include playgrounds for children to exert that extra energy. Your own backyard can provide an afternoon of fun. Why not have the children search for rocks and then paint them for family members and friends? Parents can put together a

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simple scavenger hunt for the children. Draw a map that includes the number of steps to a landmark in the yard where the kids will find a hidden clue. The final clue should identify the location of a hidden treat or picnic basket of goodies for lunch.

Nature Safety Tips

If you and your children plan to spend time outdoors either at overnight camps or hiking the nature trails, please keep in mind the following safety tips. Keep an eye out for poison oak and poison ivy. Both of these plants can cause an itchy rash that will stick around for up to three weeks. Calamine lotion can help relieve the itchiness. Remind children not to eat wild berries they may come across on the trails. If you're out in the sun, don't forget to slather on the sunscreen!



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Water Activities

The State of Texas is full of beautiful waterways that provide ample opportunities for some fun in the sun. Families can enjoy canoeing or tubing down winding rivers and boating in refreshing lakes. Fishing is also a favorite pastime for many. According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department website, residents who fish in the state's public waters are required to have a fishing license. However, there are several exceptions to this rule. No fishing license is required if the resident is under 17 years of age.



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Taking a dip in a community or backyard swimming pool is always a good choice for some fun in the sun. With swirly slides, wave pools and more, water parks bring out the kid in all of us. Swimming lessons are available at the YMCA, at some city pools or even at a community member's private pool.

Boat enthusiasts are out enjoying the warmer temperatures. Local lakes offer open water to ski, wake board, tube or just relax on the boat deck. Many lake businesses offer rentals for jet skis and other personal watercrafts. Read all instructions before getting onboard watercraft and keep safety in mind.

Water Safety Tips

The week of May 16-22 is designated as National Safe Boating Week. When boating, life jackets are a must. According to the TPWD, children under 13 years old must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device in a boat under 26-feet in length. Every occupant on a personal watercraft is required to wear a life jacket.

Sunscreen is also a necessity when out on the water. The American Academy of Dermatology suggests applying sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to all bare skin at least 15 minutes before heading outdoors. The sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours.



More Family Fun

Warmer weather entices people to get outdoors and soak up the rays. For those rainy days or if you prefer a few hours of indoor entertainment, the local area has plenty of places to share the day together. Children can learn while having fun at the Dallas World Aquarium, Dallas Zoo,



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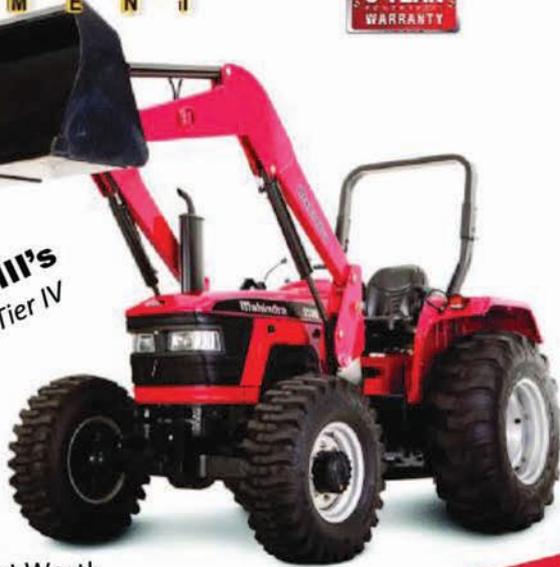
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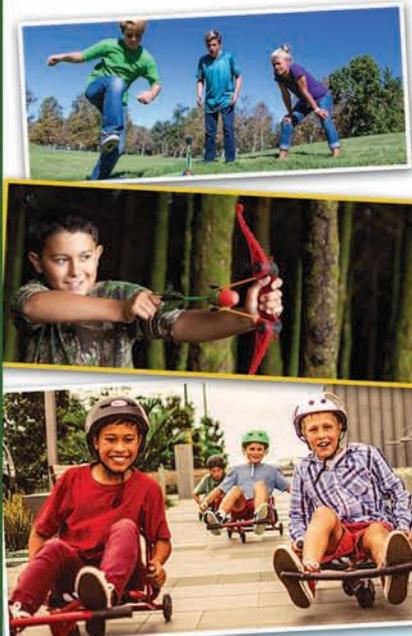


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Do you want to check out the latest blockbuster? Many movie theaters now serve a variety of food and drink items on their menus. Drive-in movie theaters are an option for a night out under the stars. Most theaters offer convenient online ticket reservations. Or if live entertainment is more to your liking, you might consider attending a performance at Winspear Opera House in Dallas or the Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth.

With nearly three months of summer ahead of us, parents and children can take advantage of many of the options available to them. Whatever you and your family choose to do this summer, keep safety in mind and don't forget to have fun! **NOW**



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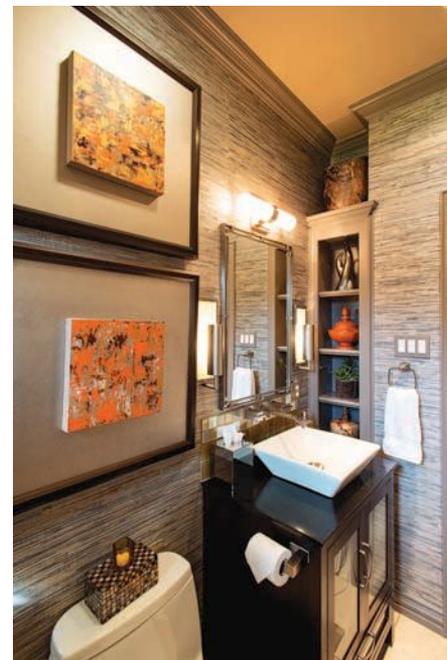




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BEAUTIFICATION

The Landry Team makes lives more beautiful, one room at a time.

— By Sara Edgell

Talented, innovative, driven — these words capture the essence of Lisa Landry's character completely. "I always knew I'd have my own business," Lisa remarked. "I just didn't know what it would be." As a buyer and merchandiser for high-end stores in the Metroplex, she enjoyed selecting fashionable and trendy clothing and accessories, dressing clients and, most of all, designing window displays. Pursuing that natural talent and love, she frequently decorated the homes of family and friends as a hobby. "I loved it. Decorating is truly my passion," she said.

That's how Lisa started up The Landry Team with Decorating Den Interiors. Through research, she discovered the franchise home decorating business. The original concept was to offer

window treatments on wheels, meaning that the designers would go directly to clients' homes in a van carrying countless samples to cater to customers' personal style and tastes. The result was a highly customized and personal decorating experience.

Lisa started her very own franchise out of her home in 1998. After years of dedication and hard work, Lisa's firm has grown from a staff of one to 14, and from a single room to a 12,000-square-foot industrial (and fabulously decorated) studio. The progressive and effective business management Lisa has carefully practiced and crafted has proven to be prosperous, earning her and her team numerous accolades.

In total, Lisa has won 24 International Dream Room Awards

and has been published in over 20 magazines across the country, all thanks to her impeccable designs. Currently, the team is ranked as the No. 1 franchise of 275 worldwide, and the No. 1 region out of 40.

Additionally, The Landry Team is the regional manager for the Tarrant County Region. This means that they oversee other franchises in the area, and Lisa personally offers assistance in the form of group classes and one-on-one training sessions. "My goal is to allow those with design talent to do what they love for a living," Lisa explained. "As a decorator, I see potential in homes, but also in people."

Sharing her wisdom and knowledge has become a new passion for Lisa, who hung up her decorator's hat two years ago to act as regional manager and trainer full time. "I want to help the region and decorators in it grow to their full potential," she said.

Eventually, Decorating Den expanded to include complete home and business interior decorating services. The client-centered customer service, however, remained the same, along with the fully stocked vans, now called showrooms on wheels. "It's a highly personalized experience. We go to the client, so we're in their space with their lighting," Lisa explained. "The vans carry over 5,000 samples so that everything our decorators need is at their fingertips. Customers love being able to view all the samples in the comfort and convenience of their own home or office."

The Landry Team offers a wide array of decorating services, ranging from window, wall and floor coverings to lighting, painting and accessorizing. They literally do it all. Every consultation is free, as well as design services, and they tailor each project to meet the client's wants, needs and budget. "No job is too small," Lisa stated. "If a client wants a new lamp, we can provide that, and we're happy to do it. But if a client wants a full room or even their entire home decorated, we're happy to do that, too. We just truly enjoy making the world more beautiful, one room at a time, and feel it is a gift to be able to do what we love every day." **NOW**

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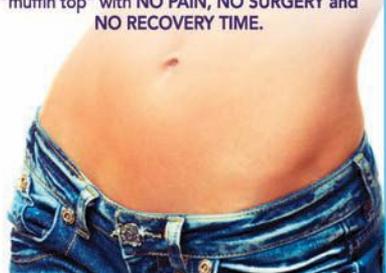
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Harleigh Lynn Mueller loves to swing.



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Daniel and Jean Patton take a break during a busy day to have lunch together.



Members of the Mansfield Masonic Lodge No. 331 work on building their Pickle Parade float.



Girl Scouts Service Unit 211 join hands in a friendship circle in honor of 2015 World Thinking Day.



Jack, the handsome and friendly Poodle, gets the special treatment and a fresh summer cut thanks to Cheryl Betty.



The Looney family takes advantage of the beautiful weather on an afternoon walk.



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Reinvesting Dividends Can Be a Smart Move

As an investor, you'll eventually need to make all sorts of decisions — and some will be difficult. But there's one choice you can make that can be relatively easy: reinvesting stock dividends.

It's simple to reinvest dividends — you just need to sign up for a dividend reinvestment plan (DRIP). Once you do, you won't receive dividends directly as cash. Instead, your dividends will be directly reinvested in the underlying equity. Be aware, though, that you may incur a fee when reinvesting dividends.

By doing some research, you can find companies that have not only consistently paid dividends year after year but also increased those dividend payments regularly. (Keep in mind that companies are not obligated to pay dividends and can reduce or discontinue them at any time.)

By reinvesting dividends, you may be able to realize some key benefits. First, you'll be building your share ownership, which can help you build wealth. No matter what the market is doing, adding shares can be beneficial — but may be especially valuable when the market is down. When share prices are low, reinvesting dividends — which don't typically fluctuate with share price — can help boost your investment reach further, simply because each reinvested dividend can buy more shares than at the previous higher share price.

Consider this: It took investors 25 years to recover from the Crash of 1929 if they did not reinvest their dividends, but it only took them 15 years to recover from the crash if they did reinvest dividends, according to Ned Davis Research. And we've seen the same phenomenon in more recent years, too. Since 1987, according to Ned Davis Research, we've had three major market corrections: Black Monday in 1987; the bursting of the dot-com bubble from 2000 to 2002; and the bursting of the subprime and credit bubbles in

2008. The S&P 500 rose following those market corrections. Investors who stayed invested during those corrections had the opportunity to participate in rising markets. Those investors participating in a dividend reinvestment plan may have been able to buy more shares at a lower price. Of course, past performance doesn't guarantee future results and the value of your stock shares can fluctuate, including the loss of principal.

While reinvesting your dividends clearly can be beneficial, you do have to be aware that, even if you aren't receiving the dividends as cash, you will be taxed on them. But the dividend tax rate remains quite favorable. If you're in the 25 percent, 28 percent, 33 percent or 35 percent brackets, your dividends will be taxed at 15 percent. If your taxable income is more than \$400,000 (or \$450,000 for couples), your dividend tax rate is 20 percent. If your adjusted gross income is \$250,000 or more (for married couples filing jointly) or \$200,000 or more (if you're single), you'll also have to pay a 3.8-percent Medicare tax on your dividends.

While taxes are a consideration when investing, they should never be the driving factor. Consider also that investing in dividend-paying stocks does carry some risk — specifically, the value of your investment may fluctuate, causing you to lose some, or all, of your principal. But you may be able to reduce the impact of this possible volatility by sticking with quality stocks as part of a diversified portfolio. As we've seen, reinvesting dividends can help you build your investment portfolio — so consider putting this technique to work in your investment strategy. **NOW**

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

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When you stop and look back at what's happened in the markets, it's easy to realize how quickly things can change. That's why we should schedule some time to discuss how the market can impact your financial goals. We can also conduct a portfolio review to help you decide if you should make changes to your investments and whether you're on track to reach your goals.

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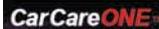


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May 2

Elizabeth Smith Elementary Annual Spring Carnival: 3:00-6:00 p.m., 701 S. Holland Rd. Free. To celebrate the school's 10th anniversary, this popular community event will include a diverse representation of the lovely Mansfield community. For more information, call (817) 299-6980.

May 5

Cinco de Mayo Celebration: 5:00 p.m., Fat Daddy's Sports & Spirits, 781 W. Debbie Ln. Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with live music by Deric Merill and Tejas Brothers, a limited time celebratory menu, drink specials and piñatas! For more information, visit www.fatdaddyslive.com.

Girl Scouts Volunteer and Leader meeting: 7:00-8:00 p.m., Willie E. Brown Elementary School, 1860 Cannon Dr. Come learn about volunteer opportunities to help shape young lives' futures. For more information, contact Kriste Ryan (682) 422-9211 or at girlscoutsMISD@gmail.com.

May 9

Dave Milsap Band: 8:00-10:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. \$16-\$22 per

ticket. This Texas-based guitarist has shared the stage with countless blues legends and delivers nothing short of a fantastic performance every time he's on stage. For more information, visit www.farrbest.com.

May 11

22nd Annual Mansfield Chamber Golf Tournament: 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr. If you are interested in sponsoring or playing in the golf tournament, contact the Chamber Office for details at info@mansfieldchamber.org.

May 16, 23, 30

Farmer's Market: 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., 206 Smith St. The Farmer's market will be held every **Saturday** morning. Come by to browse, shop, sing and visit with your favorite vendors.

May 16

Operation Clean Sweep: 8:00 a.m., location to be announced. Join the Mansfield Minority Chamber of Commerce (MMCC) in their effort to maintain the beauty of Mansfield streets as they clean up litter from FM 157 at Hwy. 287 to Pleasant Ridge/ Newt Patterson. For volunteer and sponsor registration, contact (682) 730-0104 or info@mansfieldmcc.org.

Wisteria Street Market: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mansfield Activities Center, 106 S. Wisteria St. Come out and enjoy a day filled with various activities, vendors, food trucks and more. For more information, visit www.mansfieldparks.com.

Masonic Lodge No. 331 Annual Fish Fry: 5:00-8:00 p.m., 1170 N. US 287. \$12 for adults; \$5 for children 12 and under. Open to the public. All you can eat fish and hot dogs for the kids. A raffle will be held to raise funds for charity. For more information, call (682) 200-9331 or visit www.mansfield331.org.

May 30

Elvis T Busboy and The Texas Blues Butchers: 8:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. \$16-\$22 per ticket. Be prepared for an evening of high-energy blues delivered with incredible vocals and musical mojo. For more information, visit www.farrbest.com.

Submissions are welcome and published as space allows. Send your current event details to sara.edgell@nowmagazines.com.

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In the Kitchen With Michaela Lilljedahl

— By Sara Edgell

When it comes to baking, Michaela Lilljedahl finds her inspiration from the anticipated emotions and reactions of others when they experience the confections she's created. "Cooking and eating is an experience. I love creating memorable experiences for others through food, particularly sweets," Michaela said.

While Michaela enjoys trying classic recipes found in homemade, small-town church recipe books, she also enjoys personalizing them by updating ingredients and applying new techniques. This adds a modernized, personal touch to what she calls "oldies but goodies." Her willingness to experiment in the kitchen makes her treats true originals. "When I get inventive, watch out!" she said. "You're liable to see something in a dessert that 'doesn't belong.' As long as the flavor rocks, I say all ingredients are fair game." **NOW**

The Most Amazing Sugar Cookies

Cookies:

- 1 cup butter, softened (no substitutes)**
- 1 cup sugar**
- 2 eggs**
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla**
- 1/2 tsp. almond extract**
- 3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour**
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda**
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder**
- 1/2 tsp. salt**

Frosting:

- 2 cups powdered sugar, sifted**
- 1 Tbsp. milk**
- Corn syrup, as needed to thicken**
- 1/4 tsp. almond or vanilla extract**
- Food coloring of choice**

- 1. For cookies:** In a large bowl, combine butter with sugar, eggs, vanilla and almond extract; beat using an electric mixer on high speed until light and fluffy.
- 2.** In another bowl, combine all dry ingredients; gradually stir into the butter mixture until well-blended. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for 2 hours.
- 3.** Preheat oven to 400 F. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper. Do not grease cookie sheet.
- 4.** On a very lightly floured surface, roll out the chilled dough to about 1/4-inch thickness. Cut into desired shapes using cookie cutters.
- 5.** Place cookies 2-inches apart on cookie sheet. Bake 4-6 minutes. Remove cookies to wire racks to cool completely before icing.
- 6. For frosting:** In a small bowl, mix sugar and milk. If needed, add more milk for the perfect spreading consistency.

- 7.** Beat in corn syrup as needed to thicken and almond or vanilla extract until the icing is smooth and glossy. If the icing is too thick, add about 1/2 Tbsp. more corn syrup.
- 8.** Divide into as many separate bowls as needed for different colors. Add in food coloring until you've reached desired color(s).
- 9.** Paint the icing over the cookies using a brush, or dip edges of cookies into icing. Allow to set on waxed paper.

Buttered-popcorn Ice Cream

- 2 cups popped popcorn**
- 1 1/2 Tbsp. unsalted butter, melted**
- 1 tsp. kosher salt (divided use)**
- 2 cups whole milk**
- 2 cups heavy cream**
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup**
- 5 Tbsp. sugar (divided use)**
- 8 large egg yolks**

- 1.** Place a strainer over a large bowl and set aside. Place popcorn in a saucepot. Drizzle butter over popcorn and sprinkle with 1/2 tsp. salt; toss to coat. Add milk and cream; cover and steep for 10 minutes. Stir in corn syrup and 1 Tbsp. sugar.
- 2.** Working in batches, purée popcorn mixture in a blender until smooth. Transfer to a large saucepan; bring to a simmer over medium heat.
- 3.** Using an electric mixer, beat yolks in a large bowl. Add remaining sugar and salt, mixing until thick ribbons form.
- 4.** Gradually whisk hot popcorn mixture into yolk mixture. Return to the saucepan and cook over medium-low heat, stirring constantly with a high temp spatula, until custard is slightly thickened. Your finger should leave a path when drawn across the back of the spatula and an instant-read thermometer registers 175 F. Pour mixture through the strainer.
- 5.** Process in an ice cream maker according to manufacturer's instructions. When complete, transfer mixture to a container, cover and freeze. If you don't have an ice cream maker, you can put the strained mixture in a Tupperware container, cover and freeze overnight.

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

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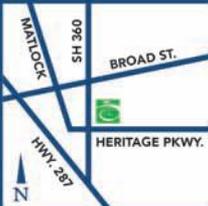
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POPULAR SEASONS FOR PLASTIC SURGERY

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There are seasons for everything, but one thing you wouldn't expect to be seasonal is cosmetic surgery. Any plastic surgeon, however, will tell you that spring is the season for breast augmentations and liposuction, and the season for facelifts is right after Christmas. Many other procedures are more common during certain times of the year.

The reasons for this seasonality become obvious when you consider each procedure. During the spring, women start thinking about that dreaded bathing suit. They try them on and might notice a little fat that wasn't there last year, or they might wish they filled it out better in certain areas. Since it takes a month or so to look reasonable in a bathing suit after cosmetic surgery, by July 4, if the surgery hasn't been performed yet, many women wait until after the summer.

When it comes to facial surgery, like face or eyelid lifts, fall or winter surgery is most common. While you should be able to face the public two weeks after a facelift, you might not really want to. You'll have residual swelling and even a little bruising up to a month after the lift, and there's always a chance of some odd lumps and bumps. It's a lot easier to wear scarves or heavier makeup when it's cold outside. When planning for cosmetic surgery, you might be pleasantly surprised at how fast you recover, but 5-10% of people have one thing or another that slows down their recovery. When planning out your schedule,

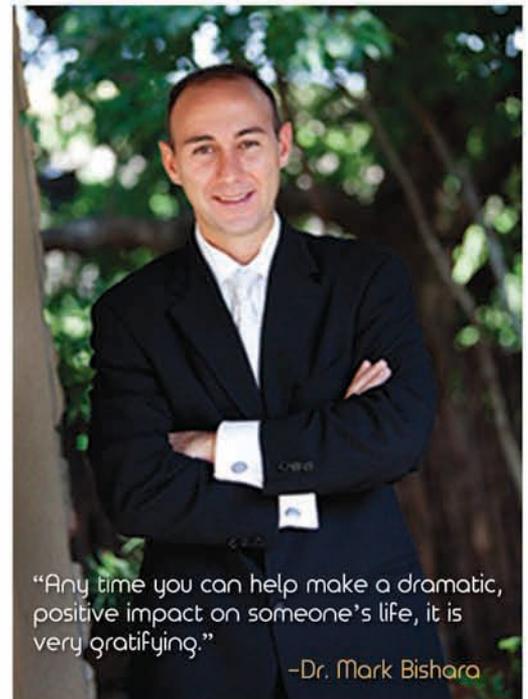


you really have to plan for the worst-case scenario. Recovery from larger procedures takes longer than recovery from smaller procedures. Older women take longer to bounce back than younger ones.

Also, if you have significant medical problems, you have a much higher chance of a complication after surgery. You and your surgeon may decide to forgo surgery and improve your appearance with less invasive procedures that are less demanding on your body.

While some office procedures like Botox, Xeomin and Fillers are easier to do and really don't have seasonality, not all types of procedures are suited for the summer. Chemical peels and some laser treatments require strict avoidance of sun, so unless you live in a cave or are a vampire, you might consider having these treatments during the fall or winter months.

This information is brought to you courtesy of Dr. Mark Bishara and The Paragon Plastic Surgery & Med Spa in Mansfield and Southlake, Texas.



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