

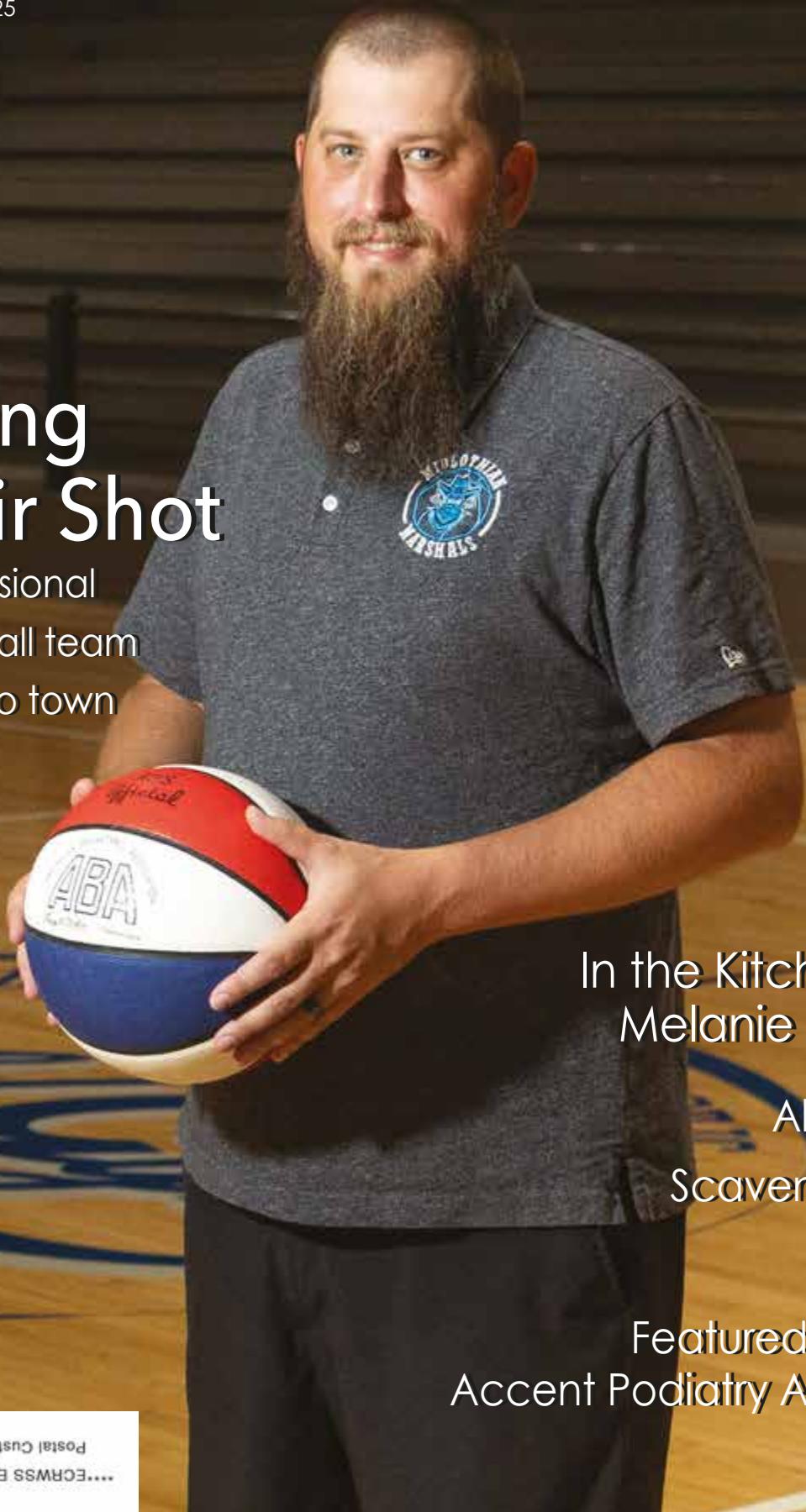
# MidlothianNOW

# M A G A Z I N E

OCTOBER 2025

# Taking Their Shot

A professional basketball team comes to town



# In the Kitchen With Melanie Wallace

## Also inside:

## Scavenger Hunt

# Sudoku

## Featured Business: Accent Podiatry Associates

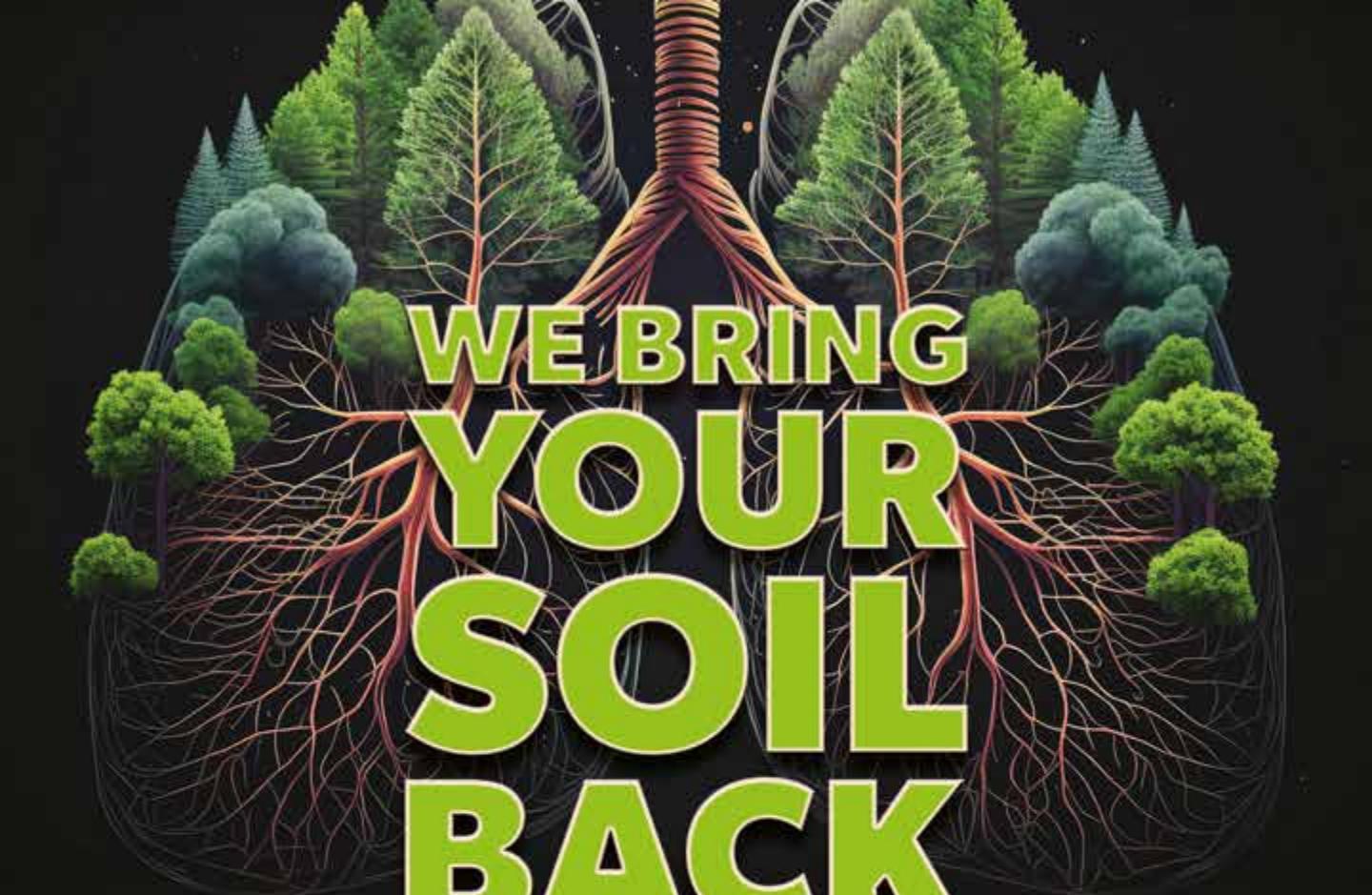


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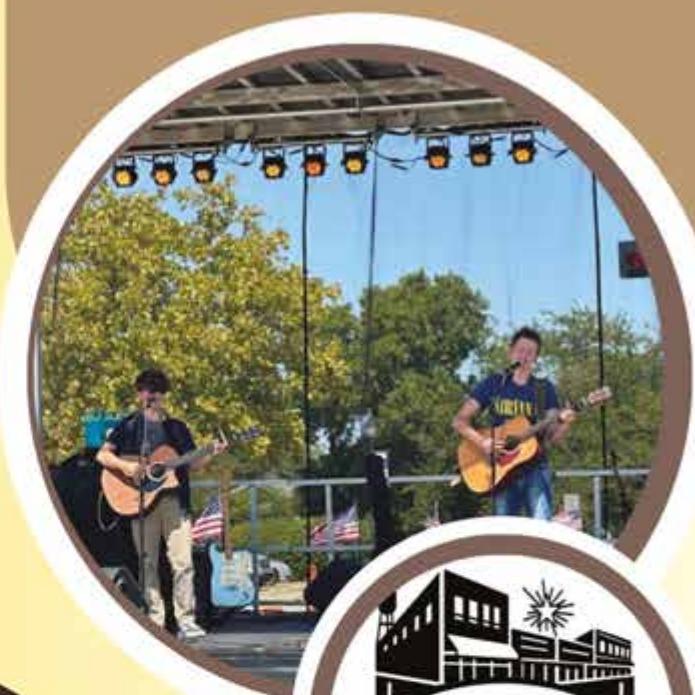
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# EDITOR'S NOTE

Adored gourd ...

October is peak pumpkin season, with data suggesting more than 50 percent of the U.S. population will purchase a pumpkin this month! Transforming the big orange gourds into creatively cut out jack-o'-lanterns is a favorite fall pastime.

One small Texas town is considered the pumpkin capital of the nation. Tracing back to the 1950s, a Floydada city couple began selling pumpkins from a roadside stand. From that humble start, a few acres of pumpkins grew into the town's claim to fame. The city trademarked itself as Pumpkin Capital USA in the 1980s and is officially known as the Pumpkin Capital of Texas, too.

From front porch decor to autumnal table centerpieces, pumpkins are also famously utilized in recipes like pies, parfaits and cookies, not to mention the ever-popular pumpkin spice latte. Leftover pumpkin can serve as animal and bird feed, or it can be composted. Creating jack-o'-lanterns from pumpkins is a time-honored tradition that, despite the ick factor of cleaning out their insides, parents and children anticipate year after year. A drive around town noticing the creative ways your neighbors display this month's most famous gourd might inspire you to pick up a few to carve, too.

Angel Morris  
MidlothianNOW Editor  
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Pumpkin to talk about!

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October 2025  
Volume 21, Issue 10

## ON THE COVER



Allen Moorman was instrumental in getting Midlothian its first professional sports team.

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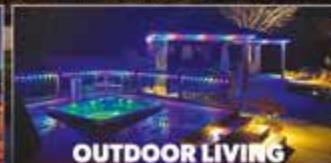
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Photo by Kobbi R. Blair.

The odds of growing up to play professional sports are slim. It's estimated that only 3-5 percent of high school basketball players make a college team, and just 1.2 percent of male athletes and .08 percent of females are drafted from college to play professionally, according to NCAA. The American Basketball Association, however, opens up opportunities for a few more elite players to continue at the professional level.

After founding the Midlothian Basketball League for youth in 2021 with a small group of locals, Allen Moorman began to see possibilities for a professional team in Midlothian. "We started the league for, originally, first- through sixth-graders, with a goal of doing things really differently with the league," Allen, who had an event promotions background, said. "We put a lot of emphasis on making it more than just sports. It was about entertainment and having fun."

In the initial season, 300 students joined the league. It was so well received, parents requested a summer season, when more than 600 kids enrolled. "It blew up from there, expanding to involve kindergarten through ninth grade, averaging a little over 1,000 participants per season," Allen recalled.

With a reputation for creative, out-of-the-box entertainment ideas, the league moved into adult recreational basketball and became the largest adult program in DFW, Allen shared. "I felt like a professional team was a natural progression from the success we'd built through the youth and adult leagues," he noted.

The agreement to bring the city's first professional sports team to the community was finalized with the ABA in January 2024, and the team launched its inaugural season last fall with 20 games in and around Texas, including nine in the Midlothian Historic Gymnasium.

"The program is very professionally run and very community oriented. From the ticket-takers to the hosts who bring you to your seats to the local organizations that entertain at half-time, no one leaves without saying, 'This is awesome!'" Allen described.



About a dozen players round out the Marshalls' roster, including athletes from Dallas, Midlothian, Waxahachie and other Texas cities. "Last season, we had 10 players who had to begin competing after just three weeks of practice together. We lost a lot of games in the beginning, but the guys stayed positive," Allen recalled.

"Things picked up the second half of the season, and we got the last seed in playoffs, winning the first game and losing the second," Allen continued. "After the success at the end of the season, we're looking to be competitive right out of the gate this year."

Coach Christian Person returns to lead the team on the court. "Coach Person is an awesome dude. He'd been coaching in our youth league a long time and had a history coaching and reffing," Allen explained. "He'll be shifting to a more hands-on, specific instruction style as we try to get more competitive this year."

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Joining Coach Person on the coaching staff is Tristan Ragsdale, who is returning from the first season, and Shaun Miller, who was a player last season and is transitioning to a coaching role. Joining Allen, who serves as team president and CEO, are Taylor Rogers and Cory Lucas. Taylor is director of basketball operations and Cory is marketing director. "Taylor liaisons between the office staff and the coaching/player staff, while Cory handles social media, merchandising

and anything to do with marketing," Allen explained.

Allen said a key mission of the Marshalls' organization is treating everyone as family, from staff and players to fans. "After games last year, players stayed to take pictures and sign autographs for kids, and they helped us run clinics and camps. Attitude was definitely the team's strong suit," he praised. "We stress to the players that not only are we a family, they are role models for kids to look up to."

Families supported the team, as well, averaging 208 attendees per game last year. "It was more than we could ask for in a first season. We had a 350-capacity venue, and it was super cool for it to be more than half full every game," Allen said.

This year, the team re-signed seven of its original players and added four newcomers. "We'll carry 11 on our roster this year, all highly talented, and I think we'll make a strong playoff run with this group," Allen predicted.

In addition to giving outstanding athletes the opportunity to further their

careers, the Marshalls organization prides itself on bringing quality entertainment through family-friendly sports to Midlothian. "When it comes to games, many attend from neighboring towns. When you do that, there are economic benefits like them eating here after the game or staying at a hotel in town," Allen described. "When we started this, we set out to make it as affordable as possible to allow families of four, for example, the opportunity to come to a game and eat some snacks for under \$100. We have hit that target!"

Season two for the Marshalls begins this month, with a full schedule and tickets available for purchase online. "There's a cool factor to having a professional team that everyone can rally around. It's unique. We're the only ABA pro team in all of DFW," Allen emphasized. "If you're looking for affordable, family-friendly fun, come out and bring the family!" **NOW**

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## Zoomed In: Sara White

By Angel Morris

At age 11, Sara White got her first show steer. "I was captivated by the process of caring for him, training him and experiencing the thrill of showing him at shows," she shared.

As a result, Sara began her own cattle business, Blue Sky Cattle, with merchandise for sale at Pistols & Pearls Fine Western Wear in Midlothian. From every purchase, she donates \$1 to local youth livestock organizations. This summer, Sara made her first donation, giving \$120 to the Friends of Midlothian FFA. "This is how I could take my passion to the next level, starting a small business focused on the love I have for show cattle," she noted. "I hope my passion for the industry will inspire other kids to get involved, too."



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Midlothian Lions Club installs new officers.

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School Resource Officers Levya and Taylor show support at a community event.



Shawn Mechler and her mom, Linda Skelton, head to see Leanne Morgan's comedy performance at the American Airlines Center.

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— By Angel Morris

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[www.accentpodiatry.com](http://www.accentpodiatry.com)  
Facebook and Instagram: accentpodiatryassociates

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Whether you experience frequent foot pain, chronic conditions like diabetes or injuries impacting the feet, the professionals at Accent Podiatry Associates are ready to help you “put your best foot



forward.” With offices in Midlothian, Mansfield and Arlington, Accent provides a range of services to get you on your feet again.

Doctors Dharmesh Bhakta, Jacob Jasper and Parth Bhakta opened Accent Podiatry Associates in Midlothian in January of this year. “We chose this new location for our podiatry practice because it’s in a vibrant, growing community with a high demand for specialized foot care,” Dr. Dharmesh Bhakta shared.

Dr. Jasper added, “The area offers excellent accessibility with ample parking and proximity to public transport, making it convenient for our patients. Additionally, the modern facilities here allow us to provide cutting-edge treatments in a comfortable setting.”

Accent offers advanced podiatric treatment of foot and ankle pain or fractures, sports injuries, heel pain, ingrown and fungal nails and diabetes, tailoring treatment solutions from routine footcare to surgical intervention. “Treating pain in the feet and ankles helps patients alleviate pain and improve mobility. From basic discomfort or stiffness to deformities and injuries, podiatrists specialize in diagnosing and treating conditions and improving your foot health,” Dr. Dharmesh Bhakta said.

A Fellow of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons with Wound Care Certification from the Wound Care Education Institute, Dr. Dharmesh Bhakta is board-certified in foot surgery by the American Board of Podiatric Surgery. He stays involved in professional organizations, including the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) and the Texas Podiatric Medical Association (TPMA), and his expertise includes pediatric foot conditions, reconstructive surgery, sports-related injuries, wound care and limb salvage. He also treats peripheral nerve disorders.

## “TREATING PAIN IN THE FEET AND ANKLES HELPS PATIENTS ALLEVIATE PAIN AND IMPROVE MOBILITY.”

Dr. Jasper served as chief resident during surgical training at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center, working with a variety of patients toward trauma, sports medicine and diabetic limb salvage. He is an associate member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

Dr. Parth Bhakta completed residency at Hunt Regional Medical Center, focusing on forefoot and rearfoot/ankle reconstructive surgery. He interned at Parkland Hospital, focusing on limb salvage and wound care, and is currently an associate member of the American College of Foot and Ankle Surgeons.

“We’re new to the community and excited to get involved by engaging in community health initiatives and partnering with local organizations to improve the overall well-being of the community,” Dr. Parth Bhakta offered.

Accent suggests patients contact them to verify insurance acceptance, with a variety of HMOs, PPOs and other health plans recognized by the office. New patients are always welcome, and appointments can be scheduled online. “Each of our patients receives a personalized treatment plan tailored to their unique condition and lifestyle,” Dr. Dharmesh Bhakta promised, “promoting more effective outcomes and a quicker recovery.” **NOW**

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# CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH MELANIE WALLACE

— By Angel Morris



Though Melanie Wallace has lived all over, she considers Midlothian her hometown. "We raised our kids in a big ol' 100-year-old farmhouse here in the center of town, and I served as the principal of Baxter Elementary for 10 years," she shared.

In the 25 ensuing years, the Wallaces lived in Nevada, California, Montana, South Korea and on the Bolivar Peninsula. "We also traveled the world, and I made it a point to take cooking lessons in each foreign country," Melanie noted.

Back "home" for the last couple of years to be near grandchildren, Melanie has enjoyed reconnecting with old friends, gardening, reading, traveling and attending Shiloh Cumberland Presbyterian Church. "I've published three books and am currently completing a cookbook memoir entitled *Together*," Melanie said. "My culinary mystery, *Fun Life With Papa*, will be available early this fall." **NOW**

## Moppy's Grasshopper Pie

### Crust:

**2 cups chocolate sandwich cookie crumbs (about 23 cookies)**  
**5 Tbsp. butter, melted**

### Pie Filling:

**1 13-oz. container marshmallow fluff**  
**2/3 cup half-and-half**  
**2 Tbsp. crème de menthe liquor**  
**1-2 drops green food coloring (optional)**

**1 cup heavy cream**  
**Extra cookie crumbs, for garnish**  
**Mint leaves, for garnish**

- 1. For crust:** Pulverize the cookies in a food processor. Add butter and pulse.
- 2.** Press the crumbs into the bottom and sides of a 9-inch pan. Bake at 350 F for about 10 minutes. Cool completely before filling.
- 3. For filling:** In a saucepan, heat the marshmallow fluff and half-and-half over low heat, stirring constantly. When melted,

place the saucepan into a bowl of ice to cool quickly. Once cool, add crème de menthe.

**4.** Add 1-2 drops of green food coloring, if using. Beat the heavy cream until stiff. Fold the cold marshmallow mixture into the whipped cream. Pour the mixture into the chocolate crust.

**5.** Chill for at least 2 hours. Serve with whipped cream and garnish with cookie crumbs and mint leaves.

## Nanny's Biscuits

**2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**  
**2 Tbsp. baking powder**  
**1 tsp. salt**  
**1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, cubed and very cold, plus 2 Tbsp. for skillet**  
**1 cup, plus 2 Tbsp. cold buttermilk (divided use)**  
**2 tsp. honey**

**1.** Preheat the oven to 425 F. Place the flour, baking powder and salt in a large bowl; whisk until combined.

**2.** Add the cubed butter; cut into the dry ingredients with a pastry cutter until coarse crumbs form.

**3.** Make a well in the center of the mixture. Pour in 1 cup buttermilk and drizzle honey on top. Press together until it begins to form a dough. Do not overwork; the dough will be shaggy.

**4.** Place the dough on a floured work surface; gently bring together with floured hands. Flatten into a 3/4-inch-thick rectangle. Fold one side into the center, then the other side (book fold method).

Turn the dough horizontally, then flatten into a 3/4-inch rectangle again.

**5.** Repeat 3-4 times. (This creates the layers in the biscuit.) Flatten into the final 3/4-inch-thick rectangle. Cut into 3-inch circles with a biscuit cutter or juice glass.

**6.** Arrange in a 10-inch, cast-iron skillet, over 2 Tbsp. melted butter. Brush the tops with remaining buttermilk; bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the tops are golden brown.



# WIN!

## MidlothianNOW Scavenger Hunt



Find 5 hidden Ghosts

in 5 different ads in this issue (not counting the one above).

Email the page numbers and specific ads where they are found, plus your phone number, by October 15th. To ensure your Scavenger Hunt answers go in the drawing, you must use the

**Scavenger Hunt Email**

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Acorns were found on pages 6, 10, 18, 21 & 22.



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# Sudoku Puzzle

Easy

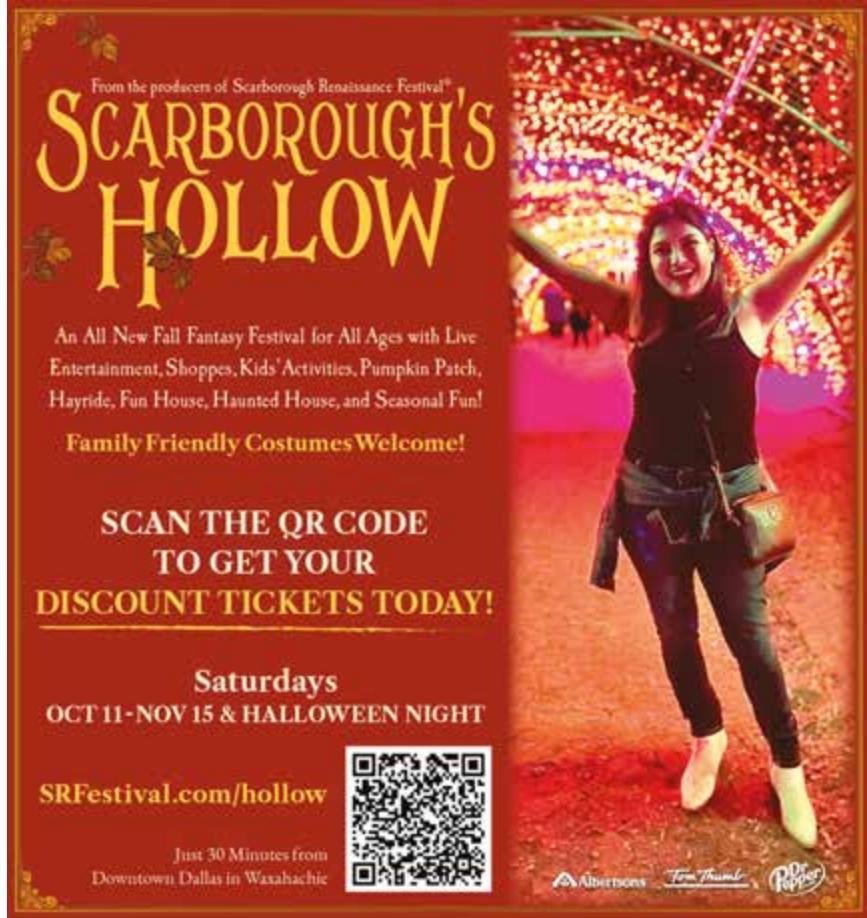
7	1					9		
				5	6	1		
3		5						
4	8	7		1				
					2			
2	6							
					6			
2		1	6		8			
9		8			2	4		

Medium

						7	9	
	8				7			
		4	1			2		
9			5					
				7	5	8		
		4	6		3			
	1	9		5				
	7		2					
4		3	8			2		

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# HELLO, FALL

Some events may have been cancelled or rescheduled while we were at press.  
Check with individual organizations or your city or Chamber websites to verify dates and times.

# OCTOBER

10/4

## Run for a Cure 5K & Memorial Mile:

Supports cancer awareness. Families, friends and furry companions invited. Coffee truck, face painting, course entertainment and family-friendly activities.

Register: [runsignup.com/Race/TX/Mansfield/YMCARunforaCure5K](http://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Mansfield/YMCARunforaCure5K).

## Autumn Beats Concert:

Featuring 4 Ever Young & the Reflections, early rock-n-roll and doo-wop music. Food available for purchase. Outside food, drink and coolers allowed. Bring chairs and blankets for lawn seating. Free. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Community Park Amphitheater, 3601 S. 14th St.

10/7

## National Night Out:

Police-community partner event. 6:00-8:00 p.m. Visit [www.midlothian.tx.us/NNO](http://www.midlothian.tx.us/NNO) to find a participating neighborhood near you.

10/10-11/3

## Scarecrow Festival:

Movie-themed creations on display. Free. Midlothian Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St. Organized by the Downtown Business Association.

10/18

## Heritage Day:

Features "A Taste of Downtown

Midlothian" with free samples from downtown restaurants for the first 750 eventgoers. Free live music, kids' zone, and retail and information booths. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., throughout downtown.

10/25

## Crossroads of Texas GO TEXAN Country Festival:

Find Texas-made art, crafts and culinary favorites at the largest one-day event in the state! 200-plus booths and live music on 10-plus stages, including country artist Randall King. Free admission. 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m., Downtown Waxahachie.

## Halloween Family Fun Market:

Trick-or-treat booth to booth, show off your costume for the costume contest and snap a photo with a favorite Halloween character — all part of the MHS Band Booster Fundraiser. 4:00-8:30 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. [www.midlothianxciviccenter.com](http://www.midlothianxciviccenter.com).

10/31

## Downtown Trick or Treat:

Courtesy of downtown 8th Street merchants. 4:00-6:00 p.m. Free.

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

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