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MAGAZINE

November 2008

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by Angels**

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**Strumming
Along**

**Horse
Happiness**

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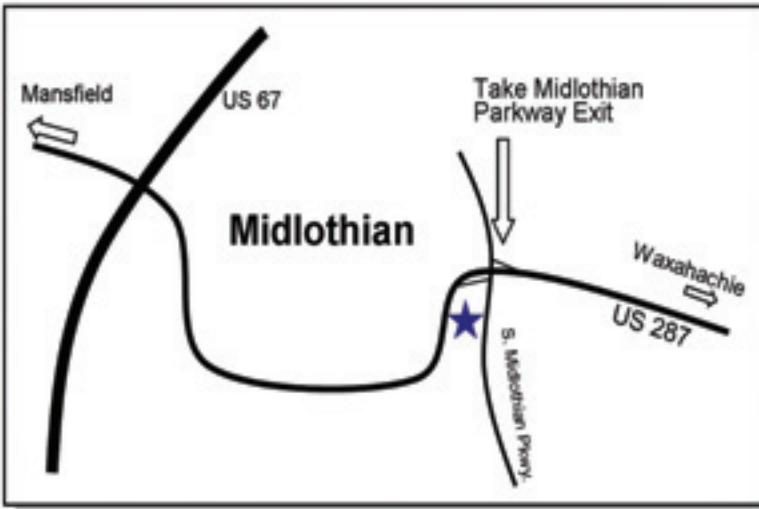
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Midlothian
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Serving Midlothian and
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Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

Buttery sweet corn, perfectly glazed candied yams and savory stuffing are all side dishes common to the Thanksgiving feast. Nevertheless, who would care without that plump juicy turkey calling us all to dinner? Bill Davidson, Holcim employee, cooks up a Thanksgiving feast for his fellow workers who must work at the plant that holiday. We feature him in our cooking article.

The month of November urges us to remember our blessings and things for which we are thankful. I am thankful, of course, for my wonderful family, but also for Now Magazines and our publisher Connie Poirier. Three years ago, I penned my first article when the corporation was just beginning to grow. We now have eight magazines covering 10 cities: Corsicana, Ennis, Waxahachie, Mansfield, Red Oak, Burleson, Cedar Hill, DeSoto, Duncanville and, of course, Midlothian. I am grateful for the opportunity presented to me to be your community editor.

Betty Tryon
MidlothianNOW Editor

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Touched by

Angels

— By Betty Tryon

“The biggest thing with the ministry is giving a helping hand up and not a handout.”

Another month has come and gone and the struggle to put food on the table continues. Sometimes, you just need a little assistance for your family. Angel Food Ministries can help, because all the food you receive is food you pay for at a mercifully reduced rate. The concept of the ministry is simple — to allow people to purchase a box of groceries and only pay about half the total net value.

Danny and Amy Hayes are the hosts for Midlothian's Angel Food Ministries where they distribute the food boxes once a month at Midlothian Bible Church. Amy explained the history of the organization, "The ministry was founded by Pastors Joe and Linda Wingo in 1994 on their back porch. A place to serve meals had closed in their city. There were families doing without, so they felt God laid it on their hearts to help them. It has grown to 35 states and feeds over 500,000 families a month."

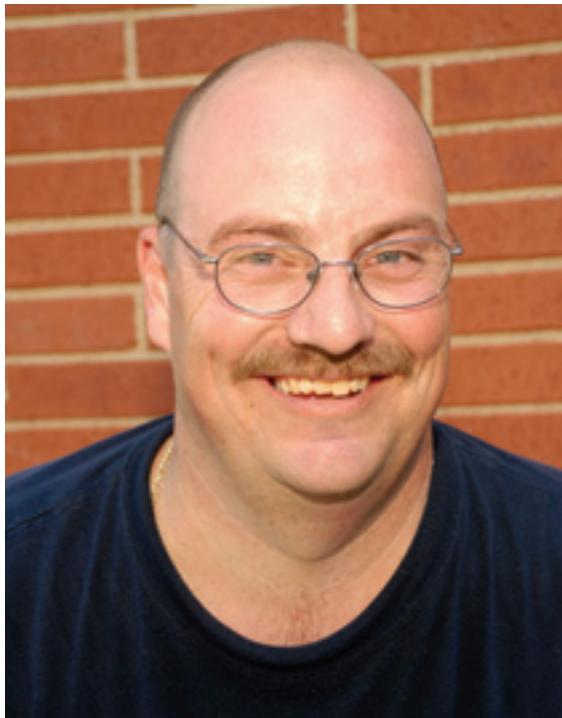
The menu or contents of the food box provided by Angel Food Ministries changes every month. In any given month, one might find rib eye steaks, chicken leg quarters, smoked sausage, frozen vegetables, eggs, rice or sliced peaches. In addition to the main box, specialty boxes are offered at

reduced prices. The specials may be a steak and meat combo, such as bacon-wrapped beef or pork filet. Another possible special box may contain fresh fruits and vegetables. If the

quality of the food is not good, it is replaced or money is refunded. Amy added, "The organization is adamant about quality. In the two years we have been here, only one person wasn't satisfied with one of the food products. We replaced it and they still order with us to this day."

There is enough food in the box estimated to feed a family of four for one week or a senior citizen for a month. This is a box with an estimated value of \$65.00 that sells for just \$30.00. Amy said, "We take orders for this area [Midlothian and surrounding areas]. We have three to four weeks of collecting orders and money, do the administrative side of it, answer questions about the ministry, pick up from the main drop site, transfer back to the church and disperse it into individual boxes."

For Danny and Amy, it is a labor of love. The Angel Food Ministries is a nonprofit organization and Danny and Amy do not receive any money for their efforts. In addition to both working full-time jobs, they still put in the volunteer hours to help others. "This is a ministry for us. It's a lot of





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work, but it is worth it," Amy said. "The organization sends us a dollar for every box and special we sell. We use that to turn around and buy extra boxes for families who couldn't afford to purchase boxes. We purchase at least two boxes a month with it, and sometimes we will donate boxes."



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ourselves. That is our goal, to get as many boxes for the needy that we can."

In these times of economic turmoil and uncertainty, everyone is looking for a way to save money. Anyone can use this program, from families who are looking to use their money more wisely to those who are homeless.

According to Amy, "Every month we have about 30 families struggling to make ends meet. Our numbers are down this year because of the economy." One theory is, because of the economy, some families are suffering so much that they can't allocate \$30.00 for a future box of food; the ministry only hands out boxes once a month.

Another reason is that the citizens just do not know about the program. Amy

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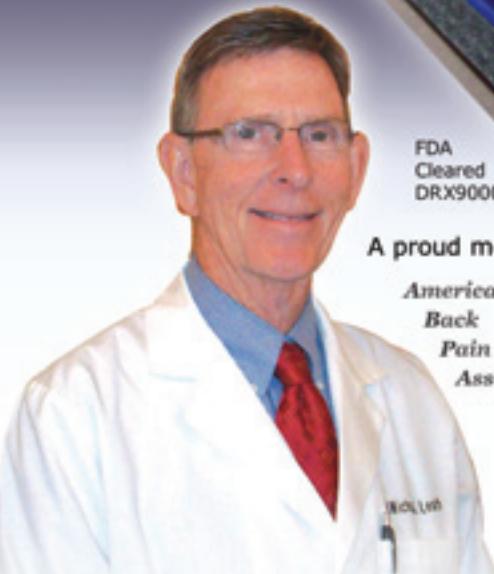
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stated, "I am really trying to get this out there because it is such a big benefit to families. It helps so much on the grocery bill."

Amy understands personally the strain of trying to provide for a growing family and having limited funds. She said, "I used to be a single mom before I met Danny, and I know how tough it is to make ends meet. Anything I can do to help somebody who needs help on a monthly basis, or just one time, makes my heart grow so much bigger. I know where they are because I have been there, and I know how much it hurts to ask for assistance. The biggest thing with the ministry is giving a helping hand up and not a handout."



"Those who want to help, but do not have the time to volunteer, can donate money to purchase a box of food for someone."

This ministry is labor intensive when there are only a few hands to do the work. When Danny and Amy first began to volunteer for Angel Food Ministries, they had the help of their children. However, children do grow up and move away, and Danny needs help with the distribution of the boxes, in picking up the food and sorting it. Amy explained another reason for increasing the number of volunteers. "We need volunteers because we want people to get involved, because the more they get involved, the more they understand the program, and that turns into outreach by word of mouth.

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Trivanna Fisher, M.D. is board certified in family medicine and received her medical degree from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine in Lubbock. She completed her residency at John Peter Smith Hospital's family medicine residency program in Fort Worth. Dr. Fisher is interested in the management of acute and chronic diseases, women's health, dermatology procedures, adult and pediatric medicine. Dr. Fisher enjoys reading, watching movies, and traveling internationally.



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We have five to 10 volunteers every month. Any help that we get would be a blessing. Any money that the organization gets, they use to turn it around and purchase more food." Those who want to help, but do not have the time to volunteer, can donate money to purchase a box of food for someone.

With every box of food, Angel Food Ministries includes a copy of their *Servant* magazine, which is put together monthly by the Wingos. The magazine includes updates on how the ministry



"Anyone can use this program, from families who are looking to use their money more wisely to those who are homeless."

is doing and also includes the plan of salvation. Amy stated, "To me, every box that we put out is putting Christ in the home." Amy thinks the name for Angel Food Ministries came from the fact that those who received the food boxes felt blessed and thought of the Wingos as angels. Most will agree that in this age we can all use a few more angels among us. **NOW**

Editor's Note: For more information, contact Danny Hayes at (214) 542-2264 or visit mbcangelfood.com

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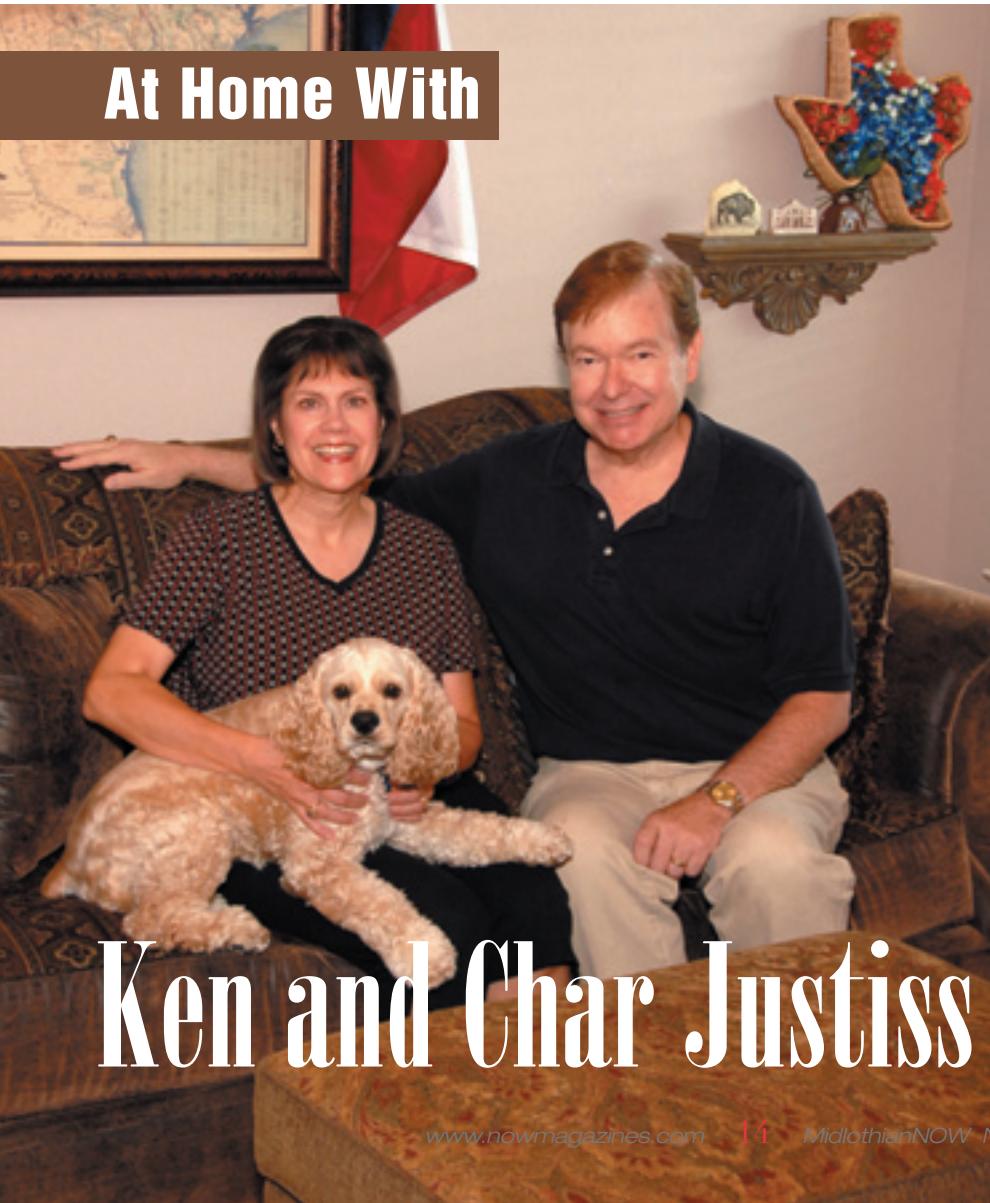


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At Home With



Ken and Char Justiss

Worth *the* Wait

— By Sandra McIntosh

Ken and Char Justiss have not called Midlothian home for very long. In fact, the first 25 years of their marriage was spent in Oak Cliff at the home where Ken was living when the two met. "I moved in six months before we started dating," Ken said. "It was contemporary and modern; not her taste at all." Char just shook her head at the memory. "We were married 25 years before I got to start planning my house," she said. "The one thing I wanted was a bigger home office so we'd stop bumping into one another."

The decision to move was the easiest part of the process. It was the decisions on style of home, floor plans and location that proved to be the most difficult. "We knew we had to be in the southern region of [the metroplex] so the location



of my office away from home wouldn't have to change," Ken explained. "I grew up in a small town," Char added, "and Midlothian reminded me of those days." It took the couple a full year to find plans they both could agree upon. Char needed a much larger space for a home office than most of the plans allowed.

After due diligence and lots of patience, Ken and Char moved into their new traditional style, two-story, four-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home in December of 2006, just in time to host a Christmas party for 25 family members. "On the 21st we sat down to Christmas dinner," Char laughed. "It's that way every year. My two sisters and I rotate each year and that year just so happened to be mine." Needless to say, Ken, Char and their son, Gavin, unpacked at record pace. They worked miracles those first two weeks, and thanks to Gavin, the home not only looked "lived in," all the Christmas decorations were in place.

The real work started following the holiday. They added beautiful colors and character to the home by wallpapering, painting and implementing Austin

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stone all the way up the fireplace and along the kick-wall of the bar in the kitchen. All this gave the family room the lodge feel they both desired, and linked the two rooms together. "We also added the door to what we call our breakfast bistro," Char said, pointing to the stained glass door that allows entrance to the well-manicured backyard. The door complements the Italian feeling found in the wallpaper and decor that boasts of wine bottles,

grapes, candles and greenery.

The recessed lighting above the kitchen cabinetry highlights the wicker baskets and wine bottles that are strategically placed. They may have started with a very neutral palette, but the changes have added color, ambiance and warmth. "We like the cozy, historic feeling we've been able to create," Ken said. "The only problem is the clock." As he pointed to the clock way above the fireplace mantle, he

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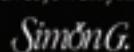
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STEPHANIE FRANKIEWICZ - "I am thankful for my wonderful husband, my 2 healthy children, and my parents. I am also thankful for the community I live in."



TERESSA ISOM - "I am thankful for my wonderful husband, family, and friends and my dog, Angus."



PAULETTE CULVER - "I'm thankful to God for bringing my husband back from Vietnam, my wonderful daughter, my precious granddaughters, and for the rest of my little family to be able to live in a free country."



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explained the twice-a-year procedure. "I get a special step ladder out to change the time back to daylight savings time," he smiled, "and I change the batteries at the same time whether they need to be changed or not."

The move allowed for a home twice the size as they were used to. When Gavin returned to his final year in law school this fall, they were able to turn the heating and air conditioning unit that services the upstairs to the "off" position. "All

we need is the downstairs," Char said. "The upstairs belongs to Gavin and any guests we have." This fact may change once their remodeling of the upstairs is complete. The media room is still a "work in progress," but the framed artwork dates back to the time when Ken and Char first met. "We met while we were working for the same jingle company," Ken said. "I was on the production end of the business and Char worked on the advertising end."

There are seven Clio Awards that take up space on the back wall in the media room, which Ken and Char aptly named Celebrity after the street on which they reside. "Those awards remind us of some very special and exciting times," he humbly said. Another piece of memorabilia found upstairs is hanging over the card table in the game room.

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"The Tiffany lamp started out as a table lamp," Char explained. "Thanks to Ken's handiwork, it's now a three-pull hanging lamp. There's not much Ken can't do."

The Texas room is also located on the upper level. As seventh-generation Texans, a room of this type seemed only natural. Ken hand-painted a large Texas on the wall, adding the star that represents Midlothian, their new home town. The room is filled with history that dates back to 1829 when Char's family came to Texas on a land grant from the Mexican government. Indians take their rightful place among the cowboys on the wallpaper border, as well as in the room's overall decor.

After 28 years of marriage, lots of things are collected, saved and cherished. One item well worth mentioning is the silver wine cooler that Char received from Ken on their 25th anniversary. "I call it my silver loving cup," she said. Strangely enough, the other noteworthy item is hanging in the water closet in the couple's master bathroom. "Our first date was on January 3, 1980," Char said. "We were

married exactly one year to the date later." To some, the framed pages from both their calendars may be a romantic representation of their first year of courtship, but to Ken it serves as a subtle reminder of a date he better never forget.

Currently, Ken is working in the field of real estate, but he still dabbles in the jingle business. Char remains very busy as a professor of history at Mountain View College, working as the bookkeeper for Ken's management/brokerage firm and doing the book reviews she so dearly loves. "In a new home, most women go for the kitchen," Char laughed. "I went for the office with its fax, printer and copy machine."



When the couple is not busy around the house, they love to travel. The shot glass collection is proof they have spent some time away from home during their marriage. "Most of the shot glasses have come from the places we've visited," Char said. "We even have one from our trip to Trinidad." All others are from their travels stateside except for the ones from Australia and Russia. They were gifts from Char's mother and Ken's step-mother, respectively.

The couple has no regrets with their decision to move to Midlothian, especially since they were able to bring their family history along. "We love the friendliness of the community," Char said, "and there's more than enough room in the home office!" **NOW**

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Strumming Along

— By Betty Tryon

“All I wanted to do was play guitar. I just seemed to always like it.”

With an athletic father who loved sports and music, slightly less, Tony Pierce had an opportunity to follow his dad in one or both. He said, “My dad was very athletic and into football, baseball and all kinds of different sports. You would think I would gravitate toward the sports, but I couldn’t care less about sports. All I wanted to do was play guitar. I just seemed to always like it.”

Even though his dad did not indulge often in music, Tony remembers many hours of listening to the type of music

his dad loved and watching him play the guitar. It all made an indelible impression upon him. “I grew up listening to Merle Haggard and George Strait, and I wanted to do what Dad was doing,” he remembered. “I started playing the guitar at the age of 8 and loved it. It was all I ever thought about. When I was 13, I started writing.” Laughing he said, “I had a pretty good slew of terrible songs, but it was a start, and you have to start somewhere.” Tony remembers the first song he wrote while in middle school. He stated, “Every great story

starts with, ‘There was this girl. . .’ In middle school, I had a crush on this girl and didn’t have the coolness to just tell her, so I wrote a song. I made a recording of it and gave it to her on Valentine’s Day. It was titled ‘Twelve Dozen Roses.’ Nothing came of it though.”

Tony took guitar lessons when he was 12 years old from Steve Colburn, a music minister. That year of lessons was one of the most important ones in Tony’s life. He explained, “During that year of taking lessons from Steve, he asked me if I had any interest in coming to his

ARTS NOW

church to play in the youth band. That experience is something I really cherish when I look back on it. I went to their youth camp, and even though I was brought up in a Christian home and went to church, it was there where I learned what it meant to be saved. Because of that experience, I learned you can be a musician and a Christian. Through Steve, I was taught how to play in a band and learned how to play



several instruments. A lot of what I know now is based on the year I spent learning from Steve. I am very blessed that God put people like him in the way."

Because of Steve's influence, Tony is now proficient in guitar, bass and drums. His curiosity in other instruments has led him to teach himself the instruments of mandolin, fiddle and piano. Gaining confidence in his craft, he now has his first CD titled *Starting Today*. He said, "It is playing at 95.9 FM and 106.9 FM, The Ranch, as well as other Texas music stations. The response from radio stations is positive." Tony is presently learning the business side of music. He remarked, "I have no clue about how the business works, so I surround myself with people who can make that happen."

Tony is currently one of the guitarists in the Casey Donahew Band. Their genre of music is southern rock or Texas country. Though Tony admits to liking edgier country music, he said,

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"My CD has not taken off, which is why I'm playing for Casey. But, I look at it as when your fall-back job is a dream job, then I have no room to complain."

The producer of Tony's CD is Milo Deering. Tony is very excited to have his professional experience. "Milo is an extremely talented guy from Dallas. I was skeptical about whether he would take me on, but he agreed to do it. His creativity is inspiring to be around." Tony wrote eight of the 10 songs on his CD. The two songs he did not write were included because of his love for them. One of the songs currently playing on the radio is 'Caribbean Snow,' by Darren Colby. It is an emotional song that Tony feels very strongly. "This is a hard one to get through, even today when I play it live," he said. "It is about



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losing someone you love unexpectedly, about not taking people for granted. The writer of the song had an acquaintance who lost his wife to cancer. They went to Colorado every Christmas, and she always wanted to go to Jamaica to get away from the cold and spend Christmas on the beach. The husband said they would, but circumstances never allowed it, and she ended up dying." Tony also lost a family member to breast cancer and wanted to do something to help. "I am putting out 'Caribbean Snow' this winter. I want it to coincide with the Breast Cancer Fund. It is important to appreciate the people in your life because you never know," he said.

Tony enjoys being able to use his gift to benefit others. Whether he continues recording or playing in the band, he is just happy to be doing his favorite thing — strumming his guitar. **NOW**

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Horse Happiness

— By Danielle Parker

Almost every little girl has asked her parents for a pony, but very few have asked for a pony with which to compete. That was 11-year-old Marissa Brown's request, and once she got her hands on one, she was hooked. As a student at Longbranch Elementary, Marissa was recently recognized with the 2007 High Score Award for the South Central Region by the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of America, Inc.

Marissa has been competing in equestrian events for the last three years, but her mother said she has always loved riding. "Since she was knee high, she has loved to ride horses," Joni Brown said. "She would get on little pony rides, and I could never get her off."

As Marissa grew older, so did her passion for riding. At the age of 7, she got the urge to move from pony rides to



something a little more challenging. "One summer, she wanted to go to horse camp. I had found a place to put her and that was a mistake," Joni said jokingly. "Within about a week, she was taking lessons." And from those lessons, she has become even more enthusiastic. She now needed a horse of her own. "A friend of mine in Arkansas gave us a pony and Marissa started showing that pony," Joni said. From there she went to a Welsh Cob — a cross between a Welsh pony and a draft horse."

Joni soon realized that this was not just a hobby or fad; Marissa was serious about equestrian sports. The pair moved from Arlington to Midlothian a couple of years ago, so Joni could begin training under Mariam Copeland and boarding horses on the JoMar Farm. Marissa competes on a Section C Welsh Cob, which is about 13.2 hands or 53 inches tall, in equitation and hunter, flat and jumping. "In equitation, judging is based on how the rider rides and their position and stance, while hunter focuses on the horse and its style," Joni explained. "Flat is the basic walk, trot and canter — a controlled, three-beat gait. Show jumping deals with courses



and going over fences."

With victory on the mind, the mother/daughter duo has since spent show seasons traveling to equestrian competitions across the central United States. "Usually, location is the determining factor," Joni said. "We mostly stay within a 12-hour distance. Marissa shows probably one to two shows a month, with competitions beginning in March and running pretty heavy through October, and there are a few winter shows."

Because Joni has ridden and shown horses all of her life, this intricate sport, which she said takes a lot of skill and precision, is in Marissa's blood. "So much goes into equestrian," Joni said. "You have to hold your hands properly. Legs are important because you have to grip with your legs. Leg placement, body positioning, everything from head to toe is judged. You've got to know where you're looking at all times, with your toes pointed to the sky and your heels to the ground." But that is not all. In equestrian sports, the horse is considered as much an athlete as the rider. "Along with Marissa's training, we have to bathe and clip the horses. Then there's horse makeup, baby oil and baby powder, hoof polish. There's just as much prepping for the horse as there is for her."

This may sound like a lot to remember, but this horse lover has been able to master it with ease. "I have a wall filled with ribbons, certificates and trophies," Marissa said. "Equitation jumping is my favorite, and that's what I win the most in."

So what makes an 11-year-old want to put so much time and energy into such a demanding sport? Marissa said it is fun. "I love everything about equestrian — especially the winning. Lessons are twice a week, but I will ride for hours sometimes just for fun." And winning is what she does best, according to her mother. With several

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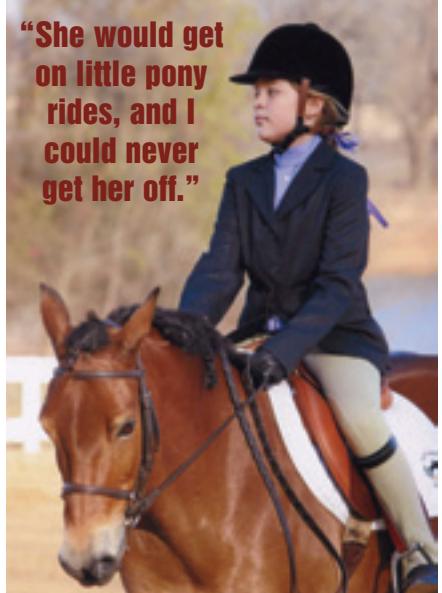
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Sports NOW

competitions won this season, Joni and Marissa are hopeful that they have another year in the bag. Marissa may seem shy, but out in the arena, Joni said, she rides with focus and determination. "Setbacks don't really bother her," Joni admitted. "She just rolls with the punches."

Outside of riding, Marissa also enjoys playing soccer, riding bikes and swimming. Above all, she said she loves animals, but if she had to choose, her favorite is horses. "No contest," she said. "My best friend is my horse." But

"She would get on little pony rides, and I could never get her off."



Marissa's love for horses goes far beyond competition. Among her future ambitions, she said she would like to work with horse rescue for the Humane Society. In everything Marissa does, whether it is competing in a horse show or playing on her soccer team, Joni said she just wants to see her daughter happy.

"I am proud of Marissa," she said. "She is learning a lot about responsibility and caring. She's really learning a lot about life and she's doing an awesome job." Although horse showing can be competitive, Marissa keeps it simple. "I just do my best," Marissa said, "and have fun." **NOW**

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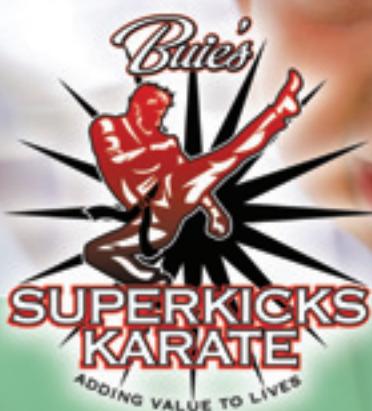
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Affordable Chic

— By Betty Tryon

In the heart of Midlothian lies a boutique filled with the latest in fashion. Rita Ramsey, proprietor of Whispers Boutique, designed this clothing shop to appeal to a broad range of customers, both in age and pricing. She said, "My philosophy for this store was I didn't want to come in and open a store that's all high-end. I wanted to bring in items with a broad range of pricing so everyone can afford what is best for their spending needs. I thought, *How could the concept of it [opening the boutique] go wrong when people can find quality merchandise that they like and was affordable as well?*" My slogan is 'something for everyone.'



If clothing isn't something they want, then maybe it's accessories or jewelry or a purse or flip-flops.

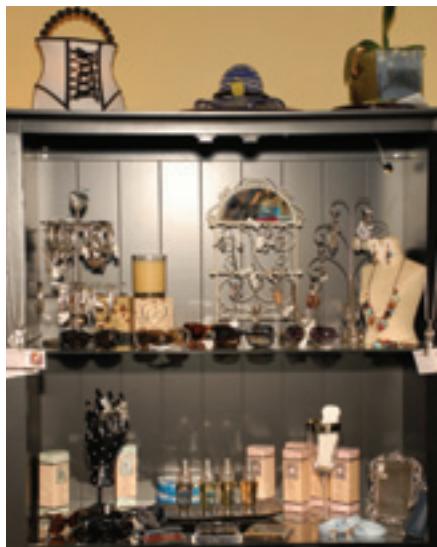
"The flip-flops I carry are Yellow Box. They are comfortable, cute and can be dressed up. I just started selling Reef flip-flops. They are more of a true outside shoe like beachwear. I have toyed a little bit with some men's things like shorts and T-shirts." However, Rita's main focus remains with the clothing, and she has many designer labels.

As a resident of Midlothian for three years, Rita was initially drawn to the city because of its unique appeal. "I wanted to be downtown. I am part of the downtown committee and it is great to watch businesses come. I love the people and the slower pace in Midlothian. Everyone is pro toward businesses here.

Business in the shop has been good, and I am very appreciative of the people's support here in town. They seemed to say if they can get it here, they would rather shop here than go somewhere else, and that means a lot. They want us to stay, and want us to do well. I am definitely getting repeat customers. Now when I am buying at market, I am thinking about who would wear this, this comes in her size or this would look good on her. I have people in mind instead of just clothes. That has been fun — establishing a rapport with the customers. They thank me for not making everything so expensive that they can't afford it. I think you build people's trust, and if you are a good person and do the right thing, things will come back to you and you

will be blessed."

Rita receives much support from her family in running Whispers Boutique, with her mother working part time at the shop, her husband Mark keeping the books, her dad assisting with the financing and her sister coming in [to work] on the weekends. She stated, "My dad has been in business for himself,



"Business in the shop has been good, and I am very appreciative of the people's support here in town."

and he encouraged me to go into business for myself if I ever had the opportunity. My mom goes to market with me. She has different taste than I do, and I want the boutique to be for different ages. It helps to bounce things off each other because of our age difference. You might not wear what I might wear and vice versa. I can't just buy what I like. It is hard to look at an outfit that you might not like and someone else will think it is really pretty. But obviously, we don't all want to dress alike. I've added plus sizes, things that would be fashionable and look nice."

Rita attributes much of her success to her husband and her parents stating, "I couldn't and wouldn't have done it without my mom and dad. I am very blessed to have parents who let me reach a dream." **NOW**

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Reading Scores Big

— By Betty Tryon



Hundreds of children sat quietly in rapt attention. They were not watching television or playing video games. They were reading and loving it. The vision is a dream come true for every librarian and teacher, and it happened two consecutive years at the Midlothian ISD Multipurpose Stadium for the Field of Readers event. This month marks the third Field of Readers for MISD. Instructional Technology Director Nancy Bergvall smiled when she recalled the sight,

"The first year, we were just thrilled to have 500 students participate. There were 900 in 2007 and our goal this year is for 1,000 students." The planners hope to include the same popular events this year with some fun additions.

The first event, held in 2006, was to help showcase the new Meadows Library and encourage the community to take advantage of its many resources. The Meadows Library at Midlothian High School operates in a dual role as the library for the school and as a public library. The new football stadium also opened in 2006 as a multipurpose facility and provided the perfect location for the event. Nancy stated, "We saw the opening of the new stadium as an opportunity to bring parents and kids together to read. The stadium had the room for it, and we wanted to use it for something more than athletics. We thought everyone would want the opportunity to go on that field. We made sure all of the guidelines were followed so the field would not be damaged in any way."

In addition to advertising the Meadows Library, the library media specialists in town, along with Nancy, also wanted to encourage the joy of reading, and so the idea for the Field of



Readers was born. She said, "The library media specialists are great visionaries about the possibilities of what they can do to promote technology and reading. They will do anything. Every year they will brainstorm a list of what we can do. They are just a phenomenal group of people to work with." During the Field of Readers event, a representative from the Meadows Library will be present to issue library cards.

This year, the event will take place November 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Students from around the district are encouraged to participate in this experience. Each child will bring a book and a blanket to spread on the field to make the reading time more comfortable.

However, before the designated reading time on the field, there is much fun to be had. Last year, one of the more popular events involved high school students reading to the elementary children. Nancy explained, "There is a class at the high school called Ready, Set, Teach. This class is to prepare high school students who may want to enter into education. Some of them came and read with the students on the field. It is a cool thing for little kids to be read to by a high schooler."

A more active event occurred at the book walk. Nancy said, "We had a vendor donate some books, so we had a book walk. It is similar to the cakewalk. When the music stops, if they are on the line, they receive a free book." These activities



Education **NOW**

will also be available this year. One of the booths that parents and grandparents will appreciate is the book fair. All of the books from Scholastic Book Fair will be half price. The school will not make any money from this. It is strictly to benefit the children.

Another popular event at last year's Field of Readers involved students telling jokes on the JumboTron screen. The audience had the chance to hear rib ticklers such as:

"Knock, knock!"

"Who's there?"

"Cardigan."

"Cardigan who?"

"I forgot my library card again!"

And

Question: What did the detective do to the librarian when he didn't believe her story? Answer: He booked her!

It is all a part of making the evening fun for the students.

Associating laughter and fun times with reading is a good thing.

After everyone present has had time to enjoy the different events on the field, an announcement to "Drop Everything and Read" will be made. Nancy remarked, "This is the time for quiet as they sit down with their families and read. We have them gathered on their blankets for about 15 - 20 minutes." With a knowing smile she stated, "The younger ones don't want to sit longer than that."

The success of this occasion can be measured not only by the satisfaction of the parents and students, but acknowledgement from a professional organization. The Midlothian ISD Media Library and Technology Services captured the Highsmith Award from the Texas Library Association. This award is presented to an outstanding Texas library that creatively promotes library services. It may seem unconventional to have a reading event on a football field, but in this case, the readers win, and the act of reading scores big. **NOW**



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Around Town **NOW**



Mary Rodgers and Loretta Riddle, top left, took time for an afternoon chat. J.A. Vitovsky second grader Chelsea P., top center, came to Mrs. Boyd's kindergarten class to read a book to show how fun reading can be. Elle Briones, top right, loved the slide at Kimmel Park. Ms. Hopkins' fifth grade social studies class, second row left, displayed their colorful and creative Wampum belts. Mt. Peak students and teachers, third row left, cheered with excitement as the kindergarten students marched through the school during the annual Teddy Bear Parade. The Midlothian Walmart surprised Genevieve Bouldin, WGMS sixth grade teacher, bottom left, as the Walmart 2008 Teacher of the Year. Everyone loves a Teddy Bear Parade, bottom right, as evidenced by the faces of the kindergarten students at Mt. Peak Elementary.



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Look Who's Cooking

— By Faith Browning

IN THE KITCHEN WITH BILL DAVIDSON

BUTCH'S DRESSING

1 6-oz. box or bag of stuffing mix
(I use Stove Top Turkey.)
1/4 cup margarine
1 cup smoked turkey broth
1/3 cup water
1 cup smoked turkey meat, shredded
(I use the leg meat.)
1/3 cup turkey gravy
2 jalapeños, finely diced (I use 1/4 cup.)

Mix stuffing seasoning packet, margarine, turkey broth and water in a medium saucepan; bring to a boil then reduce heat to low. Stir in breadcrumbs, turkey, turkey gravy and jalapeños. Cover and cook for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes. Fluff with a fork.

DEEP FRIED TURKEY

1 large turkey
1/4 cup jalapeños, pureed
1 jar Cajun Injector Creole Butter and Garlic
2 Tbsp. black pepper
2 Tbsp. crushed red pepper
3-5 gal. Canola oil
(amount depends on size of pot and turkey)

Thaw turkey. Wash turkey inside and out. Drain turkey and let come to room temperature. Mix pureed jalapeños

and Cajun Injector in a small bowl. Inject turkey with mixture. Lightly rub outside with black pepper and crushed red pepper. Fill fryer pot to fill line with Canola oil. Preheat oil to 350 F. Lower the turkey into oil; turkey must be completely covered with oil. Be sure to maintain oil temperature between 325 and 350 F. Fry 3 1/2 minutes per pound.

SPINACH SALAD WITH HOT BACON DRESSING

SALAD:

1 lb. fresh spinach, washed and torn into pieces
3 boiled eggs, sliced
8 oz. fresh mushrooms, sliced
1/2 cup red onion, sliced
HOT BACON DRESSING:
8 slices bacon
3 tsp. cornstarch
1 1/4 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. salt (optional)
1/4 cup warm water
1/2 cup white vinegar

Combine all salad ingredients in a large bowl; set aside. Cook bacon until crisp; cool and crumble. In a small bowl, mix cornstarch, sugar and salt. In a medium saucepan, combine water and vinegar; cook over medium heat. Bring to a slow simmer (do not boil). Slowly add dry ingredients, stirring constantly until

well mixed. Add crumbled bacon and continue to cook until thick. Serve warm over spinach salad.

ITALIAN BEEF

4 lbs. chuck roast
black pepper to taste
garlic salt to taste
2 beef bouillon cubes
1 tsp. oregano
1 tsp. fennel seed
1 tsp. sesame seed
1/2 tsp. anise seed
1 cup water
2 large green peppers, diced or sliced
Italian hoagie rolls

Heavily cover chuck roast with pepper and garlic salt. Put all ingredients, except for green pepper and rolls, in a Crock-Pot or roasting pan; cook for 5 - 6 hours, if cooking in the oven; roast at 250 F. When meat is tender, use a fork to pull apart into pieces. Add green pepper and cook 2 - 3 more hours. Serve on hoagie rolls with peperoncinis.

MA'S TORTELLINI

BROTH:
2 small beef shanks
1 soup bone (If you cannot find beef shank, use beef

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Who's Cooking NOW

ribs and a soup bone.)
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 green pepper, chopped
1/2 yellow onion, chopped
1 14-oz. large can stewed tomatoes
1 14-oz. can tomato sauce with Italian spices

MEAT FILLING:

1 16-oz. can spinach
1 lb. ground chuck
garlic powder to taste
salt to taste
pepper to taste
1/4 green pepper
2 stalks celery
1/2 yellow onion
1 egg
1/4 cup bread crumbs
Parmesan cheese
DOUGH:
1 1/2 cups flour
3 eggs
pinch of salt

Fill a large soup pot with 1 gallon of water. Add all broth ingredients to soup pot; simmer for 3 hours. Drain spinach and set aside in a bowl. Season ground beef with garlic powder, salt and pepper; cook and drain grease. While meat is cooking, dice green pepper, celery and onion; add to bowl with spinach. Mix meat with egg and breadcrumbs; combine with spinach, green pepper, celery and onion. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese; set aside. Mix all dough ingredients well with a fork; roll into a ball using a rolling pin on a heavily floured board or table. Cut into 2 x 2-inch squares. Place 1/2 tsp. meat filling in the middle of each dough square; fold square diagonally. Pinch edges closed with fork. Let dry on wax paper 1-2 hours. Cook in broth for approximately 1 hour until dough is tender. Serve sprinkled with Parmesan cheese. Goes well with a salad and Italian bread.

PECAN BALLS

2 sticks margarine
4 Tbsp. sugar
2 cups flour
2 cups pecans or walnuts, chopped
2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 cup powdered sugar

Cream butter; add sugar, flour, nuts and vanilla; roll into small round balls and bake 45 minutes at 250 F. While still warm, roll in powdered sugar.

APPLE SQUARES

CRUST:
5 cups flour
2 cups Crisco
1 cup milk
1 tsp. salt
FILLING:
9 large Granny Smith apples, sliced
5 Tbsp. tapioca
1 1/2 cup sugar
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
FROSTING:
3 cups powdered sugar
6 oz. cream cheese
1 tsp. vanilla
3 Tbsp. milk

Mix together crust ingredients; roll 1/2 into a rectangle the size of a cookie sheet. Save the other 1/2 for the top crust. Mix together filling ingredients; place on top of bottom crust. Roll out top crust and cover apple mixture. Bake at 350 F for about 1 hour or until golden brown and apples are soft and bubbling. Mix together frosting ingredients; spread on top of crust while still slightly warm. Cut in squares.

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Why Your Credit Score Matters

— By Kimberly Abuown

You do not always have to shoot for the stars, but aiming for a credit score greater than 720 can have a positive impact on your financial situation. The following items involve common situations with people or financial institutions where your credit score is extremely important:

- Auto lenders.
- Mortgage lenders.
- Landlords.
- Auto and homeowner insurance rates.

Those involved with the aforementioned items use credit score to determine a borrower's worthiness. It is important to increase the confidence of your creditors to borrow more money at a lower cost.

Whether you are borrowing money for a car or home, or wanting to refinance either one, it is important to have choices. An Internet search will reveal thousands of sites offering easy money, even if you have bad credit. Prevent potentially fraudulent situations and research the companies offering the lines of credit. Check your local Better Business Bureau for fraudulent claims, or contact the lending company directly. A solid credit score will give you the option of borrowing money from a legitimate lender and reduce the desperation of needing to sign with a company that is even the slightest bit suspicious.

Auto and mortgage loans are two of the most common scenarios where a healthy credit score is immediately cost

effective. There are several other circumstances though where your credit worthiness is assessed. A higher credit score will help when applying for an apartment, job application, student loan or business loan; basically any situation where borrowed money is needed.

People do not necessarily like to be judged by a number. Unfortunately, even the most kindhearted philanthropist could not pull a decent rate with a sub par credit score. A good score through will save bundles in the long run and provide access to optimum lenders.

Credit restoration companies can help. They work with people like you who may have been turned down for a home loan, car loan or maybe are paying way too much at ridiculous interest rates. It does not matter what your history, background or credit record is, you will be amazed at how your life will change once you decide to clean up your credit.

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Kimberly Abuown is owner of Above All Credit Solutions based in Midlothian.

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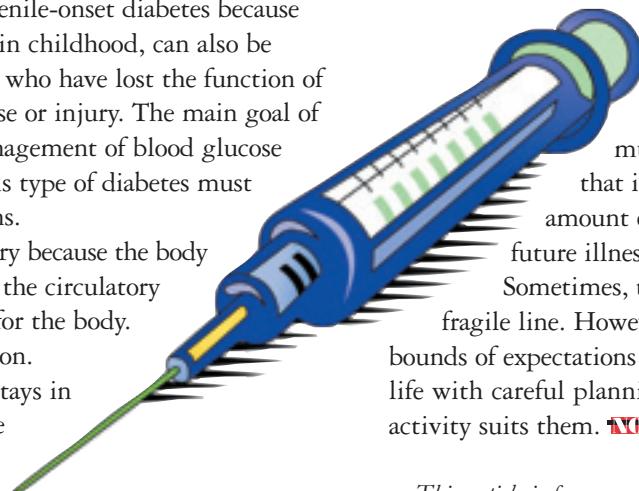


Diabetes Type 1

— By Betty Tryon

Puncturing your skin with a needle every day hardly seems a reason to celebrate. However, if the substance in the syringe is insulin, then every day is a reason to celebrate because without it, the consequences are dire. The delicate balance between health and catastrophe on the weighing scales of life plays out very clearly in the life of someone with type 1 diabetes. In type 1 diabetes, the body is not able to produce insulin, or it produces it in insufficient quantities. Type 1 diabetes, known as juvenile-onset diabetes because the diagnosis is usually made in childhood, can also be diagnosed in older individuals who have lost the function of their pancreas because of disease or injury. The main goal of treatment involves proper management of blood glucose levels. All individuals with this type of diabetes must undergo daily insulin injections.

Insulin injections are necessary because the body needs the glucose, or sugar, in the circulatory system converted into energy for the body. Insulin facilitates this conversion. Without insulin, the glucose stays in the blood vessels and can cause many serious complications. The requirement of regular monitoring of the blood glucose level keeps the management



of this disease in check, and gives the doctor a simple tool for treatment. Abnormal levels of this substance in the blood long term can lead to significant damage in the eyes leading to blindness. It can disrupt kidney function so significantly that it can lead to failure of that organ. Improper management can also lead to amputations of the lower-extremities and also heart disease.

In diagnosis, two of the most common symptoms are frequent urination and increased thirst. Other symptoms are unexplained weight loss despite increased hunger, nausea, fatigue, vision changes and when wounds, particularly on the lower extremities, are slow to heal. The onset of symptoms of type 1 diabetes can sometimes be severe enough to require hospitalization until you become stable.

After the diagnosis of type 1 diabetes, usually consultation with a nutritionist is in order. Your diet makes a huge impact on your blood sugar levels and dictates how much insulin you receive. Other factors that influence your blood levels are the amount of exercise you have every day and any future illnesses.

Sometimes, the diabetic must walk a thin and fragile line. However, it is completely within the bounds of expectations that one can live a full and normal life with careful planning while indulging in whatever activity suits them. **NOW**

This article is for general information only and does not constitute medical advice. Consult your physician for questions regarding this topic.

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November 2008

Community Calendar

Every Tuesday

Midlothian Rotary Club meeting: Noon, Midlothian Civic Center, 224 South 11th St. (972) 775-7118.

ESL Classes, 6:00 p.m., Meadows Library.

Community Computer Classes, 7:00 p.m., Meadows Library.

Second and Fourth Tuesdays

Midlothian City Council meeting: 6:00 p.m., City Hall, 104 West Ave. E.

Tuesdays and Thursdays

G.E.D. classes: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Meadows Library.

First and Third Thursday

Midlothian Lions Club meeting: 7:00 p.m., Midlothian Civic Center, 224 S. 11th St. (972) 775-7118.

Third Thursday

ABWA Empowering Women Express Network monthly meeting: 5:45 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center, 1 Community Circle. Please RSVP to Daphne Brewer at (972) 723-6551. www.abwa-empoweringwomen.org.

Every Friday

Story Time: 11:00 a.m., Meadows Library.

November 1

Community clean-up day: 8:00 a.m. - noon, Public Works Service Center, 1050 N. Highway 67.

November 4

Election Day.

November 7 and 8

Navarro College Players will be performing *Raging Roads* at First Baptist Church in Midlothian, 1651 S. Midlothian Pkwy.

November 10

ABWA Great Visions Charter Chapter – Marketplace Midlothian: 6:30 p.m., Midlothian Conference Center. There will be 30" x 30" spaces for Midlothian business women to display information about their businesses. You do not need to be a member of ABWA to participate. No fee for the display space. Cost for dinner is \$15. To RSVP for dinner or to sign up for a display space, e-mail abwainfo@mail.com or call Kit Montgomery at (972) 723-3771 or Amy Holmes at (972) 723-1711. www.midlothianabwa.com.

November 15

20th Annual Midlothian Band Booster Craft Fair: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Midlothian High School. Call Melanie Miller at (972) 723-0971.

November 19

Ellis County Christian Women's Connection monthly luncheon: Waxahachie Country Club, 1920 W. Hwy. 287 at I-35 East, Exit 401B. \$13. Reservations preferred, walk-ins welcome. Contact either Kay at (972) 937-2807 or Mary at (972) 937-9984, or e-mail Kay at windchime@charter.net no later than Sunday, November 16.

November 22

Circle of Friends Home Tour to benefit a Make-A-Wish child in Ellis County: Noon - 5:00 p.m. \$10. For more information, contact Farmhouse Boutique at (972) 875-3855, Brown St. Café at (972) 878-0046 or Lisa Marak Photography at (972) 875-1020, all located in Ennis.

November 24 - 28

MISD Thanksgiving Break

December 11

The African Children's Choir will perform, 7:00 p.m. at The Lighthouse, 1400 N. 9th Street. The African Children's Choir's goal is to change Africa's future by providing education and hope for today's children.

For more community events, visit our online calendar at www.nowmagazines.com.

Waxahachie
for the
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Holiday Season

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Candlelight Home Tour & Downtown Victorian Christmas Festival Nov. 28-30, Dec. 6-7 & 13-14
- Bethlehem Revisited Dec. 5-7 & 12-14
- Enchanted Pines E-Z Glide
- Ice Skating Rink Opens Thanksgiving Weekend

For more information on upcoming events and attractions call **(972) 937-2390**
www.waxahachiechamber.com

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