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February 2008



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**The Road to
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- Tony Meehan
- MCB President Lance Walker
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- MCB EVP Harrel Adkison
- Roger Liebelt
- Kevin Cato
- CENTER:**
- Kim Schlieker
- Michael Evans, Sr.
- MCB EVP Debbie Koennecke
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Photo by Terri Ozymy.

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Mansfield NOW

Editor's Note

Happy Valentine's and Black History Month!

I love my job! Every month, I meet wonderful people and feel incredibly honored to share their stories with you. This month, in particular, has been an amazing journey in meeting Pastor Michael Evans of the Bethlehem Baptist Church. Founded by freed slaves, the church continues to embody the spirit of Black History Month.



In our education profile, we asked Tyrus Doctor about the importance of Black History and together with our sports feature on black cowboys, it is clear that one can never fully appreciate American history without understanding black history. They are one in the same.

While it is always my hope that you learn something from your neighbors while reading their stories, this issue is truly enlightening. I was both humbled and inspired by our very own trailblazers and how they have helped to shape Mansfield.

As I stood beside one of Pastor Evan's parishioners, I overheard a woman exclaim, "We all just need to love one another," and was struck by her poetic sentiments. It is also the month of love and honor — Valentine's Day!

Love one another!

Alex Allred

MansfieldNOW Editor

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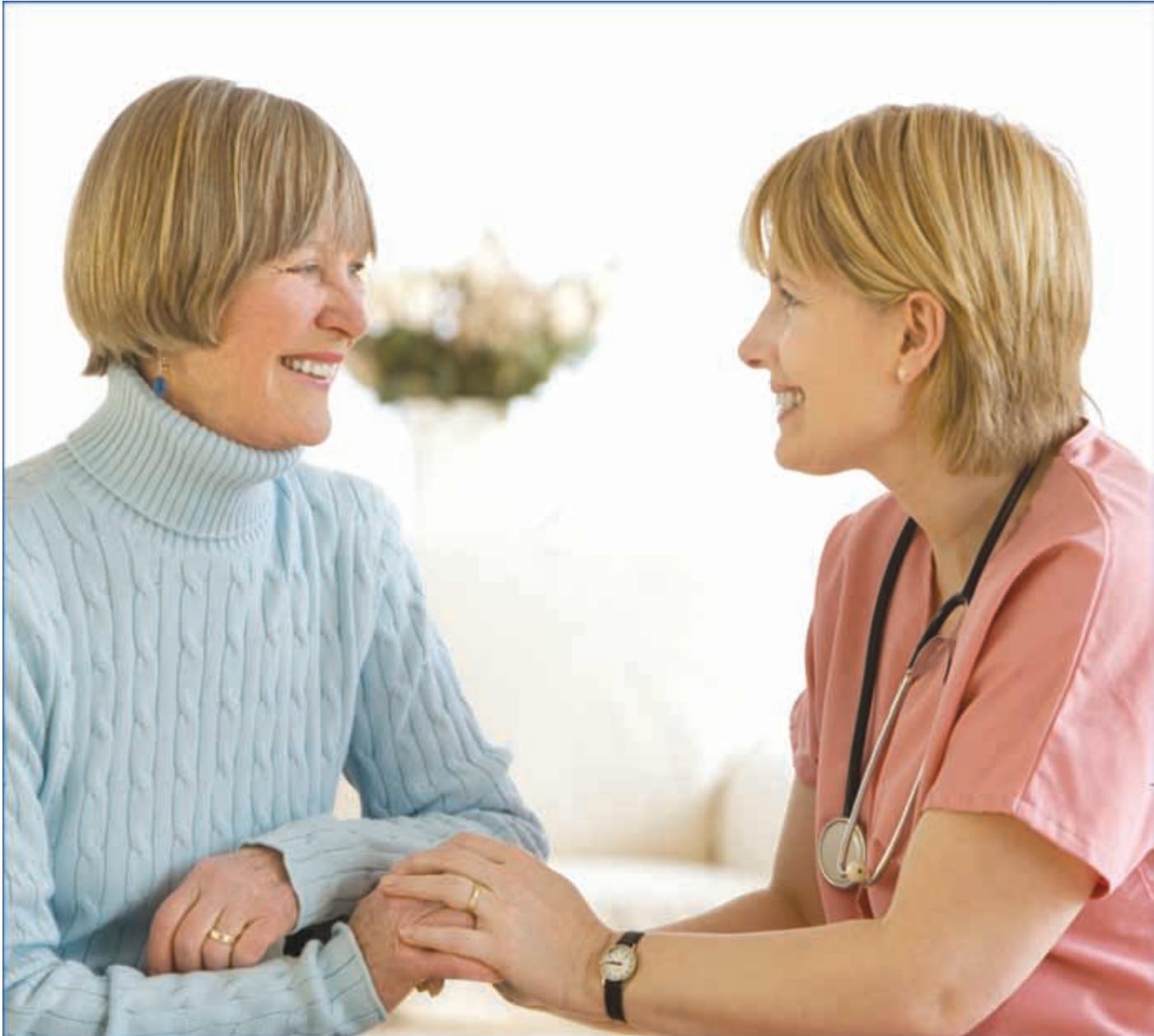


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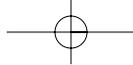
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The Road to

Enlightenment

— By Alex Allred

“I look forward to the day when we protest low test scores, degrading clothing and the ill treatment of all people. I want to see outrage against the fact that we have children who can’t read or that our prisons are overcrowded. Let’s protest that!”

Pastor Michael Evans Sr. of the Bethlehem Baptist Church is a visionary. He looks to the future and is determined to create change. Already, he has made remarkable progress. During his tenure, the congregation has swelled from 75 to over 1,200 members. He has been instrumental in creating new educational programs for the youth, reconnecting the church with the community and instilling a pride in heritage among his parishioners. Still, few people outside the church realize just how much he honors and builds upon the legacy of his church.

In 1870, the church was founded by former slaves, beginning with construction of a brush arbor at the site of what is now McClendon Park. Interestingly, Bethlehem Baptist was founded 10 years before Mansfield was incorporated. According to Pastor Evans, the church was the work of former slaves of the Mans family who simply wanted a place of prayer and hope.

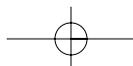
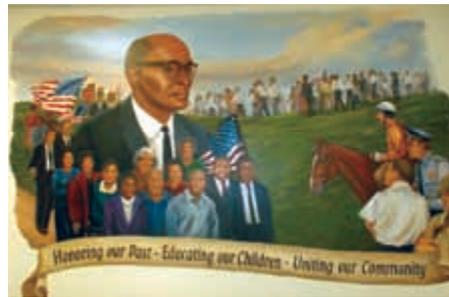
Not only was it home to the black

community, but it was also where the Willie Brown School, also known as the Mansfield Colored School, was located. It was an old brick home with a potbelly stove to warm the students during the winter and an outhouse some 30 feet in the back of the property. Books and school supplies were all second-hand materials passed on from the white community. Still, the students fought against overwhelming obstacles to get their education because it was something they truly desired.

The Rev. Green Medlin was the church’s first pastor, and he led the small congregation from 1870 to 1892. Thereafter, more than a dozen different pastors led the flock until 1946, when Reverend L.E. Billingslea became their leader. This was already a tumultuous time for the city of Mansfield, and the Bethlehem Church played a large part in the history of the next two decades.

For any black student who hoped to get an education

higher than the eighth grade, the only option was a long bus ride to Ft. Worth’s all-black I. M. Terrell High School. But the black community of Mansfield, like so many around the nation, was closely watching the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1896, it decreed in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that schools could





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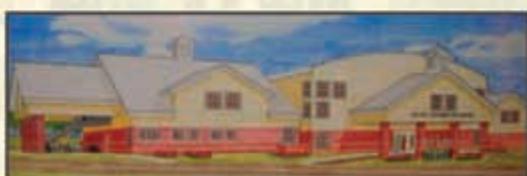



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be segregated as long as they offered equal opportunities — “separate but equal” — as it became known.

Another crucial decision came in 1954, when the Supreme Court, in *Brown v. Board of Education of*



Together, Pastor Evans and his wife, Lisa, stand with their boys.

Topeka, Kansas, rejected “separate but equal.” The court handed down a 9-0 decision, which stated, “Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.” That decision proved to be the beginning of Mansfield’s own civil rights movement. Who knew what shockwaves would be sent through the small farming community of Mansfield?

Mansfield became the first school district in Texas and one of the first two in the nation, alongside Clinton, Tennessee, to desegregate by order of federal courts. Reverend Evans, among many others, believes those two districts were to be the launching pad for what was to come in Little Rock, Arkansas. Unlike Little Rock, there was no federal intervention in Mansfield; however, Texas Governor Allan Shivers, an ardent segregationist, used the Texas Rangers to enforce segregated schools for another nine years.

When Deacon T.M. Moody, president of the Mansfield NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) filed a lawsuit in 1955, angry mobs threatened black students. Deacon Moody and two



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other blacks were hanged in effigy in protest at a pro-segregation demonstration. Downtown stores were closed in support of the protest, and any sympathizers for desegregation were subject to abuse. Only when the school district faced loss of federal funds did city officials consent to integration.

It was a difficult time for the city and the nation, but the principles and commitment of the Bethlehem Church never swayed. While black families, like T.M. Moody's, fought for justice, enduring threats, scorn and economic reprisals from the white community, the Bethlehem Church supported them. From its inception,

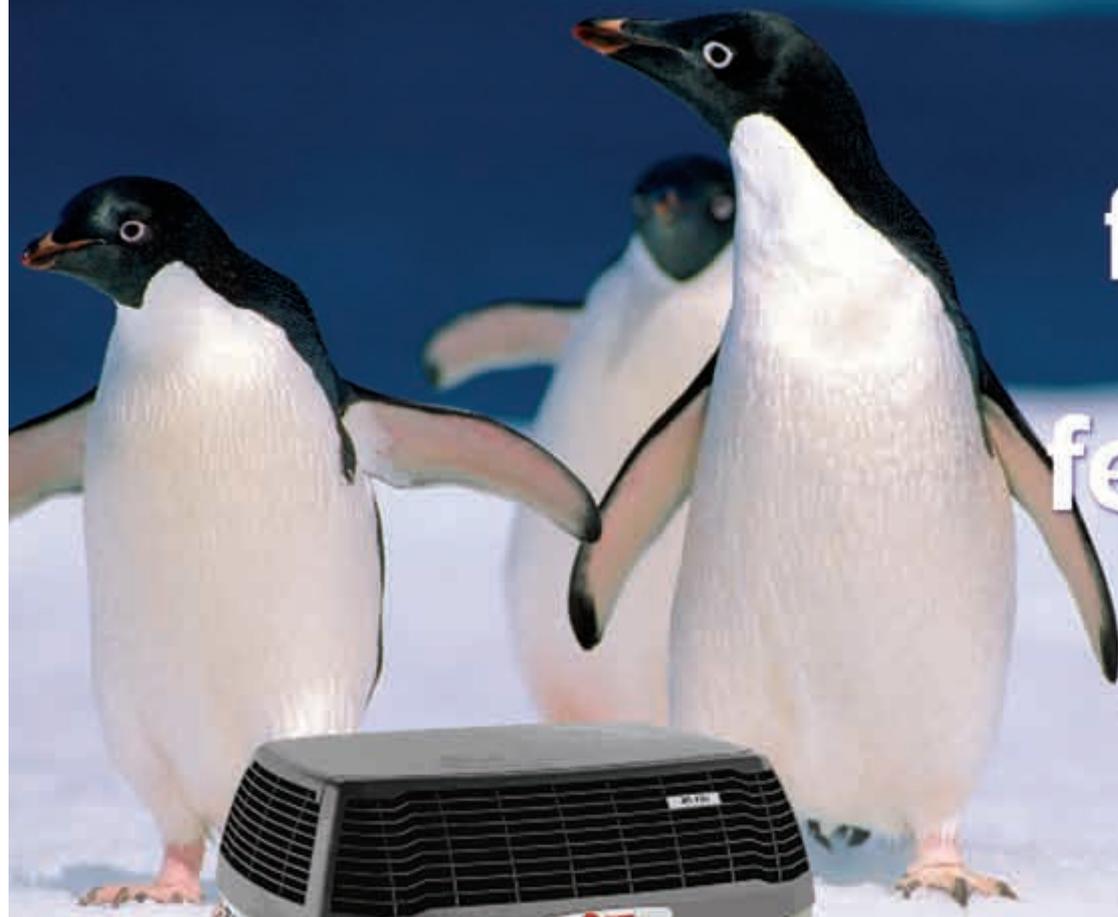
“We all have a stake in our community, our churches, our schools, our children. This is not just about one neighborhood or one church.”

Bethlehem Church was created to offer hope and support.

Thirty-four years after the ruling, a 24-year-old pastor named Michael Evans was unanimously voted in as acting pastor to the Bethlehem Church. Though young in years, he had already accomplished much before he took what he calls “the walk.” Having earned his bachelor's in political science and pre-law at UT Arlington, Reverend Evans also served in the military, on local school boards and was active in politics. He has repeatedly served as a speaker on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, addressing thousands with his lyrical, baritone voice. When the call came, he said, he knew he wanted to accomplish more than just preaching the Word.

“All of this had prepared me for the walk, to teach people and mobilize grassroots efforts,” Pastor Evans said. “We all have a stake in our community, our churches, our schools, our children. This is not just about one neighborhood or one church.”

For Pastor Evans, education is key.



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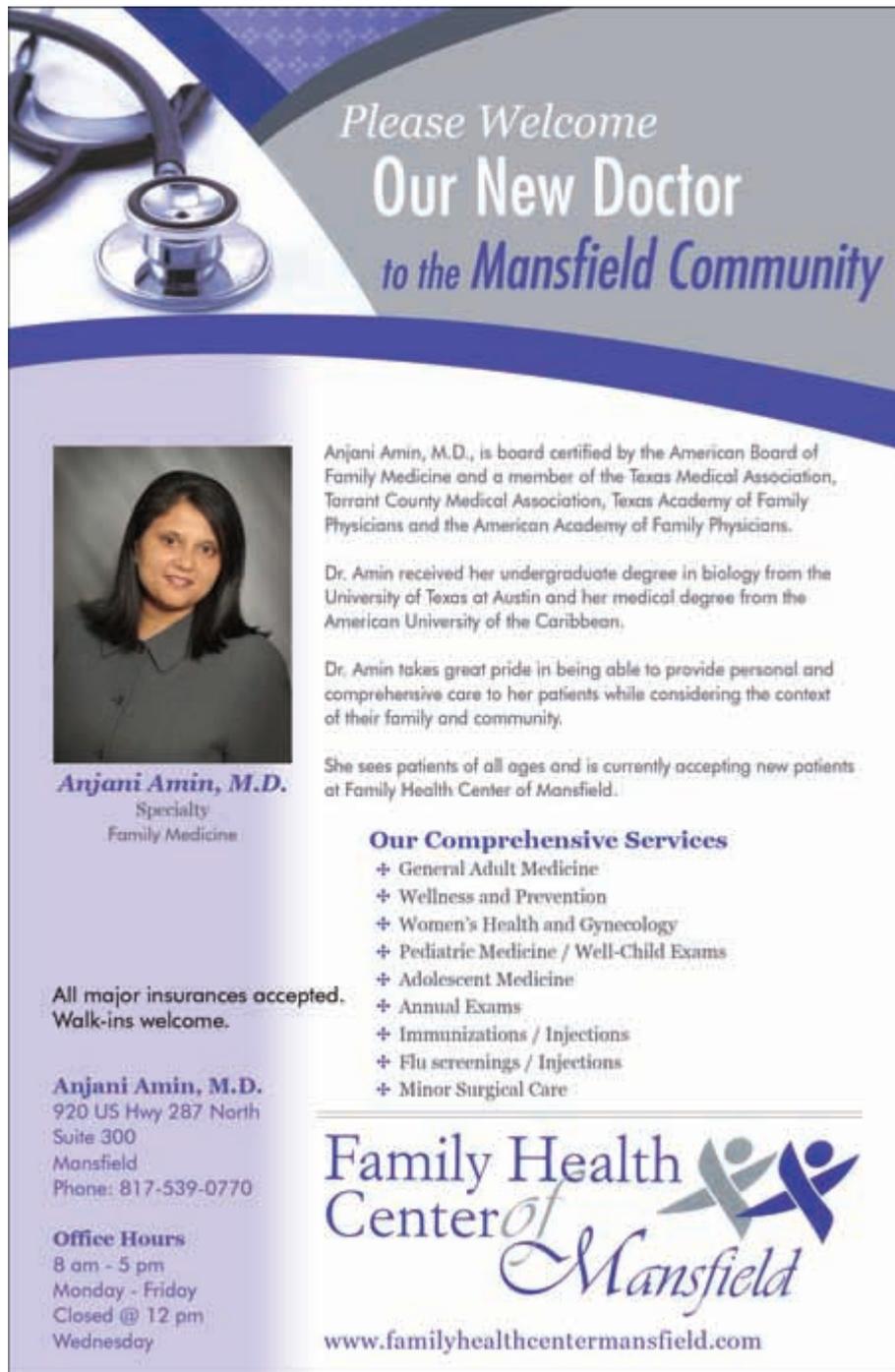
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Anjani Amin, M.D., is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and a member of the Texas Medical Association, Tarrant County Medical Association, Texas Academy of Family Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Dr. Amin received her undergraduate degree in biology from the University of Texas at Austin and her medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean.

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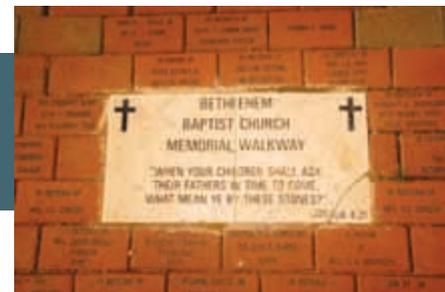
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In fact, in the entrance of the Bethlehem Church, a huge mural greets all newcomers. In the picture, Mansfield's history is depicted with people of all color smiling and standing as one. "Honoring Our Past, Educating Our Children, Uniting Our Community" is inscribed on the wall beneath the picture.

Truly, he is a follower of the church's original doctrine, established in 1870. He is a man who believes in a "hand up, not a hand out. People have been hurt by the welfare system. We've been hurt by a sense of entitlement."

Although he celebrates the history



of the Bethlehem Church and its contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, he is forward looking. "We want to celebrate a new Mansfield!" He envisions a Mansfield where economic divisions between the old and new Mansfield can be erased, where residents of the city can be neighbors and where "we can celebrate a true partnership."

Together with his wife, Lisa, he has two sons. "My guys," Pastor Evans likes to call them. They are an important part of his focus on his congregation. "I know this may sound corny, but I have prayed, 'Lord, if you would just let me help people, my living would not be in vain.'"

One hundred thirty-eight years ago, a group of people huddled beneath a brush arbor on a small hill and prayed for hope. Today, one man hopes for an even playing field and the wisdom to guide his flock. History does have a way of repeating itself — but through the efforts of this strong, enlightened leader and others like him, ours will surely become a history of empowerment and enlightenment. **NOW**

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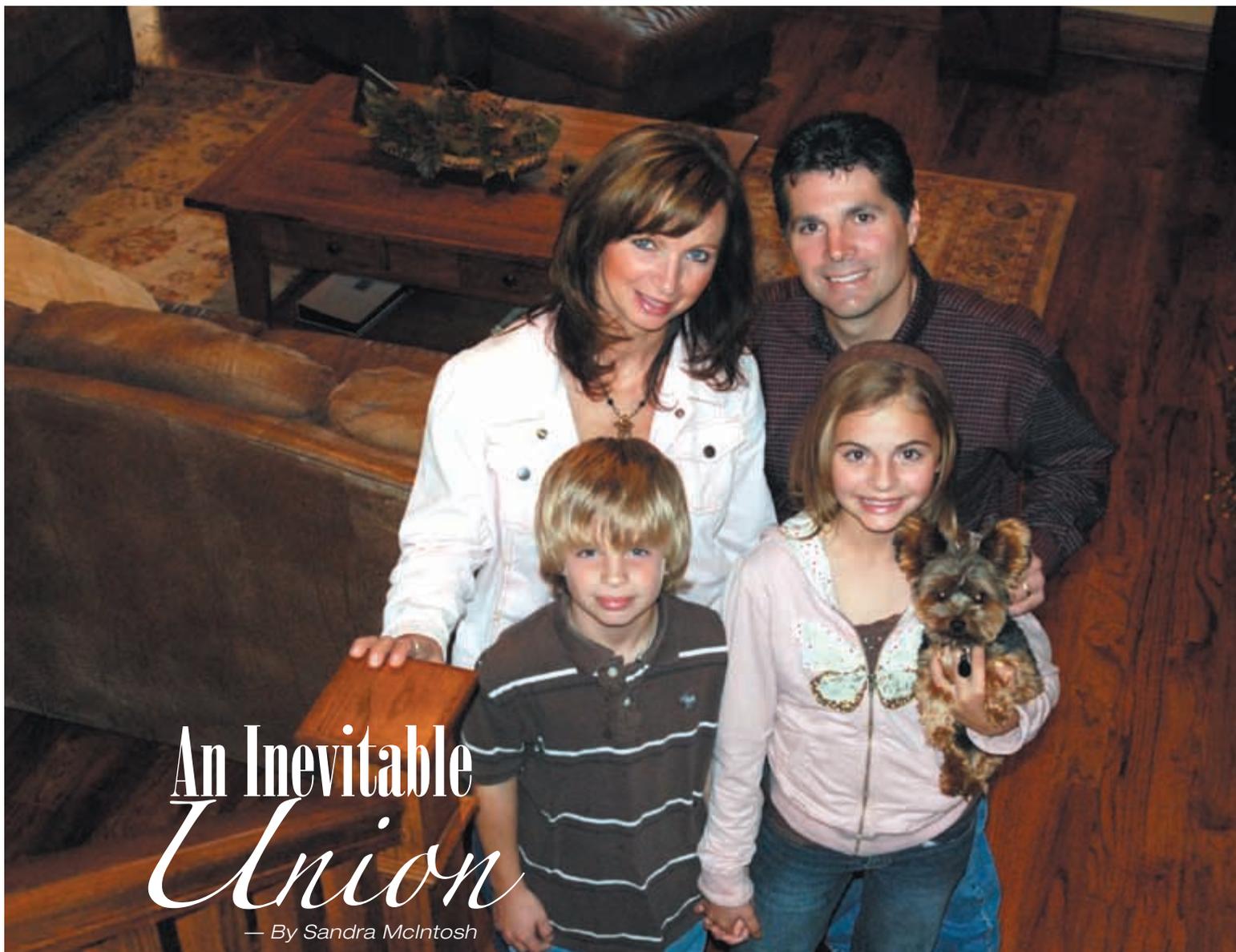
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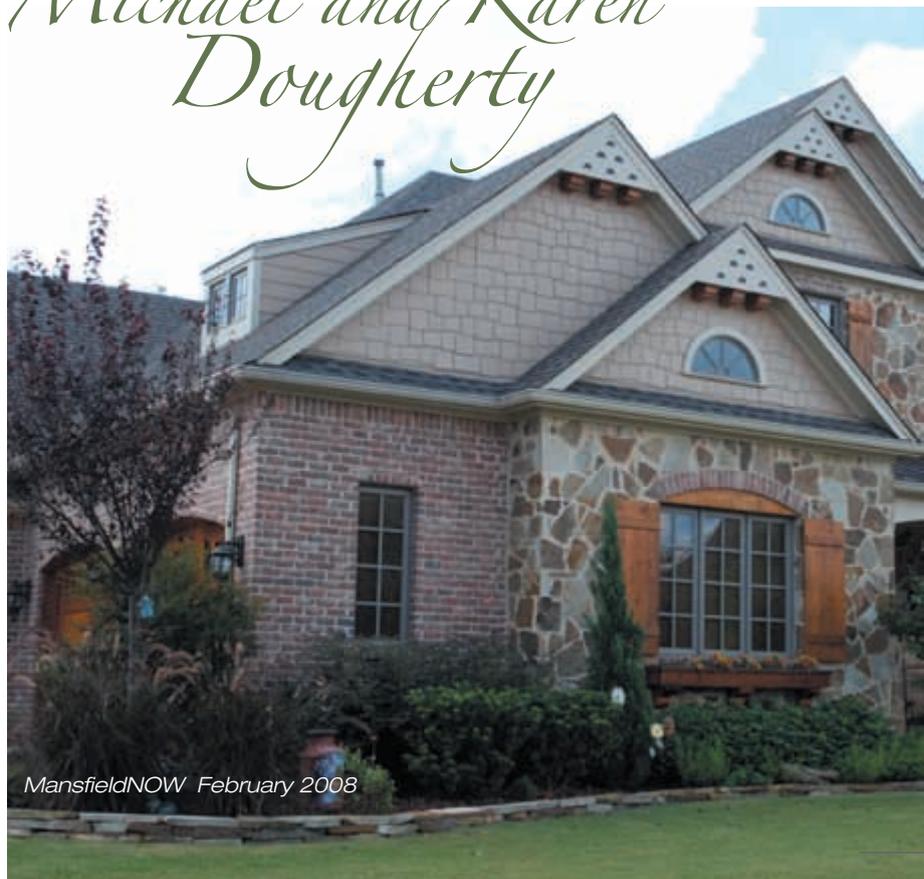
— By Sandra McIntosh

For Michael and Karen Dougherty, moving to Mansfield was similar to a friendly game of “follow the leader.” Michael’s family relocated to the area from upstate New York due to a job transfer. When Michael brought his family for a visit, they quickly fell in love with all that Texas had to offer. “Michael put his resumé on the Internet,” Karen remembered. “I quit my job, and we moved to Mansfield.” Looking back, Karen just smiled. “We lived with the in-laws for a year,” she said, “before moving into a house directly across the street from them.”

Although that first house in the Arbors made it convenient for the couple’s two children, Megan and Christopher, ages 11 and 9 respectively, to pack suitcases and spend the night with the grandparents, Michael and Karen soon realized they wanted something more. As cliché as it may sound, the two-story, four-bedroom, four-bath abode they call home today is what they had been planning to have since getting married nearly 13 years ago. “We’ve been here now for three years. This is our dream country home in the city,” Karen said, looking around the oversized family room with a sense of accomplishment. “We designed and created a floor plan to exclude the formal rooms that are customary in most homes. We decided to bump up the size of the other rooms because

At Home With

Michael and Karen Dougherty



we wanted space we could live in.”

When designing, the couple took into account the possibility of one day selling their dream home. “A portion of the wall that is now an extra closet can be removed between the study and the family room,” Michael said, “to make a formal dining area. The open, country style is exactly what we wanted, and Karen had a desire to be able to sit on a front porch. She got that, too.” With the winter months soon to be over and spring on the horizon, Karen is looking forward to getting out of the rocker and making tracks to the flowerbeds and planter boxes that add a punch of color to the home’s cottage-like appearance. Looking back, Karen said it took her and Michael a sum total of one-and-one-half years to complete the landscaping, both in the front and back. “During the building process,” Michael added, “we worked hard to keep the trees in the backyard from being destroyed.”

Rock walls are found in front and back, as well. Michael recalls the process taking no less than 16 loads. “We borrowed my dad’s truck and made trips back and forth to a place just off 820,” he said. “We mortared the stones around the pool for safety,



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but decided to leave the walls in front natural. I liked the old, rustic look stacking the rocks afforded.” When weather permits, they cook out year-round. Separate seating in several areas makes entertaining — something they both enjoy doing for family and friends on a regular basis — easy, comfortable and fun.

They have also created a cozy feeling within the home by merging the old with the new. Michael has hunted most of his life with the rest of the men in the family, so displaying a special gun high up on the accent brick wall in the kitchen seems commonplace. “The gun belonged to Michael’s great-grandfather and dates back more than 100 years,” Karen explained. “We removed the guts so it’s not usable. It’s



just for display.” Other very special items of great sentimental value are displayed in what Karen lovingly refers to as “keepsake corner,” located on a ledge above the entryway, but easily visible when going up the stairs to the second level. “The trunk belonged to Michael’s grandmother,” she said. “The saddle dates back to when I was 8-years-old. My dad thought to take the saddle, the bridle and the brushes and store them in the attic after my horse died.” Karen did not come across these pieces until after her father’s passing, which came early in the building process. “We incorporated the shelf during the design process specifically with all these

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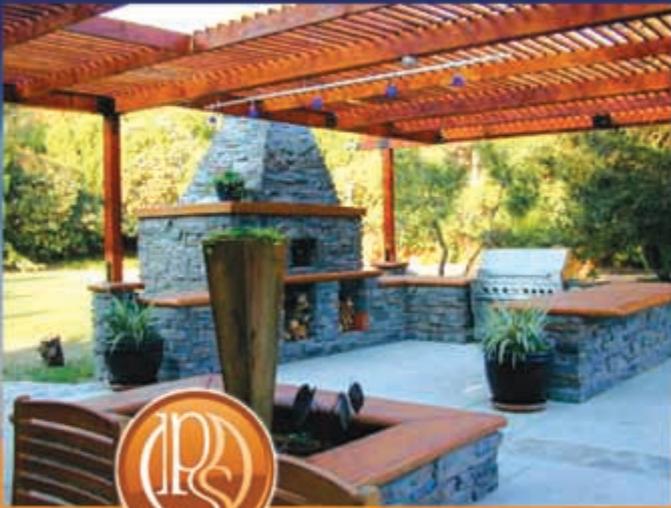
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home include hardwood flooring downstairs and an Oklahoma stone fireplace in the family room. Cedar beams, also in the family room, give those visiting the feeling of visiting a lodge in the mountains. There are two separate garage areas, one for the cars and another for the children's bicycles

with easy access to the backyard; an encapsulated media room with all the comforts of being downstairs in the kitchen; and an upstairs playroom that is currently being remodeled to meet the ever-changing needs of the children. “We are transforming it from a playroom to a computer/study area,” Michael interjected. “As they grow older, their tastes change.”

Both the children's upstairs bedrooms are masterpieces in and of themselves.



The mural on Megan's wall consists of white picket fences, a colorful rainbow, animals and a bird's nest located under the half-circle window. Christopher's room is a menagerie of realistic jungle animals. In fact, visitors must look twice at the gorilla and giraffe because they are so realistic in detail. Karen is

hoping to have the mural artist return to add something special to the computer/study after its completion.

When asked about the upcoming holiday, Karen blushingly said she and Michael do not have a Valentine's Day tradition. After listening to her share their early years, it is easy to understand

they celebrate Valentine's Day on a regular basis. "Six months after our first date" she said, "we realized we had gone to the same high school. What we didn't realize at the time was the 12-year difference in our ages, with me being the oldest." They dated for two years before breaking it off for another year. "We got back together and dated for another four years before we got married," Karen said. "It was just an inevitable union." **XXXV**





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That Perfect Shot

— By Jaime Ruark

Kathy Jones has been a full-time professional acrylic and colored pencil equine and landscape artist for eight years, but the artistic bug bit her at a very young age, as evidenced by the sweet photograph of her as a little blonde girl enthralled in her drawing. She continued to develop her talents, encouraged by art teachers throughout her schooling. What began as just a hobby has now become a way of life.

Her family moved to Maryland between her fourth and fifth grade year of elementary school, and it was there her love of horses began. "My parents allowed me to take riding classes to make the move easier, and I was hooked. I worked in the barns and taught riding lessons. I never owned a horse until about eight years ago, so anything I could do to be around them, I did. I rode everybody else's horses!" she laughed.

As her equestrian talents grew and

she began teaching others, so too did her artistic talents; by the time she was taking high school art, her teacher was coming to her for instruction. "In high school, I mostly used color pencils and I actually became the person the teacher and the other students came to for advice on using them; previous to that, the classes only used graphite pencils," Kathy modestly stated. "I really just played around with them until I discovered my own techniques."

Kathy has a few framed color pencil drawings from her high school years that show creative talent well beyond her years. She recreated drawings from books and, therefore, can only showcase them in her own home, but the same

grace and attention to each minute detail were present even then. The horses seem ready to gallop out of the frame. Yet, Kathy did not see just how her talent would influence her future until much later.

"My husband, Bill, and I met in school at Virginia Tech, where I studied microbiology. After we married and moved to Baton Rouge, I

worked as a microbiologist at the LSU [Louisiana State University] veterinary school. Then when we moved here to Mansfield, I stayed at home with my children," she shared. Bill and Kathy, along with son, Bill, a senior trombone player, and daughter, Donna, a sophomore clarinet player, have lived in Mansfield for 17 years. As time passed and Kathy



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indulged her love for painting, their home became a bit cramped. "I started running out of wall space," she said, with a smile. Friends began commissioning her to paint portraits of their animals, and ultimately the hobbyist turned professional, with the family adding on a studio to their home, as well as a beautiful patio area with pebble mosaics, so she could work full time in less cramped quarters. "We debated moving to a larger house, but we love living here, and the kids love the school," Kathy explained.

One of her first commissioned works as a professional artist was a precious portrait of two Boston terriers, their expressions almost comical with their ears perked. Kathy must possess as natural a manner with animals as she does with a paintbrush. "Their owner had a really difficult time getting both dogs to sit together," she said. "I finally had to put them on a bar stool so they would be still." The end result is perfect and life-like, and important to the artist and businesswoman, "their owner just loved it."

Usually Kathy allows her subjects, especially the horses, to roam free so that she can capture a more natural scene. "I try not to pose them, but just let them do what they want to do," she explained. She uses a video camera to get the perfect shot, videoing the

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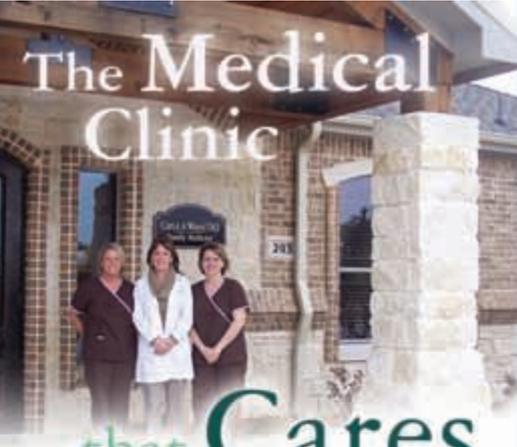
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horses as they gallop and play around the pasture. Later she uses her computer to pull out still images. It can of course be difficult to get a good picture of a live subject — one who is breathing and blinking and moving — but, “sometimes you luck out and get exactly what you want, something that just works,” she enthused.

Her breathtaking painting of a magnificent white stallion is one such lucky shot. “We had him running around in a field while I videoed. I had already pulled out several pictures that looked pretty good and then ... there was this one moment when the horse suddenly ran up to his owner and stretched his head out towards her. It was just a second, but when I went back and looked at the video, it was just perfect,” Kathy remembered.

Her musically inclined children and mechanically minded husband sometimes become exasperated with her process, especially on family camping vacations to outdoor places such as Colorado, because Kathy's camera is ever-present — even on strenuous hiking excursions. “I'm sure they get tired of me. I took over 600 pictures on our trip last summer; that part probably drives them nuts,” she said, with a wry grin. But with talent like Kathy's, that exasperation must quickly to turn to awe. “I just always want to see what there is to see. You never know when you're going to get that perfect shot.” **NOW**

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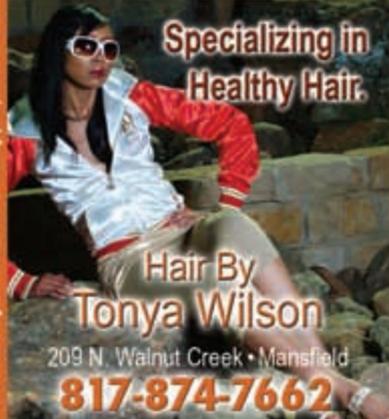


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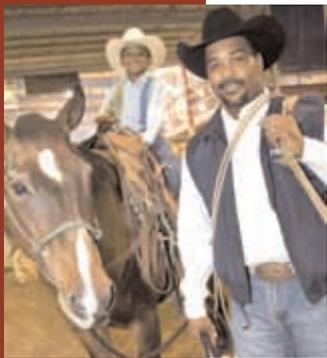
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Legends of Our Time

— By Alex Allred



“In the beginning,” said David Brooks, a world-class bull rider, “there were only a few of us.” The rodeo had largely been an exclusive sport until men like David Brooks and Bud Ford emerged as two of the best black cowboys of our time. It was during the 1970s that people began to take notice of the Cowbell Rodeo in Mansfield, Texas.

The history of the black cowboy is as rich and deeply rooted into the settlement of the great American West as any cowboy story ever recorded. The problem for the black cowboys, however, is their contribution was rarely documented. They are not portrayed in history books, documentaries or even Hollywood’s vision of the Old West. But the reality is, the black cowboys of the 1800s played a crucial role in this country’s settlement.

In 1825, colonists were lured to Texas with the promise of land grants from the Mexican government in an agreement to raise cattle. It was a win/win for colonists

hoping for a new life and the Mexican government hoping to utilize the land and feed its people. With them came house servants and slaves, many of whom had been cattle herders in their motherlands of Ghana and Gambia. But when the Civil War began and ranchers marched off to war, the slaves took to the horses and the black cowboy was born. They mastered the art of roping, wrangling and herding.

Later, after the Emancipation Proclamation, the story of the black cowboy and men like David Brooks, Billy Ford and Bud Ford began when freed slaves sought employment. With a shortage of job opportunities, many black men looked westward. It is estimated that 5,000 to 8,000 black cowboys, mostly former slaves, rode the cattle trails between 1866-1896. On the trail, color meant very little. Together, the men experienced the harshest of conditions, enduring extreme weather, outlaws and Indian attacks. Snakebites, dehydration and disease were

Sports NOW

the least of their worries. For these reasons, the men, black and white, formed a brotherhood.

"It's true," said Bud Ford, "the rodeo is like a big family. It's great out there. It's a home away from home." Like David, Bud is a big name at the rodeo. At 44, Bud takes personal joy in beating



out the younger competitors. "They'll say, 'Man, we let Pawpaw beat us!'" While he considers himself only to be a 'weekend warrior' these days, Bud has won almost every major title, including World Junior Champion and the coveted Golden Buckle in the events of roping. The rodeo has represented an even playing field for him.

David, on the other hand, began riding bulls in 1976. Widely considered one of the best bull riders of his time, he is also considered one of the most giving. David mentors many up and coming athletes, telling them to "stay out there no matter what." His slogan is, "Sometimes it's dimes, and sometimes it's stones."

David is calm and quiet in nature, a complete contrast from his chosen sport. He is not driving a car or waiting to ski down a mountain. With the nod of a head and sound of a buzzer, a gate is flung open to allow a one-ton animal to burst forward, doing everything in its power to throw the rider from its

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back. Men have been stomped on, crushed and gored. Entire sports reels have been dedicated to the grisly results of man losing to the bull, but neither Bud nor David would have it any other way. They love the challenge.

"You have to bring your best attitude, your winning attitude. That's what I did, and I was the best," David said. For David, the sport represents more than strength and bravery. It is about respect. As the story goes, he earned his when he stayed on a bull no other cowboy had been able to ride. But David also earned respect for his indomitable spirit. He was always a positive force in the arena, so after 25 years of bull riding, it was no surprise to anyone when he turned to "cowboy protection" (otherwise known as rodeo clowning) to help his fellow cowboys. The rodeo and its brotherhood are in his blood.

Both men credit former riders for their own successes. While Bill Pickett was not the first, he was certainly one of the best-known black cowboys. In just the year of 1912, he traveled more than 17,000 miles through 22 states, putting on 400 performances and showing the world the prowess of the black cowboy.

Though little known, Mansfield also has its own legend. For over 35 years, Billy Ford, father of Bud, managed the Cowbell Rodeo. He was one of the first successful riders in the Mansfield area and went on to inspire and coach hundreds more. With a quiet demeanor, he broke down more racial barriers than he could ever fully realize. Although he died four years ago and the rodeo is now the sight of the new Legacy High School, his own legacy continues today. It was his courage and dedication to the sport that opened the doors for so many athletes. David and Bud continue to honor their forefathers, making known the contributions made by the black cowboys. **NOW**

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Business
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The Merle Girl

— By Dia Catalani

Merle Norman Cosmetic Studio celebrates its second year in Mansfield this month. The studio's owner, Risa Rogers, is thrilled that so many people are as excited today about these fresh, innovative beauty products as they were in 1931 when the company was launched. The Merle Norman of today has not changed much in terms of personalized service and its try-before-you-buy philosophy, perks especially favored by the savvy client, who prefers to spend her hard-earned money on products assured to work and feel good on her own skin.

Nobody knows your skin better than you do, but once you have had a professional assessment by a Merle Norman beauty consultant, you will know more than you did before. You may also realize that for many years, you have spent money on brands and formulations meant for someone else's skin type, coloring or age. This is where the Merle Norman professionals come in, giving you honest advice about what is best for you — and offering a range of choices that will positively change the face you only



“It really is amazing to see the transformation.”

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“You need to see what’s going to work for your skin. A lady recently underwent an assessment and make-over here, and the men in her office asked what she was doing differently. It really is amazing to see the transformation. This is just one example of why I love what I do. Helping women of all ages realize that cosmetics can be used to accent their natural beauty is very important to me,” Risa said. “I absolutely love our products, and the way we help women see and feel what a good cosmetic or skin care product is like on their own skin. This is why I chose, among all opportunities, to open a Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio. There truly is no other product out there that can compare.”

Risa has worn nothing but Merle Norman Cosmetics since she was 14.

Developed in Los Angeles, Merle Norman Cosmetics’ exacting standards and the most modern, healthful compounds assure its customers the best possible and safest ingredients. Two of Merle Norman’s most popular lines include their new lineup of mineral-based cosmetics and anti-aging products for men and women. “Don’t throw out everything you have — we can build upon what you have and what you’re already doing. Over time, when you see the affects, you can change out certain things,” Risa said. “You can start with a few basics and really see a difference.”

Risa’s passion for excellent service is evident in the prestigious Gold Medallion Award presented by Merle Norman. The award is rarely seen among studios as new as Risa’s. Her

Business
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excitement also shines through as a Merle Norman representative in beauty and skin care segments aired monthly on WFAA's *Good Morning Texas*.

Risa's store also offers a terrific selection of gifts, including jewelry, candles, fragrance lamps and cosmetics bags. Gift certificates are the year-round solution to birthdays, graduations and anniversaries. Risa said she has paid special attention to making her store a destination for friends and family to meet, and takes pride in the fact that already, generations are finding their way to Mansfield's Merle Norman Cosmetics Studio.

If you are ready to see what Merle Norman Cosmetics look and feel like on you, visit Risa and beauty consultants Loretta Cole and Chelsie Reeves. Merle Norman Cosmetics is east of Highway 287 at 1219 East Debbie Lane. Call (817) 473-0880, or check online at merlenormanstudio.com/mn-9271. **NOW**

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 A photograph of four Merle Norman cosmetic products (Wrinkle Smoother, Clarifying Clay Mask, Lasting Cheekcolor, and Moist Lip Color) arranged in a field of green grass. Two butterflies are also visible in the scene.

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**“The title doesn’t
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man makes the title.”**

Doing His Part

— By Amanda Pitt

It was inevitable that Tyrus Doctor would become an educator. The associate principal at Summit High School grew up in El Paso, went to college at Navarro Junior College, transferred to the University of New Mexico (UNM) in Albuquerque, where he played football, and ended up at the University of North Texas (UNT), Denton, “because the offensive coordinator left UNM for the head position at UNT, and I went with him,” Tyrus interjected. The move to Denton had another point in its favor; he met his future wife, Shermette, who was a student at Texas Woman’s University (TWU). Today, they have an 18-month-old daughter.

While on football scholarship at UNT, Tyrus’ grades were good enough that he was allowed to work a job. He found one as assistant manager at Just for Feet. After graduation, he was promoted to manager and moved to the Arlington store, where he became store director. During a conversation with a customer, who just happened to be an educator, Tyrus realized that as a salesman, he was also a teacher. “I was teaching kids already — about the shoes, insoles and proper socks,” Tyrus said. He realized that as an educator, he could spend weekends and holidays with his family, instead of in a store selling to strangers.

Soon after, he and Shermette were visiting her parents in Port Arthur, Texas. “Shermette’s mother worked for the Port



Arthur ISD,” Tyrus said, “and knew the superintendent.” While eating out at a restaurant on that visit, the superintendent happened to stop by their table to speak to Shermette’s mother. During the conversation, Tyrus explained his background and expressed an interest in becoming a teacher. The superintendent offered Tyrus a job on the spot.

“We moved to Port Arthur,” he said, “and I enrolled in the Alternative Education Program at Lamar University in Beaumont. I was also teaching at Lincoln High School in the in-school suspension unit. This gave me an understanding of the support principals can give teachers.” As if that was not enough, Tyrus and Shermette drove to Prairie View



A&M, located 40 miles northwest of Houston, on weekends, where he worked on his master’s degree in administration and she worked on her master’s in counseling.

A big factor in Tyrus’ decision-making process has been his family. “They laid the foundation of hard work and ethical teachings that brought me where I am today,” Tyrus explained. “I look up to my entire family — my father was strong; he

Education **NOW**

was the nucleus of our family. Next was my mother, who made sure everything was taken care of, especially when Dad was gone, and my older brother and sister also stepped up to help.” Stepping up was something the family had to do because William Doctor, Sr., Tyrus’ father, spent 30 years in the military. In fact, Tyrus’ motto comes from his father, who said, “The title doesn’t make the man; the man makes the title.”

Soon the Doctors moved back to this area. Tyrus taught at Danny Jones Middle



School when it opened, then moved on to bigger and better opportunities. “I finished getting my administrative tests out of the way,” he said, “and interviewed [for an assistant principal position] with Donna Grant, the head principal here at Summit.” The next year, Tyrus was promoted to associate principal. He is now enjoying his third year at Summit. “I love the job,” Tyrus said. “I love the students and the culture Ms. Grant has created here at Summit High School. You can look across the Commons Area and see the interaction of the kids, and you know that whoever is running the ship is doing a great job. The teachers build trust with the kids, and this is a great asset. Teachers confront issues of social justice here at the school. They transform instructional practices by making what the central office sends us, work for us.”

Tyrus said that while the teachers

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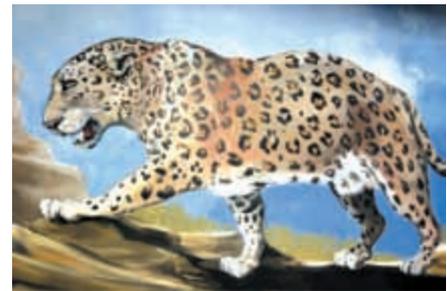
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have special activities planned for Black History Month, the year-long emphasis is to celebrate all cultures. "Every student of a different nationality has his or her picture with country of origin on the entry hall to promote all cultures and all students," he explained. "This helps us shape campus culture — a culture of tolerance and understanding. It's a true family environment here."

One such effort is a cross-cultural student group, the Around the World Club sponsored by science teacher Annette Cardenas. They hold a "Taste of Culture" event to which the community is invited to come, for a small fee, they can taste dishes from cultures around the world. "This builds finances for the club to purchase materials for school activities and allows the community to come in and see what the kids are doing to promote cultural understanding. Our demographics have changed," Tyrus explained, "because of the redrawing of district lines. This was done to even out the population of students in each Mansfield high school. Because of this, Summit is the most diverse school in Mansfield." Summit is now 38 percent white, 35 percent African American, 16 percent Hispanic and 1 percent each, Indian-American and Asian. Other ethnicities make up the remaining percentage of students.

"It is hard within the state of Texas to come up with demographics like ours," Tyrus continued. "Everything we do at Summit is to create an environment conducive to student learning." Tyrus intends on continuing to do his part. **NOW**

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Around Town **NOW**



One of Santa's reindeer, top left, made photo-taking special for the recent holidays. People gathered for ribbon cuttings in Mansfield: Secant Realty, second row on the left, and JF Construction, bottom left. Meredith and Ethan Mentor, top right, took their dogs, Major and Jack, for a walk. Alicia and her 11-month-old son, Ian, bottom center, enjoyed a beautiful day at the park. Jason, Jacob and Ike Shup, bottom right, recently hit the tennis court.

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Around Town NOW



TJ Brown, Isaac Garcia and Nick Hergenrother, top left, took a break from skating to discuss skater culture, school and friends. Christmas carols were performed, top right, at the Mansfield Commercial Bank during the holidays. Tracy and his children, Bethany, Nicholas and Tyler, bottom left, shared some quality time together at Mansfield Park. Several ribbon cuttings were held in Mansfield: Honey Ham House, middle center; Mr. Handyman, bottom center; Buffalo Wild Wings, second row on the right; and Best Western, bottom right.

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Look Who's Cooking

— By Melinda Hines

IN THE KITCHEN WITH SARA CONNER

Sara Conner is a Food Goddess as stated on her apron. Born in Jamaica, her Asian-German-Jewish mother kick-started her passion for food by teaching her how to make a Spanish omelet at the age of 6. Sara has taught her daughter, Heaven, the same thing at the same age.

Having traveled as a missionary to several countries, she picked up recipes along the way believing, “food is the easiest and cheapest way to travel.” An international “foodie,” Sara’s oxtails and lasagna are her most-requested dishes. She loves cooking for her family and the members of Word of Truth — a church in South Arlington she and her husband, Eben, pastor. **NOW**

SLAM-DUNK SQUASH CASSEROLE

- 2 cups butternut squash (1 squash)
- 1/4 tsp. vanilla
- 1/4 tsp. brandy or rum flavor
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/3 cup melted butter
- 1/4 tsp. crushed ginger
- 2 Tbsp. coconut flakes
- 1/2 tsp. coconut flavoring
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger

Cut squash in half lengthwise; take out seeds. Wrap in foil; bake in 350 F oven until soft. Cool; scoop out squash (should measure 2 cups). Combine all ingredients; mix well. Pour into a lightly

greased 1-quart casserole. Bake at 350 F for 1 hour or until set.

HEAVEN'S PORK CHOPS

- 2 lbs. pork chops (can use chicken)
- 4 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 3 1/2 Tbsp. regular mustard
- 2 cups apple cider

Season pork chops with garlic and salt. Mix sugar and mustard in a bowl to form a paste; spread on both sides of chops. Place in an oven-proof dish, pour cider over chops. Bake at 350 F until done (about 45 minutes).

STAY-IN-LOVE TOAST

- 6 eggs
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- dash of rum flavoring
- 1 tsp. of cinnamon
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 3 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
- 6 slices regular white bread
- 1 stick of butter with 1 Tbsp. oil

Whisk eggs till frothy; add all the ingredients except 1/4 cup of sugar, cream cheese and bread. Spread cheese on bread (be careful not to tear bread). Place a slice on top of the already spreaded slice. Dip into egg mixture. Fry in oil/butter mixture on medium heat until tops are brown. Sprinkle brown



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Who's Cooking **NOW**

sugar on top and flip toast to caramelize. Remove from heat and serve with strawberries or favorite fruit.

CREAMY JERK CHICKEN PASTA

- 4 boneless chicken breasts
- 1 Tbsp. wet jerk seasoning
- 1 Tbsp. oyster sauce
- 1 1/2 cup penne pasta
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 1/2 medium onions, sliced
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1 cup garden mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 can evaporated milk
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 diced tomatoes
- 2 Tbsp. fresh cilantro
- fresh Parmesan cheese, grated

Rinse and pat dry chicken breasts; season with jerk seasoning and oyster sauce. Wrap each one individually in foil and place in oven at 400 F for 25 minutes. Make pasta according to instructions, adding a little oil to the water so the pasta will not stick. Heat oil in a skillet; sauté onions, garlic and mushrooms. Add the milk, salt and pepper to taste. When done, cut chicken breasts into diagonal strips against the grain; add spicy juice leftover in the foil to milk mixture. Cook for about 3 minutes; add tomatoes. Serve over drained pasta and top with cilantro and cheese.

CURRIED SHRIMP

- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 2 stalks green onions, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 Tbsp. oil
- 2 Tbsp. curry powder
- 2 lbs. uncooked peeled shrimp
- 1 small habanero or any hot pepper to taste
- 2 tsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp. butter

Sauté onions, green onions and garlic in oil. Add curry powder. After about 2 minutes add shrimp, salt, pepper and hot pepper to taste. Cook for about 4 minutes. Mix in lemon juice and butter. Serve immediately over rice.

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Not *My* Department

—By Lezlee Liljenberg

“That is not my department.” This is a statement heard all too often from women when asked questions concerning insurance or financial circumstances in the household. If you are still making statements like this concerning anything that could help or hinder you in life, you must stop! It is necessary to learn about all aspects of your future.

Consider these statistics:

Women have more buying power than any other segment in the market. Baby Boomers (aged 41 - 60) make up almost 80 million in population, the largest generational demographic today. Among Boomers, women not only outnumber men, but also influence as much as 80 percent of household purchase decisions. In the next decade, it is predicted that women will control two-thirds of the consumer wealth in the United States.

Now that is an amazing amount of power! However, more often than not, when discussions begin to lean toward saving, purchasing life insurance or making economic decisions, females dodge the discussion or defer the decision to a male figure in their lives.

In working with many widows, there is one resounding commonality. It is that they avoided learning simple things



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such as understanding homeowners and auto insurance, much less retirement plans or life insurance.

Between 1980 and 2000, the number of households headed by unmarried women increased by approximately 10 million, and this was not all by choice.

It is necessary to learn about all aspects of your future.

The majority became head of household due to death or divorce and had to learn these things during tough times. Learning these things does not come overnight or all in one discussion. If you need outside assistance, then seek a professional who will spend the time to educate you. Make learning about your future "your department"! **NOW**

Lezlee Liljenberg is an Allstate representative based in Arlington.

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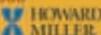
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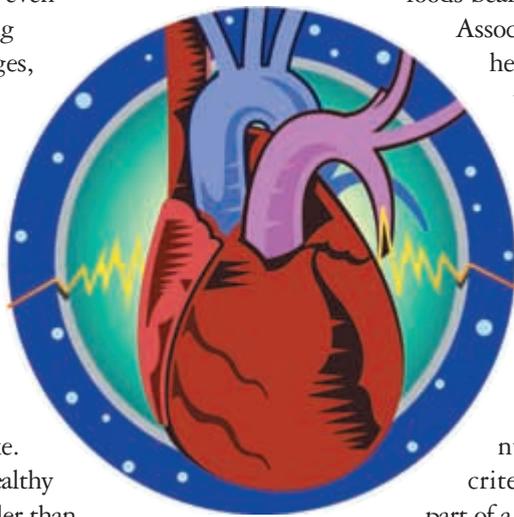
Heart-Healthy Shopping

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(NAPS) - If you're like the average shopper, you spend nearly three-quarters of an hour on each trip to the grocery. Many shoppers spend even more time scrutinizing food labels and packages, studying ingredient lists and labels for low fat, low cholesterol items. In fact, eight out of ten Americans say they are seeking out these types of foods in order to reduce their risk of heart attack and stroke.

Fortunately, heart-healthy shopping can be simpler than many people realize. According to dietitians, it helps to look for foods

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- be low fat (less than or equal to 3 grams);
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- have low cholesterol (less than or equal to 20 milligrams);
- have a sodium value of less than or equal to 480 milligrams for individual foods; and
- contain at least 10 percent of the Daily Value of one or more of these nutrients: protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium, iron or dietary fiber.

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February 2008 Community Calendar

Monday - Friday

The Young at Heart is for residents ages 55 plus. Join your neighbors at the MAC between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Call (817) 453-5420, ext. 2227.

Every Friday

Kiwanis Club of Mansfield meets at 7:00 a.m. at Ryan's Grill. Membership and other information can be obtained by calling (817) 473-9886.

Every Tuesday

Small business counseling provided by SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Mansfield Chamber offices, 114 North Main Street. Call (817) 473-0507.

Every Wednesday

Mansfield Public Library hosts On My Own Story Time for 3 to 5 year olds from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Call (817) 473-4391.

Every Thursday

Mansfield Public Library hosts Special Kids' Story Time from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Please register for this special-needs program in advance by contacting Annette at the library at (817) 473-4391.

Mansfield Public Library hosts Toddler Story Time for 2 year olds from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

February 7

Mansfield Child Care will discuss "SIDS, SBS and Infant Brain Development" at 7:00 p.m. in the Mansfield Library

community meeting room, located at 106 Wisteria Street. Visit www.mansfieldchildcare.com.

Fashion Show: "Love, Music and Fashion From the Past," sponsored by the First United Methodist Church, held at the Walnut Country Club at 11:00 a.m. For reservations or information, call (817) 477-2340.

February 9

Mansfield Library hosts Teen Book Club for ages 12 to 17 at 2:00 p.m. The library is also looking for teen volunteers. Call (817) 473-4391.

February 12 and 26

Texas Ladies Networking meets from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Ryan's Grill in Waxahachie. Call (214) 587-1221.

Kiwanis Afternoon Club meets at Ryan's Grill on Hwy. 287 in Mansfield. Visitors welcome. (817) 453-0872.

Mansfield City Council meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at Mansfield City Hall, 1200 East Broad Street.

February 19

Training Academy for Dental Assistants holds a free informational session at 5:30 p.m. Call (972) 842-2999.

Mansfield Public Library's "As the Page Turns" adult book club meets the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Current book: *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson.

February 23

Father/Daughter "Sweetheart Dance" at the Mansfield

Activity Center from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. The dance is \$30 per couple. Call (817) 804-5797.

March 14

Deadline to nominate for the Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department "PARD"-ners Award. Do you know someone who has improved the quality of leisure opportunities through recreation and parks programs? Nominate them for the award by filling out a nomination form at the Mansfield Activity Center at 106 S. Wisteria, Mansfield, Texas, 76063. Call (817) 804-5797.

March 29

Master Gardeners of Ellis County's annual Ellis County Lawn and Garden Expo at the Waxahachie Civic Center, 1950 N. I-35 E from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. This comprehensive educational extravaganza will include over 100 lawn and garden-related exhibitor booths, keynote speakers, gardening workshops for children from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and a variety of adult workshops. Gaye Hammond will introduce children to the joys of growing roses at 1:00 p.m. Neil Sperry will speak on growing green at 2:00 p.m., and Dotty Woodson will share the art of landscape planting that will flower all summer at 3:30 p.m. The Master Gardener plant sale will feature butterfly-attracting plants, natives, heirloom tomatoes and hard to find plants. For sponsorship and exhibitor information, please send an e-mail to expo.ecmga@yahoo.com or call James at (972) 814-0699.



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