# MidlothianNOW

<u>MA</u>RCH 2025

MAGAZIN

## Forever Home

Russell Wyatt shares history

Tips to Prevent Deadly Poisoning

Mistakes

Learn simple safety

measures to help

keep kids safe

In the Kitchen With Shannon Miller

Also inside:

Scavenger Hunt

Crossword

Featured Business:

Bellucci's Italian and Bovine

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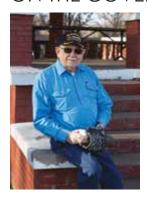
Art Pierard Memorial Amphitheater 8-10 PM





**Bring chairs** for lawn seating.

#### ON THE COVER



A 75-year resident, Russell Wyatt, says there's no place like Midlothian.

#### Photo by

Kobbi R. Blair.

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#### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Hit the books!

March is National Reading Month and, if you haven't yet, the perfect time to visit the new local library. Formerly A.H. Meadows Public Library (previously located inside Midlothian High School) it is now officially Midlothian Public Library, sitting in the heart of downtown. Patrons will find enhanced programs in its state-of-the-art facilities, featuring activities for all ages — from a book club to beginning crochet lessons. Its expanded resources showcase cutting-edge technology, providing a community hub for learning, creativity and connection.

The 20,000-square-foot library offers separate spaces for children, teens and adults; kid-focused downstairs; and quiet reading rooms upstairs for grown-ups. Guests can also check out the maker space, flexible program space, a media room with a soundproof recording pod and an outdoor play area.

Needless to say, there are books about every interest under the sun. And, while most recognize the benefits of reading for children, let's not forget how books benefit older adolescents and adults. Improved communication skills, critical thinking, mental stimulation and stress reduction are attributed to reading. Greater memory, emotional health and social connection come from books, too.

Spring cleaning isn't just for your home, but also for your mind. Consider what you can put into your brain to freshen up your thoughts or spruce up your knowledge. Is there a topic about which you've always wanted to learn but never made the time? A hobby you'd like to pick up or DIY you want to try? A favorite movie based on a book you've yet to read? You can always search these things online, but there's something to be said about putting down your phone and picking up a book.

Start a new chapter!



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"My fondest memory was when the Midlothian Panthers High School baseball team won Regional Championship in 1961, which was the highest championship at that time."

# BEST EIGHT

For Russell Wyatt, Midlothian has always been home. "In 1950, my dad, Bill, was hired to run the car repair shop of Carlisle Chevrolet, which had just opened a local dealership where Branded Burger is now," the longtime Midlothian resident recalled of his family moving to town thanks to his father, who had been a mechanic and truck driver during World War II. "I was 5 years old and started first grade here after turning 6 that same year."

At the time, Midlothian schools were made up of three two-story buildings housing first through 12th grades, according to Russell. Over the next several years, he saw those buildings torn down for new facilities. "Years later, while my wife, Betha, and I were at Meet the Teacher night for our granddaughters

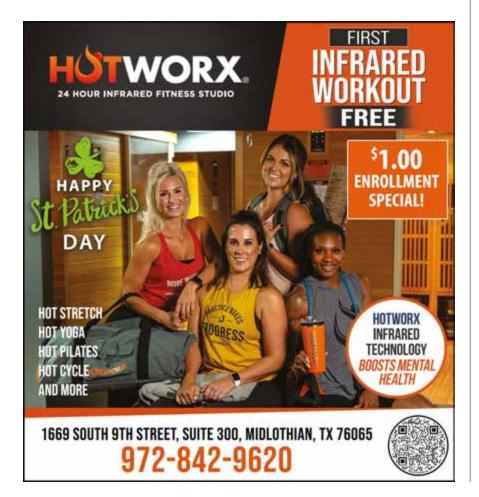
who were starting high school, we saw a mural someone had painted of the old buildings," Russell remembered. "Memories flooded back as I told the granddaughters about the original school. I was a little shocked to realize a crowd had stopped behind us to listen to my story."

Russell has many stories of growing up as an only child. "When I wasn't playing baseball, fishing in a nearby tank or hunting, I was at the garage with my dad. He taught me how to work on cars," he shared. "When I was 12 years old, an old gentleman brought in a 1949-50 Chevrolet, needing an overhaul. My dad told me if I was going to hang around so much, to go ahead and overhaul that 6-cylinder truck."

That was Russell's first success story with mechanics. "Of course, Dad was always close by. The old gentleman was still driving the truck in 1964!" Russell noted.

Another success sticks with Russell today. "My fondest memory was when the Midlothian Panthers High School baseball team won Regional Championship in 1961, which was the highest championship at that time," he stated. "Our games were played at Kimmel Park. Home base was in the corner where the covered picnic area is now. First base was in direct line with the bandstand. Third base was in line







with the water fountain, still there, today. Runners had to be careful while running the bases.

"There were small bleachers, but most spectators had to stand or sit on their cars to watch the game," Russell continued. "Living near the park, now, I have many fond memories of this place!"

Obviously, many of Russell's memories surround his love of baseball. "My family lived in a house right behind the school gymnasium. To practice on my own, I would throw the ball against the brick wall of the gym, catching it on the bounce back."

Russell attended Midlothian schools through the 11th grade, when he joined the Army at age 17. "After basic training at Fort Carson, Colorado, I went to Fort Knox, Kentucky for Track Vehicle (tanks) Maintenance School. After training, in 1962, I was shipped to Korea where I spent almost a year," Russell outlined.

Just before basic training, Russell met his first wife, Bonnie, at the old Midlothian Baptist Church on Avenue F. In 1983, after almost crossing paths several times over the years, Russell met Betha through his adult daughter and married in 1984.

"I was married to my first wife for 20 years. We are still great friends, having raised three children," Russell explained. "After we married 40 years ago, I helped Betha raise her three kids. With the two unions, we have a combined 12 grandchildren."

Russell described watching Midlothian grow. "It has gone from a small farming community with less than 5,000 people to a large town with 35,000 or more. In the '50s, we could walk clear across town waving to friends. Everyone knew everyone," Russell said.

"Living in Midlothian then wasn't much different than other farming communities you've seen in movies.

We had farmers bringing full wagons to the cotton gin, a turkey farm where Chicken Express is now, a one-person police department that would call parents to come get their kids if they got in a little trouble and a theater where kids could spend Saturday afternoons while parents did their shopping at the corner grocery store," Russell depicted.

While the city has grown, Russell appreciates efforts to maintain its smalltown feel. "We have movies in the park, street dances, Veterans Day celebrations and marathons, a farmers market on the square, pumpkin patches, sports of all kinds and parades almost quarterly for one reason or another," he said. "Betha and I have a tradition of watching the local fireworks with family and close friends, and last year was our 40th family gathering doing this!"



Russell credits his father with emphasizing this love of family, along with the importance of hard work and responsibility. "He played such an important role in my life," Russell credited. "Dad was my best friend."

Russell is proud to continue to call home the place where he made memories with his father and built his own family. "I've loved baseball, hunting and fishing local tanks, coaching Little League for my two sons, square dancing in my 40s and playing senior softball in my 50s," he said. "After retiring at age 69, I made and refinished furniture, which included cedar chests for our six granddaughters.

"We've supported our town any way we could. It's where our friends are, where we raised kids and helped raise grandkids," he continued. "This is home." Now





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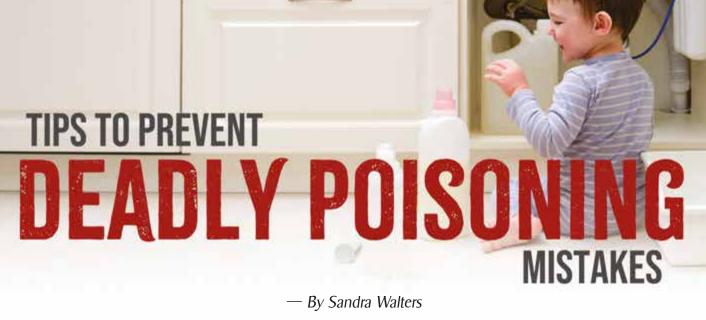
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Bringing the best of the community home.



National Poison Prevention Week is observed annually during the third full week of March. The dates for this year are March 16-22. This observance serves as a vital reminder of the importance of poison safety and prevention, aiming to raise awareness about the dangers of poisoning, particularly for young children, who are most at risk. The Aspirus Health website states, "According to the American Association of Poison Control Centers, 92 percent of poisonings happen at home, and 43 percent of poisonings involve children under the age of 6. Poisoning is the third leading cause of unintentional injury death among children ages 1 to 19 years." Fortunately, many of these emergencies are preventable with a few simple safety measures.

One of the most effective ways to prevent poison exposure is by keeping hazardous substances out of children's reach. Common household items such as cleaning supplies, medications, pesticides and cosmetics can pose significant risks. Keep items in their original containers. Never transfer chemicals or medications into unlabeled containers that could confuse children. Use child-resistant packaging. While not entirely childproof, these containers add an extra layer of protection. Store all toxic substances in high cabinets or locked drawers, and ensure that access is physically restricted.

Medications are one of the leading causes of unintentional poisoning in children. Even small doses of adult medications can be extremely harmful to young ones. Count every pill. Keep track of all medications to ensure none are missing. Avoid calling medicine "candy." This might encourage children to seek out pills when unsupervised. Dispose of unused medicine properly by using drug take-back programs or follow FDA guidelines for safe disposal.

Cleaning products often contain harsh chemicals that can cause severe injuries if ingested, inhaled or spilled on skin. Read the labels and always follow instructions and warnings on cleaning product labels. Clean up immediately. After cleaning, ensure you securely store products, even during short breaks. Choose safer options by looking for non-toxic, eco-friendly alternatives to harsh cleaners when possible.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas that can cause poisoning and death. CO poisoning is a silent killer and a significant safety risk in homes. Install CO detectors. Place them near sleeping areas and fuel-burning appliances. Service appliances regularly, and ensure gas furnaces, water heaters and fireplaces are inspected annually by professionals. Never use generators or grills indoors. These devices produce CO and must be operated in well-ventilated outdoor areas.

Some household and garden plants are toxic to children if ingested. Popular plants such as lilies, philodendrons and poinsettias can pose risks. Know your plants by identifying all plants in your home and yard, and remove any that are poisonous. Educate older children. Teach kids not to eat any part of a plant unless an adult has confirmed it's safe.

Food poisoning can occur when perishable items are not stored or handled correctly. Follow expiration dates. Discard expired food items, even if they appear fine. Refrigerate food promptly. Store perishable food items in the refrigerator within two hours of cooking. Separate raw and cooked food. Prevent cross-contamination by keeping raw meat away from ready-to-eat food.

Empowering children with knowledge can go a long way in preventing poisoning accidents. Explain what's off-limits, while teaching children not to eat or drink anything without permission. Use visual aids. Show them labels or symbols on hazardous products to recognize danger. Role-play safety scenarios to help kids understand what to do if they come across something suspicious.

Despite taking precautions, accidents can still happen. Acting quickly in the event of poisoning is critical. Save the number for The Poison Control Hotline, 1-800-222-1222. This is a 24/7 free resource for poisoning emergencies and prevention advice. The signs of poisoning include nausea, vomiting, confusion, difficulty breathing and burns or stains around the mouth. Call, don't guess! If you suspect poisoning, call the hotline immediately instead of trying home remedies or waiting for symptoms to worsen.

**During National Poison Prevention** Week, take the time to inspect your home for potential poisoning hazards, and implement these safety tips. By doing so, you can create a safer environment for your children and significantly reduce the risk of accidental poisoning. Remember, prevention is always better than cure, and your vigilance could save a life.

Constant adult supervision is one of the simplest ways to prevent poisoning accidents. Young children are naturally curious and may explore potentially dangerous substances when left alone, even for a few moments. Let's use this week as a reminder to make poison prevention a priority not just for seven days but all year round. Your actions today could make all the difference in protecting your loved ones. Now

#### Sources:

1. https://www.aspirus.org/ poisoning-prevention-substancemisuse#::text=According%20 to%20the%20American%20 Association, ages %201% 20 to %20 19%20years.

2. https://www.poison.org/. 3. https://www.texaschildrens.org/ content/wellness/national-poisonprevention-week-keeping-ourchildren-out-harms-way.





#### **Around Town**



Zoomed In: Marquin Decker

Marquin Decker, a Paws for Reflection Ranch counselor, spends time with Gunner, one of the organization's retired therapy horses. Events like the upcoming annual cornhole tournament help PRR with animal care and ranch maintenance. "It's a great way for the ranch to foster community and some healthy competition! I see families and friends getting out to spend time together and relationships growing through their partnership in playing the game," Marquin shared.

Cornhole for Community is Saturday, March 15, with on-site registration/checkin at 3:00 p.m. and bags flying at 4:00 p.m. Sponsors are still welcome. "It brings awareness to the amazing work and healing done at the ranch as participants are able to see our animal partners and learn how they help so many individuals," Marquin noted. "I love the yummy food and getting to see so many faces of our community having a great time together for a great cause!"



Ashlynn Brasier and John Yarbrough showcase Peter the Lamb at a recent Midlothian FFA event.



Matt Morris, of The Balanced Canine DFW, and Eli Vega, of Breakthrough Dog Training, talk shop at Tio Tony's restaurant.



Staff members at Methodist Midlothian and local EMS partners celebrate the hospital's new Level IV Trauma Center designation with a llama-zing party.



Midlothian Economic Development board members enjoy dinner at Bovine restaurant.

By Angel Morris



Landon Harris and Jaxon Harris at the new Midlothian Library.



In honor of National Mentoring Month, Anna Hammonds, of Unite Ellis, visits with Mentors Care founder Dena Petty to discuss mentoring in Ellis County.



Leah Rogers gets a tour of the town from her nephews and niece, Ryan, Todd and Sabrina Brunson.









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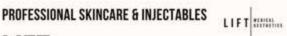














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#### **Bovine**

#### **BusinessNOW**

# Bellucci's Italian and Bovine

By Angel Morris

Whether you're craving authentic Italian cuisine or traditional bar-and-grill fare, restaurateurs Anthony and Pattie Cucci have you covered. Bellucci's Italian Restaurant brings the Cuccis' roots to patrons, while their second eatery, Bovine, focuses on American comfort food. "We're true Italians," Anthony shared. "We have Italian cooks and waiters at Bellucci's, and I have Italian heritage. My mother's side is from Rome, and my father's side is from Sicily."

Celebrating its seventh anniversary in the community this year, Bellucci's greets patrons with Italian music and decor in a low-lit, relaxing environment. "This is a family-oriented restaurant, serving genuine, homemade Italian food," Pattie explained. "When you come here, you experience the culture."

Everything Bellucci's Italian sends out of the kitchen is fresh and made to order. Of course, antipastis, pastas, pizzas and pollo dishes are offered. Their menu contains not just Italian food, but also seafood, sub sandwiches and hearty steaks. "We love people, and we love cooking," Anthony said, and it is evident in the food they serve. "Even the complimentary bread we send out is made to order!"

Pattie and Anthony met when she, at 18, began working for his parents, who owned many restaurants. "My dad moved to Arlington in 1979 to open the first pizzeria,"

Anthony said. "He was the first in his family to start a restaurant. The Star-Telegram wrote, 'Come watch Italians spin pizza from New York!' I still remember the day we opened. People wrapped around the door, waiting to come in and check it out."

Perhaps craving to recreate that experience, the Cuccis added Bovine to their restaurant lineup in the fall of 2023. Located in a historic downtown building dating back to 1909, the quaint eatery offers a rustic, lively vibe. "This location lets us share our passion for home cooking with market-fresh ingredients," Pattie noted. "It's a cozy spot with something for everyone to enjoy."

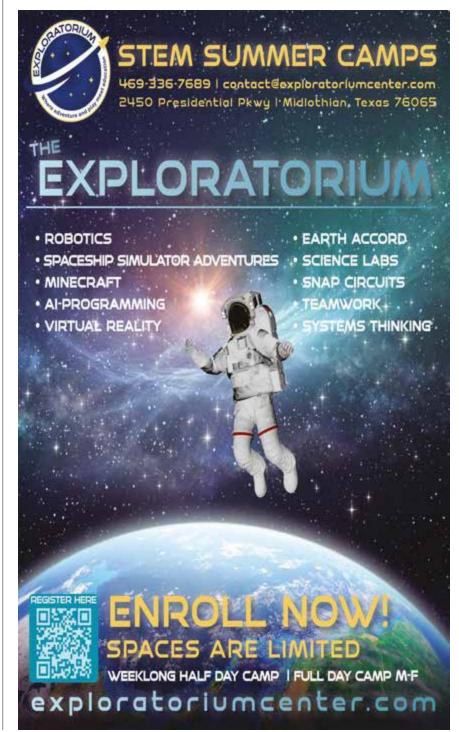
#### "WE LOVE PEOPLE, **AND WE LOVE** COOKING."

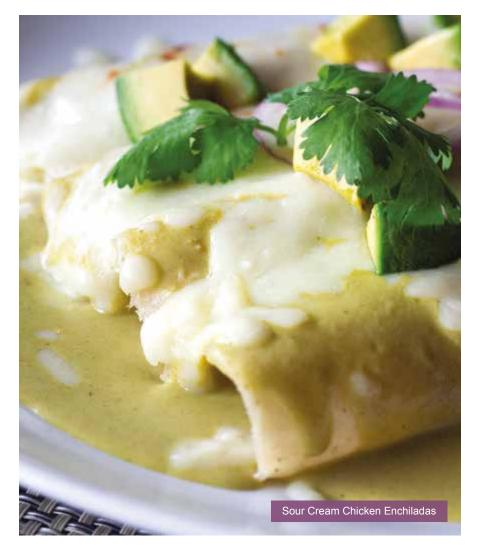
The Bovine menu offers appetizers from traditional nachos and potato skins to a more exotic ahi tuna tower and truffle crab mac gruyere. Entree classics range from chicken fried steak, hamburger steak and jumbo tenders, to rib eye, porter house, filet mignon, hand-cut steaks and more.

"We both enjoy seeing people happy when they eat our food," Pattie stated. "We love the people and the community, which is why we've been learning and growing here for 16 years."

As the community grows, so do the Cuccis' aspirations. A full-service bar is offered at Bovine, while Bellucci's serves both beer and wine. Menus at both restaurants are constantly evaluated based on patron feedback, and Anthony and Pattie credit the Bellucci's and Bovine staff for diligently working to keep their vision of authentic, made-toorder cuisine alive. "We are grateful for the amazing team of employees here who have helped keep the restaurant successful." Pattie said. "We wouldn't have made such an impact in the community without them!" NOW







## CookingNOW IN THE KITCHEN WITH SHANNON MILLER

- By Angel Morris



One of Shannon Miller's first memories is standing at her greatgrandparents' stove at age 4. "I was stirring gravy for my Daddy Pete," she recalled. "I also spent much time in the kitchen with my grandmother, Mamaw, learning to make cookies, biscuits and many other things, as well as cooking a great deal with my mother at our own home."

All these relatives continually encouraged Shannon's cooking. "Now that I think back, some of my creations must have been terrible, but I was always told they were delicious," Shannon reflected.

An 18-year resident of Midlothian, Shannon is proud to be a mother, grandmother and retired teacher. "And now as an in-home baker," Shannon noted, "I'm fulfilling my lifelong dream of baking for others." **NOW** 

#### Sour Cream Chicken Enchiladas

2 chicken breasts, cooked and shredded I tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. garlic powder

1/2 tsp. cumin

1/2 cup salsa

2 14-oz. cans cream of chicken soup 16 oz. sour cream

6 Tbsp. jalapeño juice (from pickled jalapeños)

I cup chicken broth

10-12 flour tortillas

2 cups shredded pepper jack cheese, plus extra for topping

Sliced pickled jalapeños, to taste

- **1.** Preheat the oven to 375 F. Place cooked chicken, salt, garlic powder, cumin and salsa in a skillet. Cook until the salsa has incorporated into the chicken; set aside.
- 2. In a saucepan, combine the soup, sour cream, jalapeño juice and broth. Place on medium heat; stir until well combined.
- **3.** Warm the tortillas until they will roll easily. Place a large tablespoon of chicken and a large tablespoon of cheese in each tortilla; roll each tortilla loosely. Place the stuffed tortillas side by side in a 9x13-inch pan.
- **4.** Pour the sour cream sauce over the tortillas; top with the sliced jalapeños and remaining cheese.
- 5. Cook 25-30 minutes until bubbling around the edges. Serve hot.

#### Chicken Bacon Chowder

8 slices bacon, plus extra for topping 1/2 medium onion, chopped 2 Tbsp. flour 2 14-oz. cans chicken broth 1 14-oz, can cream of chicken soup 2 chicken breasts, cooked and shredded 2 medium potatoes, diced Salt, to taste Pepper, to taste 1/2 cup heavy cream Shredded cheese, to taste

- 1. In a medium stew pot, fry the bacon and onions. When crispy, remove the bacon; set aside. Using the bacon grease, stir in the flour; cook until it starts to brown. Add the chicken broth and cream of chicken soup.
- 2. When the broth and soup are well combined with the flour mixture (if too thick, add additional chicken broth), add the chicken and potatoes. Cook on low heat until the potatoes are soft, about 30 minutes. Add salt and pepper.
- 3. Before serving, crumble the bacon; add it to the soup. Add the cream, letting it heat through.
- 4. Pour into bowls; top with additional bacon and cheese, if desired.

#### **Peanut Butter Fudge Cake**

Cake:

I triple fudge box cake mix

1 cup water

1/2 cup oil

2 eggs

#### Icing:

1 stick butter, softened

I cup smooth peanut butter

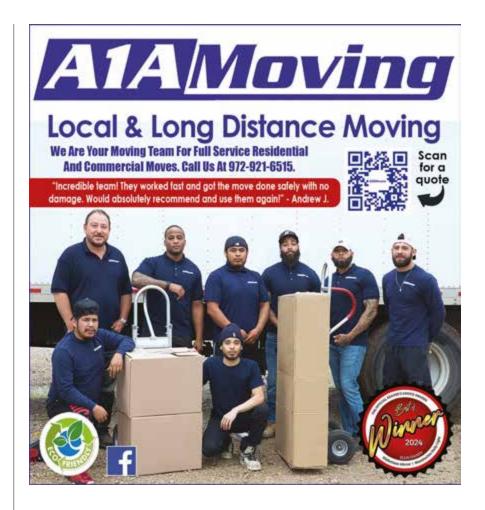
2 lbs. powdered sugar

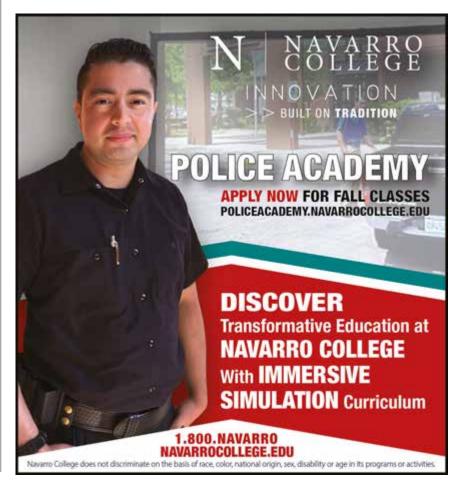
6 Tbsp. milk

#### Hot fudge sauce, to taste Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, diced, to taste

- **1.** For cake: Place the cake mix, water, oil and eggs into a bowl.
- **2.** Mix until well combined. Divide the mixture into 2 8-inch round pans; bake according to the box directions. Allow to cool completely.
- **3.** For icing: In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter and peanut butter until smooth.
- **4.** Add the powdered sugar, a little at a time, while adding milk 1 Tbsp. at a time. Continue mixing until you have incorporated all the sugar and have a fluffy peanut butter icing.
- **5.** To assemble: Place one cake layer on a cake plate. Spread enough icing to cover the top of the cake.
- **6.** Spread a thin layer of hot fudge sauce.
- **7.** Sprinkle a layer of peanut butter cups atop the sauce.
- **8.** Place the second cake layer atop the first; completely cover the top and sides of both layers with the remaining icing.
- **9.** Drizzle with hot fudge sauce and sprinkle with the remaining peanut butter cups.

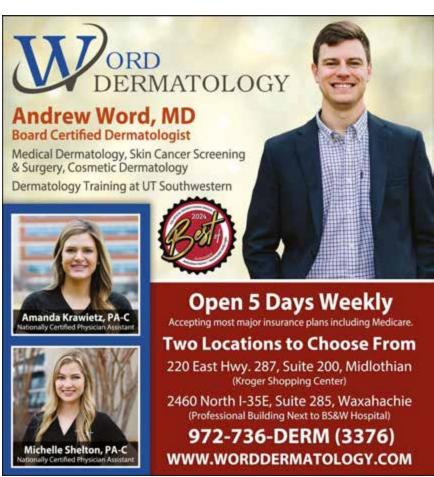














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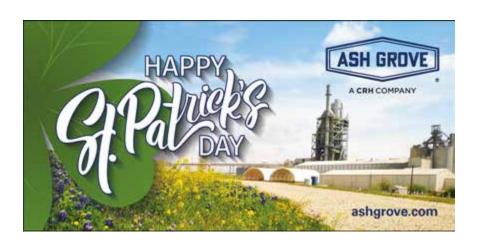


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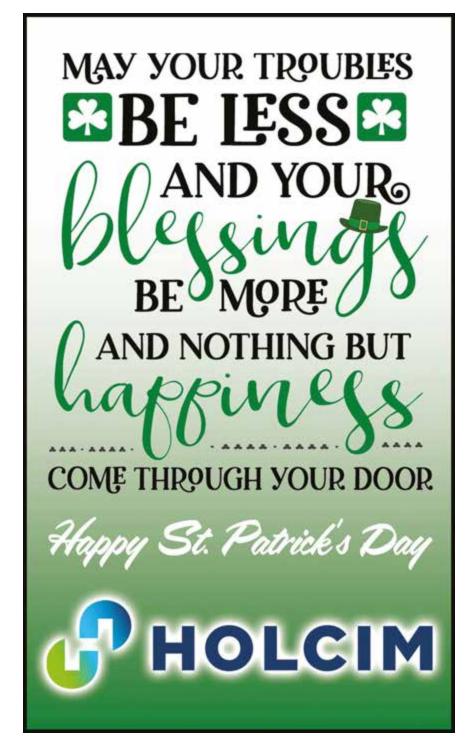




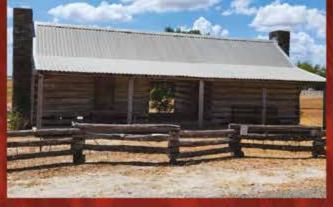




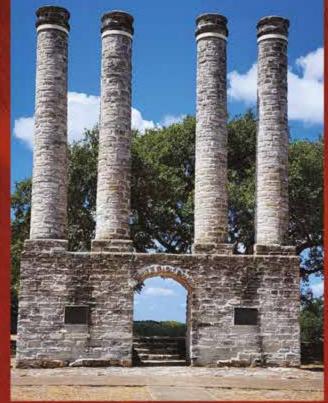












# RICH IN HISTORY

— By Virginia Riddle

The year was 1832, and General Sam Houston wrote to his cousin, "I am about to enter Texas." From that time forward until his death, his life's path would be intertwined with the beginnings of Anglo settlement in Texas — first in Nacogdoches, then in Washington-on-the-Brazos and finally in Independence, where the Mrs. Sam Houston House and Homestead still stand today. The same gently rolling hills and flat plains cooled by gulf breezes and frequent rains that drew General Houston, farmers and other businesspeople during those early days of the Republic of Texas still draw visitors.

Once known as the Washington Township, Washingtonon-the-Brazos is a good place to begin one's tour. A few buildings of the township, founded in 1833, still stand, but the main attraction is Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, where settlers crossed the Brazos River by ferry and continued their journey on the La Bahía Road. Representatives came to this spot in 1836 to declare Texas' independence from Mexico. Easy walking trails guide visitors to Independence Hall and the historic La Bahía Pecan Tree. Visitors can walk or drive under overhanging oak and pecan trees to the Star of the Republic Museum and the Barrington Plantation, which was once home to Dr. Anson Jones, the last Republic of Texas president. The plantation is still a working farm with heritage breeds of livestock tended by staff and volunteers dressed in period costumes. Washington-on-the-Brazos served as the capital from 1842-1845 but began a decline when the capital was moved, and the town was bypassed by the railway.

Nearby Magnolia was founded in 1845 when a farmer named Mink built a homestead. The town was first known as Mink's Prairie, which disappeared after the International-Great Northern Railroad came through a few miles away in 1902. Magnolia is named for the profusely flowering trees in the area. The historic train depot, Magnolia Depot, is a museum documenting the importance of the railroad to the area. The area also offers five hike-and-bike trails and plenty of camping opportunities.

Magnolia features modern accommodations, including



some delightful bed-and-breakfasts and inns in historic homes. Chain restaurants, as well as mom-and-pop local favorites, make sure visitors won't leave hungry.

Independence, founded in 1835, was the first home to what is now Baylor University in Waco, and Sam Houston's family home is among the many historic places and churches visitors can see during walking, bike or car tours that are noted online. The first Anglo settlers arrived in the 1820s, cleared the land and began cottonproducing plantations. By the 1850s, when Houston's family arrived, the town was an educational, economic and religious center. However, the town was also bypassed by the railroad, and with the loss of Baylor's men and women's campuses, the area went into decline.

Today, many of the sites are well preserved and documented. Old Baylor Park (female college), Mrs. Sam Houston's House, Windmill Hill (male college), the General Store, Lueckemeyer Cotton Gin, the Seward Plantation and Independence Baptist Church are just a few of the notable sites on the tour. Three additional churches just south of town are on the Church Tour: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Immanuel Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church.

Springtime, with its flowering fields, is a great time of year to visit this area. Don't miss a heavenly scented walk through the nearby renowned Antique Rose Emporium, in Brenham, followed by scrumptious dining at a quaint bedand-breakfast inn or restaurant.

#### Sources:

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#### **Crossword Puzzle**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11	T	t	T	T		12	+	+	+	t
13	H	H	$\vdash$	$\vdash$		14	+	T	t	+
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37	+	+	+	+		38	+	+	+	+

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Serengeti

11 Sewing

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inventor ---

12 Slender boat

13 Manhattan

14 Violinist and

Rieu

15 Fall behind

16 Flow away

18 Doctrine

19 "The --- of

Tralee\*

21 "Dead man's

hand\* pair

22 Kind of infection

conductor ---

- equine 25 Civil wrong 6 Reduces
  - 26 Mathematical degree?

24 Retained

- 27 "Monday Night Raw" channel
- 28 Comcast, for example
- 31 Spheres of Project product interest
  - 33 Mollycoddle
  - 35 Political housecleaning
  - 36 Character originally played by Jay Silverheels
  - 37 Kale South of the Border
  - 38 Showing attitude

- Down
  - 1 Ardor 2 Boney's exile
  - 3 "Life" writers
  - 4 Plow into
  - 5 "We did it --we could"
  - 6 Strikebreaker
  - 7 PC linkup
- 8 Signs idiot can sin badly
- 9 Tasty bit
- 10 Appears
- 17 Borscht base
- 20 National Popcorn Poppin' mo.

- 21 Ventilate
- 22 \*To thine own self --- " (Shakespeare, "Hamlet")
- 23 Friars Club events
- 24 The ---Commission on alleged N Y P D corruption
- 27 Plays for a idiot
- 29 Takes a breather
- 30 Ruse
- 32 Gone by
- 34 "You must ask us how much it costs\*

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3/15

#### Wildflower Walks:

One-half mile nature walk led by Texas Master Naturalists to learn about the wildflowers, native plants and animal life of the park. 9:00-11:00 a.m., Mockingbird Nature Park, 1361 Onward Rd. More information is available at www.midlothian.tx.us/nature.

#### Third Annual Cornhole Tournament:

Open to the public with three brackets from amateur to professional. Proceeds assist with animal care at Paws for Reflection Ranch.

Call (972) 775-8966 or visit

www.PawsForReflectionRanch.org for more details.

3/29

#### Play Day:

Basketball, fishing, sand volleyball, scavenger hunt, splashpad, tennis and more family fun. Free refreshments and souvenirs while supplies last. Live evening concert. 6:00-10:00 p.m., Community Park Phase 2, 3601 S. 14th St. Learn more at www.midlothian. tx.us/PlayDay.

4/12

#### **Relay for Life:**

Join us for this Mardi Gras-

themed time to celebrate, remember and fight back! 4:00 p.m.-midnight, Veterans Memorial Park, 2301 Ennis Pkwy., Ennis.

#### First Mondays

#### Ellis County Art Association:

Open to all. Refreshments: 6:00 p.m.; announcements and business: 6:30 p.m.; art demonstration: 6:45 p.m., First Baptist Church, 450 Hwy. 287 Bypass, Waxahachie.

#### Wednesdays

#### DivorceCare:

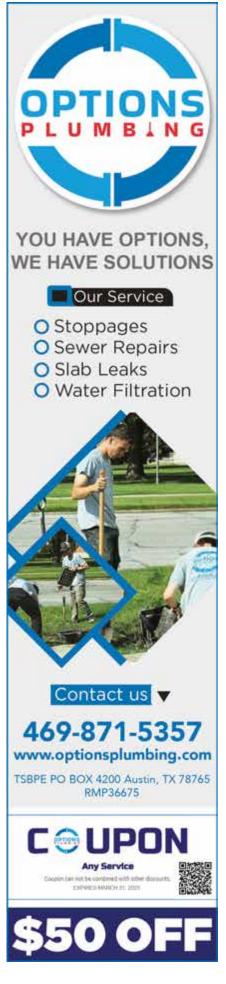
Group sharing for those who

have gone through or are going through divorce. DivorceCare for Kids ages 5-12 meets at the same time. Care for younger children available. 6:30-8:00 p.m., First Methodist Church Family Life Center, 800 S. 9th St. Call (972) 775-3993 for more details.

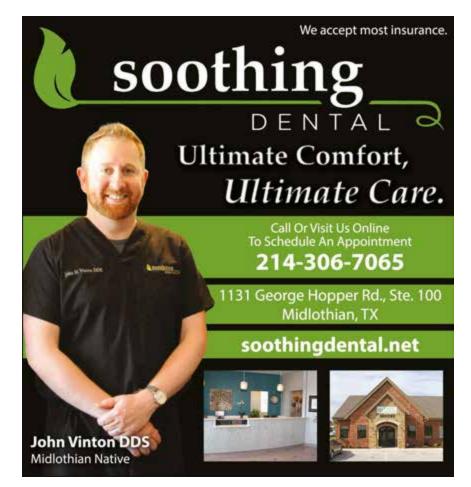
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for Midlothian Councilwoman, Place 4

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#### Meet Valencia Daniels A Leader Committed to Midlothian's Future

Midlothian deserves strong, forward-thinking leadership, and Valencia Daniels is ready to serve! With a proven track record in business operations, risk management, and community advocacy, Valencia is the candidate who will work tirelessly to ensure smart growth, fiscal responsibility, and a thriving future for all residents.

#### Why Vote for Valencia on May 3?

- A Vision for Growth & Economic Prosperity
  - With years of experience in finance and risk management, Valencia understands how to strengthen local businesses, attract new investments, and ensure economic stability while keeping Midlothian's small-town values intact.
- A Commitment to Public Safety & Community Well-Being
  - Her background in criminal justice and service as a former Detention Service Officer equips her to advocate for strong public safety measures, effective policies, and community-driven solutions that make Midlothian a safe place to live and work.
- A Passion for Leadership & Mentorship
  - From mentoring young leaders in MILE and Academy 4 to guiding teams at Citi, Valencia is dedicated to empowering the next generation and fostering a culture of service, leadership, and integrity.
- A Candidate Who Listens & Takes Action
  - She believes leadership is about listening to the needs of the community, engaging in meaningful conversations, and taking decisive action to make Midlothian even stronger.

Stay Connected:

Follow Valencia on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn Visit ValenciaForMidlothian.com for more information

**Election Day: May 3, 2025**