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Publisher, Connie Poirier

General Manager, Rick Hensley

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Managing Editor, Becky Walker
Mansfield Editor, Mikaela Matthews
Editorial Coordinator, Sandra Strong
Editorial Assistant, Beverly Shay
Writers, Jeremy Agor, Rick Hope
Todd Simmons, Betty Tryon
Editors/Proofreaders,
Pat Anthony, Pamela Parisi

GRAPHICS AND DESIGN

Creative Director, Chris McCalla
Artists, Julie Carpenter, Casey Henson
Martha Macias, Felipe Ruiz
Arlene Honza, Brande Morgan
Shannon Pfaff

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography Director, Jill Rose
Photographers, Vanessa Polozola
Kyle Powell, Amanda Rooney

ADVERTISING

Advertising Representatives,
Teresa Banks, Lori O'Connell, Steve Randle
Rick Ausmus, Linda Dean, Laura Fira
Bryan Frye, Melissa McCoy, Vicki Meeks
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ON THE COVER



The Phillips are working to restore downtown Mansfield.

Photo by Vanessa Polozola.

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Editor's Note

Dear Friends,

I recently watched the finalists of the Sundance Festival's short video contest. If you want to be inspired by human ingenuity, go watch them. One was about a chemist who is working to create personalized energy for every home. All you would need is sunlight and water mixed with artificial leaves he has created.

The publicity of his invention is timely since Earth Day is on April 22. This special day reminds us to be friendly to the earth. Remember to recycle and turn

off your lights when you aren't using them.

On April 25, come out and thank the good fire fighters of Mansfield with their Boots & Bistro event at the Aristide Event Center. All ticket proceeds go to benefit Mansfield Fire Rescue. You can look at our calendar page for more information.

Enjoy your spring!

Mikaela

Mikaela Mathews
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mikaela.mathews@nowmagazines.com

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Making a Desirable Outcome

— By Jeremy Agor

Sustainable living, maintaining links to the past, and setting a foundation for the future are important to Eddie and Mary Phillips. They live in a recycled home on a large plot of land in Rendon, and they are working to restore downtown Mansfield to its former beauty with a combination of art and restoration.

Eddie, who has worked for his family's specialty painting business since his teenage years, and Mary, a writer and artist with a master's degree in botany, have been working with Discover Historic Mansfield to make downtown an area where people will gather as a community, especially for the arts and music. "If you look at places where there's a high quality of life, you find that they have strong neighborhoods. Discover Historic Mansfield is determined to make downtown *the* art scene for this area, and the projects we're working on will help make Mansfield stand out," Mary said.

Eddie and Mary have created and placed Welcome to Historic Mansfield signs on the north and south sides of downtown, store signs and murals on the *Mansfield News-Mirror* building, the back of the Chamber of Commerce building and in other places. They are also painting storefronts using a historically accurate color palette to restore the area to how it looked when it was the center of the community. "We want the view from Main Street to be historically accurate, so we're using the right colors," Mary explained. "We're also being careful of the color palette so each building has its own individual character."

The project is much more than just a coat of paint, however. Eddie paints the store signs freehand. He has finished painting three of the storefronts and has several more planned. The facade at 120 Main Street was covered with aluminum in the 1970s. Eddie pulled off the siding and restored the cast-iron pillars on the building. "That was a tough job," he said. "The next jobs on our list are painting the front of Frosted Pink and putting a mural on the back of the building and restoring the tin ceiling in Dr. Robert Smith's waiting room, then adding a mural on the back of his building."

Mary met Eddie in July 2000, shortly after moving to Texas. She wanted to refinish her home and hired him to do some specialty painting. As they worked on projects around her home, they realized they worked well together, and their neighbors began hiring them to do work at their homes. "I think we've painted a mural in every house on the block," Eddie laughed.

Before meeting Mary, Eddie had done just about every kind of painting possible, from cars and the restoration painting in Sundance Square and the gold leaf at the Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth, but he had never painted a mural. "With his knowledge of tools and techniques and my vision, we've done very well," Mary admitted.





“With his knowledge of tools and techniques and my vision, we’ve done very well.”





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Eddie, Mary and their four children moved to Rendon a few years ago to live on his family's land there. They created a sculpture garden and art center where they could build something for and contribute to the community. It was important to Eddie's family that the land remains in the family. Eddie and Mary have bought more land around it, piece by piece, to its current seven acres. "We have so much space we wanted to do something creative. What's the fun of having seven acres if you're just going to mow it?" Mary asked.

They have been building their home, affectionately known as their Bohemian Homestead, since 2005, piecing together old buildings purchased from Hester Home Movers. Currently, it is comprised of three separate buildings: a former Wienerschnitzel restaurant, a lake cottage and a modular home. They are expecting delivery of another building soon. "We drove up on the guy's lot and started buying buildings," Eddie said. "The



Wienerschnitzel was decaying on the lot, and he begged us to take it.”

Also on their land are large organic gardens which reflect Mary’s love for art and science. As a graduate student at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, she researched heirloom crops that could help transition farmers’ crops from tobacco to something sustainable. She focused on apples and found many varieties that had ceased to exist anywhere else. Her love of botany has carried over to her gardens, where composting and natural methods are the rule.

“When we moved here, the soil was terrible, but I love a challenge. We are dedicated to organic farming, so we began sheet composting every bed,” she explained. “We laid down cardboard, then added six tons of organic material, such as paper, leaves and horse manure.

“Gardens are like people,” May continued. “They don’t look like anything you see on the cover of a magazine,

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and they're always changing. A garden is the best kind of art because it's four-dimensional. You have to account for time."

Eddie is a skilled painter, but he also has a talent for building things. "If you can draw it, he can build it," Mary said. His medium of choice is metal, which he mixes with organic materials like glass and wood. He learned to weld on his first art job using metal, using the upfront money he received to purchase a welder. "Metal is like magic. There's nothing you can't do with it," Eddie said, his eyes sparkling. "You're limited with wood, but metal seems to defy gravity and will hold any shape. There's also the added benefit of it being easy to find in junkyards."

His medium became even easier when gas companies began building oil rigs

"We've come to know
the community, and
that's very important
in our world."

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“You can’t predict the course evolution is going to take.”

Eddie and Mary’s connection between their land and downtown Mansfield is personal. They have formed a relationship with the merchants and people there that took time to cultivate, but it has been rewarding. “We’ve come to know the community, and that’s very important in our world,” Eddie stated. “Even with all our links to each other, people are missing the personal touch.”

“We want to participate in making historic Mansfield as interesting and vibrant as we can, because it’s what makes it appealing,” Mary added. “You can’t predict the course evolution is going to take. You have to have faith that it will transform into the most desirable outcome, and we’re trying to impact that final outcome in a positive way.” **NOW**

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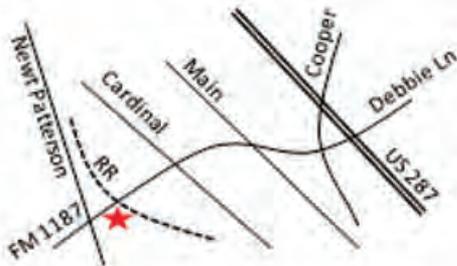
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— By Mikaela Mathews



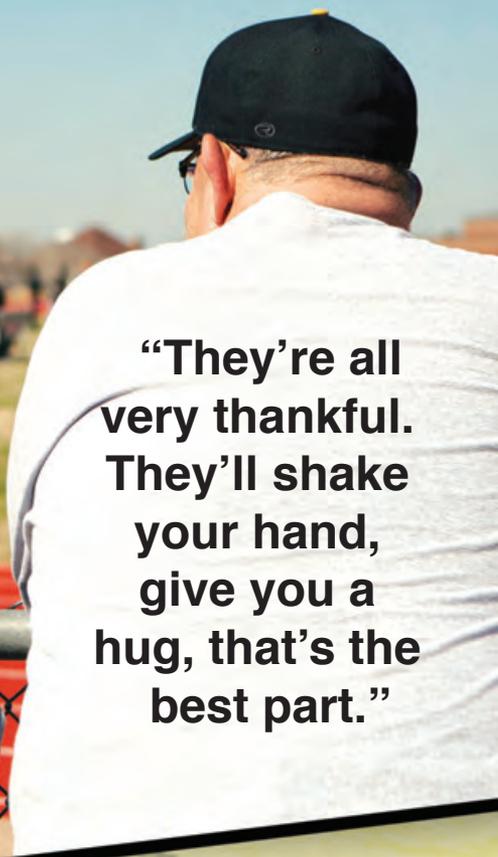
Seeing Garry Crabtree with his grill at a Mansfield High School track meet, flipping salty burgers on a Saturday afternoon is a normal event. His wife, Brenda, is right there with him, cheering on their youngest son. In fact, it's unusual if the Crabtrees aren't either attending or holding an event. As highly active members both in the Booster Club and the

PTSA at Mansfield High School for 10 years, the Crabtrees carry a legacy of service for both their children and the school.

"We believe you need to be involved," Garry explained. "You've got to do your part to help out." For the Crabtree family, helping out means manning the concession stand, soliciting donations for the football players and passing out fruit to the track players.

Garry and Brenda's three sons all attended Mansfield High School — Jacob, a senior at Oklahoma State University (OSU);

ALL



“They’re all very thankful. They’ll shake your hand, give you a hug, that’s the best part.”

Lucas, a junior at Midwestern State University; and, Zachary, a senior at Mansfield High School, who will go to OSU with a football scholarship. However, their commitment to service started long before their sons were in high school. “Garry was a commissioner with the Pee Wee football team there in Kennedale. So, we’re used to being involved,” Brenda explained.

The couple believed sports would be beneficial for their boys. “We always felt like our kids needed to stay in sports to stay out of trouble. And, we just like being involved.” Once their

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oldest son was in the seventh grade, the Crabtrees started volunteering to man the concession stand. By the time their youngest son was in junior high, Coach Hulme, Mansfield High’s football coach, approached Garry about being the football representative for the Booster Club. Garry gladly accepted. “It just got started from there. We’ve been involved with just about everything there is to do up there,” Garry said. Soon after, Coach Stout, Mansfield’s track



coach, asked the Crabtrees to also be the track representative.

The role of a sport representative is primarily to assist the coach in parent communication, assist in raising money and garner food donations for the players. "Last year, we decided we were going to give chocolate milk to the football players after practice," Garry explained. "I called around and got 500 cartons of chocolate milk donated for the boys."



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The players appreciate the efforts made by the Crabtrees and other parents' work, especially the students who did not come prepared for an all-day track meet. "They're all very thankful. They'll shake your hand, give you a hug, that's the best part," Garry said.

In addition, Garry helps to coordinate the football team's largest fundraiser of the year, the spring golf tournament. "The golf tournament is huge for football," Brenda described. "When we started working with the other reps eight years ago, their profit was in the single digits. By last year, we were well into the double-digit profits."

The Crabtrees don't take the credit for the work, however. "A lot of parents help. We couldn't do what we do without so many parents helping," Brenda smiled.

"We have very good parents at Mansfield High," Garry agreed. During their time with the Booster Club, the couple has learned how to recruit volunteers. "It's funny. A lot of people won't help unless asked to help," Garry explained. "We do our best to send out e-mails to keep parents updated as to what is needed and what is going on." Organization is also important. "She's the organizer. I'm the beggar," Garry laughed, pointing at his wife.

Brenda's organizational skills eventually earned her the position as first vice president over membership on the Booster Club's executive board. She works to build membership by equipping the representatives with information. "We have increased steadily, probably by about 15-20 percent every year," she said.

But, the Crabtrees don't just interact with the parents. On Thursday nights during football season, many parents from the varsity football team, including the Crabtrees, host dinners for the varsity players. Sometimes, these dinners are in restaurants, but the Crabtrees always insist on having the players in their home. "We're funny because we love doing it at our home. I love having all the boys here," Brenda said. "So we'll cram 60 varsity football players in our house."

Even though the Crabtrees are heavily involved, both Brenda and Garry also hold full-time jobs. Brenda has been an administrative assistant for Sabre for 19 years, and Garry is the owner of Heritage Tire & Wheel. The couple credits the



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kindness of bosses and the flexibility of owning a business to allow them to be involved. "We've been very fortunate to have jobs and work for people who know that it's about the family, us being there for our kids," Garry explained.

If being football and track representatives wasn't enough, Garry and Brenda are also highly involved in the PTSA at Mansfield High School. Their biggest assignment with the PTSA is Mansfield High's after-prom party, Gold Rush. The event takes a full year to plan with organizing donations and booking activities to keep the kids at the party. "It's all a way to entice the kids to stay there and not be out drinking and driving," Brenda explained. At the party, which lasts from midnight to 5:00 a.m., kids can play in the casinos, get a fake tattoo, have unlimited food and are even awarded prizes at the end. "Every senior that night will go home with something," Brenda said.

The event is exhausting for the couple, but year after year, they keep volunteering. "The first year I did it, I said, 'We're not going to do this again. It's too much work,'" Garry explained. "And then, about 3:00 in the morning, you wheel the gifts out, and you hear the boys screaming like girls, because they're so excited because you give away so much stuff."

The Crabtree boys have grown up with watching their parents volunteer. "They're just used to it," Brenda laughed. "The funny thing is if we weren't going to be somewhere, they always ask, 'Why aren't you going to be there?'" And the Crabtrees wouldn't have it any other way. Brenda explained it this way, "What makes it special is having all the interaction with the kids and knowing that what we're doing makes a difference down the road for them." **NOW**

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Tessa Pierce is a Certified Public Accountant with over 17 years of experience in accounting and finance. She has worked for small and large publicly-held companies, as an auditor at Deloitte & Touche, and as a VP of a multi-billion dollar private investment fund doing both capital management and financial reporting. Tessa has a BBA in accounting from the University of Oklahoma and an MBA in finance from Dallas Baptist University.

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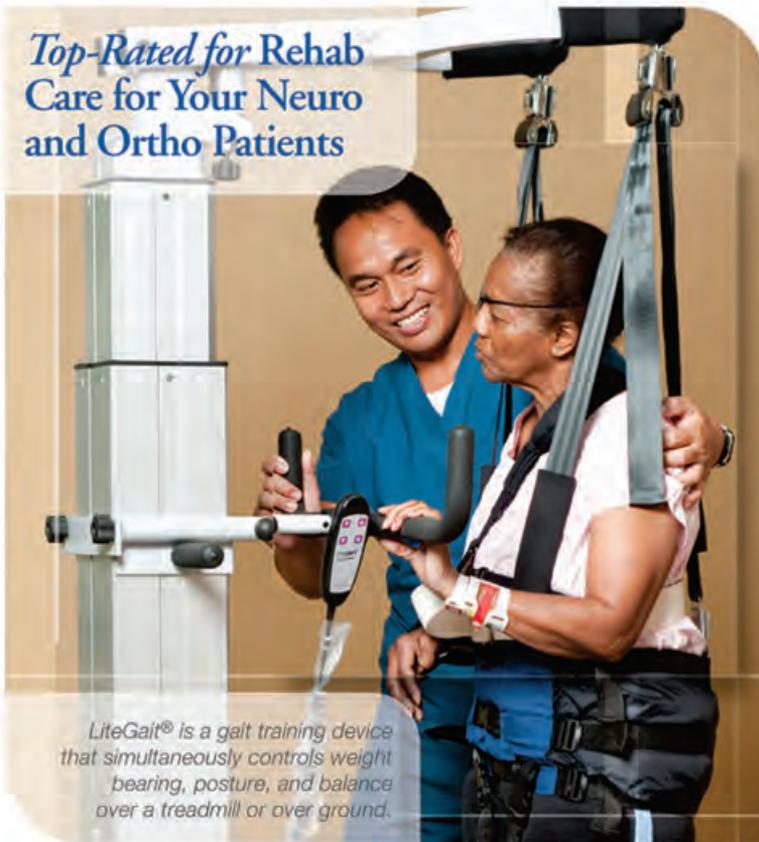


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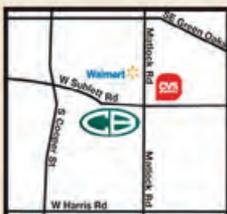
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SALU

At Home with
Steve and
Carla Joyce



PUTTING THEIR Loved Ones

— By Mikaela Mathews

Military legacies pulsate through both Steve and Carla Joyce's families. With a father who made waves in the Senate Arms Committee and Clinton administration, a brother who served his country and died as a Ranger in the Black Hawk Down operation in Somalia, a father who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and a son who is currently an F-15 crew chief in the Air Force, the Joyces believe it's important to honor their loved ones. They do so in one of the most intimate places — their home.

In the front office of their two-story home, Steve and Carla have decorated their Soldier Room with war memorabilia, pictures, medals and articles from their war hero family members. "We want to honor all of our family members who have served," Carla said. One wall is lined with photos of Steve's father and brother and Carla's father.

Steve's father was Lieutenant Colonel Larry Joyce, who served two tours in Vietnam. "I am very proud of my dad and his service to our country," Steve shared. "He had a very diverse career. Not only was he an infantry officer and an aviator, but he was also a public affairs officer in the Pentagon. Talk about a tough gig — PR for the Army in the '70s."

In the far left corner hangs a small piece of Lt. Col. Joyce's airplane, scarred with shrapnel pieces, that holds special memories for Steve. "In one letter my dad asked me what my favorite cartoon character was," Steve recalled. "He said they were naming their planes, and he wanted me to help him. There was no doubt who my favorite character was — Underdog." With this information, Steve's father named his plane Underdog and even had a picture of the character painted on the plane. The plane was unfortunately destroyed one night in an air raid. But, the door survived. Steve's dad had the image cut out and mounted in a teak frame.

To the right of Underdog, Steve framed all of his father's medals and photos from his military days. In the middle rests a pictorial tribute to his





brother, Sergeant James Casey Joyce. Sgt. Joyce served as a Ranger for the U.S. Army during his trip to Somalia. Steve remembers his brother as someone with great determination. "He knew what he wanted, and he was going to do whatever it took to accomplish it," Steve remarked. "He sounded a lot like my dad." Pictures of Sgt. Joyce line the wall with a framed article Steve's dad had written in honor of his son.

Sgt. Joyce's legacy doesn't just live on the wall, however. "The VFW chapter in Plano named their post after Casey in 2001," Steve said. "Every year, they have a golf tournament to benefit a Plano High School scholarship fund in Casey's name."

To the right of the tribute to Sgt. Joyce hangs memorabilia from Carla's dad, First Lieutenant Carl Auberger, who served in the 429 Fighting Squadron as

a P38 fighter pilot. He spent much of his time in Belgium during World War II and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. "He wasn't a career officer. But you would think he was by the impact it had on him and the stories that he shared with his family members," Carla said. "My children have been impacted by his stories. They call his generation the greatest for a reason."

While stationed in Belgium, 1st Lt. Auberger lived in a chateau with a pastry chef and his wife who treated their squadron like family. "In the middle of a war, it was a really warm place for them to be even though it was cold and snowy," Carla described. Photos of 1st Lt. Auberger are framed along with his Distinguished Flying Cross on their wall.

Below 1st Lt. Auberger's Distinguished Flying Cross hangs a replica of the insignia on his airplane. Now both she

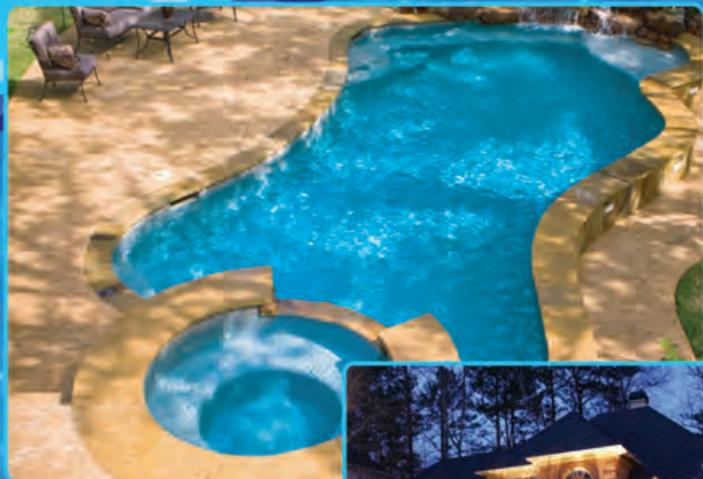
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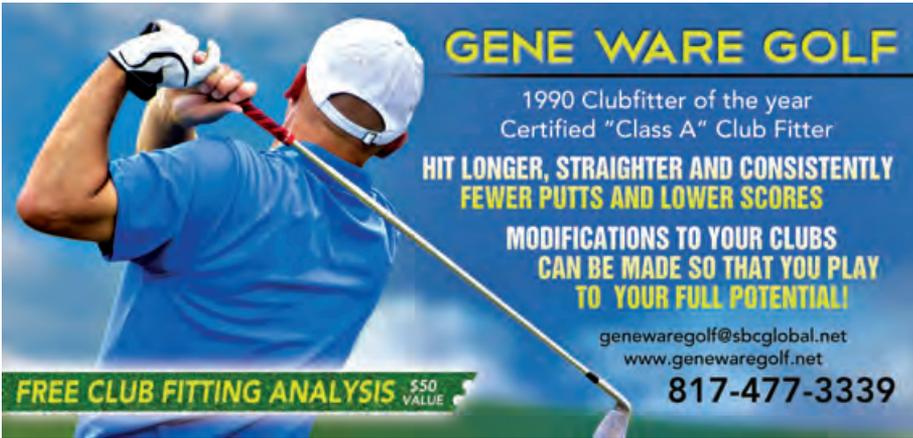
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and Steve had copies of their father's planes to cherish. "That was a surprise," Carla said, pointing at the replica. "It was a Christmas present. Steve got up really



early in the morning and came in here. He was nailing it into the wall without waking me," she laughed.

On the other side of the room, a tall desk holds more pictures of their fathers and of their son, Andrew. He continues the military legacy by serving in the Air Force. Currently living in England, he maintains and cares for F-15 jets. "The pilots don't fly the jets without his approval," Carla explained. "He has a very close relationship with his pilot."

As well as military memorabilia, Carla and Steve also have Bibles from their parents, siblings and grandparents. "I have my dad's and my brother's Bibles, as well as those that belonged to my grandmothers," described Steve. "It is neat to go back and see what they marked in their Bibles."

The Joyces take great pride not only in their Soldier Room, but also in the remainder of their home. They were



lucky enough to have inherited art pieces from Steve's time in Germany as a child, such as two small frames of

three dimensional porcelain Renaissance figures. These pieces are sprinkled throughout their home.

Carla uses red and gold to create a comfortable, old-world feel.



Hardwood floors spread throughout the home. She also has a number of antique furniture pieces that were handed down to her through the family or are lucky finds.

In addition, entertaining is very important for the Joyces. "When Andrew was stationed in Wichita Falls, he would pile as many Airmen as he could in their vehicle and come home for the weekend. That summer we were blessed with six additional sons and loved every moment," Carla laughed. With an ample half-acre backyard, the Joyces have plenty of room for friends and family to visit, which is good because they have a total of seven children: Nick,



Collin, Samantha, Michael, Andrew, Brock and Alex.

"The backyard is set up for food, fun and fellowship," Steve described. "We have the outdoor kitchen for grilling, the pool to cool off in, a couple of vegetable gardens, horse shoe pits, and enough open space for three-on-three football."

Even with all of the beautiful aspects of their homes, Steve still enjoys his office the most. "I love my office. The two things that mean the most to Carla and me are our faith and our family," Steve explained. "This office brings these two aspects of who we are together." **NOW**

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Jennifer Spiegel has always been focused on helping those less fortunate. To her, there is nothing better than helping those who cannot help themselves. Jennifer has also always loved sports and children. As a physical education teacher, she gets to combine both of those worlds. Recently, Jennifer used those two loves and her insatiable desire to help the less fortunate to show her students the importance of giving to others.

Jennifer has been married to Chris for the past four years and has taught 23 years with the Mansfield Independent School District. The last 10 have been at Roberta Tipps Elementary. To Jennifer, who also taught first grade for five years, it's a dream job. "When a kindergarten student learns to jump rope or a third grader lets you know they've made a healthy decision, that has its own reward," Jennifer said. "As with any job, the work is challenging at times but always worth it."

This past year, Jennifer was approached by her principal, Violet Maxwell. Violet e-mailed her a link and asked her to check into it. Jennifer clicked on the link and found the Ultimate Fitness Challenge. With the Ultimate Fitness Challenge, kids of all ages get the opportunity to raise money for their organizations in an active and healthy way by participating in a time-based obstacle course. The course is provided by the company and comes with inflatable boundaries, tunnels, mats, etc. that include sprinting, jump roping, wall crawls, hurdles, jumping jacks, sit ups, tunnel crawls, a slide for an exit. The course is finished off with a grueling 75-meter run. The Web site clearly states no door-to-door selling is involved. A student does have to go out and ask relatives and family friends to sponsor them. The challenge is based on a point system, and those who serve as sponsors are asked to help by pledging toward the total number of points achieved on the day the challenge takes place.

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The event is promoted by a company called All Star Active. The company operates on the belief that childhood obesity can be reduced and prevented by encouraging physical activity and healthy living. This can be done through active fitness programs and events for children and families. Per the Web site, studies have shown that active children are better equipped to excel in school and live a much healthier quality of life when staying physically active. The company desires to reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity through active programs and events designed to make people healthier and “ease the tremendous financial strain on our health care system caused by obesity-related illnesses.”

Jennifer decided she liked what she saw and began to talk about it to her students. Seventy students stepped up to the plate, and the all-day event was slated for late October 2012. As an added incentive, prizes were offered to students who received the most pledges. Top pledge earners had their names placed in a drawing to win an Xbox 360 gaming system. Other prizes up for grabs included T-shirts, light-up jump ropes and a fitness bag. Was the event successful? “By the time it was over, we realized we made \$1,800 profit!” Jennifer admitted.

Long before the event took place, Jennifer had an idea for what she wanted to do with the money earned. “Our school is in a semi-affluent area. The idea of a fundraiser is usually to raise money for your benefit. I wanted to teach

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the children a little more about giving and let them use what they earned to benefit others,” Jennifer explained. “Our students here at Tipps have so much, and I wanted them to give to others here in Mansfield who don’t. I’m trying to teach empathy for others, and I wanted them to see it in action for themselves.” With that in mind, she made a call to the P.E. teacher at Erma Nash Elementary School. With that phone call, an idea was born.

The P.E. teacher at Nash Elementary assigned a writing project to her students. The topic was which piece of athletic equipment would they want and why. “We gave them a choice,” Jennifer said. “They could choose between a football, a soccer ball, a basketball, a hula hoop or a jump rope.” Seventy-eight children were chosen to write the essay, and money from Tipps’ fundraiser was used to buy equipment.

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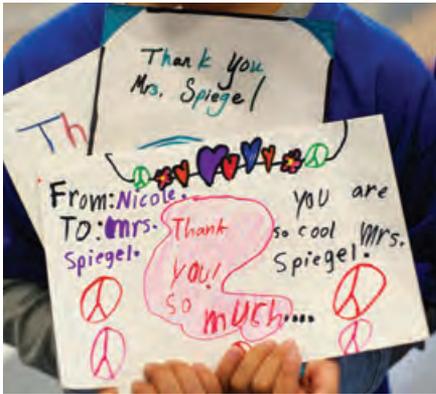
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Frequently, giving is its own reward. However, one could argue it's also rewarding to see the response of the recipient. Jennifer understood this and planned another event not long after the Ultimate Fitness Challenge took place and the essays from Nash Elementary were received. Once the athletic equipment was purchased, Jennifer arranged for a school bus to take 70 of her students to Nash Elementary. These mini-philanthropists and Jennifer were welcomed with music and a receiving line. Seventy Nash Elementary students each made a “thank you” card to give to a Tipps Elementary student. Selected Nash students stood up and said “Thank you,” out loud. After that, students from both schools were treated to healthy snacks and drinks.

The official Mansfield ISD blog tells about some of the Nash Elementary students who expressed gratitude for the generosity. “I’ve never been given something like this from another school,” commented Ariana Rosborough, a fourth-grade student from Nash. “I’m thankful for the equipment, and I hope someday we can do something like this for other students, too.”

Needless to say, it made an equal impact on the Tipps students. “I think they are really happy, and it made me

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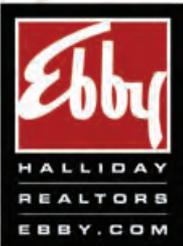
feel happy, too," said Diesel Ayres, a first grader at Tipps Elementary. "It's good to raise money for others because it's helpful, and it helps other kids get healthy."

Jennifer, a native of Boyd, Texas and a Texas Tech University graduate, feels the event was a huge success and plans to make the event an annual occurrence. She also has nothing but praise for her own students. "I am so proud of them," she confessed.

Not long after the event, Jennifer heard one of her first graders make a very telling comment as to whether or not Jennifer achieved her intended objective. "It makes me very happy to give stuff to people," the first grader told Jennifer. To Jennifer, that comment was all the reward she really needed. **NOW**



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Giving Mindset

— By Jeremy Agor

Life's little kindnesses are often the ones that mean the most. A small gesture here or there, such as a cool drink on a warm day or a note to a lonely person, sometimes makes a big difference to both the giver and the recipient.

Sarah Padgett's family didn't have a lot of extra money when she was growing up in Mansfield, but she noticed that her mother always did what she could

to extend those small kindnesses to strangers. Once Sarah became an adult, she decided to continue the practice. "My mom would always pay for the person behind us at the drive-thru when we had extra money, which wasn't often. Seeing the peoples' reactions was really cool to me. I was involved in service projects at church in high school, but I got away from giving for a while. Then, I got a job and had my own money, and I made a decision that I was going to help people and started doing little things here and there," Sarah said.



Sarah & Kim's Giving Back Plan – 2013

- January** - *Rest* (Pop-By: Flashlights)
- February** - Fruitful February (Pop-By: Super Bowl Drive-Thru)
- March** - East Broad Outreach (Pop-By: Calculators)
- April** - Troops (Shred It Party instead of Pop-By)
- May** - Fans for Shelters (Pop-By: Candles)
- June** - *Client Appreciation Party*
- July** - Mansfield Nursing Home (Pop-By: Ice-Cream Scoops)
- August** - School Supply (Pop-By: Batteries for Smoke Detector)
- September** - Socks for September (Pop-By: Mums)
- October** - Teen Pregnancy Outreach (Pop-By: Carving Sets/Markers)
- November** - Pies/Angels
- December** - *Big Pop-by Month*

“Giving doesn’t have to be about money. It can be about time and man hours. I think the person giving gets more than the person receiving in a lot of cases.”

Those little things, like paying for a stranger’s drink at the drive-thru, or the time she took bottled water around town on a hot day and gave it to the employees of landscaping companies who were mowing



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lawns, spurred her to do more. Sarah and her co-workers have unintentionally become leaders for social change in and around their community.

As her community outreach grew, Sarah began taking on larger projects, such as a food drive at First United Methodist Church, where she set out to collect peanut butter and toothbrushes. As her friends began noticing what she was doing, they asked what they could do to help. She started posting her activities on Facebook and inviting others to participate.

Word began to spread, and she had an idea: launch a campaign to reach 2,000 Facebook friends and match that number with 2,000 cans of food donated to the food pantry. "Getting to 2,000 friends happened really quickly, and then I went back and asked for donations of food. It only took about a month to reach my goal," Sarah recalled. "Recently, people have come to my page because of these activities. It makes the world really small, and I get a lot of e-mails and messages from people who want to help. I got an e-mail from a mom who wanted to get her kids involved. It's really cool how it continues to grow when we help someone and they appreciate it and want to continue that giving and it expands even more."

Last year, just before her 28th birthday, Sarah read about a woman who had completed 30 acts of kindness for her



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30th birthday, and decided to do the same thing. She added a creative twist though, by involving her friends and family. She sent an invitation to everyone and asked them to bring five one-dollar bills to Applebee's on her birthday. When her guests arrived, she divided them into groups of two to three, and gave each group a sealed envelope with directions not to open it until they got in their cars. In the envelope were instructions on how to spend the group's money and a

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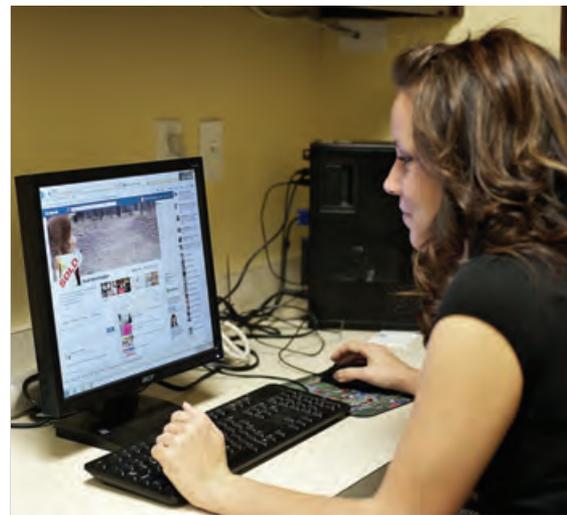
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"I was tired of boring dinners, and it wasn't a milestone birthday, so I wanted something different," Sarah explained. "The girls really got into it, and the guys did pretty well, too. It was really cool seeing their reactions and those of the people they met. They got some sour looks at first, but everyone ended up being nice, and it changed their attitude a little bit. People took pictures and gave them to me so I could blog about it. When they got back, I had thank you notes for everyone who participated, and two of the envelopes contained gift cards for dinner that night as my act of kindness."

Last year, Sarah and her friends made care packages for a local nursing home, which they then hand-delivered to residents. One woman wanted to participate, but didn't have any money, so Sarah told her to write notes to include in the packages. The notes were one of the most appreciated items.

"I get my ideas from all over. The nursing home idea came because I was running by one day, and I remembered my grandmother, who lived in a nursing

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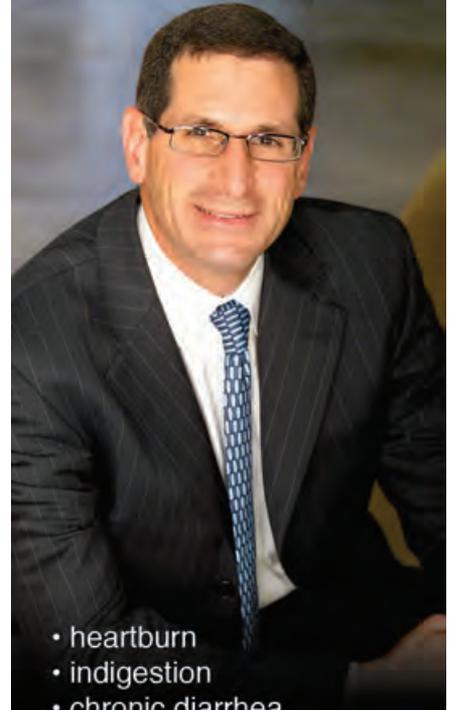
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home, and what the residents there went through,” Sarah said. “Other ideas come from Pinterest, from my connections or when I hear of someone with a need. I’m still active in giving to the community, but most of the things I do now don’t cost a dime. I just coordinate, and people come through.”

Sarah also has coordinated assistance for two friends who lost their homes and possessions in last April’s tornadoes in Arlington, and for Christmas gifts for the granddaughter of her uncle’s neighbor, who otherwise would not have had much of a Christmas.



Although she has emerged as a leader, it was never Sarah’s intention to become a social crusader. She has embraced the role, however, because she has found that she likes being a resource for people and also likes to see them come together and want to do something for others.

“I would like to encourage others to try it. If they don’t know what to do, they should step out of their comfort zone, think of a need and do something. There’s a void out there for a platform for people to give, especially for those without a lot of money,” Sarah explained. “Giving doesn’t have to be about money. It can be about time and man hours. I think the person giving gets more than the person receiving in a lot of cases.

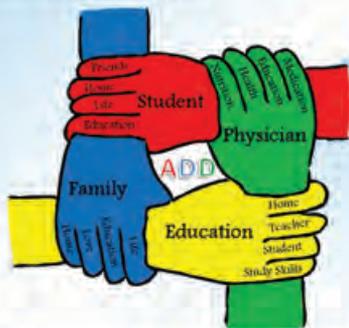
“It didn’t take anything special for me to do this,” Sarah continued. “My parents’ influence growing up gave me a base. I wish there hadn’t been a gap between my youth and now. I didn’t know how to give, and I didn’t have money, but I set my mind to it, and once I started more opportunities opened up. Once you start giving, you start to see opportunities everywhere because you’re thinking from a giving mindset.” **NOW**

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Hours:

Monday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.



Experienced jewelers at Amy's Gold and Silver Exchange buy and sell old coins, diamonds and other valuables, as well as repair jewelry.

Service Like Gold

Jewelers give their customers top-notch attention in buying and selling gold.

— By *Mikaela Mathews*

For Larry Ford and Angie Brodie, honesty is of top priority. With a NASDAQ feed in their store to show the exact price of gold at the time of purchase and a 30-day guarantee should the price of gold increase, Amy's Gold & Silver Exchange makes their customers feel like gold.

Amy's Gold and Silver Exchange has been buying and selling jewelry since 2009. With stores in Arlington and Mansfield, the company is looking to open a third store in Cedar Hill in April. Both Larry and Angie are managers at the stores, but Angie pulls double duty as the master jeweler. "Angie is the anchor of it," Larry said.

Angie has been making jewelry since 1986 when she apprenticed with two master jewelers. She finds satisfaction

not just in working with gold, but also in working with people. "It's about meeting so many different kinds of people with all different walks of life and getting to deliver the product — all shiny and new — and seeing their appreciation. That's where I get my pats on the back," Angie smiled.

In addition to making custom pieces for customers, Angie also does repairs. "We are building up a healthy repair business," Angie explained. "People bring in their broken or old jewelry."

From time to time, Amy's Gold and Silver also holds drawings for certain jewelry prizes. Over the Christmas holiday, Larry held a drawing for a solitaire ring. "One of our customers put his name in the drawing because all his wife

had was a small band, and he ended up winning it for her,” Larry explained. “I had the pleasure of calling Mr. Davis, and he presented it to her for Christmas. He was so excited.”

In order to make sure that Amy’s Gold and Silver delivers the highest quality, Larry has employed various methods to help customers feel comfortable. “We have monitors that feed off of NASDAQ, which show the price of gold at that time, so the customer can see, based on their weights what they are getting,” Larry explained. “It’s not that we’re sitting there with a calculator, trying to hide numbers.”

Amy’s Gold and Silver also makes a 30-day guarantee to all of their customers who sell them their gold. Should the price of gold increase at any point within 30 days after purchase, the customer will receive the difference. “I get customers who call in every day, asking, ‘How’s it doing today?’” Larry said.

Both Larry and Angie welcome anyone with any type of precious metal to stop by to find out it’s worth. “It doesn’t matter what it is. People can always bring it in, and we’re going to make them an offer on it,” Larry explained. Amy’s purchases old coins (pre-1964), all foreign silver and gold coins and silver bullion of any kind, silver flatware, as well as platinum and palladium products and diamonds. The company also sells and takes special orders on gold and silver bullion. Prices are determined daily by the U.S. Mint, and customers receive cash, instead of a check, for any items Amy’s purchases.

Testing for precious metals at Amy’s Gold and Silver is also free. “All we charge is a smile,” Larry laughed. Many customers have found that their gold is worth far more than they were expecting. One such customer’s gold had been appraised for \$25 — until he came to Amy’s Gold and Silver. “I told him, ‘Well, I’m glad you came here.’ He walked out with \$90,” Larry explained. “And the last thing out of his mouth was, ‘This is where I’m telling all of my friends to come.’” **NOW**

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Get Ready for Some (Financial) Spring Cleaning

Spring is in the air, and if you're like many people, you may be looking forward to doing some spring cleaning around your house and yard. But this year, why not go beyond your physical environment and do some sprucing up of your financial situation?

Here are a few possibilities to consider:

- *Clean your portfolio of clutter.* When you go through your house, you may find some clutter in closets, storage areas, on top of desks, under beds or just about any other place. Your investment portfolio may also contain clutter, in the form of investments that no longer meet your needs. Consequently, it's a good idea to de-clutter your portfolio periodically by selling those extraneous investments and using the proceeds to help purchase others that may be more effective in helping you make progress toward your financial goals.

- *Consolidate your investments in one place.* As you clean your house, you may find that you have many common items, such as brooms, hammers, duct tape and so on, scattered among various rooms. It might be more efficient to keep all such objects in one central location; this can help prevent you from needlessly replacing or duplicating them. As an investor, you may have an IRA with one financial services provider, an old 401(k) with a different one, and some other investments with yet another institution. If you consolidated all these investment vehicles with one provider, you might be able to save some fees and expenses. Perhaps even more importantly, by uniting all your investments in one place, you may find it easier to follow a central, unified investment strategy.

- *Check for gaps in your financial strategy.* Every spring, it's a good idea to check your gutters for leaks, your sidewalks for cracks and your paint for chips. By doing so, you'll help protect your home and surroundings. To help protect your family's future, it's important to have adequate life and disability insurance.

- *Plant seeds for growth.* When spring arrives, it's time to plant the seeds for your flowers and vegetables. As an investor, you also have to be concerned about growth. Specifically, you'll want to consider investments that have the potential to grow enough to help provide the financial resources to meet your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement. Consequently, you should review your portfolio to determine if it contains an appropriate amount of growth-oriented vehicles for your individual objectives, time horizon and risk tolerance.

- *Seek professional assistance.* When you're tidying up for spring, you may find some jobs you can't do alone, such as cleaning a heavily stained carpet, unclogging a blocked drain or trimming the highest branches on a tree. For these tasks, you might need to call in trained professionals. It's the same with investing: You can do some things on your own, but for complex tasks such as creating and maintaining an appropriate investment strategy, you may need to work with a financial professional.

Consider putting these spring-cleaning tips to work soon. They may just help put some sparkle and shine into your financial "house." **NOW**

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



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April 6

Good Shive Low: 8:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. \$15-\$18. For more information and tickets, visit www.FarrBest.com.

April 12

D-Now Weekend Retreat: Crossroads Church, 6450 S. State Highway 360, Grand Prairie. For more information, visit www.crossroadschristian.net.

April 13

Spring Style Show and Luncheon: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Walnut Creek Country Club, 1151 Country Club Dr. Tables of 8 \$240/\$30 single. For ticket information, call Mary Anne Moore at (682) 622-7301.

In The City: 5K and Cleanup: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Katherine Rose Park, 303 N. Walnut Creek Dr. \$20-\$25 for 5K and free for clean-up. Contact Leslie Waldson at leslie@fmc.org.

Special Needs Prom: 7:00-9:30 p.m., Mansfield Bible Church, 2351 Country Club Dr. Prom in the gym. If you would like more information, send an e-mail to contact@mbchurch.com.

Bikes for Tykes Spring Ride: 9:00 a.m.-

noon, Red's Roadhouse, 1170 E. Kennedale Parkway, Kennedale. \$20 per bike (cash only). For more information, visit www.redsroadhouse.com.

April 20

Men's Breakfast: 7:00-8:30 a.m., Mansfield Bible Church, 2351 Country Club Dr. Free. To learn more about the ministries of MBC, go to www.MBCchurch.com.

April 25

Boots & Bistro: 5:00-9:00 p.m., Aristide Events Center, 570 N. Walnut Creek Dr. \$20/advance. \$25/door. Ages 8 and under are free. Visit http://www.mansfieldtxcfaa.org/boots_and_bistro.htm.

April 26

Mansfield Women's Club Yellow Rose Charity Fest: 6:30-11:00 p.m., Classic Oaks Ranch, 7100 FM 2738. For more information, contact Lynne Richards (806) 433-4701 or Cathie Trimble (817) 690-3762.

April 27

Paula Nelson Band: 8:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. \$15-\$20. For more information and tickets, visit www.FarrBest.com.

A Night on the Town: 6:00 p.m., Nature Scavenger Hunt; 7:30 p.m. Movie: *The Lorax*, Town Park, 500 N. Main St. For more information, visit <http://www.mansfield-tx.gov/departments/parks>.

Derrick Days: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., downtown Corsicana. www.derrickdays.com.

Midlothian ISD Education Foundation's annual 5K Run: 9:00 a.m., MHS campus, Midlothian. Online early registration is open through **April 22**. Contact Marni White at marni@misdef.org.

Spring Fling and 125th Anniversary Celebration: Noon - 9:00 p.m., Heritage Park, 234 N. 8th St., Midlothian.

May 4

Reflections of Patsy starring Lisa Layne: 8:00 p.m., Farr Best Theater, 109 N. Main St. \$16-\$20. For more information and tickets, visit www.FarrBest.com.

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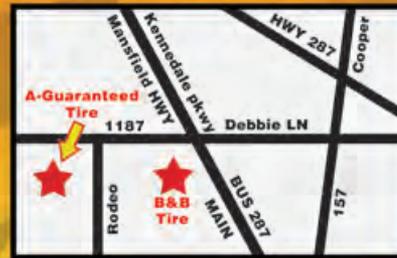


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In The Kitchen With Julie Pittman

— By *Mikaela Mathews*

Cooking has stretched through Julie’s family for many generations. “I have tons of recipes from my family, from every generation,” Julie explained. Although Julie believes she is far from a professional cook, she still enjoys creating in the kitchen. “I love to create things that others can enjoy,” Julie remarked. With a new baby almost here, Julie will have plenty of opportunities to do just that for one more!

Growing up in Texas, Julie was influenced largely by her Southern taste buds and makes food with either a Southern or Southern-Mexican flair. “I find it especially satisfying to create things that nourish the people I love,” she shared. “It’s a way of living with the history of my family in my daily life.” **NOW**

Beer-braised Brisket Tacos

1 lb. beef brisket
12 oz. can beer
Small can chipotle peppers in adobo sauce
Salt, to taste
Corn tortillas
Lettuce, shredded
Shredded cheese or queso

1. Place brisket, fat side down, in slow cooker with beer. Cook on low until fork tender, 4-6 hours.
2. Remove brisket from slow cooker; shred beef with a fork. Season with salt.
3. Blend chipotle peppers in adobo sauce until smooth; add to brisket. Serve on corn tortillas with shredded lettuce and cheese or queso.

Tomatillo Salsa

6 tomatillos, peeled and quartered
1 onion, chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbsp. butter
2 jalapeño peppers, seeded and ribbed (reserve seeds)
1 ripe avocado
4 oz. sour cream
Salt, to taste
Tortilla chips

1. Sauté tomatillos, onion and garlic in butter until tender.
2. Blend in food processor with jalapeño until smooth. Add avocado and sour cream. Salt to taste; add jalapeño seeds to achieve desired heat level. Serve with tortilla chips.

Broccoli Cheese Soup

Large head of broccoli, cut into florets
2 cups chicken broth
12 oz. can evaporated milk
1 tsp. onion powder
16 oz. Velveeta, cubed
Salt and pepper, to taste

1. Boil broccoli in chicken broth until tender.
2. Mash with potato masher. Reduce heat; add evaporated milk, onion powder and Velveeta. Stir until melted. Salt and pepper to taste.

Chicken Piccata

Sea salt
2 servings angel hair pasta
1 cup mushrooms, sliced
2 Tbsp. butter (divided use)
1 large chicken breast
Salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup flour
1 cup milk
1 cup bread crumbs
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 Tbsp. capers
1 clove garlic, minced

1. Boil water for pasta. Add enough salt that the water tastes like the sea.
2. Cook angel hair according to package directions and drain. Sauté mushrooms in 1 Tbsp butter until browned. Set aside.
3. Butterfly chicken breast into 2 thinner cuts of meat and pound flat. Salt and pepper each side, dredge in flour, dip in milk and coat in bread crumbs.
4. Sauté in 1 Tbsp. butter for 3 minutes on each side or until browned and set aside.
5. In same skillet, add 1 Tbsp. olive oil; fry garlic and capers for 1 minute. Add mushrooms back to pan. Add cooked pasta to pan and toss with tongs to deglaze the pan.
6. Place 1 serving of the pasta and mushrooms with one chicken cutlet.

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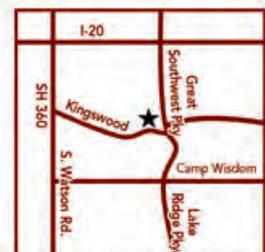
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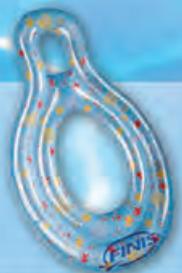
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